

Chapter 531: Exhaustion And Plunder

Hai Qiqi's body swayed as the blue halo vanished. She seemed to be a bit pale and much weaker than before.

Lu Yin quickly moved to support her, but she pushed him away and left by herself.

Ban Jiu stepped forward. "The person from just now is headed towards Northcastle Weave, and he did not stop."

Lu Yin nodded. Huo Houye must have been scared out of his wits, as facing such a power was too terrifying.

Wendy Yushan spoke up. "Go and console her. After all, we were just rescued by her."

Lu Yin grunted in response, "I'll leave the rest to you."

He then went to chase after Hai Qiqi.

Hai Qiqi ended up running to a sea where the shore had broken apart. A large portion of the sea had been evaporated by the heat from Huo Houye's flames, and the water was still steaming.

Hai Qiqi reached out to the water with a miserable expression.

When Lu Yin arrived behind her, it was his first time seeing her in such a down mood. She had matured in the span of one night after something happened to the Sea King. For example, just now, she had taken responsibility for the Sea King's promise, showing that she was no longer the same girl from before who only cared about provoking others with her venomous tongue.

"Before, I always believed that Father was the most amazing person in the universe, that there was nothing that he couldn't resolve, and that no one would dare to oppose him," Hai Qiqi dejectedly said with a gloomy tone.

Lu Yin sat down next to her and looked at her. "The Sea King is truly powerful, but the boundaries of the universe can never be found, and no one is truly invincible. However, I don't believe that the Sea King has suffered a mishap."

Hai Qiqi raised her hand as the blue halo flickered for a moment before vanishing. "Father's strength has disappeared."

Lu Yin was puzzled. "The power that the Sea King integrated into your body was only that much?"

Hai Qiqi hugged her knees. "That person's an Enlighter."

Lu Yin understood. The Sea King must have integrated quite a large amount of power into Hai Qiqi's body, but the amount that her body could tolerate had to be taken into consideration as well. At best, the power that he had put in her body could threaten an Enlighter, but in that case, it could only be used once.

“Before I left, I asked Father, ‘what do I do if the strength is gone?’” Hai Qiqi looked up with red eyes. “He told me that he will know and that he’ll come and get me.”

She paused as two rows of crystal tears flowed down her face. “I also asked Second Brother, ‘what if Father never comes?’ He told me that no matter if it was Father, Eldest Brother, or him, as long as I call for them, they will immediately appear. Hence, no matter how dark the universe seemed to be, I’ve never been afraid, but-”

Hai Qiqi raised her gadget and tried to contact Hai Dashao, but it could not connect to him. The Inniverse and Outerverse had been separated, and that included the network. All communications between the Inniverse and the Outerverse had been cut off.

Hai Qiqi buried her head in her arms and appeared helpless. She did not have a home anymore. Now that the Sea King’s Dome was facing a crisis, she could not do anything, and she could not even find out anything either.

Lu Yin had experienced such a feeling before, so he understood her helplessness. However, he could not help her. He had no strength to back up a promise, as even an old freak with a power level in the several hundreds of thousands could not force their way across the Astral River, let alone someone like him. It was possible that this division would go on for countless years, and Hai Qiqi might not even be able to return to the Sea King’s Dome for the rest of her lifetime.

She herself knew this, and so she had matured.

Lu Yin placed a hand upon her head. “I promise that, if there’s even a sliver of a chance, I will send you back to the Sea King’s Dome.”

Hai Qiqi remained silent.

Lu Yin deliberately released the news of Huo Houye retreating from Zenyu Star in order to dissuade other Enlighters from attacking them. Hou Houye was not the only Enlighter who coveted the secret technique, and there were many more powers that held a grudge against Lu Yin besides the Blaze Realm. All Lu Yin wanted was to use this matter to gain a period of peace.

Just two days later, Ban Jiu looked for Lu Yin, and Lu Yin gave him the blueprints. His expression changed the moment he saw them. “Royal Regent, where did you get these?”

These blueprints had been obtained from his die’s Pilfer, so Lu Yin simply replied, “Coincidence. Are they useful?”

Ban Jiu emotionally responded, “Do you know what these blueprints are? These are blueprints for the most technologically advanced android in the universe! There’s a total of nine different androids, and each blueprint comprehensively describes the android’s power and manufacturing method.”

Lu Yin felt strange. “You’ve always been in the Great Yu Empire, so how do you know that this is the most technologically advanced android in the universe?”

“Because of this.” Ban Jiu pointed at the lower right hand corner of the blueprints, specifically at a symbol that Lu Yin did not recognize.

Ban Jiu explained, "This is the symbol of a research team in the Technocracy. When this subordinate roamed the universe in the past, I once entered the Technocracy's borders, and coincidentally learned some things there. There are many research teams within the Technocracy, and each one of them has their own armed forces, just like the various great powers of the Human Domain. This symbol represents one of the best research teams."

Lu Yin nodded. "Are these androids powerful?"

"Extremely. According to these blueprints, this sort of android can be upgraded endlessly after being manufactured, not like the current androids that are greatly restricted in their upgrades. This new type of android cannot be restricted, and they can be upgraded so long as we have the right materials." Ban Jiu was very excited, and his voice even carried a trace of disbelief. This style of manufacturing was too novel, and it was even somewhat fantastical, but the researchers had succeeded in the end.

Lu Yin did not quite understand the finer details, but he had seen the Technocracy's androids, which were indeed powerful. However, those were undoubtedly the Technocracy's most advanced technology, which these blueprints shouldn't be. If so, there was no way that anyone would casually leave such a thing in their cosmic ring. He told Ban Jiu, "Then go ahead and start the research. If an android can be manufactured, it will be able to somewhat upgrade our Great Yu Empire's strength."

Ban Jiu could tell that Lu Yin did not have high expectations for this project, but he was not anxious either. As long as these androids could be manufactured, the Royal Regent's attitude would definitely change. Only someone like Ban Jiu himself who could understand these blueprints would truly understand their implications. This was something that others could not comprehend.

When Ban Jiu was about to leave, he suddenly thought of something, and his expression became solemn. "Royal Regent, the Outerverse is about to erupt into chaos, so I urge you to make preparations quickly."

Lu Yin felt that something was strange. "How do you know?"

Ban Jiu replied, "Space-exploring powerhouses have something called the period of exhaustion. Before the Innerverse and Outerverse were separated, those Innerverse powers had their own resources, and they did not need to worry about running out of resources during their period of exhaustion. But now..."

Ban Jiu did not finish speaking, but Lu Yin knew what Ban Jiu was trying to say. That was right; those Explorers, Cruisers, Hunters, and even Enlighters would no longer have the support of their own organizations, and some of them were definitely close to their period of exhaustion. To avoid entering that state, they would start to frantically seize and plunder resources. How could he not have thought of this before?

The period of exhaustion was something that no space-exploring powerhouse wanted to face. Only by obtaining a certain amount of resources would they be able to steadily wait for the Innerverse and Outerverse to reconnect. Normal powerhouses were nothing terrible, but the amount of resources required by just one Enlighter was terrifying. This meant that the Outerverse was truly going to be thrown into chaos, because even the Great Yu Empire's resources might not be enough to satisfy a single Enlighter.

And how many Enlighters were currently trapped out in the Outerverse at this moment? Even if a weave could support one Enlighter, all of its surrounding weaves would all be crippled, not to mention the fact that no one would willingly support these Enlighters either.

If the powerhouses could not obtain resources peacefully, then they would resort to another method, which was to plunder, and that meant warfare.

Previously, Lu Yin had only considered the allure of the secret technique for Enlighters, but now, he realized that their resources had to be factored in as well. Hai Qiqi's deterrence would not be able to protect them for long, and so the Great Yu Empire would have to face the plundering of the Enlighters sooner or later. It was even possible that Grandtop Weave and Lars Weave had already started suffering from raids on their resources.

This wouldn't do. He had to find some way quickly to keep them safe.

Some days later, while Lu Yin was still waiting for his die to recover, he received news that Grandtop Weave's Nine Stacks Sect had been eliminated. Their strongest Hunter had been killed, the rest of their disciples had been scattered to the winds, and their resources had been wiped clean by an Enlighter.

Not long after, many other organizations suffered from similar fates of being plundered. Aside from Frostwave Weave, the surrounding weaves were all plunged into the quagmire of war, and they were all completely one-sided ones at that. Against Enlighters, the various powers folded like paper and were easily crushed.

Lu Yin grew more and more anxious, and after ten days passed, he finally returned to King Zishan's palace and took out his die. His face was full of expectation as he tapped it. Aside from that decisive battle against Qingyu on Earth, he had never been so nervous about rolling his die, as this would determine his life and death.

He was lucky this time, as he immediately rolled three pips: Enhance.

He relaxed when he saw the two light screens appear. It was time to reap the rewards of his harvest, so he first took out his four remaining Money Bombs. He had upgraded three in the past, of which one had been given to Wendy Yushan, another used to attack Huo Houye, and the last one unused. However, he was now going to upgrade four of them to the peak this time.

Lu Yin recalled how it had taken him dozens of star essence to upgrade a Money Bomb to the point of making him feel uneasy last time. To start, he tossed one onto the screen along with a hundred star essence. He could do as he wished now, as he was rich.

The Money Bomb dropped through twice, which meant that it had been upgraded twice. Lu Yin's eyes filled with star energy, and there was a large number of rune lines, which proved that the Money Bomb could greatly influence the universe. However, it had not yet reached Huo Houye's level, so he threw on another hundred star essence. Unfortunately, the Money Bomb did not undergo a complete upgrade this time. He gritted his teeth and then directly tossed a thousand star essence in.

He watched it upgrade two more times, which meant that it had been upgraded four times in total now. Currently, its rune lines had reached a similar amount to Huo Houye's. This meant that this Money Bomb possessed the destructive ability of an Enlighter.

Lu Yin felt emotional. From start to finish, this Money Bomb had consumed 1,250 star essence, but that was still not enough. He needed something that could instantly kill an Enlighter, so he threw another 2,000 star essence on and upgraded the Money Bomb two more times.

When he looked at it now, he saw a terrifying number of lines of runes. This was not something that he saw frequently, and from a rough estimation, it could rival a powerhouse with a power level between 270,000 and 280,000. If he was able to take someone by surprise, then this thing would be able to severely injure or even kill an Enlighter.

Lu Yin carefully put this Money Bomb away and then calculated his expenses. It had taken him 3,300 star essence to upgrade one Money Bomb to this level, and he had three Money Bombs remaining. Thus, it would cost him more than 10,000 star essence to upgrade them all, and he did not have that much money.

He was left speechless, as he never seemed to have enough money no matter how much he earned. But at this time, he had no choice since he had to prepare for an Enlighter's attack. There was no such expert in all of Frostwave Weave, but this was the price that had to be paid if he wanted to be able to withstand an Enlighter.

Lu Yin suppressed his desire to upgrade all of his Money Bombs and instead pulled out his universal armor. Defense was just as important as offense, and his universal armor currently was not robust enough to withstand the strength of an Enlighter, which naturally meant that he would madly upgrade it right now.

Chapter 532: Upgrading Crazy

This universal armor had already been upgraded five times, but that was still insufficient if Lu Yin wanted to use it to withstand an Enlighter's attacks. Lu Yin placed the universal armor on the screen of the upper level and directly threw another 1,000 star essence on. He had realized only now that he was spending money much more extravagantly than before. At one point, he had risked his life to rob 1,000 star essence from the Blackbeard Pirates, but now, he had just spent that same amount in the blink of an eye.

This amount was only enough to upgrade the universal armor once, which greatly surpassed Lu Yin's initial prediction of 100 to 200 star essence per upgrade. The price to upgrade its defense from withstanding attacks with power levels in the mere tens of thousands to attacks in the hundreds of thousands was not simple .

He threw out another 2,000 star essence, and it upgraded halfway this time, getting stuck in the middle of the light screens. He tossed another 700 star essence on, which fully upgraded the universal armor for a second time.

The universal armor's appearance had undergone some changes at this point, and it also felt cold to the touch now. As for its rune lines, since the universal armor was not offensive in nature, they could not really be seen, but from what Lu Yin could tell, the armor should be able to withstand an attack with a power level of around 250,000. After all, this thing had just consumed nearly 4,000 star essence. Still, this level of defense was not nearly enough for Lu Yin, because he wanted to survive an Enlighter's attack.

He threw out another 2,000 star essence, and this time, the armor didn't even upgrade once. He tossed another 300, which allowed it to finish its third upgrade. This should have pushed it to the point of being able to withstand attacks with a power level of around 270,000 to 280,000, which should be enough for moving about the Outerverse.

Lu Yin painfully checked his cosmic ring and saw that he only had about 7,520 star essence remaining.

He had spent his money rather quickly, and he could already feel the sting in his wallet. His funds had dropped from 10,000 to 7,000 star essence oddly quickly, but he had only upgraded two items so far. At this moment, he was especially envious of Lulu. If he had the Mavis family's money, he could upgrade the universal armor to an extent that he would not be injured even if the universe collapsed.

However, he could only dream of such things, though he could not help but wonder if the Mavis family would eventually select a son-in-law.

He had already determined the final item he would upgrade, which was the gun.

The gun had never been upgraded, but every bullet could explode with a power level of around 80,000. There were twenty bullets left, which meant that comprehensively upgrading the gun would require upgrading all twenty of these bullets as well.

Lu Yin placed the gun on the upper light screen. He gritted his teeth and tossed out 3,000 star essence before he could hesitate. The gun was upgraded four times, but it still consumed way more money than the Money Bomb or the universal armor. From Lu Yin's perspective, its rune lines could currently only rival a Hunter's, and his heart sank. It seemed like he did not have enough money to upgrade the gun to the point where it could threaten Enlighteners.

He tossed another 4,000 star essence out, and the gun was upgraded four more times. Now, its rune lines numbered around as many as the Money Bombs' before. In other words, every attack was roughly equivalent to a power level of 150,000, which could instantly kill a normal Hunter.

Spending more than 10,000 star essence had allowed him to upgrade just three items, and as Lu Yin watched the two screens vanish, he felt light-headed. His money had disappeared. He only had about 500 star essence left.

Actually, he had something else that he truly wanted to upgrade, which was his formcast model. His current formcast model was a five-stage model, and he wanted to upgrade it to a six-stage one. Otherwise, when he broke through to the Explorer realm, his formcast model would vanish. Unfortunately, he was currently broke.

Money, money, money. Currently, it was not just Lu Yin who needed it, but rather all of the powerhouses currently stranded in the Outerverse. Money had become the target that everyone strove for.

Those powerhouses needed money to maintain their lives while Lu Yin needed money to protect himself. And to protect himself, he had to be able to threaten the lives of those powerhouses, which made for a vicious cycle. He could not break free of it, so it was time to participate in it and get more money.

He walked out of King Zishan's residence and bumped into Wendy Yushan, but he saw that her expression was not that good. Her eyes brightened when she saw Lu Yin. "I'll pass those matters over to you. I can't be bothered with them!" After that, she actually ran away.

Lu Yin knew what she was talking about, but he had no time to bother with them either.

Two days later, during a court meeting, Lu Yin announced that he would comprehensively pull back the entirety of the Great Yu Empire's defense, which received no objections. The various organizations in the nearby weaves had all been ambushed or even annihilated. Due to the matter with Huo Houye when he came to Zenyu Star, no one dared to provoke Frostwave Weave for now, but that did not mean that they would remain unperturbed forever. Some powerhouse would appear sooner or later, so they could only pull their defenses back for now.

The court meeting lasted for three hours, and it was clear that many people in the Great Yu Empire were feeling anxious, as the situations in the nearby weaves were making people feel apprehensive.

After the meeting, Lu Yin kept Huo Qingshan, Ban Jiu, and a few others back. He wanted to send them to the surrounding weaves to gather information. The network connections were still only intermittently available, so it was not a source of reliable information at the moment. They only knew that the surrounding weaves had suffered from devastating attacks, but nobody knew the details of those attacks or who was now occupying those weaves.

Huo Qingshan and the others had assumed that Lu Yin was worried about being attacked, but Lu Yin was actually planning to join in on the chaos. He could not remain passive if he wanted to preserve his life, which meant that he had to participate in the current events. If a lamb transformed into a wolf, then the pack would fear it and not attack it. However, the pack of wolves first needed to know that the lamb had transformed.

Lu Yin was waiting for the right moment to reveal his fangs, but he believed that an opportunity would come along shortly. An Enlighter was bound to soon take action against Frostwave Weave. That would be the moment that he transformed into a wolf, as well as the moment he started plundering resources.

Frostwave Weave remained peaceful for several months, and Lu Yin realized that it had already been five years since he had first started cultivating. Five years sounded like a short time, but he had gone from living on Earth as an ordinary teenager to his current stage in just five years.

Exactly one year ago, he had been trapped in the separate space with the golden ocean and the mountain that he had climbed. After that, he had met Mister Mu who had raised Lu Yin's physical strength to the limit. At present, the Inniverse and Outerverse had been completely isolated from each other, and Lu Yin could only bide his time within the Great Yu Empire. He didn't even know if he would be able to return to the Inniverse and meet Mister Mu again someday.

One month ago, Lu Yin finally had a feeling that he could break through to the Explorer realm, but he forcefully suppressed that sensation. His previous breakthrough to the Melder realm had made him uneasy about this next breakthrough, and he didn't dare to attempt it without some absolute powerhouses nearby to guide him.

However, there were no absolute powerhouses in the Outerverse at this time.

He retrieved the jade talisman and sighed. It was possible that not even Mister Mu could pass through the Astral River at this moment!

During these past few months, Hai Qiqi had slowly recovered. She no longer seemed to be as distressed by the recent events, but she had also changed. The biggest change was that she no longer possessed a venomous tongue, though Lu Yin missed it at times. However, he was also ridiculed by the Ghost Monkey every so often.

“Seventh Bro, I’m going to break through,” the monkey suddenly told him.

Lu Yin was shocked. “You’re about to break through to the Explorer realm?”

“Yeah. I’ve been stuck as a Limiteer for too long, so it’s time to break through. When I break through, even if you don’t have a set of universal armor, we’ll still be able to roam about the universe since I’m your tamed beast!” The monkey was pleased.

Lu Yin replied, “Then go ahead, since it doesn’t matter. Even if you break through and become a Cruiser or Hunter, I can still easily suppress you.”

The monkey was speechless. “Seventh Bro, can’t you say something more encouraging?”

“I’m warning you. Don’t try to plot against me,” Lu Yin coldly threatened.

The monkey sighed. “Seventh Bro, I’ve already followed you for so many years, so why don’t you trust me? I’m your tamed beast, and my life and death is in your hands! There’s no need to threaten me, and every so often, you still screen me off, which is immoral. You should go to Beast Tamers Flowzone and make some enquiries as to if and how a tamed beast can resist their owner.”

Lu Yin did not listen to the monkey’s nonsense, as other Beast Tamers had a relationship where the human took the initiative and the beast a backseat, while the Ghost Monkey did the opposite with him, so who knew if he would have any issues. Lu Yin was unwilling to take such a risk.

“Seventh Bro, I need you to find a place for me to break through.”

Lu Yin acknowledged the need for such a thing, so he planned to find a remote location. However, at that moment, his gadget suddenly rang. He glanced at it, and his expression changed as his eyes turned cold. What would come, in the end, had come. Hai Qiqi’s deterrence had lasted for several months, which was pretty decent, but this day had always been unavoidable.

After the Great Yu Empire had pulled its general defensive line back a few months ago, the empire had gained a very clear understanding of all of the events that happened within its borders. Just then, Lu Yin had received a report that they had detected a super powerful being with a power level that surpassed 200,000, which meant that an Enlighter had appeared within the Great Yu Empire. Furthermore, this person was headed straight for Zenyu Star.

There was even a picture included in the report, and although it was fuzzy, Lu Yin could make out enough details to recognize an important detail. It was an astral beast. And there was only one Enlighter in the Outerverse who had an astral beast: Karthika.

Lu Yin immediately ordered the troops between the Enlighter and Zenyu Star not to approach Karthika. Then, he contacted Huo Qingshan and donned his universal armor.

Before long, Huo Qingshan's serene face appeared.

"A strong foe, an Enlighter, has appeared. I will take care of this matter, so please take me above the planet."

Huo Qingshan did not speak, and he silently carried Lu Yin into space. At the same time, Zenyu Star's defenses were activated once again, though Ban Jiu and the others were ordered not to leave Zenyu Star.

Wendy Yushan looked worried, and she could not help herself from looking for Hai Qiqi. However, Hai Qiqi's answer remained the same as a few months before: the Sea King's strength had been depleted, and she would be powerless before any Enlighter.

Wendy Yushan charged upwards into outer space right behind Huo Qingshan. Without the Sea King's power, there was no way that they could resist an Enlighter's attacks. She planned to sacrifice herself in exchange for the safety of Frostwave Weave.

In the dark depths of space, various spacecraft were ordered to land on nearby planets, and the region around Zenyu Star was cleared.

Lu Yin and Huo Qingshan silently looked to the north, and Wendy Yushan soon appeared behind them.

Lu Yin knew that he could not stop her. "Let me try first. If I can't stop him, then we'll listen to you."

Wendy Yushan looked at him and nodded. "Okay."

In the distance, they could see a ripple in space before an intense pressure swept across the region. As it did so, quite a few meteorites broke down and were reduced to ash. An enormous creature appeared in the distance, rushing towards them with great speed as it released an ear-splitting howl.

Lu Yin's face turned solemn. Karthika had a tamed beast, which was the manifestation of his strength. The tamed beast had an Enlighter's power, and Karthika himself was also an Enlighter, which meant that Lu Yin was currently facing two Enlighters. This was much more troublesome than when they had faced Huo Houye.

As the enormous astral beast approached Zenyu Star, it caused ripples to appear in the void. The ripples spread out and caused the three rings that circled Zenyu Star to become unstable. To those on Zenyu Star, it seemed like their doomsday had finally come.

Lu Yin could soon get a clear view of the astral beast, and it looked like an entire continent. It didn't have any limbs, and the noises it made sounded like a continent being crushed.

Karthika stood atop the astral beast's back and looked at Lu Yin's group. He smiled. "Little thing, I told you that I'd look for you."

Lu Yin narrowed his eyes. "Huo Houye was nearly killed by us. Didn't he tell you?"

Chapter 533: Karthika's Death

Karthika sneered. "So what? You're just a Limiteer. Even if you can borrow a powerhouse's strength, the amount of power will still be limited. Do you really think that I can be duped that easily? Today, I'm going to massacre everyone on Zenyu Star to make you pay for what you've done."

Lu Yin leaned forward. "What if I told you a secret?"

Karthika shook his head. "Young one, I've lived a long life. Do you really think that you can lie to me? Apart from secret techniques, I'm not interested in anything else."

"It's about a secret technique!" Lu Yin yelled.

Wendy Yushan was stunned, and she turned to look at Lu Yin in shock. Secret techniques were different from normal battle techniques, as they could only be inherited in a specific manner and couldn't be recorded down like a normal battle technique. For example, Undying Yushan had only managed to create two inheritance chips of the Yu Secret Art, and he hadn't been able to make any more.

As a different example, the Yōu Secret Art was something that could only be passed on to one person at a time.

Wendy Yushan looked at Lu Yin in confusion; could he have another chip with the Yu Secret Art inheritance? Could her father have left not two, but three chips behind?

Karthika's eyes gleamed, and he kept his focus on Lu Yin. The astral beast beneath him was merely some ten thousand meters away from Lu Yin, which was just a few steps for such an enormous beast. To Karthika, Lu Yin and the other two were nothing more than ants.

Karthika was a cautious person, and he wouldn't give even ants like them a chance to defeat him. He thought about Lu Yin's words for a moment and then said, "If you can surrender the secret technique and all of the Great Yu Empire's resources, I'll let you off. In fact, I'll also guarantee that the Blaze Realm won't create trouble for you."

Lu Yin's heart sank. So it turned out that this old fart had joined forces with the Blaze Realm. That was problematic since Lu Yin couldn't defeat Huo Houye even if he could defeat this old fellow that was in front of him.

This was Karthika's goal. He intended to make Lu Yin cautious of him even though he didn't think that Lu Yin could actually threaten him at all.

"Is that a promise, senior?" Lu Yin asked loudly.

Karthika laughed. "Senior? So, young man, you've finally learned to show some respect to those more powerful than you! It's still not too late. As long as you give me the secret technique, everything in the past will be forgotten,"

Lu Yin shouted, "Fine! I'll give it to you now!"

He then leaped up and rushed over towards Karthika.

Karthika's expression showed his wariness, and he kept his eyes trained on Lu Yin. "Kid, don't try any tricks. Otherwise, everyone in the Great Yu Empire will die along with you."

Lu Yin took out a memory chip as he replied, "I wouldn't dare."

He drew closer to Karthika and stopped when he was around a thousand meters away from the Enlighter. Then, he threw the chip towards Karthika.

Karthika let his guard down once he saw that Lu Yin had stopped moving closer. Even if this boy had the Sea King's power, it was still impossible for Lu Yin to instantly kill him. Enlighters weren't normal people, and Karthika only believed Lu Yin's sincerity when Lu Yin finally paused and threw the chip at him.

Without the protection of the Sea King, the boy was just a Limiteer. At this moment, Karthika even had a feeling that, if he could convince Lu Yin to join the Second Grade Hall, the youth would definitely become an elite powerhouse in the future.

Karthika raised his hand and caught the chip. He excitedly opened the package and looked at the chip. However, the moment the package was completely opened, his brain was jolted, and he blacked out. Lu Yin suddenly shot forward, and as he rushed towards Karthika, he lifted his hand and aimed the Money Bomb that he had just pulled out at Karthika. A beam of light burst forth from the Money Bomb and sliced right through Karthika's head before continuing to pierce through the astral beast beneath the Enlighter.

A loud wail shattered the sky, and Lu Yin couldn't even stabilize himself. He looked over at Karthika's headless corpse that was right in front of him. He then grabbed Progenitor Wushang's skin that had been wrapped around the chip and rushed back towards Huo Qingshan.

The wailing of the astral beast released an indescribable shockwave that shattered hundreds of nearby planets.

Huo Qingshan and Wendy Yushan immediately tried to block the shockwaves. But despite their best efforts, shockwaves released by an Enlighter level astral beast couldn't be blocked that easily. Huo Qingshan spat out a mouthful of blood, and Wendy Yushan was forced to use the secret technique to divert the shockwaves back towards the astral beast itself.

However, there was nothing in front of them as the enormous astral beast had suddenly disappeared.

Everything had taken place instantaneously, and Huo Qingshan hadn't even been able to react. Karthika was dead, and since the astral beast was that powerhouse's tamed beast, it had disappeared as soon as Karthika died.

The sky turned quiet, and Huo Qingshan turned to look at Lu Yin in shock. This youth was only a Limiteer, but he had just managed to kill an Enlighter.

Wendy Yushan was astonished as well.

Meanwhile, on Zenyu Star, Ban Jie, Xueshan Auna, and the others were all stunned. How could an Enlighter be killed that easily?

Lu Yin panted heavily as his eyes filled with excitement. He had managed to kill Karthika, but it had mainly been because of Progenitor Wushang's hide. Lu Yin had thrown Karthika a chip wrapped in Progenitor Wushang's hide, and no matter who it was, anyone would be stunned if they looked directly at Progenitor Wushang's hide, even if only for a short moment. However, since they had only been a

thousand meters apart, that short moment had been enough to allow Lu Yin to kill Karthika. The Money Bomb that he had used had almost as many rune lines as Huo Houye, so it had been able to easily kill Karthika since most of his strength was in his tamed beast.

That was the effect of Progenitor Wushang's skin; everyone would be stunned by Progenitor Wushang's hide, and if one piece wasn't enough, then Lu Yin could always just use two pieces.

In the distance, Karthika's headless corpse floated through space. Lu Yin anxiously rushed over to it. He quickly retrieved Karthika's cosmic ring and opened it using the Enlighter's blood before excitedly taking everything out.

Karthika's cosmic ring was massive and had much more space than the one that Lu Yin was currently using. The ring was filled with numerous items, but the most important thing to Lu Yin was the star essence; Karthika had 30,000! Lu Yin had landed a jackpot.

To safely overcome their period of exhaustion, an Enlighter would need at least 60,000 star essence per cycle, and that was just the bare minimum. To support an Enlighter like Karthika, the Second Grade Hall had to spend an astronomical amount of resources on him. These resources were based on Karthika's cycle, but a normal Explorer's cycle took a hundred years. For Karthika to become an Enlighter, it was clear that he had to be extraordinarily talented, and thus, his cycle would have been less than a hundred years.

Thus, even if Karthika had a cycle that lasted for a hundred years, the Second Grade Hall still would have had to provide him with at least 60,000 star essence on him.

Now that the Second Grade Hall was out of reach, it would be very difficult for the Innerverse powerhouses to get enough star essence from the Outerverse.

That was also the reason why he had been plundering Outerverse organizations for resources.

The Outerverse couldn't compare to the Innerverse, and star essence were a rare commodity in the Outerverse.

Lu Yin quickly stored the star essence that was floating about in outer space away. The other few items from the cosmic ring included some medicine from Shamrock Enterprises as well as a few items that Lu Yin couldn't recognize. As an Enlighter, Karthika didn't travel often and so he hadn't brought too much out with him.

Lu Yin asked Huo Qingshan to have some people look through the items, and then he then returned to Zenyu Star.

Huo Qingshan was frozen with shock throughout the entire ordeal.

To the Outerverse, it was very rare to even find an Enlighter, and not even Frostwave Weave had one. It was unbelievable to see an Enlighter be killed so easily.

When they returned to Zenyu Star, Lu Yin told Wendy Yushan, "I know that you have many questions, and I will eventually answer all of them. But for now, you just have to believe in me."

Wendy Yushan looked at Lu Yin. "Who exactly are you?"

Lu Yin's eyes flashed, but he didn't answer her question.

"That isn't a weapon from the Outerverse. The Outerverse definitely doesn't have any weapons that can instantly kill an Enlighter, so there must be someone supporting you, right?" Wendy Yushan asked. She had been thinking about this for a long time, ever since she had first met Lu Yin in Saint Dios in fact.

Lu Yin answered, "This is a Money Bomb. It's a weapon that I bought from one of Astral-10's mentors."

Wendy Yushan looked deep into Lu Yin's eyes before turning around and leaving. "You didn't answer me," she said as she walked away.

Lu Yin watched her figure disappear, and he fell into deep thought. How was he supposed to answer? Could he actually tell her that he wasn't a descendant of King Zishan? He decided to think about this matter later, as for the moment, she was only suspicious that he might have someone supporting him. She hadn't questioned the authenticity of his lineage since he had already gone through a blood test in the past.

Lu Yin didn't plan on hiding the news of Karthika's death. He instead asked people to widely spread the news of Karthika's death to serve as a warning to the rest of the Enlighters trapped in the Outerverse. He publicized the cause of Karthika's death as the power of the Sea King.

Huo Houye was the first Enlighter to receive the news, and his initial reaction was that of disbelief. However, he quickly found that he couldn't contact Karthika, and when he recalled the power that he had sensed from Hai Qiqi, he felt relieved. Fortunately, he hadn't gone looking for Lu Yin again, as otherwise, he would have been the one who died.

The Sea King's power was truly immense, and even an Enlighter might be instantly killed by it. However, Lu Yin had probably run out of it by now.

But Huo Houye couldn't confirm that, and he didn't want to take the risk. However, he could still send a Hunter to investigate.

Not many people had left the Outerverse before it was sealed off, as quite a number of powerhouses from the various major powers had stayed in the Astral Wilderness. They soon all learned of Karthika's death, and they were all stunned at the Great Yu Empire's power.

Lu Yin had achieved his goal; he had become a wolf and could now plunder resources from other people instead of being targeted by other wolves.

The Great Yu Empire had also received information concerning the current situation of the nearby weaves. Thus, Lu Yin was planning on using his die again and hopefully roll Enhance. Then, he would be able to upgrade his gun to the level where it could threaten Enlighters. Twenty shots meant that he would have twenty attacks that could kill Enlighters, and at that moment, he would be fearless.

However, Lu Yin first had to use his die, and he had been completely broke a few months ago just from rolling the die a single time. He could finally use it again now, and he was hoping to roll Enhance again.

The longer he waited between uses, the greater his chances of rolling a rare ability were. Enhance and Possession were the two rarest rolls.

Lu Yin ended up being quite lucky, and he managed to roll Enhance on his fourth attempt. During his first three tries, he had gotten Pilfer and Blackhole Disassembly twice. The strange thing was that he usually managed to roll Timestop quite often, but he hadn't rolled it a single time this round.

This die seemed to be purely dependent on luck.

The two light screens appeared. Lu Yin had initially planned to upgrade the gun in one go, but after thinking about it some more, he decided to play it safe. Thus, he first upgraded a Money Bomb instead.

To upgrade a Money Bomb to the point where it could kill an Enlighter required 3,300 star essence. Lu Yin had three unupgraded Money Bombs remaining, and after upgrading one, he was left with 29,000 star essence, which he felt should be enough to finish upgrading the gun.

He threw 5,000 star essence onto the screen to get started, and that upgraded the gun twice with it getting stuck halfway through the third upgrade. Lu Yin tossed out another 2,000 star essence, and the third upgrade finished.

Chapter 534: The Ancient Agreement And The Hidden Earth Society

This time, the guns' rune lines numbered close to Karthika's. Karthika had been a powerful Enlighter, but most of his power had been embodied in his tamed beast. Despite that being the case, he had still been a true Enlighter.

This gun was already powerful enough to threaten someone at the level of an Enlighter. However, for it to reach the level of the upgraded Money Bomb where it could kill an Enlighter in one shot, further upgrades were required.

The gun had already been upgraded ten times, and the eleventh would cost Lu Yin more than 4,000 star essence. Lu Yin's blood froze when he realized this, as the expenditure was becoming far too great. 4,000 star essence was the equivalent of forty billion star crystals, and that was at the lowest exchange rate. It was practically impossible to exchange forty billion star crystals for 4,000 star essence.

Such an extravagant amount, when changed into Universal Currency, would be enough to support the entire Great Yu Empire's military budget for a whole year. In other words, it meant that Lu Yin had just casually spent a year's worth of the Great Yu Empire's military budget.

"It's a good thing that I didn't place much hope in making money off of the Great Yu Empire. Even utilizing every single cent within the Great Yu Empire wouldn't be enough for a single upgrade," Lu Yin mused to himself.

As he looked at the gun's rune lines, Lu Yin's only thought was that it was still not enough and that he needed to upgrade it even further. Lu Yin gritted his teeth and tossed more than 6,000 star essence in. Even after this upgrade, its rune lines still weren't enough. At this point, each attack from the gun could threaten powerful Enlighters, but they still would not be enough to kill in one shot.

On the thirteenth upgrade, Lu Yin had to use more than ten thousand star essence, which was enough to make him start feeling the strain. The gun's rune lines were now extremely numerous, and even if Lu Yin didn't channel star energy into his eyes to observe the gun, simply holding it was enough to frighten him. The force behind each bullet was now the equivalent of a fully upgraded Money Bomb. If another Enlighter like Karthika was caught off guard, then such an attack would be enough to kill them.

This power was well worth what he had spent. For a Money Bomb to be upgraded to this level, it needed 3,300 star essence. This gun's twenty attacks were the equivalent of twenty Money Bombs. If one wanted to upgrade that many Money Bombs to this standard, then it would take more than 60,000 star essence. Upgrading the gun had still cost him 27,000 star essence, but it had saved him a great deal.

Without any more money to conduct any further upgrades, Lu Yin found himself speechless once again. He had become destitute yet again with only about 2,000 star essence left to his name.

When had having 2,000 star essence felt like being poor? Lu Yin could remember when he had robbed the Blackbeard Pirates in the past and had made off with an even smaller sum. However, when it came to the item he wanted to upgrade, this amount of star essence was indeed insufficient.

Having said that, the amount that Lu Yin had left should be sufficient to upgrade his formcast model. When he had upgraded his four-stage formcast model to a five-stage formcast model, he had only spent 30,000 star crystals.

As he thought about this, Lu Yin pulled out his formcast model and placed it on the upper screen and threw out another hundred odd star essence. This was the equivalent of over one thousand star crystals, so it should be enough.

However, reality ended up being the complete opposite of what Lu Yin had expected. The formcast model merely dipped down a tiny bit. There was a barely noticeable change.

Lu Yin's eyes opened wide. How is this possible? Is it really that hard to improve it from a five-stage model to a six-stage one?

Hai Qiqi had mentioned before that her six-stage formcast model had been created by the Sea King himself. Back then, Lu Yin had already guessed that perhaps only Envoys could create a six-stage formcast model. But even after considering that, the jump in cost to upgrade the formcast model was a bit too much for him to accept. He had thrown out nearly thirty times what it had cost to upgrade his formcast model last time, but it had barely moved at all. Could it be that a six-stage formcast model and a five-stage one were fundamentally different?

It was something that only an Envoy could create, so if a five-stage formcast model was already rare among the various powerhouses, then a six-stage formcast model must be an exclusive item that countless powerhouses could never even get their hands on.

Lu Yin suddenly thought about a seven-stage formcast model. When he considered it now, he suddenly understood why Hai Qiqi's reaction had been so exaggerated back then. It was possible that even the entire universe might not contain a seven-stage formcast model.

He put the formcast model back. He didn't have enough money at the moment to upgrade it, and he would need at least 10,000 star essence to upgrade it. This was a scary thought.

After spending so much money upgrading the gun, the universal armor, and the Money Bomb, Lu Yin felt a huge confidence boost, and he suddenly had the urge to challenge an Enlighter. It was about time that he dealt with that hidden danger.

He walked out of King Zishan's residence, and after deciding where to head to, he stepped out. After one step, his body was floating in midair. After taking another step, he found himself outside the Huo family's house.

Outside the Huo family's house, Lu Yin coincidentally saw Huo Xiaoling and her younger sister, Huo Xiaoxiao. There was also a young man there speaking politely to Huo Xiaoling. Huo Xiaoling's expressions showed that the young man was bothering her, but Lu Yin's sudden appearance scared all three of them.

"Who are you?" The young man cautiously looked at Lu Yin. He waved his hand, and a dozen cultivators charged forth to encircle Lu Yin.

Lu Yin raised his brows, and he looked at Huo Xiaoling.

Huo Xiaoling stared at Lu Yin, flabbergasted. However, she did not say a single word, and instead, she simply pulled Huo Xiaoxiao back.

Lu Yin felt that this was strange.

The young man stared at Lu Yin. "Kid, who are you? Don't you know that flying isn't allowed in the imperial capital?"

Lu Yin's glance slid past the young man, and he directly spoke to Huo Xiaoling. "I'm looking for your father."

Huo Xiaoling did not respond, and the young man became angry. "Kid, even I haven't met Uncle Huo. Who are you to..." But before he was done speaking, a cultivator behind him pulled him back and whispered something into his ear. The young man's expression drastically changed, and his face was plastered with fear when he looked back at Lu Yin. He slowly bowed and said, "Your Highness, Royal Regent."

Lu Yin waved his arm. "Leave."

The young man felt like he had just received a royal pardon and hurriedly left with the other cultivators.

Huo Xiaoling was disappointed. She took a few steps forward and spoke in a low voice, "Your Highness, please follow me into the house."

Lu Yin nodded his head.

Huo Xiaoling held onto Huo Xiaoxiao, but the little girl looked at Lu Yin curiously with a pair of particularly bright eyes.

As Lu Yin walked along by Huo Xiaoling's side, he entered the Huo mansion. "Was that guy trying to hit on you?"

Huo Xiaoling seemed nervous, and she had actually deliberately not mentioned Lu Yin's name in hopes that the man would offend Lu Yin and be punished. It could be said that she had tried to use Lu Yin, so she replied in a soft voice, "I am sorry, Your Highness."

Lu Yin laughed. "It's fine. Let's keep going."

The minute they stepped into the Huo home, Huo Qingshan had sensed Lu Yin's presence. He had a puzzled look on his face as Lu Yin had always summoned the Hunter and had never personally visited the Huo home.

The Lu Yin at this moment was completely unlike the Lu Yin from before. When Undying Yushan had passed away and the different factions had been fighting over control, Huo Qingshan had still held the idea that the leader of the Great Yu Empire needed to have good relations with the Huo family. He had already had a good feeling about Lu Yin back then, and he had even wanted to betroth Huo Xiaoling to him. He had wanted to do that to strengthen their ties, but now, such thoughts were nothing more than a mere fantasy. Lu Yin was someone capable of killing Enlighters, and Huo Qingshan's strength was meaningless compared to Lu Yin's.

To the current Great Yu Empire, Lu Yin was the equivalent of an Enlighter.

When Lu Yin barely stepped into the mansion, Huo Qingshan had already appeared and bowed to Lu Yin, but he was hurriedly waved off by Lu Yin. "Uncle Huo, I am sorry to disturb you. I hope that I didn't catch you at a bad time."

Huo Qingshan laughed. "It is our pleasure to welcome you to the Huo home, Your Highness."

Lu Yin nodded his head as he observed his surroundings with a smile.

Huo Qingshan instructed Huo Xiaoling to take Huo Xiaoxiao away as he waited by Lu Yin's side. He made sure to stay one step behind as he asked, "Your Highness, is there a purpose for your visit today?"

Lu Yin laughed. "Nothing much, Uncle Huo. I just have one question."

"Please, speak your mind, Your Highness," Huo Qingshan hurriedly asked in a courteous tone. He was not the only one fawning over Lu Yin; throughout the entire Great Yu Empire, no matter if it was a Cruiser or even a Hunter realm powerhouse, they were all no more than ants in Lu Yin's eyes. This had been established as fact by Karthika's death, and the experts of the empire held no advantages over Lu Yin. He could no longer be considered their junior.

Lu Yin raised a hand and used his star energy to sketch out an image. It was an azure colored globe with a pair of wings attached to it.

The second he saw this symbol, Huo Qingshan's face changed drastically. Lu Yin suddenly took out his gun and pointed it at Huo Qingshan's head as he asked, "Uncle Huo, tell me. What does this symbol stand for?"

Huo Qingshan stared blankly at Lu Yin. "Your Highness, I don't know the answer to your question."

"Is that so?" Lu Yin's gaze turned icy. "If I am capable of killing Karthika, then that means that I can kill you as well. I remember that the Huo family doesn't have many members, so if you die, there won't be much of your household left. Do you think that I'll let them live?"

Huo Qingshan's face paled, and he could sense the absolute power of that gun. With the gun pointed at him, he felt like he was frozen in an ice block. This gun was absolutely capable of killing him. After giving

the matter some thought, Huo Qingshan finally sighed. “Your Highness, how did you learn of this symbol?”

Lu Yin’s eyes turned cold. “I comprehended a domain.”

Huo Qingshan felt his body twitch, and he replied in disappointment, “Oh yes, a domain reveals everything. My apologies for underestimating you, Your Highness.”

Lu Yin did not speak a single word as he continued to cautiously stare at Huo Qingshan. With his current abilities, even Huo Qingshan would not be able to deal with him easily. He didn’t even need to put on the universal armor to threaten Huo Qingshan.

“This symbol represents the Hidden Earth Society. It represents Earth,” Huo Qingshan explained calmly.

Lu Yin was shocked. He had thought of many possible things that the image could represent, and he had been worried that the symbol might represent a powerful force from the Inniverse. He had even thought that the Huo clan might be a force sent by the Inniverse to spy on the Great Yu Empire. However, he had never guessed that the image represented Earth.

An azure globe. That was right. Earth was an azure sphere.

“Your Highness, I don’t know why you changed your surname to Lu, as it’s one of the primeval surnames. Do you know the significance of the primeval surnames?” Huo Qingshan looked solemnly at Lu Yin as he spoke.

Lu Yin’s brow furrowed. “What does this have to do with primeval surnames?”

Huo Qingshan explained, “Earth is home to many people with primeval surnames, and even though they are all legitimate, people with such surnames are still tied down by many of the ancient treaties.”

“Our Huo clan comes from Earth.”

Lu Yin was not surprised. Since the symbol represented Earth, Huo Qingshan being an Earthling was not surprising at all.

“It’s been a long time, but in the very distant past—maybe ten thousand years or maybe even millions of year ago—probably after one of the ancient civilizations on Earth was destroyed. Either way, this image came into existence then. What this symbol represents is an ancient treaty.” Huo Qingshan looked at Lu Yin solemnly before he continued, saying, “The Primeval Surname Alliance.”

Lu Yin’s expression changed, and he stared blankly at Huo Qingshan.

“The civilizations on Earth have been destroyed many times, but no one knows why. This continued on until one generation produced a cultivator who accidentally discovered this symbol on Jupiter. The cultivator also discovered the meaning behind this symbol, and that cultivator went into hiding shortly after. When he appeared again, his generation’s civilization had already been destroyed.”

Huo Qingshan paused again before continuing. “Even though that civilization was destroyed, the burning heart of humankind was not destroyed. Things merely reverted back to how they were before, and those same surnames persisted on and did not disappear. It is almost as if the surnames were branded into the blood—into the soul! This continued on until the primeval surnames appeared once again, and

with those surnames came cultivators with powerful innate gifts. Many years would pass after that, but then Earth's civilization would be destroyed once again. It has continued on in this vicious cycle."

Chapter 535: Primeval Surname Alliance

Lu Yin frowned. "So the Great Yu Empire didn't notice anything at all?"

Huo Qingshan bitterly responded, "So what if we did? Nothing would change. Nobody can do anything. The only thing that you can do is save yourself. The cultivators who were lucky enough to survive will secretly head back to Earth every once so often and pick out some talented people and have them enter the hidden organization to keep it going.

"Generation after generation, things will continue in the same manner as civilizations on Earth die and rise. It's an infinite cycle."

"Wait, what about the Primeval Surname Alliance that you mentioned before?" Lu Yin asked.

Huo Qingshan explained, "It's a very ancient alliance. For countless years, the underground organizations have not been able to find that group. This alliance is just like Earth: doomed."

"How many people are in it?"

"It's a symbol. It's not about the people. There were about eighteen of these images that were found on Jupiter, and we've only decoded one of them as representing the Hidden Earth Society. However, despite the many years, we haven't been able to find any of the others. I've actually been travelling through the universe in search of this alliance, which is how I got to know His Highness, Undying Yushan. We eventually became a representative for the Hidden Earth Society," Huo Qingshan said. He then let out a long sigh. He'd kept this a secret for far too long, and he'd never told anyone about this before.

"So the Great Yu Empire doesn't have any records of Earth being destroyed?" Lu Yin asked.

Huo Qingshan shook his head. "No. Nobody knows how the previous civilizations on Earth died out, but we can confirm that someone has been going after those with primeval surnames."

Lu Yin felt very dejected. "How do I know that you're telling the truth?"

A unique look appeared in Huo Qingshan's eyes. "The Hidden Earth Society is hidden on Jupiter. You'll know that I'm speaking the truth once you go there, but they won't meet you. The person who destroyed Earth in the past hasn't appeared again yet, which means that they can't show themselves either. I will never be able to return either, because they will never show themselves."

Huo Qingshan stared at Lu Yin. "Your Highness, Earth has already returned to an era of cultivation. It won't be too long before it's destroyed again."

Lu Yin's eyes sparked, and he put the gun down. "I'll believe you for now. What powerhouses are there in your organization?"

Huo Qingshan smiled wryly. "We don't really have any. The Hidden Earth Society only exists to keep some Earthlings around in order to abide by the ancient treaty. They will never be able to enter outer space, and they won't be able to cultivate to a high level."

“If they don’t really have any experts, then there’s no point in you finding the alliance.” Lu Yin still did not believe Huo Qingshan.

The Hunter replied, “I don’t know about that. It’s possible that the ancient agreement is about something else.”

Lu Yin’s eyes lit up. He decided that he was going to go back to Earth, find this organization, and then find out what this ancient treaty was all about.

Huo Qingshan believed that Lu Yin was a part of the Zishan clan and that his “Lu” surname was fake. However, reality was actually the opposite. Although Lu Yin had lost his memories, Big Sis and the rest knew that he was a Lu descendent the moment they saw him. It was simple; this surname was branded into his blood. The “Lu” surname embodied him. If this so-called “alliance” really existed, then perhaps the place where he had been born had been destroyed just like what had continuously happened to Earth.

It seemed that only by finding out the truth behind the primeval surnames would Lu Yin be able to regain his memories.

“Have you recently done any research into the other primeval surnames?” Lu Yin asked.

Huo Qingshan answered, “Yes. The Great Yu Empire has gathered quite a few of them compared to the rest of the Outerverse. However, like Earth, they are all destroyed once they develop enough, though the organizations destroying them never seem to actually finish the job. It’s rather similar to...”

“Rearing them,” Lu Yin grimly finished the sentence.

Huo Qingshan immediately responded, “Yes, rearing them. It’s as if they’re being reared, and that once they grow to a certain point, they’ll be massacred.”

“Which primeval surname was destroyed the most recently?” Lu Yin asked.

Huo Qingshan quickly answered. “The Wang clan from the twelfth filament. It governed numerous planets and had quite a number of talented disciples. The strongest was close to becoming an Enlightener, but they were destroyed ten thousand years ago. As of now, all of the Wang clan members have changed their surnames and betrayed their name.”

Lu Yin suddenly recalled Zhang Dingtian and the others from Earth. “Were you guys the ones who took Zhang Dingtian, Bai Xue, Xu San, and Seruzen away?”

Huo Qingshan shook his head. “You could say that, but in reality, not really. The people who took them away should have been from the Hidden Earth Society, but they’re not in hiding. Not everybody is willing to hide. Some members leave Frostwave Weave and go traveling beyond the weave, wanting to make the most of their life. These people also look for talented disciples. While Zhang Dingtian, Xu San, and Seruzen don’t have primeval surnames, they’re still from Earth. However, Bai Xue does have a primeval surname. The four of them have all been relocated.”

Lu Yin nodded, finally gaining some answers to the questions that he’d been struggling with for so long. He’d been wondering how much of a coincidence it was that all four of these people had disappeared simultaneously. However, for someone to take Zhang Dingtian all the way to the Starfall Sea meant that

that person was definitely very powerful. That person was certainly much more daring than the members of the Hidden Earth Society who were in hiding.

“Who took them?” Lu Yin asked.

Huo Qingshan shook his head. “That I don’t know. Over the years, quite a few members from the society have left. Some are dead, and some are alive, but we don’t know who is where. All that’s ever been left behind is an emblem of the Hidden Earth Society. However, there’s one thing that we know for certain: they’ll never return to Jupiter. People who aren’t acknowledged by those on the planet can’t enter.”

“They can’t enter, or they aren’t allowed to enter the planet?” Lu Yin looked straight into Huo Qingshan’s eyes.

Huo Qingshan firmly answered, “They can’t enter. Jupiter must be the last refuge that the people who formed the Hidden Earth Society built. It can be seen, but it can’t be entered. I don’t know how powerful a person must be to get in.”

Lu Yin frowned. Forcing his way in wasn’t an option. Although he could kill Enlighters with his weapons, he hadn’t truly become as strong as an Enlighter. Huo Qingshan wasn’t going to be of any help either, since the Hunter couldn’t get in himself.

After speaking to Huo Qingshan for a while longer, Lu Yin left the house.

Huo Qingshan watched as Lu Yin left and then sighed. In the end, he had let the truth out. Earth had already entered an era of cultivation. After so many years, they’d finally discovered a common theme: the moment those with primeval surnames grew powerful enough, they’d be eliminated. There were no exceptions. Earth had already produced quite a few talented people, and the moment there were any powerhouses on the verge of becoming Enlighters, there would be people on the way to kill them.

The person closest to becoming an Enlighter was currently Lu Yin. It was possible that he would be the spark that triggered Earth’s destruction.

Even then, nothing would change. The Hidden Earth Society had witnessed Earth be destroyed generation after generation, but they had never intervened. Those people had already become numb to these events, and they didn’t even dare to look into who was behind the massacres. All they ever did was passively wait for the so-called ancient treaty.

While Huo Qingshan was a member of the Hidden Earth Society, he would never be allowed to step foot onto Jupiter. He’d gotten over that matter long ago. If Earth was going to be destroyed, then so be it. There was nothing that he could do. He only hoped that this person would be able to bring about some change.

Lu Yin left the house. He did not entirely believe Huo Qingshan’s words, but there should be some degree of truth to what he had said. Lu Yin headed straight for the imperial library to search for more information on Earth. It came as no surprise to him that the civilizations on Earth had been destroyed more than once, but there was no mention of the cause for their downfall. He searched for information on the twelfth filament’s Wang clan and found exactly what Huo Qingshan had told him.

Lu Yin felt that he wouldn't be able to obtain much information here, and he also felt that it was about time for him to return to Earth. This planet that seemed so ordinary was hiding a huge secret.

However, why had nobody ever come for Lu Yin? If the people who had left the Hidden Earth Society were capable of taking Zhang Dingtian to the Starfall Sea, then they definitely had the ability to find Lu Yin. Was it because of his current position? Lu Yin was at a loss as for what to do. It seemed that him being a part of the Zishan family had fooled everyone.

An innate gift was something that had only appeared once in a zillion cultivators, but quite a few people possessing innate gifts had appeared on Earth in a short span of time. That in and of itself showed that the planet was strong.

Lu Yin summoned the Blind Monk and had the Hunter tear through the void to bring Lu Yin to the Yu Academy, which was located in the first ring that circled Zenyu Star. He wanted to see the youths who had come from Earth.

Lu Yin sighed ruefully as he looked at the towers in the distance. It had been a while since he'd last visited this place.

"Wait here," Lu Yin ordered before charging straight into the academy. He remembered the tower was a part of Gerbach's territory. Before, he'd fought Gerbach atop that tower. And then, in the blink of an eye, quite a few years had already passed by.

The tower was surrounded by the ocean on all sides. Lu Yin didn't move very quickly, and he could see numerous Yu Academy students in the distance contending with the creatures in the water. The surface of the sea was soon stained a dark red.

Lu Yin glanced over, and just as he was about to leave, he heard someone exclaim in surprise, "Lu Yin?"

Lu Yin stopped. The voice seemed familiar, and he turned around to see a girl leap up from the sea and stare at him.

"Zhao Yu?" Lu Yin was surprised.

This girl was Zhao Yu, and she had once been a subordinate of Bai Xue. She had been one of the Three Snowgirls at Camp Blue right after the apocalypse on Earth had happened. She had once traveled across the continent on her own and traveled from Camp Blue to Jinlin. She'd also fought against Lu Yin once, and he remembered her very well.

Quite a few of the other students around Zhao Yu watched on as Lu Yin landed with excited appearances. This was the Royal Regent who was also the most powerful Limiteer in the entire universe! He'd killed an Enlighter with one shot, which had become a legend.

For the people of the Great Yu Empire, Lu Yin had become a legend. His experiences were even being documented by several filmmaking companies.

Being able to see him up close made these youths' blood boil with ambition.

Lu Yin had not expected to run into Zhao Yu here, but then he suddenly remembered that Zhao Yu had been one of the people specially chosen from Earth to enter Yu Academy. She also hadn't been the only

one selected, as there was also Feng Hong, Huan Sha, Luo Yi, Qin Xuan, as well as several other talented people who had been brought over to the academy.

Zhao Yu looked up at Lu Yin in excitement. "It really is you."

Lu Yin looked her up and down. "I didn't expect to see you here. Have you been well?"

"Greetings to Your Majesty!" The students from Yu Academy around Zhao Yu immediately greeted Lu Yin.

Zhao Yu pursed her lips. It was only then that she remembered that the person in front of her was no longer a mere cultivator like her. This was someone who held authority over the entire Great Yu Empire and was also the most powerful Limiteer in the universe. He had proven himself capable of instantly killing ultra-powerhouses. At the moment, she didn't know what to say to him.

Lu Yin had the other students leave and looked at Zhao Yu. "I didn't expect you to leave Earth so soon."

Zhao Yu gritted her teeth and bowed. "Greetings, Your Majesty."

Lu Yin remarked with a laugh, "You've changed. I still remember your heroic aura during the apocalypse."

Chapter 536: An Old Friend

Zhao Yu looked at Lu Yin with a complicated expression. "Royal Regent, Your Highness, can you tell me where the Sage of Aqua, Bai Xue, is? Many of my sisters from Camp Blue have been anxious to find news of her."

Lu Yin thought about it before replying, "I don't know."

Zhao Yu was disappointed. She had learned that Bai Xue, Zhang Dingtian, and the others had gone missing while she was still on Earth, which was a huge reason why she had come to the Yu Academy. She wanted to discover if they had truly gone missing or if they had suffered from some unexpected mishap, but she had made no progress in her investigation. The Great Yu Empire was much more complex than she had expected, and even if the academy was only on the first mainland circling Zenyu Star, it was still difficult for her to leave, much less find any traces of Bai Xue. Zhao Yu had been fortunate enough to run into Lu Yin on this day, but he had just given her the same information that she had already received.

"Although I don't know where Bai Xue is, she should be very safe," Lu Yin could not help himself from saying this when he noticed Zhao Yu's grieved look.

Zhao Yu's body trembled, and she gazed at Lu Yin with hope. "Your Highness, you must know where she is, right? Please tell me. I'm begging you."

Lu Yin shook his head. "I have no reason to lie to you, and I truly don't know. However, I did manage to see Zhang Dingtian, and he appeared to be just fine."

"Is the Sage of Aqua with Zhang Dingtian?" Zhao Yu was delighted.

Lu Yin considered things. "Probably."

Zhao Yu relaxed. Lu Yin's exploits were too unbelievable for them Earthlings, and Zhang Dingtian seemed more tangible. The Sage of Aqua should be fine so long as she was with Zhang Dingtian.

"Thank you for telling me, Your Highness." Zhao Yu immediately expressed her thanks.

Lu Yin reached out to pull her up. "How's Earth?"

Zhao Yu politely replied, "The zombies have long since been eliminated, and Earth is currently in a new state of development. Many people have stepped onto the path of cultivation, and the Great Yu Empire is setting up a school on Earth to specially select students with innate gifts. We're actually the first batch."

"Can you keep up with the Yu Academy's training?" Lu Yin asked.

Zhao Yu's expression faded a bit. "A few of us can't, but some of the others were able to quickly pass the Yu Academy's other students."

"Oh?" Lu Yin became interested. Zhao Yu was just a Sentinel, which was not very strong even in the scope of the Outerverse. She had no innate gift either, and although she might peak as a Melder during her lifetime, she would likely become a roaming cultivator since she didn't have a formcast model. She had only been able to join the Yu Academy because of Lu Yin, but he was curious about the others from Earth, especially those who had recently awakened their innate gifts.

It was very abnormal for a single planet to produce several cultivators with innate gifts, and that was without mentioning that Earth had also produced freaks like Zhang Dingtian. Putting aside any strange encounters that Zhang Dingtian might have had on the Grayweed Continent, his current power definitely approached Liu Shaoqiu's, and he was quite abnormal. It should be known that Liu Shaoqiu had cultivated from a young age and been provided with an unending amount of resources, but Zhang Dingtian had only become a cultivator half-way through his life.

Zhao Yu replied, "Among our group from Earth, the most powerful is Qin Xuan, who has awakened an innate gift of dissolution. Although she's just a Sentinel, she was given a formcast model, which she cultivated to her current level. She should break through and become a Melder soon. The next is..."

After listening to Zhao Yu for a while, quite a few people approached from the distance, and one figure in particular flew across the skies, quickly rushed over towards Lu Yin, and landed nearby. "Gerbach pays his respects to the Royal Regent."

Lu Yin smiled. "Alright, there's no need to be so courteous with me. There was even one time when you beat me rather severely."

Gerbach immediately cried foul. "I never took advantage of Your Highness, and Your Highness was even able to learn the Skybeast Claw from me."

Lu Yin smiled and then asked, "How's Gerlaine?"

Gerbach pointed into the distance.

Lu Yin looked over and saw the girl, who was staring at him with curiosity in her eyes. The green-skinned fellow beside her should be Balaror, a strange person who could induce plants to attack others.

Lu Yin raised his hand, waved, and watched on as Balaror's face turned panicked and then fervent while Gerlaine rolled her eyes at Lu Yin. Quickly after that, she reacted and looked at Lu Yin with apprehension.

Lu Yin laughed; this brat was still so interesting.

"Your Highness, you agonizingly kept me in the dark. I only found out later that, during Earth's trial, you stole from that brat," Gerbach complained.

Lu Yin shrugged. "I can't be blamed for that. I just forgot to mention it. That brat was the one who deliberately hid it from you."

Gerbach grinned. "It's lucky that she did, as otherwise, I might have offended Your Highness."

In a distant part of the academy, a rather valiant aura sped along. This person was on another level altogether compared to Gerbach. Although they were both Limiteers, the disparity between the two was very great. This was Schutz, whom Lu Yin had asked to return to the Great Yu Empire long ago in order to help manage the Yu Academy. During this time, the strength of the students had shown great improvements from the past, and their battle styles had also evolved. They now tended towards using the changes of star energy and not just relying on external strength.

Schutz descended several meters away from Lu Yin. "Greetings to the Royal Regent, Your Highness."

Lu Yin looked at Schutz and apologetically said, "I'm sorry that you were not able to remain and roam about the Inniverse."

Schutz's face remained serene. "It was my wish to return to my home anyways."

Lu Yin nodded and then looked seriously at Schutz. "The Outerverse cannot compare to the Inniverse, and the cultivation environments and resources are too different." He thought for a moment and then handed Schutz a cosmic ring. "Take what's in this as thanks for your service towards the empire."

Schutz did not decline, and he received the cosmic ring before standing silently to the side.

Lu Yin had given Schutz a hundred star essence, which was an enormous sum, but compared to the opportunity to roam the Inniverse that Schutz had passed up, Lu Yin felt like it wasn't much. Even if Lu Yin lacked money, he wouldn't be reluctant to spend what he had.

Schutz's talent for cultivation was not great, but the rate at which he learned from his battle experience was astounding. If he was able to roam the Inniverse, then he would definitely achieve major accomplishments as long as he survived. Lu Yin's compensation truly was not much.

The Yu Academy had five Hall Masters. Lu Yin had seen Gerbach and Schutz near the tall tower, and the three of them chatted for a while before heading out to meet the other Hall Masters. The first ring of Zenyu Star was large, and Lu Yin ended up having to ask the Blind Monk to tear through the void to bring him around.

Currently, the sky had changed, so Explorers could no longer tear through the void; only Hunters and above could do so. There were both pros and cons to this change. The advantage was that battles did not cause as much widespread destruction as before, while the disadvantage was that things were no longer as convenient as before.

Countless people were looking for the reason why the sky had changed, and some had even asked Lu Yin, but he did not know either.

Not long after, Lu Yin appeared beside the formcast pool. Tianming was the Hall Master of this area, and he was currently inside of the formcast pool.

The formcast pool was very important, and there were many space-exploring powerhouses protecting it.

When Lu Yin appeared, two Explorers immediately appeared to salute him, but Lu Yin had them withdraw. He looked towards Tianming and felt a little strange, as there seemed to be something off about this person.

“Sinner Tianming greets the Royal Regent, Your Highness,” Tianming greeted.

Lu Yin felt odd. “Sinner? What do you mean?”

Tianming lowered his head, and softly answered, “Reporting in: this sinner comes from Grandtop Weave, and according to the empire’s records, was an abandoned disciple of Grandtop Weave’s Nine Stacks Sect. However, this information is false.”

Lu Yin’s eyes flashed, and he stared at Tianming.

Tianming raised his head. “This sinner was carrying out the orders of Nine Stacks Sect to steal the Skybeast Claw.”

Lu Yin’s brows jumped up, and even the Blind Monk looked surprised. Suddenly, an enormous pressure appeared that pressed Tianming to the ground. Lu Yin waved and dispelled the Blind Monk’s pressure as he looked at Tianming. “Why are you admitting this now? No one would know if you had continued to conceal this since the Nine Stacks Sect has been exterminated.”

Tianming agonizingly continued, saying. “When the Nine Stacks Sect was still around, this sinner was forced to bear their threats. I had to remain committed and could only attempt to steal the Skybeast Claw. However, now that the sect is gone, this sinner no longer wishes to betray the empire, and I am willing to plead guilty.”

Lu Yin fell silent, as he had not expected such a thing to occur on this visit to the Yu Academy. Just like he had said, if Tianming had not mentioned this matter, then nobody would ever have known that he was a spy, but he had still brought it up. Tianming’s expression was not fake, and he truly did not wish to betray the Great Yu Empire.

Just as Lu Yin had developed some feelings after spending time on Earth, Tianming had developed the same feelings towards the Great Yu Empire.

“If you were given a choice between the Great Yu Empire and the Nine Stacks Sect, which would you choose?” Lu Yin asked in a deep voice.

Without hesitation, Tianming replied, “The Great Yu Empire.”

“Why?” Lu Yin closely observed him.

Tianming replied, "Back at the Nine Stacks Sect, I was just a failure who never received any warmth. But in the Great Yu Empire, I feel valued, and I am a Hall Master of the Yu Academy. I have even been entrusted with the heavy responsibility to guard the formcast pool. In the Nine Stacks Sect, this would be a task only reserved for the direct descendants. This sinner has no fond memories towards that place."

Lu Yin closely observed the youth's two eyes, and he was judging whether or not Tianming was truly being sincere, or if he had taken these actions just because the Nine Stacks Sect had been exterminated, leaving him with no alternative courses to take.

In the end, Lu Yin chose to pardon Tianming and believe him, but that was also because Lu Yin had another purpose. The Nine Stacks Sect was Grandtop Weave's foremost organization, and Tianming was their disciple, which meant that Tianming could become a key to Grandtop Weave.

Nothing could be recklessly rushed at this moment, as it would be easy for Lu Yin's reputation to fall to the level of a bandit's. However, he truly wanted to plunder Grandtop Weave's resources, so he needed to find a suitable reason to do so. He could not act wantonly like those Enlighters, as he represented the Great Yu Empire, which was a pre-established power in this region of the Outerverse.

Tianming remained as one of Yu Academy's Hall Master, but Lu Yin punished the youth by not allowing him to step out of the bounds of Yu Academy.

Tianming gratefully accepted such conditions.

While at the academy, Lu Yin met a few cultivators from Earth, and one of them was a young person called Fu Xiaoshu, who had a pretty decent innate gift of illusion. This innate gift reminded Lu Yin of recall Zhuo Daynight's legendary battle technique: the Night's End, Daybreak. Fu Xiaoshu's illusion could not compare to that technique, but if Fu Xiaoshu became an Enlighter one day, his illusions would be absolutely terrifying.

The Night's End, Daybreak technique had shown Lu Yin the extreme power of an illusion, and he patted Fu Xiaoshu's shoulder in encouragement. "The final stage of cultivating illusion is not to produce a fantasy, but rather to cause your opponents to feel their own downfall. Even if they know that they are in a land of fantasy, they will still be immersed and be unable to escape."

This sentence shocked Fu Xiaoshu. Once he heard it, he looked at Lu Yin in a completely different light, and he nearly knelt down to worship Lu Yin as his mentor.

Lu Yin managed to successfully pull that one off, which made the Ghost Monkey astounded.

"Seventh Bro, I find that you are slowly becoming more of a role model, like a moral person." The monkey was moved.

"Cut the crap. When are you breaking through?" Lu Yin asked.

The monkey replied, "Two more days. Two more days at most."

Lu Yin had the Blind Monk take him to Huo Zhong, and when they arrived, he recognized the most people thus far. There was also Huan Sha and Qin Xuan. Since the Huo family was originally from Earth,

they had taken particularly good care of these Earthlings, and it was very normal for them to be around the academy.

When Lu Yin had first applied to study the Skybeast Claw, Huo Zhong had immediately agreed. Lu Yin had felt that such an agreement had been strange, as he had actually offended Huo Xiaoling before that. But now, it all made sense.

Unfortunately, Feng Hong was not around as he had gone out on a practical experience trip, as had Luo Yi.

Chapter 537: Returning To Earth

As for Qin Xuan, Lu Yin had been under the impression that she was still one of Jinlin's researchers as well as one of the Troop Leaders who supported Zhou Shan. She had been very cautious of Lu Yin when he first appeared, and he had never imagined that she would awaken an innate gift and come here.

Huan Sha had similarly awakened an innate gift of simulation analysis. When Lu Yin first heard that name, he was momentarily confused as he did not understand what it meant at all.

Huan Sha explained, "The innate gift of simulation analysis means that I can analyze dozens and dozens of scenarios in my brain all at once—up to a hundred in fact. It integrates all known information and uses the fastest methods to produce the most accurate data."

To one side, Huo Zhong said, "Your Highness, Huan Sha has been scouted by Captain Ban Jiu and will most likely be recruited into the Twelfth Squadron."

"No, she can't go there." Lu Yin immediately rejected that idea. Under many puzzled eyes, he looked at Huan Sha excitedly. "Can you analyze any issue?"

"In theory, as I have enough data, yes," Huan Sha replied. This was not her first time meeting Lu Yin, as she had also met him back on Earth, though they had not interacted much back then. She was rather curious about Lu Yin, but she was more focused on finding out where Zhang Dingtian was rather than learning more about Lu Yin himself. She had come to the Yu Academy for similar reasons as Zhao Yu; she was here to look for Zhang Dingtian.

Lu Yin looked at her appreciatively. "I recall now. Back on Earth's capital, you used to help Zhang Dingtian manage things."

Huan Sha's eyes lit up. "Does Your Highness know where Zhang Dingtian is?"

Lu Yin nodded. "We met in the Innerverse. He's fine."

Huan Sha relaxed. "That's good, that's good."

Lu Yin studied her carefully. "If you were able to help Zhang Dingtian manage affairs, then you can help me too. Would you be willing? Right, I hereby officially invite you to join the Lu Ministry of Staff and help me manage the political affairs of the ministers."

Huan Sha, Huo Zhong, and the others were all stunned. Managing political affairs was the same as holding authority over the Great Yu Empire. How could such a thing be given away so easily? And what was the Lu Ministry of Staff? Nobody had ever heard of it before!

“The Lu Ministry of Staff is a new department that I’ve established to specially focus on the less important political matters of the ministries. Relax, it’s not that troublesome. All the important affairs will still be sent to the Imperial Cabinet ministers. So how about it?” Lu Yin looked at Huan Sha.

Huan Sha was in deep thought, as she did not actually want to join the Twelfth Squadron, and managing affairs was also her specialty. That was why she had been valued by Zhang Dingtian, but she had only planned on getting closer to the center of power so that she could ask Lu Yin about Zhang Dingtian’s whereabouts.

“Thank you, Your Highness. Huan Sha is willing,” she respectfully agreed.

Lu Yin nodded and was quite happy, as he had finally found someone to help him manage the various government tasks. Those memos that were constantly sent to him had piled up in heaps, and they gave him a huge headache. It was just like he had said earlier; the important affairs of the government would still be delivered to the cabinet ministers, so Huan Sha’s newly gained authority would be limited. Also, the internal cabinet ministers had the authority to restrict the Lu Ministry of Staff members for the moment. After Lu Yin verified that Huan Sha was both loyal and capable, he would immediately remove that restriction over the Lu Ministry of Staff’s authority.

For the moment, Huan Sha just needed to help him take care of the meaningless clutter that had gathered up.

Although the establishment of the Lu Ministry of Staff would face a great deal of opposition from the established ministers, that did not matter to Lu Yin at all. He had even slaughtered an Enlightener earlier, so these ministers would definitely be terrified of him.

In a dominant fashion, Lu Yin released news of the Lu Ministry of Staff’s establishment, and he even put its location as King Zishan’s residence. He needed to keep a close eye on Huan Sha for a period of time so that he could ascertain her ability and loyalty.

As expected, when news of the Lu Ministry of Staff’s establishment spread out, it faced opposition from many ministers, especially the cabinet ministers. They felt like their authority was being given away.

Garope was the first minister to contact Lu Yin, as he felt that the regent was being too flippant about governmental affairs.

Lu Yin did not pick up the call, as this was how he was planning on dealing with this issue. Since he had already established the cabinet, he would continue on with it. There was no logic to revoking it, as that would destroy all of his credibility.

Aside from Huan Sha, Lu Yin also noticed a youth called Song Shi, who stared at him with extreme adoration.

Lu Yin rather enjoyed it, and on a whim and with a wave of his hand, he decided to take a few people with him to Earth. He wanted to take a look at this planet since it was his hometown that was very important to him, and he also wanted to check on the situation on Jupiter.

While he got some people to prepare a large spacecraft to head out to Earth, Lu Yin had the Blind Monk tear through the void and bring him to the Auna family’s estate. Since returning from crashing the wedding at East San Dios, Lu Yin had not met with Jenny Auna, and he felt rather guilty towards her.

He frequently thought of what she had said to him. Was there anything wrong in chasing after love? No. Humans were selfish, and it was merely their perspectives that clashed.

Lu Yin's appearance shocked the Auna family, and Xueshan Auna hurried out to welcome the Royal Regent. He didn't even dare to tear through the void; instead, he physically ran over to greet Lu Yin. Rocky Auna, Torry Auna, and the other members of the family with some status also appeared.

"Greetings, Your Highness," the crowd greeted respectfully.

Lu Yin raised a hand for them to dispense with their bowing. Then, he had only Xueshan Auna stay behind, dismissing all the others.

"Your Highness, if you have any instructions, then you can just send over your orders. Why have you troubled yourself by coming personally?" Xueshan Auna spoke carefully and was a hundredfold more respectful than he had been during their last meeting.

In the past, it had been Lu Yin's status that demanded respect, but at the present moment, it was his strength. This was because Lu Yin had instantly killed an Enlighter.

As an experienced Hunter, Xueshan Auna knew exactly how terrifying an Enlighter was, but despite that, this youth in front of him had actually killed one. This left Xueshan Auna a bit scared of Lu Yin, and he didn't dare to act impudently. He even silently rejoiced that he had made the right decision back then.

"You sound just like Uncle Huo. What? Am I not welcome?" Lu Yin asked with a smile.

Xueshan Auna quickly replied, "Of course you are! The Great Yu Empire belongs to Your Highness, and naturally, so does this tiny Auna family."

Lu Yin was truly experiencing the advantages and influence that came with a high position. Every time he saw Xueshan Auna, this old man's attitude changed, and this was one of the fundamental reasons why people chased after power and strength; it was just too easy to become addicted to such pleasure.

"How is she?" Lu Yin enquired.

Xueshan Auna knew exactly who Lu Yin was referring to, and his expression changed. "She's alright, but she does not take even a single step out."

Lu Yin unleashed his domain and observed Jenny Auna. Compared to the illuminating figure she had struck at East San Dios, the current Jenny Auna had mellowed out tremendously, and she seemed to have aged a decade. "There's no need to restrict her. Let her go wherever she wishes. The sky has changed, and we don't have to care about those others."

Xueshan Auna nodded. "I understand. Thank you, Your Highness."

Lu Yin looked at the Auna patriarch again. "Where's that person from Royal Frost Continent?"

"Still sealed in ice. Your Highness, please rest assured. As soon as he wakes up, this subject will inform Your Highness at once."

When they had attacked Firesmelt Planet in the past, one of Firesmelt Planet's experts had sealed themselves in ice as the planet collapsed, and the ice that sealed him had a design with a wreath of five

interlocking plum blossoms, which Xueshan Auna had confirmed to represent the Royal Frost Continent. It was precisely because of that matter and the design that Lu Yin had been able to recognize Che Han as a member of the same Royal Frost Continent during the Sea King's son-in-law selection.

Lu Yin nodded, and left the estate soon afterwards.

Xueshan Auna was only able to finally relax after Lu Yin disappeared, as the Auna family had shown indecisiveness in the past. He had been afraid that Lu Yin would settle scores with them after some time passed, but fortunately, he had not.

In space, there was a large spacecraft that was headed towards the north of Frostwave Weave, carrying within it Lu Yin and a group of cultivators from Earth. Hai Qiqi had not joined them and had instead decided to stay on Zenyu Star.

To these cultivators, this trip was like returning to their hometown in glory.

Lu Yin concealed his identity as they drew closer to Earth, as his primary goal this time was to investigate matters on Jupiter. He felt that this Hidden Earth Society might have some information that he wanted and that he might even be able to uncover some of the secrets behind the primeval surnames through investigating this group.

After a certain time of traveling through the stars, Earth became visible before them.

It looked the same as ever: a familiar, azure planet. Lu Yin reminisced about old times, as he had experienced many beautiful moments here. During those times, he had no worries and was nothing more than a commoner. He had lived on this planet for two years, which was actually longer than the time that he had spent with Big Sis and the others. He had grown accustomed to life on this planet, and that meant everything to someone without any memories. However, the path of cultivation had completely changed everything.

A space station had been built above Earth, and there was the occasional spacecraft that streaked by. To the Great Yu Empire, Earth held a special status since this was the Royal Regent's home planet.

It wasn't just the Great Yu Empire, as even people from other areas in Frostwave Weave occasionally visited Earth. Even some from nearby weaves like Grandtop Weave would make a trip every once in a while.

Lu Yin was just too famous in the Outerverse, and it had reached the point where it was too much for the Outerverse. Lu Yin was the strongest Limiteer in the universe, which was an unprecedented honor for the Outerverse.

Within the spacecraft, Fu Xiaoshu, Song Shi, and the others emotionally looked at Earth. They had left their home for a period of time, and although it had not been too long, the distance had been vast, and they felt like they had been gone for a very long time. Now that they were finally back with a glorious return, they could not wait to reunite with their families and friends.

Lu Yin looked beyond Earth and saw the yellow planet, Jupiter. It was a gaseous planet, but that was where the Hidden Earth Society was concealed.

Lu Yin's eyes filled with star energy as he stared at Jupiter. To his surprise, he saw an enormous number of rune lines. Lu Yin was stunned, as this amount surpassed what he had seen even on Huo Qingshan and Xueshan Auna. Although there was a great quantity, the rune lines did not congeal together, but this simply proved that there was more than one Hunter on Jupiter, though none of them approached the strength of an Enlighter.

Lu Yin relaxed. As long as there was no Enlighter, there was room for negotiations.

He scanned the other planets within Earth's solar system, but he found that, aside from Jupiter, all of the rest appeared to be normal. There were no rune lines indicating the existence of any powerhouses.

Within the spacecraft, Zhao Yu walked over and looked at Lu Yin. In the next moment, he had already donned his universal armor and stepped out. He quickly exited the vessel and headed for Jupiter.

Zhao Yu was envious, as even with a set of universal armor, she still would not be able to freely soar through the universe.

Jupiter was enormous, and it was composed of gas. Earth had tried to research the interior of the planet for many years, but Earth had never managed to fully study even its own core, let alone Jupiter's.

The Great Yu Empire had sufficient technology to conduct such a study, but no interest in doing so.

Lu Yin was wearing his universal armor as he appeared above Jupiter. He stared at it silently and saw that the enormous number of rune lines were moving towards him from the other areas of the planet. Someone from the Hidden Earth Society had discovered him.

"Lu Yin requests to enter," Lu Yin spoke from space, and his voice spread through the void towards Jupiter.

There was no reaction. The rune lines that were approaching him should belong to a Hunter, and that Hunter must be watching Lu Yin at this moment. However, that person was not bothering to even reply to him.

Lu Yin shouted out a few more times, but things remained the same. There were absolutely no movements from the other party.

Lu Yin frowned, as Huo Qingshan had already mentioned even the Hunter himself could not enter Jupiter. There were remnants of ancient defenses left on it, but Lu Yin could not find them. Thus, he decided to barge in forcefully and pulled out his gun.

Chapter 538: Cowards

Perhaps the hidden Hunters felt the threat from Lu Yin's gun, and in the next moment, Jupiter abruptly changed. The gases that covered the surface coalesced into a giant whirlpool, and Lu Yin was shocked to see that the rune lines on Jupiter had started increasing endlessly.

They had greatly surpassed a Hunter's level now, and they had even surpassed the number of rune lines that Lu Yin had seen on Karthika.

Lu Yin hurriedly retreated and then sized up Jupiter in bewilderment. Just like Huo Qingshan had said, there were some ancient defense systems that remained on the planet. These systems clearly surpassed

the power of an Enlighter, and they might even be able to defend against a powerhouse whose power level exceeded 300,000.

Lu Yin could not enter with his current strength.

Lu Yin activated his gadget and contacted Huo Qingshan. "Uncle Huo, I made it to Jupiter."

Huo Qingshan asked in a low tone, "Can you enter?"

Lu Yin remained silent.

"Your Highness, that underground organization has observed Earth's civilizations for countless years—from its development to its inevitable decline—yet not once has it intervened. They only wish to preserve the ancient secret. Anyone who leaves Jupiter will never be allowed to return, and this subordinate is the same. It's not possible for you to enter Jupiter, and it's also impossible to interact with those people," Huo Qingshan explained.

Unresigned, Lu Yin stared at Jupiter. The secrets of the primeval surnames were right in front of him. Did he really need to give up like this?

"Your Highness, there's actually someone on Earth who's from the hidden organization, and that person is like your subordinate and can never return. That person's mission is to seek out all the children with innate gifts and send them to Jupiter, so he may know more than this subordinate."

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. "How do I find that person?"

"This subordinate does not know. Ever since I left Jupiter, this subordinate has never asked about the Hidden Earth Society, and they won't contact me either. Although this subordinate still has the organization's emblem, I have not been a part of them for a long time."

Lu Yin helplessly stared at Jupiter, which lay ahead of him. This planet was a giant tortoise shell, and this group of people would forever remain holed up within, which presented a thorny problem.

He could not threaten this organization, so should he expose them? Over the countless years, Lu Yin believed that those murderers who had wiped out Earth's past civilizations knew about this hidden organization's existence. He did not believe that the Hidden Earth Society would be able to remain hidden forever, so exposing them would not actually be a valid threat. Moreover, even if the murderers knew about this group, they still could not act. This organization seemed to be in an unassailable position.

Lu Yin shouted out, "I'm Lu Yin, someone with a primeval surname. I wish to comply with the ancient treaty. Please allow me in."

Nobody bothered with him.

The Hunter did not move.

Lu Yin pursed his lips. "Earth's civilizations have been extinguished so many times. Do you guys really wish to remain hidden forever? I, Lu Yin, am confident that I am an unequaled Limiteer, and I will definitely shake the heavens in the future. I qualify to ally with anyone. You guys must show your sincerity."

Nobody bothered with him.

“Do you wish to remain cowards forever?” Lu Yin shouted.

Still, nobody bothered with him.

Lu Yin was rendered speechless.

“Seventh Bro, these people have been able to coldly watch on while their home was exterminated. How would you be able to move them with such simple sentences? I think that it’ll be easier to find that person from the Hidden Earth Society who’s still on Earth. Although that’s like finding a needle in a haystack, at least you know that there’s a needle in there somewhere,” the monkey suggested.

Lu Yin shook his head. “If that person has been able to remain hidden on Earth, then it shows that they only have average strength. They might not even know as much as Huo Qingshan.”

“That’s also true. Primeval surnames... Since ancient times, your Human Domain has always been chasing after those with the primeval surnames. It’s very strange.”

Lu Yin’s face twitched. “What do you know?”

“I don’t know much. Although the personal writings of some powerhouses have mentioned these ancient and unique last names, I never found any real secrets. I suggest that you try to proceed with the Lockbreaker Society, as I remember one letter being filled with grudges against those people. That powerhouse had been someone from one of the primeval surnames: Wang. He had no legal identity, but he had an extraordinary talent for lockbreaking. However, he couldn’t join the Lockbreaker Society.”

Lu Yin’s eyes lit up. That was right; he had forgotten about that. The Lockbreaker Society had expressly stated that those with primeval surnames could not enter if they did not carry a legal status. This rule could not be broken by anyone. Since the society had such a rule in place, then that must mean that they had some sort of an understanding about these ancient surnames.

Since it seemed that there was no path forward with this Hidden Earth Society, the Lockbreaker Society was another possible route.

The Inniverse and Outerverse were isolated from each other right now, but the Outerverse had its own Lockbreaker Society division, so perhaps something could be found there.

It seemed that it was time for another wave of lockbreaking attempts. Lu Yin would try to break through and become a Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker quickly so that he could enter the higher echelons of the Lockbreaker Society.

Lu Yin turned towards Jupiter. “Then stay as turtles forever. Sooner or later, that murderer will break through Jupiter’s defenses, and at that time, you guys will also be wiped out. Don’t look for my help either.”

And with that, he left.

The Hunter hiding on Jupiter did not move, and it seemed that they had never had any intentions of conversing with Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was just about to return to Earth when the monkey suddenly spoke up. “Seventh Bro, I’m about to break through! Quickly, find a place!”

Lu Yin looked around for a minute before taking out his collapsible spacecraft and flying to Neptune. He put his universal armor on and told the monkey, “Go ahead.”

The Ghost Monkey’s figure floated out from Lu Yin’s right arm. If this scene was seen by someone else, then they would be frightened out of their mind.

The monkey had been stuck as a Limiteer for a long time, and Lu Yin had just been a Melder when they first met. Now, the monkey had finally reached his critical juncture.

Lu Yin watched the monkey with a strange expression. A phantom image that was imprinted onto his own body was actually also able to break through, and he did not even require any star essence, which was certainly odd.

He had forgotten to ask Kuang Wang if the Beast Tamers’ tamed beasts had this same ability.

An astral beast’s breakthrough was different from a human’s. They did not require any formcast models, and some automatically became Explorers as soon as they matured.

It was a simple feat for the monkey to become an Explorer, and the astral beast just had to be released for a while. His breakthrough barely showed any activity, and Lu Yin even started wondering if the beast was actually just fooling around.

Lu Yin felt strange when he saw the monkey’s shadow merge back into his right arm, and his eyes narrowed. “You broke through?”

“Yes! Fast isn’t it?” The monkey was pleased with himself.

Lu Yin frowned. “You really broke through? Why didn’t I feel anything?”

The monkey’s shadow floated back out, and a powerful wave swept across the surface of the planet. He looked at Lu Yin with a pleased expression.

Lu Yin’s eyes filled with star energy and he was able to see the monkey’s rune lines. The monkey had indeed become an Explorer, and he was much stronger than an average one at that. But, how could the breakthrough happen so fast? It had felt like he was just joking around.

Lu Yin was rather envious; if only he could also break through to the Explorer realm that easily.

“Seventh Bro, us astral beasts’ innate gifts are different from you humans. Our constitution determines the limit of our cultivation, but the upside is that we will naturally reach that level unless there are any abnormal factors. You humans are different and are unable to meet our natural-born heights. It’s only by transforming your bodies to harmonize with the universe that you can proceed, which is actually the same thing that we astral beasts do when we mutate. Thus, we astral beasts are the favored ones of the universe, and you humans are but failed products of evolution,” the monkey spoke proudly.

“But there’s no ceiling to our cultivation,” Lu Yin retorted simply.

The Ghost Monkey wanted to dispute that claim, but found that he could not. When humans took their first step on the path of cultivation, it was the same as an astral beast mutating. Such a method of cultivation truly had no limits, and given enough time, they were even able to cultivate to the Progenitor realm. Historically, the number of human Progenitors surpassed those of the astral beasts, which was an undeniable truth.

Lu Yin had been wondering if the monkey's breakthrough would cause a huge disturbance, and he had never expected that it would be so fast and inconspicuous.

Since the monkey had broken through to the Explorer realm, it meant that, even without any universal armor, Lu Yin could still freely travel through the universe with the monkey's help. He could be towed through space by the monkey. However, if they visited another place like Planet Pyrolyte, then Lu Yin would have to screen off his right arm to prevent the monkey from getting into contact with the star energy. That would actually be the same as sealing away one of his arms.

Lu Yin activated his gadget and contacted the Great Yu Empire troops that were nearby on Earth and had them start monitoring Jupiter. They were ordered to capture any living creatures that came out of the planet and were also ordered to prevent anyone from approaching.

Lu Yin did not believe that these people could remain as cowards forever.

He looked around, as Neptune still held a special meaning to the people of Earth. This was where Bai Qian had discovered Qingyu in the past, and that discovery had led to the apocalypse on Earth. Bai Qian herself had stepped into the universe because of it, and Lu Yin presumed that she had done so with Starsibyl's invitation letter, based on what Lu Yin had learned from Liu Shaoge after asking him about Qingyu back at East San Dios. Liu Shaoge had mentioned that Qingyu had stolen the inheritance stone and thus been punished with imprisonment and that he had not stepped out yet.

Qingyu was a hidden danger, as he had been an Explorer back then. But due to his grave injuries, his power had been horribly crippled. Even so, that person had used all sorts of battle techniques to completely suppress the trial takers, and he had never even used his innate gift.

Lu Yin did not know if Qingyu had any innate gifts, but he would rather plan for the worse scenario by assuming that Qingyu had an innate gift and that the Daynight clan member had merely been unable to use it due to certain restrictions.

There was a limit to how long Qingyu would remain imprisoned for, and he would definitely come looking for Lu Yin when he was released.

Unfortunately for Qingyu, now that the Inniverse and Outerverse were separated, he wouldn't even be able to make it to the Great Yu Empire.

Lu Yin didn't put his universal armor on. Instead, he had the monkey tow him through space.

The Ghost Monkey was also rather excited. After an astral beast broke through into the Explorer realm, their constitution would naturally change to become suitable to survive in the vacuum of space, so he did not need to adapt at all. He transformed into a shadow and leaped away and Lu Yin was dragged by the shadow and quickly left Neptune to appear in the dark of outer space.

This feeling was similar to when the spacecraft had previously exploded and cast Lu Yin into space. The difference was that, back then, he had only been able to passively float through space, unable to control his movement, whereas now, he was being pulled along by the monkey, which meant that he could go anywhere he wished. The speed was not that slow either, and others could not see anything since the monkey was a shadow, which gave Lu Yin the convenience of hiding within the shadow.

Just like that, Lu Yin was pulled by the monkey back towards Earth.

Above Earth, the Great Yu Empire troops quickly discovered Lu Yin's movements, and they dumbfoundedly watched on as Lu Yin leisurely floated through space. Wasn't the Royal Regent a Limiteer? How was he able to freely move through space? Had he broken through?

Lu Yin did not face any obstacles as he directly entered Earth's atmosphere, landing next to an ocean to gather his bearings before heading towards Jinlin. He wanted to look for some familiar faces.

Because of Lu Yin, Earth had undergone drastic changes, and many people had stepped onto the path of cultivation. Since Jinlin was where Lu Yin had once cultivated, the Great Yu Empire had set up a school specially for cultivators there, on the outskirts of the city. Surprisingly, the headmaster was Zhou Shan. However, he was more of an honorary headmaster since all of the school's cultivation resources were controlled by people who had been sent by the Great Yu Empire.

After a few years of efforts, not only had all of the zombies on Earth been cleared out, but Jinlin had also been rebuilt, and now, it was even more bustling than before. Various aircraft roamed through the sky, while on the ground, people who were clearly different from Earthlings could be seen.

Chapter 539: Nalan Requests Aid

When Lu Yin stepped onto the ground in Jinlin, he let out an emotional sigh. He had been gone for five years, and the place had undergone many changes during that time. The initially desperate surroundings had completely disappeared, and the current Jinlin was like any other city on a bustling planet.

He unleashed his domain to search for Zhou Shan, and his eyes quickly closed in on Zhongshan.

During Earth's past apocalypse, Zhou Shan had been one of the Seven Sages, and he had held control over Jinlin while he stayed at Zhongshan with 80,000 cultivators under his command. At present, Jinlin was completely different. It had returned to being a bustling city, but Zhongshan was the exact same and seemingly had not changed in the slightest.

Lu Yin appeared within Zhongshan and did not bother concealing himself.

Within Zhongshan, there were dozens of people staring blankly at a screen as they watched Lu Yin leisurely enter Zhongshan. One person asked in a trembling voice, "Why does this person look so familiar?"

"Savior Lu Yin! That's Lu Yin! The Great Yu Empire's Royal Regent!" another person screamed as he fervently stared at the screen.

Soon after that, everyone else became excited as well, and someone immediately reported the matter to Zhou Shan.

Because Lu Yin had defeated Qingyu, he had been given the title of Savior while on Earth. Zhou Shan and the others had greatly promoted Lu Yin's contributions as well, which meant that quite a considerable number of ardent worshippers for Lu Yin had emerged everywhere. It was to the extent where even the troops stationed there by the Great Yu Empire had seen the corresponding propaganda, and all of this publicity caused Lu Yin to become the same as a deity to the people on Earth.

The Astral Combat Tournament had further ingrained his image into their hearts, and finally, the Tournament of the Strongest had elevated and finalized his status on Earth. Lu Yin himself did not know how exalted his reputation had become.

The troops in Zhongshan quickly gathered, and soon, all of Jinlin rang with alarms, which startled millions. Everyone looked at Zhongshan with dazed faces. Was there an enemy?

Lu Yin looked up and laughed, knowing that he had been discovered. Within his domain, he noticed that there were many people fervently staring at him.

He did not hurry his pace, and he slowly reminisced about different events as he continued walking along the street. This place was where he had first used his formcast model and become a cultivator. That was where he had first rolled his die and received the Cosmic Art after rolling Pilfer.

To countless Earthlings, this was the place where Lu Yin's legendary journey had begun.

This area had long since become forbidden for most people to enter, and only a small minority were allowed access.

Lu Yin saw the tent that he had stayed in. Even after five years, it still had not changed.

He was rather moved by the sights, and it seemed that it had been worthwhile for him to entrust his feelings to Earth. Even though this meant that he had yet another weakness, he was willing to bear this burden.

Zhou Shan appeared in the sky and howled with laughter as he descended. Lu Yin smiled and watched him approach.

"Earth's Jinlin's defensive troops commander Zhou Shan pays his respects to the Royal Regent."

Zhou Shan immediately saluted and bowed towards Lu Yin, but the younger man supported Zhou Shan and raised him back up with a smile. "Do you really need to go this far?"

Zhou Shan laughed. "Enough respect can't be shown, but for now, you can put your identity as Royal Regent aside. You belong to Earth."

"That's right, I am an Earthling." Lu Yin was happy. When he had first returned to Earth, he had seen familiar faces and felt a warm feeling in his heart that could not be experienced anywhere else. Perhaps he would also feel this way with Big Sis and the others, but that was a slightly different feeling.

There weren't that many people whom Lu Yin was familiar with on Earth. During the two years before the apocalypse, he had lived an ordinary life and had not had many friends. Zhou Shan was one of the few he still considered a friend. Even though the two of them had not spent much time together, Zhou Shan had given Lu Yin a considerable amount of help.

Lu Yin chatted with Zhou Shan for a while, and with his domain, he saw many people surround and watch them with fanatic expressions. Were they that excited to see him? Even if he had defeated Qingyu and saved Earth during the trial, that was still something that had happened five years before.

At that moment, Lu Yin noticed a small girl within his domain. She seemed to be about two or three years old and looked similar to Zhou Shan. Lu Yin had a strange feeling, and he looked at Zhou Shan. "You have a daughter?"

Zhou Shan was stunned. "How did you know?"

Lu Yin smiled. "I saw her. So how is she? Does she have a formcast model?"

Zhou Shan grew embarrassed. "Someone sent one, but I didn't accept it."

"Why not? Are you afraid that people will claim that you're taking bribes?" Lu Yin joked.

Zhou Shan grew serious. "The entire empire knows that you're from Earth and that you have some form of relationship with me. If I accept bribes, it'll cause you to lose face."

Lu Yin tossed Zhou Shan a crystal card. "There's some money in that, and it should be enough for you to buy a formcast model. Don't say no and just take it as a gift from me to your daughter. Oh right, what's her name?"

Zhou Shan smiled and accepted the money. "She's called Xixi. Zhou Xixi."

"A good name. It carries the meaning of hope, and she was born in an era of peace. If there's a chance in the future, send her to the Yu Academy to cultivate. For cultivators, ten years go by in a flash."

Zhou Shan nodded. He knew that the gap between him and Lu Yin was now too vast. Although they had once been friends, once Zhou Shan died, the relationship would also disappear. He was not foolish, and although he would not accept bribes, he was willing to receive some benefits from his relationship with Lu Yin as long as they were within reasonable limits. Otherwise, he would not have accepted the position of honorary headmaster.

He had always wanted to send his daughter to Zenyu Star, and it had just become official with Lu Yin's words at this time.

When a person rode on someone else's success, the benefits that the successful person handed out could also be considered as a display of his feelings. Those who benefited would not be merely his own friends and family, but also the person himself.

Zhou Shan was special to Lu Yin because he had been one of the first Sentinels who Lu Yin had met.

After the final battle on Earth, of the seven sages, Zhang Dingtian and Bai Xue had left like Lu Yin while Liu Shaoge left with Qingyu. Wang You and Tong Zhan had been killed by Liu Shaoge, so only Zhou Shan and Topmist had remained on Earth. Lu Yin had not gotten to know Topmist very well, so he did not look for the man. Lu Yin was satisfied with just visiting Zhou Shan.

Zhao Yu and the others who had followed Lu Yin to Earth felt like they were on vacation, and they conveniently spread some information about the Yu Academy.

Lu Yin would not leave with these students, and he instead boarded his collapsible spacecraft and directly returned to Zenyu Star.

Jupiter was currently like a thorn in his heart. There was nothing that he could do about it for the moment, but in the future, he would think of a way to remove this thorn. He still wanted to use the Hidden Earth Society to uncover some more information regarding the secrets of the primeval surnames.

On his way back to Zenyu Star, Lu Yin decided to recite the Stonewall Scriptures. However, not long after he left Earth, his gadget beeped with a notification. It was actually Madam Nalan trying to contact him.

Lu Yin was shocked, as the enchanting Madam Nalan had not reached out to him in a long time.

“Hello, Madam Nalan.” Lu Yin activated his gadget and greeted the stunning Madam Nalan who appeared on his screen.

Currently, not only had the Inniverse and Outerverse been disconnected, but many weaves in the Outerverse had been similarly separated, and network signals had even become intermittent. However, Madam Nalan’s figure was crisp on the screen, which meant that the connection was smooth and that her current location should not be too far from Frostwave Weave.

“Student Lu, it’s been a while. During this time, your praises have been ringing in my ears, and it’s been difficult to not hear your name,” the mesmerizing Madam Nalan greeted with a smile. Her face only had a slight touch of make-up, but her natural charm was enough to cause Lu Yin’s heart to flutter even through a screen.

She’s a seductress! Lu Yin secretly commented.

“That’s my fault. I shouldn’t have disturbed madam’s peace,” Lu Yin said as he smiled back.

The alluring Madam Nalan smiled. “So how do you intend to compensate me?”

Lu Yin grew embarrassed, as this temptress truly knew how to tease him relentlessly.

She looked amused at Lu Yin’s awkward expression, and she chuckled before asking, “Student Lu, we’re considered friends, right?”

Lu Yin nodded. He quickly thought of how wealthy the Nalan family was, and he immediately replied, “We’re very good friends.”

“If a friend faces difficulty, would you lend a hand?” Her expression turned to one of aggrievement, that also held a hint of helplessness.

Even if such emotions were faked, Lu Yin could not help himself from asking, “Has something happened to the Nalan family?”

The beautiful Madam Nalan sighed. “The Inniverse and Outerverse are separated, and the Sword Sect, which was once our backer, can no longer be counted upon. Shortly before this, the four major financial organizations of the Outerverse held a conference in Tyrannical Weave. But because the universe

underwent huge changes, Tyrannical Weave has practically become completely isolated. One Enlighter from my Nalan family became trapped there, and so as of today, there's no Enlighter protecting my Nalan family."

Lu Yin was stunned. "The conference has already been held?"

Madam Nalan's eyes flickered, and she threw a certain look at Lu Yin. "Student Lu knew of our conference?"

"I heard about it." Lu Yin had heard Liu Shaoge mention it, and the man had even told Lu Yin where the venue was, but he had never mentioned a confirmed time. Lu Yin had not thought that the conference would already have concluded, but it had most likely taken place while he had been trapped at the Sea King's Dome.

The woman on his screen smiled. "It would appear that Student Lu has quite a few social connections. Although our conference is not a secret, few are qualified to know of it, and most of those people are in the business circles. How did Student Lu learn of it?"

"Is that important?" Lu Yin replied.

Her expression grew sullen once again. "True, it's not important. Right now, our Nalan family is like the most delicious cake to those Enlighters who are stuck in the Outerverse. Of the four major corporations, my Nalan family is the closest that these Enlighters can reach. Student Lu, can you help me?"

Lu Yin felt strange. "I recall that there's an Enlighter elder from the Sword Sect who was left behind."

She smiled bitterly. "My surname is Liu, and though the Sword Sect is controlled by the Liu family, there are many who aren't happy with us. Elder Viletree is the one who was left behind in the Outerverse, and he is one of those. Thus, he won't care if my Nalan family lives or dies."

Lu Yin understood. The stronger a power became, the more severe its internal struggles were. This was very normal.

"Student Lu, I know what it means for you to protect the Nalan family. Those Enlighters are plundering resources in a rabid manner, and our Nalan family is very alluring to them. If you protect us, then it will mean that you will become enemies with many Enlighters. However, I have no other choice." The older woman pouted and looked at Lu Yin with a pitiful expression.

Lu Yin's heart fluttered again, as her appearance was too captivating. Not just the Nalan family, but you, too, are alluring. He wanted to say that, but he knew that such words would not be very appropriate.

"If Student Lu is willing to protect my Nalan family, we are also willing to help the Great Yu Empire's economy recover and will also provide aid for the Great Yu Empire to unify Frostwave Weave. In fact, we will even foot the bill for military expenditures while conquering other weaves," she offered serenely.

Lu Yin was moved, as the Nalan family was just too affluent. If this gorgeous Madam Nalan could support the Great Yu Empire with resources, then he was confident in upgrading the gun's offensive capability by a few more grades, which would make it powerful enough to threaten even those old freaks whose power levels were above 300,000. In the Outerverse, a power level of 300,000 was definitely top-notch, and reaching that level would make Lu Yin unrivaled in the Outerverse. Even if the

gun was disregarded, he still had his Money Bombs, Progenitor Wushang's hide, and the universal armor.

Chapter 540: Target

This many high-leveled support items was enough to protect anybody, but the condition was that Lu Yin needed money to obtain them. The Nalan family was in the perfect position to support Lu Yin in this matter.

For Lu Yin, having more money was directly equivalent to increasing his power. The more powerful he became, the more money he needed. He was planning to fight so that he could fight even more. Otherwise, it would be impossible for him to gather enough money to upgrade the gun, the universal armor, and so on and so forth.

“Great. You can come to the Great Yu Empire if you ever run into trouble. I can’t say for sure if I’ll be able to protect you, but I can promise to do my very best,” Lu Yin guaranteed.

Madam Nalan was delighted. “Thank you very much. We’re actually already on our way to Frostwave Weave and will reach Zenyu Star in about a month. At that time, please take care of us.”

Lu Yin nodded and disconnected from the call.

Now that the Innerverse and Outerverse had been separated from each other, the pressure exerted by the Innerverse’s large organizations in the Innerverse had vanished. Lu Yin was feeling incredibly confident, and he wanted to take advantage of this period of isolation. At the very least, he wanted to build up a power that would make the Blaze Realm’s organizations fear him. His goals stretched far beyond just Frostwave Weave.

Elsewhere, Madam Nalan disconnected from the call, and her face turned grim. The pressure that she was facing was far worse than what she had showed Lu Yin. The moment the Innerverse and the Outerverse had been blocked off, she had known that the situation was dire, and she had immediately contacted the Enlighter of the Nalan family. However, her call had not been able to go through. Tyrannical Weave had also been blocked off, and the Nalan family had therefore lost the protection of their Enlighter.

As one of the wealthiest organizations in the Outerverse, she knew what the consequences of losing their best protection was. Hence, after finding out that Lu Yin had managed to stop Huo Houye and had even killed Karthika, she had immediately decided to head towards Frostwave Weave to receive his protection.

She was not entirely certain that Lu Yin would protect them, but he was her only hope. It was much better than placing her hope in those greedy Enlighters. She had interacted with Lu Yin a few times before, and she’d also saved his life in the past. She was even betting on the fact that he wasn’t an ungrateful person.

“Hopefully, we’ll be able to get through this.” Madam Nalan gazed up into the darkness of outer space. The future of the Nalan family was now wholly dependent on Lu Yin. She smiled wryly. Who could have known that there would come a day when she would be forced to rely on that youth. The person whom she had saved in the past was now the one doing the saving; this had to be fate.

On Zenyu Star, during the palace's daily morning meeting, all of the ministers who held sufficient authority had gathered. Only the throne where Undying Yushan had once sat remained empty. Lu Yin slowly sat down on a chair that was placed near the throne as he surveyed the ministers.

After killing Karthika, his status in the Great Yu Empire had changed. If one said that Undying Yushan had controlled the empire through his prestige as the emperor, then Lu Yin was controlling the empire through his undeniable strength, which was more than Undying Yushan had managed to do. The decisions that Undying Yushan had made might have received some voices of dissent, but the decisions that Lu Yin made were indisputable. Even if people objected, their protests were pointless.

The creation of the Lu Ministry of Staff, for instance, had received objections from all five of the primary ministers, but Lu Yin had completely ignored them all. This was the power that came from absolute strength, and it was a stark contrast to how Undying Yushan had governed.

By the time the routine report was finished, the meeting was mostly over, but then, Garope stood up. "Your Highness, I speak on behalf of the Imperial Cabinet when I call for the dissolution of the Lu Ministry of Staff."

"Please have the Lu Ministry of Staff dissolved," the other four ministers from the Imperial Cabinet said in unison as they bowed towards the regent.

Lu Yin coldly replied, "We're not discussing this. You may go."

Garope was at a loss. The Royal Regent was too overbearing, but there was nothing that they could do about his behavior.

The creation of the Lu Ministry of Staff had weakened the authority of the Imperial Cabinet, and its effects were already showing. Thankfully, the girl who was a part of the Lu Ministry of Staff, Huan Sha, still did not have the right to participate in the morning meetings. The Lu Ministry of Staff was more like the regent's aide, and Huan Sha wasn't a key member of the palace yet, so this was still something that the ministers could accept.

After Garope spoke, nobody else had anything to report. Lu Yin then asked, "That's all you have to say? You're done, right?"

Everybody remained silent.

"In that case, it's my turn." Lu Yin surveyed the room and focused on Huo Qingshan and the other captains of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons. "In one month, I need to conquer Frostwave Weave."

That one sentence was enough to alarm everyone in the room, and all of the ministers gaped at Lu Yin.

Actually, the Great Yu Empire had already conquered most of Frostwave Weave. There were a total of 125 filaments in the weave, and the Great Yu Empire had already conquered a hundred of them and assigned them to various people. However, they had been forced to withdraw from some of those filaments due to financial restraints. The Great Yu Empire was not able to keep up with the costs, and if the empire tried to retain control over those filaments, then it might cause the empire's economy to collapse, which would result in serious consequences.

And after that, organizations from the Inniverse had taken over Northcastle Weave, and the Great Yu Empire's military became even more afraid of overextending. This had continued on until the present moment.

"Your highness, we lack the financial resources to support the unification of Frostwave Weave," the finance minister, Gavin, said nervously.

Lu Yin replied, "Focus all of our money on the military. Everything else can wait. Somebody will pay for it in a month."

Gavin was shocked. "Are you saying that somebody else will be bearing the cost, Your Highness?"

Lu Yin did not deny the question. "Enough. We'll go with Undying Yushan's initial plan. We're going to unify Frostwave Weave in one month. Any questions?"

"Not at all, Your Highness." Huo Qingshan was the first to make his stance known.

After that, all of the other captains stated their approval. Even Peach looked serious, which made for quite a funny expression on her face.

In the eastern region of the Outerverse, wars raged in over a dozen weaves. Enlighters were doing as they liked and plundering resources at will, which had led to a public outcry. However, the organizations controlling those weaves were helpless given the current situation. In comparison, Frostwave Weave was very peaceful.

However, after Lu Yin's orders were delivered, Frostwave Weave was also filled with war. The Great Yu Empire's imperial army set off and swept through the area.

They'd already conquered a hundred filaments in the past, so now, they were basically just leisurely traveling around. The imperial army had an easy time.

Meanwhile, Lu Yin summoned Tianming.

After Tianming admitted to his crimes, Lu Yin had restricted him to the Yu Academy which was located on the first ring that encircled Zenyu Star. Tianming had thought that he'd be imprisoned there for a long time, but just a few days after his sentence was handed out, Lu Yin summoned him.

"Greetings, Your Highness." Tianming bowed to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin gazed down at him from above. "I'll give you the chance to make up for your crimes. If you do well, you will become a citizen of the Great Yu Empire and whatever you have done in the past will be forgotten."

Tianming looked up in excitement. "Thank you, Your Highness."

"Don't be in such a rush to thank me. This isn't an easy task." Lu Yin had Tianming stand up and then continued, saying, "I need you to summon the surviving experts of the Nine Stacks Sect using your status as the successor of the sect. You'll start a war to take over the sect."

Tianming was shocked. "Your Highness, do you mean..."

Lu Yin stared right at him. “The one who destroyed the Nine Stacks Sect was Lei Long from the Dire Barbarian Clan. I need you to take revenge and regain control of the Nine Stacks Sect. Of course, I know that you can’t do that alone, so I’ll be helping you.”

Tianming was no fool, and he immediately understood what Lu Yin was insinuating. The Royal Regent wanted Tianming to gather the people from the Nine Stacks Sect and unite them to take care of Lei Long. In other words, Lu Yin intended to use Lei Long to wipe out the remnants of the sect. Then, with Tianming’s position as the successor of the Nine Stacks Sect, he’d be able to publicly request Lu Yin for help. This would truly eliminate everybody from the Nine Stacks Sect while also giving Lu Yin an excuse to meddle in Grandtop Weave’s affairs.

Lu Yin was basically using someone else in order to achieve his goals. He’d use Lei Long and have the Enlighter kill the stubborn disciples of the Nine Stacks Sect who were in Grandtop Weave and then he would use that as an excuse to invade Grandtop Weave.

If Tianming followed Lu Yin’s orders, then he would become a sinner of Grandtop Weave. He would be the one who let Lu Yin into Grandtop Weave and would also be the one to personally help Lu Yin find and destroy the surviving remnants of the Nine Stacks Sect. In other words, Tianming would be the one who destroyed any hope of revival that the Nine Stacks Sect still had.

Tianming looked sullen, never having expected Lu Yin to ask him to do such a thing.

Lu Yin carefully observed Tianming. “So? You’re not willing to do this?”

Tianming looked like he was struggling with the decision and hung his head.

“The Nine Stacks Sect has already been destroyed. You know this, or else you wouldn’t have admitted to your crime. I’m helping your sect get revenge, so you should be thanking me,” Lu Yin stated.

Tianming took a deep breath and eventually agreed. “Yes, Your Highness.”

Lu Yin smirked and patted him on the shoulder. “Great. I’ll teach you Nine Stacks. With this, nobody will doubt that you’re the successor of the sect.”

A while later, Tianming left for Grandtop Weave. Lu Yin was not at all worried that the youth would betray him, because where else could Tianming go? There was no place for him in Grandtop Weave or Frostwave Weave. Admitting to his crime had proven that he could not give up on Frostwave Weave, and he had only admitted to his status as a spy because he had been afraid that he might be found out in the future. Someone like Tianming would never turn their back on Lu Yin.

What he needed to consider now was how to deal with Lei Long.

Killing Karthika hadn’t been enough for Lu Yin. The benefits that he had received from killing that guy had stoked his greed, and Lei Long was probably more wealthy than Karthika. After all, Lei Long had stolen years worth of resources from the Nine Stacks Sect. With what he gained from killing this Enlighter on top of the support that he would soon receive from the Nalan family, Lu Yin felt confident in being able to soon take on a powerhouse with a power level over 300,000. Of course, that was only if somebody with such strength even existed in the Outerverse.

In other words, once Lu Yin killed Lei Long, not only would he gain control over Grandtop Weave, but he would also make all the other Enlighters fear him enough to purposefully avoid provoking him. Not to mention that he would also be increasing his own strength. He was essentially killing many birds with this one stone.

However, since Lu Yin had already killed Karthika, then Lei Long was sure to be on his guard. Lu Yin raised his gadget: it was time to have a certain someone make good on their promise.

Most of the Enlighters who had taken part in the events at Planet Pyrolyte had been left stranded in the Outerverse. Granny Chan from the Lily family was one of them, and she was the person Lu Yin intended on contacting.

During this time, the people that the Great Yu Empire had sent out had discovered that Northline Flowzone's Granny Chan now wielded control over Flaxen Weave after she had annihilated that weave's controlling organization.

Flaxen Weave and Frostwave Weave were only separated by Lars Weave, so they weren't too far from each other.

Lily Anne had already returned to the Innaverse, so Lu Yin could not get into contact with her. However, it wasn't that difficult for him to contact other people of Northline Flowzone.

Half a day later, Lu Yin tapped his gadget, and a screen appeared before him that showed Granny Chan's wrinkled face.

"Apologies for disturbing you, Granny Chan," Lu Yin said respectfully.

Granny Chan looked at Lu Yin in admiration. She had heard about how he had killed Karthika and stopped Huo Houye. While this youth was still only a Limiteer, he was already somebody who could be considered as equal to them, even if he had used external tools to achieve this feat.

"There's no need to be so polite. I made a promise to you back at Northline Flowzone. If you need help, I'm willing to lend my aid so long as it's something that I'm capable of. Are you planning to call in that promise now?" She asked without beating around the bush.

Lu Yin nodded and spoke grimly. "Lei Long from the Dire Barbarian Clan has taken over Grandtop Weave, and his next target is my Frostwave Weave. I would like to ask you to work with me to get rid of him so that Frostwave Weave will no longer have anything to worry about."

She looked grim. "You want to get rid of Lei Long?"

Lu Yin nodded and stared straight into her eyes without backing down at all.