

Chapter 461: Fake

"I can see that you want to use money to buy the entire universe, Seventh Bro. Work hard, and who knows? Perhaps one day, you'll be able to go to the Starsibyl Clan and buy this Starsibyl to take home as your maid." The Ghost Monkey snickered. He wasn't actually trying to mock Lu Yin since he could tell that Lu Yin was being honest.

Everyone had their own pursuits. Starsibyl had heard all sorts of answers before, but Lu Yin's answer truly confused her. Those who qualified for her to ask this question were all freaks of the universe. Rich kids did not qualify to even meet her, but because of who she asked this question to, there had never been anyone who had answered that their dream was to become rich. Lu Yin was the first.

She was slightly confused at this moment. She had the feeling that this man had given her the most pathetic answer, but at the same time, it might also possibly be the most daring one.

"Is my answer very strange?" Lu Yin asked while appearing curious.

Starsibyl gazed at him and could only respond, "Every person has a different pursuit."

Lu Yin made a sound of acknowledgement. "How does my answer compare to Wen Sansi's?"

Starsibyl was shocked, not having expected Lu Yin to ask such a question. Could the two answers even be compared? One was about learning and studying while the other was about making money, something even a fool could do! She had no idea where Lu Yin found the confidence to assume that he was on par with Wen Sansi.

Starsibyl did not answer his question. Instead, she merely said, "There is something that I need to do, so I need to leave now. Goodbye."

Lu Yin nodded. "Okay."

Just as she was about to leave, Lu Yin suddenly remembered something and yelled to her, "By the way, I met Grandpa Jiu."

Starsibyl paused and turned around, her face suddenly ashen. "Be careful of what you say, Lu Yin."

Lu Yin asked, "Isn't Xuan Jiu your Grandpa Jiu? He carries around a huge banner that says that he's Starsibyl's Grandpa Jiu."

Starsibyl frowned. She rarely showed such an expression to people, as she almost always had that enigmatic smile on her face. "That person has nothing to do with me. Please do not bring him up again."

She then tore through the void and left.

Lu Yin sighed. He hadn't intended on purposefully angering Starsibyl, as he had merely been trying to discover how much truth there was to Xuan Jiu's words. That man had once told Lu Yin that he had stared into the eyes of the dead. In the past, Lu Yin had no idea what those words were supposed to mean. But now, after having run into the Specter Clan and merged into one of the clan member's bodies through his die's Possession, could it be that the Specter Clan represented "the dead" since they

possessed death energy? If that was the case, then Xuan Jiu had not been telling him about the past, but rather about the future. That would truly be divination.

Lu Yin wanted to know if Xuan Jiu truly had the ability to divine the future. Based on Starsibyl's reaction, Xuan Jiu was more than he seemed to be. She clearly wanted nothing to do with that man and had tried to evade the matter.

Also, Lu Yin felt like he had caught a glimpse of Hai Dashao, who probably had heard his answer. Hopefully, that guy had been so disappointed by Lu Yin's answer that he would try to get the Sea King to call off the engagement.

"I've got a question that I've been wanting to ask you," the monkey suddenly said.

"Are you going to ask why I'm so eager to earn money?" Lu Yin replied.

The monkey answered, "No. I want to know where the money you've earned has gone."

Lu Yin pursed his lips. That was a question that was very difficult for him to answer. "That's private, so don't ask again."

The monkey was speechless. "By the way, why have you been blocking me every time you spend money? If you need to block me... Wait, have you been going to that kind of place?"

Lu Yin froze. "What kind of place?"

"I've heard that humans really like that kind of place, and I mean, they really like it, so you should be the same. But is it really that expensive?" the monkey muttered to himself.

Lu Yin frowned. "What kind of place are you talking about?"

"It's where humans give in to their most primal urges! The place that's considered the most stimulating and exciting!"

Lu Yin finally understood what the stupid monkey was getting at. "I haven't gone to those places! Stop making wild guesses."

"You haven't gone there? That's impossible. What else could you be spending your money on? Could it be that you spent it all on games and equipment?" The monkey felt absolutely certain in his guess this time.

Lu Yin looked confused. "Games? Equipment?"

"Yeah! You humans have created a bunch of different kinds of battle-games. A lot of young people are addicted to these games. You must have spent all your money on buying new techniques!" the monkey exclaimed.

Lu Yin didn't even want to respond anymore.

"You shouldn't get addicted to games, Seventh Bro. Those techniques are all fake, so you won't be able to use them in real life," he sagaciously advised Lu Yin.

Lu Yin blocked off the star energy to his right arm. That monkey was being a nuisance.

As time passed, the news that Lu Yin was set to become the Sea King's son-in-law spread through the universe like wildfire. It was talked about everywhere within the Chaos Flowzone and Daynight Flowzone. This was one of the benefits of having a universal network connect the Human Domain.

When Nightqueen Yanqing found out about this matter, she was absolutely devastated. She'd been patiently waiting for her clan to stop bothering with Lu Yin so that she could thoroughly crush him, but then, all of a sudden, he'd become entangled with such a powerful person. The Sea King no less! He was a person whom even the Daynight clan had no wish to provoke without good reason.

There was a bang as she punched the ground. Ruining Lu Yin had become her foremost priority by now, something that she absolutely had to accomplish no matter what! She'd never been defeated so thoroughly before. Not only had Lu Yin personally defeated her in front of an audience, but she also couldn't do anything to him even with the help from her clan. She had the power to imprison someone like Zhanlong Daynight with her influence as a Nightqueen, but such power was useless against Lu Yin.

She knew his weakness, but there was nothing she could do about it at all, and it was driving her mad.

Such a thing had already happened multiple times in the past; whenever she wanted to make a move against him, she had been stopped by something. Lu Yin had already become her inner demon.

At this moment, her gadget sounded out with a notification. She answered it and was met with a face she had come to hate. "Become an Explorer as soon as possible. The clan is going to send you into the Astral Wilderness to gather a certain substance."

The person on the screen was Nightking Yuanjing. This was the person who was always preventing her from destroying Lu Yin, and this was honestly killing her inside. However, there was nothing that could be done.

"Yes, sir," she answered in a low voice.

Nightking Yuanjing stared at her intensely. "I'm warning you once again: don't lay a hand on Lu Yin. He is not someone who you have the right to touch. The clan has its own plans for him."

Nightqueen Yanqing's eyes flashed with a cold glint as she ended the connection. She looked up and clenched her fists. She would wait. As long as her brother was still set to become the leader of the Nightking Clan, she would continue to reign above the others. Her day would come soon enough.

After contacting Nightqueen Yanqing, Nightking Yuanjing called Lu Yin right away. He was eager to talk to Lu Yin since the Sea King could become a strong ally of the Daynight clan. The moment Lu Yin truly became the Sea King's son-in-law, the Daynight clan could make use of him to more easily enter the Starfall Sea and explore that area that numerous people wanted to know more about.

Soon enough, the call connected, and Lu Yin appeared on the screen.

Lu Yin had been reciting the Stonewall Scriptures since he had nothing else to do. It was quite surprising that Nightking Yuanjing would take the initiative to contact him.

"Hi there, Grandpa Yuanjing!" Lu Yin greeted the old man with an enthusiastic smile, as if he'd forgotten about the scheming that had been gone on back on the spacecraft.

Nightking Yuanjing's wrinkles creased as he smiled kindly at the youth. "I'm so glad you're fine, Lu Yin. I heard that you took part in the Sea King's son-in-law selection. Such an event will create a lot of enemies, so make sure that you don't overdo things."

Lu Yin looked touched, and he hastily replied, "Thank you for the concern, Grandpa Yuanjing, but I'm doing fine."

Nightking Yuanjing looked happy at his answer. "That's good. By the way, I've translated the text that you showed me before. Would you like to know what those words mean?"

Lu Yin's heart skipped a beat, and he stared at Nightking Yuanjing in shock. The old man was actually willing to share such sensitive information with him? It appeared that the Sea King had a reputation that was far beyond what Lu Yin had initially imagined! This meant that he no longer needed to worry about the safety of Frostwave Weave. It would be for the best if he could maintain his position as the Sea King's publicly announced son-in-law until he was able to become more powerful himself.

However, if Nightking Yuanjing was willing to share the translation of that text with Lu Yin, then that also indicated that it wasn't all that important.

"That should be a top secret of the Daynight clan, Grandpa Yuanjing. It's best if I don't know," Lu Yin said, putting on an expression as if he was caught in a difficult position even though he really wanted to know.

Nightking Yuanjing chuckled. "Since you call me Grandpa, then the Nightking clan can be considered as your home. Family members naturally have the right to this knowledge!"

Lu Yin was about to vomit. The old man was so fake! Of course, Lu Yin was just as bad since he made sure to appear delighted. "Thank you, Grandpa Yuanjing!"

Nightking Yuanjing made a sound of acknowledgement, obviously pleased with such a response. "It roughly translates to: 'Hate cannot protect you! Await the end of rain. Hate! Hate! Hate!'"

Lu Yin was confused; what did that even mean? It sounded incredibly sinister.

Nightking Yuanjing noticed Lu Yin's perplexed expression and explained, "It probably has something to do with a grudge between some ancient powerhouses. We don't know much either. If you're lucky, you might be able to find out in the future."

Lu Yin could only smile. "If even the Daynight clan doesn't know, then there's no way I'll be able to find out. Regardless, thank you for being so kind to me, Grandpa Yuanjing."

"Hahaha, you're no outsider. By the way, are you currently at the dome?" Nightking Yuanjing inquired. This was what he was truly interested in discovering.

Lu Yin nodded and sadly answered, "The Sea King locked me up and said that I can't leave until I become an Explorer. I'm in a bit of a sticky situation."

Nightking Yuanjing solemnly answered, "He's trying to help you. You will have to do something for him in thanks in the future."

Lu Yin adjusted his expression. "I understand. Don't worry, Grandpa Yuanjing."

Nightking Yuanjing grunted. “You don’t need to worry about your Frostwave Weave. As long as the Daynight clan is around, nobody will be able to meddle in its affairs.”

“Thank you so much, Grandpa Yuanjing!” Lu Yin exclaimed gratefully.

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Not much more time passed before Lu Yin ended the call. His face became contemplative. So it turned out that the Sea King’s influence was actually this powerful, which meant that Lu Yin could rest easy. This was something that he had not expected at all. Even an elder from the Nightking clan had called to butter up to him. This indicated that Lu Yin’s status as the Sea King’s future son-in-law was definitely something worth having.

Also, it was quite a surprise that the Daynight clan had been able to translate that bit of text. The amount of time that had passed since it had been first written down was enough for even brick walls to erode into powder, but the Daynight clan had already successfully translated it. Such an achievement showed just how terrifying the clan truly was. It was far beyond Lu Yin’s imagination. Was he destined to forever be the underdog and perpetually keep pretending with Yuanjing?

To be honest, everything would be fine as long as Lu Yin became the Sea King’s son-in-law. However, that was not taking Hai Qiqi’s terrible personality into consideration. After all, what would become of Ming Yan? The reason why Lu Yin had been training this hard all along had been because he detested being restricted by others. If he gave up on what he loved just because he wanted to forge a connection with the Sea King, then what was the point of training this far?

A person should decide what was important to them and then follow through on that. Lu Yin didn’t mind being humiliated if it allowed him to achieve what he wanted. However, he could never give up on what he truly wanted, not even if it meant death.

Of course, it wouldn’t be easy for him to become the Sea King’s son-in-law either. It might seem like Lu Yin had received the Sea King’s acknowledgement, but Lu Yin couldn’t be certain what that man actually thought of him. Lu Yin wasn’t so narcissistic that he believed that the Sea King would force him into this marriage. The future was completely unknown to Lu Yin right now, as everything was in the Sea King’s control. It was a terrible feeling.

At this point, Lu Yin’s biggest headache was how he could leave this place. It felt like it would take him ages to break through and become an Explorer.

Chapter 462: Northcastle Weave

The current universe was divided into four simple divisions that consisted of the Human Domain, the Astral Beast Domain, the Technocracy, and the Astral Wilderness.

No one knew how large the Astral Wilderness was, or whether there were any other civilizations that were more advanced than the currently known ones. Of course, the civilizations from the three established domains were actively searching the Astral Wilderness for other civilizations.

The Astral Wilderness was like a black fog that covered the entire universe, and all forms of intelligent life wanted to remove this layer of fog, but they did not know how big it was or what dangers it might

contain. There was even a possibility that the three large domains combined only amounted to a hundredth, a thousandth, or even less of the Astral Wilderness.

The universe followed the law of the jungle. Every intelligent civilizations could be seen as a hunter, and they preyed upon other civilizations in the darkness of the jungle

In the Astral Wilderness, humans were at a disadvantage. They could only explore a small portion of the wilderness, but they had already made countless astounding discoveries. One example was the substance called pyrolyte. It was a rare substance, but when found, there would be a substantial amount of it in each location. It was incredibly destructive, and just one gram had a destruction potential that rivaled an attack with a power level of 10,000. Once a large amount of pyrolyte was set off, the unleashed destruction was inestimable. This was a strategic military resource, and also something that all powers would fight over once they learned about it.

However, the amount of pyrolyte that had been discovered was too little. Even though humans had come up with various methods to find more, there was a limit to how much area they could cover. No power would give up on any pyrolyte, and they were certain that, in some region of the Astral Wilderness, there should be an extremely large amount of pyrolyte. Additionally, this substance seemed to only be found in a specific area of the Astral Wilderness which lay close to the Outerverse's Northcastle Weave.

Northcastle Weave was not famous in the Human Domain, but that did not mean that it was unknown. It was one of the seventy two weaves of the Outerverse and it bordered the Astral Wilderness and lay to the north of Frostwave Weave.

In the dark sky, two enormous astral beasts calmly moved through it. One looked like a praying mantis and the other a python. Atop the head of each beast stood a person, and they were both wearing uniforms that did not belong to Frostwave Weave. They proudly looked ahead at a sorry figure that was attempting to escape.

"There's no need to struggle. Your entire empire will be destroyed, so there's no reason to leave just you alone alive. On account of your power level of 60,000, Commander Anfield can make an exception and allow you to join my Second Grade Hall. Why are you still not showing some gratitude?" The man atop the mantis beast head shouted, the sound waves from his voice spreading across the universe.

Ahead of them, the pathetic escaping figure had a venomous gaze. "Second Grade Hall, I, Ding Xing, will one day avenge the hateful act of destroying my empire!"

"What a joke! You wouldn't be able to deal with my Second Grade Hall even if your entire Northcastle Weave united together, let alone you by yourself, a puny Cruiser of Northcastle Weave. Since you can't appreciate our kindness, then just die!" The man exerted some strength through his leg, unleashing a strange ripple. At the same time, beneath him, the giant mantis beast raised its sickle-shaped forelegs and sliced out. This attack caused sharp winds to tear through this area of outer space. Its might surpassed a power level of 50,000 and was enough to even tear apart a planet, which caused an eruption of light and an enormous shockwave.

A planetary eruption was a significant event, and Ding Xing borrowed the power of the explosion to charge forward with renewed determination, even as he spat out blood.

The sickles of the mantis beast danced about and tore through all of the ripples coming from the explosion. Then, the beast charged towards Ding Xing as it raised its forelegs and sliced down.

Ding Xing's eyes narrowed, as he finally realized that this Second Grade Hall's expert had been toying with him all along. With the speed of this mantis, there was no way for him to dodge its attacks. "I can't accept this! My Greatsword Dynasty cannot be destroyed like this!"

The Second Grade Hall male merely sneered in response. "Insignificant creatures!"

The sickles sliced downwards and were right about to land on Ding Xing's head. However, at an unknown point in time, grains of sand had appeared in the heavens, floating in front of Ding Xing's eyes. His face was ashen; was he dead? Was this a hallucination? Was there sand in the underworld?

Bang!

An enormous impact sent both the mantis and Ding Xing flying backwards. Fine grains of sand were now floating between the two parties.

Ding Xing had survived this desperate situation, though he was still dazed at what was happening. Meanwhile, the Second Grade Hall expert who had attacked fell sullen and looked to his right. In that direction, there was a floating silent figure with a single hand raised. The sand had come from this person, as it was his innate gift.

"Who are you? How dare you meddle in the affairs of the Second Grade Hall!" the expert atop the mantis coldly questioned. In the next moment, the giant python beast appeared, and the man standing atop its head also stared coldly towards the right.

The sand separated and then gradually shrank to merge back into the figure's body. The newly arrived person looked up. "Great Yu Empire, Eighth Captain of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons, Shalosh."

Ding Xing was ecstatic since the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons had appeared. Right, he was already in Frostwave Weave.

The two experts from the Second Grade Hall exchanged glances, though they remained arrogant. "Someone from Frostwave Weave? Let me give you a word of advice: scam! We are from the Inniverse's Beast Tamers Flowzone's Second Grade Hall, and you are not qualified to interfere in our affairs."

Shalosh's face sank. "This region belongs to the Great Yu Empire, not the Beast Tamers Flowzone."

The man atop the python sneered. "You still dare to talk back, huh? It looks like the Inniverse has not shown its might to the Outerverse in a long time since even these fringe natives dare to oppose us! Fine, I'll just slaughter you, bring your head to your so-called 'Great Yu Empire,' and show it to the person in power. We'll see if they have the gall to take revenge for you!" Then, he gave an order to the python, which snarled at Shalosh.

Shalosh's hand spun and the sand particles split from one into two, then into four, until it grew into a sandstorm that enveloped the entire area and swallowed the expert from the Second Grade Hall.

This was no ordinary sandstorm, but rather one that contained Shalosh's star energy. Every grain of sand in it was powerful enough to pierce through an Explorer's body. This technique had been developed when Undying Yushan personally coached Shalosh, and it had become the captain's trump card.

The man atop the python's expression dramatically changed when he sensed the terror of this sandstorm, and he hurriedly retreated. However, the mantis beast charged forward and lashed out with its sickles in an attempt to cut through the sandstorm. However, when the sickles moved through the sandstorm, they raised sparks that tore through the void, but they could not slice through the sand.

Such a result astounded the two beast tamers; when had Cruisers in the Outerverse become strong enough that they could face off against the two of them by themselves?

No one was able to understand the power of the captains of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons. They had inherited Undying Yushan's dominating determination and ambition to conquer the surrounding weaves. Their power levels were not that impressive, but each captain had been personally chosen by Undying Yushan. He had roamed the Innerverse in years long gone and had even reached the top thirty of the Top 100 Rankings. Such a person's insight could not be measured by the Outerverse standards. Also, Undying Yushan had passed down battle techniques inherited from his Yu family down to the captains.

It could be said that the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons captains had transcended the common standards for the Outerverse's powerhouses and were capable of rivaling the Innerverse's elites. Of course, if not for the Neohuman Alliance's intervention in the past, then Jue Lang, Di Ou, Bertson, Felut, captains of the Third, Fourth, Seventh and Tenth Squadrons, respectively, would not have died.

The blind monk had been able to suppress the Ross Empire's Hunters all by himself, and just this single occurrence illustrated the terror of these captains.

The Second Grade Hall sat on the lowest rung of the Beast Tamers Flowzone, as there was the First Grade Hall and the most powerful Divine Grade Hall above them. Cruisers from the Second Grade Hall could only be at the general standard of the Innerverse, not the standard of the Innerverse's elites.

The two Second Grade Hall experts glanced at each other and then split up to attack Shalosh from two different directions. He remained indifferent; one hand spun as the sandstorm split from one into two, one of which then enveloped himself and Ding Xing within it. The other then swept outwards in all directions to encompass a larger area, confronting both the mantis and the python.

The two astral beasts simultaneously howled in anguish before backing away and staring at Shalosh in fear.

"This is the territory of the Frostwave Weave's Great Yu Empire. Leave immediately." Shalosh's tone was cold, and there was killing intent radiating from his eyes. The giant sandstorm made for an intimidating image that was exceptionally terrifying.

At this point, Shalosh alone was enough to cause the nearby planets to tremble.

The two Second Grade Hall experts could not accept such results, and they looked at each other before looking at Shalosh. "Great Yu Empire, our Second Grade Hall will remember the name!"

With that, they both turned to leave.

Ding Xing relaxed. There was a trickle of blood flowing down from the corner of his mouth. However, he disregarded his own injuries and instead hurriedly moved in front of Shalosh to respectfully bow to the captain. “Ding Xing of the Greatsword Dynasty pleads for an audience with the Great Yu Empire’s emperor, Undying Yushan.”

Shalosh frowned. “His Imperial Majesty has already passed away. He has been replaced by the Fifth Princess, Wendy Yushan as well as the Royal Regent, Lu Yin.”

Ding Xing was shocked. “His Imperial Majesty has passed away?”

Shalosh nodded.

Ding Xing was shocked as he began reminiscing about that assertive emperor. When he had coincidentally crossed paths with the emperor in the past, those eyes definitely had not only held Frostwave Weave within them, but they had also included his Northcastle Weave in their sights. It had precisely been because of that that Northcastle Weave’s powers had never established friendly relationships with Frostwave Weave; they had been afraid of Undying Yushan. They had never imagined that on the day they came seeking help from that overbearing emperor, he would have already died.

Since Northcastle Weave was located quite close to the Astral Wilderness, and since the weave’s central powers were located in the northern section of the weave, they had ended up developing a bustling network connected to the Astral Wilderness. However, this had also led them to gradually neglect the nearby weaves’ situation. It had reached the point where they no longer sought to discover what was happening in the universe. To a certain degree, they had been sealed, as they had not even heard about Undying Yushan’s death in a nearby weave. If not for this unexpected encounter, the weave would have continued to seal itself off.

“I wish to seek an audience with the Fifth Princess, Wendy Yushan,” Ding Xing said.

Shalosh replied, “Her Highness is in Adonis Weave’s East San Dios, though I can try to help you contact her.”

He immediately activated his gadget.

Lu Yin was still in the distant Starfall Sea and was completely unaware of the developments in the Great Yu Empire. From the moment he left that separate dimension with the golden ocean, Lu Yin had instructed Huo Qingshan and the others to not contact him unless there was something vitally important.

To them, the developments in Northcastle Weave were still considered “nothing important,” or at least, not as important as the matter of the Great Yu Empire unifying Frostwave Weave.

However, nobody knew that the current Northcastle Weave had already undergone a complete change. On the surface, the same powers still were in place and maintained control, and the Greatsword Dynasty was still there on the star charts. However, in reality, all of these native powers had already vanished. All of these changes stemmed from... pyrolyte.

A few days passed, but Michelle and the others still had not left the Sea King's dome. There had been a delay in the cycle of merchant ships going back and forth between the entrance of the Starfall Sea and the Sea King's Dome due to an order by the Sea King's Dome. This was a regulation and not related to wealth, so for once, Lulu could not pay her way out of this situation and leave early.

Fortunately, before they could leave, an astounding battle rocked both the Sea King's Dome and the universe: Mu Rong vs. Ling Que.

The Sea King's Dome forbade fighting, but not in all areas. Some spaces had been specifically reinforced so that even Hunters who could tear through the void could not cause too much damage. Such areas permitted fighting.

Mu Rong and Ling Que stood beneath a cliff and faced each other. From a distance, countless people from the Sea King's Dome surrounded the area as they watched on in excitement. Some people in the audience even started recording the confrontation.

Chapter 463: Soulsplitting Technique

This was a battle between universally famous Limiteers. Two of the four unequalled Limiteers in the younger generation were finally clashed.

Michelle and the rest were also present and watching, and Lulu in particular was very excited.

Big Pao's face was positively radiant since this battle was wholly unrelated to him.

During the Sea King's son-in-law selection that had taken place a few days before, he had urged Lulu to splurge and poach Ling Que's cheerleaders. In the end, the girls had cheered for Mu Rong. After the selection, the entire matter should have ended.

Ling Que, however, seemed to have some screws loose in his head, and he was determined to retrieve his cheerleaders. According to him, when no one cheered for him, he was unable to get into the right mental state.

The problem was that the cheerleaders had become captivated by Mu Rong. Although they had been bought over by the allure of Ling Que's money, they had coincidentally walked past Mu Rong and involuntary screams had sounded from the group that had startled both Mu Rong and Ling Que. What had added oil to the fire were the rumors that Ling Que could not compare to Mu Rong, so the current battle had been arranged in fury.

In the distance, the cheerleaders were caught in a dilemma. They liked both Ling Que and Mu Rong, so they were at a loss for who they should cheer on.

"I'm not interested in battling you," Mu Rong calmly replied. It almost felt like he did not take any matter seriously.

Ling Que snorted before replying, "So what? Are you trying to have your cake and eat it too? Don't even bother thinking about it! During the selection, you secretly stole away my cheering squad, and I still haven't settled that matter with you. If you hadn't snatched them away, my mood wouldn't have been as poor, and my mind wouldn't have been in such a miserable state. I definitely wouldn't have been ambushed by Cheng Wu otherwise. Everything's because of you!"

Mu Rong frowned. "That's ridiculous."

Ling Que was furious as well. "You're still pretending! Today, my state is great, so I'll show you the results of your pretending!"

Then, Ling Que lifted his hand and raised it a few times.

"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!"

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The cheerleaders maintained their professional conduct; they had accepted Ling Que's money, so they would only cheer for him.

The surrounding people were shocked and hurriedly moved away from the group of lunatics.

Ling Que basked in the cheers as star energy erupted from his body and crushed the ground beneath him. Even the void shuddered as the surging energy was so strong that it pushed the air away, eventually blowing past the clouds in the sky.

It looked like a smoke signal ascending to the heavens, and it attracted even more attention.

Northgate Lie, Che Han, the still undeparted Cheng Wu, Qin Chen, and the rest all came to watch. Even Lan Yu and Zhang Dingtian were present.

This was Ling Que erupting with all of his strength, and he was demonstrating the full terror of an unequaled Limiteer. Many felt that Cheng Wu's ambush on Ling Que during the selection had been unfortunate, as Ling Que hadn't even been able to display the Lingling clan's inherited battle technique—the Soulsplitting Technique. They had been waiting for this moment to finally arrive.

The battle prowess that Mu Rong had displayed in the selection was astounding, and even Cheng Wu had believed that it would be difficult for him to defeat Mu Rong. This peerless Limiteer still had hidden trump cards, and he was unfathomable to the extreme. Unfortunately, he had not clashed against Lu Yin, but many believed that Lu Yin was not Mu Rong's opponent.

As a fellow user of Thirty Stacks who was even an Explorer, Lan Yu had been easily defeated by Mu Rong. Their battle seemed to prove that the Overlaying Stacks method was ineffective against Mu Rong, which insinuated that Lu Yin's chances of victory were very low.

Amongst the four unparalleled Limiteers, Mu Rong was believed to be the strongest since he had been publicly recognized by the Ten Arbiters.

With a whoosh, Ling Que dashed through the void with extreme speed as his Que's Mighty Slash appeared in his hand. He sliced out, and his movements were accompanied by a deafening crash.

A sudden clap of thunder rang out, and the air shattered as the thunder transformed into a visible shockwave that swept out across the flat ground.

Mu Rong's gaze was stern, as he could not be careless against Ling Que. The thunder and the shockwave swept forward together as one while Que's Mighty Slash closed in on Mu Rong. The wooden flute spun

around in his hand as he stepped to the side, easily dodging the Que's Mighty Slash. Then, he simply sidestepped once again to dodge the explosion of the thunder and the shockwave.

The Lingling clan members were able to absorb others' innate gifts and form their own everlasting innate gift. Ling Que's Que's Mighty Slash possessed the strength of both thunder and sound, and it was rather terrifying.

Ling Que sneered when he saw that not a single one of his strikes had landed. "Mu Rong, don't assume that your Floating Stride that allows you to avoid and dissolve your opponent's attacks, almost like a lockbreaking technique, is a secret or something. Additionally, even your Floating Stride has its limits!"

Ling Que's eyes flickered, and his entire body froze for a split second. The next moment, everyone stared at the battlefield as their faces turned to expressions of disbelief.

Ling Que had split in two.

This was the Soulsplitting Technique, the Lingling clan's ancient inherited battle technique. No one knew whether the clan had existed for 100,000 years or a million years aside from the clan itself. During this time, numerous civilizations had risen and fallen in the universe, and multiple generations had passed. It was impossible to know if this clan had existed since ancient times, or if it had been established upon the ruins of a past great civilization.

However, the Soulsplitting Technique had always been the Lingling clan's most terrifying battle technique, and it intimidated outsiders the greatest. No one else could learn it aside from the Lingling clan's own members.

This Soulsplitting Technique literally split the body into two, which meant that one could split themselves into two doppelgangers that each had the strength of the original body.

This was the reason why Ling Que had been declared as an unequaled Limiteer.

Two Que's Mighty Slashes appeared and then vanished simultaneously, as regardless of how solid the void was here, it could not stop the Que's Mighty Slash from shuttling through it. This was just one of its terrifying aspects.

During the selection, if Cheng Wu hadn't taken the initiative to ambush Ling Que, heavily injuring him before he could retaliate in the process, then Ling Que may not have been so easily defeated.

In the universe, there were always these genius freaks that defied comprehension, and Ling Que ranked at the top among these freaks.

His Que's Mighty Slash was sufficiently powerful to cause countless people to feel numb, and most people would not even be able to react as both blades chopped down simultaneously. Everyone stared at the field, their breathing about to halt.

Michelle and the rest were also shocked. They were fellow Limiteers, but the disparity between them was too great.

Mu Rong suddenly moved; he took one step forward with his right leg. There was obviously nothing in front of him, but then he suddenly shifted to the right, and in the next instant, Que's Mighty Slash appeared, streaking past along his neck and causing a trace of blood to appear. Mu Rong retreated right

after that, and the second Que's Mighty Slash streaked past his forehead, leaving a similar thin line of blood there.

The two Que's Mighty Slashes had given Mu Rong two wounds.

Ling Que was astounded; his dual Que's Mighty Slashes had always successfully injured his enemies before. If he had not been injured by Cheng Wu's ambush, then he was confident that even Cheng Wu would fall to this attack. However, it had only given Mu Rong a superficial injury.

Mu Rong was slightly injured, but this was the first time he had been hit since arriving at the Sea King's Dome to participate in the selection. It could be said that this was also his first time being injured during a battle against someone from the same generation as him.

He touched his wound and felt its shallowness, but his expression turned serious nonetheless.

Beneath Mu Rong, dark green grass appeared, exuding an overflowing vitality, and in the surrounding void, the farmer boy riding on a cow appeared with a leisurely expression. This was Mu Rong's personal forcefield, a vision of the farmer boy herding cattle.

The moment the forcefield appeared, the two Que's Mighty Slashes were expelled from the void, and they moved back to revolve around the two Ling Ques. They could easily shuttle through the void, but they could not pass through Mu Rong's forcefield, which meant that his Que's Mighty Slash's strongest aspect had been nullified now that this forcefield had appeared.

Ling Que did not think that Mu Rong's forcefield would have such a large restraining effect on him. If Cheng Wu had tried to control Ling Que through that invulnerable clock, then Mu Rong's method was to cut off his blades' greatest advantage.

It wasn't just Ling Que, as the entire audience had been enveloped by Mu Rong's forcefield as well.

Michelle felt the forcefield oppress her entire body, and she even found it hard to circulate her star energy. The moment she was enveloped by the forcefield, her power had dropped by two-thirds, leaving her dumbstruck. This powerful forcefield had shattered her previous understanding of domains.

Lulu clenched her fists; her physical strength was still there, but it was also being suppressed.

Xia Luo had a look of amazement, and he looked up to see the farmer boy herding cattle through the void.

Darkvoid raised a hand, only to discover that his innate gift was useless as it had been completely suppressed.

Hui Daynight felt his scalp turn numb, as the feeling this forcefield gave him was too scary.

...

Everyone could sense the terror of Mu Rong's forcefield, as experiencing it for themselves was completely different from merely seeing it. At this moment, they truly understood the reason why Zhang Dingtian had been defeated. This was an irresistible strength, and even Northgate Lie and Qin

Chen had to admit that they would be defeated without question if they were suppressed within this forcefield.

Cheng Wu had exchanged blows with Mu Rong and experienced this forcefield before, but he was still shocked. Once Mu Rong broke through and became an Explorer, a great number of the experts in the Top 100 Rankings would have to take a step back. This was a true unequaled Limiteer; he was not just unequaled in his generation, but rather invincible among all the Limiteers in the universe.

The shock that Ling Que had given the onlookers simply crumbled away after Mu Rong's forcefield enveloped them.

Mu Rong raised a hand and pressed downwards, prompting the farmer boy who was originally wandering around to directly rush towards Ling Que. The farmer boy represented the entire forcefield, and Ling Que felt as if the heavens themselves were collapsing upon him. Even the surrounding void was no longer stable, as distortions had appeared everywhere. Ling Que's star energy was completely suppressed.

Ling Que growled, and his doppelgangers vanished as they merged back into one body. Then, his body momentarily stopped moving once again. Under the alarmed gazes of everyone present, he split into—three bodies. Three Ling Ques appeared with three Que's Mighty Slashes revolving around them, and they all clashed with the farmer boy.

Boom!

Everyone felt their minds being thrown into chaos, and many seemed to have been struck by an invisible attack and were forced to spit out blood. Many audience members even started bleeding from their seven orifices before fainting on the spot.

This collision between the two Limiteers even caused the void to start rumbling. This was because Mu Rong's suppressive forcefield had already enveloped the void while Ling Que was displaying his Soulsplitting Technique to its extreme, and he was using the combined force of all three bodies to withstand Mu Rong's forcefield.

The ground flaked apart in layers as a terrifying aftershock rippled outwards. The avalanche of crushed rocks injured countless people.

Xia Luo and the rest were also within the scope of this aftershock. The youths all worked together, but Michelle and the others were still blown back by just an aftershock from the battle from Mu Rong and Ling Que.

The surrounding void was suppressed, and unless someone with a power level that surpassed a Hunter's attacked, the void would forever remain solid here. Even so, the ripples distorted the nearby space, causing all objects within a radius of 10,000 meters to disintegrate, including the nearby cliff.

In the sky, Hai Dashao and Starsibyl stood far above everything as they looked down, watching the fight.

And high above the entire Sea King's Dome, even the Sea King was observing.

This battle between Limiteers could even attract the Sea King's attention; this was something that even a Top 100 Rankings expert might not be able to accomplish.

When the dust settled, the onlookers who were still conscious all looked over in shock. Mu Rong was standing in his original place with a calm look while the three Ling Ques were panting heavily. They had managed to withstand a single strike from Mu Rong.

The cheerleaders had all fainted by now, but Ling Que could not be bothered with them at this moment. The three Ling Ques howled with laughter, in sync. "Mu Rong, you're indeed powerful, but so what? No matter how powerful your forcefield may be, it cannot last forever! That strike should be your peak strength. Now, it's my turn!"

Then, the three Ling Ques stood in a triangular formation that surrounded Mu Rong. The three Que's Mighty Slashes released a sharp aura that warped the void. Not all ten of the innate gifts that made up Que's Mighty Slash had been used by Ling Que in his fight. He felt that this was the right moment, and he merged all three blades into one. No one could withstand this attack, as he had once used this blade to defeat a Cruiser whose power level surpassed 70,000.

Chapter 464: The Farmer Boy And Rankings

The area was completely silent. Everyone was focused on the three gigantic blades that had merged together, which caused its power to increase exponentially.

Even Cheng Wu had a feeling that he wouldn't be able to withstand this attack now that Ling Que's three swords had merged into one. Thankfully, he had successfully sneak attacked Ling Que during the Sea King's son-in-law selection, so Ling Que had not been at his peak state in that battle. Otherwise, Cheng Wu would have gone through a difficult battle.

Ling Que had lost to Cheng Wu while trying to make his way up the Skyfall Cascades. The fact that he had given up without a fight had severely damaged his reputation. However, this battle against Mu Rong was reversing that impression. He was a true monster. Those who had managed to climb up Skyfall Cascades had all been monsters in their own right. If Cheng Wu hadn't managed to ambush Ling Que, then nobody knew how their battle might have gone. Even if Cheng Wu had been able to win, he would not have been able to keep fighting at peak condition in the subsequent battles.

Ling Que became incredibly excited. If he managed to defeat Mu Rong at this moment, then he would be widely acknowledged as the most powerful Limiteer. By then, would he even need to hire a squad of cheerleaders? Of course not! There would surely be crowds of hot chicks waiting to become his cheerleaders. The Souldream Tribe, the Umbral Butterfly Tribe, the famous Kind Tribe, and... And even those talented genius girls from the Charming Space would worship him! Ye Xingchen? Lu Yin? They were just trash.

Ling Que became more and more excited as he thought about his potential future, and the three merged Que's Mighty Slashes shone even brighter.

"It's over, Mu Rong!" Ling Que shouted when his merged blade was about to land. Mu Rong definitely would not be able to dodge this attack. Even if he tried to tear through the void to escape, his Que's Mighty Slash would simply crush the void.

A sweet tune suddenly came out of nowhere, and it gradually filled the ears of the audience. It felt like the music had just begun, but also felt if it had always been there.

Mu Rong gently blew on his wooden flute, and a renewed aura appeared in the void. A boy was herding some cattle while chuckling to himself. Verdant green grass grew from the earth, and lush fields could be seen extending far into the distance, past the battle field and into the void.

When the song came out, Mu Rong himself transformed. He himself became the farmer boy, seemingly forgetting about all his worries.

The song of a farmer boy while relaxing within the pasture!

Nobody could destroy this vision.

Ling Que's merged attack never managed to land, as Ling Que immediately became immersed in the song. He had lost. The moment Mu Rong started playing his song, Ling Que had lost.

Mu Rong was someone whom the Ten Arbiters had acknowledged as truly invincible among all Limiteers. So what if someone could merge ten innate gifts together? So what if someone could split their soul? They'd still lose to Mu Rong.

This battle had brought too many surprises to the audience. Nobody had expected that a fight between two Limiteers could be so amazing. Experts at the bottom of the Top 100 Rankings would definitely lose to either one of them. They were definitely strong enough to be on par with Cheng Wu.

Hai Dashao eyed Mu Rong with disappointment. Although he didn't like how this guy always had a miserable look about him, his personality was still much better than Lu Yin's, and he was even stronger than Lu Yin. Hai Dashao felt an urge to try to convince his father to let this Mu Rong try pulling out the Sea King's Trident again. Unless... Was it possible that Mu Rong had been the one to actually pull out the trident, but then decided that he didn't want to marry Qiqi, and so let Lu Yin take it out? That kid, Lu Yin, had been repeating the fact that he hadn't used any strength at all; could his words actually be true? The more Hai Dashao thought about it, the more likely his suspicions seemed to be real.

Starsibyl gazed at Mu Rong's figure as he left, recalling his answer to her question. "Why should I become strong? It's enough if I can live every day happily." That had been Mu Rong's answer. Unfortunately, such a dream would never happen. The more that kind of person wished to be happy, the more unhappy they would end up becoming.

The Sea King looked away with a wistful expression. These two Limiteers were both geniuses. That kid was supposed to be on par with them, so why hadn't he come to watch this huge event?

Everyone left soon after, leaving Ling Que standing in the open arena by himself with his head hanging down, looking incredibly unwilling to accept his defeat.

He'd been completely and thoroughly beaten. He was from the Lingling clan and therefore stood above all others, but he had just been defeated. Just the thought of it left him incredibly annoyed. Mu Rong really was the number one Limiteer—there was no doubt about it.

Michelle and the rest left as well, and Coco anxiously looked at the peak of the Sea King's Dome. "Mu Rong is so strong! I hope that Lu Yin won't have to fight him."

Big Pao held the same sentiment and sighed. "If I had known that this would happen, I wouldn't have participated in the first place. Knowing always hurts more than not knowing. After news of this battle

spreads, Mu Rong will definitely be regarded as the strongest Limiteer. Hopefully, Lu Yin won't take this matter to heart and won't try to challenge him."

Xia Luo had his ever-present smile on his face. I wonder how far you'll be able to go, Lu Yin. You've defeated so many people that nobody ever thought you had a chance of beating. Will Mu Rong become one of them? He grew very excited at such a thought and had a feeling that Mu Rong and Lu Yin would most likely have a duel at some point. Additionally, Xia Luo even felt like their duel was not far off.

Mu Rong had defeated Ling Que, and their battle had brought even more attention to the Sea King's Dome. However, people were paying the most attention to the rankings of the four unequalled Limiteers. The most secretive one was actually Ye Xingchen. He had been staying in the Cosmic Sea all this time, and nobody knew how strong he actually was. However, everyone still ranked Mu Rong as number one, and almost nobody objected to such a ranking.

In second place was either Ling Que or Ye Xingchen. Even though Lu Yin had attracted a lot of attention during the recent competition by having a close fight against the Faceless Man, many people still believed that Lu Yin would lose to Mu Rong. Their judgement was mostly based on the fact that Lu Yin primarily used stacked attacks.

If Lu Yin were to fight against Ling Que with his stacked attacks, Ling Que would merely need to split his soul in two. One could defend while the other attacked, and thus, Lu Yin's loss seemed assured. Ling Que wouldn't even need to split into three copies to accomplish such a thing.

That was why Lu Yin indisputably held the fourth place in the public's eye. Even though he was the Sea King's soon-to-be son-in-law, he could only be placed fourth when among such monsters. This was readily acknowledged.

Before much more time passed, Big Pao contacted Lu Yin and described the fight between Mu Rong and Ling Que in great detail during their call.

Lu Yin was still training under the waterfall and had no idea that such a battle had taken place. The dome was huge, and only battles between Hunters would be able to shake the entirety of the mountain. Battles between anyone beneath the Hunter realm wouldn't be enough to cause enough of a commotion. The reason why Mu Rong and Ling Que's battle had been able to attract so many people's attention was mainly due to their reputations.

Lu Yin set his gadget down. He never expected that the rankings of the four strongest Limiteers would become such a hot topic at this time. Even back when he first learned that the four of them were considered the strongest Limiteers, he already knew that the day would come where they would be ranked. He just hadn't expected it to happen so suddenly.

Brains and brawn were equally important in such rankings. Cultivators were generally hot-headed and would refuse to admit that they were any inferior to anyone else. The stronger they were, the truer this tendency, especially for the younger generation.

Lu Yin stood up and stared into the distance. To be honest, he was actually looking forward to fighting against Mu Rong and Ling Que. Out of everyone in his generation, only they were qualified to fight against him.

His enemies included the Ten Arbiters, and the entity that posed the biggest threat to him at this moment was the Daynight clan. However, there were plenty of other people who were his enemies as well. In the plans that Lu Yin had laid out for his revenge, reputation was extremely important.

He had no idea if Leon's Armada would help his Big Sis avenge the seventy two lives that had been lost, but Lu Yin would not place his hopes on someone else; this was his fight!

By truly becoming an unequaled Limiteer, he would gain an amazing reputation. However, Mu Rong wasn't somebody who he could easily deal with. His battle techniques, talent, domain, and power were all things that only Ling Que actually understood. Lu Yin felt confident that he'd be able to block powerful physical attacks with his Fatesand, but the move that had defeated Ling Que definitely possessed certain aspects that Lu Yin could not defend against with just his strong body.

He didn't know if he'd be able to win against Mu Rong for sure, so if he was going to fight, it would only happen after Lu Yin was confident in achieving victory. He wouldn't behave like Ling Que and rashly charge into battle. Ever since Lu Yin had been swallowed by that storm in the Tempest Flowzone, he'd returned to being extremely cautious.

While Lu Yin was busy calculating Mu Rong's strength, the Sea King had somehow caught wind of a rumor that Lu Yin and Mu Rong were going to have a duel. The moment such news broke out, the Sea King had been immediately alerted.

"Lu Yin really has the guts to challenge Mu Rong? He's not scared of losing badly even when he's right under the Sea King's nose."

"He's too ignorant if he thinks that he's really invincible after pulling out the Sea King's Trident! Apparently, that trident was actually pulled out by Mu Rong, but because he wasn't willing to become the Sea King's son-in-law, he didn't pull it out completely. Thus, Lu Yin was able to get lucky."

"If I were him, I would definitely keep my mouth shut and wait until Mu Rong leaves. Why embarrass yourself?"

"Whatever the situation may be, Lu Yin will be the Sea King's son-in-law soon, which means that he's pretty much already a part of the family. We still want him to win, even though it probably won't happen."

"Somebody analyzed that Lu Yin's chances of winning are less than 1%. He relies on stacked attacks, speed, and his physical prowess. All of that's useless against Mu Rong! One could say that Mu Rong overpowers him in every aspect. Even Ling Que must be stronger than him."

"What a pity. He's really too arrogant." Somebody sighed as they clasped their hands behind their back, looking like some kind of sophisticated person.

All of a sudden, someone said, "He's much better than you."

Everyone immediately looked over. The guy with his hands behind his back was stunned at being called out. After seeing that a young person with red lips and white teeth had said those words, he asked in confusion, "Have I offended you in some way?"

The youth hummed. "You didn't offend me. If you had, you'd already be dead." And with that, the young woman left. She was Hai Qiqi, and she had changed her appearance to go out on a stroll. But after hearing all these people discussing Lu Yin's challenge towards Mu Rong, she'd become annoyed with them. While she didn't like Lu Yin and enjoyed mocking him, hearing others ridicule him was irritating. And if she was annoyed, she had to speak up. Such was Hai Qiqi's way of life.

...

Michelle and the rest immediately contacted Lu Yin upon hearing the rumors. Upon hearing it from them, Lu Yin was utterly confused. "When did I ever say that I was going to challenge Mu Rong?"

"It wasn't you? Then who spread the news? They're clearly trying to cause trouble for you," Michelle stated gravely.

Everyone's first guess was Feng Mo and the others, but that didn't seem very likely since such a battle would not further their interests at all.

The first person that came to Lu Yin's mind was none other than Hai Qiqi, who treated him with derision. He had a feeling that the girl was willing to do anything and was more than just the sharp tongue she was known for.

"News of your upcoming battle with Mu Rong has spread, and the location has even been set. It'll be in the middle of the mountain, here at Halfwillow Lakeside in two days. Do you think that you can win?" Xia Luo asked, sounding slightly excited, as if he found the entire matter rather hilarious.

Lu Yin couldn't really reply. It wasn't about whether he could win, but rather whether or not he could go there at all.

Without wasting any more time with them, he shouted towards the sky, "I would like to request an audience with you, Sir Sea King."

The entire area was under the Sea King's control, and while he might not have his eye on every single person at every single moment, Lu Yin was certain that the man was watching him every second.

Sure enough, the scenery before Lu Yin distorted, and the Sea King's unremarkable face appeared in front of him. "What is it?"

Lu Yin respectfully asked, "May I know who spread the news that I am going to fight with Mu Rong?"

The Sea King grunted in understanding. "Me."

Lu Yin had thought that Hai Qiqi would be the one to spread the rumors. He had never dreamed that the Sea King himself could be responsible.

He froze. "Why?"

Chapter 465: Let Me Give You A Lightbulb

The Sea King lifted his head high as he asked Lu Yin, "Did you know that you are ranked last out of the four?"

This was something that Lu Yin did not know. Big Pao and the others were probably afraid that Lu Yin would decline Mu Rong's challenge, which was why they had not told him.

"How can my son-in-law be ranked last? If anything, he should be first. That being said, I want you to go ahead and fight. Losing is not an option," Sea King spoke proudly.

Lu Yin was taken aback. "Are you not afraid that I'll lose?"

The Sea King stared at Lu Yin. "Just challenge him again if you lose. I'll force Mu Rong to stay here at the Sea King's Dome and will even make sure that he does not break through. I will see to it that you obtain victory before he leaves."

Lu Yin was speechless. What this man was proposing was completely unreasonable!

The Ghost Monkey exclaimed, "It's no wonder why those old guys warned us not to provoke the Starfall Sea's master. This old man is really a rascal!"

The corner of the Sea King's mouth rose up, and he clasped his hands as he said, "Kid, let me teach you something today. The universe is too big, so nobody cares how things happened anymore—all they care about are the results. Even if you decide to cheat to beat Mu Rong, the only thing the public will remember is that Mu Rong was defeated by you. That's all there is to it. This is the victor's prestige.

"You even have me backing you up, so even if you do cheat to win, no one will dare to say anything. On the other hand, if you didn't have me here you decided to cheat, then all the people backing him would drag you out and punish you. They would then ruin your public opinion. This is how power works."

The Sea King's gaze turned stern, and he raised both hands and balled them into fists. "Power and truth lies in the hands of a select few. Those select few people control public opinion and can even change the course of history. That is real power."

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. This brief monologue revealed the Sea King's core principles, as well as the truth about power. Even though it sounded like a scandalous action to take, this was the way the universe operated. History was written by the victors, and no one cared nor even dared to question how the victors had fought their way to the top.

"However, after having said all of that, cheating is not ethical, so I won't allow it. If you want to win, you'll have to depend on yourself." The Sea King suddenly changed his tone when he made this remark. He then looked at Lu Yin and continued on, saying, "In two days, I will send you to Halfwillow Lakeside. I hope that you won't disappoint me."

Lu Yin knitted his brows. "I did not agree to battle him."

Sea King was unhappy with such a reply. "I wasn't asking you. I am telling you that you will fight him in two days."

When he saw the reluctant look in Lu Yin's eye, he burst out laughing. "If you become stronger than me one day, I'll have no qualms if you treat me the same way I'm currently treating you! Hahahaha." Just as the Sea King was about to leave, something seemed to suddenly cross his mind. His face turned solemn, and he looked at Lu Yin with a face that seemed full of maliciousness. "Kid, did you enjoy spending the money?"

Lu Yin's heart skipped a beat, and he acted confused. "Money? What money?"

Sea King snorted. "You spent thirty-five thousand of my star essence. As a Limiteer, that's very extravagant of you."

Lu Yin's eyes went wide. "Senior, I only spent fifteen thousand star essence. Where is the other twenty thousand you mentioned?"

"Is the young lady from the Mavis family not a member of your party?"

"Yes, she is in my party, but how can I be accountable for her expenditures?"

"All of you came to the Sea King's Dome to avoid being captured. Those in your party regard you as their leader. As such, who else would I hold accountable for their actions? Here's the bottom line. Lu Yin, we can have civil negotiations after you win this battle. However, if you lose, you will have let me down. If that happens, you'd better come up with a way to settle this debt." As soon as he was done speaking, the Sea King left.

Lu Yin remained frozen in place as he felt like he was about to break down in tears. He had no way to reason with this powerful rascal. Lu Yin's previous worries had just come to fruition; the old rascal was really going to hold Lu Yin accountable for Lulu's debt.

"Seventh Bro, your father-in-law's a real character, and that Hai Qiqi is even worse! I foresee some exciting days ahead of you in the future." The monkey laughed mockingly.

It was not that Lu Yin did not want to fight, but rather that he wanted to have some practical assurance before committing to a battle. He hated forcing his way through the battle. Even though Lu Yin had a strong body, Mu Rong's style of fighting did not depend on brute force. Under such circumstances, if Lu Yin did not have a good strategy to counter Mu Rong's methods, he would not be able to win even if he did not lose. There would be no point in fighting under such circumstances.

However, the Sea King's insistence that Lu Yin fight left him with no choice.

As for the other main character in this battle, Mu Rong did not wish for this battle either. He had no interest in the rankings nor in doing battle with Lu Yin. Alas, he was left with no choice since he had been told that he could not leave the Sea King's Dome unless he fought with Lu Yin. This information also made him label the Sea King as a rascal.

After news was released that the fight had been confirmed by the Sea King's Dome, a countless number of people in the Sea King's Dome flocked to Halfwillow Lakeside. Although the majority felt that Lu Yin was destined to lose in an even worse manner than Ling Que, Lu Yin was still the strongest of the four unparalleled Limiteers in terms of physical strength. This reputation alone was enough to entice countless people to watch the battle.

One day later, Halfwillow Lakeside, which was situated half-way up the mountain, was already packed full of people. Many peddlers had even set up shop there.

Michelle and the others had also arrived.

Halfwillow Lakeside was a humongous area that was much larger than the place where Mu Rong and Ling Que had fought. After experiencing the previous battle, many people had learned the hard way that

it was best to keep their distance from the battlefield. Of course, there were also quite a number who did not care to keep their distance since they felt that Lu Yin's limited abilities meant that he would not be able to cause too much damage. They felt that Mu Rong could achieve an easy victory.

"Lu Yin's just asking to be humiliated. I wonder if the Sea King will still recognize Lu Yin's status as his son-in-law after he loses," someone commented.

"He'll probably disown him. The Sea King has been unequalled for his entire life, so he probably doesn't want any blemishes in his reputation."

"Actually, given Lu Yin's capabilities, he is a good match for the princess. It's just a pity that his light is being overshadowed by Mu Rong."

This sentence triggered Big Pao, who shoved the person who had just spoken. "Brother, let me give you a lightbulb."

"What for?" The person was bewildered.

Big Pao responded, "You're very dim when compared to me, so you can use it to illuminate yourself."

That person was stunned for a moment; the insult had rendered him speechless. He then snatched the lightbulb and tossed it away before angrily walking to the other side.

Coco looked at Big Pao rather adoringly. "I never noticed that Senior had such sharp remarks."

Lulu nodded her head, she shot a glance at Little Pao. "Even though they are brothers, they are quite different. Senior Little Pao is more serious and reliable."

When Little Pao heard this, he stood up, walked over to Big Pao, and said, "Let me give you a lightbulb."

"Scram!" Big Pao said, not knowing what else to say.

On the other side of Halfwillow Lakeside, Northgate Lie arrived. Since he had started training under Northgate Taisui, his confidence and ambition had soared dramatically. His initial plan had been to challenge Qin Chen and enter the top ninety before planning his next move. However, the battles he had witnessed at the Sea King's Dome had toppled the very foundation of his previous understanding. Even the Limiteers in this place had a battle strength comparable to the top eighty. He did not even dare to show his face after seeing such things.

"Hey, that's Northgate Lie! He's ranked ninety third in the Top 100 Rankings," someone exclaimed in the distance. Northgate Lie had instantly become the focus of many people's attention.

"No, he's ranked ninety fourth now. Che Han defeated Qin Chen, so the new rankings will have him lowered by one."

"It won't just stop at ninety fourth place. Given Mu Rong, Ling Que, and Lu Yin's capabilities, he'll drop to ninety seventh as soon as he faces the more powerful people in the Top 100."

"If there are even two more individuals who've concealed their abilities like Che Han, he'll drop right off the Top 100 Rankings."

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Northgate Lie was enraged when he overheard these discussions. He had not fallen off the leaderboard yet, but these scumbags were already making snide remarks about him! However, he did not lower himself to argue with them, and instead walked to another place and continued watching. Someone walked over towards him; it was Qin Chen. Even though he had maintained a much lower profile than Northgate Lie with a covered face, Northgate Lie still recognized him.

“Qin Chen, I challenge you to battle,” Northgate Lie solemnly proposed.

Qin Chen rejected the challenge right away and left.

Northgate Lie chased after him. He was concerned about falling off the Top 100 Rankings, and so he had decided that raising his rank and joining the top ninety quicker would be a good plan.

Most of the various experts who had taken part in the Sea King’s selection had also arrived to watch the coming battle. Amongst them was Xun Jiong, whose hatred towards Lu Yin had now surpassed even Nightqueen Yanqing’s. When news of this battle spread, Xun Jiong had even sought out Mu Rong, intending to give him a weapon of the Xun family. It was the same weapon that the short Explorer had used to attack Lu Yin, and since Xun Jiong had had no chance to use it himself, he wanted to give it to Mu Rong so that he could deliver a crushing defeat to Lu Yin.

However, Mu Rong had rejected Xun Jiong without even saying a single word in response. This made Xun Jiong despise Mu Rong as well. However, he was still rooting for Mu Rong to decisively defeat Lu Yin.

Multiple grand occasions had been held at the Sea King's Dome in quick succession. This caused many people in the Sea King's Dome to become incredibly excited, and they felt as though they were celebrating a festival.

At this moment, Lu Yin appeared with a dignified expression on his face. There was already a video of Mu Rong’s battle against Ling Que on the network, but it was not a video that could be accessed by ordinary folk. Lu Yin was only able to view it because of his Honor Points.

Mu Rong’s skills, counter attacks, adroit usage of his domain, and his finishing moves were all astonishing. Ling Que’s innate gift, his Soulsplitting Technique, and his defensive strategies were all astonishing as well. They had been equally matched, and it was hard to tell who would win from watching the video.

What caught Lu Yin’s attention the most was Mu Rong’s finishing move, which was when he had played the song of the farmer boy. Whether it was a spiritual attack or a physical attack, Ling Que had been unable to utilize his three blades that had merged as one as soon as he heard that song. This was something that could only be experienced in person and could not be replicated by a video.

Lu Yin’s gaze twinkled; if the farmer boy’s song was really that strong, then it was likely a spiritual attack that could directly damage one’s spiritual force. If that was the case, then it might not necessarily be effective against Lu Yin. Considering how well versed he was with the Stonewall Scriptures after reciting it for so long, he had developed a strong resistance when it came to spiritual force attacks.

The battle was still one day away, so Lu Yin used his Honor Points to search the network for videos on how to counter unique innate gifts. He wanted to view as many as possible.

One day later, at the middle section of the mountain that was the Sea King's Dome, Halfwillow Lakeside was completely packed with people. There were even some who could not see what was going on since the Sea King's Dome was not broadcasting this battle on any screens as it was just a battle between two members of the younger generation, not some grand affair hosted by the Sea King's Dome itself.

Despite that, everyone of significance was present, and even the Faceless Man had hidden himself among the crowd. Likewise, Lan Yu and Zhang Dingtian were also present.

Zhang Dingtian, unsurprisingly, was very excited to watch this battle. He was curious to see how powerful Lu Yin had become. After having battled against Mu Rong, Zhang Dingtian understood very well how powerful the unequalled Limiteer was. The only question he had now was how well Lu Yin would perform.

Ling Que hid in the corner, watching Mu Rong with a sullen expression. He wanted another chance to battle him, and to have a chance to defend against the farmer boy's song.

When a ray of sunshine hit the lake, a gleaming reflection bounced off the lakeside. On the west side of the lake, Mu Rong appeared. His face was calm, and he appeared to be completely unconcerned about the upcoming battle.

On the east side of the lake, the void split open as Lu Yin walked out.

Everyone was astonished at the manner Lu Yin chose to appear in. Halfwillow Lakeside was also a place where space had been suppressed and where battles were allowed. Tearing the void apart in such an area was something only a powerful individual with a power level of over 100,000 could accomplish. It was clear that Lu Yin himself was not capable of such a feat, so the only possible explanation was that the Sea King had transported him here. Apart from the Sea King, there was no one else who would dare damage the void in this place, even if one was an Enlighter.

In other words, it meant that the Sea King had allowed and even supported Lu Yin's decision to do battle.

Chapter 466: Lu Yin vs Mu Rong

Many people from the Sea King's Dome had complex looks in their eyes. Many of them really wanted to support Lu Yin since he was, in a way, one of them. However, it was also a fact that he had almost no chances of winning.

Xun Jiong looked at Lu Yin with jealous eyes. Under normal circumstances, he should have been the one to receive such treatment. If he had become the Sea King's son-in-law, he would have been the one tearing through the void and traveling about the dome with ease. However, this was a privilege that now belonged solely to Lu Yin.

Halfwillow Lakeside was huge. From the east end to the western most part, the entire area stretched for dozens of kilometers. Regular people wouldn't even be able to see the other side from one side—only cultivators could.

Upon seeing Mu Rong's calm expression, Lu Yin had no idea if it was because the man thought nothing of him, or if it was because Mu Rong simply didn't care about the duel at all.

Lu Yin's eyes twinkled, and as countless people watched on, he charged towards the middle of the lake. Across from him, Mu Rong did the same.

The two of them approached each other with extreme speed. Soon enough, their star energy began interacting and affecting the other, even more so once the two of them met. The lake water was also affected by the clashing star energy, and it sprayed in all directions. Lu Yin lifted a hand and attacked with the Skybeast Claw. Mu Rong easily dodged the attack before using a delicate set of footwork to instantly appear in front of Lu Yin with his wooden flute aimed straight at Lu Yin's chest.

Lu Yin grabbed at Mu Rong, confident in his physical strength. The moment he managed to grasp the flute, Mu Rong would find it difficult to retrieve. However, Mu Rong seemed to sense the danger. He was completely aware of how terrifyingly strong Lu Yin's physical body was. But despite this, Mu Rong still dared to take the initiative and engage in close combat. Such a decision showed how confident Mu Rong was in his own battle abilities.

Mu Rong managed to easily dodge Lu Yin's attack once again, and he appeared behind his opponent this time. The wooden flute twirled about before heavily striking Lu Yin's back. However, Lu Yin wasn't slow either. He merged his Flash and Invisible Aura techniques, which allowed him to move without making a sound or even releasing any star energy, which was quite a surprise to Mu Rong.

In the middle of the lake, the two of them attacked and dodged each other's attacks at extreme speed. Numerous afterimages appeared and faded away over Halfwillow Lakeside, and as more and more afterimages appeared, the speed of the two even started to distort the area and heat up the entire lake.

Even after quite a while, neither of them had actually managed to hurt the other.

Many people gaped, unable to even tell what was going on.

During the previous battles against Zhang Dingtian and Ling Que, Mu Rong had held the upper hand in terms of movement techniques, and he had managed to deal with his opponent's attacks without much trouble. Ling Que had once said that Mu Rong's movement technique was called Floating Stride and that it was comparable to a Lockbreaking technique. It was first-rate when it came to dodging and dispersing an opponent's attacks. Meanwhile, Lu Yin had his domain and Flash Step, both of which he was incredibly confident in.

The two of them started moving faster and faster, and a hint of surprise appeared in Mu Rong's eyes. He was aware that Lu Yin was a Lockbreaker, but even a Lockbreaker rarely possessed such great physical techniques. Mu Rong could understand why Lu Yin had been able to disperse his star energy attacks since Lu Yin was renowned as a genius Lockbreaker. However, he was also able to keep up with his speed? That was a surprise.

However, Mu Rong's Floating Stride had not reached its limit yet. Mu Rong increased his speed another notch, intrigued. Even with Lu Yin's eyes, there was a moment where he lost sight of Mu Rong.

It wasn't just Lu Yin. Northgate Lie, Qin Chen, Cheng Wu, and the rest of the elites spectating could not see through Mu Rong's current speed either. He was moving at a speed that was far above what they had ever seen before. He was finally displaying the full power of his Floating Stride.

Ling Que felt bitter. Even during the battle with him, Mu Rong hadn't gone all-out, though he had never needed to reach such a speed. No matter how fast Mu Rong could move, he couldn't move faster than Ling Que's Que's Mighty Slash since the blades could travel through the void. Such a thought gave Ling Que a small amount of comfort.

Above the lake, Mu Rong had already disappeared, as he was just too fast.

Everyone gasped. Lu Yin was in danger.

Lu Yin's eyes revealed shock and surprise. Mu Rong is still able to go even faster? How interesting. Without any hesitation, he moved the grain of Fatesand from his heart to the inner layer of his clothes. This allowed him to keep the Fatesand concealed while still unlocking the true power of his physical body. The moment the wooden flute was about to strike him, a powerful shockwave appeared that spread out in all directions and pushed Mu Rong away. The powerful shockwave caused numerous onlookers around the lake to stop breathing for a moment, nearly suffocating.

Huge waves erupted across the lake as the water swirled into the sky. Even the surrounding void became unstable.

This was the level of physical strength that Lu Yin had reached after releasing the first grain of Fatesand. When climbing the Skyfall Cascades, this strength was what allowed him to get past the Xun Clan's Machinery Art and even defeat the Faceless Man. And now, it was what he was relying on in this battle. Lu Yin still maintained an advantage in terms of speed.

His Flash Step was a basic movement technique that utilized one's physical body. The stronger the body, the faster Flash Step was. For the first time ever, Lu Yin fully understood this concept that the Sandmaster had introduced to him from the beginning. In theory, as long as the body kept growing stronger, there was no limit to Flash Step's speed. Lu Yin even started fantasizing about the day when his speed would even surpass time.

Lu Yin and Mu Rong couldn't even be seen above Halfwillow Lakeside anymore. The two of them were too fast, and it had reached the point where even Explorers couldn't see all of their movements. In terms of just pure speed, these two were far and beyond their peers.

Everyone held their tongues. They'd all thought that Lu Yin wouldn't be able to hold out for long. Never in their wildest dreams had they expected the two Limiteers to demonstrate such extreme speed. Also, these two were just too fast; how were they supposed to watch the fight? This made no sense.

Michelle and the others were just as shocked. They had no idea that Lu Yin could move so fast, and the two of them fighting above the lake were giving off such immense pressure that it was difficult for the rest of them to even breathe. When had the difference between them and Lu Yin grown so large?

Xia Luo's eyes lit up as his gaze revealed his admiration.

Lulu was quite envious. If she possessed this kind of speed, then she'd be able to beat Grandini with ease.

Far in the distance, Hai Dashao watched on with interest. The fact that Lu Yin, while still in the Limiteer realm, had managed to achieve such speed showed that he wasn't half bad after all. Within this entire universe, there were only a few people who could do the same. It was no wonder why Starsibyl had asked Lu Yin that question; he really did qualify.

A boom suddenly erupted out, surprising the crowd. Everybody looked at the lake to see water spraying out from the center, where Lu Yin and Mu Rong were now facing each other. Beneath their feet was a gigantic hole surrounded by cracks that reached out into the distance. The lake water was flowing into the still-growing cracks, trickling off somewhere.

This was the first time that the two had actually made contact while fighting at close range. Based on the marks, Lu Yin hadn't retreated at all, but Mu Rong had taken five steps back. The victor here was obvious.

Many weren't very surprised by the results. In terms of physical strength, it was a given that Mu Rong wasn't as strong as Lu Yin. Lu Yin could use Thirty Stacks, and that demanded a great deal from one's body. Few Explorers, and even fewer Limiteers could satisfy those demanding requirements. Lan Yu's ability to use Thirty Stacks had made him the top of the younger generation in Grayweed Continent, showing just how difficult it was.

Where Mu Rong truly excelled was his domain, his forcefield, and also that mysterious farmer boy's song.

Mu Rong no longer appeared as calm as he had before the battle. He looked at Lu Yin in shock. "Your body is incredibly powerful."

Lu Yin smiled. "Thanks for the compliment. Let's go again."

Mu Rong shook his head. "There's no need for that. I don't like to attack someone else's weakness, and while I don't really care about the results of this battle, it's still a duel. I need to give it my all. You are strong enough for me to do just that."

Right after speaking, the lake water flowed back towards Mu Rong, and green grass sprouted at the bottom of the lake and spread across Halfwillow Lakeside.

At that moment, Lu Yin's domain collapsed. It was much too weak compared to Mu Rong's domain, and it had been crushed apart.

This was not the first time Lu Yin had experienced such an overwhelming difference in domains. He clearly remembered the separate dimension with the golden sea where he had fought against the battle soul that had kept its eyes closed. From the very start of that fight, Lu Yin's domain had been crushed, and it had felt as if the sky had collapsed. Right now, that same feeling had appeared once more.

Without his domain, his perception of his surroundings became much weaker. Even worse, he had succumbed to Mu Rong's domain. Above him was an image of a farmer boy herding cows.

Everyone held their breaths. It had appeared. Now that Mu Rong was using his forcefield, it meant that Mu Rong was taking this fight seriously.

Zhang Dingtian grew incredibly serious. He'd lost to Mu Rong's domain. It had felt as if space itself had been expelled from the area and as if the forcefield could affect even the heavens and earth. That unstoppable strength was something that Zhang Dingtian would never be able to forget.

Ling Que, too, looked serious. He had split his soul to the maximum degree and created three doppelgangers, which had allowed him to block one attack from Mu Rong's forcefield. He knew full well how terrifying that one attack had been. For a Limiteer, it was like facing the end of the world.

And now, Lu Yin was experiencing what the end of the world felt like. The farmer boy was trying to crush him from within Mu Rong's forcefield. No matter how quickly Lu Yin moved, at this moment, it felt like he was mired in a swamp and was being forced to face the attack head on no matter what. There was no way for him to dodge.

However, was there a need to dodge it? Lu Yin looked up. Concerning this battle, he'd never considered how he could dodge or block Mu Rong's attacks because there had never been a need for such a thing; he could just face it directly, that was how confident he was in his body. No Limiteer could do anything to Lu Yin's body. Not even Ye Xingchen, who was said to have an innate gift to make stars fall, could do so.

Boom!

The heavens and the earth collided, and the air was torn asunder, releasing thunderous shockwaves everywhere. Halfwillow Lakeside was destroyed, and water splashed everywhere. Right after that, there was a tremendous pressure wave that caused the nearby audience members to cough up blood. Powerful Limiteers were no exception, and even some Explorers could not help themselves from retreating in order to handle the pressure.

Michelle and the others weren't that close, but they weren't far either, so they also felt the pressure.

Was this a feeling that a battle between Limiteers could give off? While they'd already experienced something similar just two days prior, it was still an incredible sight to behold.

Space had been compressed into a ball of volatile energy that, once it reached the limit, exploded and released a shockwave that could be seen with the naked eye. The scene was even more spectacular than the one from two days before.

Hai Dashao narrowed his eyes. Next to him stood Hai Qiqi, who had just arrived in time to see this scene. She covered her mouth in shock and wondered to herself, Is this really a battle between Limiteers?

Since the two had been fighting right above the lake, the collision of star energy caused all of the water to evaporate and turn into steam.

After the steam dissipated, everybody intently stared at the lake. They first saw Mu Rong, and many saw that he appeared to be both shocked and shaken. Could it be...?

Everyone turned to look at where Lu Yin had been standing before that had now become an enormous pit. Nobody knew for sure how deep it was, and it might even go deep inside the mountain. However, there was a palm-sized area that still stood tall like a stick. It was an area that had been protected by Lu

Yin's abilities and that had not been destroyed. The man himself was standing atop that pillar and calmly looking at Mu Rong.

Everyone sucked in a cold breath. Two days ago, Ling Que had not been able to face this attack with such ease. Everyone remembered that most of Ling Que's clothes had been torn apart, but what about Lu Yin? There wasn't even a speck of dust to be seen on him!

Ling Que took one step forward and glared at Lu Yin in disbelief. How could this person's body be this powerful? Ling Que's body was still hurting from that attack. Was there really such a huge difference between them?

Ling Que wasn't the only one who was stunned, as Mu Rong himself was utterly shocked.

Lu Yin slowly flew into the sky and dispersed his battle force. He had not used his Fatesand and had actually taken that attack on with just his body and battle force. Mu Rong's attack had been very powerful and had even surpassed an ordinary Cruiser's attack. In terms of power level, it had perhaps reached 70,000. However, that wasn't enough to penetrate Lu Yin's body's defenses.

Chapter 467: Extreme Shock

Lu Yin's current physical state was similar to that war spirit with closed eyes. The moment that war spirit opened its eyes, heaven and earth would dim, and the sun and moon would fade. Lu Yin's physical strength was constantly being suppressed, so once it was unsealed, his strength would reach an extreme. At this moment, he had only released the first grain of Fatesand.

Lu Yin did not know how strong Lan Si had been as a Limiteer, but he dared to guarantee that the Arbiter's strength back then could not surpass his current limit. Lan Si's public record was Thirty Stacks, and Lu Yin felt like it wouldn't matter even if the true record was Fifty Stacks. He believed that, when he completely unsealed all three grains of Fatesand, he would be able to handle unleashing more than Fifty Stacks.

The Overlaying Stacks Path became more difficult the further one progressed, and Fifty Stacks was not as simple as just adding another Twenty Stacks on top of thirty. During the Astral Combat Tournament, Lu Yin had used merely Nine Stacks to defeat Nightqueen Yanqing.

"Your physical strength has surpassed my imagination." Mu Rong was shocked.

Lu Yin smiled. "Just so long as you're not disappointed. Now, it's my turn to attack."

Many thought it strange as this exchange was nearly identical to Ling Que's battle with Mu Rong—both young men wanted to retaliate as soon as they successfully blocked an attack from Mu Rong. However, Ling Que had been defeated by the farmer boy's song. Would Lu Yin face a similar outcome?

Mu Rong shook his head. "I won't wait for you to attack, and there's no need to think about resisting my blow; it's unavoidable."

Lu Yin nodded firmly. "That's right, but I don't like to take a beating for nothing. You can think of this as my way of defending. Let's go!"

Lu Yin then charged at Mu Rong with full speed, the Giant Emperor's third eye gripped in his hand as he took advantage of the fact that Mu Rong's forcefield had not recovered yet. His eyes filled with star energy, and in that instance, he reached the point where he could use Secret Sidestep.

When Mu Rong played the farmer boy's song, it brought forth the full strength of his forcefield, but it required time to play. Although it was very quick, Lu Yin had calculated the windup time through videos and determined that Mu Rong needed roughly three seconds to pull off his attack. This brief window of time was his best opportunity to attack.

To reach the level where he could display Secret Sidestep, Lu Yin needed to meet three of these four conditions: activate his Cosmic Art, his domain, have his eyes filled with star energy, or use a lockbreaking tool. Due to the Sea King's constant surveillance, he did not dare to display the Cosmic Art, and if he filled his eyes with star energy, he would be assaulted by so many rune lines that he would start bleeding from his seven orifices. However, as long as he didn't overdo it, he could still give it a shot.

The moment his eyes filled with star energy, the terrifyingly enormous amount of rune lines entered his eyes, and scarlet blood began flowing out. At this moment, he had already arrived in front of Mu Rong, where he struck out with Thirty Stacks Fiftyfold Shockwave Palm.

Mu Rong shifted his body back and stared curiously at Lu Yin; this person should know that he could not land an attack on him if he just relied on just speed. However, Lu Yin had still made the attempt, and his eyes were even bleeding.

Suddenly, Mu Rong felt his back turn cold. The Lu Yin in front of his eyes had vanished only to reappear behind him. This was not just speed, but was instead a high-level movement technique. He had seen it before, as it was the supreme technique revered by all Lockbreakers: Secret Sidestep. Shit! He can use Secret Sidestep!

The sound of an explosion rang out when Lu Yin's palm firmly connected with Mu Rong, sending him tunneling through the ground. At the same time, Thirty Stacks erupted, causing consecutive shockwaves to burst forth and unleash visible white ripples that spread through the air. Mu Rong spat out a mouthful of blood, and his entire body was forced beneath the lake.

Lu Yin hurriedly retracted his star energy from his eyes and wiped them clean since they were indeed bleeding. Being able to see rune lines was not always a good thing, as he was susceptible to being injured from seeing them.

At this moment, Halfwillow Lakeside had fallen silent while everyone stared dumbfoundedly at Lu Yin. He had actually struck Mu Rong, which should be the first time Mu Rong had been hit squarely, and it had been with Thirty Stacks at that.

Wasn't it said that Mu Rong would counter Lu Yin? What was going on?

Most people could not understand what had happened, as only a few had clearly seen the sequence of events. Those rare few people had an indescribable look of shock in their eyes.

"Secret Sidestep—it's actually Secret Sidestep!" Ling Que was astounded. Secret Sidestep was not just about speed; rather, it was a supreme evasion technique. It was something that any Lockbreaker could use to avoid crises during lockbreaking. It was the ultimate technique that they all wished to

comprehend since it would allow them to evade the many dangers that occurred during Lockbreaking. It's highly sought after quality was a clear indication of Secret Sidestep's value, and Lu Yin actually could use it.

Northgate Lie, Qin Chen, Cheng Wu, and the others were all stunned as well. The current generations of Limiteers were too freakish!

Michelle and the others had not expected Lu Yin to have comprehended Secret Sidestep, as the only ones who knew were those who had participated in the Outerverse trial in the Shenwu Continent and those who had gone to the Savage Ape Planet to unlock the tree-looking sourcebox. Even if they had publicized the information, it would not have spread across the entire universe since most people did not have access to such privileged information. Hence, when Lu Yin used Secret Sidestep here, it caused a great stir among everyone.

Hai Dashao was also shocked. Even within the entire Lockbreaker Society, there were extremely few Lockbreakers who could use Secret Sidestep.

The Sea King's Dome had their own Lockbreakers as well, and the value that Secret Sidestep represented to ordinary people could not compare with what it represented in the eyes of Lockbreakers. At this moment, Lu Yin's position had leaped to new heights in every Lockbreaker's eyes, and they were all certain that he would become someone of great value to the Lockbreaker Society in the future.

The majority of people could not recognize Secret Sidestep, so they were more concerned with what had happened to Mu Rong.

Since arriving at the Sea King's Dome, Mu Rong had never been directly hit. Even the blades of Que's Mighty Slash had only given him a minor injury, so no one actually knew about Mu Rong's endurance.

Lu Yin looked down as the lake water gradually filled in the place where Mu Rong had landed. He wanted to fill his eyes with star energy and see how many rune lines Mu Rong had left, but he didn't. That knowledge would not make much of a difference because Lu Yin did not believe that Mu Rong would be defeated that easily. This battle would continue on, but being hit squarely meant that, even if Mu Rong had not been severely injured, he would not be very well off.

At this point in the battle, Lu Yin had already surpassed Ling Que's performance. After all, Ling Que had never actually harmed Mu Rong. At most, he had been able to break his skin. Lu Yin, on the other hand, had landed a direct attack on Mu Rong.

Of course, this did not necessarily mean that Ling Que was weaker than Lu Yin, as their battle styles were different. Naturally, their results would not be the same.

The lake water gradually returned to its previous state, until it eventually completely filled the area where Mu Rong had crashed.

The crowd watched on with bated breath; Mu Rong still had not appeared. Were his defenses really that poor? Right, not everyone could easily withstand a strike of Thirty Stacks, which was Lu Yin's most powerful attack. Even a normal Cruiser would not be able to ignore it.

Many had neglected the power of Lu Yin's Thirty Stacks, because even if the Overlaying Stacks Path was even more ferocious, it meant nothing if an attack missed. However, the reality was completely different if the attack landed.

Lan Yu's eyes flickered. "Mu Rong lost. The might of Thirty Stacks is not something that can be taken by someone with a weak body like him."

Beside him, Zhang Dingtian held a different point of view. He had been thrown out of the Skyfall Cascades by Mu Rong's wooden flute, and in that instant, he had made an extraordinary discovery. Mu Rong was definitely not physically weak, even if his strength was not comparable to Lu Yin or Lan Yu's.

In the next moment, atop the lake water of Halfwillow Lakeside, long grass began to grow. A similar scene to before reappeared, and Mu Rong's forcefield once again revealed itself. What followed was not just the image of a farmer boy herding cattle, but also that melodious song.

The melodious song of a farmer boy floated through the long grass. It was an unbreakable illusion.

Everyone who was entranced by this farmer boy's song experienced a different feeling.

Ling Que was experiencing the song for the second time now, but he was still shocked to the core when he heard it. His three blades as one had been defeated by this melody.

Lu Yin inhaled deeply, as the fight had indeed not ended yet. The farmer boy's song had finally made an appearance. This song was what Lu Yin feared most about Mu Rong, as he was completely confident in being able to defeat Mu Rong so long as this song didn't make an appearance. Lu Yin's body was just too powerful. However, Mu Rong's attack method through this song was just too mysterious. It was his only path to victory against Lu Yin, and hence, it was the only thing that remained as a point of uncertainty for Lu Yin.

But even though he was not certain, he still had to face it head-on.

From beneath the lake, Mu Rong slowly walked out, the lake water parting automatically before him. When Mu Rong came into everyone's view, it was plain to see that his clothes were tattered while fresh red blood trickled down from the corners of his lips. His face was pale, but he continued to play his wooden flute. There was even a palm imprint embedded into his chest, and his injuries were clearly not minor.

Lu Yin landed upon the surface of the lake and listened to the farmer boy's song that floated into his ears. His star energy was suppressed, and his body was paralyzed. The farmer boy's song was not a spiritual force attack; instead, it directly took control of one's body. This was Mu Rong's innate gift, and it was an utterly terrifying one.

This was the reason why the Ten Arbiters had acknowledged Mu Rong as an unequalled Limiteer. Others could only break free of his innate gift's control if they had an innate gift that greatly surpassed Mu Rong's. Within the same realm, there were virtually none who surpassed Mu Rong. In other words, once he started playing this song, he would be victorious.

Others had not experienced it for themselves, and Ling Que had not said anything about it, so none of the spectators understood the terror of this song. At this moment, only Lu Yin was directly experiencing it.

Lu Yin stared at Mu Rong in shock; to his shock, an innate gift that could directly control someone else's body actually existed. That was too scary.

Gradually, Lu Yin's star energy dissipated as it was dispersed by the farmer boy's song, leaving him as a tragic cultivator with depleted star energy. At this moment, Lu Yin had nothing he could use aside from his physical strength since he had no star energy left.

Ling Que's eyelids twitched. Sure enough, Lu Yin could not withstand the farmer boy's song either. This sort of innate gift was the most terrifying.

During Mu Rong's battle against Ling Que, at the final section of the video, the Que's Mighty Slash had vanished first, followed by Ling Que's doppelgangers. At that moment, Ling Que had decisively lost. However, this time, Mu Rong did not act immediately since he wanted to give Lu Yin the opportunity to admit defeat, which was why he had not sealed Lu Yin's ability to speak.

"What a terrifying innate gift. It's no wonder why you're an unequaled Limiteer," Lu Yin sighed in admiration.

Mu Rong continued playing the wooden flute as he looked at Lu Yin.

"You want me to admit defeat?" Lu Yin asked before shaking his head. "However, I want to try and see if I can break through this unstoppable strength."

After he spoke, the song strengthened, and Lu Yin's left hand suddenly slammed into his own head.

Everyone was dazed; was he committing suicide?

Lu Yin's eyes went wide, and he released the grain of Fatesand from his left arm and merged it together with the grain of Fatesand from his heart. The next moment, his physical strength suddenly erupted once more, and it jolted the void as a visible aura of strength rippled out. Even though they were quite some distance away, the crowd could sense Lu Yin's raw physical power. Halfwillow Lakeside could not withstand the tremendous force, and it began to split in half.

This void in this area was also suppressed, and only powerhouses whose power level surpassed 100,000 could destroy the void and cause cracks to appear. But at this time, Lu Yin's physical strength was actually enough to distort and destabilize the void.

At this point, not only was Hai Dashao astounded by what he saw, but even the Sea King became shocked. A tiny Limiteer could actually erupt with such powerful physical strength.

When Lu Yin had faced off against that war spirit with closed eyes, the moment it opened its eyes, it had unleashed a suppression that could not be resisted. At this moment, Lu Yin's power was in no way inferior to Mu Rong's; he merely lacked an innate gift similar to the farmer boy's song. This also meant that when that war spirit opened its eyes, it could similarly crush Mu Rong, which meant that there was still an extreme disparity between them.

Chapter 468: The Strongest Limiteer

Lu Yin could do the same since, at this point, his battle strength already rivaled that war spirit's. With Mister Mu's help, the limits of Lu Yin's physical strength had been upgraded to an extreme, where Lu Yin needed to pay a price in order to suppress and control his strength, just like the war spirit with closed eyes.

Lu Yin had already reached that war spirit's level, as he had reached the pinnacle in one specific aspect. However, Mu Rong had not attained such a level yet.

The farmer boy's song abruptly stopped while Lu Yin's left arm halted a centimeter away from Mu Rong's head. He had used his powerful physical strength to directly overcome the controlling power of the farmer boy's song.

Lu Yin looked up at Mu Rong. He saw a confused look on his face, which was the first time Mu Rong had ever shown such an expression.

The surprise in Mu Rong's heart could not be hidden at all. When Lu Yin forcefully broke through the farmer boy's song, Mu Rong knew that he had lost. Lu Yin's move had brought him too intense a shock, and he had only felt this once before when he had met the Ten Arbiters in the past.

Many had compared Mu Rong to the Ten Arbiters and the strength they had displayed when they were Limiteers, but Mu Rong could not be bothered with such a comparison precisely because he understood how terrifying those people were. Those ten freaks could not be understood with common sense, as their strength simply defied any attempt made to understand them. Even with his farmer boy's song, Mu Rong still did not dare to compare himself to them.

This was the reason why he had looked down upon Lu Yin; Lu Yin was too flamboyant. He had only become a Ten Arbiters' candidate after the Astral Combat Tournament, and he seemed to reach his peak after the Tournament of the Strongest. Being able to use Thirty Stacks had made Lu Yin the most dazzling of the various Ten Arbiters candidates, but from Mu Rong's perspective, this person did not understand their strength at all. He had seen Lu Yin as nothing more than a clown.

However, Mu Rong now understood that Lu Yin was no clown; rather, he was a rare true super powerhouse who could rival the Ten Arbiters. He was genuinely unequalled within the same realm, and Mu Rong was certain that even Ye Xingchen would be no match for Lu Yin. This person was so powerful while still in the Limiteer realm that it had reached the levels of incomprehensible.

Lu Yin had allowed Mu Rong to witness the birth of a new monster. Mu Rong had been declared as an unequalled Limiteer by the Ten Arbiters and represented their vision, but Lu Yin had surpassed that. He had risen to the same level that the Ten Arbiters had as Limiteers.

Lu Yin lowered his left arm, relieved that he had broken free from the farmer boy's controlling song. If he had encountered Mu Rong before entering that separate space with the golden ocean, he would have lost without question. The universe was indeed vast and contained all kinds of geniuses. After defeating Mu Rong, Lu Yin could be considered as one who stood at the pinnacle of all Limiteers. However, he secretly cautioned himself to not be careless, as he was still being compared with just Limiteers. His true opponents were the Ten Arbiters themselves, those immeasurable freaks.

Everyone stared dumbfoundedly, and all of Halfwillow Lakeside fell completely silent. Before too much time passed, a voice called out, "I admit defeat."

It was Mu Rong's voice. His wooden flute split apart after he finished speaking before completely vanishing.

The countless people watching were stunned, but then the crowd erupted in cheers. No one had favored Lu Yin's victory before the battle started, and so when he achieved victory, the cheers they gave him were even more resounding. Moreover, Lu Yin was the Sea King Dome's future son-in-law, so it made the audience feel glorious, as he was already partially one of them. The Sea King's Dome was the strongest.

Lu Yin quietly let the Fatesand merge back into his left arm and heart, causing his physical strength to rapidly decline.

The only variable during this battle had been the farmer boy's song. As soon as it had proven ineffective against Lu Yin, Mu Rong had no longer been able to retaliate.

Lu Yin had not even used his Fatesand during this battle. Of course, the difference that would have been made would be relatively minor since even the Fatesand could not withstand Mu Rong's innate gift of the farmer boy's song.

Ling Que sighed in the distance, rather disappointed. He had thought that everything would end the moment the farmer boy's song appeared, but he had expected that Lu Yin would be such a freak. How had he cultivated his physical strength to those levels? It was just too absurd.

Cheng Wu, Northgate Lie, and the rest all left. They were afraid of being seen by Lu Yin and being challenged. That would be bad, as being defeated by a Limiteer would be absolutely humiliating.

Michelle and the others had complicated expressions as they watched Lu Yin. Was the difference between him and them really that vast? They had thought that they could still see his back, but after this battle, they felt like he was so far ahead of them that he was basically out of sight.

Xia Luo smiled, and he looked at Lu Yin with a bit of excitement and competitiveness.

In the distance, Hai Dashao gathered his gaze, seemingly having fallen into deep thought. This Lu Yin had cultivated his physical body to an extraordinary degree, and as soon as he broke through to the Explorer realm, he would definitely rank within the top fifty on the Top 100 Rankings, or perhaps even higher. This person was truly a Ten Arbiters' candidate, which Hai Dashao himself had to admit. He could see that Lu Yin had the potential to eventually challenge the top ten on the Top 100 Rankings.

"Brother, let me ask you a serious question." Hai Qiqi looked solemnly at Hai Dashao.

Hai Dashao nodded, as he knew that Hai Qiqi must be experiencing various conflicting emotions after watching the fight. "Shoot."

"Have you guys ever considered the possibility of domestic abuse?"

This one sentence threw Hai Dashao's mind into disarray. He waved his hand and tore through the void to leave, not even knowing how to reply to Hai Qiqi.

Hai Qiqi gritted her teeth in frustration. "Isn't that a valid question? If I'm really married to such a violent maniac, then what will I do if he beats me?" She then chased after Hai Dashao.

Halfwillow Lakeside had been ruined by this battle.

Mu Rong left, though he was not as disappointed as Ling Que by losing. Although Lu Yin's strength had shocked him, he quickly calmed down. To him, the outcome of the battle wasn't that important. Since his strength had already been revealed a few days ago, it was already enough to satisfy his goals.

Lu Yin stretched lazily; he had won. This time, even that old fellow, the Sea King, should be happy, which meant that Lu Yin would not need to take responsibility for the bill of 30,000 star essence, which was a relief.

Zhang Dingtian slowly walked over from where he had been watching.

Lu Yin turned around and looked at Zhang Dingtian. "You—"

After uttering just one single word, the scene before Lu Yin's eyes changed. He returned to the area beneath the waterfall once again.

Lu Yin was speechless. "Senior Sea King, please allow this junior to chat with that person."

"Reflect well on this battle. If not for your extreme physical strength, how else could you have won?" the Sea King's voice sounded.

Lu Yin's heart moved, and he sighed. His talk with Zhang Dingtian could only wait till later.

Beside Halfwillow Lakeside, Zhang Dingtian stared at the empty space in front of him for a moment and then turned around to silently leave.

The entire Sea King's Dome was discussing Lu Yin's battle with Mu Rong. As for the ranking of the four strongest Limiteers, Lu Yin was now placed firmly at the top while Ling Que had been moved down to number four, which left him very upset.. He could only concede that he had no chances of beating Lu Yin or Mu Rong, but why was even Ye Xingchen ranked above him? He could not accept such a thing.

Ye Xingchen had roamed the Cosmic Sea as a Limiteer, which was indeed admirable. However, no one believed that he had used his own strength to survive there, as that was impossible. It wasn't even realistic for a Hunter to roam the Cosmic Sea by themselves, which meant that Ye Xingchen's time there had to have something more to it. As for his true strength, Ling Que really wanted to have a fight with Ye Xingchen.

News of the battle quickly spread out from the Sea King's Dome, and more people learned of it as time passed. However, it still took some time for it to spread to the rest of the universe since the battle had not been broadcast like the Astral Combat Tournament.

However, the Ten Arbiters were among the first to learn about the details of this battle.

In the Inniverse, in a certain area, Wen Sansi looked at the information he had received from the Starfall Sea, and he laughed heartily. He had always maintained a certain elegance, and he hardly ever revealed such a joyous appearance, but Lu Yin's victory over Mu Rong had truly delighted him.

Mu Rong was that guy's underling. The Ten Arbiters often recruited powerhouses with powerful innate gifts to work under them, but no Limiteer could avoid being compared to Mu Rong. Within the Limiteer realm, the other nine's recruits were all inferior to that bugger, Mu Rong. This was why Wen Sansi had previously had Mira release some information about Mu Rong to Lu Yin, in hopes that Lu Yin would be able to defeat him.

It didn't matter if Lu Yin was on Wen Sansi's side or not. As long as he defeated Mu Rong, the rest of them would be able to breathe easier as they would no longer need to bear that guy's suppression.

Of course, everything was just a struggle in name, and it would not affect the overall situation. However, anyone who had been suppressed for so many years would think of resisting, and Mu Rong had finally been defeated.

"Mira, report this piece of good news to the Ten Arbiters Council." Wen Sansi was very happy.

On a screen, Mira nodded and gave a slight smile. "Yes, Arbiter Wen."

It didn't take long for the video of Lu Yin's victory over Mu Rong to appear on the Ten Arbiters Council network, which caused quite a commotion. Through the Ten Arbiters Council's interface, it directly reached the ears of powerful groups such as the Daynight clan and the Lingling clan.

Nightqueen Yanqing was stumped as she stared blankly at the video. All the air seemed to have been sucked out of her. "Why is it like this? The disparity is actually that great?"

She was currently in the ancestral region of the Daynight clan, and there was a Nightking elder before her. Nearby, there was a figure who stood tall like an iron tower. If Lu Yin was present, he would be stupefied upon realizing that this figure was none other than Zhanlong Daynight, who should have still been trapped in the Shenwu Continent.

In the Erudite Flowzone, the Wen family also saw the video. The younger generation only saw the fight as a struggle for the title of the most powerful Limiteer, but the large clans saw a different picture—another form of struggle. When the Ten Arbiters inevitably left the scene, a new batch of people would wield power over the younger generation. Lu Yin's battle with Mu Rong was a sign for this second phase of struggling to rule the younger generation.

"Qian'er, you must now realize that there's always someone stronger, right?"

"Uncle, Qian'er wants to experience the strength of the strongest Limiteer. Then I will break through as an Explorer. Otherwise, I won't be satisfied."

"That isn't very easy. Why don't you get your cousin to take you to the Ten Arbiters Council? Then, you can battle with Mu Rong."

"No, I must experience the most powerful. I want to fight against Lu Yin."

...

On a certain planet, countless broken swords were stabbed into the ground, and off in the distance there was a towering sword peak. Liu Shaoqiu stood at the top as he watched the video, his gaze revealing his shock. Lu Yin had already surpassed him by a great margin.

As Liu Shaoqiu reflected on this, he closed the screen and looked up, his gaze firm. He would not forget his promise with Lu Yin to challenge the Top 100 Rankings together. He refused to be inferior to Lu Yin, so he would climb this sword mountain that his female senior had once trained on, and he would transform once again. The Sword Sect would always be the strongest.

In a certain area of the Outerverse, Xi Yue also watched the video. When she finished, she looked up with a complex gaze. Perhaps this person would be able to help them.

In a certain area in the Innerverse, a man closed his eyes. "It's getting closer."

Barely a few days after the battle at Halfwillow Lakeside, Michelle and the rest left the Sea King's Dome, leaving only Big Pao and Little Pao behind. The two brothers could only patiently wait in the Sea King's Dome until they verified that the Bo Duo and Feng Mo would not cause them any more trouble, though that did not seem likely to happen anytime soon.

Faceless also left the Sea King's Dome, and after witnessing the battle at Halfwillow Lakeside, he felt that he had underestimated Lu Yin previously. This person's status in the clan might be even higher than what he had previously imagined, as he had defeated Mu Rong without using any death energy. That was no simple strength, and perhaps only that person from the Neohuman Alliance could rival him!

However, he could not talk to Lu Yin any longer, so he could neither report the news concerning the Bo Duo's deaths nor Feng Mo's escape.

Chapter 469: War

The Explorer Starsibyl had seen the battle as well. Lu Yin's answer kept returning to her mind. She didn't know what to make of his answer, but she felt it was necessary to return to the sect and report it. Lu Yin, Mu Rong, and the others all represented the younger generation to a certain degree. When the Ten Arbiters inevitably left the younger generation, it would be time for the top ten of the Top 100 Rankings to take their place. Lu Yin and his peers would likely take the places of the Ten Arbiters, and Lu Yin was obviously one of the very top ones, which meant that his answer was very important.

Hai Qiqi kept to herself for a few days, but in the end, she decided to visit Lu Yin. "Hey, how does that cowherd's song work?" That was the bit that she was the most curious about.

Lu Yin's eyes went wide, and he looked at her. "It controls people."

"That's amazing! So why didn't you get controlled?" Hai Qiqi's eyes were huge, and she blinked slowly.

Lu Yin pursed his lips. "Because I'm strong."

Hai Qiqi looked like she was deep in thought as she focused on Lu Yin. After a long period of silence, she asked, "Do you think cultivators are more likely to become perpetrators of domestic abuse?"

Lu Yin was left speechless.

The Ghost Monkey sighed. "I suddenly feel like Ming Yan suits you better, Seventh Bro. I know that you want more influence, but there's no need to sacrifice so much for it! Find somebody else. With your talent, I'm sure that there'll be someone who's blind enough to want you."

At that moment, Lu Yin's gadget beeped with a notification. He tapped the screen and found that Lily Anne was calling him.

"Congratulations on properly becoming the most powerful Limiteer!" She grinned as she spoke.

Lu Yin gave a short, modest response.

Hai Qiqi poked her head over. "Who's that?"

"It's got nothing to do with you," Lu Yin retorted in annoyance.

Hai Qiqi snorted. "I'll tell father that you have a mistress."

Lu Yin was stunned, and so was Lily Anne.

Hai Qiqi burst out laughing. "I didn't mean it! I never planned on marrying you anyways. It works out better for me if you already have someone who you like. I'll have father allow you two to be together." After that, she waved at Lily Anne and happily left.

It was only after Hai Qiqi had gone far away that Lily Anne regained her wits. This was the first time she had ever met such a person, and she had obviously not been able to keep her composure. Just one sentence had completely changed the atmosphere.

"My apologies, Ms. An-er. That girl is a little... a little..." Lu Yin didn't even know what to say. Regardless of all else, Hai Qiqi's thought process was all over the place, her mind was not at all normal, and she also had a very sharp tongue. However, Lu Yin didn't dare to say any of this since he was sure that the Sea King was watching him.

Lily Anne chuckled. "That must have been the Sea King's daughter."

Lu Yin nodded, clearly at a loss for what to say.

Lily Anne smiled. "She's very direct, and she's a good kid. You need to make sure that you hang onto her, Lu Yin. Being able to marry the Sea King's daughter is many people's dream. Not to mention that she's very pretty!"

Lu Yin had no idea where Lily Anne had gotten the idea that Hai Qiqi was a good person. Was she pretty? This woman must be trying to suck up to him. However, Lily Anne possessed an intellectual beauty, and didn't seem like the type to do any bootlicking. Lu Yin still had not forgotten what had happened on their way to Northline Flowzone. That woman had sucked up to somebody without anybody realizing it. This time, she must be trying to suck up to the Sea King.

"Is there anything you need from me, Ms. An-er?" Lu Yin inquired.

Lily Anne's expression suddenly turned grim. "Do you know what's happened in Frostwave Weave?"

Lu Yin was startled. "Frostwave Weave? What happened?"

Lily Anne frowned. "You haven't heard? The Beast Tamers Flowzone's Second Grade Hall has declared war on Frostwave Weave, and their target is the Great Yu Empire. Apparently, quite a few captains from the Great Yu Empire's Imperial Thirteen Squadrons have already headed towards the border, including that Hunter realm blind monk."

Lu Yin's expression changed, because he honestly had no idea that such a development had taken place. "How did you find out about this?"

"It seems like you truly didn't know. Alright, I'll tell you. This is no longer a secret known only to the great clans of the universe." She paused for a moment and then seriously said, "Within the Astral Wilderness, somebody discovered an extremely dense substance called pyrolyte that is incredibly destructive. Just one gram of it can release a destructive power that matches an attack with a power level of over 10,000, which means that it is a strategic war resource. Securing a large amount of this substance could possibly be enough to alter the courses of certain circumstances in the universe, which is why many organizations have sent their people to explore the Astral Wilderness.

"At this time, the place where we've found the most pyrolyte is close to Northcastle Weave, which is coincidentally one of the places in the Outerverse that's close to the Astral Wilderness. It also happens to lie directly north of Frostwave Weave. I hope that this makes sense to you, Lu Yin."

Lu Yin narrowed his eyes. "So you're saying that a number of organizations have sent people into Northcastle Weave and that the Second Grade Hall is trying to lay their hands on Frostwave Weave?"

"I'm not exactly sure what's happening behind the scenes, but I know that the Second Grade Hall has launched an attack against Frostwave Weave for sure. After finding out, I immediately contacted you," Lily Anne explained.

Lu Yin took a deep breath. "Thanks for letting me know, Ms. An-er."

Lily Anne knew that Lu Yin needed to immediately contact his people in the Great Yu Empire, so she did not drag the conversation out any further and quickly hung up.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed, and he immediately called Huo Qingshan. Soon enough, the man appeared on Lu Yin's screen.

"Is there something that you haven't told me?" Lu Yin asked while holding in his rage.

Huo Qingshan was confused. "What? Nothing is happening."

"The Second Grade Hall is attacking Frostwave Weave, and you're trying to keep it from me? Or are you trying to say that I am no longer the regent of the Great Yu Empire?" Lu Yin demanded. He was now truly furious, feeling like he'd been cheated.

Huo Qingshan answered, "Where did you hear these rumors, your highness?"

Lu Yin narrowed his eyes. "Rumors?"

Huo Qingshan nodded. "Some time ago, some experts from the Second Grade Hall pursued and tried to kill a survivor of Northcastle Weave's Greatsword Dynasty. They fought Captain Shalosh, but they were all defeated. So, they sent some more men to take revenge, but that's all that happened. There hasn't been any attack against Frostwave Weave."

"What about the Blind Monk? Why'd he go to the border?" Lu Yin asked.

Huo Qingshan chuckled. "That's because we were afraid that one of the Second Grade Hall's commanders might personally come. A Hunter isn't someone who Captain Shalosh or the others can

deal with. Please do not worry, your highness. The Great Yu Empire isn't weak, and this matter has already been reported to the Fifth Princess, Wendy Yushan. She told us not to bother you."

Lu Yin sighed. It seemed that Huo Qingshan and the rest had not intentionally hidden things from him. They had only done so because they did not realize just how serious the situation was. A while back, Lu Yin had told Huo Qingshan that they shouldn't contact him unless it was something very important. And Huo Qingshan saw this matter as an act of revenge, not war, which explained why he hadn't reported any of it to Lu Yin. But in actuality, this really was war.

The Great Yu Empire definitely knew nothing about pyrolyte and thought that the Second Grade Hall appearing in Northcastle Weave was just a random coincidental matter. Those large organizations had managed to completely seal off all relevant information from the rest of the universe. It was likely that even that survivor from the Greatsword Dynasty had no idea about why his dynasty had fallen. Most of the organizations in the Outerverse knew nothing about the current situation, and only those in the Innerverse would have knowledge of the discovery of pyrolyte.

Thankfully Lu Yin had managed to find out. Otherwise, the moment the Second Grade Hall started coveting Frostwave Weave's geographic location and attacked, the Great Yu Empire would have found itself waist deep in grave danger.

"This is an order: the Great Yu Empire is to cease all attacks. Gather all of our warships in the north. The captains of the Ninth Imperial Squadron, Rocky Auna, the Thirteenth Imperial Squadron, Liuying Yushan, and all the new recruits who are at or above the Explorer realm are to gather at the border between Frostwave Weave and Northcastle Weave. The moment enemies are discovered, make sure to intimidate them, but do not declare war on them. In addition, please have Xueshan Auna head over to the border to take charge," Lu Yin stated sternly.

Huo Qingshan was shocked, but when he studied Lu Yin's expression more, he realized that things were bad. "Has something happened, your highness?"

Lu Yin sighed for a moment before telling the man about pyrolyte. Huo Qingshan immediately realized where the issue lay. Frostwave Weave was just south of Northcastle Weave, and they even directly bordered it. Their geographical location was very important, and the Second Grade Hall clearly wanted to take control of Frostwave Weave. That meant that Northcastle Weave was already done for.

Reality didn't match that survivor's description, as he had said that only the Greatsword Dynasty had been destroyed. It might seem like many of the large organizations in Northcastle Weave still existed, but in actuality, the Innerverse had taken control of every major organization.

The Second and First Grade Halls were both subservient to the Divine Grade Hall. And the Divine Grade Hall represented the entire Beast Tamers Flowzone.

"Understood. Please do not worry, your highness," Huo Qingshan stated grimly.

Lu Yin nodded, but just as he was about to hang up, a thought suddenly occurred to him. "Did you say that Captain Shalosh fought against some experts from the Second Grade Hall in order to protect a survivor from the Greatsword Dynasty? Where is that survivor?"

“On his way to Zenyu Star,” Huo Qingshan answered.

Lu Yin stated, “Keep him safe.”

“Yes, sir.”

Many of the large organizations from the Inniverse had gathered in Northcastle Weave, making that weave very lively. Even the Lily Clan had gone there, and they were just a small family who weren’t even from one of the Eight Great Flowzones. Thus, why shouldn’t Lu Yin participate as well?

Lu Yin was not actually expecting to actually get anything, but it would be nice if he managed to achieve something of note. Even if it was just a tiny bit, he would be able to upgrade any rare or unusual items he acquired with his die’s Enhance. There was even a chance that he might strike it rich. At the thought of how much money he’d made from those items he acquired inside the centipede’s body, his eyes gleamed.

However, handling the crisis in Frostwave Weave was of the utmost importance right now.

With this in mind, Lu Yin contacted Wendy Yushan, but unfortunately, he did not manage to reach her. He thought about calling Mira but ultimately decided against it. The Ten Arbiters Council would not be able to exert any influence upon the competition in the Northcastle Weave and the Astral Wilderness. Additionally, they would not be able to protect Frostwave Weave either.

While standing beneath the waterfall, Lu Yin pondered over the matter for a long time before finally bowing towards the sky. “I would like to request an audience with you, sir.”

Soon enough, the Sea King appeared in front of Lu Yin. “You haven’t thought of a way to defeat Mu Rong without brute force?”

Lu Yin shook his head. “No, I have not.”

“It’s very simple. Just steal his flute,” the Sea King chided.

Lu Yin froze. “Steal- steal his flute?”

“His innate gift is that flute, and that farmer boy’s song can only be performed if he plays the flute. Thus, so long as you steal it, you’ll be able to stop him from playing the song! Since you managed to hit him once, that means that you should be able to hit him twice, though you might have to pay a price for it. However, compared to such a feat as defeating him, it would be worth it,” the Sea King explained.

Lu Yin blinked. “But since that flute is his innate gift, it should disappear even if I do manage to steal it.”

“You’re so stupid! Just steal it and then destroy it. An innate gift is something that places a huge burden on the body if it’s used enough. Nobody’s innate gift can be used indefinitely. So naturally, if you destroy it, it will affect him greatly. It isn’t that easy to perform that farmer boy’s song. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have given Ling Que the chance to combine those three blades into one. Perhaps if he had taken that attack, he wouldn’t have been able to use the farmer boy’s song,” the Sea King explained.

Lu Yin recalled what had happened with Mu Rong in their battle and realized that the Sea King’s words were true. Mu Rong had not given Lu Yin the chance to attack a second time and had hurriedly used the farmer boy’s song. It was indeed possible that the attack took a lot out of him and that once he was

injured enough, he wouldn't be able to use it anymore. Destroying Mu Rong's flute would actually be able to hurt him at that point.

Having thought things through, Lu Yin looked at the Sea King in awe. "Thank you for the guidance, sir."

Chapter 470: Betrothal Gift

The Sea King held his head high and shook his head. "It's normal that you can't think of such a tactic. How many people in the universe are capable of such nimble thinking like myself? Qiqi has inherited my first-rate genes, so I hope that you won't ruin that inheritance."

Lu Yin pursed his lips, as this father and daughter pair were very similar; they each had a venomous mouth and a favorable impression of themselves. "Senior Sea King, this junior has two things to report."

The Sea King nodded. "Go on."

"First of all, it's about the betrothal gift. If this junior wishes to wed Qiqi, the gift must be presentable. Not only is this a matter of respect towards the Sea King's Dome, but it is also an accounting of my hometown," Lu Yin explained respectfully.

The Sea King cast a sideways glance at Lu Yin. "What sort of betrothal gift can you prepare? Why don't we just call it quits after you return those star essence you spent?"

Lu Yin felt awkward. "This junior's not that wealthy."

"Then what are you talking about? If you don't even have that much money, what sort of gift can you possibly prepare?" The Sea King was disgruntled.

Lu Yin quickly replied, "Although I'm broke, I will try my best to prepare a gift that matches Qiqi so long as senior allows me to return to Frostwave Weave."

The Sea King sneered. "Are you trying to leave? We'll talk about this after you become an Explorer."

Lu Yin deferentially replied, "Senior may not know that junior's home has encountered danger, so I must return."

The Sea King disdainfully answered, "What can you do as a Limiteer?"

"Even if I was a Seeker, so long as my home is in trouble, I cannot shirk my responsibilities. If I may ask, if the Sea King's Dome were to face trouble, would the residents from here return to help? Even if it's useless, they would still be willing to bear the burden all together."

The Sea King's eyes showed that he was moved by Lu Yin's words, and he looked up at the sky. He thought for a moment before saying, "Alright, you may go, but take Qiqi with you."

Lu Yin was alarmed. "Senior, this return trip will be fraught with danger. How can Qiqi be put in such a position?"

The Sea King remained arrogant. "Qiqi does not need your protection since no one dares to touch my daughter. Just take her along with you and don't worry about it. It may even turn out to be the case where she is the one to protect you instead."

Lu Yin wanted to retort, but he was interrupted by the Sea King. "Alright, I'm not going to negotiate with you. Either take Qiqi with you or wait until you become an Explorer."

Lu Yin was helpless, so he could only agree. "Junior understands, and I will try my best to ensure Qiqi's safety."

"I've already said this, but Qiqi does not need your protection. Tomorrow, meet Qiqi at the port." The Sea King then tore through the void and left.

"Seventh Bro, you can't seem to get rid of that woman! I have a feeling that you might accidentally lose your mind if you spend too much time with her." The monkey's schadenfreude at Lu Yin's misfortune was readily apparent.

Lu Yin had no time to think about such things, and he quickly pulled up a star chart showing Frostwave Weave and its surroundings as he thought about how he could resolve this crisis. He could not just charge in recklessly, as the other side could effortlessly send out waves of Hunters. The best plan would be to make use of the various powers and establish an equilibrium. After all, he had spent some time in the Innerverse, so his current social circles could not be measured with the Outerverse's standards.

Moreover, he had Honor Points, so he could gather more information about the tangled relationship between these powers than anyone else, which he could then use to his advantage.

The one eyeing Frostwave Weave was the Beast Tamers Flowzone's Second Grade Hall, so his first step was to research this power more thoroughly. Maybe he could use Kuang Wang.

In another area, at the highest point of the Sea King's Dome, the Sea King stood as he stared out at the Starfall Sea. Behind him, Hai Dashao appeared and spoke in a low voice. "Father, I've checked it. Frostwave Weave is being targeted by the Second Grade Hall, and Northcastle Weave has practically already fallen into the hands of the various powers."

The Sea King nodded, but he had a peaceful look on his face.

"The Second Grade Hall will not be the only foe Lu Yin faces when he returns. With the lure of pyrolyte tempting the various powers there, it will be difficult for him to preserve Frostwave Weave's autonomy, and at best, he'll be able to maintain the Great Yu Empire's territory. This is also after taking the various powers' reservations with the Sea King's Dome into consideration. With his strength as a puny Limiteer, it's completely impossible for him to reverse the situation." Hai Dashao made his report with a contemptuous tone for Lu Yin.

The Sea King smiled. "Did you think that he's going there alone?"

"Why? Does he have helpers?" Hai Dashao was astonished.

"We are his helpers."

Hai Dashao was stunned. "Does Father intend to personally intervene? This will attract the attention of the Hall of Honor. To start--"

The Sea King raised his hand to stop Hai Dashao. "I didn't say that I was going to intervene, but this kid's not an idiot either. From his previous deeds, this kid has shown that he's adept at socializing, and that he's even better at borrowing power. Why do you think he mentioned preparing a betrothal gift? I dare

guarantee that, as soon as he can't withstand the situation, this kid will definitely prepare a betrothal gift for the Sea King's Dome as a means to intimidate the various powers. He already has all sorts of ways to save Frostwave Weave. It's even possible that he might offer Frostwave Weave to our Sea King's Dome as his betrothal gift."

Hai Dashao grew furious. "Would that brat really be so bold? Father, we can't let him act so willfully! We have an agreement with the Hall of Honor."

The Sea King did not mind that matter. "So what if we have an agreement? No one in the universe can stop me."

Hai Dashao knitted his brows. As he stared at the Sea King's figure, he suddenly seemed to think of something. "Father, is having Qiqi follow him to indicate our Sea King's Dome's position?"

The Sea King smiled, but he did not reply.

"Father, do you want to obtain the pyrolyte?" Hai Dashao probed.

The Sea King's gaze trembled. "Whether or not it can be obtained depends on how that kid behaves. I hope that he won't disappoint me, or else I may have to act personally."

Hai Dashao was overwhelmed; if the Sea King took action, then those old freaks from the various powers would also appear, potentially snowballing into a disaster that would sweep across the universe. Was this pyrolyte really that important? Hai Dashao did not understand. Even if pyrolyte was a strategic military resource, no one in the universe dared to provoke the Starfall Sea or the Sea King's Dome. Would he need to leave the Starfall Sea to obtain this material?

If the Sea King moved out, then the Neoverse wouldn't remain silent either, and the entire universe would be thrown into chaos.

Hai Dashao suddenly realized that Lu Yin's trip was actually very important, as he would have to obtain a sufficient amount of pyrolyte to satisfy the Sea King. Otherwise, a disaster would occur, and no one knew about this possible outcome other than Hai Dashao and the Sea King himself.

Lu Yin naturally did not know that the Sea King required pyrolyte, as it would already be an amazing outcome if he could preserve Frostwave Weave with his return.

Hold on. Hai Dashao suddenly thought of another possibility. Perhaps Father is allowing Lu Yin to leave in order to allow his future son-in-law to be bullied after leaving the Starfall Sea. As soon as Lu Yin was unable to save Frostwave Weave, the Sea King would have enough justification to act, and no one would be able to argue against him.

The Hall of Honor could not stop the Sea King from helping his own future son-in-law.

And if after helping his future son-in-law he snatched some pyrolyte, no one would dare to say anything.

As he watched the Sea King's smile, Hai Dashao was shocked. He reckoned that even the various powers who had taken over Northcastle Weave did not know that they were already being watched by the Sea King and that everything was going according to his plan.

Hai Dashao left, still pondering some matters, though he knew that he could not stop anything.

“Father, it’s time to tell Second Bro.” A screen rose up from a gadget beside the Sea King. The display showed a man who looked very similar to Hai Dashao. He was the Sea King’s eldest son.

The Sea King’s gaze grew complicated. “Wait for him to become a Hunter.”

“Father, it’s too radical an idea to use pyrolyte to blast that path open. Nobody knows what will happen once that path is cleared, and the original tragedy might even repeat itself.”

The Sea King’s expression grew heavy. “So what? This universe is merely a pretense! Nothing can be worse than this outcome. That path could be a dead end, but it may also be a source of hope. And so what if it’s a dead end? At worst, everyone can die together without anyone escaping.”

“The Hall of Honor will not let you succeed.”

“They are too conservative. They have no idea that, the longer the delay, the more we’ll be suppressed. It’s been too long since this universe has been devoid of a Progenitor.”

“Second Brother has probably gone looking for Lu Yin. Aren’t you worried that he’ll let something leak?”

The Sea King clasped his hands behind his back. “It doesn’t matter. The kid can’t even decide his own future. So what if he knows, and so what if he doesn’t. Ignorance is bliss, after all.”

“Then, what about Qiqi? Do you truly plan to marry Qiqi off to him?”

“If he’s not an enemy, sure. If he is, he’ll be killed immediately.” The Sea King’s tone grew cold. As he uttered those words, the atmosphere of the entire Sea King’s Dome changed, and the even Starfall Sea grew more despondent.

...

Hai Dashao’s emotions were complicated. He did not understand why they needed pyrolyte. Given the power of the entire Sea King’s Dome, they should have no need for pyrolyte at all.

The Sea King’s Dome enjoyed an exceptional status in the universe, partly because the Starfall Sea did not interfere in the struggles of the other powers. However, as soon as the Sea King’s Dome acted, there would be a backlash from the various powers of the universe, which would then restrict the Sea King’s Dome status. This was not what Hai Dashao wished to see.

He unwittingly walked to the waterfall where Lu Yin was, and saw that the Limiteer was deep in thought.

Lu Yin was studying a star chart and considering what might help him as he contemplated his future moves when he returned to Frostwave Weave. He gathered himself when he saw Hai Dashao approach.

“Are you leaving tomorrow?” Hai Dashao asked softly.

Lu Yin nodded.

Hai Dashao looked at Lu Yin and hesitated. “Your reply to Starsibyl was rather disappointing to me.”

Lu Yin casually smiled. “My apologies. It probably wasn’t just you who was disappointed—even the Sea King should be very disappointed. Still, that is my reply, and it will not change.”

Hai Dashao frowned, but he did not reply.

“Did you come here just to tell me this?”

Hai Dashao stared into Lu Yin’s eyes. “You should have heard about... pyrolyte.”

Lu Yin nodded. “I’ve heard of it.”

“Father wishes for your betrothal gift to be pyrolyte,” Hai Dashao said. He could not reveal everything, so he had to leave his words vague.

Lu Yin was astounded. “The Sea King needs pyrolyte?”

“Whether he needs it or not is none of your business. In any case, your gift can only be pyrolyte, or else-” At this point, Hai Dashao paused since he did not know how to continue. Or else what? We won’t let him marry Qiqi? This kid would actually be eager for such an outcome, as Hai Dashao had not forgotten what had happened during the selection competition and was well aware that Lu Yin did not wish to marry Qiqi.

Lu Yin replied, “The various great powers of the universe are all focused on pyrolyte. It’ll be very difficult for me to get any of it. I’m just a Limiteer, and although I may have some statuses and titles that will cause some to hesitate, it’s not to the extent where they will concede this resource to me.”

Hai Dashao turned to leave. “That’s your problem. Anyway, the Sea King’s Dome’s required betrothal gift is pyrolyte. If you can’t obtain it, then you know what price you’ll have to pay.”

And with that, Hai Dashao left.

Lu Yin suddenly felt that pyrolyte was far more important than what he had previously believed. Even the Sea King’s Dome, a power that did not involve itself in the universe’s disputes, wanted it. Since the Sea King’s Dome wanted it, and since he had even used such a reason, then it was even more justifiable for him to borrow their influence, though that was still his last resort.