

### Chapter 731: Twin Souls

Lu Yin panted heavily. His finger had already ruptured, and fresh blood flowed from its tip and slowly dripped down to the ground. His eyes were flushed red. "Antidote, there must be an antidote."

He leaped down.

Ming Yan was lying some distance away, and tears flowed from her closed eyes. "I'm sorry. I'm truly sorry."

Outside the courtyard, Bei Hong ordered the gathered cultivators to evacuate the people of Shanhai City, as underground magma continuously bubbled up from the fissures in the ground, quickly filling the sky with a thick smoke.

Underground, Lu Yin found a pathetic looking Wu Shang. He grabbed the Corpse King and then dashed back up towards the surface.

Suddenly, Wu Shang opened his eyes and struggled free from Lu Yin's grip before rushing into the distance. At this moment, he put the fearsome physical strength of a Green Eyes Transformed Corpse King on full display. Anyone else who had been attacked by Lu Yin in this manner had always ended up severely injured if not dead, but Wu Shang was still able to make use of the Corpse King Transformation and even seemed fine as he fled.

Lu Yin tightened his right fist as his eyes lit up. "Day-Night-Punch."

The sky turned dark, and the colors of black and white interchanged as the punch shot through Wu Shang. Whistling winds swept across the entire Qiong Island, knowing countless residents unconscious.

The Daynight Punch was the battle technique that Lu Yin had obtained from the Daynight inheritance stone, but he had not used it in a long while. The Daynight clan's battle techniques were all related to spiritual force, so the stronger one's spiritual force was, the greater the might of their battle techniques.

Lu Yin did not know how powerful his spiritual force had become by this point. After absorbing that ball of light, he had a feeling that his own spiritual force might not even be inferior to the Ten Arbiters'. At this moment, when his punch shot forward, its overwhelming might pierced directly through Wu Shang, and even just the aftershocks were enough to knock all of the inhabitants of Qiong Island, and even those of the surrounding islands, unconscious. The shockwave continued traveling into the sky, causing even the five sealing planets to tremble slightly.

The power of this punch was amazingly formidable, not in its destruction, but rather in its spiritual force. Lu Yin was certain that even a Hunter would be knocked unconscious by this punch.

Wu Shang's gaze changed, and his Corpse King Transformation was forcefully undone as his body slammed into the ground. Fresh blood flowed down onto the stone slabs once again. His expression became complex as he looked at the sky. He showed an indescribable reluctance to leave, but then he died.

Lu Yin landed beside the body and looked at Wu Shang's corpse as his strength seemed to leave his body all at once. He immediately grabbed Wu Shang's cosmic ring and opened it with the fresh blood. Lu Yin glanced through it and then closed his eyes bitterly. There really was no antidote.

In the distance, Ming Yan hoarsely called out, "Brother Lu."

Lu Yin turned around and immediately appeared at Ming Yan's side, and he hugged her tightly. He watched as her hair gradually turned bone-white, and his heart trembled. "Yan'er, I'm sorry. Brother Lu came too late."

Ming Yan wept. "Brother Lu, it's Yan'er who let you down. Yan'er didn't want to implicate you, and I've also grown tired of living. It's Yan'er who's selfish and is abandoning you."

Lu Yin hugged her tightly, out of fear that, if he let go, the girl in his arms would vanish into dust.

He could not imagine Ming Yan becoming as aged as Ming Zhaoshu, nor the desperation that it would bring him. That agony of her fading vitality would not only bring him a physical sense of desperation, but also a spiritual one.

Ming Yan's skin began to shrivel, as her poison was even more potent than Ming Zhaoshu's. Outside the vial of Ming Yan's poison, there was a label that read, "Regression No. 88," while Ming Zhaoshu's poison had been "Regression No. 91."

"Brother Lu, did you know? Yan'er is tired, and I wish to rest," Ming Yan weakly mumbled as she hugged Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's eyes flushed red, and he felt a needle of agony stab his heart. He was completely powerless at this moment.

"Yan'er is too selfish. Father already paved the way for me, and he was even willing to be cursed for eternity, but Yan'er still chose death.

"Brother Lu was willing to cooperate with those freaks for me, but Yan'er doesn't want to burden Brother Lu anymore. Yan'er is really tired and wishes to go accompany Father..."

Fresh blood kept flowing through Lu Yin's hands, and his chest still felt agonizingly breathless.

Some distance away, Bei Hong had everyone leave the area, and the older man sighed. The Shenwu Empire's fate had faced many misfortunes, and even their soon-to-be empress was about to die at this moment. What would tomorrow hold for them?

Lu Yin did not know what to say as he held onto Ming Yan. He had never felt pain like this before, as this pain had penetrated into his inner soul, and the entire world felt bleak.

Ming Yan raised up a hand to touch Lu Yin's face, and he could see affection in her eyes, as well as a sense of relief. "Brother Lu, I'm sorry."

Lu Yin held her hand, his eyes bright red. "It's Brother Lu who let you down. When you needed help the most, I wasn't here."

Ming Yan shook her head and smiled even as her skin shriveled even further. "Brother Lu, did you know? Yan'er's most blessed moment was that time when I cut my hair for you. Yan'er will never forget that moment."

Lu Yin pulled out Ming Yan's lock of hair from his cosmic ring and held onto it tightly. "You are Lu Yin's wife, and even through life and death, you always will be. We tied our fates together when we bound our hair as one."

Ming Yan smiled beautifully. "You fool."

Lu Yin embraced her tightly and bent his head to kiss her lips, which were already icy-cold, completely devoid of warmth. Her vitality was quickly draining away, and there were no natural treasures that could counteract this speed. Those natural treasures had not even been able to save Ming Zhaoshu, let alone Ming Yan.

"Yan'er, let's get married. I want to help you put on your bridal gown," Lu Yin said gently to Ming Yan as tears streamed down his face.

Ming Yan shook her head. "Brother Lu, Yan'er is already satisfied with your words. Yan'er is destined to burden you in this life, and if there's a next life, then Yan'er will be willing to marry you. I wish for you live to an old age.

"Brother Lu, Yan'er doesn't want to grow old. Let Yan'er go." Ming Yan looked at Lu Yin with pleading eyes.

Lu Yin's face turned pale as his eyes filled with agony. Even his body trembled slightly.

"Brother Lu, please. Yan'er doesn't want you to see me age to my last moments. Let go of Yan'er," Ming Yan feebly pleaded as she hugged Lu Yin.

Lu Yin closed both eyes as his tears continued to fall. He hated this. He hated himself for not searching through Shenwu Continent for a little longer and for forgetting about Wu Shang. He hated himself for not leaving the short old man alive and making him develop an antidote. At this precise moment, Lu Yin felt a boundless hatred for the Neohuman Alliance, but also for himself.

He slowly raised a hand even as his palm trembled ceaselessly. He was going to personally send his most beloved woman off on her journey.

Ming Yan smiled and kissed Lu Yin before closing her eyes. "I'm sorry, Brother Lu. Let's meet again in the next life."

Lu Yin growled and then swatted down. Suddenly, his surroundings turned grey, as his actions were frozen in the void, and there was a deathly stillness all around. In the distance, the surging magma had stopped, and Bei Hong and the others froze in place with their shocked expressions. It was as if time itself had come to a halt.

A sigh was heard beside Lu Yin's ears. "Since you summoned Master, there's no need to be so desperate. Was there really a need for this?"

Lu Yin became ecstatic as he whirled around to see Mister Mu staring at him.

“Master!” Lu Yin carried Ming Yan over and knelt before Mister Mu. “Master, save her. Please, save her!”

Mister Mu looked down at Ming Yan’s body and shook his head. “A poison that causes one’s life to pass. So the Neohuman Alliance is still manufacturing these kinds of poisons.”

“Master, you know about this? Then please, save her.” Lu Yin looked at Mister Mu with hope filling his eyes, much like how a person in the desert would look at an oasis.

Mister Mu sighed and shook his head. “Master has no antidote, and there’s only one way to save her: the Twin Souls.”

“The Twin Souls?” Lu Yin did not understand what Mister Mu was saying as he tightly held onto Ming Yan.

Ming Yan opened her eyes and looked at Mister Mu in a daze.

Mister Mu explained, “Master has a way to concentrate all of the poison in her body into a different personality, but you must consider this carefully. If this is done, this child will have two personalities, and while one might care for you, the other one may not necessarily feel the same. Also, the opportunity that Master had originally prepared for you will instead be given to her.”

Lu Yin answered without hesitation. “Master, no matter what, please save her.”

Mister Mu nodded and casually waved his hand. Lu Yin suddenly appeared outside the courtyard, and within it, Mister Mu pressed a single hand against Ming Yan’s head, causing the girl to be lost in a daze.

Lu Yin watched on from outside the courtyard, but he only saw Ming Yan’s hair turn from black to white, and then back to black, and then back again to white. It constantly fluctuated back and forth between these two colors, and Lu Yin could only really see that her rune lines were incessantly rising.

Lu Yin relaxed. It was fortunate that he had called for his master.

Bei Hong arrived behind Lu Yin. “Alliance Leader, what is happening?”

“Immediately seal off Shanhai City, and move everyone who lives here over to Mingdu. Without my orders, nobody is to approach this place. There’s no need for any further explanations, and whoever dares to ask anything more can be killed instantly,” Lu Yin coldly ordered.

Bei Hong hurriedly set out to carry out Lu Yin’s commands.

Lu Yin remained standing beside the courtyard, all the while feeling slightly nervous.

An hour passed, during which Mister Mu and Ming Yan remained in the exact same position. However, to Lu Yin’s eyes, the way Ming Yan’s rune lines were increasing was a little strange.

Originally, Ming Yan had not been a powerful cultivator in any sense. At best, she was a Seeker who was not much different from a commoner. She had possessed pitifully few rune lines, but at this moment, her rune lines had reached the point where they matched a Melder’s, and they were still rising without stopping.

Lu Yin watched on in disbelief as this treatment apparently could also raise her cultivation. He did not understand what Mister Mu was doing, as in Lu Yin's eyes, Mister Mu did not have any rune lines at all. In some sense, he appeared to exist completely independently of everything else.

Soon, two hours passed, and Ming Yan's rune lines had already surpassed a Limiteer's, but they still did not stop increasing, which was very odd.

When the third hour passed, Mister Mu finally lifted his hand, allowing Ming Yan to fall onto the ground.

Lu Yin hurriedly entered the courtyard and rushed over to support her. He then looked at Mister Mu. "Master, what happened?"

Mister Mu replied, "She won't die, but she will have two souls in her body from now on. You must be mentally prepared for this."

Lu Yin had not considered what "Twin Souls" actually meant before, as all that had mattered to him was saving Ming Yan. "What exactly is the Twin Souls?"

Mister Mu looked at Ming Yan, who was lying in Lu Yin's arms. "See for yourself."

Lu Yin looked down, only to exchange glances with a pair of cold eyes. In them, he saw an icy chill and an emotionless expression. These were Ming Yan's eyes, but this expression was completely foreign to him. He stared at Ming Yan in shock, whose head was now covered with white hair.

"Let go of me with your dirty hands!" the white-haired Ming Yan barked, her gaze frosty as she slapped at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was smacked away by the white-haired Ming Yan, and he stared at her, lost. "Yan'er, it's me, Brother Lu."

The white-haired Ming Yan shot Lu Yin a look and frowned at him. "I know."

"How are you?" Lu Yin felt like she was acting strange.

She barked, "Shut up! Lest Her Majesty bury you."

Lu Yin blinked, and was stumped.

Mister Mu sized the white-haired Ming Yan up and down in surprise, as though this was his first time encountering such a situation.

Ming Yan glanced at Mister Mu, but she did not even greet him. Instead, she briskly walked out of the courtyard.

"Yan'er!"

Lu Yin wanted to chase after her, but he was stopped by Mister Mu. "There's no need to go. She'll be better once her other personality awakens. Before then, even if you go after her, it will be useless."

### **Chapter 732: Bury You**

Lu Yin was lost at this moment. "Another personality? Are you saying that she now has two personalities?"

Mister Mu nodded. "Master once obtained a secret technique known as Strip. It is able to strip away everything that has ever happened to one's body, such as battle techniques, arts, innate gifts, and even injuries, emotions, and personalities. Anything that ever happened to someone can be stripped away once this secret technique has been comprehended. Of course, the body also has to pay a corresponding price.

"The only way to save that child was to Strip away her poison, but she does not know this secret technique. Thus, when Master used the secret technique for her, the only possibility was for a Dual-Soul Body to appear, as I needed to use the second personality to take all the poison. What you just saw was that second personality."

Lu Yin's eyes went wide upon discovering that such a secret technique actually existed. Even a person's personality, emotions, and even injuries could be stripped away. That was too mysterious.

"Master, Ming Yan... She'll be fine, right?" Lu Yin asked apprehensively.

Mister Mu shook his head. "Master does not know for certain, as this is also Master's first time using the Strip secret technique on another person."

"How did her personality change to that?" Lu Yin asked.

Mister Mu looked over at Ming Yan, who was leaving the courtyard. "That's the price that must be paid. The secret technique saved her life, but something must be paid in return. That is how the universe works—you must pay for what you obtain."

Lu Yin stared at Ming Yan in disbelief as she moved further and further away from him. This sudden change in personality was too drastic. Additionally, the white-haired Ming Yan's rune lines had almost reached those of an Explorer, but she had clearly not actually cultivated.

"Right, Master, is this Strip secret technique that you just mentioned what you had prepared to impart to this disciple?" Lu Yin asked Mister Mu.

Mister Mu nodded. "This secret technique is one that can only be passed on, as it cannot be learned. Master has used it on that child's body, so she has inherited this secret technique. However, it will be up to her if she can comprehend it or not. However, her second personality has rather strange emotions, though her natural talent is exceptional. Not only can that personality comprehend the Strip secret technique, but it can also use the poison that was sapping her vitality as a weapon in combat. Even if she doesn't cultivate, her destructive ability will still be very powerful. Few within the same realm will be her opponent."

Lu Yin was pained, as he did not wish for Ming Yan to become too powerful. No matter what, it seemed that her second personality would not be easy to deal with, and the more powerful she became, the harder that personality would be to deal with.

Mister Mu looked at Wu Shang's corpse and sighed. "It looks like you've been targeted by the Neohuman Alliance."

Lu Yin's heart lurched, and he looked over at Mister Mu. "Master, Disciple encountered one of the Seven Skygods."

Mister Mu's expression changed. "Which one?"

"Blackless God." Lu Yin was gloomy.

Mister Mu pondered this matter and then shook his head. "What you spoke with wasn't Blackless God itself, but rather a strand of its spiritual force. If it had been Blackless God itself, you wouldn't have been even able to resist."

"Disciple was indeed completely unable to resist."

"What Master means is that you wouldn't have been able to even preserve your own sense of self. The Neohuman Alliance's Seven Skygods are dominating masters, and even the Sea King whom you've met before wouldn't be a match for a single one of them."

Lu Yin was astonished by this information, and he felt his blood suddenly run cold. "What should Disciple do now?"

Mister Mu raised a hand, and another jade talisman appeared that flew into Lu Yin's hand. "Take this. If Blackless God seeks you out again, this jade talisman will be able to protect you."

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. Even the Sea King was not able to deal with Blackless God, but Mister Mu was clearly confident that he could protect Lu Yin. It appeared that he had underestimated Mister Mu, as it was very possible that Mister Mu's strength greatly surpassed the Sea King's.

"Master, when the Sixth Mainland invaded the Innerverse, was the Innerverse able to withstand their invasion?" Lu Yin could not stop himself from asking this.

Mister Mu calmly replied, "You don't need to know about that. This universe is not as simple as you believe it to be, and neither is it as simple as the Sixth Mainland imagines. Alright, Master is leaving, and the next time we meet, Master will check your destined opportunities once again. If they are sufficient, Master will reward you with good luck." Mister Mu then vanished without any sort of warning.

Lu Yin called out, as he still wanted to ask about Ming Yan, but his master had already disappeared.

The spot where he had been standing remained empty, though traces of scorching heat continued to radiate up from underground, and a pungent smell pervaded the entire area.

Shanghai City was in the midst of collapsing from the previous battle.

In the distance, the white-haired Ming Yan's voice was heard. "Haven't you heard Her Majesty's words? Immediately execute them."

Bei Hong and the others replied, "Yes, Your Majesty."

Lu Yin felt that something was off, as it had only been a brief moment since Ming Yan had left the courtyard, but they were already calling her, "Your Majesty."

He stepped out of the courtyard and approached the white-haired Ming Yan, who suddenly turned around to look at him. "You are not allowed to approach me."

Lu Yin was stumped. "Yan'er."

“You’re not allowed to call me that either. My name is taboo to others, and no one is allowed to call out to me so casually,” the white-haired Ming Yan declared.

Lu Yin pursed his lips. “Then- that- how’s your body?”

“That is none of your business,” the white-haired Ming Yan barked. She then turned around and looked sternly at the two Cruisers who were some distance away. “You two good-for-nothings, Shanhai City has already been destroyed to this degree, but you two are still doing nothing.”

Those two Cruisers exchanged glances, feeling quite uncomfortable. Even Ming Zhaoshu had spoken quite courteously to them when he had been alive, and they did not yet view Ming Yan in the same light as her father.

Her eyes turned cold. “What? Can you not hear Her Majesty talking to you? Or do you not understand human words?”

One of the Cruisers stepped forward and spoke in a gloomy voice, “Princess Ming Yan, please speak more courteously. I-”

He was interrupted by white-haired Ming Yan before he could even finish speaking. “You will refer to yourself as ‘your subject’ when before Her Majesty.”

That Cruiser’s eyes changed, and he snorted. “I’m quite old, and I am no longer able to work for the empire. Princess Ming Yan, please find someone more qualified than me.” He then turned to leave.

Bei Hong looked at Lu Yin in worry, afraid that Lu Yin would act.

Lu Yin indeed wanted to do something, as the white-haired Ming Yan was Ming Yan’s second personality. This personality’s emotions were very fickle, and she seemed to act without reason. Lu Yin could not allow this white-haired Ming Yan to destroy the seeds that Ming Yan had caringly planted when it came to the empire. He felt compelled to stop her despite not caring about the Shenwu Empire, and a part of him even wanted to take Ming Yan away.

However, before he could act, the white-haired Ming Yan moved first, and she slapped out at the leaving Cruiser with a palm. The surrounding people did not see anything happen, and only Lu Yin was able to see the rune lines streak through the void and strike the Cruiser. After the attack landed, the man visibly aged before everyone’s sight.

This scene caused the onlookers’ scalps to turn numb.

The Cruiser was terrified, as he had not felt anything happen to him, but he had begun to age rapidly all of a sudden. What was going on?

Lu Yin stared at the white-haired Ming Yan in shock. Was this what Mister Mu had been referring to? Was this how she could use the vitality draining poison to bolster her own strength? She could actually formlessly cause one’s vitality to flow away, and she could even be thought of as a humanoid poison. This white-haired Ming Yan reminded Lu Yin of the Limiteer Mistchild, but compared to the young assassin, this white-haired Ming Yan was even more terrifying, especially because this poison had no cure.



The crowd stared at the princess in terror, and the Cruiser was also alarmed. He watched as his body shriveled up, and he hurriedly started begging for mercy.

The white-haired Ming Yan snorted and retracted her hand. She then sternly looked around at the surrounding people. "Who still dares to ignore Her Majesty's words in the future?"

The crowd knelt down together. "Your subjects dare not. We greet Her Majesty."

"We greet Her Majesty."

...

Out of everyone present, only Lu Yin remained standing, and he stared at the white-haired Ming Yan with a complex gaze.

The white-haired Ming Yan glanced back at Lu Yin. She then snorted, but her body suddenly quivered as she fell to the floor.

Lu Yin immediately rushed over to grab her, and before his eyes, Ming Yan's white hair gradually turned back to black as she lay in his embrace. She slowly opened her eyes and locked eyes with Lu Yin. He felt the previous sense of familiarity between them return.

Lu Yin was delighted. This time, Ming Yan's expression was gentle like water, and her eyes contained an unbreakable helplessness and tenderness.

"Brother Lu," Ming Yan murmured.

Lu Yin hugged her, and they instantly vanished, leaving behind a confused crowd.

Lu Yin appeared atop a distant mountain peak, still embracing Ming Yan in his arms as he delightedly said, "Yan'er, you're back."

Ming Yan apologized, "I'm sorry, Brother Lu, to have said all those things to you."

Lu Yin was surprised at this., "You remember what happened while your other personality was active?"

Ming Yan nodded. "Yes, but Yan'er cannot control her. I'm sorry."

Lu Yin kissed her forehead. "It's alright. As long as you survive, nothing else matters."

Ming Yan smiled happily and hugged Lu Yin tightly.

Lu Yin's emotions were complex, as the Ming Yan in his embrace was clearly more optimistic than she had been before. It seemed that the Strip secret technique had transferred many of the negative parts of her original personality to the second personality. Even the pain and desperation that she had felt when she condemned Ming Zhaoshu might have been transferred over. This would cause the second personality to be more detached. Now that he thought about it, the white-haired Ming Yan was like a mourning version of herself, which made Lu Yin feel rather heartbroken.

Be it the Ming Yan in his embrace or the second personality of the white-haired Ming Yan, they were both still Ming Yan. Lu Yin's gaze firmed, as they both belonged to him.

“Brother Lu, what about Shanghai City?” Ming Yan suddenly lamented as she looked at the shattered ground below the mountain.

Lu Yin asked, “Yan'er, do you still want to stay here on Shenwu Continent?”

Ming Yan nodded without any hesitation. “Yes.”

“Why? You can return Lu to the Great Yu Empire with Brother and leave Shenwu Continent to someone else to manage.” Lu Yin tried his luck.

Ming Yan shook her head, and the light in her eyes dimmed. “Father was willing to be cursed for eternity so that I could successfully inherit the throne. Yan'er does not wish to disappoint him, and I want to inherit the throne. I will become the only female ruler in the history of the Shenwu Empire!”

Lu Yin felt helpless, as Ming Yan had changed. The feeble Ming Yan that he had once known was now gone. The current Ming Yan was stronger and also more responsible. He could not forcefully take her away. “You can bear letting Brother Lu be alone in the Great Yu Empire?”

Ming Yan looked at him. “Then Brother Lu can stay here, and Yan'er will give the empire to you.”

Lu Yin was left speechless. “I’m the Great Eastern Alliance Leader.”

“In Yan'er’s eyes, you will always be that coachman, Lu Seven,” Ming Yan said tenderly.

Lu Yin could not hold himself back any longer. He hugged Ming Yan tightly and then kissed her, fully embracing her gentle softness. But then, his body was suddenly pushed back by a tremendous force; the black-haired Ming Yan had turned into the white-haired Ming Yan, and she was now staring at him with sharp eyes. “Let me warn you—if you dare to take advantage of Her Majesty again, I will bury you.”

Lu Yin blinked. “Isn’t this change a bit too fast?”

The white-haired Ming Yan glared at him fiercely and then turned to leave. When she arrived at the bottom of the mountain, she turned back into the black-haired Ming Yan. Lu Yin was completely helpless. “Yan'er, why do you change back and forth between your two selves so frequently?”

Ming Yan apologized again. “I’m sorry, Brother Lu. I will learn to control it in time so that I can maintain personalities for a longer time.”

Lu Yin grudgingly said, “Work hard.”

Ming Yan pursed her lips, appearing rather sullen.

For the next few days, Lu Yin guarded Ming Yan at every moment. Occasionally, he was stopped by the cold white-haired Ming Yan, only to be gently comforted by the black-haired Ming Yan soon after. It was rather difficult for him to cope with these two extremes, but he forced himself to keep going for a few days, or at least until Ming Yan’s condition stabilized.

### **Chapter 733: Genius Of The Sword**

Shanghai City had become uninhabitable. After taking care of the details regarding Ming Zhaoshu’s funeral, Ming Yan and many other ministers moved out and headed towards Mingdu so that they could start preparing for her to officially ascend to the throne.

When Lu Yin arrived in Mingdu, he found that the busiest city on Shenwu Continent had already recovered a tremendous amount. During the last battle there, the entirety of Mingdu had been destroyed. Ming Zhaoshu had ordered a group of cultivators to aid in its reconstruction, which allowed it to quickly return to its former appearance.

Although Mingdu's appearance had been restored, the people who had died during that battle could not be revived, and it would remain in history as Mingdu's darkest day.

Lu Yin felt apologetic towards the people of Mingdu, but even if he went back in time, he would not change a thing. If they had not taken care of the Neohuman Alliance at that moment, more than a billion people on Shenwu Continent would have eventually been turned into zombies, and the continent would have ultimately been completely destroyed by the Hall of Honor, and that would have been a truly miserable affair.

After escorting Ming Yan to Mingdu, Lu Yin roamed across Shenwu Continent once again, determined to ferret out any remnant Corpse Kings from the Neohuman Alliance.

Half a month later, multiple ships all arrived at a single isolated island that lay outside Shenwu Continent, and each ship was filled with crude pirates. They had kidnapped many people, who they were bringing to the island. Cries were occasionally heard from the group of captives, which incited angry rebukes from the pirates.

The entire island was under the control of the pirates, and there were probably a few thousand of them there.

The leader of the pirates was a cultivator who had reached the Martial King realm, which was the equivalent of the Limiteer realm.

On the island's coast, there was a group of girls dressed in tattered clothes who were being forcefully pulled onto the ship. They were being sold to other pirates as goods, and some of the girls were crying in a rather heart-wrenching manner.

At this moment, a figure trod over the waves, walking across the ocean at a leisurely pace.

Some pirates noticed the person's arrival, and they immediately shouted, "Heads up!"

During this era when cultivators reigned supreme, there were times where just a single cultivator was enough to destroy an entire troop of soldiers, and this was even a somewhat normal occurrence. The pirates were also afraid of encountering such an expert.

The pirates closely observed the approaching person, and they quickly saw that it was a young male carrying a long sword on his back. He walked towards the isolated island, crossing the waves step by step.

A few pirates exchanged glances before stepping forward and shouting, "Who are you?"

The youth looked ahead as his eyes ran across the coast, covering an immense distance to focus in on the Martial King realm pirate leader. At that moment, the leader felt a chill run down his spine, and he even pushed the woman in his embrace away. He pulled out his warblade and then stared out at the ocean.

“Hey, brat, we’re talking to you. Who are you?” a pirate shouted.

The youth shifted his focus and grabbed the hilt of his sword. Nobody saw him make a single movement, but the pirate standing in front of the youth slowly crumbled to the ground. In the distance, many of the pirates’ expressions suddenly changed. “Ambush!”

In just a few breaths, all of the pirates who had been on the shore fell to the ground, not a single one able to withstand the youth’s sword qi. Meanwhile, the girls who had been kidnapped by the pirates were screaming at the youth to save them.

The youth looked towards the interior of the island again, and this time, his sword sliced out at an angle, causing the void to fluctuate as the air was torn apart. Visible streaks of sword qi cut through the space and chopped off the peak of the island, right where the pirate leader was standing. The sword qi that surged towards the pirate leader split him in two, as he also had no ability to withstand the youth’s attack.

The sight of the pirate leader’s death shocked everyone, as just one sword had almost split the entire island in two. What powerful strength.

The remaining pirates quickly fled.

The youth did not pursue any of them, and he simply sheathed his sword. He then looked up. “It’s time to break through.”

The sky had dimmed without anyone noticing, and the wind whistled as the waves churned back and forth.

The people who had been kidnapped and dragged to the island by the pirates all hid in the center of the island, and they stared outwards in fear. The entire region was being buffeted by strong winds, and anything more than a hundred meters away became fuzzy.

From a commoner’s point of view, these winds were just gales, and only cultivators would be able to recognize these gusts of winds as martial power. Someone was breaking through.

There was another island that was relatively close to the isolated island, and it was similarly occupied by pirates. The pirates who had fled from the island sought shelter at this neighboring island, and they also tried to coerce the owner of this island to seek revenge for them.

That island’s pirate leader was arrogant to begin with, and after he heard just a few sentences from the refugee pirates who were trying to convince him to help, he immediately gathered a group of pirates and a naval fleet to mount an invasion. However, they were quickly frightened away by the strange phenomenon. The pirate leader was not a fool; such drastic changes in the sky could only be caused by someone who was breaking through to the Martial Emperor realm at the minimum. At that time, a cultivator would be able to freely explore outer space, and mortal cultivators like the pirates could not compare to such powerhouses.

This entire area was filled with martial power. There were some Martial Emperor experts exploring above the ocean, and they were able to feel the sharpness of this aura when they approached the island, nearly being injured in the process. They were shocked by this, as a breakthrough at this level indicated that the person was definitely not just any ordinary Martial Emperor.

The youth's breakthrough caused the ocean to surge, and the surrounding islands trembled one after another. Lines of sword qi shot through the water, causing all living organisms on the ocean bed within a radius of over 10,000 kilometers to flee.

After a few hours, one final strand of sword qi ripped the sky apart and released a gas that dispersed in all directions before the area returned to normal. Aside from the completely ruined state of the island, nobody could tell that there had just been a martial power phenomenon sweeping across the heavens and earth in this place.

The youth let out a slow breath and looked up at the sky. He had finally broken through after being stuck in the Martial King realm for so long. In fact, some of the people who had stepped into the List of Tempering at the same time as him had long since broken through. Meanwhile, he had been ranked second on the List of Tempering, but it had taken him this long to break through.

The youth was Li Zimo, second on the List of Tempering and commander of the Ming Vanguard.

Ever since that battle in Mingdu, a new regime had been born. The Ming Constables' master, Ming Zhaocai, had been forced to commit suicide, and the Ming Constables themselves had been forced to disband. Li Zimo could have joined the Demon Hunters Society or the Reverent King's Residence to work for Ming Zhaoshu, but he had declined both. Instead, he had decided to roam the continent and focus on his cultivation.

He had taken this trip to the ocean when he felt like his breakthrough was. He had then followed the natural order of things and become a Martial Emperor expert, which was an Explorer.

If it was before, he definitely would have been elated upon breaking through to the Martial Emperor realm. But now, after Ming Zhaoshu cooperated with the outsiders, foreign civilizations had brought their culture into Shenwu Continent, which had made Li Zimo realize just how insignificant his view of the universe actually was.

Li Zimo looked up at the five sealing planets in the sky. He strongly desired to head out into the wider universe and see what sort of experts those boundless heavens contained, and also to see how far his path of the sword could take him.

However, it was impossible for him to leave Shenwu Continent, unless, of course, he relied on the new empress. His only option was to seek her permission.

Li Zimo looked down at his own sword. His sword path did not allow him to lower his head and sacrifice his self-respect. Otherwise, he would have no sword path, and there would be no Li Zimo.

"Congratulations on breaking through and becoming a Martial Emperor," a voice called out from behind him, which made Li Zimo feel a chill. Someone had actually managed to approach this close to him without his realization. When had they appeared? He suddenly turned around and saw a familiar, yet foreign face.

"It's you?" Li Zimo asked in an overcast tone as he stared at the man before him.

It was Lu Yin, who had been searching for the Neohuman Alliance. This time around, he was doing a very thorough job, and while he was scouring the ocean, he had been attracted by the telltale activity of a breakthrough. To his surprise, he had not expected to run into an old friend.

Actually, they weren't really friends, as Lu Yin had changed his appearance when he joined the Ming Constables during the Outerverse trial. Although the two had fought at the Tower of Resonating Light, it had been too brief of a fight. Their most recent meeting had been during the battle at Mingdu, where Lu Yin had broken Li Zimo's sword and spared the swordsman's life.

Lu Yin's impression of Li Zimo was rather deep, and Li Zimo's impression of Lu Yin was the same. This was especially so because of the battle at the Tower of Resonating Light, as that had been Li Zimo's most miserable loss in his life. The person before him looked young, but Lu Yin clearly possessed the strength to crush Li Zimo. Now, the disparity in their strength was even more evident, as Lu Yin had broken his sword during the battle at Mingdu. If not for Lu Yin showing mercy, Li Zimo would already be dead, and that was the same battle that had steeled his resolution to roam the continent.

He wanted to grow stronger, until he could at least somehow retaliate when he met Lu Yin again in the future.

"Are you surprised to see me?" Lu Yin smiled.

Li Zimo tightly clenched his sword hilt. "Not surprised. The Shenwu Continent has already become a garden for you aliens, and you guys can come and go as you wish."

Lu Yin looked at Li Zimo's sword. "Did you change swords? Or get it repaired?"

Li Zimo stared at him. "What do you want?"

Lu Yin was surprised by his reaction. "You don't want to challenge me?"

Li Zimo gloomily answered, "It wouldn't be a match, so there's no point in fighting."

Lu Yin nodded. "Being able to judge your own strength clearly is pretty good. Just now, you looked up at the sky thrice. Why? Do you want to leave Shenwu Continent?"

Li Zimo's eyes lit up, and he looked up once again, not responding.

Lu Yin sighed emotionally. "Shenwu Continent is too small, and it's not enough to hold you. Here, your accomplishments will forever be limited. I believe that you must have heard of the Sword Sect."

Li Zimo looked back at Lu Yin. "The aliens' Sword Sect from the Innerverse?"

"The Sword Sect has Thirteen Swords, which have long since been unrivalled. Aside from the Sword Sect in the Innerverse, there's also the Myriad Swords Peak, and the Outerverse also has the Moke Sword Sect and the Shadowsword Sect. There are too many sword sects in the universe to count, so do you want to go out and experience them?" Lu Yin said.

Li Zimo clenched the hilt of his sword even tighter. "You can take me out?"

Lu Yin nodded.

Li Zimo said in a low voice, "Conditions."

"Join the Great Yu Empire," Lu Yin replied.

Li Zimo fell silent.

Lu Yin tried to entice the new Explorer. "Without me, you will never be able to leave Shenwu Continent in your entire life. Here, your accomplishments will always be limited, and you won't be able to kill your way out regardless of how powerful you become. I can take you to see the vastness of the universe and to taste the uniqueness of each sword sect. In the future, I might even be able to help you enter the Inniverse and join the Myriad Swords Peak, or possibly even the Sword Sect."

Li Zimo was resolute. "I don't need to join the Sword Sect, but I want to fight with their heirs and experience their Thirteen Swords."

Lu Yin smiled. "No problem. The Sword Sect's premier disciple, Liu Shaoqiu, has fought with me on several occasions. The Thirteen Swords are unequalled for a good reason, as that technique is indeed powerful. Your wish can be achieved in the future."

Li Zimo nodded and put his sword away. "I'll follow you."

Lu Yin's lips curled upwards, as this had turned out to be an accidental harvest. Li Zimo's natural talent for the sword was the greatest out of everyone Lu Yin had ever seen. If not for the Thirteen Swords, then even Liu Shaoqiu might not be Li Zimo's opponent. This person had developed Silence on his own, which had astonished even Lu Yin, and this feat was a perfect demonstration of Li Zimo's talent.

Lu Yin had not been joking, as he really did want to arrange for Li Zimo to join the Sword Sect. Of course, that depended on when the Inniverse and Outerverse reconnected. Given Li Zimo's talent for the sword, having him join the Sword Sect would be very easy.

Once Li Zimo got in, Lu Yin would have someone he could communicate with inside of the Sword Sect.

Another dozen days passed, during which Lu Yin brought Li Zimo along as he roamed through the continent and searched for traces of the Neohuman Alliance. During this time, Li Zimo exchanged blows with Lu Yin several times, but he suffered nothing but crushing defeats. Lu Yin did not hold back, as he was sure that Li Zimo would not be emotionally damaged by such blows.

Since he had developed Silence, Li Zimo's willpower had to be very strong, and he would not be afraid of setbacks. Rather, he was only worried that others would not be able to give him the strikes that he needed.

Finally, Lu Yin roamed through the entire Shenwu Continent, and he did not find any further traces of the Neohuman Alliance. This time, the Neohuman Alliance had truly disappeared from the continent since he had searched even more carefully than before. With Lu Yin's top speed, he could traverse the entire Shenwu Continent in just a moment, but he had made sure to spend an entire month canvassing the continent for the Neohuman Alliance.

### **Chapter 734: Returning To The Daosource Sect**

Lu Yin stored the scarlet eyes that he had obtained from Wu Shang. Once in a while, when Lu Yin had nothing else to do, he would take them out for a look, using them to test if the surrounding area would react to them.

Ming Yan had formally ascended the throne ten days before, and she had become the first empress in the history of the Shenwu Empire, inheriting the title of Shenwu Empress.

Her inauguration was different from Ming Zhaoshu's, as Ming Zhaoshu had forced Ming Zhaotian to abdicate the throne and then forced the empire to cooperate with foreigners, which had led to rebellions breaking out across the entire continent. This had subsequently led to a series of endless battles, culminating in him using his own death to take responsibility for his past deeds. Although Ming Yan was Ming Zhaoshu's daughter, she had denounced Ming Zhaoshu's crimes, and stabilized the sentiments of the population with this move. She was also the only remaining heir of the Ming family, so very few opposed her succeeding the throne of the Shenwu Empire.

With the current cultural mixing coming from the wider universe, many people on Shenwu Continent had already adapted to the changes. Thus, they did not use this issue to oppose Ming Yan, making her succession very smooth.

In Mingdu's palace, within the imperial study, Ming Yan's expression looked completely beaten. She picked up some memos to read through, as she had become accustomed to doing.

A knock sounded from the door. "Enter."

Lu Yin walked in.

Ming Yan was delighted to see that it was Lu Yin. "Brother Lu, you don't have to knock before entering."

Lu Yin smiled. "Basic courtesies are always required, even if we do belong to each other."

His words made Ming Yan feel bashful.

"So how's it going? Are you getting used to your days after succeeding the throne?" Lu Yin walked over to Ming Yan and embraced her shoulders, her scent wafting into his nostrils.

Ming Yan leaned into Lu Yin's embrace. "I'm used to it. It's not much different from back in the Reverent King's Residence."

Lu Yin nodded. "That's good."

"Right Brother Lu, this is for you." Ming Yan's still face belied her complicated emotions as she took out a bloodstained letter and offered it to Lu Yin. "Father wrote this for you before he died."

Lu Yin took the letter, opened it in front of Ming Yan, and began reading it.

The contents of the letter were very brief, as it was a letter of entrustment. Although Ming Zhaoshu had forced Ming Yan to inherit the Shenwu Empire, in the depths of his heart, especially at the moment right before he perished, he had not been able to bear it. Thus, he had left Lu Yin a letter telling him that he hoped that Lu Yin would be able to take Ming Yan away from Shenwu Continent if she was unhappy with things. As for the Shenwu Empire, Ming Zhaoshu did not even mention it once.

At the moment of their death, a father would only be able to think of his daughter, and any of his great undertakings would fall to the wayside.



The letter was light, and it had no real weight to it, but Lu Yin felt that it was rather heavy. The lines of Ming Zhaoshu's words looked very plain, but they represented the man's most sincere emotions in his entire life: the affection a father held for his daughter.

Ming Yan looked at Lu Yin. She had not looked at the letter, and so she wanted to know what her father had written.

Lu Yin passed the letter over to her. Ming Yan read it and immediately began sobbing. She was completely broken-hearted.

Lu Yin raised Ming Yan's head up and helped her wipe her tears away. "I'll ask you again—do you really want to stay here? Your father agreed that you could leave, and he did not want to force you to carry on this responsibility."

Ming Yan wiped her tears away and determinedly answered, "I want to remain here. I want to clean away Father's criminal record. Father should be celebrated for eternity, as he's the one who cooperated with the outsiders to establish a future for the entire continent. He did it for everyone's future, and until these people are able to understand Father, I will not leave."

Lu Yin sighed, as he had already guessed that her response would be along these lines.

"No matter what your decision may be, Brother Lu will always support you. Remember, it's not like you don't have anyone behind you—you still have Brother Lu," Lu Yin gently said as he hugged her.

Ming Yan acknowledged him quietly, acting helplessly. She would only reveal this side of herself in front of this man, as she was the empress in front of everyone else.

"Right, how do you switch with her?" Lu Yin asked curiously.

Ming Yan explained in a dull voice, "Actually, the time that she can stay awake for cannot last too long, as she's the second personality that was created by the poison's removal. So, during the day, it's always me, and during the night, there'll be a period of time when she gains control. And if there's any danger, she will automatically awaken."

"And in this way, not only do you know what she does, but she also knows what you do?" Lu Yin was astonished.

Ming Yan nodded.

Lu Yin's face soured. "If she awakens at night, then what's our future going to be like?"

Ming Yan was lost. "What future?"

Lu Yin leaned close to Ming Yan's ear and whispered some words, causing Ming Yan's face to blush deeply. She hurriedly pushed Lu Yin away as she exclaimed, "Who- who's going to do that with you?! You're too dirty!"

Lu Yin laughed, but soon, he could not smile any longer. The white-haired Ming Yan had appeared, and she stared at him coldly. "If you dare to tease Her Majesty again, be aware that I'll bury you."

"Don't you only wake up at night?" Lu Yin was stunned.

The white-haired Ming Yan snorted. "Get out."

Lu Yin was rendered helpless as he looked at her. "Although you are the second personality, your internal feelings should still be the same, which means that you should like me just as much as Ming Yan."

The white-haired Ming Yan's eyes narrowed. "You imagine that your love is reciprocated. Be careful, lest Her Majesty bury you."

Lu Yin felt like her words were strange. "Where did you hear this phrase?"

The white-haired Ming Yan's eyes flashed, and she quickly sat down to sort through the various memos.

Lu Yin stared at her and suddenly felt a bit reassured. Ming Yan was rather delicate by nature, and she would inevitably be strained after handling the huge Shenwu Empire for some time. But the white-haired Ming Yan was different. She had a valiant spirit that a monarch should possess. With her around, Ming Yan would not fall into a disadvantage.

"I'll have to trouble you in the future," Lu Yin said suddenly.

The white-haired Ming Yan was sifting through documents, but she paused when she heard Lu Yin's words. "You're leaving?"

Lu Yin nodded. "With you around, I can feel at ease about things. Take care of yourself."

The white-haired Ming Yan continued to focus on the memos. "Her Majesty will definitely bury you."

Lu Yin was struck speechless again. She coldly added, "However, only Her Majesty can bury you. Before that day, make sure that nothing happens to you."

Lu Yin's heart warmed, as this was likely the white-haired Ming Yan's way of showing concern for him.

"Alright, I got it. I'll wait for you to bury me." Lu Yin's figure suddenly disappeared, but not before he lightly kissed the white-haired Ming Yan.

The white-haired Ming Yan grew furious. "How audacious of you to disrespect Her Majesty! The next time we meet, Her Majesty will definitely bury you!"

A bit of red clothing floated down from the sky and landed next to Ming Yan. This was one of the treasures stolen from the Hall of Insight that Lu Yin had recovered. It was a lockbreaking tool that also had some defensive capabilities. When Lu Yin had been scouring the continent for the Neohuman Alliance, he had used his spare time to roll his die, and he had used almost 20,000 star essences to upgrade this red cloth until its rune lines matched those of a powerhouse with a power level of around 200,000. This meant that this red cloth could defend against a peak Hunter's attacks.

This was the most Lu Yin could do; nobody on the entire Shenwu Continent could breach the red clothing's defense, as only a few in the entire Outerverse were able to do so. With this, he could at least ensure Ming Yan's safety, as Lu Yin did not believe that there was anybody who could harm Ming Yan through poison.

Speaking of which, the white-haired Ming Yan had appeared because of the Neohuman Alliance's poison that drained away one's vitality. Even Mister Mu had known of it, which meant that the Neohuman Alliance valued that sort of poison. The white-haired Ming Yan was able to absorb poison now, which could possibly make her a great threat to the Neohuman Alliance in the future.

Lu Yin had spent a month's time on Shenwu Continent, but fortunately, the Great Yu Empire had its Imperial Cabinet and four ministries to handle any administrative duties so that Lu Yin would not be overburdened by the empire's affairs.

The Allied Forces had been successfully established, and the troops were currently training in a specified location. Liuying Zishan had been acting very normal during this time, and Lu Yin knew this since he had ordered Phantom Sting to monitor her. However, that ball of light had never reappeared.

The special forces that Lu Yin had discussed with the various allied powers had also entered their final stages of preparation.

The special forces would also be known as the Rapid Response Team, and 113 people had already been confirmed as its members. Each and every one of them was a space-exploring powerhouse, and they were still just the preliminary troops. These experts came from the various allied forces, so they needed time before they could become a single cohesive unit. Once this battalion was under Lu Yin's complete control, he would be able to integrate the androids into the team, which would allow it to become a superb strength that could make its way throughout the Outerverse unimpeded, becoming a sharp knife for him to wield.

During this month, the Wei family also had not been lazing around. Wei Rong's had long since disappeared, and Lu Yin believed that the man was running around to unite the central weaves so that they could stand up to his own Great Eastern Alliance. Lu Yin had discussed this before with the Limiteer Mistchild, and he had managed to get Mafioso Planet to send people to stir up trouble there, as he could not allow Wei Rong to lead an easy life.

The Great Eastern Alliance had been in existence for a month, and the integration of the various eastern weaves' resources was proceeding smoothly. Also, during this time, many hidden interstellar pirates had been weeded out, and Endless Borders had acted very proactively.

Lu Yin had now experienced the kindness of Endless Borders, the Mavis Bank, Aurora Enterprises, Shamrock Enterprises, and the other financial titans, though he had also experienced the malice of Aegis. The Second Squadron had discovered that quite a few cultivators from hidden, dark powers had sneaked into Zenyu Star, and Lu Yin suspected that these people were from Aegis.

He was the most concerned about Ku Wei, as the Yu bloodline had recently become a thorn in his heart. He was no longer certain whether Undying Yushan was dead or alive, which made him feel rather uneasy.

However, even after a month, Ku Wei still had not found anything.

There was no use to rush things. If the Yu bloodline truly wanted to hide, then Lu Yin knew that it would be very difficult for him to find them. Even the Neohuman Alliance could not find them, let alone Lu Yin by himself.

He arranged for Li Zimo to join the First Squadron and then returned to King Zishan's palace. He pulled out the Enneadic Wings and the pike, clenching them in his hands before sitting down on the yellow futon. It had been five months since he had last entered the Daosource Sect's ruins. According to his best guesses, the battle between the Ten Arbiters and Realmings should have died down after so much time. It was time to return.

As the scenery changed before his eyes, Lu Yin reentered the Daosource Sect's ruins, and he appeared in the floating mainland once more.

When he last came to the Daosource Sect's ruins, White Knight had forced him to ascend to this mainland, and she had told him that he would reappear in this place the next time he returned to the Daosource Sect. This place was near the Sierra Sea, which contained a hidden Progenitor's inheritance.

Lu Yin recovered his senses after the transfer, only to suddenly feel the world spin around him as the mainland beneath his feet crashed towards the sea. No, it wasn't crashing; it was being absorbed. There was an enormous attractive force coming from the bottom of the sea that was pulling this mainland towards it.

To one side, two figures stared at Lu Yin, dumbstruck.

Lu Yin turned around and saw two people he recognized: White Knight and Shang Rong.

In that instance, Lu Yin felt his scalp go numb, and he felt a strong impulse to curse. How bad could his luck be for him to run into their battle the exact moment he entered the ruins?

Hold on. Lu Yin's gaze streaked past White Knight and Shang Rong, and he saw that there were other floating mainlands in the distance that were also being drawn towards the bottom of the sea. There were also figures on those other mainlands. Could all of these people be Ten Arbiters and Realmings? They were apparently participating on the same battlefield as White Knight and Shang Rong, so did this mean that he had fallen into the abyss?

White Knight stared blankly at Lu Yin. They had parted ways a few months before, but this person had actually chosen this moment of all times to reappear. He truly knew how to pick his timing.

Shang Rong also stared at Lu Yin in shock, as he had never seen such a person. He shouldn't be one of the Fifth Mainland's evil survivors, as they had already met all of the Fifth Mainland's Ten Arbiters over these few months, and they had also exchanged blows with all of them. Out of the entire Fifth Mainland, only the Ten Arbiters could enter this place.

"My bad, did I interrupt you guys?" Lu Yin asked, his speech sounding a little unnatural, and a little pained as well.

White Knight did not answer.

The mainland continued to plummet towards the bottom of the sea.

### **Chapter 735: Apex Battlefield**

Shang Rong stared at Lu Yin. "Which realm are you from?"

Lu Yin's eyes flashed, and without any hesitation, he responded, "The War Martial Realm—you can call me Mr. Bai."

"Take care of this evil Fifth Mainland member today, and I'll leave a portion of what's beneath the sea for you," Shang Rong shouted as the imprint that Lu Yin had seen once before appeared behind the Realmling. A powerful fluctuation swept out, leaving Lu Yin breathless. This was the strength of a Hunter, and all Realmlings were clearly Realmbreakers. The power that Shang Rong was currently displaying completely matched that of an Enlighter.

White Knight did not speak and merely thrust her spear at Shang Rong. The Realmling raised a hand, causing the void to start decaying even before his attack struck White Knight.

This was not the first time that the two had exchanged blows, and it seemed like they had fought against each other quite a few times by now from the way they were both acting. They seemed to be fairly familiar with each other.

Lu Yin agonizingly responded, "Uh, about that... Realmling Shang Rong, I cannot help you with my strength."

Shang Rong defended against White Knight's attack and shouted back, "If you don't help me, then I'll chase you through the War Martial Realm! Shang Rong will do what he promises."

Lu Yin felt helpless. "Alright, but take it easy. Don't hit me."

His Enneadic Wings trembled as he gripped his long pike. Eight lined battle force shrouded his body before he stabbed fiercely at White Knight.

White Knight's eyes narrowed. She looked over at Lu Yin, and the two exchanged glances.

Lu Yin thrust his pike forward and rushed towards the battle at top speed. Shang Rong's imprint gave Lu Yin a sense of suppression that made him feel light-headed. He growled as he forcefully endured the relentless pressure to stab his pike at White Knight's back.

Shang Rong was thrilled, and he grabbed White Knight's spear. Even the shaft of the spear began to slowly decompose and dissipate into points of light as it broke down.

White Knight's Skycastle suddenly appeared, though Shang Rong had long since been prepared for this. A white, mist-like air quickly pervaded the castle. Shang Rong possessed the Cauterizing Beam Bloodline, and its ability was to decompose all things within the white air, and Shang Rong intended to pave the way for Lu Yin.

"Stab him to death for me!" Shang Rong growled as he stared at White Knight with fervent eyes. This person had already used their Soulsplitting Technique earlier, so now that their original body was being locked down, there was no escape.

Lu Yin roared, "I got it!" as he arrived right behind White Knight. He then shot forward with the pike, completely reinforced with his eight lined battle force.

Fresh blood dripped from the pike, and while White Knight was alright, Shang Rong looked down in disbelief. The pike had pierced through his abdomen.

He glared at Lu Yin with death in his eyes. "You, you're an evil survivor of the Fifth Mainland!"

Lu Yin acted innocent. "Sorry, I missed."

"You're looking to die!" Shang Rong bellowed. The white air suddenly solidified all around the battlefield. Lu Yin's brows rose, as he had witnessed this scene before. Last time, this Realmling had created a white sun that had nearly killed White Knight.

White Knight grabbed Lu Yin and fled as the clock thrummed out from within the Skycastle, the sound carrying a tremendous sense of dignity with it.

Shang Rong was furious that he had been played. Fresh blood was flowing from his abdomen, and the wound was excruciatingly painful. Even though he had fought against White Knight for many days, he had never been this severely injured before. He was astonished to discover that Lu Yin was actually from the Fifth Mainland, and he was even more stunned that Lu Yin's weapon had actually been able to tear through his defenses. That pike was clearly not simple.

"Why did you come here?" White Knight asked softly as she glanced at the pike.

Lu Yin panted heavily. "I didn't want to, but it's already been five months. How could I have known that, as soon as I appeared, I would see you all fighting. Could it be that you've been fighting for five straight months?"

"It's very normal for cultivators to fight for several years at a time. It's just that you lack experience." White Knight threw Lu Yin behind herself as Shang Rong's white sun gradually took shape. Even the void started disintegrating.

Lu Yin's eyes twitched, as he had not worn his universal armor this time around. He would definitely be in trouble if he touched that thing.

At that moment, the sea was already right before them. Lu Yin wanted to escape, but White Knight shouted at him, "Where are you running off to? There's good stuff down there."

"No matter how good the treasures may be, there's still not enough for you people to share." Lu Yin clearly knew where his strength stood compared to them, and only those who were tired of living would compete with the Ten Arbiters or the Realmlings for treasure.

He wanted to leave, but there were some people present who did not want him to go. Lu Yin had just moved up when the pike in his hands suddenly forced him towards the bottom of the sea again. There was some foreign strength that had started controlling the pike, and Lu Yin's heart lurched as he looked into the distance. There was a man standing there who was coincidentally looking at Lu Yin, and that man was the one who was controlling the pike.

Lu Yin's heart sank. This man was another apex expert. Another Realmling had appeared.

Eh? Lu Yin's eyes went wide when he suddenly realized that Nightking Zhenwu was the Ten Arbiter fighting against this strange Realmling.

An enormous force was quickly pulling everything into the sea, and Lu Yin used the pike that he had reinforced with his eight lined battle force to shake off the Realmling's control. However, despite his

best efforts, he still ended up falling into the sea along with White Knight and the others, the water rising up all around them.

Lu Yin used his star energy to push back the water and try escaping once more. However, the moment he made contact with the water, the pulling force increased by a thousandfold, and he could no longer escape. He could only let the flow of the water carry him down into the unknown depths of the sea.

There was a thump as the pulling force suddenly vanished. Lu Yin crashed to the bottom of the sea and landed in the mud that made up the seafloor.

Suddenly, he felt a sense of danger, and he hurriedly dodged to the side with his Enneadic Wings that were able to rival an Enlighter's speed. The mud where he had just been standing decomposed, and a streak of white air shot past Lu Yin's fleeing figure. Shang Rong had attacked.

Lu Yin was delighted, as he had fortunately decided to wear the Enneadic Wings during his trip to the Daosource Sect. These wings had been upgraded with his die's Enhance, so not only could they withstand a peak Hunter's attacks, but they could also rival an Enlighter's speed. If not for these upgrades, he would have been forced to use his secret technique to counter the attack.

Shang Rong stared angrily at Lu Yin from nearby before ferociously charging over and pressing down with a palm. After that, the entire sea started to boil, and the white air above the Realmling's palm decomposed everything as it enveloped the entire area.

Lu Yin's scalp turned numb, and he felt the impulse to use his Enneadic Wings' speed to escape without any delay.

Suddenly, White Knight appeared in front of Lu Yin, and she swept her spear forward to repel Shang Rong's attack.

Lu Yin relaxed, but he was not safe quite yet. The pike in his hands mysteriously stabbed towards his own body, and he had to immediately use his eight lined battle force to regain control of the pike.

In the distance, the Realmling was startled, as he had never expected that Lu Yin would be able to regain control of his own weapon despite the Realmling's manipulation.

"You dare to be distracted while fighting me? You're destined to die today," Nightking Zhenwu shouted as he arrived right in front of the Realmling. The colors white and black suddenly interchanged, causing the Realmling to grow nervous as he hurriedly dodged aside.

"You want me to die? Impossible, I'm Toolwielder!" The image of a sturdy elder appeared behind him. "Toolwielder Ancestor, Empyrean Imprinter." With a howl, Toolwielder tightly clenched both of his fists before ferociously charging towards Nightking Zhenwu. The region at the bottom of the sea suddenly seemed to solidify.

Nightking Zhenwu's eyes narrowed, and he raised a hand. "Nightking Punch."

An explosion rocked the sea as the entire seafloor was overturned.

Lu Yin was sent flying away. He was not yet qualified to participate in a battlefield of this level.

Suddenly, Lu Yin felt the sense of danger intensify, and he looked up. Dozens of strands of sword qi from an unknown opponent sliced down at him, and his gaze sharpened. Each strand of this sword qi was enough to fry his brain, and he was certain that he would not be able to withstand even a single attack. Even the defense of his Enneadic Wings would not be enough to take a single attack, as this was definitely an Enlightener's attack.

He wanted to flee at full speed.

"Literary Prison." He heard a familiar voice speak up, and ancient characters suddenly appeared around Lu Yin, forming a prison that sealed him inside. As the sword qi fell, it caused a tremendous sound to ring out as it sliced against the Literary Prison. Lu Yin felt like an ant hiding in a box, and the Literary Prison was blasted an unknown distance away as it fell to the bottom of the sea.

When everything calmed once again, the Literary Prison broke open, and Lu Yin leaped out. He saw two men engaged in an intense battle. One of them was wielding a sword that looked like it was carved from a rock, and the sword qi that had attacked Lu Yin earlier should have been sent out by this person. Lu Yin had seen the other person several times before, and they could be considered one of the Ten Arbiters he was the most familiar with: Wen Sansi.

The seafloor in this place had already attracted the attention of three Arbiters and three Realmings, and it had turned into a battlefield where Lu Yin's chances of survival were incredibly low. Just these few moments had been enough to cause him to brush against death multiple times.

Wen Sansi dodged the sword qi and appeared next to Lu Yin. "How did you get a futon?"

Lu Yin did not answer as white radiance floated over the seabed. When he looked back, he saw that Shang Rong was maniacally creating a massive white sun.

"Skyles." Shang Rong roared as he lifted the white sun up high.

Wen Sansi frowned. "Lunatic."

He waved a hand, and Lu Yin reappeared inside the Literary Prison. Under these circumstances, the Literary Prison imprisoned him, but it was also protecting him.

Sword qi sliced out once again, and Wen Sansi looked solemn. "Take care, as the Realmings' strength is not something that you can rival. Leave if you are able to."

He then pinched the sword qi with a hand, causing a bang to ring out as the sword qi was shattered. The Arbiter then collided with the man who was wielding the stone sword.

Lu Yin felt helpless, as he had wanted to flee since the beginning, but he wasn't able to. As soon as he had entered this battlefield, he had realized that he did not even qualify to leave.

Suddenly, a figure appeared in front of him that was dressed in a black gown. They approached Lu Yin step by step and strangely phased through a stone before ultimately reaching a hand into the Literary Prison. The figure then appeared in front of Lu Yin.

Lu Yin felt his blood turn cold, as this person actually broken through the Literary Prison.



Above the battlefield, the white sun that Shang Rong had created grew ever larger. By now, the white air had permeated through the entire seabed and was spreading towards White Knight, Nightking Zhenwu, and Wen Sansi.

The three could not break free for the moment.

Toolwielder and the Realmking wielding the stone sword retreated in another direction.

White Knight leaped forward, and stabbed her spear towards Shang Rong.

In another place, Lu Yin stared intently at the person who had suddenly appeared in front of him. "Who are you?"

The person sinisterly answered, "White Knight seems to care a lot about you, so you can leave now."

The person then swatted at Lu Yin. Lu Yin raised a hand that transformed into a claw reinforced with eight lined battle force. As the Skybeast Claw was formed, an ancient beast howled, but it could not connect with the figure's palm. The man phased through the Skybeast Claw and pressed his palm against Lu Yin's chest. Lu Yin instinctively used his Fatesand to try to defend against the palm, but his organs were still damaged by an oppressive attack. He spat out a mouthful of blood, and his body was launched towards Shang Rong by the impact.

White Knight stabbed at Shang Rong, but Toolwielder interfered with her attack. By the time she shook him off and attacked Shang Rong again, Lu Yin's body was already crashing towards the ground in the distance. He was headed right towards the area with the white sun, Skyless.

White Knight was startled, and she altered the direction of her spear to sweep in front of Lu Yin in an attempt to catch him.

No longer bothering to deal with White Knight's interference, Shang Rong grinned. "Enjoy this—the strongest Skyless!" He then sent the white sun crashing down towards White Knight and the others.

No matter if it was Nightking Zhenwu or Wen Sansi, everyone had been obstructed by the white air. The Sixth Mainland's Realmkings had been coordinating with Shang Rong, and at this moment, all of them had already retreated, which meant that this attack was rushing towards solely the Ten Arbiters.

Lu Yin looked up, and a white radiance filled his eyes.

White Knight looked serious, and she gripped her spear tightly.

Lu Yin gritted his teeth. He could not escape, and White Knight had given up on stopping Shang Rong's Skyless to save Lu Yin. Thus, he could not allow her to be freely attacked. He thought about it and then growled, "Protect me," as he leaped upwards.

White Knight was stunned, but she acted decisively. The sound of the clock reverberated within the Skycastle that shrank down to protect Lu Yin.

### **Chapter 736: Lu Yin's Decision**

Lu Yin drew close to the white sun, but the closer he approached, the stronger the terror in his heart. The sound of White Knight's clock that was protecting him was starting to break down, and the Literary

Prison around him was also falling apart. In the distance, Wen Sansi and Nightking Zhenwu were both looking up at the scene above them.

Lu Yin was only a footstep away from the white sun when the Literary Prison around his body completely disappeared. At the last possible moment, he waved his right hand and activated the Yu Secret Art, causing the white sun to instantly vanish before reappearing, now heading towards Shang Rong and the other Realmings.

Lu Yin's secret technique shocked everyone.

Shang Rong's expression changed completely. "Secret technique."

The Realming with the stone sword and Toolwielder both immediately pulled back.

Even farther back, the man who had previously broken into the Literary Prison moved even further away.

As the white sun exploded above the seabed, an immense impact accompanied the decomposing energy, both sweeping across the seafloor. The entire sea started decomposing, and the seabed kept vanishing.

The gathered cultivators fled in all directions.

Lu Yin used his Enneadic Wings to escape at top speed, and his speed was in no way inferior to any of the others'.

Not too long after, the white sun's explosion died down, revealing an enormous pit in the seafloor, the edges of which could not even be seen.

Lu Yin did not even hesitate to continue racing towards the surface of the sea. He had no desire to participate in such a battlefield and would flee whenever the opportunity arose.

At this moment, sword qi streaked through the void, coming from the Realming who wielded the stone sword. His path of retreat had put him near Lu Yin, and when he saw that Lu Yin was fleeing, he had attacked the youth.

Lu Yin was not able to react in time, and he could only use his pike to block the attack. There was a sharp cracking sound as the pike shattered apart, but the sword qi continued to grind against the protection provided by the Enneadic Wings. It caused the layer of defense to crack apart, and the slice left a massive wound on Lu Yin's body.

Lu Yin had been injured by the sword qi. That compounded with his previous injury from the palm of the man who had phased through Literary Prison, and Lu Yin was not able to endure this second attack. He spat out a mouthful of blood, losing any bit of energy that he might have used to escape.

At that moment, someone grabbed his arm. It was White Knight. Her spear smashed apart the sword qi that had sneaked over again, and she looked down at Lu Yin. "Are you still alive?"

Lu Yin was speechless. "Let me go! I'm leaving!"

White Knight frowned. "You can't escape, so follow me."

Lu Yin opened his mouth, wanting to retort, but a green radiance suddenly shot up from the seafloor, drawing everyone's attention. They all saw a palm-sized bit of jade stone float out, and it silently hovered over the seabed.

White Knight's gaze grew fervent. "A Progenitor's inheritance. Grab it!" She pulled Lu Yin over towards the jade.

The others also acted at the same time, every last one of them exerting their full effort at this moment.

Lu Yin was being dragged along by White Knight. "I'm not taking it, so let me go!"

White Knight quietly said to him, "We all have our own opponents, so only you can seize it. Use your secret technique."

Lu Yin wanted to scold her. It turned out that she had forced him to stay, not to save his life, but rather to make him her puppet to help her seize the Progenitor's inheritance.

Everyone dashed towards the jade stone that was floating above the seabed, and while White Knight was the furthest away, she did not hesitate to throw Lu Yin over. Lu Yin's physical strength was powerful, but he could not resist her due to his injured state, and he was flung straight at the piece of jade by the knight's tremendous might. At the same time, from the opposite side of the jade piece, Wen Sansi lightly tapped out, creating a gale that struck the stone and pushed it towards Lu Yin.

At this moment, Lu Yin suddenly became the person closest to the stone while everyone else was embroiled in a fight. Wen Sansi was even facing two opponents on his own as he held two Realmings back.

The jade stone landed in Lu Yin's hands as everyone watched on.

The moment he obtained the jade stone, a refreshing aura spread through his palm and into his body that quickly treated his injuries. He was ecstatic, and he clenched it tightly.

"Give it to me," Nightking Zhenwu's voice called out, and Lu Yin saw the Nightking staring at him with imposing eyes.

Lu Yin scanned the surroundings and saw that everyone was quickly approaching him. He could not remain in this place for too long, especially since the stone sword Realming was unleashing more strands of sword qi at him, which Lu Yin could not block at all. He waved his hand to toss the jade stone towards White Knight while he himself moved in a direction without any people.

None of the people present paid any more attention to Lu Yin as they were all focused on the jade stone.

Soon after, an unfathomable attack swept through the area, releasing an aura that caused the combatants' scalps to turn numb.

Lu Yin turned around and fled as fast as he could. This was not a place where he could linger around—so what if it was a Progenitor's inheritance? If he lost his life, any inheritance would be useless.

There was a bang as Lu Yin dashed up from the seafloor before relaxing as he headed into the distance.

But his luck was poor; as he dashed up from the seafloor, the jade stone was actually flung out by an enormous strength, and it lit up with a green radiance as it flew into the sky .

Lu Yin was left speechless. The figures of the Arbiters and Realmings also charged up, and their battle instantly spread out to cover the surface of the sea.

Lu Yin had no idea who had attacked or how the piece of jade had been sent straight towards him again, but he really wanted to curse. Why did he keep bumping into this thing even when he was trying to flee from it?

Sword qi, it was that sword qi yet again. That Realming with the stone sword unleashed the imprint of a three-inch elder behind him, and a majestic pressure descended as the stone sword revolved around his body while emitting a countless amount of sword qi that swept out in all directions.

White Knight and the others were all forced back.

That Realming grabbed at the jade stone, but right when he was about to reach it, black and white interchanged in the distance.

Lu Yin felt his scalp go numb. This was not good; it was a Daynight clan battle technique. He reflexively dashed back down towards the seabed with the intent of evading the attack since he was along the line formed by the attack, the piece of jade, and the stone sword wielding Realming. In other words, he was being targeted by Nightking Zhenwu's attack.

Still, Lu Yin was one step too slow. He did not know what battle technique Nightking Zhenwu had used, but it bombarded his mind. That was fine, since he was not afraid of spiritual force attacks, but his body was also torn apart by the attack. Lu Yin's fresh blood scattered about even as he involuntarily spat out another mouthful of blood. The intense pressure left him breathless, and the protective shield of the Enneadic Wings was instantly shattered while the soil that was his Fatesand was pressed up against his chest. Even his Fatesand was unable to withstand the pressure while the void was torn apart. Fortunately, the Literary Prison reappeared in front of Lu Yin to protect him from the attack.

The Realming wielding the stone sword was not having a good time either, as this attack from Nightking Zhenwu was terrifying, and he had not used it when they had all been down on the seafloor. Blood flowed from the corner of the Realming's mouth as his skin was torn away in thin strips. Although he was just a step away from the jade stone, he could not even move an inch.

Nightking Zhenwu's figure flashed, and he rushed towards the jade stone.

The Realming with the stone sword looked up, and his eyes turned chilly. Suddenly, a strange fluctuation appeared from his body, and all of his injuries instantly healed up before he grabbed the jade stone.

Nobody was able to react to this change of events, including even Shang Rong and the other Realmings.

"It's the Progenitor of Secrets' Reversal Cycle Secret Technique!" Toolwielder shouted.

The Realming wielding the stone sword turned around, and a countless amount of sword qi swept out that enveloped everyone, and the sky itself was torn apart by the immeasurable sword qi.

After unleashing the torrent of sword qi, the Realmling wielding the stone sword turned to leave, but one person actually broke through the sword qi and approached the Realmling at high speed.

The stone sword Realmling's gaze remained indifferent. "Di Fa."

"Shi Zhongjian, I won't stop you from taking the jade stone, but how about we research it together?" Di Fa asked.

The Realmling wielding the stone sword snorted, but before he could respond, a figure shot up from the seabed to appear right beneath him with the powerful sound of the clock accompanying them. It was White Knight, as her Soulsplitting Technique had been restored; She now had one clone atop the surface of the sea with another one hidden on the seafloor.

White Knight's appearance was unexpected by both Shi Zhongjian and Di Fa, and she stabbed at Shi Zhongjian with her spear while Di Fa was suddenly trapped by a Literary Prison.

Shi Zhongjian shifted his stone sword to clash with the spear, and the impact caused the void to tear horizontally for a great distance. White Knight then grabbed at the jade stone, but Shi Zhongjian raised his shoulder to obstruct her. When the palm slammed into the shoulder, there was a rumbling sound. It was clear that White Knight was trained in close combat, and her palm nimbly bypassed Shi Zhongjian's defenses and grabbed the jade stone. "Let go."

Shi Zhongjian's eyes went wide, and majestic star energy blasted at White Knight.

In the distance, Lu Yin silently made his escape. That strike from Nightking Zhenwu had caused him to suffer heavy injuries again, and he would be sure to remember that attack.

Eh? What's that up ahead? Lu Yin looked in front of himself, and his expression changed. Not good—there's another powerhouse. The aura from this person was no weaker than that of White Knight and the others, which meant this person had to either be one of the Ten Arbiters or a Realmling. At a time like this, there was no differentiating between friend and enemy, so Lu Yin could only turn to escape in another direction.

White Knight was still locked in a stalemate with Shi Zhongjian while Wen Sansi was holding Di Fa and Shang Rong back. Meanwhile, Nightking Zhenwu was tangled up with Toolwielder.

Lu Yin screamed, "Another one's here!"

The crowd all looked over.

A girl appeared behind Lu Yin in the distance. She had a detached look on her face, but her eyes were locked onto the jade stone emitting a green light in Shi Zhongjian's hand.

"Xin Nü?" Shi Zhongjian was stunned.

White Knight's gaze sharpened as this was another Realmling-level powerhouse. She glanced over at Lu Yin and secretly messaged him. "Use your secret technique to seize the inheritance. Remember, these objects all belong to our Fifth Mainland, and they cannot be taken by the Sixth Mainland."

She then grabbed Shi Zhongjian and dashed towards Lu Yin.

Lu Yin gritted his teeth and waved his hand to activate the Yu Secret Art. He shifted the jade stone from Shi Zhongjian's hand straight into the air, and then he simply raised his own hand to grab it. Just like that, the jade stone landed in his possession for the second time.

He had to sigh at such a moment, because the Yu Secret Art was really too good of a trick to grab a hold of things.

Shi Zhongjian stared angrily at Lu Yin, as this person's strength was so weak that he wasn't even able to take a single one of his sword attacks. However, he had still managed to hinder him more than once. He had no way to block that secret technique.

"Hand it over." Nightking Zhenwu's voice drew closer, as he had torn away from Toolwielder to grab at Lu Yin. Black and white colors interchanged in his hands, as he was attacking. He did not care if Lu Yin lived or died. In other words, he was actually hoping that Lu Yin would die, as he had recognized Lu Yin.

Killing intent flashed through Lu Yin's eyes. At this moment, as far as he could tell, everyone was staring at him. It wasn't just Nightking Zhenwu who was attacking him; the girl who had rushed to this place from off in the distance had also lifted her hand, giving him a sense of impending crisis.

Everyone wanted to obtain the jade stone, and nobody cared if Lu Yin lived or died. He felt like an ant that had unintentionally barged into a storm, and he did not even have even the slightest opportunity to catch his breath.

The jade stone could not be allowed to land in the hands of anyone from the Sixth Mainland, but it also could not land in Nightking Zhenwu's hands. Lu Yin was not someone that selfless, and he would not sacrifice himself for the Fifth Mainland. Since nobody cared if he was dead or alive, then what did he need to care about here?

Crack!

Time seemed to freeze, and everyone's expressions changed as they all stared at Lu Yin's hand in disbelief. That jade stone had just cracked.

Lu Yin had actually crushed it, and while everyone was still distracted by his actions, he retrieved the Void Thunderbeast's flesh from his bosom. This was his greatest assurance that he would be able to escape from any situation. He had taken it back from Wendy Yushan before returning to the Daosource Sect's ruins this time so that he would have something that could save his life in a dire crisis, though he had refused to use it until the last possible moment. Space in the Daosource Sect's ruins had been shattered, and he did not know if he would unintentionally barge into some forbidden land. However, he had no choice at this time but to use it as it was the only way he would be able to escape.

He only had this one chance, so he had to make use of it while everyone was still stunned. Otherwise, there would be no more opportunities for him to slip away.

Lightning flickered and roused everyone from their stupor as the void where Lu Yin was standing distorted, but then, his entire body vanished. Only a green radiance remained floating in midair, which was the remnants of the Progenitor's inheritance.

## Chapter 737: Lucky Star

Who would have thought that there would actually be someone who could bring themselves to destroy a Progenitor's inheritance. That was a supreme inheritance throughout the entire universe, and even the Ten Arbiters would try to snatch one regardless of how much peril it posed. But despite that, one such inheritance had just been destroyed before their very eyes.

No matter their thoughts on this outcome, Lu Yin had already done it.

White Knight stared at the place where Lu Yin had just disappeared from as complicated emotions filled her heart. There was a tinge of regret, but also admiration. Even she could not bear to destroy a Progenitor's inheritance. This person was truly ruthless.

Further away, Xin Nü, whom Shi Zhongjian had called out towards, looked at where Lu Yin had vanished. This person's aura felt familiar, and it made her want to get close to him. She even felt some sort of bloodline resonance between them. Who was that person just now? Where had he come from? Perhaps he could help her search for her lost memory.

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There was a rumble as a spike of pain shot through Lu Yin's back; his entire body had crashed into something before slowly falling down. There was a human-shaped mark on the mountainside cliff that he had struck.

He looked up and then checked his surroundings before finally relaxing. Fortunately, he had ended up in a place that did not seem to be overly dangerous, a very normal looking valley.

He endured the immense pain to retrieve one of Shamrock Enterprises special medications and then began to treat himself. This time, his luck had been the worst, as he had appeared smack dab in the middle of a battlefield involving the Ten Arbiters and the Realmings. He could already be considered very lucky since he had not died, and he had also been saved by White Knight and Wen Sansi, as he would have been doomed without those two.

Up until now, Lu Yin had not been too clear on the disparity between himself and the Ten Arbiters, but he now had a better understanding. When he had encroached upon their battlefield, he had only been able to divert their attacks by using the Yu Secret Art, as he did not have the ability to normally resist a single one of their attacks. Even with the Enneadic Wings that had been upgraded to the point where they could defend against a peak Hunter's attacks, he had been suppressed so badly that he had been left with no time to catch his breath.

From start to finish, Lu Yin had only felt one thing: that he could not catch his breath.

Perhaps only by becoming a Cruiser would he be able to participate in such a battlefield.

There was a bang behind him as the Enneadic Wings shattered and became complete scrap.

Lu Yin smiled bitterly, as he had prepared quite a bit for this trip. The Enneadic Wings had been able to protect him from peak Hunters and also boosted his speed until it could rival an Enlighter's. The pike had been able to pierce through an Enlighter's body, and with the addition of the Void Thunderbeast's flesh,

he had been confident that he was well-prepared for the Daosource Sect's ruins this time. However, everything that he had brought with him had been ruined on that one battlefield.

From start to finish, it had only lasted a little more than ten minutes, but those ten minutes had felt like an eternity since he had faced death during every second of that time.

For now, he could not go out, at least until he recuperated.

Still, this trip had not been completely wasted, and Lu Yin was rather pleased. He had destroyed that jade stone, which would make those Realmlings feel regret, and Nightking Zhenwu should be feeling even more pathetic. Until the very last moment, the Nightking had been fully confident that he would be able to seize the jade stone, but it had been ultimately destroyed by Lu Yin.

The Progenitor's inheritance that had been so close to him was now gone forever. Wouldn't that make the Nightking angry to the point of spitting out blood? Lu Yin was highly anticipating the Arbiter's reaction.

Of course, he also felt that it was a pity to lose the inheritance.

"Seventh Bro, this Monkey admires you. To think that you even dare to straight up destroy a Progenitor's inheritance." The Ghost Monkey sighed.

Lu Yin sneered. "If I hadn't destroyed it, should I have just allowed them to slaughter me?"

"That's true. There was only one correct choice in that sort of situation. But from what I saw, that definitely was not a Progenitor's inheritance, and it may not have even been a true inheritance. How could an actual Progenitor's inheritance be destroyed by an Explorer like you? That would be a joke," the monkey said.

Lu Yin nodded. "I know, but even if that wasn't a true inheritance, it should still have been something related to a Progenitor. Perhaps it recorded some sort of battle technique or the location of the true inheritance."

"Stop talking about it! It's a pity that it's gone," the monkey lamented.

Lu Yin's injuries were rather severe, as he had suffered from Di Fa's palm, Shi Zhongjian's sword qi, as well as Nightking Zhenwu's battle technique. He stayed within that valley and recuperated for ten days, not daring to take a single step outside during this time.

After ten days passed, he moved his arms, feeling much better.

He had entered the Daosource Sect's ruins this time with the intention of obtaining the battle technique from the cauldron. He had a way to comprehend that technique, so he wanted to try.

However, he did not know where the space with the Nine Cauldrons was located.

He left the valley and carefully made his way forward. At a time like this, there should be very few ordinary cultivators within the Daosource Sect's ruins, and the weakest who would appear were probably those whose strength were comparable to Autumnfrost Qing's, while the odds of meeting one of the Realmlings or Ten Arbiters seemed much higher.



There was a meadow outside the valley, but even after Lu Yin walked for half a day, he still could not see the end. This area was very large.

At this point, he was not even certain if he was still in the Daosource Sect's ruins. Could the Void Thunderbeast's flesh have somehow brought him to the Sixth Mainland itself? That would be rather interesting.

He carefully unleashed his domain, and before long, he sensed another person thousands of meters away. This person was also advancing very cautiously. In fact, they were being even more careful than Lu Yin, and they were almost crouching in the grass as they advanced.

When he saw this person, Lu Yin felt that they looked familiar, so he reduced his aura and began to slowly approach them.

A person who advanced like this was probably not an expert.

Lu Yin approached the familiar person, though the person himself remained clueless.

When Lu Yin saw the profile of the person, his expression changed. Wasn't this person Brother Hoe?

In front of Lu Yin, Nong Zaitian was very carefully crawling forward while constantly mumbling, "Ancestors, please protect your descendant and allow me to avoid meeting any monsters from the Fifth Mainland. I don't hold great hopes, and I only want to take away these objects. Ancestors, please protect your descendent. Ancestors, ancestors..."

Lu Yin's gaze flashed. These objects? It sounded like this person had found some good stuff.

"Seventh Bro, this Monkey remembers him. Without him, it would have been very difficult for you to escape from the clutches of Blood Looney. This fellow is your lucky star," the monkey commented with a snigger.

Lu Yin also reckoned that to be the case. Speaking of which, this person's hoe was still in his cosmic ring, though it could not be taken out in the Daosource Sect. It was a pity that it was inaccessible, as that toy's speed was no slower than the Enneadic Wings, and it was able to rival an Enlightener's speed, which had once allowed Lu Yin to escape from the hands of a Realmking.

Lu Yin did not show himself. Although he had not interacted that much with Nong Zaitian, he could tell that this person was very methodical, and he definitely would not expose those "objects" that he had just mentioned if Lu Yin suddenly appeared in front of him. Thus, Lu Yin decided to just follow behind the young man for the moment.

As such, two figures slowly crawled forward, advancing through the meadow with one person in front of the other. The person in the front occasionally checked his surroundings, but he never noticed the person behind him. On the other hand, the person in the back merely kept a careful eye on the one in front.

Unfortunately, neither of them realized that, even further from them, there was another person slowly walking in the same direction as the two of them.

Nong Zaitian was overly cautious, and his speed was extraordinarily slow, which made Lu Yin feel rather frustrated. What was up with this guy's caution?

Of course, a little caution was good, and the experience that Lu Yin had suffered ten days before was unforgettable. Perhaps this fellow had also gone through a similar encounter.

One day later, Nong Zaitian arrived at the bottom of a strange-looking mountain that was reminiscent of an exceptionally large sphere with a horn.

Nong Zaitian excitedly took out his hoe and began to dig.

Lu Yin was stumped, as he was watching the hoe actually be used as one. This really could not be condemned.

Nong Zaitian was excavating very excitedly when sparks suddenly emerged from underground—he seemed to have struck something. Lu Yin heard some thumping sounds before Nong Zaitian leaped into the hole that he had dug and disappeared underground.

Lu Yin blinked and walked over. During this entire time, he maintained his domain as he followed Nong Zaitian underground. He was surprised; this fellow must have visited this place before since there was already an underground passageway that had been dug out.

Without hesitation, Lu Yin also leaped down.

The passageway was not very long, and Lu Yin restrained his aura as he followed along behind Nong Zaitian. The tunnel eventually exited into a place that felt like a fine spring day. There was even a delicate fragrance that wafted into Lu Yin's nostrils and elevated his spirits. There were all sorts of peculiar plants growing nearby that gave off a soft radiance, densely covering the ground.

Lu Yin was dazed, as this place was actually filled with all sorts of natural treasures that had been planted.

"I'll be damned... There's so many natural treasures here. We've struck gold!" the Ghost Monkey shouted.

Ahead of Lu Yin, Nong Zaitian was digging up something from the ground with his butt sticking up in the air when suddenly, he fell backwards onto the ground. A ball of light flew straight up. This was a natural treasure that had already reached the point of instinctively avoiding danger, and it started bouncing around the area.

Nong Zaitian grew very excited and wanted to seize the natural treasure, but at that moment, he saw Lu Yin out of the corner of his eyes. His face turned deathly pale, and he stared at Lu Yin as if he had seen a ghost. "You- you- How did you get in here?"

Lu Yin came to his senses and coughed. "I was just passing by."

Nong Zaitian glared at Lu Yin, but then he suddenly remembered something. He pointed at Lu Yin, and angrily bellowed, "It's you! Return my hoe!"

Back when Lu Yin had been escaping from the pursuing Blood Looney, he had run into Nong Zaitian with his true appearance. Because Nightking Zhenwu had been here this time, Lu Yin had changed his appearance. Nong Zaitian had only seen Lu Yin's true face during their previous meeting.

“Sorry, I forgot to bring it. I’ll return it next time.” Lu Yin smiled drily.

Nong Zaitian gritted his teeth and stared at Lu Yin. “Get out of here.”

Lu Yin did not bother with the young man and glanced around with an astonished expression. “These natural treasures must have lived for over 10,000 years. No, for them to develop the instinct to avoid danger, they might’ve even lived for tens of thousands of years. This is a good place that must not have been discovered for a long time.”

Nong Zaitian stared behind Lu Yin, mulling over how he could deal with this person. But as he thought about it, his face soured. This fellow had escaped from Blood Looney’s pursuit, so this was not someone who Nong Zaitian could deal with.

“How did you find this place?” Lu Yin asked curiously.

Nong Zaitian’s eyes spun. “Hey, let’s make a deal. Why don’t we split the stuff here ninety-ten? I’ll take ninety, and you’ll take ten.”

Lu Yin looked at Nong Zaitian like he was an idiot.

Nong Zaitian also felt as though he was dreaming, and he quickly corrected himself. “Alright, eighty-twenty.”

Lu Yin diverted his gaze and completely ignored the other youth.

Nong Zaitian started to get anxious. “Seventy-thirty, but this is the lowest I can go. I won’t go any lower. How about seventy-thirty?”

Lu Yin nodded. “Okay, seventy-thirty.”

Nong Zaitian was thrilled. “Alright, deal!”

Lu Yin’s lips curled upwards. “I’m seventy, and you’re thirty.”

Nong Zaitian opened his mouth, furious. “I found this place! Do you have any shame? You want to compete for this place?”

Lu Yin rolled his eyes. “This is the Fifth Mainland’s Daosource Sect’s ruins, not your home. Everyone has a share to the stuff here. Whoever’s fist is biggest, wins.”

Nong Zaitian clenched his hoe, and from his stance, it looked as though he wanted to give Lu Yin a taste of it, but he gave up after an internal battle. “Fifty-fifty then.”

Lu Yin smiled, but he did not speak as he walked over to a plant in front of him. “Do you recognize this?”

The Ghost Monkey answered, “No, I’m not an encyclopedia either way.”

Lu Yin looked at Nong Zaitian. “Do you have some knowledge of these plants?”

Nong Zaitian was crushed. “No.”

“How did you find this place?” Lu Yin was curious.

Nong Zaitian replied, “I was avoiding enemies and found it by accident.”

“The Daosource Sect has survived for countless ages, so if these plants were planted in the age of the Daosource Sect, then after all these years, they would not merely be at the stage where they can instinctively avoid danger. In fact, some of them might have even turned into sourceboxes long ago. Thus, they could not have been planted by the people from the time of the Daosource Sect,” Lu Yin commented as he glanced at Nong Zaitian.

### **Chapter 738: Wu Taibai**

Nong Zaitian’s expression remained perfectly normal, not revealing any information.

Lu Yin continued, saying, “If it wasn’t those people from the Daosource Sect who grew these plants, then it must have been some other people from hundreds of thousands years ago. Since they dared to grow them, then they must have had a way to ensure that others wouldn’t discover them. Thus, there’s only one possibility concerning the identity of the person who discovers this area.” He looked straight at Nong Zaitian. “They must be the descendant of the people who made this area.”

Nong Zaitian’s expression changed, and he let out a deep breath. “Good guess. These herbs were planted by my Nong family’s ancestors.”

“Something about that still sounds wrong. I heard that the Nong family’s ancestors obtained all of their treasures from an auction house in one of the Daosource Sect’s subsidiary cities, which is how the Nong family was able to abruptly rise to power. These plants should be at least tens of thousands years old, and your Nong family probably hadn’t even stepped onto the path of cultivation back then,” Lu Yin countered.

Nong Zaitian’s lips curled up. “My Nong family has passed this inheritance down through countless years. Not just tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, or even millions of years ago—my Nong family was once one of the Sixth Mainland’s legends. However, my Nong family has always kept a low profile, never mentioning our past.”

Lu Yin did not speak further, as this area was very large. There were at least hundreds of natural treasures in this place, and it was possible that there were even hidden ones that had reached the level of avoiding danger. He completely unleashed his domain to discover exactly how many natural treasures were in this place. But then, he suddenly turned around to look at the entrance, as he had just noticed one other person entering without either of them noticing. His black-and-white hair was very distinct. It was Nightking Zhenwu.

Lu Yin’s eyes narrowed, as he would have never even dreamed that Nightking Zhenwu would appear in this place.

Nightking Zhenwu had a smile on his face, but his eyes were cold as he looked at Lu Yin. “I never thought that I would actually bump into you here, Lu Yin. Your luck is terrible.”

Lu Yin felt his scalp go numb, and he slowly retreated.

Nong Zaitian was stunned, and he stared at Nightking Zhenwu. “How did you get in here?”

Nightking Zhenwu glanced at the youth. “Ten years ago, there was someone from the Nong family who came here and died at my hand.”

Nong Zaitian's expression changed, and both of his fists were clenched tightly as he stared at Nightking Zhenwu. "So you're the one who killed my cousin."

Nightking Zhenwu remained arrogant. "This place that your Nong ancestors found is pretty decent, and it has provided me with quite a few good items over the last ten years. You guys can remain here and become its fertilizer." He then directed his icy cold eyes towards Lu Yin. "Especially you. You even dared to destroy a Progenitor's inheritance!"

Neither of the two saw the Nightking make any movements, but Lu Yin and Nong Zaitian both saw black and white appear before their eyes. Nong Zaitian immediately spat out a mouthful of blood and nearly fainted whereas Lu Yin was able to once again sense a certain level of suppression from Nightking Zhenwu.

Against Nightking Zhenwu, even Lu Yin's Yu Secret Art that could divert attacks could not help him, as Nightking Zhenwu was in no way inferior to an Enlighter.

Lu Yin did not want to just wait to die, and he raised his hand that had transformed into a claw. The Skybeast Claw pushed forwards, though Nightking Zhenwu looked at it with disdain as he lifted a single finger and easily shattered the claw. A moment later, Lu Yin's eight lined battle force appeared, and his eyes went slack as he tapped out with a finger while the void froze. Nightking Zhenwu was astonished, and he similarly raised his index finger and tapped out.

The two index fingers struck each other in the void, and the strength of their clash burst forth and tore apart the space in the area. It released an earth-shattering amount of star energy that blew away both Nong Zaitian and many of the surrounding natural treasures.

Lu Yin's Dream Finger had been blocked, seemingly effortlessly, while from Nightking Zhenwu's perspective, his own finger had also been blocked.

He was Arbiter Zhenwu—a Hunter!—and the battle technique that he had just unleashed with the strength of his finger had actually been blocked by an Explorer, which was unacceptable to someone so arrogant.

Lu Yin was blown back a dozen steps, and a gust of wind shot out in front of him. His Fatesand immediately appeared before his chest with its appearance as a clod of dirt that blocked the gale. His body was forced back another dozens of metres, and he coughed out blood.

Nightking Zhenwu was astonished. "Fatesand? You actually have quite a few good things. What a pity that they're all foreign objects."

Then, he stepped forward. "Nightking Finger."

It was an identical finger battle technique to the previous one, and it flickered with a black-and-white radiance as Nightking Zhenwu's spiritual force steadily swept forward. Nong Zaitian was completely unable to resist the attack and was pressed firmly against the mountain wall whereas Lu Yin was unable to use the Dream Finger again.

As the Nightking Finger approached, Lu Yin used the Yu Secret Art to forcefully change the direction of Nightking Zhenwu's finger technique, but the next moment, the finger landed and tapped against Lu Yin's chest. "That secret technique is not invincible. The difference between us is too great."

Lu Yin's body was pierced by the finger, and his entire body was slammed against the mountainside. Even an ultimate treasure like his Fatesand was unable to defend against Arbiter Zhenwu's attacks.

Ten days ago, when Lu Yin had participated in the battle between the Arbiters and the Realmings, he had learned of the huge gap that existed between himself and those like the Ten Arbiters and the Realmings. From beginning to end, he hadn't been able to take a single breath, and he hadn't even directly confronted any of them. No matter if it was the Ten Arbiters or the Realmings, they each had their own opponents. What Lu Yin had suffered from had been nothing more than the aftermath of those battles.

However, at this moment, he was directly facing Nightking Zhenwu's attacks, though they may have been nothing more than just casual strikes. Lu Yin could not resist at all, and even his Yu Secret Art was not able to divert Nightking Zhenwu's finger technique, leaving Lu Yin severely injured.

This was Arbiter Zhenwu. This was the true strength of the universe's Ten Arbiters.

The Ten Arbiters had dominated their own generation throughout the universe, and every one of them had a strength that could completely suppress those of the same generation. They had been able to shift authority to the younger generation not just because of the powers that stood behind them and their qualification to enter the Daosource Sect, but even more so because of their personal strength.

These were the Ten Arbiters: characters who held supreme authority to judge the younger generation.

"Your secret technique looks very familiar." Nightking Zhenwu looked down at Lu Yin.

From the corner of his eyes, Lu Yin glanced over at Nong Zaitian, as he was hoping that this person had some way to flee.

"I remember now. Back in the Budding Terrace, Wendy Yushan also used this secret technique," Nightking Zhenwu said coldly, though he sounded as if he was simply mentioning something unimportant.

Lu Yin's eyes turned cold. "Why did you attack Wendy Yushan?"

The Nightking's tone remained indifferent. "She's just trash from the Outerverse: so what if she dies? Do I need any sort of reason to act against her?"

Lu Yin's gaze sharpened, and he clenched both fists as bloodlust surged in his heart.

"Whether it's Wendy Yushan or you, you are both just trash, and it won't affect the broader situation even if you die. However, I'm very curious—how did you obtain a futon that lets you enter this place? Also, where did you get your secret technique?" Nightking Zhenwu spoke slowly as he approached Lu Yin.

"You want to obtain the secret technique? Quit dreaming." Lu Yin sneered.

A disdainful smile spread across Nightking Zhenwu's face. "Although that secret technique is good, it's not like I don't have one. It's just that you cannot even make me use it. Still, it would be pretty good if I could obtain another. I'll give you a chance. Hand over that secret technique, and I'll erase every bit of

the grudge that Yanqing has with you, and I can even allow you to leave this place alive. However, if we meet again, you had best think of a way to save your life.”

Lu Yin’s eyes narrowed, as this was the true face of the Nightking clan. They were arrogant by birth, exactly the same as Nightking Yuanjing, who Lu Yin had dealt with before. You had to think of a way to survive by pleading with them and demonstrating your value. Otherwise you would die. This sort of arrogance and disregard came from their very bones, and they did not view anyone as being worthy of their regard.

Nightking Zhenwu’s lips curled upwards. “I’ll repeat myself for the final time. Hand over the secret technique, and I’ll let you leave.”

He shifted his focus over to Nong Zaitian. “As for you, just die.”

He was about to act, but suddenly, his movements slowed, and his face fell. He slowly turned around and looked towards the entrance, exactly where he had just been standing when he had severely injured Lu Yin. In walked a man in white clothes, and he surveyed the area with an astonished expression on his face. “I never imagined that there would be such a paradise here. Such luck!”

Lu Yin stared at the man in astonishment. “Mr. Bai?”

The person who had just arrived was indeed Mr. Bai.

Mr. Bai noticed Lu Yin and excitedly waved at him. “Deafmute Bro, what a coincidence.”

Lu Yin smiled bitterly. “You didn’t pick a very good time to show up.”

Mr. Bai blinked. “That’s impossible. The natural treasures in this place have not been taken away yet, and no one here can use a cosmic ring. You three can’t possibly take away all of these natural treasures, so why don’t we split them evenly?”

“I agree, let’s split them evenly!” Nong Zaitian shouted crazily as he tried to catch Lu Yin’s attention with his eyes.

Lu Yin was confused, as this guy was insane. Nightking Zhenwu was able to easily slaughter all three of them by himself. How would they split anything evenly?

“See, that brother has already agreed.” Mr. Bai smiled.

Nightking Zhenwu turned towards Mr. Bai. “If you wish to split things evenly, then it will depend entirely on your strength.”

“Then I shall not disappoint you.” Mr. Bai smiled.

Lu Yin felt something was off, since Nightking Zhenwu seemed to be acting slightly apprehensive when facing Mr. Bai.

Nong Zaitian carefully walked over to Lu Yin’s side, then asked softly, “Big bro, how do you know him?”

Lu Yin grew curious upon seeing Nong Zaitian’s reaction to Mr. Bai’s arrival. “You know him?”

Nong Zaitian grinned. "It's all thanks to my Nong family's ancestors. They forced all of us to memorize every expert within our generation who might pose a threat to us. You may not recognize this person's face, but you must have heard his name before." Nong Zaitian coughed and then solemnly said, "Daosource Three Skies, Wu Taibai."

A chill ran down Lu Yin's spine as complex emotions surged through his heart. He should find a fortune teller to predict his death, as his luck in this trip to the Daosource Sect's ruins had been just too horrendous. First, he had ended up being implicated in a huge battle between the Ten Arbiters and several Realmings. Then, he had followed Nong Zaitian with great difficulty, believing that he had obtained some great treasure, but ended up bumping into Nightking Zhenwu. Now, he had to face Wu Taibai.

Mr. Bai turned out to actually be one of the Daosource Three Skies, and if not for the apprehension in Nightking Zhenwu's eyes, Lu Yin would have never believed Nong Zaitian's words. Back in the cauldron, Mr. Bai had been rescued by Lu Yin, but now he turned out to be Wu Taibai?

Although Lu Yin had never seen the Daosource Three Skies make a move himself, everyone had referred to them as three powerhouses who could decide everything, and there was no one within the same generation who could possibly be a match for any of the Daosource Three Skies. Even the Sixth Mainland's Realmings were beneath the Daosource Three Skies, and it was widely known that they had the strength to decide everything. The discrepancy was so large that many did not even consider the Daosource Three Skies as a part of the younger generation since their talents transcended time. How could Mr. Bai be Wu Taibai?

No matter what, the outcome was clear. No matter who emerged victorious between Nightking Zhenwu or Mr. Bai, it would not be beneficial to Lu Yin or Nong Zaitian.

They heard a bang as Nightking Zhenwu and Mr. Bai continued to look intensely at each other. A seemingly casual probing attack by the two of them had actually exerted such a strong star energy pressure that many of the natural treasures in the area had been destroyed.

Nong Zaitian sat on his hoe, and he was just about to leave when he looked over at Lu Yin and remembered the time this bastard had used a secret technique to steal his hoe. After a moment, he helplessly said, "Get on."

Lu Yin did not stand on ceremony, and he quickly sat on the hoe with Nong Zaitian. The next moment, the hoe flew towards the entrance at top speed. Neither youth had any remaining desire for these natural treasures. Against Nightking Zhenwu and Wu Taibai, it was pointless regardless of the number of natural treasures, as they simply would not be able to seize any of them.

When the entrance was right before their eyes, two figures flitted past them, and the void was torn apart. Nightking Zhenwu and Wu Taibai were still fighting against each other, and Nong Zaitian was forced to quickly change directions, causing the hoe and the two youths to crash into the mountainside to avoid the spatial tear.

Nightking Zhenwu and Mr. Bai were similarly flung against the mountainside, but strangely, the mountain merely split open instead of completely shattering.

### **Chapter 739: Blazing Furnace**



With the intensity of these attacks, to say nothing of a mountain, even a planet should have been destroyed.

Something was strange about this mountain.

“Hurry!” Nong Zaitian was sprawled across the ground, but he quickly moved to crawl towards the entrance, afraid to attract attention from the two powerhouses.

Lu Yin looked at something nearby where the colors of black and white were continuously interchanging. The intensity of these attacks made his scalp go numb, but Mr. Bai seemed to be completely unconstrained, and the struggle in the void caused a great deal of destruction as the attacks fell like raindrops.

Lu Yin knew that the two of them could not remain in this place, or else they would be caught up in the battle and killed sooner or later.

The two youths ran along the underground tunnel in an attempt to escape, but the ground quivered. Suddenly, a strange fire appeared from underground that rapidly spread out until it covered the entire mountain. The exit in front of Lu Yin and Nong Zaitian was also caught up in the blaze.

The conflagration was not only burning the mountain, but even the void, causing it to distort. The void had been set on fire as though it was paper, and a dark space of nothingness appeared.

Lu Yin and Nong Zaitian exchanged glances, and they headed back through the tunnel without any hesitation. This sort of inferno was not something that they could withstand.

They returned to the space with the natural treasures, and upon entering, they saw a bright roof, as Nightking Zhenwu’s battle against Mr. Bai had pierced through the top of the mountain.

It was very easy to break through a mountain for cultivators like them, but this mountain was different. Nong Zaitian was very clear how durable this particular mountain was, as otherwise, he would not have dug his way inside. His face turned deathly pale as soon as he saw that the top of the mountain had been broken through. These two were monsters.

Mr. Bai suddenly dropped down, and he landed solidly on the ground. He looked up, only to see Nightking Zhenwu towering high in the sky, aiming downwards with the posture of an archer.

Lu Yin was overwhelmed with shock, and he felt an unprecedented sense of crisis, as if the entire area had been locked down.

“Wu Taibai? I’ll let you die to one of your Sixth Mainland’s Progenitors’ battle techniques,” Nightking Zhenwu shouted as he released his right hand. The phantom image of an arrow with three glistening tail feathers mysteriously appeared in front of him. As he loosed the arrow, it flew directly at Mr. Bai.

Mr. Bai’s face looked solemn as he stepped forward and raised a palm, causing an imprint to appear above it. Under the shocked sights of the few people watching, he actually grabbed a hold of the arrow and then charged towards Nightking Zhenwu. “Arbiter of the Fifth Mainland, you have still underestimated me.”

Nightking Zhenwu’s eyes narrowed, and he quickly shot out another arrow. Mr. Bai waved a hand, as another surprising collision released a tremendous amount of pressure upon the area. Lu Yin and Nong

Zaitian were sent sprawling onto the ground, and since Lu Yin had already been severely injured to begin with, this pressure caused him to immediately pass out.

Nong Zaitian was not in a good state either, and his organs seemed to have been pulverized. He spat out a mouthful of blood and strained to look up at the sky. He could no longer see the silhouettes of Mr. Bai or Nightking Zhenwu, so he stood up with great difficulty. He didn't bother with Lu Yin anymore, and he rose up to flee. However, he was forced back down again by a surge from the inferno.

Nong Zaitian gave up. "I'm doomed. I'm going to be cooked."

The appearance of this large mountain was very peculiar, and the inferno continuously surged up from beneath the surface of the ground to envelop the entire mountain. As the fire continued to burn, the form of the mountain gradually collapsed, until finally, a golden lustre was revealed beneath it.

When the body of the mountain completely collapsed, a furnace appeared within the blaze, and it looked like a furnace used to refine medicine. This was not actually a mountain; rather, it was a refining furnace, and these natural treasures had been growing within it.

A refining furnace naturally needed flames to refine its medications, and Nightking Zhenwu's battle with Mr. Bai had dug up a fire that had been buried for countless years. They had already left the region, but the blaze continued burning Lu Yin and Nong Zaitian alive.

Nong Zaitian did not know that the two of them were currently being refined like pills. He could only feel his body becoming hotter and hotter, and the heat was quickly becoming unbearable.

Beneath the ground, the natural treasures also began to ignite one by one.

Nong Zaitian felt a heart-wrenching pain, and he tried to move forward to extinguish the flames, but the temperature of the ground rose ever higher. By now, even the soil was slowly turning red from the heat.

Lu Yin was awakened by the scalding temperature. With the power of his physical body, he would be fine even if he was thrown onto a star, but this subterranean fire was hot enough to actually scorch him.

"What's going on?" Lu Yin glanced around the area. "Where's Nightking Zhenwu? Mr. Bai?"

"Why do you still care about them? Take care of yourself first! We're getting cooked alive!" Nong Zaitian shouted urgently at Lu Yin from a position high up above the ground.

Lu Yin remained standing on the ground, but then he felt the boiling heat beneath his feet. When he looked down, he noticed that his shoes were being charred. He then looked over and saw the inferno blocking their exit. "Where did these flames come from?"

"How would I know? Think of a way to escape!" Nong Zaitian screamed.

Lu Yin leaped up into the air and endured his injuries as he used the Yu Secret Art. He wanted to either shift the fire away or transfer himself out of this place.

However, both attempts failed, as this blaze had scorched even the void, burning space itself. In other words, the two youths had been isolated in a separate space. The Yu Secret Art was restricted by distance, and Lu Yin could not cover the distance that he needed to escape.

Nong Zaitian was agitatedly hopping about even as the temperature rose higher and higher. Soon, the void within the mountain also began to twist and warp as those natural treasures had already begun to burn. The treasures that had reached the stage of instinctively evading danger were also trying to flee, but they were all forced back by the fire.

Lu Yin looked miserable as he panted heavily. He was done, as he might actually die at this time, but he never thought that he would end up being burned to death.

He moved over to the mountainside and struck out with his Skybeast Claw, which left a scar on the mountain and also revealed the golden lustre beneath.

Lu Yin then attacked the metal itself, but that only resulted in a loud bang, the attack unable to leave a single mark left on the metal.

“We’re doomed! We’re going to burn to our deaths,” Nong Zaitian howled in desperation. He had already taken off his outer clothing, as it was too hot in this place.

“Didn’t your ancestors tell you what sort of place this was?” Lu Yin asked.

Nong Zaitian answered bitterly, “Nope. Those ancestors found it by accident.”

Lu Yin continuously tried to probe the other youth in order to find a means of escape, but it proved useless. The best method was most likely to flee straight up, but the flames had blocked off that path.

The ground had turned red, and all around them, the mountain body was collapsing, revealing a golden lustre that was also gradually turning red.

The natural treasures all started to burn, including those that could evade danger.

Nong Zaitian was brimming with sweat, and he panted heavily as he could not take it anymore. He started to mutter incessantly while his gaze slackened.

“Seventh Bro, what’s going on? Why’s it so scorchingly hot?” the Ghost Monkey suddenly spoke up. He had been knocked unconscious by Nightking Zhenwu’s attack, and he had only awakened at this moment.

“Where are we? Why does this look like a furnace?”

“There’s something up with this place. With this sort of fire, this is definitely a furnace. This is an inferno that carries some of the strength of a predecessor! Seventh Bro, this Monkey is going to die sooner by being with you.”

Lu Yin had already been injured to begin with, and at this point, he started to feel dizzy. When he heard the monkey speak, he grudgingly responded, “We’re going to die.”

“Wait a minute, this fire only has some of the strength of a predecessor, so it won’t burn for long. Hang on, Seventh Bro! This Monkey doesn’t want to die!” the monkey screamed.

Lu Yin’s eyes went wide. “What did you say? This won’t burn for long?”

“Of course not. This fire came from some powerhouse’s innate gift, so if that powerhouse was still alive, then this fire could burn for however long they wished. However, we’re in the Daosource Sect’s ruins, so this powerhouse can’t still be alive, which means that this fire must have been sealed by that powerhouse beneath this furnace long ago. It was probably released due to some outside pressure, and without the support from that powerhouse, these flames won’t burn for long. So hang on and we don’t die!” the Ghost Monkey shouted.

“How long will it burn for?”

“I don’t know, but definitely not too long.”

Lu Yin gritted his teeth and kicked Nong Zaitian. The youth woke up and looked at him with hazy eyes before dispiritedly asking, “What are you doing? Can’t you let a man die a peaceful death?”

“Hold out for a bit. These flames will be exhausted after a day,” Lu Yin said.

Nong Zaitian’s eyes lit up, and he hopefully asked, “Really?”

“Yes, but we must hold out for a day.”

Nong Zaitian looked around and then directly took off all of his clothes. Keeping them on was pointless since they were just about to burn completely away.

Lu Yin followed Nong Zaitian’s lead.

“How do we last for a day?” Nong Zaitian asked.

Lu Yin shook his head. “Figure it out for yourself.” He had said that the flames would end after a day to trick Nong Zaitian, as Lu Yin had no idea how long these flames would last for. With the current strength of his physical body, he would be able to last for a day or two, but any longer than that would be difficult. He had to first improve his strength. No—first, he had to treat his injuries.

The air was filled with a fragrance released by the many natural treasures currently being refined in this place. The furnace was filled with star energy, and it had actually condensed into a liquid form reminiscent of raindrops as it fell down, only to be revaporized by the high temperature back into a gaseous state. After condensing in the sky, the star energy would once again precipitate, forming a constant cycle.

Inspiration struck Lu Yin, and he quickly sat down cross-legged and began to absorb the ambient star energy.

The natural treasures were being refined by the flames, and their natural energy had infused the air itself. Since the fire had isolated the area and was preventing even a trace of energy from leaking out, Lu Yin was able to absorb the ambient star energy in the furnace’s atmosphere, which also allowed him to absorb the beneficial effects of the natural treasures.

Aside from the various effects of the many natural treasures, there was also an enormous amount of ambient star energy. The growth of all these natural treasures required star energy, and over the countless years, they had absorbed too much star energy. Now that the natural treasures were all being burned apart by the flames, all of their star energy had been released into the atmosphere, filling the furnace. In fact, it had almost condensed into a physical substance. There really was too much of it.

If a normal person took a breath in this place, they might be able to instantly become a cultivator in the Seeker realm. There would be no need for them to cultivate, as the ambient star energy in this place was dense enough to propel them upwards.

Close to Lu Yin, Nong Zaitian also realized what he needed to do, and he also began to absorb the ambient star energy, just like Lu Yin.

These two buck-naked young men continuously absorbed the star energy inside this blazing furnace, and soon enough, the star energy in the furnace formed two vortexes centered around the two of them, though Nong Zaitian's rate of absorption could not even compare to Lu Yin's. The youth occasionally peeked over at Lu Yin, and he was frightened by what he saw every time. The star energy revolved around Lu Yin like a hurricane while the vortex surrounding Nong Zaitian was a dozen times smaller than Lu Yin's.

This left Nong Zaitian speechless. His Nong Family was, after all, a Cosmic Imprinter's family. Their battle techniques far surpassed those of ordinary people, and their rate of absorption when cultivating was dozens of times faster than the average speed. But despite that, he did not even come close to matching this fellow's absorption rate. What could his background possibly be?

This person had seemed to recognize that Fifth Mainland's Arbiter, so could he actually be from the Fifth Mainland? That shouldn't be the case, as anyone who could come to the Daosource Sect's ruins from the Fifth Mainland was a monster.

Cultivating in this place allowed both youths to absorb star energy at a rate that greatly surpassed what was possible in the outside world. Lu Yin opened his eyes, as he had realized that, even though his physical body was being burned by the flames, the rate that he was absorbing the star energy was growing even faster. He did not know why, and it was possible that this effect was unrelated to his physical body or that this star energy that had been burned by the flames was somehow easier to absorb.

He glanced over at Nong Zaitian, as this person's absorption rate was not slow either.

Lu Yin thought about it, closed his eyes, and then revolved his Cosmic Art with his full strength. By this time, he had cultivated his Cosmic Art to sixty five stars, which meant that he could cultivate sixty five times faster than the standard cultivator's speed. However, in this place, his star energy absorption rate far surpassed a mere sixty five times speed. It had actually reached the point where he felt like he was not absorbing the star energy, but rather devouring it.

Such a terrifying speed caused all of the surrounding star energy to converge around Lu Yin and form a vortex, and all the while, Lu Yin's injuries were also rapidly healing.

#### **Chapter 740: Terrifying Absorption Rate**

One whole day quickly passed in this fashion, and when Nong Zaitian opened his eyes, he saw that the fire was still raging strong. The temperature in the entire area was still as high as ever, and he could not help but ask Lu Yin, "Hey, a day's already passed. Why hasn't the fire died down?"

"I'm not the one who released it, so how should I know?" Lu Yin replied.

Nong Zaitian was taken aback, but then he angrily replied, "You're just messing with me!"

Lu Yin shouted back, "Shut up!"

Nong Zaitian was furious, and he really wanted to go over to give this bastard a kick. However, after thinking it over, he quickly abandoned the thought. The ambient star energy had also formed a small vortex over him, reducing how much the high temperature was affecting him by quite a bit. Also, he didn't dare to move out of fear that the vortex would vanish, leaving him to be instantly incinerated. He could only grind his teeth in anger and continue to endure.

Soon, three days passed in the same monotony, but the blaze still did not diminish, and they could only see a dark expanse outside of the furnace. The space within the furnace was thoroughly isolated by now, and Nong Zaitian was worried that even if the fire did not burn them to death, it would be difficult for them to leave this place.

The only way for them to survive was to persevere until their time ran out, and then they would vanish from the Daosource Sect's ruins.

But when Nong Zaitian calculated his time, he realized that he still had twelve days left before his time expired. Could he last for that long? He looked over at Lu Yin and then rubbed his eyes. Could he be mistaken? This guy actually looked like he was smiling!

Nong Zaitian had not seen wrong, as Lu Yin was indeed smiling. During the previous four days, he had absorbed an amount of star energy that would have normally taken him years to absorb, and his absorption speed was still rising.

This was unimaginable, as his normal star energy absorption rate was already dozens of times faster than others' to begin with, but what he was doing at this moment could not even be considered cultivation anymore. It would be more accurate to say that he was simply swallowing the star energy and allowing it to be poured into his body. If he tried to calculate his current cultivation speed, then it should be around 600 times faster than his speed with his Cosmic Art in normal circumstances.

In other words, Lu Yin's current absorption rate was the same as if he were revolving more than 40,000 stars with the Cosmic Art, which meant that he was gaining star energy 40,000 times faster than a normal cultivator.

40,000 times. Lu Yin did not even know if the Cosmic Art could cultivate that number of stars. This speed could safely be considered the very peak of his generation, but it was only for this time. As soon as he left the furnace, without this fire and the incinerated natural treasures, his speed would definitely revert back to normal. Even if he encountered another inferno, it would be useless without a comparable number of natural treasures.

Lu Yin opened his eyes, and his eyes brightened. He felt like he might have found a shortcut to raising his strength. Others may lack natural treasures, but how could he? It was impossible so long as he had his die's three pips: Enhance. With that, any spiritual plant could be upgraded to the level of instinctively evading danger. If he added in a high temperature flame that constantly burned those upgraded plants and then placed them within a sealed environment, he could replicate this cultivation paradise where his cultivation speed was faster by a magnitude of tens of thousands.

As he thought of this, Lu Yin's breathing grew a bit ragged. He did not want to cultivate slowly, and even if he cultivated his Cosmic Art to 100 stars, its speed would still be significantly inferior to his present cultivation speed.

He had decided—he would attempt to reconstruct this environment, and he would place more importance on searching for natural treasures when he returned home.

“Hey, how much longer before this fire dies out?” Nong Zaitian urgently asked when he saw that Lu Yin had opened his eyes.

Lu Yin casually replied, “Ask it yourself.”

Nong Zaitian choked on his next words, as he felt that this fellow was quite revolting. First, he had stolen Nong Zaitian's hoe, then he had followed Nong Zaitian to this hidden place, but that still wasn't enough! Now the bastard even dared to tease Nong Zaitian. Was this really the time to crack jokes?

Nong Zaitian sulked by himself while Lu Yin was suddenly feeling rather conflicted, as he had forgotten an important detail. With his level of physical strength, it would not be simple to find a flame that could threaten him. He had lucked out to stumble upon this blaze that had been left behind by an ancient powerhouse which was able to rapidly raise his cultivation. A normal fire was simply of no threat to him, and it would similarly be unable to burn any natural treasures, let alone create an isolated, restricted space.

This was becoming a troublesome task, but he had to find such a fire.

Outside the furnace, Mr. Bai had returned. His clothes were tidy, and he looked as if he had not fought at all.

He saw the furnace and the completely isolated space within, and he stared at the blaze with regret. He did not dare to touch such an inferno, which meant that those two were dead beyond a shadow of a doubt.

“Deafmute Bro, it seems that this is farewell forever. What a pity.” Mr. Bai shook his head and left. Nobody knew if he was feeling pity for Lu Yin or for the loss of those natural treasures.

There had been many natural treasures within the furnace, and they had released an exorbitant amount of star energy after being incinerated. Even with Lu Yin's hugely increased rate of absorption, he still could not completely absorb all of the ambient star energy despite Nong Zaitian also absorbing a portion.

The star energy had even formed vortices, isolating the two youths from the high temperature, which allowed them to survive inside of the furnace. These circumstances persisted for ten days, after which the vortex of star energy surrounding Nong Zaitian's body started to slowly shrink.

He started panicking. “Hey, slow down! You're taking all of it.”

Lu Yin opened his eyes to glance at his companion. “A decent harvest, huh?”

“Decent your ass! I don't want this kind of harvest. Slow down and don't take away all of the star energy,” Nong Zaitian hurriedly replied.

Lu Yin did not want to harm this person. Even though Nong Zaitian was from the Sixth Mainland, Lu Yin felt that Nong Zaitian was his lucky star, as something good happened every time Lu Yin ran into him. Because of this, Lu Yin reduced his speed of absorption.

Nong Zaitian's star energy vortex persisted for another two days, and after that, he laughed maniacally. "My time's up! I'm leaving first. Thank you, bro, as without you, I would have been burned to a crisp. I hope that you can leave soon too." He then vanished and left the Daosource Sect's ruins.

As he watched Nong Zaitian leave, Lu Yin released a breath, and his gaze trembled. He then began to voraciously absorb all of the remaining star energy at his fastest speed, as he would also disappear from the Daosource Sect's ruins in less than two days.

As Lu Yin started cultivating at top speed, the vortex that had formed around him became even larger as all of the star energy within the entire furnace gathered around his body. He was like a beast that was crazily devouring all of the star energy.

When a normal person broke through to the Explorer realm, they would need a bit more than 100 star essence to complete one cycle of their cultivation, which amounted to 10,000,000 star crystals. In contrast, Lu Yin required 20,000 star essence per cycle, which was 200 times the amount needed by a normal cultivator. Additionally, this meant that he took much, much longer to complete a single cycle, so his cultivation rate ended up being slower than an ordinary cultivator.

However, at this moment, with his terrifying rate of absorption, it took him just slightly over ten days to complete a cycle.

As the cycle completed, Lu Yin opened his eyes, and his surging star energy swept out, destabilizing the void. The amount of star energy within his body now surpassed even that of a normal Hunter, which meant that not even a Hunter would be able to use their star energy to suppress Lu Yin in a fight. In fact, they might even be counter-suppressed by him instead.

This was one of the many benefits of cultivating and cycling star energy. Each additional cycle would take more star energy to complete as well as a longer period of time, but correspondingly, the increase in one's strength would also be more significant.

At this time, Lu Yin no longer needed to use his universal armor, the Yu Secret Art, or even the Dream Finger to fight on par with an ordinary Hunter.

In general, most cultivators' power level would increase by 10,000 each time they completed a cycle. Additionally, each subsequent cycle would require double the star energy and time of the previous cycle. Lu Yin was no different, and he would have to absorb twice the amount of star energy for him to complete his second cycle.

He exhaled: double the amount. Unless the Cosmic Art increased his rate of absorption by 100 times, it would take him decades to complete his second cycle. He could not afford to wait that long.

After the second cycle, there was still the third, all the way until the ninth cycle was completed, after which he would break through to the Hunter realm. But even after that, a Hunter still needed to absorb multiple cycles of star energy, and it was the same even when one became an Enlightener. This was part of



the endless journey of cultivation, and if his estimations were made with a hundredfold increased rate of absorption, even his entire lifetime would not be enough to rise to the top. He had to find another way; he had to find a similarly powerful fire.

The scenery before his eyes suddenly turned fuzzy, as his time had run out. Lu Yin relaxed, as he was still alive despite everything that had happened, though he also felt slightly regretful. If he could have stayed inside the furnace for a bit longer, he would have been able to completely absorb all of the star energy released by the incineration of the natural treasures. Then, he might have been able to come close to completing his second cycle.

The view in front of him suddenly changed, and Lu Yin returned to King Zishan's palace's secret room. His appearance was completely wretched at the moment; his clothes were gone, his body had been scorched black by the fire, and there were even burn marks on certain areas of his skin. The pike, his Eneadic Wings, and the Void Thunderbeast's flesh that he had taken to the Daosource Sect's ruins were all gone. While he did not know if this trip had been worth the costs, it had certainly been a memorable one.

After experiencing two narrow escapes from death, Lu Yin decided not to head back to the Daosource Sect's ruins in the short term as he had no strength to retaliate, no matter if he ran into one of the Ten Arbiters or a Realmking. He would only return once he was completely confident that he was able to escape from them.

Over this period of time, Zhao Ran had become extremely upset. She was staying in King Zishan's palace, and she enjoyed a life of leisure since the good person, who was also His Highness, did not show his face very often. Thus, she often did not need to do anything at all. However, ever since the Great Eastern Alliance was established, she had become much busier. The various regions of the universe were constantly sending congratulatory gifts to King Zishan's palace, and these gifts had not been sent to the Great Yu Empire, but rather specifically addressed to that good person, His Highness.

The problem facing Zhao Ran was that there were simply too many congratulatory gifts, and the warehouses could not hold them all. If it were just these gifts plaguing her, then she could have just slowly arranged them. However, the annoying part of it all was that she frequently forgot everything while in the middle of organizing things, causing her to rearrange them all over again. And all the while, new gifts continued to stream in. Zhao Ran was rather dejected, as it was too difficult to organize everything!

Right, why not let the good person, His Highness, enjoy a bit of the gifts? Zhao Ran's eyes lit up at this thought, and she quickly moved to the sitting room to wait for the good person, His Highness.

Not much time passed, and Lu Yin ordered Gavin to meet in King Zishan's palace with him, as Lu Yin wanted to ask how the situation of their cooperation with the Nalan family had been going over the past month.

Zhao Ran was already in the sitting room, clearly wanting to say something.

Lu Yin was amused to see her. "Zhao Ran, is something wrong?"

Zhao Ran nodded, and her eyes went wide as she looked at Lu Yin. She was just about to speak when her eyes suddenly turned confused, and she asked, "Who are you?"

Lu Yin was left speechless at this abrupt change.

After some time, Zhao Ran looked at the paper that she kept in the locket on her chest where she recorded her memories, and then she remembered what she had wanted to say. “Oh, good person, Your Highness, you’ve come out!”

Lu Yin nodded. “Zhao Ran, memory loss is a disease, have you ever tried to treat it?”

“I’m Rotten Trash, so it can’t be treated,” Zhao Ran seriously answered.

Lu Yin could not respond to that. “Alright... Then what did you want to say earlier?”

Zhao Ran thought about it for a moment. “Oh, right, I remember now. The warehouse is full.”

“The warehouse is full?” Lu Yin did not understand what she meant.

Zhao Ran nodded. “Many people sent gifts to the good person, His Highness, so the warehouse is now full, and it’s not easy to organize. Please use some of it.”

Lu Yin’s eyes lit up. That was right—he had completely forgotten about this. The Great Eastern Alliance had only recently been established, and many powers that did not belong to the Great Eastern Alliance had sent him gifts, including Shamrock Enterprises, Endless Borders, and more. These gifts had all been piled into a warehouse, untouched.

Lu Yin felt tempted, as he had spent hundreds of thousands of star essences when he last rolled six pips: Possession on his die. Recently, he had been rather worried about being broke. On top of that, he had now discovered a method to rapidly absorb star energy, but it would require a large number of natural treasures, which meant that his finances were a growing problem for him. “Let’s go. You can show me.”

Zhao Ran hurriedly led the way, happy that she would finally not need to worry about organizing the warehouse every day.