

### **Chapter 581: Fusion**

Lu Yin was currently focused on gaining six and then eleven Honor Points. Six points would exempt him from certain crimes, and he would even be allowed to use a portion of the Hall of Honor's strength, which was the equivalent of becoming an aristocrat of the universe. In such a situation, he would have privileges wherever he went. Eleven Honor Points was even more ruthless. If he died, then the Hall of Honor would investigate the cause of death. If it turned out that his death was from nefarious plans, the culprit's family would be tried by the Interstellar Supreme Court. This was practically buying a form of insurance.

If possible, Lu Yin hoped to obtain six or even eleven Honor Points, but he did not have enough points for that. Receiving four more Honor Points would require him to exchange over 80,000 Ironblood Points, which was too expensive for him. Even if he succeeded in exchanging his points, the gains that he would receive wouldn't even be of much use to him at the current moment. At the very least, he first had to survive the current calamity, and if the Outerverse still existed after all was said and done, then he would trade his points for Honor Points. Otherwise, the privileges associated with the Honor Points were completely worthless if the Outerverse disappeared.

More Honor Points would simply invite more targeted attacks from astral beasts, so he might as well not trade for them at this time.

Not long after, many people in Ironblood Weave found that Lu Yin's name had dropped from the top ten and fallen out of the top 1,000.

Many were lost; what was going on? How did he drop down so far? Had he exchanged every last one of his points?

Only a select few were able to guess that it was possible for Lu Yin to exchange all of his points for money!

Wendy Yushan felt helpless, as she was certain that Lu Yin had exchanged it all for money. That money lover!

At this moment, Lu Yin was smiling foolishly at the small hill of star essence that had been gathered in his cosmic ring. He returned to reality after being called by Wang Wen, and he focused back on the sky. He was planning to use this money to help him break through to the Explorer realm, and he had to save up a certain amount for that moment.

In another part of the Outerverse, in Vastdearth Weave, there were five planets that were all connected together. This was the headquarters of a certain family, and although the family wasn't considered to be too powerful, nobody dared to provoke them since there was a Hunter among their members.

However, four of the five planets had collapsed at this time, and countless wails rang across the sole remaining planet. There was a desiccated corpse with a piece of Progenitor Wushang's hide draped across its head as it walked across the bloodstained water with its black eyes staring at a boy in front of it. "Ancient bloodline detected. Target acquired: kill."

The corpse then raised a hand that streaked forward. The boy's head fell to the ground.

After destroying the five planets, the mummy raised its head and looked towards Ironblood Weave.  
“Ancient bloodline detected. Target acquired: kill.”

It then leaped into space and headed towards Ironblood Weave.

In Darkmist Weave, on Mafioso Planet, one of the Mistchildren hid themselves in darkness. There were countless other killers similarly hiding in the nearby area.

“Ironblood Weave has sent us a draft notice, so I must go to the border warfront now. You people will have to manage Mafioso Planet,” Topmist’s voice echoed out.

Soon after this announcement, Topmist left the planet, but he took the inheritance of Mafioso Planet, the mysterious Bloodied Handprint, with him. According to the rules of the organization, the Bloodied Handprint could not leave the planet, but Topmist was terrified of death, so he took it with him anyways. To him, the inheritance of his own organization was not important; his life was far more significant.

Topmist wasn’t the only one who had received a draft notice. By this time, all of the almighty Enlighters in the Outerverse, regardless if they were hiding or in seclusion, had received similar draft notices. They were forced to move out just like Nightqueen Qiuyu and the others, as ignoring the draft notice was equivalent to disobeying the Hall of Honor, and even an Enlighter would not dare to do such a thing.

“It’s already been five days since the last attack. It looks like they’re running out of Void Wanderers. They’ve probably sent someone back to the Celestial Beast Empire to request for more reinforcements,” Wang Wen concluded.

He was sitting with Lu Yin atop a cliff that overlooked an ocean while enjoying some wine.

Lu Yin shifted his gaze and rubbed his eyes. “Does that mean that I can rest for a bit?”

Wang Wen nodded. “Sure.”

“Aren’t you afraid that the beasts will take advantage of this opportunity to attack?” Lu Yin asked.

Wang Wen’s lips quirked up. “If I say that they won’t, then they won’t. Even if I try to explain it in a less intellectual manner, you still won’t be able to comprehend it. Just rest assured and take a break. Our next battle is at least half a month away.”

Lu Yin did not know how Wang Wen could be so confident in this, but he did not enquire any further since he would just be ridiculed if he pursued the issue. Lu Yin decided to rest for no more than two days and that he would continue his vigil after that. There was nothing wrong in being overly cautious.

“Actually, why doesn’t that Monster Loach charge forward as the vanguard during all their attacks? With that thing’s strength, it could block everyone’s attacks,” Lu Yin asked.

Wang Wen scornfully responded, “I’ve already explained it to you: that thing’s a fish, and fishes are timid. Even if it borrowed more courage, it still wouldn’t dare to face the brunt of our attacks on its own.”

“What about that Enlighter realm Amethyst Beast?”

“Do you think Elder Lohar is just a figurehead?”

“You speak just like my friend.”

“Don’t belittle me! There’s nobody in this universe who’s as smart as me! How can others possibly speak the same words as me? You must be joking!”

Lu Yin did not want to talk to this bastard anymore.

Wang Wen was certain that there would be a quiet period of half a month, but Lu Yin only gave himself two days time. After resting for one day, he sought out a secluded spot and screened his right arm off. “It’s time to roll the die.”

He had thought about rolling it before, as rolling six pips: Possession could allow him to take over someone else’s body. Perhaps it would be able to transport his consciousness to the Innerverse and allow him to Possess someone in the Innerverse.

With Lu Yin’s current strength, the status of the people that he could fuse with would not be low. If he actually did manage to Possess someone in the Innerverse, then he would be able to inform the various great powers of the Innerverse about the Astral Beast Domain invading Ironblood Weave. Although the Innerverse was separated from the Astral Beast Domain by the Astral River, there were also cracks in that barrier. As soon as the Innerverse’s various organizations started to wage their own war against the Astral Beast Domain, the pressure on Ironblood Weave’s warfront would plummet.

This was Lu Yin’s reasoning, and although he felt that it was possible, he was not entirely certain. Could Possession really take him all the way into the Innerverse? Even if his die was capable of such a thing and allowed him to travel in any direction from his current location, he still wasn’t guaranteed to Possess someone in the Innerverse. Also, it was possible that he wouldn’t have enough star essence to cover the energy needed for such a Possession.

Rolling the die was entirely dependent on luck, and there were many possible outcomes. However, Lu Yin decided to give the die a try anyways, as he would never know if he never tried.

He raised a hand, and the die appeared. This time, Lu Yin did not remove his cosmic ring. He would normally remove the cosmic ring that contained all of his resources since using Possession had a terrifying cost. But if he could use his star essence to enter the Innerverse, then no matter how much, it would be worth it.

He tapped out and the die spun. Finally, it stopped on five pips: Gift Copy, which allowed Lu Yin to borrow another person’s innate gift. There was no use for the roll at this time, as there was nobody around him that he could reach within ten seconds. He restored the die and tapped out again. For his second roll, he got two pips: Blackhole Disassembly. Another useless roll. He rolled it yet again. One pip: Pilfer. A sword fell out from the spatial tunnel that appeared. It was also a useless roll since the weapon looked very ordinary.

Lu Yin took a deep breath, as this next roll was his last chance. He thought about it for a moment before tapping the die, causing it to slowly spin around until it finally came to a rest. Under Lu Yin’s expectant eyes, six pips appeared. The next instant, darkness surrounded him, and he once again appeared in that

mysterious space that was filled with balls of light of varying sizes. Some of them were dazzling while others were more subdued.

Lu Yin dashed forward at great speed, though he did not know in which direction the Innerverse lay. He could only head in what he perceived to be south since the Outerverse lay to the south of Ironblood Weave, and further south was the Innerverse. Still, he had no way of knowing which direction was south for sure.

After about half a minute of traveling, Lu Yin suddenly felt a strong sensation of attraction. He hesitated for a moment, but he dashed over and merged into the sphere of light that he was being drawn towards.

When he next opened his eyes, Lu Yin discovered that everything was different. Space itself felt very mysterious. He had appeared somewhere that was not a part of the original universe, but rather some place where multiple layers of space were superimposed over one another. He felt an indescribable sense of warmth and dependence. Instinctively, he looked down as he raised a hand. What met his eyes was a black vortex. Could he have Possessed Tian Hou?

Lu Yin had not expected that, instead of Possessing the body of someone from the Innerverse, he would instead Possess his old opponent from the Tournament of the Strongest. He was actually inside Tian Hou's body.

Nothing was set in stone, and it was no wonder why the light sphere had been so attractive for him. Cosmic Hous were legends of the Astral Beast Domain, and each one had been invincible within their realm since their first appearance in ancient times. No one could hold up against such a creature. Now, Lu Yin was similarly peerless within his realm, so their statuses were more or less equal.

Back during the Tournament of the Strongest, if not for his Cosmic Art and the Stonewall Scriptures, Lu Yin definitely would not have been Tian Hou's opponent. The Cosmic Hou's attack and defense were both incredible since he was the physical manifestation of an engulfing vortex.

Such a creature was one of the universe's most mysterious occurrences.

Through Tian Hou's eyes, Lu Yin saw the universe in a different light. Perhaps this was the true nature of the universe.

Lu Yin quickly learned about the current circumstances of the Astral Beast Domain. Tian Hou was among the beasts that were moving to reinforce the Primal Zone, which was where the Astral Beast Domain was conducting their invasion of Ironblood Weave. So far, all of the beasts attacking the strongholds were from the Primal Zone. In the Astral Beast Domain, the Primal Zone's status was equivalent to Ironblood Weave in the Human Domain.

As Seasons Fort had wiped out too many Void Wanderers, the Celestial Beast Empire had sent a vast number of them to reinforce the Primal Zone, as their primary goal right now was to successfully occupy the humans' Outerverse. Aside from the Void Wanderers, they also sent another group of experts along with five Enlighter beasts, one of which was an amazingly powerful beast whose power level exceeded 350,000.

Within this army, there was also Cursewind of Skymender's List's and the Spiritual Academy's Tian Hou.

Skymender's List was a list compiled by the Astral Beast Domain to counter the humans' Top Hundred Rankings, and there were similarly ten creatures on the list that were supposed to correspond to the humans' Ten Arbiters.

Lu Yin had seen Yao Gu at Erudite Flowzone's border when the creature had fought against Wen Sansi, and the beast moving to reinforce the Primal Zone this time was called Cursewind.

When he learned of this news, Lu Yin's heart sank. The Astral Beast Domain was launching a large-scale invasion, and Ironblood Weave definitely would not be able to stop them based on each side's number of experts and reinforcements.

Lu Yin borrowed Tian Hou's vision and looked behind him. Indistinctly, he could see a horrifying fluctuation in the distance that was definitely from a super powerful beast. The astral beast was only sleeping, but its power level had surpassed 350,000.

To the Celestial Beast Empire, the beasts that were sent as reinforcements were not too strong. If this group also failed to invade the humans' Outerverse, then it was even possible that the astral beasts would send powerhouses whose power levels exceeded 500,000, which meant that even an Envoy-class beast might appear. That would be a truly desperate situation for the humans.

Was there no hope? Lu Yin pondered over the situation as he browsed through Tian Hou's memories.

Through Tian Hou's memory, Lu Yin was able to see the most mysterious being in the Astral Beast Domain: Skymender, and he was also able to gain a basic understanding of the Celestial Beast Empire. However, none of this was relevant to what he was looking for.

Suddenly, Tian Hou's eyes went wide as his expression turned excited. He had discovered an important bit of news, as it seemed that the Primal Zone had also been disconnected. There was a stream of liquid energy that was similar to the Astral River, and when the universe had undergone massive changes, that energy had expanded, just like what had happened in the Outerverse.

This energy liquid had only appeared in the past few decades, so Ironblood Weave was still unaware of this development.

Unfortunately, the Primal Zone was not completely isolated as there was still a gap that allowed some reinforcements to pass through. But if this hole was destroyed, then the Primal Zone would be completely isolated, just like the humans' Outerverse.

Lu Yin had obtained the information that he wanted, so he did not plan on dragging out this Possession. He raised a hand and slammed it against his own chest. Darkness dominated his vision again, and when he opened his eyes next, he was once again in his own body.

Lu Yin let out a long breath and wiped the sweat from his forehead. He hurriedly checked his cosmic ring, fearing that his star essence store had been depleted.

He apprehensively looked in and then finally relaxed. Fortunately, he had only spent about 20,000 star essence, which meant that he still had about 40,000 left. Not bad, not bad at all—his worst fear was that Possession would use it all up.

## Chapter 582: Strategic Thinking

From Tian Hou's memory, Lu Yin had been able to learn that the astral beasts' reinforcements were about a dozen days away from the Primal Zone. Wang Wen's guess had indeed been correct: Ironblood Weave would be able to pass the next half month in relative peace.

Lu Yin admired Wang Wen, and he also wondered how that guy had guessed the timeframe so accurately.

With just a little more than ten days to prepare, the most vital priority was to destroy the small gap in the liquid energy stream before the Astral Beast Domain's reinforcements were able to pass through it. Then, the Primal Zone would be completely isolated from the Celestial Beast Empire. If this was accomplished, then the Primal Zone's forces alone would not be able to invade the Outerverse.

Lu Yin was lost in deep thought, as nobody would believe him if he simply ran over to discuss what he had just learned with Wang Wen. But if he didn't, then there was no way that any of the Enlighters would risk their lives to venture into the Primal Zone.

How could he convince those Enlighters to unite and go into the Primal Zone? That was his largest obstacle.

Lu Yin thought for a long time before he finally made a decision and sketched a star chart.

"What? You want to go and take a look at the Primal Zone?" Wang Wen's stunned face showed up on the screen, and he looked at Lu Yin like he was an idiot.

Lu Yin nodded. "I want to go and check out the Primal Zone."

Wang Wen blinked repeatedly before sizing Lu Yin up and down. "Ok, I didn't hear wrong. Reason?"

"Despite the many years that we've spent defending the Astral Beast Domain's invasion, we know almost nothing about the Primal Zone. Tactically, that's very disadvantageous to us. Nobody knows how many powerhouses might be there at this time, but it's possible that these recent battles have reduced their numbers, which would give us an opportunity to take the fight to them. Also, I want to see if there's any possibility of cutting off the Celestial Beast Empire's reinforcements."

Wang Wen stared at Lu Yin in shock. "I couldn't tell earlier, Chesspiece Bro, but you are actually capable of strategic thinking! Not bad, not bad."

"Give me a brief overview of the Primal Zone. My universal armor's defenses aren't inferior to your coffin, and I'm also able to see what others can't."

Wang Wen shrugged his shoulders. "I really want to grant you permission, but I'm sorry. I can't."

"Are you afraid that I'll end up in danger?" Lu Yin asked.

Wang Wen nodded. "You are the only person in this stronghold who can see the gaps between the sourceboxes' danger zones. If you run into trouble, then we will be left passively responding to future invasions like in the past. Thus, you cannot risk yourself."

“But if I find something that can turn the tides at the Primal Zone, then isn’t that better than staying trapped in Seasons Fort? Tell me honestly—if the Celestial Beast Empire sends reinforcements, do you have the confidence that we can resist them?” Lu Yin retorted.

Wang Wen sighed. “Nope. No confidence at all.”

“If that’s the case, then just let me try. Aside from me, nobody else can see the holes. Hence, besides me, there’s also no one else who can easily discover a critical weak point in the Primal Zone, which even includes Enlighters,” Lu Yin pressingly urged.

“But no matter how you embellish things, I cannot possibly allow you to take such a risk when we have no confidence in your safety,” Wang Wen replied seriously.

Lu Yin was helpless. “It looks like trying to negotiate with you won’t cut it. Alright, let me show you something.” He then pulled out the star chart that he had just drawn. “Does this look familiar?”

Wang Wen studied the star chart and then looked astonished. “Is this the Primal Zone?”

“That’s right—this is Primal Zone. Although this map is crude and is just an approximate diagram, it clearly shows that there’s some liquefied energy there, which appears to be similar to the Astral River. This new geographical feature should have completely isolated the Primal Zone from the Astral Beast Domain.” Lu Yin indicated the relevant details of the star chart.

“Impossible! Ironblood Weave has fought against the Primal Zone for so many years, so we’ve come to gain some understanding of the Primal Zone. That energy barrier cannot possibly exist there,” Wang Wen spoke with certainty.

“This has only appeared in recent decades. I wouldn’t casually risk my life.”

Wang Wen paused before asking, “Where did you get this star chart?”

“I bought it at an auction in the Starfall Sea,” Lu Yin lied without batting an eye.

Wang Wen believed him, as there was no other plausible explanation for Lu Yin to possess such a thing. Otherwise, should Wang Wen just believe that Lu Yin had Possessed Tian Hou’s body and then rifled through Tian Hou’s memory to learn this sensitive information? Such a scenario was just too preposterous.

“Because of this chart, I’m certain that the Primal Zone has an energy river. The universe has gone through some immense changes, and that energy river should have burst forth exactly like the Astral River, which means that the Primal Zone should be isolated. However, there has to be a gap in their river at some point, or otherwise the Celestial Beast Empire wouldn’t be able to send reinforcements over. However, exactly where that hole is located or its size are both things that I’m not sure of. This chart clearly can’t express such small details,” Lu Yin explained.

Wang Wen solemnly responded. “Immediately share this star chart with me, and I’ll send an Enlighter out to investigate. If this gap truly exists, then we will find a way to destroy it.”

Lu Yin shook his head. “Look at you, thinking that you’re so smart. Do you really think that the Astral Beast Domain would allow us to discover this hole that easily? If an Enlighter goes into the Primal Zone,

then they'll face attacks from all sides. I'm the only one with the sight to notice hidden details, and I also won't attract attention. Don't forget—there are also many beasts that like to take on human form.”

Wang Wen muttered to himself before coming to a decision. “If there's a gap that can truly be destroyed, blocking the reinforcements from the Celestial Beast Empire, then perhaps there is hope for the Outerverse after all.” He looked at Lu Yin. “Are you certain that you want to make this excursion? It's quite probable that you will die, and you don't seem to be the kind of person who is willing to sacrifice himself.”

Lu Yin choked, as he felt like he was being looked down upon. “I have my universal armor, and its defense is no weaker than your coffin. Of course, I'm not willing to move out by myself. You'll have to get a few Enlighters to move and draw the attention of the Enlighter realm beasts to allow me to sneak in easier.”

“That's a given. I will call Liu Qiuyu and the others for a strategy meeting. You'll join in as well, so come to the pass,” Wang Wen ordered before disconnecting.

Lu Yin released a long breath. In the end, he had indeed managed to convince Wang Wen to agree to his plan. Although the trip would be risky, he didn't actually need to travel that far into the Primal Zone. All he had to do was skirt around the perimeter. Tian Hou had been aware of the hole's location, so Lu Yin naturally knew as well. As long as he had his universal armor, he wouldn't be placed in too much danger. Of course, Lu Yin also needed to time his movements correctly and work with a few Enlighters in order to avoid being detected by the Enlighter realm astral beasts.

“Seventh Bro, are you really planning on heading into the Primal Zone?” the Ghost Monkey asked, his voice sounding a little gloomy.

Lu Yin murmured, “I have to go.”

“This is going to be a close brush with death. Following you is so unlucky,” the monkey said with a sigh, as he knew that he had no chance of stopping Lu Yin. So, he just stopped saying anything pointless.

Lu Yin did not plan to say anything more. If things did indeed turn out to be rather tricky, he would take advantage of it to test the monkey's loyalty and see if the beast would really die with him or if he had some kind of escape option up his sleeve.

It had almost been two months since Lu Yin had initially arrived at Seasons Fort, and this was his first time being invited to the stronghold's pass.

For Seasons Fort, the pass was not only where the command center was located, but it was also a spiritual symbol for the entire fortress. Although the pass had been destroyed multiple times, as long as it stood tall above the fort, it was able to boost the morale of the defending soldiers and cultivators.

Lu Yin arrived outside the pass and looked up at it, seeing that the rune lines inside represented three Enlighters, but there were also two other groups of rune lines that rivaled the Enlighters' lines. Lu Yin was only able to determine that these other two collections of rune lines did not belong to any human, so he assumed that they probably belonged to power vessels.



The pass had last been attacked by Monster Loach, and Wang Wen had not used any power vessels to defend since such a defense would have been useless. However, if a regular Enlightener beast attempted to invade the pass, then things would likely turn out to be disastrous for them.

It didn't take long for Lu Yin to be allowed through, and a Hunter quickly led him into the pass. Wang Wen, Liu Qiuyu, Wen Qichen, and Elder Viletree were all waiting for him inside.

Currently, these four held the highest positions in Seasons Fort, and the rank right below them was filled with Hunters like Liu Sanjian, Liu Zhan, and Aden.

Lu Yin's current status did not qualify him to enter the pass, but his recent performance had been too impressive, and so his suggestions needed to be considered.

"Chesspiece Bro, come and take a seat. We're all on the same side here," Wang Wen greeted him cordially.

Lu Yin glanced at Viletree and Wen Qichen. The same side? Probably not. If they were in almost any other location, then those two in particular would have most likely already acted against Lu Yin.

He did not stand on ceremony and quickly sat down.

Wen Qichen's brows rose when he saw Lu Yin doing as he pleased. As a cultured person, the Enlightener paid attention to etiquette. Wang Wen was Ironblood Weave's most important person as well as the director, which placed him on equal footing with the Enlighteners. However, Lu Yin did not have the same status.

"You must be Lu Yin." Liu Qiuyu looked at Lu Yin with admiration.

Lu Yin got up and spoke respectfully, "I am. Greetings to the commander."

Liu Qiuyu gestured with a hand. "Sit, there's no need to be courteous."

Lu Yin sat down again.

"I've long since heard that the universe has produced an unrivaled Limiteer in the younger generation. Not only has he beaten all the other Limiteers and became truly peerless, but he's even killed Enlighteners, which is why Elder Lohar nominated you to come here. Your performance is even better than we had imagined," Liu Qiuyu commented appreciatively.

Lu Yin replied humbly, "The commander's over-praising me. I was just lucky."

"Alright, Chesspiece Bro, don't bother being so humble anymore. If anyone else could be as lucky as you, then it would simply be heaven defying." Wang Wen was impatient, and he quickly got to the point, "Before you arrived, the few of us were already discussing things, and we actually agreed that there's a huge risk to us with the proposal you have submitted. Basically, if anything happens to you, then this stronghold will no longer be able to anticipate the enemy like we can at present, and our losses would be too catastrophic in that case."

Lu Yin continued to silently listen.

“However, the Celestial Beast Empire’s reinforcements will arrive soon, and at that point, even if we are able to anticipate the enemy in advance, if an old freak with a power level in the several hundred thousands charges in as the vanguard, they’ll be able to resist any attack on our part we could possibly throw out. This means that there’s not much of an advantage for our side even if you can see the locations of the holes in our defenses. Hence, we might as well take a gamble. If your star chart is accurate, then logically, the fact that the Primal Zone is able to receive reinforcements means that there must be a hole somewhere along that energy river. Your mission this time is to find that crack, but after that, you don’t need to act. All you need to do is to find it and then tell us how big it is. Understood?”

Lu Yin nodded and solemnly replied, “I got it.”

“There are Enlighter beasts in the Primal Zone, as if there weren’t, then a few of us would be able to infiltrate their region and investigate. Unfortunately, we’re left relying on a Limiteer junior like you to take this risk, which is rather embarrassing.” Elder Viletree sighed.

Wen Qichen was similarly helpless. “With our identities, as soon as we enter the Primal Zone, we will face a large-scale attack, so we would not have any time to search for this gap.” At this moment, he looked straight at Lu Yin. “Little brother, we are forced to trouble you to search for this gap to the best of your abilities. However, you must cherish your life as your first priority.”

Lu Yin replied, “I understand. Please rest assured, Senior.”

Wang Wen clapped his hands. “Alright, since it’s been decided, then let’s get down to the details.”

### **Chapter 583: A Helping Hand**

Half a day later, Lu Yin exited the pass with a strange expression, as he had ended up with an unexpected harvest.

For this plan, Seasons Fort was prepared to pin all of its hopes on Lu Yin. Not only had the stronghold given him two blackhole-grade Auroras and a collapsible spacecraft, but it had also given him three power vessels.

The first was called Stellar Ruler, and depending on his personal cultivation, it allowed him to instantly teleport some distance through space. It could be used three times in total.

Next was another piece of Void Thunderbeast flesh. As it carried the now-dead beast’s ability to tear through the void, it could also be considered as a power vessel. However, it could only be used once. Lu Yin had owned a piece in the past, which he had given it to Wendy Yushan after upgrading it three times.

The final power vessel was called Enneadic Wings. This power vessel had been discovered in some ancient ruins. There were no limits to the number of times that it could be used, and putting it on would allow Lu Yin to travel through the vacuum of outer space. It could also use his star energy to form a shield that was strong enough to protect him from the attacks of a Hunter.

This was the support that Season Fort had provided to him, and it was considered as an advance for Lu Yin’s future military contributions.

Three power vessels and three spacecraft were worth about 60,000 Ironblood Points in total. Wang Wen could be rather generous when he wanted to be.

Of course, compared to the possible outcome of this venture, any such investments were absolutely worth it. In the possibility that the stronghold was breached, all of these items would become the Astral Beast Domain's spoils of war anyways.

Unfortunately, Lu Yin had just rolled the die, or else he would have upgraded the Enneadic Wings and the Stellar Ruler so that they would be better able to save his life, while also causing any possible Enlighter chasing him to doubt themselves.

Lu Yin was to set off in three hours, while the Enlighters, Elder Viletree, and Wen Qichen, were to set off in just two hours. Their mission was to draw out the Enlighter beasts along a predetermined path so that Lu Yin could safely use another route to travel straight into the Primal Zone. Also, Elder Lohar would take action, and his task was to lure away Monster Loach and the Enlighter realm Amethyst Beast.

Wang Wen's final evaluation of this plan was that the chances of success were over 90% precisely because the astral beasts would not expect a human to want to enter the Primal Zone. After all, so many years had passed, and there had never been such an incident.

Two hours passed quickly by, and when Lu Yin looked up towards the sky, he saw that two groups of rune lines were leaving the fort. He hoped that the Enlighters would not meet with any mishaps.

Another hour passed by in a flash, after which Lu Yin sat down in the blackhole-grade Aurora and followed along the predetermined path, heading towards outer space before vanishing before Wang Wen's eyes.

Wang Wen looked solemn, as he had previously assumed that Lu Yin was a selfish person. He had scoured a great deal of information concerning Lu Yin, and everything that he had seen pointed towards the fact that he was no selfless saint. Lu Yin was instead someone who would always make thorough calculations before choosing the option that benefited himself the most. This current operation had completely changed Wang Wen's opinion of Lu Yin.

"This is Ironblood Weave. After people come here, they eventually become unafraid of death. It's because we are protecting all of humanity." Liu Qiuyu sighed.

Wang Wen nodded seriously. "Yes, protecting all of humanity."

In an asteroid field in the eastern region of the weave, a single figure sped along. The field collapsed due to the passage of the desiccated corpse that had Progenitor Wushang's hide draped over its head. It was headed towards Ironblood Weave.

A blackhole-grade Aurora was ten times faster than a radiant-grade Aurora. Lu Yin had thought that it would take him half a day to arrive in the Primal Zone, but he saw the region's borders after just an hour of travel.

He did not meet any powerful beasts along his way. The most powerful creatures that he saw were just Hunters, and they were not able to catch up to the spacecraft.

This was the reason why Wang Wen had given Lu Yin a blackhole-grade Aurora; only Enlighter beasts could catch up to such a spacecraft. Anything weaker than that would not be able to move fast enough.

After Lu Yin arrived in the Primal Zone, he lost any means of contacting Seasons Fort, and his signal was completely lost. This similarly meant that Wang Wen and the others had no way of tracking Lu Yin's whereabouts in the Primal Zone.

He observed the occasional astral beast that roamed about the edge of the Primal Zone before stopping his spacecraft and looked for a nearby planet to land on. He would not enter the Primal Zone right now, as he would not be able to travel into that place no matter how prepared he might be. Regardless, he already knew where the hole in the energy stream was located, so there was no need for him to take any unnecessary risks.

However, the complacency of the Primal Zone's defense left Lu Yin speechless. It seemed that Wang Wen had been right; the Astral Beast Domain had never imagined that the humans might invade them in turn.

The planet where Lu Yin had landed had a primitive civilization, and there were all sorts of wild beasts on the surface.

Lu Yin burrowed his spacecraft deep into the ground and buried it before finding a large tree to rest beneath. He would wait here for three days and then return to the fort.

The air on the primitive planet was very fresh, and it was suitable for human habitation. Large beasts snarled at him, but it was still very comfortable for Lu Yin, and he felt more relaxed than he had in a long time.

Although it had only been two months since Lu Yin had arrived in Ironblood Weave, time had slowed to a crawl for him during these two months.

He silently recited the Stonewall Scriptures, and unwittingly, he fell asleep.

Three days was a very short period of time for cultivators, and his time was already up when Lu Yin woke up.

He entered his spacecraft and entered a new route. The spacecraft then took off and headed into outer space.

He had spent the last three days very comfortably, but Wang Wen and the others had been nerve-racked the entire time as they were extremely worried about Lu Yin's safety and even more that he would not be able to find the hole.

For Lu Yin, this had been a meaningless trip as he had already achieved his goal before even starting.

Once he returned to the stronghold and reported the position of the gap in the energy stream, Wang Wen and the others cheered.

Liu Qiuyu praised Lu Yin loudly, and if not for Wang Wen stopping him, he might have even awarded Lu Yin for his military service right then and there.

Wen Qichen felt that one part was very strange. "Why aren't there any images?"

Lu Yin put on an embarrassed face. "I was afraid of being discovered, so I didn't stick around. But don't worry, the position is absolutely correct. Just follow the route that I indicated, and you guys will definitely be able to find the hole."

"Rest assured, Senior. With Chesspiece Bro leading the way, you guys will be able to find the gap very quickly," Wang Wen commented happily.

"That's right. In that case, I'll go and prepare the pyrolyte," Viletree spoke emotionally. The Sword Sect had also managed to gather quite a bit of pyrolyte in this time, and most of it was about to be used in this mission.

Wen Qichen nodded. "Alright, since this is our chance of survival, then let's bet everything."

"That's right," Liu Qiuyu said with a nod.

Wang Wen smiled very happily.

But Lu Yin felt that something was off. "Hold on, what did you just say about me leading the way?"

Wang Wen, Liu Qiuyu, and Wen Qichen all looked at Lu Yin. "Aren't you going to guide the way? How else are we going to find the gap?"

"Didn't I draw out a map? I even very clearly indicated the position of the hole," Lu Yin said. He had a bad premonition of what was about to happen.

Wang Wen smiled. "Chesspiece Bro, stop joking around. How is drawing a map the same thing as personally leading the way? You should be aware that, as soon as we destroy this gap, we will have protected the entire Ironblood Weave, so we have to make our best attempt at this juncture.. Rest assured, you're merely leading the way. These seniors will all work to protect you."

"That's right, little brother. Rest easy as we won't allow you to die before us," Wen Qichen said with full sincerity.

Lu Yin was left speechless, as he had underestimated the audacity of Wang Wen and the others. They were going too far by asking him to also lead the way after providing the location.

This was destroying the gap, and not running away as soon as they caught a glimpse of it. The degree of danger in this expedition was completely different from before.

It's no wonder why they had given him so many objects to save his life and held those sentiments towards Lu Yin.

"Seventh Bro, don't agree! Doing this will guarantee your death!" the Ghost Monkey shrieked.

Lu Yin definitely would not agree to such a thing. "I refuse to participate in this."

"You don't have the authority to refuse, so you have to go," Wang Wen responded seriously.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. "I'm sorry. I've already given you the location, so you will definitely be able to find it so long as you aren't idiots."

This sentence made Wen Qichen become unhappy. "Little bro, this is for all of humanity."

“Stop trying to pressure me with humanity. If I die, humanity will have nothing to do with me! I’ll only have something to do with the human race if I survive, so I have to live on.” Lu Yin was firm in his refusal.

“Don’t you have any concept of risking your life for humanity?” Wang Wen grew furious.

Lu Yin rolled his eyes. “Don’t act like you’re any better than me. You’re not the least bit slow when it comes to hiding in your coffin.”

“That’s to preserve our strengths for survival!” Wang Wen shouted.

Lu Yin replied, “And I’m the strongest Limiteer! An absolute powerhouse in the future. I’m also preserving our strength for survival.”

...

After half a day of arguing, Lu Yin refused to back down, and there really was nothing that Wang Wen could do about it.

Liu Qiuyu sighed. “Fine. You don’t have to take them to the gap, but you do have to follow them into the Primal Zone and point them in the correct direction in order to prevent any mistakes from happening, understood? You won’t make a wasted trip this time as you’ll be given 50,000 Ironblood Points.”

Lu Yin’s eyes lit up, as this proposal was finally worth considering. He could point out the general direction after first entering the Primal Zone and then retreat immediately afterwards. Those powerful beasts would be drawn to Wen Qichen and the others, so they would not bother with him.

“Alright, I’ll go, for all of humanity,” Lu Yin said in a righteous manner.

Wang Wen pursed his lips.

After that, Wang Wen closed himself within the pass and would see no one. He needed to carefully analyze all the details of the plan to ensure that the mission would be a success. This particular mission concerned the survival of every single human who lived in the Outerverse.

Several days later, Seasons Fort welcomed another Enlighter: Topmist.

Coincidentally, Lu Yin was in the general vicinity of the space station, so he noticed a boundless amount of rune lines arriving. Thus, he went over to the space station, where he locked eyes with Topmist.

Lu Yin’s expression changed, as this old fart had revealed the methods that Lu Yin had employed to kill the three Enlighters.

Topmist also noticed Lu Yin, but the Enlighter was very casual about the whole matter. He only glanced at Lu Yin before heading to the pass.

Lu Yin watched his departing figure, as Topmist had arrived just in time. Now, there would be one more Enlighter participating in the mission, which raised the probability of success even higher.

Topmist had never been to Ironblood Weave in the past, but the battlefield was no secret to someone at his level. He had known that Ironblood Weave was exceptionally dangerous for a long time and that even Enlighters could die here. He had decided to keep a low profile, especially after learning that Featherking and General Fei had both died in battle. Learning of those deaths had caused his heart to sink even further and had reinforced his decision to stay unnoticed.

Maintaining a low profile was the right way to go, as Topmist did not wish to die on the battlefield.

However, this desire vanished as soon as he saw Wang Wen's repulsive smiling face. He swore that if the possibility ever presented itself, he would definitely tear Wang Wen's beaming grin off.

"Senior Topmist, your arrival must be the will of the heavens!" He had just been brooding over the insufficient number of Enlighters when Topmist had arrived.

Topmist listened to Wang Wen's plans. He then considered it for a while before saying, "I refuse."

Behind him, Liu Qiuyu, Viletree, and Wen Qichen appeared one after another. The trio surrounded Topmist. "You don't have the authority to decline, or else Elder Lohar will execute you as a traitor."

Topmist was constantly shrouded in black fog, and even the face that he revealed to others was fake; the man was actually only a meter tall. At this moment, his hidden face wore a gloomy expression as he felt like he was being sent to his death the moment he arrived at the battlefield.

"Who else is participating?" Topmist asked sullenly.

"The Sword Sect's Senior Viletree, the Wen family's Senior Wen Qichen, and a Limiteer called Lu Yin," Wang Wen replied. He wasn't the slightest bit concerned about the possibility that Topmist would not join the expedition. He was also not ashamed in the slightest about threatening this old fogey who had not participated in this war at all. In contrast, Wang Wen felt that it was a bit much to use Elder Lohar's name to threaten Lu Yin due to the youth's already tremendous contributions during his time on the battlefield.

"Lu Yin? Why's he going?" Topmist felt strange.

Wang Wen smiled. "He was the one who came up with this selfless plan."

Topmist cursed, as the brat had managed to drag him onto a path of death even here. Topmist had been lucky enough to escape from Lu Yin on Shuta Planet, and he had subsequently decided that he would never get involved with this kid again in his life. However, he never could have guessed that he would be thrown into a deadly situation again so quickly because of the brat.

"Has the plan been finalized?" Topmist was still not resigned to his fate.

Wang Wen replied, "Not all of the details have been worked out yet since we didn't have enough people. But now that you're here, we have the necessary manpower, so the mission has been confirmed."

Topmist was left speechless. He should have taken longer to arrive.

At this moment, Topmist greatly regretted the fact that he had not slaughtered Lu Yin back on Shuta Planet. He had a disturbing premonition that he would end up being dragged down by the kid.

Viletree enthusiastically said, "Relax, I know your morals. We won't let you go first."

What is this? What morals? Topmist was decidedly unhappy, but he didn't dare kick up a fuss. He was an assassin; he wasn't proficient in open battles or in bickering for that matter.

#### **Chapter 584: The Hunting Corpse**

"Everyone has to play to their own advantage, and Senior Topmist is exceptional at hiding. In that case, he won't be easily found by the Enlighter realm beasts. Thus, if Senior Viletree and Senior Wen are tied up while fighting a beast, they can simply pass the pyrolyte ore over to Senior Topmist. I'm sure that Senior Topmist will then be able to successfully complete the mission!" Wang Wen smiled.

Topmist responded in a quiet voice, "I-

However, he was instantly interrupted by Wen Qichen. "Alright, when are we moving out?"

Wang Wen seriously replied, "Tomorrow. I will be able to finish preparing the maps and equipment by that time. This is a dangerous mission, and your lives are on the line. I, Wang Wen, represent the entire human race in thanking all of you." Wang Wen bowed to the team.

Topmist immediately backed away, quite annoyed with Wang Wen's attitude. He wasn't dead yet, so he didn't want to accept the bow.

Some people in Ironblood Weave were willing to sacrifice themselves for the greater good while others were more selfish. This was especially true for newly arrived powerhouses like Elder Viletree and Wen Qichen. They wouldn't be very willing to sacrifice themselves.

Despite that, due to the current circumstances, they were still forced to take on roles that only they were qualified for. Furthermore, there was the existence of the Hall of Honor, and so despite none of them being willing to participate in the mission, they were still forced to.

They might have a chance of surviving if they went, but if they refused to participate in the mission, then they would definitely receive judgement.

Although the Hall of Honor was very overbearing, it was still quite useful at times since their strict rules also came with various benefits as well.

After two days, Wang Wen and Liu Qiuyu stood at the pass as they watched four spacecraft take off and head towards the Primal Zone. Their eyes were filled with both worry and hope.

"If this expedition turns out to be successful, then the Outerverse will be safe. If not, our defeat will be sped up. This is a huge risk," Liu Qiuyu commented.

Wang Wen lazily stretched out. "No matter how big a risk it may be, we still have to commit to it. We don't have any other alternatives, and at the current rate, the only question is when we'll be defeated."

Liu Qiuyu nodded and was about to leave when he suddenly felt a portent of doom and looked up at the sky.



At the same time, a weird silhouette appeared on the screens that were displaying what was happening in the space around Seasons Fort. They showed a dried corpse standing above Seasons Fort.

“What the hell is that?” A Hunter powerhouse was stunned. He stepped into the sky to more closely observe the dried corpse that had moved within the sourceboxes’ invisible danger zones.

There were also enormous beasts roaming about outside Seasons Fort.

Apart from the people in Seasons Fort, some of the powerful beasts had also seen the desiccated corpse. They tried to attack it as they weren’t able to notice any differences between it and a living human.

After that, under countless astonished gazes, the dried corpse tore the beast apart, splashing its blood across the sky.

That had been a Hunter realm beast, and yet it had been killed so easily.

All the people at Seasons Fort were stunned.

Liu Qiuyu stared at the dried corpse. “Get back to the pass.”

“Don’t worry. That’s just a dried up corpse with no intelligence. It won’t be able to pass through the sourceboxes’ danger zones.”

As soon as Wang Wen finished speaking, the corpse rushed into the danger zone formed by the sourceboxes. Its body was enveloped by the formless danger, and countless wounds appeared on its body from time to time, especially on its forehead. A strand of an invisible attack nearly managed to pierce through its forehead, but the desiccated corpse still managed to forcefully barge through the invisible danger of the sourceboxes to appear within Seasons Fort.

At that moment, all of Seasons Fort fell silent as many people were shocked.

No beast had ever managed to successfully pass through a danger zone formed by the countless sourceboxes. Instead, the astral beasts always searched for the holes in the defenses when they launched their invasions. Even Monster Loach and the Enlighter realm Amethyst Beast were unable to directly pass through the formless danger zones, as only powerhouses whose power levels were higher than 400,000 might be able to do so.

The dried corpse didn’t have that high of a power level, but it was still able to pass through the formless danger zone formed from the array of sourceboxes. This caused Liu Qiuyu to tremble as he felt a sense of impending sense doom.

Wang Wen hid into his coffin immediately and watched the dried corpse descend in a daze.

The next moment, countless firearms were fired at the dried corpse, but all of the attacks were completely futile.

The dried corpse’s gaze swept across all of Seasons Fort before finally landing on Wang Wen. “Ancient bloodline detected. Target acquired: kill.”

Liu Qiuyu appeared behind the dried corpse and attacked with his sword, bringing the full might of his Enlighter power to bear.

The blade of the sword pierced through the dried corpse.

Then, the corpse grabbed the tip of the sword and shattered it before slashing out with the fragments at Liu Qiuyu.

Liu Qiuyu's eyes narrowed, and he quickly dodged. After that, the dried corpse completely ignored him and continued on moving towards Wang Wen.

Wang Wen was in terror. "Commander, HELP!"

Liu Qiuyu attacked the dried corpse once again, and his broken sword pierced the dried corpse like before. However, the dried corpse simply allowed Liu Qiuyu to attack repeatedly while it continued approaching Wang Wen.

Liu Qiuyu's face went pale. He couldn't find a method to injure the dried corpse, as nothing seemed to work no matter how he attacked. He suddenly noticed the piece of Progenitor Wushang's hide that was still draped over the dried corpse's head, and his actions froze for a moment.

The dried corpse continued approaching Wang Wen before slamming a palm down.

A thunder shield suddenly appeared in front of Wang Wen. The palm of the dried corpse crashed against the thunder shield and caused a crack to appear in it.

Aden was surprised. "Thunder Mountain Technique"

He roared as his battle force wrapped around his body before charging towards the desiccated corpse.

Despite the violent attack, the dried corpse remained stationary, and it casually pushed Aden away before raising its hand yet again.

Liu Qiuyu finally snapped out of his daze and protected Wang Wen with his sword as he simultaneously tried to cut off the dried corpse's head. However, his attack only managed to leave a small trace of a mark on its neck, and his blade was also dulled.

Liu Qiuyu couldn't quite describe his feelings at the moment. He had never met an enemy like this corpse before. It was impossible for him to kill this thing, but it didn't also even bother attacking him. Its defense was nearly impenetrable, but he had still been able to injure the thing slightly. Moreover, judging by its appearance, it had to be something from the Neohuman Alliance!

With a bang, the dried corpse's palm finally landed upon the coffin.

Liu Qiuyu glanced at Wang Wen who was in the coffin and saw him staring at the palm in a daze. However, the Limiteer was still perfectly fine.

Everyone heaved a sigh of relief.

The dried corpse slammed its palm down again with a bang, but once again, nothing happened.

Wang Wen sighed in relief; he had nearly died of fright.

Liu Qiuyu was still terrified, but when he thought about where the coffin had come from, he stopped attacking the dried corpse and just stood there, watching, as it attacked the coffin.

Aden soon returned along with a few Hunter powerhouses. They didn't try to attack the dried corpse this time, and they all just stood there watching as it struck the coffin that remained in pristine condition.

On the other hand, Wang Wen was worried that the coffin wouldn't be able to withstand the furious onslaught.

After twenty minutes, the dried corpse finally stopped its meaningless attacks and left Seasons Fort. It had given up.

Liu Qiuyu and the rest didn't stop its departure and were relieved as they watched it leave.

Wang Wen emerged once he saw that the dried corpse was truly gone. He was sweating profusely and felt like he had narrowly escaped death.

"What is that thing, and why was it trying to kill me? Is it something from the Astral Beast Domain?" Wang Wen screamed.

Liu Qiuyu's expression was grim. "That was probably a corpse king from the Neohuman Alliance."

"That's impossible. The Outerverse has been almost extinguished, so why would the Neohuman Alliance still be around? Besides, they wouldn't attack me at a time like this!" Wang Wen objected.

Liu Qiuyu frowned. He wasn't certain of his guess, but he was especially concerned about that piece of skin on the dried corpse's head that had momentarily dazed him. What was that?

"Oh no, it looks like it's headed towards the Primal Zone!" Wang Wen shouted.

Liu Qiuyu looked at Wang Wen.

"This thing probably won't attack Elder Viletree and the others, right?" Wang Wen mused.

Liu Qiuyu clenched his sword hilt tightly, and his expression became very concerned.

Lu Yin had assumed that they would be intercepted by Enlighter beasts on their way to the Primal Zone, but Wang Wen's route allowed them to avoid running into any Enlighter realm beasts.

The youth's intelligence was so high that normal people couldn't even comprehend it.

Their group had only been attacked by countless beasts once they crossed over into the Primal Zone.

When they arrived at the beginning of the Primal Zone, Lu Yin had indicated the direction that they needed to travel in to the three Enlighter powerhouses. Then, he had quickly taken his leave.

Even if any beasts tried to chase after him, they wouldn't be able to catch up to his blackhole-grade Aurora as only Enlighters could exceed his speed.

Wen Qichen and the others rushed forward and started killing the beasts at the entrance of the Primal Zone, but their actions just attracted many more beasts to the border.

Lu Yin turned around and looked at them with a sigh. "The success of this mission depends on all of you."

He was just a Limiteer, and even with his multiple tricks, he still couldn't compare to an Enlighter. He wouldn't go out of his way to look for trouble, and with his ability to Possess other people with his die, he might be able to resolve this situation.

The blackhole-grade Aurora was extremely fast, and Lu Yin watched the planets shoot past him as he made his way back to the fort. It wouldn't take long for him to get back.

Suddenly, his heart skipped a beat, and he immediately turned to face in another direction. He looked into the distance and saw a scary number of rune lines headed towards him.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. The amount of rune lines that he could see far surpassed all of the Enlighter realm powerhouses that he had met thus far, but this was a sensation that he had encountered before.

The spacecraft halted its voyage through space and quickly hid among the asteroids. Lu Yin continued to stare in the direction of the rune lines that were getting closer and closer to him.

A while later, Lu Yin saw the desiccated corpse that still had a piece of Progenitor Wushang's hide on its head.

Lu Yin trembled at the sight.

"Why is that thing here?" the monkey yelped.

Lu Yin wanted to know as well, but he didn't dare make any noise and tried to remain inconspicuous like an ant.

The dried corpse walked through the vacuum of outer space, and each step it took covered a vast distance. It soon arrived at the location where Lu Yin had just been. It paused there, as if it were hesitating.

Lu Yin's face went pale, and he thought of something scary; could that dried corpse possibly be looking for him?

Suddenly, the dried corpse lifted its head, and its soulless eyes stared straight at Lu Yin, who was hidden among the asteroids.

Lu Yin's heart dropped, and he started maneuvering the spacecraft to fly back towards the Primal Zone. He couldn't lead that dried corpse to Seasons Fort, as the stronghold was already on the brink of collapse from the astral beasts' repeated attacks. The presence of the dried corpse would just worsen their situation.

The dried corpse took a step forward and suddenly appeared within the asteroid field. It waved its hand and sliced all of the asteroids in half while also releasing a tremendous shockwave that reached all the way to Lu Yin's spacecraft.

The Aurora trembled and emitted a grating sound.

Lu Yin's eyes kept twitching as he rushed towards the Primal Zone. There were many Enlighters in the Primal Zone, and they should be enough to handle the dried corpse. If the dried corpse managed to attract the attention of the Enlighter realm astral beasts, then Lu Yin's party would actually have a greater chance of destroying the gap in the energy stream.

The dried corpse took another step and appeared near the spacecraft this time. The spacecraft continued flying towards the Primal Zone at top speed as Lu Yin desperately tried to increase the distance between him and the corpse.

The dried corpse took yet another step. Every step it took was bringing it closer to Lu Yin.

### **Chapter 585: Becoming An Explorer**

"Seventh Bro, what did you do! Why is it chasing you?" the Ghost Monkey screamed in fear.

"It just randomly appeared! It's got nothing to do with me," Lu Yin replied anxiously.

"You must have stepped on its grave, or could you have stolen something from it? No wonder it's not willing to let you go even after it's dead! Just give back whatever you took!" the monkey yelped.

Lu Yin coldly responded, "Shut up! The hide's still on its head, so it's more like it's robbed me."

"Could it be tracking you by following the scent of the hide?"

"Shut up!" Lu Yin bellowed. He was sweating heavily, and he kept glancing back from time to time. The dried corpse was slowly gaining ground, and Lu Yin had a feeling that the thing would be able to enter the spacecraft soon.

Fortunately, the vessel was already approaching the edge of the Primal Zone, and they could see countless beasts roaming about before them. Lu Yin immediately rushed into them as if he was reuniting with his long lost family.

The beasts roared angrily and attacked Lu Yin without any hesitation.

The Explorer realm astral beasts were intelligent, and they felt insulted that a human dared to rush into their territory so brazenly.

Lu Yin looked at the beasts surrounding him and felt very secure for a moment. He wasn't being attacked by them, but rather protected by them.

With a loud whoosh, a ripple appeared in space as the dried corpse suddenly appeared above the spacecraft. It had torn through space and shredded the nearby beasts, splattering the spacecraft with blood.

Lu Yin continued his mad rush towards where the hole in the energy stream was. He just hoped that there were still enough astral beasts left in the Primal Zone.

The dried corpse was temporarily occupied by the countless astral beasts, but it would definitely catch up to Lu Yin soon. Lu Yin was certain that it would continue to follow him since it had tracked him down all the way in the Primal Zone from the Outerverse.

Why was this thing chasing him so ardently? Lu Yin was very confused about this matter.

Lu Yin could see an enormous number of rune lines off in the distance that indicated that Enlighters were battling up ahead of him. Lu Yin anxiously rushed towards the fight.

He soon saw the rune lines of an Enlighter moving towards him.

Lu Yin's eyes twitched, as he could recognize those rune lines; they belonged to Topmist. The Enlighter was trying to run away.

Topmist rushed towards the boundary of the Primal Zone and heaved a sigh of relief. Fortunately, he had managed to slip away from the battle. If he hadn't, then he definitely would have already died. The three human Enlighters had been surrounded by five Enlighter realm astral beasts, and it was impossible for their trio to defeat the beasts. No one would be able to blame Topmist's actions; he just wanted to save his own life.

At that moment, Topmist saw a blackhole-grade spacecraft appear in front of him and was stunned. Is that Lu Yin? Didn't he already leave? Why did he come back?

"Senior Topmist, are you trying to run away?" Lu Yin bellowed.

Topmist frowned. "Young man, don't jump to conclusions! I was on my way to go destroy the gap."

"Really? What a shame. Monster Loach is at the boundary of the Primal Zone," Lu Yin shouted.

Topmist was stunned. "What's Monster Loach?"

"He's an astral beast with a power level above 350,000," Lu Yin answered.

Topmist was astonished. "That's impossible! It should have been defeated by Elder Lohar by now."

"You can go and check for yourself if you don't believe me," Lu Yin commented.

Topmist raised his hand, and his black fog stretched out into the distance.

Lu Yin steered his ship away from the fog as he didn't trust Topmist. He was actually worried that the old man might suddenly attack him.

The dried corpse was still off in the distance, but Lu Yin had falsely told Topmist that it was Monster Loach since Topmist had never seen the dried corpse before. Thus, there was a chance that the Enlighter wouldn't be afraid of the thing.

A while later, Topmist retrieved his black fog. He had felt a bone chilling strength ahead of him, which was something that he had only ever felt from a powerhouse whose power level exceeded 300,000. Clearly, the creature in front of him was amazingly powerful.

"Senior, the only option of survival for us at this time is to destroy the hole in the energy stream and use that to distract Monster Loach. If we manage to destroy that gap, then Monster Loach will definitely try to repair it. At that time, we'll have a chance to escape," Lu Yin suggested.

Topmist gritted his teeth and replied, "Alright."

He glared at Lu Yin. Nothing good had ever happened when he encountered this brat.

Lu Yin was relieved. He glanced back and saw that the rune lines from the desiccated corpse were moving forward again. The thing was chasing after him again.

“Senior, run! Monster Loach is coming!” Lu Yin yelled.

Topmist didn’t want to be attacked by Monster Loach, and so he immediately charged towards the hole in the energy stream.

Off in the distance, Elder Viletree and Wen Qichen were struggling from the combined attack of five Enlighter beasts, though one of the beasts had been trapped in a Literary Prison.

“If we manage to escape this place alive, I’ll kill Topmist!” Viletree said furiously.

Wen Qichen sneered. “We already knew his personality, and we probably won’t be able to complete the mission. Let’s blow up the pyrolyte now. At least we’ll be able to get away from here safely that way.”

Viletree was reluctant to agree. If the mission really did turn out to be a failure, then it would be nearly impossible for humanity to hold onto Ironblood Weave. And if that happened, then the Outerverse and all of them would be doomed.

“Humans, just surrender. There are also humans in the Celestial Beast Empire. You won’t be wiped out. You’ll just become a part of the Astral Beast Domain instead,” an Enlighter beast rumbled.

Viletree smiled bitterly. “They’re actually treating us like beasts.”

Wen Qichen shook his head. “I may die, but the Wen family will not have any traitors.”

“Stubborn. Kill them!” another Enlighter beast roared.

Suddenly, a gunshot surprised the two of them as the head of the Enlighter beast trapped in the Literary Prison burst apart and the beast died. The other four Enlighter beasts were stunned, and Wen Qichen and Viletree also looked over in a daze to see a blackhole-grade spacecraft approaching them. It was Lu Yin.

Moments later, another Enlighter beast howled in pain as its enormous body was corroded by black fog. Topmist appeared and said, “Hurry! Go and destroy the gap.”

Viletree and Wen Qichen hadn’t expected that Topmist would return, let alone bring Lu Yin with him. Viletree rushed off into the distance without any hesitation, moving towards a huge wall of energy.

This was Lu Yin’s first time seeing one of the steams of liquid energy after the surge, and the amount of energy it contained almost divided the universe. It looked like there was no end to it.

He couldn’t imagine what might have caused the energy to suddenly change, but he was sure that the Astral River would be even more majestic.

Hunters wouldn’t dare to even approach a battle of Enlighters, and Lu Yin also kept his distance.

However, this didn’t mean that the Enlighter beasts would leave Lu Yin alone, and one of the Enlighter beasts tried to attack him.

Lu Yin promptly directed his spacecraft towards a nearby planet.

The astral beast chased after him.

Wen Qichen and Topmist were busy fighting the other Enlighter beasts and had no time to help Lu Yin.

“Seventh Bro, ditch the spacecraft and use your power vessels!” the monkey shouted.

Lu Yin leaped out from the spacecraft and donned his universal armor. The enormous Enneadic Wings also spread out behind him as he used his star energy to activate the Stellar Ruler.

The Enlighter beast’s attack crashed down, but Lu Yin disappeared just before the attack landed on him. When he reappeared, he was already quite far from his original position.

The shockwaves from the Enlighter beast’s attack shattered the planet. The creature looked around, but it couldn’t find Lu Yin anywhere.

Lu Yin stood in outer space, panting heavily. He looked at the Stellar Ruler. This is truly a great item.

At that moment, a huge force sent Lu Yin flying. It was a stray shockwave from the battle between the Enlighters, and he wasn’t able to resist it at all. The universal armor was enough to protect him from being injured, but it wasn’t enough to stand up to an Enlighter’s attack .

Lu Yin finally managed to regain his footing in time to see an Enlighter realm beast rushing towards him.

At the same time, the desiccated corpse arrived.

When Lu Yin was being chased by the dried corpse, the beasts were like his family. But at this present moment, he felt that the dried corpse was his saviour. Lu Yin’s aim was to pit the beasts and the dried corpse against each other.

The Enlighter beast didn’t know whether the dried corpse was friend or foe; however, since it looked like a human, it just treated the corpse as an enemy. Thus, the beast sent its paw crashing towards the dried corpse.

The dried corpse was only interested in Lu Yin, so it didn't even try to dodge the attack, which led to it being sent flying by the beast’s attack.

Lu Yin’s eyes twitched; it couldn’t be that fragile, right?

Before he had another thought, Lu Yin was sent flying by the beast. The Enlighter realm beast’s strength sent Lu Yin flying into the depths of the Primal Zone at the speed of a blackhole-grade spacecraft. Lu Yin even shot through a few planets before finally landing on the surface of a dim planet.

The immense force of the blow had nearly given him a concussion, and he moved his fingers slightly in the dark.

Lu Yin was about to get up when his expression suddenly changed. He felt the sensation of breaking through once again, and this time, he couldn’t suppress it at all.

Lu Yin had considered many scenarios that his breakthrough would take place in, but his present circumstances had never occurred to him. He was currently in the Primal Zone and could be killed by an



enemy at any time. Despite that, he had already suppressed his breakthrough on multiple occasions, and he couldn't suppress it this time.

Cultivating was basically fighting against fate and trying to adapt one's body to the universe. Before becoming an Explorer, a cultivator was just a slightly stronger being. However, when one reached the Explorer realm, one's body would undergo a fundamental transformation designed to adapt to the universe. At that point, a cultivator would become stronger, but they would also start to deteriorate.

All cultivation moved with the universe, and the only way for a cultivator to survive was to adapt.

One of the greatest obstacles that a cultivator would face on their journey was becoming an Explorer. At this moment, Lu Yin had to break through. However, he had little hope of successfully breaking through.

"Monkey, I'm about to become an Explorer. What do I need to take note of?" Lu Yin asked.

The monkey didn't answer.

Lu Yin peeked at his right arm and frowned; the attack just now had caused the monkey to faint.

He wanted to wake the monkey up, but the feeling of breaking through was too strong. The formcast model in his body melted. At this moment, Lu Yin needed to find a way to break through or suffer the consequences of failing.

As the formcast model melted, Lu Yin felt an immense power surge through him, almost as if the universe itself was collapsing. His body was subjected to excruciating pain, and his vision went black. Then, he once again saw a finger that pierced through the universe.

Boiling hatred seethed through his heart as soon as he saw the finger. Lu Yin couldn't control his own emotions. Not knowing if it was a conscious or a subconscious impulse, he felt the urge to destroy everything around him.

In the distance, Elder Viletree had managed to find the energy gap according to the directions that he had been given. The hole in the energy stream wasn't large, but it was enough to allow troops to pass through. This was how the Celestial Beast Empire had been supporting the Primal Zone.

Viletree took out the pyrolyte and rushed towards the gap. As long as he could detonate the pyrolyte inside of the gap, the force of the explosion would be more than enough to divert the energy and seal the gap. This would stop any reinforcements from entering the Primal Zone.

Viletree was excited at the thought, and he moved with greater urgency than he ever had before in his life.

The gap drew closer and closer, and just when Viletree was about to enter the hole, a sharp claw appeared from the void. This claw pierced through Viletree's heart, only leaving his corpse floating in the vacuum.

### **Chapter 586: Tree of Phenomena**

Elder Viletree's eyes went completely wide before shrinking intensely. He watched as the void ahead of him tore open and a Void Thunderbeast stepped out.

Nobody had known that there was a Void Thunderbeast stationed at the hole in the energy stream, let alone a Void Thunderbeast whose power level approached 300,000. Even Monster Loach had been unaware of its presence, and naturally, since Tian Hou had not known, Lu Yin had been ignorant as well.

Even with Viletree's power, he wasn't even able to react before being stabbed by such a terrifying beast.

"Human, how did you discover that there's a gap in this place?" the Void Thunderbeast spoke oppressively.

Viletree's face turned pale as the strength drained from his body and he was torn apart.

"It doesn't matter anymore." Viletree's body directly collapsed and shattered as the longsword and pyrolyte that had been in his hands fell.

The Void Thunderbeast looked in the direction of the distant battle, but it did not move. Its mission was to protect the hole in the energy stream. It didn't care even if all of the astral beasts in the Primal Zone perished; it was following direct orders from Skymender.

In another place, Wen Qichen and Topmist were surrounded by three Enlighter astral beasts while another Enlighter beast flew out with the intention of killing Lu Yin. However, it was strangely attracted by the piece of Progenitor Wushang's hide that was draped over the head of the desiccated corpse, almost as if something was beckoning it over.

The beast changed targets to the corpse, as it wanted the piece of Progenitor Wushang's hide.

The corpse grew angry, and it stepped forward to appear before the astral beast. It reached out with a withered arm and clashed against the giant claw. Its hand pierced through the claw and almost instantly tore through the beast while Topmist watched on in fear. The enormous beast had just been shredded apart like a piece of paper by the dried out corpse.

At this moment, the other three Enlighter astral beasts, Wen Qichen, and Topmist were all shocked.

The corpse had no blatant power, but the strength that it had just displayed was simply awe-inducing.

One of the Enlighter beasts bellowed and charged towards the corpse. The void was sliced apart in layers, and a terrifying strength completely enveloped the corpse.

The corpse's eyes were like blackholes. It turned its head and allowed a frightful attack to streak through its body. The thing then shot back with the attack and through the attacker. Yet another Enlighter beast had fallen.

Topmist felt frightened, as this corpse was definitely a freak with a power level of over 300,000, and he wanted to get as far away from it as possible.

Wen Qichen looked into the distance. Why hasn't Viletree ignited the pyrolyte yet?

On a dark planet, Lu Yin's physical body endured an intense pain even as various scenes appeared in his mind. His body started to undergo changes. He was breaking through.

A brilliant light flowed out from his physical body and illuminated the planet before penetrating the atmosphere and entering the void. The image of a phenomenon vaguely appeared, but it was very fuzzy.

Phenomena were things that only existed in legends. It was rumored that geniuses with powerful innate gifts were able to produce phenomena when they broke through to the Explorer realm. These people were the favored children of the universe, and they were smiled upon by the heavens themselves. They were people with the potential to gaze right into the very essence of the universe. Since recorded history, there were extremely few individuals in the universe who had produced such phenomena during their breakthroughs, and it was possible that not even all of the Human Domain's Ten Arbiters had produced phenomena when they broke through in the past.

A phenomenon was a symbol, one that signified that a cultivator was entering another level altogether.

A title would be specially bestowed by the Hall of Honor to the powerhouses who produced phenomena. White Knight of the Ten Arbiters, Ling Gong, had produced a phenomenon. Thus, the name "White Knight" had been given to them by the Hall of Honor, and it had thus become the Arbiter's title.

And now, in the Primal Zone, Lu Yin's breakthrough to the Explorer realm had shaken the universe and birthed another phenomenon.

Unfortunately, there was no one around to appreciate it, and even Lu Yin himself did not notice the phenomenon.

On the planet, the phenomenon cleared up bit by bit, and the void rippled like water as a small sapling appeared above Lu Yin's head. It grew slowly at first, but then it quickly flourished until it covered the entire planet. After that, it continued to grow outwards, and it gradually pervaded the entire local region of space.

The phenomenon was a tree, but its drooping branches distorted the void and emitted a gas. It seemed as if living things were being created beneath the bows of the tree. Under one branch, a ball was forming, and under another branch, a sword was being created. Under yet another branch, a square object was coming into being, and under still another branch...

Many objects grew out from the tree, but the tree itself was born from Lu Yin. It gradually covered the vastness of space.

The phenomenon became more and more clear with each passing moment, and as the scope of the phenomenon grew larger, it eventually caught the attention of countless astral beasts from the Primal Zone. However, they did not dare to approach it.

Outside the hole in the energy stream, the Void Thunderbeast stared in astonishment at the phenomenon. What the heck is that?

Wen Qichen, Topmist, and the Enlighter realm astral beasts also noticed the phenomenon.

The corpse looked up, and it seemed to feel something because it suddenly began to crazily charge towards the Enlighter beasts in front of it as it dashed towards Lu Yin. As it moved along, it swept Wen Qichen and two more Enlighter beasts aside, reducing all of them to mere pools of blood.

Topmist was stunned. In the blink of an eye, three Enlighters had been wiped out. The corpse had displayed a strength that was incomprehensible to the human Enlighter, and past the corpse, he could see a phantom image that caused him to shudder.

He had been fortunate that he had not been in the direction that the corpse was charging in.

Off in the distance, the pyrolyte still had not exploded, and Topmist knew that something had gone wrong. It was possible that something had happened to Elder Viletree.

He immediately dashed towards the boundary of the Primal Zone without any hesitation. Wen Qichen was dead, and Lu Yin's status was unrelated to Topmist. In truth, he hoped that the kid would die. Viletree was likely gone as well, and the mission was now a complete failure. The only good news was that the kid Lu Yin had lied, as Monster Loach had not shown up. Since that was the case, then Topmist merely needed to return to the fortress alive, since what was possible to do had already been done.

As he glanced at the phenomenon, Topmist was able to deduce some basic facts, but after he saw the corpse dash towards the phenomenon, he knew that Lu Yin was about to face a disaster.

The phenomenon was still expanding, and the corpse charged towards the phenomenon of the giant, growing tree and appeared on the planet. It looked at Lu Yin and then raised its leg, aiming at him.

Right at this moment, in the middle of his smooth breakthrough, complex runes appeared on Lu Yin's back that soon formed the shape of a lock that had pierced into his body. The runes began suppressing the breakthrough process. This was the seal that had appeared in the past during Lu Yin's breakthrough into the Melder realm, but at that time, the crazy headmaster of Astral 10 had appeared and shattered one layer of the seal. However, there were more layers.

The changes occurring to his physical body, and even the phenomenon, stopped progressing at this moment. In fact, the phenomenon of the giant tree even started gradually vanishing.

If the phenomenon completely vanished, it would mean that Lu Yin had failed to break through, and at that moment, his formcast model would shatter. The next opportunity for him to break through would be after an unknown amount of time passed.

The corpse appeared and moved behind Lu Yin. It swatted down at Lu Yin with one hand without revealing the slightest trace of sentience. "Ancient bloodline detected. Target acquired: kill."

Boom!

The corpse's strike landed on Lu Yin's back without any obstruction.

Even the Enlighter realm astral beasts, Liu Qiuyu, and the other powerhouses had been easily driven back by a casual attack from the corpse, and since Lu Yin was currently experiencing a breakthrough, he did not have his universal armor on. It was essentially guaranteed that he would be smashed to pieces.

But as luck would have it, the withered hand landed directly on the seal. Although the seal formed from the complex runes was preventing Lu Yin from breaking through, it was also protecting him from another perspective. This was just like the time when he had been struck by the light beam from the battleship. Back then, this seal had also protected his physical body from being vaporized.

The corpse's attack was fruitless, so it swatted at Lu Yin once again. There was another thump, and the ground split open, but the seal on Lu Yin's back shone brightly and resisted the attack.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

...

Strike after strike rained down as the corpse continued its incessant attacks. It seemed to have been agitated by the phenomenon produced by Lu Yin's breakthrough, and it had no thoughts of giving up.

As the seal was continuously attacked by the corpse, it caused the suppression of Lu Yin's breakthrough to become unstable. Every time the seal was about to completely suppress and stop his breakthrough, its resistance would be shattered by a slap from the corpse.

The impressive tree that was formed from the phenomenon was sometimes massive and sometimes small, and its changes created a strange cycle.

During this cycle, Lu Yin was plunged into a state of unconsciousness and stuck in a strange state where he was not breaking through, but where his breakthrough had not failed either. In this state, he was staring at that jade finger, and he kept staring...

The monkey regained consciousness, and he saw the corpse's slap the moment he opened his eyes, which instantly beat him into unconsciousness once again. This beast was the most miserable one of them all at the moment.

At the border of the Primal Zone, Topmist charged out while panting heavily. He did not dare to pause for even a moment as he continued flying straight back to Seasons Fort. This damned place, he thought to himself, as he wanted to never return to the stronghold.

Unfortunately, even though that kid had actually produced a phenomenon during his breakthrough and was an innately gifted genius, he would definitely die without question.

In the entire Primal Zone, aside from those Enlighters who were attacking Yellowsoil Fort and Giantghost Fort, all of the other Enlighters were dead, with the exception of a single Void Thunderbeast.

And on a planet within the Primal Zone, a corpse continued its relentless attacks without any signs of giving up. This was completely different from its assault on Wang Wen, as its drive to kill Lu Yin greatly surpassed its previous desire to kill Wang Wen.

Day one, two, three... even on the tenth day, the corpse still had not given up, continuing to strike at the seal without rest.

Lu Yin had maintained an unconscious state for ten days, during which he had constantly been staring at that jade finger and observing its various changes. After all this time, he seemed to have comprehended something.

At Seasons Fort, Topmist informed Wang Wen of what had transpired at the Primal Zone after his return. Wang Wen did not release any announcements, but he had determined that Lu Yin was dead.

Viletree and Wen Qichen were similarly dead, and Wang Wen did not rush to announce the deaths of the two Enlighters as it would plunge Seasons Fort into chaos.

Lu Yin's death was something that could not be concealed. Aside from the young Limiteer, there was no one else who could see the positions of the holes in the sourceboxes' danger zones, and his loss could not be kept a secret until the next battle.

Due to Lu Yin's death, an uproar broke out in Seasons Fort, and Lu Yin's name vanished from the Ironblood Points rankings.

Even though he had been given many Ironblood Points, he could not be listed any longer.

Charon learned of Lu Yin's passing and sighed. He had a conflicted expression.

Wang Wen went to the cliff where he had drunk with Lu Yin and tossed a bottle of wine into the ocean. "Chesspiece Bro, there's no rush. All of us will join you very soon."

At Yellowsoil Fort, Wendy Yushan's heart fell when she saw Lu Yin's name vanish from the list. She hurriedly scanned the list, hoping that Lu Yin had once again traded all of his points and that the exchange had caused him to fall down the list.

Only when she reached the end of the list did she put down her gadget. Her face had gone completely white. She closed her eyes. "Did you leave first?"

In the lower five strongholds, Yue Xianzi was also occasionally checking Lu Yin's ranking, but she could not find his name anywhere. Even if he had exchanged his points away, it was impossible for him to not have a single point. She also guessed that he had died, and a complex expression appeared on her face, just like Charon's.

An Shaohua was agonized by the news. He had originally wanted to cast his lot in with Lu Yin, but now, his hopes had been dashed.

Even if the people in the other strongholds learned of Lu Yin's death, they would at most give a small sigh. Only the people at Seasons Fort knew what awaited them after Lu Yin's death, but their fates had already been determined.

There were only two days remaining before Wang Wen's estimated date of when the astral beasts would invade.

In the Primal Zone, the corpse continued its unceasing onslaught as countless astral beasts surrounded both it and Lu Yin. However, not a single one of the creatures dared to act. Monster Loach and the Enlighter realm Amethyst Beast had also appeared, but not even they dared to intervene. The corpse did not seem to be more powerful than them, but it gave them an indescribably puzzled feeling, which caused them to be apprehensive.

Two days soon passed by, and Lu Yin's giant tree phenomenon was suppressed down to the planet, as it had grown smaller and smaller. This showed that the attacks from the corpse against the seal had weakened, and the seal would finally be able to completely suppress Lu Yin's breakthrough.

At this time, the reinforcements from the Celestial Beast Empire had arrived to aid the Primal Zone's assault.

## Chapter 587: Bloodied Handprint

Originally, Monster Loach was the only astral beast in the Primal Zone whose power level surpassed 300,000, and there were almost ten other Enlighter realm astral beasts there as well. Together, they formed the main force that assaulted Ironblood Weave. As soon as the reinforcements from the Celestial Beast Empire arrived, multiple powerful beasts appeared that held a similar status to the Enlighter Amethyst Beast and the Void Thunderbeast that was protecting the hole in the energy stream. All of these beasts were from the Celestial Beast Empire, and at this moment, yet another terrifying beast with a power level over 350,000 appeared: a Three-Tailed Greedbeast.

When it appeared, all of the beasts in the immediate region demonstrated their subservience, and even Monster Loach felt a bit nervous when facing the Greedbeast.

The Three-Tailed Greedbeast was a strange creature that had a white skeletal framework wrapped around it with three tails swaying through space that emanated multiple layers of ripples.

In the Celestial Beast Empire, legend had it that this beast was extremely bloodthirsty. Now that the empire had sent it to join the attack, it showed the empire's determination to conquer the Outerverse.

Aside from the Three-Tailed Greedbeast, Cursewind from Skymender's List had also arrived, as well as Tian Hou, who was Skymender's disciple, and five other Enlighter realm astral beasts.

It was an unstoppable force.

Cursewind was a blue lion who had a bizarre pair of eyes. It had wind in its left eye and fire in its right. Its body radiated an extreme temperature, and every step it took caused the void to warp and fracture.

The reinforcements did not stay in the Primal Zone for too long, and the Three-Tailed Greedbeast soon took all the others into Ironblood Weave with it.

Only Cursewind looked over at the planet where Lu Yin was attempting his breakthrough with any interest, and he even felt somewhat astonished. That tree was a phenomena, though it was being suppressed. There was no hurry, and they could come back and deal with that human after conquering Ironblood Weave. That human was clearly very talented since he could produce a phenomenon during his breakthrough.

From the Three-Tailed Greedbeast's perspective, no matter how gifted Lu Yin may be, he was still only breaking to the Explorer realm, so he would not present much of a threat even then. The beast was not bothered at all. As for the corpse, there was no rush. At the moment, their most pressing issue was to conquer the humans' Outerverse. The Greedbeast was acting on the Imperial Teacher's orders, so it was determined to complete its mission quickly.

Monster Loach left a few Hunters behind to keep watch on Lu Yin. Regardless if he succeeded in his breakthrough, they would not let him off. The most crucial part was still the corpse, which was just too strange. They could only wait for the Three-Tailed Greedbeast to deal with it.

As for the hole in the energy stream, it remained protected by the Void Thunderbeast, and no one could destroy it.

At Seasons Fort, the space around the stronghold shuddered, and an enormous white skeletal tail swept through the holes of the sourceboxes' danger zones. The beast then shot through the void and almost instantly crushed the stronghold's pass.

Liu Qiuyu looked overwhelmed, as this was a terrifying powerhouse with a power level that exceeded 300,000.

Bang bang bang!

The transparent coffin tumbled down from the pass as Wang Wen screamed for help from inside it.

But right now, no one could move to save him. Elder Viletree and Wen Qichen had been killed in action, and Liu Qiuyu and Topmist were Seasons Fort's only remaining Enlighters.

Since the Three-Tailed Greedbeast had acted, Seasons Fort was destined to be destroyed, and Liu Qiuyu had already predicted the end result.

Countless beasts invaded Seasons Fort, and the humans started a frantic counterattack.

Charon wielded the Unveiled Sword and howled loudly before charging into the sky.

Void Wanderers filled the air, and countless spatial cracks tore open as the creatures ferried in numerous beasts.

In outer space, above the fort, the Three-Tailed Greedbeast roared, and the violent noise caused the entirety of Seasons Fort to tremble.

A giant crack shot out from the pass and tore the ground apart, and it even caused several planets to splinter, nearly splitting Seasons Fort in two.

From the corner of his eye, Liu Qiuyu glanced around and knew that there was nobody who could take on the old freak aside from Elder Lohar. However, Elder Lohar had been obstructed by other beasts, so it seemed that Seasons Fort was doomed to fall on this day.

Liu Qiuyu hurriedly charged towards Wang Wen, as he wanted to throw Wang Wen away from Seasons Fort. Even if everyone else died, Wang Wen could not.

Suddenly, a shockwave swept out, and Liu Qiuyu hurriedly took a step back. The void in front of him was distorted by an extremely high temperature, and it soon started boiling.

A blue lion emerged from the void and stepped into outer space to face Liu Qiuyu. "Cursewind of Skymender's List is seeking experience."

Liu Qiuyu squinted. "Junior, do you really think that you can compare to the Ten Arbiters and challenge an Enlighter?"

Cursewind raised his lion's head. "What of the Ten Arbiters? Once we break through the barrier separating the Outerverse from the Innaverse, even the Ten Arbiters will be slaughtered!" Then, the hurricane in his left eye morphed into a violent shockwave that tore apart the void as it swept towards Liu Qiuyu.



Liu Qiuyu slashed out with his sword, and the sword qi ripped the hurricane to shreds and continued on towards Cursewind.

Next, the inferno in Cursewind's right eye filled the sky, and an intense heat wave swept out that caused even Liu Qiuyu to grow fearful. This was Cursewind's innate gift, which allowed the winds to assist the flames. The hurricane around the fire flared up and caused the entire region to collapse.

Liu Qiuyu's eyes trembled, as the momentum of the battle had shifted greatly. An unstoppable power converged in front of him to form a sword that pierced through the void.

Cursewind hurriedly dodged it even as the beast's own attack was sliced through by the sword. If he had not moved aside quickly enough, then the sword definitely would have stabbed through his body as well.

He looked at Liu Qiuyu in shock, as this human was actually incredibly powerful.

At this moment, high in the sky, a white skeletal tail crashed down and sent Liu Qiuyu hurtling towards the surface of the stronghold. The tail continued sweeping through the stronghold until it emerged in outer space, on the other side.

The Three-Tailed Greedbeast's cold eyes swept across Cursewind as its two other tails lashed out at Seasons Fort.

With a boom, Aden was sent flying. Despite his thunder shield being supplemented by his nine-lined battle force, it had still been shattered into multiple pieces. He spat out a mouthful of blood, and his status was left unknown.

Nobody could stop the Three-Tailed Greedbeast.

On another side of the fort, on a mainland, a youth faced off against Tian Hou. He was Linley, and he had formerly been a senior disciple of the Inverse's Myriad Swords Peak, and he was even Wendy Yushan's senior. At present, he was a Cruiser with a power level of 80,000.

Facing an Explorer as a Cruiser should be an effortless fight, but he was facing Tian Hou at this time. No matter how he attacked, he could not seem to harm Tian Hou in any manner.

Tian Hou merged with the void, which rendered all of Linley's attacks ineffective.

This was the first time that Linley had faced such an opponent, and Tian Hou's methods made him tremble in fear.

"You must be terrified," Tian Hou spoke in a strange voice.

Linley's eyes changed and turned sluggish. He suddenly seemed bewildered, and he dropped the longsword from his hands.

Tian Hou stepped towards Linley and raised a hand that he placed upon the Cruiser's body. "Be devoured."

Right after uttering those words, sword qi streaked by, passing through Tian Hou and tearing the ground apart. Liu Zhan stepped out with a solemn face.

Tian Hou calmly turned to look at Liu Zhan. "Another one from the Liu family."

Liu Zhan's eyes were ice-cold. "So you're Tian Hou."

Tian Hou was hidden within his black clothes, so most people would not recognize him. However, the Liu family was an exception. This was because a sect elder who had mastered the Thirteen Swords had once been swallowed by a Cosmic Hou in the past. The Liu family carried an unforgettable hatred towards all Cosmic Hous.

"So your Liu family can still survive with just the Thirteen Swords," Tian Hou said indifferently.

By this point, Linley had recovered, and he was panting heavily. He picked his sword and looked at Tian Hou in humiliation.

As a swordsman, he had actually dropped his blade, which was an extraordinary disgrace.

"Even if Seasons Fort is lost today, I must kill you. Killing one Cosmic Hou will be a big blow to the Celestial Beast Empire," Liu Zhan spoke coldly.

Tian Hou was apathetic. "It's useless. Teacher has divined that I will not die during this battle."

"Is that so?" Liu Zhan stabbed out.

However, his sword tip passed straight through Tian Hou, as Tian Hou could not be harmed. His figure gradually grew fainter until it could no longer be seen.

Liu Zhan was unwilling. Since ancient times, the legends of the Cosmic Hou had been a humiliation to the Sword Sect. He had heard many rumors about Cosmic Hous, and the most recent had been from the recent Tournament of the Strongest, where Tian Hou had lost to Lu Yin, a student of the Astral Combat Academy. Liu Zhan had thought that since Lu Yin was able to defeat Tian Hou, he himself should have no problem given his strength as a peak Hunter. However, he had wrongly underestimated the abilities of a Cosmic Hou.

Seasons Fort was collapsing from the Three-Tailed Greedbeast's frantic attacks on the stronghold, and countless defenders perished.

Topmist gritted his teeth, as he did not want to die. As he watched another tail lash out, he cursed under his breath. He then carefully retrieved a very ancient box and opened it. "Ancestors, I am sorry, but I have no choice."

He then reached inside the box where there was a very thin film: the Bloodied Handprint.

In front of him, Enlighter beasts shattered space and charged towards Topmist. He suddenly lifted his head and revealed a pale face, as if he was enduring extreme agony. Then, he let out a loud roar. His right hand rose from the box, and in the middle of his palm, there was boiling blood. The Bloodied Handprint had completely merged with his hand.

At that moment, everything froze. Every single creature, no matter if they were human or astral beast, no matter if they were Scouts, Melders, or powerhouses with a power level that had reached 300,000, paused. At this time, everyone felt an overbearing pressure, and everyone hesitated.

The sky had fallen. This was what every being present perceived.

It was not just at Seasons Fort; this fluctuation enveloped the entirety of Ironblood Weave, and it even extended into parts of Eastly and Northcastle Weaves.

Topmist howled in anguish, as his palm was burning. It had been ignited by that film of blood. The unendurable pain caused him to unhesitatingly slam his hand against the Three-Tailed Greedbeast.

It did not move or resist, and it just allowed Topmist's palm to land on its body. Its gigantic form directly shattered, and Topmist's attack did not lose any power as it continued on into outer space and even traveled through the danger zones of the sourceboxes.

Countless eyes looked at Topmist in shock, and then at the blood that now covered the sky. This person had just smacked an almighty powerhouse with a power level of over 300,000 to death in just one strike.

Liu Qiuyu stared up from beneath the ground, and there was an indescribable astonishment in his eyes.

Wang Wen's mouth gaped open. There was actually another thing that he had not predicted.

Topmist kept howling in anguish. His hand had disappeared. It had burnt away to nothingness.

The ancient box that had held the film of blood was also split open, and there was nothing left within it since the Bloodied Handprint had disappeared after being used.

The Three-Tailed Greedbeast had died, and it caused the other astral beasts to quickly retreat.

Cursewind nervously dashed out of Seasons Fort. The humans had too many hidden tricks, and who knew what other power vessels they might still have in reserve. That palm had been too frightening, and the blue lion had never felt such an overwhelming strength like that. It was as if the strength was from the heavens themselves.

Everyone in the fort relaxed. They had been lucky enough to survive, despite all of them assuming that they would absolutely die in this battle.

Liu Qiuyu soared in the air and looked at Topmist.

Everyone else also looked at him, as he had been the biggest contributor to their survival during this battle.

Wang Wen stepped out of his coffin and moved in front of Topmist to heap praise upon the Enlighter.

Topmist was agonized, as that power vessel had been Mafioso Planet's inherited Bloodied Handprint. It was already nothing more than a film since it had been used once before in the past. He had not thought that it would disappear with just one more use, as he had been saving it as his personal trump card as well.

Still, Topmist did not reveal his thoughts, and he remained very stoic as he stored the box away. Aside from Wu Shen himself, nobody else knew that the Bloodied Handprint was permanently gone now, and keeping that as a secret could be used to intimidate others.

The humans thought that killing the Three-Tailed Greedbeast would intimidate the astral beasts into granting them a few days respite, but nobody guessed that the beasts would attack again the very next day.

Still, the subsequent assault did not have any experts whose power levels exceeded 300,000. Instead, there were an additional two Enlightener realm astral beasts. It had been absolutely worthwhile to use the Bloodied Handprint to kill a powerhouse whose power level exceeded 300,000, but it would not be worth its cost to use it on an Enlightener beast. The Astral Beast Domain was indeed not foolish.

The battle that would conclude the astral beasts' invasion into the Outerverse was too intense, and the astral beasts seemed very pressured to succeed. Despite the absurd battle power that Topmist had revealed, the astral beasts' determination did not waver in the slightest.

Seasons Fort was on the verge of collapse.

### **Chapter 588: One Finger To Pierce The Void**

Some distance away from the fort, in the Primal Zone, the desiccated corpse's incessant assault had already gone on for fifteen days, and it still showed no signs of stopping.

Lu Yin had also been in an unconscious state for fifteen days, and during this entire time, he had been staring at that jade finger.

Finally, on the sixteenth day, he seemed to have comprehended something, and he raised his right hand and subconsciously tapped out with a finger. It looked like a very ordinary and common movement, but his finger transcended the void and crushed space. Lu Yin was actually able to fracture space with his strength that had not yet reached the Explorer realm, and his finger moved towards the corpse.

Coincidentally, the corpse had just unleashed a strike and was in the middle of preparing another when the finger landed on its forehead.

The void warped, and the distortion spread out until it caused the entire planet to tremble. Lu Yin's subconscious finger tap forced the corpse to take a step back, and with this retreat, the seal on his back lit up with a brilliant radiance and completely suppressed his breakthrough to the Explorer realm.

However, Lu Yin's finger tap seemed to have granted the corpse some enlightenment of its own.

"Ancient bloodline detected. Kill."

A phantom image appeared behind the corpse with two hands raised up high, and these hands then firmly swung down to land directly on the seal behind Lu Yin.

Crack!

The seal broke apart, and in just an instant, the phenomenon of Lu Yin's breakthrough burst forth once again, the giant tree enveloping the entire planet just like it had at the beginning of Lu Yin's breakthrough. The tree then continued to spread away from the planet and into space.

The numerous astral beasts in the region blankly stared at the scene, at a complete loss.

The seal had been shattered by the corpse, but there was more than just one layer to the seal on Lu Yin's back. In the past, not even Astral 10's crazy headmaster had been able to determine how many layers there were to the seal.

The corpse had shattered one layer, but another layer quickly appeared and revealed a seal that bored through Lu Yin's shoulders. The appearance of this seal released a frightening aura that spread throughout the entire region and crushed all of the nearby astral beasts. The dried up corpse was blasted underground by the overpowering force. Once again, Progenitor Wushang's hide shifted slightly on the corpse's head, and its eyes were again covered up.

Just like before, the corpse was only able to stare eternally at Progenitor Wushang's hide, lost in its state of awe until someone disturbed it.

The seal that had prevented Lu Yin from breaking through to the Explorer realm had shattered, and the seal on his back that had been suppressing the corpse similarly vanished just like what had happened back when he had broken through to the Melder realm. At this moment, his breakthrough arrived in full, and his physical body was transformed.

The scope of the phenomenon continued to expand as Lu Yin sat on the planet's surface. His heart rumbled time and time again while he simultaneously absorbed the star energy around him at a frantic rate.

However, the ambient star energy of the universe was not enough to satisfy him. Fortunately, he had regained consciousness the moment the seal had broken, so he quickly retrieved some star essence from his cosmic ring and placed it beside himself to form a small hill. He frantically absorbed that energy, using the ninefold rate of his Cosmic Art to create a scene that was reminiscent of a whirlpool.

The pain in his physical body gradually faded, and the phenomenon also slowly disappeared.

The star essence beside Lu Yin were also depleted at a rapid rate.

Lu Yin opened his eyes again and let out a long hiss that caused the nearby space to shudder. The sound waves created ripples that expanded out and caused the planet's surface to split asunder.

Quite a few beasts moved towards the planet again, but they became frightened when they saw the countless corpses floating about space.

Lu Yin released a long breath and completely awakened at this moment. He stretched his shoulders and neck, causing cracking sounds to ring out. He then looked down and clenched his fists. "So this is the strength of an Explorer."

Now, he was able to see the changes in the universe. Things were no longer incomprehensible, and he felt an indescribable intimate connection with the universe. He could feel that he was now able to roam the void with just his physical body, as his body had been completely transformed.

Similarly, he could sense a strange state affecting his body, and it seemed to be quickly draining his energy away. It was immediately apparent that only by replenishing his reserves with star energy would

he be able to slow this depletion. This must be the period of exhaustion. If he allowed this state to persist, then he would probably enter the period of exhaustion that he had heard about and then die.

Suddenly, the image of the corpse flashed into Lu Yin's mind. He peered down into the ground and looked at the monster. The corpse was indeed still there, but it had been forced all the way down into the planet's core by some force. The core was clearly a great distance from the surface of the planet, so how was he able to still see it?

Lu Yin closed his eyes and released his domain, which quickly expanded to what had been its limits in the past. He found that he was able to easily continue expanding his domain, all the way until it reached the planet's core. His domain had just extended to more than ten times its previous distance.

Lu Yin felt strange, as he had not heard that breaking through to the Explorer realm could cause one's domain to expand to such a degree. What was going on?

Above the planet, many beasts paced back and forth as they stared vigilantly at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin had no time to review all of the various changes he had just gone through. He knew that his breakthrough to the Explorer realm had brought about a massive transformation within him, but he needed time to thoroughly check things over. However, the most important thing at the moment was to leave the Primal Zone and return to Seasons Fort.

The blackhole-grade Aurora from before had fallen to an unknown place, but fortunately, his cosmic ring still held a collapsible spacecraft that Wang Wen had given to him before he had left for the mission. Lu Yin's domain expanded away from the planet, and his eyes filled with star energy. He relaxed after discovering that none of the nearby beasts were too powerful for him to face. There actually wasn't even a single Hunter around, though he was able to see many corpses floating around.

He didn't hesitate any further and retrieved his collapsible spacecraft. He immediately boarded the vessel and took off from the planet, charging towards the boundary of the Primal Zone at the speed of a radiant-grade Aurora.

From start to finish, none of the beasts in the area had any intentions of blocking his path as they were all too frightened. There had been a few Hunters monitoring Lu Yin, but they had all been instantly eliminated. Although these astral beasts did not fear death, such an inexplicable method that was able to kill in an instant had caused the survivors to feel timid.

Lu Yin sat in his spacecraft and smoothly headed towards Seasons Fort.

It didn't even take a full day to travel from the Primal Zone to Seasons Fort with the speed of a radiant-grade Aurora. Lu Yin spent his time inside the vessel with his eyes closed. At this moment, he was able to slowly examine the transformation that his body had undergone.

Seasons Fort was currently on the verge of collapse. The majority of the stronghold had already been shattered, and countless experts had perished.

Topmist, on whom Wang Wen had pinned great hopes, was not able to use the Bloodied Handprint again. When Lu Yin appeared at Seasons Fort, he arrived precisely when Liu Qiuyu screamed as he and dragged an Enlighter beast down with himself. At that moment, Seasons Fort finally fell.

Lu Yin narrowed his eyes and stored his spacecraft away. He then traversed through space on his own, dashing towards a shattered continent that had once been part of the stronghold. It was where Wang Wen was hiding in his coffin while gazing at the destruction before him in utter agony.

The blue lion, Cursewind, appeared along with a scalding temperature that distorted the void and baked the coffin.

Aden appeared, and his thunder shield smashed Cursewind back.

Next, another beast appeared, which was also a Hunter. In the corner of the beast's mouth, there was a half-mangled human body. The creature glared down at Wang Wen and then bit down at him.

Wang Wen reluctantly said, "You can't bite through it."

Another whoosh was heard as sword qi struck the beast's body and sliced it in half. Liu Zhan suddenly appeared. He quickly grabbed the coffin and was about to throw it away from the crumbling fort.

"Careful, behind you!" Wang Wen warned.

Liu Zhan turned around, but it was already too late. His abdomen was stabbed through by a claw. A Yin Guai had appeared, and its terrifying strength sent Liu Zhan flying.

Liu Zhan spat out a mouthful of blood. He then covered his abdomen and slashed back at the Yin Guai.

The Yin Guai clawed at Liu Zhan again. This strike broke the Hunter's sword while also sending Liu Zhan crashing into the ground below.

Wang Wen closed his eyes and sighed.

Bang!

There was a familiar sounding gunshot, and Wang Wen's eyes snapped open in astonishment. In front of him, the Yin Guai's brains had been blown apart, and a familiar figure landed nearby.

Wang Wen cried out, "Chesspiece Bro?!"

Lu Yin sorrowfully looked at the fallen Liu Zhan. He bent down and tried to raise him up.

Liu Zhan shook his head. "It's pointless. I'm doomed."

Lu Yin's eyes dimmed. "I'm sorry. I'm late."

Liu Zhan smiled bitterly. "I'm a Hunter, and yet it's your turn to rescue me. You've broken through?"

Lu Yin nodded.

Liu Zhan coughed, pointed at Wang Wen, and then said to Lu Yin, "Flee! Hurry and flee. Take Wang Wen away. Anyone can die except for him."

Lu Yin opened his mouth and wanted to say something, but Liu Zhan hurriedly cut him off. "Quick, flee! Leave me. I'm doomed."

Lu Yin watched the rune lines that represented Liu Zhan slowly dissipate and sighed helplessly. He turned and moved over to Wang Wen. "Get up. We're going to take a spacecraft."

Wang Wen smiled bitterly. "Chesspiece Bro, if there was a possibility of escape, then do you think I would be waiting here to die?" Then, he pointed at the sky.

Lu Yin looked up, and his expression changed. At this point, the sky was littered with astral beasts, and more importantly, there were boundless rune lines in every direction that showed the presence of many Enlighter realm beasts.

The beasts would not allow a single human to escape. More were allowed to enter the ruined fortress, but no one was allowed to leave.

"Chesspiece Bro, you're too unlucky. You clearly could have survived, but you insisted on returning to this place to die," Wang Wen said agonizingly.

Lu Yin checked his surroundings. He had not returned to die. "Turn around."

Wang Wen was lost. "What did you say?"

"I want you to turn around," Lu Yin said.

Wang Wen frowned. "What do you mean? At a time like this, are there still secrets that you want to keep? Are you a girl?"

"Do you want to live? If so, then do as I say," Lu Yin replied in a deep voice.

Wang Wen pursed his lips. "Fine. Since we're just waiting for death, I'll let you keep your secrets. Don't end up like that wretched black fog who couldn't help fend them off at the crucial moment."

Lu Yin watched as Wang Wen turned around. Then, he stepped into the ruins and raised a hand. His die appeared before he tapped on it. Every time he faced a crisis, this die was his first choice, and there was no exception at this moment.

It slowly spun before stopping on... one pip. There was a thump as a yellow prayer mat fell out. When Lu Yin saw it, he seemed to hear the sound of chanting, and his entire body was drawn to the mat.

Lu Yin was certain that the prayer mat was not as simple as it seemed, but now was not the time to study it, so he continued to roll the die.

As it slowly stopped spinning for the second time, it landed on four pips.

Lu Yin was delighted, as this was the outcome that he had wanted to receive. The scenery around him changed, and he next appeared in the Time Stop Space.

Currently, there was only one Enlighter still defending Seasons Fort, which was Topmist. On the other hand, there were five Enlighter beasts. If they wanted to break through the invading forces, then their only option was to kill off all of the Enlighter beasts. Topmist could not do such a thing, but Lu Yin could. He had his gun.

But just relying on his gun would not be enough to kill the Enlighter beasts since they could simply dodge the attacks. The only way he could guarantee his shots landing was the Yu Secret Art. Wendy



Yushan was not with him, so he could only use it himself. One had to at least be an Explorer to cultivate this secret technique, and fortunately, Lu Yin had just become one.

Lu Yin was not afraid of not having enough time, as he could endlessly extend his stay in the Time Stop Space so long as he had enough resources.

When he had broken through to the Explorer realm, he had absorbed 20,000 star essence, which was a hundred times the amount that he had used when breaking through to the Limiteer realm. He did not know how much star energy others had needed when they broke through to the Explorer realm, but it was definitely much less than him.

But fortunately, he had 48,000 star essence to begin with, so with 28,000 left, it should be more than enough for what he needed to do.

He increased the duration of Time Stop to four months, which cost him about 700,000 star crystals, which was only seven star essence. During these four months, he was hoping to fully comprehend the Yu Secret Art.

Wendy Yushan had not spent that long a time to comprehend the Yu Secret Art, and Lu Yin's aptitude was not too bad. Thus, it shouldn't take him too long to succeed.

### **Chapter 589: Practicing The Yu Secret Art**

The Time Stop Space was dull, and Lu Yin could not handle the bland scenery, so he decided to use some star energy to change the space's appearance.

During his first month training, he quietly examined the star energy route of the Yu Secret Art. He had only used this path once before, but he would never forget it. However, all of his attempts were fruitless as he did not manage to recall even a hint of the sensation that he needed.

During the second month, Lu Yin still had no progress.

He started to get a bit fidgety.

Coincidentally, the Ghost Monkey awakened at this time. "Seventh Bro, where is this place?"

"Don't ask any questions. Let me ask you something: now that I've broken through and become an Explorer, how can I cultivate the Yu Secret Art?" Lu Yin asked.

The monkey was speechless. "Seventh Bro, how would I know? I haven't practiced any secret techniques before. This sort of thing is dependent on one's innate gift and destiny, and you can't be lacking in either. How long have you been practicing for?"

"Just a bit. You really don't know?" Lu Yin asked.

The monkey replied, "I really don't know. Strange, where are we? I've seen this place before, but you've never told me anything about it."

Lu Yin very quickly screened his arm off as he did not want to reveal his secrets to the monkey. But still, was it even possible for him to learn the Yu Secret Art?

Just in case, Lu Yin increased his time in the Time Stop Space by another fifty days.

For every ten days that Lu Yin increased the duration of the Time Stop Space by, the required star energy would double. Four months required 730,000 star crystals, which was 7.3 star essence. Another fifty days after that ended up costing him 233 star essence, which showed just how fast the cost multiplied.

The more he increased his time, the more anxious Lu Yin became in this isolated space. He had to quickly comprehend the secret technique.

He still had 110 days left in the space, but he had not made the slightest bit of progress. He felt helpless, and out of habit, he began reciting the Stonewall Scriptures.

Every time Lu Yin encountered a situation that he could not solve, he would first recite the Stonewall Scriptures. He had done so when he had absorbed the first grain of Fatesand in the past, and reciting the scriptures had greatly hastened the process. He still did not even know what exactly the Stonewall Scriptures meant.

Not long after he started reciting the scriptures, Lu Yin felt a trace of a feeling for the secret technique's star energy path through his body. He opened his eyes in ecstasy, as it turned out that reciting the Stonewall Scriptures had actually been useful.

He did not waste any time, and he continued to recite the Stonewall Scriptures, but he was not able to finish it all at once. After his breakthrough to the Explorer realm, his spiritual force had increased by quite a lot, but he was still only able to recite a portion of the scriptures at a time. He had to take the occasional rest to avoid falling unconscious.

As he recited the Stonewall Scriptures, Lu Yin's feeling towards how the secret technique's star energy path grew more and more distinct. Another month soon passed by. When he opened his eyes, he raised his hand and casually waved it. The energy caused the void to rumble, but then the energy vanished inexplicably as it had been diverted into another direction.

Lu Yin was delighted. He had tried to do this multiple times during this month, but he had only succeeded now. The secret technique had come out at last.

At this instant, he felt like everything before him had changed. He tried the technique again, but this time, his eyes were filled with star energy. Sure enough, the moment the secret technique was unleashed, his perception through the secret technique was different from before. There was no space or time, and he was able to instantly attack in any direction whenever he wanted. This was a secret technique, something that turned the rotten into the mysterious and allowed one to see through to the essence of the universe.

Was this the essence of the universe? He suddenly recalled how Mister Mu had thrown him from Tempest Flowzone all the way to Zhengyang Flowzone, which meant that Lu Yin had crossed half the Inniverse in a moment. Had Mister Mu done that through a similarly deep understanding of the universe's essence? No, that was impossible. Only a Progenitor could create a secret technique, and only Progenitors could understand the essence of the universe. In the current era, there shouldn't be any Progenitors in this part of the universe, and even if there were any, they would be in the Neoverse. There was no way that Mister Mu was a Progenitor.

But if he wasn't a Progenitor, then how had he done it? Could he have used another secret technique?

Yu Secret Art: Void Transfer. It allowed Lu Yin to divert any attack within a certain range of himself in any other direction and attack any target. This was the Yu Secret Art, and when he gained a deeper understanding of it, the range would definitely increase. Additionally, eventually, he might be able to divert not only attacks, but possibly also items or living beings.

If that was the case, then it was possible that Mister Mu actually knew the secret technique as well.

Lu Yin acted again and waved his hand, but nothing moved.

Lu Yin felt that it was a pity. He needed to work and familiarize himself with the technique as he was not practiced enough yet.

Another month passed quickly by, which meant that Lu Yin had now spent a total of four months in the Time Stop Space. During this fourth month, Lu Yin had made dozens of attempts at using the secret technique, and he had even succeeded quite a few times. His success rate was about 50%, which was pretty good. However, there was a stark discrepancy when he compared himself to Wendy Yushan.

Lu Yin's own talent was not lacking at all, and he even possessed eyes that had been transformed. Even if Wendy Yushan could demonstrate the Yu Secret Art, she definitely could not see the essence of the universe like he could. The reason why she could surpass Lu Yin's results in terms of the secret technique was likely related to her bloodline, as she was a descendant of the Yu surname. The Yu Secret Art had belonged to the Yu family since ancient times, and there was an inheritance that flowed in their blood.

If not for the Stonewall Scriptures, then even if Lu Yin had managed to successfully comprehend the technique's required energy path, it would have taken him way too long to comprehend the secret technique. It was no wonder why the monkey had said that it was very difficult to cultivate a secret technique.

Fortunately, Lu Yin's fortune was that bad, and he had ultimately managed to cultivate it successfully.

The next matter of course was to improve his rate of success, as he could not gamble with his life.

He thought about it before deciding to further endure the dullness of the boring room. He increased his time by another fifty days, which cost him another 7,400 star essence.

He now had a hundred days left in this place, and he would conduct his final struggle during these days.

At Seasons Fort, inside the ruins, Lu Yin reappeared in the blink of an eye, as only one second had passed in real time. He had spent a full 200 days in the Time Stop Space, which was more than half a year.

Since more than half a year had passed for him, Seasons Fort suddenly felt rather foreign to him.

Massive astral beasts crashed down from the sky, shrouding the ground in shadows. Lu Yin looked up and stepped out lightly. There was a thump, and a small shockwave caused the void to fluctuate as his figure vanished. He then reappeared in midair. He kicked out, and a giant, boulder-like beast was sent tumbling into space.

Lu Yin landed and moved over to Wang Wen's coffin. "It's alright."

Wang Wen turned and stared blankly at Lu Yin. "What's alright?"

"Nothing..." Lu Yin had forgotten that, for Wang Wen, only one second had passed. Wang Wen had only just turned his head away.

Wang Wen looked at Lu Yin strangely. "Chesspiece Bro, have you gone crazy?"

Lu Yin looked up and saw boundless rune lines in every direction. He still had eight bullets left in his gun. "I'm going to go hunting. Think about what kind of contribution points you're going to give me."

Then, he leaped into the air and charged up into outer space. The Enneadic Wings appeared behind him and fluttered to increase his speed even further, causing him to quickly vanish before Wang Wen's eyes.

Wang Wen blinked. "He's really gone crazy."

In outer space, Topmist was fleeing for his life. He could not beat the Enlighter beasts. He was not adept at head on fights in the first place, and right now, he had two Enlighter realm astral beasts pursuing him.

"Human, surrender! The Celestial Beast Empire will warmly welcome powerful human beasts," a Enlighter beast roared from behind him.

Topmist mentally cursed. What human beast?

Still, he was also musing to himself that, if he truly couldn't escape, then surrendering could also be a valid option so long as he kept his life.

Hold on, what's that coming here? Topmist looked ahead and saw that there was a single figure streaking through the heavens towards him. And based on the stance of the figure, it was aiming for him. Was it possible that it was an Enlighter beast in a humanoid form? That would be too despicable! Topmist didn't hesitate to immediately throw out a palm.

Lu Yin was frightened, as he had wanted to shout for Topmist to cooperate with him, but who would have thought that Topmist would instantly strike out at him! Could this person have some kind of mental defect?

Lu Yin could not get a good grasp of the situation, but he had some understanding towards Topmist's morals, so such a thing was not impossible.

Lu Yin changed his mind and used the Stellar Ruler to evade Topmist's attack before pausing in space. He warily observed the old Enlighter in front of him as he pulled out his gun and held it in his hands.

Topmist's palm missed, but he felt that the approaching person's style of moving seemed very familiar. They were moving like Lu Yin? Wait, it was really him.

"Kid, you're not dead?" Topmist felt odd.

Lu Yin stared intensely at Topmist. "You've betrayed humanity?"

Topmist hollered, "Kid, don't slander me! Viletree and Wen Qichen both died, and if I had stayed in the Primal Zone, all that would have accomplished was adding on one more casualty! Did you want me to join you in death?"

"I'm not talking about that! Why did you attack me just now?" Lu Yin raised his gun and pointed it at Topmist.

Topmist's heart raced, as he had not forgotten about the power of Lu Yin's gun. "Don't be rash! How would I know that there's still someone here who's bold enough to enter the battlefield? Even Liu Qiuyu has fallen, so I'm the last Enlighter here."

Lu Yin reluctantly accepted the explanation, and then he fired his gun. Topmist's pupils shrank, and he reflexively evaded the attack. Suddenly, Lu Yin raised a hand and waved it. "Yu Secret Art: Void Transfer."

As Lu Yin spoke, Topmist watched on, completely overwhelmed, as the bullet disappeared. When it showed up next, it was already piercing through the brain of an Enlighter beast.

Everything fell silent, and the other Enlighter realm astral beast that had been chasing after Topmist looked up in shock. The Enlighter beast that had just had its brains blown out by the bullet collapsed, devoid of any trace of life.

Topmist was horrified. "Se-secret technique... That's the secret technique! You know it as well?"

Lu Yin's lips rose up, and he raised his gun to aim at the other Enlighter beast. "Go and die too."

That Enlighter beast did not hesitate, and it directly made its escape by tearing through the void.

Lu Yin lowered his gun and released a pent-up breath. With the secret technique, he would be able to hit an Enlighter, but if they were prepared and escaped by tearing through the void without reappearing, then Lu Yin wouldn't have a chance to attack them.

No, that wasn't correct anymore; there still was another method. Lu Yin's eyes trembled. He had forgotten, but he was now capable of seeing through the essence of the universe.

Even if an Enlighter fled into the void, they would still exist within the universe, and as long as they were still in the universe, he would be able to see them the moment he used the secret technique. Still, being able to hit them was another matter entirely. Being able to see through the essence of the universe was not the same as understanding it, and at this time, Lu Yin didn't even understand the principles of the secret technique.

It was just like the gun; he was only able to use it, not recreate it.

One shot of the gun had killed the Enlighter beast, which stunned Topmist badly. The black fog kept shifting around, which reflected the Enlighter's agitated state of mind. "Kid, how do you know a secret technique?"

Lu Yin glanced at Topmist. "Why? Do I have to answer to you?"

Topmist stared at Lu Yin. "You've also become an Explorer? The changes seem to be rather impressive."

Lu Yin did not bother with him any further. "Cooperate with me. You look for the Enlighter beasts, and I'll kill them. We'll split the contributions 50-50."

Topmist fell silent.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. "Don't even think of fleeing. If you leave while we still have even a chance of victory, and we lose because of you, then the punishment from the Hall of Honor won't be something you can handle. Don't forget—Elder Lohar is still around."

Topmist snorted. "I wasn't thinking of fleeing. I'm just considering what methods I can use to drag out those Enlighter beasts for you to hit them."

"Then get started!" Lu Yin dashed into the distance, heading towards the boundless rune lines that he saw. Just as he had said, he was going hunting.

He had the universal armor for defense, and combination of the gun and secret technique for offense. Additionally, he had the Stellar Ruler and Collapsible Spacecraft as escape methods, as well as Progenitor Wushang's hide and the Void Thunderbeast's flesh for support. As long as no old freak whose power level surpassed 300,000 appeared, Lu Yin was invincible on this battlefield.

#### **Chapter 590: Contribution And Collapse**

Even after the fighting went on for a long time, no creature with a power level of 300,000 had appeared. This meant that Elder Lohar had managed to stop the astral beast and Lu Yin had nothing to fear.

He was completely ignorant of the fact that the Three-Tailed Greedbeast had been destroyed by Topmist. Otherwise, he would have been even more confident.

Seasons Fort was on the verge of destruction, and most of the human cultivators as well as the normal soldiers had died. Even if the humans won this battle, they would have to abandon Seasons Fort afterwards.

Giving up was one thing, but Lu Yin didn't want to just run away with his tail between his legs; he was going to kill all these Enlighter beasts. Otherwise, even if he fled to the other forts, he would still be doomed.

Topmist followed behind Lu Yin while deep in thought.

The two of them moved closer and closer to the fighting Enlighter realm astral beasts.

After a deafening roar, the two of them turned around and discovered that Seasons Fort had been completely destroyed. It had been reduced to nothing more than numerous fragments floating through space.

A hint of sorrow flashed through Lu Yin's eyes. Within that fortress, not only had there been cultivators and soldiers, but their families had also lived there. So many planets and mainlands, carrying millions of people, had disappeared, just like that.

After unleashing his domain, Lu Yin was able to hear numerous moans from all around him, and his face turned cold. The Astral Beast Domain. He was definitely going to get revenge on them.

“Watch out!” Topmist suddenly shouted.

Above Lu Yin, the void suddenly tore open, and the Enlighter beast that had fled into the void earlier suddenly reappeared, swiping out with a claw. Lu Yin waved a hand and activated the Yu Secret Art. In that instance, he saw the essence of the universe and managed to find another Enlighter Beast hiding in the void.

Lu Yin then stopped using the Yu Secret Art and shot his gun.

Bang!

This gun was Lu Yin’s most powerful attack, and it had been aimed right at the destroyed fort.

Behind Topmist, the void split open, and another Enlighter beast appeared. However, at the exact same moment that it appeared, a bullet went through its neck, releasing a whole massive spout of blood.

Lu Yin had gone on the offensive and shot at the beast that was attacking Topmist.

It was only then that Topmist realized what had happened. He’d been distracted by the beast directly ambushing Lu Yin and been completely unaware that there was another Enlighter Beast going after him.

When he saw that Lu Yin was about to be sent flying from an attack, Topmist pressed a hand against the Enlighter Beast that had tried to attack him. A black fog shot into the beast’s injury, and soon, the creature started howling in misery.

The beast that had moved to attack Lu Yin was about to give chase, but after hearing the agony from behind it, it gave up on attacking Lu Yin and instead changed targets to Topmist. In its eyes, Lu Yin was already close to death.

Unfortunately, the beast had no idea just how powerful the defense of Lu Yin’s universal armor was. Even if he went up against Monster Loach, Lu Yin was confident that he could survive, to say nothing of dealing with a mere Enlighter whose battle power was only at around 200,000 or so.

However, Lu Yin was still knocked dizzy from the blow as it had rattled his head. He flapped the Enneadic Wings and soared back into outer space to see Topmist being surrounded by two Enlighter beasts. However, one of the beasts had already been shot by Lu Yin while the other had been gravely injured by Topmist. It was evident that they would soon leave the battlefield.

Lu Yin raised his gun. When the bang was heard, he had already activated the Yu Secret Art.

Topmist was startled. The sound of that gunshot was always terrifying to him; who knew where Lu Yin was aiming? Topmist was always paranoid that someone was out to kill him.

With this shot, Lu Yin managed to pierce through the injured Enlighter beast’s brain. Vast amounts of brain matter splattered onto the other Enlighter beast while also drenching Topmist.

The second Enlighter beast looked at Lu Yin in disbelief. This human had managed to take one of its full power attacks and survive! This was impossible, especially considering how this person was merely an Explorer.

Topmist's black mist wound around the other Enlighter beast and ruthlessly flung it away from him and over towards Lu Yin. There was another bang from Lu Yin's gun, which caused the second Enlighter beast to become absolutely furious. It barely managed to shrink itself in the nick of time and avoided having its brains blown out.

The bullet brushed past the beast's head and disappeared into space. The beast was incredibly frightened and did not even dare to look at Lu Yin again. It tore into the void and fled from the scene as quick as it could.

Topmist panted and glanced over at Lu Yin. He had thought that Lu Yin was dead meat for sure.

Lu Yin shook his head a bit, still feeling a bit dizzy.

Not much more time passed before the battle finished. The last two Enlighter realm beasts that had assaulted Seasons Fort also retreated.

There had been five Enlighter realm astral beasts in total. One of them had been dragged down by Liu Qiuyu, one had been killed by Lu Yin, another had been killed by Lu Yin and Topmist combined, and the last two had panicked after discovering what Lu Yin was capable of. They had both realized that they would not be able to block his attacks, and so, they had instead chosen to flee.

They could tell that Lu Yin had used a secret technique, and while Lu Yin was merely an Explorer, a secret technique was still enough to force them to take him seriously.

Everyone had believed that this battle would mark the end of Seasons Fort, but to the surprise of all, they'd managed to win.

The people who survived did not cheer for their victory. Instead, they turned their gaze to the ruins of the fort and mourned in silence. As they looked at the bodies of their friends and families, they began grieving.

Lu Yin looked at his gun. There were still four shots left.

After landing on a part of the shattered land, Wang Wen emerged from his coffin and began to size Lu Yin up and down once again. "I saw it. You killed two Enlighter beasts."

Lu Yin spoke in a quiet voice, "Let's go. The fort is done for. Let's head to one of the lower five forts."

Wang Wen nodded. This wasn't the time to discuss Lu Yin's accomplishments. Wang Wen was most worried that Elder Lohar would not be able to stop Monster Loach and that the Enlighter Amethyst Beast would return. If that happened, then this region of Ironblood Weave would truly be cracked open. While Lu Yin had indeed been amazing, Wang Wen did not believe the newly promoted Explorer would be able to kill a freak whose power level was at 300,000.

Lu Yin found Aden and Huo Qingshan. Thankfully, although both of them had been badly injured, they were still alive

Liu Zhan had died. Just like he had said to Lu Yin, he hadn't been able to survive. However, it hadn't been just him. Many members of the Liu family had been stationed at the stronghold, and almost all of them had been killed in the last battle. Only a girl called Liu Shasha had survived. Even Liu Sanjian had died.



Less than ten thousand people had managed to survive, and Wang Wen gathered all of them up. Lu Yin was rather surprised to discover that Long Yun had survived, though he had been quite badly wounded.

Charon also hadn't died, and he looked at Lu Yin as though he was looking at a monster.

"Seasons Fort is about to fall. We'll head to one of the lower five forts, Brokenblade Fort..." Wang Wen succinctly explained the situation and made arrangements for everyone to withdraw.

Before leaving, Wang Wen went to Lu Yin. "With your achievements this time and your previous mission, you'll be awarded 130,000 Ironblood points."

Lu Yin was surprised. "That's a lot."

Wang Wen shrugged. "This is something that we had agreed upon beforehand. If you went to the Primal Zone and acted as a guide, then you'd be given 50,000 Ironblood points. But because it was believed that you died, the commander and I decided to double it to 100,000. It's a surprise that you didn't die, but we can't just revert the reward. Besides, this time, you killed two Enlighter beasts, one of which you killed on your own and the other through your and Topmist's combined efforts. That's why you only received 30,000 from this battle, and that works out to a total of 130,000."

Lu Yin asked, "If I die, then my contribution doubles. If I had really died, then who would the reward have been given to?"

Wang Wen answered, "Your family."

Lu Yin was speechless. This guy definitely knew that Lu Yin didn't have any family, which must have been why he'd been so generous in doubling Lu Yin's points at the time.

"Would you like to exchange your points for items?" Wang Wen asked.

Lu Yin nodded. "I want star essence."

"Come with me." Wang Wen led the way and brought Lu Yin to Seasons Fort's resource warehouse and opened it up. Lu Yin was shocked to discover that he could see no less than 100,000 star essence piled up in small mountains.

"These are the resources that the Innerverse and Outerverse have supplied to Seasons Fort in exchange for achievement points in battle. You can take as much as you want," Wang Wen said.

Lu Yin was confused. "Why is there so much?"

"A lot of defenders die during wars, but just as many people gain achievement points that must be exchanged. This is the iron rule of the military, and honestly, what you see here isn't actually a lot. Most of the resources were stationed at Ironblood Fort, but unfortunately, when it fell, all of those resources must have been lost and plundered by the Astral Beast Domain," Wang Wen said.

Lu Yin glanced at Wang Wen. "So you're telling me to exchange my points right now because I won't be able to do so in the future, right?"

Wang Wen went silent, but then he nodded. "Yes."

“Give it all to me.” Lu Yin was very excited.

Wang Wen thought it over. “If you store everything here in your cosmic ring, then you’ll be rewarded for your help. I’ll give you 10,000 points. However, you can only take 140,000 star essence, and you better make sure that everything else gets to Brokenblade Fort.”

“Leave it all to me. I promise that I can do even more in the future,” Lu Yin spoke with anticipation.

Wang Wen rolled his eyes. “There are rules to follow here, Pawn. There’s no such thing as giving you achievement points in advance. What would other people think? If it weren’t for the fact that you have a massive cosmic ring, I wouldn’t even want you to carry all this with you. It’s dangerous.”

Lu Yin found this to be quite a pity. It was evident that even though Wang Wen was afraid of dying, he was still a man of principle.

Aside from star essence, there were many other items inside the warehouse that could be purchased with Ironblood Points.

If Seasons Fort had this many resources, then he couldn’t even imagine how much Ironblood Fort must have had. It was a pity that all of it had been taken.

Come to think of it—did astral beasts have cosmic rings? They must. He found it a pity that he hadn’t robbed them.

Half an hour later, Lu Yin sat down at the uppermost level of a spacecraft that was floating in outer space. He gazed upon the broken structure that Seasons Fort had been reduced to and sighed. Would they be able to defend Ironblood Weave? He was very confused at this time. With the Void Thunderbeast protecting the gap in the energy stream, it was impossible to destroy that gap. Would he have to continue to rely on his luck with the die forever? That wasn’t realistic.

Aden headed over and stood behind Lu Yin. “I ran into an ultra-powerful beast in the battle just now. It was only in the beginning stages of the Hunter realm, but it was incredibly powerful. I only managed to receive its attacks by using my nine lined battle force.”

Lu Yin commented, “That’s normal. There are no shortage of monstrous talents in the Astral Beast Domain.”

“After being locked up by Undying Yushan for nearly a century, I’ve found that the universe really has changed. That beast is apparently on Skymender’s List and is called Cursewind. It’s supposed to be comparable to our Ten Arbiters. What are the Ten Arbiters?” he asked.

Lu Yin’s eyes lit up. “A beast on Skymender’s List?”

Aden nodded. “That’s what it said, and it even praised me for stopping it. Haha, I’m a person able to receive an Enlighter’s attacks, but I was praised by a beast in the beginning stages of the Hunter realm.” Aden frowned. “I have a feeling that it didn’t even go all out.”

Lu Yin’s eyes narrowed. “If it really was a creature on Skymender’s List, then your instincts should be right. The human’s Ten Arbiters are ten powerful humans while Skymender’s List is similarly made up of ten powerful beings from the Astral Beast Domain...”

Aden quietly listened as Lu Yin explained the two and became increasingly shocked. “The universe changed and gave birth to the Ten Arbiters and the Ten Arbiters Council. That’s unbelievable! I’m surprised that the powerful organizations agreed to allow such power pass on to the younger generation.”

Lu Yin didn’t know much about this matter either. The higher he climbed, the more confused he became. Although the Ten Arbiters were monsters, were they actually able to match up against Enlighteners whose power levels had reached 250,000 or even 300,000? That was impossible, and the great organizations definitely had such powerhouses. Even tiny Northline Flowzone had Northgate Taisui, who was capable of destroying the Ten Arbiters by himself. In that case, why were the Ten Arbiters able to wield so much power?

In the past, Lu Yin had assumed that all he needed was to gain support from the other organizations. However, ever since he had become the effective ruler of the Great Yu Empire, he had realized that that mindset might be wrong. As the master of an empire, he definitely would not calmly allow someone else to take his power. It made no sense. What right did the Ten Arbiters have to be given such a powerful status?