

Chapter 51: The Daynight Name

The long corridor was the only thing within that dark, limitless space; Lu Yin felt like he would merge into the darkness with a single step backwards. He frowned and stepped forward, coming across a stone slab at the entrance that was integrated into the surroundings. Rows of names were engraved on the block, most of them ending with Daynight.

Daynight was a family name, but recalling Xia Luo's words about it coming from a strong family, he realized that this was supposed to be its inheritance. Seeing the words Nightking Lord at the top, he felt his gaze transcend space to look at a man towering over the heavens with an incomparably dominant aura. It took him only an instant to recover from that daze, but it left him shocked. *The Nightking Lord*, Daynight, just what is all this?

He put his shock aside and shifted his gaze towards the corridor, stepping forward.

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At the center of an ancient land in the depths of the universe was a towering stone tablet that extended into the clouds, its terrifying aura causing the stars around to buzz. Two shining stones were slowly revolving around the middle, and several figures were standing upright at the base. Dust was caked all over their bodies; one could mistake them for statues at first glance. Lu Yin's image appeared at the bottom of the tablet as he stepped into the portal, but the depiction was too fuzzy to make out any details.

"Another member has entered the clan; it is unknown how high he can go."

"The clansmen are growing worse by the generation, their gifts are increasingly mundane."

"Ignore such matters; no matter how poor their gifts are, they are still members of the Daynight Clan. Any one of us can crush countless geniuses."

"Speaking of, why has the stone not been retrieved yet? This is a little too inefficient."

"No hurry, there isn't anyone in the universe who dares plot over the Daynight inheritance stone. It will return soon, but the one that stole it must be punished severely."

"His innate gift is special; killing him would be a pity."

"No matter, this generation has the clan's future hope elsewhere."

Several people involuntarily raised their heads as they spoke, their gazes transcending vast distance to look at the topmost section of the stone plaque. A bright silhouette flickered upon it, almost like a real person who overlooked all life.

Suddenly, the image of Lu Yin at the base of the stone tablet vanished. Several of the watchers in disappointment, "Even his appearance can't be shown. Pathetic; has that child received all of this generation's luck? It's too cruel to the others."

"No, there are two others who managed the climb; that isn't too bad."

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Within the corridor, Lu Yin felt endless suppression from the very first step. This wasn't physical pressure but a spiritual one, a dark loneliness that almost swallowed him at the start and only grew more intense the further he walked. A fist appeared in the darkness after about three meters, flashing with a bright light before knocking him out and into the darkness. He woke up to the stupefied faces of Zhang Dingtian and the others in the underground room.

"What are you all looking at me like that for?" he asked.

"You succeeded?" Jenny stared at him like he was a freak.

"Nope," he shook his head.

"Liar! I felt that ancient aura going into your body, you must have succeeded!" she acted like she'd caught onto something.

"I don't need to explain anything to you," he dismissed, leaving her furious. She had happened to discover from her father that the escaped criminal was a member of a terrifying ancient clan who was carrying its inheritance stone; this was the entire reason she'd decided to participate in Earth's trial. No one was supposed to be able to receive this inheritance without the clan's bloodline, so what just happened? Not only was there one success, but three! She felt like her understanding of the world had been challenged.

Qingyu's identity was only known to a few students of very high status, so virtually everyone was ignorant of his roots. Even learning his full name, most didn't understand what it meant. This was the restriction of limited experience and a life in the Outerverse; this lack of information also decided one's future. In a more informed region, Jenny wouldn't have been one of only three who'd tried their luck; in the current circumstance, even a Melder like Munoor wouldn't be able to recognize this stone if it was placed in front of him.

Lu Yin looked around at the people in front of him and noticed that Zhou Shan and Wu Sheng had already left. Of the people from the capital, only Zhang Dingtian and Bai Xue stayed behind, though their faces made it clear that they had not succeeded. Of the students, Xia Luo and the girl in green still had their eyes closed.

Very soon, the girl opened her eyes and released a breath. She looked around with a very pleased expression, but when she saw that Xia Luo was still seated with his eyes closed, her expression quickly contorted as though she'd lost. Seeing the look of displeasure on her face, Jenny told her, "Don't think you two were the only ones who succeeded. This guy did, too."

The girl was shocked and followed Jenny's gaze to look at Lu Yin, "You succeeded?"

Lu Yin had no answer; he was unsure what entering that corridor actually meant, so he wanted to say as little as possible.

“You can’t be from their clan,” the girl said as she measured him up, but he continued to ignore her. She was annoyed and wanted to speak again, but Xia Luo finally opened his eyes and the stone fell, clattering to the ground.

“Hey, what did you learn?” she asked him curiously.

Xia Luo smiled, “Nothing.”

“No way, you took longer than me,” she did not believe him.

Xia Luo smiled and turned to Lu Yin, “How about you?”

Lu Yin shook his head, “I did not succeed.”

“Liar!” the girl in green shouted, staring at Lu Yin, “You succeeded and must have learnt something.”

Lu Yin looked at her, then at Xia Luo, and finally at Jenny who felt something was off, “You, what do you want?”

A smile crept across Lu Yin’s face, “I’d forgotten about you. You can surrender; you’re now a member of my glorious army of negotiators.”

“What army of negotiators?” she asked naively, unable to react before Lu Yin caught her and tied her up. Only about as strong as Raas, she could only scream and glare at him, “You bastard, let me go! Do you know who I am, you savage? I’m Jenny Auna, heir to the Auna Family. No one can save you if you dare touch me!”

Lu Yin sneered, “I don’t care who you are, only whether you’ll be of help during negotiations. First Raas and now you, I should have a higher chance of success.”

Jenny screamed, but it was useless and Lu Yin just threw her to Bai Xue, “Take good care of her, this is an important bargaining chip.”

Bai Xue’s pretty eyebrows scrunched up, but after some consideration she nodded and pulled Jenny out. Neither Xia Luo nor the girl in green interfered; they were only here for the stone. Lu Yin wanted to capture both of them as well, but simply had no confidence in success. He couldn’t measure either of them, and despite Xia Luo’s mundane aura was much more cautious of him. He would never forget the immense sense of danger he’d felt the first time he saw this handsome youth.

“Brother Lu, a piece of advice for you. It’s best to get rid of this stone as soon as possible, or it will bring you unimaginable disaster,” Xia Luo said to Lu Yin, walking off before Lu Yin could reply. Really wanting to know what he’d obtained from the inheritance stone, the girl in green chased after him.

Lu Yin’s eyes narrowed in agreement; this was something he had considered as well. This stone was precious, but that value would make it a source of unimaginable terrors that he couldn’t handle with his current strength. Perhaps even the Great Yu Empire itself wouldn’t dare hold onto it; he still remembered the skin-crawling list of names on that stone slab. This was definitely a terrifying clan. He knew that he was neither a genius nor someone with incredible luck, and he simply had no way to keep this stone in the face of such a power. It was only a question of who he’d pass it on to.

Chapter 52: Five Pips

Outside the capital, more than ten students who had joined forces suddenly charged in to rescue Jenny. The Auna Family was much more powerful than Raas's father, and the students had grown impatient since she had not returned after such a long time. Zhou Shan immediately sounded the alarm, but Lu Yin and Zhang Dingtian were still underground in the Research and Development Center while Gerlaine, Balaror, and Jeraldine were resting. He was left alone to face more than ten students, and couldn't even mount a moment's resistance.

A green silhouette suddenly zipped through the skies, shooting past Zhou Shan as it charged straight into the dozen students on the attack. With one punch for each, it took less than ten seconds for as many unconscious bodies to hit the ground. The scene was rather astounding, especially for the Executioner. Many of these people were from the second batch, the strongest in their schools! They couldn't even react to this girl in green; just how was she so fast?

Out in the distance, Lu Yin and the rest had just risen to the skies when they saw this scene, and they were stumped as well. The girl definitely wasn't this fast when she'd first tried to grab the stone, or he wouldn't have been able to block her off. Her current speed must have been inherited from the stone.

Outside the capital, the girl in green frowned, "The White Flash, huh... Still a little slow, looks like it'll be fastest in daytime. Let's test it out again tomorrow."

The dozen captured students were thrown into the city by the cultivators, and including Jenny Auna, they now had a total of 42 captives. Lu Yin was rude as ever as he plundered them, going from 20 cubes of star crystals to a whopping 42. Jenny alone had contributed nearly 15, more than any other student, even Raas. Coincidentally, this meant that he had the same number of captives as he did cubes of star crystals. This was a rather impressive fortune, nearly tripling that of the heir of the Auna Family.

Lu Yin grew excited; he could roll his die again. Robbing truly was the most lucrative occupation. He secluded himself again after greeting Zhang Dingtian; his cosmic ring no longer had enough space to store all his wealth, so he had to use up some of the star crystals. Entering his residence and burying fire crystals all around for safety, he raised his hand and summoned the die once more.

The die's surface had actually recovered a little by this time, but Lu Yin wasn't one to wait. He crushed a cube of star crystals for it to absorb, and it quickly recovered its vague starlit glow. As always, he felt excited and nervous as he stretched out a finger and tapped it, like he was about to end a pilgrimage. Spinning rapidly, the die rolled one.

Pilfer again. Lu Yin stared intently at the void, wondering what he would steal this time. The die didn't keep him waiting either, and a fist-sized star crystal fell out of the portal and landed on the ground with a thump. He was left speechless at the sight; a cube of star crystals had been exchanged for this? It was barely a thousandth of the value! Gambling truly was harmful.

Pilfer was a scary roll, but Lu Yin lifted his heavy spirits with the thought that he had money to spend. He shattered another cube of star crystals to recover the die, and tapped it lightly once more.

It was Pilfer again.

Lu Yin had no response at this point, his luck was just too bad. While Pilfer had huge potential, the odds of actually obtaining something worthwhile were low. Sure enough, his eyes went wide in anger at what

he'd acquired. He felt like going through to the other side and smacking the idiot who he'd stolen from. Who the hell put TOILET PAPER inside a cosmic ring?

It took a good while of fuming for Lu Yin to calm down. Even if one were filthy rich, money should not be spent like that. That was two cubes of star crystals, two entire cubes, and they had been exchanged for a fist-sized star crystal and a roll of toilet paper. If Jeraldine learnt about it, she would probably cry until she died. Her entire family's fortune was probably not worth more than a dozen cubes; he had spent two thousand times her fortune. Only now did he understand how lucky he'd been to receive the Cosmic Art the first time; perhaps all the luck in the universe had been granted to him on that particular day.

'Should I wait? Maybe today's a bad day...' he couldn't help but think as he crushed the third cube, but he shook his head and dismissed it. He was rich himself, and it was time to continue. He nervously tapped the die and it slowly came to a stop, and when it rolled a four he finally released a pent-up breath. Timestop was alright; at least it wasn't a waste of money.

He appeared in the ash-colored room the next moment, the timer starting to count down. Three days wasn't enough to train further in the Cosmic Palm and he didn't have any more forms of the Skybeast Claw to study, so after some consideration he realized there was only one thing he could try; that fist he had seen within the inheritance stone. It had thrown him right out, but he had seen its secrets when he used the Cosmic Art. While the girl had received that extreme speed skill, he had gotten this.

He adjusted his breathing and thought back to that monochrome fist— the Daynight Punch.

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Three days later, the timer ticked down to zero and an exhausted Lu Yin left the room. Even though that ashen space stopped time, it didn't stop physical fatigue. Grabbing some random food, he slept through the night and woke up later the next day.

"Back at it," he growled immediately afterwards, crushing the next bunch of star crystals for the die to recover. This was his fourth roll and he felt a wave of dizziness hit him for a moment, but he paid it no notice and focused on the die that slowed to a crawl in front of him before stopping on two pips— Blackhole Disassembly. This was perfect; he'd gathered a decent amount of trash already, so he disassembled it all and ended up with some strange metal that he didn't recognize.

Once the vortex vanished, Lu Yin crushed more star crystals and tapped the die, but suddenly felt much dizzier than before. He finally realized why this was happening; this die was his innate gift and couldn't be used endlessly; similar to star energy, use it too much and it would run out, forcing him comatose until he recovered. His body trembled and he nearly fell to the ground, 'Five. Five times is the limit.'

Trying to shake the dizziness away, Lu Yin looked at the die that was showing five pips, a roll he'd never seen before. So far, he'd rolled Pilfer on one, Blackhole Disassembly on two, and Timestop on three. This was the fourth side he'd unlocked, and its usage drifted into his mind— Gift Copy.

With this roll, he could touch anyone with an innate gift and copy their ability within the die. It could be used once before it vanished in the future. Unfortunately, this roll needed him to touch someone with an innate gift within ten seconds of the roll; it would fade away after that time passed.

Checking the time to find that two seconds had already passed, Lu Yin rushed out of his residence to hunt down the only cultivator in the entire city with an innate gift. He knew where Bai Xue was supposed to be right now, so he raced towards the city walls without hesitation even as his body trembled amidst his flight. Five uses had completely exhausted him and he desperately needed rest, but the Water Sage was still a hundred meters away. He shot forward with full strength, placing a hand on her shoulder and heaving a sigh of relief when there was only one second left.

What was this? Jeraldine, Gerlaine, Balaror, and Zhou Shan all stared at him blankly from their own positions atop the walls, while Bai Xue herself stared dumbfoundedly. His hand was still on her shoulder as he looked up to see the strange looks everyone was giving him, and he suddenly pulled back and fled, "My bad, wrong person."

There was a deathly silence left behind, as not one person managed to come up with a response. Jeraldine was at a loss for words, 'What a crappy excuse was that? Why did that bastard stretch out his hand? Was he trying to take advantage of Bai Xue, in broad daylight without any indication? He had to be insane!'

Jeraldine wasn't the only one to start making assumptions as all the rest were doing the same, especially Gerlaine, "Did Lu Yin just try to confess his feelings? Did we interrupt him?"

"Seems like it," Balaror replied seriously.

Bai Xue's face flushed with embarrassment, captivating even Jeraldine for a moment. Even the heavens truly paled in comparison to this woman's beauty. Meanwhile, Lu Yin crashed into his own residence and instantly fell asleep. Already past his limits, he dozed throughout as rumors spread through Beijing like wildfire.

"Did you hear? The Hidden Sage declared his feelings for the Water Sage and was even rejected. He drank himself unconscious and hasn't shown his face since."

"No way, I heard that the Hidden Sage didn't actually dare to say anything. He was smitten by the Water Sage and left before even saying a word."

"You are all wrong, my cousin's uncle-in-law's younger brother's neighbor saw it with his own eyes; the Hidden Sage kissed the Water Sage and even proposed to her, with a ring even!"

"Get lost, where would he buy a ring in these times."

That afternoon, Zhang Dingtian sought out Bai Xue, "I heard—"

"It was nothing, he mistook me for someone else."

The Bladesage was caught off guard and froze for a moment, then responded with a simple "Alright" before leaving.

Chapter 53: Mavis

Bai Xue was enraged by Lu Yin's actions. She believed that the scoundrel had been looking for revenge ever since she'd stopped him from seeing what Qingyu had left behind, and had decided to enact his

vengeance in this disgraceful manner. She wanted to go look for him and discuss things, but knew that the rumors would only burn brighter if she met him. In the end, she could only tolerate it for now.

Another newcomer descended upon Beijing the next afternoon, the air distorting around him as his powerful star energy swept over the capital's skies. Zhang Dingtian and the rest rushed out to look up; this was Yan Gang.

"Give me what Qingyu left behind in the capital," he ordered, gazing down coldly.

Zhang Dingtian gripped his blade and rose to the sky, "Who are you?"

"Yan Gang, from the Fireforge Planet." The words Fireforge Planet were uttered with an indifferent pride, looking upon Zhang Dingtian with disdain.

It was Gerlaine that cried out from below, "The Fireforge Planet?!"

"What about it?" Bai Xue was puzzled.

"That's one of the biggest powers in the Frostwave Weave, just as famous as the Great Yu Empire. The entire planet is covered in raging flames, and every being there is very powerful. Their fire-related battle techniques are unmatched."

Jeraldine added on, "Normal fire battle techniques are useless against them, they've evolved to be near-immune."

"Anyone from the Fireforge Planet who can arrive at the Great Yu Empire is a Melder at the least; this guy should be stronger than Munoor," Gerlaine remarked.

Bai Xue looked up at Zhang Dingtian with a worried expression; each enemy that came was stronger than the last.

"Let Qingyu come and collect it himself if he wants it," Zhang Dingtian replied, gripping his new warblade tightly. As his own had been destroyed by Munoor, he had taken to using Qingyu's.

"A maggot thinks it deserves to talk to me," Yan Gang sneered, sending a wave of scorching heat down with a flourish. Zhang Dingtian's eyes went wide as he dodged with Roving Step, charging over and slashing out with his blade. The sword's body buzzed as it melded with the Shockwave Palm; this was the same attack that had allowed him to wound Munoor.

With a realmbreaker's might added onto the powerful battle technique, even Yan Gang was astonished. He clapped both hands together and formed a spear of flames, shooting it towards Zhang Dingtian. A rain of fire fell upon the capital as blade and spear collided, igniting panic as it burnt the ground.

Zhang Dingtian was swept away by the spear, crashing down heavily after a single exchange. He simply was no match, but the youth still stared in amazement from up above, "Few Sentinels can survive that spear of mine. You're pretty good, you can follow me."

Bai Xue, Zhou Shan, and the rest glared at Yan Gang with irrepressible fury. These trainees always looked down upon earthlings, acting like following them was a blessing. Unfortunately, this was the law of the jungle.

“Is that an innate gift of Fire?” Jeraldine was shocked.

Gerlaine replied, “No, everyone from the Fireforge Planet has a mutated body that can produce flames of high temperatures. I guess you can consider it a sort of innate gift, but not in the same way. This person is really powerful.”

With Lu Yin still fainted, those that opposed Yan Gang were simply powerless. The youth remained arrogant and pointed down with his spear of flames, “Give me what I want, or I’ll burn you all to a crisp.”

“Give him the stone,” Zhang Dingtian spat out blood, leaving everyone aggrieved. Only Gerlaine’s eyebrows lifted up. What stone?

It was at that point that a green figure flashed in the distance, vanishing and reappearing behind Yan Gang, “You’re not bad, help me test the White Flash.”

“What?” Yan Gang’s gaze shrank, a loud explosion ringing out before he could even react. Everyone present stared in shock as a giant pit appeared outside the capital, the conceited man thrown to the ground like a dead dog. Up in the sky, the girl in green clenched her fist and muttered something to herself with an excited look on her face.

“You slut! I’ll tear you apart!” Yan Gang suddenly raged, charging out as flames started spewing from his body like protective armor. His spear of flames pierced through the air towards her.

“Perfect!” the girl squealed with excitement, her body disappearing without warning before Yan Gang spat out a mouthful of blood. His body snapped into an angle at the waist from an invisible blow, sending him crashing into the ground once more. The girl reappeared and stared down, obviously pleased with herself.

The audience was shocked by the huge discrepancy between the two. This second attack made it obvious not only to the onlookers, but now even Yan Gang could see the difference in strength. He climbed back out of the crater and looked at the girl above in shock, “Who are you?”

She lifted her chin, “Lulu Mavis.”

Upon hearing this name, Yan Gang, Gerlaine, Jeraldine, and the rest of the trainees were shocked. Yan Gang asked once more, “Mavis? That Mavis?”

She smiled, “Is there another in the universe?”

Zhang Dingtian, Bai Xue and the other earthlings were puzzled, Mavis? What did that mean?

Yan Gang immediately extinguished the flames around his body and looked up with a serious expression, his voice now filled with respect, “Is this your territory?”

Lulu didn’t answer, simply crooking her finger instead, “Let’s continue; I want to try the power of the White Flash.”

Yan Gang smiled bitterly, “I didn’t come here to fight. Qingyu has captured Huo Xiaoling, the heir of the Huo Family. He said that he will only release her if the object he left in the city is returned to him.”

The girl frowned, "What does that have to do with me? Now are you going to continue or no?"

Yan Gang stood there calmly, with no intention of fighting. His demeanor had changed completely from the moment he'd arrived, and Lulu also lost interest and returned to the city after a twitch of her mouth. He watched her leave before finally rising back into the sky, calling out icily, "Did no one hear what I just said? Who's in charge here? Send them out to speak with me."

Zhou Shan immediately headed to look for Lu Yin within the city. The stone belonged to China and thus should have been controlled by Zhang Dingtian, but Lu Yin was the one who'd obviously gained something from it. The Bladesage couldn't make a decision about this by himself; although some were reluctant to acknowledge it, Lu Yin was now the actual ruler in Beijing.

"Jeraldine, what is Mavis?" Bai Xue suddenly asked.

Jeraldine and Gerlaine looked at each other before the former answered, "The universe is unfathomably vast and holds countless empires and powerful organizations. These great powers each have their own methods of transactions and currency laws, but the Mavis Bank issues the only universally recognized currency. They have branches everywhere in the universe where one can exchange credits; they're a financial powerhouse."

No further words were needed; the mere phrase "only universally recognized currency" was sufficient to show people what the Mavis name was worth. Earth was insignificant in the face of the greater universe, but this family owned a bank capable of issuing the only universal currency. That required terrifying power; it was no wonder Yan Gang changed his attitude so drastically. If that girl in green really was from there, her influence completely overshadowed that of Huo Xiaoling, Raas, Jenny, and the rest combined.

Within the city, Lu Yin was still laying on the ground with his eyes closed. His brows were tightly knitted, both fists tightly clenched, and his entire body was drenched in sweat. He was dreaming of a snow-white finger that crushed the void, travelling across time to arrive before him. It stretched past countless stars, approaching closer and closer... "HOW AUDACIOUS!"

He sprang up within his residence, panting for breath after the roar. Eyes glazed over without focus, taking a while to regain some sense of normalcy. He was vigorously shaking his head in confusion when Zhou Shan arrived, "Lu Yin! What happened?"

Lu Yin got up from the ground, looking exhausted and beaten, "It's nothing, why are you here?"

Zhou Shan was unconvinced and carefully looked over Lu Yin, who looked like something the cat had dragged in, "You sure you're alright?"

Lu Yin shook his head, "I'm fine."

"Someone named Yan Gang is here and claims to be representing Qingyu. He wants to take away that stone."

Lu Yin's face changed and he nodded, "Alright, let's go meet him."

Zhou Shan grunted, "Do you want to change first?"

"I'll change when I return," Lu Yin replied and flew out.

Along the way, Zhou Shan described how Lulu had beaten Yan Gang, and the mention of her full name left Lu Yin shocked. He recalled that the entire universe only had one family named Mavis, the controllers of the Mavis Bank. He had wanted to open an account there once, but simply hadn't qualified. Even the average wealthy family didn't have the right to transact with them; if she was from there, her background was terrifying.

Chapter 54: The Flying Turtle

It wasn't long before Yan Gang grew impatient; without Lulu around, he'd grown arrogant once more. Lu Yin didn't take long to arrive, but he ignored Yan Gang and stared at Bai Xue instead. He vaguely recalled having done something before he fainted, and he could see the frustration on her face. The Water Sage certainly had her reasons for this; while Yan Gang was one thing, she hadn't been able to get a handle on the rumors that were spreading through the city like wildfire.

"Where's Lulu?" Lu Yin asked Jeraldine.

"Back in the city."

He nodded and glanced at Zhang Dingtian, "Are you injured?"

"He's very powerful, from the Fireforge Planet," Zhang Dingtian answered in a low voice, prompting a raise of the brow from Lu Yin. He had come directly to Earth upon reaching the Frostwave Weave, so he hadn't heard of the place.

"Who's the one in charge? Come talk to me," Yan Gang's gaze turned cold.

"What's your problem?" Lu Yin turned around and snapped.

Yan Gang laughed, "Looking down on me, are we?"

Lu Yin smiled, "So what?"

Yan Gang glared at him and the temperature around shot up, the very air starting to distort. However, he suddenly thought of something and sent a wary glance towards the city as he exhaled, "Stop this nonsense and give me Qingyu's belongings."

"Why the hell would I do that?" Lu Yin grunted, still annoyed at just having woken up.

Bloodlust filled Yan Gang's eyes, "How dare you, do you know who I am?"

"Don't know, don't care."

Yan Gang was outraged at the insolence. If not for the presence of a Mavis in the city, he would have attacked the native directly. "What are your conditions, I have to take Qingyu's item."

Even if Xia Luo hadn't warned him, Lu Yin would have given the stone away anyway. Its background was far too complicated for him to hold onto, but he still had to make sure he would get sufficient compensation for its sale, "Do you represent Qingyu or the trainees?"

"Qingyu," Yan Gang answered.

"Then I can give it to him, but he has to give me all the students he's captured."

Everyone was shocked by this condition, but they remembered what Lu Yin had once said about using these students to negotiate with the Great Yu Empire. Zhang Dingtian and the rest were happy with that stance, but in reality Lu Yin only cared about the students' star crystals. The negotiations were only secondary.

Yan Gang frowned, "Why do you want the students? You also have a few here, and don't you have Jenny Auna too?"

"I think there's someone with that name," he answered vaguely. Most of the students had removed their gadgets so their information wouldn't be visible on the web. Meanwhile, Lu Yin's gadget had no name attached to it, so it was also unable to announce some information.

"Let her go!" Yan Gang bellowed.

Lu Yin sneered, "Who do you think you are?"

"So rude!" Yan Gang glared at him, flames appearing on his palms as he rushed forward. Those from the Fireforge Planet were all bad-tempered, and for him to suppress his until now was already an accomplishment.

Everyone felt threatened by the attack, but Lu Yin balled up his right fist and distorted the light around. Yan Gang suddenly felt the world change around him; it was obviously still morning, but this punch showed him both day and night. It felt like a terrifying conflict had broken out within his own body, leaving him in excruciating pain. He growled and stabbed towards Lu Yin, but waves of energy swept across the earth and blasted him backwards, extinguishing his spear of flames.

Lu Yin took a step backwards as well, looking at Yan Gang with a grave expression. This person truly was far more powerful than Munoor. The Daynight Punch was a battle technique from the clan of the same name, which meant it was far more powerful than even the Cosmic Palm or the seventh form of the Skybeast Claw, but this guy had managed to block it without any significant injuries.

Although the result of the clash left Lu Yin surprised, Yan Gang was completely shocked; this native was just a Sentinel, but his attack had been so threatening that he'd had to respond with his most powerful strike. In fact, if Lu Yin's attack had been the slightest bit more powerful, he might have broken his seal to counter.

Observing the exchange, Zhang Dingtian's eyes narrowed. He had faced Yan Gang before, and it had been enough to understand how terrifying this trial participant was. And yet, Lu Yin had still managed to push him back, showing his absurd increase in strength since the day the two had first met.

The powerful attack changed Yan Gang's impression of this native, and he descended slightly and looked Lu Yin straight in the eye, "Jenny is the heir to the Auna Family of the Great Yu Empire. You will only bring yourself trouble by capturing her, consider it carefully. Her family has countless options if they wish to wipe out the people of this planet."

"I'm aware of all that, there's no need to warn me. If you want to get the stone for Qingyu, then ask him to give me the students that he captured. This is my only condition, there's no room to negotiate."

"Fine, I'll contact Qingyu," Yan Gang reluctantly agreed and switched on his gadget, but just when he was about to contact Qingyu, Lulu Mavis suddenly appeared and surprised everyone.

“I knew you’d gotten something! That punch wasn’t bad, let’s fight!” she told him excitedly.

Lu Yin smiled, “I refuse.”

Lulu blinked, “Refuse? Why? Powerhouses should improve by learning from each other.”

“I’m not a powerhouse,” Lu Yin said.

She shook her head, “You’re not bad for a Sentinel, at least you qualify to fight me. Stop with this nonsense, bring it!”

Zhou Shan and the others watched the strange interaction with bemusement; it felt bizarre hearing a beautiful girl telling a man to “bring it.” This one probably wasn’t completely normal.

Lu Yin really didn’t want to fight with Lulu; she was way too strong and he didn’t want to suffer her punches. Besides that, the speed that she’d obtained from the inheritance stone would leave him nothing more than a punching bag; he wasn’t a masochist.

“Hey, are you even a man? Bring it! I said bring it!” Lulu shouted, but he ignored her and looked at Yan Gang instead. She grew anxious at this, but there was nothing she could do if he refused to move. She was a lady; she could only ambush bad people, so a sneak attack was off the table.

Lu Yin suddenly thought about his Cosmic Art, and how he’d been able to use it to learn the seven forms of the Skybeast Claw. Could he use it to copy Lulu’s movement technique just as quickly? Thinking of this possibility, his eyes started to gleam. ‘Maybe I should spar with her after all.’

That thought was interrupted when Bai Xue suddenly shouted, drawing everyone’s attention to her talking to someone on her gadget. Moments later, she lifted her head and informed them grimly, “The Blue Camp has been destroyed.”

“Who did it?” Zhang Dingtian’s gaze turned cold. Lu Yin looked over as well, recalling the girl Zhao Yu who was one of the three Snow Maidens from that camp.

Bai Xue answered in a low voice, “Not who, what. It was a mutant beast, an enormous flying turtle.”

“A turtle?” Many were shocked.

She nodded, “According to a gadget in the Blue Camp, the turtle’s combat level exceeded 10,000 and couldn’t even be read properly.”

The information stunned everyone. A combat level over 10,000 was at least the level of an Explorer! A Sentinel was limited to 3,000, Melders 6,000, and Limiteers 10,000. Qingyu being an Explorer was what allowed him to survive on Neptune despite severe injuries, what allowed him to showcase such power even now. How could there be a mutant beast on Earth with such power? Where could it have come from?

This also happened to be the moment Yan Gang finished his call. “Qingyu’s—” he started shouting, but a terrifying pressure from the east suddenly crushed him to the ground. An enormous figure covered the sky, and Lu Yin looked eastwards to see a giant turtle that was larger than all of Beijing. The scene

stunned the millions of survivors in the city; they simply couldn't conceive of the existence of such a massive creature. That shock soon turned into terror as the enormous creature drew closer.

Yan Gang picked himself up and was about to curse everyone, but raising his head left him stunned, 'Where did this crazy turtle come from?!'

The turtles traveled extremely quickly, its shadow covering Beijing for only a second before it continued west. The beast never even looked towards the ground; to it, Lu Yin and the rest were nothing more than ants that could be crushed at any moment.

Chapter 55: Deal With The Devil

Within the huge spacecraft outside Earth, Sigmund and a few others were looking at the turtle on the screen anxiously.

"General Mathers, we can't consider a beast that is beyond 10,000 combat level a part of the trial; let us capture it," Torry Auna said nervously. Jenny was still in the capital; if the creature decided to attack, they would all die.

Sigmund clenched his fists and glanced at Mira, who smiled calmly, "Is death really that scary to the young elites of the Great Yu Empire?"

Torry's face sank and he went quiet, looking back at the screen.

Fortunately, the huge turtle disappeared quickly before anyone in Beijing worked up the courage to utter a single word. That creature was truly terrifying; even its body alone could crush everyone here.

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Lu Yin sighed, but then suddenly realized something was strange. Where is Lulu? He barely looked west in time to see a green silhouette disappearing into the distance; that crazy woman couldn't have gone after the turtle, right?

Outside the capital, Yan Gang was coughing hard. He had choked on the dust from the turtle's arrival, and was finally feeling better. While everyone was still immersed in the terror of the turtle's appearance, he continued speaking, "Qingyu agreed to your condition."

"Which gadget is his?" Lu Yin asked with a nod, contacting the man directly once it was pointed out, "Qingyu?"

In northern Europe, Qingyu looked at his gadget and smiled, "You're the native who has caught dozens of students in the capital?"

"Your thing is with me; if you want to get it, hand me the students you've captured."

"I talked about it with the other guy just now, I'm okay with that. Do you also want Huo Xiaoling?" Qingyu smirked.

Lu Yin narrowed his eyes, knowing that Xiaoling was the reason why Yan Gang was working for Qingyu. With Raas and Jenny already on hand, she wasn't worth the fight that would cause, "No, but then you have too few students on hand right now."

Qingyu's eyes gleamed, "Kid, I'm dealing with you because I don't want to come all the way there, do you think the few of you can stop me?"

"Of course not, you're a Melder. But we can run just like you. I'll just hide the stone until the mission fails, and then the Empire will send soldiers to capture you. Do you think you'd be able to defend yourself at that point? I know that you want a chance at escaping using that stone; compared to your life, my conditions are already quite lenient."

Qingyu laughed, "You're quite smart, I do intend to use that stone to escape. Fine, I can capture more students. I already have some here, is a total of 32 alright?"

"That works."

"We'll trade under Cang Mountain in Tianzhu; ten days."

Lu Yin agreed and hung up, turning to the watching Yan Gang, "You can go retrieve Huo Xiaoling now."

Yan Gang's eyes sparkled, "You'd better hand Jenny Auna over; you don't know how powerful the Auna Family is."

"Not happening. Get a move on."

Yan Gang didn't bother responding and just left, after which Lu Yin informed the rest of his companions of the current situation. Zhang Dingtian was the first to speak up, "I'm going with you. Qingyu caused Earth's evolution and brought about the deaths of countless people. I want him to pay with his life."

Bai Xue said, "I'm going too."

Lu Yin looked to Jeraldine, "Post the news that Qingyu will be at Cang Mountain in Tianzhu in ten days."

"Do you plan on using the students to eliminate him?" Gerlaine asked.

Lu Yin nodded, "Isn't that the mission? If he's taken out, you'll complete the trial mission, so it's a win for you too."

"What about you? Are you trying to seek vengeance for the people of this planet?"

He took a deep breath, "The trial isn't only for the students, it's for us as well. You students have your results to worry about, and I have mine too. Completing the mission also increases my chances of negotiating with the Great Yu Empire."

Gerlaine sneered, "Are you really planning on negotiating with the Empire? You're insane, there's no way you'll succeed"

"I can at least try," Lu Yin shrugged.

The local network soon erupted into chaos as Qingyu captured more students, compelling most of those who were still in Europe to flee. News was also released that he would appear at Cang Mountain in Tianzhu, so many students rushed over immediately. They were far past the point of trying to verify whether this was real; it wasn't much of a loss to take the trip anyway. This would be the final battle of

the trial; either they would complete their mission, or they would all fail and the Great Yu Empire would capture Qingyu afterwards.

Lu Yin returned to training and studied the movement of the stars, hoping to be able to form the fourth star of the Cosmic Palm in this time. The technique was incredibly powerful, and the fourth star would greatly increase its strength. He could defeat Eddy and match up with Raas using the three-star version, but he knew for certain that the fourth would allow him to outright defeat even sealed Melders like Yan Gang and Munoor. With no way to increase the strength of the Skybeast Claw or the Daynight Punch, this was the only way for him to grow his combat ability.

However, before anything else, Lu Yin found a piece of paper and closed his eyes and tried to recall the dream he had woken from when Zhou Shan had come to his residence. He still recalled that crushing finger that spanned the heavens; it had felt quite real, as had the boundless rage in his heart.

And yet, even though he could clearly envision the scene from his dream, he couldn't draw it on paper no matter how hard he tried. Thinking over it for a while, he eventually sighed and gave up on trying to make sense of it, deciding to just treat it like a normal dream. As such, he threw the sheet away and raised his hand to summon his die, observing the traces of ice on the face with five pips. This was Bai Xue's innate gift; he could use it one time before it vanished from the die. If he wanted to use it a second time, he would have to roll Gift Copy again and touch her within that ten-second time limit.

"What an interesting gift," he muttered to himself, retrieving a cube of star crystals from his cosmic ring and crushing it to allow the die to recover. However, the die didn't absorb the energy this time. Had it reached its limit? It seemed like he had to wait a while. Dismissing the gift with dismay, he returned to his study of star charts.

This trial was a nightmare for many of the students. The first batch had mostly wanted to occupy a section of Earth and harvest rare materials in order to earn an average result, so it was only the stronger and braver of them that had been captured. However, the second batch had been truly unlucky, with nearly half of them captured across Europe and China. There was no such trial in the recorded history of the Great Yu Empire; it left General Sigmund and the other overseers embarrassed. The worst part of the situation was that even the heirs of powerful families like Jenny, Xiaoling, and Raas had been captured, as well as elites from Yu Academy. Mira watched everything and even meted out compliments from time to time, but it all sounded like sarcasm in Sigmund's ears.

"Now this is a true trial. Most of the time, the trials just consist of the students defeating the natives, but that's more of a show than an actual trial. General Mathers, the Great Yu Empire is truly a fair and just empire," Mira commended, but her words left the General speechless. This woman had just criticized the youths of the Great Yu Empire for being afraid of death, but now she was saying the opposite. Was this anything but mockery?

"General, we should start preparing; the final battle will occur in ten days. Qingyu must be quite confident if he is giving ten days to allow more students to gather," Torry spoke up.

"That Lu Yin doesn't even understand how powerful a Melder is. This trial's mission will most likely end in failure," Shalosh said in a cold voice.

Sigmund looked at the screen. To the overseers, Lu Yin would be trying to make a deal with the devil if he really wanted to bargain with Qingyu. Even if Qingyu only had the battle power of a Sentinel, an elite from the Daynight clan was someone incomparable to normal opponents.

Mira smiled at the screen, Melder? No, that's wrong. She had confirmed that Qingyu didn't have the battle power of a Melder; in fact, it would be difficult for him to showcase even peak Sentinel power with his injuries. He was only half a Sentinel, but to others it seemed like he had the strength of a Melder. This showed the power of the Daynight Clan; it left her hopeful for something interesting after ten days.

Chapter 56: The Deal

Two days later, Yan Gang approached Qingyu to rescue Huo Xiaoling, but Qingyu turned him away with a sneer, "Do you have my item?"

Yan Gang was outraged, "You can settle that with those natives in eight days. Release Xiaoling now!"

"The condition was Huo Xiaoling for my property; why would I release her when you didn't fulfill your end of the deal? Leave," Qingyu said arrogantly. Yan Gang was enraged by this, but he knew that he simply wasn't a match and left when he saw Qingyu's gaze turning cold. Sitting on the ground, the hostage herself was staring at her captor's back with a glint in her eyes. If this guy truly was from the Daynight Clan, none of the trainees would be able to beat him. The deal that would occur in eight days was just a fun exercise that he controlled.

Countless students started appearing at Cang Mountain in Tianzhu, mostly from the second batch. A majority had removed their gadgets to avoid revealing their locations as they hid themselves around the area, with even Munoor among them. Other than him, there was another sealed Melder; only true elites dared to appear here at this time.

The ten days passed in the blink of an eye, and Lu Yin spent the entire time watching star charts. His fourth star was growing clearer but had yet to fully form, prompting a sigh. It was growing increasingly difficult to add more stars to the Cosmic Art now; it was capable of simulating an entire solar system, but it was already so difficult to form just the fourth body. Even the maximum of eight was only for the limited technique he'd acquired, but with his rate of progress, he had no idea how long it would take him to complete the technique.

He also knew that he wouldn't be able to break through to Melder anytime soon, either. Becoming a Melder wasn't something that could be accomplished through a formcast model alone; everyone's body was unique, so they all faced unique challenges on their path to this breakthrough. One's own body would give them a signal when they were ready, and without that signal they would fail even with a formcast model. Even wealthy children like Raas couldn't simply make it to this realm; while he had no lack of star crystals to speed up his cultivation, the obstacle of his body still persisted.

Everything one learnt, including their battle techniques, affected their Melder breakthrough. Lu Yin looked at his own palm, wondering what effect the Cosmic Art would have as he summoned the die with a twist of his hand. A cube of star crystals was crushed and the energy quickly absorbed, leaving him excited as the die regained its normal glow. Calculating the time, he realized that five uses would leave

him exhausted to the point of deep sleep, and the die would become unusable for ten days. This meant he could use it up to four times in a row, with breaks of a few days in between.

Although Lu Yin wanted to use the die immediately with the star crystals he had stored in his cosmic ring, he was out of time and had to head for Tianzhu immediately. He leapt up and left his bedroom, seeing Zhang Dingtian and the others waiting nearby. Zhou Shan and Wu Sheng would stay behind to guard Beijing, while he would be accompanied by Zhang Dingtian, Bai Xue, Jeraldine, Gerlaine, and Balaror on the trip.

Behind Zhang Dingtian were a bunch of weak and starving students who had been tied up. Despite their obvious weakness, many of the students glared at Lu Yin, particularly Raas and Jenny. With their background as the son of the Vice Treasurer and the heir of the Auna Family, they had never suffered through anything like this before. In this crowd of students, someone like Veron would only be an average cultivator.

“Let’s go,” Zhang Dingtian flew up, dragging the 42 students west with a tethered rope like they were useless bottles. These people couldn’t be left in Beijing once the city’s strongest cultivators were gone; Zhou Shan and Wu Sheng wouldn’t be able to handle them if something went wrong.

Lu Yin paused to take in the impressive scene and wondered how the other students would react when they saw this. Jeradine was simply stunned by the sight. Any one of these hostages could kill her in an instant, but here she was watching them herded like cattle. It truly changed her world view. On the other hand, Gerlaine was delighted with the situation and kept provoking Eddy, Raas, and Jenny, infuriating the bound girl to the point she felt like biting someone.

Lu Yin greeted Bai Xue, but she responded very coldly. However, this time he understood her reaction; he’d heard the rumors that spread through the city and considered it normal for her to be angry. He was furious as well. What did they mean he was rejected? Was he that bad?

The survivors of Tianzhu stared up in a daze, watching as Qingyu dragged all of his captive students in with a rope as he headed towards the foot of Cang Mountain. He had transported the students in the exact same manner as Zhang Dingtian, completely humiliating and enraging them all. Huo Xiaoling was flushed red, hating not only Qingyu but Lu Yin as well, ‘Couldn’t they have made some other deal? Why did they have to involve us? The pricks! If I wasn’t in the trial I would break this damn seal and fight Qingyu myself!’

In the spacecraft above Earth, Sigmund and the others were frowning at the screen while Mira grinned widely at the display that soon changed to show the foot of Cang Mountain. This was going to be the site of the final showdown for this trial, and based on what had happened so far, no one was expecting a peaceful transaction. A battle was inevitable. Qingyu had started traveling a day earlier and so arrived at the mountain before Lu Yin, giving the students already there quite the show to watch. Many of them gloated that Huo Xiaoling and the other arrogant elites were being embarrassed in such a manner.

Meanwhile, Yan Gang trembled in rage. Huo Xiaoling was the fiancée of the young lord of the Fireforge Planet; this was an absolute insult to both her and her future husband.

Qingyu tossed the students to the ground and yawned, calmly turning to observe the peak of the mountain. His demeanor seemed nothing at all like an escaped criminal. After half a day passed, Lu Yin

arrived with the others from Beijing. The students hiding around the mountain were shocked once more with Lu Yin's arrival, when they saw that he had captured even more students than Qingyu and that all of them were hanging in the air. It was an impressive scene that stunned even Yan Gang, though his emotions quickly changed to fury. His Fireforge Planet had a good relationship with the Auna Family, who had even hosted him during his travels to the Great Yu Empire. Discovering that Jenny was being treated the exact same way as Xiaoling left him fuming.

The students who had tried to protect Jenny Auna were also quietly seething, knowing that the Aunas would be humiliated if this information spread. Compared to the two women at the center of attention, Raas was relatively unimportant.

Qingyu's gaze landed on the group of new arrivals and quickly settled on Lu Yin, "You're the one who negotiated with me."

"What makes you think that?" Lu Yin asked.

Qingyu smiled, "Instinct."

Lu Yin gestured with a hand and Zhang Dingtian brought the students forward and threw all 42 of them to the ground, where they landed near the students that Qingyu had brought. The two groups of students looked at each other awkwardly, especially Jenny Auna and Huo Xiaoling. The two's families weren't on good terms, but they held a similar status and had known each other since they were young. Never had they expected that they would see each other in a situation like this.

"Here are the 32 students, where's my item?" Qingyu asked Lu Yin.

Lu Yin took the stone out and tossed it to Qingyu, who caught it and looked at it before turning to him in surprise, "Don't you want to know how to use this stone?"

"No," Lu Yin answered. He had no intention of revealing the Daynight Punch to this guy; who knew if the information would get back to the Daynight Clan. He didn't want to get involved in matters at that level, so it was best to just get rid of this thing quickly.

Qingyu complimented, "You're smart to not try to trick me with a fake one. If you hadn't threatened me, I could have given you a bright future."

His words elicited a stone-cold gaze from Lu Yin, while Zhang Dingtian and the rest moved forward while radiating bloodlust.

"Did you cause Earth's evolution?" the Bladesage asked.

"Who do you think you are to question me?" Qingyu looked at Zhang Dingtian and sneered, laughing as his gaze fell upon the sword, "It's an insult for you to hold my blade. Give it back."

He disappeared and rushed over, but Zhang Dingtian slashed out with full power. The buzzing sword surprised Qingyu. "Realmbreaker? Interesting!" he said as he swung his metal rod at the attack, destroying the energy entirely. The rod seemed to occupy a corner of the sky as it crashed down towards the Bladesage, including Lu Yin, Bai Xue, Gerlaine, and the others within its range.

Chapter 57: The Terrifying Qingyu

Lu Yin started as he saw Qingyu smashing down with his rod; it seemed quite similar to the Daynight Punch. Still, he didn't think much of it and instead used the seventh form of the Skybeast Claw to dodge, supported by an arrow from Gerlaine and the combined efforts of Balaror, Bai Xue, and Jeraldine. Still, all of them were pushed back after explosive contact, with everyone but Lu Yin himself spitting out blood. Zhang Dingtian was also knocked a dozen steps back, each one leaving a distinct footprint on the ground. Lu Yin himself only stepped back one, holding firmly as he defended against the unimaginable force behind Qingyu's weapon.

The metal rod disappeared, and Qingyu retreated to about ten meters away in astonishment, "You're pretty strong to block a strike, even if I'm only a Sentinel for now."

"Sentinel?" Huo Xiaoling and some other students cried. Even Yan Gang and the others in hiding were shocked; wasn't he a Melder?

Qingyu noticed this and laughed, "A bunch of idiots, believing whatever you hear. If I was really a Melder, this trial would have no meaning. Would the Great Yu Empire send you people to your deaths? Sentinel students are naturally assigned to Sentinel trials; you can only blame yourselves for being too stupid and weak."

Yan Gang roared from in the darkness, dashing out as he slammed his palms together to form a fire javelin that he flung forward. From the back, Gerlaine shouted as well, "This is the criminal, catch him and the trial can end. Astral-10 and the Youth Council are watching, everyone. CHARGE!"

Her words had an immediate effect. Any student that dared come here wanted to complete the mission, and their goal was joining Astral-10. No one would give up, especially after Yan Gang had already initiated the offensive. Countless attacks rained down on Qingyu. And yet, this was exactly what the criminal expected. If he hadn't revealed that he was only a Sentinel, a majority of the students would have dared to attack. Now, they believed that they could overwhelm him.

"Pathetic trash, let me show you the terror of the Daynight Clan!" he howled in laughter, his rod flickering gray as he swept it across. Multiple students were struck in an instant, two of them chopped into halves as their blood splattered onto the ground.

Yan Gang's javelin was smashed, and his body was beaten a dozen steps back. He barely raised a deathly-pale face that was filled with horror, "The Daynight Clan?"

Qingyu's rod continued on its way as a shockwave crushed and shattered the earth. Burning hot lava splattered out onto the ground, heating everything in the surroundings. Yan Gang's eyes constricted from rising fear at the mention of the Daynight Clan.

Lu Yin stopped Zhang Dingtian and the rest from attacking. If Qingyu was willing to reveal his realm, it meant he had absolute confidence in the current situation. This was a frighteningly powerful person whom Lu Yin knew he couldn't match even if he went all-out; he hadn't ever heard of such a wide gulf between two Sentinels; was this because of the Daynight Clan?

Screams rang out as a few of the captive students fell into the cracks, prompting Bai Xue to hurry and save them by sealing the fissures with ice. Qingyu's rod smashed into another student's longsword and

shattered it into pieces, sending the student flying even as he turned to look at her, "Ice? Innate gift of Frost? You're mine, woman!"

With that, he blinked right in front of Bai Xue to try and grab her. Lu Yin barely managed to get in front of her in time with the Roving Step, attacking with a palm. Three stars immediately exploded with terrifying force, blowing Qingyu away even as the powerless Bai Xue was tossed into the distance.

"What battle technique is that?" Qingyu was shocked, but Lu Yin simply fled through the sky with a clenched jaw. There wasn't a single way to win this fight; despite being a Sentinel as well, Qingyu completely outclassed him. The criminal chased after him with a sneer, "Innate gifts, realmbreakers, unique battle techniques... you people have piqued my interest! Haha!"

An oppressive force suddenly erupted in the battlefield and swept into the sky, clearing the clouds. The force of the shockwave flipped everyone over, even Lu Yin. He looked at an unknown man that had appeared right in front of Qingyu, placing both palms on the criminal's body. "Go to hell!" BOOM! Qingyu was sent flying into the mountain, stunning everyone. A Melder powerhouse? A true Melder?

Lu Yin was stunned by the show of force that even Qingyu couldn't react to, but the stranger suddenly turned around and bared his killing intent at himself. This was an unexpected development for everyone that left Lu Yin confused; why in the world was he being attacked by this man? Still, he activated the Cosmic Art just as the attack approached him, barely able to make out the trajectory of the fatal blow and dodging sideways to avoid the crisis. The man's strike smashed into the ground, the aftershocks alone injuring some students to the point of spitting out blood, but the attack was wasted. The man prepared to strike again, but a beam of light suddenly enveloped him above and stopped his strike midway, injuring him from the backlash of star energy.

The Great Yu Empire's surveillance station had intervened, prompting everyone to raise their heads to look at the spaceship above. This was a Sentinel trial, so any student who broke their seal would be disqualified and expelled from the training grounds with force. Lu Yin breathed raggedly as he looked towards his captives, seeing the bitter look of regret on Raas's face. It must have been him! Only a few students had a background that would allow them to coerce a Melder, and Raas was the most hateful of them all.

Lu Yin clenched his fist, wanting to kill this bastard, but was stopped by a giant boom. Everyone turned to look at the mountain and saw Qingyu walking out from the smoke with a gloomy face, a trace of blood trickling from the corner of his mouth. This immediately plunged them all into the pits of despair; even a Melder's all-out attack couldn't kill him?

Qingyu cleaned the blood from his mouth and looked at it. Though his smile was still present, his eyes were ice-cold, "Great. He was willing to sacrifice his trial results to deal with me, not a bad attempt. Pity that was the only chance. A mere Melder thought of killing me? Dream on! I'll kill every one of you today!"

Tremendous pressure enveloped the students as Qingyu swept out with his rod, killing several of them in an instant. However, Gerlaine shouted out, "HE'S INJURED! ATTACK NOW, WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE!"

Yan Gang, Munoor and the other sealed Melders attacked Qingyu at the first opportunity, but he just laughed at them, "Still trying to win? I'll make you weep." The earth was overturned with a single wave of his hand, revealing three captured figures that froze up everyone present.

Zhang Dingtian and Bai Xue had the strongest reactions, "Wang You? Tong Zhan? Liu Shaoge?"

Lu Yin stared in amazement. These were the last three of the Seven Sages of China, and Wang You was even one of the three High Sages. How did they end up here with even Liu Shaoge captured?

Qingyu's smile turned cruel as he looked at Lu Yin, "A worm like you dared to give me conditions? Did you really think my ten-day suggestion was to allow you to gather all this trash? It was just to capture these three. Anyone who dares threaten me must die! But before that, I'll make you experience true suffering. It's not just these three; your Beijing, Jinlin, Hubei, and everything else will be crushed under the hooves of a beast horde. Yes, I'm the one who started this planet's evolution, so what? What can you do to me? Enough, it's time you feel regret!"

He waved his hand once more, and a sharp wind swept out to cut off all three heads. Bai Xue immediately turned deathly pale, while Zhang Dingtian's gaze sharpened as he grasped his sword tightly and rushed forward. Qingyu sneered and pointed a finger forward, black and white hair blowing in the wind. It was unclear just how, but the Bladesage's chest was pierced through and he was sent flying away.

Qingyu immediately started attacking the other students like a wolf among a pack of sheep, covering the ground with blood. Bai Xue's eyes went red and she slapped towards him, but he that finger gently shattered her ice before he grabbed her hair and took a deep whiff, "How fragrant. You're mine now, woman."

Lu Yin appeared again at this point, with a Skybeast Claw in his left hand and a Cosmic Palm in his right. Both were released together, shocking Qingyu. There were few people he took seriously on this planet, but Lu Yin was one of them. Admittedly, he only considered this a slightly more serious opponent than the rest.

Bai Xue was sent flying once again, while Qingyu broke off the Skybeast Claw and countered the Cosmic Palm with his finger. All three stars exploded, but they were overpowered by the one attack. Lu Yin's right hand was even pierced and he was flung back, left in a miserable state. This was a terrifying freak of nature who seemed impossible to defeat.

Yan Gang spat out a mouthful of blood, badly beaten and stunned by what he had just seen. This was the Daynight Clan's power, that of terrifying monsters who surpassed all others.

"Boring. I originally wanted to play a little more, but forget it. I'll take them and end things here," Qingyu said indifferently before looking at the captured students. Next to them were the fallen bodies of Gerlaine and Balaror; it was unclear if they were alive or dead. A handsome man with a gentle face stood where they had been previously.

Still gripping his injured right hand that was dripping blood, Lu Yin's expression warped as he saw the man. Liu Shaoge?!

Chapter 58: Rematch

“You’re alive?” Zhang Dingtian and Bai Xue stared with similar disbelief.

Liu Shaoge smiled and bowed respectfully to Qingyu, “Master, I have all 72 captured students; that should be enough.”

Qingyu nodded and stared at the sky in cold arrogance, “Your trial has ended. Let me go if you want to save these lives!”

“SHAOGU, WHY?” Bai Xue screamed from the distance.

Liu Shaoge smiled once more, “The Earth is too small, my dear. I’m heading to the heavens.”

“YOU BETRAYED US! WHAT ABOUT WANG YOU? TONG ZHAN?”

“Eh, they’re really dead. Those who can’t appreciate the greater world don’t deserve sympathy,” he looked at her gently, “But you, you should come to the heavens with your innate gift. Give up this planet; someone with your talent shouldn’t have their future restricted like this.”

An enraged Zhang Dingtian bit his lips to control himself, while Lu Yin gazed upon the scene coldly. Even the pain that Qingyu had brought to this planet and himself couldn’t compare to what Liu Shaoge had done. A city of countless survivors had been set on fire at the start of the Apocalypse, himself among them. He still carried the scars of that painful day upon his body, and knew that he would never forget that experience. He’d thought it would be difficult to enact his vengeance, but now Liu Shaoge was alive and in front of his face.

Qingyu was still waiting for the heavens to answer, while Liu Shaoge was facing Bai Xue. Lu Yin closed his eyes and formed the die in his right hand, crushing star crystals and allowing it to absorb the energy rapidly. This was his only chance, and he hoped for the right luck.

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Within the giant spacecraft outside Earth, Sigmund sighed, “It has ended. The trial is a failure.”

No one refuted. Qingyu had incomparable power at his level, and was practically undefeatable.

Torry tutted, “If that girl from the Mavis Family had gone over, she might have been Qingyu’s match.”

Shalosh sneered, “The Mavis Family isn’t the Great Yu Empire. So what if they defeated Qingyu? Would that glory be ours?”

There was no disagreement.

Sigmund turned towards Mira, “Lady Mira, I’m sorry you had to see such failure.”

“Failure?” Mira’s eyes shone a faint red as she looked at the screen with a smile, “Has it ended?”

Sigmund nodded helplessly, “Apologies.”

She continued to grin, “Wait a little, the tables might be turned yet. A trial is meant to see how the trainees find a way out of predicaments, is it not?”

Torry Auna had a pained expression, "Qingyu comes from the Daynight Clan. Even if his own family put out the warrant for his arrest, his power far surpasses his contemporaries. Forget Sentinels, he is practically matchless on Earth."

Even Mira seemed to be weighed down by the mention of the Daynight Family, "How do you plan to handle him?"

Sigmund answered, "The Daynight Clan wishes for him to be captured alive if at all possible. Even dead, his entire corpse must be sent back along with their inheritance stone."

Mira nodded, "That means it's not a matter of whether he's alive or dead."

Everyone fell silent as they considered whether to kill him. He had schemed to exchange the lives of 72 students for a chance at escape, but it was impossible for any number of students to outweigh the Daynight Clan's warrant.

"Wait a little more. The Youth Council's rules state that as long as there are trial takers who have not lost their determination, the trial cannot be considered complete. Just look, someone is still trying his best." Mira kept looking at the display that showed Lu Yin crushing more star crystals.

"LIU SHAOGE!" Zhang Dingtian bellowed and struck out with his blade, mouth and clothes stained crimson.

"You're not dead?" Liu Shaoge was astonished, but he gently lifted his hand and a ray of light launched towards the Bladesage. This attack shattered the strike effortlessly and continued towards Zhang Dingtian himself, but Bai Xue appeared in front of him and blocked it with thick walls of ice. Even then, both High Sages were pushed back into a retreat.

Gerlaine and Balaror had both woken up, intent on retaliating, but stopped upon seeing Liu Shaoge's attack. This native was clearly very powerful.

"Don't injure that woman too badly," Qingyu said coldly as he surveyed the scene.

Liu Shaoge responded with a bow and a grunt, then looked towards Zhang Dingtian and Bai Xue with indifference, "The so-called Seven Sages are nothing but a joke. I captured Wang You and Tong Zhan because they were just too weak. Zhang Dingtian, you might possibly be my match if you recover completely, but as you are right now, you're pathetic. None of you ever managed to fathom my true power."

Zhang Dingtian spat out a mouthful of blood, now too weak to even keep a hold of his blade. Bai Xue stared at Liu Shaoge with an icy glare, her eyes deep red.

Not too far away, Lu Yin was growing frustrated. The first roll had landed on Blackhole Disassembly, and despite an immediate retry he'd landed on Gift Copy. Seeing the gloating faces of Qingyu and Liu Shaoge after the Radiance had defeated the two High Sages, he took a deep breath and crushed more crystals. This time, the die stopped spinning and the surfaces faded away until only the four-pip face remained. This was the one!

Lu Yin immediately entered the Timestop domain, excitedly taking out all of the star crystals he had left in his cosmic ring and throwing them at the countdown. The number jumped from 259,200 to 436,800; using all his wealth had gotten him two more days in this space.

He immediately started to treat his injured body, even as he pulled out his star chart and started studying. He had five days to finish the fourth star. Just how strong would that be? Would it be able to stand up to Qingyu? He could only test that conjecture out in battle.

The five days in the ashen room felt endless, with no sound nor sight in that boundless solitude. Lu Yin's hand had recovered dramatically by the third day, and the fourth star of his Cosmic Art had grown more defined. By the end of the fourth, it was fully formed. When the fifth day ended and the countdown dropped to zero, the scene before him changed once more as he returned to the outside world, back at the exact time he'd left. Qingyu was still looking at the sky arrogantly, while the calm Liu Shaoge appeared as conceited as before. Bai Xue and the others were still helpless to act on their hatred, and there were injured students scattered across the ground.

"Are you not going to answer me? Are you trying to leave me here to die?" Qingyu shouted, his body disappearing and reappearing in front of the captured students. He grabbed Huo Xiaoling's long red hair and sneered, "She'll die with me."

Huo Xiaoling was enraged and an overwhelming strength started swirling around her as she started to break her seal, but Qingyu coldly remarked, "Trying to break your seal? Consider it carefully, a Melder who failed a Sentinel-level trial. Do you think you would ever be allowed into the Astral Combat Academy?"

Huo Xiaoling paled at those words. She had already heard them many times from Qingyu, and it was the primary reason that she had been willing to remain a captive. A great Melder who also had an innate gift couldn't fail in a mere Sentinel trial mission. She would be nothing but trash in the eyes of the Astral Combat Academy. It wasn't just them; none of the higher academies of the universe would accept such a student. Breaking her seal here would end up the greatest stain on her record.

She closed her eyes and constrained her star energy again. She would not break her seal even if she died.

Outside Earth, Sigmund grew more anxious, "Lady Mira, we can't wait anymore. Huo Xiaoling must not die."

Torry Auna and Shalosh were also focused on the screen; if Huo Xiaoling died on Earth during this trial, the wrath of the Huo Family would shake the Great Yu Empire; all involved would be out of luck. However, Mira didn't even notice; the scions of random families in the Outerverse weren't worth her attention. She was still focused on Lu Yin, having sensed something off as he suddenly changed. His injured hand had healed so quickly! Was that an innate gift? Or was it that die? All of the observers had seen Lu Yin's innate gift but thought little of it; gifts could look like anything and were only worth attention if they proved to be extraordinary.

"Lady Mira..." Sigmund continued, but Mira raised her chin and pointed at the display. Everyone turned to look, only to be stunned at what they saw.

On the battlefield, Qingyu suddenly was suddenly ten meters away from Xiaoling, having just been knocked back. He was staring at Lu Yin with incredulity, an emotion shared by everyone else; how had he been pushed away?

“Seems you forgot about me,” Lu Yin stated from in front of Huo Xiaoling, retracting his hand. Gerlaine choked on her spittle, while Jeraldine was shocked once more by the youth who had destroyed her preconceptions again and again. Qingyu had eclipsed every student only moments ago, but Lu Yin could now force him back.

Chapter 59: Lu Yin vs Qingyu

Even though he was heavily injured, Zhang Dingtian smiled. Bai Xue looked at Lu Yin expectantly; she had never felt so helpless before either.

Qingyu huffed, “You’ve been hiding your true strength?”

Lu Yin stretched his shoulders, “Not really. Some people just burst forth with potential when they’re forced to their wit’s end.”

“Ha, so what if you burst? You’re only a maggot.” Qingyu pointed a finger at Lu Yin, the same one that had defeated Zhang Dingtian, Yan Gang, Munoor, the other students, and even Lu Yin’s older Cosmic Palm. An apprehensive Lu Yin raised his own hand, four stars spinning within as he struck out.

“Courting death!” Qingyu shouted. The Daynight Clan was invincible amongst others at the same level.

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! Four explosions rang out in quick succession. Qingyu didn’t even bother about the first three, but a terrifying pressure descended upon him with the fourth that finally bent his finger. A palm landed on his chest at the same time, flinging him back ruthlessly. Tornado-like winds crushed the earth, leaving everyone deaf for a moment as their visions blurred with smoke and dust. When everything settled, they were shocked to see that Qingyu had been defeated.

Lu Yin was panting heavily, his right palm throbbing as blood dripped down broken skin. Opposite him, a pale Qingyu gritted his teeth from the pain of his crushed finger, shuddering with wrath, “What battle technique was that?”

“A technique to kill you!” Lu Yin grunted, using Roving Step as he charged forward again. His palm was raised for a deadly strike; while the others didn’t understand the terror of someone withstanding the Cosmic Palm, he knew that this opponent could return one day and bring great trouble.

“Maggot, I’ll show you the power of Daynight!” Qingyu snarled, and the entire mountain buzzed as Lu Yin was forced back, leaving a dozen footprints down below. He barely raised his head in time to see Qingyu rushing out of the smoke, “Do you think I only have one battle technique? My clan might not have much, but that’s the one thing don’t we lack!”

Enduring the impulse to vomit blood, Lu Yin met a new claw attack with the seventh form of the Skybeast Claw. The earth rocked once more as a terrifying shockwave buffeted the ground, boring into the mountain rock. Seeing the battle through the veil of smoke, everyone was shocked; could Sentinels really fight at such a level?

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Outside Earth, Sigmund and the rest were similarly astonished, “How did this person become so strong? That’s the Skybeast Claw, looks like the seventh form. Isn’t that a battle technique of Yu Academy?”

“The real power is in that strike that withstood Qingyu’s finger. That was his greatest battle technique, but it lost.”

“This person isn’t simple; we must investigate further.”

While everyone posited their own opinions, Mira’s eyes gleamed as she watched Lu Yin. They were all focused on his battle technique, but she was looking at his fully-recovered hand. There was obviously a finger-sized hole through it before, but it had mysteriously vanished.

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Shock after shock seemed to explode in the audience’s hearts, leaving many pale. The two figures retreated simultaneously after another explosion, with Qingyu panting heavily as he glared at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin’s hands were currently shaking. He had healed from his injuries, recovered his stamina, and even rested during his five days in the Timestop domain, but he was still hard-pressed to match up with Qingyu. Not even the four-star Cosmic Palm seemed to be able to cause any serious injuries; this man truly lived up to the reputation of an Explorer and member of the Daynight Clan. Even a Melder wasn’t likely to be able to withstand his full strike with just their physical body.

“I’ll take care of him, Master!” Liu Shaoge suddenly claimed, jumping forward with light blossoming on his palm. Zhang Dingtian roared in anger, but Lu Yin barely spared a glance as he lifted his left hand. A bestial howl rang out as the Skybeast Claw crushed the light, swatting the man down into the ground.

“Trash, do you think you can interfere in my battles?” Qingyu barked.

Liu Shaoge spat out blood and feebly replied, “Sorry, Master.”

Lu Yin was quite amazed. He had intended to kill Liu Shaoge with that attack, but the man hadn’t just survived, he could still speak! He was clearly much stronger than believed.

“I never dreamed that this backwater planet could house someone like you who wields such power as a Sentinel!” Qingyu exclaimed, “Even in the Innerverse, you would be considered outstanding.”

Lu Yin clenched his fists, “I have no need for your approval.”

Qingyu grinned, “I’ve seen too many geniuses fall and too many powerhouses die before my Daynight Clan. You won’t be able to escape either, and don’t count on the Great Yu Empire rescuing you. Every trial is supervised by the Youth Council, so unless every one of you loses your determination and causes the trial to fail, no one will interfere and the trial will continue. I’ll slaughter you before that happens!”

Chaotic star energy drifted over his body, but instead of being released, it wrapped around him and twisted around his legs to make it seem like he was stepping on the clouds. “Die!” was the only word people heard as his body suddenly vanished, only to reappear in front of Lu Yin with the index finger stretched out to attack.

This was an extreme speed technique of the Daynight Clan, so powerful that not even Yan Gang could make out Qingyu's movements. The man was trying to take Lu Yin out with a single blow, but the still-panting Lu Yin activated the Cosmic Art once more. He could make out every movement of the finger that drew close; while the Cosmic Art's range was quite small, that distance was scaled to the stars. Just as when Raas, Munoor, and the others had attacked with the Skybeast Claw, Lu Yin could make out every change in Qingyu's attack. Carefully analyzing the approaching strike, he moved down and to the side, countering with a Cosmic Palm that contained every last bit of his rage.

Qingyu was completely caught off guard; he had never expected Lu Yin to be able to dodge his finger, let alone counter attack. His absolute confidence in his footwork technique was crushed, but he was left with no time to react. Most importantly, Lu Yin made sure his Cosmic Palm struck the exact same point where the unsealed Melder had previously struck. Already injured from the beginning, this was the straw that broke the camel's back. A mangled body crashed to the earth, forming a cone-like crater as rocks shattered with tremendous explosions. Lava scorched the air, drowning out all sound.

To the onlookers, Qingyu had blinked out and in before immediately being slapped to the ground by Lu Yin. It looked terrifyingly simple, but the victor alone knew how perilous that moment had been. Anyone in his place—even an unsealed Huo Xiaoling— would have been unable to dodge that strike. Only someone like Lulu with her own speed technique could avoid it. While Lu Yin had no comparable speed techniques, his Cosmic Art was the counter to them all.

Liu Shaoge's eyes glinted as he looked at the ground. The others followed his gaze, looking towards the figure buried deep below, wasn't he dead? Lu Yin stood beside the pit, gasping for breath in the furnace-like heat created by the lava. Qingyu had brought this moment upon himself with his carelessness. He had been so confident that Lu Yin wouldn't be able to dodge that last finger attack that he hadn't considered or prepared for any type of counter. The only regret was that he had been unable to learn the extreme speed technique even after studying it with his Cosmic Art. All of the Daynight Clan's techniques had a unique aspect that reflected the name of the clan itself; day and night. If one couldn't grasp the rhythm, even seeing every change and development of the technique was useless. He had initially thought that he could use the Cosmic Art to be able to learn all battle techniques in the universe, but now he realized this was impossible. Some techniques required special conditions to be acquired and learned.

Crack! The surface of the conical pit cracked and gave way, and Qingyu slowly pushed himself off the ground with one hand and glared at Lu Yin with red eyes, "You maggot, you've really pissed me off now!"

Lu Yin frowned, knowing full well how precarious this situation had become. This man was worthy of his status as one who had reached the realm of Explorer. Even while he was unable to manifest his full strength, his body was extremely tough and he had taken on a full-powered attack from an unsealed Melder on top of Lu Yin's strike. Qingyu also was showing a scary rate of recovery, and Lu Yin knew that he would lose if things continued.

"You won't win no matter what method you choose, maggot. Give up!" Qingyu growled and charged, but Lu Yin's expression suddenly changed as he looked towards the crowd of students watching from below. Qingyu coughed up some blood, but forced himself to endure and pursued, "There's no escape."

Lu Yin's mad dash frightened many students into fleeing. One of them even cried out, "This bastard wants to drag us down with him! Quick, escape! And don't get caught!"

The students all rushed away, but Lu Yin didn't care about most of them. He had a single target that he chased after; Munoor, a sealed Melder.

"What are you doing?!" All color drained from Munoor's face.

Chapter 60: Nightking

Lu Yin used Roving Step to charge straight to Munoor's side, punching him square in the stomach. Already injured earlier by Qingyu, the youth was unable to dodge and ended up gasping, giving Lu Yin an opportunity to stuff a pill into his mouth, "Come on."

"You asshole! What did you just give me?" Munoor yelled out in alarm.

"Powerburst!" Lu Yin said as he escaped, not looking back for a moment.

"You son of a bitch! You bastard!" Munoor's expression warped in an instant; he knew just what Powerburst was for. While it would allow him to burst forth with power as a Melder, it would destroy any Sentinel. He felt the terrifying burst of star energy break his seal, and he also saw Qingyu rushing straight for him. His hand thrust out almost automatically in the Skybeast Claw; while he could only use the seventh form as a Sentinel, he could go up to the tenth as a Melder.

Qingyu's irises shrank as he saw the tenth form of the Skybeast Claw, but it was too late to escape. The attack had a hundred-meter radius, so it smashed him into the rock once more.

"YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT!" Munoor bellowed as he was beamed away.

Lu Yin couldn't be bothered with this new enemy. Facing a battered Explorer, he had to strike while the iron was hot. He shot towards the surface and drove his palm down, five consecutive Cosmic Palm strikes focusing on previous injuries as they drove Qingyu deeper and deeper into the mountain. The entire mountain was eventually divided in two as he ran out of star energy, but he still had the Shockwave Palm and Spacerender Palm to utilize. More attacks rained down on Qingyu without pause, each one sending another gush of blood from Qingyu's gaping mouth.

Seeing the bloodlust in Lu Yin's eyes, Qingyu gritted his teeth and bellowed between strikes, "MY WOUNDS ARE TOO HEAVY TO SHOW MY INNATE GIFT. STOP, YOU CAN'T KILL ME! I'M A NIGHTKING, I'M AN AWAKENED NIGHTKING!"

"Go to hell!" Lu Yin raised his right palm, stuffing all his energy into one last Cosmic Palm. However, the strike was only one centimeter from connecting as someone grabbed his wrist, a middle-aged man having appeared out of nowhere with a shocked expression on his face, "What did you just say?"

Qingyu spat out blood as a huge smile spread across his face, "A Nightking. I'm a Nightking."

The middle-aged man's pupils instantly constricted and he looked up at Qingyu's hair. Sure enough, amidst the black and white was an inconspicuous bit of ash-colored hair. His face blanched as he tossed Lu Yin to the side, quickly retrieving a potion from his cosmic ring and feeding it to Qingyu. A nervous expression beset his face in the anticipation of something dreadful.

Torry and Shalosh appeared at the edge of the pit as well, showing similar looks of shock at the sight of that ashen tuft. That was the sign of a Nightking, the royals of the Daynight Clan. Every Nightking was a living calamity in the universe.

Qingyu's status after awakening as a Nightking was incomparable to his previous status as an ordinary Daynight Clan member. He now held one of the most supreme positions within the Daynight Clan, now untouchable not just in the Great Yu Empire, but the entire Frostwave Weave.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed and he took out a healing potion and consumed it. His entire body was so drained that even his skin had cracked; the attack he'd just received was more than his body could withstand. He had been planning on killing Qingyu and retrieving his formcast model for personal use, but against all expectations, the Great Yu Empire had intervened.

Nightking? This title shocked him, bringing his mind to his attempt to use the Daynight Clan's ancient inheritance stone. He had seen this title at the highest level of the stone slab; the Nightking Lord.

High in the sky, a huge spacecraft appeared and blocked out the sunlight, "Attention all students, the trial has ended. I repeat, the trial has ended. The results of this trial will be announced at your academies."

The students heaved sighs of relief; the trial was finally over, even Veron, Eddy, Raas, and the others. While this wasn't the first trial they had participated in, it was by far the most terrifying one. They had thought they would be unmatched on this planet, but they had actually been kidnapped! Even worse, they had been turned into hostages and left unable to participate in any other way. In the end, even Melders had gotten involved; this simply didn't end as a Sentinel trial.

Liu Shaoge released all of the captured students. Now that Qingyu's awakening had been revealed, they were worthless to him. While they could have been of great use to Lu Yin and the others for negotiating with the Great Yu Empire, they were unfortunately all freed.

Jeraldine was disappointed to see that all of their hard work had been for nothing. If Lu Yin had succeeded in killing Qingyu in their fight, he would have been the only person to complete the mission and he would definitely have been a shoe-in for Astral-10. It was really a pity...

Huo Xiaoling was looking over at Lu Yin, still amazed by the earlier battle. If she was to be honest, she was capable of no more than what Lu Yin had displayed even if she used the full extent of her Melder abilities. Qingyu had proven to have a body far stronger than a Melder, and she begrudgingly had to admit that she was not his match. Lu Yin had managed to exhibit such stunning strength while still being a Sentinel. Although the battle had been won with a portion of luck, it was still an astonishing victory. Too bad Qingyu's status was just too far above that of this native.

Bai Xue's eyes held endless sadness and hatred as she stared at Liu Shaoge. Though suffering from terrible injuries, Zhang Dingtian struggled to stand up, his eyes never leaving Qingyu. This criminal had masterminded Earth's Apocalypse that had hurt or killed countless people, but he was now being rescued. He couldn't bring himself to accept this reality.

“Go to the spacecraft. We will give you the best treatment available,” Sigmund said. He had been the one to stop Lu Yin’s final blow. Qingyu was still coughing blood from his serious injuries. Explorers could travel through space alone because of the protection of their star energy; restricted to a Sentinel’s level, Qingyu’s defenses were insignificant compared to before. In this weakened state, he had taken on the full brunt of two Melders’ attacks, one even having consumed Powerburst. After all that, he had also suffered from Lu Yin’s barrage.

Qingyu spat out some blood and lifted his head to smirk at Lu Yin, “You must be so disappointed you couldn’t kill me, maggot! Hahahaha!”

Lu Yin’s gaze sharpened, while Sigmund sighed to himself. If it was just a normal Daynight Clan member, their death wouldn’t have meant a thing. After all, the Daynight Clan was the one that announced Qingyu’s criminal status and arrest warrant. However, a Nightking was entirely different; they were the clan’s royalty. Not even the rest of the clan dared to discipline a Nightking; only other Nightkings could try Qingyu. There were just too few members of the branch, and each one was considered a treasure of the clan. It was truly unfortunate for all involved that he had awakened during the trial on Earth. If Qingyu was killed within the Great Yu Empire, the entire Empire would be washed with blood and no one would be able to escape. Not even Mira moved to stop Sigmund from interfering, proving just how important Nightkings were. Absolute fairness did not exist anywhere, and this was a perfect example of how unfair the universe could be.

“General Sigmund, that native almost killed me, kill him at once!” Raas bellowed as he ran towards Sigmund.

“Shut your mouth!” The General slapped him so hard that he crashed into the ground.

Shalosh moved in front of Raas and glanced at the ground before looking at Qingyu. He smiled respectfully and asked, “These natives are such a nuisance. Do you need us to get rid of them for you?”

Lu Yin, Zhang Dingtian, and the others froze at these words, glaring at Shalosh. Sigmund waited for Qingyu’s response, while Torry’s attention was caught as well. Qingyu had suddenly become the most powerful person the moment he’d revealed that he was a Nightking.

Liu Shaoge quietly walked behind Qingyu, standing in a deferential position, but Qingyu wiped the blood from his mouth with his thumb and stared at the scarlet stain. He lifted his head to look at Lu Yin, “No, I’ll wait. I will return very soon, and when I do, this planet will cease to exist. Everyone on it will die.”

Zhang Dingtian’s face turned ice-cold and he clenched his fists tightly. He was overcome with sadness; Qingyu had triggered the Apocalypse that killed countless earthlings. He had killed Wang You and Tong Zhan himself, and caused beast hordes to attack various parts of China to further increase the death toll. Now he was declaring the impending destruction of the entire planet; this truly was the greatest enemy of all earthlings. He silently swore to himself to kill this man in vengeance if ever the opportunity arose in the future.

“How magnanimous of you,” Shalosh laughed, “As you wish, then. We will preserve this planet for you.”

Qingyu was completely unmoved by Shalosh. After all, Qingyu had once been an Explorer level powerhouse as well and had been far stronger than this man. Lu Yin was the only one that occupied his thoughts; that maggot had managed to defeat him. This mark would mar Qingyu’s record for the rest of

his life unless he could somehow deal with the situation on his own. However, this was not the time. The most important thing right now was to return the ancient inheritance stone to the clan's ancestral grounds and take his place as a true Nightking.

"Let's go." Qingyu said faintly, flashing Lu Yin an evil smile before continuing, "I will come back very soon, maggot, you can count on it." With that, a beam of light transported him and Liu Shaoge directly into the spaceship.