

Chapter 541: Alluring Seductress

Granny Chan frowned, “Little brother, an Enlighter’s not easy to deal with.”

Lu Yin was helpless. “Junior knows this, but Lei Long has clearly set Frostwave Weave as his next target to plunder. If I don’t act, then I will only be waiting for death. On the other hand, we can make a gamble. With Senior’s assistance and the weapon that my Master gave me, I am extremely confident that we can kill Lei Long.”

Granny Chan’s expression changed. “Master? Which powerhouse is your Master?”

Lu Yin smiled bitterly. “I don’t know. I only know that my Master was able to send me from Tempest Flowzone straight into Chaos Flowzone.”

Granny Chan looked shocked, as if she didn’t quite believe such a claim. The distance that Lu Yin claimed to have crossed with his Master’s help was more than half of the Innerverse. This was something that she couldn’t do, and not even Northgate Taisui was capable of accomplishing such a feat. Traveling through the Innerverse was not as simple as traversing the Outerverse. There were countless experts in the Innerverse who could pierce through the void, and to move across half of the Innerverse without being detected by any of the countless powerhouses there indicated an unimaginably terrifying power.

As she stared at Lu Yin’s ignorant face, Granny Chan was certain that the kid did not know how difficult such a feat truly was. No wonder Lu Yin had a weapon that could instantly kill an Enlighter, as even Enlighters would be ants before such an existence.

Unfortunately, the Innerverse and Outerverse had been separated, so there were no benefits to be had even if Lu Yin’s master was truly that powerful. Of course, the future was impossible to predict, and it was possible that the Astral River would recover in time.

Granny Chan suppressed her shock, and a smile appeared on her face. “Many secluded seniors are not willing to reveal their names, so that’s quite normal as little brother’s Master might be one of those seniors. However, with the current disconnect between the Innerverse and the Outerverse, it’s a pity that such people are not able to come out.”

Lu Yin sighed. “Exactly, otherwise I would have long since asked Master to act.”

Granny Chan appeared to be deep in thought. A moment later, she looked back at Lu Yin’s expectant gaze and said, “Alright, Granny will join little brother on a walk—but not to deal with Lei Long—only to intimidate him. Granny will force Lei Long to back away after he learns the truth of the situation, but this will also mean that little brother can’t challenge the Dire Barbarian Clan again.”

She had not forgotten about Lu Yin’s ability to exacerbate matters. During the contest on Planet Pyrolyte, this kid had offended a vast majority of the Innerverse’s great forces. Otherwise, Karthika would not have frantically rushed over to deal with Lu Yin.

Lu Yin hurriedly promised to abide by Granny Chan’s terms, which satisfied her.

The two agreed to go on a trip to Grandtop Weave after one month.

They disconnected from the call, and Lu Yin relaxed. With Granny Chan with him, he would be able to act freely. Even though he would not be able to kill Lei Long, Lei Long would not be able to deal with Lu Yin either.

With Progenitor Wushang's hide, Lu Yin felt confident in being able to create an opportune moment, just like he had with Karthika. At first, Karthika had been cautious of Lu Yin, but there was no way he could have accounted for Progenitor Wushang's hide. Lei Long would be no different. However, Lu Yin first had to observe how many rune lines Lei Long had. After all, the difference between a power level of 210,000 and 290,000 was incredible. Lu Yin did not know what Karthika's exact power level was, so he would have to wait a month to find out. The worst outcome would be if Lu Yin could not kill Lei Long, but at least Lei Long would be intimidated by Granny Chan and would give up on taking any action against Frostwave Weave.

A month quickly passed by, and Frostwave Weave did not let the month pass in peace. The Great Yu Empire's troops had stormed all throughout the weave, triggering multiple wars. The Thirteen Imperial Squadrons' captains were invincible. Even if they fought against Hunters, their opponents were thoroughly scared by the news of Lu Yin killing an Enlightener, and so, they had all retreated.

The war in Frostwave Weave progressed very smoothly.

And one month later, practically all of Frostwave Weave belonged to the Great Yu Empire.

After unifying Frostwave Weave, new problems arose. The Great Yu Empire did not have enough people to manage various places, which made things difficult for Lu Yin. Left with no other choice, he could only temporarily select people from the affected areas with a talent in military supervision to manage those areas, but that was not a long-term solution. Such people did not truly belong to the Great Yu Empire, and it would be easy for rebellions to foment in such a scenario. Not to mention, such people could not be easily controlled.

Lu Yin tasked his staff to think of a method to remedy this, but they did not have any brilliant ideas for the time being. They did think up a plan, but it wasn't actually a plan. They suggested that the empire bring the direct relatives of the various region's newly appointed governors to Zenyu Star. Those people would then slowly integrate into the empire after being raised on the empire's way of life. They would also be used as hostages.

Lu Yin did not want to use the threat of hostages, but Frostwave Weave was truly too large, and unpredictable events could easily occur from poor management. They could only use this method as a temporary measure of control.

This was merely Frostwave Weave, and his future territory might not be limited to only Frostwave Weave. It should be known that, in the past, not only had Undying Yushan formulated strategic plans to unify Frostwave Weave, but he had also cast his ambition out towards the surrounding weaves as well, it was just that he had not had enough time to formulate those plans.

The Great Yu Empire's current top priority was to quickly nurture talents for the military and the empire's bureaucracy.

Another urgent issue was the economy. Now that most of the empire's finances had been diverted to the military, the economy had stopped functioning normally. Many of the governmental departments

were paralyzed, and if this went on long-term, then it would lead to even greater disorder and chaos. At the moment, many merchants had deliberately raised the prices of their goods to earn massive profits. This situation would only worsen, and the economy had to be reinvigorated to return the prices to normal.

Lu Yin had contacted Madam Nalan several times, and finally, the Nalan family arrived at Zenyu Star.

In outer space, above the planet, the Nalan family's gigantic spacecraft appeared.

Lu Yin personally welcomed the ship, and the finance minister, Gavin, softly commented from behind, "Your Highness, the Nalan family must have intentionally delayed their arrival. They know that the empire is facing an economic crisis, so they intend to use this to increase their value to us."

Lu Yin did not reply, as there was no reason why he would not think of such a ploy if Gavin had. This was simply a method to increase one's importance, and it was similar to how many people would appear at the final moment when rescuing someone. As long as there were no severe repercussions, these trivial methods were harmless in the end.

"You understand the Empire's finances better than myself. If we discuss matters later, then you can speak up," Lu Yin instructed.

Gavin acknowledged his words.

At Zenyu Star's space station, all of the other spacecraft had been evicted for the day by Lu Yin as a show of respect for the Nalan family, as well as to specially welcome them.

Within the giant spacecraft, there was a hint of a smile on the alluring madam Nalan's lips.

As the spacecraft trembled upon docking, the hatch opened, and a beautiful woman was the first to step out. Lu Yin immediately moved forward. "Madam, did your journey here go smoothly?"

Behind Lu Yin, the welcoming group was stunned by this woman's beauty. She never made attempts to be particularly seductive, but her natural charms nonetheless captured everyone.

She exchanged several pleasantries with Lu Yin and listened to him introduce the several people from the Great Yu Empire accompanying him. After that, she waved a hand, and a family maid stepped forward to hand Gavin an exquisite box.

Gavin was astonished.

Lu Yin looked at Madam Nalan and she smiled back at him. "Your Highness Royal Regent, this is my Nalan family's small gift to the Great Yu Empire as an expression of our gratitude. Please accept it."

Lu Yin had not expected the stunning Madam Nalan to be so straightforward, but he did not act pretentious. He nodded to Gavin, who immediately accepted the box. Within it was a silver Mavis Bank card. With the Nalan family's degree of wealth, once they took action, they definitely would not be hesitant. Moreover, the head of the family had already agreed to help with the Great Yu Empire's military expenditures in unifying Frostwave Weave.

Gavin felt excited, as they finally had money again.

Lu Yin did not quite mind, as he was more concerned about whether or not the Nalan family would financially support him personally, which was not something that the expenditures of the Great Yu Empire's military could compare to.

Although the Great Yu Empire had unified Frostwave Weave, how much would the expedition costs tally up to? Lu Yin still possessed more than 3,000 star essence, which was equivalent to about 3 billion star crystals. That amount was enough to fund the Great Yu Empire's military, but he would not personally fund the empire unless it was in a crisis.

Lu Yin had become someone who had reached a higher level of wealth, and he had recently spent thousands of star essence. Star essence, not star crystals, which meant that the amount that he had spent would have been enough to fund the Great Yu Empire's military for decades. It should be acknowledged that the Great Yu Empire's military expenditures were calculated with universal currency and not even star crystals.

This disparity between Lu Yin's personal expenses and those of the empire was extremely wide.

This was the Outerverse, whereas any Inniverse power's military expenses would not stop there. Regardless of whether it was the troops' meals, weapons, or cultivation resources, the quality available in the Outerverse could not compare to the Inniverse's.

The Nalan family had expressed their sincerity with this move, and Lu Yin personally brought the beautiful Madam Nalan on a tour of Zenyu Star. Truthfully, he himself had not quite fully explored the planet either.

They sent the rest of the entourage away. Madam Nalan stretched as they stood atop a cliff beside a sea. Her curvy figure caused Lu Yin to involuntarily swallow his saliva several times, as her image was too captivating.

"How exhausting! I really want to have a good sleep," she spoke with exhaustion and blurred eyes.

Lu Yin licked his lips. "Your residence has been arranged to be close to the palace. It was previously the Vice Treasurer's residence, but it has since been refurbished."

She beamed at Lu Yin. "Compared to when I first met you, after becoming the Royal Regent and managing this empire, your disposition has changed greatly."

"Really?" Lu Yin looked at her. "How so?"

She rolled her eyes and pursed her lips. She smiled and said, "I don't know quite how to put it. You were a student back then, but right now, you are a leader."

Lu Yin shrugged. "It's just a fringe weave of the Outerverse."

She stared at him. "I don't know why, but I have a feeling that the current you has only just begun to take flight."

Lu Yin laughed. "You're tired. Go and rest. Don't worry, as I'll do all I can to protect you here."

She looked into Lu Yin's eyes and suddenly moved closer to him. Her scent flooded Lu Yin's nose, and he subconsciously tried to back away, but the cliff was at his back. He had no way to retreat, and yet, she continued moving closer to him. Now, she was just a mere ten centimeters away from him. If Lu Yin moved just the slightest bit forward, he would kiss her.

"Didn't you know? It's easy for a woman to misunderstand you when you speak such words." Madam Nalan's soft lips moved gently as she spoke.

Lu Yin's heartbeat rapidly increased. This temptress was just too seductive. At this moment, he had forgotten everything else; only this beautiful woman existed in his eyes. His breathing grew ragged, and he subconsciously wanted to lean forward to kiss her.

However, right before he leaned forward, she smiled and backed away from him. She had avoided that situation, and she only left Lu Yin with a gentle, beautiful smile before she turned to leave.

Lu Yin panted heavily as he stared at the fairy's departing figure. He felt even more exhausted than after battling against an Enlighter.

What was this feeling? He had felt like he could not restrain himself, and he had felt an impulse to push her down. This feeling had been too overpowering.

"Your Highness Royal Regent, I'll stay at Zenyu Star for now. Rest assured, I'll pay for rent, hehe," Madam Nalan's voice called out before gradually fading into the distance.

Lu Yin took a deep breath and then let it out as he smiled bitterly and stared into the distance. What an alluring seductress.

At this moment, a message from Gavin caused Lu Yin's gadget to beep. There were five billion star crystals in the silver card that Madam Nalan had given the empire.

Chapter 542: Insider Information About Mavis

Lu Yin looked up, as that was enough funds, but only for the Great Yu Empire's military expenditures. He needed to obtain more money from the Nalan family's hands in order to increase his own strength.

In another place, Shalosh was accompanying Gavin to a branch of the Mavis Bank one filament away from Zenyu Star, as all the money from the Mavis Bank on Zenyu Star had already been withdrawn. Many people were trying to build their own personal reserves right now.

The two had just left the branch when Shalosh's face changed. He quickly pulled Gavin to his side and dashed into the sky. The next moment, a man in front of the two people raised his head and suddenly charged furiously into the Mavis Bank and slammed his hand against the floor.

Gavin's face went pale, and he stared downward in shock. "What's this?"

"He's a Hunter, and he's trying to rob the bank," Shalosh said in a deep voice.

When he heard that this man was a Hunter, Gavin trembled. There were not even ten such powerhouses in all of Frostwave Weave, and only a meagre two or three of them serving the empire. Neither of them had expected to bump into a Hunter who was robbing a bank at the same time of their visit. This person had to be someone from the Innerverse who had been left behind in the Outerverse.

The same instant that the Hunter acted, the entire planet quivered, as an ordinary planet could not withstand the might of a powerhouse whose power level had reached 100,000 or higher.

The Great Yu Empire's troops on the planet were immediately deployed, but they were stopped by Shalosh. Their opponent was a Hunter, and even Shalosh himself was not confident of dealing with such an expert.

But this Hunter was too foolish if he was actually dreaming of robbing a Mavis Bank.

Mavis Banks could be found throughout the Innerverse and Outerverse, and they would not have continued to exist if they could be robbed so easily. Even if this place was a branch on an ordinary planet in the Outerverse, it still was not someplace that could be easily breached.

The floor of the Mavis Bank shattered, but not even half a minute passed before the Hunter dashed back into the sky. He looked excited as he had evidently reaped some benefits. However, the moment he left the planet's surface, the great tree that was littered with universal currency in front of the bank branch started to move. The tree's branches shot through the void and wrapped around the Hunter.

He bellowed, pulled out a long knife, and attempted to slice through the branch, but his efforts were all in vain. The branch was not chopped off, and it continued to twine around the Hunter as its strength increased.

The Hunter howled in agony. "Spare me! I don't dare! I don't dare anymore."

From within the bank, the branch manager coldly watched the scene unfold, disdain and loathing in his eyes. Over the course of countless years, many people had plotted to steal from this Mavis Bank, but how many of them had actually been able to succeed? This person had assumed that, just because the Outerverse had been cut off from the Innerverse, that the Mavis Banks would lose their power. However, the truth was that the bank had considered such events long ago.

With a crack, that Hunter was snapped into two, and fresh blood spattered onto the ground along with the universal currency, staining everything red.

Outside the bank, many people witnessed this scene. They had a terrified look, but then they looked back at the bank. Their attitudes had completely changed at this moment, as this place possessed the power to easily kill a Hunter.

Gavin was stunned. Truthfully, ever since the Innerverse and Outerverse had been separated, he had considered the idea of robbing a Mavis Bank whenever the Great Yu Empire's military funds were strained. However, he was thrilled at this moment that he had never voiced his thoughts, as he had just seen how ridiculous such an attempt would be.

Shalosh looked solemn, as that tree was rather frightening. But even more scary was the fact that there had been no energy fluctuations, and he hadn't been able to sense a power level even when the tree killed the Hunter. That was extremely crafty, and it must be insider information exclusive to the Mavis Bank.

Even if the Outerverse had been isolated from the Innerverse, its Mavis Banks were still capable of protecting themselves.

It didn't take long for news of the matter to spread, and Lu Yin was one of the first to learn of it. He had not expected that the Mavis Banks would have such hidden power, and this had even happened at a very ordinary branch of the Outerverse. In that case, what about the branches in the Innaverse? How terrifying were those places?

The Mavis Bank indeed lived up to its reputation of being a strong power that controlled the human race's currency.

However, now that the Outerverse was isolated, could the Mavis Banks' reserves last? The star crystals and universal currency that were held in the branch on Zenyu Star had already been essentially all withdrawn, and it looked like the branches on the other planets weren't far behind.

Lu Yin instructed Gavin to initiate a conversation with the manager of Zenyu Star's branch of the Mavis Bank in order to explore the bank's intentions.

Lu Yin then went to look for Hai Qiqi, as he had not seen her in some time.

The lively Hai Qiqi had once made others feel helpless and had given multiple people headaches. But the current Hai Qiqi made others pity her.

Lu Yin looked at her, huddled over and staring at the ocean. This was how she had spent her recent days.

"Based on some information that we've obtained, the powerful energy that separates the Outerverse's weaves is already declining, as is the Astral River. One day, it will return to its original state," Lu Yin spoke as he walked over to Hai Qiqi.

Her eyes lit up as she looked at him with hope. "Really?"

Lu Yin nodded.

"How much longer will that take? How much longer before I can return to the Sea King's Dome?" Hai Qiqi asked urgently; her expression was both nervous and expectant.

Lu Yin considered his answer. "Around ten years."

When she heard his response, it seemed as if her soul had fled her body, and she went pale.

Lu Yin sighed. "Ten years is already pretty decent. It's much better than never being able to return."

She nodded and sat back down. "I got it. Thank you."

Lu Yin patted her head and turned to leave. He sighed inwardly, as he had actually been lying to her. The energy that had separated the Outerverse was indeed dwindling, but it was doing so very slowly. At the current rate, forget ten years—not even 100, 1,000, or even 10,000 years would be enough for the Astral River to return to its original state. Lu Yin had told the girl that it would be ten years so that she wouldn't lose hope and could use this time to accept reality.

She missed her hometown, and Lu Yin himself had many people who he missed: Big Sis, Uncle Reuben, and his fellow students from Astral-10. Even those such as Mu Rong, Ling Que, Liu Shaoqiu, and Zhanlong Daynight occasionally appeared in his mind. After the events on Planet Pyrolyte, all of those

people had returned to the Innerverse, which meant that he may not ever meet them again in his lifetime.

Lu Yin could also be emotional at times. In the old universe, the great powers had constricted him like pythons, and it had been difficult to breathe at times. In the current universe, Lu Yin was completely free, but he often found himself reminiscing about that feeling of restriction, the battles of wits that he had fought with Nightking Yuanjing, as well as his days of fighting against those genius Limiteers.

Unfortunately, those days would not appear again unless the Astral River recovered. And at that time, things would no longer remain the same.

The greatest pity was that Lu Yin would not be able to make any progress on who his mortal enemy actually was. It would be extremely difficult to collect the debt of those seventy two lives whose surname "Lu" had been written down on that paper.

To the east of the Frostwave Weave lay Grandtop Weave, which the Nine Stacks Sect had once ruled. But about three months ago, the Dire Barbarian Clan had appeared in Grandtop Weave and completely destroyed the Nine Stacks Sect. Most of the sect's experts had suffered serious injuries or been killed, with only a few managing to escape.

The Nine Stacks Sect had been established on a giant meteorite with an extensive size that even surpassed Zenyu Star's. The meteorite could not be found in a fixed location, as it was purposefully controlled by the Nine Stacks Sect in such a way that it roamed all throughout the weave. This had been one of the key reasons why the sect had been able to maintain control of Grandtop Weave.

Historically, the Nine Stacks Sect had coveted Frostwave Weave, and there had been many clashes with the Great Yu Empire. The sect had been repelled each time, and the two forces had been enemies ever since.

There was no sunlight or life on the floating meteorite's surface. Instead, the Nine Stacks Sect had hollowed out the meteorite's interior and constructed an ecosphere within it.

Within the roaming meteorite, there was a city with mountains and rivers. Everything that was needed could be found in this place.

Lei Long sat cross-legged in a dark, secret room within the city. As an Enlighter, he did not intervene in the clan's issues. Instead, he had passed all matters to his subordinates. Ever since the Innerverse and Outerverse had been separated, he had only stepped out once, which was to destroy the strongest expert from the Nine Stacks Sect, whose strength had almost reached that of an Enlighter.

Thousands of miles away from the Nine Stacks Sect's headquarters, there was a group of people who had gathered together. They were the lucky survivors of the Nine Stacks Sect. Two of them were Hunters, and Tianming was also among the group.

"Tianming, is what you say true? There's someone willing to help our Nine Stacks Sect deal with Lei Long?" One of the Hunters stared at Tianming.

Tianming spoke in a deep voice. "This is because of a favor left behind by our sect's ancestors. Even if you don't believe me, you can trust in the ancestors."

"That's right. Tianming has inherited the sect's Nine Stacks and has even selflessly passed the Nine Stacks on to everyone here. Everyone should understand his kind intentions," another Hunter spoke. The woman had average looks and appeared to be rather delicate. Her face revealed a different expression when she looked at Tianming.

The male Hunter's eyes flickered, and he nodded. He then surveyed the people who had gathered. "Since that's the case, we'll wait for that Enlightener to appear and deal with Lei Long."

Tianming did not speak any further as he turned to face the headquarters of the Nine Stacks Sect with a complex expression on his face. After this day, there would no longer be a Nine Stacks Sect in the universe.

At that moment, the female Hunter walked over beside Tianming and softly said, "As a sect elder, I usually refrain from asking about details concerning disciples, but I do know of your matters."

Tianming's body trembled, and he looked over at her in surprise.

She continued, "The girl who you once favored is my niece."

Tianming lowered his head and suppressed the astonishment that had appeared in his heart.

"If the sect had truly given their inheritance to you, then they would not have sent you undercover to the Great Yu Empire, and they also would not have split you and my niece up. However, that matter caused you to hate the sect. You are no heir of the sect." Her tone grew harsher as she stared at him.

Tianming retorted, "I've inherited the Sect's Nine Stacks."

"Nine Stacks is nothing more than a method of applying strength. That's not the only inheritance. From what I know, the Great Yu Empire's Royal Regent, Lu Yin, is able to display Thirty Stacks, so I expect that passing Nine Stacks over to you wouldn't be too hard."

Tianming's eyes flashed, but he had no way of refuting her words.

She looked behind and then moved closer to Tianming and quietly asked, "What's your objective? Or rather, what is it that the Great Yu Empire's Royal Regent wants?"

Tianming stared at her, and his fist slowly grew clenched tighter.

The woman sneered. "You want to act against me?"

Tianming's gaze trembled. He quickly realized that despite the woman's youthful appearance, she was still a Hunter while he was only a Limiteer. The disparity between them was far too great.

"What do you want?" Tianming asked.

She looked towards the Nine Stacks Sect. "The Nine Stacks Sect has already been annihilated. I want to cast my lot in with the Great Yu Empire, and you can help by recommending me to the Royal Regent, Lu Yin."

Tianming had already guessed her intentions. This woman had her own schemes, or else she would have exposed him long ago. "Alright."

She nodded in satisfaction. "So what are we currently waiting for?"

"The Dire Barbarian Clan," Tianming said.

She was shocked. "You intend to use the Dire Barbarian Clan to eradicate us?"

Tianming nodded. "Those are His Majesty's orders."

She pondered this new piece of information. Even if she had already abandoned the Nine Stacks Sect, she had still built up a sense of camaraderie with these other people since they were from the same sect. It was a bit much for her to send them to their deaths.

Chapter 543: Lei Long's Death

Moments later, a shockwave swept towards them from a distance. The people of the Nine Stacks Sect were all stunned. "What's going on? Have we been discovered?"

"How dare you Nine Stacks Sect remnants come back! You're looking for death!" An ugly, middle aged man shouted at them from above. He opened his mouth as soundwaves swept through the entire area.

The woman grabbed Tianming and quickly retreated. The other Hunter from the Nine Stacks Sect flew up into the sky and began fighting against the Hunter from the Dire Barbarian Clan, but the remaining Nine Stacks Sect members were quickly surrounded by the Dire Barbarian Clan. Another battle was about to erupt.

Meanwhile, Kayze was among this crowd of people from the Dire Barbarian Clan as he had been asked to stay in the Outerverse after the battle on Planet Pyrolyte due to the usefulness of his innate gift. In contrast, Avery had long since returned to the Innerverse.

Kayze had noticed Tianming and the female Hunter, who were some distance away, and he felt rather curious. Why hadn't the female Hunter joined the battle?

"Where's Lu Yin? When is he coming?" the female Hunter asked.

Tianming stared at the sky and watched the battle between the two Hunters take place.

The Dire Barbarian Clan had only sent one Hunter powerhouse, and although his strength was much greater than the male Hunter from the Nine Stacks Sect, it wasn't enough to achieve an instant victory.

The male Hunter from the Nine Stacks Sect shouted at the female Hunter who hadn't started fighting. "Lan Wu, what are you waiting for? Get over here and help me!"

Lan Wu anxiously looked at Tianming.

Suddenly, an indescribable pressure surrounded the planet. It was the power of an Enlighter.

Everyone stopped battling as soon as they felt that pressure, and the people from the Nine Stacks Sect looked up at the sky in fear, wondering when Lei Long had suddenly shown up..

The cultivators from the Nine Stacks Sect were dejected. They knew that they were in trouble.

The male Hunter looked at Tianming, wondering why the Enlighter who the youth had mentioned still hadn't arrived yet.

Tianming heaved a sigh of relief as soon as he saw Lei Long appear.

Lan Wu glanced at Tianming. If Lu Yin didn't appear soon, then they would all end up dead.

Lei Long arrogantly looked at the people on the ground. "Some people truly go looking for trouble." He raised a hand high into the air. It would be extremely easy for him to kill everyone here, but the first person he planned on killing was the male Hunter. Lei Long's voice was a sound wave that easily pierced through the Hunter, and his corpse fell to the ground. The impact sent out more shockwaves that instantly killed a dozen cultivators from the Nine Stacks Sect.

Suddenly, a voice shouted, "The Nine Stacks Sect requests help from the Great Yu Empire!"

Lei Long turned in the direction of the voice and saw Tianming. The sky in front of Lei Long abruptly split open, and two people walked out. One of them was Granny Chan, who was an Enlighter from Northline Flowzone while the other was Lu Yin, who was wearing his universal armor.

Lei Long's expression darkened as soon as he saw Granny Chan and Lu Yin arrive.

The survivors from the Nine Stacks Sect were relieved, as an Enlighter had truly appeared to help them.

Lan Wu was astonished. She had thought that only Lu Yin would appear, and she hadn't expected that he would be accompanied by an Enlighter. It was no wonder why Lu Yin had been able to kill Karthika; he had probably received some help from this Enlighter, which greatly explained that feat.

"Granny Chan, why are you in Grandtop Weave?" Lei Long asked the old lady as his gaze swept past Lu Yin. His eyes revealed some apprehension.

Grandtop Weave bordered Frostwave Weave, and Lei Long had long planned on invading Frostwave Weave. However, after he had heard about the news that Lu Yin had killed Karthika, he had immediately put a pause to such plans as Karthika's power level was even higher than Lei Long's. Despite the fact that Lu Yin was just a Limiteer, Lei Long couldn't underestimate the youth after such an accomplishment.

Granny Chan didn't answer since she was just tagging along with Lu Yin in order to intimidate Lei Long. Lu Yin was the one who would be making the decisions.

Lu Yin filled his eyes with star energy to look at Lei Long. A short while later, he sighed in relief. Although Lei Long had more rune lines than Karthika, they still numbered less than Karthika's tamed beast, which meant that Lei Long was actually weaker than Karthika.

"Senior Lei Long, how has the Nine Stacks Sect offended you to where you would annihilate the entire sect?" Lu Yin asked.

Lei Long raised a brow. "Young one, you can't interfere in my business. Don't assume that you are my peer just because you managed to kill Karthika. I know that you relied on external objects to kill him, which means that it's most likely some sort of power from the Sea King. However, how many times can you rely on that power?"

Lu Yin tilted his head. "You're right, I really don't have any right to be your peer. However, you are a powerhouse in the Innerverse who has been openly annihilating Outerverse forces. I'm worried that your next target might be the Great Yu Empire, as I heard that that's your plan."

Lei Long sneered. "So what? Go away. I don't have time to talk to you." And with that, Lei Long turned to look at Granny Chan. "The Dire Barbarian Clan has never had any ties to your Northline Flowzone, so I hope that you won't anger me. Although the Outerverse and the Innerverse have been separated for now, they will be rejoined in the future. Will Northline Flowzone be able to defend themselves against the rage of my Dire Barbarian Clan at that time?"

Granny Chan slowly answered, "I just wanted to ask Brother Lei to not attack Frostwave Weave for my sake."

Lei Long narrowed his eyes and glanced at Lu Yin. "Young man, you have some strong connections."

Lu Yin smiled. "Senior Lei, I wouldn't dare interfere with your plans, and senior Granny Chan isn't challenging you either since neither of us want to become enemies with you. In this case, what would you think about making a deal?"

Lei Long's eyes sparkled. "What deal?"

"I have some connections with the Nine Stacks Sect, so I can't bear to watch them be annihilated. I am willing to give you a power vessel in exchange for their safety, so I hope that senior will allow me to bring these people away with me," Lu Yin said.

Lei Long and Granny Chan both looked at Lu Yin in shock. Power vessels, such as Ze Lin's dagger, were extremely rare, and each one was unique. If used properly, such items were able to turn a battle around.

There were only a few power vessels in the universe, and they were things that even Enlighter powerhouses couldn't obtain easily.

"You have a power vessel?" Lei Long was stunned.

Lu Yin nodded. "It's just a small thing, so it won't be too helpful to you. However, you can give it to your juniors as it can help protect them."

Lei Long studied Lu Yin closely, but his explanation actually made sense. If Lu Yin had a power vessel that Lei Long found useful, then the Enlighter would never believe it if Lu Yin tried to trade such a treasure away for the useless people that he was about to kill. However, even if this power vessel was useless to Lei Long, he could still take a good look at it.

He didn't doubt that Lu Yin had a power vessel as the youth even had a precious treasure like Fatesand. Having a power vessel wouldn't be that strange after that.

"Fine, I'll let them go," Lei Long said.

Lu Yin pointed at the Nine Stacks Sect's headquarters. "Senior, I also wish to ask for you to return the Nine Stacks Sect's headquarters to them."

Lei Long's gaze turned cold. "Young man, don't push me. I'm already being merciful by sparing them and agreeing to not attack Frostwave Weave. You'd better stop testing my patience."

Granny Chan told Lu Yin, "Don't ask for too much. Don't worry, he won't lay a hand on Frostwave Weave."

Lu Yin reluctantly agreed. "Fine. Thank you, senior."

Lu Yin then pulled out a box from his cosmic ring and tossed it over to Lei Long.

Lei Long was still wary of Lu Yin despite everything that had just been said. However, he was much less cautious than in the beginning. Furthermore, he didn't believe that Lu Yin could actually kill him with an unmanned weapon. The box also didn't seem to be dangerous, and any Enlighter would be able to detect danger if there was something that could threaten them.

He opened the box and was dazed as soon as he saw Progenitor Wushang's skin.

Lu Yin's eyes flickered, and he immediately took out his gun and shot at Lei Long.

Bang

The air trembled, and less than a moment later, blood spurted out of Lei Long's heart. Half of his body had been shattered, and the immense pain snapped him out of the daze. He suddenly felt weak since half of his body had disappeared, and his blood was flowing freely into the ground.

He looked at the wound close to his heart in disbelief as the box fell from his hand.

This drastic turn of events stunned everyone, even Granny Chan.

No one had expected Lu Yin to immediately attack and give Lei Long such heavy injuries.

Lei Long's eyes filled with rage. He glared at Lu Yin and rushed towards the youth with a growl. "Despicable!"

The Enlighter knew that he was definitely going to die. However, he was determined to drag Lu Yin down with him.

Lu Yin took a few steps back and pushed Granny Chan in front of him. She was still in shock, and she subconsciously blocked Lei Long's attack, casually killing him.

Lei Long's corpse fell to the ground, leaving everyone present stunned.

Lu Yin descended and collected the box. He then retrieved Lei Long's cosmic ring as well as some of the dead man's blood. He would open the ring after he returned home.

He then turned to Granny Chan and bowed. "Thank you for your help, senior."

Everyone remained silent, and the people from the Dire Barbarian Clan stared at Lu Yin in fear. This person had just killed their Enlighter.

The people from the Nine Stacks Sect similarly gaped at Lu Yin in awe. Was it really that easy to kill an Enlighter?

Lan Wu gulped, and her eyes filled with fear. This youth was the only person in the Outerverse who could kill an Enlighter while casually chatting with them.

Granny Chan kept a close eye on Lu Yin; this boy gave her the chills. She slowly descended to the ground and confronted Lu Yin. "You never planned on letting Lei Long off from the start, am I right?"

Lu Yin sighed. "Senior, you know how the Dire Barbarian Clan is. If I hadn't killed him, then he would have eventually killed me. I just dealt with him first."

Granny Chan looked at Lu Yin with a complicated gaze and didn't say anything else.

Even in the Innaverse, Enlighters didn't die that easily. Despite that, this boy had already killed two Enlighters! Not even she had ever killed an Enlighter throughout her entire cultivation journey. Compared to her, this boy was absolutely terrifying.

Granny Chan glanced at Lu Yin, and she suddenly had a feeling that the separation of the Innaverse and the Outerverse had unleashed a monster.

Lu Yin looked at Tianming and Lan Wu who was standing next to him. He waved a hand at them. "Destroy the Dire Barbarian Clan."

Lan Wu attacked the people of the Dire Barbarian Clan without any hesitation after she heard Lu Yin's words.

The other cultivators from the Nine Stacks Sect also attacked the Dire Barbarian Clan. The tables had turned.

The Hunter from the Dire Barbarian Clan immediately fled.

"Senior, could you please help me with that person?" Lu Yin respectfully asked Granny Chan.

Granny Chan didn't reject the request, though she didn't know why. She was very wary of Lu Yin, and her caution was another source of motivation for her to help Lu Yin. She did not want to become enemies with this young man.

The Hunter from the Dire Barbarian Clan was soon dead.

And soon after that, everyone from the Dire Barbarian Clan was dead, with only one exception: Kayze. Lu Yin needed him.

Chapter 544: Enlighters' Bane

Before much more time passed, Granny Chan took her leave. She needed to properly consider her relationship with this young man.

Lu Yin didn't mind that she had left. He'd already killed Lei Long, and with the Nalan family's financial support, he should now have enough money to upgrade his gun to the point where it could threaten a powerhouse with a power level of 300,000. With that amount of power, it wouldn't even matter if Granny Chan opposed him. Besides, she probably wouldn't simply ignore him. All Enlighters were very intelligent.

On the meteorite that had once been the Nine Stacks Sect's headquarters, there weren't actually many people from the Dire Barbarian Clan. Most of the people still there had been members of the Nine Stacks Sect who surrendered to the Dire Barbarian Clan. Such actions should be punished, but Lu Yin decided to let them off. Compared to the loyal cultivators from the Nine Stacks Sect, these traitors were more useful to him. It wasn't as if he was actually going to rebuild the Nine Stacks Sect; everything was merely being done in name. Lu Yin intended for the Nine Stacks Sect to disappear at this very moment and leave its old name behind.

Tianming, Lan Wu, and Kayze stood before Lu Yin.

Lu Yin told Tianming, "From today onwards, you will be the master of the Nine Stacks Sect."

Tianming was shocked. "I'd prefer to return to the Great Yu Empire, Your Highness."

Lu Yin chuckled. "Stay in Grandtop Weave for a while. After things stabilize, I'll let you come back."

Tianming nodded.

Lu Yin then glanced over at Lan Wu. "Why are you willing to join me?"

Lan Wu respectfully answered, "I want to survive."

Lu Yin nodded and praised her, "You're smart. Stay here and help Tianming stabilize the sect. When I restructure the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons in the future, you'll have the opportunity to become one of the captains."

Lan Wu was delighted. "Thank you very much, Your Highness."

Lu Yin knew that the Hunter was acting. Rather than being a captain of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons, she would much rather be free to move about Grandtop Weave after being conferred a title to her. However, Lu Yin could remove anyone from their position at the moment, so this was the best that he could do. However, there would be changes coming soon enough. At that time, this woman would be called back to the Great Yu Empire.

He let Tianming and Lan Wu leave after tasking them with the goal of rebuilding the Nine Stacks Sect. He then shifted his focus over to Kayze.

The Explorer hung his head. The Dire Barbarian Clan had been completely annihilated with him as the sole survivor. The person who had committed this slaughter was standing right in front of him. This person had even managed to kill an Enlightener.

Kayze had no intentions of attempting to take revenge, as that was simply unfeasible. At this time, all he wanted to do was survive.

"I heard that you have a very interesting innate gift," Lu Yin said curiously.

Kayze quickly answered, "Yes, my gift allows me to judge a person's strength based on the sounds I hear."

Lu Yin was surprised. "So you were able to hear mine back then?"

Kayze nodded.

Lu Yin carefully observed Kayze. This person seemed useful, but Lu Yin had no idea how to make use of him. In addition, Lu Yin did not know what he could do to make Kayze willingly join his side, so Lu Yin was at a loss. The Dire Barbarian Clan was full of people with terrible characters, and that was a huge problem.

“Seventh Bro, there’s a method from the Inniverse’s Beast Tamers Flowzone that makes it impossible for former enemies to betray you. One only needs to brand a tamed beast onto your enemy. So long as the tamed beast can be trusted to remain loyal to you, the beast can be used as a powerful tool to keep an eye on someone.” The Ghost Monkey suddenly offered some information.

“Some technologically-advanced areas also have certain items that can be placed onto their enemies to ensure loyalty. I’ve met people like that at the border warfront, and while their situation is very tragic, such methods can be useful.”

Lu Yin remained deep in thought.

Kayze anxiously waited. Before too much longer, Lu Yin finally decided to let him enter the First Imperial Squadron as a temporary measure. He was going to transform that particular squadron into his personal guards.

Lei Long’s death shocked the nearby weaves. After the Inniverse and Outerverse had been separated from each other, Lei Long was the second Enlighter to die. The first, Karthika, had also died at Lu Yin’s hand. The fact that two Enlighters had been killed by the same Limiteer sent chills running down the spines of the other Enlighters in the Outerverse. They had no choice but to admit that Lu Yin had the ability to kill Enlighters within seconds.

For this reason, Lu Yin received a new nickname: Enlighters’ Bane.

When Lu Yin learned of this nickname, he was left momentarily speechless. After receiving such a title, it would no longer be possible for him to ambush Enlighters, and they might not even have the guts to receive his gifts.

Thankfully, nobody knew exactly how Lu Yin had managed to kill Karthika and Lei Long. Even Granny Chan, who’d seen the entire ordeal with Lei Long from start to finish, wasn’t certain. She knew about the gun, but not about Progenitor Wushang’s hide, and she hadn’t inquired any deeper.

Back on Zenyu Star, Lu Yin went straight to King Zishan’s palace, and once he arrived, he used Lei Long’s blood to unlock the Enlighter’s cosmic ring. He was immediately delighted; there was some good stuff inside!

The Enlighters stuck in the Outerverse were all incredibly afraid that they would not be able to get enough resources and that they would enter their period of weakness. Thus, everything that they owned would be stored in their cosmic rings. Lei Long had possessed nearly 20,000 star essence, which was 10,000 fewer than Karthika. There were also hundreds of thousands of star crystals.

But this sum left Lu Yin rather disappointed. The amount was rather pitiful, but it also showed that the Dire Barbarian Clan wasn’t as wealthy as the Second Grade Hall. Lei Long obviously hadn’t obtained many star essence from the Nine Stacks Sect either.

But that didn’t make sense. The Nine Stacks Sect shouldn’t be that poor.

Lu Yin immediately contacted Tianming and asked him about the sect's financial situation. Lan Wu was the one who answered, and she explained that most of their resources had been employed to keep the sect operating. Their treasury did not have many star essence to begin with, but they did have billions of star crystals.

Those star crystals were still at the Nine Stacks Sect's headquarters.

Lu Yin was speechless. He had totally forgotten to use his domain to investigate that place! Of course Lei Long's cosmic ring wouldn't have been able to hold that many star crystals.

Billions of star crystals was comparable to tens of thousands of star essence, which was quite a terrifying amount.

However, that amount of star crystals was not convenient at all. The light screen that appeared when Lu Yin rolled Enhance wasn't very large, which meant there was a limit to how many star essence he could place on it at a time. If he used star crystals instead, then his arms would likely become sore long before he could complete even a single upgrade. Star essence were necessary.

The star crystals were unusable for Lu Yin, but the Nine Stacks Sect wouldn't be able to get off of the hook that easily. Lu Yin immediately instructed Lan Wu to send the star crystals over to Zenyu Star so that they could restore the Great Yu Empire's imperial treasury.

As for Grandtop Weave... It would be restored some later time in the future!

Aside from the money, there were quite a few other things in Lei Long's cosmic ring. Like Karthika's, there were quite a few medications. However, Lu Yin also found a unique valuable item in the ring. It was protected within a layer of Spiritual Thread, which could one mean thing: it was a sourcebox.

What a surprise.

Lu Yin eyed the square box that was several meters long and made entirely out of Spiritual Thread. He considered his options for a moment, put on his universal armor, and then slowly opened the box. All of a sudden, an invisible force flitted past the armor and pierced straight through the building and the void. Many people outside of the palace watched on in shock as a huge crack extended into space before slowly dissipating.

Lu Yin immediately closed the box, completely shocked. He touched the area on his armor that had come in contact with the invisible force and saw a white mark there. The invisible bloodlust that had seeped out of the sourcebox had actually damaged this universal armor which was sturdy enough to withstand an Enlighter's attacks.

Lu Yin immediately put the box away. At the same moment, Bronsen charged in from outside the palace before he was stopped by Lu Yin.

While touching the box, Lu Yin thought to himself, That invisible bloodlust was able to damage my armor, so it's probably a Boundless Advanced sourcebox. It might even contain the power of the predecessors inside of it.

This was not something Lu Yin could handle at his current level.

Lu Yin moved on from the box and started to check out the other items inside Lei Long's cosmic ring.

Frostwave Weave was close to the Outerverse's region of the Astral Wilderness. To the south of Frostwave Weave lay Darkmist Weave, and to the north was Northcastle Weave. To the east was Grandtop Weave, and to the west lay Lars Weave. There were also small sections of the border that connected to Woori Weave.

The moment news of Lei Long's death spread to the nearby weaves, the organizations from the Blaze Realm that had been occupying Lars Weave immediately moved out. The forces from the Second Divine Hall that had been staying in Northcastle Weave also changed their base.

All of the Enlighters who were in the weaves bordering Frostwave Weave felt a chill that went straight to their bones.

Huo Houye in particular had the feeling that Lu Yin would seek him out, looking for trouble. Since Lu Yin was so thirsty for blood, and Huo Houye was completely in the dark about the brat's abilities, the Enlighter did not dare to go up against Lu Yin.

The stranded Enlighters could not be blamed for acting so cowardly. Anyone who was able to reach the Enlighter realm was a genius, and they all had all sorts of tricks to stay alive. It wasn't easy to kill such people, and it was very rare for anyone to die even during battles between Enlighters. However, despite that, Lu Yin had eliminated two of them in quick succession. The remaining Enlighters felt incredibly uncomfortable after seeing this turn of events, and they felt as if everything they knew was a lie.

Even Enlighters like Nightqueen Qiuyu, Elder Viletree, and Wen Qichen from the major forces of the Innerverse were shocked. All of them were suddenly unwilling to have anything to do with Frostwave Weave unless it was absolutely necessary.

Now that Lu Yin had handed the Nine Stacks Sect over to Tianming, Frostwave Weave and Grandtop Weave had essentially merged together, and the empire's territory had suddenly expanded to twice its original size. While Lu Yin hadn't gained complete control over the entire area, it was bound to happen sooner or later. However, at the moment, the lack of qualified personnel was becoming more and more glaring of a problem.

The military was dreadfully short of both manpower and qualified powerhouses. All of these problems were starting to give Lu Yin a huge headache.

He'd already passed off most of the document reviewing work that the Imperial Cabinet needed to be done to the Lu Administrative Cabinet's Huan Sha. However, even with her talent, there was too much work for just one person to complete. Most of the papers still had to be delivered to King Zishan's palace.

Lu Yin wanted them to be delivered to Wendy Yushan's residence, but her residence wasn't even open, and no ministers were able to enter. He was at a complete loss for what to do.

Half a month passed in such a manner until Lu Yin really couldn't handle it anymore. He wasn't the kind of person who enjoyed administrative work. Thankfully, he was suddenly told that Madam Nalan was requesting an audience with him.

Lu Yin's eyes lit up. Right, Madam Nalan! How could he have forgotten about her? The Nalan family was one of the wealthiest organizations in the entire Outerverse, and their business interests reached all seventy two weaves. They wielded way more influence than the Great Yu Empire, and they had far more complicated issues that they needed to handle on a daily basis. Madam Nalan was sure to have a method to deal with this.

Soon enough, she entered King Zishan's palace.

The moment he saw Madam Nalan, Lu Yin stopped breathing for a moment. He was once again shocked by this woman's appearance. She was always able to catch him off guard with her natural beauty and arousing fragrance. With those tight, pure white clothes, pale legs, and red fingernails, she was simply breathtaking.

Lu Yin had a certain level of resistance to lust since he had been around so many beauties in his life. There was his beloved Ming Yan, Bai Xue, Starsibyl, Wendy Yushan, and many more. Each and every one of them was absolutely stunning. However, Lu Yin's resistance towards Madam Nalan quickly disappeared each time they met because she was simply far too seductive. More importantly, she wasn't doing anything on purpose.

Lu Yin really could not imagine what it would be like if she actually tried to seduce him. He fully believed that he wouldn't be able to stop himself.

She studied him, and her eyes formed little half moons as she smiled. "You're making me feel unnerved when you stare at me in such a manner, Your Highness."

Lu Yin immediately looked away and apologized. "Forgive me, madam, as I was distracted."

Madam Nalan smiled. She'd seen far too many gazes of infatuation directed towards her, so she was not surprised at all. Regardless of how much of a genius or how invincible Lu Yin may be, he was still a man, as well as a man who was very well-spirited. "What are you agonizing over, Your Highness? Tell me. If it's possible for us to help, we won't say no."

Chapter 545: En Ya And The Four Ministries

Lu Yin was delighted when he heard Madam Nalan's words. "I was actually planning on meeting with you so that we could discuss this."

"I'd be happy to hear the details." Madam Nalan and Lu Yin then each took a seat, Madam Nalan looking extremely elegant as she smiled at him.

Lu Yin coughed and went over the words he needed to say before opening his mouth. "The Great Yu Empire has already taken over all of Frostwave Weave, but we have a serious shortage of skilled people, and we cannot manage the territory we control. Would you perhaps know of any methods to help with this issue?"

Madam Nalan's eyes lit up with a shrewd light. "Frostwave Weave shouldn't be a huge problem for you on its own, should it, Your Highness?"

Lu Yin smiled. "I'm also talking about Grandtop Weave."

Madam Nalan was shocked. "Have you already taken over all of Grandtop Weave, Your Highness?"

Although it was true that Lu Yin had killed Lei Long, that did not equate to conquering Grandtop Weave. Even though he had managed to subdue and take over the Nine Stacks Sect, that did not mean that Lu Yin had taken over Grandtop Weave yet. These achievements only meant that Lu Yin possessed the means to take control of the weave, but actually following through would take more than just a few days given how large the weave was.

The main reason why the Great Yu Empire had been able to unify the entire Frostwave Weave so quickly was due to Undying Yushan's work over the years. Additionally, the Great Yu Empire was also a local organization from Frostwave Weave, so the resistance to their rule was much lower. Now that they wanted to conquer areas outside of Frostwave Weave, the difficulty would be much higher. Even if Grandtop Weave did not have any powerhouses who were able to stop the Great Yu Empire, having some rebels lurking around in the dark would be enough to stop the empire from achieving its goal anytime soon.

"No, but it'll be done soon. The successor of the Nine Stacks Sect is loyal to me." Lu Yin chose not to hide this detail and revealed it to her right away. The Nalan family had business ventures throughout the Outerverse, and to be completely honest, there was no chance that the Nalan family would have sought help from the Great Yu Empire if not for the dramatic changes in the universe. The Nalan family had enough funds to pay for an Enlighter's protection.

Madam Nalan immediately understood the situation and eyed him with praise. "So you've already set things up. I admire that a lot, Your Highness. It makes sense that you're in a bind for the moment. Now that you have another weave to oversee, you also require more people to manage the area as well as manpower to subdue the territory."

After pausing for a while, she continued, saying, "Actually, even though the universe is vast, managing it is actually very simple. Have you ever heard of the Spider Web Theory?"

Lu Yin was curious. "The Spider Web Theory?"

"Yes. It's essentially about arranging the management of an organization much like how a spider constructs its web so that everything converges at the center. A spider web has thousands of threads and looks complicated, but it's actually very simple. The spider has complete control over it and can use the web to catch its prey. For spiders, no matter how large their web may be, it is essentially still a part of its body. It's the same for the Great Yu Empire. You..."

In King Zishan's palace, Lu Yin and Madam Nalan expounded on the details for three whole hours until her mouth became dry. It was only then that they stopped their discussion.

After licking her lips, Madam Nalan smiled at Lu Yin. "Do you understand, Your Highness?"

Lu Yin nodded and answered gratefully, "Thank you very much. I didn't have any idea before, but after hearing all this from you, everything's become much clearer to me."

Madam Nalan smiled. "This is all just theory. Governing a region is different from a business. If you want to learn how to properly govern a region, then it would be better for you to read more books and also to ask some professionals. All I have is business experience, which isn't of much help to you."

Lu Yin gravely replied, "You're wrong. For the Great Yu Empire right now, strategies to govern the empire aren't actually that necessary. All it takes is one decree. That's because, in this universe, the strong are respected. If I didn't have the power to kill an Enlighter, then there would be numerous people in the empire who would refuse to submit to me."

Madam Nalan smiled superficially. "Perhaps, but ruling by force isn't something that will work long-term."

Lu Yin agreed with that point. Governing a region during times of peace was very different from doing so during a time of war. He knew nothing of such things. If this was a time of war, then he could do as he wished since the entire region would be united against the outsiders. But the moment the war ended, many problems would quickly spring up, and these problems would be able to be resolved through power alone.

The most obvious issue at the moment was the rejuvenation of the economy. Military expenses, education, transport, research, and so on... All kinds of problems were bubbling right beneath the surface, and Lu Yin needed to find someone who could handle all of these issues before the war ended. He needed to groom someone to govern the empire, or else war would never stop.

This conversation with Madam Nalan had given Lu Yin an idea of how to manage the empire. He did not know if this was the best choice, but he needed to give it a try, because what remained of Undying Yushan's glory would be completely destroyed if he did nothing.

Madam Nalan's mouth was dry from all that talking, and she took a sip of her tea.

Lu Yin suddenly recalled that she had been the one who had approached him, so she might have a problem of her own. He hurriedly asked, "We've been talking about my issues all this time... May I know why you came to me?"

Madam Nalan put her cup down and replied, "It's nothing important. I just wanted to recommend someone to you who might be able to help share your burden."

Lu Yin's eyes lit up. "Who is it?"

"You must have met Grand Marshal Shui Chuanxiao from Erudite Flowzone, correct?" Madam Nalan looked at Lu Yin as if she was trying to read something in his eyes.

Lu Yin was surprised. "Shui Chuanxiao? Of course I did. He's the wisest grand marshal in human history. He was the one who confirmed my merits in battle, but there are rumors that he committed a sin and betrayed humanity. I heard that he's been imprisoned in Gaia's Swamp for ten thousand years."

"Do you believe that he betrayed humanity, Your Highness?" Madam Nalan stared into Lu Yin's eyes as she asked this question.

Lu Yin thought about it. "It's hard to tell, but it's not my place to talk about such things."

Madam Nalan's eyes shone. "In that case, do you dislike him?"

Lu Yin shook his head. "Of course not. He was the one who agreed to my plan to draw out the Sheng Ao. He was also the one who let me become a war drummer for the battle drums at the border. To be honest, he's very charismatic."

Madam Nalan nodded. "Yes, he is indeed very charismatic, but he has been stained by the crime of betraying humanity. At times, conspiracies can be terrifying."

Lu Yin looked at her in confusion. "You're not telling me that the person you're recommending is the grand marshal himself, are you?"

She chuckled. "Of course not! He's currently imprisoned in Gaia's Swamp. That prison is the nadir of despair for humanity, and nobody can save him from that place. The person who I'm recommending is someone else whom you've met before. Her name is En Ya, and she's right outside of the Zishan palace."

Lu Yin immediately had Bronsen bring the woman in.

Not too long after, Lu Yin saw her and was shocked. It was her!

After Lu Yin's merit had been recognized, and he'd obtained some Honor Points, En Ya had taken him to Planet Cangyuan and explained the situation to him there. Lu Yin had quite a deep impression of this beautiful, blonde vice-commander, especially since it was rare for women to be in the military.

En Ya saw Lu Yin and immediately bowed, her face serious. "Greetings, Your Highness."

Lu Yin immediately stopped her and asked, "I remember that you were the marshal's vice-commander. Why aren't you at Erudite Flowzone's border warfront right now?"

En Ya explained, "The Human and Astral Beast domains have agreed to a truce for now. The Grand Marshal was captured, and some of us were sent to work far away, while others were expelled from the military. I was quite lucky and sent to the Outerverse."

"En Ya unwittingly saved me, which is why I decided to recommend her to you. She's been a part of the military since a young age, and since that place is no longer open to her, she has nowhere to go." Madam Nalan stood up as she spoke.

Lu Yin nodded and looked En Ya up and down. She was an Explorer and rather strong. The fact that she had worked directly with Shui Chuanxiao showed that she was exceptionally capable. "I'm planning to build a Lu Ministry of Defense that will help me handle military affairs. Are you willing to join?"

En Ya immediately agreed.

Madam Nalan immediately expressed her gratitude as well. While the Lu Ministry of Defense had not been established yet, the fact that it was meant to serve Lu Yin by way of the word "Lu" in its name indicated that serving in it would definitely lead to gaining power in the future.

"I'm the one that should thank you. The Great Yu Empire has a huge shortage of manpower, and yet here you are, sending me a valuable worker right away." Lu Yin chuckled.

Madam Nalan and Lu Yin exchanged a few pleasantries before she finally left. Lu Yin then arranged for En Ya to remain in the King Zishan palace. When the Lu Ministry of Defense was properly established, she would be in charge of handling its affairs.

Concerning both the Lu Ministry of Staff and the Lu Ministry of Defense, Lu Yin was planning on establishing both of their headquarters close to his residence so that it would be easier for him to keep an eye on them.

Lu Yin did not believe in the saying that one should only use people that they absolutely trusted. He did not think that he had the charisma to win people over to his side right away, and he also needed to observe people for a period of time before he could determine whether or not they were trustworthy. If someone was not trustworthy, then it didn't matter how capable they were.

The conversation with Madam Nalan had been very useful to Lu Yin. Ten days after their meeting, during the morning meeting with the ministers, Lu Yin announced some changes in the Great Yu Empire's power structure. He officially established the Lu Ministry of Defense and the Lu Ministry of Staff, which would have priority over the other ministries. They would help him take care of matters relating to politics and the military, respectively. And right below them in the hierarchy would be the Lu Office of Civil Affairs and the Lu Office of Defense.

There would be one Lu Office of Civil Affairs for every ten filaments. This was the system that Lu Yin had devised. Each branch of the Lu Office of Civil Affairs would oversee the governance of ten filaments. From there, the most important issues would be passed up the office and be properly organized before finally being handed over to the Lu Ministry of Staff and the Imperial Cabinet. And only after passing through the Lu Ministry of Staff and Imperial Cabinet would the most important issues finally be handed over to Lu Yin.

The same system would also take place in the Lu Office of Defense. There would be one branch in every ten filaments, and they would run the military affairs in their region.

This was all according to the Spider Web Theory, and each Lu Office of Civil Affairs and Lu Office of Defense could be considered as a section of Lu Yin's spider web. There might still be room for corruption or incompetence, but such things were unavoidable. This method would temporarily keep the empire stable and would also be useful for nurturing talented individuals.

After Lu Yin announced the changes in power at the meeting, he was immediately met with major disapproval from the members of the Imperial Cabinet.

While the Lu Ministry of Staff had already been established, it could only be considered as a personal department to assist Lu Yin, and its members did not even have the right to take part in the morning meetings. However, if the cabinet gained an official status, then the power in the Great Yu Empire would truly become diluted, and the Imperial Cabinet's power would diminish. That was unacceptable to them.

The Great Yu Empire was right about to unify Frostwave Weave and merge with Grandtop Weave, so this was the time when their power should increase drastically. However, Lu Yin was instead redistributing the authority that they already had. Nobody would stand for such treatment.

However, all of their objections were only met by Lu Yin's ruthlessness. He had not forgotten the wretched voices and faces of these ministers back when Karthika had been on Zenyu Star. Two particular ministers of the Imperial Cabinet had been utterly shameless.

Back when Undying Yushan had been in power, the Grand Yu Empire had followed its own system of governance while not being in a state of war. Removing a minister from power was not possible unless

there was good reason and proof for doing so. However, Lu Yin possessed an absolute power that had the ministers now cowering in fear. Even Garope, who'd always been very stubborn, remained silent.

Lord Garope was very intelligent. While he was willing to voice his opinions, he also knew when it was a good time to speak up. Rebutting Lu Yin at a time like this would essentially be going directly against the regent, and Garope wasn't willing to do that.

Chapter 546: Restructuring Authority

There were a total of five ministers in the Imperial Cabinet, and two of them had been dismissed during the morning meeting. The other three didn't even dare to speak up.

This was the effect that Lu Yin wanted to have on them. He could accept advice, but it depended on when it was given. If they dared to oppose him even after he made up his mind, then that was no longer advice. Instead, that was rebelling against him. Compared to an Enlighter, these ministers were nothing more than ants, and Lu Yin could not be bothered to entertain the resistance of ants.

Currently, if Wendy Yushan was included in the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons, then there were currently only eight captains remaining in the empire. The other five squadrons did not have any captains, and Lu Yin had assumed the position of captain of the First Squadron. There were four other squadrons without captains, so he gave orders to start publicly recruiting captains.

"Your subject, Garope, greets Your Highness." After the court meeting, in the back garden of the palace, which was where Undying Yushan had frequently summoned Lu Yin back then, was where Lu Yin now received Garope.

"You may rise. Please sit." Lu Yin looked at him warmly, as this old fogey had not openly opposed him in court, which meant he was not foolish and could be utilized. Also, he had not been overly scared of Karthika previously.

Garope did not sit. He only bent at his waist and respectfully replied, "Your Highness, I beg you to reconsider."

Lu Yin sipped his tea. "You mean my decisions to restructure the government?"

"Yes. Studies have shown that every time the governing administration is restructured, it will cause the empire to be affected and lead to unpredictable outcomes," Garope said gravely.

Lu Yin looked straight at him. "I'm no politician, and I don't intend to be one. This restructuring may be for the better or worse, but I don't care. I only care about whether or not my words carry any weight."

Garope's body trembled as he looked at Lu Yin. "Your Highness, your word is the same as the emperor's word, and it is definitely effective. I plead that Your Highness reconsider ordering a restructuring of the administration."

"Then, tell me, what are the disadvantages in establishing these four ministries?"

Garope solemnly answered, "These powerful ministries are easily formed, but they were all personally established by Your Highness. As such, everyone within them will hold great authority, and once they develop selfish motives, it will lead to extremely grave consequences."

Lu Yin knew what Garope was referencing. Many dynasties' emperors had created departments that were only loyal to the ruler themselves, and they treated the departments as their personal source of knowledge as well as their weapons. Of course, such departments were just as likely to also be the source of the empire's ultimate collapse.

Lu Yin looked at the minister. "Lord Garope must be mistaken. I have no intention of abolishing the Imperial Cabinet. The Lu Ministry of Staff, Lu Ministry of Defense, and the Imperial Cabinet are all powerful agencies of the empire, and they will mutually regulate each other. Among these departments, the Imperial Cabinet's authority will remain as the highest. Not only can it make political decisions, but it can also supervise military affairs."

"But, Your Highness—"

Before Garope could finish speaking, Lu Yin raised his hand and looked at the minister with a scorching, critical stare. "Lord Garope, have you considered that, if the authority of the Imperial Cabinet is too high, it could lead to chaos?"

Garope's heart skipped a beat, and his face went pale as he hurriedly bowed. "Your Highness, you are very perceptive. This subject definitely has no thoughts of using my position for personal gain."

Lu Yin smiled and helped the older man up. "This, I believe. But Lord Garope has no way to guarantee that the others are the same. Otherwise, the court would not have allowed those two lords to be dismissed, correct?"

Garope was stumped, and he nodded. Indeed, he disapproved of those two ministers' actions.

Lu Yin looked up at the sky. "Of the five ministers in the Imperial Cabinet, I value you and Hill Auna the most. The other three aren't acceptable, and there are also two vacant positions right now. Who would Lord Garope recommend?"

Garope was about to speak, but then he suddenly thought of something. "Your subject has no one to recommend. Your Highness should use his own judgement."

Lu Yin glanced at the man and nodded. "I understand. Lord Garope, you may leave."

"This subject will take his leave." Garope then turned to leave.

Lu Yin sat down in the back garden and tapped his finger on the table as he descended deep into thought.

Establishing the four departments would not be enough to help him completely manage all of the empire's administrative affairs and military affairs. The biggest advantage to this move was that these departments would act solely in Lu Yin's own interests, but he would not tell anyone that. Restructuring the government and creating four new departments would naturally create many new positions of authority. These positions were not meant for those from the Great Yu Empire. Rather, they had been prepared beforehand for people from the other weaves that the empire would soon conquer.

For instance, once Grandtop Weave was completely under Lu Yin's control, the administration of the empire would require the people managing Grandtop Weave to be natives of that weave; otherwise, the filaments would suffer from discrimination due to their overseers being from other regions. The people

of Grandtop Weave would also resist it if they did not have anyone in the government who represented them. A large weave might have as many as ten Lu Offices of Civil Affairs and Lu Offices of Defense, which would create a large number of high positions. Lu Yin also had to reserve two seats in the Lu Ministry of Staff and the Lu Ministry of Defense for people from Grandtop Weave so that he could exchange them for benefits.

Offering positions of power in exchange for approval for the Great Yu Empire from the people of a conquered weave would be far more effective than suppressing the citizens with military might.

Garope had realized this as well, and so, he had not offered any recommendations to fill the Imperial Cabinet's empty positions. Not only would such recommendations reflect his personal ambitions, but it would also lead to fewer positions being available in the Imperial Cabinet.

But from Lu Yin's perspective, the older man had thought too deeply. At the moment, Lu Yin had no plans of allowing anyone from another weave to enter the Imperial Cabinet. At least, not until Grandtop Weave was thoroughly subdued. Only after defeating them through military strength would it be time to rope them in with incentives.

There was a purple plant that grew in the back garden that possessed the offensive capability of an Explorer. This plant was very special, as it would completely conceal itself in the presence of powerhouses.

Undying Yushan had been the one to share this information with Lu Yin. He had also told Lu Yin that this plant had been found on a planet where it was the sole life form and that the old emperor had brought this plant back to his garden on Zenyu Star after finding it. Because of its unique aspects, the plant would change its aggressive behavior depending on the environment.

When Lu Yin had come into contact with the plant before, it had been under Undying Yushan's supervision. Now, there was no one else around. Lu Yin raised his hand and touched the plant and found that it was very soft and comfortable to the touch. It showed no desire to attack Lu Yin since it could sense Lu Yin's power and would naturally bow before the strong.

If even a plant would bow, then there was no need to mention humans.

Lu Yin had experienced threats too many times, and he had been suppressed on numerous occasions as well. Once, he had even been left to die as white meat. At the present moment, the Innverse being cut off from the Outerverse had provided him with a golden opportunity. He would not allow himself to be stepped upon again, and he wanted to become the person at the top. Only he should be able to threaten others; he would not allow others to intimidate him.

At this moment, Bronsen arrived and bowed respectfully. "Your Highness, as you predicted, that person has visited the princess's residence. However, Princess Wendy did not meet with him."

Lu Yin nodded. "Send out my orders and just dismiss him."

"Yes," Bronsen left.

The third minister to be dismissed from the Imperial Cabinet had appeared. Lu Yin had long since predicted that someone would try to push Wendy Yushan to appear and reign him back. As expected, to prevent the government from being restructured, people had indeed become bold. Still, it wasn't a

problem. Disregarding whether or not Wendy would move to stop Lu Yin, even if she did make a move, would she be able to do anything?

The Great Yu Empire was no longer what it used to be. Things had developed to the extent where Wendy Yushan was now only a princess in name, and there was no longer any possibility of her interfering in the empire's governing.

Why did those people still not understand the current situation? Even Wendy Yushan, who was someone who did not know anything about politics, understood this point.

Lu Yin's gadget beeped with a notification, and he glanced at it before sighing. It was from Hai Qiqi. The brat still had not given up. She had personally traveled to the Astral River in order to search for a path to return to the Inniverse.

Lu Yin was not worried about her safety as he had once observed her after filling his eyes with star energy. The amount of rune lines on her was terrifying and was in no way inferior to a Hunter. The girl still had a hidden trump, so it was alright to let her explore on her own. It was at least better than huddling up next to an ocean shore.

With the dismissal of three Imperial Cabinet ministers, news gradually spread across Zenyu Star that the Great Yu Empire would soon be renamed the Great Yin Empire. It was said that the Royal Regent wanted to take the throne and that Princess Wendy was under house arrest. Countless rumors spread, not only on Zenyu Star, but also gradually permeating throughout the rest of the Great Yu Empire.

These rumors incited many discussions. Many people believed that the rumors were true, and this caused the groups loyal to the Yushan family to become disgruntled. After a few days, nearly a hundred individuals sought audiences with Wendy Yushan, desiring to settle all this hearsay.

Wendy Yushan made an appearance, but she only met with these people for a moment before taking her leave.

News of Wendy Yushan being imprisoned were thus discredited, but other rumors soon arose that claimed that the Royal Regent had threatened Princess Wendy. This led to another group of people heading to the princess's residence.

Lu Yin learned of all these events, and he ordered the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons to search for the source of the gossip. This led to many people being massacred in order to limit the spread of these fabrications.

This action treated the symptoms, but not the root cause. As Lu Yin's power continued to increase, more rumors would definitely appear in the future. There would constantly be conflicts between his supporters and the Yushan bloodline loyalists.

And there was some participation from those who were loyal to the Zishan bloodline as well. They naturally supported Lu Yin, which only led to the conflict growing larger.

Lu Yin was impatient to quickly fill out the positions of his four new departments, but it wasn't easy to find qualified people.

There were only two ministers left in the Imperial Cabinet, so it was no longer able to operate normally. Lu Yin had to make an exception and promote Gavin to the cabinet. The current finance minister was not as conniving as Sicar had been, and neither was he as useless as Perry. He just barely qualified to enter the Imperial Cabinet.

Thus, the three-membered cabinet was able to function.

Lu Yin invited Xueshan Auna to meet with him and was able to convince the old man to join the Lu Ministry of Defense. With the addition of Xueshan Auna, Lu Yin had gained the influence of the Auna family. At present, the Great Yu Empire had suffered from frequent wars against outside powers. Not only had the empire managed to unify and stabilize Frostwave Weave, but it had also suppressed Grandtop Weave. The Lu Ministry of Defense urgently needed more talent to boost its numbers.

But just Xueshan Auna and En Ya were not enough for the department. Lu Yin still did not have a firm enough grasp of the Great Yu Empire's military might, and he was actually not even familiar with the commander who was leading the troops that were suppressing Grandtop Weave. Were it not for the fact that Lu Yin had killed an Enlighter, he suspected that some of the commanders would have taken independent actions to attempt to establish themselves as kings.

Given the lack of qualified individuals, as well as an insufficient control of the military, Lu Yin had no choice but to send the Eighth, Ninth, and Thirteenth Squadrons to Grandtop Weave in order to supervise the military there. However, the squadrons were not allowed to intervene in any military decisions.

As for Frostwave Weave, Lu Yin ordered the Sixth and Eleventh Squadrons to supervise the troops spread throughout the weave.

Five of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons were quickly deployed, leaving only the Second, Third, and Twelfth Squadrons on Zenyu Star, as well as Lu Yin's own First Squadron.

The emperor had direct control over the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons, and with these squadrons overseeing matters, Lu Yin was able to momentarily relax and turn his attention towards the creation of his four departments.

Undying Yushan hadn't only had control of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons, as he had also established a secret group of guards to protect him. Unfortunately, the members of the guards had died alongside Undying Yushan at the hands of the Neohuman Alliance.

When Lu Yin thought about the Neohuman Alliance, he remembered a certain person: Sigmund Mathers. When the Genma Space Station Master had defected from the empire and colluded with the Neohuman Alliance, Sigmund Mathers had been wrongly sent to prison for the crime of betraying the human race. Even Undying Yushan hadn't been able to save him. If not for Lu Yin pushing the contribution of finding the Corpse King onto the man, then Sigmund Mathers would have been executed long ago.

With the Inniverse and Outerverse being isolated from each other at the present time, no one had bothered to check to see if the man was still imprisoned. Thus, Lu Yin directly released him and had Sigmund Mathers join the Lu Office of Defense in Grandtop Weave with the task of supervising the weave.

Chapter 547: Mulled Wine And An Old Friend

The Great Yu Empire did not cease its recruitment campaign for military experts. Ever since Lu Yin had killed Karthika, various experts had cast their lots in with him, and already, seven Cruisers and more than twenty Explorers had joined him. These people had all come from forces in the nearby weaves that had been wiped out, and these people had all joined Lu Yin in hopes of using the Great Yu Empire's strength to protect themselves.

Due to their special status, Lu Yin did not arrange for these newly arrived experts to join the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons. Instead, they were sent to the regular military.

The Thirteen Imperial Squadrons' authority was higher, and these people were not suited to join them.

Ever since the universe's great changes, Lu Yin had not really had any time to rest. But now, the four Lu departments had been established, where Huan Sha helped him manage the administrative aspect and En Ya with the military. With this extra assistance, Lu Yin finally had a moment of respite.

He took advantage of the darkness to leave King Zishan's palace at night. At that moment, he suddenly recalled that small pub where he had drunk wine with the Second Prince, Duke Yushan.

He returned to that bar and saw that the area had undergone some noticeable changes, mostly in the landscape. The few crises that Zenyu Star had endured through could be seen in the changes in this place.

"Boss, one pot of wine," Lu Yin called out as he sat down.

The wine was quickly served, as well as two small appetizers. Lu Yin's appetite perked up, and he poured himself a cup of wine and drained it. He let out a relaxed breath. The taste was still the same.

He had never been that familiar with Duke Yushan, but perhaps that person's greatest help had been to introduce this great place where he could enjoy wine. Although it boasted no elegant scenery and was situated inside a bustling city with a rowdy bar next door, the pub had the atmosphere of a hidden gem.

The place was decent, the wine was good, and the food was even better.

Lu Yin relaxed quite a bit.

"Another pot of wine!" Lu Yin shouted.

The boss acknowledged the order and quickly served Lu Yin a second pot. When the man looked at Lu Yin, he was stumped for a moment. Then, his expression changed greatly. "You, you--"

Lu Yin raised a hand to stop the boss' words as he pointed to the side. He was not the only one in the small pub.

The man came to his senses and nodded respectfully before backing away.

Lu Yin kept to himself and continued enjoying his wine. Before much more time passed, the boss served him a few more appetizers. Lu Yin smiled at the man. "Boss, how's business been these days?"

When the boss heard Lu Yin ask a question, he promptly jogged over to the table and politely answered, "It's been alright."

Lu Yin saw that the boss was overly nervous, so he waved his hand and dismissed him.

“Oh, who’s that? With his air, someone who doesn’t know better might even think that he’s the crown prince.” A youth at the next table glanced over at Lu Yin and mocked him.

Lu Yin was astonished that someone was trying to make things difficult for him.

The tavern boss’s face changed tremendously, and he rushed over to stop the youth, but the people at the table were clearly intoxicated. One of them spat on the ground. “Kid, it’s not your turn to act like the boss. Do you get it?”

Lu Yin did not bother looking back at the table. He continued to mind his own business as he drank his wine.

“Kid, your daddy’s talking to you! Did you hear me?” the same person shouted.

The boss quickly pulled that person aside and said something to him as Lu Yin tapped a single finger against the table. His tapping followed a very regular rhythm. Every tap of his finger was in sync with the drunkards’ heartbeats, but the drunkards didn’t feel anything. However, once Lu Yin stopped tapping his finger, their hearts stopped beating, and their faces went white. They suddenly started panting, and they nearly fainted from a lack of oxygen.

As they panted heavily, a few of them were released from their stupor and sobered up significantly. The ones who had sobered up stared at Lu Yin in fear, realizing that they had provoked someone terrifying. One of them immediately apologized. “Brother, please forgive us. We had one drink too many. We’ll cover your bill. Goodbye.”

The group left some money on their table and fled.

Lu Yin poured another cup of wine and downed it. He rather enjoyed this feeling of sipping on wine in the bitter wind while enjoying various side dishes.

The boss watched Lu Yin, seemingly entranced. This person had suppressed the drunks by merely tapping on the table. This was the Royal Regent’s strength.

Not far from the pub, beneath the shadows of the walls, there were a few people who silently retreated. They had come here to assassinate Lu Yin, and they had waited a long time at King Zishan’s palace, always ready to act. However, they had just witnessed the scene at the pub. Even though Lu Yin hadn’t actually taken any actions, his calm suppression that had suffocated that group of drunkards had terrified the assassins. Lu Yin was not someone whom they could kill.

One person walked out from the loud bar next door and looked at the open-air pub. That sound of someone tapping on the table had shocked him. It was as if the sound of the tapping had suppressed something through the air.

When that person looked towards the pub, he saw Lu Yin. He wasn’t able to clearly make out the person’s appearance, so after hesitating a moment, he walked over to the pub.

Quickly, the man was seated within the pub, and he ordered a pot of wine. He took a mouthful and glanced at Lu Yin.

At the same moment, Lu Yin looked up and exchanged glances with the man. The newcomer's eyes narrowed, and he reflexively stood up to bow. "Ruky Mathers pays his respects to Your Highness, Royal Regent."

The confrontation moments ago had scared away the other customers, so only Lu Yin was still in the pub. Ruky Mathers' bow frightened the boss, who promptly bowed as well. "Greetings to Your Highness, Royal Regent."

Lu Yin smiled. "The people seated in this pub are enjoying their wine, so there's no need for things like 'Your Highness' and such. Boss, get another pot of wine."

"Yes, Your Highness." The man immediately left.

Lu Yin looked at Ruky Mathers, and his gaze lingered on the youth's left arm. "Your arm is fake?"

Ruky Mathers respectfully replied, "It was shattered by a plant during Astral-10's entrance examination."

Lu Yin nodded. "Sit. let's have a drink together."

Ruky Mathers' face changed, but he finally took a seat. He held endless gratitude towards Lu Yin. If it were not for this person, then Ruky's father would have definitely been executed. And that wasn't even mentioning the fact that his father had been released from prison on this very day. The Mathers family would never be able to repay their gratitude.

The Mathers family had been subordinates of the Zishan clan, and so they naturally felt close to Lu Yin.

"Your father and I are old acquaintances," Lu Yin commented.

Ruky Mathers replied, "I've heard him mention it."

Lu Yin smiled and looked at Ruky Mathers. "You're quite powerful. Compared to the other youths of the Great Yu Empire, the only one who can be considered your opponent would be Schutz."

Ruky Mathers declined the compliment. "Your Highness is overpraising me. Each of the Yu Academy's five Hall Masters are very strong."

Lu Yin laughed. "Although they have improved greatly, their thinking is still excessively limited. Aside from Schutz, the others will find it difficult to ever leave the Outerverse, but you're different." Lu Yin's gaze landed on Ruky Mathers' right arm, or more accurately, on his right hand. He had noticed that Ruky Mathers' aura was not average, and so he had intentionally glanced over him while filling his eyes with star energy. Just as he had mentioned, aside from Schutz, not even the Yu Academy's other four Hall Masters could compare to Ruky Mathers.

It was especially noticeable to Lu Yin that Ruky's right fist contained a peculiar number of rune lines, and they greatly surpassed the amount that Lu Yin saw from the Outerverse's Limiteers. The number of rune lines that he saw actually approached what he had observed from the Innaverse's elite Limiteers. Although the number could not compare to the Area Masters from the Astral Combat Academy, Ruky Mathers' future would not be limited to just the Outerverse.

Ruky Mathers stood up and respectfully answered, “Your Highness, during Astral-10’s entrance examination, I happened to learn a battle technique on a mountain wall that is known as the Rocksmash Strike. I relied on this technique to achieve my current strength.”

Lu Yin nodded, and pressed down his hand to indicate for Ruky to sit. Lu Yin did not care about some Rocksmash Strike, as there were too many peculiar battle techniques in the universe. Some were even able to transform the rotten into the magical, and it was even rather common. Lu Yin himself had his Cosmic Art, which was an absolute battle technique. Although it was not sufficient at the moment, it had helped Lu Yin escape from many disasters at crucial moments.

The Sword Sect’s Thirteen Swords, the Daynight clan’s Night’s End, Daybreak and the Daynight Restoration Technique: each and every one of them was a battle technique that could dominate an era, and Lu Yin’s vision had long since surpassed the Outerverse. Thus, he basically had no interest in Ruky Mathers’ battle technique.

“Tianming has gone to Grandtop Weave, so from tomorrow onwards, you can replace him at the academy as one of the Yu Academy’s Hall Masters,” Lu Yin said before taking a gulp and moving to leave.

Ruky Mathers blankly stared at Lu Yin’s departing figure. Was it that simple to become a Hall Master? Just a while ago, he had been unable to even qualify to enter the elite training grounds of the Yu Academy, but now, he had suddenly leaped up to become a Hall Master. He emotionally rose to his feet and deeply bowed towards Lu Yin’s departing figure.

This was how Lu Yin intended to rule; those who were capable would rise, and those who lacked abilities would fall. Ruky Mathers’ strength was sufficient for him to become an Area Master at the Astral Combat Academy.

After leaving the pub, Lu Yin did not return to King Zishan’s palace. Instead, he headed to the coast to sober up. He did not want to forcefully dispel his intoxication, as his drinking would be rendered meaningless then. This tipsy state was also helping him to relax his mind.

A few hours passed before Lu Yin returned to King Zishan’s palace, and upon arriving, he was shocked to see someone familiar: Jeraldine.

During the trial on Earth, Jeraldine had been captured by Lu Yin and threatened by him. She could be considered as Lu Yin’s first non-friendly friend.

Jeraldine had not expected to bump into Lu Yin at King Zishan’s palace gate, and she appeared slightly panicked and rather lost.

Lu Yin laughed at her reaction. “Let’s go. Come on in and take a seat.”

Jeraldine promptly replied, “There’s no need—oh, sorry. Greetings Your Highness, Royal Regent.”

Lu Yin looked at her. “You must have something on your mind if you’ve come to look for me.”

Jeraldine nodded and pulled out a ring that she passed to Lu Yin. “I came to return this to you.”

Lu Yin took the ring. “What’s this?”

“Jenny Auna accidentally dropped it, and I happened to pick it up. I’m returning it to you today.”

Lu Yin suddenly remembered. He had incidentally given Jenny Auna a ring when he was trying to gain the Auna family’s support. This ring had coincidentally been obtained when he had rolled Pilfer with his die. “Accidentally dropped? Or thrown away?”

Jeraldine blinked. “It was probably an accident.”

“Then how did you know that this belongs to me?”

Jeraldine’s eyes danced about, as she did not know how to reply.

Lu Yin tossed her the ring. “Keep it.”

He then went into King Zishan’s palace. He simply didn’t care about the ring in any way.

Jeraldine grabbed it in shock and blankly watched his figure walk away.

Lu Yin paused. “Do you want to come in and have a seat? We haven’t seen each other for a long time.”

Jeraldine shook her head in panic. “There’s no need. Thank you.”

She then bowed to Lu Yin again and ran away.

Lu Yin felt strange. What was she panicking about?

He simply was unaware of what giving a ring to a girl meant, but this was why Jeraldine had suddenly been confused and why she had lost the courage to enter King Zishan’s palace.

Leisure time often passes quickly, and Lu Yin relaxed for only a single day before returning to his hectic schedule.

The military had submitted various recommendations for people to join his four departments, but Lu Yin had no way of knowing who was competent and who wasn’t. He only knew one thing, which was that these people each represented their own agenda.

He actually wanted to strike all of them off of the list right away, but he was afraid of dismissing someone who was actually capable. Feeling like he had no choice, he passed the issue off to Huan Sha.

Huan Sha had become so busy by this time that she no longer even had time to eat.

Chapter 548: Checkmate

During this time, En Ya had been handling the Lu Ministry of Defense’s affairs, and Xueshan Auna was just a figurehead. It was much like how, if Huo Qingshan left the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons, then Lu Yin would definitely offer the Huo family another position of power to maintain the balance. Regardless of whether it was the Auna or the Huo family, each one of them carried a certain amount of influence in the Great Yu Empire’s military.

Wendy Yushan rarely made any appearances during this time, and even Lu Yin only saw her once. He knew that she was cultivating the Yu Secret Art, and that the secret technique was part of the reason why she continued to remain in isolation. Another reason why she was staying out of sight was to avoid

raising people's suspicions. The empire could not be ruled by two people, and since she was not suitable to manage the empire, she was content with living behind the scenes.

One day, after the daily morning meeting ended and when Lu Yin just returned to King Zishan's palace, Bronsen reported that someone was seeking an audience with the regent.

Lu Yin moved to the sitting room, where he saw a dejected-looking person who was nervously waiting for him. When the person saw Lu Yin, he immediately bowed. "Ding Xing of Northcastle Weave's Greatsword Dynasty pays his respects to Your Majesty, the Great Yu Empire's Royal Regent."

Lu Yin had the man dispense with the formalities and sit down. He then took a look at Ding Xing. "You're from Northcastle Weave?"

Ding Xing replied, "Yes, I'm from Northcastle Weave's Greatsword Dynasty. When the various great powers of the Innerverse were competing against each other, the Greatsword Dynasty was annihilated by the Second Grade Hall. I had the good fortune of being rescued by Captain Shalosh of your Great Yu Empire."

Lu Yin remembered some details; Lily Anne had been the one to inform him about these events. Due to these skirmishes, Lu Yin had learned about the contest for pyrolyte ore, and it was precisely the person in front of him who had triggered the conflict between the Great Yu Empire and the Second Grade Hall.

"Is there some matter that Mr. Ding came here for?" Lu Yin asked.

Ding Xing suddenly half-kneeled and then wailed, "I beg for Your Majesty to help the Greatsword Dynasty and throw off the Second Grade Hall!"

Lu Yin raised his hand as a powerful strength forcefully propped Ding Xing up. Ding Xing was a Cruiser with a power level of 60,000, but he wasn't able to resist Lu Yin's strength at all. The man stared at Lu Yin in shock; hearing about this Limiteer's unnatural strength was one matter, but experiencing it for himself was something else entirely. At this moment, Ding Xing truly understood what it meant for someone to be an unequalled Limiteer, as Lu Yin felt unparalleled even in front of a Cruiser like Ding Xing. Ding Xing was a Cruiser, while the person before him was just a Limiteer.

However, Ding Xing quickly recalled Lu Yin's battle record, and he suddenly understood. This person had even killed Enlighters, so a Cruiser was no different than an ant to Lu Yin.

"Mr. Ding, there's no need to be so courteous."

Ding Xing pleaded, "Your Majesty, the Greatsword Dynasty's inheritance that has been passed down through many generations will be lost at this rate. As a citizen of the Greatsword Dynasty, I cannot bear to see that happen, so I beg for Your Majesty to lend us your assistance."

Lu Yin did not agree right away. He pondered the matter and even opened up a star chart on his gadget and studied a map of Northcastle Weave.

The Greatsword Dynasty had been a rather strong power in Northcastle Weave, and it had maintained a similar location within its weave as the Great Yu Empire in Frostwave Weave. Its territory was very long, as it spanned the width of Northcastle Weave from north to south, occupying nine filaments in the

process. It was no wonder why the Second Grade Hall had targeted the Greatsword Dynasty, as this dynasty had been situated too conveniently for them during the contest for pyrolyte ore.

Ding Xing lowered his head, not daring to even move.

Lu Yin studied the star chart for a while, and then his eyes flickered. "Mr. Ding, did you know that Northcastle Weave currently has two Enlighters? If I attempt to take action, the final outcome cannot be predicted."

Ding Xing respectfully replied, "I know, but I also understand Your Majesty's strength, and I know that you are someone who does not fear Enlighters. Your Majesty, I'm willing to give you the hidden treasures that have been accumulated over the years by the Greatsword Dynasty. I beg Your Majesty to help us."

Lu Yin was caught off guard. "Hidden treasures?"

"Yes, Northcastle Weave has a unique astral location, and successive generations of leaders were certain that something disastrous would eventually happen. Thus, they left hidden treasures behind in order to retake the dynasty should it come to that. In general, these treasures are enough to deal with Outerverse powers, but no one ever imagined that an Enlighter would eventually take action against us. No matter how many hidden treasures we stored away over the centuries, we are still powerless against an Enlighter. Please, Your Majesty, we seek your assistance, and I'm willing to give all the treasures over to Your Majesty in return," Ding Xing said with complete sincerity.

Lu Yin's eyes gleamed, as these "hidden treasures" were very attractive to him. Northcastle Weave possessed its own allure for him as well, as just Grandtop Weave alone was not enough to sate his appetite. He would take advantage of the Greatsword Dynasty's situation to make arrangements for Northcastle Weave.

However, it was not the right time yet, as the Great Yu Empire currently could not even properly manage Frostwave Weave, and it would take much longer for them to completely suppress Grandtop Weave. If he also had to take care of Northcastle Weave on top of that, it could easily be enough to drag Lu Yin down.

Lu Yin had already become known as the nemesis of Enlighters, so it would no longer be as easy for him to deal with them. Even if he could successfully kill one more, the act would incite backlash from the remaining Enlighters. If Lu Yin pushed two or even three Enlighters to act together against him, then he could not even imagine how he would die.

Lu Yin had to continually remind himself that his recent battle achievements were not due to his personal strength, but rather from external aides. He could not afford to become complacent.

"You can stay on Zenyu Star for now. I can promise that I'll help your Greatsword Dynasty, but not at this time," Lu Yin said to Ding Xing.

Ding Xing's eyes flickered, and he softly replied, "Your Majesty, thank you so much."

Lu Yin acknowledged the man's gratitude and then had Bronsen show Ding Xing out.

He could not meddle with Northcastle Weave for the moment, but he had to retain Ding Xing, as the Cruiser was the primer that would eventually allow the Great Yu Empire to invade Northcastle Weave in the future.

With the Innaverse and Outerverse separated, the entire Outerverse had been greatly affected, but so had the Outerverse Youth Council.

The Outerverse Youth Council was a subsidiary organization of the Ten Arbiters Council, and many of its policies were directly handed down from the Ten Arbiters Council. At present, since the Innaverse and Outerverse could not communicate, the Outerverse Youth Council could only formulate its own policies. Without the Ten Arbiters' formidable backing, the Outerverse Youth Council had to face the current crisis alone.

Under these circumstances, East San Dios was being led by Puyu, and he summoned Wendy Yushan and Liu Shaoge there for a meeting.

Wendy Yushan informed Lu Yin of the summons, but he immediately rejected it. "You can't go. You possess a secret technique, so all the Enlighters are focused on you. If you show up at East San Dios, then you'll most likely be captured."

"I have a responsibility," Wendy Yushan replied.

Lu Yin frowned.

"The Ten Arbiters Council has provided me with a great deal of care. Now that the council is facing a crisis, I cannot not go." Wendy Yushan was determined.

Lu Yin thought about it. "Then I'll accompany you."

She did not decline, as that was the best option. With Lu Yin around, she would indeed be much safer.

However, there was another problem. Hai Qiqi had taken the collapsible spacecraft to the Astral River. "When do we leave?"

"The meeting is in twelve days."

Lu Yin did some rough calculations. It would take them about two and a half months to travel from the Great Yu Empire to East San Dios with a normal spacecraft. With a radiant-grade Aurora, it would take them eight days. If sudden changes were to be accommodated for, then the latest they could need to leave was the following day.

"We'll leave tomorrow," Lu Yin said.

She nodded and left King Zishan's palace.

After Wendy left, Lu Yin quickly moved to arrange certain matters and delegate many tasks. He would be gone for at least a month, and if things were not taken care of while he was gone, he would be inundated the moment he returned.

Beep beep beep beep!

His gadget beeped with a notification, and Lu Yin casually glanced at it. He was shocked to see that Liu Shaoge was contacting him, which gave him a bad premonition. Liu Shaoge would never contact Lu Yin without reason.

He accepted the call, and Liu Shaoge's image appeared on the screen, a brilliant smile plastered on his face for Lu Yin. "Brother Lu, I heard that you're coming here to get yourself killed?"

Lu Yin's face sank. So him joining Wendy Yushan had already been predicted. "What do you mean?"

Liu Shaoge feigned surprise. "Doesn't Brother Lu know? Quite a few Enlighters want to kill Brother Lu and take Wendy Yushan's secret technique for themselves. An operation has already been set in place."

"Who?" Lu Yin asked.

Liu Shaoge's lips curled up. "Darkstar Gorge and the Ross Empire. I only know about these two, but there should be some more. It's just that I don't know whether or not they are participating in this particular operation."

Lu Yin's heart sank, as there were actually people planning to use this San Dios meeting to lure Wendy Yushan out. These people were also already certain that he would not allow Wendy Yushan to head out alone, which meant that they were luring him out as well. It wouldn't be just one Enlighter acting; they were going to place him in checkmate. If one searched the entire Outerverse, it would be difficult to find even one Enlighter, much less two or more Enlighters together.

Even with Progenitor Wushang's hide, the gun, and the Money Bombs, Lu Yin was not able to deal with multiple Enlighters at the same time.

"Brother Lu, this situation is hard to break free from." Liu Shaoge smiled.

Lu Yin watched the man's sly smile, and he suddenly thought of Silver. "So why tell me?"

Liu Shaoge shrugged. "If you die, then how can I stand up to Puyu?"

"With the Innerverse and Outerverse currently separated, what does it matter if you control San Dios? The true decision-makers right now are the Enlighters," Lu Yin said.

Liu Shaoge smiled. "The Innerverse and Outerverse will eventually return to what they were before, and at that time, everything will change once again. Moreover, I'm representing Arbiter Zhenwu, and the Daynight clan will not watch on helplessly if I get bullied."

"Is Nightqueen Qiuyu participating?" Lu Yin asked.

Liu Shaoge grudgingly responded, "Brother Lu, you think too highly of me. Just hearing of this much information was difficult. Puyu doesn't truly trust me."

Lu Yin disconnected from the call with Liu Shaoge. He could feel the severity of their current dilemma. The best solution was to simply not go, but would that actually guarantee their safety? Those Enlighters would not let go of the secret technique, so they would simply head towards the Great Yu Empire if Lu Yin and Wendy Yushan did not move out. That would create an even bigger disaster.

He only had one option, which was to head to East San Dios and act as if he was unaware of the situation while secretly making preparations to deal with an ambush.

If he was facing multiple Enlighters, then he might not be able to use all of his prepared methods since they would be wary of him. He would have no opportunity to use Progenitor Wushang's hide to stun them, and it would be even more impossible to hit them with the gun.

It was a thorny situation.

When Lu Yin looked out the window, he realized that it was no longer night and that the new day was fast approaching. He thought about it and then contacted Granny Chan, since it might be possible to request her assistance.

Not long after, Lu Yin placed down his gadget with an ugly expression. Granny Chan had turned him down.

Lu Yin was not surprised, because an Enlighter would naturally know which way the winds were blowing. Since he had unexpectedly invited her to head to San Dios, she could naturally guess that Lu Yin was facing some crisis. Currently, only Enlighters were able to cause such problems for Lu Yin, and it would take more than one of them at that. Thus, it only made sense for her to refuse.

There were pros and cons to every matter. The Inverse and Outerverse had been cut off from each other, and that meant that the various great powers had been banished from the Outerverse and that the encircling pythons were now gone. Many people could now do as they pleased without having to consider others. By that merit, the Outerverse was becoming even more predatory, and people's statuses had become useless, just like what had happened to the Nalan family. It didn't matter that the Sword Sect was behind them; so long as they did not have the support of an Enlighter, they had no choice but to hide in the Great Yu Empire.

The various statuses that Lu Yin had once worked so hard to obtain had now become worthless. There was no one who would step out for him.

Chapter 549: Anti-Killing Situation

"Bronsen, go to the warehouse and bring me all of the universal armors," Lu Yin ordered.

An hour later, all of the military warehouses on Zenyu Star had been scoured for universal armors, and every one that was found was now piled up in King Zishan's palace. There were more than 10,000 sets.

"Your Majesty, if that's not enough, your subject will head to the military warehouses on other planets to fetch more," Bronsen reported respectfully.

"No need. This is enough," Lu Yin answered faintly as he waved Bronsen away.

He then screened the monkey off, raised his hand, and brought out his die. Lu Yin stored all of the universal armors in his cosmic ring, set down his cosmic ring, and then tapped the die. It slowly spun around before finally stopping on four pips. In an instant, Lu Yin picked up his cosmic ring and entered his die's Timestop Space.

He had not entered this space for a long time, but he had no time to think. Lu Yin tapped the die again, and this time, he rolled six pips, but that roll was useless. In the Timestop Space, rolling one, five, or six pips was useless.

Every time he rolled in this space, he needed to rest for ten days before trying again.

Ten days later, Lu Yin rolled the die again, and this time, he got two pips. He was delighted, as while Blackhole Disassembly was usually not very useful most of the time, it was what he was looking for at this moment since he had something he needed to disassemble: the universal armors.

Of course, he was not going to disassemble the universal armor that he had upgraded to the point of being able to withstand an Enlighter's attacks. Rather, he was going to disassemble all of the armors that Bronson had delivered to him, which totalled more than 10,000 sets.

He used star crystals to extend the durations of the Blackhole Disassembly by a few hours and then started tossing universal armors into it. Under Lu Yin's amazed gaze, the first set of universal armor vanished, only to soon be replaced by a strange material that Lu Yin was in desperate need of right now: polarium.

Disassembling more than 10,000 sets of universal armor yielded nearly 500 tons of polarium. Polarium was a rare metal, and aside from being used to produce universal armor, it could also be used to make many other objects. Its characteristics were the complete opposite of pyrolyte. Pyrolyte took up a large volume while being very light whereas polarium was condensed and heavy. A piece of polarium that was the size of a palm could weigh dozens of kilograms.

Usually, one set of universal armor would only require about a palm-sized piece of polarium, which was why each one sold for an exorbitant price. This showed the value of polarium.

500 tons of polarium was very valuable, but this was not what Lu Yin wanted. He was actually hoping to get polarium essence.

Polarium essence was basically refined polarium, and even 10,000 tons of polarium might not even be enough to produce any polarium essence. However, its uses far surpassed those of regular polarium. Lu Yin even suspected that the set of universal armor that he had obtained from the auction, the one that could withstand attacks with a power level of 100,000, had actually originally been made with polarium essence.

In the past, Lu Yin had used Shuta Planet to trigger a conflict between Darkmist Weave and Darkstar Gorge to reduce the pressure being placed on Shenwu Continent. The reason why that planet had been able to trigger a conflict between those two powers was precisely because it contained polarium. To various powerful organizations, polarium was extremely valuable. Although the value of the metal could not compare to pyrolyte, the two had different uses. Pyrolyte could be considered as a strategic military resource, but polarium was the main component for many weapons and equipment.

Shuta Planet alone contained enough polarium to incite a conflict. So what would happen if polarium essence was found on the planet?

Shuta Planet definitely did not have any polarium essence, or else Darkstar Gorge would never have been able to lay a claim to this planet since the divided forces of Darkmist Weave would have long since

banded together to maintain control of the planet, and the conflict would not have continued on for so long. However, Lu Yin could make the planet have some polarium essence.

Even if a planet that contained polarium also had polarium essence, it would only be a few tonnes at best. A palm-sized amount of polarium essence was enough to manufacture a universal armor that could withstand a Hunter's attacks, demonstrating its value. In the long run, the value of polarium essence surpassed even the value of pyrolyte. What if, all of a sudden, dozens or even hundreds of tons of polarium essence appeared somewhere? Lu Yin didn't dare to imagine what would happen.

As soon as polarium essence was discovered on Shuta Planet, and huge quantities at that, chaos would erupt on the planet. It would be similar to Planet Pyrolyte, and Shuta Planet would attract Enlighters. For example, those Enlighter powerhouses from Darkstar Gorge and Darkmist Weave would definitely head over.

It was a good plan, but he was relying on his luck to pull it off.

Another ten days passed, and Lu Yin rolled the die again, but this time, he rolled one pip: Pilfer. Useless.

He used over 1,000 star crystals to increase the duration of the Timestop Space to over thirty days, and soon, another ten days passed. Lu Yin tapped out again, and the die spun slowly around before it finally stopped on three pips.

This roll was the one that was the most helpful to him: three pips, Enhance.

As he watched the two light screens appear, Lu Yin casually threw out a piece of polarium and a hundred star crystals. The polarium upgraded three times and transformed from the most ordinary kind of polarium into polarium essence. The metal now flickered with a dim radiance.

He touched the polarium essence and sighed. Each piece of polarium essence could be sold for tens of thousands of star crystals, but it only took about one star essence to upgrade each piece of polarium into polarium essence. That was the equivalent of about 100,000 star crystals. This was such a loss! Unfortunately, he had no other choice, leaving Lu Yin helpless. Such a material was hard to acquire even if one was willing to spend exorbitant amounts of money, so he just would just have to quietly suffer the loss. More important was how he would use all this polarium essence.

500 tonnes of polarium were upgraded into polarium essence, which cost Lu Yin more than 10,000 star essence. This expenditure pained Lu Yin, as it meant that he was broke once again, as he had just used up 10,000 star essence. He had to make sure to take back at least this much from those Enlighters.

He still had about 12,000 star essence remaining, so Lu Yin took out the piece of flesh that was covered with flickering lightning that he had won from an auction. According to the Ghost Monkey, this was a piece of Void Thunderbeast flesh, and it could be used to tear through the void as an escape item. This was something that was extremely difficult to obtain.

He tossed the flesh onto the upper light screen and threw 1,000 star essence on. As he watched the flesh undergo its upgrade, a thought suddenly flashed into his mind. An actual Void Thunderbeast won't be upgraded out of this, right?

The die's Enhance ability was very mysterious, and it seemed to be able to upgrade anything. At times, Lu Yin wanted to toss himself onto the screen to see if he could achieve a breakthrough.

This thought was actually very enticing.

It took more than 1,000 star essence to upgrade the lightning-covered flesh once, and the second upgrade took 2,000. Lu Yin could not handle the cost of upgrading it any further, but after thinking about it, he still went ahead with a third upgrade, despite it costing him more than 5,000 star essence. By this point, the lightning flickering across the flesh had changed color, and it was even causing the void to become unstable.

According to his best guess, this thing should allow him to make an escape by instantly moving across a vast distance. He filled his eyes with star energy to look at it and saw that it had countless rune lines, the number actually surpassing what he had seen on Karthika, which was astounding. This thing would definitely allow him to escape from an Enlighter.

This was the lifesaving item that he wanted to give Wendy Yushan. This thing had cost him almost 8,000 star essence to make and could safely be called the most expensive escaping tool.

As he looked at his cosmic ring, he saw that there were only about 3,000 star essence remaining. Lu Yin thought about it and then used his last 3,300 star essence to upgrade one Money Bomb, so that it could instantly kill an Enlighter. This was another lifesaving object that he wanted to give to Wendy Yushan.

Lu Yin already had his universal armor and the gun, so he intended for Wendy Yushan to have the lightning-covered flesh and the Money Bomb. With some luck, this would allow them to deal with the oncoming crisis that was facing them.

He hoped that everything would go according to plan, or else he did not know how they would survive.

An entire night passed as Lu Yin whiled the hours away, thinking. When the next day arrived, he filled Wendy in on the current situation.

Wendy Yushan's eyes turned frost-cold as she gripped the hilt of her sword.

Lu Yin slowly said, "Go to San Dios, and tell Puyu that you traveled there alone and that I'm still in the Great Yu Empire."

She nodded and did not ask any further questions. She trusted Lu Yin and was completely confident that he would not allow her to be captured by Enlighters.

Lu Yin looked at her. "Be careful while you're by yourself."

He gave her the upgraded Money Bomb and the lightning-covered flesh. "This Money Bomb can severely injure or even kill an Enlighter. As for this piece of flesh, it comes from a Void Thunderbeast. If you're facing an impossible situation, you can use this to tear through the void and escape. It should allow you to cover quite a large distance."

Wendy Yushan silently stored the two items away and then looked at Lu Yin with a worried face. "What about you? Where are you going?"

Lu Yin's eyes flickered. "To hunt."

She averted her gaze. "If we can both survive this time, I'll marry you."

She appeared to be indifferent as she left King Zishan's palace after saying those words to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was stumped for a good while. Was she mistaken about something? Lu Yin had no plans to marry her, and yet, his heart was uncontrollably moved when he looked at Wendy Yushan's beautiful face. Truthfully, this woman was extremely attractive to all men, and even more so to those who had a heart for conquest.

To the Great Yu Empire, Wendy Yushan was a goddess, but Lu Yin was teased by her.

"Seventh Bro, congratulations! The rainbow comes after the storm, haha!" The Ghost Monkey ridiculed Lu Yin.

Lu Yin rolled his eyes. Would he actually turn her down if Wendy Yushan truly intended to marry him? Ming Yan's image appeared in his mind, and he remembered the lock of hair that was still in his cosmic ring. Lu Yin suddenly shook his head. Don't overthink it, never overthink things! But oddly enough, at that time, the enchanting Madam Nalan popped into his head.

East San Dios was located in Adonis Weave, and Shuta Planet was located where Darkmist and Woori Weave met, and it was slightly closer to Zenyu Star than East San Dios. According to the planned routes, if Lu Yin and Wendy Yushan set off at the same time, then he would arrive at his destination two days before she finished her voyage.

Two days was not a lot of time, so Lu Yin set off immediately. He grabbed a radiant-grade Aurora and rushed towards Shuta Planet.

Ever since it had become the focus of a conflict, the planet had undergone a complete change.

In the past, Shuta Planet had given birth to strange metal lifeforms that were able to produce polarium. This planet had been controlled by Darkmist Weave's forces, like the Nine Allied Nations. Aside from young trial takers from Darkmist Weave, the remaining people on the planet were mostly miners. The entire planet didn't have any established cities, just various mining towns.

Each day, as regular as a clock, battles would break out all over Shuta Planet. Darkstar Gorge and the Nine Allied Nations would go through several violent exchanges each time as neither organization wanted to leave Shuta Planet. However, neither party wanted to start a full blown war over just one planet. This led to many skirmishes between both sides' younger generation, and the youths had already destroyed several mining towns.

At the moment, Shuta Planet had been divided into several regions, and both sides restrained themselves from stepping into their opponent's territory.

This was the situation when Lu Yin arrived on the planet.

There were many planets that were similar to Shuta Planet in the universe, planets that were covered with numerous mines. Such planets often had poor living conditions for normal people, and often, only cultivators were able to barely survive. Some planets were even harsher than the vacuum of space, as they might be filled with poisonous gases, have scorchingly high temperatures, magma, violent gales, or unexplorable meteorological phenomena.

Shuta Planet was quite mild as even Scouts were able to survive on the planet.

Lu Yin stepped onto the planet's surface. The ground was parched and cracked, and occasionally, a strange looking worm would poke its head out of a fissure and threateningly snap its jaws at Lu Yin. These worms were rather large, and each one could swallow a person in one gulp.

Lu Yin casually waved a hand, sending out a gust that stripped the top layer of soil away and reduced many of the worms that were hiding in the ground into splatters of blood.

Chapter 550: Arrangement

The atmosphere was filled with a scorching heat, and there were two suns overhead that were roasting the desiccated ground.

Lu Yin released his domain, but he couldn't perceive anyone. Instead, what he found was a bizarre metal lifeform that looked like a clawed hook without any eyes, ears, a nose, or a mouth. If it did not move, then it could have been mistaken as a machine's spare component, but this was one of the metal lifeforms native to Shuta Planet.

Lu Yin felt rather strange, and he picked up the claw-looking metal lifeform. The creature stabbed straight at his skull, but he used just a bit of his strength to crack the creature open. It immediately collapsed to the ground and quivered a few times before it finally ceased all movement. Lu Yin believed that it was dead at this point.

"The universe is too bizarre. It can even produce lifeforms like this," Lu Yin exclaimed.

The Ghost Monkey disdainfully commented, "What's that thing? It can't even be considered as a living creature! It's just able to move around a bit because of some strange parasite living inside of it. Seventh Bro, you haven't seen a truly strange organism yet."

"Like Tian Hou?" Lu Yin asked.

The monkey didn't respond, as an existence like a Cosmic Hou was something that could supersede everything else. Those creatures were just too mysterious. A Cosmic Hou was essentially a materialized black hole, and if even something like Tian Hou could exist, then Lu Yin would not be easily astounded by the mysteries of the universe.

"Speaking of, I don't even know this, but what species do you belong to?" Lu Yin suddenly asked.

The monkey proudly answered, "I'm from the Ghost Monkey Clan! A noble race in the Astral Beast Domain."

"Right... from what I know, there isn't a Ghost Monkey Clan." Lu Yin clearly didn't believe the monkey. This was also one of the reasons why he would never trust the monkey; there was no Ghost Monkey Clan.

The monkey sighed. "Seventh Bro, the Astral Beast Domain is completely unknown to you humans, so how could your race possibly know what species there are? For example, if you hadn't come to this planet, would you have ever seen this metallic lifeform? Can you confidently say that you're aware of all of the various civilizations that make up the entire Human Domain?"

Lu Yin could not retort. Instead he activated his gadget, only to discover that the signal was intermittent and distorted. There was too much metal on this planet, so it wasn't surprising that the signal to his gadget was affected. Despite it being somewhat expected, it wasn't good for him since he had planned on using polarium essence to lure in those Enlighters.

He expected that the mining towns should be able to contact the outside universe in a normal fashion. With that in mind, Lu Yin rose into the air and flew towards the east, as he had vaguely sensed a town in that direction when he had descended onto the planet.

Ever since the universe had gone through its great changes, only those who were Hunters or above could still tear through the void. It had become almost impossible for anyone else to move through the void anymore. Lu Yin was no different; he could still fly, but he could not tear through space as it had become drastically more stable than before.

Fortunately, his flying speed was not that slow, so it didn't take long for him to come across the mining town. Pretty much the only things that he could see were the massive machinery that covered the surface of the planet, looking like a strange creature brandishing its claws.

A violent wind swept up the dry yellow soil as a massive tornado formed to the south of the town. Many miners were returning to the town from all directions.

Lu Yin grabbed a miner's uniform and casually entered the town. There, he heard news that there was a powerful gale forming nearby and that it was strong enough to blow even cultivators away. When such winds approached, all of the miners and trial takers would seek refuge in the nearest mining town.

Each mining town had its own defensive measures. When the wind blew, the entire town trembled, but no one was concerned about being in any danger. Such winds were quite common on Shuta Planet, and even if this storm was several grades higher, it still would not be able to harm the mining town.

It was very chaotic within the town itself. The miners kept themselves separated from the trial takers, and the two groups were very well differentiated. The trial takers looked down upon the miners, and the miners did not dare to enter the trial takers' region. The two sections were almost like two separate cities; one was jumbled and ruined while the other was clean and tidy and even had its own service facilities.

This particular town belonged to the Nine Allied Nations, and the trial takers were members of Darkmist Weave's younger generation.

If he had known that there would be so many trial takers, Lu Yin would not have pretended to be a miner. He looked at a distant neon light flickering in the trial takers' region, but he did not head over after thinking things over.

His connection to the universal network became much more stable once he set foot within the town.

This town was not lacking in bars at all. The miners didn't have many recreational activities, and most of them spent their free time getting intoxicated. Once they were sober, they would start mining again. Since the death rate on this planet was quite high, many miners either sent whatever they earned back to their families or squandered it all as soon as possible. Hence, the bars did not lack serving girls, though they all had rather average appearances.

Lu Yin dismissed three servers before he left the bar. However, before he walked out, he deliberately dropped a small piece of polarium essence.

After he left the bar, he went around, looking for a more decent-looking place to eat, so he headed towards the trial takers' region.

The environment in the second area of the town was much better than in the miners' region. The qualities of both the bars and the serving girls were a completely different league. Lu Yin dropped another piece of polarium essence on the ground and then headed for another bar.

It didn't take long for the maelstrom to envelop the entire area, and it almost felt as if it was going to drown out the entire town. Within the settlement, quite a few conflicts broke out due to the polarium essence that Lu Yin had intentionally left behind. In just a short while, more than ten pieces of polarium essence had appeared, and they had been found in both the miners' as well as the trial takers' districts, which caused quite a shock to the town's upper management.

They started some secret investigations, as they wished to know where this polarium essence had come from.

There was only one explanation for why polarium essence would appear on Shuta Planet: someone had dug it up. The most likely explanation was that a certain miner had dug their way into a polarium essence mine.

A single polarium essence mine could possibly produce tonnes of polarium essence, and just the thought of such an amount was enough to blow their minds.

The entire mining town was quickly sealed off. People were allowed to enter but not leave.

However, Lu Yin easily left the town and headed for another since he had already determined his future actions.

If polarium essence appeared in just one mining town, then news of the discovery might be suppressed by the town's upper management. However, if polarium essence simultaneously appeared in multiple towns, then such news could not be stopped. This would also show that the amount of polarium essence was quite high and that more than one person had found it, which would be enough to shock the Nine Allied Nations and Darkstar Gorge.

Two days later, when Wendy Yushan arrived in Adonis Weave, the Nine Allied Nations received news that a polarium essence mine had been discovered on Shuta Planet. Suddenly, the top levels of the Nine Allied Nations were incomparably excited, as the value of a polarium essence mine was just too high. This one single mine might even be enough to upgrade the strength of the entire Nine Allied Nations. This discovery was very significant, as the material could be used to manufacture their own equipment or sold for exorbitant amounts of money.

In addition to the Nine Allied Nations, Darkstar Gorge also received the news. At the same time, they also learned that Wendy Yushan had arrived in Adonis Weave, but without Lu Yin as he had stayed in the Great Yu Empire.

This news gave Puyu a strange feeling, as Lu Yin normally would not have allowed Wendy Yushan to head out alone. However, according to some informants that he had planted along Wendy Yushan's route, it appeared that the girl was indeed alone.

Puyu was very cautious by nature. He felt confident about dealing with her since she had appeared alone. However, he still informed Darkstar Gorge's Enlighter, Elder Wu, and asked the man to come out to help.

However, Elder Wu had also received news of polarium essence appearing on Shuta Planet, so he ordered Puyu to deal with Wendy Yushan while he headed to Darkmist Weave to fight for control of the polarium essence mine.

Puyu set his gadget down. Something was off, but he could not place his finger on what. Polarium essence mines were important, and a great quantity of polarium essence was definitely valuable enough to cause even Elder Wu to make a move. In the past, Elder Wu had almost made a personal appearance to deal with the Nine Allied Nations, but his misgivings concerning the almighty Enlighter from Darkmist Weave had led to him not making a move in order to avoid starting an all-out war.

But now, Elder Wu could not sit still anymore as polarium essence had appeared.

Whatever. If Lu Yin doesn't show up, then dealing with Wendy by myself shouldn't pose a problem. Also, there's still the Scholar Newmoon, Puyu secretly thought to himself.

On Shuta Planet, many mining towns had been sealed while large spacecraft appeared above the planet one after another.

When he saw these events, Lu Yin knew that he had achieved his objective and that he had already done what he needed to do. His next moves were predetermined; even if he had not lured out Darkstar Gorge's Enlighter, he still needed to head towards San Dios to fight for his life now.

Over these two past days, he had tossed out more than a hundred tonnes of polarium essence, leaving bits and pieces in many mining towns all across Shuta Planet. Most of the pieces had been snatched up by the Nine Allied Nations and Darkstar Gorge.

The two forces were very shocked that so much polarium essence had appeared in such a short time frame of two days. They had searched the entire planet without finding any traces of polarium essence being mined, which indicated that what had been found so far was only what the surface of the planet contained and that there was more hiding underground.

The discovery of the polarium essence caused Shuta Planet to descend into chaos. Both the miners and the trial takers were subjected to a strict lockdown inside the mining towns, and every person was searched. At the same time, the conflict between the two organizations grew more intense.

Darkstar Gorge did not have a very powerful presence on Shuta Planet, but they had an Enlighter backing them.

The Nine Allied Nations was located close to Shuta Planet, so they were able to mobilize a large army in a short amount of time, but they had no Enlighter.

With so much polarium essence appearing, the Nine Allied Nations became certain that Darkstar Gorge's Enlighter, Elder Wu, would arrive soon. Thus, they requested assistance from Darkmist Weave's almighty Enlighter.

Not long after Wendy Yushan appeared at East San Dios, Darkmist Weave's almighty Enlighter arrived on Shuta Planet, and he happened to land in the mining town where Lu Yin happened to be.

The others could not sense it, but Lu Yin could feel a mind-numbing strength envelop the town. This was something that he had not encountered just once.

Lu Yin's eyes filled with star energy as he looked through the city. A dozen kilometers away, he could see a majestic amount of rune lines, and there were about as many as Lei Long's. Sure enough, an Enlighter had arrived. This town was under the control of the Nine Allied Nations, so this should be the Enlighter from Darkmist Weave. If that was the case, then the Enlighter powerhouse from Darkstar Gorge should be arriving soon.

Above the planet, Elder Wu received an updated report on the situation on Shuta Planet. Unexpectedly, Darkstar Gorge had managed to seize dozens of tonnes of polarium essence from the regions that it controlled. This was simply mind-boggling. The Nine Allied Nations had collected a similar amount, which meant that over a hundred tonnes of polarium essence had been mined. Besides that, this polarium was just on the surface, and nobody knew how much polarium essence the depths of the planet might yield. They had to capture the person who had discovered the location of this mine. No price was too high.

Tossing out a hundred tonnes of polarium essence was only enough to lure the Enlighters to Shuta Planet. Killing these Enlighters would require Lu Yin to take other measures. He stared at the boundless rune lines, and his eyes gradually turned cold. His advantage was that he was still hidden.

These people had gone through a lot of trouble to lure Lu Yin out, but now, it was no longer certain who was the hunter and who was the prey.

At East San Dios, Wendy Yushan appeared inside the tower, where Puyu and Liu Shaoge were waiting for her.

"We welcome your safe arrival, Wendy." Puyu stood up and happily looked at her.

Liu Shaoge's expression was strange.

Wendy Yushan directed an indifferent face to Puyu. "Start the meeting."

Puyu smiled. "There's no rush. Right, Wendy, did Lu Yin stay in the Great Yu Empire?"

Wendy Yushan duly replied, "Yes."

"Why didn't he come with you?" Puyu felt this was strange.

Wendy Yushan frowned. "He isn't a councilor. He was only a temporary stand-in. Since I've returned, there's no need for him to attend these meetings any more."

At this time, she looked at Puyu. "Why? Don't you hate him? Were you actually hoping that he would come?"

