

Chapter 471: Collapsible Spacecraft

The Sea King's guess had been dead on. From the very beginning, Lu Yin had expected Frostwave Weave to be in the worst-case scenario. He was not arrogant enough to believe that he alone could save Frostwave Weave. The Sea King's reputation was his trump card, and if things really took a turn for the worst, then he would hand the entire Great Yu Empire over to the Sea King. He was certain that nobody would want to go up against the Sea King just for a tiny Great Yu Empire.

However, that would also mean that he'd have nothing left. Then again, that would be better than having the empire be divided up between the other organizations.

With no news about Feng Mo and the Bo Duo, Big Pao and Little Pao still had no choice but to remain at the Sea King's Dome. Given Lu Yin's current status, Feng Mo and the others wouldn't dare to attack him. Even if they did, he had plenty of ways of getting away. Thus, Lu Yin was not worried at all. Hai Qiqi, on the other hand... The Sea King's confident tone had not left Lu Yin with much of a choice.

The next day, at the port, Hai Qiqi arrived even earlier than Lu Yin. She stood aboard a huge ship, looking incredibly excited as she stared towards the Starfall Sea's entrance with sparkling eyes.

She only noticed Lu Yin after he walked up behind her, causing her to roll her eyes. "You didn't make any sound."

"How does nobody recognize you? Aren't you the Sea King's daughter?" Lu Yin was very curious about this. Hai Qiqi was standing at the ship's bow. Logically speaking, there should be a lot of people staring at her, but the area below them was completely empty.

Hai Qiqi's gaze dimmed, and she haughtily replied, "Precisely. I'm the Sea King's daughter. Not just anyone can meet me."

Lu Yin thought nothing of her statement.

At this point, a voice rang out from behind the two of them. "The spacecraft is ready, Princess Qiqi."

The voice was unexpected and startled Lu Yin, because that person had spoken from right next to him.

He unconsciously shifted a few steps away and looked over to see an old man who had suspiciously appeared out of nowhere.

The old man looked at Lu Yin and gave him a kind smile.

"Okay. Got it," Hai Qiqi answered before excitedly running into the ship.

The old man watched on as she left before turning to look at Lu Yin. He smiled again. "Take care of Qiqi, kid. While the words she speaks aren't very nice, she's very innocent and kind."

Lu Yin nodded.

The old man kept smiling. "I saw your fight. Not bad at all! Keep working hard, and hopefully someday, we'll be able to go against the current."

After saying that, the old man left.

Lu Yin watched the old man's figure move away, not understanding what he had just said. At that moment, Hai Qiqi yelled out, "Hey, what are you two doing? Let's go!"

The spacecraft that the Sea King had provided them was a very unique one. The manufacturer was Aurora Enterprises. It was a collapsible small spacecraft that could carry three people, but when not in use, the vessel could be collapsed into a form small enough to be stored in a cosmic ring.

The moment he saw the spacecraft, Lu Yin told himself that he was definitely getting himself one later. He'd already lost quite a number of spacecraft and had even left an Aurora back on Deep Crimson Planet.

However, the cost of a collapsible spacecraft was, in Hai Qiqi's words, "something Lu Yin would never be able to afford." However, Lu Yin did not agree with her opinion at all. Over the course of his entire cultivation journey, he'd spent nearly twenty thousand star essence. This was just a spacecraft, and an ordinary radiant-grade spacecraft only cost ten star essence.

However, when Hai Qiqi told Lu Yin the price, he realized that he might have been a bit too arrogant. It was indeed a fact that he couldn't afford such a spacecraft. This collapsible, radiant-grade Aurora carried a preposterous price of twenty thousand star essence.

"Why is this thing so expensive?" Lu Yin asked in shock.

Hai Qiqi rolled her eyes at him. "Calling you ignorant would be a compliment at this point. Have you ever heard of a collapsible spacecraft being sold? This is cutting-edge technique. The features of a collapsible spacecraft isn't just limited to its ability to be stored—it also has to meet certain standards in terms of speed, defenses, completeness, and so on. That alone is incredibly valuable. Besides, do you really think that twenty thousand is too much for a radiant-grade spacecraft that you can take out at any moment and use to flee?"

Lu Yin was speechless; that wasn't considered expensive? It was way too expensive! It suddenly made sense why he'd never heard of anyone using such a thing before. Even the rich young masters from large organizations whom he knew couldn't afford such an expense, and only those who were comparable to Hai Qiqi could disregard such a cost. However, what she had said also made sense. If Lu Yin had possessed such a spacecraft back then, then he wouldn't have been stuck and could have fled at any moment. It very well could have saved his life.

Even then, such a spacecraft wasn't worth such a price, and it was mostly this expensive because it was rare. What was being sold was not just the product, but also a status that most people could only aspire towards.

"I'll tell you one more thing. There aren't a lot of spacecraft like this one in the Outerverse. Every year, Aurora Enterprises builds a limited number of such products. Just having money doesn't qualify you to buy one," Hai Qiqi stated arrogantly.

"Are you saying that even the Mavis family can't buy one?" Lu Yin joked.

Hai Qiqi's expression changed. "What's this got to do with the Mavis family?"

“Their name is synonymous with money.”

“Don’t get confused. I never said anything about the Mavis family—I’m talking about you. Someone like you wouldn’t be able to buy one even if you had the money for it.”

“How would you know if I have the means to buy one? We’ll be splitting all of our individual assets properly before we get married.”

Hai Qiqi gritted her teeth. “Pfft, I don’t care about the tiny bit of money that you might have, you poor fool. Wait—who said I’m going to marry you?”

Lu Yin pretended to sigh. “That’s great. I’m actually very rich, and I’ll be even richer in the future.”

Hai Qiqi snorted and promptly ignored him.

The radiant grade Aurora was very fast, but even so, it would still take it more than two months to travel from the Sea King’s Dome to the Outerverse’s Frostwave Weave. The Starfall Sea was located at the westernmost part of the Innaverse, quite close to Endless Weave, while Frostwave Weave was located in the eastern quadrant of the Outerverse and was close to the Astral Beast Domain. In terms of the Human Domain, one was in the southwest while the other was in the northeast. The two were just too far apart. If they had to change routes halfway through their journey, then they might not be able to arrive even after three or four months.

However, they had pretty good luck and did not run into any trouble along the way, nor were they washed away by the waves. The things that they had been worried about, such as Feng Mo and Undying Yushan’s enemies trying to take revenge, did not occur, though that was possibly because of the Sea King’s emblem on the side of the spacecraft.

This was basically a game of intimidation. Lu Yin believed that in Soulseal, Daynight, and Chaos Flowzones, nobody would dare attack a spacecraft that belonged to the Sea King. These three flowzones were close to the Starfall Sea, and the people there would naturally recognize the Sea King’s emblem. Outside of the Innaverse, though, the situation would be different.

Lu Yin and Hai Qiqi did not make any stops anywhere, and they quickly passed through the entrance of Starfall Sea and Chaos Flowzone before reaching the Astral River. After crossing it, they would be in the Outerverse. Then, they would need to pass through dozens of more weaves to finally reach Frostwave Weave. Just the thought of it made it apparent to Lu Yin how far away his destination was.

Lu Yin sometimes wondered how powerful Mister Mu was. The man had been able to instantly move Lu Yin from Tempest Flowzone to Zhengyang Flowzone, and such a distance was comparable to the distance between the Astral River and Frostwave Weave. Such a thing was simply terrifying, because this distance covered half of the entire Human Domain.

The moment they left the Starfall Sea, Hai Qiqi’s excitement reached a peak. She had never left the Starfall Sea before, and she nearly scared the Ghost Monkey out of Lu Yin’s arm when she screamed in exhilaration. This prompted the monkey to let loose a string of curses for the next ten minutes, but unfortunately, only Lu Yin could hear his ranting.

As they travelled further into the darkness of space, Hai Qiqi’s excitement began to fade away. “Hey, look! That planet’s so colorful! It looks interesting. Can we go and take a look?”

“No. We’re in a hurry.”

“Hey, look! There’s a monster over there!”

Lu Yin was startled and took a look—it was an Explorer level astral beast. Astral beasts did not only live in the Beast Astral Domain, and there were many of them in the Human Domain as well, though they were usually culled by the nearby organizations. They were rarely ever dangerous to humans, and so, such creatures could be spotted every once in a while.

That Explorer beast merely glanced at the spacecraft before flying away.

“Chase it down! I want it to be my mount!” Hai Qiqi was exhilarated.

“No. We’re in a hurry.”

“Hey look, there’s a fleet over there. It looks so big. Let’s go and say hi!”

“No. We’re in a hurry.”

...

Hai Qiqi finally exploded and glared venomously at Lu Yin. “What’s up with you? I’m the daughter of the Sea King! You should be listening to me!”

Lu Yin rolled his eyes. “Didn’t the Sea King tell you that you needed to listen to me before we left?”

“No,” she answered, still furious.

Lu Yin could only explain, “There’s a war in my hometown, so there’s no time to waste.”

“Then let’s part ways,” Hai Qiqi answered.

The suggestion sounded pretty strange, and Lu Yin frowned. “No, you need to come with me, or else I’ll send you back to your father’s place.”

Hai Qiqi grew frustrated and even started grinding her teeth, looking like she was about to bite Lu Yin.

Lu Yin eyed her warily, “Don’t bite me. You’ll break your teeth.”

“Duh, of course that’ll break my teeth! You might be ugly, but you’re clearly very thick-skinned. There’s no way I’ll be able to bite through that!” Hai Qiqi retorted viciously before turning away to look at the viewing port and ignore Lu Yin.

Lu Yin heaved a heavy sigh of relief. Everything would be fine so long as she didn’t create a fuss. He really was in a hurry to return to Frostwave Weave and if it were anyone else trying to delay his return, he’d have rendered them unconscious long ago. However, he couldn’t do such a thing to Hai Qiqi.

The Astral River had a scenery that was completely different from what one could see in the Starfall Sea. While it was called a river, it was far larger and expansive than the Starfall Sea. One of the most unique characteristics of the Starfall Sea was that it truly was a sea with water, whereas the Astral River was formed from all kinds of liquefied energies.

In the past, Lu Yin had assumed that there was only one Astral River Ark in existence, but it turned out that there were actually three. They were located to the east, west, and center of the barrier that separated the Inniverse and the Outerverse. This actually made a lot of sense; otherwise, it would be nearly impossible for anyone from the Outerverse to enter the Inniverse.

Hai Qiqi sighed in praise as she gazed upon the Astral River. She'd only seen it on the network before, so this was her first time seeing it in person.

"Hey, I want to go fishing," Hai Qiqi suddenly stated, staring up at Lu Yin in anticipation as she blinked innocently.

Lu Yin pursed his lips. "No."

Hai Qiqi blustered, "How dare you! It's going to take some time for the ark to reach the other side. You're not to poke your nose into my business during this time, or else I'll get mad!"

Lu Yin nodded. "Okay."

Hai Qiqi froze and tried her luck again. "Really? You can't meddle in my affairs."

Lu Yin seriously answered, "Okay."

Hai Qiqi was in disbelief.

Lu Yin used the status he enjoyed with his Honor Points to quickly board the Astral River Ark, not bothering to join the line as he had in the past. They could board early with special treatment, though the emblem of the Sea King on the hull of their spacecraft startled even the Astral River Envoy.

Their spacecraft was quickly allowed onto the track where it rested in line like the other spacecraft. Just as Lu Yin was wondering why they hadn't been placed on a private, VIP track, somebody appeared outside of their spacecraft. It was a Cruiser.

The Cruiser was there to ask Lu Yin whether or not they wished to switch to a VIP track. This passage was isolated from the rest of the spacecraft and still offered all the necessary facilities inside of it. There was everything they could need as well as servants to wait on them.

Lu Yin decided against it, but he still made sure to inform the Cruiser that Hai Qiqi was an important person from the Sea King's Dome.

Chapter 472: A Unique Planet

The Cruiser's expression quickly changed, and he became exceedingly humble.

And with that, Hai Qiqi's fishing dream was crushed.

Not just anyone was allowed to fish in the Astral River. Even with Lu Yin's strength, Old Gu De had felt that Lu Yin had a relatively high chance of being dragged off and dying. Without becoming a Cruiser, the chances of one dying while fishing were very high. Even after becoming a Cruiser, one could only persist for less than ten hours. This showed just how dangerous the Astral River was.

Upon knowing that Hai Qiqi was somebody important from the Sea King's Dome, there was no way the envoy on the ark would allow her to fish. What she would be fishing for would not be fish, but rather his life. This was why Hai Qiqi had no chance of being allowed to fish.

However, that was not the only thing. All of her movements on the ship started being monitored at all times so that she could be constantly protected.

This was why Lu Yin had been so lenient and accepted her request. The Astral River Envoy would be more worried about her safety than anyone else.

Lu Yin spent all of his time on the situation in Frostwave Weave. Huo Qingshan reported to him practically every day. During this time, the Second Grade Hall had surprisingly stopped their acts of aggression, sending no more experts to Frostwave Weave, and they'd even withdrawn the experts they had sent before.

Such a move made no sense to Lu Yin.

In the Outerverse, at the border between Northcastle Weave and Frostwave Weave, there were dozens of gigantic beasts flying about. Each beast was an Explorer level creature, and every single one of them carried an expert from the Second Grade Hall. Even further away, there was a fortress-looking warship floating through space, carrying a whole group of people from the Second Grade Hall.

In order to secure a cache of pyrolyte, the Second Grade Hall had sent out quite a few powerhouses. The person who had been ordered to attack Frostwave Weave was a Hunter known as Anfield. Powerhouses like him were referred to as commanders within the Second Grade Hall.

Anfield somberly studied the star chart. He never would have imagined that a tiny place like Frostwave Weave would be able to defend against his attacks. It was only when he skimmed through the history of Frostwave Weave that he discovered that the Great Yu Empire, which covered most of Frostwave Weave, had previously managed to fend off an attack from the Ross Empire. It was then that he realized that the Great Yu Empire was more than it appeared to be.

He had fought against a strange-looking Hunter, and to his shock, he had been at a disadvantage. Such a situation caused him to order the assault on Frostwave Weave to halt, especially since it had seemed like that Hunter hadn't even gone all out during their battle.

While the Second Grade Hall was an organization from the Innaverse, it was ranked at the bottom within the Beast Tamers Flowzone, and they could not afford to squander their strength on needlessly attacking Frostwave Weave.

Just the day before, Anfield had received word that the Great Yu Empire's Royal Regent, Lu Yin, might become the Sea King's son-in-law. Such news had been shocking to him and had made him even more reluctant to lay hands on Frostwave Weave.

However, as long as Lu Yin did not truly become the Sea King's son-in-law, they could not give up on Frostwave Weave. They also weren't the only ones with such thoughts. After all, it was not easy for someone to truly become the Sea King's son-in-law.

Currently, it was not in any of the many organizations' best interests to reveal themselves. Hence, they'd chosen a method that many organizations often used: they had recruited a batch of mercenaries and

paid them to attack Frostwave Weave. At this moment, numerous mercenaries from across the Inniverse were heading to the weave.

At this moment, the chaos in Northcastle Weave had become very dangerous. Many large organizations in Northcastle Weave had already disappeared or were now under the control of organizations from the Inniverse. Wars were a constant occurrence and powerhouses could be seen everywhere. There were no less than ten Hunters who had been deployed, and Northcastle Weave was currently knee-deep in strife.

After one passed through Northcastle Weave, they would come to the Astral Wilderness. The Astral Wilderness was a place with no network connected and had no wormholes that could be used to expedite travel. It was filled with danger and beasts. Even if there were catastrophic natural disasters, there would be no way for someone to avoid them. This was the true universe where the threat of death was everywhere.

Since no wormholes had been built in this region, traveling through the Astral Wilderness was an extremely lengthy journey, and it would take one several times longer to travel the same distance compared to the Human Domain.

Only the speed of a Radiant-grade Aurora, at the least, would allow one to somewhat be able to explore the Astral Wilderness. Otherwise, a great amount of time would be wasted on just traveling.

There were nearly ten Hunters fighting in Northcastle Weave, but there were even more in the Astral Wilderness. Just the Souldream Tribe alone had sent three Hunters.

Most of these experts were not trying to fight against others, as they were actually exploring the Astral Wilderness. It was incredibly dangerous there, and every year, at least ten Hunters died there. This was a terrifying number, because a single weave in the Outerverse might not even have that many Hunters.

Of course, the profits that they gained were also sizable. As the explored area of the Astral Wilderness increased, the Outerverse itself expanded. After a while, the region to the north of Northcastle Weave would become a new weave, and the seventy two weaves of the Outerverse would become seventy three.

As techniques to find pyrolyte became increasingly sophisticated, the various organizations had finally found a large amount of pyrolyte on a gigantic planet in the Astral Wilderness. The planet was a dull red color, and there would occasionally be loud explosions on the planet, which might very well be caused by pyrolyte.

Above the planet, battleships hovered in space as many people closely observed the planet. The Daynight clan, Souldream tribe, Sword Sect, and other large organizations in the Inniverse had all appeared, but none of them had descended onto the planet yet.

Far in the distance, powerful undulations swept out every once in a while. These were caused by battles between Hunters, though they quickly died down after appearing.

At this moment, a personal spacecraft rocketed out from the planet and charged towards a battleship. Halfway to the battleship, however, the tiny spacecraft was halted, and it soon exploded, revealing the frightened pilot.

Dozens of people suddenly appeared in outer space, and every single one of them was a Hunter.

“This is a disciple from my sect. Please do not hurt him.” An elder stood in front of the boy and spoke in a long-suffering tone. The elder was a Hunter as well, but he was only an elder from an ordinary organization in the Inverse. Surrounding him were the people of the Daynight clan, Sword Sect, and Wen family, and none of them were people whom he dared to confront.

A Hunter from the Daynight clan moved forward and said with a cold look in his eyes, “There’s no need to be afraid. We just want to know what’s happening down on that planet.”

The elder heaved a sigh of relief and then gestured towards the youth.

The boy answered in terror, “After- after I entered the planet, my star energy was completely suppressed, and I couldn’t sense any ambient star energy on the planet.”

“We already know about that. Tell us something that we don’t,” the powerhouse from the Daynight clan ordered in an icy voice, sounding annoyed.

The boy became even more terrified. “I was lucky enough to arrive not too far away from some pyrolyte ore when I landed. I didn’t go too far from my landing site and left right after I retrieved it.” After saying that, he produced an ore the size of a fist from his cosmic ring and passed it to the elder.

The Hunters around him looked incredibly disappointed. It was no wonder why the kid had left the planet so quickly.

“But I did see an Explorer who landed not too long ago self-destruct,” the boy whispered.

The surrounding Hunters’ eyes went wide like saucers. “What did you say? They self-destructed?!”

“Yes,” the youth answered in a small voice as he ducked his head.

It didn’t take long for all of the large organizations to receive the news that any cultivator who was an Explorer or above would self-destruct upon landing on the planet; there were no exceptions.

After discovering this planet, Hunters from different organizations had tried to investigate the planet themselves, but they had soon discovered that the moment they passed through the atmosphere, there would be violent explosions on the planet. This planet contained a large amount of pyrolyte, which any Hunter’s power would set off. That was why all of the Hunters were unable to enter; they were afraid of destroying the entire planet with their mere presence, and if that happened, everybody present would be done for.

It was, however, a large surprise to everyone that even Explorers were unable to explore this planet.

After many days of research, the organizations finally came to the realization that there was a large amount of aerosolized pyrolyte suspended in the planet’s atmosphere. Not only did it repel star energy, but it also entered the bodies of breathing creatures. Those who had not yet become Explorers were fine, but anyone who was at the Explorer realm or higher had a body that was intrinsically connected to the universe, so once the pyrolyte entered their body, it would start circulating through their body just like their star energy.

Pyrolyte was incredibly unstable, so once a certain amount of it built up in one's body, it would explode. Just one gram could detonate with a power level of over 10,000. If an Explorer stayed on the planet for a while and ended up accumulating more than a gram of pyrolyte inside their body, then they would suffer from an internal explosion. Even a Cruiser would not be able to handle such an event.

In other words, only cultivators who were not Explorers yet could safely explore this planet. And of them, the best choice was Limiteers.

This theory was tested rigorously and confirmed by the cultivators who left the planet periodically. They each stayed on the planet for a few days, and all of the Limiteers had their bodies examined. Although they'd all inhaled quite a lot of pyrolyte, it had naturally been discharged from their body and did not accumulate.

"It has been confirmed that only Limiteers can explore the planet. Contact the clan and have them send over a large number of Limiteers."

"Inform the sect to send Limiteers over."

...

The exploration of the Astral Wilderness typically had nothing to do with Limiteers, but right now, thanks to this planet's unique environment, Limiteers had turned into the main force of this particular expedition.

From far above the planet, numerous spacecraft dropped down. These ships carried troops of mostly Limiteers from various large organizations, though they were primarily freelancers or mercenaries who weren't actually affiliated with anyone. However, by having such people explore the planet first, the organizations would gain a basic understanding of the planet's various regions.

For several days, Hai Qiqi was incredibly depressed. Wherever she went, there would be people following her. It seemed that coming outside with Lu Yin was nowhere near as fun as she had expected it to be. She couldn't use violence to get her way since she wouldn't be able to beat Lu Yin. Thus, with no other choice, Hai Qiqi decided to change her attitude.

"For some reason, you seem really handsome today, Lu Yin!" Hai Qiqi beamed at Lu Yin, looked delighted and adoring.

Lu Yin immediately became cautious. "I don't have any money."

Hai Qiqi grew furious. "You said that you were rich before—no, I'm not asking for money! Besides, I'm richer than you."

Lu Yin sighed. "Great, then go outside and play. Didn't you want to go fishing?"

Upon hearing his words, Hai Qiqi's fury returned in full force. "What kind of stupid place is this? There isn't even a fishing rod! I said that I'd do it myself, but those guys told me that they want to protect the environment, and so, fishing isn't allowed. They even put up a sign that reads 'Protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility.' This place is killing me!"

Lu Yin was speechless. This Astral River Envoy was a lot more entertaining than Old Gude had been.

Hai Qiqi's eyes shifted. "Hey, do you wanna fish, Lu Yin?"

"Nope."

"Boring. Annoying. Irritating." Hai Qiqi tapped her gadget to call someone.

Soon enough, a voice replied from the gadget, "You've left the Starfall Sea already, Qiqi?"

Lu Yin glanced towards the girl. The person she had called had a nice voice.

Hai Qiqi looked glum. "Baobao, I need to tell you something. There's a rotten guy here. His looks are barely average. On top of that, he has a terrible personality, a potty mouth, and a bad attitude..."

Lu Yin was struck speechless. He couldn't believe the nonsense she had suddenly started spouting.

Chapter 473: Conspiracy

The person at the other end of the call quietly listened to all of Hai Qiqi's complaints. Then, they responded, "Don't be so willful, Qiqi. The fact that the Sea King let you go out with him proves that he's not a bad person. Be nice, and he'll treat you well."

Hai Qiqi glared at Lu Yin and snorted. She mumbled something into the gadget and then ran off while still muttering under her breath.

Lu Yin found the whole thing absolutely hilarious. Although Qiqi had a sharp tongue, she was indeed kind at heart. She had never attempted to use her status as the Sea King's daughter to pressure anyone, unlike the successors of some large organizations whose noses were perpetually stuck in the air. Compared to those people, she was actually pretty adorable. However, just who had she been talking to? The other person sounded quite sensible and gentle—the exact opposite of this girl.

Lu Yin thought that he'd finally be able to have some peace to himself, but Hai Qiqi soon returned with a sneaky expression on her face. She stared at Lu Yin, seemingly quite pleased with herself.

Lu Yin raised his eyebrows. "I won't sell my body no matter how much you pay me."

Hai Qiqi didn't get mad. She knew full well that Lu Yin enjoyed riling her, as he wanted to upset her so that she would leave him alone. But this time, she took control of the situation. "I remember that your hometown is in Frostwave Weave and is called the Great Yu Empire, correct?"

Lu Yin nodded. "Yes. That's also where you're headed to."

Hai Qiqi looked up. "Promise me something, and I'll tell you something about your hometown."

"No thanks. Be good and go out to play," Lu Yin quipped back.

Hai Qiqi grinned. "I just heard someone discussing your hometown. They've been hired to start a war with the Great Yu Empire."

Lu Yin's expression changed, and his head snapped around to stare straight at Hai Qiqi. "That's a joke you can't afford to make."

Hai Qiqi crossed her arms and leaned against the door frame. "It's up to you to decide whether or not you treat it as a joke."

Lu Yin stared at her for a while as he spread his domain to cover the entire VIP track and even a bit further. He heard a lot of people talking, and one particular conversation on a spacecraft a kilometer away attracted his interest.

“Are you sure that we’ll be paid? There’s so many of us. Can they afford to hire all of us?”

“Of course. It’s a large organization from the Innerverse. Money isn’t an issue.”

“Who exactly is it that’s hiring us?”

“Shh! I can’t tell you, but since they’re hiring mercenaries in this area, they should be from the east of the Innerverse and not too far away from here.”

“That could be the Tempest Flowzone, Beast Tamers Flowzone, Number One Flowzone...”

“Alright, stop guessing. Who said that they’re from one of the eight Great Flowzones? Whatever it is, make sure that you protect yourselves. You’ll only get paid if you survive.”

“Got it.”

...

“Hey, what do you think? Promise me something, and I’ll tell you what I know.” Hai Qiqi said in a pleased tone.

Lu Yin looked at Hai Qiqi with a strange expression. These people had been talking in a spacecraft with sound-proofing equipment, so how had she managed to overhear their conversation? Those people must have been either so careless that they had talked outside their spacecraft, or Hai Qiqi must have comprehended a domain as well. Lu Yin thought that the latter was more likely. After all, she was the Sea King’s daughter.

Come to think of it, Lu Yin didn’t know what Hai Qiqi’s cultivation was, but from the looks of things, he might have underestimated her. She might not be as powerful as Lu Yin, but she was definitely not weak as she had apparently comprehended her own domain. From the Astral Combat Academy’s standards, she might have reached the level of an Area Master or even a Realm Master.

“Why are you staring at me?” Hai Qiqi eyed him suspiciously and shyly tugged her clothes down. “I’m warning you, I’m strong. Don’t you dare try anything!”

Lu Yin looked away. “If I manage to protect my hometown, I’ll take you out to have some fun.”

“Really?” Her eyes lit up.

Lu Yin nodded. “Yes, but you’ll need to be good and not cause trouble.”

Hai Qiqi snorted. “You sound just like my brother. I’ll have you know that I only agreed to the son-in-law selection thing because I wanted to leave the Starfall Sea. I was going to get a hot guy to keep me company as eye candy while I traveled the universe, but it’s just my luck that I ended up with you. You look like you were made in a rush, and you also seem like the anxious type.”

She continued on, saying, “I’ll have you know that, on a silver spacecraft a kilometer away, there’s a bunch of people talking about how they’re going to attack your hometown.”

“Do you want to do something exciting?” Lu Yin smiled.

Just the sound of doing something was exciting to Hai Qiqi. “What is it?”

Lu Yin laughed in a crafty way.

...

In the Astral Wilderness, on a huge planet, there was a bit of dark red earth. The dry soil here had a pungent smell, and there were a dozen Limiteer cultivators cautiously advancing over the ground with detectors in their hands. These machines were able to detect pyrolyte.

These cultivators were from the Dire Barbarian Clan of Soulseal Flowzone, which was also the clan that Avery was from. He had once defeated Lu Yin during a teleportation battle.

At that moment, a spacecraft smashed into the ground not too far away from the group.

About a dozen Dire Barbarian Clan members suspiciously looked at the massive crater. The steam generated by the friction between the spacecraft and the atmosphere slowly dissipated as the hatch opened to reveal a beautiful pair of hands; it was a girl.

The Dire Barbarian Clan members looked excited. As long as this person wasn't a disciple from a powerful sect, they could kidnap her and have their way with her. They'd been on this stupid planet for over ten days, and it had been incredibly boring.

The members of the Dire Barbarian Clan had terrible personalities and never considered the consequences of their actions, which perfectly fit the name of their clan.

As the hatch opened, a beautiful woman walked out and stepped onto the dark red ground.

This woman was stunning, and she had long, dark blue hair that hung down to her waist. She seemed like a celestial who was superior to mortals, the kind of woman that men would go crazy over. However, the moment these Dire Barbarian Clan members saw her, they went pale before immediately fleeing.

The girl looked up and leaped out, charging after the fleeing clan members. While still in midair, she began to sing a beautiful song. This was the Enticing Soul Song—this girl was Xi Yue of the Souldream Tribe.

Since ancient times, the Souldream Tribe and the Dire Barbarian Clan had been mortal enemies. The Souldream Tribe took pride in slaughtering members of the Dire Barbarian Clan, and the latter prided itself in taking girls from the Souldream Tribe. Neither side had ever conceded to the other.

Coincidentally, Xi Yue had been in the Outerverse and quite close to the Northcastle Weave when the battle for pyrolyte on this planet started. Hence, she had managed to arrive here quickly before the elite disciples of the other sects could arrive. At this moment, she was invincible on this planet.

The reason why she'd chosen to land in this particular location was specifically to kill off all of the Dire Barbarian Clan's members.

The dozen or so Limiteers here had no way to fight back. They were the most ordinary sort of troops, and they had only barely received enough training to pass a test and become Limiteers. This was their limit, and they were no match for Xi Yue.

She stood atop the dark red ground and crushed a stray detector to dust. She then raised her head and carefully felt the energy in the air. "There isn't any star energy. Looks like I'll only be able to recover through using star crystals."

She then soared into the air and headed towards the region that the Souldream Tribe had staked out.

The various large organizations had encircled the planet and marked out different territories. Only the strong had the courage to step into the zones that didn't belong to their faction. It was already amazing enough for the weak to explore the area that they had been assigned. At this point, Xi Yue was practically invincible compared to all of the Limiteers who were currently on the planet.

However, her advantage would only last until the successors of the other organizations arrived.

At that moment, a spacecraft was flying in the direction of Frostwave Weave. It was the same silver vessel that carried all of the mercenaries that had recently been hired. There were hundreds of cultivators inside, among which were even five Explorers and two Cruisers.

It had been a few days since the Astral River Ark had arrived in the Outerverse. While still on the ark, Lu Yin and Hai Qiqi had eliminated two of the mercenaries and impersonated them, using their identities to sneak aboard the silver spacecraft in order to learn more about who was targeting the Great Yu Empire.

These mercenaries weren't properly organized, so nobody had noticed the two of them.

In a hallway, there was a man and a woman meeting in secret. "Hey, this is pretty exciting! Did you know that I was nearly discovered by that Cruiser cultivator just now?"

The man was startled. "Don't do anything out of line! I need to find out who hired them as well as how they're planning to attack Frostwave Weave."

"This is so stupid. Just capture everyone and then interrogate them. Those two Cruisers definitely know who hired them."

The man was left at a loss. "How would you know whether or not they're lying? Anyways, all we need to do is to eavesdrop on them with our domains. We'll talk about what we'll do after we learn all of the important information."

The girl was caught off guard. "How'd you know that I have a domain?"

"I'm not stupid."

"Pfft, but you're not smart either. Instead of waiting, why don't you just pretend that you're the one paying them? You already know that their goal is to attack the Great Yu Empire."

The man's face lit up. That makes sense! If I use my domain, then I can grab their gadget's number, and even if they realize that something is up, no one will know that we're on this spacecraft. Besides, I can just kill them all if things go south. He gazed at the girl in admiration. "You're actually pretty smart."

"You're just stupid. You're in a hurry to get home, but you want to keep waiting. With this spacecraft's speed, it'll take at least another two months to arrive," she complained.

The guy pursed his lips. "You're just doing this so that you can head out and play sooner."

"Whatever. I'm going to go play. You deal with this yourself." The girl then ran off.

The man was naturally Lu Yin. He returned to his quarters and used his gadget to contact one of the Cruisers and sent a message. "We don't have enough manpower. Get more."

It didn't take long for the Cruiser to reply. "Who are you?"

"You don't need to know. Get more people."

The Cruiser sighed. "The mission you gave us was to destroy three inhabited planets in the Great Yu Empire. The Second Grade Hall is also recruiting some mercenaries to attack the Great Yu Empire. This will cause the Great Yu Empire to start a war with the Second Grade Hall. We've already recruited enough people right now, but if we add more, we risk being exposed."

Lu Yin's eyes grew cold. They're planning on destroying the planets? A planet has at least a billion people living on it! How ruthless! By the look of things, these people were planning on pushing the blame onto the Second Grade Hall. Many of the people attacking the Great Yu Empire should have been hired by Second Grade Hall, but it turned out that a number of them had been hired by another organization as well. Another organization must have also set their sights on Frostwave Weave.

As expected, the geographical location of Frostwave Weave had attracted the attention of more than just the Second Grade Hall. Though, the other organizations had not revealed themselves yet.

It appeared that there were at least two organizations in play at the moment; one in the shadows, and one out in the open. The biggest question now was, who in the world was the hidden organization?

Lu Yin looked at his gadget, unable to bring himself to put it down. These cultivators were very smart and would never reveal who their mysterious employer was. With his own limited experience, Lu Yin knew that he wouldn't be able to see through these mercenaries' lies and that there was even a chance that they might not know who their employer was.

If they were put under too much pressure, then they might start lying, and that would be a total disaster.

Besides, he wasn't sure how accurate the information he'd been sent was. Who even knew if this was real—it might be completely false.

Chapter 474: Cruel Side

Lu Yin's head hurt, as he had already confirmed that quite a number of independent cultivators had been hired to invade the Great Yu Empire.

He could not ascertain just how many there were, but the ones on this vessel were just a portion of them.

He opened a star chart and looked at the areas around the Great Yu Empire that might have already been invaded.

When Lu Yin had learned that there were cultivators about to attack the Great Yu Empire on the Astral River Ark, he had informed Huo Qingshan so that the Great Yu Empire could prepare themselves in advance. However, the number of cultivators that the empire could mobilize was limited, and it was very possible that they wouldn't be able to defend against all of the attackers.

Since that was the case, then Lu Yin could not be blamed if he made a ruthless move. His gaze trembled, and he contacted Huo Qingshan once again to tell him a few things.

Huo Qingshan was shocked when he heard Lu Yin's words. "Got it."

Lu Yin disconnected and looked at the dark space passing them by. The universe could sometimes be very cruel, but it was just as cruel to others as it was to Lu Yin.

He had ordered Huo Qingshan to have a bunch of people disguise themselves as unaffiliated cultivators and then launch surprise attacks on Woori, Grandtop and Russell Weaves since all three of them lay close to Frostwave Weave. Lu Yin had also leaked information that the various great powers of the Innerverse were preparing to carve a path from the Innerverse straight to the Astral Wilderness in order to more easily gather pyrolyte.

Not only did Lu Yin reveal the existence of pyrolyte, but he also leaked news that the Second Grade Hall had hired independent cultivators to surreptitiously attack some of the surrounding weaves in order to drag them into the mess.

This would cause the various mercenary groups to be targeted by the surrounding weaves, even if their sole target was Frostwave Weave. If there were cultivators targeting the nearby weaves, then it didn't matter what their true target was.

Only by muddying the waters could Lu Yin gain an advantage in this crisis.

Someone wanted to hide in the darkness and let the Second Grade Hall struggle with the Great Yu Empire before getting the greatest catch. Thus, Lu Yin had responded by dragging them all down together; not a single one of them could expect to escape now. Due to the incoming targeted attacks against the surrounding weaves, the independent cultivators might not even be able to even approach Frostwave Weave.

Even if his plans were ruined, and even if Frostwave Weave faced everyone's wrath, Lu Yin still held a final trump card: the Sea King's Dome. And if the Sea King's Dome didn't want to take action, then he could also rely on Leon's Armada, as that was a power that even the Daynight clan was afraid of. The various great powers would not provoke such powerful organizations for just a mere Great Yu Empire.

The pirate king's monstrous reputation wasn't just because of his strength, but also because of how he handled his matters. He represented the universe's dark side.

Right now, Lu Yin wanted to take care of this spacecraft full of mercenaries. He did not need to know who employed them, and he might not even be able to uncover that piece of information from them, so there was no need to worry about it.

The two Cruisers were in a lounge on the top level of the spacecraft, as that room was restricted to only the two of them.

Lu Yin donned his universal armor that had been upgraded five times and retrieved the gun that he had bought at the auction before slowly making his way towards the top level.

Along the way, everyone he encountered was easily dispatched. It wasn't disgraceful that these cultivators were unaffiliated with any organization, as not everyone could obtain backing in the cultivation world. However, accepting employment with the sole purpose of inciting war was more in line with a mercenary's job. It was also clearly not the first time these people had accepted such a job, or else they would not have gathered together so quickly.

Every person here had bloodstained hands, and Lu Yin did not show them any mercy while dispatching them.

At the top level, within the captain's room, more than ten operating crew members stared at a screen in terror. The display showed an image of Lu Yin crushing an Explorer against the wall with a single palm. A jolting pulse of energy shot through his hand and crushed all of the Explorer's internal organs, and even the metal wall behind the man cracked.

"Hurry up and immediately report that there's an intruder onboard!" The next moment, an ear-piercing alarm reverberated through the spacecraft.

The ranks of those within the spacecraft were obvious. Lu Yin watched as the life slowly bled out of the Explorer in front of him. This man had been the last Explorer on the vessel, and now, of the space-exploring powerhouses originally onboard, there were only the two Cruisers left.

The ear-piercing alarm startled everyone, and one of the Cruisers quickly went to the captain's room and took a look at the screen. However, his first reaction was to frown. "This person is using universal armor and isn't even an Explorer. How bold."

The man then tore through the void, headed straight for Lu Yin.

Lu Yin had not walked far from where he had killed the last Explorer when the Cruiser appeared in front of him, the man's eyes gleaming with a cold killing intent. "I don't know who you're trying to make trouble for, but since you're here, just die!"

The Cruiser slapped out at Lu Yin. As far as he was concerned, even if Lu Yin was a Realmbreaker, he still wouldn't be able to defend against a Cruiser's attack. Such a person would have to be one of those universally renowned freaks, and those people found it below themselves to make life difficult for mercenaries such as them.

However, this Cruiser had forgotten that Lu Yin came from the Great Yu Empire.

The Cruiser's hand slapped against the universal armor, but there was no damage whatsoever. The man's eyes immediately went wide with disbelief; he had never seen a set of universal armor that could withstand an attack with a power level of 50,000.

The universal armor was originally intended to help those who were not yet Explorers survive in outer space. Many people wanted to explore secret areas, but they did not want to brave the dangers themselves. Hence, they would give their subordinates or slaves a set of universal armor and have them brave the dangers in their stead. Generally, universal armor did not have very sturdy defenses and was only used to survive in outer space.

However, Lu Yin's universal armor had originally been merged with metal from the Cosmic Sea and was so sturdy that it could withstand a Hunter's attacks. After buying it, Lu Yin had even Enhanced it five times. At this point, not even Lu Yin himself knew how strong of an attack the armor could withstand, but at the very least, a Cruiser whose power level hadn't even reached 100,000 could only dream about penetrating this armor's defenses.

With this universal armor, Lu Yin even dared to tussle with a Hunter.

Lu Yin raised his gun and aimed it at the Cruiser. "Poverty has limited your imagination."

With those words, he pulled the trigger. An ancient physical bullet struck the Cruiser's chest, and a terrifying strength distorted the void before exploding within the Cruiser's body. It pierced through his body, pulverizing a good half of it in the process.

Lu Yin stared at the scene in shock. Even though he already knew that this gun could fire bullets that were equivalent to an attack with a power level of 80,000, he still had not expected them to instantly kill a Cruiser. When did Cruisers become so weak?

The universal armor complemented the gun perfectly, and the current Lu Yin was almost ready to challenge the Cruisers on the Top 100 Rankings. These tools had been bought by large amounts of money, and this realization caused Lu Yin to suddenly feel truly fearful of those wealthy powers. Perhaps they used similar methods, as this was different from cultivation; this was a method that purely focused on killing.

The Mavis family was the wealthiest power in the universe, and Lu Yin could not even imagine how many similar methods they had.

There was an explosion as one side of the spacecraft exploded; the final Cruiser had just escaped into outer space. When he saw this exchange between Lu Yin and his comrade, he had realized that he was not Lu Yin's opponent, and so, he had immediately fled. But so what if he was a Cruiser? He was still just an independent cultivator whose access to cultivation techniques was extremely limited. When Lu Yin noticed that the man was about to escape, he released the grain of Fatesand around his heart, causing his full physical strength to erupt. He then used Flash Step to its limit, causing a giant spatial crack to extend out from the spacecraft.

Lu Yin appeared in front of the fleeing Cruiser, coldly looking down on the man as they both stood in the vacuum of space.

With his current physical strength, the speed behind his Flash Step was not something that could be contested by some random Cruiser.

“Wh- who are you?” the Cruiser asked in a trembling voice.

Lu Yin coldly replied, “Haven’t you guessed yet?”

The Cruiser’s eyes shrank. “Not an Explorer, but able to easily kill a Cruiser. You must be Lu Yin!”

“If I’m the first person that pops into your head, then it seems that your target really is the Great Yu Empire.”

The Cruiser begged with his eyes. “Please, let me go! I promise I will never accept such a job again.”

“Sure, but then you’ll need to tell me who hired you.”

Without any hesitation, the Cruiser answered, “The Second Grade Hall. The Beast Tamers Flowzone’s Second Grade Hall.”

“Is that so? What’s your mission?”

“To attack the Great Yu Empire and destroy an inhabited planet to cause the Great Yu Empire and the Second Grade Hall to start an all-out war.”

Lu Yin’s eyes flashed. “That simple?”

“That simple,” the Cruiser spoke with certainty, though he continued to look at Lu Yin with pleading eyes. “Stu- student Lu, I’m actually from the Outerverse as well. You can’t imagine how difficult it is for us to enter the Innaverse and cultivate! And we had no choice in this either. Please, let me go! I promise that, in the future, if I hear of any independent cultivator who has designs on the Great Yu Empire, I’ll be the first to act.”

Lu Yin sneered, but then he sighed. “Though I knew that you wouldn’t be honest, I still carried a glimmer of hope. However, it looks like you’re really not honest. In that case, just die.”

Lu Yin raised his gun, and the Cruiser’s pupils shrank as he bolted off in another direction. A knife appeared in his hand as he fled while slicing out behind himself. However, Lu Yin’s figure had already disappeared, reappearing past the various knife slashes.

The barrel of the gun lightly pressed against the Cruiser’s back.

Bang!

Lu Yin looked at the vague image of the Cruiser’s body’s remaining half that slowly disappeared as he put the gun away. He had used his own gadget to contact the first Cruiser before, and he had already found out that there was a mysterious employer behind this group. This second Cruiser had not mentioned such a detail, but there was no reason to pursue the matter any further since the mysterious employer had definitely hidden their identity. Otherwise, this Cruiser would have instantly revealed any possible information out of desperation.

No matter who that mysterious employer was, Lu Yin no longer cared since he had enemies throughout the entire universe.

He returned to the spacecraft, where there were more than a hundred cultivators looking at him in fear. The fresh blood had already scattered throughout the top level of the spacecraft. They had discovered the Cruiser's corpse, and did not know what fate awaited them.

Lu Yin found Hai Qiqi, who had a pale face, though she did not say anything as she stared blankly at him.

He probed her, "Have you never seen anyone being killed before?"

Hai Qiqi pursed her lips and gritted her teeth before answering, "No."

Lu Yin sighed. The Sea King had protected his daughter well, too well, as she had never witnessed such matters before. But despite that innocence, the Sea King had allowed Qiqi to travel through the universe with Lu Yin at this time. It must have been in part to expose the girl to the cruelty of the universe.

As he thought of this, Lu Yin retrieved the collapsible spacecraft from his cosmic ring and let Hai Qiqi board it. They soon appeared in outer space before turning to face that universal spacecraft. "You must grow accustomed to such scenes sooner or later. I'll treat this as helping the Sea King educate his daughter."

Lu Yin then put his universal armor back on, exited the vessel, and flew back towards the silver spacecraft. He placed a hand against the hull. "Thirty Stacks Fiftyfold Shockwave Palm."

Boom!

The next moment, the spacecraft exploded and disappeared from the universe. There was not even a single survivor. Everyone onboard had been an independent cultivator, even the ship's crew. Their objective had been to go to the Great Yu Empire and instigate a war, unleashing great harm upon the people of the empire. A war would not just bring about the deaths of the soldiers, but also that of numerous civilians. Lu Yin did not know how many people on this spacecraft had accepted their secret employer's mission to destroy a planet, but he would not take any risks.

Chapter 475: Lu Yin's Methods

As Hai Qiqi stared at the fading fireball in outer space, her face grew even paler; she had just been on that spacecraft a few moments ago.

Before she stepped out of the Starfall Sea, she had already known that this journey would not be dangerous, because no one would dare to harm the Sea King's daughter. However, when she saw a scene of life and death for the first time in her life, she felt a little panicked, and was scared as well. This was also the first time she appeared to be completely lost. Did these people truly deserve to die? What about their families? The moment they faced death must have been agonizing for them! Many thoughts flew through her mind.

Lu Yin did not speak with her. Instead, he set a course for Frostwave Weave, and they soon started speeding towards their destination.

One day later, Hai Qiqi looked at Lu Yin seriously. "You don't have even a single ounce of hesitation?"

Lu Yin looked out at outer space. "Once, yes. Now, no."

"Why? Did you become numb to it?" Hai Qiqi could not help herself from asking.

Lu Yin looked at her. "Once you've experienced death, you'll become the same. Can you imagine being seen as white meat by others?"

"White meat?" Hai Qiqi was lost.

Lu Yin's lips curled up disdainfully. "Food, for human consumption."

Hai Qiqi's gaze changed, and she looked at Lu Yin in shock. She had never imagined that the universally famous Lu Yin had lived through such an experience, and she had never expected such a dark matter to exist in the universe.

"You've spent your entire life in the Sea King's Dome and have the protection of the Sea King, so no one in the entire universe will dare to provoke you. You've never seen death, so you have no worries, and you're even so innocent as to assume that most people in the universe live similar lives. In reality, the universe is cruel. Do you think that those people never thought that they could die? The moment they left their homes, they had already mentally prepared themselves to die. Each one of them had hands stained with the blood of countless people..."

Hai Qiqi silently listened on, as she had never heard Lu Yin speak so seriously before, and she had seen the true side of the universe for the first time.

If not for the Sea King, Lu Yin would have no interest in teaching this girl about such things. He hoped that he would not corrupt her with his personal perspective. However, his perspective was quite normal, and he did not wantonly kill others either. He had his own bottom line and righteousness; he was just slightly addicted to money.

After he had spoken on the subject for a while, Hai Qiqi leaned on her seat and looked at the heavens with a deep look.

"Seventh Bro, congratulations. You've dragged a girl onto the wrong path," the Ghost Monkey said with a snigger.

Lu Yin let out a pent up breath. He did not know what impact this conversation would have on Hai Qiqi, but she was an adult with her own thoughts. She should not be someone whose thoughts would be easily influenced by others. This was the reason why the Sea King only allowed her out at this point in time, as he wanted her to mature a bit.

"Lu Yin, I'm going to ask you a very serious question, and you must answer me honestly," Hai Qiqi suddenly solemnly said as she turned around.

Lu Yin nodded, and seriously replied, "Ask away."

"When we get to the Great Yu Empire, have you thought of which places you'll take me to sightsee?" Hai Qiqi asked earnestly.

Lu Yin was stumped. "You've already come to terms with things?"

“With what?” Hai Qiqi blinked.

“You just saw someone die for the first time, and it was a lot of people at that,” Lu Yin reminded her.

Hai Qiqi proudly replied, “I’m the Sea King's daughter! I was born as an elite among elites, so I’m different from a commoner like you. Do I need to come to terms?”

“Weren’t you just thinking about everything I told you?”

“Yes, I’m also thinking about who has such poor eyesight as to treat you as white meat. Food is chosen for its smell, looks, and taste. You don’t pass a single bit of that criteria.”

Lu Yin was speechless. “Actually, there’re many cruel facts about the universe. Let me share them with you one by one.”

“There’s no need, as nothing is crueller than being forced to deal with you. Hurry up and think about where you’ll take me to play. Otherwise, I’ll tell Father that you have a mistress,” Hai Qiqi threatened.

Lu Yin realized that he was losing control of this brat. He had assumed that committing homicide in front of her would subdue her and cause her to behave better. But now, he had a suspicion that the event had actually intensified her mischievousness.

Days later, in Grandtop Weave, an important heir of the Nine Stacks Sect was killed by an independent cultivator when the sect was sneak attacked by a group of them.

Another power’s headquarters in Woori Weave suffered at the hands of a similar group as well.

In Russel Weave, a transport spacecraft was destroyed, and all the supplies that it had been carrying vanished. The culprits were similarly proven to be independent cultivators.

Not long after, the Great Yu Empire released a public announcement that independent cultivators had invaded them, and then they sealed the space at the borders.

Quickly, news of independent cultivators being employed by the various great powers of the Innerverse spread, as well as their goal of clearing out the surrounding weaves. Initially, the surrounding weaves did not believe this information, especially the Nine Stacks Sect. However, as information concerning pyrolyte became more widespread, they began to act more cautiously and employed all sorts of measures. For one, they sent people to visit the Northcastle Weave to join the competition for pyrolyte, and at the same time, they also sealed their borders in order to prevent any independent cultivators from entering their territory.

When the Second Grade Hall learned of this, their first reaction was to stop it, but it was already too late. It tried to explain the situation to powers like the Nine Stacks Sect, but there was nothing they could argue about since the Nine Stacks Sect had indeed been attacked by independent cultivators. Even the Second Grade Hall was uncertain if they had been the one to hire that group. It was particularly so because the cultivators they had employed were no saints, and it would be perfectly reasonable for them to have taken advantage of a convenient situation to ambush the Nine Stacks Sect.

As such, the surrounding weaves were all sealed almost simultaneously, and the independent cultivators employed by the Second Grade Hall were not able to approach Frostwave Weave. Powers like the Nine Stacks Sect headed towards Northcastle Weave, passing through the region of space where the Second

Grade Hall had temporarily taken over, and a conflict between the two parties broke out. The Second Grade Hall's plot against Frostwave Weave had failed, and the failure even managed to drag them down.

The Great Yu Empire followed Lu Yin's orders and did not participate in the struggle for pyrolyte. Instead, they pulled their forces back and watched the proceedings take place.

The Innerverse definitely would not allow the Outerverse to participate in the contest for pyrolyte; Lu Yin was certain of that. It was not a matter of which method the Outerverse powers used, but rather the disparity in their strengths. If the Great Yu Empire participated, then they might even be directly crushed. Powers like the Nine Stacks Sect had been momentarily dazzled by the allure of pyrolyte, but they would run out of luck sooner or later.

However, the crisis was larger than what Lu Yin could imagine. Someone had purchased pyrolyte in the dark at exorbitant prices, which made the various weaves unable to resist this opportunity. More Outerverse powers charged towards Northcastle Weave to participate in the contest.

The Second Grade Hall could no longer control the situation. They were forced to request help from the Beast Tamers Flowzone, asking the other powers to send experts over to fight for pyrolyte.

The highest level of combat suddenly jumped from Hunters to Enlighters.

The first Enlighter who appeared was a senior commander from the Second Grade Hall, Karthika. His appearance intimidated the Outerverse forces, temporarily managing to bring the situation under control. For this reason, the powers from the surrounding weaves such as the Nine Stacks Sect had to pay a blood price with multiple fleets being destroyed. The Outerverse powers' casualties increased greatly.

There were too few Enlighters in the Outerverse. Although the contest for pyrolyte was important, it had not reached the extent where the supervising Enlighters would leave their bases. Only the great powers of the Innerverse could send out such powerhouses for this occasion, simply because they had more than one Enlighter among their ranks.

With Karthika's appearance, the Nine Stacks Sect became more docile.

But this was just temporary. Once the output of pyrolyte increased to the point where it made others envious, even the Outerverse's Enlighters would not remain still. A disastrous war that would sweep up the entire universe was brewing on the horizon.

In the Astral Wilderness, the planet where large amounts of pyrolyte had been found was officially named the Planet Pyrolyte. At present, the strongest person on Planet Pyrolyte was undoubtedly Xi Yue. She was the top disciple of the Souldream Tribe and was the only direct disciple who had appeared so far. Thus, she was able to suppress all the other Limiteers from the other great powers.

This was especially so for the Dire Barbarian Clan, which had already lost more than ten of its scouting teams. This angered their Hunter, but he was helpless since it would still take some time for their clan's Limiteer experts to arrive. Their top disciple, Avery, was a Cruiser, so he could not descend onto the planet even if he arrived.

“Slut, you just wait and see! Lord Avery will personally capture you and torment you to death just like what happened to your ancestors,” the Dire Barbarian Clan’s Limiteers cursed as they perished under Xi Yue’s Three-Note Eruption.

Xi Yue’s face showed her determination as she looked at the surrounding corpses; the more people she killed from this clan, the merrier.

In another month, the Dire Barbarian Clan’s expert would arrive. The powerhouse currently closest to Planet Pyrolyte should be the Blazing Mist Flowzone’s expert. It was time to move the extracted pyrolyte out.

Not long after, a spacecraft dashed towards the Souldream Tribe’s battleship. Xi Yue was in the ascending spacecraft, and she had brought out the pyrolyte that had been mined by the Souldream Tribe.

However, before she could arrive at the Souldream Tribe’s battleship, the ugly Hunter from the Dire Barbarian Clan personally acted and destroyed her small spacecraft. Fortunately, the Souldream Tribe’s Hunter acted in time and was able to rescue Xi Yue.

But the Dire Barbarian Clan did not just let the matter drop there. The other powers were all focused on extracting pyrolyte, but only his clan’s members had been cleanly wiped out by Xi Yue.

The Souldream Tribe was at a slight disadvantage for the battle in outer space. However, when Xi Yue used the extracted pyrolyte as a weapon and threw it at the Hunter from the Dire Barbarian Clan, the momentum of the battle suddenly shifted. The various powers recalled that pyrolyte was a strategic military resource that could be used to threaten any powerhouse, even those old freaks with power levels in the hundreds of thousands. It just required enough pyrolyte.

In theory, pyrolyte’s destruction potential could be stacked infinitely, as one gram was roughly equivalent to 10,000 power levels. However, even if fifty grams of pyrolyte was used at once, it would not be able to threaten a powerhouse whose power level had reached 500,000. This was because the destruction waves would partially cancel themselves out. At best, fifty grams could threaten an Enlighter, but even so, it was still extremely terrifying. Once the amount of pyrolyte reached one kilogram, ten kilograms, or even a ton, how fearsome would that explosion be? Such an event could truly threaten a powerhouse with a power level of 500,000.

Xi Yue was carrying the pyrolyte, which meant that the Souldream Tribe now had the ability to resist the Dire Barbarian Clan. Although it was impossible for her to have brought out too much, no one was willing to bear the risk.

Finally, the expert from the Dire Barbarian Clan retreated.

Only then did Xi Yue relax. The Souldream Tribe had only mined about ten tons of pyrolyte, but that was not pure pyrolyte. The ore still needed to be refined. Ten tons of pyrolyte ore would at best produce a few grams of pure pyrolyte, as this was an extremely light substance.

Fortunately, the Dire Barbarian Clan powerhouse was not sure how much pyrolyte the Souldream Tribe had mined. Otherwise, he would have acted without any reservations. After all, ten tons of pyrolyte ore

exploding at once would, at best, be equivalent to an attack with a power level in the tens of thousands. There was actually nothing for a Hunter to worry about.

The Souldream Tribe had mined so much, and the other powers had naturally managed to mine some as well. However, most had not been able to extract as much as the Souldream Tribe, as Xi Yue had raided quite a few pyrolyte mines.

After news spread that Xi Yue had threatened the Dire Barbarian Clan with pyrolyte, the various great powers gathered to discuss the situation. Soon after, they laid down a new rule: they could not attack the juniors leaving Planet Pyrolyte. Otherwise, the fighting would drag the gathered powerhouses in and might even possibly result in the destruction of Planet Pyrolyte itself.

Chapter 476: Intractable Feelings

This rule was first proposed by the Souldream Tribe, but the Sword Sect, Daynight clan, and other powers soon agreed in succession. Finally, it became a general rule that all the different powers recognized and followed. No one wanted to work hard only to receive no reward, especially the weaker powers whose higher level cultivators could not compare to the Sword Sect and the others'. Such groups were afraid that their disciples would luckily chance upon a pyrolyte mine only to have their profits stolen in the final stretch.

As for whether or not the disciples on the planet needed to refrain from using the pyrolyte ore there, no one made any suggestions. When faced with a crisis, no one would be foolish enough to not use a potential weapon that was in their hands. Even if a rule was implemented, it would have been of no use. Also, impure pyrolyte ore had a greatly reduced destructive strength compared to refined ore.

Just this one Planet Pyrolyte had attracted many powers from the Inniverse, and Northcastle Weave that lay closest to Planet Pyrolyte had also attracted quite a few powers from the surrounding weaves. At this moment, attention from the entire universe had converged on this place.

Finally, the reinforcements from the Blaze Realm arrived. Xi Yue was no longer the strongest Limiteer on Planet Pyrolyte since the Blaze Realm had mobilized elite Limiteers like Jared and Craynor and sent them all to Planet Pyrolyte.

All of the powers were currently focused on transferring their strongest Limiteer disciples to this planet, and the various Limiteers were being forced to put down whatever they were doing and head towards Planet Pyrolyte, even those who had been cultivating within the Astral Combat Academy like Kuang Wang and Liu Xiaoyun. Naturally, experts from the Ten Arbiters Council were sent in as well.

Mira's spacecraft raced through space towards Planet Pyrolyte. She looked at her gadget and was deep in thought while within the vessel. She then raised her hand to tap on her gadget and contact Lu Yin. At this time, the entire universe had been forced to admit that Lu Yin was the strongest Limiteer. After his battle against Mu Rong, his status as the strongest had been cemented in place. Even the Cosmic Sea's Ye Xingchen was not thought to be his opponent, as countless experts had voiced their opinion, confirming that Lu Yin would win if the two ever came face to face.

Also, many experts still held reservations concerning whether or not Lu Yin had used his full strength against Mu Rong. This uncertainty made Lu Yin appear even more mysterious, and many wished to know what the true limits of his strength were.

If he decided to participate in this contest on Planet Pyrolyte, it would be nothing less than the arrival of a boss monster.

While traveling through outer space, Lu Yin and Hai Qiqi frequently bickered back and forth. Since becoming acquainted with her, Lu Yin had realized that his tongue had also become sharper. It was almost as if he had gained the power to shoot his mouth off. When he realized that Mira was calling him, he activated his gadget and picked up. "Long time no see, Miss Mira."

"Who is it? Mistress number three or four?" Hai Qiqi came over.

Lu Yin felt helpless. "Can you not use such terms? Besides, we don't even have a relationship."

Hai Qiqi rolled her eyes and then returned to staring out at the passing space.

On the other end of the call, Mira was sitting on her chair with her long, snow-white hair flowing behind her and her long legs folded in an alluring manner. "Unless my guess is completely wrong, the one with you must be the Sea King's daughter, Hai Qiqi."

"How did you know?" Lu Yin was surprised. Am I being monitored?

"Michelle told me. She said that the Sea King's daughter has a very fiery personality. Brother Lu, are you still at the Sea King's Dome, or have you come out?"

"I left."

"Headed back to Frostwave Weave?"

Lu Yin acknowledged with a nod of his head. "With such a big matter affecting my home, I can't not go back."

"Will you be of any help if you do go back? Or are you bringing the Sea King's influence along with you?" Mira smiled and lifted a foot, showing off her exceptionally beautiful freshly painted red nails.

Lu Yin directly asked the woman, "Miss Mira, did you contact me just to ask about this? Is there no other matter? Or rather, does Arbiter Wen have something for me?"

Mira muttered to herself for a moment before standing up and walking towards the transparent metal viewport. She gazed at the black scenery passing by outside her vessel, and her expression turned solemn. "Do you know about Planet Pyrolyte?"

Lu Yin was lost. "What's Planet Pyrolyte?"

He had only learned about pyrolyte's existence and that the various powers were gathering in Northcastle Weave since it had been reported that a large amount of pyrolyte was discovered nearby in the Astral Wilderness. Could it be that this cache of pyrolyte was on this so-called Planet Pyrolyte?

Mira briefly described the current situation at Planet Pyrolyte to Lu Yin, while Hai Qiqi's eyes lit up next to him. "That sounds like fun! And only Limiteers can enter! I want to go, I want to go! Lu Yin, let's go there and play!"

Lu Yin's back was facing her, and he only responded to Mira. "You want me to go?"

“With your strength, it’ll be a waste if you don’t.”

“Are you representing the Ten Arbiters Council, Arbiter Wen, or the Erudite Flowzone behind Arbiter Wen?”

“Is there a difference?”

“I’m just asking. However, I probably won’t go.” Lu Yin quickly declined.

“Because of the Great Yu Empire?” Mira asked.

Lu Yin fell silent, taking a moment before finally replying, “To you people, Frostwave Weave is an insignificant ant. As soon as I take part in the contest for pyrolyte and provoke certain people, the Great Yu Empire will be in mortal danger, and I can’t protect it with my current power. You should know that there are already people who have acted against Frostwave Weave. I can’t be in two places at once.”

Mira sighed, as her charming eyes flickered. “What if Arbiter Wen promises to protect the Great Yu Empire?”

Lu Yin did not reply right away.

“Give it some thought.” And with that, Mira ended the call.

“Eh, why not go? Are you worried about your home? I’ll get Father to speak up; I can promise no one will dare touch that place,” Hai Qiqi spoke expectantly.

Lu Yin shook his head with a bitter smile. It was not that simple; although it was true that the Sea King could protect the Great Yu Empire, the weave would become the Sea King’s property if that happened. Unless the situation devolved to where he had no other option, Lu Yin was not willing to do such a thing. It was like how an ant entering a great storm was asking for a narrow brush with death.

Given Lu Yin’s sense of caution, he would avoid participating in the scuffle for pyrolyte as far as he could. As for Hai Dashao telling him that the betrothal gift had to be pyrolyte, Lu Yin would just act as if he had not heard anything, as he could not afford to take such a gamble.

Before much more time passed, an alarm sounded out within the spacecraft. Lu Yin and Hai Qiqi looked in front of them and saw that a battle had broken out in their path. Countless battleships littered the region, and there were still quite a few space-exploring powerhouses fighting against each other.

An aftershock from their fight rippled out, causing their spacecraft to shudder from top to bottom.

Lu Yin’s face changed. “If this is the aftermath of a Hunters’ battle, then we’ll have to reroute.”

Hai Qiqi stared at the clamor in front of them. This was interstellar warfare, and it was her first time witnessing such an event. The entire area was constantly being bombarded with all sorts of attacks, causing the occasional stray spacecraft to explode and even stars were destroyed every once in a while. When that happened, a blackhole would form that then swallowed everything nearby.

A war and a battle were fundamentally different; as the saying went, all was fair in love and war. When Hai Qiqi saw a Cruiser casually destroy a planet and then borrow the energy from the collapsing planet

to annihilate a fleet, she suddenly felt like she had comprehended a deeper meaning of that particular saying.

There were corpses floating about in space, but they were quickly burned up by the remnant energy from various stray attacks. The constant explosions of the astral bodies also shocked her. How many people lived on a habitable planet? She felt like she could hear the screams of countless humans being extinguished.

Hai Qiqi suddenly thought of the Sea King's Dome. If one day warfare erupted there, would it also look like this? She turned to Lu Yin. Is such a war taking place in his home?

Lu Yin looked at their route, which had suddenly become five days longer than originally projected. Their estimated time of arrival had been twenty days, but now, it was twenty five.

As expected, there were too many variables when traveling through the universe. Just a delay of five days was actually acceptable.

“Has such a war happened in your home?” Hai Qiqi could not help herself from asking.

Lu Yin nodded, and replied with complex emotions, “It’s actually more troublesome than this, as this is just a small battle within an Outerverse weave, whereas my home is being coveted by many great powers of the Innaverse. As soon as a war breaks out, the scale will greatly surpass this battle, and the outcome will be much more bitter.”

Hai Qiqi fell silent. It was not that she was insensitive, but rather that she had never been directly exposed to war before, only now experiencing what true warfare was. “I’ll ask Father to come and protect your home.”

Lu Yin looked at Hai Qiqi with astonishment. This was the second time she had said this, but the first time had merely been because she wanted to play. Right now, Lu Yin could feel the sincerity in her offer.

He smiled. “There’s no need. The universe is much more complicated than what you think it is. If the Sea King intervenes, then it would make the situation even messier. That’s the final resort, so we don’t have to rush straight to that point.”

Hai Qiqi nodded, and gave Lu Yin a serious look. “Since you look so ordinary, I couldn’t tell that you have some wisdom after all.”

Lu Yin turned around so that his back was facing Hai Qiqi. Was this brat complimenting or criticizing him? He couldn’t tell.

After they circled around the battle zone, the spacecraft continued on peacefully. Hai Qiqi fell asleep, and Lu Yin received a communication request from Lily Anne. Naturally, since Mira had contacted him, Lily Anne would not go down easily. It was also possible that more people would contact him; Lily Anne was not the first, nor would she be the last.

Compared to Mira, who represented the Wen family, Lily Anne represented Northline Flowzone, which was a much weaker power.

“Brother Lu, have you left the Sea King's Dome yet?” Lily Anne asked.

Lu Yin replied, “Yes, I’m rushing back to Frostwave Weave.”

“Frostwave Weave’s situation has already stabilized. The Second Grade Hall enlisted various independent cultivators to attack the various weaves south of Northcastle Weave, which incited a great deal of anger. The independent cultivators can no longer enter these weaves, and since Frostwave Weave has not participated in gathering any pyrolyte, it’s very stable at the current moment. Brother Lu, you can rest assured of this,” Lily Anne informed him with a smile.

Lu Yin smiled, “Miss Anna, thank you for telling me about pyrolyte and Frostwave Weave’s situation. However, I must make things clear in advance: I won’t be participating in the contest on Planet Pyrolyte.”

Lily Anne fell silent for a moment. “It sounds like someone has already sought out Brother Lu’s aid before us.”

Lu Yin did not conceal it. “It’s a friend, but I’ve already rejected her. The Great Yu Empire is too small, and my participation would immediately spark conflict and leave me as a condemned criminal in my home’s history annals. Miss Anna, you should understand this point.”

Lily Anne sighed, “It’s the tragedy of the weak, I get it. Alright, but I still have to tell you Northline Flowzone’s conditions for Brother Lu to help us. First, Northline Flowzone’s younger generation will recognize Brother Lu’s position on the Ten Arbiters Council, which means acknowledging Brother Lu’s authority to supervise and judge the younger generation. Second, Northline Flowzone is willing to establish interstellar trade relations with Frostwave Weave, and the Barthe Jacques family is also willing to give financial aid to the Great Yu Empire to help restore its economy. Third, as long as it’s within reasonable limits and does not infringe upon Northline Flowzone’s benefits, Granny Chan is willing to help act on behalf of the Great Yu Empire a single time.”

Lu Yin was amazed, Northline Flowzone’s proposition was extremely generous. The first condition was nothing much, as even if Northline Flowzone did not acknowledge his authority, he could openly defeat Northgate Lie and force them to recognize him. However, the weight of the second and third conditions were on another level, especially the second one. The Great Yu Empire urgently required economic aid, or else they would not be able to finish unifying Frostwave Weave.

Lu Yin already knew that he could trust the economic prowess of the Barthe Jacques family, which could easily satisfy the Great Yu Empire’s most urgent need.

The third condition represented the attitude of the Lily family. Although the so-called “reasonable limits” had not been clearly laid out so as to not place any binding constraints on Granny Chan, since Lily Anne had proposed such a thing, it showed the Lily family’s sincerity. If there was such a need in the future, then Granny Chan would help our the Great Yu Empire. After all, she was an Enlighter.

These three conditions made it very hard for Lu Yin to decline her offer.

“I know that Brother Lu has a high chance of becoming the Sea King’s son-in-law, and so, you might not really care for my Northline Flowzone. However, even external relatives may find that they are required

to borrow strength. As long as Brother Lu is willing to help out, my Northline Flowzone will become your friend,” Lily Anne intoned with an expectant gaze.

Lu Yin breathed deeply and ultimately resisted the temptation. “Miss Anna, your proposed conditions are very sincere. However, I must give my apologies. Under the premise that I cannot sacrifice the Great Yu Empire, I’m unable to make such a deal with you. Otherwise, if the Great Yu Empire were to be eliminated, those conditions would just be for show.”

His status was fake, but his feelings for the Great Yu Empire were genuine. Earth, Undying Yushan, the Zishan family—his relationship to all of them could not be so easily dismissed.

Chapter 477: Fierce Battle On Planet Pyrolyte

Lily Anne was not surprised by Lu Yin’s response, and she could only reluctantly reply, “Then, I’m sorry to have disturbed you, Brother Lu. After this battle, the Barthe Jacques family will still head to Frostwave Weave to observe the situation and will try to help the Great Yu Empire’s economy recover in the process. This is how my Northline Flowzone will demonstrate its care for the Great Yu Empire.”

Lu Yin expressed his gratitude once again and then ended the call.

Mira had also promised that Arbiter Wen would protect the Great Yu Empire, but the credibility of her promise was still uncertain. Also, Lu Yin dared not guarantee just how far Arbiter Wen would go for the Great Yu Empire. Just like how the Second Grade Hall had been able to enlist independent cultivators to deal with the Great Yu Empire, other powers could employ all sorts of tactics to undermine the Great Yu Empire. Even something as straightforward as hiring the Relentless Slayers to assassinate the Great Yu Empire’s strongest cultivators would be enough to destabilize the empire.

Lu Yin felt powerless; even an empire that had nearly unified an entire weave was still so helpless.

He fell sullen once again, feeling helpless, just like how he had felt when he was in danger of becoming white meat. Such a feeling made him resentful and furious; he was about to explode.

There were two sides to every matter. Lu Yin could gain many statuses and titles that would cause his enemies to be apprehensive, and his enemies could also use the Great Yu Empire to restrain him, which were the two sides of the same coin.

If the Great Yu Empire was more powerful, then things would be better. For example, it could then unify not just one weave, but two, three, or even four or five. It would be just like Endless Weave, the strongest out of all seventy two weaves. At that point, he would no longer need to be so heavily involved in its protection.

Lu Yin’s eyes gleamed, as something seemed to ignite in his heart once again.

Not long after Lu Yin disconnected from his call with Lily Anne, another communications request came through. This time, it was through the internal system of the Astral Combat Academy, and the caller was Xi Yue.

Lu Yin was shocked, as he had once teased this brat by calling her a washboard, and they had never interacted again since then. He never thought that she would contact him now, but he seemed to recall that she was from the Souldream Tribe.

Lu Yin accepted the request, and an elegant voice came from the other side, "Is this Student Lu?"

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. "Aren't you Xi Yue?"

"I'm Lan Yue, from the Souldream Tribe. Xi Yue has gone down to Planet Pyrolyte and is currently unable to contact the outside world for now. Thus, I'm contacting Student Lu in Xi Yue's place."

Lu Yin acknowledged the explanation and then asked, "Is Miss Lan Yue looking for something?"

"I'll get straight to the point. The Souldream Tribe wishes to enlist the help of Student Lu to compete for pyrolyte mines."

Lu Yin directly declined. "I'm sorry, but I won't help you."

"Student Lu can listen to my Souldream Tribe's conditions first," Lan Yue said, and then she immediately continued without waiting for Lu Yin to reply. "My tribe is willing to establish marital connections with the Great Yu Empire, and we will also go all-out to help the Great Yu Empire join the Inniverse."

Lu Yin was amazed, as this proposal was extremely attractive. Countless powers in the universe wished to marry a member of the Souldream Tribe since they were all beauties. Also, their tribe was offering to help the Great Yu Empire enter the Inniverse. This was not just hot air, as this was something that even Northline Flowzone could not attempt.

"Miss Lan Yue, are you saying that you represent the Souldream Tribe?" Lu Yin asked.

Lan Yue smiled. "Of course. These are my Souldream Tribe's most sincere conditions. Does Student Lu still need to hesitate?"

Lu Yin frowned. "When will the marriage occur? Can it be with anyone from the Great Yu Empire?"

"Of course, as long as it's someone designated by Student Lu."

"When?"

"Our tribe has many regulations, and the timing could be delayed further, but the initial preparations can be made at any time." Lan Yue did not elaborate any further.

Beside him, the originally sleeping Hai Qiqi suddenly reached out to disconnect Lu Yin's call.

Lu Yin was startled. "What are you doing?"

Hai Qiqi pursed her lips. "This woman is obviously just stalling. She wants a marital connection not to the Great Yu Empire, but to my Sea King's Dome."

Lu Yin laughed. "I can't see how you came to such a conclusion."

Hai Qiqi rolled her eyes. "I'm superior to you in both looks and intelligence. Something like this is nothing for me."

Hai Qiqi was right; Lan Yue's objective was simple. The Souldream Tribe would delay any possible marriage until Lu Yin became the Sea King's son-in-law, and only then would they be willing to marry one of their members with the Great Yu Empire and form a relationship with the Sea King's Dome. Otherwise, the Souldream Tribe would not be willing to pay such an extravagant price to establish

marital relationships with just the Great Yu Empire; such a relationship would not be worthwhile even with the gains they would achieve from the pyrolyte mining.

It should be known that bringing a power into the Inniverse was not simple.

Of course, the Souldream Tribe knew that Lu Yin could guess as much as well, but it was still a win-win situation. If the Great Yu Empire became connected to the Souldream Tribe, then Lu Yin's power would increase once again, making this deal personally beneficial for Lu Yin as well. They were not worried that Lu Yin would decline their offer.

Of course, even if Lu Yin didn't become the Sea King's son-in-law in the end, the Souldream Tribe still would not be at a disadvantage. Their main objective was to have Lu Yin help them fight for the pyrolyte mines. After that, they would have all sorts of reasons to delay the proposed marriage.

Lu Yin activated his gadget and contacted Lan Yue once again. "My apologies, Miss Lan Yue. There was a Hunters' battle just now, and it disrupted the signal."

"No worries, Student Lu. How do you find my Souldream Tribe's offer?" Lan Yue said with a confident expression. No one in the Outerverse would be able to decline such conditions, as entering the Inniverse was the dream of countless Outerverse powers. Lu Yin would not decline either, because this would be something that would also bolster his personal power.

Unfortunately for her, Lu Yin still declined.

Lan Yue was shocked. "Student Lu, you disapprove of these conditions?"

"Miss Lan Yue, the premise of your conditions should be for me to become the Sea King's son-in-law, and for the Sea King to appear and protect the Great Yu Empire. However, I'm sorry to disappoint you, as the Sea King will not appear. If I act, then the odds of the Great Yu Empire being destroyed will be just too high, and I cannot take such a risk."

Lan Yue was unconvinced. "The Sea King isn't willing to appear to protect the Great Yu Empire? But you're the Sea King's future son-in-law."

Lu Yin apologized again before ending the call.

The Souldream Tribe longed for the Sea King to appear. It was none of their business who the Great Yu Empire ultimately belonged to, as they merely wished to build a relationship with the Sea King's Dome and to have Lu Yin help them compete for the pyrolyte mines. As for Lu Yin, he wanted freedom. If the Great Yu Empire fell under the Sea King's Dome's influence, then he would no longer have a home. This was because he had never planned to become the Sea King's son-in-law, and he was constantly searching for a way to break away.

Intimidating his enemies under the guise of other's banners was his main plan. He would not forget that, on Shenwu Continent, there was still a girl waiting for him, as that lock of hair was still in his cosmic ring.

He did not know why, but Lu Yin suddenly thought of Zhuo Daynight and her grieving and helpless expression.

He subconsciously looked at Hai Qiqi's eyes: mischievous, crafty, and full of annoyance.

“What are you looking at? Haven’t you seen a beauty before? Your looks cannot match up to Miss Qi’s.”

Lu Yin turned back around as he had learned that he just had to ignore her no matter what she said. He could not allow her venomous tongue to have any effect on him.

Three powers had already sought his aid, and he was rather looking forward to finding out who would call him next.

Defeating Mu Rong had crowned him as the pinnacle of all Limiteers. Perhaps to other Limiteers, he was a monster.

Five days later, Huo Qingshan contacted Lu Yin on his own accord in order to inform Lu Yin that Enlighters had appeared one after another. The Blaze Realm’s Huo Houye, Northline Flowzone’s Granny Chan, Souldream Tribe’s Elder Qing Han, and Second Grade Hall’s Karthika had all come. There were already quite a few Enlighters who had entered the Astral Wilderness.

As more and more Enlighters joined the fray, the Outerverse powers such as the Nine Stacks Sect were forced to back away, no longer daring to approach Northcastle Weave anymore. However, they still secretly wanted to unite, and they were planning on inviting the Enlighters overseeing the various Outerverse powers to act together and charge into the Astral Wilderness. Of course, they also asked the Great Yu Empire to join in, but their proposal was rejected by Lu Yin.

Against the enormous powers of the Innerverse, it was useless even if the Outerverse powers invited one or two Enlighters. It should be known that the top elites of the strongest powers, like the Sword Sect, the Daynight clan, and the Wen family, had not even appeared yet. Their Enlighters greatly outclassed the Outerverse’s, and it was not just as simple as how a cultivator in a higher realm could restrict the power level of those beneath them. It was more like the difference between Xi Yue and Lu Yin; they were both Limiteers, but the difference between them was wider than the heavens.

When Northline Flowzone’s Granny Chan arrived in the Astral Wilderness, she brought her flowzone’s Limiteers along with her, like Northgate Gang as well as some Limiteers from the older generation whose battle power surpassed even Northgate Gang’s. Ah Fan, who had initially reported to San Dios, had also been brought along since Northline Flowzone had gathered all of its strength to compete for the pyrolyte mines.

Lily Anne was already an Explorer, so she was unable to enter Planet Pyrolyte. She could only accompany Granny Chan and the rest as they waited above the planet.

Northgate Lie was also rushing over.

The other powers were investigating methods to see if they could somehow safely send their Explorers down to the planet. Even if they did not know whether or not their research would bear fruit, the various powers were still assembling their Explorers in preparation.

The Wen family arrived soon after Northline Flowzone, and they brought hundreds of Limiteers of all ages with them, and they had even prepared personal spacecrafts for all of them to quickly dash down to the planet. Wen Qian'er was also among those gathered, and she was very excited, as she had long wanted to cross paths with the other powerhouses of the universe. This was her best opportunity to do

so, and she was hoping for the ones known as the unequaled Limiteers to come so that she could experience their strength as well.

In another area, the Second Grade Hall's Limiteers also rushed down onto the planet. It was no longer just the Second Grade Hall's experts, as people from the First Grade Hall and even the Divine Grade Hall had come along, Kuang Wang included. He had a helpless look, as he had been pulled out from the Astral Combat Academy in order to participate in this contest for the pyrolyte mines.

He actually did not want to participate, but the Divine Grade Hall's orders had been simple: fight.

Although Kuang Wang was arrogant, he readily admitted that he had principles and a bottom line, so he could not quite bring himself to do such things. He was planning on keeping a low-profile and being a bit less brazen.

"Don't be so arrogant! We obviously discovered this place first, so why should we give it to you?"

Kuang Wang had just landed on Planet Pyrolyte when he overheard this. He looked over unhappily at the group of Limiteers arguing, and when he heard the term "arrogant" being thrown about, he frowned, rose into the skies, and looked down on the groups. "You guys can argue, but don't mention my name!"

"Who's that, being so arrogant?"

"Scram!"

...

Kuang Wang was furious, and he raised an arm, allowing his azure dragon to snarl at the world and shake the sky. Before many terrified faces, Cang Long shook its tail and sent everyone flying away. Some were even directly crushed underground, and they were all as miserable as could be.

Kuang Wang proudly stood tall. Just a bunch of trash!

A dozen cultivators behind him wanted to cry. "Lord Kuang Wang, our own people are also in that group!"

Kuang Wang rolled his eyes.

More descendants from the various powers appeared, but the most dazzling were still those from the Eight Great Flowzones, particularly the Wen family's Wen Qian'er, the Blaze Realm's Jared, and the Divine Grade Hall's Kuang Wang and Hui Chuan. These few people used their overwhelming strength to dominate and take over pyrolyte mines that had previously been occupied by others.

Under these circumstances, Xi Yue unfortunately ran into Jared.

Just a reminder, but "Kuang Shuang" sounds the same as "arrogant."

Chapter 478: Pyrolyte Mountain

Xi Yue's strength was not that much inferior to Jared's, but there was still a slight disparity. Xi Yue was currently about as strong as Michelle, but Jared had already been an Area Master when Michelle first joined the Astral Combat Academy. For this contest on Planet Pyrolyte, the Blaze Realm had given him a

portion of the karmic flames that were already low in quantity. This meant that he could now use the Blaze Realm's inherited battle technique: the Karmic Flame Sword.

However, Jared did not use the Karmic Flame Sword against Xi Yue, as there was no need for him to do so. Instead, he used an illusionary battle technique that he had obtained from the trial zones, easily defeating Xi Yue since her musical technique could not react in time. Fortunately, her cosmic ring was filled with gathered pyrolyte ore, so Xi Yue simply detonated all of it, which made Jared apprehensive enough for her to make her escape.

Xi Yue's time of being the strongest Limiteer on Planet Pyrolyte had come to a complete end once the heirs from the other great powers demonstrated their power.

Seven days passed, though Lu Yin and Hai Qiqi were still traversing through the heavens. The situation in the Northcastle Weave had stabilized with the arrival of numerous Outerverse Enlighters, but the contest on Planet Pyrolyte only intensified further, with the casualties continuing to mount.

The various great powers' battleships were like monsters that were constantly monitoring every little thing that happened on Planet Pyrolyte. Those on the vessels could watch every single battle from start to finish, such as when Wen Qian'er led the Wen family to defeat a certain flowzone's power, when Jared showed his dominance by massacring all the disciples from another power, or when Kuang Wang followed the Second Grade Hall's troops and kept a low profile, not even acting once. All of these scenes were displayed to everybody.

Planet Pyrolyte was rather barren, and not many plants grew on the planet. Those that did exist resembled cacti and were very tenacious at clinging onto life. There were not many indigenous animals, and most remained burrowed underground, only emerging to look for water on rare occasions.

The strong winds were filled with dark-red sand and constantly streaked across the skies. On one part of the planet, multiple tornadoes suddenly formed in the distance, headed towards a group of people.

They were draped in cloaks, and each one was holding a pyrolyte detector. From time to time, they would draw close to each other to discuss something.

When the group of tornadoes arrived, one member of the group casually raised their hand, causing powerful star energy to burst out and transform into an invisible hand that directly swept the tornadoes aside. In an instant, the area turned to a peaceful state.

The others in the group were not surprised. If given enough time, a Limiteer was strong enough to destroy an entire planet, let alone suppress meteorological phenomena on a planet's surface.

Suddenly, one member of the group cried out, and the others immediately ran over.

"That's right, there's a reaction indicating massive amounts of pyrolyte ore. There should be a huge aggregation ahead."

"Can you tell how far?"

"Probably about a hundred kilometers away."

On Planet Pyrolyte, a hundred kilometers was a minuscule distance, but it was still very far for ordinary humans. Most cultivators could not see that far, and only those with more extraordinary innate gifts

could. Fortunately, one of the members of the group had sharp eyes, and he gazed into the distance. "There's a mountain about a hundred kilometers in front of us."

"Miss, that mountain should be where the pyrolyte ore is located. The reaction is rather strong, so there should be quite a lot there," someone spoke excitedly.

"Let's go. We'll talk after we occupy that place." The group then charged straight towards the mountain.

Coincidentally, on the opposite side of the mountain, also about a hundred kilometers away, another group also discovered the existence of this pyrolyte vein. This group appeared to be more complex than the first, mostly because there was a strange-looking beast next to almost every single cultivator. This group was from the Second Grade Hall.

Gadgets could not be used on Planet Pyrolyte, so neither side was aware of the other's existence. Only when they arrived at the base of the mountain did they discover traces of the other party, and a battle soon started without any reservations.

The Second Grade Hall quickly fell behind, because the girl in the opposing group was Wen Qian'er. Her star energy was abundant, and it filled the area with a feminine aura; this was her domain.

Han Chong could draw a picturesque scenery of sea and mountains with his star energy while Wen Qian'er drew out a female skeleton.

That was just a description; those who came in contact with Wen Qian'er's star energy while she was supported by her domain would notice their determination being rapidly sapped away. Almost half of the Second Grade Hall's men lost their will to fight in an instant, and they were then crushed by the Wen family's Limiteers.

Erudite Flowzone and Beast Tamers Flowzone were neighbors, and they did not hold much animosity towards each other. Thus, there were no fatalities in this clash.

Wen Qian'er waved a hand and ordered her people to go investigate how much pyrolyte ore was present. Then, they sent out a signal to the Wen family's battleships above the planet to have them send some people down to the mountain to mine it all.

If the Wen family could see it, then so could the other powers. However, there were not many who were able to compete with them.

They smoothly prepared all the equipment needed to extract the pyrolyte ore.

Suddenly, Wen Qian'er's face changed, and she dodged to the side. In the place where she had just been standing, there was now a fierce and strange-looking snake with antlers on its head that was lunging at her.

Wen Qian'er turned around and flicked a finger, wanting to use a gale to eliminate this strange snake. However, the beast easily resisted the gale and then opened its mouth, unleashing a peculiar sound that resonated through the sky and took the form of a grey hurricane as it swept out. The storm was not destructive to the air or to the earth, and not even the mining equipment was harmed. However, the strange tempest caused all the people from the Wen family to feel nauseous.

Wen Qian'er's face paled, and she saw the strange snake lunge at her once again. Her gaze shivered, and she raised her left index finger. "Literary Prison, sixteen characters." As soon as these words left her mouth, lines of characters dropped down from the void and trapped the strange snake within their formation. No matter how the creature pounded against the characters, it could not shake the Literary Prison.

The Literary Prison was the Wen family's ancient inherited battle technique, and only those who had grasped at least sixteen characters could form it. Wen Qian'er had just recently comprehended that number.

At that moment, another figure attacked her from behind. She did not move, and someone else from the Wen family acted. It was a middle-aged man, and he raised a hand to fend off the figure as he moved to stand behind Wen Qian'er.

There were many people in the Wen family who had reached the Limiteer realm but were unable to break past it. Although they were not as outstanding as Lu Yin and many others, they had ample battle experience. This person had pretended to be powerless when the strange snake first attacked, but he had suddenly acted at this moment, which caused the assailant to be severely injured since he had been left with no time to defend himself.

Wen Qian'er slowly turned around and looked at the man lying on the ground with a deathly white face. She said, "You must be Hui Chuan."

The man spat out a mouthful of blood. "I never thought that the Wen family's mistress would actually recognize little old me."

Her lips curled up. "You aren't unknown. In the younger generation of the Divine Grade Hall, you're one of the top few, but unfortunately, you can't compare to that elite, Kuang Wang, and the others. Aren't they also here?"

"You want to meet them?" Hui Chuan spoke with great difficulty as he raised a hand and pointed into the distance. Suddenly Wen Qian'er looked down, and her face changed. A blade of grass had unknowingly started waving in the wind. It looked very gentle, almost as if it could be blown away at any moment. However, Wen Qian'er's expression was as if she was facing a great enemy; she had recognized this fleeting blade of grass as emperor butterfly topgrass, a tyrannical plant that could dispel star energy. This plant was one of Kuang Wang's tamed beasts.

Kuang Wang had finally arrived.

The Astral Combat Tournament had shown countless people throughout the Human Domain the power of a Realm Master. Although Kuang Wang had ultimately lost under Liu Shaoqiu's blade, his power was undeniable. Even though he was not on the level of the generation's greatest elites, he was still quite terrifying, and was at least qualified to force Wen Qian'er to be on guard.

When the emperor butterfly topgrass revealed itself, regardless of whether it was Wen Qian'er or the others from the Wen family, they all found that their star energy had been dispelled in a tyrannical fashion.

Originally, there was no star energy on Planet Pyrolyte, and it could only be absorbed through star crystals or star essences. And in this battle, the Wen family members' star energy had been dispelled so quickly that they simply had no time to absorb any more; this was simply a fatal blow.

To Kuang Wang, Planet Pyrolyte could be treated as his home ground. Anyone who battled against him would be thrown into a situation where they had insufficient star energy. The sole exception was if someone at Liu Shaoqiu's level appeared. Those whose power level was close to Kuang Wang's would not be able to match up to him at all, and Wen Qian'er was no exception.

If she was still in her peak state, then she was confident in being able to use her Literary Prison to trap Kuang Wang and then defeat him from there on out. However, she could not do that now, as she did not have enough star energy to form another Literary Prison. In fact, the one around the strange snake had already started dissipating.

As the emperor butterfly topgrass dispelled star energy, it created a true vacuum of star energy. This was the terror of this grass, and this was also the reason why Kuang Wang was so formidable on Planet Pyrolyte.

Kuang Wang appeared from under the sandstorm as he made his way over to the group, step by step. The giant azure dragon snarled when it appeared from his left arm, and it soon covered the sky.

No one dared to drop their guard against Kuang Wang, especially given the current circumstances.

"You guys should back off. I don't want to harm you," Kuang Wang said as he calmly looked at Wen Qian'er.

Not too far away from Wen Qian'er, two of the Wen family's Limiteers suddenly took action, battle force bursting forth from their bodies. These two powerhouses who had mastered three-lined battle force moved to surround Kuang Wang, intending to use physical strength to break through Kuang Wang's emperor butterfly topgrass.

The azure dragon was still flying around in the sky when Kuang Wang suddenly looked up, causing pure purple battle force to envelop his body. This was four-lined battle force! He had only displayed three-lined battle force during the Astral Combat Tournament, but now, he had broken through and comprehended four-lined battle force.

Every additional line represented a new level of strength, and the two three-lined battle force powerhouses from the Wen family were easily defeated by Kuang Wang.

Wen Qian'er was unresigned to their loss. She raised a hand and formed a sixteen-character Literary Prison around Kuang Wang. However, since her star energy was insufficient, the Literary Prison was too frail, and the azure dragon smashed it apart with a whip of its tail.

Kuang Wang proudly proclaimed, "I'll say it one last time: back away now! This mountain belongs to me."

Hui Chuan, who was lying on the ground, wiped his lips. The Literary Prison that had entrapped his strange snake had vanished by now, and the serpent landed on Hui Chuan's shoulder since it was his tamed beast.

There was no use in resisting anymore even if Wen Qian'er was unwilling. She could only helplessly raise her hand, commanding the entire Wen family to retreat.

The Wen family, the steward family of Erudite Flowzone, one of the eight great Flowzones, had been forced out. This event made Wen Qian'er feel humiliated, and she glared at Kuang Wang. "Just wait and see."

Kuang Wang could not care less about her threat, as Planet Pyrolyte was his playing field. Anyone who battled him here would be weakened by one level, and he was even confident about challenging Liu Shaoqiu on this planet. Even if Liu Shaoqiu had once defeated him within the emperor butterfly topgrass's star energy vacuum, that had been some time ago. Kuang Wang's battle force had reached the four-lined level, so he felt confident in being able to block Liu Shaoqiu's sword. As long as he could withstand that sword, he would be able to retaliate.

After all, the foundation of cultivation was star energy. Without it, cultivators were nothing.

Of course, a freak like Lu Yin could not be seen as a normal cultivator, and Kuang Wang's ego was not so inflated that he dared to challenge Lu Yin. Regardless of if he was in the wider universe or on Planet Pyrolyte, that freak was simply a monster.

The Wen family retreated, but their mining equipment had been forcefully seized by Kuang Wang. Based on the Wen family's investigation, this mountain most likely contained a large amount of pyrolyte ore. Based on his calculations, they would be able to obtain at least five hundred grams of refined ore, or possibly even more.

In other areas of the Astral Wilderness, the amount of unrefined pyrolyte ore in one place would not even amount to five hundred grams. In many cases, even after a planet was completely extracted of all ore, the net sum would be no more than tens of grams of refined pyrolyte ore. However, this mountain contained so much more, which excited the Second Grade Hall. They immediately maneuvered all of their manpower to ensure total control of the mountain. Kuang Wang did not retrieve the emperor butterfly topgrass back into his body, and instead left it out to perpetually maintain the energy vacuum around the mountain.

Also, Kuang Wang personally named the mountain Pyrolyte Mountain.

Chapter 479: An Enlighter's Threat

The discovery of Pyrolyte Mountain caused the Second Grade Hall to be targeted by all sides. Wen Qian'er did not announce how deep the pyrolyte reserves that Pyrolyte Mountain held ran, but the various great powers had their own ways of probing the place, and they also had their own spies in each other's organizations. It didn't take long for the amount of pyrolyte ore within Pyrolyte Mountain to shock those observing the planet from space, and all the great powers became alarmed.

What would an explosion of five hundred grams of pure pyrolyte be like? No one knew, but based on the theoretical power level, it would be enough to ruin a region of the universe. Even the powerhouses whose power levels had eclipsed 500,000 might be injured or even killed outright by such a powerful explosion. Of course, that was the outcome of directly confronting such an explosion, and those powerhouses would never allow such a destructive material to directly explode on them; they could simply tear through the void to redirect the damage.

But even when disregarding the apex powerhouses, the destructive potential of this much pyrolyte was indeed terrifying.

And this was only the preliminary estimation; it was entirely possible that there was even more pyrolyte than initially thought.

In an instant, Pyrolyte Mountain had become the focal point for all the great powers. Each and every one of them wanted to take over the mountain, but no one dared to act against Kuang Wang.

Quite a few organizations began to unite, and from that day on, Pyrolyte Mountain became a battleground that was raided by many powerhouses every day, including those from the great powers.

The Second Grade Hall felt the pressure intensify, and even Kuang Wang would not be able to withstand the assault if all the other organizations became hostile to them. Also, the truly top-notch Limiteers had not even arrived on the planet yet.

Under such circumstances, naturally, there were also organizations that wanted to join forces with the Second Grade Hall. Among the stronger ones of these powers, the Daynight clan was the first to look for the Second Grade Hall.

There was a habitable planet in Northcastle Weave that was close to Frostwave Weave. The technology of that civilization was still in a developmental stage, as their instruments of war were still ancient firearms. The planet that should have been peaceful had suddenly turned to chaos due to the Second Grade Hall's interference, and that civilization was annihilated overnight. The Second Grade Hall was like a monster that suddenly descended, suppressing the entire civilization in an instant.

This planet became the Second Grade Hall's outpost where they planned their battles against Frostwave Weave.

The Enlighter Karthika was stationed on this planet.

When Pyrolyte Mountain was discovered, Karthika grew restless. He knew that all the other powers were envious of Pyrolyte Mountain, and so, he wanted to head to the Astral Wilderness to oversee the situation.

But he had not gotten permission to leave yet when the entire planet began to rain. This was a rain that extended across the entire planet.

This rain made Karthika feel grave and even a little apprehensive.

It was a very light rain, but the Second Grade Hall's cultivators all felt strange. They wanted to look into why such an enormous rain had suddenly started, but they were all stopped by Karthika. He walked into the rain and looked up. "It's been quite a while. It must not have been more than a thousand years."

The rain curtain opened up, revealing an experienced-looking old woman with black-and-white hair who slowly walked out. Under the gaze of many Second Grade Hall's cultivators, she walked over to Karthika. "About that long."

Karthika gestured for her to follow him.

The old woman nodded and followed Karthika into the Second Grade Hall's headquarters on the planet. The two appeared in a meeting room, and appeared to be just like two ordinary people. They then sat down a short distance apart from each other.

Many apex powerhouses were not as imposing as some people might expect them to be; such people had their own philosophy, style of living, and many even maintained the habits of commoners. Before they revealed their power level, many were indistinguishable from commoners. It was entirely possible that someone walking beside a Seeker could be an Envoy whose power level was over 500,000.

"I thought that you wouldn't leave the Nightking Planet for the rest of your life, Nightqueen Qiuyu," Karthika said as he sighed emotionally while looking at the old woman in front of him.

Her voice was cold when she responded, "I thought that I wouldn't either during this life. But since the clan required it, I was left with no choice."

"That matter that year-" But Karthika was interrupted by Nightqueen Qiuyu before he could finish.

"You don't need to mention the matter from back then. Someone will pay off that debt. You should be clear about why I've come looking for you."

Karthika's face was solemn. "Is this about Pyrolyte Mountain?"

Nightqueen Qiuyu looked at him seriously. "You're very smart. You must know that, with just your force's manpower, you won't be able to hold Pyrolyte Mountain. All parties involved are looking for allies, and you guys should be no exception."

"I'm definitely aware. However, I have many choices, especially the closeby Wen family or the Sword Sect."

"Stop speaking nonsense. Neither party is possible, precisely because they are too close to you. There will be a conflict of interest with either of those two parties, which prevents you from forming any possible alliance with them. Our Daynight clan is the most suitable one for your current needs, as we both have the power and are a suitable distance away. Thus, there won't be any conflict of interest." Nightqueen Qiuyu once again interrupted Karthika in a dominant fashion.

Karthika grimaced. "So many years have passed, but you still haven't changed."

Nightqueen Qiuyu's gaze was firm. "If we cooperate, we'll evenly share the pyrolyte from Pyrolyte Mountain. This is the most generous condition that our Daynight clan can offer, so give me your answer soon."

Karthika had no choice. "There's no need to think any further. We'll cooperate."

For the Beast Tamers Flowzone, the Wen Family, and the Sword Sect were indeed poor parties to cooperate with, as the three of them lay too close to one another. Each wanted pyrolyte to increase their power, which would naturally cause their neighboring flowzones to weaken correspondingly. Thus, organizations that lay close to each other were forced into a competitive relationship, unable to cooperate. This was also the reason why the Wen Family and Sword Sect had not come to talk with Karthika. As for the other flowzones, they were either too far away or too weak. This included even

the Blazing Mist Flowzone, which was also not a very good candidate in Karthika's eyes. Only the Daynight clan was worthy.

Karthika did not doubt the Daynight clan's strength, especially since it had been recently revealed that the Daynight clan had found traces of the Third Nightking. Even though this information could not be verified, if the Third Nightking had truly been found, then the situation of the universe was about to change. Hence, it was of great importance to maintain a good relationship with the Daynight clan.

Nightqueen Qiuyu gazed appreciatively at Karthika. "Wise choice. Our Daynight Limiteer will not disappoint you."

Karthika nodded. "With Kuang Wang's emperor butterfly topgrass and the Daynight clan's Limiteers, we have a surefire victory."

"It's not confirmed yet. Don't forget that there's someone else rushing over, and they even have a grudge with you."

Karthika was lost. "Who?"

"The Sea King's future son-in-law." She beamed as she said this.

Karthika's eyes went wide. "Lu Yin?"

"If that kid is not taken care of, then as soon as he enters the fray at Planet Pyrolyte, no one will be his opponent. Whoever he helps will be the final party to hold Pyrolyte Mountain," she spoke calmly.

Karthika felt embarrassed. "He's the Sea King's future son-in-law, and he also has relations with many different powers. He can't be killed."

"I know. Elder Yuanjing has also mentioned that the kid cannot be touched. However, we need some kind of guarantee that he will not participate in this contest, or else he will become the largest variable. You should know how much influence someone wields when they are truly invincible in their realm." Nightqueen Qiuyu's tone was cold, and this was evidently reminding her of something.

Karthika's face changed, and he paused before looking at her. "I'll hand over Planet Pyrolyte's matters to you while I personally head over to oversee the Great Yu Empire to ensure that he cannot act."

Nightqueen Qiuyu nodded. "Although sending out an Enlighter for a Limiteer junior is not worth it, the contest at Planet Pyrolyte is just far too important. Go on. I'll handle the matters on Planet Pyrolyte."

"Alright, let's work well together."

"Let's work well together."

...

As he flew through space, Lu Yin continuously updated himself on news regarding Northcastle Weave, as he wanted to check on the news concerning the situation on Planet Pyrolyte. However, the network did not have any news about it, and even searching the word "pyrolyte" yielded no results.

Although the net connected many people, it was no different from reality; too much information had been blocked off. Even if Lu Yin released news about pyrolyte, the network would continue to reveal nothing, as only the various great powers were allowed to have access to such information.

Beside him, Hai Qiqi was playing a game. She had recently discovered that the Outerverse had many more fun games than the Innaverse. In her words, the Outerverse was weak because these games whittled away at people's attention span, though Lu Yin could not be bothered to argue against such reasoning.

His gadget beeped, and Lu Yin glanced at it. Suddenly, his expression changed, and his face grew incredibly cold.

'Enlighter Karthika has appeared at Zenyu Star.'

Enlighters could move through space at a speed faster than an Aurora. There were about ten filaments separating Zenyu Star from the border between Frostwave Weave and Northcastle Weave, but this distance was a short walk for Karthika.

The Great Yu Empire had no Enlighters, so Karthika's appearance meant that the entire Great Yu Empire was now under his control—even the lives of those like Huo Qingshan, Ban Jiu, and Liuying Zishan.

Lu Yin clenched both fists, as Karthika's objective was obvious. This move completely prevented Lu Yin from participating in the contest at Planet Pyrolyte. He was simply unstoppable to all Limiteers, so if he acted, the biggest winner on Planet Pyrolyte would become obvious: whoever won Lu Yin's help would get the most pyrolyte.

Pyrolyte was considered a strategic military resource. This situation could be considered as war, just one that had not spread out yet, though it had already engulfed both the Innaverse and the Outerverse.

Lu Yin knew he was very important, but he had never expected his value to be so high as to merit an Enlighter personally moving to restrain him. He estimated that such a thing was unprecedented, as he could very well be the first and only Limiteer who had to be personally restricted by an Enlighter.

News that Karthika had arrived at Zenyu Star had been sent to Lu Yin by Huo Qingshan, and Karthika had then immediately suppressed the news. Fortunately, he had not killed anyone, and Huo Qingshan and the rest were not foolish enough to act against an Enlighter.

Zenyu Star was still stable for now, but this was completely dependent on Lu Yin obediently returning to Zenyu Star and not participating in the scuffle on Planet Pyrolyte. Otherwise, things would become unpredictable.

Karthika might not dare to kill Lu Yin, but the same leniency could not be guaranteed to extend to Huo Qingshan and the rest.

Lu Yin glanced at Hai Qiqi. He could contact the Sea King and serve the Great Yu Empire up on a platter to the Sea King's Dome. No matter if the Sea King accepted it or not, Karthika would have misgivings about making a move in that case. But if Lu Yin did such a thing, then he would no longer have any freedom. The Yushan family would no longer control the Great Yu Empire, and Lu Yin's status as Royal Regent would be nothing more than a joke.

Lu Yin did have the option of ignoring the plight of the Great Yu Empire, as he himself was not a descendant of King Zishan, as everything had been fabricated by Big Sis. However, he had lived on Earth for a long time, and he truly cherished those memories and feelings. He genuinely identified as an Earthling, and he did not want to let that part of him go. Undying Yushan had also treated Lu Yin very kindly and had given him the Yu Secret Art, which he was still unable to repay.

It was impossible for Lu Yin to abandon the Great Yu Empire, as he could not retract those feelings.

He turned to face outside of the spacecraft. Sometimes, standing too tall was not a good thing since it would attract more attention, especially when the one standing out was someone like him without any obvious powers backing him.

“Uncle Huo, tell Karthika that I will not act. Until the events at Planet Pyrolyte end, I will stay in the Great Yu Empire.”

“Understood,” Huo Qingshan’s voice was not very happy either. As a Hunter, he was being used to threaten a Limiteer, and he was probably the first in history to have to endure such a humiliating experience.

Chapter 480: Alliance

On Zenyu Star, Karthika was standing in the main hall of the Imperial Palace when Huo Qingshan appeared behind him. “The Royal Regent guarantees that he will not become involved in the events concerned.”

Karthika spun around. He had no interest in what Huo Qingshan had to say since it was what he had expected. This was, of course, under the presumption that no one with an even stronger background than Karthika’s was willing to stand up for Lu Yin. Otherwise, things would definitely stay under his control. For now, he was more interested in the person in front of him. “For cultivators from the Outerverse, reaching the level of Hunter is no easy feat. I can recommend you for a position in the Second Grade Hall. Are you interested?”

Huo Qingshan politely declined the offer, “My apologies, but I do not have any wish to leave my homeland.”

Karthika was unsatisfied with such an answer. “While trapped in an insignificant place like Frostwave Weave, it was nothing more than a stroke of luck for you to cultivate to the level of Hunter.” Once he was done speaking, he stepped forward and completely vanished. He could actually leave now if he wished since Zenyu Star was not going anywhere. Lu Yin would not dare to renege on his agreement, since the price he would have to pay for doing so would be more than what he could bear. However, Karthika also wanted to stay around to check out Lu Yin.

There had been many unparalleled individuals in his generation as well, and those individuals who were unsurpassed within their respective realms had left a rather deep impression on him. Lu Yin was similarly unsurpassed within his own realm, which was why Karthika wanted to meet him and see if there were any similarities between Lu Yin and that person from his generation.

There was also another issue to be addressed. The commotion at Planet Pyrolyte would only grow more intense as time went on. Since he had the option to stay in the background, he would naturally choose

to not come out on his own. Instead, he would let Nightqueen Qiuyu do all the dirty work. The Daynight clan was known for being tyrannical, and the more enemies the clan made, the more relaxed others would feel, and it was the same even for Karthika. At this moment in time, the Daynight clan indeed seemed to be the Second Grade Hall's best partner, but who knew what the future held.

Zenyu Star had a beautiful scenery.

In the Astral Wilderness, there was a huge battleship blazing with flames. It was not being destroyed, rather was on fire of its own accord. This was a spacecraft from the Blaze Realm.

In the Blaze Realm's battleship, there was a figure silently looking down at Planet Pyrolyte. The surroundings' high temperatures were enough to even distort the void. This figure seemed to be blazing like a star, but strangely enough, he did not damage any of the objects around him. This man was Master Huo Houye, a powerful Enlighter from the Blaze Realm. He was an almighty cultivator with a power level of 240,000.

Not too far away from where Huo Houye was standing, the void distorted as a strong but ugly looking man stepped out. He faced Huo Houye and spoke with a dull voice. "I am Lei Long of the Dire Barbarian Clan."

Huo Houye turned around and stared at the middle-aged man, focusing on the man's face. His eyes flickered; those from the Dire Barbarian Clan all had peculiar appearances, and ugly was not quite enough to describe their appearances. Sinister was a better word. These people were the complete opposite of those from the Souldream Tribe.

The Souldream Tribe were known for producing beautiful women, whereas it would be a stretch to find even a decent looking person within the Dire Barbarian Clan. Perhaps this was why the Souldream Tribe and Dire Barbarian Clan had been enemies for so long. The Dire Barbarian Clan wanted to make use of the Souldream Tribe to improve their future generations' genes and allow their descendants to be more attractive. However, the Souldream Tribe carried a natural hatred for the Dire Barbarian Clan, as they especially loathed the way they handled things.

Regardless, at this time, it was easy to recognize someone from the Dire Barbarian Clan just by their appearance.

Those of the Dire Barbarian Clan had become used to this, which was why Lei Long did not mind Master Huo Houye scrutinizing his appearance.

"Brother Lei, what is the purpose of this visit?" Huo Houye asked.

Lei Long solemnly replied, "To form an alliance."

Huo Houye pondered over this information.

Lei Long continued, saying, "Recently, many powers have formed alliances, so pillaging pyrolyte ore using just one's own strength is now impossible. As far as I am aware, even the Second Grade Hall has now formed an alliance with the Daynight clan. Brother Huo, you should be well aware that the strongest power on Planet Pyrolyte is currently the Second Grade Hall."

Huo Houye looked at Lei Long. “We are open to entering an alliance, but how would we split the pyrolyte ore?”

“This goes without saying. We would each take half,” Lei Long replied.

Huo Houye broke out in laughter. “Brother Lei, you must be dreaming! In terms of distance, my Blaze Realm is the closest to this place, so I can deploy skilled warriors at any moment. On the other hand, your Dire Barbarian Clan is located very far away. Besides, you don’t even have any powerful Limiteers who would be of any use on the planet’s surface. Brother Lei, do you really believe that you deserve half a share?”

Lei Long knitted his brows. “What you said is not entirely accurate as we have many Limiteer cultivators within the Dire Barbarian Clan. Also, there are many powers researching a way to let Explorers enter Planet Pyrolyte. The Dire Barbarian Clan has Explorers who are worthy of stepping on to the Top 100 Rankings as well.”

Huo Houye was not bothered about such claims; the Blaze Realm had everything the Dire Barbarian Clan possessed. Everyone had their own hidden trump cards, but there was a singular someone in the Dire Barbarian Clan whom he actually paid attention to: Avery. Avery was a powerful individual who was ranked fourth within the Top 100 Rankings. If Cruisers were allowed to enter Planet Pyrolyte, then that man would be of great use. It would be as good as having a decisive player on their team.

However, dividing the pyrolyte ore equally on the grounds of an unknown possibility was too big of a risk to take, and it was also a risk that Master Huo Houye was unwilling to take. However, he did not immediately reject the proposal. “I’ll tell you what, Brother Lei. Why won’t we decide how to split the pyrolyte ore after we get ahold of it. Is that alright with you?”

Lei Long squinted his eyes and pondered for a moment before agreeing. Even though the Blaze Realm was strong, his Dire Barbarian Clan was not lacking in any way. If the Blaze Realm dared to go back on its word, then Lei Long felt certain that he would be able to make them pay dearly for such transgressions.

The premise for forming an alliance was that both parties had similar levels of strength. Those in the Eight Great Flowzones would only seek out alliances from others within the Eight Great Flowzones. As for the smaller flowzones, such as Northline Flowzone, they could only seek out the smaller flowzones for assistance.

Northline Flowzone was really down on its luck. Northgate Gang, Ah Fan, and the others had been matched against Jared from the Blaze Realm. Just one battle alone was enough to leave Northline Flowzone with heavy casualties and ten people dead. To add insult to injury, even the pyrolyte ore that Northline Flowzone’s team had extracted was snatched away.

Even though Planet Pyrolyte was huge, everyone had a pyrolyte ore detector, so there was a high chance of finding it. In short, the team from Northline Flowzone was simply unlucky to have run into powerful experts from the Eight Great Flowzones.

Currently, on Planet Pyrolyte, less than a third of the cultivators were from the Eight Great Flowzones, and the majority of the others were Limiteers from the smaller flowzones. Alas, numbers did not mean everything; in the end, the only ones who could act brazenly and steal pyrolyte were those from the Eight Great Flowzones.

The bitter defeat of Northgate Gang and the others caused those from Northline Flowzone to become extremely anxious. Lily Anne wanted to contact Lu Yin several times, and Granny Chan was even willing to add more onto their offer. However, any action on Lu Yin's part would put the Great Yu Empire at great risk, and Lily Anne felt that there was nothing she could do to move Lu Yin unless Granny Chan promised to oversee and protect the Great Yu Empire. That was one of the few things that could ensure the safety of the Great Yu Empire.

However, that was an impossible condition. Granny Chan's departure would mean a loss of prestige for the Lily Clan. Granny Chan was more important to the clan than pyrolyte.

Another three days passed. When Lu Yin looked at the projected route, the calculated arrival time was in another ten days.

On this day, there was a violent change above Planet Pyrolyte; the Limiteer cultivators from the Sword Sect had arrived.

The various powers were all stunned by their arrival, and the newcomers all headed to a personal spacecraft before descending into Planet Pyrolyte's atmosphere. Everyone sensed that the power structure of Planet Pyrolyte was about to shift.

The most worried parties were definitely the Second Grade Hall and the Daynight clan. Currently, Planet Pyrolyte was almost entirely controlled by the Second Grade Hall and the Daynight clan. They had more than a hundred Limiteer cultivators guarding Planet Pyrolyte, and most of them were from the Second Grade Hall while a minority were from the Daynight clan. The striking features of the black and white hair was impossible to miss, and it also provided a good reminder for the other powers that the two had formed an alliance.

The minute the Sword Sect's spacecraft rushed over to Planet Pyrolyte, Nightqueen Qiuyu's brows bunched up. She stepped forward, tearing through the void even faster than the Sword Sect's battleship. It was a spacecraft shaped like a sword, and it looked rather strange. It did however, have an extremely sharp tip that caused the void around it to become unstable.

"Liu Sanjian, come out!" Nightqueen Qiuyu yelled. As far as her eyes could see, all of the Sword Sect's disciples had been overwhelmed with shock by her cry, and they didn't even dare to raise their heads. A curtain of rain sprinkled down from the sky, creating an amazing sight.

A middle aged man stepped out from the sword-shaped battleship with a resolute look on his face. As he towered high in the sky, he directly faced Nightqueen Qiuyu. This man was Liu Sanjian. It was rumored that, from the moment he began cultivating, he had only ever used three strikes in all his battles, regardless of the final result. He was a powerful Hunter who boasted a power level of 190,000.

"Senior Qiuyu, is something the matter?" Liu Sanjian asked in a calm manner as he looked at Nightqueen Qiuyu.

Nightqueen Qiuyu pointed towards Planet Pyrolyte and icily replied, "The Sword Sect has entered Planet Pyrolyte in the direction of Pyrolyte Mountain. What is the meaning of this? The universe is so vast, and yet you chose this place to land. Are you trying to challenge the Daynight clan?"

Liu Sanjian indifferently replied, "Planet Pyrolyte has not been claimed by anyone, and neither has Pyrolyte Mountain. It does not belong to the Daynight clan, and so, it is open for all to contest."

Nightqueen Qiuyu's gaze turned icy. "Planet Pyrolyte is vast, and Pyrolyte Mountain is not the only place where pyrolyte ore can be mined. Go find another place. I can guarantee you that the Daynight clan will not bother you in any fashion."

"I cannot do that." Liu Sanjian's words were curt. He held absolutely no regard for the Nightqueen, even though he was merely a Hunter.

In his younger days, he had been the cream of the crop in the Sword Sect and feared no one. It seemed like his former courage was still present at this time.

Nightqueen Qiuyu's anger soon condensed into a dry, sarcastic laughter. "Very well then, a worthless individual dares to challenge me. It seems like my years spent hiding on Nightking Planet has caused the outside world to forget about the might of Nightqueen Qiuyu! I will force all of you to remember my power today!" As soon as she finished speaking, she prepared to strike.

Liu Sanjian's gaze became increasingly piercing as he grabbed the hilt of his sword.

At that moment, the space between the two distorted, and a figure stepped out. Sighing deeply, the figure said, "Qiuyu, you are still as tyrannical as ever."

When she heard this voice, Nightqueen Qiuyu's body shook. She stared in astonishment at the old person in front of her, and her voice quivered. "Vile- big brother Viletree?"

Liu Sanjian looked at the old man and bowed respectfully. "Elder Viletree."

This old man's name was Elder Viletree, and he was an elder from the Sword Sect. He was also the person in charge of the Sword Sect's pyrolyte gathering expedition. He was an Enlighter with a power level of 270,000.

"Big Brother Chou, I never expected that the Sword Sect would send you here," Nightqueen Qiuyu commented, bewildered.

Elder Viletree looked at Nightqueen Qiuyu and musingly replied, "It has been a thousand years since we last met, and now, we're both old. It is about time for us to keep our tempers in check."

The rain in the sky was now pouring down even heavier than before, and Nightqueen Qiuyu turned to face Planet Pyrolyte. "This is the first time in a thousand years I have come out on a mission, so I do not wish to fail."

Viletree revealed a bitter smile. "It was this terrible temper of yours that made him leave back then. Do you still not see that?"

Nightqueen Qiuyu's gaze abruptly snapped back to Viletree. "My temper? How laughable! It was the clan's rules that drove that coward away. I was willing to turn my back on the clan to leave with him, but he still ran away. Big brother Chou, can I really be blamed for that?"

Elder Viletree sighed deeply. "It happened such a long time ago, but you are still unable to accept it. Forget it, let's not bring up the past."

Nightqueen Qiuyu's emotions became increasingly unstable, causing the rainfall's intensity to fluctuate as a moment of silence passed.

Liu Sanjian took advantage of the pause to leave.

Viletree looked at Nightqueen Qiuyu and continued, asking, "How have you been these long years?"

Nightqueen Qiuyu's body trembled once more as she turned around to leave. "Big brother Viletree, our personal relationships aside, this battle on Planet Pyrolyte is something where I will show absolutely no mercy."

As he looked at the empty sky, Viletree sighed once more. He never would have dreamed that he would meet this old friend of his in such a place. Besides, this was an old friend whom he both wished to see and wished to avoid.

Boom boom boom!

Thunderous booms spread across all of Pyrolyte Mountain, and Kuang Wang looked into the distance with a grave expression. These sounds were of a large spacecraft landing directly atop Pyrolyte Mountain. The newcomers had obviously come here to take control of Pyrolyte Mountain. For a faction to make such a brazen landing at this time meant that it was highly likely for the vessels to belong to the Sword Sect.