

Chapter 601: Mistchild's Worth

"Mistchild greets Elder Brother." This girl who had sneaked into Lu Yin's home was the Melder Mistchild of Mafioso Planet, a Poison Master whom Lu Yin had met back on Planet Woodrock.

"I never thought that you would actually come." Lu Yin was surprised by her arrival, as he had actually forgotten about this woman.

Mistchild smiled at Lu Yin. "Has Elder Brother already forgotten about me? You gave me three months, and I arrived at Zenyu Star in just one month. However, I did not appear out of fear for disturbing Elder Brother."

Lu Yin sat down and studied Mistchild. "Have you broken through to the Limiteer realm?"

"It's entirely thanks to Elder Brother's poison that my power has greatly increased," Mistchild replied in a pleased tone.

Lu Yin's eyes filled with star energy, and he looked at Mistchild, only to become rather surprised. She was obviously still a Limiteer, but the woman's rune lines had nearly reached Zhuo Daynight's level before she had comprehended Night's End, Daybreak. Zhuo Daynight was an elite from the Daynight clan, and back then, she had been strong enough to rival Lu Yin in the past and qualify to participate in the contest on Planet Pyrolyte. Now that she had comprehended Night's End, Daybreak, she had become strong enough to rival Zhanlong Daynight.

Mistchild was someone from the Outerverse, and it was not easy for someone like her to gain the strength to rival Zhuo Daynight even in the past. It seemed that her poison constitution was worth developing.

If she consumes more poisons, then will her power increase even faster? How interesting.

"Don't call me that. Just do the same as everyone else and call me 'Your Highness,'" Lu Yin ordered. He was unaccustomed to being called Elder Brother.

Mistchild beamed and nodded, but then, she looked at Lu Yin expectantly. "Elder- Your Highness, could you give Mistchild some poisons to eat? I'm hungry."

A vial of poison appeared in Lu Yin's hand, but then, under Mistchild's covetous eyes, he stored it away again. "You were given one vial before, but you still haven't given me any sort of remuneration."

Mistchild felt offended. "Then Your Highness can order Mistchild to kill anyone, and Mistchild will kill them."

"I can't think of anyone right now, but I'll let you know when someone comes to mind." Lu Yin was not too interested in Mistchild. Initially, he had wanted to use Mistchild to deal with Topmist, but during the battles in Ironblood Weave, Topmist had emphatically stated that he was not the one who had revealed Lu Yin's method of killing Enlighters. Lu Yin did not fully believe the old man, but since he was still trapped in Ironblood Weave for the moment and had even lost the Bloodied Handprint, Topmist was not much of a threat to him anymore. Thus, there was no need for Lu Yin to use this Mistchild to deal with him anymore.

Mistchild was an assassin, and she was very sensitive towards other people's moods, which allowed her to sense Lu Yin's casual attitude. Her heart tightened. After her breakthrough, she had defeated the Limiteer Mistchild on Mafioso Planet to become the new Limiteer Mistchild. However, there was still the Explorer Mistchild, Cruiser Mistchild, and the Hunter Mistchild. The pressure on her was great, especially since the contests on Mafioso Planet were very cruel, with her opponents using all sorts of methods. Quite a few of the past Limiteer Mistchilds had died, and so she did not want to lose Lu Yin as a backer.

Even Elder Topmist was afraid of this Royal Regent, which meant that he was an existence that the other Mistchildren would not dare to provoke.

"Your Highness, Mistchild prepared a gift before visiting you this time," she said.

"Oh? It won't be a human head, right?" Lu Yin looked at Mistchild with interest.

Mistchild smiled at him and then retrieved a metal disk that she passed over to Lu Yin. He looked at it, and his expression immediately changed.

'The Vastdearth Sect's Elder Cheng Yan once killed Meng Tianlong's eldest son, Meng Guang, on a rainy night twelve years ago. He seized the Desolate Palm Technique and has been cultivating it in secret...'

The metal disk held records of many matters concerning Cheng Yan, with a particular focus on the process and location where he had killed Meng Guang, as well as the methods that he had used to conceal the truth.

"Cheng Yan is one of the Vastdearth Sect's elders, and he has a great deal of authority. Meng Guang was the eldest son of the Vastdearth Sect's head, Meng Tianlong, and he was also the brother of Your Highness's fellow student, Meng Yue." Mistchild introduced the people mentioned in the records.

"Why are you giving me this?" Lu Yin asked.

Mistchild explained, saying, "I feel like this could be of use to you. Mafioso Planet is the strongest assassination organization in the surrounding weaves, so it has gathered many deeply buried secrets. Whether it concerns our employers or our victims, a great deal of top-secret information has never been released outside, but we will keep records of all of it in our files. Some of the information even concerns the surrounding weaves."

Lu Yin's eyes lit up, and he looked back at the metal disk. Now this was interesting. Had they gathered many secrets? He fell deep into thought.

"Do you have anything related to the Great Yu Empire?" Lu Yin asked.

Mistchild replied, "Yes, but not much, and none of it concerns Your Highness. Nothing in our records is useful for Your Highness either."

"If you can provide me with all of the information that Mafioso Planet possesses, I can give you what you want," Lu Yin offered indifferently.

Mistchild grew happy. "Thank you, Your Highness. I only want more poisons."

"Hand over the information first."

Mistchild was placed in a difficult position. “Your Highness, although the Great Elder is not on Mafioso Planet at this time, the current decision maker is still the Hunter Mistchild. With him present, it would not be feasible to take out all this information. Everything is recorded on these metal discs, and we aren’t allowed to take our gadgets or any form of technology into the database.”

“So what is that you want?” Lu Yin looked at her.

Mistchild nervously made her request. “Lure out the Explorer, Cruiser, and Hunter Mistchildren. Only the Mistchildren have the privilege to visit the database. After you lure the three of them out, I will be able to take all of the information away. The other space-exploring powerhouses from the planet can’t approach the database, so they won’t be able to stop me.”

Lu Yin’s lips carried a hint of a smile, and he just stared at Mistchild.

Mistchild became flustered under his gaze, and she lowered her head, not daring to look up at him.

“Details. How would you do it?” Lu Yin asked.

Mistchild said, “Does Your Highness have anyone in particular that you would like taken care of?”

“In Frostwave Weave’s first filament, the Orchid Planet’s Parliament Chairman,” Lu Yin replied.

Mistchild was instantly delighted. “Got it. Eight days from now, those three Mistchildren will assassinate the Parliament Chairman of Orchid Planet.”

Lu Yin did not know what Mistchild was planning. “No problem. Eight days from now, I’ll be waiting next to the chairman.”

“Thank you, Your Highness,” Mistchild said respectfully.

From Mistchild’s perspective, Lu Yin was going to help her get rid of the three Mistchildren. Once they died, given that the Great Elder had not returned by then, the selection for the next Mistchildren would be delayed for a while. During that period of time, none of the other space-exploring powerhouses would have greater authority than her, so she would be able to do whatever she wanted.

Lu Yin smiled, as he did not deny her speculations and merely allowed her to make her own assumptions. As for whether or not he would actually get rid of those three Mistchildren, that depended on the circumstances at that time.

This brat had taken some risks to visit Lu Yin, and she would eventually reach a higher position if she received his help. It was a bold plan, but he was amenable to making it happen if it was possible. After all, he would feel more relieved if a dark power like Mafioso Planet was under his surveillance.

As for Orchid Planet’s Parliament Chairman, he was someone who supported the Yushan bloodline. He had requested an audience with Wendy Yushan multiple times, and he was also one of the people behind the rumors claiming that the Great Yu Empire wanted to change the ruler. As far as Lu Yin was concerned, this guy could just die for all he cared! It would only take a sentence on his part.

Mistchild left with the intention of returning to Mafioso Planet. The moment the mission was received, the other three Mistchildren on Mafioso Planet would set off towards the Frostwave Weave.

Orchid Planet lay at the edge of the first filament, and was a fair distance away from Zenyu Star. If Lu Yin had chosen someplace that was too close to the capital of the Great Yu Empire, Lu Yin was afraid that Mafioso Planet would not accept the mission.

Orchid Planet was a technologically advanced planet and was governed through a parliamentary system. Many of the Great Yu Empire's technological products came from Orchid Planet, so it had a robust economy. This was also why the chairman had the confidence to seek out Wendy Yushan. Once he forced Lu Yin to step down, he would absolutely be able to join the capital and receive an appointment on Zenyu Star.

Lu Yin arrived at Orchid Planet eight days after meeting with Mistchild. This planet did not seem to be much smaller than Zenyu Star. There were means of transport throughout the sky, land, and sea, and its climate was decent as well, with clouds floating high in the sky.

The parliament building was the tallest building on the entire planet, and its height was so daunting that even the clouds could only reach halfway up the building. With the violent wind at that altitude, the building swayed continuously.

On the top floor, Chairman Logan gazed down from within his office with worried eyes.

After all the conflicts in Ironblood Weave, he had made a point to visit Zenyu Star and meet with the Fifth Princess in order to persuade her to take back control of the Great Yu Empire, but he had not even managed to see her. This same thing had already happened a few times before, and it was clear that the Fifth Princess simply had no intention to meet with him.

The chairman and his allies had originally assumed that she was under house arrest, but since she was able to safely return after her time in Ironblood Weave, that was definitely not the case.

She was not under house arrest, but she also did not care about the people on the Yushan bloodline's side. In the eyes of her supporters, it was a complete betrayal.

Many of them had already been discussing how they would do their best to get Lu Yin to step down. They had supporters in the military and the imperial court, though mostly in the military. Lu Yin had not held his position as Royal Regent for very long, so he could not even recognize some of the names of the commanders, let alone interfere with their influence over the military.

As long as the Yushan bloodline supporters were willing, they could immediately activate a third of the empire's military to support their rebellion and raise the Fifth Princess to her so-called "rightful place," even if she ended up as nothing more than a puppet.

The only problem that they faced was that Lu Yin was too powerful. His record of killing multiple Enlighters placed an immense pressure on them that felt like a mountain hanging over their heads. They found it difficult to even breathe.

Logan had already thought things through, and he was prepared to cooperate with other powers and recruit a few more Hunters to help them. He did not believe that Lu Yin could truly deal with their alliance since the power vessel that he had used to kill Enlighters had apparently been destroyed. In other words, that this was their best chance.

Still, they could not rush, and they should not rush. They first had to assemble the Hunters while avoiding those like Huo Qingshan, which required meticulous planning.

Right, Logan thought as he observed Orchid Planet, this is a good plan.

Logan's eyes lit up as his thoughts slowly took form.

At this moment, Logan's gadget beeped with a notification, which caused him to look at it with a strange feeling. "They're making me go to Planet Fifth Gravitax?" This order was from Zenyu Star's Lu Staff, and Logan felt unhappy just from seeing that name. In his eyes, this ministry was nothing more than a gathering of Lu Yin's lackeys. Still, he had to obey the order for now.

Soon after receiving the orders, Logan flew towards Planet Fifth Gravitax in his spacecraft. It was not too far from Orchid Planet, but it was rather desolate. Logan did not know why the Lu Staff wanted him to head there, but he had been informed that he would know after arriving. He grew increasingly uncomfortable and felt rather heavy.

"Pour me a glass of water." Logan felt jittery.

The soldiers on his spacecraft hurriedly poured him a glass of water, and Logan drained it in one gulp before letting out a breath. He looked outside, where he suddenly saw a flash of white light, and a shock ran through his entire body. He was no ordinary person, and he had cultivated his strength to the Limiteer realm. He had roamed through the universe when he was younger, and he had even graduated from Yu Academy, so he had a certain sensitivity towards danger. However, this flash of white light was enough to make his scalp turn numb, and he could not hide from it. He knew that he was doomed, as a life and death crisis was just a finger's breadth away from him.

Suddenly, a hand appeared in front of him and blocked the attack by grabbing the flash of white light.

The white light had come from a dagger while the hand that had protected the chairman belonged to the soldier who had poured him water.

"No wonder. It's one of Mafioso Planet's assassins. The average person really can't even notice you guys." The soldier looked up and revealed a face that was very familiar to Logan. Lu- Lu Yin?

One end of the dagger was in Lu Yin's hand while the other was held by a figure garbed in white from head to toe. The figure instantly dropped the dagger and fled, but his disguise was laughable before Lu Yin. He was not looking at the assassin's appearance, but rather at his rune lines.

Lu Yin's figure flashed, and he instantly appeared next to the figure before pressing down on the person's shoulder. "Too slow."

He then released some of his strength through his hand, and the person's body was suddenly dispersed by a single pat. Not even the bones remained after the assassin died.

Chapter 602: A Peculiar Innate Gift

This assassin was merely an Explorer, but even if they were the Explorer Mistchild, they could at most rival an elite disciple from one of the Inniverse's great powers, which was still greatly inferior to Lu Yin.

From behind, another figure appeared, but it did not attack Lu Yin. Instead, the newcomer stabbed straight at Logan. Mafioso Planet had an ironclad law that their nurtured killers had to follow: even if the mission turned out to be a trap meant to deal with Mafioso Planet, the assassins had to complete the mission if they had accepted it.

Lu Yin glared at the new arrival, and his domain that had already spread out in all directions suddenly shuddered. A visible shockwave burst out and pushed the person who was attacking Logan aside. Lu Yin lifted a hand, and his domain suddenly condensed. It then took the form of a massive tree that covered the sky, looking exactly like the phenomena that had appeared when Lu Yin had broken through to the Explorer realm.

This was Lu Yin's forcefield, and the tall tree protected Logan who was within it. Lu Yin's domain had reached the level where he could release a forcefield, but he did not know how he was doing such a thing. It was as if enlightenment had suddenly dawned on him.

Furthermore, his forcefield was no weaker than Mu Rong's, and it was even possible that it was stronger.

The second assassin suddenly retreated when they felt Lu Yin's forcefield, but it was already too late. This was actually Lu Yin's first time using his forcefield, and he used it to press down on the attacker. The branches of the tree pierced through the void and wrapped around the assassin. This person was the Cruiser Mistchild, who was very powerful, but despite that, the twisting branches tied him up until he could not retaliate. After Lu Yin casually waved a hand, the figure was instantly eliminated.

Logan stared at the scene, shocked. Just what was going on?

"Chairman Logan, please rest assured. I'll protect you." Lu Yin smiled at him.

When he saw Lu Yin's smile, Logan became even more terrified. He was not stupid, and even a fool would realize that Lu Yin would not come over specifically to protect him. These killers had to be related to the Royal Regent somehow. But if Lu Yin had sent these killers after the chairman, then why had he also shown up himself to protect the man?

Suddenly, the spacecraft fractured into two pieces, and Logan's pupils shrank. A suffocating pressure suddenly caused him to faint. It was a Hunter.

Lu Yin had assumed that the Hunter Mistchild would act similarly to the other Mistchildren and use assassination methods. He had not expected the killer to directly confront him.

A cold darkness streaked through the void, leaving a spatial tear in its wake. This attack was not aimed at Logan, but rather Lu Yin.

Lu Yin did not put on his universal armor, as Elder Lohar had been right. Lu Yin should not rely on external support unless he encountered a true crisis. There would eventually come a day when he would not be able to use any such items. Even during the last battle in Ironblood Weave, Cursewind and a Shadowbeast had specifically targeted him. He could not afford to step onto the wrong path.

The dagger moved extremely fast, and it streaked straight through the void. Lu Yin could not even see the Hunter Mistchild's shadow, but he filled his eyes with star energy as he lightly stepped out. He shifted his body to the side with Secret Sidestep Technique and evaded the dagger's strike. However,

the Hunter Mistchild had anticipated Lu Yin's movements, and the dagger tore the entire region apart like a storm. Lu Yin could not avoid this attack no matter where he dodged.

Lu Yin waved a hand and activated the Yu Secret Art, causing the dagger to stab in another direction. Seven lined battle force burst out and covered Lu Yin's body as he grabbed the Mistchild's arm. He pulled firmly, dragging the Hunter out of the void. The dagger spun around, and a white lotus began to blossom. Lu Yin's expression changed; this was a battle technique. Fatesand appeared in front of him and collided against the white lotus.

There was a crack as space itself started breaking down around them. Lu Yin quickly retreated while keeping his apprehensive eyes fixed ahead of him.

The Hunter Mistchild no longer remained in the void and revealed himself.

It was no wonder why this person was Mafioso Planet's strongest Hunter realm assassin. In terms of true combat power, this man couldn't compare to peak Hunters like Aden or Kong Shi, but on the other hand, his killing intent was something that others' could not compare to. Lu Yin had exchanged blows with Kong Shi once before, and his physical strength had even overpowered Kong Shi when their fingers collided. However, he was well aware that Kong Shi had never displayed any battle techniques or innate gifts during their spar.

In the end, a Hunter was a Hunter, and their star energy exerted more than just a little bit of suppression upon an Explorer. But Lu Yin was not afraid, as this man had not reached Kong Shi or Aden's level yet.

He had thought that the Hunter Mistchild would try to kill him first and then Logan, but unexpectedly, after just a single exchange, the Hunter Mistchild unhesitatingly abandoned Lu Yin. His figure flickered as he reappeared in front of Logan. A cold radiance streaked across Logan's neck.

Logan was overwhelmed, and endless terror and desperation appeared in his eyes.

At this moment, the tall tree that Lu Yin's forcefield had taken the form of moved once again. Logan had originally been protected inside the tree, and the moment the Hunter Mistchild snuck over, the branches tightly twisted around Logan and rose together, allowing him to flee.

The Hunter Mistchild was stumped; was this the normal behavior of a tree? It seemed rather exotic.

The next moment, countless branches shot out towards the Hunter Mistchild. He flipped his dagger around, ready to sever all of the approaching branches, but Lu Yin suddenly appeared, shrouded with his seven lined battle force that illuminated the sky. He slapped a hand out towards the Hunter Mistchild. The killer's eyes went wide, and a peculiar ripple spread out. It was a domain. The Hunter Mistchild had actually comprehended a domain.

Despite the fact that Lu Yin's forcefield quickly suppressed the man's domain, the Hunter Mistchild still managed to dodge Lu Yin's palm strike. His dagger ripped the void apart yet again as the white lotus reappeared, bringing with it an intense sense of danger. Lu Yin waved a hand and activated the Yu Secret Art. The white lotus attack was diverted, and it moved back towards the Hunter Mistchild.

The assassin hurriedly dodged, and Lu Yin's forcefield suddenly condensed even further. At the same time, he slapped out with another palm strike, and this time, the Hunter Mistchild could not dodge. Lu

Yin's forcefield made the man feel like he was entrenched in a swamp. Even Kong Shi had been astonished by how solid Lu Yin's domain was when she had fought him.

A single palm was able to distort the void, and it quickly appeared in front of the Hunter Mistchild. He let all of his star energy burst forth in response and formed a shield that contained all of his star energy. His shield that contained the strength of a powerhouse with a power level of more than 100,000 blocked Lu Yin's palm. The star energy manifested into a visible form that swept out like an air wave, causing space to shudder. This was Lu Yin's first time directly facing the all-out eruption of a Hunter's star energy, and the suppression of the burst left him stifled.

If a Hunter was like this, then an Enlighter went without saying, as they could release a strength that would cause Lu Yin to become desperate. If he didn't use his universal armor, then it would be easy for an Enlighter's star energy to knock Lu Yin unconscious.

The suppression of star energy was the most directly observable difference between cultivation realms as it was purely a matter of quality versus quantity. Even Realmbreaker powerhouses would be suppressed against an enemy with a higher cultivation, and it was a suppression that had no counters. Sometimes, the more ordinary a method seemed, the more effective it actually was.

Lu Yin's palm was resisted by the berserk star energy, and the universal spacecraft soon exploded in space. The Hunter Mistchild's heart felt smothered. Although he had not borne the full brunt of Lu Yin's palm, the Overlaying Stacks had still struck him, leaving him completely shocked. Lu Yin's physical strength was even more absurd than what he had previously imagined.

The dagger streaked out and sliced at Lu Yin's neck.

Lu Yin pulled his hand back before tapping out with one finger. This finger caused his heart to burn with a boundless rage, and his eyes went slack as he lost consciousness while using the Dream Finger. Space around him froze at this moment, and there was only the finger from Lu Yin's dreams that had transcended space and could disregard all distance. It directly appeared in front of the Hunter Mistchild and pierced his shoulder. Layers of ripples pulsed out from behind the Hunter and propagated further and further until they finally caused the void to burst open.

At that moment, Lu Yin regained consciousness, but his finger was still stuck in the Hunter Mistchild's shoulder. An intense pain exploded from Lu Yin fingertip, and he pulled his hand back and placed it behind his back. Every time Lu Yin used the Dream Finger, his finger would become severely injured, as even his physical body was not tough enough to endure the might of that finger. Not only did it harm the enemy, but it also harmed Lu Yin.

The Hunter Mistchild spat out a mouthful of blood, as the attack had not been as simple as the finger stabbing into his shoulder. It had also destroyed half of the energy channels in his body, and he could no longer even stand up. Soon after, his body crumpled to the ground.

Lu Yin looked at the man until the Hunter Mistchild collapsed onto the wreckage from the spacecraft. From there, he looked up at Lu Yin, overwhelmed.

As an assassin, he had long since forgotten what fear felt like, but the moment he saw that finger, he had experienced that emotion once again. An indescribable oppression had accompanied the finger as it approached him, and he had been even more terrified than when he had first faced the Great Elder. But Lu Yin was just an Explorer. How could such a person possess such terrifying strength?

Lu Yin's finger was wracked with excruciating pain, and it would take him at least several days to recover. This particular attack could be used only once during a battle.

Sometimes, Lu Yin felt lost himself, as the fearsome strength that accompanied that finger was truly incomprehensible. More importantly, even with the incredible strength of his physical body, he still could not endure that might of that finger. The strength of the finger made him feel it was even more powerful than the Yu Secret Art, as it had caused a Yin Guai to explode the first time he had attempted to use it.

In the distance, Logan was trapped within Lu Yin's forcefield that had taken the form of a giant tree. From there, he stared on blankly and in terror at Lu Yin's fight. The youth had actually defeated a Hunter, but hadn't it been reported that he had relied on external objects to kill Enlighteners? Shouldn't he no longer have any such external aids? But even when he no longer had his tools, Lu Yin's power still could not be explained.

Lu Yin slowly descended as he looked calmly at the Hunter Mistchild. The rune lines from this person had greatly diminished, and now, they could not even compare to a normal Explorer's. The assassin might still have a hidden trump, but it could not be very strong.

The black clothes that the Hunter Mistchild wore had been torn apart, revealing a pale-looking youth. He looked very ordinary, and his appearance was the sort that would easily blend into any group. His expression was also very ordinary, and he did not have any of the absolute confidence that a powerhouse should have. If this sort of person hid his cultivation, then no one would be able to notice him. After all, he had even comprehended a domain, which would allow him to completely conceal his aura.

It was very rare for an Outerverse cultivator to comprehend a domain.

"You're Mafioso Planet's Hunter Mistchild?" Lu Yin asked softly.

The Hunter Mistchild was crouching upon the pieces of the spacecraft's wreckage and was panting heavily. He had clearly been badly injured by Lu Yin, but he did not seem to bear even a hint of a grudge or any other emotions for that matter. This was a killer; he was someone who could kill others or be killed himself without ever voicing a complaint.

"Why did you try to assassinate Logan?" Lu Yin asked.

"Farewell," the young male hoarsely replied as he smiled strangely. Then, his body vanished, and in the place where he had just been, there was a metal plate instead.

Lu Yin was amazed. Was this an innate gift? He looked around him until he finally saw some rune lines moving away in the southeast direction. His eyes grew cold, and he pulled out his collapsible spacecraft. He then tied Logan up and threw him inside the vessel before quickly giving chase after the escaping Hunter.

In the distance, the Hunter Mistchild held his shoulder as fresh blood continued to flow from the wound. He gritted his teeth and took out some medication to spray onto the wound.

Suddenly, he looked behind him and saw the collapsible spacecraft chasing after him, and he was even able to look inside it. The ice-cold expression on Lu Yin's face shocked him. How was that possible? How could that kid have discovered the direction that he had fled in?

The Hunter Mistchild rushed to increase his speed and attempted to escape by tearing through the void. In the distance, Lu Yin's Fatesand appeared, and he casually waved a hand and activated the Yu Secret Art. The Fatesand vanished, only to reappear right behind the Hunter Mistchild.

The Hunter Mistchild spat out a mouthful of blood again, this time because a supreme pressure had crushed him. All of his strength disappeared, and he felt as if he was nothing more than a corpse floating through space.

Lu Yin stepped out of the spacecraft and coldly looked at the Hunter Mistchild. "That's a pretty decent innate gift. If it wasn't me, then even a peak Hunter might not have been able to track you down."

Chapter 603: Employment And A Secret

The Hunter Mistchild closed his eyes. "Kill me if you must."

"What's your name?" Lu Yin asked.

"I have no name."

"Why were you trying to assassinate Logan?"

"He's the target of a mission."

"Three Mistchildren received this mission at the same time. Don't you find that a little strange?" Lu Yin asked. This mission had clearly been created by the bespectacled female Mistchild, but despite the fact that the mission target wasn't even an Explorer, three Mistchildren had taken action together. Something was obviously fishy if they had simply thought about it.

The Hunter Mistchild looked up at Lu Yin. "The missions were received at different times. The Explorer Mistchild received the mission first, then the Cruiser Mistchild, and finally, I received it. None of us are required to announce our missions when we receive them, as they are individually issued. One of Mafioso Planet's ironclad rules is that we have to complete a mission once we accept it, even if it turns out to be a trap."

The one who understood assassins the best was still one of their own. That bespectacled Mistchild had messed with the timings when she issued the mission, and the assassins were also not required to report their missions to anyone else. The three might have arrived on Orchid Planet at the same time, but they had also left Mafioso Planet at different times. Those small details had led to the current situation after also taking Mafioso Planet's ironclad rule of completing all missions into consideration.

Lu Yin looked at the Hunter Mistchild and wondered whether or not he should kill the man.

This Hunter Mistchild had comprehended a domain, and he also had a very peculiar innate gift, so killing him felt like a pity. However, even if Lu Yin didn't kill him, he probably wouldn't be able to make use of the man either.

He did not believe that he had a dominating aura that could subdue people. The young female Mistchild had decided to follow Lu Yin mainly because of his poisons.

"How does your Mafioso Planet employ killers?" Lu Yin asked.

The Hunter Mistchild replied in a low voice, "The starting price to hire an Hunter level assassin is one million star crystals, and the price increases proportionally based on the individual's power level, success rate, and the power of the target being assassinated."

"How about for you?" Lu Yin was curious.

"My starting price is three million star crystals."

"How about for long-term employment?"

The Hunter Mistchild was confused by the question. "Long-term employment? There aren't any such missions."

Lu Yin thought about it. "If someone wants to kill me, then you'll help me kill them first. This is the mission that I'll give you."

The Hunter Mistchild was lost, as no one had ever tried doing such a thing before. However, this also did not seem to go against any of Mafioso Planet's rules. It was still a mission to kill, but the price was a little difficult to calculate.

"Let me put it this way. How much can you earn in a year?" Lu Yin asked, his tone rather forthright. He was a rich person, after all.

"At least 80 million star crystals."

Lu Yin's lips crept upwards. "I'll give you 1,000 star essence. You'll follow me around, protect me, and kill those who try to assassinate me. How does that sound?"

The Hunter Mistchild was stunned, as 1,000 star essence was equivalent to 100 million star crystals, so it was definitely enough, but...

Lu Yin saw the Hunter Mistchild contemplating things, and his tone grew colder. "1,500."

The Hunter Mistchild's eyes flickered.

"2,000." Lu Yin was currently experiencing the rush of how Lulu had used money to crush others in the past.

The Hunter Mistchild was obviously startled by the offer.

"Not enough? Then you can just die." Lu Yin raised his hand.

The Hunter Mistchild hurriedly replied, "It's enough! Sure. I'll give up all my missions for this next year and work exclusively for you."

Lu Yin's lips rose. "Alright then. From today on, you'll serve in the Second Squadron of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons. Your task there will be to gather information about the surrounding weaves as well as to assist me in training the people in that squadron and raising their skills in assassination and gathering information."

The Hunter Mistchild frowned. "I only agreed to protect you. I didn't agree to help you train your soldiers."

"2,000 star essence is around 200 million star crystals." At that point, Lu Yin's gaze turned frosty. "Do you think that my money comes on the wind? That I'll just give it because I said so?"

The Hunter Mistchild's gaze flickered, and he thought about it. After a moment, he appeared resigned. "Alright."

Nobody wanted to die, and even killers were still people. They might be unafraid of death, but that did not mean that they wished to die.

Lu Yin did not hold onto any hope that he would be able to earn this person's loyalty, as that would be impossible. Since the Hunter Mistchild had to comply with Mafioso Planet's ironclad rules, then Lu Yin would simply use their rules to restrict him while also using the fear of death and the temptation of money to fully entice him. The Hunter would merely train the Second Squadron, which wasn't anything too difficult, and Lu Yin wouldn't suffer any loss if this person refused his offer.

Lu Yin wasn't keeping this person under watch with the intention to have him just train the Second Squadron. That old fogey, Topmist, had used the Bloodied Handprint to eliminate an old monster from the Astral Beast Domain whose power level was over 300,000, which showed that Mafioso Planet was likely not simple. The female Mistchild with glasses had devised all sorts of methods to have Lu Yin eliminate the three other Mistchildren, and she possibly had other objectives as well. Leaving this Hunter Mistchild alive could prove useful in the future.

"From now on, you'll be known as Phantom Sting and you'll be the captain of the Second Squadron," Lu Yin stated. The Hunter's status was thus confirmed, but he possessed no authority. That was the best description for the position that Lu Yin had given Phantom Sting for the time being; he was just a military instructor.

Phantom Sting nodded, but his face remained pale.

After finishing up with the assassin, Lu Yin took another look towards his spacecraft. He wanted Logan to be dead, but after considering his position in the Yushan family and Wendy Yushan as well, he did not proceed with his initial plans. This person was still useful. With Logan, Lu Yin could lure out more people who opposed him before finally dispatching them all together.

"Arrange for someone to be stationed on Orchid Planet to watch over him," Lu Yin ordered Phantom Sting.

Phantom Sting acknowledged Lu Yin's words, and he quickly assumed his new role. It had to be said that Mafioso Planet really knew how to train their members.

Lu Yin did not mention anything about the Limiteer Mistchild, and he decided that he would also hide Phantom Sting's existence from her.

Lu Yin had no idea whether or not Mafioso Planet's members had any way of mutually tracking each other's whereabouts. If not for his fear of Topmist, he would have gone straight to Mafioso Planet and investigated the whole organization.

The Cruiser and Explorer Mistchildren were now dead, and Phantom Sting had changed his identity in order to assume his new position as the captain of the Second Squadron.

Ten days later, Lu Yin met with the Limiteer Mistchild again. This time, she brought him a large number of metal disks. They contained many secrets concerning the various great powers of the eastern weaves as well as important individuals.

Vastdearth Weave's Vastdearth Sect, Adonis Weave's Darkstar Gorge, Lars Weave's Six-Fingered Tribe, Flaxen Weave's Tri-Colored Federation, Bard Weave's Evenground Palace, and more were all included in the information. There were even some secrets about important characters from Mafioso Planet itself.

Much of this information would not be very valuable to most people, but it was of the utmost importance to Lu Yin, who wanted to forge an alliance among the eastern weaves.

When Huan Sha, En Ya, and the other captains of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons saw this information, their shocked expressions were very entertaining for Lu Yin, especially En Ya's face. In the past, Grand Marshal Shui Chuanxiao had also tried to create an Outerverse alliance, which was why Lu Yin had passed this matter to her. She was suffering from a headache, trying to come up with different ways to intimidate the powers of the various weaves, but this information had removed any apprehension of how she should proceed. The people in these records would become her weapons.

"Your Highness, is this information reliable?" En Ya could not help herself from asking.

Lu Yin nodded. "Yes. I'm showing you all this so that I can give you a helping hand."

"This is far more than a helping hand. It's basically a shortcut to the finish line," Huo Qingshan marveled.

Peach continuously flipped through the metal disks, and she cried out in excitement as she raised one. "Gibu's in here! There's even information about him."

"Who?" The Blind Monk was puzzled.

Peach smugly explained, "He's the Flaxen Weave's Tri-Colored Federation's former chairman. In the past, His Majesty, Undying Yushan, sent me to the Tri-Colored Federation to carry out a mission, but this old fogey made it so that I was almost unable to come back. Let me take a look at this!" As she looked at the information on the metal disk, her expression grew increasingly brighter. "There's information that we can use here! Your Highness, let me take care of this old fart."

Lu Yin pointed at En Ya. "The matters of the alliance are being handled by her right now, so you can talk to her."

Peach looked pleadingly towards En Ya.

En Ya quietly replied, "We can't touch Flaxen Weave for now, as it's currently being controlled by Northline Flowzone's Granny Chan. She didn't die in Ironblood Weave, and she will eventually return."

Peach was disappointed.

At the mention of Granny Chan, Lu Yin's eyes flashed. Topmist had insisted that he had not revealed Lu Yin's methods of killing Enlighters, so the only other possible person who could have done so was Granny Chan. Could it have been her?

"Peach, does the empire have anyone planted in the Tri-Colored Federation?" Lu Yin asked.

Peach nodded. "Yes, from a long time ago actually, but we never activated them."

"Activate them now and get them to contact the people from Northline Flowzone."

Peach acknowledged his order.

"Actually, the empire has people planted in quite a few of the surrounding weaves, and not just the Tri-Colored Federation. Of course, the empire itself also has other powers' people planted within it as well," Liuying Zishan commented.

Lu Yin had En Ya collect all of the metal disks, and he sent everyone else away. The bespectacled Mistchild walked out from the darkness. "I was discovered."

"There were two Hunters there, so it's normal for you to be discovered," Lu Yin said.

She nervously said, "That blind one is very strong."

A trace of a smile hung on Lu Yin's lips, as the Blind Monk was indeed powerful. His power level might not match up to Huo Qingshan's, but he possessed an impressive number of rune lines, and the number even approached Aegis's. The blind man clearly possessed some hidden trump card, but Lu Yin did not pay that matter any mind. Most cultivators had some. It was likely that even Huo Qingshan possessed some, though he had not used any yet.

"Your Highness, I've delivered what you requested. Can I get a reward now?" The Mistchild looked expectantly at Lu Yin as she licked her lips.

Lu Yin took out a vial of poison that had rune lines comparable to a Cruiser's and tossed it at her.

She opened the vial, took a whiff, and then said in disappointment, "It's not as strong as the first."

"No need to rush. There's more where that came from," Lu Yin replied.

Mistchild smiled. "Thank you, Your Highness."

"Until Topmist returns, none of the other Mistchildren will appear. Your authority is very high on Mafioso Planet, so I want you to coordinate with me and help the empire establish the alliance." Lu Yin looked at her.

She solemnly said, "I'm under Your Highness's command. Please rest assured."

Lu Yin smiled, but he did not say anything else. It was impossible for him to be at ease, but he also knew that this woman could not escape from his clutches. For now, there was only one thing left to do: it was time to return to Shenwu Continent.

He would take advantage of this time while there were no Enlighters causing trouble in the Outerverse to resolve the issue on Shenwu Continent. Ming Yan had waited for him for two years now, and he was rather nervous.

The Great Yu Empire had begun its comprehensive cooperation with the Nalan family, and En Ya and the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons had also started making arrangements for the alliance while Mafioso Planet helped from the outside. After a few days, Lu Yin took the Blind Monk along with him and visited Shenwu Continent's space station.

When Lu Yin arrived this time, the people on the space station panicked a bit, along with the Daynight members still there. Why had this rascal come back again?

Tyrial had died, as he had been drafted to Ironblood Weave, where he had died on the battlefield. The one responsible for Shenwu Continent's space station now was Meilan Daynight.

"Student Lu, you've only been gone for a short while, but your recent accomplishments are well worth celebrating." She smiled and appeared to be delighted to see Lu Yin.

Even with his experience, he could not tell if she was faking her happiness, but that was not important. "Madam wasn't drafted to the warfront?"

"This girl is too feeble, and I could not qualify to be sent to the battlefield." Madam Meilan smiled as she spoke, escorting Lu Yin into the space station.

Chapter 604: A Trace Of Unfamiliarity

After Lu Yin arrived at Shenwu Continent's space station, no matter how much the Daynight members surrounding him hated him, they did not dare to reveal anything. Lu Yin was pretty much the strongest person in the entirety of the eastern weaves so long as no Enlighter appeared.

Lu Yin glanced at his surroundings. "Madam didn't go, but another Daynight clan Hunter went. Zhanlong Daynight isn't here either. He hasn't returned yet?"

Madam Meilan's pupils shrank. She had felt that something strange had happened since she had last seen Lu Yin. For some reason, it felt like he knew everything and that nothing could be kept hidden from him. "How did Student Lu know that they have not yet returned?"

Lu Yin smiled faintly, but he did not bother explaining. Something like the rune lines that he could see could only be explained to someone who could see them for themselves, and those who had never seen them could never hope to comprehend such a thing. Thus, Lu Yin had no explanation that he could give.

"Is there a matter that Student Lu wishes to address during this visit?" Madam Meilan enquired.

Lu Yin raised his gadget and absentmindedly answered, "I had a thorough discussion with Elder Lohar before leaving Ironblood Weave, and he hopes that the Outerverse can be stabilized and united. I came here to carry out the will of the elder, or rather, the Hall of Honor, and I am headed into Shenwu Continent to take a look."

Madam Meilan looked at the gadget that Lu Yin was showing her and became astonished. It was a custom-made gadget, and just one glance was enough to see that it was from the Hall of Honor. This

person definitely had more than five Honor Points, and it seemed that the Hall of Honor intended to nurture him, given that he had obtained so many Honor Points at such a young age.

“It might be too late for Student Lu to head there now,” Madam Meilan replied helplessly.

Lu Yin’s eyes flashed. “What do you mean?”

Madam Meilan stroked her hair. “After Student Lu informed Tang Si about the separation of the Innaverse and the Outerverse, Tang Si was safely sent back to Shenwu Continent. Following that, Ming Zhaoshu’s attitude towards the foreign powers has changed, and he’s not as cordial as before. Ming Zhaotian has become even more cruel, and they are increasingly unconcerned with us.”

Lu Yin could hear the dissatisfaction in her tone, but he didn’t care. “That’s my problem, and I’ll handle it.”

“What were Elder Lohar’s original words?” she asked.

Lu Yin glanced at her. “You can go ask him yourself.”

She smiled. “Student Lu, there’s no need to think too much. I only wish to better understand the Hall of Honor’s intentions so that I can better assist Student Lu. I definitely do not mean to insinuate that I harbor any suspicions.”

“Send me to Shenwu Continent, and I’ll discuss this matter with Ming Zhaotian and Ming Zhaoshu myself.”

Madam Meilan nodded and did not refuse him. Regardless of if he was being honest about Elder Lohar’s intentions, she did not have the strength to stop Lu Yin. She glanced at the blind monk, who made her feel a little nervous. How could the Outerverse have such people? It truly seemed like the Great Yu Empire was not lacking in powerhouses.

The process of entering Shenwu Continent this time was similar to what Lu Yin had experienced during the Outerverse’s trial in the past. The reason why Lu Yin had brought the blind monk with him this time was to eliminate the possibility that he might not be able to leave the continent. With the Hunter nearby, as well as the Hall of Honor behind him, Lu Yin felt assured that he would be fine.

The only issue now was that he didn’t know where he would land.

The location where one would land when entering Shenwu Continent was random. In the past, Lu Yin had landed right in Ming Yan’s bath, which had led to the events that had caused him to have feelings for her. Lu Yin’s heart grew feverish at the thought of her since he was about to meet with her once again.

This time, there was no Ming Zhaotian obstructing his transfer to Shenwu Continent, and so, Lu Yin smoothly arrived. He saw the sky above the continent before suddenly crashing down into a luxurious residence. He looked around and saw that he seemed to be about to land inside a home yet again.

He was stunned at this sight; did he have some sort of fate with landing in people’s homes? Fortunately, he was prepared this time, and he forcefully twisted his body using his physical strength to instead force himself to crash into an expanse of greenery, a garden in the house’s courtyard.

The disturbance from his landing was too great, and so, it attracted the guards' attention. Lu Yin immediately left.

The house that he had landed next to was located inside of a city. When Lu Yin stepped out of the residence, he made a point to look around and quickly saw that there was no heavenly globe in sight, which indicated that he had landed within a part of Ming Zhaoshu's territory.

Only Ming Zhaoshu's territory would not be biased against outside cultivators.

Lu Yin had intentionally checked on the state of its matters before entering Shenwu Continent, and so, he was aware that Ming Zhaoshu and his regime that was in opposition to the Shenwu Empire currently controlled twelve islands. Qiong Island was located beside the capital, Ming Island, and the other eleven islands that the rebels controlled lay due east of Qiong Island.

Given the twelve islands' locations, even if Lu Yin had landed on the island that was the furthest from Qiong Island, it still wouldn't be much of a problem for Lu Yin to travel that distance.

He asked around and quickly learned that he was on Dapan Island, which was only three islands away from Qiong Island, so he was not very far away.

Reverent King Ming Zhaoshu had carefully chosen the twelve islands that he had taken over, and they were arranged in a line that connected Qiong Island to the ocean. This meant that he could not be surrounded and that, with Ming Island as a centerpoint, he essentially controlled an entire region.

But even though he could not be easily surrounded, if the battlefield was this large, then regardless of whether or not Ming Zhaoshu possessed the strength to resist Ming Zhaotian, he should have long since been exterminated. That was, if not for the support that he received from outside forces. To date, Ming Zhaoshu had received help from many powerhouses from both the Innerverse and the Outerverse.

Lu Yin deliberately observed the situation as he made his way towards Qiong Island. The rejection that the natives of Shenwu Continent held towards the aliens was rather severe, but it had been suppressed by Ming Zhaoshu. Now, the citizens didn't dare to reveal their displeasure.

This situation caused Lu Yin to frown. Such a heavy-handed approach was indeed a bandaid for the current problem, but building up this much pressure and resentment was asking for the situation to boil over in the future, and Ming Zhaoshu might just find himself in a non-ideal situation then. The only way out of this mess was to use the Outerverse to divert the conflicting opinions. Then, the masses could either accept the Outerverse and merge with it, or give in to their terror. But if they chose the latter, they would explode sooner or later.

With Ming Zhaoshu's intellect, it was impossible that he had not seen this, so it could only be that he was too confident in himself.

On his way to Qiong Island, Lu Yin conveniently bought a copy of the List of Tempering, and after looking at it, he found that there were many changes to the list. Many people who had been on the list the last time he was on the continent had broken through and become Martial Emperors, which was the equivalent of the Explorer realm. Reaching this realm would automatically remove them from the list, and among those who had left the list in this manner was Hua Ying, one of the empire's twin beauties.

Lu Yin had a deep impression of the young woman, as she was a ravishing beauty who was just as famous as Ming Yan. There were also many new names on the list.

During the battle at the Tower of Resonating Light, the person who had been at the top of this list had ambushed Lu Yin, but had been killed. Now, the top person was someone called Ruthless, and his name was not hidden. Instead, the empire had magnanimously publicized his name for everyone to see. Strangely enough, Li Zimo was still second on the list. He had not broken through and become a Martial Emperor yet.

In the past, during the Outerverse's trial, aside from Ming Yan and Ming Zhaoshu, Lu Yin's impression of Li Zimo had been the deepest. The man was a genius with the sword. If Liu Shaoqiu did not rely on the Thirteen Swords, then he might not necessarily be Li Zimo's opponent. It was entirely possible that Liu Shaoqiu had become an Explorer by now, but Li Zimo was still just a Limiteer.

Tang Si had also been taken off of the list. The last time the two had met, he was still an Limiteer, and now, he was an Explorer.

The List of Tempering was not very important to Lu Yin, and he had only browsed through it out of curiosity. There was no need for him to compare himself with anyone on this list given his current strength. Instead, he was comparing himself with the strongest of the entire continent.

Due to his urgent desire to see Ming Yan, he moved towards Qiong Island as quickly as he could, and it soon became visible in the distance.

As he approached, Lu Yin noticed more and more cultivators from the Outerverse, and there were even some Daynight clan members.

Even if many people held hatred for the aliens, they still managed to endure the oppression, and Lu Yin did not witness any outbursts along his travels.

When he arrived at Qiong Island, he headed straight for the Reverent King's Residence. The security in the area was very strict, especially so after the Reverent King rebelled against the empire. Since then, he had been the target of many assassination attempts, and even the Ming Constables and the Demon Hunters Society had sent assassins after him.

There were quite a few foreign cultivators who were also contributing to the defenses around the Reverent King's Residence.

Still, all of this was useless against Lu Yin since his domain allowed him to move undetected even after entering the Reverent King's Residence.

Fortunately, Reverent King Ming Zhaoshu was currently not at home, and while there was a Martial Sovereign within the Reverent King's Residence, that person was greatly inferior to Ming Zhaoshu, and he could not discover Lu Yin with his domain. Lu Yin successfully entered the residence under the concealment of his domain. In the back garden of the residence, he saw the beautiful Ming Yan smiling. She was sitting inside a pavilion atop a small bridge with water softly flowing underneath. At the same moment, Lu Yin also saw an elegant youth with black-and-white hair who was very attention-grabbing.

He instantly noticed that there was a trace of grey hair in the middle of the youth's hair: the Nightking clan.

Flowers were blooming all around the bridge, and Ming Yan's happy laughter could be heard from the pavilion.

"Brother Changfeng, are there really people who are that short?" Ming Yan's eyes went wide as she asked with curiosity.

Across from her, the Nightking smiled at her. "Of course. There are many planets in the universe with varying levels of gravity. Some have especially strong gravity, and the result is that the natives of those planets are much shorter. But don't look down on them! They are usually very powerful."

Ming Yan stuck her tongue out. "I wasn't looking down on them. If heaven strips something away from someone, then it will naturally bestow other things upon them."

The Nightking man looked at Ming Yan's adorable and amazingly beautiful face, and his eyes flickered with a trace of passion. "Yan'er, I'll take you for a tour around the universe."

Ming Yan was taken aback, and she lowered her head and fell silent.

The Nightking man leaned slightly closer to her. "The universe is so vast, and there are many mysterious things within it. This Shenwu Continent is too small, and Uncle Ming also wants to join the rest of the universe. It's a pity that Ming Zhaotian and the others are not receptive to such an idea. But, as long as Yan'er wishes it, Brother Changfeng will take you away at once."

Ming Yan stared at the stone table, and nobody could tell what she was thinking.

The Nightking youth took a deep breath, feeling that it was time. He had spent so much time and effort on this woman, and now, there were finally about to be some results. As he thought about it, he raised his hand and slowly drew closer to her. Suddenly, a shadow covered the two of them, and the man's pupils shrank. When had someone moved behind him?

In an instant, a green pattern and blue stripes covered his body. He actually had seven lined battle force. He looked behind him to see that there was a youth had appeared behind him without him noticing. This person was calmly staring at Ming Yan and the Nightking youth. Although the newcomer's eyes appeared to be tranquil, the Nightking man could feel that underneath the calm facade, there was an indescribable amount of bloodlust ready to erupt, and it was directed entirely towards him.

"Who are you?" The Nightking youth did not move, as this new person was standing only a meter away from him. There wasn't enough distance to run, and he knew that if he tried to make a move, he could immediately fall into a disadvantage.

"Brother Lu?" Ming Yan cried out as she looked at the newcomer in disbelief.

The man frowned. Brother Lu? Lu Yin? His expression dramatically changed.

Lu Yin's gaze swept past the Nightking man and moved towards Ming Yan. He could see the pleasant surprise in her eyes, but there was also a trace of unfamiliarity, which made Lu Yin's heart drop. It had been two years! And after this amount of time, such a change should be expected!

His first meeting with Ming Yan had originally been a coincidence, and her feelings for Lu Yin had partially been because she had never really interacted with any other man before, which was in part due to Shenwu Continent's cultural custom of confining their daughters. This had caused Ming Yan to instantly fall in love with Lu Yin. But the moment he met her again, he was mesmerized by her beauty yet again.

That was Lu Yin's first time feeling his heart skip a beat, and it was such a beautiful sensation.

However, two years of separation as well as being exposed to the wide universe's foreign culture meant that Ming Yan had come into contact with more than one outsider. Her mentality had changed, and she no longer felt restrained by Shenwu Continent's conservative customs. It was possible that she still had feelings for Lu Yin, but they were likely not as pure or firm as they had been in the past.

Chapter 605: Collision Of Forcefields

The emotions seen in one's eyes could not be faked, and the moment Lu Yin saw Ming Yan's eyes, he knew that those budding feelings of innocence from before would never return.

Ming Yan stared at Lu Yin blankly, and her delighted face slowly changed into a complex expression. Was she happy at this moment? Yes, but for some reason, she was also not as happy as she had imagined herself to be. She had already lived the moment of her reunion with Lu Yin in her dreams, but they were actually seeing each other again. Despite that, there was this strange trace of unfamiliarity that now separated them. She could only remain frozen in place, not knowing what to do.

The two of them just looked at each other like that. They had both longed for this reunion and dreamed of embracing each other. However, now that the moment had finally arrived, neither of them could take that next step, as that step felt like a chasm that covered the sky.

"I'm Nightking Changfeng. It's good to meet you, Brother Lu." The Nightking youth moved in front of Ming Yan and smiled at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's brows furrowed a bit. "Out of my respect to Nightqueen Qiuyu, who's still guarding the border, I won't kill you. Get out of my sight immediately."

Nightking Changfeng was startled, and he was about to speak when Ming Yan spoke up. "Brother Lu, Brother Changfeng is a very good person."

Lu Yin's heart wrenched, and he shifted his eyes from Ming Yan over to Nightking Changfeng. He tried to explain while speaking in a cold voice. "You don't know about my hatred against the Nightking clan, and there's no reason for you to know. You only need to understand one thing: all those from the Nightking clan are my enemy."

Ming Yan heard the iciness in Lu Yin's tone, and her heart panicked as her face paled. She hurriedly stepped forward, though Nightking Changfeng subconsciously reached out to stop her. Just as he was about to touch Ming Yan, his hand was forcibly stopped: Lu Yin had seized his arm. An enormous strength forcibly bent his arm back, and Nightking Changfeng was overwhelmed to find that he was being suppressed even with his seven lined battle force.

Lu Yin exerted his strength once again, which caused the entire Reverent King's Residence to shudder. The intense strength ruthlessly pushed Nightking Changfeng out of the pavilion. "Who gave you the nerve to touch her in front of me?"

Ming Yan's face was completely white as she looked from Lu Yin to Nightking Changfeng and back. She had no idea what to do.

Nightking Changfeng tightly held his arm, where there were now five finger marks clearly visible. He was inwardly struck speechless by this person's terrifying strength. "Yan'er, it looks like Brother Lu's in a bad mood, so I'll head out first. Let's meet again next time."

He then smiled politely and left the pavilion.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed as he watched the man leave.

"Brother Lu," Ming Yan called out softly. Even as she looked at him, she was overwhelmed with complex emotions.

Lu Yin looked at her, and he saw her tangled emotions and the sense of unfamiliarity that was growing. "My hatred with his clan runs deep."

Ming Yan bit her lips. "There's nothing going on between Brother Changfeng and me. We're just friends."

"I know." Lu Yin interrupted Ming Yan, but then he paused as he looked at her pale face, a pang of emotion striking his heart. He moved to place a hand on her face, but she subconsciously backed away and lowered her head. She seemed to be thinking about something.

Lu Yin's hand was left suspended in midair, and after a moment, he helplessly lowered it. "How have you been these two years?"

Ming Yan softly acknowledged him and then asked, "How about you, Brother Lu?"

"Very good," Lu Yin said. "Actually, I came this time to take you away. You-"

"Brother Lu, Father has rebelled against the Shenwu Empire. Did you know this?" Ming Yan suddenly interrupted Lu Yin.

Lu Yin stared at her blankly before revealing a bitter smile. "I know."

He looked up at the sky. "Rest well. I'm going to go look for your Father." After saying that, he also left the pavilion.

Ming Yan stared at Lu Yin's departing figure and felt that she was suddenly even more distant from him than before. She truly did not know how to handle her emotions. Just two years ago, her love for him had been so strong that her heart had ached deeply the moment they had parted. Time was truly a poison that could dissolve all things, even emotions. Perhaps, back then, it had not even been love, though if that was the case, Ming Yan did not even know what she had felt at that time.

During these past two years, no matter how many outsiders she had met, even if they had been a man as outstanding as Nightking Changfeng, she had not betrayed Lu Yin and firmly protected her feelings.

Still, when it came down to what truly mattered, could she accept this situation? Why had she interrupted Brother Lu just now? Why could she not bear to hear the words that she knew he had been about to say? Did she no longer love him?

Her strength left her, and she collapsed onto the pavilion floor in a daze.

Lu Yin did not blame Ming Yan, as emotions and feelings were not things able to be controlled by humans. He had not missed Ming Yan that much during these past two years; he had been in contact with the enchanting Madam Nalan, Wendy Yushan, and girl after girl. In fact, Ming Yan's place in his heart had dwindled, but every time he thought of her, that feeling of longing had overcome everything else.

Perhaps, this was puppy love—a bittersweet romance.

Still, unfamiliarity did not necessarily mean the end of the relationship. Ming Yan still had feelings for him, which he was able to see, and he still held some for her as well. In the end, everything depended on the future.

Within the Reverent King's Residence, the most heavily guarded location was Ming Zhaoshu's study. Soon after leaving the pavilion, Lu Yin sat down inside the study to wait for Ming Zhaoshu to arrive.

In another place, Nightking Changfeng's face had become gloomy after he left the Reverent King's Residence. A bone-deep throbbing pain was pulsating from his arm, as Lu Yin's strength left him aghast; how could he be that strong? He was a Cruiser, and he was also ranked twenty first on the Top 100 Rankings; he was a genius of the Nightking clan second only to Nightking Gu. Those from the Nightking clan were generally all famous figures, but he had just been easily suppressed by that person, even with his seven lined battle force.

Nightking Changfeng had not paid much attention to the fact that Lu Yin was an unequaled Limiteer in the past, but just now, he had personally experienced the truth. He now knew how helpless Nightqueen Yanqing and Zhanlong Daynight must have felt. This person had to be dealt with, or else he would grow into a huge problem for the Nightking clan in the future.

No one in the entire Reverent King's Residence knew that there was somebody waiting for Ming Zhaoshu in their most tightly guarded study.

Once night fell, Ming Zhaoshu finally returned to the Reverent King's Residence and became aware of the intruder. His domain was no weaker than Lu Yin's, and although Lu Yin was improving at a rate that even he himself felt it was a bit strange, Ming Zhaoshu had endured for so many years and also comprehended a forcefield. Thus, it was quite easy for him to discover Lu Yin's presence.

Once he entered the study, Ming Zhaoshu was shocked to see Lu Yin reading a book. In the past, Tang Si had reported that Lu Yin had changed to the extent where he could even threaten a powerhouse on Ming Taizhong's level. Ming Zhaoshu had not believed Tang Si's words as his experience was too shallow. But now that the Reverent King was personally seeing Lu Yin for himself, he felt shock after shock rock his mind. This kid even gave him a sense of danger at this moment.

"My lord, it's been quite a long time." Lu Yin put the book down and calmly looked at the Reverent King, his tone tranquil. He did not stand up.

Ming Zhaoshu's eyes flashed, but then he smiled. "Long time no see, Little Seven."

"My lord's appearance is pretty good. It seems that these past two years have been comfortable," Lu Yin commented indifferently.

Ming Zhaoshu walked behind the table and sat down. He then looked at Lu Yin. "The agreement was for ten years' time, but only two years have passed, and you've already returned. Do you have the confidence to help Shenwu Continent emerge from its predicament?"

"Even if I don't, my lord is capable of doing it himself. Even now, you are doing it, isn't that so?" Lu Yin's tone grew colder.

Ming Zhaoshu's eyes narrowed. "Do you mean cooperating with outsiders? That's correct. I cannot possibly place all my hopes on you alone."

"But my lord's choice seems a tad excessive." Lu Yin stared at the king.

Ming Zhaoshu laughed, but then, his expression turned cold. "Little Seven, we haven't met in two years, but you've changed so much. Do you know that even the Hunters of your universe don't dare to speak to me in such a manner?"

"Then does my lord know that, even if Ming Taizhong were alive, I could kill him if I wished?" Lu Yin suddenly stood up, and Ming Zhaoshu rose at the same time. Two tremendous domains burst forth simultaneously, and they each withstood the other's force in the sky above the Reverent King's Residence, far above Qiong Island. In an instant, countless people felt stifled and looked up. Although they could not see anything, they felt as though the sky was falling.

Within the Reverent King's Residence, the Martial Sovereign standing guard looked up, dumbstruck. This power...?

Outside the Reverent King's Residence, Nightking Changfeng was similarly astonished. What a powerful domain.

Many cultivators from Shenwu Continent and the outside universe felt the same sense of suppression. It originated not only from Ming Zhaoshu, but from Lu Yin as well.

The two domains faced off against each other, invisible to the eye, but their force was enough to distort the sky. The clouds roiled as the weather changed. Almost instantly, rain began to pour down in buckets, and thunderclaps could be heard.

Many looked at the sky in terror as the two domains solidified and continued their visible confrontation in the form of shockwaves. It was almost as if two giant creatures were colliding in the sky.

Ming Zhaoshu and Lu Yin each worked in unison to restrain the clash of their domains so that no one would be harmed.

Even so, the pressure was unimaginable to the common people.

In the Reverent King's Residence, Ming Zhaoshu's expression changed. He could not force Lu Yin down. Just two years ago, this youth had been obviously weak, and Lu Yin hadn't even comprehended a domain. But now, just two years later, he was witnessing a complete turnaround.

He suddenly recalled Lu Yin's legend: Lu Yin had only started cultivating many years into his life, but he had become one of the top four during the Astral Combat Tournament despite that. Two years was a short time for most cultivators, but for this person, it was enough time to achieve a qualitative leap. Still, the growth in strength that Ming Zhaoshe was currently experiencing was just too absurd.

Ming Zhaoshu's endurance was enough to draw great admiration from those who knew him, but at this moment, he did not wish to endure anymore. Lu Yin's attitude was clear, and the youth held resentment towards him in his heart. If Ming Zhaoshu could not suppress the young man at this very moment, then they would be on equal footing in future collaborations, which was something that the Reverent King could not accept.

On the streets of Qiong Island, Nightking Changfeng looked at the sky and saw the two domains suddenly change. One domain took on the form of a humanoid figure garbed in a royal gown. It was a dazzling sight in the night sky. Its mighty imperial authority made all the citizens who saw the figure kneel down, as this was Ming Zhaoshu; his forcefield had taken on the form of an emperor.

Lu Yin's expression changed, as he had also comprehended a forcefield. He considered his options before staring deeply into Ming Zhaoshu's eyes. His domain also morphed, transforming into a tree that stretched towards the heavens. It felt as if it was the source of all living creatures, and all sorts of strange objects grew from its branches.

Ming Zhaoshu's pupils shrank to pinpoints. A forcefield! This kid actually comprehended a forcefield!

Crack!

In the study, the table between Ming Zhaoshu and Lu Yin split asunder. The two men looked at each other, and they each withdrew their domains. The night sky quickly returned to normal, with only the rain continuing to pour, showering Qiong Island.

There was a thump as the table completely broke apart, falling to the floor at the feet of Lu Yin and Ming Zhaoshu.

The collision of their domains had been a tie.

With a bang, the door slammed open, and a Martial Sovereign charged in. Behind him, Tang Si and quite a few soldiers also rushed in. "My lord!"

"Get out!" Ming Zhaoshu barked, and everyone hurriedly left.

"Let's change locations," Ming Zhaoshu softly said.

Lu Yin calmly left with the older man.

It was still pouring outside when Ming Zhaoshu and Lu Yin appeared atop a building.

"Who would have thought that you would progress so much in the short span of two years," Ming Zhaoshu commented.

Lu Yin stared out at the rain. “There’s many matters that you haven’t considered.”

“The promise of ten years has been brought forward by eight years—that is certainly something that I didn’t expect,” Ming Zhaoshu said.

Chapter 606: Secret Changes

Lu Yin looked at Ming Zhaoshu and shook his head. “The Inniverse and Outerverse have been separated, so is there still a point to the so-called ‘promise of ten years?’ You don’t care about the current Outerverse.”

“But I still care about you.” Ming Zhaoshu’s burning eyes bored into Lu Yin. “In just two years, you were able to mature to such a degree. If you were given another two, ten, or twenty years, then you’d become strong enough to rule as a king. You’ll become a powerhouse who will shock the entire universe. I’m very sure that your value has already surpassed the entirety of Shenwu Continent itself.”

Lu Yin did not respond, as his heart was still in chaos. He had not been able to think calmly ever since his encounter with Ming Yan. His recent contest with Ming Zhaoshu had been more of a way for him to vent his feelings, and it was not actually an attempt to seize the initiative in their cooperation. Lu Yin had not become emotionless yet, and he could not easily set his feelings aside.

“Have you met with Yan’er already?” Ming Zhaoshu asked.

Lu Yin’s eyes narrowed. “Were you the one who allowed Nightking Changfeng to get close to her?”

Ming Zhaoshu scoffed. “I, Ming Zhaoshu, will not resort to using my daughter as a bargaining chip. Back then, it was only because Yan’er liked you that I agreed to the term of ten years with you. She will never be used as a bargaining chip. You think too little of me.”

This was something that Lu Yin could believe. Everyone’s forcefield was unique, and Ming Zhaoshu’s forcefield was an emperor adorned with a royal gown. It did not have an average aura, and since it had the form of an emperor, he would not be so short-sighted.

“I know what those people from the Daynight clan are trying to do. I cannot intentionally stop Nightking Changfeng from approaching Yan’er, and you should understand the Nightking clan better than myself. They are people whom Shenwu Continent cannot afford to offend. However, that youth is not a schemer, and he hasn’t played any tricks either. Otherwise, I definitely would not let him off lightly.”

Lu Yin took a deep breath as watched the raindrops grow smaller.

“Now that the Inniverse and Outerverse have been separated, over these last few days, I have considered sending Nightking Changfeng somewhere else. It’s merely that I haven’t been able to do so yet,” Ming Zhaoshu tried to explain. If the person he was speaking with was Lu Yin from two years ago, then there would have been no need for him to offer any explanation as he had merely treated Lu Yin as an investment at that time. The current youth was someone who qualified to receive explanations, and very thorough ones at that.

“Even if the Inniverse and Outerverse are separated, it’s still inevitable that Shenwu Continent will integrate into the universe. You can’t stop it, Ming Zhaotian can’t stop it, and you should be clear that this is not something that you can negotiate,” Lu Yin said indifferently.

Ming Zhaoshu sighed, "That's all the more reason why we can't set ourselves up against the Nightking clan."

Lu Yin looked at him. "Do you know where I'm from?"

Ming Zhaoshu nodded. "Frostwave Weave's Great Yu Empire."

"I am now the Great Yu Empire's Royal Regent, and I can act with the emperor's authority. The Great Yu Empire has already unified Frostwave Weave, and we have also suppressed the Grandtop Weave. I plan to establish the Great Eastern Alliance in order to unite all of the Outerverse's eastern weaves. Shenwu Continent will be no exception," Lu Yin informed him.

Ming Zhaoshu was stunned. "Great Eastern Alliance? That's not something simple. Will the powers of the various weaves agree to such a thing?"

"They won't be able to do anything but agree to it," Lu Yin replied without any sympathy.

Ming Zhaoshu carefully observed Lu Yin; was the kid a maniac, or was he truly confident?

"Shenwu Continent's farce should end now. I'll help you take care of Ming Zhaotian. In exchange, Shenwu Continent must join the Great Eastern Alliance, or else—" Lu Yin looked at Ming Zhaoshu with ice-cold eyes. "I can help you obtain Shenwu Continent, but I can also destroy it just as easily. I've said this before. Even if Ming Taizhong were alive, it would be useless since I could kill even him."

Ming Zhaoshu's eyes flickered, as he could not quite understand the current Lu Yin. He could not casually make such a decision, especially since he was suffering from a lack of information.

"I'll give you some time to consider your decision, but not too much. The next time we meet, I'll want to hear your decision, as well as hear about the five sealing planets," Lu Yin said. He then stepped forward and disappeared. He had already left the Reverent King's Residence.

Ming Zhaoshu watched the disappearing figure vanish into the rainy night. He called Tang Si over. The Reverent King had not paid too much attention to what Tang Si had said before, but now, he needed to gain a new understanding of the current Lu Yin. The youth was clearly just in the Martial Emperor realm, but he dared to threaten Ming Zhaoshu himself. That calm confidence could not be faked, and he also had to speak with Yan'er. There was something amiss with Lu Yin's attitude.

There were quite a few mansions that lay near the Reverent King's Residence. They had previously all been owned by officials or rich merchants who stayed at Qiong Island, but now, they had been given to the outsiders by Ming Zhaoshu.

Nightking Changfeng arrived in front of one of the mansions and knocked on the door before entering. A beautiful girl with revealing clothing welcomed him into the house. She was Xun Meiren, a disciple who was a member of the Xun family's younger generation. Although she was just an Explorer, she was extremely astute, and she was also one of the outsiders who was cooperating with Ming Zhaoshu during this time. The Daynight clan had sent her specifically to help Nightking Changfeng.

"It's late, so why has Brother Changfeng come to this girl's residence? Aren't you afraid of being seen by those young masters?" Xun Meiren leaned towards Nightking Changfeng and smiled lovably as a puff of the scent of her perfume wafted over to him.

Nightking Changfeng remained calm. "Don't you tell me that you didn't notice the disturbance just now."

Xun Meiren shrugged. "A clash of forcefields. I know that one of them belonged to Ming Zhaoshu, but I didn't recognize the other one. It's already impressive for the little Shenwu Continent to produce Ming Zhaoshu, who's comprehended a domain, but I never would have imagined that there would be a second person as well."

"It wasn't someone from Shenwu Continent. It was Lu Yin." His tone was cold, and his voice showed a trace of restraint.

Xun Meiren was stunned. "Lu Yin? Why is he here?"

Nightking Changfeng's eyes turned murderous. "The news of the Innerverse and Outerverse being separated was leaked to Shenwu Continent by him. He also participated in the Outerverse trial that took place here, and while it was assumed that he just participated in it as a formality, he's come back now."

"When he visited the space station last time, he even killed a Daynight clan Hunter so that he could send Tang Si back here, and he thoroughly offended Nightqueen Qiuyu at that time. Now that he's shown up again, it seems that Shenwu Continent has something that he needs," Xun Meiren guessed.

"It's Ming Yan," Nightking Changfeng stated.

Xun Meiren was stunned. "The little princess? Are they in love?"

Nightking Changfeng's expression turned ugly.

Xun Meiren chortled. "I never would have guessed. I mean, I really never would have imagined it. That little princess is charming enough to attract you and even Lu Yin, but it's hard to blame you two. She's so beautiful and pure. Even as a woman, I'm moved when I look at her."

Nightking Changfeng looked at her. "Help me get rid of Lu Yin."

"Why? Just because of Ming Yan?" She asked with interest.

Nightking Changfeng snorted. "He's a great enemy of my Daynight clan. Nightqueen Yanqing has said many times that he has to be eliminated. He's someone that even Arbiter Zhenwu wants eradicated."

Upon the mention of Arbiter Zhenwu, not even Xun Meiren dared remain impudent. "Actually, my Xun family also has a grudge with him, and our Young Master wants to get rid of him as well. But he's started to mature, and now that we're cut off from the Innerverse, not even Senior Qiuyu dares to touch him. There's nothing much that you or I can do."

Nightking Changfeng clenched his fists. As someone ranked twenty first in the Top 100 Rankings, he was able to look down upon the vast majority of the younger generation, which included Lu Yin. This person had used external objects to save his life against Enlighters, which was a trick that Nightking Changfeng felt was despicable. And so, he hadn't bothered with the younger man. Now that Lu Yin had become an Explorer, his strength had undergone a qualitative change, and he could actually suppress Nightking Changfeng, not to mention the forcefield from earlier.

The more Nightking Changfeng thought about all these things, the less he could wait to slaughter Lu Yin. Of course, there was still his relationship with Ming Yan. If he, Nightking Changfeng, favored a girl, then no one else could touch her.

Lu Yin did not look for a place to rest after leaving the Reverent King's Residence. After the contest with Ming Zhaoshu through their forcefields, Lu Yin had coincidentally found someone who he was familiar with, and the person seemed to be in dire straits. To be more precise, this familiar person was someone who was extremely miserable.

Three streets away from the Reverent King's Residence was the busiest downtown district in all of Shanghai City. It was already midnight when Lu Yin left the estate, and Shanghai City currently had a curfew in place. Despite the curfew, there was a figure sprawled on the ground and shivering in the rain.

This person was a beggar who was covered with a straw mat and huddled up against a wall while trembling from the cold.

Lu Yin looked at the beggar, surprised. He approached the wretched looking person step by step until he finally stood in front of the beggar.

The beggar moved his straw mat aside and looked up fearfully. Lightning streaked across the sky and illuminated Lu Yin's face. When the beggar saw his face, his pupils shrank, and he started to tremble even more violently.

"Arikar?" Lu Yin was stunned.

The beggar was terrified. "M-my lord, I'm just a beggar. Please let me go."

Lu Yin crouched down and peeled the straw mat away. "The energy channels in your body have all been shattered, and your star energy has dissipated. Going from being a Limiteer to being a commoner must be incredibly difficult. How did you end up like this?"

The beggar was Arikar, who had once been a top-notch disciple of the Blaze Realm. He had even participated in the most recent Astral Combat Tournament and challenged a Realm Master. He had been completely overbearing back then. He had entered Shenwu Continent together with Lu Yin during the Outerverse trial, and they had even landed in the same region. The tragic part was that Lu Yin had landed in Ming Yan's bath, which had caused a commotion. Lu Yin had managed to escape, but Arikar had been captured.

"Ming Zhaoshu is working with outside organizations and all captured trial takers should have been released," Lu Yin said.

Arikar looked at the ground and didn't dare to give an answer.

"I don't like to repeat myself," Lu Yin's tone was cold.

Arikar's face went completely pale. "I- I offended the Reverent King, and now, I don't dare to show myself."

“How did you offend him? He should have been aware of your identity, and the Blaze Realm is quite powerful. One of their best disciples wasn’t able to save himself?” Lu Yin asked, as he was truly curious about Arikar’s circumstances. Ming Zhaoshu had concealed himself too deeply. No matter if Arikar had offended the man, or even if he had tried to assassinate the king, Ming Zhaoshu would not have done anything about it given the present circumstances. Why would he have put Arikar in such a miserable state? This was especially baffling given that there were so many cultivators from the outside universe in the city. Arikar had not sought out a single person and had instead hidden here as a beggar. Something just wasn’t adding up.

Arikar’s eyes flashed, and he looked at Lu Yin. After a moment, he gritted his teeth. “I discovered a secret.”

“Tell me,” Lu Yin said.

“Ming Zhaoshu rebelled against the Shenwu Empire and released all the outsiders. I was the same, and under orders from the Blaze Realm, I stayed beside Ming Zhaoshu to facilitate the cooperation,” Arikar explained. “One time, Ming Zhaoshu sent us to carry out a mission in a valley where large numbers of the Shenwu Empire’s soldiers had gathered. We didn’t pay much attention to the details and headed there. Then-” Arikar’s gaze turned frightened. “We saw a Corpse King.”

Lu Yin’s eyes went wide. “The Neohuman Alliance?”

Arikar nodded. “Yes, the Neohuman Alliance. The Shenwu Empire is cooperating with the Neohuman Alliance. Out of all the cultivators that went into that valley, only a few survived and managed to successfully escape. Who could have known that after we reported this matter to Ming Zhaoshu, Tang Si suddenly came chasing after us. Ming Zhaoshu does not wish to expose the Shenwu Empire’s cooperation with the Neohuman Alliance.”

“Aside from me, everyone else is now dead. Although I was lucky enough to escape, my cultivation was crippled.”

“So you hid in the city, right under their noses?” Lu Yin asked.

Arikar nodded.

“You’ve been waiting for people from the Blaze Realm?” Lu Yin asked.

Arikar nodded again. “Yes.”

Chapter 607: Scouting

Lu Yin stood up and looked towards the Reverent King’s Residence. “Does Ming Zhaoshu have any way to contact the Neohuman Alliance?”

“Probably not, or else he wouldn’t have sent us to that valley,” Arikar replied.

Lu Yin released a pent up breath. Even if there hadn’t been any contact between the two forces, if he had helped the Shenwu Empire to conceal the truth, then he would be violating an iron law of the Human Domain. Whether it was the Human Domain, Astral Beast Domain, or even the Technocracy, the Neohuman Alliance was an organization whose members all had to be killed on sight.

It was likely that Ming Zhaoshu was worried that the appearance of individuals from the Neohuman Alliance would instigate Shenwu Continent into being eliminated by the outside universe instead of being refined.

The five sealing planets could indeed stop one or two Enlighters from gaining access to the continent, but if the Neohuman Alliance was revealed to have a presence here, then it would not draw just the attention of Enlighters, but also of the stronger powerhouses. Ming Zhaoshu was worried that Shenwu Continent would be destroyed. Thus, he had helped the Shenwu Empire to conceal the truth.

However, this also indicated that the Reverent King didn't understand the Neohuman Alliance. Lu Yin, on the other hand, had the terror of the organization deeply engraved into his memory. The strength that he had witnessed from the transformed Corpse King had made even him afraid, and Corpse Kings were able to swallow energy crystals and obtain innate gifts through that method. He was gathering enough strength to easily unify Shenwu Continent, but Ming Zhaoshu was also playing with fire.

"Take me to the valley," Lu Yin ordered.

Arikar looked up in shock. "To that valley?"

"Let's go."

Lu Yin picked up the crippled man, who quickly told Lu Yin more information. "There's no use in heading back there. We've already been there once, so the Neohuman Alliance won't just wait around in the same place."

"Even you know to hide right under someone's nose, so the Neohuman Alliance may not necessarily have moved away," Lu Yin said. He then brought Arikar out of Shanghai City.

The Shenwu Empire was apparently cooperating with the Neohuman Alliance, and the region where most of the cooperation must be somewhere on the central Ming Island, possibly even close to Mingdu. Qiong Island lay beside Ming Island, so it was not very far away.

That valley was coincidentally where Ming Island and Qiong Island bordered each other. It was nestled within a large mountain that connected the two islands.

When Lu Yin and Arikar arrived in the valley, they saw nothing but a desolate area. "Look, they're already left."

Lu Yin's eyes filled with star energy, and his lips curled upwards. Gone? Wrong, they're still here. He could see that there were many rune lines beneath the ground, and more than a few at that. However, the largest group of these rune lines only belonged to someone with the strength of a Martial Sovereign.

For Shenwu Continent, a Martial Sovereign, which was equivalent to a Cruiser, was one of their top-tier powerhouses. However, that was not the case for the outside universe, and Lu Yin would not risk underestimating a Neohuman Alliance Cruiser. He still remembered the transformed Corpse King that he had once encountered. That creature had been able to battle across realms with ease.

Lu Yin found a place to hide Arikar. Then, he reduced his aura as much as possible before moving underground.

He found a facility that was similar to the Neohuman Alliance base that he had seen before, and the place was filled with labs in all directions, and there was even an imprisoned Corpse King here.

Nobody knew where the Neohuman Alliance obtained all their Corpse Kings from, but it was possible that there were countless zombies being burned in some hidden corner of Shenwu Continent at that very moment.

Ming Zhaotian had been cooperating with the Neohuman Alliance, which was simply courting death. The outcome of his choice would be even worse than if Shenwu Continent was conquered by the Outerverse.

Unfortunately, nobody on Shenwu Continent knew how terrifying the Neohuman Alliance truly was.

After wandering about the underground base, Lu Yin discovered that there were a dozen imprisoned Corpse Kings, and one was a Cruiser, but there was not much else here. It was a very ordinary base.

Lu Yin captured one of the Corpse Kings and left the underground base without startling anyone. He then brought Arikar towards Ming Island, as he wanted to see what it was like during the current circumstances, as well as observe how many hidden experts from the Neohuman Alliance might be there.

Qiong Island had rebelled against the Shenwu Empire, and it was in a state of constant war with Ming Island, so no one was allowed to cross the Ming River.

Lu Yin took a detour and brought Arikar and the Corpse King that had been knocked unconscious with him. He easily bypassed the blockade of soldiers from the Reverent King's Residence, and the trio entered Ming Island.

Every city on Ming Island had heavenly globes, so it wouldn't be as easy for Lu Yin to enter the cities here. However, he did not actually need to enter the cities, as just a look would be enough for his intentions.

The situation was much better than what he had imagined. Over the course of two days, he observed five cities, but he did not see even one Neohuman Alliance expert. They had either all gathered at the capital, or they had not had enough time to develop.

Lu Yin suddenly considered the possibility that the valley was the Neohuman Alliance's attempt to feel out Ming Zhaoshu. If the Reverent King allowed them to stay, then they would become unrestrained, as there were no outsiders present on Shenwu Continent who were stronger than Ming Zhaotian and Ming Zhaoshu. As long as those two did not make any fuss, it would be very difficult for people from the Neohuman Alliance to be discovered.

Boom!

A loud noise scared Arikar and almost caused him to spit out the food in his mouth.

An intense battle had erupted along a small path that led into a forest, and a group of people had surrounded a single person with the clear intention to capture him.

"Your Demon Hunters Society still hasn't grasped the present situation. The Reverent King has rebelled. If you guys continue to surround and capture us, then we'll join forces with the Reverent King and rebel

against the Shenwu Empire!" An elderly man shouted. He had two hammers in his hands that he waved about, and he appeared to be rather formidable.

"How bold! You actually dare to spout off nonsense about joining the rebels. Surviving sect members like you should have all been taken care of long ago." The Demon Hunters Society members surrounding the man grew infuriated.

"You're asking to die!" the elder bellowed as he struck out with his hammers. A shockwave swept out in all directions, crushing the forest and even causing space to quiver for an instance. He was a Martial Emperor expert.

The surrounding Demon Hunters could not match up to the elder, and they were all forced back.

"Allow me." A youth charged forward from the rest of the group, and he swung his folding fan towards the elder's neck with the intention of cutting the man's head off.

The elder sneered, "Ignorant youth!"

One of his hammers crashed towards the youth, quickly followed by the second hammer. There were two loud thumps; the youth managed to block one hammer, but he was struck by the second. He spat out a mouthful of blood and crashed over near Lu Yin's group.

Arikar had become extremely timid, and this event scared him so much that he backed up without showing any sign of stopping.

Lu Yin looked at the youth who had fallen and had spat up some blood. He was Bei Qing, which was interesting. Lu Yin remembered that this young man was the son of an influential minister, and he was even ranked on the List of Tempering. However, it appeared that he had since joined the Demon Hunters Society.

Bei Qing had been smashed by the hammer, causing his blood to churn wildly, and he kept on coughing. When he noticed Lu Yin and the others, he quickly waved a hand to drive them away. "Hurry up and leave! Don't get involved,"

After warning them, he dashed back into the fray.

Who knew what had happened to him, but he was completely different from the person who Lu Yin had met in the past.

The elder seemed to be invincible, and this group of Demon Hunters was not able to defeat him.

"Activate the Blacksand!" one person barked. After that, a layer of black sand twisted around all of the Demon Hunters' weapons. After that, they attacked the elder again.

The old man was aghast, and he wanted to flee by leaping up, but a golden flower appeared in the sky.

When the elder saw it, all color drained out of his face. "Hua Ying?"

Lu Yin's heart twitched and he looked up as well. Hua Ying? He recalled seeing this name before. She was ranked ninth on the List of Tempering and was also one of the twin beauties of the empire. She was a young woman who was as famous as Ming Yan as well as a commander of the Demon Hunters Society.

“Elder Hammer, we could have spared your life, but you just had to spout such nonsense. Just die.” A girl who wore lightweight, white armor with long hair that draped over her shoulders appeared in the sky.

Lu Yin’s breath was taken away when he saw the girl. It was no wonder why she was as famous as Ming Yan. This girl had a valiant demeanor and a ravishing appearance as well. However, her mien seemed similar to Wendy Yushan’s, though there was an even denser aura of death about her. This aura was something that was unrelated to one’s cultivation; instead, it came from having killed too many people.

What Lu Yin cared about even more than that aura was her resolute gaze as she courageously advanced.

“Hua Ying, do you really think that just breaking through to the Martial Emperor realm makes you my opponent?” the elder shouted as he smashed two hammers at her.

Hua Ying’s expression did not change, and the golden flower blossomed in the sky above them as a phantom image gradually appeared—a Sago Palm Flower. The elder’s hammer pounded against the golden flower, and a tremendous bang was heard.

The ground split open, and both Hua Ying and the elder retreated several steps back.

The Demon Hunters surrounding the two did not move to intervene and only positioned themselves to prevent the elder from running.

The elder panted heavily and glared at Hua Ying with an unresigned expression. “Today’s battle will end here. I will head out first.”

He smashed the two hammers together to release a massive, hurricane-like shockwave that swept out in all directions. But then, his face suddenly changed, and he collapsed into a half-kneeling position on the ground, his face pale.

Hua Ying looked at the elder with cold eyes. “You’re pretty good. You haven’t fallen even after being struck by my poison pollen.”

The elder snarled, “Despicable!”

The surrounding Demon Hunters stepped forward at this time to take the old man down.

Bei Qing’s folding fan streaked forward and severed the energy channels in the elder’s limbs, causing the old man to howl ferociously before passing out.

“Commander, Elder Hammer will be put to death,” Bei Qing spoke respectfully to Hua Ying.

Hua Ying acknowledged his words, and then her focus shot past Bei Qing towards Lu Yin.

Lu Yin looked very strange. He was accompanied by Arikar, who looked like a beggar, and he was also carrying a Corpse King on his back. Although the creature was disguised as a parcel, such a large object was very eye-catching.

The Demon Hunters followed Hua Ying’s gaze and also looked towards Lu Yin and Arikar.

Arikar felt nervous but not too afraid. He was aware of Lu Yin's strength, and the youth was a freak. The Demon Hunters Society would run out of luck if they provoked him at this time.

Hua Ying stepped in front of Lu Yin and placed a golden flower on her hand. She stared at Lu Yin with cold eyes. "Who are you? What are you doing here? Where are you headed?"

Lu Yin rubbed his nose. "That's none of your business. I'm not a surviving member of any sect."

"How dare you!" one Demon Hunter bellowed.

Hua Ying kept staring at Lu Yin. "You were too calm in the previous battle, and that isn't how a commoner would react. Also, the aftershocks from the battle ended where you stand. You are not just some normal person."

Lu Yin had used his domain to conceal his cultivation, so he appeared to just be an ordinary person, but how could a regular human withstand the aftershocks of a cultivators' battle?

As a commander of the Demon Hunters Society, Hua Ying worked all year long to capture the surviving sect members, and she was routinely on the frontlines of battle, so she instantly picked up on such details.

"As long as I'm not a surviving sect member, you Demon Hunters Society can't touch me," Lu Yin said quietly.

Hua Ying's eyes narrowed. "I suspect that you're an outsider. Capture him!"

Bei Qing was the first to act. He had previously warned the two men to leave, so he tried to take advantage of his kindness to catch Lu Yin off guard.

Lu Yin sighed, as it seemed that he would end up in trouble purely because of what he had just witnessed. He raised his hand and gently flicked out, causing a trace of wind to shoot through the folding fan and strike Bei Qing, sending him tumbling. Lu Yin waved his hand, causing the void in the area to warp. This terrifying strength caused Hua Ying's expression to drastically change. "Stay away from him!"

But it was already too late. As soon as Lu Yin acted, not a single one of the Demon Hunters was able to avoid his attack, and they were all sent flying out.

Even though Lu Yin was an Explorer like the elder, they were not on the same level, and the difference between the two of them was too vast.

Hua Ying had felt that it was possible that Lu Yin was very powerful since not even she could determine his strength, but she never would have guessed that he was this strong.

"Sago Palm Flower!" A golden flower blossomed and enveloped Lu Yin.

Lu Yin looked at the flower and saw that there were rune lines pervading his surroundings. Was this the poisonous pollen? This was what had rendered that elder unable to retaliate. It seemed to be this girl's innate gift, but it was completely ineffective against Lu Yin.

He waved a hand once again, and a gale scattered all of the poisonous pollen, as well as the sago palm flower.

Hua Ying took several steps back, truly astonished this time. Facing Lu Yin made her feel as if she was facing Ming Zhaotian himself.

“Who the hell are you?” Hua Ying asked sternly.

Chapter 608: Probing

Bei Qing’s injuries were not that severe, as Lu Yin had not been overly ruthless. Still, the man had been beaten down, and at this moment, he only managed to look up at Lu Yin with great difficulty.

During his time as Lu Seven, Lu Yin had changed his looks, so it was normal that they couldn’t recognize him.

Lu Yin stood up. “Don’t ask anything else. You’ll just invite disaster by doing so.”

Hua Ying clenched her fists, and a thread of blacksand suddenly appeared and gradually enveloped her.

Lu Yin frowned, as he felt something strange from this blacksand. Now that he looked at it a bit closer, it seemed even more odd.

Suddenly, the Corpse King that Lu Yin had been carrying along quietly growled.

Hua Ying looked at Lu Yin’s package, and her sharp eyes glared at Lu Yin. “You’re a kidnapper!”

Lu Yin did not answer her. Instead, he simply studied the blacksand with interest. “Where did you get this toy?”

Hua Ying leaped towards Lu Yin and pressed down on him. Although she was not an expert at close-ranged combat, she was very confident in the blacksand’s defensive abilities since not even a Martial Sovereign could breach her defensive layer.

Lu Yin reached out to grab Hua Ying’s hand, and as he did so, he felt the firm and cold nature of the blacksand. His brows furrowed; what sort of thing was this?

Hua Ying’s other hand slapped at Lu Yin’s abdomen, but it was also easily caught by Lu Yin. He carefully felt the blacksand, and while the sand itself seemed to be normal, there was a gloomy strength stuck to its surface. This strength reminded Lu Yin of a Corpse King, and he suddenly turned around to look at the Corpse King that he had brought with him with flashing eyes. He then snapped back to look at Hua Ying. “Where did this layer of blacksand come from?”

Hua Ying surprised Lu Yin by kicking at his lower body, and his face changed. Even after cultivating and fighting for six years, this was still his first time encountering such a situation. This woman was too ruthless, and he lifted a knee to slam it straight into Hua Ying’s stomach, causing her to bend over and retch.

Lu Yin released her. “Tell me! Where is this blacksand from?”

Hua Ying gritted her teeth, and a dagger suddenly appeared in her hands as she stabbed at Lu Yin. The poisonous pollen reappeared around the two of them as well, causing Lu Yin to frown. He grabbed her

wrist and twisted it around until it audibly snapped. The dagger fell from her hands, and the layer of blacksand also peeled off and fell to the ground.

“Are you waiting for your poisonous pollen to take effect? It’s useless,” Lu Yin told her before tossing Hua Ying aside.

This woman was beautiful, but she was completely ruthless and had constantly been on the frontlines, hunting others. Lu Yin had no interest in her.

He looked over at Bei Qing. “Where did you get this blacksand?”

Bei Qing never imagined that Hua Ying wouldn’t even be able to retaliate, and he was astonished by Lu Yin’s strength. He answered in a deep voice, “It was given to us by Lord Blackgown so that we could fight against enemies who are stronger than us.”

“Lord Blackgown?”

“After the previous head of the Demon Hunters Society disappeared, they became the next leader.”

This wasn’t the first time Lu Yin had encountered the Neohuman Alliance, and he had developed a rather special sensitivity towards them. The layer of blacksand that he had just felt gave him that unique cold feeling, so it was possible that this Lord Blackgown was a Corpse King.

If even the Demon Hunters Society had been taken over by the Neohuman Alliance, then the Ming Constables were probably in the same situation. These two departments of the Shenwu Empire possessed a majority of the influence, and now, it seemed rather likely that the cooperation between the Neohuman Alliance and the Shenwu Empire ran deep.

Lu Yin knocked the Demon Hunters unconscious and then brought Arikar and the Corpse King away.

He arrived at Mingdu only to find that it was very different compared to two years ago, and a great number of places in the city had changed. The land showed traces of having been reinforced, and even the number of soldiers moving about were much higher than before.

Lu Yin stood outside of Mingdu and stared into the city, stunned.

On the surface, there was nothing abnormal about Mingdu, but as soon as Lu Yin looked at the rune lines within the city, he could see multiple Cruiser level powerhouses hidden underground. There was one even group of rune lines that nearly matched up to those of Kong Shi, who was a peak Hunter able to rival a freak like Aden and even take a few strikes from an Enlighter.

Shenwu Continent’s strongest powerhouse in the past had been Ming Zhaotian, but his rune lines had been much fewer than Kong Shi’s.

Since the individual was underground, Lu Yin’s guess was that they were a terrifying Cruiser from the Neohuman Alliance.

This assumed Cruiser’s rune lines could rival Kong Shi’s, which meant that they were no regular Realmbreaker.

The universe's powerhouses were as numerous as the stars, and the younger generation even had the Ten Arbiters. However, the dazzling powerhouses who were recognized by the universe never included people from the Three Dark Hands, precisely because every one of those three powers had unimaginable freaks who could not be fathomed by most people.

Lu Yin didn't dare get any closer to Mingdu out of fear that he would be discovered by that Cruiser realm expert.

Lu Yin would not be this person's opponent in a fair match given his current power level.

He spent two days circling around Mingdu once, and he found that the Neohuman Alliance had concentrated most of their members in this city, or more specifically, beneath the Tower of Resonating Light.

He was feeling a strong urge to discover just what was under the Tower of Resonating Light.

After thinking about it, he took Arikar and the Corpse King with him back to Qiong Island.

Ming Zhaoshu had waited for Lu Yin for five days, and during that time, he had discussed things with Tang Si. His conclusion was that Lu Yin was truly unafraid of Enlighters and that he even dared to act against them of his own volition. This was incomprehensible to Ming Zhaoshu, as he had a clear understanding of just how powerful an Enlighter could be, and even he himself could not retaliate against an Enlighter, though Lu Yin could. It was baffling.

The day before, he had talked to Ming Yan, but he had yet to come to any conclusions.

After two years of separation, especially since the two youths had developed their feelings for each other over the span of a few short days, it was actually very normal for those former feelings to have faded. If things were the same as in the past, then Ming Zhaoshu would not have paid them any mind, but he could not afford to ignore Lu Yin now. With the strength and naked ambition that Lu Yin currently held, the Reverent King felt that it was necessary to maintain a tight cooperation with this youth, and Ming Yan was exceptionally important to the relationship between the two men.

However, Ming Yan appeared to be more haggard than usual these last few days. She did not seem to be in a stable state of mind, and she had become prone to falling into long bouts of stupor. Aside from restricting Nightking Changfeng and the others from visiting Ming Yan, there was not much else that Ming Zhaoshu could do, and he was not even able to seek out his daughter for a chat.

On one day, he approached Ming Yan's room once again.

"Yan'er, Father wishes to speak with you," Ming Zhaoshu called out.

Inside the room, Ming Yan had buried her head into both of her arms. "Father, I'm tired and wish to rest."

Ming Zhaoshu felt helpless. "Could we talk for just a bit?"

Ming Yan acquiesced softly. Ming Zhaoshu stepped into the room and opened the windows to brighten up the room a tad.

Ming Yan had not stepped out from her quarters in a few days, and even her lips had become slightly pale.

Ming Zhaoshu looked at his daughter and felt his heart lurch. "Yan'er, Father does not wish to force you into anything. If you like Lu Yin, then Father will help you. If not, then Father will rebuff him for you."

Ming Yan's gaze dimmed. "I don't know."

"Before he arrived, I believed that I loved him, and I've waited for him until now. But the moment I met him, things felt rather foreign."

"We only met each other a few times before, and I admit that he was my everything back then. But now-

"Father, can you tell me what's happening? Do I like him, or not? I don't know! I truly don't know!" Ming Yan looked at Ming Zhaoshu, begging her father.

Ming Zhaoshu sighed. Nobody could clearly explain the matters of the heart, and many other people had been stuck in the same state as Ming Yan. During the dating phase, they would indeed hold true feelings towards the other person, but those feelings would dissipate as quickly as they had come once the relationship ended. Humans were just too complex with such things.

Ming Yan was clearly confused. If her father had not cooperated with the outsiders over the course of these two years, then the foreign culture would not have seeped into her life, and her feelings for Lu Yin would still be as pure as they had been two years ago. No, perhaps they might have become even deeper. However, with the influence of the outside cultures, her liberated thinking had given her too many new ideas.

She had come into frequent contact with people like Nightking Changfeng, and the clash of ideologies had become readily apparent.

Ming Zhaoshu had hoped that Ming Yan would accept Lu Yin, which would make his cooperation with Lu Yin impregnable. If Lu Yin could truly establish the East Alliance, then Ming Zhaoshu's position would not just be the master of Shenwu Continent, and his authority would instead advance a step further. However, Lu Yin's pride would not allow the youth to accept feelings born from pity. The Reverent King could tell that the youth was both proud and arrogant.

But forcing Ming Yan's feelings was of no use as well. Ming Zhaoshu was very clever, so he knew that his best bet was to allow these sorts of feelings to develop by themselves while he acted as a guide.

"Yan'er, Father will tell you this clearly. Your feelings for Lu Yin are real," Ming Zhaoshu said solemnly.

Ming Yan looked up and appeared to be at a loss. "Then why don't I want to go with him?"

"Two years has made the two of you feel like strangers to each other, and that's very normal. With the apprehension that you feel towards a foreign land, you will naturally shrink back. However, your feelings for him have never changed. Trust Father and face your heart honestly: you really do love him." Ming Zhaoshu patted Ming Yan's head. He could only guide her like so; fortunately, her feelings had not

completely dissipated. As long as Ming Yan was able to verify her feelings for herself, then they would not be fake.

“Rest well and minimize your interactions with those like Nightking Changfeng,” Ming Zhaoshu suggested as he turned to leave the room.

Ming Yan watched the door close and then buried her head again. Were her feelings true? Really?

When going from a confined culture to a more open-minded one, any individual would experience a great change in their world view, though the person themselves would not realize that such a change had occurred. Only their closest kin would be able to recognize that change.

The strand of unfamiliarity that had appeared when the two youths reunited might vanish once they reconnected, and they might bring an unchanging comfort to each other. It was also possible that they could become even more like strangers to one another.

In Shanhai City, in an unnoticeable corner, a shadow snarled out and ambushed some passing soldiers. A dozen of them finally managed to wrestle the shadow under control after great effort. “What is this thing?”

“Quick, report this to the lord,” a senior soldier barked.

Before long, Ming Zhaoshu arrived in person, and he felt a little panicked the instant that he saw the shadow. “Hurry up and burn it. This person has been infected, so don’t let him come into contact with anyone else.”

The surrounding soldiers hurriedly took the shadow away.

When Ming Zhaoshu was about to leave the place, his face changed again, and a bitter smile appeared. “Come out.”

In the corner, Lu Yin slowly stepped out, and he looked at Ming Zhaoshu solemnly. “So you did know.”

Ming Zhaoshu sighed. “Let’s discuss this back at the estate.”

The shadow was the Corpse King that Lu Yin had captured. He had used it to test Ming Zhaoshu and confirm Arikar’s accusations. Ming Zhaoshu had truly recognized the Corpse King for what it was, which meant that he was aware that Ming Zhaotian was working together with the Neohuman Alliance.

At the Reverent King’s Residence, the study had already been refurnished, and Ming Zhaoshu sat down in silence. After a long while, he spoke up. “Two year ago, that Wen Sansi from your universe’s Ten Arbiters severely injured Royal Brother Ming Zhaotian. I took that opportunity to enter the Tower of Resonating Light and obtain Ming Taizhong’s inheritance. With that, I broke through to the Martial Sovereign realm, but I also found a groundbreaking secret. My brother had also discovered my location, and he wanted to cripple my cultivation. Because of that, I rebelled.

“My brother’s injuries had not yet fully healed at that time, and I had already comprehended a forcefield, so we were equally matched. With the various arrangements that I had set in place over many years, including even the four Martial Sovereign on the high peaks guarding Mingdu, some of whom belonged to me. In the end, Shenwu Continent was divided into two.”

At this point, Ming Zhaoshu looked at Lu Yin. "You already know all of this."

Lu Yin stared back at him, waiting for him to continue his explanation.

Chapter 609: Gather

"My Royal Brother is proud and arrogant. With the five sealing planets repelling the invasion of the outer universe, it had made him sullen. Now, with this rebellion causing the Shenwu Empire to fragment into two, with his personality, it wouldn't be unexpected for him to collude with a group like the Neohuman Alliance. I know that you outsiders see the Neohuman Alliance as a public enemy, but I cannot disclose or expose that right now. Shenwu Continent is considered to be nothing more than a training ground. Exposing the presence of the Neohuman Alliance would make Shenwu Continent the public enemy of the entire universe. Even with the Inniverse and Outerverse currently being separated, I don't dare to reveal such information."

"Do you know how terrifying the Neohuman Alliance is?" Lu Yin asked.

Ming Zhaoshu had a complicated expression. "If Shenwu Continent is condemned, then everyone here will die. No matter how terrifying that group may be, what does it have to do with us?"

Lu Yin withdrew his gaze. Ming Zhaoshu was correct. From the Reverent King's perspective, he did not need to care about the influence that the Neohuman Alliance might have on the human race. Instead, he needed to tacitly cooperate with the Shenwu Empire in order to cover up this issue. This was also why the Neohuman Alliance had dared to establish one of their bases so close to Qiong Island, as it had been both a probe and a warning.

"Have you ever thought that, with Ming Zhaotian cooperating with the Neohuman Alliance and you the outsiders, that this matter would be revealed sooner or later?"

Ming Zhaoshu's gaze shivered. "Before that happens, I will eradicate the Neohuman Alliance and also resolve the matter with Ming Zhaotian."

Lu Yin laughed. "You're too confident! Not to mention you, even with my current strength, I don't have the slightest confidence in eliminating all of the Corpse Kings from your Shenwu Continent."

"What do you mean?" Ming Zhaoshu could not understand what Lu Yin was getting at.

Lu Yin described what he had seen in Mingdu. "There's one super strong Corpse King, and even if you and Ming Zhaotian join forces, you still won't be able to deal with it."

Ming Zhaoshu was astonished. "Impossible! We know all of the experts who have come to Shenwu Continent, and there's no such powerhouse. With the five sealing planets in place, such a powerhouse cannot enter."

Lu Yin shook his head. "That just shows that you don't understand the Neohuman Alliance. In the current universe, no matter what sort of ranking it is, it won't include anyone from the Neohuman Alliance, and it's precisely because their power level's can't be estimated."

Ming Zhaoshu fell silent.

“What sort of secret is hidden beneath the Tower of Resonating Light?” Lu Yin asked. During his most recent visit to Mingdu, the Corpse King whose rune lines rivalled Kong Shi’s had been situated directly underneath the Tower of Resonating Light.

Ming Zhaoshu answered slowly, “Actually, I haven’t figured out what exactly is hidden there. There are thirteen levels to the Tower of Resonating Light, and eight of those levels are hidden underground. Ming Taizhong was buried in the bottommost thirteenth level. In fact, when I went down there to obtain Ming Taizhong’s inheritance, I discovered that there’s actually still another space below that level, but I could not open it no matter what I did.”

Lu Yin was puzzled. “How large is that space?”

Ming Zhaoshu shook his head. “I’m not sure. That space is hidden too far down. Even if the entirety of Mingdu was overturned, that space still could not be reached. Also, Ming Taizhong was not the creator of the inheritance. He was just like me, and we both received the inheritance. This is just like how the five sealing planets were not created by Ming Taizhong, but rather merely activated by him.”

Lu Yin had already been aware of this detail. After all, Ming Taizhong had just been an Enlighter with a power level of just over 200,000. It was impossible for such a person to create the five sealing planets that were able to withstand attacks from powerhouses whose power levels had reached 300,000 unless he had also been a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker. If it was just activating the seal, then that was possible. But the issue still remained—before Ming Taizhong, there must have been a super expert who had lived on Shenwu Continent whose power level had exceeded 300,000 and had also been a lockbreaking expert. That person had to have been at least a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker, which was a frightening concept.

Since the Neohuman Alliance had hidden themselves beneath the Tower of Resonating Light, then they must want to enter that hidden space. If that was the case, then it was possible that the secret concerning the five sealing planets was hidden in that secret space.

“Why did Ming Zhaotian allow the Neohuman Alliance to hide beneath the Tower of Resonating Light? Isn’t he afraid that the five sealing planets might be breached?” Lu Yin could not help himself from asking.

Ming Zhaoshu shook his head. “Before you mentioned it, even I didn’t know that those monsters are hiding beneath the Tower of Resonating Light. If that’s the case, then my Royal Brother may have been blinded by certain benefits.”

Ming Zhaotian may have been deceived, but Lu Yin wasn’t. He had Ming Zhaoshu retrieve a map of Mingdu, and then he circled the areas where he had seen the rune lines. “The more time that passes, the stronger the Neohuman Alliance’s Corpse Kings will become. The locations that I’ve marked out is where the Corpse Kings are hidden underground. Immediately gather all of the Explorers—I mean Martial Emperor experts—and head into Mingdu to eliminate this calamity.”

Ming Zhaoshu was now placed in a difficult position. “We are at war, and all of the experts who are my subordinates have been noted by the empire, so they cannot simply walk into Mingdu.”

“Then have the trial takers take action,” Lu Yin said. “Besides, we can only use them to clean up the Corpse Kings at best. There’s no hope of them taking care of the entire Neohuman Alliance. Of course, you’ll also have to take action and hold back Ming Zhaotian for me.”

“Alright, I’ll think of a way to notify those at the space station and have them coordinate with our timing to attack the five sealing planets and keep the empire’s experts busy,” Ming Zhaoshu said.

“Does Ming Zhaotian not know about the secret of the five sealing planets?” Lu Yin was puzzled.

Ming Zhaoshu replied, “So what if he does? He doesn’t dare take any risks. If no one is overseeing the five sealing planets and they collapse, then he will be condemned for eternity.”

Lu Yin understood. Someone who stood in a different position would feel a different pressure. If Ming Zhaoshu was sitting in Ming Zhaotian’s position, then he would not dare to take such a gamble either.

It didn’t take too long to gather all of the trial takers who were at the Explorer realm or above since these people were mostly located on Qiong Island to begin with. There were more than thirty of them, five of which were Cruisers. Their participation caused Ming Zhaoshu’s strength to increase yet again, and they now had the power to stand up to the Shenwu Empire.

Nightking Changfeng was also participating, and he was vaguely recognized as the leader of the outsiders. This wasn’t only because of his status as a member of the Nightking clan, but also because he was a Cruiser who was ranked twenty first on the Top Hundred Rankings, which meant that he could crush everyone else gathered.

He was no weaker than Ming Zhaoshu and possibly even stronger. Ming Zhaoshu had comprehended a forcefield and was an absolute expert, but Nightking Changfeng had the benefit of the Nightking Clan’s battle techniques as well as his personal talent. Combined, he had reached the high ranking of twenty first in the Top Hundred Rankings, which showed that he possessed a terrifying strength.

“Brother Changfeng, why has the Reverent King gathered us?” A group of people were gathered beside a mountain stream that flowed behind the Reverent King’s Residence. There was a waterfall behind them, and the scenery was pleasant. Xun Meiren was the one asking, and her every action was completely enticing, attracting the attention of many eyes.

Nightking Changfeng was standing beside the stream. “We’ll know when once the Reverent King arrives.”

Xun Meiren walked over next to him and quietly asked, “You haven’t met the little princess during these past few days, have you?”

Nightking Changfeng’s face sank, as this was indeed what displeased him the most. Since he had first arrived at Shenwu Continent, he had always seen Ming Yan frequently, and her extremely beautiful face had intoxicated him. He had not once faced a situation where he had not met her for several consecutive days. Ever since Lu Yin had arrived, Nightking Changfeng had become unable to see the girl, and he became especially upset when he thought about how Ming Yan might be nestled in that bastard’s embrace. Just the thought was enough to trigger Nightking Changfeng’s impulse to destroy everything.

“Hehe, Brother Changfeng, I urge you to endure a bit longer. We already discussed this last time, but it’s impossible for us to get rid of him,” Xun Meiren said softly.

Nightking Changfeng took a deep breath. “Nothing is impossible. It’s just that the opportunity hasn’t appeared yet.”

Xun Meiren was stunned. Quite a few Daynight clan members had arrived over the last few days, so could they have brought something fantastic for Nightking Changfeng along with them? She did not doubt the hidden strength of the Daynight clan nor their resolution to kill Lu Yin.

A bit away from the two people, a youth sat quietly atop a tree. His name was Namu, and he was a disciple from the Myriad Swords Peak and had previously been an Area Master of Astral-5 who had participated in the most recent Astral Combat Tournament. During that tournament, he had been defeated by Grandini Mavis in the fourth round, but he had since broken through and become an Explorer, successfully graduating from the academy. He had come to the Outerverse for training, as nobody had thought that the Innaverse and Outerverse would suddenly be cut off from each other. He had been left stranded in the Outerverse and eventually arrived at Shenwu Continent.

There were many people just like him in this place, and out of the thirty-odd people gathered here, quite a few of them had graduated from the Astral Combat Academy.

“Why hasn’t the Reverent King arrived yet? Isn’t he being too arrogant?” Someone was getting upset.

These people all looked down on Shenwu Continent, and they saw Ming Zhaoshu as some sort of backwater native. If not for Nightking Changfeng keeping these people under control, then they likely would not have behaved so obediently.

“The Reverent King will not be coming. I’m the one that gathered all of you.” A voice rang out as Lu Yin emerged from the forest and walked over in front of everyone.

Nightking Changfeng’s eyes flashed as he stared at Lu Yin.

Xun Meiren was also surprised, as she had recognized that this person was Lu Yin. They had just been speaking about him, and now, here he was.

From some distance away, Namu also saw Lu Yin and was astounded. Lu Yin was not a stranger to him. Although Lu Yin had not spent much time in the Astral Combat Academy, what he had accomplished there was sensational. First, he had become one of the Astral Combat Tournament’s top four. Then, he had become the champion of the Tournament of the Strongest. He had suppressed the Daynight clan, become a member of the Council of Astral Academy, and achieved even more. These various events had caused Lu Yin to become a legend in the hearts of the academy’s students, especially after the event where he had suppressed all of the Daynight clan students in the academy. The moment where he had confronted all of the Daynight clan experts in the Astral Combat Academy had become an unforgettable scene.

Namu had never imagined that he would meet Lu Yin here. This person was not merely just a fellow student from the Astral Combat Academy. According to the rumors, Namu’s senior Myriad Swords Peak disciple, Wendy Yushan, was Lu Yin’s fiancée.

“Which noob are you? You actually dare to summon us here?” A man with a big beard blocked Lu Yin. He was three meters tall, and he looked down on Lu Yin with his impressive height.

Xun Meiren’s lips curled upwards. “Bigbeard” was very strong. In fact, he was second only to Nightking Changfeng, and he also had a short temper, so it was coincidentally appropriate for him to sound out Lu Yin.

Nightking Changfeng had only mentioned to Xun Meiren that Lu Yin had arrived at the Reverent King’s Residence and not elaborated further. Xun Meiren had guessed that Nightking Changfeng had perhaps lost in some sort of confrontation, and now, she would be able to see the truth of the matter for herself.

Lu Yin stepped forward and bumped his shoulder against Bigbeard’s shoulder. All the crowd heard was a soft thump, but after that, Bigbeard’s entire body was flung away, and he landed in the stream.

The gathered trial takers were astonished. Bigbeard was one of the few Cruisers among those who had gathered, and he was famous for his strength. Everyone present was aware that his power was second only to Nightking Changfeng, but he had just been sent flying by a casual shoulder bump.

Xun Meiren was stunned. Lu Yin was as powerful as expected. Even Nightking Changfeng could not send Bigbeard flying that easily.

Nightking Changfeng’s brows furrowed, and he took several steps forward. “I forgot to tell everyone here, but this is Lu Yin, an expert who came to support the Reverent King. I trust that everyone has heard of him.”

“Lu Yin?” The crowd was surprised.

“He’s Lu Yin, the unequaled Limiteer?”

“I heard that he defeated Ling Que and Mu Rong.”

“That’s old news. It’s rumored that he’s even killed Enlighters, and not just one at that.”

“He broke through to the Explorer realm?”

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From within the stream, Bigbeard furiously bellowed and charged upwards with a fist aimed towards Lu Yin. “Kid, you’re asking for it!”

Lu Yin did not move. Instead, a light flickered through Nightking Changfeng’s eyes, and he raised a hand to divert Bigbeard’s punch, which caused the entire valley to quiver. Bigbeard stared angrily at Nightking Changfeng. “Nightking, what do you mean by this? Are you protecting him?”

“Hehe, Brother Changfeng was saving you. This person is Lu Yin,” Xun Meiren said with a bright smile.

Chapter 610: Overwhelming Strength

Bigbeard snorted. “Lu Yin? Who’s Lu Yin? Who gives a damn! Scram! He’s just an Explorer.”

Lu Yin frowned. Then, his eyes went wide as his star energy pressed down and crushed everything in the area as he unleashed his forcefield. Everyone felt their hearts drop as an incomparable pressure gave them an unbearable sensation. Nightking Changfeng stared at Lu Yin. "Brother Lu, don't go overboard."

Beneath Lu Yin, dust began to float up, and his domain suddenly condensed and suppressed everyone, even Nightking Changfeng.

The Nightking clan member had clearly known that Bigbeard's attack would be ineffective against Lu Yin, and instead of offending Lu Yin, such an incident would instead allow him to establish his dominance. Despite this, Nightking Changfeng had stopped the attack, which had caused Bigbeard to develop a grudge against Lu Yin while also improving Nightking Changfeng's own prestige and standing, not to mention earn him a favor at the same time. It had been a rather deep scheme.

Because of this, Lu Yin had decided to just envelop all of them in the pressure of his domain; he didn't have time to waste and slowly convince them.

Aside from Nightking Changfeng, Bigbeard, and the other few Cruisers, the others in the area were all immobilized after being suppressed by Lu Yin's domain.

"Brother Lu, I said that that's enough!" Nightking Changfeng barked as his body started to sparkle like white jade. His seven lined battle force erupted, and he charged towards Lu Yin. He was arrogant by nature, and when Lu Yin had flung him away in front of Ming Yan, it had caused him to feel stifled from that moment onwards. When he was suppressed by Lu Yin once again, it caused his anger to finally explode.

Xun Meiren's eyes lit up as she watched the scene unfold.

Lu Yin had waited for an opportunity to confront Nightking Changfeng for a long time. Lu Yin was a man, and he had a problem that was common to all men; not only had this person approached Ming Yan, but he had also called her Yan'er, which Lu Yin could not tolerate. The battle with Ming Zhaoshu allowed him to vent his emotions, but the fight that would truly assuage his emotions was with this person in front of him.

All three grains of Fatesand shifted, and Lu Yin raised a hand to grab Nightking Changfeng's fist. There was a thump that caused all of the onlookers to feel like their brains had been jostled, and they backed away as fresh blood dripped down from the corner of their mouths. They had been hit by the aftershocks of the two young men's confrontation.

Nightking Changfeng had the innate gift of Glacial Jade Guard, and his innate gift was further supplemented by his seven lined battle force, which caused it to be much stronger than it had originally been. However, despite his strength, his fist was still tightly grasped by Lu Yin, and Nightking Changfeng found that he was unable to move.

"Too weak!" Lu Yin barked.

Nightking Changfeng's pupils shrank, and his body changed once again. He revealed the Nightking's Body, which was a technique that, of all the Nightking clan members in the same generation as Lu Yin, only Nightqueen Yanqing had displayed before. Nightking Changfeng was one cycle older than Yanqing,

and he was a part of the same generation as the Ten Arbiters, and hence, his Nightking's Body was even stronger than Nightqueen Yanqing's.

Nightking Changfeng had assumed that he could overturn Lu Yin's strength by using the Nightking's Body, but he was surprised to discover that there was no change whatsoever.

Lu Yin's eyes grew cold. "I already told you—you're too weak."

Seven lined battle force wrapped around his right fist, and Nightking Changfeng's face changed abruptly, and he suddenly looked as though he was suffering immensely. His seven lined battle force was being crushed, and his Nightking's Body also appeared to be crumbling.

Lu Yin had become incredibly strong after breaking through to the Explorer realm. In terms of pure physical strength, he had even surpassed a peak Hunter like Kong Shi, and when the Yu Secret Art, Fatesand, and that finger technique from his dreams were taken into consideration, then even if he was not an opponent for a peak Hunter like Kong Shi, it would still be difficult for him to be defeated. He could currently face experts like Nightking Gu, let alone Nightking Changfeng.

Nightking Changfeng looked miserable, as he had gone all-out by combining his seven lined battle force, the Nightking's Body, and his innate gift of Glacial Jade Guard, each one of which was enough to crush countless people within his same generation. However, even combining all of them together was not enough to overcome Lu Yin's strength.

There was a crack, and his Nightking's Body collapsed as fresh blood seeped out from Nightking Changfeng's body. The next to collapse was his Glacial Jade Guard.

A violent gale blasted out and caused the mountain range to tremble before continuing on to blow towards the Reverent King's Residence.

Ming Zhaoshu looked out towards the stream. "He's still a youth after all, letting his emotions affect his actions."

As Lu Yin's strength continued to increase, Nightking Changfeng's fist was eventually crushed within Lu Yin's palm, and his bones had even started to break through his skin.

The others were frozen stiff, and Bigbeard was even quaking in fear.

"Br- Brother Lu, did you come here this time to kill people?" Xun Meiren could not endure the situation any longer, and a trace of fresh blood flowed down from her lips as her forehead was covered in beads of sweat.

Lu Yin shoved Nightking Changfeng away with a single palm and retracted his domain. It had all appeared in an instant, but now, it all vanished just as quickly.

Everyone subconsciously started panting heavily, as they had been suppressed to the extent where they had become breathless.

Everyone stared at Lu Yin in fear. They were clearly not on the same level as this person, and the disparity between them was too drastic. Even Nightking Changfeng, an expert ranked twenty first on the Top Hundred Rankings, had just been casually crushed. This person could probably rival the top fifteen—no, possibly even the top ten on the list.

Nightking Changfeng grabbed his right fist and gritted his teeth, still refusing to accept his defeat. He stared fiercely at Lu Yin.

Xun Meiren hurriedly took out some especially potent medications to treat the injury, but while doing so, the shock remained visible in her eyes. Lu Yin's strength was greater than what she had imagined, and she wondered how this person had cultivated to reach this stage.

Lu Yin's gaze swept over all of the young cultivators who had gathered at this place, now feeling much happier. "I'm the one who had the Reverent King gather you all here for me. There's a matter that I have to ask you to complete with me."

No one dared to answer, and of course, no one interrupted him. Even Bigbeard looked very sincere, and he suddenly looked at Nightking Changfeng with a trace of gratitude. If not for Nightking Changfeng, then the unlucky one would have been Bigbeard. This person was obviously a freak since he had been able to injure Nightking Changfeng to such an extent without even moving.

"The Neohuman Alliance has shown up," Lu Yin continued.

"The Neohuman Alliance?" Many people cried out, and even Nightking Changfeng was taken aback. Xun Meiren even dropped the medicine as she turned to look at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin continued calmly, explaining, "The Neohuman Alliance is cooperating with Ming Zhaotian, and I've found their location. I need you guys to work together with me to completely eradicate them."

"Brother Lu, the Neohuman Alliance is no small matter. It's best to report this matter upwards and allow those above us make a decision," someone said.

Lu Yin looked over. "Report it upwards? To who?"

The person was about to respond, but he was stopped by a bystander. The initial speaker suddenly remembered that Lu Yin had even killed an Enlightener, which meant that even their so-called superiors were inferior to this person, rendering the youth speechless for a moment.

Lu Yin looked away and continued quietly, "The Neohuman Alliance is an archenemy of the entire human race. I don't care what you guys think about this. Be here tomorrow at dawn, and I'll lead you to Mingdu. At that same time, the space station will coordinate with us and initiate an attack on the five sealing planets while Ming Zhaotian keeps Ming Zhaoshu busy. This will give us the time to eliminate the Neohuman Alliance. This is the plan, so does anyone have any objections?"

"Brother Lu, the Neohuman Alliance is hiding in Mingdu?" Xun Meiren asked.

"That's right."

"If a battle breaks out there, then won't the commoners get caught up in it?" she questioned.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. "If we don't attack them, they'll use those commoners in their experiments. Which outcome would you prefer to see?"

Xun Meiren choked. Lu Yin was unrestrained in his words, and in the end, she was still a beautiful woman with rarely anyone daring to speak to her so openly.

“Any other opinions? If not, I expect to see every single one of you here at dawn tomorrow. Otherwise, I’ll dispose of you before moving out to settle matters with the Neohuman Alliance.” Lu Yin’s voice was frosty. He did not need to be concerned with the thoughts or opinions of these people. Since they were able to come here to the Shenwu Continent, it showed that they were from various organizations that had close ties with the Nightking clan. In other words, most of these people would be his enemies in the future.

Finally, Lu Yin’s gaze lingered on Nightking Changfeng’s body for a moment, and then he left.

From start to end, Lu Yin did not plan to learn anyone’s name, nor where these people were from. This was because, during the upcoming battle with the Neohuman Alliance, quite a few of these people would die. They were about to face one of the Three Dark Hands, and who knew what hidden cards might be concealed up their sleeves. If not for his universal armor, Lu Yin would not take the risk of acting personally.

As the others watched Lu Yin leave, one person unhappily grumbled, “This Lu Yin is too arrogant! He actually dares to order us around.”

One of the others smiled bitterly. “You can, too, if you’re as strong as he is. He doesn’t give two hoots about us.”

“Now, he only has eyes for Hunters. No, only Enlighters. Why would he care about us?”

...

Xun Meiren looked over at Nightking Changfeng. She saw an intense bloodlust etched deep in his eyes, and delight flickered across her face. Ever since the Inverse and Outerverse had been separated, she had been given orders from her clan to eliminate Lu Yin if the opportunity ever arose. This order had not just come from the Young Master, but also from the Clan Chief.

Lu Yin was someone that the Xun family had to kill. She did not know the reason for this enmity, and she had only been able to meet up with Lu Yin at this moment. However, she could make use of Nightking Changfeng.

The gathered cultivators left one after another until only Nightking Changfeng and Xun Meiren remained.

“Help me kill him,” Nightking Changfeng said coldly.

Xun Meiren forced a smile onto her face. “Brother Changfeng, even you aren’t his opponent, so how could I help?”

His eyes stayed icy. “During this time, my Daynight Clan was able to gather some pyrolyte from the Astral Wilderness. We’ll coordinate during this battle in Mingdu, and at that time, we’ll think of a way to blow him up with the pyrolyte.”

Xun Meiren was astonished. “Pyrolyte’s way too destructive, and that might destroy the entirety of Mingdu! There are many people living there.”

Nightking Changfeng grabbed her chin. "That's none of my business. I don't care how many of these native die. I just want him dead, so listen carefully: if he doesn't die, I'll make you die."

Xun Meiren's expression changed. This person was crazy, and Lu Yin had managed to suppress him twice, which had completely enraged Nightking Changfeng. He no longer cared about the repercussions of his actions. However, this was great for Xun Meiren. This was exactly the kind of person that she needed at this moment.

"Alright, Brother Changfeng, I will help you." Xun Meiren acted as if she were scared of him.

Nightking Changfeng lowered his hand and left.

At the Reverent King's Residence, Lu Yin arrived outside of Ming Yan's room, but there, he hesitated. He didn't know what to do.

The door suddenly burst open, and Ming Yan walked out. When she saw Lu Yin, a hint of delight flashed across her eyes, but there was also a sense of bewilderment and helplessness. She dismissed her maids before accompanying Lu Yin on a walk in the back garden.

For twenty whole minutes, neither of the two spoke a single word. Lu Yin simply enjoyed the fragrance of the flowers, or possibly, Ming Yan's fragrance. Lu Yin looked at her. "Sorry."

Ming Yan was taken aback. "For what?"

Lu Yin said apologetically. "I left for two years, but I showed no concern for you, and I even said such words to you as soon as I returned. I'm sorry."

Ming Yan lowered her head. "It was my fault."

The two lapsed back into silence.

Lu Yin recalled the feelings that he had held for Ming Yan when she had given him a lock of her hair, as well as their deep kiss that had intoxicated him. But now, he could not even touch her face since she would hide, dodge, or decline his advances. Every time he thought of this, it caused his heart to wrench.

Feelings came quickly, but they also vanished quickly. Had they truly disappeared, just like that? Ming Yan felt a sense of unfamiliarity with Lu Yin, but she also still had feelings for him. Otherwise, she would not have become so flustered when he had apologized just a moment ago. He could tell that she was also afraid that he would leave.

Their feelings were not stable, and they had been defeated by time. However, those sincere emotions still remained in the depths of their hearts, and it was possible for them to blossom again in the future. At that time, they could start from scratch once again!

"Brother Lu, can you give me some time?" Ming Yan looked at Lu Yin expectantly. "Let me think things through."

Lu Yin smiled and rubbed his nose. "You are free to choose, and no one can force you."

"But I'm afraid that, during this time apart, Brother Lu has fallen in love with someone else," Ming Yan sadly explained.

