

### **Chapter 711: Tong Chou And The Skybeast Claw**

Lu Yin felt helpless when he discovered that a Limiteer's ball of light could be so bright. A bright ball of light meant that either their cultivation or some other certain area should have similar attainments, so what could he share with this Limiteer? He walked to a window and looked out as he recalled his situation. This person lived on a nameless floating mainland, but everyone here simply called it the Mara River battlefield's frontline. That's right—he had possessed Tong Chou, who was a person from the Sixth Mainland. This place was the Sixth Mainland's warfront against the Fifth Mainland, and this was where they had invaded the Inniverse.

Lu Yin never thought that he would have come to this place, as the Mara River was the name the Sixth Mainland used for the Starfall Sea. Nobody knew where the source or the mouth of the Starfall Sea lay, but Lu Yin now knew the answer. The source was in the Sixth Mainland, and the water flowed back into the Sixth Mainland from the bottom-up, which formed the Mara River.

Thus, the Sixth Mainland had invaded the Inniverse by traveling down the Mara River. This mainland was just one of the invasion's battlefields, and Tong Chou was a disciple from the Grand Martial Realm. The Tong family was a Cosmic Imprinter family that was extremely formidable, and it could dominate an entire mainland.

According to Tong Chou's memories, Lu Yin learned that the war between the Sixth Mainland and the Inniverse was currently at its peak.

He had previously thought that the Sixth Mainland would easily route the Inniverse during their invasion and that their forces would be unstoppable. However, the truth was that the Inniverse had many hidden trump cards, and it had been able to temporarily withstand the invasion. The Sixth Mainland had sent out Imprinters and World Imprinters, and in response, the Inniverse had sent out Envoys and old freaks with power levels in the hundreds of thousands.

Although the Inniverse had halted the Sixth Mainland's advance for the moment, the casualties that the Inniverse had suffered were very harsh, and even Tong Chou was aware that quite a few Envoys whose power levels were over 500,000 had already perished. Some planets within the Starfall Sea had been destroyed, and each one of them had been protected by an old freak whose power levels were in the hundreds of thousands.

At this moment, a certain memory surged into his mind, and Lu Yin saw the scene of a certain battlefield where it looked like the apocalypse had struck. He felt as small as an ant caught in a hurricane when, suddenly, he saw a strange figure—a horse burning with flames was trotting through the void. It glanced at him from a distance, and just that glance had caused Tong Chou to be frightened to the point where he had nearly collapsed.

Lu Yin had seen this figure before, as it had traversed through the void and terrified him before. It had been this exact same figure.

There were all sorts of people scattered across the battlefield, and Tong Chou was just a Limiteer, so the figure had merely glanced at him from a distance before leaving. Lu Yin wanted to learn some more information about this familiar figure, as he himself was not sure about who they were.

The only thing that Lu Yin knew was that this battle had tilted in favor of the Sixth Mainland.

In the distance, a cool wind blew by, and Lu Yin felt his brain sober up even as more memories continuously surged forth. He suddenly knew why he had Possessed this person's body; Tong Chou had actually cultivated the Skybeast Claw.

The Skybeast Claw had been left behind by the Great Yu Empire's Undying Yushan, and the Great Yu Empire's version had 108 forms, all of which Lu Yin had learned. On the Stargazing Deck of the Astral Combat Academy, he had seen incomparably huge warships traveling through space, and one of their hulls had borne scars from the Skybeast Claw. This battle technique was evidently not as simple as Lu Yin had initially thought, and he was even more certain of that now, since the Skybeast Claw was a technique that was also present in the Sixth Mainland.

Tong Chou's Skybeast Claw had been unintentionally found, much in the same way that Ruky Mathers had learned the Shattering Strike. He had found a simple claw imprint on a stone, and derived the technique from studying it from a young age. The strength of his technique was even greater than the Great Yu Empire's 108 forms. The claw imprint contained a deep intent from the Skybeast Claw.

Although it was nothing more than a memory gained through Possession, Lu Yin raised his hand and formed a claw with his hand. The resulting beast howl that sounded out from the void was enough to shock hearts, and there was an ancient aura that seemed to seeped out from the past.

Lu Yin's eyes lit up, as the power of this technique would be incredible if he used it in his own body. He had already branded this technique into his memory, and he lowered his hand. Lu Yin would not forget this technique, and he would already consider his gains sufficient if he just went back now and practiced it. He wondered how powerful it would prove to be.

He stepped out of the room and saw some people shuttling through space. They were cultivators from the Tong family who were participating at the warfront and had helped the Tong family plunder resources.

At present, Tong Chou was aware that the Tong family had pillaged two planets within the Starfall Sea, seizing billions of slaves and more importantly, quite a large amount of resources. They had even found inheritances from powerhouses whose power levels were in the several hundreds of thousands, which had made the Tong family rather excited.

The Tong family's main battlefield was within the Starfall Sea, but in reality, the Sixth Mainland's invasion into the Inniverse was mainly made up of cultivators from the Blackblood Realm. The scope of the invasion had enveloped the entire Mara River, and the realm had dedicated nearly all of its power to invading the Inniverse. They had already conquered the Starfall Sea, and next was Chaos Flowzone.

"Tong Chou, come here," a crisp voice called out from the distance.

Lu Yin turned around and saw a young lady. To his surprise, he actually knew her from his own memories.

He still remembered how, on his second visit to the Daosource Sect's ruins, he had traded blows with a girl in the plaza outside of the First Divine Gate. The girl in front of him now was the same one. Right, now that I think about it, that girl's surname is also Tong. What a coincidence.

When he saw her, Lu Yin was astonished due to the coincidence, but he also sensed panic, hate, and helplessness from Tong Chou. Lu Yin quickly scanned through his host's memories and realized why. This girl, Tong Tong, took particular delight in bullying Tong Chou, and this she had already treated him like a dog for several years. His hatred for her was very strong, but he didn't dare to do anything to her because she was the daughter of the Tong family's patriarch, and she was also the strongest member of the Tong family's younger generation. Her cultivation had actually reached the Grand Martial Realm, which was second only to the Realmking's, and she was also the younger sister of Tong Zhan.

"Tong Chou, didn't you hear me call for you?" Tong Tong shouted again in the distance.

Lu Yin still did not move, and someone kicked at him from behind. His expression changed, and he reflexively dodged aside, as it was very simple for him to evade such a kick with his seasoned battle awareness. The person who had kicked at him had not expected him to dodge, and that person's missed kick incited guffaws from everyone in the area.

Tong Tong also smiled, but she continued to shout.

That person felt as if he had lost face, so he glared fiercely at Lu Yin. "Alright, it seems that you've finally grown some balls after coming to the battlefield. Try to dodge my kick again! I'll let you try."

The person then kicked again, this time using star energy to significantly increase the speed of his attack compared to before.

Lu Yin had not planned on causing any trouble, and it would have been fine for him to take a single kick. However, in the innermost depths of Tong Chou's heart, his hatred and panic made Lu Yin instinctively resist, and he responded to the man by similarly raising a leg and lashing out with a kick. His kick struck the man's knee and sent him crumbling to the ground.

The surrounding people fell silent, and they looked at Lu Yin in shock. What was going on?

In the distance, Tong Tong was also astonished. "This guy's just too lucky, isn't he?"

A young man had appeared behind her at an unknown time, and he stared at Lu Yin with a smile on his face.

That man who had been kicked to the ground by Lu Yin's face flushed red, and he leaped up with an icy look on his face. "I'll make you regret being born!"

This time, the man swatted out with a palm. This person was an Explorer, and Tong Chou's Limiteer realm body felt an intense natural suppression against such an expert. Lu Yin was only able to dodge due to the heavy suppression caused by the difference in star energy. In the past, Tong Chou had never dared to retaliate when he was being bullied by others due to his timid and weak personality. However, in reality, the power of his Skybeast Claw made him quite powerful.

Tong Chou did not dare to retaliate whereas Lu Yin did not want to as he did not want to expose the Skybeast Claw.

Without it, even with his superior battle ability, he would not be able to fight against a clearly elite Explorer of the Tong family with Tong Chou's physical body. However, evading this person's attacks was

of no issue. His understanding of star energy was all in the mind, and his ability in this would not disappear just by changing physical bodies.

By sensing and analyzing the flow and trajectory of star energy, Lu Yin was able to dodge every single one of the man's attacks, seemingly by coincidence. Doing so once or twice could be passed off as chance, but it was unlikely to happen for dozens of consecutive strikes. The surrounding crowd gradually stopped talking, as this could not happen due to just mere chance.

Even Tong Tong started to feel that something was amiss, and she looked at Lu Yin strangely. "This fellow's ability to dodge is rather good."

"No, it's that his awareness towards star energy is quite strong, which allows him to predict his opponent's attacks in advance," the man behind Tong Tong clarified.

Tong Tong turned around and was astonished to see the man. "Brother, why are you here?"

This man was Tong Zhan, and he moved forward several steps to observe Lu Yin dodging the attacks of his Explorer realm opponent. He blandly said, "If I hadn't come, how else would I have been able to see something so interesting? It won't be too long before he comprehends a domain."

Tong Tong pursed her lips. "What's so outstanding about a domain? I can do it too. It's very simple for us of the Sixth Mainland to comprehend one, but what we really value is spiritual force. Only by upgrading our spiritual force can we withstand the pressure of an imprint and become more powerful. If I could display our ancestor's imprint more clearly, then my strength would increase multiple times over."

"Don't underestimate a domain, as they can be very terrifying when cultivated to the extreme. It's just that nobody in our Sixth Mainland is willing to spend the time cultivating one," Tong Zhan replied.

After watching Tong Chou repeatedly dodge all of his attacks, the Explorer's embarrassment turned into anger, and a fuzzy image appeared behind him, which was his imprint.

Lu Yin's heart sank, as this was not good. Once someone activated their imprint, their attack power and intensity would increase drastically, and it was not very realistic for him to dodge such attacks with Tong Chou's body as the disparity between the two of them was too vast.

"Go to hell!" The Explorer raised a hand and swatted down as a martial imprint also appeared on his forehead, improving his strength by another level. This attack caused even the void to tremble and ripple.

Lu Yin was helpless; was he going to die here? He would end up letting this Tong Chou down since he had caused the youth's death.

At that moment, a strong gust swept past everyone, and a violent aura sent everyone flying backwards. The attack from Lu Yin's opponent was diverted by this pressure, causing it to land to one side of Lu Yin and create a deep pit in the ground.

Lu Yin turned around. That had been a terrifying pressure just now.

The surrounding people all bowed as one. "Greetings, Young Master."

The person attacking Lu Yin frantically moved forward as well. "Greetings, Young Master."

Tong Zhan glanced at Lu Yin and then at the others. "A great battle is imminent, so don't allow others to think of our Tong family as a joke. No internal strife is allowed."

"Yes, Young Master," the crowd answered.

"Prepare yourselves well. The Martial Progenitor may move soon," Tong Zhan said blandly, shocking everyone.

"Young Master, are you saying that the Martial Progenitor is going to act against the Fifth Mainland?" Someone was stunned by this news.

Tong Tong also looked at Tong Zhan in surprise.

Tong Zhan looked up. "The Martial Progenitor is not satisfied with the current results of our war against the Fifth Mainland. A large group of powerhouses from the Fifth Mainland have emerged, and there are a bit too many of them. In addition, the elites of their younger generation have been wantonly massacring our Sixth Mainland's elites in the Daosource Sect's ruins. Thus, the Martial Progenitor may bring the Daosource Three Skies out, and the Fifth Mainland will definitely crumble at that time. I hope that you guys can make sufficient preparations before that time so that you can seize the destiny that belongs to you."

"Yes, Young Master," the crowd responded.

Lu Yin's scalp turned numb. Martial Progenitor! That meant that a Progenitor was about to act. How could the Inverse possibly resist that? There shouldn't be any Progenitors left in the Fifth Mainland while there were still three of them in the Sixth Mainland. This was a deep, inescapable despair. Even if he had not witnessed a Progenitor's power himself, Lu Yin had heard of it many times, as they had reached the extreme boundary of cultivation.

If cultivators were considered deities to normal people and Imprinters deities to cultivators, then Progenitors were deities to Imprinters. And Imprinters were already terrifying characters to begin with!

### **Chapter 712: The Third Battlefield**

Lu Yin's heart sank to an absolute rock bottom.

Tong Zhan left, and the person who had attacked Lu Yin did not stay around to cause any more trouble, leaving as well. Apparently, the news that the Martial Progenitor was about to make a move had left a great impact on everyone here. This heralded the Fifth Mainland's crushing defeat, and it also implied that there would be an enormous chance at destined encounters.

Tong Tong moved to Lu Yin's side and sized him up and down. "Tong Chou, that wasn't bad. I never thought that you would be so capable. You should be close to comprehending a domain, right?"

Lu Yin came back to his senses and looked over at Tong Tong. He quickly bowed and respectfully answered, "Perhaps I've been influenced by the warfront's atmosphere and unknowingly ended up like this."

Tong Tong smiled coldly at him. “The last time you saw a battlefield, you fell sick for several days. Don’t bother trying to make excuses. Have you always been trying to lay low so that you could find an opportunity to take revenge against me?”

Lu Yin hurriedly replied, “I wouldn’t dare. The young miss will always be the young miss.”

“It’s good to see that you still know that. Don’t forget that you’re just a Limiteer—so what if you comprehend a domain? Even that is something that I was able to do before you. You’ll only ever be my dog, and don’t you ever forget it!” Tong Tong scolded as she stared coldly at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin simply acknowledged her words. “Yes, mistress.”

Tong Tong was pleased with his response. “I’m actually rather happy to find that you have such strength. If a dog is useless, then the owner also loses face. Now, I will give you a chance to enter the hidden library. Go, find a decent battle technique, and learn it well. Then you’ll have some strength when biting at others.” She then passed Lu Yin a token.

Lu Yin took it, and with Tong Tong’s dismissal, he headed towards the library.

He had not expected to enjoy this large of a harvest this time, as the Tong family’s hidden library contained countless treasures that they had gathered over the years. Although the massive collection that was stored on this mainland was not even a thousandth the size of the Tong family’s full library, and despite it being filled with items of the lowest class, it was still quite decent since Lu Yin could use these records to learn more about the Sixth Mainland.

However Lu Yin’s expectations still turned out to be too high, as he quickly discovered that the books that the Tong family had brought to the warfront were all battle techniques and arts, and all of them were of the lowest grade possible. The majority had been seized from the Starfall Sea, and they were planning on completing their collection for this particular library by looting this warfront and taking everything back as spoils of war. They had not brought along that many books from their own family’s library.

Lu Yin flipped through a few, but he soon realized that all of these battle techniques were very ordinary. The better ones were likely stored somewhere else, or they might have even been given directly to a particular person.

He sighed, as these books were absolutely worthless to him.

He walked around a corner, randomly picked a book, sat down, and started flipping through it. He decided to wait there a while before leaving, as he could not let his star essence go to waste without gaining anything.

At that moment, some other people entered the library, and Lu Yin overheard their conversation. “In this next battle, I want to fight and obtain some accomplishments. Against those people from the Fifth Mainland, we already innately suppress them, and with our imprints, it’s just too easy to beat those within the same realm. It’s really too easy!”

“That’s right. Supposedly, this suppression is related to the Mainland. The Fifth Mainland has collapsed, which means that they don’t have their Mainland’s support, leaving them unable to withstand us. In this place, we can be considered invincible within the same realm, haha!”

“If it was up to me, we should have started this war much earlier, and if that had happened, I’d probably have become a Hunter by now.”

“It’s no different even now. We’re still young, and we can still come across a windfall during this war. There are actually some from our family who don’t dare to come here. Trash!”

“Those people must have heard about what happened in the Daosource Sect's ruins and gotten scared. They assume that everyone in the Fifth Mainland is at the same level as those Ten Arbiters, but in reality, those ten are the absolute pinnacle of the entire Fifth Mainland’s younger generation, and there’s a huge disparity between them and those under them. For there to be ten people like that is already crazy, so how could there be more of them? Those people are all fools.”

“Speaking of which, the battlefield in the Daosource Sect's ruins is even more terrifying than the one in this place. The Ten Arbiters and the Reamlings are stuck in a fierce battle, and it’s even rumored that the Daosource Three Skies will head there to participate.”

“Then why did I hear that the Daosource Three Skies will be following the Martial Progenitor into battle to gain experience?”

“I don't know, but that news is spreading everywhere. One thing’s for sure, though—the Daosource Three Skies are about to appear.”

“Those three are the supreme powerhouses of our Sixth Mainland’s younger generation. I wonder how powerful they really are. I really admire them.”

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Innate suppression? Lu Yin pondered this information, as he had fought against people from the Sixth Mainland before, and he had not felt any sort of innate suppression. Could this have been because they were in the Daosource Sect's ruins?

“Right, did you hear about it from those above? They’re preparing to set up the third warfront.”

Lu Yin’s focus shifted, and he started listening intently without making a single sound.

“A third warfront? With our Sixth Mainland’s strength, we can do it. After all, this warfront in the Mara River is mainly being fielded by the forces of the Blackblood Realm and Grand Martial Realm. The second warfront is the invasion of the Fifth Mainland’s Astral Beast Domain, and the main forces there are from the Bloodburn Realm and Rock Realm. While there aren’t as many people from the other five realms, those realms definitely have enough strength to sustain another warfront. However, where will the third invasion start? Even though the Fifth Mainland’s big, as long as one of our Progenitors acts, these people will be crushed underfoot and then flanked on both sides. After that, we’ll be able to launch an all-out invasion on their Neoverse.”

“The Fifth Mainland is divided into the Innerverse, the Outerverse, and the Neoverse. Even our Sixth Mainland doesn’t quite understand the situation in the Neoverse, but according to the average strength of the Fifth Mainland’s combatants so far, those people should be at around the same level. The higher-ups seem to be planning on invading the Outerverse as a third warfront.”

Lu Yin was astonished.

“Aren’t the Innerverse and Outerverse separated?”

“That’s just the Fifth Mainland. Our Sixth Mainland has already connected to the Fifth Mainland at the Mara River and the Astral Beast Domain, but we’ve also connected in one other area: the Fifth Mainland’s Technocracy. I’ve heard from some others that the Fifth Mainland’s Technocracy is controlled by a Master Brain. It only has a small territory, but it can stand on equal footing with the Human Domain and the Astral Beast Domain. Our Sixth Mainland has been able to seize a portion of that Master Brain’s authority, and from that, we’ve learned a lot more about the Fifth Mainland.”

“Are you saying that the higher-ups are planning on passing through the Technocracy to launch an invasion on the Human Domain’s Outerverse?”

“That’s just hearsay. There are also some saying that the higher-ups are planning on cooperating with the Astral Beast Domain to invade the Human Domain. Anyways, there’s a lot of rumors.”

“Forget it, we should just remain here at the Mara River. It won’t be easy for us to transfer away.”

“That’s true.”

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Lu Yin shifted his focus as the conversation drifted off to less important matters. He raised a hand and unhesitatingly slammed his own head with a palm in order to end this Possession. The scenery shifted away, and when he next opened his eyes, he had returned to the secret room in King Zishan's palace.

He stood up with a solemn expression. The Sixth Mainland had gained some amount of control over the Technocracy’s Master Brain, and although they did not have complete control, this was still grievous news for the Outerverse. The Technocracy was connected to the Outerverse through the Endless Weave, and the Sixth Mainland would be able to sweep through the Outerverse if they pursued this plan. The Outerverse had already struggled to fend off the Astral Beast Domain’s invasion, not to mention one by the Sixth Mainland.

He wanted to warn Elder Lohar and have the Hall of Honor remain vigilant, but how could he explain where he had gotten this knowledge? It had already been rather far-fetched when he made that excuse about how he had known about the existence of the energy barrier in the Primal Zone. Luckily for him, those battles had been very arduous, which was why nobody had thought much about how Lu Yin had gained such information, and this detail had gradually been forgotten. If he provided news of the Sixth Mainland initiating a third warfront, then Elder Lohar would definitely grow suspicious.

No, there’s a way. Lu Yin’s eyes suddenly grew bright. The Daosource Sect's ruins. He could use that place as an excuse to give this information to Elder Lohar, saying that he had heard this information from one of the Arbiters. Elder Lohar would have no way to verify this information until the Outerverse reconnected with the Innerverse. And it was impossible to predict what the situation would be like at that time—Lu Yin might even be an Enlighter by then.

And so, he made his decision. Although the Sixth Mainland might not actually set up a third warfront, the Outerverse still had to make preparations and strengthen their defenses against the Technocracy.



Right now, Lu Yin wanted to test out his newly improved Skybeast Claw.

Wait, how much star essence did I just use up during Possession? Lu Yin apprehensively opened his cosmic ring for a look, and he instantly felt faint. 150,000 star essence had disappeared. 150,000! Lu Yin felt sorrowful, as he had just burned through quite a considerable amount. When he had Possessed Tian Hou last time, he had only used up about 20,000 star essence. The die's six pips: Possession burned through far too much star essence.

Lu Yin sighed, as the money had already been used. He then withdrew his gaze from his ring; he could earn that amount back, but for now, he should test out the Skybeast Claw.

Tong Chou's comprehension of the Skybeast Claw surpassed Lu Yin's own 108 forms, though admittedly, it had been many years since he had practiced those 108 forms. Tong Chou, on the other hand, had obtained that claw imprint at a young age, and he had even held it in his sleep, causing his understanding of the Skybeast Claw to reach a different level.

Lu Yin's domain swept out of King Zishan's palace, and he quickly found that nobody was looking for him. He then peacefully sat down and recalled Tong Chou's comprehension of the Skybeast Claw. Unwittingly, his palm turned into a claw, and the original 108 forms of the Skybeast Claw grew numerous as the variations became more and more pronounced in their differences.

His palm turned into claw, which entered the void as the beast's howls grew ever louder, eventually shocking his mind. Around Lu Yin's five fingers, even the void started trembling until, indistinctly, a claw imprint appeared. The moment after it appeared, a palpating and terrifying fluctuation swept out from King Zishan's palace and passed over Zhao Ran. She looked up, bewildered, as she blinked. The fluctuation then swept over Kayze, and his scalp turned numb as he nearly passed out. Then, the fluctuation's range grew even wider, spreading across all of Zenyu Star.

Many felt a strange chill crawl down their back, as well as a naturally majestic pressure. However, after they realized that this feeling had originated from King Zishan's palace, they went silent, as they thought that it was a proper occurrence.

Wendy Yushan looked towards King Zishan's palace. You've become stronger. Did you obtain yet another battle technique?

The might that she felt from the fluctuation even contained a sense of changes that had occurred throughout the eons. It was definitely not something that a normal technique could emanate.

Lu Yin himself had not known that Tong Chou's comprehension of the Skybeast Claw would allow him to display such terrifying power.

Lu Yin suddenly opened his eyes as he forcefully dispelled all traces of the claw. Then, he released a long breath. Beads of sweat rolled off of his forehead. When he had tested the Skybeast Claw, he had seen the phantom of a giant claw transcend the river of time and descend straight towards him. It might've just been a hallucination caused by the battle technique, but he didn't dare to allow the claw to actually touch him, as his intuition had told him that it was not something to be trifled with.

He looked at his own palm and pondered what had just happened. He had not even reached the end of Tong Chou's comprehension of the Skybeast Claw, but it had already become so terrifying. What would

happen if he completely unleashed it? Was it possible that its power was not inferior even to the Dream Finger?

Lu Yin's eyes lit up, as he had unintentionally discovered another powerful battle technique to include in his repertoire. His vision back at the Stargazing Deck definitely had not been false, and the claw mark that he had seen on that massive battleship must have come from a fearsome powerhouse. Now, he had indirectly mastered their inheritance.

It was a pity—if Lu Yin had managed to get a hold of Tong Chou's claw imprint, that would have been the best. After all, Tong Chou was just a Limiteer, and there was a limit to how much he could comprehend. If Lu Yin had the stone on him, then he believed that he would be able to improve the Skybeast Claw even further.

As for the 108 forms of the Skybeast Claw that he had previously comprehended, he had already merged them into one form. Compared to Tong Chou's understanding of the Skybeast Claw, the 108 forms were nothing more than a joke.

If Tong Chou did not have such a timid personality and actually had the courage to fight against others with the Skybeast Claw, his strength definitely would not be as weak as it was. Of course, to completely unleash the Skybeast Claw, there were also strict physical requirements of the body. Tong Chou was not able to fulfill those requirements, which meant that his comprehension of the technique could not help him with that aspect.

It was no wonder why the ball of light representing Tong Chou had been so bright, attracting Lu Yin to merge with it.

### **Chapter 713: Ellen Gale's Diary**

Lu Yin raised a hand, and his die appeared once again. It seemed that he should try to roll six pips more often, as each Possession gave him a chance of greatly improving his strength. In short, this was a shortcut to upgrading his personal strength.

The next day, after Lu Yin completed practicing the Finger Tap Technique, he felt Ban Jiu's aura enter his domain, and he had Kayze allow the man in.

"Your Highness, are you free at this moment? If so, please follow this subject on a trip to the Technology Department," Ban Jiu requested urgently.

Lu Yin grew curious. "What happened?"

"The first batch of androids has been completed and are ready for your inspection." Ban Jiu was rather emotional.

Lu Yin's eyes grew bright, and he stood up. "Let's go."

Right after Lu Yin left, Hai Qiqi arrived at his residence. She did not need to announce her arrival or departure from King Zishan's palace, and she treated it as if it was her own home.

She went to the sitting room where Lu Yin had just been, and she saw the diary that Lu Yin had casually set on the table, obviously planning on reading it later. Hai Qiqi curiously opened it for a read.

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The Technology Department's locations were kept secret, and some of its divisions were even constructed underground. The android branch was one such division.

Ban Jiu had obtained the blueprints for the androids a long time ago, and they had been obtained by Lu Yin through rolling one pip on his die. The breakthrough in technological research had taken place four months ago, which was also the same time when Ban Jiu had promised Lu Yin that they would have fifty androids within half a year. However, in just four months, he had already produced twenty. The rest would be made on an assembly line, and they just needed enough materials to manufacture them. The production rate had become quite fast.

Lu Yin followed Ban Jiu underground and into the Technology Department to see twenty androids suspended within a liquid vat. They were entirely mechanical in nature, but he could feel that each one was brimming with strength.

Each android had enough rune lines to rival a peak Explorer's, and if their strength was converted to power level, then each was equivalent to a powerhouse with a power level somewhere between 49,000 and 50,000.

"These androids were made with the best materials available in the eastern weaves, and their hardness degree has exceeded 50,000. They are naturally very tough, as they can endure attacks stronger than their own, and Spiritual Thread has also been incorporated into their construction. More importantly, as long as we have the proper materials, any part of an android's body can be replaced and upgraded, which allows us to easily improve the androids' power..." Ban Jiu excitedly rambled on about his creations.

Lu Yin gazed at the androids, as these things were the product of an advanced technological civilization. These twenty androids were the same as twenty peak Explorers.

He had spent six years to reach the realm of an Explorer, which showed how terrifying the technology before him was at this moment. So long as their technology was sufficiently advanced, they could directly produce such powerhouses.

"Do you have enough materials for now?" Lu Yin asked.

Ban Jiu excitedly replied, "With the establishment of the Great Eastern Alliance, this subject has reviewed all of the resources lists. We have enough materials to build 200 peak Explorer androids."

"Only 200?" Lu Yin was rather unsatisfied, as he had gathered the resources of eight entire weaves in the eastern region of the Outerverse.

Ban Jiu reluctantly answered, "Your Highness, some of the materials needed are just too scarce, such as Spiritual Thread and polarium essence. The eastern weaves do not produce these materials, so we are still only able to acquire them from external sources. The main issue is that these materials are only available in restricted quantities."

Lu Yin muttered, "I will think of a way to get the rarer materials. You just focus on upgrading the androids' strength."

This was exactly what Ban Jiu had wanted to hear, and he immediately acknowledged Lu Yin's order.

"Where do you think will be the best place for these androids to be stationed?" Lu Yin asked.

Ban Jiu shook his head. "Your subject does not know."

He was only in charge of manufacturing the androids. Arranging them was Lu Yin's responsibility.

Lu Yin had originally planned on selling these androids, dividing them equally between Vastdearth Weave, Lars Weave, and the other allies. However, the battle on Sourcepeak Planet had caused Lars Weave to become panicked, and they had not yet completely sided with him. On the other hand, Grandtop Weave did not have that many enemies. Flaxen Weave had been easily swayed and was nothing to be worried about, but the ones that Lu Yin had to be vigilant of were Vastdearth Weave, Darkmist Weave, Adonis Weave, and Bard Weave. Out of these four weaves, Adonis Weave's strength had been greatly reduced, so it no longer needed his concern.

Darkmist Weave was filled with dark powers, which rendered them unable to unite. Since Mafioso Planet and Shenwu Continent would eventually join the alliance, there was no need for him to be cautious of this weave either.

Now, only Vastdearth Weave and Bard Weave remained. When faced with just these two weaves, there was no need to expose his androids.

Lu Yin was busy pondering his options when his gadget suddenly beeped softly. Somebody was trying to contact him.

He glanced at his gadget and saw that the call was from an unknown number, but he accepted it anyway. "Who is this?"

"This is Wei Rong. Brother Lu, I've been looking forward to speaking with you." This sentence caused Lu Yin to grow solemn, as he had not expected this person to reach out to him right now. He knew that Wei Rong would definitely contact him eventually, but not this soon.

"So it's Brother Wei. I've also wanted to meet you," Lu Yin responded calmly as he waved a hand and motioned for Ban Jiu to withdraw.

Wei Rong's tone was relaxed. "Congratulations, Brother Lu, for harvesting the Outerverse Lockbreaker Society. I am reaching out to specially congratulate you."

Lu Yin's eyes brightened. "I also wanted to congratulate Brother Wei on receiving the support of a group of Lockbreakers. We were fated to miss each other during the battles on Sourcepeak Planet, which is a pity."

"That's right, a pity. I've heard of Brother Lu's reputation many times before, and Brother Lu's place in my eyes has been renewed after the battle on Sourcepeak Planet. In the Outerverse, there are very few who can go to the extents that Brother Lu has. Awesome!" Wei Rong praised.

His sincerity could be heard, as Lu Yin had used the path that Wei Rong had paved on Sourcepeak Planet to take away the entire Outerverse Lockbreaker Society, which was something that Wei Rong had not been able to do.

Lu Yin was not pleased by this praise, as he had only been able to achieve so much with Wang Wen's help. "There's no need to discuss past events. I wonder, does Brother Wei have any matters in mind for this call?"

"Eh, it's actually nothing much. It's always a big headache to have a troublesome younger sister. Does Brother Lu remember Wei Xin'er who participated in Executive Felynn's entrance exam with you?"

Lu Yin thought about that time. "She's your sister?"

"That's right. That little brat, Xin'er, has enjoyed lockbreaking since she was young, and she was very happy that she passed the entrance exam this time. She wanted to stay on Sourcepeak Planet, but unfortunately, the Outerverse Lockbreaker Society was relocated to Frostwave Weave. This brat's been kicking up a fuss that I have no other choice but to take her to Frostwave Weave's Lockbreaker Society. After all, her tutor is Felynn, and having a tutor is definitely much better than groping about alone in the dark. What does Brother Lu think?"

"If Brother Wei wants to come to Frostwave Weave, then feel free to do so at any time. I can take Brother Wei on a tour."

"Alright, then it's settled. Brother Lu, I'll see you on Zenyu Star." Wei Rong laughed.

Lu Yin smiled. "See you on Zenyu Star."

He disconnected from the call and looked back at the androids, as he had made a decision.

Wei Rong had roamed through more than half of the Outerverse, but he had never set foot in any of the eastern weaves. First, there was the question of safety, and second, there was the fact that he had never felt that the eastern weaves were worth his time. They had the fewest number of cultivators, and they also possessed no special resources. But now, he was arranging a special trip to Frostwave Weave, not only because of the Lockbreaker Society, but also because of the Great Eastern Alliance.

The scattered eastern weaves were clearly not worth his attention, but the unified Great Eastern Alliance was different. All of a sudden, a colossal creature had appeared to the east of his own weave.

The moment the Great Eastern Alliance was established was the moment it became Wei Rong's enemy.

Lu Yin had not known what type of person Wei Rong was, but the events on Sourcepeak Planet had left a deep impression on him.

Even without Geoffrey, the Outerverse Lockbreaker Society was still an absolute monster, but despite that, it had still been toppled by Wei Rong, and he had even lured away a number of Lockbreakers. His methods were rather scary, and while his personal strength was not worthy of Lu Yin's attention, his strategies were extraordinary.

It seemed as though he was planning to make a move against the Great Eastern Alliance, and Lu Yin realized that Wei Rong might even meddle with the upcoming Alliance Conference.

Lu Yin left the Technology Department and returned to King Zishan's palace, and when he returned, he noticed Hai Qiqi through his domain. She was sitting alone in the sitting room with her head hanging down, and fresh tears occasionally fell from her eyes.

Lu Yin hurriedly headed to the sitting room and went over to her. He squatted down and looked at her reddened eyes. "Qiqi, what's the matter? Who bullied you?"

Hai Qiqi looked up at Lu Yin and pursed her lips. A single tear dripped down and fell onto his hand as she hazily pleaded, "Can you rescue the Fireplume Tribe?"

Lu Yin was bewildered. "What's the Fireplume Tribe?"

Hai Qiqi passed the diary over to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin took it from her. "I picked this up by accident. Did you read it?"

Hai Qiqi nodded. "Rescue the Fireplume Tribe."

Lu Yin was astonished, as it seemed that Hai Qiqi had been crying because of the diary. He was curious, so he sat down and flipped it back to the first page.

'Today is the happiest day for our Fireplume Tribe, as the nightmare that has plagued us for many years has finally ended. We invited our hero, who's outstanding and tall, to celebrate. He towers in the heavens just like a guardian angel. We cheer for him, pray for him, and as the Fireplume Tribe's princess, I, Ellen Gale, will personally pray and sing for him. He likes our songs! Though to be fair, who in the universe doesn't? Our Fireplume Tribe is more gifted in music than even the Souldream Tribe, and our songs can cleanse one's soul...

'We've left our home to follow him. He wants to take us to a place where we'll never be oppressed again. He tells us that he wants our songs to spread throughout the universe and to guide people to be better. I like him, and I may possibly even love him...

'This planet is truly beautiful, and the place where I'm staying is really beautiful as well. We'll stop here for now, as he wants to hear us sing. He truly enjoys listening to us sing. I'm really happy...

'He's been injured! The doctor says that our heart's blood is required to heal him. Our Fireplume Tribe is willing to offer our blood, as it will only require a bit from each person to gather enough. We are all willing to offer him our all...'

...

'I'm a little tired. We've continuously played and sung for him every day for a month. Our throats have become hoarse, and we also offer blood from our hearts daily, so our bodies have become frail. I've told him this, but he still wants us to sing. So many of our sisters are so tired...'

...

'Today, a child died! She died right in front of us, and she was killed by him! He says that evil blood flowed in that child and that she would have affected the others. I begged for mercy, as the child's expression was pure and clean, and I could feel her innocence. He even thought that my pleas were

nothing more than a game. In the end, my pleas were ignored, and the child still died. I'm beginning to feel that he's a little scary...'

...

'I'm afraid! During this time, he's killed many of us. One time, the blood even splashed into my eyes, causing the world I saw to turn red. I've tried begging him, and I've tried using our songs to try to guide him. However, nothing seems to work...

'Five sisters have gone missing, and I don't know where they went. I don't even know whether or not they're still alive. The way he looks at me scares me—it feels like a king looking at ants. He forces me to sing and pray, and all my sisters have become frightened. I want to leave, since he's changed from what he was like in the beginning. He's changed. Or, it's possible that he hasn't changed and that he was actually like this all along...'

...

'No matter how beautiful the lie of our environment may appear to be, it cannot conceal the truth that we are living in hell. Our Fireplume Tribe's songs are able to guide people to goodness, but they cannot guide him. He is a true demon, and he's killed thousands of our sisters. I don't know why, as we have been very obedient to him. Why does he have to kill us? All I see anymore is red...'

Lu Yin directly flipped to the end of the diary, as the middle of the book was a lengthy section describing all the changes Ellen Gale had undergone.

'I've truly gotten lost, as the feelings that I held for him when I first saw him still haven't vanished. Even if he's a demon, I still like him. He's killed so many people—many, many people, including my tribe members. However, the time that we've spent together has been too long, and he has imprinted himself onto my heart. Alright, I will face my heart head on...

'White and black both exist in the universe, just like in his hair. But there's also a trace of grey, and this grey might be the source of evil. I don't want to die, as I want to guide him to goodness. But it seems that I must use my life as the price to cleanse his soul. I have stabbed my eyes, as I don't want to see his evil face anymore. I will use the remainder of my life to sing, and ferry him to goodness...

'I'm not fated to be with him in this life, but I'm willing to use the remainder of my life as the price to atone for his crimes, and also as a form of repentance for him. From this day forward, I will never stop singing, not even if I lose my voice. Not even if I turn to bones! I will sing and pray for him until my last moment, and I will draw out his goodness.

'This is my swan song,

'-Ellen Gale'

## **Chapter 714: Old Gu De**

Lu Yin closed the diary and looked away from the book before suddenly realizing that he had unwittingly finished reading through the diary. Was this Ellen Gale an idiot or a romantic?

"Could you please save the Fireplume Tribe?" Hai Qiqi was still sobbing uncontrollably.

Lu Yin was struck speechless. Was this diary that moving? Men and women sobbed in different situations, but this level of weeping was a bit too much. Women could be emotional, and this diary seemed to have really hit Hai Qiqi's heart.

He waved the diary that was still in his hand. "Do you know where this Fireplume Tribe is located? That way I can go and save them."

Hai Qiqi shook her head. "Go and search for them. Maybe they're in the Outerverse."

Lu Yin laughed. "Wrong. They're in the Innaverse, Daynight Flowzone."

"How do you know that?" Hai Qiqi was astonished.

Lu Yin explained, "Ellen Gale wrote that the man had black and white hair, along with a little grey. That's the telltale sign of someone being from the Nightking Clan. This man has to be someone from the Nightking Clan, which naturally means that they're in Daynight Flowzone."

Hai Qiqi grew flustered. "How have you not found where Old Gu De is hiding yet? Hurry up. You're taking too long!"

Lu Yin was stumped, as this girl had changed topics rather abruptly.

"The earlier you take care of Old Gu De, the sooner I can go back to searching along the edge of the Astral River. This time, I'll definitely find a way back to the Innaverse," Hai Qiqi said.

Lu Yin shoved the diary into her hands. "I hope that you can find a way to enter the Innaverse. As for Old Gu De, I've already sent out people to search for him. This person is very crafty, and he won't reveal any traces in the normal places. Rest assured, as there are only so many places he can hide. There's no way he'll be able to escape."

"That's good." Hai Qiqi gently stored the diary away. "I'm going to take a nap and think about this for a while." She then ran off.

Lu Yin watched as she disappeared from sight before picking up his gadget and searching for more information on the Fireplume Tribe. He only managed to find something after using the clearance granted by his Honor Points.

It had to be said that this tribe was one that was favored by the world but plagued by misfortune.

The Fireplume Tribe originated from Planet Fireplume, which was a very peculiar planet. Every creature native to the planet was born with wings; even the fish in the rivers or the underground earthworms had them. Every single last one of them had burning, white wings, and the humans there were naturally no exception.

Every member of the Fireplume Tribe had fiery white wings, and more peculiarly, the tribe had no males—only females. Even if they had children with outsiders, the children were either normal males or beautiful girls with burning white wings with no exception. Additionally, all of the girls had unbelievably beautiful voices that could refine a listener's spiritual force and boost their battle force.

When this effect was first discovered, many powers suddenly began coveting the Fireplume Tribe. From that moment onwards, they were never free again. For years, they had been constantly subjugated by



one power or another, and their tribe members were invariably suppressed, which naturally made all of them completely miserable. This went on for ten years, until the Daynight clan gained control of them. From that moment onwards, the Fireplume Tribe vanished without a trace, their voices lost to the universe.

And the person who had taken them away was Arbiter Zhenwu.

Lu Yin released a breath. Arbiter Zhenwu, Nightking Zhenwu. It had ended up being him once again. Many matters were connected to him, as this person was always unwilling to be left out.

Knowing this, Lu Yin instantly realized that the “him” in Ellen Gale’s diary had been referring to Nightking Zhenwu.

Lu Yin smiled bitterly. Even if the Outerverse had not been cut off from the Innerverse, given Arbiter Zhenwu’s strength, it would not end well for Lu Yin if he tried to face off against him through force. Although Lu Yin had external items that boosted his battle strength, it was highly likely that Arbiter Zhenwu also had similar items.

The battles in Ironblood Weave had clearly shown Lu Yin the issues that came with relying on external items to boost his strength. If he was targeted, he would be done for the moment his items weren’t able to display their intended effects. What he needed to do was focus on improving his own personal power.

As for this Fireplume Tribe, they had nothing to do with him. If it was possible, he would save them, but he would not forcefully do anything out of the way.

Speaking of the Daynight clan, the Sixth Mainland was about to send out a Progenitor to sweep through the Innerverse. It still remained to be seen whether or not the Daynight clan would even manage to survive. Lu Yin realized that he was thinking too far ahead.

Over the next few days, Lu Yin signed multiple orders related to various matters of the empire, recited the Stonewall Scriptures in King Zishan's palace, and practiced the Finger Tap Technique. He also used this time to check on Ku Wei’s whereabouts with the Second Squadron.

Ku Wei had not bothered trying to hide his actions. In fact, he openly loitered about in front of the Imperial Palace, and he had almost been arrested on a few occasions, though he quickly slipped away every time.

It would take about eight more days before the people from the Outerverse Lockbreaker Society arrived on Planet Hydrotink, which was right before the Alliance Conference was due to start. This was exactly what Lu Yin was hoping to see, as he wanted to use the Outerverse Lockbreaker Society’s reputation to elevate his own standing in the view of the other alliance members.

During these past few days, the eastern weaves remained very quiet, as all of the various affiliated powers were busy preparing for the upcoming Great Eastern Alliance Conference. As for the others, Lu Yin was not too clear on the details, but they were probably making their own plots.

The Outerverse’s native powers wanted to gobble up the colossal organizations that had dominated the universe for centuries. In some sense, this was inevitable, but nothing would happen before the Alliance Conference, as even Wei Rong himself was headed towards Frostwave Weave.

Exactly twenty months after the Outerverse was cut off from the Innerverse, the Limiteer Mistchild from Mafioso Planet sent word that they had confirmed Old Gu De's location. There were still thirteen days left before the Alliance Conference.

Lu Yin immediately decided to take Yan Yan with him for a look.

When En Ya received word that Lu Yin was about to leave, she hurriedly tried to stop him. "Your Highness, the Alliance Conference is about to begin, and the top echelons of the various weaves will soon arrive at Zenyu Star, one after another. If Your Highness leaves now, it will show that our Great Yu Empire has no sense of propriety."

"Just tell them that I'm in temporary seclusion and help me to welcome them," Lu Yin sternly requested. Old Gu De had been his enemy for many years, and even before he had started cultivating on Earth, he had been thinking about getting revenge. Now that revenge was right before him, nothing would be able to stop him.

En Ya felt helpless, as she could only follow Lu Yin's instructions.

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In Darkmist Weave, on a dim, primitive planet, an enormous spacecraft with people occasionally flying in and out floated in midair. These people were hunting large beasts and then taking the corpses back to the vessel.

This was a huge vessel that could comfortably hold at least 20,000 people.

Within the spacecraft, there were cultivation rooms, gravity training rooms, entertainment facilities, and more. It was extremely well-equipped.

Old Gu De was lying in a luxurious lounge. There was a trembling girl sitting on his lap and carefully slicing meat to feed to him.

Suddenly, someone shoved the door open, and Gu Er barged in, draining the glass of alcohol in his hands as he did so. "How much longer are we going to hide in this wretched place for?"

Old Gu De looked at Gu Er with discontent. "Why are you being so impatient?"

Gu Er snorted and sat down. "If it were up to me, we'd head to the central weaves. At least there, there are a lot fewer people who will recognize us. It has to be better than hiding on such a primitive planet. There's nothing but beasts and more beasts here."

"We will definitely leave, but not right now. The brat that we were chasing before escaped into Frostwave Weave, and she must have reported us to Lu Yin. We cannot go anywhere right now. We'll only discuss moving again after the various waves have settled down," Old Gu De said sternly.

"Lu Yin, Lu Yin, and Lu Yin again. This bastard has caused me trouble since the Astral Combat Academy days, and now even my father is scared of him!" Gu Er complained.

Old Gu De's eyes turned malicious. "That brat has killed a few Enlighteners, and he has too many tricks up his sleeves. Now that he's established this Great Eastern Alliance, his influence is enormous. Remember this: never go where he might appear in the future. Don't forget—you've already crossed paths with him before, and he's also mentioned to you that he holds some animosity against me."

"Got it." Gu Er was not satisfied. He glanced at the girl sitting on Old Gu De's lap, and his gaze suddenly grew more heated. But then, he seemed to remember something. "Right, was that brat really someone from the upper levels of the Sea King's Dome?"

Old Gu De sneered. "One of the other Astral River Envoys sent me her image before. For her to have a spacecraft that bears the symbol of the Sea King's Dome, she has to be someone from their higher levels. Let's ignore the bit about her possessing some of the Sea King's Dome's treasures. After a few more years, once the Innerverse and Outerverse are reconnected, you'll become someone who's a part of the Sea King's Dome if you can wed her. Then, nobody will be able to touch you. Do you think that the two of us will still have to remain trapped on the Astral River Ark at that time?"

Gu Er grew excited. "Then, Dad, let's hurry up and find her."

"I've already told you that we can't touch them for now. First, wait for the waves to settle down. She was constantly skulking around the Astral River, so she must be trying to find a way to enter the Innerverse. If that's the case, she will definitely be back," Old Gu De said.

Gu Er nodded, licked his lips, and then downed another glass of wine.

At the top of a spacecraft that was some distance away from the primitive planet, the bespectacled Limiteer Mistchild appeared in front of Lu Yin with a smile. "Your Highness, I've completed a task for you."

Lu Yin stared in the direction of the planet. "Go on, tell me about his strength."

She adjusted her glasses. "The strength that Old Gu De has gathered during his many years on the Astral River Ark is quite impressive. At the moment, he has five Cruisers, seventeen Explorers, and over 3,000 cultivators of lower grades. Those people from the Astral River Ark have offended too many cultivators in the Outerverse, so most of them continued to follow Old Gu De after the separation. This ship won't be easy to deal with.

"Old Gu De himself is a Hunter, and the amount of time that he's spent fishing in the Astral River Ark must have allowed him to accumulate quite a few treasures as well. You'll need to trap him first before you deal with him."

"Go on, let's head to Old Gu De's hiding spot," Lu Yin ordered.

She quickly gave a reminder, "Your Highness, Old Gu De is very cautious. If we suddenly show up, we have to trap him beforehand. Otherwise, he'll slip away as soon as we move, and then it'll be very difficult to find him again."

"I got it."

Their spacecraft quickly flew towards the primitive planet.

Although it was quite some distance away, the Aurora was fast, and they soon neared the planet. At this range, Lu Yin could observe the rune lines on the planet.

Old Gu De's rune lines were extensive, but they were definitely not on par with Aden or Yan Yan's.

Ever since Yan Yan had awakened, his power level had continuously risen. His Iceburst Flames could give Lu Yin a sense of crisis even when his universal armor was on. Although Yan Yan's power level had decreased a great deal after his initial outburst, he had still stabilized at the same level as a Hunter. By Lu Yin's estimation, Yan Yan's original power had been at least that of a peak Hunter, and at this moment, his rune lines had surpassed Old Gu De's.

Above the primitive planet, an alarm rang out on the large luxury spacecraft, and Old Gu De immediately appeared in the control room and looked at a screen.

"Captain, a spacecraft stopped outside of the planet, and we can't tell what their goal might be."

Old Gu De's face was solemn. "Have we identified whose spacecraft it is?"

"No, as the symbol has been hidden."

Old Gu De's heart dropped. He had a bad feeling about this. "Immediately take off from this planet. Hurry!"

At that moment, a figure floating through outer space appeared on the screen. That person then suddenly raised both of their hands. A white frost shot out that rapidly enveloped the planet before the screen suddenly went entirely white.

Old Gu De's pupils shrank, and he leaped out of the spacecraft. He threw all sorts of weapons that blasted into outer space, distorting the void as they did so. The disturbances left deep cracks on the sturdy ice, but they could not break through it.

Just ten seconds later, the planet was surrounded by the sturdy white ice, and the extreme chill caused the planet to suddenly enter an ice age. The animals and plants rapidly froze and died while the oceans and streams were frozen solid in the blink of an eye.

### **Chapter 715: Lu Yin's Revenge**

The sturdy ice only covered the planet's atmosphere, but it did not affect everything within it. The interior was only filled with a freezing cold.

Old Gu De's expression changed, and he ferociously charged into the atmosphere as he unleashed a palm strike towards the sturdy ice. The barrier cracked upon impact, but it didn't shatter. The chilly aura spread out, and the cracked ice merged together into a pristine whole once again.

Old Gu De's face went pale. He unleashed all of his battle techniques at once, striking out again. Multiple layers of the sturdy ice shattered this time, but the ice recovered just as quickly as before. Outside the ice, Yan Yan's expression grew chilly as well—he was competing against Old Gu De. If he was defeated, the ice barrier would shatter, and Old Gu De would be able to escape. However, if Old Gu De was stalled here, the man would remain trapped on the planet, which was precisely Lu Yin's objective.

"Who are you? Why are you attacking me?" Old Gu De roared.

A thin layer of frost appeared on the spacecraft's hull as the space-exploring powerhouses dashed out to attack the sturdy ice. However, nothing they did had any effect. Only Old Gu De was able to cause any damage to the layer of ice.

Gu Er trembled within the large spacecraft as he stared at the blank expanse of white surrounding them outside.

Lu Yin quickly appeared beside Yan Yan, and he looked at Old Gu De through the layer of ice.

Old Gu De similarly looked through the ice to see Lu Yin, upon which his expression immediately twisted. "It's you!"

A wicked smile spread across Lu Yin's face. "Old Gu De, it's been a while."

Old Gu De barked, "Lu Yin, your grudge with my son is just a small thing. Is there really a need to come after us like this?"

Lu Yin laughed. "It looks like you're still dreaming. Get him to sober up a bit more."

Yan Yan's expression iced over, and the coldness emanating from the shell of ice intensified even further, causing some of the cultivators who had stepped out of the spacecraft to instantly freeze into blocks of ice. Only the space-exploring powerhouses were able to withstand the chill.

Old Gu De's expression changed. "Everyone, get back inside the spacecraft."

The primitive planet had turned completely white by this time, and even the storms had frozen over with the rain transforming into ice pelting the ground.

A soft thump was heard from the spacecraft as various internal mechanisms froze over and were destroyed.

Old Gu De glared at Lu Yin, completely furious. "Is this because of that brat from the Sea King's Dome?"

Lu Yin felt confused. "Come on, you chased after Qiqi so hard, and you even tried to force her to marry your son. You clearly know who she is."

"I don't know. Gu Er sincerely likes her," Old Gu De shouted back.

Lu Yin sneered. "Is that so?"

"Lu Yin, you don't have a big grudge against my son, and if that brat doesn't want to marry him, then we won't try to force anything. Please, let us go! I've gathered some treasures during my years on the Astral River Ark, and I'll give them all to you. Please, let us go. I swear that I'll never return to the eastern weaves for the rest of my life," Old Gu De pleaded.

When Lu Yin saw Old Gu De's imploring attitude, he recalled the desperation that he had felt when his group had been in the Innerverse, waiting for the Astral River Ark to arrive. At that time, they had precisely calculated when it would arrive, and they knew that they would be able to break free from their pursuers and hide in the Outerverse. However, it was precisely because Old Gu De had intentionally delayed the vessel and had stopped mid voyage that the pursuers had caught up to Lu Yin and the others.

Seventy two lives had been lost because of that, and Lu Yin still clearly remembered each and every one of his fallen comrades' faces. They had all been good to him, and none of them had looked down upon him for his status as a commoner. Each of them had been his brothers and sisters, but because of this old bastard in front of him, they had all died.

They had all died miserable deaths.

On Earth, Lu Yin had lived an ordinary life, but he often dreamt of those people, and also of Old Gu De's disgustingly smug face.

In Lu Yin's heart, Old Gu De was definitely one of the people who he hated the most.

At this moment, he could finally avenge his hatred. He definitely would not allow Old Gu De to die an easy death, as Lu Yin wanted to let the older man experience the agony that he had suffered through before.

"Every hour, eliminate one Explorer," Lu Yin calmly instructed.

Yan Yan's eyes turned even colder. Of those who were attacking his ice barrier, one Explorer's limbs suddenly froze, and he plummeted down into the ground. He had been frozen to death.

The surrounding people were terrified, and they immediately rushed back inside the spacecraft.

Old Gu De shouted, "Lu Yin, what made you hate me? What did I do to deserve this?"

Lu Yin's figure suddenly disappeared, as he had returned to his own spacecraft as well. He was in no hurry and he intended to take his time and slowly vent all of the resentment that he had kept bottled up for so many years.

Some people have said that tormenting an enemy is actually tormenting oneself. Lu Yin agreed with such thinking, especially since tormenting one's enemies could become an addictive behavior. However, he could not stop himself at this moment. The hatred that he felt for Old Gu De was just too strong. He had enemies who were much stronger than him, and so, he felt no motivation to take revenge against them. He had no idea when he would actually be able to take revenge at all, and so, he would voluntarily fall into this addiction to further push and stoke his desire for revenge.

In Frostwave Weave, Zenyu Star's space station had been sealed off in preparation to receive the representatives of major powers within the allied weaves. Both Zenyu Star and all of its surrounding regions were filled with cultivators and soldiers from the Great Yu Empire, all of them stationed here to ensure that the first Alliance Conference would proceed without incident.

The Thirteen Imperial Squadrons were hidden in the background; Huo Qingshan, the blind monk, and the other Hunters had all put everything on hold so that they would be available to oversee the Alliance Conference.

Inside Zenyu Star's space station, a group of people walked out from a vessel, led by an elder. He was wearing extravagant clothes, and he seemed quite respectable at first glance. His face also contained an excited and expectant smile.

Nearby, En Ya and Hill Auna led a group over to welcome the new arrivals.

When he saw En Ya, the elder's smile grew even warmer, and he hurriedly walked over to politely greet her. "You must be Lady En Ya, and this must be Lord Hill Auna. We've communicated through calls before, and I finally get to meet you in person now, haha."

En Ya smiled. "Welcome, Chairman Gibu. His Highness is currently in seclusion, and he is therefore unable to appear at this moment, so please forgive us."

Gibu hurriedly replied, "The cultivation of His Highness, the Royal Regent, is of the utmost importance as His Highness's strength is the most stable cornerstone of our alliance."

Hill Auna smiled. "Chairman Gibu is still so full of vitality. It appears as though you'll be able to maintain your position for a long time still."

This was pleasant to hear, and Gibu chuckled happily. He had sided with the Great Yu Empire not only because they had blackmailed him with his dark secrets, but also because the Great Yu Empire had offered to reinstall him as chairman, which he had originally obtained by betraying his own dignity and conscience. Thus, he naturally greatly treasured his post.

During this Alliance Conference, the most important thing for the participants to discuss was the Alliance Conference treaty and how the Allied Forces would be organized. These details did not actually require the highest ranking member of each weave to personally come. After all, their personal safety was very important. However, to Gibu, the most important goal for him in this conference was to obtain some sort of definitive guarantee for his position as chairman from the Great Yu Empire. Hence, he had personally made the trip.

Hill Auna's words were actually the guarantee that Gibu had been after, and since En Ya had not rebuffed the comment, Gibu finally felt at ease. He had not thought that he would attain his objective the moment he arrived on Zenyu Star. Now, he would be able to relax for the remainder of the conference since the upcoming discussions were none of his business. The Great Yu Empire could do whatever it pleased!

After exchanging pleasantries for a while, someone reported that the representatives from the Six-Fingered Tribe had arrived.

"Chairman Gibu, please go on ahead and rest first." En Ya smiled and instructed some people to lead Gibu away.

Not long after Gibu left, another group appeared, and this time, the leader was a youth with a calm expression and a faint smile. He had a rather elegant mien, as he was the Six-Fingered Tribe Leader Bach Shamus's son, Jake Shamus.

Bach Shamus was the leader of the Six-Fingered Tribe, and he typically did not travel very far away from the tribe so as to prevent any accidents from occurring. Jake Shamus was able to represent him and make decisions on behalf of the tribe, and this was the same approach that many powers were using for Alliance Conference, and only a minority of powers had sent their highest figure to participate.

The Alliance Conference did not only consist of the Vastdearth Sect, Evenground Palace, and the other major powers. There were also many other, smaller powers in the eastern weaves. After all, those top organizations were just the main guiding powers, not the only powers in their respective weaves.

This Alliance Conference had people from over a hundred affiliated powers participating, and only those from major powers merited En Ya and Hill Auna's personal welcome. The other powers would be welcomed by other officials.

Jake Shamus had an uncommonly charismatic aura; as the Six-Fingered Tribe's Young Leader, his bearing and choice of words made others feel even more comfortable than Gibu's. He was neither overly subservient nor overbearing, though there was a slight trace of arrogance in his words. However, he restrained that trace when conversing with En Ya.

After Jake Shamus's arrival, Grandtop Weave's Nine Stacks Sect showed up next, which was actually Lu Yin's hidden power since Tianming was his puppet. Getting the Nine Stacks Sect to join the Great Eastern Alliance had just taken a sentence on his part. For the conference this time, the Nine Stacks Sect had sent over Lan Wu, who was the Hunter that had noticed the issue with Tianming but chosen to not reveal it to the sect.

"Lady En Ya, when will His Highness come out of seclusion?" Lan Wu asked.

En Ya smiled. "I'm not sure, but it will definitely be before the Alliance Conference begins. Why? Is there any particular matter you need to discuss with His Highness?"

Lan Wu smiled. "I simply wish to extend my greetings."

En Ya nodded and then instructed some people to escort Lan Wu out of the space station.

Lan Wu looked back, seemingly slightly apprehensive. Back when Lu Yin had offered to bring her into the Great Yu Empire to become a captain of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons, she had rejected him. Being a captain would not be as comfortable as being the ambassador for a region. However, her thoughts had changed after the Great Eastern Alliance had been established. The Great Yu Empire was now the dominant power, and Zenyu Star was undoubtedly the heart of authority for the entire eastern weave system. Only by staying in this place could one enjoy true authority, as well as the best resources that the eastern weaves could offer.

She wished to become stronger, as otherwise, she would forever be a puppet trapped in Grandtop Weave, forever accompanying Tianming. That was not the life that she wanted.

She could only wait for the Alliance Conference to end before going to look for Lu Yin.

The space station where En Ya and Hill Auna were waiting was very quiet, as it had been reserved to specially welcome the representatives of the various dominant powers. A bit further away from them was another space station, and it was a very different story there. People were continuously arriving at that space station, and they were from all kinds of different major powers in the eastern weaves, making the space station quite busy.

En Ya and Hill Auna looked over, and they saw that the leaders of the various powers arriving at the second space station all smiled politely as they arrived.



Hill Auna sighed. "In the past, our Great Yu Empire was not that much stronger than those minor powers. It's all due to His Majesty Undying Yushan that we were able to break into new territories and reach the heights that we have."

En Ya faintly replied, "Undying Yushan indeed set the foundation, but the Royal Regent is the one who truly built up the Great Yu Empire to these heights."

Hill Auna smiled. "Of course, His Majesty Undying Yushan spent his entire life, but he was unable to even unify the Frostwave Weave. His Highness the Royal Regent has established the Great Eastern Alliance, which is an incomparable miracle. If the Royal Regent could one day cease to be the substitute ruler for the empire, it would be our Great Yu Empire's blessing."

En Ya did not reply to him, as Hill Auna was actually expressing the Auna family's stance with this statement. They were now completely dedicated to Lu Yin, as they had offended many government officials by fulfilling their duties, being cursed by many in the process. However, they did not care about any of that as they wanted Lu Yin to obtain complete control of the entire Great Yu Empire more than anyone else.

Hill Auna saw that En Ya did not reply, though she was also unflustered by his words. On the surface, she made no response, but he knew that she would definitely pass on his words to the Royal Regent in the future.

### **Chapter 716: That Person**

In Darkmist Weave, above the primitive planet, Lu Yin reappeared.

"Your Highness, five Explorers have already died," Yan Yan reported.

Since he was killing one person every hour, and after including the person who had died in the beginning, it meant that four hours had passed since Lu Yin had given the order. Old Gu De had pleaded to speak with Lu Yin on multiple occasions during this time, but Lu Yin had disregarded him every time. However, he had always been watching as Old Gu De fell into the pits of despair.

As soon as he saw Lu Yin appear, Old Gu De shouted out, "What the hell do you want? Any grudge can be settled, and I have accumulated many treasures over the years, enough to buy all of our lives!"

"Then let's see them," Lu Yin said calmly.

Old Gu De grew cautious. "Let us out first."

Lu Yin did not bother uttering another word. and he simply left. No matter how desperately Old Gu De shouted, it was all for naught.

Very soon, two more hours passed, and another two Explorers were killed.

There had been seventeen Explorers initially under Old Gu De, and seven of them had already died, causing the remaining few to start panicking. They all looked at Old Gu De with strange expressions, as they had evidently been dragged into this mess because of him.

Lu Yin reappeared, and he only said the same thing as before: he ordered Old Gu De to reveal all of his various treasures that he had gathered.

Old Gu De had spent many years at the Astral River, and he was as wily as a fox. Thus, there was no way he would trust Lu Yin so easily. "What exactly is your grudge against me?"

Lu Yin looked at Old Gu De. "After all these years, do you remember how many enemies you have made?"

Old Gu De frowned, and he stared at Lu Yin. "If you tell me, then I'll at least know what hatred you have against me, and what was so important that it motivated you to leave Frostwave Weave to come after me."

Lu Yin smiled and then left. He couldn't be bothered to speak any further with the older man.

Time passed quickly, and the Explorers on the spacecraft steadily died one after another. The spacecraft was shrouded with a desperate atmosphere, and the looks directed towards Old Gu De had become even stranger than before.

Finally, twelve hours had passed, and thirteen Explorers were dead. One Explorer flew out and shouted at Yan Yan, "Release us! We're willing to hand over everything we own. Spare us!"

Yan Yan coldly answered, "Old Gu De's belongings must be handed over."

The Explorer seemed to despair at these words. "Old Gu De is a Hunter, and we have no choice in this matter."

Yan Yan did not reply again.

Lu Yin stood within his spacecraft and stared at the frozen planet, his gaze calm.

Behind him, the female Mistchild was rather curious by how the events had developed. "Your Highness, what sort of hatred do you have against Old Gu De? Did he stop you from entering the Inniverse before?"

Lu Yin looked out the window at outer space and muttered, "What do you think Old Gu De cares about the most?"

The Limiteer Mistchild answered without hesitation, "His son, Gu Er."

Lu Yin nodded. "That's right, Gu Er."

On the primitive planet, after another Explorer was frozen to death. After that, the final three Explorers and five Cruisers could not take the pressure anymore, and they all went to Old Gu De, begging him to hand over his life savings.

Old Gu De's expression turned sinister. "Do you think that that man will let you guys over once I hand over my wealth? Impossible! His hatred for me runs too deep, and there is no way he will allow you to leave this place alive."

"How will you know if you don't at least try? Captain, please, hand over your savings," one of the Cruisers pleaded.

The others also moved to encircle Old Gu De.

Inside the spacecraft, Gu Er trembled and looked out in fear.

Old Gu De grinned coldly. "What's this? Are you trying to force me? Just you all by yourselves?"

The few powerhouses exchanged glances, and although they appeared to be absolutely terrified, there was a firm sense of resolve in them as well. "Captain, we don't want to die."

Old Gu De moved suddenly, a long knife tearing through the void and easily decapitating a Cruiser, causing fresh blood to spurt out from his neck splatter across the others' faces. They turned pale and were overwhelmed by what had just happened.

"I'm your captain, as well as a Hunter! You guys must be looking for death, with just the few of you trying to rebel against me!" Old Gu De bellowed. He then looked up at Yan Yan, who was still standing outside the sturdy ice. "I know that you want to force them to rebel against me and see how desperate I become. I will fulfill your desires!"

The remaining seven people could not withstand Old Gu De at all, and fresh blood quickly stained the white ground red as he slaughtered them all. The remaining 3,000 odd cultivators who were still in the spacecraft looked down in desperation as their terror rose without end.

Old Gu De clenched his knife and exchanged glances with Yan Yan. "Satisfied now? I want to see Lu Yin."

Lu Yin slowly appeared from behind Yan Yan, and he looked at Old Gu De with admiration on his face. "You are certainly ruthless enough. Those people were all subordinates who followed you for years. Don't you feel anything after killing them like that?"

Old Gu De glared at him coldly. "Even if I didn't kill them, they still would have died at your hands. Isn't this what you wanted to see? The thrill of vengeance? I've already fallen into despair, so you've achieved your goal."

Lu Yin's lips curled upwards. "From the very beginning, you never actually wanted to save their lives. To you, they were nothing more than resources to spend in an attempt to assuage my resentment. You've done well, and your actions just now have indeed improved my temper. Now, you can hand over your savings, and I may still spare you."

Old Gu De's eyes flashed, and he hesitated for a moment. However, he grabbed the cosmic ring that was on his finger and placed a drop of his blood into a bottle. He then pressed these two items against the barrier of ice. The ice moved as though it were alive, carrying the cosmic ring and the bottle through the barrier and depositing them in Lu Yin's hands.

Lu Yin used Old Gu De's fresh blood to open the cosmic ring, and he then scanned through its contents. He was astonished to discover that there was actually a veritable mountain of star crystals within it.

Old Gu De's cosmic ring had a massive capacity, and it was much larger than any cosmic ring sold on the open market. It was actually nearly as large as the cosmic ring that Northgate Lie had given Lu Yin, the one from the Starfall Sea that was valued at around 20,000 star essence. Old Gu De had been able to obtain such a ring with his position as the Astral River Envoy, which was beyond Lu Yin's expectations.

There were many items stored in the cosmic ring, and the most eye-grabbing ones were the almost 60,000 star crystals, thousands of star essence, some Mavis Bank cards, various medications from

Shamrock Enterprises, and some weapons. Among the equipment, there was even a bracer that boasted an exceptional amount of rune lines nearly equivalent to a Hunter's.

Lu Yin took the bracer out and looked at Old Gu De.

Old Gu De saw the bracer that he treasured greatly. "That's a power vessel. Anyone who wears it will be able to display doubled physical strength so long as the power does not surpass that of a peak Hunter."

Lu Yin's eyes lit up, and he looked at the bracer fervently. This was a good item, and it coincidentally suited him very well.

As for whatever peak Hunter strength that he had just been told, that was all nonsense. He could simply upgrade the bracer until it could handle doubling an Enlighter's strength or even more. Just thinking about doubling the strength of one of his punches was a scary thought.

"I've given you everything I've gathered through all these years, so please, let us go," Old Gu De pleaded.

Lu Yin casually threw the young Mistchild one million star crystals as her reward. Phantom Sting's starting rate was three million star crystals, and paying the Limiteer Mistchild one million was already way above market rates.

However, she did not want the crystals. "I only want poisons."

Lu Yin did not give her any. "This task was not worth those poisons. Those were made by the Enlighter, Elder Wu."

Her lips twisted.

"Lu Yin, please, let us go!" Old Gu De screamed.

Lu Yin stared at Old Gu De. "How can I believe that you've really given me all of your savings? You've roamed the universe for so many years. Don't think that I'm that naive."

Old Gu De's face went pale, and he pointed at Yan Yan. "Ever since this planet was frozen, I've never left that person's sight. Just ask him!"

Lu Yin sneered. "Someone like you would have hidden your most important objects long ago. For example, on your son."

Old Gu De's expression changed in an instant as explosive sounds suddenly rang out from the spacecraft below him. An inferno rose up, carrying Gu Er's cries along with it for all to hear.

Old Gu De immediately charged over to save Gu Er, but he was blocked from moving by the deadly frost. He screamed in anger, "Lu Yin, what the hell do you want?"

"Hand over all your savings. Then I can allow you to save him," Lu Yin responded calmly.

Old Gu De slashed out with his knife continuously, desperately trying to cleave through the ice as he arduously made his way towards the spacecraft.

But below him, Gu Er's cries rang out even louder until it broke out into a full on wail.

Old Gu De's eyes went wide, and he looked at where Gu Er was desperately screaming. His son's skin had already been burnt off. He then tore his jacket apart, retrieved a cosmic ring that had been hanging around his neck, and quickly threw it at the ice.

Lu Yin did not find this unexpected, as it would be strange if this type of person did not keep a trick or two hidden up their sleeves—not having one would actually be more strange. This might not even be Old Gu De's final stash, but that was alright. The man's wealth was not Lu Yin's true objective.

"Lu Yin, let me save him!" Old Gu De screamed even as he continued to slice at the robust ice blocking his path.

Lu Yin waved a hand at Yan Yan. "Alright, let him go."

Yan Yan felt rather helpless. "I'm sorry, Your Highness, but he's already dead."

As the solid ice gradually dissipated, they all saw that Gu Er had already been reduced to dust, his body completely gone.

Old Gu De's pupils shrank, and his entire body trembled as he returned to his spacecraft. He stared blankly at the ashes on the floor before whirling around to glare vehemently at Lu Yin. His expression was so bitter that it looked as though he wanted to devour the youth alive.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. "Late to come to the rescue—does that ring any bell? About eight years ago?"

Old Gu De's eyes went wide as he stared at Lu Yin. Suddenly, he started to laugh maniacally. Gu Er's death had caused him to lose control of his emotions. "So that's how it is! Hahaha! Now I remember—you were one of those people. Eight years ago, there was a group of homeless dogs that were being pursued and chased out of the Inniverse, and I intentionally stalled them for a while to make sure that they would suffer heavy losses. So that was you! Hahaha!"

Lu Yin had Yan Yan remove the barrier of ice. He stood high in the sky as he looked down at Old Gu De. "Since you remembered it, then you know that your son did not die unjustly."

Old Gu De's eyes flashed red as he stared at Lu Yin. "I never thought that one of those homeless dogs from eight years ago would be able to reach such a level. If I had known back then, I would have listened to that person and slaughtered all of you before throwing your remains into the Astral River as fish food!"

Lu Yin's eyes went wide, and he suddenly vanished, only to reappear right beside Old Gu De. He kicked out and sent Old Gu De flying and crashing onto the ground. Old Gu De wanted to resist the blow, but his four limbs were being restricted by the terrible frost, so his body was like a loose sandbag that was flung into the ground.

Lu Yin pressed his foot upon Old Gu De's body and looked down at the old man. "Who was it that gave the order?"

Old Gu De spat out a mouthful of blood. His hair was a mess, and his eyes were completely bloodshot. "Do you think that I would have intentionally stalled without someone else's orders? Do you think that

you bunch of homeless dogs were casually being chased? Do you have any idea how strong the person who was chasing you is?”

Lu Yin’s eyes flashed, as he actually did not know. Ever since he learned that Big Sis was from Leon’s Armada, he had realized that this matter was not as simple as he had initially thought.

Leon’s Armada was a dominant force in the Cosmic Sea, and it was even one of the undisputed chiefs of that place. Any random member of that crew was not someone who could be provoked. The fact that Big Sis and the others had been allowed to safely leave Leon’s Armada was enough to prove that their status in the crew was extremely high, and that also indicated that they were very powerful. Not many people in the Innerverse, let alone the Outerverse, were able to chase down and kill that group of people.

That pursuit had directly resulted in seventy two deaths, and Lu Yin had not dared to watch the battle back then as he had been nothing more than a commoner. However, with his current outlook, he could imagine how bitter that battle must have been, and also how powerful their pursuers must have been. It was not some Leo family like what Uncle Reuben had told him. That family might have participated in the pursuit, but they were undoubtedly not the driving force behind the chase, as even Old Gu De had taken part.

The true pursuer had used quite a few powers from both the Innerverse and the Outerverse, so they definitely held a high position. Their position might actually be so high that even the Ten Arbiter who had condemned the people surnamed Lu on that paper might have been nothing more than another pawn.

### **Chapter 717: Late Clues**

The Ten Arbiters, Old Gu De, and the Leo family. For someone to gather all of these powers together meant that they possessed an ability that surpassed Lu Yin’s imagination.

“Who is that person?” Lu Yin stared at Old Gu De.

Old Gu De smiled bitterly. “It’s no wonder why you hate me so much that you forced me into such desperate circumstances. You tortured me, burned my son alive, and put me through the pain of not being able to rescue someone dear to me. Lu Yin, you’ve acted right, and you’ve done well. You’ve tortured me to your heart’s content, so now it’s my turn. I won’t tell you who it was. You can only go and find out yourself! Hahaha!”

Lu Yin stepped on Old Gu De’s arm and broke it. His expression was absolutely glacial.

Old Gu De howled with laughter. “I’ll tell you this—that person is someone from the Cosmic Sea, but I won’t tell you the rest! You can go and search, but in the end, you’ll only find hopelessness, hahaha!” Old Gu De then spat out a mouthful of blood as he killed himself.

Lu Yin stared at Old Gu De’s corpse while he contemplated what he had just been told.

Yan Yan and the Limiteer Mistchild waited nearby, but they did not approach, and neither did they make any sounds.

The fact that the mysterious person was from the Cosmic Sea might leave Lu Yin desperate, as it meant that their pursuers back then had been one of the four pirate crews. Only they possessed enough strength to render the current Lu Yin helpless.

Old Gu De definitely did not know what Big Sis's origins were, or else he would not have dared to intentionally stall the Ark at that time. Leon's Armada was fully worthy of its position as a top overlord of the Cosmic Sea, and while Lu Yin could not take revenge, Leon's Armada was different. It was a pity that Old Gu De had not specified which crew it had been.

It had definitely been one of the Four Pirate Crews. Lu Yin was certain of that, as only they would dare to challenge Leon's Armada.

This incident involved the Cosmic Sea's internal power struggle, where any large crew would have the strength to challenge the Daynight clan. The battles there were always very cruel.

The planet gradually thawed, but its temperature had already dropped significantly, and snow began to drift down from the sky.

Some distance away, Old Gu De's spacecraft was still burning, and the 3,000 plus cultivators had all fled in different directions out of fear of being slaughtered.

Lu Yin had no plans to kill these people. Although they had indeed once acted like tyrants when they worked aboard the Astral River Ark, that did not necessitate their deaths, and he was not some warrior of justice either.

The bespectacled Mistchild moved over behind Lu Yin and then cautiously said, "Your Highness, I've searched through the spacecraft, and Old Gu De was not hiding anything else."

Lu Yin glanced at the man's corpse. "Burn it."

Yan Yan raised a hand, and an inferno descended that completely burned Old Gu De's corpse to ashes.

"Let's return to Zenyu Star," Lu Yin said calmly. After exacting this bit of revenge, although he felt very carefree, he was not much happier, especially after learning more about the people who had been behind the scenes. This was actually an emotional burden on Lu Yin, as the Inniverse was currently being invaded by the Sixth Mainland. He had no way of knowing how Leon's Armada would fare in the invasion, or how Big Sis and the others were at the moment.

Although he had not met Highsage Leon himself, Lu Yin had a good opinion of the man. This was because he had made a promise to Lu Yin a while ago. 'Kid, you can do whatever you want and offend whoever you want. If anyone tries to bully you, I'll back you up. Remember, I got your back.' It had been crude, but also very down-to-earth. The promise had made Lu Yin feel warm, and even at this moment, it made him feel like he was being protected.

He hoped that Leon's Armada would be alright, as the current him could not do anything for them.

On Zenyu Star, En Ya and Hill Auna welcomed the Vastdearth Sect's Elder Huaqiao. During the process of establishing the Great Eastern Alliance, the Vastdearth Sect had always been a little more difficult to work with. First, it had collaborated with the Daynight clan and Xun family, then with Darkstar Gorge, and after joining the Great Eastern Alliance, it had tried to unite the other alliance members to force the

Great Yu Empire into a difficult position. Lu Yin was not very fond of these people, and neither was En Ya, but they would not reveal their dissatisfaction.

“Elder Huaqiao, welcome to Zenyu Star,” En Ya said pleasantly.

Hua Qiao nodded. He looked up and then sighed. “In the end, I still came. His Highness the Royal Regent’s methods and courage are quite admirable.”

Hill Auna smiled. “Elder Huaqiao must be tired. We have already arranged quarters for you to rest in. Please.”

The elder nodded and then left without speaking any further.

“It seems that this Vastdearth Sect won’t give up. Meng Tianlong is reportedly maintaining a vigil outside of Elder Meng Qing’s door, waiting for him to awaken.” Hill Auna was unhappy with the man’s attitude.

En Ya’s eyes radiated a certain coldness. “Meng Qing is an Enlighter, and if he awakens, things will indeed become a little troublesome.”

“Has His Highness made any arrangements?” Hill Auna asked.

En Ya shook her head. “I’m not sure.”

Some hours later, a spacecraft appeared and docked at the space station. It was not from another weave, as it was actually one of the Great Yu Empire’s own vessels that came from Zenyu Star.

When it appeared, En Ya arranged her expression, as the people from Shenwu Continent had arrived.

En Ya valued Shenwu Continent because it was the home of Lu Yin’s most important person.

There was no way that Shenwu Continent could send out Ming Yan at this time, and all the other members of the Ming Family had been eliminated. As such, the person who had been sent out this time was Bei Hong, someone who En Ya felt surprised to see.

Bei Hong had been a military advisor when Ming Zhaotian had been the emperor, and logically, he should have been taken care of by Ming Zhaoshu. There had been reports long ago that he had been killed, and no one had expected that he would suddenly appear as Shenwu Continent’s representative for the Alliance Conference. His arrival caused En Ya to feel surprised.

Behind Bei Hong stood a young man who looked around with curiosity. He was Bei Qing.

Shenwu Continent had gradually developed more connections with the outside universe, though they still could not freely enter the universe due to the five sealing planets. Hunters in the space station above the continent had to help whenever someone wanted to leave the continent and enter the Outerverse.

Shenwu Continent had joined the Great Eastern Alliance, which naturally meant that it was under Lu Yin’s protection. This meant that even the Daynight clan members in the space station did not dare to act against the continent any longer.

Only by leaving Shenwu Continent could one appreciate the vastness of the universe. Bei Qing’s eyes lit up as he looked all about. This was all too mysterious, and he had clearly traveled far from home.



“Welcome to Zenyu Star, Lord Bei Hong.” En Ya welcomed the two men with a smile.

Beside her, Hill Auna also greeted them. Although he was the minister for foreign affairs, he was still second to En Ya when it came to matters related to the Great Eastern Alliance, and he was very clear where his position was.

Bei Hong courteously replied to En Ya, saying, “I’m sorry to trouble Lady En Ya to welcome us personally. I cannot bear to cause you such an inconvenience.”

En Ya smiled. “His Highness is currently in seclusion. Lord Bei Hong must be tired. Please go rest first and wait for the Alliance Conference to begin in a few days.”

Bei Hong nodded, as this was not a suitable place for a serious discussion. He suddenly looked at Bei Qing. “Unfilial son, quickly greet Lady En Ya and Lord Hill Auna.”

Bei Qing hurriedly stepped forward and bowed to the two officials.

En Ya smiled. “This must be Bei Qing. His Highness has mentioned you to me, and I’ve looked forward to meeting you.”

Bei Qing was stunned. “He mentioned me? Does His Highness the Royal Regent know me?”

En Ya smiled, but she did not answer. Instead, she instructed people to bring Shenwu Continent’s entourage to a place to rest.

On their way to their quarters, Bei Qing felt lost. “How could Royal Regent Lu Yin know me?”

Bei Hong calmly replied, “How do you think His Majesty works with him? Lu Yin visited Shenwu Continent long ago, and he must have disguised himself during that time. He probably saw you at that time, and he may have even had some interactions with you, all without you knowing.”

Bei Qing was in a daze, as how would he remember some minor coachman?

Not long after Shenwu Continent’s group arrived, the people from the Adonis Weave’s Greenpeak Gorge made their appearance. Their person in charge was Lü Ran, who was an elder from Greenpeak Gorge, as well as a Hunter. His entire body was covered in green skin, and it looked quite horrifying.

Greenpeak Gorge’s attitude was very respectful, and there was not even a trace of shortcoming in their posture.

En Ya and Hill Auna exchanged pleasantries with the representative before sending the group to rest.

Neither En Ya nor Hill Auna liked Greenpeak Gorge, as this power was easily swayed. On the surface, it seemed that they had actively joined the Great Eastern Alliance, but in truth, they had agreed to cooperate with the Vastdearth Sect on the side. After they learned that the Outerverse Lockbreaker Society was going to relocate its headquarters to Frostwave Weave, they had quickly put a stop to their relations with the Vastdearth Sect. They had a habit of double-crossing, which caused people to look down on them.

Although the Vastdearth Sect had always tried to cause trouble, their actions had been done in the open while Greenpeak Gorge was different.

There were eight great weaves currently in the Alliance, and En Ya was the most wary and disdainful towards Greenpeak Gorge.

The final group to arrive was Bard Weave's Evenground Palace. Bard Weave was the furthest weave from Frostwave Weave, and both Elder Meiya and Young Mistress Doro had made an appearance as representatives of their sect.

They exited their spacecraft, and Doro looked around curiously—she could sense a different energy fluctuation here. At this moment, the top forces of the Great Yu Empire should have gathered on Zenyu Star, including Lu Yin, who was even able to hold his own against Enlighters. In the Outerverse, there were very few powers that could contest with the current Zenyu Star.

Her master had to be hopping mad by now, as she had wanted to head to Frostwave Weave and play. However, she had been stopped by the various elders, though to Doro, it was all very amusing.

However, it had been the right decision to not allow her master to go on this trip. Doro still felt a little nervous when she remembered how Mu Nichang had wanted to seduce Lu Yin. Who knew if her master truly planned on doing so, but as senseless as she was, Mu Nichang might have actually made such plans. Thus, it was rather lucky for their sect that someone else was making this trip.

Elder Meiya led Doro to meet En Ya and the others, displaying a neutral attitude. It was not very proactive, but it was not repulsive either.

En Ya had someone escort Elder Meiya and her group to a place to rest, and then she canceled the lockdown on the space station. The major powers had all arrived, so now, they simply had to wait for the Alliance Conference to officially convene.

The State House was where the representatives of the visiting great powers were staying, and it had only been built a short distance away from King Zishan's palace. It had been built in the suburbs and was located in a pleasant environment with tight security.

As the various great powers arrived, the State House became increasingly bustling.

The place was quite large, and it had been divided into many courtyards. Each courtyard was located a fair distance from all others. However, if people wished to meet, the distance would not interfere with such activities either.

At this moment, Lü Ran from Adonis Weave coincidentally bumped into the Vastdearth Sect's Elder Huaqiao.

"Elder Huaqiao, what a coincidence, our quarters are actually nearby," Lü Ran said with a smile.

Elder Huaqiao glanced at Lü Ran with a loathing expression. "That's right, quite a coincidence."

"Is Elder Huaqiao visiting next door? If I'm not wrong, next door should be the quarters that were arranged for Evenground Palace. Is Elder Huaqiao still unresigned, wanting to make things difficult for the Great Yu Empire?" Lü Ran asked in a surprise tone with a rather loud voice.

Elder Huaqiao's face grew extremely ugly, and he stared intently at Lü Ran. "Stop spouting nonsense. I'm just heading over to greet them."

Lü Ran covered his mouth and chuckled. "My apologies, I forgot that this is Zenyu Star and that there are ears all around us. Alright, Elder Huaqiao, do as you wish. I won't accompany you any further." And with that, he walked away with a massive grin plastered across his face.

Hua Qiao snorted. Despicable.

He had originally planned on meeting with the people from Evenground Palace to ask for a clarification on why they had humiliated his Vastdearth Sect. However, after Lü Ran's meddling, if he still tried to meet with them after that, his actions would likely be interpreted as his sect trying to ally with Evenground Palace. Helpless, he could only return to his own quarters.

At this moment, he had been embarrassed by Lü Ran.

Doro actually owed Lü Ran thanks, as if he had not interfered, the message that she had sent to the Vastdearth Sect would have absolutely been discovered by Elder Meiya and the others who made up the highest levels of Evenground Palace. It was incredibly disrespectful to send such a message to a large sect, and it was an incident that could easily lead to enmity developing between their two organizations. Although Mu Nichang had ordered Doro to send the message, who would believe such a thing? In the eyes of many elders of Evenground Palace, Mu Nichang was a very steady, aware, and mature leader. There was no way such a respectable person would give such a command, and so, the blame for the incident would definitely fall solely onto Doro's shoulders.

### **Chapter 718: Visit**

In another area of the State House, Gibu successively visited the members of the Great Yu Empire's Imperial Cabinet's upper levels as well as the four ministries, including the Huo family and the Auna family. Gibu had not said much during these visits, as his main purpose was to meet these officials and introduce himself.

During this entire time, Lan Wu stared at King Zishan's palace, eagerly waiting for Lu Yin's return.

Bei Hong and the others casually strolled along the streets of Zenyu Star, excited to experience more of the wider universe.

Each weave's delegation had its own plans.

Traveling through outer space, Lu Yin sat in the lounge of his vessel and rubbed his head. He had used the status granted by his Honor Points to search for more information regarding the four pirate crews, but he had not found much.

The Cosmic Sea's Four Pirate Crews were known to many, but very few people actually knew anything substantial about them. This made it so that it was not too realistic to search the network for public information on them.

Lu Yin had also asked the Limiteer Mistchild about the four pirate crews, but she was completely ignorant of them. She was only an assassin who had started cultivating on the Outerverse's Mafioso

Planet. She had never even been to the Innerverse, so there was no way for her to know anything about the Cosmic Sea's Four Pirate Crews.

Lu Yin thought about it and decided to stop searching for more information. The Outerverse had been cut off from the Innerverse, so there wasn't actually a reason for him to continue searching. He would try again in the future!

When Lu Yin returned to Zenyu Star, the Outerverse Lockbreaker Society arrived at Planet Hydrotink at almost the same time.

Planet Hydrotink was not very far from Zenyu Star, as they were in the same filament. This was so that Lu Yin could visit the Lockbreaker Society headquarters at his convenience, and the planet had been chosen for this specific reason.

Planet Hydrotink had native inhabitants, and the planet also had not been overly transformed by technology. However, despite its rustiness, it was rather connected to the rest of the universe as it had a space station and also a network for gadgets.

The Lockbreaker Society's arrival had initially faced opposition from the planet's natives, but that had been quickly resolved.

To prevent the Outerverse Lockbreaker Society from being disturbed by the native inhabitants, Huan Sha had specially ordered the two parties to be segregated, and she used an ocean to act as a buffer between the two groups. They could still interact with each other, but they would not share territory.

With their current technology, it would not take them too much time to build a city, much less basic residences for Lockbreakers to live in. There were only a few thousand Lockbreakers that had immigrated to Planet Hydrotink with the society, so it was easy to make arrangements for all of them.

Lu Yin was concerned about the various treasures of the Lockbreaker Society. Many objects had been stolen from the Hall of Insight, but Lu Yin did not believe that the attackers had managed to grab all of the Society's treasures, as it definitely possessed many more sourceboxes.

At the moment, only Felynn knew where those treasures were hidden.

The most unfortunate part about the relocation was that the four tree-shaped sourceboxes could not be removed and transported, and thus, they had been left behind on Sourcepeak Planet.

Sourcepeak Planet was already about to collapse, and it would definitely completely vanish in just a few more years, at which point it would become a blackhole. The loss of those four tree-shaped sourceboxes was a pity.

The Lockbreaker Society had just started settling on Planet Hydrotink when Cai Jianqiang arrived.

Felynn was very surprised to learn of his arrival, and she immediately met with him.

"What happened to Sourcepeak Planet?" Cai Jianqiang asked sternly.

Felynn sighed and then briefly described the events that had occurred on Sourcepeak Planet, though she intentionally left out how she had been played by the Wei family and Lu Yin. "The other party must have wanted to steal the items that were in President Geoffrey's secret room, which is why they mounted a

raid on the Hall of Insight. Fortunately, Senior Li and Lu Yin cooperated to protect those items, or else we would have let down President Geoffrey.”

Cai Jianqiang frowned and secretly regretted his earlier decision. He would not have left the competition so early if he had known that something like this would happen. He had not thought that so much would happen right after he left.

Felynn looked at the young Hunter and said, “You don’t need to blame yourself—only Saul should be blamed for using such despicable methods. If hadn’t participated, then the other Lockbreakers and Lu Yin would have been able to prevent Sourcepeak Planet from falling into such a desperate situation, and at the very least, we would have been able to protect Hall of Insight.”

“I will look for Saul, and I will make him pay for what he did,” Cai Jianqiang stated coldly in a very determined voice.

Felynn’s heart leaped in her chest, and she looked at Cai Jianqiang in surprise. Had this person’s battle strength reached such a high level that he was confident in dealing with Saul? Saul was able to fight against Enlighters!

“Will you all remain here in Frostwave Weave in the future?” Cai Jianqiang asked.

Felynn nodded and then looked over at the busy Lockbreakers. “Lu Yin has promised that the Great Eastern Alliance will protect us, and you should know that President Geoffrey is currently stranded in the Innerverses. Meanwhile, Saul has defected, and Senior Li is dead. Yi Feng and Mr. Jun have both left, so I am not able to protect everyone on my own. Lockbreakers have too lofty of a status, and we have likely offended many people in the past. Thus, we now need someone to protect us.”

“Could those people who attacked Sourcepeak Planet be related to Lu Yin?” Cai Jianqiang voiced a guess, as Lu Yin was the one who had gained the most from this entire situation.

Felynn shook her head. “It had nothing to do with him. If he had been involved, then the items stored in President Geoffrey’s secret room would have been stolen, as our foe’s primary objective had been to grab those things. From start to end, Lu Yin stood against the attackers, and because of him, many treasures were recovered, and many Lockbreakers did not die in vain.”

Cai Jianqiang’s eyes flashed, as these reassurances were still not enough to cement his trust in Lu Yin. As soon as he had learned that the Outerverses Lockbreaker Society’s headquarters was being relocated to the Frostwave Weave, he had immediately started looking into Lu Yin. There was not a small amount of information about this youth, and when everything was looked at together, Cai Jianqiang felt that Felynn’s excuses were not enough to completely exonerate Lu Yin.

“I want to meet Lu Yin,” Cai Jianqiang said calmly.

Felynn grew worried. “Don’t mess around. I can swear and promise you that this matter is unrelated to him and that he just coincidentally happened to be participating in the competition.”

Cai Jianqiang snorted. “As long as everything turns out to be unrelated to him, I won’t do anything to him.”

Lu Yin was very busy at this moment, and he was too occupied to make a trip to Planet Hydrotink.

When he returned to King Zishan's palace, Lan Wu visited Lu Yin, as she had been staring at his residence ever since she had arrived.

"Greetings, Your Highness." Lan Wu bowed respectfully.

Lu Yin acknowledged her. "Have a seat."

Zhao Ran brewed some tea for Lan Wu.

"What's the matter? If it's related to the Alliance Conference, we can speak about it in two days," Lu Yin said, as he did not have enough leisure time to privately meet with each representative one by one.

Lan Wu took a moment to gather some words together. "Your Highness, you once offered to allow me to become a captain of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons. Is that offer still valid?"

Lu Yin was stumped, as he had long since forgotten about that. After he had killed Lei Long, he had indeed made such an offer to this woman, as the Great Yu Empire had been severely lacking in experts at that time. They had not had Phantom Sting, Aden, or Yan Yan at that time, and he had always hoped that his captains would be Hunters, which was why he had extended such an offer. However, there were now many more experts in the Great Yu Empire, and his previous craving for recruiting Hunters had died down. Although the Fifth and Tenth Squadrons were still captainless, he wanted to find absolute powerhouses such as Aden or Yan Yan to lead them, not some ordinary Hunters.

The Thirteen Imperial Squadrons held a very important place in his heart, though he wanted to change out all of the old captains such as Peach, Shalosh, Rocky Auna, Ban Jiu, and Liuying Zishan. He wanted to change them out not because he was heartless, but rather because they could not keep up in terms of strength. However, this was not the time to make such changes.

Lan Wu grew flustered when she saw how Lu Yin was considering her question. "Your Highness, this subordinate truly wishes to serve you, so please give me a chance."

Lu Yin glanced at Lan Wu and thought about her request. "Fine. If you can find a Hunter to oversee the Nine Stacks Sect and assist Tianming, I can allow you to become a captain in the Great Yu Empire."

Lan Wu was delighted at this answer. "Thank you, Your Highness!"

After Lan Wu left, Gibu, Lü Ran, and Jake Shamus each came to see him as well. They had nothing much to discuss, and each one simply wanted to meet him.

After they left and when the skies had darkened, Lu Yin received Elder Huaqiao.

Elder Huaqiao adjusted his expression when he saw Lu Yin, and he bowed deeply. "Greetings, Your Highness."

Lu Yin smiled. "Elder Huaqiao doesn't need to be so polite. The fact that the Vastdearth Sect was able to join the Great Eastern Alliance is in large part thanks to you."

Huaqiao smiled, "I dare not neglect Your Highness's instructions."

Sometimes, manipulating someone did not mean that you needed to learn their deepest secrets. All humans had emotions and desires, and as long as one was human, they would also have weaknesses, and Huaqiao was no exception.

Cheng Yan had been exposed by the Xun family and killed, leaving the Great Yu Empire without an insider in the Vastdearth Sect. It looked like their losses had been rather great, but nobody knew that Cheng Yan had merely been their surface contact. Lu Yin did not like letting other people seize the initiative, and to him, the secrets that he had learned had all come from Mafioso Planet. Whoever learned of this information would be able to control these people, so they were not very dependable from Lu Yin's point of view.

Having someone who was only in his palm was the most dependable way to proceed.

Huaqiao was one such person, and nobody knew that he was the Great Yu Empire's true mole that they had placed within the Vastdearth Sect.

"I will remember your contributions, and I will satisfy your requests, so rest assured." Lu Yin smiled.

Elder Huaqiao felt grateful with this acknowledgement, "Thank you, Your Highness."

"I will have to depend on Elder Huaqiao to report back on Meng Tianlong's actions in the future," Lu Yin said.

Huaqiao replied with a serene voice, "Rest assured, Your Highness. I will definitely do my best for you."

"Right, did Meng Qing truly die?" Lu Yin suddenly thought of this matter and asked about it. Meng Qing was the only Enlighter who had come from the Vastdearth Sect, and he had not appeared even a single time after going into seclusion. Meng Tianlong had been waiting in front of Meng Qing's quarters for a long time, which made Lu Yin feel uneasy, as an Enlighter could change certain situations.

Huaqiao answered awkwardly, "Your Highness, nobody knows the answer to this question. Elder Meng's status is a mystery to all."

Lu Yin muttered something to himself.

"Your Highness, Meng Tianlong has been waiting around Elder Meng's area of seclusion every day, and it's likely that Elder Meng is not dead yet. Please be prepared for that, Your Highness," Huaqiao advised respectfully.

Lu Yin grunted in acknowledgement. "Alright, you may go."

"Yes, Your Highness."

Vastdearth Weave had two Enlighters: Granny Zhuo, and Meng Qing.

Granny Zhuo was still in Ironblood Weave at the moment. She was not a part of the Vastdearth Sect, and although it was possible that she had some relations with them, she was not qualified to meddle in the Great Eastern Alliance's matters. However, Meng Qing was different, as he could singlehandedly decide whether or not the Vastdearth Sect would stay in the alliance. Once he emerged, he would be able to look for Granny Zhuo's cooperation, and it would be rather troublesome to face two Enlighters at once.

On one hand, Lu Yin hoped that Meng Qing would not emerge, as the enlighter might disrupt Lu Yin's plans. On the other, he was hoping that Meng Qing would emerge, as it was likely that the Sixth Mainland would invade the Outerverse with the Technocracy's support. If that happened, then the Outerverse would absolutely need experts with higher power levels.

It was a dilemma.

Of the major powers' various representatives that had joined the Great Eastern Alliance, only Darkmist Weave's Bei Hong and Bard Weave's Elder Meiya had not visited Lu Yin thus far. He therefore summoned them, as he might as well finish seeing all of the major representatives on the same day.

When Elder Meiya met with Lu Yin, her attitude was identical to Elder Huaqiao's, because she was the mole that the Great Yu Empire had planted in Evenground Palace, and her secrets were in Lu Yin's hands.

Doro was not summoned. She truly wanted to meet with Lu Yin, as it had only been a few years since she had seen Lu Yin, but he had changed so much.

When Lu Yin had first contacted Evenground Palace, he had asked for their assistance in pressuring the Ross Empire to pull back its troops. But now, he was able to force many of the eastern weaves to submit. With the power that Lu Yin currently possessed, there was no reason for him to ever be afraid, even if the Ross Empire invaded again!

In just a few years, his power had risen to the point where he could rival the Innerverse's great powers. This person was a legend.

Elder Meiya stepped out from her meeting with Lu Yin, and Doro curiously asked her, "Elder, what did you discuss with Lu Yin?"

Elder Meiya glared at the girl. "Watch your attitude when you speak of him. In just two days, he will become the Alliance Leader of the Great Eastern Alliance, and he cannot be referred to by name."

"Oh," Doro acknowledged. She looked at King Zishan's palace, and her eyes filled with curiosity.

## **Chapter 719: Hostage**

Bei Hong was the final person to visit King Zishan's palace, along with his son Bei Qing, as Lu Yin had summoned them together.

"Subject Bei Hong greets my lord."

"Bei Qing greets my lord."

Lu Yin raised a hand. "There's no need for that. Please, sit."

Bei Hong bowed once again before sitting down nearby. Bei Qing stood behind his father, and he occasionally glanced at Lu Yin, as he had heard that they had met before.

Zhao Ran brewed another pot of tea, and she eyed Bei Hong curiously. There had been many visitors today, and fortunately, she had prepared enough teawater. She even had enough for a few more pots of tea.



“How long has Lord Bei known the Reverent King for?” Lu Yin casually asked.

Bei Hong replied in a respectful tone, “This subject came to know of the Reverent King at a young age, and we even participated in the court examination at the same time.”

Lu Yin was astonished. “The Reverent King also took the court examination?”

Bei Hong smiled. “Yes, the Reverent King’s literary skills are brilliant and worthy of respect, though he did not pass the exam.”

“It looks like Lord Bei has quite a close relationship with the Reverent King,” Lu Yin commented.

Bei Hong adjusted his expression. “The Reverent King has bided his time for many years, and so has this subject. No matter if it was openly or secretly, this subject did not have any interactions with the Reverent King, and I have also never said anything good about the Reverent King. If this subject had not done so, this subject would not have lived to this day.”

“It sounds like the Reverent King has been recruiting the troops that have surrendered, and it also sounds like Lord Bei has made great contributions,” Lu Yin said.

Bei Hong looked at the floor and did not reply, as he naturally had nothing to say about this comment. He did not know what Lu Yin meant by his words, and he was uncertain about what sort of person the Royal Regent was. Every time the Reverent King mentioned this person, he had warned Bei Hong to be cautious.

Lu Yin looked at Bei Qing, and his lips curled up. “It looks like your son, Bei Qing, has finally recognized me.”

Bei Hong turned around.

Bei Qing’s heart skipped a beat. He quickly bowed and respectfully answered, “Back when the Demon Hunters Society was chasing after the rebel, Elder Hammer, there was a bit of misunderstanding between us and Your Highness. Please forgive me.”

Lu Yin laughed. “Back then, it was indeed suspicious that I was there, so there’s no reason to blame you. You guys were even injured by me. How are you doing now?”

“I’m fine. Thank you, my Lord, for your concern,” Bei Qing replied.

Lu Yin looked back at Bei Hong. “What position does Lord Bei currently hold in the Shenwu Empire?”

Bei Hong replied, “This subject is still the Minister of Defense.”

Lu Yin nodded as he looked into Bei Hong’s eyes. “That means that, in the future, Princess Ming Yan will also need to rely on Lord Bei, correct?”

Bei Hong replied, “The princess is exceptionally intelligent, and this subject will do his best to support her.”

Lu Yin withdrew his gaze, as Bei Hong was not the slightest bit surprised to hear that Ming Yan would be the one to succeed the throne. It seemed that Ming Zhaoshu truly trusted this person if he had told him about such a detail. “Lord Bei, you should know about my relationship with Ming Yan. Be it for public or

personal reasons, I do not wish for Shenwu Continent to turn into a mess. I hope that you will do your utmost to assist Ming Yan, and I will naturally reward you in the future. After this Alliance Conference, please allow your son, Bei Qing, to remain here, and I will open up a future for him.”

Bei Hong was surprised, “My lord, this-”

At the same time, Bei Qing stepped forward and loudly said, “Thank you, my lord, for showing me such care. Bei Qing is willing to work for my lord.”

Bei Hong turned back to glare at Bei Qing, about to say something.

However, Lu Yin smiled and spoke first. “Good! Seasoned officials may be more steady, but they always lack vitality, so I like to make use of young people when possible. As long as Lord Bei Qing has the ability, I will definitely not treat you unfairly.”

Bei Qing excitedly acknowledged Lu Yin’s offer. Ever since he had left Shenwu Continent and experienced the commotion and mysteries of the wider universe, he had wanted to remain behind, and this was his opportunity to do so.

Bei Hong sighed and deeply bowed to Lu Yin. “Sorry to cause you trouble, my lord.”

Lu Yin smiled and nodded as two men soon departed.

Ming Yan needed capable people to assist her when she inevitably rose to power in Shenwu Continent. Since Ming Zhaoshu trusted Bei Hong so much, it showed that the man was capable, so Lu Yin had to be able to control the man. Lu Yin was not Ming Zhaoshu, and he would not trust someone without a good reason. Thus, Bei Qing had to remain behind.

Of course, Bei Qing himself was not incompetent, and he had completely changed since Lu Yin had first met him. After all, Bei Qing had been able to join the Demon Hunters Society and hunt down the surviving remnant sect members. This proved that he had changed; in Lu Yin’s eyes, he could see that Bei Qing had passion and a goal, and Lu Yin liked working with such people. Only with passion would someone have motivation.

When they returned to the State House, Bei Hong scolded Bei Qing. “Do you know what you just did? Do you know how dangerous it is to follow Lu Yin? That person is very scheming, and he has offended too many powerful people with his ruthless methods. It’s extremely dangerous to follow him.”

“Then why are there so many people following him?” Bei Qing retorted.

Bei Hong opened his mouth, but he could not think of anything to say, as that was indeed the truth.

“Father, Lu Yin has been able to gain total control of the Great Yu Empire, and he has even established the Great Eastern Alliance. These feats are proof of his own ability. The actual methods are not that important, as you yourself once told me. Following him will at least be safer than roaming about alone. Anyways, I don’t want to return to Shenwu Continent again,” Bei Qing said.

Bei Hong had been beaten.

“Also, you’ve seen what the situation is like tonight. Do we even have any room to negotiate?” Bei Qing asked.

Bei Hong sighed. "Since you wish to follow him, then be careful. Make sure that you think twice before doing anything. You must be even more cautious against Lu Yin than against the Reverent King."

"I know, Father. Right, what did His Highness's words mean earlier? Assist Ming Yan? Could it be that the Shenwu Empire will be handed down to Ming Yan? That's impossible. His Majesty is still young, and he will definitely have a son," Bei Qing asked.

Bei Hong glared at his son. "Mind your own business, and stop asking so many questions."

Bei Hong instantly regretted responding to Lu Yin so quickly, for if he had pretended to be ignorant with his stance towards Ming Yan, then his son would not have been pulled into staying in the Great Yu Empire. Bei Hong realized that he had been trapped by Lu Yin. The Royal Regent might be young, but he was very smart.

After spending one full day receiving all of the important people from the various weaves, there was no longer any need for Lu Yin to summon the people from the remaining powers, especially since those people were not qualified to meet him alone.

It was now time for him to go to Planet Hydrotink and meet with Felynn and the others, as he could not just leave the Lockbreakers alone by themselves. He had to hand over some of the memory chips to Felynn, and more importantly, Lu Yin wanted to investigate and pry around for information concerning the primeval surnames.

The primeval surnames had always been a minor issue until one of the Ten Arbiters had taken out a paper with a list of people surnamed Lu and banished them all, his actions unable to be protested by anyone. The status of anyone with a primeval surname was miserable in this universe, and the Lockbreaker Society had even expressly stated that it would not accept anyone with a primeval surname that had an illegal status. This led Lu Yin to think that he could perhaps find out something from that source.

On Planet Hydrotink, Felynn was busy tidying up the current list of Lockbreakers when her gadget beeped. She glanced at it: Lu Yin had arrived.

Before long, Lu Yin arrived on Planet Hydrotink. This planet had lush, green vegetation, wide seas, and fresh air everywhere. It had always been a popular tourist destination, though that was before it became the Outerverse Lockbreaker Society's headquarters. Its status had changed vastly, going from an ordinary tourist planet to one of the most influential planets throughout the Outerverse.

The cost of living on the planet had not originally been very high, but the cost had multiplied several times in a single day, and they still showed no signs of stopping. Countless merchants had flocked to the planet, and if not for the temporary restriction blocking outsiders from entering, then the planet may have very well burst at the seams.

Even with the restrictions preventing outsiders from coming in, there were still numerous spacecraft crowded above the planet. On the nearby planets, many people had established a local base or residence. It was almost as if this place had become a second Zenyu Star, though its reputation might even surpass that of Zenyu Star.

Lu Yin towered high in the sky, floating above a sea, and he was able to see that the rune lines at the bottom of the sea were not small in number. These rune lines belonged to a Limiteer realm marine creature. Planet Hydrotink had some Limiteer realm beasts, which were relatively dangerous for the natives, but they were basically harmless to any Lockbreaker.

Felynn soon appeared and approached Lu Yin. "I thought that you would only come after the Alliance Conference concluded."

Lu Yin smiled. "The Lockbreaker Society has just arrived, so I have to pay a visit as your host, and I'm also here to give you some things in passing." He then passed Felynn a cosmic ring. "There are some memory chips in there that contain the lockbreaking experience of several Lockbreakers, gathered over their entire lives. This is the condition that I promised you."

Felynn accepted the ring, as she knew that these memory chips had come from the Hall of Insight. However, because they had not been able to protect the Hall of Insight, others had reaped the benefits.

"Senior Li's lockbreaking experience must be shared, as this was also one of the agreed upon conditions. I hope that you haven't forgotten," Lu Yin said.

Felynn remained silent for a while before speaking. "What do you need the Lockbreaker Society to do for you?"

"I haven't thought it through yet, but we'll speak again, since you guys have already helped me a great deal," Lu Yin said. He then looked at Felynn "There's something that I'm very curious about, and I hope that you can shed some light on it for me."

Felynn nodded. "Go ahead."

Lu Yin thought for a moment before speaking very seriously. "Why does the universe reject those with primeval surnames?"

Felynn was surprised that Lu Yin would ask such a question, but then she thought about it and remembered that this person's surname was Lu. He was precisely one such bearer of the primeval surnames. "I don't know."

Lu Yin stared straight into Felynn's eyes.

Felynn did not shrink back, and she looked right back into Lu Yin's eyes as she seriously answered, "This is actually a rule that's been passed down since ancient times. All people with primeval surnames must obtain a legal status, or else they will be excommunicated and killed. No organization under the Hall of Honor will accept anyone with an illegal primeval surname into their ranks, and violators will be killed without question. In fact, this rule was not set by the Lockbreaker Society, but rather by the Hall of Honor itself."

Lu Yin's eyes flickered. "The Hall of Honor?"

Felynn nodded. "Even President Geoffrey might not be able to answer this question of yours, as too much time has passed and too many powerful sects have disappeared from this universe since ancient times. Every powerful sect has documented records that orders them to reject those with primeval surnames, and no matter how old they are, they all have these records. It's as if, when humans were

first born, this rule was already encoded within our genes, being passed down to the present day since then. Nobody can give an explicit reason for why this rule must be upheld, but everyone knows that this is something they must do.

“And truthfully, nobody can accurately pinpoint which family names belong to the primeval surnames. The ones we are aware of are Lu, Liu, Wang, Xia, and Bai, but nobody knows the rest.”

“Does the Lockbreaker Society have any records about this?” Lu Yin asked.

Felynn replied, “I’ve already mentioned that every powerful organization will have these records, though none of the documents describe the reasons behind these rules. However, our society’s ancient documents have disappeared along with the Hall of Insight.”

Lu Yin felt a pang of pity strike him and sighed. Why were those with primeval surnames rejected like this? Did they not belong to this part of the universe?

In the end, it seemed like he had to access Jupiter to learn more. However, with his current strength, he would not be able to break through Jupiter’s defense.

“Wei Rong will not let you off,” Felynn suddenly said.

Lu Yin looked at her and felt amused at her comment. “You want to cause discord?”

Felynn shifted her gaze away. “You are even more clear on Wei Rong’s character than me. He used the society’s internal conflicts to destroy Sourcepeak Planet and then took in a bunch of Lockbreakers. But despite his meticulous planning, your harvest was even greater than his, and you even used the path that he paved. He will not let that go, and furthermore, the Great Eastern Alliance borders Armament Weave, so he definitely will not feel at ease leaving you alone.”

Lu Yin looked Felynn up and down. “You’ve become more shrewd.”

Felynn frowned, but she did not respond. She was aware that she had been too naive in the past. She had thought that Wei Rong would help her become president of the society and had sincerely believed that he had merely wanted to gain her goodwill.

## **Chapter 720: Planet Hydrotink’s Guardian Angel**

Felynn had underestimated Wei Rong by looking down upon him from the high pedestal of Lockbreakers, assuming that Wei Rong would want to work for her. However, Wei Rong had been standing somewhere even higher than Felynn, and he had not just looked down upon her; he had completely disregarded her. In the end, she had been thoroughly played.

Wei Rong had not been the only one to take advantage of her, as Lu Yin had entered the struggle midway, but he had also seized the initiative, successfully obtaining even more than Wei Rong. Although Felynn had become the Society’s president, she was still the biggest loser.

At the present moment, the times had changed, and Lockbreakers were no longer as exalted as before. Her mindset had also changed; she had learned to analyze the details, seize opportunities when they came, and accurately judge herself.

“I’ll handle the matter with Wei Rong, and you’ll soon be able to meet with him,” Lu Yin said.

“What do you mean?” Felynn was at a loss.

Lu Yin smiled. “If I recall correctly, Wei Xin'er is your disciple, and as her elder brother, shouldn't he meet with his sister's mentor?”

“Wei Rong is coming to Planet Hydrotink?” Felynn's eyes turned cold, and killing intent flashed through her eyes.

Lu Yin frowned. “Don't make things difficult for me. Some matters can be resolved with crude violence while others cannot. Wei Rong is too smart, and he won't place himself in a situation where there's any risk of danger to himself. I do not hope to end up on the passive side because of you.”

Felynn snorted and quickly turned around to leave.

Lu Yin watched her figure depart. Although this woman had learned to analyze the situation, her attitude had not completely changed yet, and that would require some time.

As he thought about Felynn, Lu Yin turned around to look in another direction, where a boundless amount of rune lines had filled the sky. The amount had practically matched up to that of an Enlighter. It was Cai Jianqiang.

Lu Yin had not expected that Cai Jianqiang would show up on Planet Hydrotink, but it seemed that his feelings for the Lockbreaker Society ran quite deep. If he had not left the stage of the competition so early and had been present for the battle of Sourcepeak Planet, then the outcome of the battle might have been different.

This was Lu Yin's first time formally meeting Cai Jianqiang. They had not exchanged any words during the Lockbreaker Competition, and they had only briefly exchanged blows.

Cai Jianqiang looked serious as he sized Lu Yin up and down. “Why have you lured the Lockbreaker Society to this place?”

Lu Yin answered with a question of his own. “Since Sourcepeak Planet is no longer habitable, is there a problem with me moving them here? Or do you think that the current Outerverse Lockbreaker Society can withstand the pressure of the lurking pirates that are envious of them?”

“Aren't you also a pirate?” Cai Jianqiang held nothing back as he responded in a stern voice.

Lu Yin could not help himself from laughing. “At least not openly.”

“That still means that you plotted against the Society.” Cai Jianqiang clenched his fists, and in that moment, the surrounding space froze. Cai Jianqiang's star energy had forcefully fixed space in place, and it was as if this area of the universe had been isolated. At this moment, Cai Jianqiang's rune lines rose sharply, and they reached an amount that caused Lu Yin to feel fearful.

He suddenly remembered this person had been unrivalled within his generation, and he had even suppressed the Universe Youth Council councilors of his era. He was an existence that could easily challenge opponents in higher realms, and his current rune lines did not just rival an Enlighter's—at this moment, Cai Jianqiang's rune lines had surpassed those of an average Enlighter.

During the third stage of the Lockbreaker Competition, if Lu Yin had not teamed up with Ku Wei, and if this person had not failed to finish his lockbreaking attempts, then the two of them would not have been able to disqualify him as his power was too terrifying.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. "The Lockbreaker Society can help me spread my reputation further, and it can also help me in improving my lockbreaking and finding sourceboxes, so its value is too great. Of course, I can plot against them, but correspondingly, I'll have to give back a lot. Don't forget that there was someone constantly watching those items that were in President Geoffrey's secret room."

Cai Jianqiang unexpectedly calmed down at this moment. "Do you know what those items are?"

"No, I don't, but I'll protect them well," Lu Yin said.

Cai Jianqiang frowned. "Just you? Do you even know who wants to get their hands on those items?"

Lu Yin was about to say the Neohuman Alliance, but then he suddenly stopped himself. He raised his head. "The Three Dark Hands."

Cai Jianqiang's eyes sharpened.

The two fell silent.

"If you're worried that I'll end up harming the Outerverse Lockbreaker Society, then why don't you stay? With your strength, you'll be able to protect them," Lu Yin suggested.

Cai Jianqiang solemnly answered, "I don't have any obligations to protect them."

"I know Master Wusheng," Lu Yin said, and Cai Jianqiang's eyes flickered. He stared at Lu Yin, and the younger man continued, saying, "My lockbreaking qualifications were tested by Master Wusheng. I also know that he cares deeply about the Lockbreaker Society. Although he did not say it explicitly, I could tell from his tone. If possible, he would do all that he could to protect the Society, even if it led to his death."

Cai Jianqiang's expression grew complex, and he stared at the undulating surface of the sea as the breeze softly blew into his face.

"I believe that you're the same—it's just that you lack a reason to protect the Lockbreaker Society. If I give you a reason, will you stay?" Lu Yin asked.

Cai Jianqiang stared at him. "What reason?"

"I'll provide you with some senior Lockbreakers' lifetime accumulation of lockbreaking experiences for you to study. You can treat it as a reward for staying here and protecting Planet Hydrotink. That way, you can feel assured."

Cai Jianqiang muttered to himself for a while before finally answering, "Fine."

Lu Yin smiled and tossed the Hunter a memory chip. "This is the first one. Whenever you're done studying it, come find me for the next one."

Cai Jianqiang stored the memory chip away and then looked at Lu Yin strangely. "Since you know that the Three Dark Hands are plotting to acquire those items, why are you still willing to harbor the Society?"

What means do you have to protect yourself and them? Is this just because you previously killed an Enlighter? That power vessel was already destroyed in the Ironblood Weave, so why aren't you afraid of going up against the Three Dark Hands? Or do you think that, because the Inverse and Outerverse are isolated, that the Three Dark Hands are of no threat to you?"

Lu Yin shrugged. "I'm passionate about lockbreaking just like you, and I similarly don't wish to see the Society destroyed. President Geoffrey has protected those items so carefully, so they must be something extremely important. Since that's the case, I definitely won't allow them to land in the hands of the dark powers, even if it means death."

Cai Jianqiang's expression shifted, and his voice took on a calm tone. "It looks like the outside world's evaluation of you isn't entirely true."

Lu Yin smiled. "Some paths can only be taken by a single person, and they will end up facing countless criticisms, to the extent that such criticism will feel normal. I don't care about the outside world—as long as those who I care about understand me, it's fine. Brother Cai, Planet Hydrotink can only be handed over to you."

Cai Jianqiang solemnly replied, "As long as I'm here, Planet Hydrotink will be safe."

Lu Yin nodded and did not say anything more. He stepped back into outer space and left Planet Hydrotink.

"Seventh Bro, that guy is very powerful, but he was still so easily moved by you with just a few sentences, haha!" The Ghost Monkey laughed.

Lu Yin rolled his eyes. "I was telling him the truth, and I wasn't trying to pull one over on him. He has a sincere personality, and there aren't many people like him anymore."

"So he's easily tricked."

"I didn't trick him. He wants to stay behind to protect Planet Hydrotink, but it just so happens that his lockbreaking ability is so poor that he couldn't overcome that mental barrier. Thus, I just helped him achieve that."

"But Seventh Bro, that fellow really is terrifyingly powerful. I think that he might even be stronger than Aden," the monkey commented seriously.

Lu Yin had been able to sense that as well. It was not that Cai Jianqiang completely surpassed Aden, but rather that Aden focused mostly on defense, while Cai Jianqiang focused mostly on offence. Every movement that he made was filled with a berserk aura, and it was the exact opposite of Aden. Cai Jianqiang would remain on Planet Hydrotink for the moment, and when the time was ripe, there might be an opportunity to pull him into the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons.

Even if the Hunter could not be lured over to Lu Yin's side, Planet Hydrotink was not too far from Zenyu Star, and this person was also a guardian. The price he had paid was just the lockbreaking memory chip, which was too easy.



When there was just one more day until the start of the Alliance Conference, Wei Rong and Wei Xin'er appeared on Zenyu Star. They did not conceal their arrival, and so Lu Yin quickly heard the news.

With Wei Rong's identity, Lu Yin should have personally welcomed him. Wei Rong was the heir of the Armament Weave's Wei Family whereas Lu Yin was the Great Yu Empire's Royal Regent, which meant that their statuses were about equal. However, the Alliance Conference was about to begin, and welcoming Wei Rong at this moment might lead to the outside world forming baseless conjectures. After Lu Yin thought about it, not only did he not welcome the siblings, but he even forbade En Ya, Huan Sha, Hill Auna, or any of the others from going. Instead, he only sent Kayze to escort Wei Rong to King Zishan's palace.

At the space station, Wei Xin'er seemed to be seething. "Bro, this Lu Yin is too arrogant! He only sent a doorman to welcome us, and such an ugly one at that."

Wei Rong smiled and then looked at Kayze's figure, where he was floating within the vehicle ahead of the two of them. "Don't look down upon this doorman. He's from the Dire Barbarian Clan."

"The Dire Barbarian Clan?" Wei Xin'er was surprised.

Wei Rong explained, "The Dire Barbarian Clan is a large clan from the Inniverse's Souseal Flowzone, and they are constantly at war with the Souldream Tribe, just like us with Lars Weave's Six-Fingered Tribe. This man is called Kayze, and during the battles for pyrolyte ore in the Astral Wilderness, he was a valued young expert from the Dire Barbarian Clan. His strength should put him in the upper eighty of the Top 100 Rankings."

Wei Xin'er stuck out her tongue. "He's so powerful, and yet he's still just a doorman."

Wei Rong smiled. "Yes, just a doorman. Lu Yin did not welcome us himself, and neither did he allow any of the Great Yu Empire's important officials to appear, as he's afraid that our arrival might cause complications for his Alliance Conference. Thus, he sent this person to represent the attitude of King Zishan's palace, and this person also represents Lu Yin himself, though in a capacity that is unrelated to the Great Yu Empire. Additionally, he was sent to show off Lu Yin's own might, as he wants to let me know that even the Inniverse's powerful clans can only yield to him. He's such an interesting opponent."

Wei Xin'er snorted. "So what if he's from one of the Inniverse's strong clans? Didn't the Lockbreaker Society already collapse?" Wei Xin'er felt regret as soon as the words left her mouth. "I originally wanted to cultivate on Sourcepeak Planet. It's a pity that it's gone."

She was still unaware that the mastermind behind the battle of Sourcepeak Planet had been her very own brother.

Wei Rong rubbed her head. "Sourcepeak Planet is gone, but Planet Hydrotink is still here, so just treat it as a new beginning. When you follow Master Felynn, you'll have to be serious. Since you want to learn lockbreaking, you must give it your all and not lose face for our Wei family, understand?"

"Mhm, I got it," Wei Xin'er acknowledged her brother with delight. Although her eyes gave her a crafty appearance, her ultimate goal in learning lockbreaking was so that she could shake off her family's influence and independently lead her own life. Now, she was one step closer to fulfilling this dream.

Soon after, their small party arrived outside of King Zishan's palace, but Lu Yin still did not step out to welcome them. Since he had decided to put on a show to demonstrate his attitude towards Wei Rong, he planned to see it through to the very end. Regardless, it was already clear that Lu Yin and Wei Rong were destined to be enemies and not friends in the future.

Kayze led them through the front entrance and soon led them into the sitting room. "Please, sit. His Highness will be with you shortly." He had already grown accustomed to his role.

Wei Rong smiled and nodded. He then sat down in a chair with a calm demeanor.

Wei Xin'er snorted unhappily, as she had not ever been treated this casually when visiting someone in a formal capacity. She wanted to see what kind of brain this Lu Yin had and discover whether or not he was actually as amazing and arrogant as rumors claimed.

The two siblings only sat around for a few minutes when Lu Yin stepped into the room. He beamed at Wei Rong, who immediately stood up to greet Lu Yin. "The Great Yu Empire's Royal Regent, Lu Yin?"

Lu Yin nodded. "Armament Weave's Wei Rong?"

Wei Rong smiled. "That's right. Brother Lu, it's my pleasure to meet you in person."

Lu Yin smiled. "Brother Wei, I've also looked forward to meeting you."

The two both had large smiles on their faces, appearing to hold each other in great esteem.

Wei Xin'er twisted her lips as she sat in her seat, motionless.