

Chapter 611: Starting Anew

“Seventh Bro, even though this girl looks weak, she’s actually dominating! She isn’t showing any signs of accepting you, and yet, she doesn't want you to like someone else. She is going overboard!” the monkey cried out.

Was Ming Yan really going overboard? Love was something that made people jealous, so anyone would have felt the same.

“I’m sorry, Brother Lu. Let’s just pretend that I didn't say anything. I will give this matter some serious consideration,” Ming Yan quickly continued. She was also able to sense that she had gone too far with her words.

Lu Yin did not continue to dwell on this topic. He was a complete beginner when it came to love without any experience whatsoever, and Ming Yan was the same. The two of them spoke straight from their hearts with neither pretenses nor white lies. This was part of the reason why they had fallen in love with each other so quickly, but it was also the reason why their relationship had run into issues so easily.

“Shenwu Continent will join the rest of the universe in the future, and we’ll have a lot of time to spend together once that happens. Maybe I can take you and your father to visit my hometown and show you both around. You could give me your answer then,” Lu Yin offered gently.

Ming Yan nodded. She had considered many things over the past few days. She hated that Lu Yin felt foreign to her and that she had rejected his advances, but she also could not be blamed as it had a subconscious reaction. She knew that she loved the man standing in front of her, but what was it that was stopping her from further developing this relationship? She did not have the answer to that at this time. She needed to think things through even if it meant that this man would end up with someone else while she did so.

Even though Lu Yin did not say much during the two hours that he spent with Ming Yan, he still enjoyed the feeling of just having her by his side. Her familiar fragrance gave him a sense of calm.

“You should head back now, and don’t put too much pressure on yourself,” Lu Yin said.

Ming Yan made a sound of acknowledgement and bowed her head. It was impossible to know what she was thinking about.

Lu Yin’s heart stirred, and he moved closer and slowly embraced her.

Ming Yan was shocked, but this time, she did not move away from him. She actually felt very safe in his arms.

The sky grew dark very quickly, and Ming Yan returned home soon after.

Lu Yin went to meet with Ming Zhaoshu.

“I have confirmed with the people on the space station that we will attack the five sealing planets in five days,” Ming Zhaoshu informed Lu Yin.

Lu Yin nodded his head. "We will set out tomorrow."

Ming Zhaoshu knitted his brows. "We can actually wait longer than that. Things will be too rushed if you head out tomorrow."

Lu Yin looked at Ming Zhaoshu. "If this were a normal battle, then we could afford to wait. However, our opponent this time is the Neohuman Alliance. Delaying even another second only increases the possibility of a Corpse King appearing. When that happens, countless people will be turned into monsters. There are no strategies to deal with them, and if that happens, all we can do is fight our hardest."

"Besides, do you really dare to delay things any longer? The people at the space station are already aware that the Neohuman Alliance is on the continent, and if we delay any longer, then it won't just be the Neohuman Alliance that gets eradicated. Instead, it'll be a concerted effort by the Outerverse's combined might to destroy the entire continent."

Ming Zhaoshu felt helpless. He was good at being patient for the right opportunity to strike. However, Lu Yin was obviously an impulsive person, or at least, that was how Ming Zhaoshu felt. The Reverent King felt that he was someone who could reduce casualties to the lowest level possible so long as he was given time. However, he was not the one in control right now. Besides, Lu Yin was not wrong either. He had not dared to expose the presence of the Neohuman Alliance out of fear that the people of the Outerverse would see the entire Shenwu Continent as an enemy.

"How are things with Yan'er?" Ming Zhaoshu asked.

However, before he could even finish speaking, Lu Yin interrupted him. "Things are fine between us, but let's focus on this battle first."

Ming Zhaoshu looked at Lu Yin's back with a twinkle in his eye.

The battle in five days would lead to a new dawn for the continent. .

After walking out of the Reverent King's Residence, Lu Yin was in a rather good mood. His time with Ming Yan had allowed him to realize something: she still had feelings for him deep down inside. It was merely that the time that they had spent apart had caused them to become unfamiliar with each other. This had caused her to grow reticent, and she needed some time to adjust.

As long as her feelings for Lu Yin had not changed, the situation could still be salvaged. Was this what long-distance relationships were like? Being separated for two years was certainly a long-distance relationship. Lu Yin felt happy that he was close to her at this moment. If he had been forced to wait much longer, her feelings would probably have ceased to exist.

The only thing that he could blame was that they had not spent enough time together in the past. He had developed the false belief that their love was so deep that it could withstand the test of time. Alas, none of that mattered now since Shenwu Continent was no longer forbidden ground to him; instead, it had become a place that he could visit at any time. Aside from the initial culture shock, there probably wasn't much that could surprise Ming Yan anymore. So long as they were both willing to start their relationship again, it was not too late.

She could treat it as though they were falling in love all over again.

The next day, Lu Yin met up with Nightking Changfeng and the others inside of the valley. The others had turned up in full numbers. Lu Yin's stellar performance during the battle the day before as well as his overwhelming presence had pressured them all into showing up. Even the usually unyielding Bigbeard did his best to avoid Lu Yin's gaze.

Lu Yin did not show them much courtesy, and he immediately took off to start their journey. He followed the same route that he had traveled with Arikar in the past as he headed for Mingdu.

Since the people behind him had stayed in Shenwu Continent for too long, their star energy had long since been replaced with martial power, so a heavenly globe wouldn't be able to sense any abnormalities from them. However, just to be safe, Lu Yin led them along the long route.

Nightking Changfeng did not reveal his murderous intentions, as he was waiting for a suitable opportunity to strike.

In the early morning of the fifth day, at the first light of dawn, Lu Yin assigned everyone a position and arranged them all in a manner to prevent the Corpse King from escaping.

Before long, the sky trembled, and it felt like an earthquake was shaking the entire continent. Figure after figure took to the sky as the five sealing planets were under attack.

After Shenwu Continent had been excommunicated by the Outerverse, the five sealing planets had not suffered any attacks in a long time. The Enlighters had all gone to the Ironblood Weave, and any attacks on the five sealing planets by Madam Meilan or the others were completely ineffective. In recent days, Shenwu Continent had been peaceful and serene, so nobody would have thought that an altercation would take place on such a day.

Ming Zhaotian had a bitter look on his face; this attack out of nowhere had flustered him. He was worried about the Enlighters who had gathered in the Outerverse. Out of desperation, he issued notices throughout the entire Shenwu Continent, ordering all who had cultivated to the stage of Martial Emperor or higher to report to the five sealing planets.

He himself headed into the sky himself while leaving control of the empire to Crown Prince Ming Hao.

"Move out now!" Lu Yin bellowed. He had already donned the universal armor, leaped into the sky, and dived straight towards the Tower of Resonating Light. Everyone else scrambled to get into the positions they had been assigned by Lu Yin, and Nightking Changfeng was no exception.

There were four peaks surrounding the capital, Mingdu, which had been protected by four Martial Sovereigns in the past. One of them had been lured away by Ming Zhaoshu to Qiong Island's Shanhai city and another perished in battle, meaning that there were only two guardians left.

When these two people saw Lu Yin and the others show up, they immediately sprang into action.

All of a sudden, skilled Martial Sovereigns appeared from all over inside Mingdu, and they held the two experts back. These people were subordinates of Ming Zhaoshu, as he was prepared to give it his all for this battle.

No one expected that the rebels would attack at the same time that the five sealing planets were attacked. This was betraying the entire continent!

Ming Hao was enraged and saddened at the same time. He was also worried that his secret hidden underground might be discovered.

“Your Majesty, someone is moving towards the Tower of Resonating Light!” A Martial Emperor expert cried out.

Ming Hao’s expression changed drastically. “Stop them!”

Lu Yin raised his hands, and a single attack from each hand killed two Martial Emperor experts. He didn’t hesitate and continued to dash madly towards the Tower of Resonating Light. He shot down just like a meteor, not bothering to look for the entrance, and instead simply tunneled straight into the ground.

In the past, the Tower of Resonating Light had trapped an entire group of trial takers, but now, all of the tower’s defenses were crumbling under his might.

In what felt like a mere moment, Lu Yin arrived at the lowest known level of the Tower of Resonating Light.

The moment Ming Zhaoshu had received Ming Taizhong’s inheritance, the threat of the Tower of Resonating Light had already been neutralized. The area had since become an experimental base for the Neohuman Alliance.

Lu Yin saw many laboratories, a Corpse King, and various types of energy crystals.

Even though he was in the darkness underground, he could still see no less than a hundred thousand zombies roaming about. They were all ordinary humans who had been captured by the Neohuman Alliance for experimental purposes.

This was the Neohuman Alliance, a public enemy of the entire universe. As far as they were concerned, every organism was nothing more than a lab rat.

Lu Yin released his domain, crushing the underground area. Whether it was the zombies or a Corpse King, everything moving instantly exploded. With a furious growl, a black figure suddenly charged towards Lu Yin, clearly enraged. Lu Yin made no attempt to evade the charge. Instead, he raised his palm and shouted as he released his own attack in response. “Thirty Stacks, One Hundredfold Shockwave Palm!”

With a resounding boom, the entire Tower of Resonating Light shattered, and sunshine appeared underground.

Lu Yin stood in place and did not move. The black figure slowly became visible; it was the powerful Cruiser Corpse King whose rune lines were comparable to Kong Shi’s.

It was clear that this Corpse King was confused, but regardless, its physical strength was off the charts. Lu Yin’s attack didn’t seem to faze it at all.

With another angry yell, a metallic lustre appeared and covered the surface of the Corpse King’s body. It slashed its claws towards Lu Yin, and Lu Yin raised his brows. Was this an innate gift?

Lu Yin struck out with another palm, and there was another thump as the impact caused another shockwave to ripple out, splitting all of Mingdu apart. Huge cracks started to spread out from the Tower of Resonating Light that traveled all the way to the imperial palace.

Shock was shining in Ming Hao's eyes. The aftershocks of the underground battle caused his heart to palpitate. He had had no idea that Ming Zhaoshu had subordinates who were this strong.

At this moment, battles erupted everywhere across the capital. Bigbeard was the first to encounter a Corpse King, which triggered an intense battle. Following that, the others also started facing off against zombies and Corpse Kings. As they fended off the Corpse Kings, they also had to deal with the cultivators of the Shenwu Empire.

Nightking Changfeng's location wasn't far away from the Demon Hunters Society, as that was the strategic location that Lu Yin had chosen for him. Beneath the ground in this area weren't only Corpse Kings from the Neohuman Alliance, but also Lord Blackgown and several other skilled individuals who belonged to the Neohuman Alliance.

Hua Ying, Bei Qing, and the others all attacked Nightking Changfeng. The Nightking responded with a cold snort and a wave of his arms, causing everyone to fall back. Hua Ying's beauty had mesmerised him so much that he did not deal a deadly blow to the attackers, as if he had not held back, then a single attack from him would have been enough to kill them all.

Hua Ying had been beaten unconscious by Lu Yin just a few days ago. She had woken up with her comrades atop a tree and was still filled with anger from the incident. Coincidentally, since the capital was currently being attacked, regardless of how powerful the attackers were, she intended to vent some of her anger on them. Nightking Changfeng narrowed his eyes. "You should know your place."

Just as he was about to attack again, the ground beneath him shattered, and a Corpse King rose up. It bellowed as it stretched out its claws towards Nightking Changfeng.

He was shocked to see a Corpse King here, but he immediately swayed to avoid it.

Astonished, Hua Ying stared at the monster that had suddenly appeared. She could not understand why such a monstrosity had been hiding underground.

At this moment, grains of black sand suddenly swept across the sky, casually travelling towards Nightking Changfeng. Lord Blackgown had arrived.

"My Lord, there are monsters underground!" Hua Ying yelled.

Lord Blackgown swept past Hua Ying and the others as his blacksand formed into chains. Then, he rushed towards Nightking Changfeng.

Nightking Changfeng's expression turned cold, and the surface of his body glistened like jade. Seven lined battle force burst forth as he struck out with his palm to attack. This attack repelled both the Corpse King and black-gowned lord, and the Corpse King ended up especially miserable as the attack had nearly caused its head to explode.

Lord Blackgown snarled angrily, and he ripped off his robes to reveal his face to Hua Ying and the others for the first time. They all saw that he was also a monster with scarlet red eyes and that he was covered with blacksand from head to toe.

“Another Corpse King!” Nightking Changfeng struck out with a palm once again. “Nightking palm!” This attack revealed intermingling black and white colors, and Lord Blackgown bellowed at the sky. The blacksand wrapped around his entire body, and he charged recklessly at Nightking Changfeng.

Boom!

The end result of the collision between the two shattered the surrounding streets, affecting countless people as the ground shattered. Hua Ying and the other Demon Hunters weren't able to withstand the ripples of the aftershocks and tumbled backwards.

Chapter 612: Corpse King: Second Transformation

In the end, not even Lord Blackgown was able to stop Nightking Changfeng's attacks, and the battle concluded after he was punched right in the chest. Nightking Changfeng then punched the Corpse King once more, destroying his brain.

Hua Ying and the others stared at the body of Lord Blackgown in shock. What was this monster?

Elsewhere, Xun Meiren was trying her best to stave off another Corpse King's attacks.

“Die, you traitor!” With a shout, the Ming Constables' Ming Zhaochen suddenly appeared and moved to attack her.

Startled, she quickly pulled back.

Ming Zhaochen looked at the Corpse King in shock. It was only after the creature charged into the gathered crowd and started slaughtering that he had acted.

Only Ming Zhaotian, Ming Hao, and a few others were aware of the existence of the Neohuman Alliance. The previous master of the Demon Hunters Society had happened to find out through a coincidence, but that person had been eliminated because of his discovery. This was Ming Zhaochen's first time seeing the Neohuman Alliance.

The entire capital trembled as the ground cracked. Numerous people fled from the capital in terror.

“Are you really going to let Shenwu Continent be destroyed, Ming Zhaoshu?” Ming Zhaotian had returned from the five planets, and he was now angrily shouting at the capital.

Ming Zhaoshu appeared at those words. “You should change the way you think, brother. The major powers of the universe are pushing for our continent to join the rest of the universe.”

“Do you want to die?” Ming Zhaoshu was furious. Soon enough, the sounds of them arguing could be heard resonating throughout the sky.

Ming Hao stood inside the palace, his expression grim. Since their secret had already been uncovered, there was no way for him to take control of the situation anymore, let alone keep them concealed.

While they might be able to stop Ming Zhaoshu in this battle, there was no way for them to explain the presence of the monsters.

Underground, Lu Yin and a Corpse King were caught up in their own battle. Lu Yin had already put on his universal armor, so he was not at all afraid of directly fighting against this creature. Corpse Kings were not a clear-headed opponent, and they only knew how to recklessly charge at their enemies. Lu Yin was calmly waiting for the moment when that thing tired itself out.

The defenses of a Corpse King were impressive. Lu Yin knew that, even if he used his full strength, none of his attacks would be able to deal any significant damage with the sole exception of the finger from his dreams.

All of a sudden, the roars of the Corpse King changed, and its red eyes turned grey. The rune lines of the creature increased until they reached the amount that Lu Yin had observed beforehand. This creature's power was now comparable to Kong Shi's.

"It's a transformed Corpse King! RUN!" the monkey shrieked.

Run? Lu Yin had already noticed that this Corpse King's rune lines were far fewer than what he had seen before. Thus, he had already guessed that it could transform. This was actually why he had come after this particular Corpse King.

Boom boom boom boom!

The next ten consecutive exchanges proved that this grey-eyed Corpse King was much more powerful than before. Although Lu Yin was protected by his universal armor and remained uninjured, these impacts were still shocking to him. If his armor weren't here, and if he was receiving these blows with just his body and Fatesand, then he wouldn't be able to withstand the onslaught. These attacks had reached the level of a peak Hunter's attacks.

Kong Shi was a peak Hunter who didn't rely entirely on her body's strength, but this Corpse King was the opposite. Lu Yin might be very confident in his physical prowess, but there was no way he could compete against a Corpse King that boasted the strength of a peak Hunter in terms of pure body strength.

With a boom, Lu Yin was forced to retreat multiple steps after taking a punch. The next instant, Lu Yin's forcefield appeared, and massive tree branches wrapped around the Corpse King. It forcefully tore them apart and charged at Lu Yin again, who grabbed the creature's arms and shot through the ground and towards the sky. They arrived high above Mingdu. At that moment, the capital itself was split asunder.

Nightking Changfeng looked up, and his pupils shrank. What the hell is that?

All of a sudden, he felt a chill crawl down his back as his body was struck by a tremendous force that threw him forwards and forced him to cough up some blood. A young man had appeared behind him.

Hua Ying and the others saw him and exclaimed in surprise, "Ruthless?"

Ruthless was the number one expert on the List of Tempering.

Nightking Changfeng turned around. Ruthless? He had heard of this person before and knew that Ruthless was ranked first on the List of Tempering. Originally, Nightking Changfeng hadn't actually cared

much about that list since there were only Limiteers on it. This meant that Ruthless also had to be a Limiteer, but if so, how had this person hurt him, Nightking Changfeng? Even when Lu Yin had been a Limiteer, he wouldn't have been able to hurt the Nightking.

Ruthless continued moving towards Nightking Changfeng. If Lu Yin were present, he would have quickly noticed that this was most definitely not Ruthless. This person was Wu Shang, one of the people who had entered Shenwu Continent with Lu Yin to participate in the Outerverse trials. Wu Shang had tried to join the Ming Constables, but he had been noticed by Ming Zhaocai and chased out. After that, he'd gone missing.

At that time, Lu Yin had a vague feeling that this person's abilities were very cold and that they gave off a sensation that was similar to the Neohuman Alliance. Now, his initial suspicions were confirmed. Wu Shang's eyes changed and turned... grey.

Corpse King Transformation. Even within the Neohuman Alliance, there were not many Corpse Kings that could use it. However, on just this tiny Shenwu Continent, two such Corpse Kings had appeared at the same time.

Wu Shang's abilities were completely unleashed at this moment, and it could be seen that he was no Limiteer but rather an Explorer. On top of that, he had broken through quite some time ago.

Nightking Changfeng could feel the power radiating from Wu Shang. Those grey eyes, in particular, made him feel a chill. "Grey eyes... Corpse Transformation."

As a member of the Nightking clan, the Corpse King Transformation was not unknown to him. Numerous powerhouses from the Daynight Clan had died to these abominations, and he had an instinctive fear towards this thing.

Boom!

Soon enough, the two young men were locked in battle. Nightking Changfeng activated his Nightking's Body and also unleashed his full strength. The Corpse King Transformation had boosted Wu Shang's strength to another level, and just a single clash between the two was enough to send Hua Ying and the others flying.

Far off in the distance, a cultivator in another area was panting hard after finishing off a Corpse King. All of a sudden, he felt pain blossom in his chest, and he looked down only to see a blade poking through him. Blood dripped down from the tip of the blade and slowly landed on the ground. Soon enough, his vision went black. The cultivator had died.

Li Zimo put his sword away. He looked into the distance and then dashed off once more.

On this day, all of Mingdu was completely destroyed. Even over the course of countless years, the Shenwu Empire had never suffered such a calamity before. The crown prince, Ming Hao, could only watch as his country fell into ruins. He felt as though he was watching the end of the empire.

Explosions could be heard in the sky above the capital. It was day, but the city was shrouded in darkness as if it was night. The intense battle between Ming Zhaoshu and Ming Zhaotian, as well as the one between Lu Yin and the Corpse King, were occurring high up in the sky, and the collisions nearly shattered space.

The capital was enveloped in terror.

Ming Hao summoned all of the experts who were hidden within the palace in an attempt to deal with the foreign cultivators who were cooperating with Ming Zhaoshu's men.

The five planets trembled, which gave rise to tsunamis and volcanic eruptions all across Shenwu Continent. All of the hidden experts rushed into the sky, determined to protect the five planets.

These people might not be involved in the contest for the emperor's throne, but there was no way that they would sit by and allow the five sealing planets to be destroyed.

Boom boom!

There were two loud explosions as Lu Yin and the Corpse King each took the other's attack. Lu Yin was sent crashing towards the ground and into a lake while the Corpse King was forced further up into the sky, right next to where Ming Zhaotian and Ming Zhaoshu were fighting.

Ming Zhaoshu's forcefield appeared, and the figure dressed in imperial robes moved to grab the Corpse King. It looked up with its terrifying grey eyes, causing Ming Zhaoshu to instinctively retreat.

"It's still not too late to stop, Ming Zhaoshu." Ming Zhaotian continued attacking even as he warned his opponent.

Ming Zhaoshu snorted. "Don't you see that monster? It isn't human! Do you want to hand the entire Shenwu Continent over to a monster like that? How are you going to answer to our ancestors?"

"As long as we manage to remove them from this region, I'm willing to do anything!" Ming Zhaotian howled.

With an explosion, the two of them collided once more.

The Corpse King had its sights set on Lu Yin, and it fell down from the sky like a meteor. Lu Yin evaded the attack, letting the Corpse King smash straight into the ground. A huge crack appeared in the lake that not only evaporated all the water, but also extended all the way to the capital city.

Lu Yin's eye twitched. A Corpse King that had transformed could not be killed and essentially had an endless amount of power. With this creature's innate gift of metal, it was basically indestructible without any way to pierce its defense. Lu Yin brought out his spear.

The moment it appeared, the wind blew away as clouds formed overhead. The spear itself passively released spiritual force attacks around it, and it had also been upgraded six times by Lu Yin, which had eaten up 20,000 of his star essence. The amount of spiritual force damage that it could cause was far beyond what it had been capable of before.

The spear released invisible undulations that covered the entire capital. People with weaker wills simply fainted on the spot.

Nightking Changfeng's expression changed; was this a spiritual force attack? How could it be this powerful? It seemed to be covering the entire capital!

High in the sky, Ming Zhaoshu and Ming Zhaotian could also sense the spiritual force attacks, and they both looked down in surprise.

Lu Yin clasped the spear and thrust it forward. It pierced through the void and went straight through the Corpse King. The creature grabbed the spear and roared, causing Lu Yin to frown. This thing didn't possess any intelligence, and its strength increased along with its transformation. In other words, spiritual force attacks would not be of much use against this opponent. Thankfully, it wasn't just the spear's spiritual attacks that had been upgraded; the spear itself was also very sharp.

The Corpse King grabbed the spear and Lu Yin quickly lost his grip on it. It then ripped the spear out of its body, tossed it into the air, and smacked Lu Yin. With a wave of his hand, Lu Yin activated the Yu Secret Art, causing the spear to suddenly vanish. When it reappeared, it was already in Lu Yin's hands, and he thrust it forward. This time, the blade went right through the Corpse King's head; it stabbed in between its eyes and exited through the back of its skull.

The Corpse King stood there, frozen in place. Besides its trembling fingers, there was no other movement from its body, and its strength slowly drained away.

Lu Yin sighed in relief. This truly was an ancient weapon, as it'd been able to pierce through the defenses of a transformed Corpse King. Those 27,000 star essence that Lu Yin had used to upgrade the spear had proven to be well spent. That gun had held twenty three shots, and it had been upgraded to the point where each shot could kill an Enlighter. He had used about half as much star essence on that gun compared to the spear, but still, even that gun had been able to kill an Enlighter.

After pulling the spear out of the body, the Corpse King's brain exploded, and its body collapsed to the ground, no longer moving. Even the metallic luster covering its body had dimmed.

Lu Yin stored the spear away and sighed.

Elsewhere in Mingdu, Nightking Changfeng was engaged in a fierce battle with Wu Shang, though he was trying to get away. His goal during this conflict wasn't the Neohuman Alliance, but rather Lu Yin. As long as he killed Lu Yin, he didn't care what the Neohuman Alliance did to this place. At the worst, he'd just ask those Enlighter experts from the Ironblood Weave to come and destroy Shenwu Continent. This place didn't matter to him at all.

After being forced back by Wu Shang, Nightking Changfeng tried to escape. He was going to look for Xun Meiren and team up with her to kill Lu Yin. However, this meant that he didn't notice that, at the same moment he tried to leave, Wu Shang's eyes turned from grey to green... This was a Second Level Corpse King Transformation.

Nightking Changfeng only managed to take a few steps away when he felt his scalp tingle. When he turned around, there was a pair of green eyes as well as a raised hand aimed at him. He instinctively raised an arm to block the incoming attack. All of his defensive abilities were currently active—his Nightking's Body, seven lined battle force, and innate gift of Ice Jade. These gifts had allowed him to rise to the twenty first rank in the Top 100 Rankings, but it was all casually destroyed by the approaching palm. It pierced through his abdomen, and when it exited his body through the back, it was holding onto a bloody, throbbing heart.

Nightking Changfeng gaped as he stared at the green eyes that were just a few centimeters away from him in total despair. This creature had undergone a Second Level Corpse King Transformation, but how was that possible? Why was a monster capable of such a thing even here in the Outerverse? Even in the Innaverse, such creatures rarely appeared. Shouldn't they all be in the Neoverse? Shouldn't they be fighting the Hall of Honor?"

His vision faded to black, and his body went cold as he listened to the beating of his own heart. Out of the corner of his eye, he saw Hua Ying and the others go pale, but his thoughts faded there.

Chapter 613: Dusk Of The Empire

Wu Shang crushed the human heart in his hand before retracting it. He then looked in Lu Yin's direction. Apprehension flitted through his eyes before he leaped up. From the moment he appeared to the moment he left, he had never once bothered with Hua Ying and the others.

When Xun Meiren saw Nightking Changfeng's corpse, she was stunned with disbelief. Nightking Changfeng was no weakling, nor was he someone who would fight to the death. But despite all that, he had still been killed. His abdomen had been opened up, and even his heart had been ripped out.

She was petrified with fear, and as she looked around her, she heard many Corpse Kings snarling in the darkness. A bead of cold sweat ran down her body.

"Alien, kill!" Li Zimo appeared out of nowhere and thrust his sword forward while Xun Meiren was still panicking. The sword was formless and soundless, and when Xun Meiren finally noticed it, the tip had already stabbed into her neck.

Xun Meiren sluggishly looked at Li Zimo's cold face. She had never thought she would die here in this place.

Li Zimo withdrew his sword and then dashed towards another direction.

On the shattered ground of Mingdu, Lu Yin looked to the northwest in surprise. Nightking Changfeng and Xun Meiren had both died, and although he had not seen how Nightking Changfeng had died, Xun Meiren had actually been killed by a single strike from Li Zimo. This person was indeed cold-blooded, as Xun Meiren was very attractive.

But only this kind of cold-blooded person could develop a technique like Silence. Lu Yin had fought against Li Zimo before, and while Li Zimo's sword techniques were not up to Liu Shaoqiu's standards, that was only because Liu Shaoqiu had inherited the Thirteen Swords, which came with the wisdom of his predecessors. If the two were measured on solely their own terms, then Li Zimo might not necessarily be any weaker than Liu Shaoqiu. Rather, Li Zimo might be even stronger.

"Seventh Bro, are we still fighting?" the monkey asked, slightly eager. It also wanted to fight, as it hadn't had a chance to participate in any battles since it had become Lu Yin's tamed beast.

Lu Yin just ignored the monkey as Li Zimo was actually charging towards him.

It didn't take long for the two of them to meet.

Li Zimo did not expect to meet Lu Yin here. There was no way that he would ever forget Lu Yin, as Lu Yin had left quite a deep impression on him during the battle of the Tower of Resonating Light. Back then,

Lu Yin had faced off against two opponents simultaneously and managed to defeat both Zhanlong Daynight and Li Zimo. Right after that, he had killed the person on the top of the List of Tempering. That night was an unforgettable one for Li Zimo.

“We haven’t met for two years, so why haven’t you broken through and become a Martial Emperor yet?” Lu Yin felt puzzled.

Li Zimo’s eyes trembled, and in response, he clenched his sword hilt tightly and stabbed out. This sword moved much faster compared to two years ago, and it also had an indistinct feel to it that seemed to ignore space, as the space around the blade seemed to be weakened. This made it hard to estimate the true depth of Li Zimo’s skills.

Lu Yin marvelled upon seeing the sword strike, as this person’s sword techniques were exceptional. Unfortunately, Li Zimo had run into Lu Yin, who merely raised a hand and lightly flicked out with a finger. There was a loud bang, and the sword cracked from the impact. Lu Yin grabbed a hold of the broken sword tip and casually swiped out with it. Li Zimo dodged and retreated a hundred meters away. He then looked at Lu Yin in fear.

Lu Yin sneered at him and casually threw the broken sword tip at the swordsman. Li Zimo raised his now-broken sword to block it, deflecting the sword tip into the ground as a crisp ringing sound filled the air.

“You’re not my opponent anymore. Go and train some more.” Lu Yin leaped up. Through his domain, he could perceive that Bigbeard was in danger, as he had run into Ming Zhaochen.

Bigbeard was a Cruiser, but the standards of Shenwu Continent’s cultivators had almost reached that of the Inniverse’s elites. This continent had even given birth to Li Zimo, whose talent could rival Liu Shaoqiu’s. Ming Zhaochen was one of the top authorities in the Ming Constables, and he had the power to suppress Bigbeard.

Li Zimo watched Lu Yin’s figure fade into the sky, but he did not chase after him. There was no point, as he could not beat Lu Yin. Thus, if he chased after Lu Yin, he would just be running towards his own death. But in that case, why had Lu Yin let him go?

Lu Yin himself did not exactly know why he had let Li Zimo go, as he just felt that killing the man would be a pity. He wanted to see if, after this person entered the wider universe and experienced more excellent sword techniques, then would he eventually have a face-off with Liu Shaoqiu? Lu Yin thought that Liu Shaoqiu would also eagerly await such a possibility.

Crack!

A crack spread across the sky.

Ming Zhaotian panted heavily, and he looked across all of Mingdu, unresigned. He closed his eyes, as he knew that everything was coming to an end. The Corpse Kings from the Neohuman Alliance had mostly been defeated, and there were too many experts from the outer universe, not to mention that person wearing the set of universal armor. He knew that he had lost.

Ming Zhaoshu looked down at the capital with a complex expression. If it had been possible, then he would not have destroyed the capital, as this was the symbol of the Shenwu Empire. Unfortunately, he had been left with no other choice.

“Brother, do you still wish to continue to resist? Those alien monsters have an intense desire to kill. If you hadn’t cooperated with those monsters, then these foreigners would not have cooperated with me to invade Mingdu, as they would rather watch our internal friction increase,” Ming Zhaoshu said solemnly.

To the Daynight clan, Ming Zhaoshu had no choice but to unify Shenwu Continent and then open it up to the wider universe. It was either that, or the continent’s internal strife would continue to foment. If the Daynight clan had truly cared about the outcome, then they would have gone all-out to help Ming Zhaoshu unify Shenwu Continent, but that would have given Ming Zhaoshu too many benefits and the Daynight clan not enough.

If not for the presence of the Neohuman Alliance, then Lu Yin also would not have been able to rally the various outside cultivators to invade Mingdu either.

By cooperating with the Neohuman Alliance, Ming Zhaotian had found a possible route to defeat Ming Zhaoshu and the rebellion, but he had also been digging his own grave.

Ming Zhaotian looked upwards and smiled bitterly. “Hahaha, it’s too late now, regardless of what you say. You are right. It is inevitable that Shenwu Continent will enter the universe. Once Ming Taizhong tore the void apart, the outcome was predetermined, and no one could change it from that point on.”

Ming Zhaoshu looked at Ming Zhaotian, but he did not speak.

“Little Brother, you endured for so many years, all for this day. The crown prince urged me to completely eradicate you many times. It’s such a pity that I never acted—all because of our relationship—and that has led to today’s great defeat.” Ming Zhaotian laughed at himself.

Ming Zhaoshu’s eyes narrowed. “What is it that Brother wishes to say?”

“No matter how fiercely we have fought against each other, it’s still an internal matter of the empire. In the end, Shenwu Continent must be ruled by the Ming family,” Ming Zhaotian said. He then began to cough intensely. He had been severely injured by Wen Sansi in the past, but every time his condition had started to improve, it had been aggravated by Ming Zhaoshu. This had caused Ming Zhaotian’s injuries to not heal even after two years, or else he would have definitely defeated Ming Zhaoshu with his full strength.

“Shenwu Continent will definitely remain within the control of the Ming family. Rest assured, Brother,” Ming Zhaoshu spoke loudly.

Ming Zhaotian looked at him with a serious expression. “I can pass my position onto you, but you must agree to several conditions.”

“You are in no position to mention any conditions.”

“The majority of the Shenwu Empire is still within my grasp. If you kill me, you will not be able to ascend to the throne in a just or a favorable manner. How many islands will willingly pledge allegiance to you?”

How many will break out in revolt? The entire Shenwu Continent will curse you—is that what you want?” Ming Zhaotian retorted.

Ming Zhaoshu’s gaze flickered, and he looked down at the smashed capital below them. Finally, he muttered, “What are your conditions?”

Ming Zhaotian took a deep breath. “I want you to give Ming Hao a way out. Let him head out to the universe to find his own path.”

Ming Zhaoshu’s eyes went wide. “No. I can allow your other offspring to live, but not Ming Hao.”

“This is my only condition. Even with your current capabilities, are you still afraid of Ming Hao? Both you and I know that there are many who have Ming Hao’s strength, but they have no influence over you whatsoever. Also, you’ve already cooperated with some of the powerful clans from the outer universe,” Ming Zhaotian said.

Ming Zhaoshu frowned as he thought about it. While he was hesitating, another large crack appeared in Mingdu. He suddenly made his decision. “Alright, I’ll allow Ming Hao to leave Shenwu Continent alive, but if he opposes me once again, then I will kill him without hesitation.”

Ming Zhaotian relaxed and looked at the capital that was flooded with howls of grief. He closed his eyes for a moment before opening them again. “Everyone in the empire, hear my command. Eliminate the monsters and then assemble in the palace. I will abdicate the throne.”

Everyone in Mingdu heard Ming Zhaoshu, and they all looked up in shock. Abdicate?

Just outside the palace, Ming Hao’s body trembled, and he nearly fainted as he stared up at his father in disbelief.

Ming Zhaochen’s strength left him, and he released his hand, causing his sword to fall and clatter on the ground. Across from him, Lu Yin looked up. It was over.

Li Zimo calmly looked up. He had long since considered this day, as it had seemed to be an unavoidable eventuality. After all, Shenwu Continent could not defeat the aliens.

Within the city, the empire’s military minister, Bei Hong, finance minister, Ming Zhaocai, and many more had agonized expressions. In the end, they had still been defeated, and they felt wretched even though they knew that such a day would eventually arrive. Still, they had not thought it would be so soon nor so sudden.

Due to Ming Zhaotian’s orders, everyone within the capital united to attack the Corpse Kings, and the residents of Shenwu Continent stopped killing each other.

Some distance outside Mingdu, Wu Shang seemed to be completely indifferent to these developments. Instead, he was preoccupied with a paper-thin slab that he had pulled out, seemingly making a note of something. The writing at the very top of the slab stated, “Experiment Data.”

Lu Yin walked towards the palace, step by step. Along the way, he saw many corpses. Most of them belonged to ordinary citizens who hadn’t been able to avoid the violence. One attack from a cultivator

or a Corpse King could easily kill dozens to hundreds of regular people. However, Lu Yin was not remorseful, as this was the necessary price to defeat the Neohuman Alliance, and he was already content in knowing that he had minimized the casualties. The other choice would have been to allow the Neohuman Alliance to capture these people one by one to use for their experiments, which was even worse than death.

It could only be said that these people's life and death had been left up to luck on this day.

Mingdu had been destroyed, and the ground was riddled with countless fissures and deep pits that had already started filling up with water.

Numb soldiers proceeded to rescue the civilians, and the cultivators remained silent in each other's presence. The capital had fallen into a strange silence, with the only sounds being the occasional odd cry.

"Brother Lu!" Bigbeard caught up to Lu Yin. He had been in the process of being fiercely beaten by Ming Zhaochen, and he had nearly died before Lu Yin had arrived to save him.

"Brother Lu, thank you for saving me," Bigbeard said gratefully.

Lu Yin replied, "Go and save those regular citizens if you still have some strength."

Bigbeard acknowledged the suggestion.

Not much later, Lu Yin saw Namu and felt that he seemed familiar.

"I was an Area Master from Astral-5, and I participated in the Astral Combat Tournament. I'm also a disciple of Myriad Swords Peak," Namu introduced himself.

Lu Yin nodded and then continued to move past Namu as he headed towards the palace.

Namu watched Lu Yin's retreating figure and felt that the youth seemed completely out of reach. This person had been much weaker than Namu when he had first joined the Astral Combat Academy, and he had even been harassed by the cultivators from the Blaze Realm. And now, Namu was the one looking up to Lu Yin in hope. There was an impossibly vast gap between the two of them, but it had only sprung up in a few years.

One hour later, the zombies and Corpse Kings were completely flushed out from underground and exterminated, even as more people moved towards the palace.

Ming Zhaochen, Ming Zhaocai, Bei Hong, Hua Ying, Li Zimo, and the others had all gathered at the palace. Ming Zhaotian was about to abdicate his throne, and many wanted to bear witness to this scene.

Lu Yin also entered the palace, standing just a short ways away from Ming Zhaotian as he indifferently watched the proceedings.

He had long expected that this scene would occur, and one of his objectives in visiting Shenwu Continent this time was actually to force this to occur. Although it had been a little complicated, he had still managed to accomplish his goal.

Two years ago, he had hidden himself like a street rat as he moved across Shenwu Continent, trying to avoid the Ming Constables, soldiers from the Reverent King's Residence, and even the Demon Hunters Society. Now, he stood high above them all, and Ming Zhaotian's abdication was directly related to his actions and decision. This feeling of having control over others felt good.

Crown Prince Ming Hao stood behind and slightly to the right of Ming Zhaotian. He appeared to be grieving and helpless, as if he had forsaken all hope.

Ming Zhaoshu looked calm, and nobody could tell what he was thinking at the moment.

"Destiny cannot be predicted, and only morals will persist. Shenwu's end has been delayed, and in a world that has lost its order, the five seals were shaken. I, Ming Zhaotian, the emperor of the Shenwu Empire, seek the blessing of the heavens. On the throne..." The large palace was completely silent except for Ming Zhaotian's reverberating voice.

Chapter 614: The End Of The Show

Everyone heard Ming Zhaotian's abdication speech. Some people stared at the ground in shock, while others watched Ming Zhaotian, and a few of them even wept.

The emperor of a dynasty naturally had their own followers as well. With Ming Zhaotian abdicating, countless other people who had once followed him were bound to suffer from his fall. Ming Zhaotian did not even have a say as to whether these people lived or died.

"From this day forward, I will transfer my position to Reverent King Ming Zhaoshu. According to the decree of the heavens, the Shenwu Empire will now obey him," Ming Zhaotian declared, following which, a number of the people who had gathered knelt down on the ground.

"Paying respects to Your Majesty"

"Paying respects to Your Majesty"

...

Ming Zhaoshu stepped forward and stood at Ming Zhaotian's side. He emotionally looked down at the gathered crowd, his eyes sweeping across all of them. More and more people knelt to salute him, until finally, everyone at the palace was kneeling on the ground, except for the foreign cultivators. Even the former crown prince, Ming Hao, was half kneeling.

Outside the palace, countless voices rang out in unison, "Paying respects to Your Majesty"...

Ming Zhaoshu had waited for this scene for far too long. He had always been adept at enduring silently, but that had demanded a certain price from him as well. The greater and deeper the patience, the more intense the eruption would be in the end.

Even with Ming Zhaoshu's personality, he still felt a deep desire to roar at the sky. He had not expected his takeover to be this smooth; if Ming Zhaotian had vowed to fight him to the death, then there would have been a long, drawn out war even if he had managed to kill the emperor and his heirs. But now, Ming Zhaoshu had gained everything legitimately.

From now on, Shenwu Continent belonged to him alone.

Lu Yin looked at Ming Zhaoshu; was he happy? After waiting for so many years, enduring for so long, and scheming to the point where he had even managed to win over some of the four Martial Sovereigns who stood guard over the capital, despite being only a Martial Emperor at that time, he had finally succeeded.

Although it was just the small Shenwu Continent, Ming Zhaoshu's ability could still be seen.

Lu Yin had relied on the glory of his predecessors as well as his own luck to gain control of the Great Yu Empire whereas Ming Zhaoshu had relied purely on his own ability to seize the Shenwu Empire. Once this sort of person was given a stage, they could achieve world-shaking accomplishments.

Lu Yin closely observed Ming Zhaoshu, paying the most attention to his expression. Was Shenwu Continent his final goal? Perhaps it was for the moment, but Ming Zhaoshu would undoubtedly step into the wider universe, and at that time, what would his next goal be? Ming Zhaoshu's burning ambition would definitely become an even deeper and more impressive goal in the future.

Lu Yin told himself not to give this person a stage where he could fully display himself.

"I have abdicated, and I hope that you won't break your promise," Ming Zhaotian spoke softly to Ming Zhaoshu.

Ming Zhaoshu looked at the half-kneeling Ming Hao. "Rest assured, Brother. I will send him safely away from Shenwu Continent, but you..."

Ming Zhaotian smiled bitterly and looked up at the sky fondly. The sky of Shenwu Continent was very beautiful, and the five sealing planets protected this place, but in the end, it did not belong to him. "Don't save that person. When you truly grasp control of Shenwu Continent, then go ahead and cooperate with the outsiders. However, it's too early right now, and he cannot be controlled by you yet."

This baffling comment confused Ming Zhaoshu.

The next moment, the entire palace quivered as the ground beneath Lu Yin's feet broke apart. Stone pillars rose up from the ground, connected by a layer of solidified energy that cut him off from the outside world. Each of the five stone pillars emitted an eye-dazzling radiance.

Even Lu Yin could not react to this sudden change in time, let alone anyone else present.

Ming Zhaoshu hurriedly rose into the air and glared at Ming Zhaotian as he shouted, "Brother, what are you doing?"

Ming Zhaotian looked at Ming Zhaoshu with a complex gaze, "Before you completely integrate yourself with the empire, don't take on any appearance of strength that cannot be controlled. That person's strength surpasses both of ours, and they cannot remain. Cooperate only with the foreigners after you have truly grasped the empire."

Ming Zhaoshu's gaze flickered.

"I, Ming Zhaotian, have protected Shenwu Continent my entire life! Let me die the same way! Hahaha!" Ming Zhaotian shouted before dashing into the sky, straight towards the five sealing planets.

“Your Majesty!” countless shouted out in grief.

Ming Hao clenched both fists, both of his eyes wide open, but he could not say anything. Ming Zhaotian was literally seeking death.

Ming Zhaoshu looked up at the heavens with a complicated gaze, and he seemed to be disturbed, reminiscent, and also determined.

This time, Ming Zhaotian would not reappear. His body would remain at the five sealing planets until it completely rotted away.

Ming Hao knelt down and banged his head on the ground several times.

A dazzling radiance isolated Lu Yin, but it also blocked everyone’s sight. They could all see that Lu Yin had been sealed, but they could not see within the seal at all, and neither could Lu Yin see outside the seal.

Lu Yin looked around, and he quickly noticed that this seal was similar to the seal that had once sealed the Tower of Resonating Light. In the past, many of the trial takers had been sealed and trapped within the Tower of Resonating Light before being rescued by Lu Yin.

This time, the seal was much tougher than the one that had been in the Tower of Resonating Light.

Why had Ming Zhaotian trapped him in this place? Lu Yin could not figure it out.

He put on his universal armor and then reached out with a hand to probe the seal. A strong repelling force pushed back against his palm, and Lu Yin was astonished. This strength was a formless danger, so did that mean that these five pillars were sourceboxes?

He had previously guessed that Shenwu Continent contained many sourceboxes, and he had even wondered if the five sealing planets themselves were sourceboxes. Right now, he realized that it was not entirely impossible, as the sourceboxes on Shenwu Continent were strange, and they were even used to form arrays.

This was definitely not something that Ming Zhaotian and the other natives could do, as they were not capable of such a feat. This was a technique that belonged exclusively to Boundless Advanced Lockbreakers.

It seemed that there were still many unsolved mysteries on Shenwu Continent, but Lu Yin’s top priority at this moment was to escape.

Due to his time in the Ironblood Weave, Lu Yin knew that he could not unseal such an array that was formed by the invisible danger zones of multiple sourceboxes. In other words, right now, he could only barge his way through the seal.

There was a thump as Lu Yin was repelled by an overpowering strength. Moreover, it had even left a mark on his universal armor, which was strong enough to resist the attacks from old freaks whose power levels had reached 300,000. This was inconceivable, and Lu Yin became even more intrigued by Shenwu Continent. The five sealing planets were able to resist Enlighters’ attacks, and judging by the number of rune lines that he had observed, it was possible that the planets could also resist attacks from a powerhouse with a power level of 300,000.

Now, he was discovering that even the palace had similar seals, though they were clearly much smaller than the five sealing planets.

Lu Yin looked up; did this mean that the true strength of the five sealing planets still had not been completely unleashed? Was their limit really attacks with power levels of 300,000? Could it resist attacks whose power levels reached 400,000? What about 500,000?

Then, another question naturally arose. How had Wen Sansi breached the five sealing planets back when Lu Yin had participated in the continent's Outerverse trial?

Lu Yin definitely did not believe that the Arbiter was capable of displaying an attack with a power level of over 300,000. No matter how innately gifted Wen Sansi might be, he was still restricted by his age. That was not a question of his talent, but rather of time. He definitely could not have reached such a power level so quickly. But if that were so, then how had he damaged the five sealing planets?

Forget it! There was no point to him thinking about such a thing at this time. First, Lu Yin needed to focus on finding a way to escape! Actually, he could use his universal armor to forcefully barge through, but he wanted to test himself to see if he could unlock this seal, as this could also be considered an opportunity.

The sourceboxes in the Ironblood Weave emitted an invisible danger zone that made lockbreaking them very difficult, so Lu Yin wanted to use this opportunity to test his capabilities. Even if he failed, not much would happen to him anyways. Although the seal had left a faint mark on the surface of the armor, its defenses were as robust as ever.

Inside the palace, Ming Zhaoshu issued more than ten commands before dispelling the crowd. He then walked over in front of the seal and stared at its dazzling radiance. Even he had not known that the palace held such a seal.

He was aware of Lu Yin's strength, and if even that youth had been sealed by this formation, then it was clear that Ming Zhaotian could have used this seal to seal Ming Zhaoshu instead. The new emperor would have been helplessly trapped as well.

Unfortunately, he had not stood next to Lu Yin, as if that had been the case, then Ming Zhaotian might not have taken such actions.

"Little Seven, can you hear me?" Ming Zhaoshu called out.

Lu Yin did not reply.

Ming Zhaoshu focused his gaze on the seal.

Nearby, Bigbeard, Namu, and the other foreign cultivators moved forward. "Revere- No, Your Majesty, since Ming Zhaotian was able to activate the seal, then there must also be a way to shut it down. Your Majesty, please rescue Brother Lu from this seal."

Ming Zhaoshu was helpless. "I don't know how to deactivate it either. However, I will head to the imperial library. I can only hope that my brother did not destroy the records concerning this seal. Otherwise..." He recalled Ming Zhaotian's words, which indicated that he had sealed Lu Yin away in

hopes that Ming Zhaoshu would not be impeded before he obtained complete control of the Shenwu Empire. But the old emperor had thought too much, as Ming Zhaoshu was confident that Lu Yin would not interfere in the matters of Shenwu Continent, as this place was too small for the current Lu Yin.

Also, Lu Yin and Ming Yan had feelings for each other. Ming Zhaoshu hoped that, by getting on Lu Yin's boat, he would be able to ensure the continent's identity and independence once it joined with the greater universe. For this, Ming Zhaoshu wanted to rescue Lu Yin from the seal as well.

But wanting was one thing, and whether or not they could do it was another.

"Let's attack the seal from the outside," Bigbeard suggested. Immediately after speaking, he raised a hand to strike the void. There was a thump as his body was flung away by an enormous force, and he crashed into a corner of the palace ruins.

Ming Zhaoshu shook his head. "My brother was very meticulous. Since he went ahead and activated this seal, then it means that there won't be an easy way to resolve this issue. I will go and search through the imperial library, though I hope that Little Seven can come out from inside of that thing."

"Isn't Ming Hao still around? Ask him," Namu suggested.

Ming Zhaoshu laughed and shook his head. "He will not know. I am very clear about my brother's behavior, and concerning certain matters, he will not even inform his own son."

"How will we know if we don't ask?" Bigbeard walked over from the distance with a grin on his face despite holding his aching waist.

Ming Zhaoshu thought about it before acquiescing. "Very well, I'll ask him."

The palace had been reduced to ruins, and Ming Zhaoshu ordered that the administrative center of the empire be temporarily shifted over to Shanghai City, with the intention of returning to Mingdu after everything was back in order.

Ming Hao was currently at the top of the palace hall, and he calmly gazed at the throne.

Ming Zhaoshu walked over towards his nephew. Ming Hao turned to face him and then smiled. "Your Majesty, your wishes have been accomplished."

"It's been so many years, and throughout all those years, you've always targeted me. What thoughts do you have at this moment?" Ming Zhaoshu looked at Ming Hao with endless bitterness in his eyes.

Ming Hao was in agony as he looked towards the throne. "Your Majesty, huh? This title must be something that you've always dreamed of."

Ming Zhaoshu frowned, and his eyes turned cold. "Tell me, how do we remove the seal?"

"You should know Father. He wouldn't tell anyone, not even me, regarding certain matters," Ming Hao replied.

Ming Zhaoshu had not had much hope to begin with.

“Your Majesty, do you know what I hate the most right now?” Ming Hao’s gaze turned back to Ming Zhaoshu, and his expression became even more sinister. “I hate that I didn’t kill you back then. I hate that Father was so indecisive, and I hate your silent endurance.”

Ming Zhaoshu’s eyes narrowed. “The winner takes all. There’s no need to say anything more. I promised Brother that I would safely send you out into the universe.”

“Hahaha! Father may have believed your words, but I don’t. Who are you, Ming Zhaoshu? You appear to be cultured and refined on the surface, but inside, you are ruthless. Your ability to endure all things is astounding, and you plan everything out before you even make a move. You won’t let any opportunity go, and you won’t allow your enemy any leeway to retaliate. You’re going to let me go free? What a joke!” Ming Hao howled with laughter.

Ming Zhaoshu’s eyes overflowed with a certain chill, but he did not speak.

“Father’s too kind-hearted. I reminded him so many times, but he only ever prevented you from seizing power and placed you outside of Mingdu. He was always unwilling to kill you. You are also very astute, and you suppressed your realm in order to remain as a Martial Emperor, and you only broke through after Father was severely injured. It’s not wrong that we lost to you.” Ming Hao smiled sadly.

Shortly after, Ming Zhaoshu emerged from the palace and announced that the former Crown Prince Ming Hao had gone missing. The new emperor ordered for his nephew’s arrest but stipulated that he must be captured alive. The orders were filled with benevolence.

Chapter 615: Leaving

One, two, three days passed quietly... Even after five days had passed, Lu Yin still remained trapped within the seal.

Ming Zhaoshu had gathered many people to comb through the imperial library, searching for a way to break the seal, but all of their effort was for naught.

Ming Zhaoshu could not continue to stay by Lu Yin’s side, however, and he left after two full days passed. There were many issues that required his immediate attention from the various departments such as the military, administration, agriculture, and so on. On top of that, the five sealing planets were periodically being attacked as well.

While Ming Zhaoshu had been the one who had contacted the space station and requested that they attack the five sealing planets, he knew that their attack on the five sealing planets was very real. The outsiders wanted to remove the seal and drag Shenwu Continent out into the universe as soon as possible.

However, there was no way that that would happen. Ming Zhaoshu was absolutely confident about that.

Over the span of a few days, Ming Zhaoshu survived seven assassination attempts. All of them were organized and carried out by either Ming Zhaotian’s supporters or cultivators who did not want to cooperate with outside cultivators for one reason or another. Even the survivors of the evil sects had taken part in the assassination attempts.

Most people on Shenwu Continent had no desire to work with the outsider cultivators. They held a deep grudge against the outside universe, and in their eyes, Ming Zhaoshu was a traitor to their continent.

However, killing Ming Zhaoshu was an impossible task. His domain was powerful enough to even envelope the surrounding void, and nothing could escape from his perception.

It took very little time for Ming Yan to find out about the recent turn of events. She was suddenly thrust into a new position as the princess of the Shenwu Empire. However, she was more worried about Lu Yin at the moment. If Ming Zhaoshu had not sent his men to watch over his daughter, then she might have headed out to the capital long ago.

Seven days passed, and during this time, Lu Yin had made several attempts to unlock this seal, but he had only discovered that he had no idea where to even start. He had tried to lockbreak one of the columns, but he had been attacked by the invisible danger zone emitted by the sourcebox within it. While he could perceive the danger, dodging it while simultaneously lockbreaking it wasn't quite possible for him just yet.

He wasn't even at the Perceptive Intermediate stage, but he was already attempting to lockbreak something at the Boundless Advanced level. On top of that, even if he managed to succeed, it didn't necessarily mean that he would be able to comprehend how the array formation worked. There was no way for him to succeed.

"Forget it, I'll just leave. I'd need to study this for at least a few years before I'd be able to make any sense of it," Lu Yin mumbled to himself. Then, he protected his head with his arms and charged through the seal and to the outside. There was a massive boom, and a shockwave sent him reeling back, but he did not fight it. Instead, he used this momentum to charge towards the opposite side of the seal, only to be knocked back once again.

He repeated this same routine multiple times, constantly bouncing off of the seal like a rubber ball and pin-balling around the enclosed space. However, every time he was repelled, his momentum increased until, with an explosive speed, he managed to blast a hole in the seal. As everybody outside watched on, utterly confused, he smashed into the ruins of the palace.

Everything hurt. That was the only sensation that Lu Yin was aware of at the moment. The universal armor had blocked the invisible attacks from the sourceboxes, but the shockwaves had still been transmitted through the armor and affected him. While the damage wasn't too high, he still felt as if he'd been beaten up. His head in particular had been affected, and he felt incredibly sluggish. He couldn't even remember how many times he'd bounced around the seal.

Bigbeard and a few others hurried over and helped him up. Lu Yin stored his universal armor away and shook his arms. "I finally got out."

Bigbeard looked at Lu Yin. "The fact that you managed to get out at all is amazing, Lu Yin."

"Yeah! We all saw how powerful that seal was. It was terrifying! You're really amazing."

"Yeah, amazing."

...

Lu Yin was surprised. "What are you all doing here?"

"We've been waiting for you! We came here together, so we need to leave together," Bigbeard stated matter-of-factly.

Lu Yin raised a brow. It was quite surprising to see this guy's attitude change so quickly. Beneath that brutish exterior, he seemed to be a rather sensitive person.

"Nightking Changfeng and Beauty Xun are both dead. About fifteen of us died in the battle," someone mentioned.

Lu Yin nodded. "I understand. It's an honor to die in a fight against the Neohuman Alliance."

They were already dead, so he didn't mind complimenting them.

"Yes, an honor. An honor!" Everybody quickly piped up. They had followed Nightking Changfeng in the past, but now, they would follow Lu Yin.

Lu Yin glanced around. "Where's Ming Zhaoshu?"

"He left. What an ungrateful person! You helped him take care of things here in the capital, but he didn't even wait for you to get out!" the bearded man exclaimed in annoyance.

Lu Yin waved a hand. "Enough. You all can head out now. I'm going back to Shanghai City."

"Let's go together! We're leaving too."

"Yeah, we can..."

Lu Yin was speechless. He was actually planning on visiting the Tower of Resonating Light and investigating what had happened there. "I have some private matters that I need to take care of, and it'll take me some time to finish. You all can head out first."

Those people glanced at each other and then left after bidding farewell to Lu Yin.

The biggest secret of Shenwu Continent was the five planets, and the secret of the five planets was likely hidden beneath that tower.

Shenwu Continent had a large number of sourceboxes, and this likely had to do with the bottom of the tower as well.

After Lu Yin managed to escape from everyone, he headed straight towards the tower.

The Tower of Resonating Light had been sealed off and was currently being guarded by a Martial Sovereign. However, if Lu Yin wanted to get inside, then nobody would be able to notice.

With his domain enveloping the entire area, Lu Yin quickly arrived at the bottom of the tower. The lab equipment and corpses left behind by the Neohuman Alliance had all been cleaned up, and even with his domain, Lu Yin could not find any way to continue exploring further underground.

Ming Zhaoshu had said that there was a huge space further underground, but Lu Yin couldn't find a way in.

He thought it over, and just to be careful, he put his universal armor on and punched the floor. The entire tower swayed slightly, which startled all of the guards. The Martial Sovereign watching over the tower immediately charged straight to the bottom of the tower.

Upon seeing that it was Lu Yin making the commotion, the Martial Sovereign hesitated for a moment. He'd seen Lu Yin standing at Ming Zhaoshu's side before, and more importantly, he'd seen this person fighting during the battle that had enveloped all of Mingdu. Lu Yin had battled against a monster high in the sky, and the terrifying undulations from their fight had been deeply embedded in this Martial Sovereign's memory. "Excuse me, sir. The tower has been sealed off, and His Majesty has ordered that nobody is allowed to enter."

"I'm an exception. You may report this matter to the Reverent King and say that Lu Yin has entered the tower," Lu Yin stated.

The Martial Sovereign thought it over and realized that he had no choice but to leave. He knew that he was no match for Lu Yin, and so, the only thing that he could do was report this matter to Ming Zhaoshu.

Lu Yin stared at the ground with a deep frown.

His punch had been quite powerful. The ground had not given way as the force had been absorbed by something a hundred meters below where he stood. It felt as if there was a seal there.

He was already growing numb to such a situation. Why were there so many seals on Shenwu Continent? This place was basically made of seal after seal after seal. What if the continent itself had been sealed off? Maybe it wasn't actually a parallel universe, but rather a space that had been sealed off, and Ming Taizhong had just been lucky enough to undo the seal, causing Shenwu Continent to appear.

It seemed like a viable possibility. Lu Yin punched the floor once more, but he was met with the same results.

This seal was similar to the one that had trapped the trial takers two years before, though its strength was on a different scale. Lu Yin had the feeling that this seal was no weaker than the one in the imperial palace. It was no wonder why Ming Zhaoshu had not been able to get into the hidden underground space.

Lu Yin wandered around at the bottom floor for a while, punching the ground periodically, but he was able to sense the seal every time. The sealed off space seemed to be huge, but Lu Yin could tell that it was round with an open space inside of it.

What could be in that hidden space? Lu Yin was very curious.

He hadn't been let into Jupiter back in Earth's solar system, and now, this hidden space in Shenwu Continent wasn't letting him in either. He was still far too weak.

Before much more time passed, he left Mingdu and headed back to Shanghai City.

Some days later, Ming Zhaoshu officially declared himself the emperor in Shanghai City and ascended to the throne as the emperor of the Shenwu Empire. He also announced that he would join the Great Eastern Alliance. This made the empire the first organization to join the alliance since Lu Yin had first

come up with it. Shenwu Continent was quite powerful too, which was one of the reasons why he had come back to this place.

Now that he'd achieved his goal, there was no need for Lu Yin to stay here any longer.

He spent a few more days with Ming Yan, hoping to rekindle the feelings that they had once held for each other.

While the two of them were still drawn to each other, there was an invisible wall between them now that neither Lu Yin nor Ming Yan knew how to get past. When it came to feelings, they were both completely ignorant.

The unfamiliarity that had developed over time could only be overcome with time.

Lu Yin and Ming Zhaoshu discussed the youth's situation, and the latter decided to send Ming Yan to the Great Yu Empire on Zenyu Star as a diplomatic envoy representing the continent and have her take part in the discussions concerning the creation of the Great Eastern Alliance.

Ming Yan had no objections to this proposal.

Lu Yin was delighted, and he immediately rushed back to the Great Yu Empire. He had his people write up an official alliance contract, and for long as it was effective, Ming Yan would be allowed to travel to the Great Yu Empire. He shamelessly arranged for the foreign envoy of Shenwu Continent to reside inside King Zishan's palace, which left Ming Zhaoshu at a loss for how to react.

If it weren't for Ming Zhaoshu succeeding the throne and his status changing, then he would have immediately taken Ming Yan away.

Bigbeard and the rest of the foreign cultivators stayed in the Shenwu Empire, and they became the key point of contact between the continent and the outside universe.

Gazing behind at where Shenwu Continent lay hidden in space, Lu Yin wondered when he would be able to return. The Great Yu Empire would soon send people over to Ming Zhaoshu, but the alliance contract had not been fully settled yet. It was a very complicated task that would affect how the other weaves entered the alliance. While this matter was urgent, Lu Yin also had to be prudent, and the only thing that he could do at this moment was wait. Thankfully, it would not take too long.

While Shenwu Continent wasn't weak, it was very special. The laws and regulations there were different, and that meant that it was necessary to use different methods compared to when the alliance dealt with other organizations. Power alone could not solve everything since humans were emotional creatures.

"Welcome back, Student Lu." Madam Meilen smiled at Lu Yin.

The blind monk walked over and quietly stood behind Lu Yin.

Lu Yin glanced back at the five planets and then looked at Madam Meilen. "You've worked hard, Madam."

"You're too polite. You were in Shenwu Continent for less than a month, but you've already taken control of the situation. Your methods are superb," Madam Meilen exclaimed in praise.

Lu Yin shrugged. "We encountered Corpse Kings, or else it would have been difficult to legally enter the capital. I definitely have to thank the trial takers. By the way, Arikar is pretty pitiful. If possible, please help him."

Madam Meilen smiled and acknowledged his request.

"The Shenwu Empire has already joined the Great Eastern Alliance that the Great Yu Empire has established. The Daynight clan won't be welcome here for much longer. I won't chase you away now, but this is a gentle reminder," Lu Yin said, giving her a warning as well as a threat. Despite the Innerverse and Outerverse being separated, the Daynight clan still had a sizable amount of power left in the Outerverse. He did not want the Daynight clan to meddle with the Shenwu Empire.

Madam Meilen answered, "We are here on the orders of Nightqueen Qiuyu, so we cannot leave."

Lu Yin nodded, and after chatting with her for a while, left the space station along with the blind monk.

Madam Meilen seemed to be deep in thought, but there was also a hint of anticipation in her eyes. The Great Eastern Alliance?

"Did anything happen at the space station while I was on Shenwu Continent?" Lu Yin asked as he moved to the hangar where his spacecraft had been stored.

The blind monk simply answered, "No."

Lu Yin grunted in acknowledgement and boarded the spacecraft with the older man before setting a course for the Great Yu Empire.

Chapter 616: A Strange Land

After returning to the Great Yu Empire, the first thing that Lu Yin did upon arriving at King Zishan's palace was meet with En Ya.

"Your Highness, this is the current draft of the alliance contract that summarizes how the alliance will be created. We have already sent some people out to begin working on the first step and have privately contacted several people. Everything is going smoothly at this moment," En Ya reported.

Lu Yin read the contract and summary that En Ya had passed to him. "I'm not very good at this, so you can make the decisions. Shenwu Continent has already joined the Great Eastern Alliance, so please remember to send someone over to them with the contract, and don't delay." He was eager for Ming Yan to come to the Great Yu Empire as soon as possible.

"Yes, Your Highness," En Ya replied.

Since Undying Yushan's death, the Great Yu Empire's morning meetings had instead been held by the Imperial Cabinet. These meetings were also referred to as "forums," and the formal meetings were only held when Lu Yin was also present.

However, most of the key issues regarding the Great Yu Empire had already been handled; the collaboration with the Nalan family, the creation of the Great Eastern Alliance, the recruitment of more soldiers, and all the other tasks were all progressing smoothly. Hence, Lu Yin didn't have to worry too

much about the empire at the moment. He was busy scanning through his cosmic ring when he suddenly noticed something.

During the final battle in Ironblood Weave, at Seasons Fort, which was also the first fight that Lu Yin had participated in after becoming an Explorer, he had used his die to learn the Yu Secret Art so that he could contribute more to stopping the astral beasts' invasion. He had also received a yellow prayer mat when rolling the die at that time.

Back then, he had heard some faint chanting, and his body had been instinctively drawn towards the prayer mat. He was sure that it wasn't an ordinary prayer mat, but he had had no time to investigate it and slowly forgot about it afterwards. This was actually the perfect time for him to take a look at the mysterious item.

He took the prayer mat out, and he immediately heard the chanting again. It wasn't just one person's voice either, but was rather numerous people chanting altogether.

"This thing's a prayer mat, right?" the monkey hesitantly asked.

Lu Yin wasn't sure either. "I think so."

"Then take a seat. Prayer mats are meant to be sat on," the monkey suggested. He had also heard the chanting and was very curious about the object.

Lu Yin sat down upon the prayer mat. Suddenly, a dull, golden light appeared and swirled around him. The chanting kept increasing in volume until space itself distorted. Lu Yin suddenly disappeared along with the prayer mat, though not a single other thing changed in the King Zishan palace.

Lu Yin experienced the same sensation that he had felt when entering the Time Stop Space or the mysterious space whenever he rolled Possession, where he would select an orb of light. Thus, he had built up a certain amount of resistance towards these sudden changes. Despite that, he was still stunned when he took a closer look at his new surroundings. What was this place?

It resembled a massive arena, and the weather in this place was amazing as there were clear skies for miles. However, Lu Yin had appeared within ruins where even the ground had cracked in multiple places. Multiple bloodstains had colored the ground a muddy red, and there were even a few bones here and there, giving the entire area an extremely desolate appearance.

Lu Yin used his domain to survey the area and quickly observed that the scenery was the same everywhere. The entire place was cracked and covered with bloodstain, piles of bones, and even some ancient weapons.

This is probably an ancient land much like the insides of that ancient centipede's body, Lu Yin surmised.

He stood up, turned around, and looked at the futon that was still glowing. Lu Yin hesitated, but he then stored the prayer mat away before starting to walk forward across the cracked ground.

He took a step, but his foot caused the ground to crack further, even shattering a nearby skeleton.

"Seventh Bro, where are you right now?" the Ghost Monkey yelled.

"I don't know," Lu Yin answered.

“Seventh Bro, why do you always appear in all kinds of weird places?” the monkey complained.

Lu Yin bent down and examined the sword that lay next to the shattered skeleton. There were some ancient characters etched upon the blade. “Monkey, take a look at these words.”

The monkey took a look and curiously commented, “I don’t recognize them, but they still look rather familiar. The style of the writing seems rather similar to the words in the centipede’s body.”

“So they’re from the same time period?” Lu Yin asked.

“I’m not sure. It would depend on the development of this place’s culture, as written language can evolve quickly or slowly depending on the circumstances.”

There wasn’t a single living person within the scope of Lu Yin’s domain, and he couldn’t even find any animals nearby. His eyes looked around with star energy, but he still couldn’t see anything. This was the first time that this had happened ever since his eyes had transformed.

Lu Yin could only start walking towards the towering peaks that he saw off in the distance. Those peaks were a landmark, and if anyone was alive in this place, then they would probably head in that direction as well.

“Seventh Bro, let’s head back,” the monkey suggested.

“Let’s take a look around first,” Lu Yin replied. He had arrived by using the prayer mat, so he could probably only go back by using the prayer mat as well. It was very strange that a prayer mat could transport him to this place.

After a while, Lu Yin arrived at the foot of the mountain. There, he saw two huge stone pillars with a sign hung between the pillars. Upon it was carved some words:

‘This is a door, the mountain door.’

He then stepped through the mountain door and saw a twisting path in the forest. This place also resembled the arena where he had first appeared; many areas had been destroyed, and there were also random bones here and there.

This place is probably a sect that was destroyed countless years ago, Lu Yin thought to himself.

“Seventh Bro, let’s go! Don’t you think that this place might be haunted?” the monkey shouted.

“I’m going to screen you off if you spout out anymore nonsense,” Lu Yin growled in frustration.

The monkey immediately went silent.

After ten more minutes, Lu Yin suddenly halted. He had heard a weird noise that sounded like metal rubbing against metal.

Lu Yin turned to his right and saw that an enormous shadow had suddenly appeared right next to him.

Is this a metal automaton? Lu Yin was shocked.

The thing in front of him had a humanoid shape and appeared to be an automaton constructed entirely from metal. It was nearly three meters tall and had human features, but there were no pupils in its eyes, and its metallic body glinted brightly in the sunshine.

With a swoosh, the metal automaton swung its arm at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin dodged, but even the aftershock of the swing was enough to surprise him. The metal automaton was extremely strong.

The metal automaton was huge, but it reacted very quickly. It swung at Lu Yin once again, and this time, Lu Yin dodged before kicking at the metal automaton's abdomen. However, his kick was blocked by the metal automaton's other arm. There was a loud bang as Lu Yin was forced a few steps backward by the impact. He looked up at the thing in shock; this metal automaton was extremely sturdy, and it was incredibly strong as well.

"Seventh Bro, you were pushed back?" The monkey was astonished, as he knew perfectly well how freakishly strong Lu Yin was. On top of that, this metal automaton didn't even have the aura of a Hunter. At best, it's strength felt comparable to an Explorer's. Thus, it was unbelievable that it was physically stronger than Lu Yin.

Lu Yin clenched his fists, and his expression turned serious.

The metal automaton didn't give Lu Yin any time to prepare himself, and it immediately swung its arm down at him yet again, blocking the sun from his eyes. Lu Yin nimbly dodged aside, and he was about to retaliate when he realized that this metal automaton had increased its speed. It was now moving multiple times faster than it had before. Another attack descended from above, and Lu Yin dodged it again. Filling his eyes with star energy was useless in this place, and he needed the aid of a lockbreaking tool to use the Secret Sidestep Technique. However, he hadn't reached the point where he needed to rely on the technique as he was still able to respond to the automaton's movements with just his natural agility.

Lu Yin didn't retaliate as he wanted to test out the strength and speed of the metal automaton first.

He soon realized that the metal automaton was extremely strong and powerful, and it also moved very quickly. Moreover, it could extrapolate Lu Yin's weak spots based on his evasive movements. Although it didn't seem like the metal automaton had any intelligence, it did demonstrate a strong sense of instinct.

With a bang, Lu Yin punched the metal automaton's head in between its attacks. He used the strongest attack that he was capable of without unsealing his grains of Fatesand, and this blow was only barely able to dent the head of the metal automaton.

Lu Yin stared at the metal automaton in shock. His intention had been to send the head flying clean off since this was one of his strongest attacks. Ever since he had become an Explorer, he hadn't met anyone within the same realm as him who could withstand this attack, and it was easily powerful enough to defeat the person ranked fiftieth in the Top 100 Rankings. And yet, despite that, it hadn't been enough to defeat this automaton.

The automaton adjusted its head. It soon returned to its original position, after which it attacked Lu Yin again.

Lu Yin frowned and leaped up, suddenly appearing in front of the automaton's head. "Fiftyfold Shockwave Palm."

The metal automaton's head finally flew away from its body.

The metal automaton collapsed to the ground with a loud clunk.

Lu Yin moved forward and touched the metal casing. It was very hard, and he couldn't even dent it with his current strength. He looked up and wondered what sect had created these automatons. This should be the mountain entrance of the sect; could it be that these automatons were used as a test for those who wished to join the sect?

If that was the case, then it would be insane since no cultivator below the Explorer realm could defeat these metal automatons. Even if Mu Rong faced off against one of these metal automatons while in the Limiteer realm, he would have a hard time defeating one. What sect could this be, to use this kind of automaton to test out potential disciples?

A loud noise indicated the arrival of more metal automatons from the surrounding forest. However, there were three of them approaching Lu Yin this time.

Lu Yin immediately ran away as he didn't have the energy to fight against these metal automatons, not to mention that he didn't even know how many of them there were.

Although the metal automatons were fast, they weren't able to catch up with Lu Yin, and he soon lost them in the forest.

Huang San felt that he had been very unlucky ever since he had followed Xiaojing to this place. Even though he had arrived just a little later than her, that slight delay had become a huge distance between them, and he hadn't been able to find her anywhere. He had even been surrounded by five First Divine Gate Guardians, and he had almost died there.

Fine, surround me! I'll just retreat, Huang San thought to himself. However, when he glanced around him, he saw that there were another two guardians patrolling about a hundred meters away. He wanted to vomit blood and started wondering why there were so many guardians in this area. He had heard that these things had been almost completely destroyed after the war. Could he have run into all of the remaining guardians?

His family had finally managed to use their past contributions to obtain a futon. He couldn't die here, and he had to marry Xiaojing.

Huang San screamed and dodged to the side when he suddenly heard a bang. The metal automaton had created a huge crater, and he suddenly felt an ominous sensation coming from behind himself. He reflexively bent over as a huge arm swept past his head; just the aftershock itself almost tore his pants apart.

Huang San picked up his pants and rushed towards the base of the mountain. He soon encountered the two First Divine Gate Guardians that had been a ways off from him, and he was still being chased by the five others behind him.

Huang San was about to cry. He was just an Explorer, and he had never even killed anyone before. Why were they all targeting him?

Chapter 617: Miserable Fatty

Numerous metallic arms glinted in the sunlight as they crashed down towards the youth. Huang San opened his mouth. He knew that he was doomed, but at the critical moment when one of the arms descended, a shadow flickered past.

Boom boom boom boom!

Four successive loud sounds rang, and Huang San was stunned to see all of the metal automatons fly away like punching bags. He then felt something wrap around his neck as he was picked up by someone. The scenery before his eyes constantly changed, and the remains of the metal automatons vanished.

Huang San was hyperventilating as he looked around since he finally got an opportunity to check his surroundings. He quickly found the person who had rescued him, and he appeared to be about his age.

“Br- brother, thank you. I, Huang San, will never forget your kindness in saving my life.” Huang San was breathing heavily, and his forehead was beaded with sweat. He even had to lift his pants to move forward.

Lu Yin stared at the fatty who evidently had no strength left, and although his eyes flickered, he did not speak.

“May I know this brother’s respected name? Since you easily defeated a First Divine Gate Guardian, I believe that you must not be someone unknown. I am Huang San of the Bloodburn Realm.” The fatty rose to his feet with a bit of difficulty as he politely spoke to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin looked at him in the same manner as before, but he still did not speak. He had not yet made any sense of his present circumstances, so he simply pretended to be deaf and mute, as it was better to be cautious.

The fatty blinked. “Brother, I’m Huang San, from the Bloodburn Realm.”

Lu Yin remained silent as he looked up at the sky.

The fatty raised a hand and waved it in front of Lu Yin’s eyes in order to get Lu Yin’s attention. “Bro! I’m Huang San.”

Lu Yin just calmly looked at him.

Huang San was speechless. “Is Bro a mute?”

Lu Yin’s gaze remained unruffled.

Huang San’s expression turned sour. “I can’t be that unlucky! I finally met an expert after suffering all kinds of problems, but now it turns out he’s a mute! How tragic...”

Lu Yin started walking to a higher part of the mountain.

Huang San immediately moved forward as well. "Brother, even if you can't speak, you should still be able to make a few gestures! Where are you from? Which progenitor's path are you from? The Progenitor of Bloodlines? The Progenitor of Combat? The Progenitor of Secret Arts?"

Lu Yin's gaze abruptly changed. What? The Progenitor of Bloodlines? The Progenitor of Combat? The Progenitor of Secret Arts?

"What the @&*? Progenitor of Bloodlines? Progenitor of Combat? Progenitor of Secret Arts? Could that fatty really be talking about Progenitors? That's impossible! The universe shouldn't have any more Progenitors! That's supposed to be a title reserved only for a certain level of super powerhouse!" the Ghost Monkey shrieked.

Lu Yin thought about the fatty's words for a moment, and he looked at the sky again before continuing his leisurely walk up the mountain.

"Bro, don't tell me you can't hear me either! Can Fat Bro really be so unlucky as to meet a deaf mute?" The fatty lamented even as he chased after Lu Yin.

"Bro, can you really not hear me? Are you trying to fool Fat Bro? There's no need for such a thing! I'm just a puny Explorer without much talent, so there's no benefit in deceiving me. You can go ahead and say something!"

"Bro, you look pretty decent, though not half as good as Fat Bro."

"Bro, let's become sworn brothers."

...

Apparently, the fatty was someone who could not remain still, and he continued to chatter away next to Lu Yin. Although it was mostly a bunch of nonsense, it still gave Lu Yin the opportunity to learn some certain details, such as the fact that the fatty was an Explorer, that he was looking for his fiancée in this place, and most importantly, that this place was called the Daosource Sect.

And through the youth's words, Lu Yin quickly realized that he did not know any of the places that the fatty was mentioning, and some of the terms that he used were foreign as well.

"Bro, which powerhouse did you get your imprint from? A regular Imprinter? A World Imprinter? A Cosmic Imprinter?"

"Bro, can you really not hear me?" The fatty's voice jumped an octave higher.

...

Finally, the youth became completely confident that Lu Yin truly could not hear him, and at that point, he began to share his life story. "Fat Bro was born in the Bloodburn Realm, and the Huang family was originally an Imprinter clan that made contributions during the ancient war between the mainlands. But after that Imprinter ancestor died, the clan started to deteriorate. Fat Bro was fine with that, as I would be satisfied just muddling my way through life and simply waiting for death, but heavens like to turn humans into fools. Fat Bro coincidentally met Xiaojing and fell into the river of love. And since my Huang

family and Xiaojing's Yan family have an agreed upon engagement contract, Fat Bro felt like I had reached the peak of my life.

"Unfortunately, their Yan family looks down on my Huang family. Did you know, Bro, that the Yan Family has an Imprinter right now? That means that they're a true Imprinter clan. If my Huang family was still an Imprinter clan, then this engagement would still be valid, but now... Sigh, it's just a story of tears.

"The most frustrating part is that the Autumnfrost family has started to interfere, and that shameless Autumnfrost Qing actually wants to woo my Xiaojing! The Yan family can't wait to latch onto the Autumnfrost family since they're one of the strongest families in the entire Bloodburn Realm, and there's actually a world Imprinter in their clan! That's a world Imprinter! Even in the glory days of my Huang family, we couldn't compare to such a family. Sigh, Fat Bro's love life has been too turbulent, and even though Xiaojing and I could live together harmoniously, there are just too many obstructions.

"But Fat Bro will not give up! Fat Bro is determined to marry Xiaojing! That's Fat Bro's lifelong dream."

...

The fatty spoke nonstop for an entire hour, and Lu Yin listened to him in silence. As for whatever Imprinter, world Imprinter, and whatnot, Lu Yin did not understand a single word. However, that was still alright. As long as he spent enough time with the fatty, this fellow would definitely spill all the beans.

"Brother, Fat Bro's also had it tough. When I was three, Fat Bro saw a lady's skirt being blown up by the wind, and I moved forward to help her pull it down. Who knows which wretched person pushed Fat Bro, but I fell into her skirt. Fat Bro was just three back then, but the more important thing is that the lady was forty or fifty! So how could Fat Bro have liked her? Yet I was still called a pervert by others, and from that point on, Fat Bro became famous, and I was known as the little prince that burrowed into skirts. There are still legends about Fat Bro circulating in the city.

"At the age of four, I used my allowance to buy a heaven-shattering technique, and that book said that a child's urine could be used to promote one's talent in cultivation. Fat Bro decided to show my respect to my parents. So, I personally gave my father a cup of child's urine, which caused me to be hung and beaten by him for three days!

"When I was five, Fat Bro liked a very beautiful person the same age as me, and I mustered up the courage to declare my feelings, and I even succeeded! Fat Bro was excited, and I remember those feelings even to this day. But that wretched person was a boy! Shouldn't it be a crime for a boy to be so beautiful? And that guy still pesters Fat Bro even now, wanting Fat Bro to take responsibility!

"At six..."

...

Lu Yin gave the fatty a strange look. Was this fellow fabricating all this crap, or was he telling the truth? If these stories were real, then his experiences were absolutely legendary, and it was quite impressive that the youth had survived up till the present day.

"Seventh Bro, it's no mean feat that this stupid fatty has survived until now! Bring him along with you." The monkey sighed, as he actually sympathized with the fatty.

They heard a whooshing sound from up ahead. Then, a First Divine Gate Guardian charged out of the forest and swiped its hand at the fatty. The youth was stunned, as the guardian had actually been hidden so close by them. It was extremely fast as well, whereas the fatty was not very agile.

Fortunately, Lu Yin was right beside Fat Bro and he pulled him out of harm's way. He then kicked the guardian five meters backwards, which startled Huang San.

When Lu Yin had saved him the first time, he had been lost in terror, so he hadn't even seen what had happened. But this time, it was clear. "Bro, you used your leg to kick that thing! You're good!"

The First Divine Gate Guardian advanced towards them again, and Lu Yin's figure turned into a streak as he avoided its attack and then pressed a hand against the First Divine Gate Guardian's head. He unleashed a Hundredfold Shockwave Palm, and with a resounding thump, the guardian's head flew away as the automaton was crippled.

From start to finish, this exchange did not even take ten seconds.

The fatty's mouth fell open, and he looked at Lu Yin blankly. "Bro, you're definitely not from some nameless background! That thing was one of the Fifth Mainland's Daosource Sect's First Divine Gate's Guardians! A lot of elite disciples from large families might not be able to beat that thing in a one-on-one, but you destroyed it in just a few seconds without even using any imprints or battle techniques!"

Fifth Mainland? Lu Yin's eyes flashed, but he continued to walk along in silence.

The fatty licked his lips and beamed. "Bro, I know that you must have made adequate preparations before coming to the Daosource Sect, so where are you headed to? Oh!, I forgot, you can't speak or hear. Why don't you let Fat Bro follow you? Bro, you're such a good person, so you definitely won't mind, right?"

Another First Divine Gate Guardian was patrolling ahead of them, and Lu Yin stopped and looked at Huang San.

The youth just blinked. "Bro, what do you mean?"

Lu Yin looked at the guardian and then at the fatty while remaining frozen in place.

the fatty's expression soured. "Bro, you can't expect me to fight that thing!"

Lu Yin walked to the side of the small road and leaned against a tree. He then simply stared at the fatty without moving. This fatty had mentioned so many strange things along their way, and Lu Yin had not understood most of it. However, since many of the terms seemed to be related to combat, he wanted to observe the fatty's fighting style.

"I get it! Bro wants to see if I'm qualified to follow you! Alright! I, Fat Bro, will try my luck!" Fat Bro gritted his teeth and moved towards the First Divine Gate Guardian.

The guardian quickly discovered Fat Bro, and it fiercely charged towards him, causing the ground to quiver.

The fatty's face went pale and his eyes widened as he watched the construct get closer. Behind his back, a vague phantom image appeared. With that, the fatty's demeanor seemed to change, as an indescribable pressure suddenly appeared.

He shouted as he lashed out with a fist. "Thousand Elephants Punch!" A strange energy seemed to twine about his arm, and Lu Yin could hear bellows from all sorts of creatures as the other young man's fist crashed into the First Divine Gate Guardian.

Boom!

A shockwave blasted out and crushed the trees that were beside the road, and the guardian was actually forced to retreat a dozen steps by the attack. The fatty took that opportunity to attack again, but the phantom image behind him became even more indistinct the second time around.

"Thousand Elephants Punch!" With another bellow, the fatty's face flushed red. This punch landed squarely on the First Divine Gate Guardian's head and dislodged it as Huang San landed on the ground beside the guardian. They both collapsed onto the ground at the same time as the phantom image behind the fatty vanished.

Lu Yin watched this exchange in shock. What was that just now? He had been able to observe the fatty's strength, but as soon as that phantom image appeared, the youth's power had spiked, and the strength of his attacks had risen impressively. It almost seemed like he had become a different person.

With the fatty's power, he was incapable of eliminating a guardian with one punch, but he had just done it. Could the phantom that had appeared behind him be one of those imprints?

Lu Yin slowly walked over and bent his head to look at the fatty.

The fatty grimaced and smiled bitterly at Lu Yin. "Bro, I did my best, and I managed to defeat a First Divine Gate Guardian! Can I follow you?"

Lu Yin offered a hand that the fatty grabbed. He was pulled up by Lu Yin, after which he gingerly massaged his fist. At the moment, his fist was flushed red and even slightly swollen. It seemed that the two punches had taken a toll on his body.

He seemed rather ordinary, but he had relied on some strange strength to defeat a guardian. This place caused Lu Yin to feel very curious, and he felt as if he had seen a new path of cultivation.

The fatty's explosive strength could only be used to deal with a single First Divine Gate Guardian, but Lu Yin brought his new companion along as he continued on towards the mountaintop, dealing with the First Divine Gate Guardians that they encountered along their way.

Huang San was very curious about Lu Yin, as this person did not use any imprints, battle techniques, or innate gifts. However, despite all that, he was able to easily defeat the First Divine Gate Guardians, which showed just how terrifyingly strong his physical body was.

Chapter 618: The Daosource Sect

After the two had walked for a long time, the sky grew dark. Lu Yin sat on a tree and looked at the sky. Who would have thought that the night sky in this place would be so beautiful.

“Bro, how long will your source futon allow you to stay here for?” the fatty suddenly asked, but then he became annoyed. “I forgot. You’re deaf and mute.”

Lu Yin’s heart jolted. Source futon? That should be that yellow prayer mat. How long I can stay for? That means that there’s a time restriction, and each one is different.

He paused, but then decided to take out the futon and see what the fatty would say.

But the next moment, his face changed, as he could not access his cosmic ring.

What the heck? Why won’t my cosmic ring open? Lu Yin tried several times, but nothing changed. He suddenly recalled a specific detail: although the fatty was weaker than Lu Yin, he was still an elite genius compared to others. Such a person would definitely have medications on hand, but the youth’s fist was still swollen even now, and he had not used any medications to treat his wounds. Could that be because the fatty’s cosmic ring was also inaccessible?

Lu Yin laid down and pondered over the fatty’s words from during the day. Firstly, this place was called the Daosource Sect, and in particular, this was where the Daosource Sect used to test applicants who wished to become disciples, otherwise known as First Divine Gate. The fatty’s cultivation style was unique. He called it an “imprint,” and it seemed to somehow reinforce his personal strength. Also, it seemed that these imprints were symbols as well as a cultivation system. The fatty had mentioned that he was an Explorer, which indicated that this place was somehow connected to the universe. Otherwise, the cultivation realms would be referred to differently.

Since they were connected, but somehow had another cultivation system, then could this place be in a distant weave of the Outerverse? No, this cultivation system appeared to be very powerful, and the fatty’s power had been increased by an impressive amount when he had used it. This place shouldn’t be in the Outerverse. Then, could it be some flowzone of the Innerverse? Lu Yin kept guessing where he could be.

“Bro, why do you think Xiaojing isn’t accepting me? Could it be because Fat Bro’s not dashing enough? Actually, Fat Bro was very handsome when I was younger. Back when I was ten...”

Lu Yin looked at the fatty with some degree of admiration. The youth’s narcissism, and his miserable childhood—no, his entire life was miserable. However, the fatty continued to live on, and he was even rather happy-go-lucky. It would be a pity if he died now.

“Fat Bro’s gonna tell you a secret, one that even Xiaojing doesn’t know about. Fat Bro has publicly proclaimed that I’ve integrated with the bloodline of the Black Cow, and so, the Huang family has backed me up. Actually, the truth is that Fat Bro’s integrated bloodline is the Pompom Pig.” The fatty’s face suddenly became extremely unsightly. “When I think back to that year when I integrated with the bloodline, Fat Bro...”

Lu Yin did not quite understand this bit about bloodlines, but there was indeed such a method for increasing one’s personal strength back in the Astral Combat Academy, and the Dao of Change in the trial zones had contained some bloodlines. During the Astral Combat Tournament, Liu Yin had once used a bloodline, so it should be a similar concept.

Lu Yin blankly stared at the fatty. The Pompom Pig? Bloodline? This was all really ridiculous! Does this mean that the fatty's stories about his entire miserable life were all true?

As he considered this, Lu Yin instinctively wanted to distance himself from this fatty, as he did not want the young man's bad luck to rub off on him!

"Actually, even though the Pompom Pig sounds unpleasant, it's got a pretty decent potential. Rumor has it that there's an astral beast called the Sky-Eater Pig, and it's supposed to be extremely powerful. If I can get a hold of the Sky-Eater Pig's bloodline, then I could upgrade my Pompom Pig's bloodline and gain an unequalled bloodline! This is Fat Bro's dream, and Fat Bro believes that my life will not keep being so miserable. Thus, there's definitely still hope in the future. If there's a target and ambition, then life..."

The fatty's words never stopped once he started talking, and all sorts of maxims floated about in his brain, which gave Lu Yin the urge to vomit. He leaped down off of the tree and started walking up the mountain path once again.

"Eh, bro, why are you leaving? Wait for me! Wait for me!" The fatty hurriedly chased after Lu Yin.

After hurrying along for a day and a night, the two youths had traveled about half of the distance to First Divine Gate, at least according to the fatty. This road was too long, and there were First Divine Gate Guardians all along the way. Lu Yin did not know how this Daosource Sect had accepted disciples in the past, but with the current intensity of the entrance exam, it seemed that even if the entire universe was considered, only the elites who were in the top fifty of the Top 100 Rankings stood a chance of traversing this path safely. This was also after considering the current circumstances, where the Daosource Sect had already been shattered, and more than half of the First Divine Gate Guardians had been destroyed. If the sect was still in its peak period, then perhaps only the first thirty of the Top 100 Rankings would be able to pass through.

Why was this area so powerful? If a sect only accepted experts with the strength of the first thirty of the Top 100 Rankings, then that seemed rather extreme.

"Bro, work hard, the Budding Terrace is ahead. As long as we make it to the Budding Terrace, we can search for all sorts of good stuff, and there's no danger there either. Legend has it that the Budding Terrace not only contains battle techniques, but also bloodlines, natural treasures, power vessels, and even secret techniques!" The fatty was excited.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. Secret techniques? It can't be!

"Impossible! Even secret techniques? But judging by the standards that this First Divine Gate uses to test potential disciples, it may actually have some secret techniques. In any case, this monkey can't understand how your Human Domain has such a powerful sect! Fortunately it's already been destroyed. It should be known that if a sect's strength is directly proportional to disciples it accepts, then based on this degree of testing, during its peak period, this sect must have had a terrifying powerhouse whose power level exceeded 1,000,000," the monkey said.

When he heard that there might be a secret technique ahead, Lu Yin picked up his pace.

A few thousand meters ahead of the pair, a group of young men and women had been surrounded by a dozen First Divine Gate Guardians, and the youths could neither escape nor retreat. They were in a predicament that was quite similar to how Lu Yin had first encountered the fatty.

Fortunately, the road was narrow, and only a few of the guardians were able to close in on the youths at a time. Otherwise, if all of the constructs had rushed over simultaneously, the people there would have long since been finished off.

“Brother Lian, replace Brother Qiu and block those two guardians on the right!”

“Sister Kui, pull back now! Don’t use your imprint and preserve your strength.”

“Little Zhong, stay close to Sister Kui.”

...

A crisp voice rang out constantly, directing the group. The owner of the voice was a pretty young woman who appeared to be delicate and dignified, though not exceptionally beautiful. Still, she had a distinct temperament to her. Even when faced with a dozen First Divine Gate Guardians, she remained calm and collected. All of the members of the group obeyed her commands, and this allowed them to resist the onslaught of the First Divine Gate Guardians, and the youths were gradually able to calm themselves down.

However, although they were able to temporarily hold off the guardians, their defenses would not last for too long.

The girl continuously glanced around as she tried to think of a way to break out of their predicament attackers, but their only options were to head straight up or straight down. Still, they could not die here.

Suddenly, the girl saw two figures flash over, and her eyes lit up as she was just about to request for aid. However, when she saw who the two people were, her heart fell, and her brows involuntarily furrowed.

“Sister Jing, it’s Fatty!” one of her group members cried out, and the others quickly found an opportunity to look down the path where they could see the fatty and Lu Yin approaching them.

“What’s that dead fatty doing here! We can’t let him disrupt our formation! We don’t want to be killed because of that damn fatty,” shouted a woman who clearly looked down on Huang San.

Quite a few others echoed her comment. They said it out loud for the girl leading them to hear, as they were afraid that she would try to save the fatty, which would cause their formation to collapse.

Lu Yin and the fatty approached the group by head straight up the middle of the path. Lu Yin’s domain meant that he had noticed the struggling group long ago, but he had not revealed anything. This group was not weak by any means, and he even felt a faint ripple of a domain coming from the group, which showed that someone among them had comprehended a domain.

“Bro, it’s Xiaojing! It’s Xiaojing!” the fatty shouted emotionally as soon as he saw the surrounded group. His eyes were glued to the calm-looking girl directing the defenders.

Lu Yin looked over; was this the Yan Xiaojing who the fatty yearned for day and night? Not bad.

“Bro, Xiaojing’s in danger! Let’s go over and help them!” The fatty looked pleadingly towards Lu Yin.

Lu Yin had a calm expression, not revealing anything on his face.

The fatty grew anxious, as he had actually forgotten that his companion was supposedly deaf and mute. He continuously pointed at the surrounded group as he gesticulated for Lu Yin to rescue them.

Ahead of them, the surrounded group grew anxious as well. “What is that stupid fatty trying to do? He can’t be thinking of trying to save us, right?”

“He better not! If that stupid fatty comes, then not only will it be useless, but he’ll also break our formation!”

“Sister Jing, hurry up and warn that stupid fatty! Get him to scram.”

...

Within the crowd, Yan Xiaojing did not even look at the fatty, and she only stared at Lu Yin who stood beside him. She understood the fatty well, and she knew that he could not save them. His gestures were evidently intended for someone else to see, but was that because the person beside him couldn’t hear? But then what was the deal with that domain from before? As soon as she saw the person with Huang San, Yan Xiaojing felt that he was not simple. Since she was within the scope of Lu Yin’s domain, he gave her an indescribable sensation and felt rather immeasurable.

The fatty saw that Lu Yin still had not reacted, so he became flustered and stepped forward. “I’ll go.” he said before darting towards Yan Xiaojing and the others.

The surrounded people became extremely worried at this moment. “Stupid Fatty, don’t come over here!”

“Stupid Fatty! Go somewhere else! Don’t come here and make problems for us!”

“Are you trying to get killed, Fatty?”

...

Huang San did not bother paying any attention to the shouting people as he was focused only on Yan Xiaojing. A hazy phantom image appeared behind him, and he punched at one of the First Divine Gate Guardians. Perhaps it was due to the force of love or something else, but the fatty’s punch directly destroyed a guardian in one hit, though he was also wounded. His fist swelled and turned a deep red, and his attack had also drawn the attention of a few other guardians, which turned to attack him.

Within the crowd, Yan Xiaojing frowned, as there were a dozen guardians surrounding them, so defeating just one was pointless. She could choose to not save the fatty, which was what this group wished, but she would not make such a choice since Huang San had voluntarily come to rescue her. Without a better choice, Yan Xiaojing took action, and her tender palm reached past the crowd to land on the body of one of the guardians attacking the fatty, causing a dull thump. It seemed that her attack was actually a trigger to a chain reaction as the construct took several steps back until it eventually ended up backing a dozen meters away due to the force of the air wave.

Lu Yin's eyes lit up. What an exquisite palm technique. One palm had turned into three, and the key to that attack was that the might of the second and third palms had been hidden, which was unlike how he used the Shockwave Palm and Overlaying Stacks method. If not for his domain, then Lu Yin might not have even noticed anything, as apparently, the woman who had just attacked the guardian had also comprehended a domain. That woman was definitely more than just a little stronger than the fatty.

The consecutive blows sent the First Divine Gate Guardians that had been attacking the fatty sliding backwards. In that time, Yan Xiaojing grabbed the fatty and pulled him inside the group.

"Stupid Fatty! Why haven't you died yet?" one girl cursed at him.

The others did not look very happy either, as Yan Xiaojing had not acted as they had hoped and instead moved to save someone at a crucial moment. To save the fatty, she had been forced to drain her own physical strength and star energy, which meant that another person might not be saved later on. Nobody wished to be left behind or forsaken, so they all hated the fatty at this moment.

The fatty grinned foolishly as he looked at Yan Xiaojing.

She panted as she glanced at Huang San. "Who's that person with you?"

The fatty caressed his fist and looked past the guardians over at Lu Yin who was standing calmly in the distance. "I don't know. We met on the way. He's a deaf mute."

"A deaf mute?" Yan Xiaojing's gaze flashed, but she did not bother with the fatty any further. Their group from the Bloodburn Realm weren't the only ones walking along this path, as anyone from the Sixth Mainland who had a futon could enter this place. This person might not be from the Bloodburn Realm, and he might not even be a member of the younger generation under Progenitor of Bloodlines.

Chapter 619: Budding Terrace

Even after watching for a while, Lu Yin still did not move.

The surrounded people had noticed him long ago and seen how he had remained motionless, which caused them all to be rather relieved. They had been afraid that he would make a move like the fatty and also prompt Xiaojing to rescue him, which would just cause more problems for them.

There was a thump as a First Divine Gate Guardian was split apart and instantly ruined, but another guardian simply replaced it. The group found it difficult to maintain their strength, and if they did not quickly break out of the encirclement, then they would end up dead sooner or later.

"Brother Lian, rest and let me take over." Yan Xiaojing stepped forward as a phantom image appeared behind her, similar to what Lu Yin had seen when some of the others had attacked. However, while the phantom images that appeared behind each person were the same, some images tended to be rather vague and indistinct whereas others were clearer and more defined. The phantom image behind Yan Xiaojing was the clearest that Lu Yin had seen so far, and he could even make out the phantom's features. Only now did he see that the phantom was a person, or to be more precise, an elder.

What did this mean? Why was there a phantom image of a person behind these people, and how was it reinforcing their strength? Were these the imprints that the fatty had mentioned?

With the added strength of the phantom image, Yan Xiaojing defeated another guardian with a single strike, displaying a strength that was on a completely different level compared to when she had rescued the fatty. However, summoning a phantom image was clearly very strenuous for these cultivators, and the phantom image behind Yan Xiaojing became fuzzy after she defeated just three of the guardians before gradually vanishing.

Lu Yin saw the fatty's pleading expression from among the crowd, and his own gaze trembled. There was no need for him to wait any longer as he had already seen everything that he wanted to see. He considered things for a moment before leaping forward to stand behind one of the guardians. He swatted out with a Hundredfold Shockwave Palm. With a bang, the guardian's head flew off. Lu Yin continued to unleash more Hundredfold Shockwave Palms, as this technique no longer placed any burdens on his body. If he diverted the three grains of Fatesand, then he would be able to display an even more extreme version of the Shockwave Palm. However, against these guardians, Hundredfold Shockwave Palms were more than enough.

Lu Yin instantly eliminated seven or eight of the First Divine Gate Guardians when he took action, and when he was done, everyone else's expressions had become dumbfounded, even Yan Xiaojing. Her all-out strength when she used her imprint and battle techniques had only been enough to take out three of the automatons, but this person could do far more with just his physical strength. He was definitely not someone under the Blood Progenitor, as only those under the Martial Progenitor were capable of such feats.

There was another thump as Lu Yin destroyed another guardian. Then, he then pulled the fatty up before leaving. That group was shocked, but they quickly followed behind.

"Xiaojing! Xiaojing, come quickly! Follow Fat Bro," the fatty shouted.

Half of the dozen First Divine Gate Guardians had been wiped out, but there was still the other half left, as Lu Yin did not plan to completely take care of them all.

After running for quite a while, the group managed to shake off the pursuit of the First Divine Gate Guardians. They all collapsed along the side of the narrow road, panting heavily with miserable expressions.

Huang San thanked Lu Yin and then quickly ran over to fawn over Yan Xiaojing, which put the others in a rotten mood. However, due to Lu Yin's presence, they no longer dared to ridicule the fatty any further. They had all been rather shocked by Lu Yin's strength, and in their minds, Lu Yin was someone under the Martial Progenitor, as only those freaks would train their bodies to such a monstrous degree.

Yan Xiaojing pushed the fatty aside and walked towards Lu Yin with a smile. "I'm Yan Xiaojing of the Bloodburn Realm's Yan family."

Lu Yin looked at her, but he did not respond.

Fatty immediately stepped forward with a beaming face. "Xiaojing, I've already told you—this brother here is both deaf and mute. He can neither hear nor speak."

Yan Xiaojing stared into Lu Yin's eyes for a bit, but then she nodded and made a gesture showing her gratitude before moving away.

Lu Yin looked at Yan Xiaojing's retreating figure. Her personality was decent, and her figure was good. It was no wonder why the fatty wanted to wrap himself around her.

"Bro, don't bully your friend's partner!" The fatty suddenly placed himself in front of Lu Yin and sternly scolded him.

Lu Yin was speechless, but he then turned his attention towards another direction.

It was common among men to assume that others were similarly drawn to the girl that they themselves fancied. Lu Yin was also jealous and paranoid that everyone would be attracted to Ming Yan, so he found it understandable.

"Seventh Bro, this stupid fatty is not the least bit self-aware. That woman is clearly not someone who's easy to deal with, but he actually thinks that she'll like him! What a joke!" the Ghost Monkey ridiculed.

Lu Yin also reckoned that that was the case.

"Xiaojing, why didn't you wait around for Fat Bro? I almost didn't catch up with you." the fatty twisted himself about Yan Xiaojing and spoke of his recent troubles.

Yan Xiaojing grudgingly responded, "You should head back. The Daosource Sect is fraught with danger, and it's easy to die here."

"Fat Bro's not afraid! Wherever Xiaojing goes, Fat Bro will follow," the fatty spoke sincerely.

Yan Xiaojing did not know what to say anymore, as she was rather helpless when it came to this fatty. If he was just some average suitor, then things would be fine if she just sent him away. But this fatty's Huang family and her Yan family had an engagement contract that was scheduled to come into effect during their generation, so she was truly the fatty's fiancée.

"Come on, Fatty, just give up. Sister Jing likes Brother Autumnfrost, and he also likes her. There are feelings between the two of them, so you can't just force yourself onto her," one woman ridiculed towards Huang San. She was known as Sister Kui.

The fatty retorted, "You think that Fat Bro doesn't know? You also like Autumnfrost Qing, so if Fat Bro marries Xiaojing, then won't you have a shot? Despite that you don't want to help Fat Bro and still try to undermine me. How stupid!"

Sister Kui was about to retort, but she forcibly endured the urge as she felt that the fatty was actually right.

On the other side of the group, another man grew flustered as he liked Sister Kui. "Don't speak nonsense, stupid Fatty. Sister Jing and Brother Autumnfrost are a match made in the heavens. When their two families join forces, they'll become the strongest family in the entire Bloodburn Realm."

"What are you worried about? Relax, Autumnfrost Qing won't like someone like Sister Kui. You'll get your chance. There's no need to get all worked up." The fatty waved his hands.

The man released a pent up breath and relaxed, but then he glared angrily at the fatty and responded, "Stupid Fatty, what did you just say? You dare humiliate Sister Kui."

Sister Kui was also furious. "Stupid Fatty! Say that again!"

The fatty merely rolled his eyes.

Lu Yin found the entire situation amusing, as this fatty's way of speaking was rather entertaining.

Yan Xiaojing grew impatient. "Alright, less nonsense. Don't bring those First Divine Gate Guardians to us again." She then stared at the fatty with the intention of making him move further away, but she had evidently underestimated the fatty's thick skin. He doggedly followed her wherever she went, which was rather tiring.

Lu Yin suddenly recalled something that the fatty had said as they had been walking along earlier. 'I'll annoy her until she abandons all resistance.'

It had to be said that the fatty's willpower was quite firm, and he was also uniquely gifted in this aspect.

After resting for a bit, the crowd gradually restored their exhausted star energy. Yan Xiaojing glanced at Lu Yin and then told the group, "Let's move along. We're about halfway to First Divine Gate, and as long as we make it through there, we'll be right above the Budding Terrace. I believe that everyone here has heard the legends that say that battle techniques, cultivation arts, power vessels, bloodlines, and even secret techniques might be found there."

Yan Xiaojing's words made the group grow excited, and some of them even started to hyperventilate at the thought of striking it rich.

To these cultivators, the most important treasures they could find were bloodlines and secret techniques, particularly the latter. Even a cosmic Imprinter's clan might not necessarily have one, and every secret technique had a unique effect on the universe that could transform something rotten into something magical. As long as they got their hands on a secret technique, they would be able to surpass everyone else, and their status would be elevated to where everyone admired them.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed, as there were many aspects in this place that were similar to his universe, such as the differentiation of realms, the energy that they absorbed being called star energy, and battle techniques and cultivation arts were also referred to with the same lexicon. In that case, secret techniques should also be the same, which meant that this sect had actually placed secret techniques at this so-called Budding Terrace. Could this sect really have had this many secret techniques?

The Ghost Monkey found it hard to believe as well. "Those techniques are probably fake and were only used to swindle the entering disciples. How could somebody have placed secret techniques in a place that so many can reach, not to mention a place with no danger! What a joke! Do they think that secret techniques are that easy to obtain?"

Lu Yin agreed. Although he had not cultivated for too long, he had already come into contact with many things that normal cultivators could not even imagine. For example, he had already seen both the Yu Secret Art and the Yōu Secret Art. Even Liu Shaoqiu, Mu Rong, Ling Que, and Cursewind, who were innately gifted geniuses, had never received a secret technique, and it was evidently not something that was easily obtained.

Yan Xiaojing was trying to encourage them, and she escorted the group along the small path.

The fatty eagerly followed behind her, practically drooling as he did so, which made many of the others unhappy.

Lu Yin walked at the rear, and no one interacted with him, as in their mind, he was a deaf mute.

Darkness soon covered the sky. By a rough estimation, it would take them two days and two nights to traverse the entire path, and they had finally covered half of the distance.

Everyone rested for a while before continuing onwards.

The fatty fell back to walk at Lu Yin's side to chat with him from time to time before running back to the front and pestering Yan Xiaojing again. He did not seem to grow tired from walking back and forth either.

"Stupid Fatty, stop annoying us by running to and fro! Don't attract a First Divine Gate Guardian," Sister Kui chided.

The fatty rolled his eyes. "You should learn from Fat Bro! Run more so that you can make your legs more slender. Maybe Autumnfrost Qing might accept you then. Of course, you still won't be able to keep up with our family's Xiaojing."

Sister Kui became furious.

Suddenly, Lu Yin's expression changed and he looked to the back. Someone was approaching them.

It didn't take long for Yan Xiaojing to notice the same thing through her domain, and she turned around to look at the back with a grave expression. Someone was approaching them at great speed.

Soon after, even those without domains were able to sense the fluctuations of star energy from behind them. When the group looked back, they saw a man in grey clothing with a pair of shoes that shined with a metallic lustre charging towards them very quickly. It didn't take long for him to pass by the group, and he continued up the mountain without even sparing the group so much as a glance.

"It's someone from the Progenitor of Combat Territory," someone said somberly before sneaking a glance at Lu Yin.

Yan Xiaojing also looked back at Lu Yin. "Let's keep going."

Lu Yin stared at the back of the man in grey clothing, and shock flashed through his eyes. When the man had streaked past them, a strong gale had blown past them in his wake, which gave Lu Yin a sense of the man's extreme strength. It had been pure physical strength, and it was no weaker than Lu Yin's normal state.

Who knew how some random person that had suddenly appeared could have such power, and that man was not that old either. Where exactly was he? Could this place be in the Neoverse? Lu Yin's mind kept racing.

No one in the group said anything more as they continued to make their way up the mountain, and they soon found shattered First Divine Gate Guardians along the path in front of them.

“It should be that person’s work. Those lunatics from the Progenitor of Combat Territory are just freaks,” someone mumbled. However, they were immediately shoved by the person walking beside them. Their heart skipped a beat as they turned to look back at Lu Yin, but then they relaxed when they saw that Lu Yin had not reacted in any way. The people in the group had all assumed that Lu Yin was someone from the Progenitor of Combat Territory.

“Not necessarily. Many from our Progenitor of Bloodlines Territory have also integrated with bloodlines that can increase their physical strength, and some are in no way inferior to those martial freaks. For example, Fatty’s black ox is very durable,” Sister Kui teased.

“That’s right, Fatty is indeed durable,” someone else echoed.

The fatty rolled his eyes. Durability was indeed an advantage, or else he would have died long ago.

Lu Yin really wanted to know what was different about the areas that they had mentioned so far, such as the Progenitor of Bloodlines Territory and Progenitor of Combat Territory. This was completely different from the universe’s weaves and Flowzones.

The sky started to brighten, which indicated that they were not too far away from their goal.

Suddenly, Lu Yin’s expression changed as he had sensed quite a few First Divine Gate Guardians charging towards them with his domain. In front of the automatons was a very fast man who was moving even faster than the man in the grey clothes who had run past them earlier. More importantly, this person was running with four limbs on the ground, just like a mouse.

Chapter 620: The Fifth Mainland

Lu Yin had not spread his domain too far out, so Yan Xiaojing caught sight of the man shortly after Lu Yin, and her expression suddenly changed. “Quickly, hide!”

The crowd immediately scattered and scrambled up some nearby trees. Once hidden, they looked into the distance.

Soon, the person who was running on all fours approached them with a dozen First Divine Gate Guardians in tow, shaking the ground wherever they passed. It was a magnificent sight.

That person soon arrived at the group’s previous position. He smiled sinisterly at them before suddenly charging into the forest, right beneath the trees that held Sister Kui and quite a few others.

The guardians dashed into the forest and unintentionally knocked the trees over, instantly leading to Sister Kui and the others being discovered. They were then targeted by the automatons’ attacks a moment later.

“Haha, take care, everyone! Enjoy my gift to you all!” The person escaped with a laugh, his speed a bit faster than when he had arrived.

Yan Xiaojing’s expression turned ugly. “It’s him! He’s from a clan that was wiped out by my Yan family before.”

“Is that the family with the Devouring Rat bloodline?”

Yan Xiaojing nodded. "That guy must have known where we were long ago, and he intentionally gathered a bunch of guardians before drawing them here. Everyone! Listen to my commands!"

The number of guardians that had appeared this time were nearly twice what had surrounded them before. Even with Lu Yin's assistance, the group did not think that they would be able to escape from this situation unscathed, especially since some of them had already been beaten to the point of vomiting blood and nearly died.

Lu Yin's eyes grew cold. If not for the fact that he did not want to expose too much of his strength, he would have chased down the guy who had just fled and slaughtered him. However, their current situation was still alright. These people's survival was not his concern, and at most, he would rescue the fatty and Yan Xiaojing. These First Divine Gate Guardians were not enough to pose a threat to him.

Yan Xiaojing took on the position of commander again and coordinated the group's efforts to fight off the guardians. Fortunately, the road here was not too wide, so the constructs' attacks were limited, and there was no way for them to swarm the cultivators despite their greater numbers. Lu Yin was also eliminating them from outside of the group, and after half an hour of battling, a small gap opened up in the guardians' encirclement, giving the group an opportunity to flee.

Three people died during this battle, which caused their mood to fall.

Yan Xiaojing clenched her fists. "I vow that I'll find that rat and get revenge for everyone."

The fatty had also been injured, though not severely. However, were it not for Lu Yin's intervention, Huang San definitely would have died during the fight. He was grateful to Lu Yin from the bottom of his heart, and he continued to jabber on endlessly.

Lu Yin's gaze swept across the crowd, and he could see resentment in their eyes.

Some blamed him for the deaths since he had clearly not given his all. In fact, they had all seen that he had not used his imprint. Lu Yin did not bother trying to justify himself, and he simply continued to pretend to be deaf and mute.

The fatty jumped forward to quarrel with the others, and Yan Xiaojing only barely managed to get them all back under control.

"That person has no relationship with us and isn't even a friend. The fact of the matter is that by staying behind and helping us, he has already shown us a great deal of benevolence. We can't expect outsiders to do their best for our sake. Relax, we will join up with Brother Autumnfrost soon enough, and then we'll be safe," Yan Xiaojing said softly.

Nobody else said anything more.

"Bunch of ingrates," the fatty sneered.

"You should also talk less!" Yan Xiaojing glared at the fatty before shooting a quick glance over at Lu Yin, after which she fell silent.

She felt resentful towards him just like the others, but as she herself had said, there was no obligation for Lu Yin to do his best for their sake.

Lu Yin simply did not care what they thought, and he curiously explored the area by himself. If he didn't have the intention to eavesdrop on them and learn some more useful information, he would have left them long ago. The only worth that these people had in his eyes was the information that they could provide him.

But on that note, if these people were all blaming Lu Yin for not using his imprint, then did that mean that all cultivators in this place had imprints? Where did these imprints come from? He had heard them mention an Imprinter's family before, and the term Imprinter seemed to reference a powerhouse who had reached a certain level. In that case, what relationship did these powerhouses have with these people's imprints?

Things were getting more interesting, and Lu Yin was growing increasingly excited.

The person who had run past them and led a bunch of First Divine Gate Guardians to them seemed to have gathered them all up, as the group barely ran into any more automatons on their way to the Budding Terrace. At most, they saw one or two.

They finally arrived at the end of First Divine Gate, which was another large door. Once they passed through that door, they would arrive at a light pillar, and entering that pillar would teleport them to the Budding Terrace.

"It feels like I'm dreaming, passing through the Daosource Sect's gate examination." The fatty sighed in relief.

Someone nearby immediately ridiculed him, saying, "The Fifth Mainland's Daosource Sect has already been destroyed. Why else would it be so simple? The final section of our Mainland's Daosource Sect's gate is simply absurd, but with your strength you wouldn't even be able to get to the mountain gate."

The fatty did not retort, as he had also previously mentioned to Lu Yin that the degree of difficulty for this current examination had dropped drastically.

Lu Yin had not taken those words seriously, but his expression changed slightly when he heard all the others mention the same thing as well. This was the difficulty in getting inside a sect after it had already been destroyed? How difficult must it have been when the sect was in its prime? The Fifth Mainland's Daosource Sect had been destroyed, but one of them had just mentioned their Mainland's Daosource Sect, so did that mean that there was more than one Daosource Sect? And for that matter, what was the Fifth Mainland?

There were too many parts that Lu Yin still did not understand.

He passed through the mountain door, and Yan Xiaojing and the others relaxed greatly, though the fatty's face became more unsightly. At this point, he finally stopped pestering Yan Xiaojing and instead moved next to Lu Yin's side, where he mumbled something incomprehensible to himself.

The teleportation light pillar that they came across was not something foreign to Lu Yin, as he had encountered a similar thing back during Astral-10's entrance exam.

He moved forward, and the scenery quickly changed before his eyes. When Lu Yin next opened his eyes, he did not see the mountain or the gate anymore. Instead, he saw a completely different scene.

The sky was still the same sky, but the clouds seemed to be much closer together, and the air was also much thinner here. When he looked around, he saw that the ground was still shattered everywhere and also stained with blackened blood. There were many strange marks scattered about, which must have been left by battles in the past. There were many strange plants sprouting out from crevices in the ground, and the air also carried a certain fragrance that had a strong calming effect.

Lu Yin filled his eyes with star energy once again, but he still could not see any rune lines.

He stepped away from the pillar of light, and that feeling of peace became even more intense.

“This is the Fifth Mainland’s Daosource Sect’s Budding Terrace. Who knows if it’s the same as our Sixth Mainland’s Daosource Sect’s Budding Terrace.”

“Nonsense! Of course not. This place has already been destroyed while our Sixth Mainland is still in its period of glory. It even has three Progenitors existing at the same time. That Budding Terrace is thriving much more than this place.”

“Unfortunately, we can’t pass that examination since only those who are at Brother Autumnfrost’s level of strength can enter the Daosource Sect to cultivate. Only they even have a chance to meet the three ancestors.”

...

Lu Yin silently listened to their conversations, though his eyes sparkled. The amount of information he had about the Fifth Mainland and Sixth Mainland was increasing.

“Autumnfrost Qing, Autumnfrost Qing. These idiots only know to think about Autumnfrost Qing. They just can’t realize that, no matter how they network, they still won’t be able to develop any sort of relationship with that person,” the fatty mumbled next to Lu Yin with an unhappy expression on his face.

Lu Yin glanced at him and then looked over towards Yan Xiaojing.

Yan Xiaojing was staring off into the distance. Then, she looked both westwards and eastwards.

“Everyone, follow me. I know where Brother Autumnfrost is.”

“Alright, we can finally join up with Brother Autumnfrost’s group!” Everyone in the crowd grew excited.

Lu Yin was curious, as he heard of Autumnfrost Qing’s name countless times during their journey. These people all seemed to worship him, and not just because of his background either. The fatty loathed him since Autumnfrost Qing was chasing Yan Xiaojing, but no matter what disparaging words he said, the fatty had never denied Autumnfrost Qing’s strength. It seemed that this person was very powerful, and he might be a good measure of this place’s standards for Lu Yin.

“Why is that deaf mute still following us?” someone asked as they turned to look at Lu Yin without any of the wariness that had been present before.

Sister Kui mocked Lu Yin, saying, "I think that he's been listening to us and knows that we're about to meet back up with Brother Autumnfrost. Thus, he's deliberately following us so that he can also obtain Brother Autumnfrost's protection."

"That's true, Brother Autumnfrost is one of the most powerful experts in our Bloodburn Realm's younger generation, and he is second only to Di Fa. With Brother Autumnfrost's protection, we might even be able to seize some fortune here."

The fatty couldn't hold himself back anymore. "You bastards are still underestimating him! Brother Deafmute's strength isn't too low, and he doesn't need Brother Autumnfrost's protection. It's just- It's just- It's just that he doesn't know the way!"

Pfft!

The crowd mocked the fatty, and Yan Xiaojing quietly scolded them. "Stop bickering! There's no danger from the Budding Terrace itself, but that doesn't mean that we won't encounter attacks or ambushes from others. Our Bloodburn Realm and the Blood Homage Realm have never stopped fighting throughout all these years, so we all need to remain cautious."

The crowd immediately stopped speaking.

Lu Yin observed his surroundings, rather curious about this place. This Budding Terrace seemed to be rather large, but it had unfortunately been smashed to pieces. He could not find a single intact surface, which indicated that the battle that had destroyed this sect must have been extremely bitter.

Before long, Lu Yin suddenly felt a fluctuation through his domain, which meant that there was a powerhouse nearby. He hurriedly withdrew his domain, and his face grew solemn.

In the distance, at the edges of where Lu Yin's domain had spread to, a youth's eyes suddenly went wide, and he looked in Lu Yin's direction. He was puzzled, as he had felt like someone was just spying on him. This feeling was from someone else's domain, and while he had not comprehended a domain himself, his senses were still quite sharp. It had been just a peep, and there had been no hostility within the probe.

But this domain had given him a strange feeling, and it even caused him to feel a small quiver. His many years of battle experience meant that he fully trusted his instincts, but there should not be many youths in the Sixth Mainland who could make him feel anxious. Just who could it be? He stood up and leaped into the sky, heading in the direction where he had felt the domain come from. This place was the ruins of the Fifth Mainland's Daosource Sect, and it was fraught with danger as well as fortune. He could not allow someone with such strength to remain near him, so he had to verify who this person was.

Lu Yin and the others continued walking forward when a cry suddenly sounded out. "Brother Autumnfrost!"

Everyone looked up at the sky and saw a youth who had suddenly appeared. He similarly saw the group and immediately descended.

Yan Xiaojing and the others hurriedly rushed over excitedly while the fatty's mouth twisted bitterly.

"Brother Autumnfrost, did you come to find us?" Sister Kui asked excitedly.

This youth was indeed Autumnfrost Qing, and he had actually traveled in this direction to find the powerhouse whose domain he had just felt. Although he had not expected to run into this group, he quickly responded, "That's right. You guys were a bit later than I expected, so I was afraid that you had fallen into some trouble." He then looked over at Yan Xiaojing. "Xiaojing, are you alright?"

Yan Xiaojing smiled and nodded her head. "I'm fine. Thank you for your concern, Brother Autumnfrost."

Autumnfrost Qing nodded, but then, his attention shot past the youths who had gathered around him and focused on the fatty. His lips curled up into a strange smile. "I never thought that you would dare to come here, Fatty San."

The fatty's expression changed, but he forced out a smile. "I tagged along to take a look."

He dared to mock Autumnfrost Qing in private, but he did not dare to directly say such things to his face.

"Why Fatty, weren't you being all high and mighty on our way here? Are you scared now that you're meeting Brother Autumnfrost?" Someone sneered.

Sister Kui also mocked him. "Fatty, what do you intend to do now? Are you going to follow Brother Autumnfrost or Sister Jing? You better pick one, as otherwise, there'll be no one left to protect you. Oh, right, I forgot. Sister Jing is definitely going along with Brother Autumnfrost, keke."

The fatty's face became extremely ugly, and he had no response.