

Chapter 571: Wang Wen

“Those things are sourceboxes that an almighty Lockbreaker arranged to spread an invisible field of danger around the fort. They’ve allowed Seasons Fort to resist the astral beasts’ invasions many times.” A veteran sighed as he walked over next to Lu Yin. After explaining what Lu Yin was seeing in the sky, the soldier bent down and continued to clean up the battlefield.

Tidying up the battlefield was this man’s job.

Lu Yin was amazed. “Formless danger from sourceboxes? What kind of Lockbreaker did that?”

The veteran shook his head. “Don’t know. It was too long ago.”

“Then why wasn’t it used in the last battle?” Lu Yin asked.

The veteran grudgingly explained, “There’re loopholes in every defensive system, and after so many years, the astral beasts have found gaps in the field of invisible danger zones formed by each sourcebox. They might have been put up there as a form of added protection, but they’re essentially useless. Actually, they’re more important in a symbolical sense than any practical one. Well, unless of course someone can patch up the holes that have formed.”

Lu Yin thoughtfully looked up towards space. Patch it up? He wanted to try such a thing.

He recalled that the Trialmaster had once said that a Lockbreaker had to at least be a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker to be able to arrange sourceboxes into an array that possessed any measure of danger. This was something that not even a five-star Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker could do, let alone someone like Lu Yin. However, he had his own unique advantage, which was that he could see more clearly than anyone else. If he was the one directing them, then other Lockbreakers may not necessarily fail in their attempts to patch the defenses.

The premise was that Lu Yin could find the holes first, as him simply making claims without proof would not lead Liu Qiuyu and the others to believe him.

Lu Yin heard a beep from his gadget, prompting him to glance down. His eyes lit up, as he saw that, after the ambush that he had encountered while on his way to Seasons Fort and the battle that he had just participated in, his Ironblood Points had risen to 1,300. He had actually entered the top one thousand of the battle system.

This was a huge sum for a Limiteer, as each Limiteer beast was only worth one point. However, his points had been drastically increased with Liu Zhan sharing the contribution points of killing the Hunter realm Yin Guai with him, receiving 500 contribution points from that alone. Lu Yin had only obtained 800 from his own kills.

Despite spending countless years in Ironblood Weave, there were many Limiteers who were still unable to break through into the next realm. As long as they managed to survive on the battlefield, their kill count would continue to rise. Despite these Limiteers being weaker than Lu Yin, their amount of Ironblood points surpassed his own. However, this was simply a matter of the time one spent on the

battlefield. Lu Yin was confident that, with his strength, he could specifically hunt down Cruiser realm astral beasts, which would allow him to quickly enter the upper echelon of the rankings.

Based on pure power, only Enlighters, Hunters, and a minority of Cruisers were able to surpass him, which meant that there would not be too many threatening opponents on the battlefield, even across the entirety of Ironblood Weave. If the scope was focused on solely Seasons Fort, then there were probably only ten to twenty such opponents that could threaten his life.

Lu Yin looked at the ranking list and saw that it was constantly updating. People were rising and falling all the time, and he could see that the fastest to rise up the ranks were the Enlighters who had recently arrived in Ironblood Weave, such as Nightqueen Qiuyu, Elder Viletree, Wen Qichen, Huo Houye, as well as Granny Chan.

These powerhouses were able to sweep across an entire area with a single attack, and even Hunters were liable to be torn apart under such extreme force. One battle was enough to propel them straight to the top of the rankings.

Lu Yin also noticed Puyu's name. He was ranked towards the top of the list, at around 500. This wasn't surprising seeing as Puyu was also ranked twelfth on the Top 100 Rankings. Just a few battles would be enough for Puyu to climb to the top of the rankings. There were very few individuals on the battlefield who could surpass his strength.

While Lu Yin was studying the list, many people from other forts were also studying it, as they wished to know which experts had appeared in Ironblood Weave in recent times. The more experts who came to defend Ironblood Weave, the more confident they became. This was why so many people would browse the list, as it was a way for many soldiers to boost their morale.

The lower five strongholds did not face attacks as fierce as the front four fortresses, but this also meant that they had a small bit of time to train soldiers for Ironblood Weave.

During one such grooming period, a group of soldiers had gathered there and were excitedly discussing the new arrivals. "Another Enlighter's joined the fray. Look! They've already made it to the top fifty of the list."

"That's an Enlighter powerhouse. It doesn't matter how many astral beasts they face—they'll never have enough to kill. It'll only take them a few battles to get into the top twenty."

"There's not just one Enlighter, but quite a few of them all of a sudden. Why are there so many? Aren't the Inniverse and Outerverse separated right now?"

"I heard that there was a bunch of Enlighters who got stuck in the Outerverse because they were all out here fighting over some material. And now, they can't get back."

"Lucky for us. Otherwise, we wouldn't be able to have them as reinforcements."

"With so many Enlighters arriving, Ironblood Weave will definitely be able to fend off the invaders."

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A determined-looking soldier suddenly shouted, "Hey brothers, don't just pay attention to the Enlighters. They're way beyond us and completely out of our reach. Look, a bunch of new Limiteers have also shown up, and that's who we should target."

"Look, there's Puyu, a super expert! He's ranked twelfth on the Top 100 Rankings. He's come as well."

"There's Wendy Yushan as well, who's eighteenth on the Top 100 Rankings."

"Don't get so excited. Ironblood Fort has the person ranked tenth."

"An expert has also arrived at our own stronghold," one soldier commented excitedly. He then looked towards the top of an abandoned wall that wasn't far away from them. Atop the wall, there was a stunning beauty gazing at the starry sky. Her face contained complex emotions, but she seemed to be completely unapproachable as she silently sat there, illuminated by the starlight.

The other soldiers looked over as well, and they also became mesmerized. Few beauties appeared in Ironblood Weave, and this woman seemed like a deity from the stars.

"That's Yue Xianzi, the young mistress of the Inverse's Frostmoon Sect, as well as a student of the Astral Combat Academy. She's famous throughout the Inverse, and she recently broke through to the Explorer realm. Under the light of the cold moon, she looks so beautiful that it's impossible to look away from her," one soldier muttered. All the while, his brothers surrounding him also stared at the girl.

"Yue Xianzi is a genius who's innately gifted. She's killed a Cruiser before, and she's also someone from the Ten Arbiters Council. Such a goddess is truly unbelievable, and who knows who the lucky bastard to marry her will be," another soldier commented enviously.

From atop the abandoned wall, Yue Xianzi's gaze swept across the group of soldiers, and they all panicked and hurriedly looked away.

She diverted her gaze and looked up at the sky once again. She had been in Ironblood Weave for some time now. Actually, she had been here ever since the Outerverse had been cut off from the Inverse, as the seniors of her sect had actually summoned her to join them in Ironblood Weave.

It had been Elder Shuang who had summoned her to the battlefield, and this sect elder was also Yellowsoil Fort's commander. However, Yue Xianzi had been placed in one of the lower five strongholds since they were relatively safer. Elder Shuang's objective was to polish the younger woman since she had only recently broken through to the Explorer realm.

"Eh, look! This Limiteer's rising so fast! He's already in the top 1,000 after just arriving, which is really impressive." The group of soldiers continued to discuss the newcomers.

"Let me see. Lu Yin? It's him!"

"Who?" Some of the soldiers were lost.

"Idiot! When I told you to look at the news more, you ignored me. Lu Yin is the strongest Limiteer in the entire universe, and no Limiteer can beat him. It's said that he's even killed Cruisers."

The surrounding soldiers broke into an uproar, as it sounded like complete fantasy for a Limiteer to kill Cruisers.

At the top of the abandoned wall, Yue Xianzi also heard their discussion, and she opened the list in shock. She saw Lu Yin's name. "You were drafted as well? The unrivaled Limiteer... Who knows how big the gap between you and me is right now. The Inniverse and Outerverse are separated, so the Ten Arbiters Council is as good as gone. Also, I don't need to follow my sect's orders and follow you around anymore. Goodbye."

At another stronghold, one of the lower five as well, An Shaohua also saw Lu Yin's name on the list, but he was not very shocked. Since he had been drafted, he did not find it strange that Lu Yin had been drafted as well. An Shaohua felt slightly lost when he considered whether he should continue following Lu Yin or create his own path. Watermoon Villa did not have much of a foundation in the Outerverse, so if he went at it alone, it was possible that he would accomplish nothing. As he pondered his future, An Shaohua's eyes became determined, and he decided to follow Lu Yin. Although Lu Yin had offended too many almighty Enlighters, he had also killed many of them. He was a true freak.

Many knew about Lu Yin, but since he had only risen to the top 1,000 on the list, he wasn't noticed by everybody.

Ironblood Fort was the cruelest battlefield in the entire Ironblood Weave, and this place was also known as Dead Man's Pass to the command post. This nickname came from the fact that only the dead could pass through the stronghold, but it was also a reference to the fort's commander.

At this moment, there was a rare period of calm with Ironblood Fort not engaged in battle. Enlighters like General Fei, Featherking, and Meng Ningge had personally strengthened the stronghold's defenses. Within Dead Pass's command center, there should have been many experts gathered, but instead, there was only a Limiteer youth standing leisurely in front of the screen. This screen displayed a star chart of the entire Ironblood Weave, as well as a bit of the region in front of Ironblood Fort, which was a part of the Astral Beast Domain.

"Reporting." A male Hunter appeared outside of the command center.

The Limiteer youth continued to stare at the screen before quietly saying, "Enter."

The Hunter entered and respectfully said to the youth, "Master Jun declined to come."

The Limiteer youth didn't show any sign of surprise. "The more privileges these Lockbreakers gain, the more they cherish their lives. They end up caring less and less about the border warfront. It's too disappointing."

The Hunter looked at the floor and did not speak. This scene seemed very out-of-place, as a Hunter was actually acting so respectful and demure before a Limiteer, and his gaze even seemed to hold genuine emotions. Many youths were able to use powerhouses for personal use by leveraging their backgrounds, but these experts would not show such a respectful expression to them. This was something that could only be earned by one's personal achievements.

Even Lu Yin could not suppress a Hunter with his personal strength, as he was forced to rely on external objects. Xueshan Auna feared and respected Lu Yin only because of such objects. Without them, not even Lu Yin could command respect from Hunters.

However, this youth could do so. It was even more important to note that this youth was not exceptionally strong. He was merely an average Limiteer, and he had only recently reached this cultivation level.

“Send a message to the Outerverse’s Lockbreaker Society for them to immediately send their top-notch Lockbreakers to report to Ironblood Fort. Otherwise, they will be convicted of the crime of rebellion.” The youth suddenly appeared ruthless as he spoke these words that carried a numbing message with them. This young man wanted to strike at the Lockbreaker Society, and the Hunter looked astonished.

“Yes,” he said before hurrying away.

Not long after, General Fei entered Dead Pass and walked over to the youth. “Ah Wen, what’s going on?”

The youth was called Wang Wen, and although he was an ordinary Limiteer, he was one of the most important people in the entire Ironblood Weave. With his almost monstrous level of intelligence, he had spent countless years analyzing the circumstances of the battlefield, and by doing so, he had managed to find patterns in the beasts’ invasions. He had helped the various strongholds of Ironblood Weave make preparations in advance. Not only did his efforts help them lower their casualties, but it had also led to the Astral Beast Domain suffering heavily, which caused them to cease their assaults for half a year.

This was something unimaginable, and because of this feat, Wang Wen’s name had long since been placed high up on the Celestial Vanquisher’s List. He had greatly surpassed Lu Yin and the others to the point where he was practically on the same level as the Ten Arbiters.

All matters of Ironblood Weave were handled in an orderly manner by Wang Wen. With his own capabilities, he had weaved the nine great strongholds of Ironblood Weave together and allowed them to display an even more powerful united front than ever before.

Chapter 572: Decent Artillery Shells

Wang Wen was one of the few people in Ironblood Weave who was qualified to meet with the Hall of Honor’s Elder Lohar.

Wang Wen was on the astral beasts’ hit list, which meant that, no matter how badly the Astral Beast Domain wanted to kill the brilliant Limiteer, Ironblood Weave would respond by increasing their protection of him. General Fei had once said that he could die, but Wang Wen could not.

“These Lockbreakers abuse their privileges and still refuse to come. I’ve sent them a warning, and if they still refuse to accept the draft, then they will be treated as traitors,” Wang Wen staunchly said. He wanted to punish the Lockbreaker Society, which was a highly privileged organization, but his tone made it sound as simple as punishing a normal person.

General Fei replied in a deep voice, saying, “The Lockbreaker Society is also a subsidiary of the Hall of Honor, and they have used their identity to reject Ironblood Weave’s draft notice on multiple occasions

already. Now that the Inniverse and Outerverse have been separated, no one can take responsibility for their decisions. If they decline the draft yet again, then we'll invite Elder Lohar to step forward."

Wang Wen nodded. "That's right. The higher one's position is, the more they will fear death."

He then aimlessly flipped through the Ironblood Points rankings, but as he did so, his eyes flickered. No matter what he did, his mind was always moving and calculating. His intellect could predict his opponents' actions, and this was something that the Astral Beast Domain had become well aware of.

No matter what level the experts had achieved whom Ironblood Weave recruited, they were all nothing more than chess pieces in his eyes, chess pieces to maneuver against the Astral Beast Domain. Even Nightqueen Qiuyu was no exception, as the Enlighters' arrangements had all been made by Wang Wen.

"This Lu Yin is very interesting. He's killed three Enlighters, which is unfortunate," Wang Wen commented with interest. As long as a creature was human, no matter what schemes they may have made in the past, in Wang Wen's eyes, they were all chess pieces for him to pit against the astral beasts' invasion, which was why he felt that it was a great pity for three Enlighters to have been killed.

General Fei's expression remained calm. "He relied on foreign objects, and one day, his power vessel will be depleted."

"But even by himself, he's an unrivaled Limiteer. How interesting. He's someone from the Outerverse, and his surname is 'Lu.'" Wang Wen continued, but his voice grew softer at the end until not even General Fei could hear him.

Lu Yin spent two quiet days in Seasons Fort. During this time, it was very peaceful without any battles breaking out. He and the reinforcements from the Great Yu Empire settled down on a mainland, which was not too far from the space station where they had first docked.

The fort was not strictly supervised, and when there was no battle taking place, Lu Yin was allowed to walk around as he pleased, as long as he did not leave the zone that he was guarding.

Since they were stationed this close to the space station, Lu Yin was able to see the reinforcements from the other weaves arrive, and at this moment, he saw someone familiar: Charon.

Back at the Astral Combat Academy, Lu Yin had been chased around by the people of the Blaze Realm. At around that same time, he had rolled six pips on his die, Possessed Charon's body, and thus discovered the man's secrets. Lu Yin had then used Charon's reputation to protect himself, but it hadn't taken him long to gain the power and reputation to survive in the trial zones on his own.

Charon himself was a genius from the Timor Weave, and when he had been in the Astral Combat Academy, he had been a five-star Discerning Elementary Lockbreaker as well as the Area Master of the Dao of Purgatory's Whitebones Gorge. By now, Charon had long since broken through to the Explorer realm, and he had probably reached the standard of a Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker. What Lu Yin remembered the most about the man was that he had an ancient object that he had obtained through lockbreaking: the Unveiled Sword.

The Timor Weave was located rather far away from Ironblood Weave, and logically, it should have been isolated by many energy barriers, preventing it from sending any reinforcements to Ironblood Weave.

Charon's appearance surprised Lu Yin, and he delightedly stepped forward to greet the alumni from his academy.

Charon stared at Lu Yin like he had seen a ghost, and his expressions went through the full spectrum, from feeling stifled, anger, shock, dumbfounded, to envy and more. In any case, Lu Yin saw all sorts of extreme human emotions in an incredibly short span of time as he approached Charon.

"What? Aren't you happy to see an old friend?" Lu Yin teased the man.

Happy enough that I want you to die, Charon inwardly cursed. His innermost secret was known only to three people in the universe: himself, the bastard in front of him, and his even more shameless master that had initially discovered Charon's secret. If possible, Charon did not want to bump into this asshole ever again for the rest of his life.

But wishes were just wishes, and now that they had met, Charon had no choice. Lu Yin's battle records quickly flashed through Charon's mind, and a smile quickly broke across his face. "So it's Brother Lu. What a coincidence."

"Seventh Bro, this fellow's smile is ridiculously fake." The Ghost Monkey was bewildered.

Lu Yin had also noticed this, but he wouldn't be happy either if he was talking to somebody who had uncovered all of his own secrets. However, Lu Yin was very happy at the moment because he wanted to see how much Charon's lockbreaking had improved. There wasn't a single Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker in the entire Seasons Fort, which had made Lu Yin feel rather sullen. Most Lockbreakers were afraid of dying, so none of them had come to the battlefield.

Now that Charon had broken through and become an Explorer, logically, he should have also become a Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker.

"Brother Charon, are you very tired? Your expression doesn't seem quite right," Lu Yin asked with feigned concern.

Charon smiled wryly. "I am indeed tired. That... Brother Lu, I'll go and rest for now. We'll have to catch up next time."

Lu Yin hurriedly grabbed Charon. "Let me ask you something."

Charon grew suspicious.

Lu Yin continued, "Your sister-in-law-"

He was only able to get those words out when Charon turned to leave with a darkened face.

Lu Yin quickly shouted, "I wasn't finished. I'll keep going."

Charon whirled around to stop Lu Yin from saying anything more, and he asked through gritted teeth, "What the hell do you want?"

"It's nothing much. I'm just concerned about your emotional wellbeing. After all, we are fellow students, and I'm also a member of the Council of Astral Academy. Thus, I have a certain administrative duty concerning the students," Lu Yin said with a smile.

Charon angrily growled, "I've already graduated."

"Have you forgotten your roots?"

"It's got nothing to do with forgetting my roots. I've already graduated, so the Council of Astral Academy cannot oversee me anymore."

"It's not about overseeing. It's about my concern. Don't get confused."

"Lu Yin, you're too much! I've already broken through to the Explorer realm." Charon's eyes were flushed red, and his veins were practically popping out of his skin.

Lu Yin's lips rose as he raised a hand and clenched a fist. "You're threatening me."

Charon's heart skipped a beat and he suddenly remembered that this bastard could kill even Cruisers, and there had even been recent rumors of him killing Enlighters. Charon didn't quite believe those rumors, but they must have started somewhere, which meant that this bastard did have some capability. Charon knew that he could not beat Lu Yin.

Charon was terrified, and finally, he grudgingly asked, "Lu Yin, what do you want?"

Lu Yin smiled. "Nothing much. It's just that, recently, I've become a bit lost on the path of lockbreaking. Thus, I wanted to ask for some pointers."

Charon sullenly let out a long breath. "Fine, I'll tell you everything I know about the path of lockbreaking, but you cannot use that secret to threaten me ever again."

Lu Yin's eyes brightened. "Deal."

That night, Lu Yin and Charon chatted and drank merrily, or at least that was how Lu Yin saw it. However, from Charon's expression, he was quite obviously not enjoying himself.

Charon was a genius Lockbreaker while Lu Yin was confident that his abilities allowed him to see more clearly than any other Lockbreaker. However, he was lacking in quite a bit of experience when it came to actually lockbreaking, and he needed to make up for that gap.

Charon had not become a Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker when he broke through to the Explorer realm as Lu Yin had assumed. It was not that simple to become a Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker, and now that the Outerverse had been cut off from the Innerverse, there were not many Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreakers left in the entire Outerverse, which meant that they could not promote Charon. Hence, he was forced to remain as a five-star Discerning Elementary Lockbreaker.

"Do you have any confidence in being able to patch the holes in the formless danger field of those sourceboxes in space?" Lu Yin asked.

Across from him, Charon rolled his eyes. "Dream on! If I could do something like that, then I would have been sent here to Ironblood Weave a long time ago. Every stronghold has its own sourcebox defenses and their associated dangers, but unfortunately, they're all useless. Wang Wen has attempted many

different methods to transfer Lockbreakers over to Ironblood Weave and fix the holes, but he hasn't succeeded."

"Wang Wen?" Lu Yin felt that the name was familiar and checked the rankings. He found the name belonging to the third Enlighter on the Ironblood Points rankings. Hold on! Lu Yin's eyes went wide. That person wasn't an Enlighter, but rather a Limiteer!

"You don't know about Wang Wen?" Charon exclaimed.

Lu Yin stared at Wang Wen's name on the list in disbelief. How was this possible? How could a Limiteer surpass so many other Enlighters and be ranked third on the list? How had he done it?

"Tell me more about him," Lu Yin prodded.

Charon was just about to speak when the sky rumbled and massive alarms rang throughout the fortress.

Lu Yin's face changed. "There's another battle."

After just three days of quiet, battle had descended upon the stronghold yet again. But to the veterans of the fortress, this was something that they were already accustomed to. Lu Yin had also visited Erudite Flowzone's border warfront, so he was able to adapt quickly. Charon was actually the same since he had been sent to the border warfront as well.

The Astral Combat Academy had an agreement with the battlefields, and the various branches regularly sent their students there to participate, which had given Lu Yin and some others a bit of wartime experience.

Many sourceboxes dropped down from space, and multiple batches of Void Wanderers suddenly appeared. They were mowed down by countless firearms as blood poured down from the sky in a scarlet rain.

One Void Wanderer appeared near Lu Yin and Charon and tried to take advantage of their momentary inattention. The beast tore through the void as a large number of beasts poured out.

Formless ripples radiated outwards from Charon's body, which gave him an exceptionally valiant aura. This feeling was Charon's domain, and Lu Yin was surprised to see that Charon's domain was much stronger than his own. The Unveiled Sword appeared in Charon's hand, and when he slashed with the sword, it carried the strength of his domain with it. The group of Limiteer beasts ahead of him were sliced apart, and even the two Explorer realm beasts were eliminated.

Smug with his results, Charon looked at Lu Yin, as he was very confident of his attack.

Lu Yin glanced at him appreciatively, which disgusted Charon. This was how a senior looked at a junior. Charon spoke up, "Brother Lu, it's time to demonstrate your skills. I heard that you've even killed Enlighters."

When he finished speaking, an astral beast dropped down from above them. It was as large as a mountain, and it directed its immense pressure downwards. The pressure was enough to crush the entire mainland to pieces, and Charon's face warped. "Cruiser, RUN!"

Astral beasts were not humans, and astral beasts' defenses were generally stronger than their human counterparts. Even if Charon was able to cross realms to challenge Cruisers, he was not quite confident against a Cruiser realm astral beast.

Lu Yin looked up. "Decent artillery shells."

Charon was lost. "Artillery?"

Lu Yin had a serene expression as he suddenly dashed upwards. He raised both of his hands towards the beast and violently slammed against it.

Charon's mouth fell open. Was this guy crazy? Was he trying to compete in strength against an astral beast?

Boom!

The void shuddered and almost distorted as a powerful shockwave swept through the sky and across the ground. Charon felt his breathing slow down as his entire body was forced underground. It wasn't just him, as a large portion of the mainland that he was standing upon was pressed down.

When Charon looked up at the sky, he saw an unforgettable scene. Lu Yin had actually forcibly restrained that Cruiser beast before throwing it towards a group of astral beasts, treating it just like an artillery shell.

Lu Yin's previous words rang through Charon's mind. Decent artillery shell... Decent artillery shell...

So he actually meant those words? Is that bastard really even human? How can a human be so strong? Even a Hunter probably wouldn't be able to do that!

Chapter 573: Nine Lined Battle Force

Lu Yin released all three grains of Fatesand and unleashed his full physical strength. He had once used his entire strength to force the Oolong Horse back. Although it had just been an Explorer, it was famous for its strength, and it was even stronger than the Cruiser realm astral beast before him. Lu Yin had not been afraid of contesting that horse's strength, let alone the astral beast.

He had no idea how badly he had just shocked Charon, but the young Explorer was currently doubting whether or not his own path of cultivation was the right one.

The astral beasts surged towards them from all directions, and all of these creatures were all at least at the Limiteer realm. Lu Yin didn't even understand how the Astral Beast Domain had produced so many formidable beasts.

The Ghost Monkey explained that all astral beasts would reach a certain level of strength upon maturing and that such creatures had no need to cultivate.

Astral beasts boasted powerful innate gifts while humans were better at creation.

The battle showed no signs of stopping even after three consecutive days of fighting. Charon panted heavily, and his hand holding the Unveiled Sword was a bit shaky. Fresh blood dripped down from his shoulder onto the back of his hand.

He had been ambushed by a Cruiser realm beast, and he would have likely died if not for Lu Yin's support.

Lu Yin had also been targeted by various astral beast powerhouses over the past three days, but his universal armor had allowed him to resist multiple attacks from various Cruisers, and they had eventually given up. After that, they had surrounded him with a huge group of Limiteer realm beasts in an attempt to stifle him to death.

When the battle began, Aden had used his thunder shield to firmly push a Hunter beast towards the mainland where Lu Yin was stationed. Once he saw that Lu Yin was safe, he continued to push that Hunter back away. It almost looked as if they were on a tour.

Huo Qingshan took similar actions to check on Lu Yin.

There was a loud rumble, and despite being surrounded by countless astral beasts, Lu Yin turned towards the east where he saw a portion of the mainland shatter and fall off. A creature composed of blue crystals roared at the sky as its body grew larger.

"That's an Amethyst Beast! How strange. Why would one of those appear here?" the monkey shrieked.

Lu Yin stared at the crumbling mainland, as that was where the reinforcements from the Great Yu Empire had been stationed. They had only arrived two days before, but their future seemed inauspicious at this moment.

"Seventh Bro! Seventh Bro, I'm talking to you!" the monkey shouted.

Lu Yin endured his sorrow. "Speak."

He then turned back around and struck out with his fists to carve out a path through the surrounding beasts. Even just the aftershocks from his attacks were enough to almost injure Charon.

"That's an Amethyst Beast! There aren't even twenty of those in the entire Astral Beast Domain! They all live in the Celestial Beast Empire, but one of them actually appeared here today! Something isn't right. Your stronghold is in terrible danger! Hurry up and call Aden!" The Ghost Monkey was becoming more and more anxious with each passing moment.

"What do you mean?" Lu Yin had a bad premonition.

"The Amethyst Beasts are a strange existence—much like the Cosmic Hous—nobody even knows how the first one was born. Since ancient times, they've been rare. Even during their most prolific era, there were only ever thirty of them. Each one of them is very precious, but one of them is here right now, which means that the astral beasts are absolutely confident in their ability to take over this stronghold. If that wasn't the case, then there's no way the Celestial Beast Empire would let an Amethyst Beast come here," the monkey solemnly explained.

Lu Yin wondered whether or not he should immediately contact Aden and Huo Qingshan to have them head over towards him.

Roar!

The intense snarl shook space itself. To the massive Seasons Fort, such an effect wasn't anything much, but to the continent that Lu Yin was on, it was enough to make it crumble. Blue crystals appeared, reflecting the cold starlight.

It was a Cruiser realm Amethyst Beast.

"It's just a Cruiser. I can handle this," Lu Yin said.

The monkey hurriedly stopped him. "Seventh Bro, this freak can morph. Don't take the risk."

"Give me some details." Lu Yin was impatient.

"An Amethyst Beast has three forms. The first is its normal form, which isn't too eye-catching. The second is a blue crystal form that increases its power by an entire level. The third is the amethyst form, which increases its power by yet another level. As soon as this monster reaches a certain level, it will become unequalled within its realm because no one will be able to break through its defenses! These things are absolute freaks!"

Lu Yin frowned, as this information meant that the Amethyst Beast was a thorny problem. According to the monkey, the Celestial Beast Empire was very protective of these rare beasts, and they were not allowed out unless there was no fear for their life. It seemed like Seasons Fort was in grave peril.

Lu Yin passed on a message detailing the current circumstances to Liu Zhan, as he trusted that Liu Zhan would inform Liu Qiuyu.

The Amethyst Beast demonstrated its overbearing nature by causing the mainland to crumble. Lu Yin pulled Charon away and retreated, but they were still caught up in the destruction.

Charon stared at the distant Amethyst Beast in shock. Its blue, crystalline figure was rather conspicuous, and it made the creature an immediate focus for the entire battlefield. However, none of the human powerhouses' attacks or shots from all sorts of firearms were able to cause it any harm. Even a Hunter's attacks weren't enough to damage it.

The beast was almost unparalleled within the same realm as far as its defenses were concerned, and it could even cross realms and repel a Hunter's attacks.

Liu Zhan suddenly appeared and slashed at the Amethyst Beast's body, causing a portion of the blue crystals to be sliced off. The beast howled in rage, and its color changed quickly to purple. A terrifying fluctuation rippled out from the beast and stunned many people. The beast's strength had now reached the level of a Hunter.

Even though Liu Zhan was one of the top five powerhouses at Seasons Fort, a single slash of his sword wasn't able to cause the creature any harm.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. Even the Yin Guai from before hadn't been able to withstand Liu Zhan's strike so casually, and it had needed to recover from the attacks as well. On the other hand, this Amethyst Beast didn't seem to be fazed by anything.

There was a thump, and Liu Zhan was sent flying by a slap from the beast.

Lu Yin was speechless, and he suddenly realized that every time he saw Liu Zhan, the young Hunter was being trashed.

Liu Zhan himself was also feeling depressed. He had protected Seasons Fort for so many years, and most battle required the enemy to mobilize a few Hunter beasts to stop him. After all, he had a power level of 180,000. However, this time, it was different. Quite a few powerful beasts had appeared recently, such as the Yin Guai during the previous battle, or the Amethyst Beast this time. Truthfully, Liu Zhan had not run into such powerful Hunter realm astral beasts during all his years in Ironblood Weave.

Boom boom boom!

The ground started rupturing as the beast shattered half of the mainland with its thrashing. It then looked in Lu Yin's direction. It leapt up and crashed into that section of the mainland, hitting even the space station with its attack.

Charon grabbed Lu Yin and was about to fly into space when, all of a sudden, there was a tremendous roar as Aden appeared and lightning descended. His thunder shield expanded outwards, and he plummeted towards the Amethyst Beast, which remained fearless even as the thunder shield collided against it.

There was a bang as the void collapsed into a blackhole that swallowed everything. But then, it vanished in an instant. A giant shockwave caused many of the nearby soldiers and cultivators to feel dizzy, and it looked like the sky itself had shattered.

The distorted void even influenced the battles in outer space.

Many could see that the thunder shield had stopped the Amethyst Beast in its tracks, and Aden grinned. "So it's actually an Amethyst Beast. It looks like the Celestial Beast Empire has finally started to move."

The beast used star energy to vibrate the air and produce sound. "Human, you're very powerful."

Aden laughed. "I've long since wanted to test an Amethyst Beast's unequalled defense and see whose is stronger—yours or mine." His thunder shield expanded yet again as lightning flickered across it.

The beast bellowed and swatted at the shield. There was another thump, and the entire region quivered while countless spatial cracks shot out like raindrops.

Lu Yin and Charon dodged the aftershocks from the two powerhouses' clash as they stared into space. This was a battle of defenders.

Liu Zhan appeared, wanting to join the fray, but he was blocked by another Hunter beast.

Lu Yin and Charon moved to a different battlefield, as the mainland was on the verge of collapsing. There was no need to defend it any further.

Even the astral beasts left the mainland alone, and both sides essentially wrote it off.

The two passed by the space station, and Lu Yin was dragged along by Charon as they dashed towards another planet that was smaller than the mainland that they had been on before. However, this one

supported an ecosystem that the earlier mainland had lacked. When they looked up, they were able to see straight into space.

One planet connected two mainlands. This was how the strongholds were constructed.

This planet was similar to the mainland in the sense that there were astral beasts all around them with corpses forming oceans of blood. Things had even reached the point where the seas had been stained red.

Lu Yin and Charon rejoined the battle.

Above the fortress, the battle between the Amethyst Beast and Aden intensified. The creature was furious, as it had never met any human whose defenses could compare to its own. The purple crystals on its body sparkled radiantly. "Human, you can't best me."

Aden looked back at the beast with a serious face. "You really are an Amethyst Beast. I'll show my true strength now." The star energy from Aden's body transformed into lightning that then formed a mountain. He had formed a thunder mountain, and this was his Thunder Mountain Technique.

Immovable like a mountain; fierce like thunder. This phrase had been well-interpreted by Aden, and he used the mountain's solid defense and the lightning's incomparable ferocity to push the Amethyst Beast back into outer space.

In the distance, Liu Qiuyu, who had been keeping an eye on the battle, was amazed. He had seen this technique before, but it did not seem to be something from the Outerverse. Could it be from the Neoverse?

In a similar fashion to when he had first arrived at Seasons Fort, Aden revealed a defense that left others dumbfounded. This time, he was pushing the Amethyst Beast through outer space.

Countless human cultivators were inspired, as this was a display of power that could cause their morale to soar.

The beast's eyes went wide. "Human, you've aggravated me!"

The purple radiance on its body erupted with radiance once again, and this time, its colors deepened, and the crystals seemed to absorb the nearby light. Then, waves rippled out from the purple crystals, like when a stone was dropped in a pond. Suddenly, Aden's thunder shield was pulled into the beast's body and absorbed.

"Die, human!" It swatted at Aden.

Aden had lost his thunder shield, and he was thus smacked away by the Amethyst Beast.

The dynamics of the battle had switched too quickly, and in the distance, Liu Qiuyu's heart sank. This was an innate gift that was unique to the strange lifeforms that were the Amethyst Beasts. This creature was definitely from the Celestial Beast Empire, and the empire wanted to rely on this beast to destroy Seasons Fort. Since they had dared to send the beast to Ironblood Weave, it meant that the stronghold was in serious danger.

The beast snarled and charged towards Seasons Fort, as its mission was to destroy this stronghold. No one could stop it, and even an Enlighter could not do such a thing. The beast's defense was matchless.

Liu Qiuyu's sword forced away the Enlighter beast that he had been fighting. He wanted to attack the Amethyst Beast, but he was almost instantly obstructed again by the Enlighter beast. "Liu Qiuyu, this battlefield will be the last thing you will see. Seasons Fort is finished."

Liu Qiuyu was flustered, as no one aside from him could stop the Amethyst Beast. No—even he was not confident in being able to stop the beast. As long as it set its heart on destroying the stronghold, he would be out of options.

At this moment, Aden, who had been sent flying, suddenly tore through the void and reappeared. His face was so gloomy that it was scary, and when he emerged from the void, he was in front of the Amethyst Beast. He looked up as purple veins spread across his entire body and a red radiance shot into the sky with a vibrancy that could cause passions to boil. He had activated nine lined battle force.

The entire stronghold was shocked by his nine lined battle force. In the past, even the strongest cultivator at the fort had only ever displayed eight lined battle force, but a nine lined battle force user had suddenly appeared out of the blue.

A powerful warrior was someone who had a clear conscience as well as a determination that came from their heart. They could manifest that will and wield it for attack or defense, or even to break through their limits to crush the heavens and tear the sky apart.

Chapter 574: Six-Stage Formcast Model

Aden raised an arm, and the lightning mountain formed from his star energy was suddenly covered with a red hued battle force as it ruthlessly struck the Amethyst Beast.

The beast released a furious howl, but it had already been stopped by Aden's attack.

Aden had a vicious expression. "It's been a while since I've had to use my nine lined battle force. I'd almost forgotten what it felt like." He threw a punch at the beast. "Let's see if your defenses can still stop me."

The Amethyst Beast raised a paw and batted at Aden.

The two of them were entangled in a stellar battle once again.

Liu Qiuyu was in shock. Where had this monster with nine lined battle force come from? Aden clearly had a strong will, and considering how he didn't seem to be that old, he was sure to become a major powerhouse in the future.

The Enlighter beast looked perplexed. Freakish geniuses often showed up among humans. There was no denying this.

On a planet, Lu Yin stared up into space with envy. He'd seen the red battle force: it was clearly nine lined battle force. At the moment, Lu Yin's battle force was only at six lines. The difference between them was just too vast. It was unbelievable that Aden had actually attained nine lined battle force.

This battle continued on for two days. During this time, the fiercest battle was the one between Aden and the Amethyst Beast.

Aden's innate gift, the thunder shield, had been absorbed by the Amethyst Beast, so he needed some time to call it out again. However, by using his nine lined battle force, he had essentially seized the advantage.

However, the Amethyst Beast's defense truly lived up to its reputation of being invincible. Even Aden's nine lined battle force was not enough to fully stop it. At most, its crystal body might have been cracked, but actually defeating it was an entirely separate issue.

In the end, the battle concluded when the astral beasts withdrew like the tide. When the Amethyst Beast left, its eyes were filled with reluctance as it looked back at Aden. The reason why the battle had ended had something to do with them, as Aden had been just about to reform his thunder shield. The moment it reappeared, the beast would no longer be able to hold on. For this reason alone, the battle had to end.

The Astral Beast Domain wanted to make use of the Amethyst Beast to destroy Seasons Fort in a pivotal attack, but the defenders had managed to hold out thanks to Aden. The battle between the two had actually determined the very survival of the stronghold.

After the battle, Liu Qiuyu personally summoned Lu Yin to commend him for bringing Aden and contributing to the defense of the fort.

Lu Yin accepted the compliments, but he also knew that Aden would no longer have any attention to spare for him.

To give Lu Yin some peace of mind, Liu Qiuyu instead arranged for Huo Qingshan to stay by Lu Yin's side, which could be considered as compensation for taking Aden. It was also meant to make Aden feel more comfortable about the new situation.

Lu Yin did not tell Liu Qiuyu that he and Aden weren't exactly close, and he instead simply accepted it. However, he had already considered whether or not he should have Aden join the Great Yu Empire, so now, he was slightly regretting his choice. If he'd known that something like this would happen, he would have changed their bet and have Aden directly join the Great Yu Empire.

After the most recent battle, Lu Yin's Ironblood Points had increased to 2,090. The second battle had lasted longer than the first, but during this battle Lu Yin had mostly only killed Limiteer realm beasts. Since they had surrounded him, he had not been able to earn as many points as before.

The five people ranked in front of him had around the same number of points as him at the moment. After another battle, he would be able to surpass them.

Lu Yin thought that he would be able to get some rest for a few days and take a breather, but a piece of shocking news soon spread through the entirety of Seasons Fort fort that hit everyone like a bucket of cold water: they had lost Ironblood Fort.

While Seasons Fort was locked in battle, Ironblood Fort had been caught in the same situation, though it had encountered a battle the likes of which had never been seen before. The Astral Beast Domain had sent ten Enlighter realm beasts at the fort, and while Ironblood Fort had almost ten Enlighters itself after

Nightqueen Qiuyu and the rest arrived, they had still lost in a very pathetic manner. More importantly, the hidden powerhouse protecting the fort, Crow Phoenix, had died in the battle after being attacked by a terrifying Amethyst Beast and an astral beast called a Monster Loach.

Ironblood Fort had always been the foremost defense of Ironblood Weave. As long as it stood strong, the other eight fortresses of Ironblood Weave would remain secure. Ironblood Fort had always been the weave's mental pillar, but because of that, when it was destroyed, it acted as a huge mental blow to the other eight strongholds.

On the day the news was received, Seasons Fort went silent. Nobody was happy that the battle had reached a lull; all they felt was absolute despair.

Lu Yin sat on an island next to a sea and stared up at the sky.

"So that's why that Amethyst Beast attacked Seasons Fort. It was because there was an even more terrifying Amethyst Beast that could even kill a monster from the Phoenix Family with a power level of over 350,000. That means that that creature must be a terrifying existence within the Celestial Beast Empire and the top powerhouse of all Amethyst Beasts. We need to run, Seventh Bro! Even someone with a power level of 400,000 can't stop that thing!" the Ghost Monkey wailed fearfully. He didn't want to sit there waiting for his death.

Lu Yin was feeling incredibly down. The power of the Amethyst Beast from the battle that had just ended was still fresh in his mind. Even Aden had only been able to contend with the beast on roughly equal terms even though the creature only had the strength of a Hunter. And now, he had just learned that there was an even more terrifying Amethyst Beast that had killed an almighty powerhouse with a power level of over 300,000. What's more, that monster had been someone from the Phoenix family. This piece of news came with a heavy wave of pressure, and this pressure was not something that could be easily removed.

More importantly, this wasn't even the worst that the Celestial Beast Empire was capable of. That empire was a tremendous power that was capable of single handedly contending against the Human Domain's Inverse, and it did not lack for Envoys either. The moment powerhouses of that level appeared, nobody in the entire Ironblood Weave—no, the entire Outerverse, would be able to stop them. Lu Yin could not see any trace of hope for survival. He could not see a future.

"Say something! Let's escape! Nobody will blame you. Ironblood Weave is done for," the monkey urgently exhorted.

Lu Yin sounded depressed. "I'm human. Where can I run away to as a human? Tell me."

The monkey fell silent. The Outerverse where the humans lived was now about to be crushed by the Astral Beast Domain. Nobody would be able to survive.

Lu Yin thought things over and shook his head. This was not something that he could solve alone. Right now, the most important thing he could do was break through and become an Explorer. It had been a while since he'd first felt like he was about to break through. He believed that the next time it would come wasn't far off. So, he needed to urgently upgrade his forecast model to a six-stage model.

Right now, most people were busily repairing the battlefield. Lu Yin blocked off the star energy in his right arm and found somewhere to hide. He then raised a hand and looked at his die, which was rotating slowly. It'd been quite a while since he'd last rolled it, and it was about time.

He tapped out with a finger, and the die started to roll until it stopped and showed Gift Copy. Lu Yin was speechless at how useless this roll was.

The next time he rolled the die, it landed on Timestop.

In order to guarantee that he would roll Enhance, Lu Yin extended the duration of the Time Stop Space so that he could rest for ten days before rolling the die again. Unfortunately, he rolled Pilfer. He had no choice but to rest for ten more days before rolling the die again.

He had plenty of star crystals, so he could easily extend the time. If he hadn't already reached the peak of the Limiteer realm with the last step being to break through to the Explorer realm, then the amount that he had would be enough for him to reach the peak of any realm anyways within this isolated space.

The only resource that he was not lacking in was time.

Finally, the fourth time he rolled his die, he got Enhance.

When he saw the two light screens appear, Lu Yin sighed in relief. Cultivators needed to be able to endure loneliness, but if possible, he didn't want to stay in this isolated space for too long. It was far too suffocating.

He retrieved his formcast model, and without any hesitation, tossed a thousand star essences onto the upper screen.

Previously, he'd used more than a hundred star essences, which only caused the formcast model to dip slightly into the screen. Based on that progress, fully upgrading the formcast model would require at least thousands of star essences, maybe even more than ten thousand. It was an exorbitant amount.

The result turned out to be about what Lu Yin expected. It took him eight thousand star essences to fully upgrade the formcast model.

At this moment, the formcast model had a very different appearance from before, and it looked rather interesting. Lu Yin filled his eyes with star energy and looked at it, only to discover that its number of rune lines was incredible. It even exceeded what he had seen from Enlighters.

While touching the formcast model, Lu Yin suddenly felt a sort of boundless strength that shocked him to the core. This six-stage formcast model had been upgraded through his die rather than being created by an Envoy, but he could still feel an unfathomable power that was reminiscent of an Envoy from it.

He was finally becoming increasingly aware of how truly amazing his innate gift was.

Then, Lu Yin put the formcast model away and sighed. All he had to do now was wait to break through. When the feeling returned, he wouldn't be able to suppress it anymore, so his success or failure could only be left to fate.

He still had 24,000 cubes of star crystals with him, and he did not want to waste them. Lu Yin considered his options and decided that his survival was still the most important thing. For the moment, the attacks of his gun were more than powerful enough. If he ended up running into an expert whose power level exceeded 300,000, then even all the money that he currently had wouldn't be enough to raise the power of the gun to a threatening enough level. Therefore, it would be better to upgrade his universal armor.

His armor had already been upgraded nine times, but he took it out again and threw out four thousand star essences.

The previous nine upgrades had cost him nearly three thousand star essences, but for this tenth upgrade, another four thousand turned out not to be sufficient. Although it made his heart bleed, Lu Yin tossed out another thousand star essences to finish upgrading the armor for the tenth time. However, he wasn't satisfied with just a single upgrade, so he gritted his teeth and threw out more than ten thousand star essences in one go. The universal armor fell through the screens very quickly and was upgraded once again. But as the cost, Lu Yin was now left with very few star essences.

He had initially wanted to upgrade it one more time, but from the looks of it... Lu Yin stored the remaining star essences away. He didn't have enough for another upgrade, as the next one would require at least 15,000 star essences while he only had 13,000 remaining. These upgrades cost an insane amount of money, but the armor should now be able to withstand an attack with a power level of 300,000.

When considering the entire Outerverse, there were only a handful of people who could withstand attacks from powerhouses whose power levels had reached 300,000. Lu Yin was now one of those few.

The rest of the star essence that he had left was only enough for him to upgrade one thing: the Money Bombs. It had cost him 3,300 star essences to upgrade the Money Bombs to their current level, and the next upgrade would probably cost him five or six thousand. The gun, on the other hand, would need nearly 20,000 star essences to upgrade again, and he really could not afford that much.

He took out the Money Bombs, though he only had two of them left. One was a regular one that had not been upgraded while the other one had been upgraded to the point of being able to kill an Enlighter. He threw the upgraded one onto the screen and used the last 13,000 star essences in his possession on it. Under Lu Yin's hope-filled eyes, it was upgraded twice. He could see a large amount of rune lines on it, which numbered about the same as the ones on his upgraded universal armor. That meant that this Money Bomb had the power to threaten a powerhouse whose power level was around 300,000.

Lu Yin was excited as he stored the newly improved Money Bomb away, but then he looked at his now empty cosmic ring. There was one thing that he had to admit to at this moment, which was that he was completely broke.

The amount that he'd spent during this round of Enhancing his equipment really hadn't been worth what he had spent. He had only upgraded a few items, but each upgrade's cost was increasing exponentially. He had no idea how he was going to earn enough to continue doing this, as even killing an Enlighter wouldn't provide him with enough funds.

Once the clock of the Time Stop Space ran out, Lu Yin suddenly heard a warning alarm sound from above. His expression immediately changed; was the next battle already starting?

Chapter 575: Endless Battle

Lu Yin rose into the sky as cultivators appeared all around him. All of them had expressions of loss and grieving.

He looked at his gadget and quickly discovered what had happened. The remaining people who had been at Ironblood Fort were pulling back. Humanity had given up on their foremost line of defense.

This meant that Seasons Fort, Giantghost Fort, and Yellowsoil Fort were now the frontlines of the war. The miserable situation that had previously erupted at Ironblood Fort would now come to these next three forts.

Despite the passage of countless years, Ironblood Fort had never once failed to force back the astral beast invaders. Even at its most critical moments, it had only been temporarily let go, only to be quickly seized back by the reinforcements from the middle three strongholds. However, at the moment, the middle three forts hadn't even had a chance to reinforce the first stronghold.

The Astral Beast Domain had redirected a great deal of its strength to Ironblood Weave, and they had violated their truce with the Human Domain due to their desire to invade the humans' Outerverse.

Many people disappeared from the Ironblood Points rankings, including four Enlighters, dozens of Hunters, and many Cruisers. All of these people had perished at Ironblood Fort.

Four Enlighters had actually died, and with the announcement of Crow Phoenix's death, Lu Yin could only imagine the intensity of the battle that had taken place.

"The remnant forces from Ironblood Fort will move to the middle three strongholds to aid their defense. Although this means that our middle three strongholds will be strengthened, it also means that we'll be facing the Astral Beast Domain's main force that has almost ten Enlighters among them. Even an old freak with a power level of over 300,000 wasn't enough to defend against that force, and now, our three mere middle strongholds will find it even more difficult to hold on." An older Explorer's face sank, and desperation could be clearly seen in his eyes.

Lu Yin looked around and saw that everyone around him was in a similar state, and even he himself felt the same. The Outerverse was in a truly desperate situation now.

He expected that Elder Lohar would have sent out another wave of draft notices for Outerverses for more reinforcements by now. It was likely that even the hidden Enlighters like Topmist would be forced out. Lu Yin had not seen that old fogey's name on the ranking list, but as the defense of Ironblood Weave grew more intense, those Enlighters would definitely be forced to participate.

One day later, Seasons Fort welcomed in the remnant survivors from Ironblood Fort. Through observing their rune lines, Lu Yin could tell that, among the arriving troops, there were three Enlighters, at least ten Hunters, and many Cruisers and Explorers.

Ironblood Fort had not been able to send all of their surviving forces to Seasons Fort, which meant that what Lu Yin saw was just a third of its remaining forces. But now he knew that even three times of what

he saw arriving had not been enough to defend Ironblood Fort, which made Lu Yin feel even more hopeless.

In outer space, above the stronghold, the meteor-like sourceboxes peacefully floated along as they emitted a formless danger zone that Lu Yin could see through their rune lines. The field of invisible danger covered most of Seasons Fort, but there were quite a few places without any rune lines, which were the holes in the sourceboxes' defensive formation.

Seeing the holes was one thing, but having the ability to patch them up was something else altogether. The formless danger zones had been set up in a careful array that was predicated on a thorough understanding of the sourceboxes' killing potential. This array arranged them in layers such that they did not repel each other while also guaranteeing that the danger zones would not be diminished in power.

Lu Yin did not have the ability to do such a thing. Even if he was given a bunch of similar sourceboxes, just placing them within the gaps in the danger zones would be useless, as that could easily cause the entire danger field to undergo an upheaval.

This level of understanding and ability was something only within the scope of comprehension for a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker.

Lu Yin looked for Charon, planning on asking him about knowledge related to the arrangement of sourceboxes. He was curious to see if Charon knew anything about it.

During the most recent battle, Lu Yin had saved Charon, and thus, his attitude towards Lu Yin had improved slightly. "The composition of sourceboxes? I don't know, and my Lockbreaker mentor in Astral-6 never explained it to me either. He only offered me a little bit of advice: one has to comprehend it for themselves, as everyone has a different understanding of such arrangements. This is because there are countless permutations to a formless danger field."

Lu Yin fell deep into thought. Some sourceboxes were able to cause people to fall into their own fantasies while others directly killed anything that approached them. And there were still others yet that could allow the power of predecessors to appear. There were indeed many permutations, which naturally gave rise to countless arrangement methods and variations. Unfortunately, Lu Yin could not even arrange even a single one.

He looked up and saw the sourceboxes that orbited around like satellites, and he wondered what exactly their formless dangers were.

"Brother Lu, you can't really be thinking about researching such things. Stop thinking too much into it. That's a level that even Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreakers can't touch. There might not be anyone at all in the Outerverse who's reached that level. Do you know what 'Boundless Advanced' signifies? It represents a status that's even surpassed that of an almighty Enlightener with a power level of over 200,000. When such a powerhouse appears, even if they don't make a move or use their lockbreaking methods, they can still end a battle," Charon explained.

Lu Yin suddenly turned to Charon. "What's the power of your Unveiled Sword like?"

Charon suddenly looked cautious. "What do you want?"

Lu Yin casually replied, "I'm just curious. After all, it's an ancient object."

Charon continued to be vigilant against Lu Yin. "Take your curiosity elsewhere. The Unveiled Sword is mine."

Lu Yin had no choice, as this person was just too wary of him.

In the previous battle, he had intentionally looked over to observe the Unveiled Sword's rune lines. The strange thing was the sword's rune lines had been constantly changing; at times, the amount was terrifying, but at others, it was pathetic. Charon had not managed to demonstrate any strength, so Lu Yin was positive that he had not unlocked the full potential of the Unveiled Sword yet, which was a waste in Lu Yin's perspective. If he was able to get ahold of the Unveiled Sword, then he could upgrade it several times with his die's Enhance, which would make it nearly as powerful as his gun. What a pity.

"Right, aren't you from Timor Weave? Why did you come here to Ironblood Weave?" Lu Yin asked.

Charon grudgingly answered, "After I graduated from Astral-6, I went to Darkmist Weave to make a name for myself, and I even managed to gain some reputation. But then I was recruited by name."

Lu Yin felt that it was strange. "You were drafted by name even with your strength?"

Charon's face turned ugly, as he did not like to hear such words.

Lu Yin looked up again. What other way did he have to patch up these holes? Seasons Fort did not have any Lockbreakers who were capable of doing so on their own, and although Lu Yin could clearly see the holes, he was helpless to do anything to them, which was rather disturbing.

Charon left. Lu Yin had already been staring up at the sky for several hours, and Charon could not possibly accompany him the whole time.

Off in the distance, Huo Qingshan looked at the shattered ground and the couple of collapsed planets. His expression was complex, and he was wondering if he would be able to leave this place alive.

The danger from the sourceboxes manifested in countless forms, and the sourceboxes themselves had no fixed positions either, so how had those beasts found the holes? Lu Yin was baffled. Did the Astral Beast Domain also have creatures that could see rune lines?

That would be bad. If the position of the holes remained fixed, then Seasons Fort could gather all of its strength and focus on defending those few locations, which would definitely cause the astral beasts to suffer great harm.

Hold on. Lu Yin's mind flashed with inspiration; wasn't he someone who could see the holes? During the next invasion, the astral beasts' route would definitely pass through those gaps, which meant that he knew their invasion route ahead of time.

Lu Yin grew excited as he thought of this. He wanted to tell Aden and have him contact Liu Qiuyu on Lu Yin's behalf.

Eh? What's that? Lu Yin felt lost as he stared at the sky. He suddenly saw an astral beast after staring for so long. Was it an illusion? No, the attackers had arrived.

The next moment, blaring alarms rang throughout Seasons Fort, and Huo Qingshan's expression changed. He suddenly appeared beside Lu Yin and raised a hand as an inferno engulfed the void.

Countless firearms fired at the Void Wanderer that had just appeared, but the attacks were all crushed by an enormous strength that was at the Enlighter level. At the same time, from Seasons Fort's command center, multiple extremely strong powerhouses dashed out, which were the Enlighters such as Liu Qiuyu, Featherking, Wen Qichen, and Elder Viletree. Several Enlighters also appeared from the invading beasts' side, and the clash between the two forces immediately escalated to a tremendous and overwhelming conflict in outer space.

The Amethyst Beast from before reappeared, and Aden arrived in a timely manner to obstruct it again. This time, Aden unleashed his nine lined battle force at the very beginning of the fight, and he combined it with his thunder shield to suppress the Amethyst Beast. It roared and tried to use its innate gift to absorb the thunder shield, but Aden was prepared for this move this time. The Amethyst Beast couldn't move, and it started losing this battle right from the get go.

There were a great number of remnant forces that had come from Ironblood Fort, to the extent where their power even surpassed Seasons Fort's original forces. Lu Yin saw the Sword Sect's Elder Viletree, Liu Sanjian, and Long Yun appear as well.

He had not realized that Long Yun had not returned to the Inniverse. Evidently, he had been stranded in the Outerverse as well.

A Hunter realm astral beast quickly fixated onto Huo Qingshan, as his actions had been too eye-catching earlier, when he had killed a large number of beasts in a vast region with one strike.

Lu Yin was once again surrounded by countless Limiteer beasts, which caused him to feel very sullen. He found that whenever his performance became too outstanding, he would be targeted in the next battle. The intelligence of these astral beasts was not to be underestimated.

Suddenly, a group of cultivators appeared, and they helped Lu Yin by holding the surrounding beasts back. "Leave them to us!"

Lu Yin was bewildered, as he did not know these people. Still, he did not think about it for too long, and he quickly leaped up and headed towards other battlefields. At the next place, he slammed a palm against an Explorer realm astral beast, instantly shattering it into smithereens. After that, Lu Yin gained the attention of a Cruiser beast.

Those cultivators who had moved to help Lu Yin had done so under Wang Wen's orders, which were to allow Lu Yin to effectively maneuver through the battlefield.

Lu Yin was clearly a Realmbreaker, and he could even threaten Enlighters. However, the astral beasts sought to surround him with a bunch of Limiteers, which was a waste in Wang Wen's eyes. With his monstrous intellect, he would not allow for such a valuable resource to be wasted. Even though there were many soldiers and cultivators on the battlefield, they were all his chess pieces, and he would fully utilize each pawn's strength.

Dead Pass was located at the uppermost regions of Seasons Fort, and it was not far from the area that Lu Yin was defending. He looked up, as the pass was very eye-catching, and powerful astral beasts were constantly attacking that place. However, its defenses were also very powerful.

Suddenly, he felt a chill go down his spine, and he dodged to the side with Secret Sidestep. An enormous strength distorted the void where Lu Yin had just been standing, and he saw an enormous amount of rune lines coalesce through his eyes. It was a Cruiser realm Yin Guai.

He didn't hesitate and directly attacked the beast, but the Yin Guai responded in kind and raised a paw to clash against Lu Yin.

There was a loud thump as the void shook. Lu Yin took several steps back and looked at the beast in astonishment. He had unsealed all three grains of Fatesand, but he had still been knocked back. It was no wonder why the Yin Guai was known as the Astral Beast Domain's equivalent to the humans' Mavis family.

The Yin Guai did not come out of the clash in much better shape, and its shock was even greater than Lu Yin's. Not only had this human accurately pinpoint its position, but his physical strength had even suppressed its own, which was something that it had never encountered before.

"Human, are you a monster?" The Yin Guai used star energy to vibrate the air in order to speak.

Lu Yin was furious. "You're the monster!"

He quickly used the Secret Sidestep Technique to instantly move behind Yin Guai, and his six lined battle force emerged as he pressed both of his palms against the Yin Guai's back. "Thirty Stacks... Fiftyfold... Shockwave Palm."

There was another boom, and the Yin Guai spat out a mouthful of blood, its figure growing considerably visible. Its back had shattered from the impact before it died less than a moment later.

Lu Yin panted heavily. He constantly had to remind himself that this battlefield was not the same as Planet Pyrolyte and that there were no restrictions on his potential opponents' cultivations. Even Cruiser realm freaks could appear in front of him at any time, and Hunter geniuses could ambush him as well. Even if he was wearing the upgraded universal armor, he still had to maintain extreme vigilance.

He did not want to entrust all his hopes to the universal armor either. The day would eventually come where he would be caught off guard after removing it. Then, his battle habits would be ruined, which would prove fatal.

Chapter 576: Lu Yin And Wang Wen

Suddenly, Lu Yin's scalp went numb, and head snapped up in shock. He saw a large number of rune lines that surpassed even Nightqueen Qiuyu and the other Enlighters. They formed into steel-like feathers on a wing that swept towards the pass.

No one could react in time, and the entire pass collapsed as a result. Any defensive power was laughable beneath the wing's might. This was an almighty expert whose power level had exceeded 300,000.

The Featherking bellowed, "Monster Loach, stop!"

He charged towards the feathered wing while Elder Viletree, Wen Qichen and the others also attacked it from another direction.

The wing casually waved, and all of the attackers' strengths were neutralized.

"Even Crow was killed by me. If it's just you guys, then you must be looking for death." A giant voice reverberated throughout the area, and everyone who heard it had their faces turn ashen. In the end, an old freak whose power level surpassed 300,000 had indeed appeared.

Liu Qiuyu stared intently at the pass. He would not mind no matter how many others died, but nothing could be allowed to happen to Wang Wen. Nothing!

The void burst open as a colossal, fish-like monster appeared before everyone's eyes. Its massive body was large enough to cover the entire pass. Its steel-like wings once again swept towards the pass, but then, suddenly, Aden appeared in its attack path. His thunder shield expanded out as his nine lined battle force and Thunder Mountain Technique were displayed to the extreme as he charged forward with a snarl.

Lu Yin's eyelids twitched. That idiot!

There was a loud thump as the thunder shield shattered and Aden was blasted into the ground like a loose sandbag.

The wing sliced through the ruins of the pass, and Monster Loach appeared to be ecstatic. "Your Ironblood Weave's pillar, that kid Wang Wen, is finally dead! Hahaha."

Countless faces turned grey. First, it had been General Fei, and now, it was Wang Wen. Who would be next? It would likely be those almighty Enlighteners, and then, there would be no way to defend Ironblood Weave.

Lu Yin frowned. What about Elder Lohar? Why hasn't he appeared yet?

In outer space, above the fortress, Monster Loach's attacks smashed everything apart. The Featherking, Wen Qichen, and Viletree weren't able to stop the beast even with their combined efforts. The old freak whose power level exceeded 300,000 was too fearsome, and it was on a completely different level.

In the distance, a gleam of light appeared that suddenly flew towards Lu Yin.

He focused on it and was astonished by what he saw. What is that? A coffin?

A colorless and transparent coffin-like object shot through space and crashed towards Lu Yin with a youth lying within it.

Lu Yin avoided it, letting the coffin strike the ground and create a huge crater.

Beasts appeared around the coffin, but Lu Yin had no time to bother with it. He remained steadfastly focused on massacring the group of beasts.

The youth within the coffin opened his eyes shortly after crashing into the ground, and he looked like he was in agony. When he opened the coffin lid to observe the surroundings, the first thing that he saw was a big, ugly beast angrily charging towards him.

The youth was so frightened that he snapped the lid of the coffin back closed. The beast bit the coffin, but its teeth actually broke, infuriating it. In its anger, it started to incessantly attack the coffin.

The youth inside paled. "Someone, save me! I am Wang Wen! Wang Wen! Save me!"

Lu Yin's ears twitched. Wang Wen? He looked at the crater underneath him and saw that quite a few beasts had moved over to gnaw on the coffin. However, despite their best efforts, the coffin did not budge in the slightest, and there were no signs of it being broken through.

"Hurry! Save me! This is terrifying!" the youth in the coffin screamed incessantly.

In a flash, Lu Yin appeared atop the coffin and dispatched the few beasts attacking it. He then looked at the coffin. The youth inside it exchanged glances with Lu Yin and blinked. "Excuse me, but please don't point your butt at me."

Lu Yin leapt off of the coffin and opened it.

The youth stood up, panting heavily as he wiped his sweat from his face. "That was freaking scary! I thought that I was going to be eaten."

"You're Wang Wen?" Lu Yin asked.

The youth nodded and smiled. "Wang Wen. And you're Lu Yin. Right, I've seen your information. You're a decent chess piece."

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. "Chess piece?"

Wang Wen suddenly pointed a finger behind Lu Yin. "There's a beast!"

He then moved at top speed, returning to the coffin and snapping the lid shut. He then just laid there, stiff like a corpse.

Lu Yin was speechless. If this person truly was Wang Wen, then he was too scared of dying! This was totally different from the others that Lu Yin had met on the battlefield!

The surrounding beasts were only in the Cruiser realm at best, and it was unlikely that any stronger ones would appear, so it didn't take Lu Yin long to clean up the area.

Wang Wen emerged once again, and he looked at Lu Yin with admiration. "It's no wonder why you're considered to be the unequaled Limiteer. Powerful!"

"Let me try to confirm this again: you're Wang Wen, the person who's ranked third on the Ironblood Rankings?" Lu Yin asked.

"Second, now that General Fei's dead." Wang Wen shrugged as he casually answered Lu Yin's question. It seemed as if he didn't feel the slightest bit of grief over the general's death.

Still, Lu Yin had no time to bother about such things. "Since you're Wang Wen, then figure out a way to resolve this calamity. I've heard that you're supposed to be amazingly intelligent."

"Not by much. I'm just a little better than you chess pieces," Wang Wen replied humbly.

Lu Yin frowned. This guy reminded him of Hai Qiqi, as neither of them minced their words.

An enormous pressure enveloped them that crushed the ground, and Wang Wen looked up in pain. “Monster Loach is too powerful. Lu Yin, attack it.”

Lu Yin was flabbergasted. “Me? Attack?”

“Of course! It’s your turn! Don’t you have a power vessel that allows you to kill Enlighters? Go on and kill Monster Loach! You’ll be able to obtain tens of thousands of Ironblood Points, which can then be exchanged for tens of thousands of star essences.” Wang Wen tried to tempt him.

Lu Yin had not thought that Wang Wen would have such a clear understanding of him, and it struck him to the bottom of his heart. Unfortunately, he could not kill an old freak with a power level that surpassed 300,000. “My weapon isn’t powerful enough to kill Monster Loach.”

Wang Wen patted Lu Yin on the shoulder. “I’m not actually asking you to kill it. Just scare it off. Look, it’s just a fish, and they’re cowards by nature. Otherwise, this fellow would not have been held back by Ironblood Fort for so many years. Go on, kid, I believe in you.”

Lu Yin looked at Wang Wen with a strange expression. “You came here especially to find me?”

Wang Wen nodded. “Of course, as you’re a very important chess piece.”

“I’m nobody’s chess piece.”

“Alright, let’s just pretend like you aren’t. Attack!”

Lu Yin looked up at the sky. He could not be persuaded to charge in just from a few words by Wang Wen. However, Viletree and the others clearly could not hold out any longer, and there were several Enlighter beasts that were currently slaughtering the human forces. If they could not take care of Monster Loach, then Seasons Fort would be doomed as well, which meant that Lu Yin would also be done for. He had to give his all at this moment.

“What about Elder Lohar? Where is he?” Lu Yin asked.

Wang Wen grudgingly answered. “Do you think that the Astral Beast Domain forgot about him? Old Lohar has been held back, or else Monster Loach wouldn’t have dared to make an appearance. Now hurry up! If you don’t act soon, then we’ll all be dead soon. That fish is so large that you’ll be able to hit it even with your eyes closed. Hurry!”

Saying those words was easy, but the truth was that all powerhouses had an intense sensitivity towards danger. As soon as they felt danger, no matter how large a beast might be, they would still be able to instantly disappear, preventing them from becoming an easy target. Lu Yin was considering what the best way to hit it was.

He suddenly looked at Wang Wen. “You just used this coffin to withstand Monster Loach’s attack?”

“What coffin? That sounds so coarse. This is a survival tool that was given to me by the Hall of Honor,” Wang Wen corrected before urging Lu Yin to move.

“Has Monster Loach seen you before?” Lu Yin asked.

Wang Wen nodded, and then he felt that something was off. He cast a wary eye at Lu Yin. "What do you want?"

At the top of his voice, Lu Yin suddenly yelled, "WANG WEN, FLEE! I pledge my life to protect Wang Wen!" The volume of his shout was exceptional, and he even used his physical strength to make it resonate through all of Seasons Fort. It could even be heard in outer space. His shout attracted a great deal of attention, and Monster Loach naturally heard it as well.

Viletree was smacked away by Monster Loach's tail, and the human Enlighter spat out a mouthful of blood. He looked down with a pale face. Which person was so idiotic that they would expose Wang Wen's whereabouts?

Liu Qiuyu, the Featherking, and Wen Qichen also cursed. They knew that Wang Wen possessed a tool that would ensure his survival, so they had not been afraid of him being killed by Monster Loach. However, it was different if his means of survival was discovered by Monster Loach, as the beast could carry him away even if it could not kill him.

Monster Loach heard Lu Yin, and it spun its eyes down to where it saw Wang Wen floating through space. "You're actually still alive! I'll send you on your way soon."

The fish-like monster then swept downward with its wings.

Wang Wen went green in the face, and he instantly closed the coffin before glaring at Lu Yin. "You bastard! You won't have a good death."

Lu Yin donned his universal armor and calmly watched on as countless beasts swept down towards them as the wing swung down from the sky. Monster Loach was attacking, and no one could stop it.

Lu Yin took out his gun and fired.

Bang!

He was sitting on top of the coffin with his butt squarely in Wang Wen's face. Monster Loach wanted to kill both youths with a single strike, so Lu Yin's attack would definitely strike true.

Given Wang Wen's description of Monster Loach's personality, the old fellow was rather cautious, so it would definitely become careful of Lu Yin, which was why he had fired the gun.

The bullet struck Monster Loach's wing and tore open a small wound, which shocked Monster Loach. A puny Limiteer was actually able to harm itself slightly, though it wasn't much. This tiny cultivator was actually able to unleash such a terrifying attack! It was no wonder why the youth had dared to attract Monster Loach's attention. Unfortunately, Lu Yin had underestimated a powerhouse whose power level was over 300,000.

Monster Loach already considered Lu Yin's attack to be amazing, and the creature wasn't alone in its thoughts; everyone else thought so as well. It was inconceivable for a Limiteer to harm Monster Loach, but they had just witnessed it themselves.

Wang Wen had given up all hope. If he had known that Lu Yin would take such actions, he would not have looked for him only to be dragged down together with him. He had wanted Lu Yin to launch a sneak attack on the massive astral beast and shoot it in the eye or something. Since this kid had already

killed three Enlighters, he clearly had some way to land an attack on a powerhouse. Who could have expected this bastard to be so stupid!? He had simply drawn the old freak's attention by shouting at it, and what's worse, he had used Wang Wen as bait! Doomed, they were doomed!

Everyone watched on in horror, as anyone else besides Wang Wen could die here.

However at this moment, there was no one who could stop Monster Loach.

Its wings landed on the ground and completely enveloped a massive area of the fortress. Even when working together, Viletree and the other Enlighters couldn't stop such an attack.

Lu Yin raised his left hand as a Money Bomb appeared in it. He had seen Monster Loach's rune lines, and they were about the same as his Money Bomb. Since that was the case, then this attack would be unforgettable for the old freak.

A light beam shot out from the Money Bomb and pierced the creature's wing under countless stupefied looks. The attack then passed through the wing to continue piercing through Monster Loach's body before finally shooting off into outer space, where it caused an entire region to collapse.

At this moment, all of Seasons Fort fell silent, and everyone blankly stared at the scene, dumbfounded.

Then, Monster Loach's wails spread throughout Seasons Fort as it stared at Lu Yin with its giant eyes that were filled with equal parts resentment and horror.

Lu Yin slowly took out another Money Bomb and pointed it at Monster Loach.

It snarled. Everyone expected that the beast would go berserk, but it instead slipped away. It completely disappeared, only leaving an ocean of its blood behind.

Nobody had thought that a powerhouse with a power level that surpassed 300,000 would run away like that.

Lu Yin had only needed one blow to force it to retreat, and this shocked everyone, even all of the attacking beasts.

Chapter 577: Hot Pursuit

The human cultivators broke out in raucous cheers, and soon after, the battle was over as the entire beast horde left like a stream.

This battle had started and ended very quickly, and the one who had ended the battle was Lu Yin.

Liu Qiuyu and the others all stared at Lu Yin in disbelief. A Limiteer had just ended the battle by defeating Monster Loach. It was like the story from a fairy tale coming true.

No one could believe it.

Aden emerged from the ruins, also stunned by Lu Yin's strength.

Huo Qingshan looked at Lu Yin, agitated. This was how the Royal Regent of the Great Yu Empire had always been. He always had tricks up his sleeve that no one could possibly expect.

Liu Zhan, Long Yun and the others all looked at Lu Yin. Lu Yin was now the center of attention in the entire Seasons Fort.

Elder Viletree, Wen Qichen, and the others all had complicated expressions on their faces. They had all initially been very against this young man, and he had offended many people during his time on Planet Pyrolyte. However, they now had no choice but to thank him, as without his help, it was unlikely that they would have survived the battle.

Wang Wen opened the coffin lid with a thud and looked at Lu Yin excitedly. "Haha! You really defeated Monster Loach! Impressive! You really are an important pawn! Very good, haha!"

Lu Yin released a long breath and smiled awkwardly as he stored his universal armor away. To defeat Monster Loach, he had been forced to use up the Money Bomb that he worked so hard to upgrade. That Money Bomb had been arduously upgraded with tens of thousands of star essences, and now, it was gone just like that.

He was hoping that he would receive a significant number of Ironblood Points. However, he was fully aware that he had not killed Monster Loach.

"Hey, Chesspiece Bro, why don't you seem happy? You just made history! A case could even be made that you're now my equal. For a Limiteer to become a determining factor in battle, even if you did use some foreign objects—though there's nothing wrong with that—you'll still go down in history." Wang Wen was overjoyed and was constantly patting Lu Yin's shoulders.

Lu Yin grinned. "What do you think my status will become in the Astral Beast Domain after this?"

Wang Wen rolled his eyes. "Even though you won't be on the same level as me, you won't be far from it. Anyone who can determine the outcome of a battle will receive such recognition, even if they're just some useless creature that can be easily killed by some expert. Anyway, you were already on the Celestial Vanquisher's list from the start, so there's nothing to be afraid of."

Lu Yin was left speechless.

"Seventh Bro, I feel that this guy is scamming you. You're even better than him given the fact that you—as a Limiteer—were able to defeat an old monster with a power level that surpassed 300,000."

Lu Yin shot a glance at the excited Wang Wen. Scam? That was not entirely the case. Even if it had not been for Wang Wen, Lu Yin still would have found a way to attack Monster Loach. He was aware that a personal loss could still be a gain. He was human and would not harm the survival of his species out of selfish desire. If they lost the war, then he would still end up as a stray dog even if he survived.

And yet, for some reason, while listening to Wang Wen's boastful excitement, it was possible for someone to believe that Wang Wen had actually been the one who defeated Monster Loach, and this made Lu Yin very unhappy.

"Come on Chesspiece Bro, let's have a chat in the pass," Wang Wen said happily as he tried to drag Lu Yin along.

Lu Yin instead turned around to leave. "I don't have time for that. I need to rest."

Wang Wen yelled, "Just one drink! That battle was such a brutal one, so have a drink to gain some courage."

"I am not as timid as you." Lu Yin waved him off and left.

Wang Wen rolled his eyes and mumbled to himself, "I hate it when people turn their back on me."

Lu Yin had regained control of the situation during a desperate battle. The amount of Ironblood Points that he ended up being awarded was more than what he'd expected. Ironblood Points were given out solely based on how many astral beasts they killed, as there were several other forms of contributions that could give a person points. These included inventing weapons and proposing defensive strategies that would fortify the forts. All such acts were contributions and added to one's Ironblood Points.

For his efforts in the most recent battle, Lu Yin had gained 30,000 Ironblood Points, which made his position leap straight to the top ten of the Ironblood rankings.

Killing an Enlighter beast would usually only earn a person 20,000 Ironblood Points, but Lu Yin was given 30,000 straight away. This showed just how much Lu Yin had contributed to the battle.

Lu Yin was excited as he looked at the rankings. He was now one of only two people in Ironblood Weave to have reached the top ten despite not being an Enlighter. Since General Fei had died in the recent battles, Cool Sis retained her position in tenth place. Her Ironblood Points stood at 29,000, which was only slightly different from Lu Yin's points.

Lu Yin looked up the list; the powerful Enighters who were ranked above him may not have killed any Enlighter beasts, but they had killed many beasts over a long period of time, which was why they were ranked so high on the list. However, when considering the number of Enighters that these powerhouses had slain, Lu Yin was confident that there was no one in Ironblood Weave who had killed more than three Enighters, which was something that he had done.

Enighters were hard to kill, as anyone who could reach the Enlighter realm would be hard to deal with. However, it was precisely Lu Yin's status as a Limiteer that had made everyone overlook him. This advantage had been boosted by the fact that he had Progenitor Wushang's Hide and could coordinate his attacks with the Yu Secret Art or use bait like Wang Wen. Finally, the astronomical amount of money he had spent to upgrade his weapons had made him a true force to be reckoned with.

He was just like a small child who could kill adults by using a gun.

This was why many people claimed that intelligence trumped ability.

32,000 Ironblood Points was equivalent to 32,000 star essences. Lu Yin's eyes lit up, as he had money once again. However, he was concerned that Seasons Fort would not have enough star essence to exchange for.

With this worry in mind, Lu Yin contacted Wang Wen.

Wang Wen had given Lu Yin a means to contact him, claiming that it was for easier communication. However, the Ghost Monkey saw it as Wang Wen taking advantage of Lu Yin.

"Chesspiece Bro, why are you contacting me so soon? Do you need me to share some of my great wisdom with you?" Wang Wen asked happily.

Lu Yin looked at the unpleasant face on his gadget's screen and unenthusiastically replied, "I want to trade my Ironblood Points for star essence. Is there enough star essence at the fort?"

Wang Wen replied, "Of course! Don't underestimate Ironblood Weave. Countless resources from both the Outerverse and Innerverse have been gathered here. The amount of star essence here is enough to form a mountain. I do have to ask you though, do you want to exchange for them right now?"

Lu Yin pondered for a moment. "I'll make the exchange right away."

Wang Wen was not surprised. From what he had come to learn, this youth from Frostwave Weave was obsessed with money. Even though Wang Wen did not know the reason why Lu Yin was so obsessed, he guessed that it was probably due to Lu Yin's family background. It was said that Lu Yin had been brought to the Great Yu Empire from Earth.

Wang Wen flipped through the materials that he had on Earth, and a glint flashed through his eyes.

Lu Yin did not know where Seasons Fort's star essences were stored, but 30,000 star essences were quickly brought to him by a cultivator. He was rather excited at the prospect of being rich once again.

Lu Yin had requested the exchange too quickly, so his name only climbed to the top of the Ironblood Rankings for a very brief amount of time, preventing anyone from noticing it. The various strongholds were also all busy with handling their own battles, so no one had the time to browse the rankings. Otherwise, Lu Yin's sudden leap through the rankings would have been huge news that shook the entire Ironblood Weave.

Perhaps it was the excitement that came with his newfound wealth, but for the third time now, Lu Yin felt like he was about to break through.

Lu Yin's heart stirred as he sat down cross-legged and began to recite the Stonewall Scriptures. He wanted to do everything that he could to suppress this feeling, as he had no confidence in being able to break through.

Suppressing the feeling of breaking through was very tough. As the monkey had put it, it was the same as suffering from constipation. Lu Yin had no choice but to suppress his breakthrough, as if he failed in his attempt, it would have harsh consequences for him.

After half an hour passed, Lu Yin finally let out a heavy breath. He looked at his hands, glad that he had managed to suppress his breakthrough. That being said, this was definitely the last time that he would be able to delay it. If he encountered this situation again, then there was no way he could suppress his breakthrough.

It was unknown whether or not Enlighters would be able to help him breakthrough, and this gave Lu Yin a huge headache.

Something suddenly came to mind, and he immediately contacted Wang Wen.

"Chesspiece Bro, what's the matter?" Wang Wen asked with a smile.

Lu Yin replied, "Can you transfer Wendy Yushan back to Seasons Fort? With the help of her secret technique, my attacks will be able to hit anyone."

Wang Wen sighed. "I'm getting angry now that you've reminded me about this. Who was stupid enough to split you two up? The two of you are unbeatable when it comes to launching sneak attacks on beasts, and yet you two were still separated."

"Then send her back," Lu Yin said.

Wang Wen helplessly replied, "I can't transfer her back, as the other forts have been completely isolated, particularly the other three middle three forts. They were isolated since the beasts are afraid that the three forts will form an alliance. I would suggest that you drop this line of thought."

Lu Yin was disappointed. "I've been meaning to ask this, but where is Elder Lohar?"

Wang Wen was puzzled. "Why do you ask?"

"Nothing much. I'm just wondering why he didn't appear in the last battle," Lu Yin replied.

"Elder Lohar went to deal with the Amethyst Beast. That creature has very powerful defensive powers, and aside from Elder Lohar, no one else can contend against it. If it wasn't for that Amethyst beast, then the old man from the Phoenix clan wouldn't have died. Do you really believe that that old freak from the Phoenix clan was killed by Monster Loach? The fish was bluffing."

After ending the conversation with Wang Wen, Lu Yin set his personal gadget down. Mankind was the best at hiding, and there were definitely people from the Hall of Honor hiding in the Outerverse. Since that was the case, then were there also more hidden powerhouses from the Three Dark Hands?

As far as he could remember, there were several Neohuman Alliance strongholds in the Outerverse. However, the most skilled warriors that the bases held were only at the Hunter realm, and none of them held any Enlighters.

But against the Astral Beast Domain, which was powerful enough to hold its own against the Innaverse, even the powerful experts with hidden powers would not be of much help. Lu Yin could only rely on himself.

Lu Yin raised his head and looked at the meteor-like sourceboxes, trying to come up with a way to fix the holes.

Two days later, another battle started up. This time, Monster Loach was nowhere to be seen. However, there were two other Enlighter beasts this time, and one of them was staring at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin had a bad feeling about this. He had initially been chasing after a Cruiser beast when the void in front of him suddenly tore open, and his body was sent flying. There was nothing that he could do.

He filled his eyes with star energy and was shocked at what he saw. There was a spider-like creature covered from head to toe with thread that was charging towards him. Its rune lines were no less than what he had seen on either Lei Long or Karthika. It was an Enlighter realm astral beast.

Without thinking, Lu Yin immediately tried to escape. However, he was easily caught by the threads. The spider-like creature had a human face, and its appearance was revolting. Its face sported a sinister smile as it pulled Lu Yin closer.

Lu Yin raised his gun and fired a shot, but it missed. His gun was no longer a secret, and any Enlighter could easily dodge its attacks so long as they were aware of it.

Just when it seemed like he was about to be devoured by the spider-like creature, a row of words appeared in front of him that trapped the spider-like creature. It was a Literary Prison.

The battle technique known as Literary Prison was something that was passed down solely within the Wen Clan. It had an unparalleled sealing power and required a minimum of sixteen characters to form it. There were seventy two characters sealing the spider-like creature, which even surpassed the number that Wen Sansi had used to trap Yao Gu.

The spider-like creature let out an angry roar and started frantically attacking the Literary Prison.

Wen Qichen appeared and shot a glance at Lu Yin before saying, "Leave."

Lu Yin immediately made his escape, but before he could get too far, another terrifying pressure fell upon him.

Wen Qichen's expression changed drastically, and he took immediate action. Still, his Literary Prison had already been broken. The spider-like creature reappeared and spun its web around Wen Qichen. Wen Qichen hurriedly whirled around to fight the spider-like creature just in time to see the terrifying force smash Lu Yin down into the ground.

Chapter 578: Perished Powerhouse

Another Enlighter beast had appeared in outer space, above the stronghold.

Lu Yin's performance during the last battle had been too dazzling. In addition to that, he was also the strongest human Limiteer as well as someone on the Celestial Vanquisher's List. He was a target that the Astral Beast Domain needed to eliminate, and they now saw him as a target even more important than Liu Qiuyu.

Lu Yin was blasted beneath the ground, but the universal armor protected him, and he was mostly fine aside from being a bit dizzy.

That Enlighter realm astral beast glared at Lu Yin in disbelief. It could not believe that a Limiteer had been able to withstand its attack. After all, not even Hunters could defend themselves against its power.

Lu Yin looked up and locked eyes with the beast as he panted heavily.

"Seventh Bro, we're doomed! You've been targeted! From now on, in every battle, there'll be Enlighter realm beasts attacking you. We're doomed!" the Ghost Monkey lamented.

There was another thump, and the Enlighter beast that had attacked Lu Yin was suddenly repelled by a giant thunder shield. Aden had appeared, and he relaxed once he saw that Lu Yin was fine. He then stared into the distance and vanished.

Two more Enlighter beasts emerged from the Astral Beast Domain's forces and attacked Seasons Fort. One of them targeted Wang Wen while the other focused on Lu Yin.

As for Wang Wen, even an Enlighter realm astral beast could not do much to him since that man instantly hid away in his coffin as soon as any trace of danger appeared. No—as soon as any battle started, he would hide away in his coffin, only to emerge after the battle ended. There were too many people protecting him, and the most nauseating part of it all was that the fellow would vanish for long periods of time, during which no one could find him.

Due to Wang Wen's disappearing act, Lu Yin had turned into a live target, attracting the attention of two Enlighter realm beasts.

For several consecutive hours, Lu Yin was incessantly chased by the beasts. The two Enlighters took turns attacking Lu Yin, and not even Wen Qichen could stop them.

Lu Yin silently cursed to himself. He decided that he would apply to transfer to one of the lower five strongholds after this battle so that he would not be targeted like this again.

With great difficulty, he finally managed to escape from the two Enlighters' repeated onslaught, but another Hunter realm beast soon appeared before him.

Fortunately, Huo Qingshan arrived in time to rescue him. Otherwise, even though it couldn't break through Lu Yin's defenses, it had been trying to drag him away.

Lu Yin now understood why Wang Wen made sure to hide so well. Even if the astral beasts could not injure him, they could still take him away.

With Huo Qingshan's protection, Lu Yin did not need to worry about an ambush from any of the Hunter realm astral beasts. He looked up above them, and his pupils shrank. He saw the rune lines of an Enlighter continuously dwindle at a very rapid pace. Before long, the rune lines completely vanished.

An Enlighter had perished.

Lu Yin did not know who had died. It could have been either a human or an astral beast.

"Not good. They're here again. Your Highness, flee!" One day later, in another corner of the battlefield, Huo Qingshan threw Lu Yin away. From a distance, the spider-like astral beast tore through the void and instantly used its threads to chop off Huo Qingshan's right arm and attack Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's face changed as he watched Huo Qingshan crash into the ground, unable to tell if the man was alive or dead. He wanted to flee, but his speed did not allow him to escape from an Enlighter's attack. The threads instantly bound his right arm right, and if not for his universal armor, then his arm would also have been ripped off just like Huo Qingshan's.

An enormous strength dragged Lu Yin back, and he scanned his surroundings only to discover that there were no other Enlighters. What about Wen Qichen? Aden? There was no one who could save him.

He gritted his teeth as he pointed his gun towards the spider-like creature. It bared its fangs as its giant body suddenly turned illusory. It drifted to somewhere between reality and fantasy from where it could escape into the void at any given moment.

Lu Yin could not deal with the beast. It seemed that his only option was to use the larger piece of Progenitor Wushang's hide after the beast drew close.

"Seventh Bro, the poison! Elder Wu's poison!" the monkey hurriedly reminded him.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed, and he retrieved a vial of Elder Wu's poison from his cosmic ring before claspng it tightly in one hand.

The threads quickly pulled him over to the spider-like beast. Along the way, the threads continuously cut at the universal armor, but it was not damaged in the least. The spider-like beast was stunned. "Human, your universal armor is decent. Take it off, and I'll spare your life."

Lu Yin sneered. "Do you think that I'm an idiot?"

The spider-like beast let out an ear-piercing cackle. "Then I'll trap you forever beneath my belly where you'll watch on as I eat people and spit out their carcasses."

Lu Yin's face paled, as he might as well die if he was destined for such a fate.

The spider-like beast kept its promise, and the threads soon bound Lu Yin beneath its plump belly. His hands in particular received special attention and were entwined with multiple layers of threads so that he could not retrieve his gun.

Lu Yin's eyes were ruthless as he crushed the vial with a bang. The poison flowed along his armor and into the threads. From there, it traveled along the threads and into the body of the spider-like beast.

It did not notice anything at first and leaped into the void to target a male Hunter, but then, suddenly, its wails could be heard throughout the region as it retrieved its threads and dropped Lu Yin. A massive portion of its plump underbelly had already vanished.

Lu Yin was horrified, as some of the vials of poison had so many rune lines that they surpassed what he had seen on Karthika, and he had used one such vial just now.

The spider-like beast was an Enlighter who had only recently broken through, and its rune lines were less than Karthika's. After the poison entered its body, it was currently in a state worse than death.

"Human, what did you put on my body?" The spider-like beast bellowed in agony as it rolled about in space.

Lu Yin did not answer. Instead, he aimed his gun at the spider-like beast, but it suddenly vanished.

Lu Yin felt that it was a pity, as he had not managed to kill it.

In the distance, the Hunter who had just been targeted by the astral beast stared at Lu Yin in shock. This Limiteer had actually sent an Enlighter retreating in miserable defeat, and this toppled his understanding.

Beep beep beep beep!

His gadget beeped urgently, and Lu Yin looked down. His expression abruptly changed, and he instantly charged back towards the stronghold.

'Everyone in front of the stronghold, retreat immediately. Pyrolyte will explode in one minute. Everyone in front of the stronghold, retreat immediately. Pyrolyte will explode in one minute...'

This was the message that Wang Wen had just sent to everyone stationed at Seasons Fort.

Lu Yin had no time to question why Seasons Fort had any pyrolyte, but the only thing on his mind at the moment was to rush back to the fortress as quickly as possible. There was no way that the higher-ups would use only a small amount of pyrolyte in this battle.

He had been taken into outer space by the spider-like beast, and he was still some distance away from the fort. Even with the monkey's help, it would not be very realistic for him to return to the stronghold in less than a minute. Fortunately, there was still the Hunter nearby, and the man grabbed Lu Yin and tore through the void.

One minute later, space itself was warped as rune lines that surpassed an Enlighter erupted above the stronghold. It was rather stunning.

Lu Yin stood inside the fort and stared past the sky. Quickly, violent winds swept through the fortress, and the various planets and mainlands that formed the stronghold began quivering. Tsunamis struck the coasts as volcanoes erupted.

There was a terrifying explosion unfolding before their eyes, and yet they heard nothing.

Lu Yin only knew that everything he saw was warped, but he had no way of knowing how widespread this effect was.

After a while, everything returned to normal. This battle had also ended.

Lu Yin crouched down and held both knees with his hands as he hyperventilated.

This battle had been incredibly difficult for him. First, he had been chased around by Enlighter beasts. Then, if not for Elder Wu's poison, he would have been captured and taken back to the Astral Beast Domain, which would have been a truly desperate situation. He could not imagine what he would experience in that place.

One battle had ended, but what about the next? Lu Yin would still be a person that the Astral Beast Domain needed to eliminate.

Not good—what about Huo Qingshan? Lu Yin's face changed, and he charged to where he had seen Huo Qingshan fall.

When he saw the heavily injured Huo Qingshan, Lu Yin immediately moved to help the Hunter apply some of Shamrock Enterprises' special medications before taking the older man back to a treatment room.

Seasons Fort had no lack of medical facilities, and Huo Qingshan had only suffered from having his arm torn off. With the state of modern medicine, it would be rather easy to reattach it since Lu Yin had been lucky enough to find the arm.

Aden also appeared in the treatment area, and he heaved a sigh of relief when he saw that Lu Yin was fine. "I'm sorry. I was caught up with an Enlighter beast."

Lu Yin nodded. "It's not easy for you to hold off an Enlighter beast. It's fine so long as you survive."

Out of everyone who had traveled from the Great Yu Empire to reinforce Fort Seasons, only the three of them had survived. Lu Yin had not been able to protect the rest of them.

It was no wonder why Lohar had used the Hall of Honor's authority to force all of the weaves to send reinforcements. Otherwise, no one would have come. This weave was a blackhole of death where Explorers, Cruisers, and sometimes even Hunters were unable to protect themselves.

"Featherking is dead," Aden said in a deep tone.

Lu Yin's heart trembled, and he felt his mood drop. Featherking, who was Nightking Feather, had been a powerhouse of the Nightking clan. He had defended Ironblood Fort for many years and never left the place.

Although Lu Yin did not care for the Nightking clan, Featherking still deserved his respect.

An Enlighter had died so casually, and now, his name would be removed from the Ironblood Rankings.

"It was precisely because of Featherking's death that Liu Qiuyu and the others weren't able to withstand the assault anymore. Hence, Wang Wen had Wen Qichen blow up some extremely volatile material called pyrolyte, 50 grams to be exact, and blast away countless beasts. Unfortunately, not a single Enlighter beast had died in the explosion since they all were too quick to escape," Aden explained.

It was no wonder why Wen Qichen had not stopped the spider-like beast, as he had gone to ignite the pyrolyte. Lu Yin felt that something was strange. "Why is there pyrolyte here?"

Aden was shocked. "You know about pyrolyte?"

Aden had been in self-imprisonment this whole time, so he had not heard anything regarding the universe's major events. He had not even known about Undying Yushan's passing since no one had bothered to tell him about it.

Lu Yin gave a simple overview of the events that had occurred with pyrolyte, and Aden commented, "From what you're telling me, the various great powers of the Innerverse have never given up on searching for more pyrolyte. It's been more than half a year since the Sea King stole it from them, so it's not surprising that they were able to find some more."

Lu Yin suddenly thought of something, and he immediately checked the ranking list. He saw that Wen Qichen's Ironblood Points had increased and jumped to seventh place on the rankings. From this, Lu Yin was able to guess that the pyrolyte had belonged to the Wen family and that Wen Qichen had been left with no alternative but to donate the pyrolyte to the defense of the stronghold.

Since Wen Qichen had evidently obtained some pyrolyte, the Sword Sect should have some too. It was simply a question of whether they would use it all up during this war to hold back the Astral Beast Domain invasion or if they would still have some to bring back.

This made Lu Yin want to get his hands on some pyrolyte and try to upgrade it a bit.

The pyrolyte explosion had not killed any of the Enlighter realm astral beasts, but it had been tremendously destructive against the weaker beasts since it had been an explosion with a power level in the several hundreds of thousands. This led to four days of peace for Seasons Fort.

Huo Qingshan had his arm connected after just a day, and he was able to recover from a significant amount from his injuries with the remaining time.

The special medications in Lu Yin's cosmic ring had all been taken from Enlighters, so their efficacy was better than normal.

During these few quiet days, Lu Yin kept an eye on the rankings list and saw that Wendy Yushan's name never disappeared. He knew that she was at least alive.

He had no other way to confirm her status since the battles in Ironblood Weave were just too intense. He also wasn't able to contact her through his gadget since their signals were being intercepted by the astral beasts. Aside from the battle system rankings that were accessible from anywhere in the weave, anything else that required a network connection had been cut off.

The astral beasts did not stop the various strongholds from looking at the Ironblood Points rankings, as the rankings were a double-edged sword. If the humans dominated in a battle, then the list could be used to improve morale. If they fell to a disadvantage, then the list would cause the other forts to fall even further into despair. At this moment, it was clear that the astral beasts were dominating all of the battlefields. Thus, they wanted all of the humans to pay attention to the rankings list and give in to despair. The intelligence of the astral beasts was not to be underestimated.

Chapter 579: Lu Yin's Function

Ryan Merke's name had also disappeared from the Ironblood Rankings list, which meant that he had died as well. Almost all of the other cultivators from the Great Yu Empire who had gone to reinforce Yellowsoil Fort had also perished.

After just a few days of battle, almost all of the Great Yu Empire's troops had been eradicated. If the empire had been tasked to defend one of the forts by themselves, they would not have been able to last for even an hour against the onslaught of the astral beasts.

This also showed the terrifying might of the Astral Beast Domain. As soon as Ironblood Weave was breached, the humans' Outerverse would be filled with rivers of blood.

Lu Yin had obtained quite a few Ironblood Points in this battle. They were not from killing enemies, but rather from stalling them. Most of his points were from his struggle with the spider-like beast, and he had been given more than 1,000 Ironblood Points for keeping the Enlighter realm beast occupied for so long.

His previous Ironblood Points had all been exchanged for star essence, which had caused him to drop from tenth all the way to the hundreds. Now that he had another 1,000 points, he had climbed back up to just shy of the hundredth position.

He contacted Charon, and the two met up atop a cliff on one of the planets that formed the stronghold, enjoying some wine that Charon brought.

Charon had been injured rather severely, and he was no better off than Huo Qingshan.

"I nearly died, really, just almost. If that beast's claw had moved just a little bit further, then my head would have been gone." Charon shuddered and took a big gulp of the wine.

Lu Yin similarly took a big mouthful. "The best thing about these large battlefields is that they don't prohibit alcohol."

"We're not commoners anyway. Us cultivators can get rid of the stupor at any time, so it won't affect our battle abilities."

"You said that you nearly died. What were you thinking of at that moment?"

Charon fell silent.

Lu Yin grew suspicious. "Your sister-in-law?"

Charon's face warped, and he hurriedly covered Lu Yin's mouth. A shout was heard from behind the two youths. "Sister-in-law? Bro, you thought of your sister-in-law?"

Charon turned around and stared dumbfoundedly at Wang Wen, who had suddenly appeared, and his expression grew even more savage.

Wang Wen became so frightened that he pulled out his protective coffin in less than an instant and jumped inside of it.

Lu Yin was speechless. "That's Wang Wen, the number two on the Ironblood rankings."

Charon blinked as his face turned ashen. Now there was another person who knew his secret.

Wang Wen studied Charon for a moment, and once he was certain that this person wouldn't attack him, he climbed out of his coffin. "Actually it's pretty refreshing here. You guys mind if I join you?"

Lu Yin rolled his eyes. "What are you doing here?"

Wang Wen sat down beside Lu Yin while keeping a cautious eye on Charon. He then grabbed Lu Yin's drink and took a big swallow. "I'm exhausted, so I came here to relax."

Lu Yin snatched his drink back. "You can't drink. You need to stay sober."

"Don't look at me like some commoner, Chesspiece Bro. Even if I'm drunk, my intelligence is still enough to crush you guys!" Wang Wen laughed.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed, as this fellow was simply asking to be beaten.

"Wives?" Charon looked at Lu Yin and Wang Wen in confusion, feeling like he had just learned a juicy secret.

Wang Wen nodded. "Yes, chesspiece."

"Wives?" Charon repeated.

Lu Yin could not take it anymore and patted Charon on the back. "Don't torment your brain so much. He's talking about chess pieces, like in chess. In his eyes, all of us are merely his chess pieces, and so that's what he calls us."

Charon was disappointed; there was no secret.

Wang Wen proudly said, "Cheers, Chesspiece Bros!" before trying to snatch Lu Yin's drink again.

Lu Yin did not bother with him, and Wang Wen could not manage to seize Lu Yin's drink, so he instead moved to steal Charon's, who did not dare to retaliate. Wang Wen's position in Ironblood Weave was too lofty, and Charon felt rather afraid, especially now that Wang Wen knew his secret as well.

"Speaking of, bro, you really can do it. First, you wounded Monster Loach, and then, you forced that spider-like beast back. It's no wonder why you're hailed the strongest Limiteer! My most lovely chesspiece! Hahaha," Wang Wen began to speak nonsense as he became more and more drunk.

Charon wasn't much better, and after he fell to the ground, he seemed to murmur some name, which Lu Yin maliciously assumed to be the man's sister-in-law.

The trio went through more than ten bottles, and not one of them forced the alcohol out of their systems, so it wasn't unexpected for them to get drunk.

Lu Yin also felt a bit light-headed, but his tolerance was much better than the other two. As he listened to Wang Wen, he suddenly asked, "Why are you surnamed 'Wang?'"

"Why are you 'Lu?'" Wang Wen retorted.

Lu Yin shook his head. "You're drunk."

Wang Wen clucked dismissively. "Drunk? Impossible! Dregs, know your place."

Dregs? Why does that sound so familiar? Lu Yin felt like he had heard this insult before.

"Let me ask you something. Have you ever heard of a primeval surname alliance?" Lu Yin watched Wang Wen closely as he quietly asked.

Wang Wen suddenly fell down, as he was completely drunk.

Lu Yin smiled bitterly, as the man was not faking it. He really was dead drunk after having too much to drink.

Lu Yin looked up at the sourceboxes, and his eyes filled with star energy. If he could patch up those holes, then they could cause a massive amount of destruction to the astral beasts. Unfortunately, no one could repair it.

Hold on. Lu Yin suddenly recalled the thought that he had before. Right, routes. The holes did not need to be patched up; the defenders simply needed to be aware of the invasion routes that the astral beasts would take so that they would know where to focus their fire. Lu Yin had already thought of this before, but a battle had suddenly broken out and disrupted his train of thought. Thus, he had only remembered his previous thoughts at this moment.

Pow! He smacked Wang Wen's head and scared him awake.

“Help me! Save me!” Wang Wen screamed and he reflexively pulled out his coffin and took cover inside.

Lu Yin was speechless; just how afraid of death was this person?

After a while, Wang Wen took note of his surroundings before finally focusing on Lu Yin, though he was clearly befuddled for a few seconds. Then, he cursed loudly.

Lu Yin rubbed his ears. “I can see the holes in the sourceboxes’ danger zones. So long as the position of those gaps is made clear, we should be able to efficiently prepare an ambush for the astral beasts when they attack.”

Wang Wen jumped out of the coffin and grabbed Lu Yin’s hand. He then spoke with full sincerity. “Bro, we’re gonna become good friends.”

If he said something, then it was done. Using his authority, Wang Wen sent an astral map to the gadget of everyone within Seasons Fort, focusing particularly on the space-exploring powerhouses. He then gave Lu Yin the authority to constantly update where the holes in the sourceboxes’ danger zones were on that astral map and had everyone pay attention to the marked positions, ready to fire at any moment.

Lu Yin’s eyes could effortlessly see the positions of the holes. They would change every once in a while, which meant that although the stronghold could not precisely predict the astral beasts’ route of invasion, he could.

Periodically, everyone in Seasons Fort would notice that the locations where they were supposed to aim their attacks would change, and there could be seven or eight changes each day.

At the start, everyone was impatient, and no one knew why they were focusing on these positions. However, two days later, countless Void Wanderers suddenly appeared in the exact locations that they were targeting. Under Wang Wen’s orders, all sorts of firearms were fired, and the space-exploring powerhouses unleashed their attacks all at once, with everyone concentrating on the holes.

The invading Void Wanderers unluckily emerged straight into the ambush, and many of them were exterminated in a short amount of time. The battle that had been about to begin was finished in an instant.

Without the Void Wanderers to open a path for them, the astral beasts could not attack Seasons Fort and could not continue their war.

The soldiers of Seasons Fort cheered, and Wang Wen cheered as well. Finally, they did not need to be constantly on edge, as they could now predict the attackers’ routes in advance.

This attack turned out to be the shortest battle in the history of Ironblood Weave. It did not take even two minutes for it to conclude, and the defenders had also achieved a surprisingly good outcome. The number of Void Wanderers was not unlimited, and since they had destroyed quite a few of them, the Astral Beast Domain would have to take some time to build up another group before they could launch another invasion force.

At first, after Ironblood Fort had fallen, the human race had been thrown into desperate straits, and people had not been able to even imagine what a glimmer of hope might be. But they had just easily routed the invading beasts, which was like a booster shot straight in the arm for the countless defenders in Seasons Fort, and it boosted the soldiers' morale to an amazing degree.

Lu Yin's contributions were recognized, and he instantly obtained 10,000 Ironblood Points, which was even more than what Wen Qichen had obtained by donating and igniting the pyrolyte before.

The pyrolyte explosion that Wen Qichen had caused could only be counted as a singular battle contribution while Lu Yin's help was a strategic contribution. Not only were they able to repel the invading astral beasts, but Lu Yin's efforts had also bought much time for the Seasons Fort. And this method would buy even more time for them in the future, unless the astral beasts were able to break through the sourceboxes' formless danger zones.

With his sudden and outstanding service, Lu Yin quickly entered the top twenty of the rankings.

It was not easy for even a Hunter to obtain more than 10,000 Ironblood Points, so it was not at all surprising that Lu Yin had entered the top twenty after receiving 13,000 Ironblood Points.

At Yellowsoil Fort, the ground that was on the verge of breaking apart was completely destroyed with a wave of Granny Chan's hand, but then it rejoined together anew.

The void tore apart, and Nightqueen Qiuyu stepped out with a solemn face. "Elder Shuang's injuries are too heavy, so he may not be able to step out for the next battle."

Granny Chan frowned. "That means that we'll be down another Enlighter. Currently, Yellowsoil Fort's battle-ready Enlighters are just you and me, but there will be at least four Enlighter beasts. We won't be able to stop them."

"Graceful Feiyu and Duke Blackhawk are barely able to block one Enlighter together, so let me take care of the other one as well," Nightqueen Qiuyu spoke fiercely.

Granny Chan was astonished. "You're going to deal with two?"

"I'll try." Nightqueen Qiuyu helplessly stared at the sky.

If possible, nobody was willing to take risks, but this was not something that they could ignore. If Nightqueen Qiuyu didn't step up, then Yellowsoil Fort would be taken over by the beasts, and the defenders would have let down the entire human race. The members of the Nightking clan were not willing to become such terrible sinners.

Below the two Enlighter women, on a certain planet, there was a grim-looking female who was looking at her gadget, staring at a certain name on the Ironblood Points rankings: Lu Yin.

The others did not pay his name any heed, but she had noticed it. That was because this girl was Cool Sis, the person who was ranked tenth on the Ironblood Points rankings. This name had surpassed her for a brief moment in the past, but then it had vanished. She had assumed that the person had died, but now, she saw that he had joined the top twenty once again. He had changed positions very drastically in an extremely short period of time.

Once one's Ironblood Points were used, they could not be altered. This meant that this person had surpassed her amount, entered the top ten, and then exchanged his points away. But in just a few days, he had stepped back into the top twenty again. He was just a Limiteer, so how was he doing this?

Ironblood Weave had one Limiteer who had entered the top three, who was Wang Wen. That person's intelligence was monstrous, so she could accept his position. However, what had this person done to earn so many points? Although he was deemed as the peerless Limiteer, any Limiteer, no matter how strong they were, could not obtain that many Ironblood Points that quickly unless they killed an Enlightener realm beast.

Cool Sis set her gadget down and fell deep into thought. Rumor had it that after the Innerverse and Outerverse had become separated, this Lu Yin had killed three Enlighteners. It seemed that the rumors were indeed true and that he possessed an extremely powerful treasure.

However, Wendy Yushan was at Yellowsoil Fort, so Lu Yin could not use her secret technique in tandem with his treasure. So just how had he killed an Enlightener?

Ironblood Weave knew a little of what had transpired in the Outerverse, so many of the defenders were aware of the fact that Lu Yin and Wendy Yushan were able to team up to kill Enlighteners, and Cool Sis had also learned of this information. But now, by himself, Lu Yin had managed to obtain an enormous amount of Ironblood Points in a short time, which was something that even an Enlightener would find difficult to do. The whole matter puzzled Cool Sis.

Similarly, in another corner of Yellowsoil Fort, Puyu's face contorted into an extremely ugly expression as he stared at Lu Yin's name. This bastard was becoming more and more dazzling.

Unfortunately, if only Puyu had taken the risk to kill Lu Yin back then. The bastard had eventually killed Elder Wu later on, which had caused Darkstar Gorge to lose its leader and drift into an endless spiral of others exacting revenge on them. Puyu would definitely get revenge on Lu Yin one day.

"Chess pieces" sounds almost exactly like "Wives."

Chapter 580: Exchange

Wendy Yushan also noticed the Ironblood Points list, and her lips curled up at a beautiful angle. She looked at the sky. She wanted to increase her cultivation, or else she would be left behind.

An insignificant being had emerged from a fringe planet, been rejected for marriage, and endured countless humiliations. Now, it would be very embarrassing if Lu Yin surpassed Wendy Yushan, though she herself was very happy for his success.

Giantghost Fort, Seasons Fort, and Yellowsoil Fort were the three middle strongholds. Another round of battles had just ended at the three forts, and another Innerverse Enlightener who had been stranded in the Outerverse had perished alongside an invading Enlightener realm astral beast. Their battle had ended in a draw.

Giantghost Fort was in a slightly better position than Yellowsoil Fort, as they still had four Enlighteners who were in fighting condition, who were the fort's commander, Long Ke, Elder Qing Han, Huo Houye, and Meng Ningge, who had defended Ironblood Fort for many years.

There was also a special person in Giantghost Fort, who was known as Kong Shi. She was a representative from the previous generation's Universe Youth Council, and she had been one of the representatives who had been easily crushed by the Ten Arbiters.

She had defended Ironblood Fort for many years, and her position on the Ironblood Points rankings was just below Cool Sis'.

Cool Sis was currently ranked tenth on the Top Hundred Rankings for the younger generation, but she had already surpassed Kong Shi on the Ironblood Rankings. Evidently, there was a great disparity between the younger generation before the Ten Arbiters and the current one.

In a corner of Giantghost Fort, a stunning lady wearing a fiery-red dress was leaning against the wall, and she beckoned with her finger in an entrancing manner. A youth looked at her fervently before charging towards her and embracing her.

The girl smiled in a lovable manner. "Slower, you're in too much of a hurry."

"I can't take it anymore, baby. You're too beautiful," the cultivator spoke eagerly, his entire head covered with sweat.

The girl allowed the cultivator to do as he pleased as she opened her gadget. Suddenly, her expression changed, and she shoved the young man away. She was staring at Lu Yin's name on the rankings. "I was in a really good mood, but I never thought that I'd see this guy again."

The cultivator embraced her urgently. "Stop looking. Have some fun first. There'll be another battle soon, and who knows if we'll make it out alive."

The woman slapped the cultivator's shoulder and shoved him aside, her face full of contempt as she looked at him. "Compared to him, all of you are just trash. He ascended to the top twenty of the list in just a few days, but you guys just want to just wait for death. Trash!" And with that, she left.

"Lilyrose, why are you pretending to be so pure? Don't you want it?" The cultivator called out to her, but she was already gone.

At this same time, Lu Yin was busy, very busy. He was forced to permanently stay in the same position so that he could stare at the sky.

The gaps between the sourceboxes' danger zones were constantly shifting, and the astral beasts could invade through the holes at an extremely short notice. Lu Yin was forced to constantly update the locations of the holes on the map as soon as possible, as otherwise, the astral beasts' invasion might still succeed. Because of this, he was given no time to rest.

After several days, the beasts attempted another invasion, but the same events occurred as before. Countless Void Wanderers were instantly exterminated during the attack, and since very few beasts participated in the assault this time, the battle simply ended.

After a few more days passed, an Enlighter beast led an attack against Seasons Fort. But Wang Wen had already made the appropriate preparations beforehand. During the previous two battles, there had been no Enlighters attacking alongside the invading Void Wanderers as they had been waiting. When the Enlighter realm beasts charged at Seasons Fort, the intensity of the attack was completely different

from before, though the Enlighter realm beasts were still driven back. The Void Wanderers similarly could not approach the fort, and a bunch of them were massacred again.

Every few days, the astral beasts would attempt to destroy Seasons Fort.

Not very many Void Wanderers participated in the attacks on Seasons Fort since the astral beasts were launching attacks on several strongholds simultaneously, and Seasons Fort's ability to slaughter Void Wanderers during the last few attacks had decreased the pressure on the other strongholds. It had effectively lowered the intensity of the attacks on all three of the middle forts.

This enormity of this contribution could not be understated. Every time the defenders successfully repelled the astral beasts' invasion, Lu Yin would again obtain a large amount of Ironblood Points. By this time, he had entered the top ten again. However, he wasn't merely ranked tenth or ninth, but rather sixth.

His ranking shocked countless people in Ironblood Weave, as the increase in his Ironblood Points was a little bit too exaggerated for a Limiteer. Even Wendy Yushan could not understand what was happening.

At Yellowsoil Fort, Duke Blackhawk was stupefied as he browsed through the Ironblood Points rankings. "He has to be cheating." He had seen Lu Yin in the Northline Flowzone when they had both acted as witnesses for the Northgate Platform contest. He had some impressions of the kid, and although Lu Yin was currently the strongest Limiteer, his strength could not be so absurd as to surpass multiple Enlighters. The fact was that Lu Yin was gaining points way too rapidly.

Cool Sis was also shocked by Lu Yin's rapid rise, as he had even surpassed her position, and by a large amount at that. How had he done it? She did not suspect fraud, as the system would not falsify records, and it would be impossible for someone to cheat so blatantly. Wang Wen was also not stupid, which meant that Lu Yin truly deserved the number of points that he had received, which was very scary.

Throughout the countless years of battle in Ironblood Weave, no one else had ever climbed to the top of the rankings list so quickly, with the sole exception of Wang Wen.

At Giantghost Fort, Huo Houye's expression sank, and he was so gloomy that tears almost fell from his eyes.

Kong Shi stared at Lu Yin's name in shock. This was the absolute genius of the current younger generation, and his strength was even enough to rival what those ten freaks had shown when they had been Limiteers!

Lilyrose licked her vibrant red lips, and a thirsty glint could be seen in her eyes. She enjoyed playing with the powerful.

Yue Xianzi was in one of the lower five strongholds, and she was astonished as she stared at the rankings with an incredulous expression. How could his position be so exaggerated? The total number of Ironblood Points that she had accumulated up till now didn't even amount to a small fraction of what Lu Yin currently had. She had spent far more time in Ironblood Weave than he had, and she was even an Explorer.

She understood the difficulty of obtaining Ironblood Points, so why did it feel like he was just playing around?

An Shaohua also felt that the numbers were strange, but it was no wonder to him that Lu Yin was the strongest Limiteer.

There were many people in Ironblood Weave who recognized Lu Yin's name or had crossed paths with him in the past, but no matter who it was, everyone was stunned by Lu Yin's ranking. Even the Enlighters could not understand it, let alone the others.

At Seasons Fort, Wang Wen looked at an elder on a screen, but he appeared depressed. "Elder, I don't want to do it either, but he has the capabilities. Look, he's already forced back a few beast invasions."

"But you can't give him so much credit. How do you think the people in the other strongholds will react?" There was an elder on the screen, and he was the Hall of Honor's Elder Lohar. He also appeared helpless at this moment, as Lu Yin's contributions definitely matched up to the number of Ironblood Points that he had received. However, he had gained points too frequently, and his rise was actually shaking the confidence of the other defenders.

Wang Wen's face was solemn. "Elder, we can't suppress those with meritorious contributions just because we are afraid of what others may think. That's not fair to those who have made such contributions."

Elder Lohar muttered to himself, but in the end, he nodded. "You're right. Find me a time to chat with this kid."

Wang Wen smiled. "Sure."

A month passed, and by this time, Lu Yin had already spent nearly two months in Ironblood Weave, though it felt more like two years to him.

He had seen countless deaths come and go during these two months, and he had also experienced the cruelty of Ironblood Weave. His experiences during this time had spiritually exhausted him beyond measure, but he also felt very proud since he had used the holes in the stronghold's defenses to repel four beast invasions. This had increased his Ironblood Points by an insane amount, and he had already accumulated more than 80,000 Ironblood Points, which didn't even take the 30,000 points that he had previously exchanged for star essence.

Having so many Ironblood Points caused him to feel rather emotional, and he casually browsed through the various goods that he could purchase with the points. After a while, he spotted a super-sized cosmic ring which had reportedly been manufactured by an Envoy-level powerhouse, and it had more than ten times the capacity of his current cosmic ring. However, it was extremely expensive as it cost 50,000 Ironblood Points.

Lu Yin was rather disgruntled with the price, and he went to look for Wang Wen.

"What? You want to trade for that cosmic ring?" Wang Wen was shocked.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. "Not exactly. I'm just curious. Why is it so expensive? 50,000 Ironblood Points is a lot as killing an Enlighter is only worth 20,000. How is a cosmic ring more valuable than killing an Enlighter?"

“What do you mean? Of course it’s more valuable,” Wang Wen stated in a matter-of-factly tone.

Lu Yin was astonished.

Wang Wen rolled his eyes. “What do you think a cosmic ring is? Each one’s an area of space that’s been seized from a parallel universe by a powerhouse. They’re not something that just anyone can create. A parallel space is not easily contained, and in particular, the space needed to make a super-sized ring can’t be seized even by an Enlighter. Only those old farts with power levels that reach several hundred thousands are able to do that.

“The cosmic ring that you’re thinking of getting is impressive, and its size is large enough to hold ten mountains. That toy can only be created by an Envoy. Don’t you think that the efforts of an Envoy are worth 50,000 Ironblood Points?”

Lu Yin now faced a dilemma. “It’s definitely worth it, but it’s still too expensive.”

“Chesspiece Bro, you need to know how difficult it is to get your hands on such a cosmic ring. Even if you go to the Inniverse and try to buy one, 50,000 star essence won’t be enough to get you one, but there’s one right here, which you should already be secretly happy about. However, a normal person would never need a cosmic ring of such a size. Are you sure that you want it?” Wang Wen asked.

Lu Yin considered the idea for a while, and then finally made up his mind. “I want it.”

Wang Wen lifted his thumb up. “Good choice. It’s yours.” After that, he closed the connection.

Lu Yin sighed, as he actually did not want the cosmic ring. However, the further along he progressed, the more frequently he would need to upgrade his equipment, and the more star essence he would need. His current cosmic ring was not large enough to store the amount of star essence that he was beginning to need, and there was no way for him to continuously visit a bank while he was in the middle of upgrading something. And that wasn’t even mentioning the fact that, if too much time went by, the two light screens from Enhance would disappear. It also wasn’t convenient to separate his money into multiple smaller rings. Besides, he would be able to use this cosmic ring through the Explorer realm and perhaps even until he was a Hunter.

The cosmic ring was quickly delivered to him, and Lu Yin caressed it as he painfully watched his Ironblood Points decrease by 50,000 points. He could only attempt to console himself.

It had only taken him an instant to drop from the sixth position to the seventh. Fortunately, it was not too bad.

However, he knew that he would soon fall much further down the rankings. Lu Yin stayed still for a while and then contacted Wang Wen again.

Wang Wen calmly looked at Lu Yin. “Don’t tell me that you want to exchange all your points for essence.”

“There’s not enough?” Lu Yin’s brows rose.

Wang Wen held his forehead as if in pain. “Chesspiece Bro, aside from star essence, could you choose something different? Can’t you exchange your points for something else? Like Honor Points?”

Lu Yin shrugged. "I still think that essence is more practical." He already had two Honor Points. He had been given one when he had visited Erudite Flowzone's border warfront and he had received the other one after winning the Tournament of the Strongest.

Wang Wen nodded. "Fine, money grubber."

"Wait a minute. How many points does each Honor Point cost?" Lu Yin asked.

Wang Wen raised two fingers. "Not much, just 20,000."

"Then I'll trouble you to exchange all my points for star essence, thank you very much," Lu Yin said without hesitation.

There was a significant difference between having no Honor Points and having one, while having two or three points simply changed the various privileges that were available, and most of these privileges were only available to those in the Inverse or even the Neverse. Now that the Outerverse had been cut off from those two places, such privileges were unavailable to Lu Yin.