

## **Chapter 741: Origins**

For large families, it was often a standard practice to not store family items in cosmic rings, as it was simply impractical to do so. Opening a cosmic ring required the blood of a designated person, and if a family were in an emergency and said individual was not present, it would become very problematic. If the person's blood were stored in some other location, then that would lead to a whole different set of problems.

There were many individuals in the universe who possessed unique battle techniques or peculiar innate gifts, so no one could say for sure whether or not someone could use a person's blood to manipulate and influence them.

Thus, for any family, items were generally not stored within cosmic rings. Instead, they would be stored in a physical space typically under the protection of skilled individuals.

King Zishan's palace was enormous but there were only three individuals inside it. They were Lu Yin, Zhao Ran, and Kayze, who was the gatekeeper. Gavin and the others had advised Lu Yin many times to employ more guards and servants for King Zishan's palace. However, such proposals had always been rejected by Lu Yin. He simply had too many secrets that could not be leaked, and the presence of more people would only complicate matters further. Besides, Zhao Ran's presence was enough, despite her being unreliable.

The warehouse that was a part of King Zishan's palace was to the northeast of the residence, and it took up a huge amount of space. There were no guards, but neither was there any need for them. Just like the imperial palace, King Zishan's palace was surrounded by roving patrols from the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons. If anyone was capable enough to steal from King Zishan's palace, Lu Yin would take his hat off to them.

When Lu Yin saw the consolidated list that Zhao Ran brought up of all the items that were stored inside the warehouse, his eyes lit up. All of these gifts were very valuable. There were antique paintings, personal writings from ancient powerhouses, exquisite wares, carvings, and more. Needless to say, there were also star crystals and star essences, though there were too many of them. It was rare for people to directly give such items as gifts. What surprised Lu Yin the most was the gift that he had received from Endless Borders: it was a star chart that showed an undiscovered route that ran from Frostwave Weave to Vastdearth Weave. Following this route would save them roughly a quarter of the time the most common route for this trip took.

This chart was a priceless treasure. The time that it could save was not to be disregarded, as it also meant that one would be able to save money by following this route. If this map were placed on the open market, it would definitely be purchased for astronomical prices by transport companies.

Endless Borders had spared no expense when selecting their gift. Lu Yin had the chart delivered straight to Gavin and allowed the Minister of Finance to utilize it.

After the pleasant surprise of Endless Borders' gift, Lu Yin quickly found that Shamrock Enterprises did not fall far behind in their generosity. They had sent over ten natural treasures that sparkled like gems.

Even though they were nowhere near as precious as the natural treasures that Lu Yin had discovered in the Daosource Sect's ruins, they were still very rare, most likely over ten thousand years old.

The Nalan family had been very upfront, giving Lu Yin a crystal Mavis bank card. Madam Nalan knew Lu Yin well, and she knew that giving Lu Yin money would make him the happiest. This was very true as Lu Yin was over the moon when he saw that he had received money.

Many powerhouses had sent over congratulatory gifts. There were some who were friends of the Great Eastern Alliance and others who were hostile towards the Great Eastern Alliance. In particular, the Wei family of the Armament Weave had also sent gifts. Even though it was not anything valuable, it still was a token from the Wei family. Wei Rong was a man of great ambition, and he never would act in a shortsighted manner.

Lu Yin saw that the Amethyst Exchange was listed among those who had sent gifts. They had given him five percent of the profits from Zenyu Star's Amethyst Exchange.

Things were getting interesting.

Lu Yin stared at the emblem of Amethyst Exchange, as this gift was essentially the same as giving him performance shares.

At the very bottom of the document detailing Amethyst Exchange's congratulatory gift, there was a name: Zi Xianxian.

Amethyst Exchange was one of the Outerverse's four major corporations. On the surface, while it might seem that they ran a retail chain covering all seventy-two weaves of the Outerverse, the truth was they were actually the largest intelligence organization in the Outerverse. They were not nearly as simple as they seemed to be.

Lu Yin did not understand why they had given him performance shares. He felt that it would be good to set aside some time and meet up with this Zi Xianxian.

Of the Outerverse's four major corporations, three of them had sent gifts, and the only one that had remained completely silent was Aegis. Lu Yin did not mind as he had had no dealings with Aegis. However, when considering that Aegis had a close relationship with Wei Rong, it was hard to say whether they would become friends or foes in the future.

Lu Yin wanted to convert the majority of the items in the warehouse into cash, and at that moment, Gavin arrived. "Greetings, Your Highness."

Lu Yin grunted in acknowledgement and turned around to look at Gavin. "How are the various joint ventures we have with the Nalan family going?"

Gavin laughed. "Everything has been going smoothly. Ever since the Imperial Second Squadron started investigating many corrupt government officials, many of the joint ventures that the empire has with the Nalan family were released to private companies. This has resulted in higher employment rates throughout the empire, improved services, and lowered negative public opinions. The empire's economy is improving by the day, and everything is returning back to normal."

Lu Yin nodded his head with a smile. "If that is the case, then shouldn't the empire start paying me back?"

An embarrassed look appeared on Gavin's face. "Your Highness, the imperial treasury does not have much cash at the moment, so can you give us a bit more time?"

Lu Yin had merely been teasing the minister, though the debt was not something that he would simply forget. The empire still owed him 50,000 star essence, which was not a small amount. In fact, he was currently the Great Yu Empire's greatest creditor at the moment.

"Alright then, I have something else to discuss with you at the moment." He passed over the list of items in the warehouse to Gavin. "Sell everything on this list for star essence. After that, buy natural treasures with the profit, the more the better."

Gavin glanced over the list. "Your Highness, exchanging these items for star essence will be a challenge."

"Go talk to the Mavis bank. They still have deep reserves of essence," Lu Yin suggested. There was virtually no star essence left in the Outerverse, and most people were conducting transactions with star energy crystals at the moment. For example, when Lu Yin had visited the Nine Stacks Sect's treasury, he had seen that the sect had an abundance of star crystal, but they had a tiny amount of star essence. The only exception to this standard was the Mavis bank. While they did not conduct star essence transactions with others, Lu Yin knew that the bank had its own private reserve of star essence. There were a very small number of people who could exchange star essence with Mavis bank, but Lu Yin was one of them.

"Your Highness, the Mavis bank branches in the central weaves have recently run into some trouble. Someone has started a rumor claiming that the Mavis bank has exhausted their entire reserve of star essence and are unable to exchange them anymore. Following that rumor, many people have started withdrawing their entire savings accounts from the bank, and this has resulted in the Mavis bank of one particular weave being forced to continuously transfer funds from other weaves. To make matters worse, each transfer was either robbed or encountered an accident midway through the trip. Due to all this, the Mavis bank is suffering rather badly at this moment." Gavin said.

Lu Yin was shocked at this news. "I remember that something similar once happened in Frostwave Weave in the past. Back then, someone started a rumor, and the Mavis bank was forced to request funds from other branches. Are you saying that they are unable to cope this time around?"

Gavin solemnly responded, "That is something that I am not sure about. The Mavis bank has deep pockets, and it's very possible that they can just ride this out, but it's also possible that they will not be able to do so. The most important thing to note is that, at this time, the problem did not happen in just one weave—it is occurring simultaneously in more than ten weaves. Furthermore, the transports carrying the funds keep encountering various mishaps. There are also rumors abound that the Mavis bank is going bankrupt, and many people are buying into those rumors as well."

The central weaves? Lu Yin muttered to himself. Could Wei Rong be the person behind all of these incidents? That would mean that he had acted very quickly. He had first dealt with the Lockbreaker Society, and now he was moving straight onto the Mavis bank. Could he handle it? The Mavis bank was not some piece of cake that the isolated Outerverse Lockbreaker Society had been.

The backbone of the Outerverse Lockbreaker Society was President Geoffrey, who was currently trapped in the Innerverse, and that was the main reason the society had crumbled. If Wei Rong tried to treat the Mavis bank like the Lockbreaker Society with an absent Geoffrey, he would be in trouble.

However, Lu Yin had a nagging feeling that it was also possible that Wei Rong was not behind these incidents. Lu Yin was in no hurry to find out.

“In that case, contact Shamrock Enterprises. Exchange these items for some of their natural treasures,” Lu Yin said.

Gavin was stressed by this order. The items on this list were paintings by famous masters and manuscripts by famous people, but would anyone even want them? However, since Lu Yin had spoken, he had no choice but to carry out the Royal Regent’s orders. If these items were not accepted, then he would be forced to seek out collectors who would buy the items and then use the proceeds to trade with Shamrock Enterprises.

Also, Shamrock Enterprises did not seem prone to selling their natural treasures, as they mainly sold pharmaceuticals.

As he thought about natural treasures, Lu Yin’s mind suddenly drifted to that Bushtree Planet. It had been that particular planet that had led to his falling out with Puyu.

Bushtree Planet was located in the Woori Weave, and it was a strange planet. All of the planet’s water reserves were buried deep underground, and there were no animals on the planet. Instead, it was filled with vegetation and boasted an abundance of natural treasures. Unfortunately, the lifespan of those natural treasures was only a decade long, and they would invariably wilt after that. To a large percentage of cultivators in the universe, natural treasures that could only live for a decade were completely useless. Even if they could take them away from the planet, they would be rendered unusable after just a decade.

Such natural treasures were only useful for young cultivators, which was the reason why Darkstar Gorge had used the Bushtree Planet as their exclusive training ground in the past.

Ever since Lu Yin had chased Darkstar Gorge away from the planet, he had kept Bushtree Planet under close watch. He did not allow anyone to train there, and he had always wanted to take some time to visit it. It would seem that this was the right time, and if it turned out that he could use the natural treasures found on that planet, it would be perfect for his cultivation.

A few days later, Lu Yin left Zenyu Star aboard a spacecraft headed straight for Woori Weave. While the Woori Weave shared a common border with Darkmist Weave, Woori Weave did not have a guiding power that held sway over the entire weave. If Lu Yin wanted to pull Woori Weave into the Great Eastern Alliance, then he would be forced to gather the several hundred smaller, internal organizations together. Also, these powers did not have many secrets that Mafioso Planet could exploit, which made everything rather cumbersome. This was why Lu Yin had excluded Woori Weave from his initial plans for the Great Eastern Alliance.

However, this weave was still in the eastern regions of the Outerverse, it was inevitable that it would eventually be absorbed into the Great Eastern Alliance.

There were far more than eight weaves in the eastern region of the Outerverse, and it was just a matter of time before Lu Yin would have to rope in the other weaves. This was something that had been keeping En busy recently, as it was not an easy task, especially when there was the possibility of Wei Rong creating complications.

Lu Yin would occasionally get stuck in a rut, wasting some time, but there were also times when no appropriate solution could be found. It was just like when he had been working to establish the Great Eastern Alliance. If he had not gotten a hold of Mafioso Planet's secrets, it would have been incredibly difficult to establish the alliance. As for the remaining eastern weaves, there were methods to handle them, but he had simply not found them yet. Although, Lu Yin believed that he would eventually find those methods.

After reciting the Stonewall Scriptures for a while and checking the different available routes, Lu Yin was only an hour away from Bushtree Planet. Lu Yin pondered for a moment before turning his personal gadget on, reading up on information regarding Peach and the other original captains of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons.

The situation that he had witnessed with Liuying Zishan had become a constant thorn in Lu Yin's heart. He wanted to know where that ball of light had come from and also why it had seemed to have its own consciousness. He suspected that it was something left behind by a powerhouse who had forced their way into Liuying Zishan's body, and she had likely not even been aware of anything. He suspected that it had something to do with the Yu bloodline.

After witnessing the situation with Liuying Zishan, Lu Yin had grown suspicious; what about Peach, the Blind Monk, and the rest?

After monitoring the few original captains for several days, he still had not observed any signs of anything resembling the situation with Liuying Zishan. However, he still felt unsettled, so he had decided to check through the backgrounds of the original captains.

After browsing through the information, he discovered something strange: all of the captains were from different weaves.

He had initially been under the impression that all of the original captains of the Thirteen Imperial Squadron had come from Frostwave Weave. This was also what someone had once told him in the past. However, with his status as Royal Regent, he had access to the original information and could see where the captains were truly from, and now, he had found out the truth of the matter.

Peach was from Mordo Weave, Shalosh was from Canopy Weave, the blind monk was from Chong Sen Weave, and Ban Jiu was from Morrow Weave. Even when the captains who had already passed away were included, not one of the captains had come from Frostwave Weave aside from Huo Qingshan and Rocky Auna.

This was quite odd, and where had Undying Yushan found these people? These captains had all been born in various places covering nearly half of the entire eastern region of the Outerverse, and many of them came from weaves that Lu Yin had not even heard of before.

## Chapter 742: Changes In The North

Lu Yin had assumed that these captains surpassed their Outerverse peers' strength due to Undying Yushan's guidance, but it seemed that these individuals themselves were not simple either.

Undying Yushan had possessed the Yu bloodline's battle techniques, so why had he not taught them to Frostwave Weave's cultivators, instead recruiting these people?

Lu Yin felt that something was off about this. There was clearly a problem, but he could not see where the issue lay at this moment.

He had assumed that Undying Yushan had been an unfortunate fallen genius, but after listening to Ku Wei's words and Aden's reminiscing, Lu Yin had realized that Undying Yushan had not been as simple as he had appeared to be.

However, he still had not found any evidence supporting the claim that Undying Yushan was still alive. Just Aden's remarks and the sourcebox array found in the palace were not enough to prove that Undying Yushan was still alive. At most, it simply proved that the Yu bloodline still existed.

The Yu bloodline? Lu Yin muttered under his breath, as that was another annoying topic. The higher he climbed, the closer he approached certain secrets, but the bigger the issues he encountered as well. However, Lu Yin's eyes remained bright as many of these problems were also interesting.

Bushtree Planet was not a large planet, and it was about the same size as Earth. However, Earth was blue while Bushtree Planet was pure green, and a very brilliant green at that. Its greenness was so dense that it even baffled some people.

There were people from the Outerverse Youth Council stationed around Bushtree Planet to monitor it. Although the Outerverse Youth Council had not declined in terms of numbers, it no longer wielded as much authority. Still, it was well positioned concerning its control of certain areas, and Bushtree Planet was one of them.

Lu Yin entered after announcing his identity.

With a thump, the spacecraft landed on the ground, creating a large crater.

Lu Yin stepped out, and the fresh feeling in the air made him feel rejuvenated, though the odor that came with it was not very pleasant. There were too many plants, and it resulted in the atmosphere smelling a bit astringent.

The soil was damp, as there were hidden streams of water flowing underground all across Bushtree Planet, and it caused the entire planet's surface soil to be moist.

This planet had a much greater surface area than Earth since Earth was largely covered by oceans, whereas this planet was almost entirely covered in soil, and the soil was also completely covered by plants. There were even carnivorous plants and all sorts of strange plants. In fact, the entire ecosystem was naturally formed from nothing but plants.

After he arrived on the surface, Lu Yin looked through quite a few introductions to Bushtree Planet, and he squatted down to touch the ground. He pressed down against the ground with his palm, exerting enough force to cause it to shatter and the hidden water to splash into the sky.

The air was normal, the water was normal, and so was the soil. Everything was normal, but the plants on this planet were completely abnormal. He could disregard the ordinary details, but he had to pay attention to the fact that any natural treasure from this planet would immediately wilt after ten years.

He released his domain and instantly noticed quite a few natural treasures around him, of which he randomly selected one.

The greatest difference between natural treasures and normal plants was how they absorbed star energy. Normal plants could not absorb star energy and only natural treasures could. Of course, there also existed natural treasures that did not absorb star energy, but any plant that could would be considered a natural treasure, and all of them had unique aspects.

After half a day, Lu Yin exhaled, as he had found more than 100 different natural treasures around him. It was a pity that they had only lived for such a short time, as if they had managed to live for at least 10,000 years, they would be much better. At that point, they would be much more beneficial to cultivators who were in the Explorer realm.

But if that were the case, then this planet would have long since been picked clean.

With a whoosh, the ground shattered, and a strange attack shot towards Lu Yin from below. Lu Yin casually waved a hand, and the underground plant was smashed to bits as it exploded and released a green liquid that then seeped out.

This planet was filled with many plants that would attack, and this was also one of the reasons why it had become a planet that hosted youth trials.

“Seventh Bro, this planet is useless to you, as all of these natural treasures are less than ten years old, which are no different than weeds to you. Even if you take them to another planet where they can grow endlessly, your life won’t be long enough for you to enjoy them,” the Ghost Monkey commented.

“Tell me—these natural treasures can’t live any longer than ten years, but what about their efficacy? If there was a way to accelerate their life, would they still wilt?” Lu Yin asked.

The monkey replied, “Probably not, this Monkey just saw a few natural treasures that were more potent than they should be after only living for ten years, so they seem to be fine so long as their age doesn’t exceed ten years.”

Lu Yin thought that this to be the case as well, but thinking it was one thing. He still had to experiment and verify his thoughts.

As he thought about it, he quickly screened the monkey off and brought out his die. It had been almost a month since he had last rolled it on Shenwu Continent, so he could roll it again.

He was afraid of rolling six pips: Possession, so he placed his cosmic ring aside and tapped the die. It slowly stopped spinning, immediately landing on three pips: Enhance. His luck was amazing this time.

Lu Yin was quite emotional, as he felt like his streak of bad luck was about to end.

Two light screens appeared, which was a familiar scene to him. Lu Yin plucked a random natural treasure, threw it on the top screen, and then tossed a star essence onto it as well. But then, he stopped

suddenly. His expression changed, and he stared blankly at the screen, as he felt like he had been mistaken about something.

The natural treasures in the Daosource Sect's ruins had been able to release that much star energy because they had absorbed it for a sufficient number of years, allowing a boundless amount of star energy to appear once they were burned. However, what about these natural treasures? His die's three pips: Enhance only upgraded their efficacy, as it required time for them to absorb star energy. Even if he upgraded these natural treasures to a level where they instinctively evaded danger, it would still be useless, as they would not have spent enough time to absorb a massive quantity of star energy. Even if they were burned, only their medicinal efficacy would be released, but almost no star energy.

Lu Yin felt helpless, as it really wasn't easy to find a shortcut. Bushtree Planet could not be used as a tool for his cultivation hack.

The only consolation he had was that these natural treasures were just as he had guessed, and they were fine so long as they did not over-age. They would not wilt despite their efficacy surpassing what they should have after ten years' worth of growth, and even if they could not help him rapidly upgrade his power, they could still be of use.

He looked around, and he saw quite a few other natural treasures, though he did not know any of their uses. The die's Enhance screens were still there, and Lu Yin could not possibly stop screening the Ghost Monkey off. Thus, he had no choice but to look for a few of gentler-seeming natural treasures to upgrade.

That white fruit that he had upgraded in the past had been brimming with vitality and it had taken 100 star essence before reaching the level of avoiding danger, and the natural treasures that he had given to Ming Zhaoshu had similarly consumed 100 star essence each. The average natural treasure would probably require that amount to reach the level of avoiding danger.

Lu Yin upgraded twenty two natural treasures to the degree where they were all capable of instinctively avoiding danger and stored them in his cosmic ring before leaving Bushtree Planet.

He would return to this place again in the future, and he did not know how many years those twenty two natural treasures had already lived for. Some of them might already be close to reaching ten years, so they would need to be used soon.

\*\*\*

In the darkness of outer space, the occasional meteorite streaked past, some striking planets and rising to high temperatures due to the friction as they entered the atmosphere. They would burn red, and some would even continue to fly out from a planet's atmosphere and into the boundless universe to places unknown.

One large meteorite flew towards the Outerverse's north at an exceptional speed, though nobody knew where it had come from or how it had started to move.

This meteorite was massive, even bigger than an ordinary planet. If it bumped into some planet at its current speed, the planet would most likely crumble.



Suddenly, the large meteorite split apart at the center, forming two halves. An astral beast released the clarion cry of an eagle as it appeared at one end of the meteorite. Its claws forcefully pushed the two halves of the meteorite apart with its star energy, and they then flew away in opposite directions.

This astral beast looked like an eagle, but it had two heads. Its eyes looked like they contained lightning, and it flew very fast; every time its wings flapped, it caused the void to fluctuate. This was an astral beast that had a power level above 100,000.

In the Outerverse, there were not many astral beasts that were this strong, especially within the eastern weaves. Such strength was enough for a beast to claim control of an entire area, but at this moment, this particular astral beast made for a sorry image. Large amounts of blood occasionally gushed out from its abdomen, and one of its wings was even bent. Some of its originally horrifying claws had been snapped apart, and terror flickered through its eyes like lightning. All the while, it rushed in a particular direction at its top speed.

“No, not there. That’s Frostwave Weave,” a man atop the beast said. He had a pale face, and half of his body was stained with blood. Evidently, he had been severely injured.

The beast chirped, as if asking where to go.

That man feebly lay down on the beast’s back. “East, fly east.”

The beast changed directions and flew towards the east.

After some time, the astral beast seemingly succumbed to its injuries. It collapsed with a moan and crashed towards a planet.

The people on the planet looked up to see an enormous creature crashing down, which incited mass hysteria.

The astral beast fell into an ocean on the planet, causing a tsunami that drowned the entire coastal area and killed many.

This planet had only just recently developed technology, and the natives had not ever encountered such a terrifying astral beast before. Fortunately, there were stronger civilizations monitoring the planet, and they quickly carried the injured bird as well as the person on its back away, leaving nothing on the planet aside from a legend.

\*\*\*

In space, an Aurora was headed towards Zenyu Star with Lu Yin sitting inside as he silently recited the Stonewall Scriptures and contemplated the next step he should take.

He wanted to finish cultivating all ninety nine stars of the Cosmic Art that his master had given him, and lockbreaking sourceboxes seemed to be the fastest way to proceed in this.

Only by perfectly completing the Cosmic Art would he be able to speed up his star energy absorption rate.

Apart from that, there was also his battle force, domain, battle techniques, and more aspects that required attention and improvement. He had seemingly developed too many tools, and the Great Yu Empire was a massive responsibility as well.

It was no wonder why many cultivators frequently ignored the mundane daily routines and instead focused solely on cultivation.

However, due to Lu Yin's innate gift, the more resources he possessed, the faster his rate of improvement would be, which was something that he could not help.

When he returned home this time, he would find a way to make as much money as possible, and he had to frequently try to use his die's six pips: Possession. The Skybeast Claw had given him the sweet taste of success, and the next person he Possessed might be able to grant him even greater benefits. Right, it was not impossible that he would Possess one of the Cosmic Sect's disciples. Given Lu Yin's current strength, any disciple of the Cosmic Sect that he could merge with would definitely not be a low ranked disciple, and even if they were not a top disciple, he would be able to at least Possess one of their descendants.

Lu Yin still held that much self-confidence. So what if the Neoverse was even stronger? He was confident that, within the same realm, he was close to becoming unrivalled, just like back when he had still been a Limiteer.

Beep beep beep!

His gadget made a notification sound.

Lu Yin looked down, and he was surprised to see that Tianming was calling him.

Ever since Tianming had been planted as a puppet in Grandtop Weave's Nine Stacks Sect, the two youths seldom contacted each other. If Tianming had something to report, he would go directly to Huan Sha or En Ya, and he generally did not contact Lu Yin.

He quickly answered the call.

"What's the matter?" Lu Yin asked.

Tianming's heavy voice sounded on the other end. "Your Highness, Anfield is in the Nine Stacks Sect, and he's been severely injured."

"Anfield?" Lu Yin felt like he had heard this name before.

"Anfield is a Hunter from the Innaverse's Beast Tamers Flowzone's Second Grade Hall, and he was one of the experts who was present during the events on Planet Pyrolyte in the Astral Wilderness. He also participated in the defense of Ironblood Weave," Tianming reminded Lu Yin.

### **Chapter 743: The Empire Moves Out**

Lu Yin then remembered the Hunter from the Second Grade Hall. "Why's he with you?"

"I've spoken to him, and Anfield told me that he was beaten by people from Aegis. If not for the speed of his tamed beast, he would have been dead," Tianming replied.

Lu Yin's brows rose. "Aegis?"

"Yes. Ever since the contest on Planet Pyrolyte, the Second Grade Hall has remained in control of Northcastle Weave's Greatsword Dynasty. In recent days, someone from the Greatsword Dynasty paid an astronomical price to hire Aegis, and that prompted mercenaries to start massacring all the members of the Second Grade Hall in a bid to recapture the Greatsword Dynasty. The person who hired them is Ding Xing," Tianming explained.

Lu Yin's gaze trembled. "I got it. Do you know the group that Aegis sent to the Greatsword Dynasty?"

"Anfield gave me a full report: one Hunter, three Cruisers, and ten Explorers."

Lu Yin felt that something was strange. "Aegis's Hunter was able to injure Anfield that badly? I want to speak to him."

"I am- cough cough- Anfield," Lu Yin heard a feeble voice call out.

Lu Yin coldly ordered, "Explain what happened in detail."

Anfield stammered, "Aegis- Aegis's Hunter is an expert with a power level of 150,000. Also, Aegis did not face us directly. Instead, they first released a poisonous gas before taking us out with assassination techniques..."

Anfield did not say much, as the entire process had been rather short, but it still painted a bloody scene for Lu Yin.

Aegis had used the most despicable methods available to them to massacre everyone from the Second Grade Hall, and they had shown no hesitation in their actions.

If the Outerverse was not currently isolated from the Innerverse, or if the Second Grade Hall's Enlighter, Karthika, had not died, then Aegis definitely would not have had the nerve to make such a bold move. But in this case, they had acted without almost any restraint.

Anfield absolutely hated Lu Yin with every fiber of his being. If not for Lu Yin's actions, Karthika would not have died, and the Second Grade Hall would not have been thrust into such a desperate situation. Just a single Enlighter was enough to elevate an organization from prey to predator.

Anfield's hatred towards Lu Yin was also the reason why he had not gone to the Frostwave Weave despite his injuries. He had been afraid that people from Aegis would kill him, but he was even more afraid that Lu Yin would kill him. However, he had never thought that he would indirectly end up delivering himself into Lu Yin's hands.

"According to you, the people from Aegis are basically assassins," Lu Yin said seriously.

Anfield replied, "They're professional killers."

Lu Yin grunted towards Anfield, and then he gave Tianming certain instructions. He was just about to disconnect when he suddenly thought of something. He screened the Ghost Monkey off and then asked Anfield, "How do you guys capture beasts to tame them? Has there ever been a case where a beast was afraid of death and voluntarily merged into a human's body?"

Anfield was surprised at this question. "I've never heard of such a thing. Our Beast Tamers' Flowzone imparts a technique to us that allows us to tame beasts, and we use it to stamp the beasts into our bodies."

"Has there really never been a beast that voluntarily merged into a person's body? Like a beast that might have grasped the taming technique?" Lu Yin tried to ask again.

Anfield replied, "I've never heard of a beast that could comprehend a human technique, just as humans cannot cultivate the astral beasts' techniques."

Lu Yin fell deep into thought and then quickly ended the call.

Lu Yin looked at his right arm. Could the Ghost Monkey have really comprehended the astral beast taming technique? Originally, the monkey had told Lu Yin that it had used the Beast Tamers' technique to imprint himself onto Lu Yin's body, becoming a tamed beast. Logically, if that were true, then Lu Yin should be able to control the monkey's movements, and he should also be able to eliminate it at any moment. However, Anfield's explanation left Lu Yin feeling lost.

The Ghost Monkey had either deceived him, or Anfield had lied to him. Of course, it was also possible that Anfield simply didn't know the information that Lu Yin was looking for.

Lu Yin exhaled slowly. No matter what, if he wanted some light shed on this matter, he would have to ask a more powerful expert from Beast Tamers' Flowzone. Anfield was just an initial stage Hunter, so his experience and knowledge were limited, especially since he was also from the Second Grade Hall. Beast Tamers' Flowzone's top power was the Divine Grade Hall, which meant that even Kuang Wang might know more than Anfield.

Lu Yin set the matter with the Ghost Monkey aside, as he currently had to consider the situation with Northcastle Weave and Aegis.

Ding Xing had actually requested Aegis's help, but just where had he gotten the money to do so? He must have used the Greatsword Dynasty's treasury as collateral, which had already been promised to Lu Yin. However, since he had done nothing to help the Greatsword Dynasty chase the Second Grade Hall away so far, it seemed that they had abandoned the Great Yu Empire and instead sought out Aegis.

Still, from the beginning, Lu Yin had stationed some people around Ding Xing to monitor him. This was to not allow him to leave precisely in order to prevent him from looking for other sources of help.

Lu Yin contacted Zenyu Star and quickly was informed that those who had been monitoring Ding Xing had been injured. His expression sank. How ballsy.

He currently felt as though his own possessions were being stolen away from right beneath his nose. But more importantly, Ding Xing was an important figure that could push Northcastle Weave to join the Great Eastern Alliance. After all, the Greatsword Dynasty was the top power in Northcastle Weave, so if Lu Yin could exert influence over Ding Xing after helping him to recover the Greatsword Dynasty, then he would not have to worry about Northcastle Weave not joining the Great Eastern Alliance.

But now, Aegis had moved first. Not only had Lu Yin suffered a loss of material goods, but he had also suffered the loss of potentially expanding the alliance.

Lu Yin definitely would not take such a loss lying down. He considered his options before quickly contacting Yan Yan and ordering the Seventh Squadron to head towards Northcastle Weave's Greatsword Dynasty. Their orders were to seize Ding Xing and drag him back to stand trial for the crime of injuring the Great Yu Empire's cultivators.

At the same time, Lu Yin also warned Yan Yan to remain vigilant, since Aegis had acted in secret. Of course, Lu Yin was not too worried. If Yan Yan could not deal with Aegis's people in Northcastle Weave with his strength, then he simply did not need to fight against them.

\*\*\*

Wei Rong was slightly busier than normal during this period, as he had been brainstorming ideas on how to best interfere with the Great Eastern Alliance while also reaching out to contact the various central weaves. His intention was to form an alliance that could withstand the Great Eastern Alliance's pressure. But he also had to prevent Sourcepeak Weave from being snatched up by Lu Yin, and even with Wei Rong's capabilities, he felt that he had too much work to do.

But on this particular day, he received a bit of good news. Aegis had actually moved into the eastern weaves after being employed by Northcastle Weave's Greatsword Dynasty.

Wei Rong was prudent in his tasks, and since he was fated to be enemies with Lu Yin, he had already investigated the myriad matters related to the Great Yu Empire, including the fact that the Greatsword Dynasty had once requested the Great Yu Empire's assistance. He had paid attention to this situation and had even wanted to use it to cause some issues once. However, who could have expected Aegis to interfere on their own?

There was clearly no bad blood between Aegis and Lu Yin, but Aegis had still acted ruthlessly at this time. Ever since the Outerverse had been isolated from the Innerverse, Aegis had begun acting with less and less restraint.

On the other hand, Lu Yin behaved in a similarly tyrannical manner, and he was definitely not the type of person who would let themselves be taken advantage of. Since Aegis had snatched away something from the Great Eastern Alliance, the conflict between the two had already been set in motion, and Wei Rong was looking forward to watching a good show.

"Young Master, do we have to do anything?" A figure appeared behind Wei Rong and asked in a deep voice.

Wei Rong smiled. "There's no need. Aegis and Lu Yin are incompatible. Even if we don't act, they will naturally become hostile towards one another."

Northcastle Weave was located to the north of Frostwave Weave. Before the events that had occurred on Planet Pyrolyte, Northcastle Weave had been a bustling hub, as anyone from the Innerverse or Outerverse who wanted to enter the Astral Wilderness from the east side had to go through Northcastle Weave, and these people had brought an enormous amount of wealth into Northcastle Weave.

Unfortunately, after everything that had happened on Planet Pyrolyte, Northcastle Weave had become just another Outerverse weave that was cut off from the Innerverse. The Greatsword Dynasty had been

one of the strongest powers in Northcastle Weave, but they had been casually taken over by the Second Grade Hall.

Swordian Planet was one of the more special planets in Northcastle Weave. It was not actually accurate to call it a planet, as Swordian Planet was shaped like a broad-edged sword, which was where its name came from. It would be more accurate to call it a floating continent that drifted through the universe, and the Greatsword Dynasty's history had first started on this Swordian Planet.

In its most flourishing period, the Greatsword Dynasty had ruled over twenty filaments, and it had been the undisputed ruler of Northcastle Weave. But as the dynasty's successive emperors became more and more muddleheaded, the dynasty's territories had gradually broken away until the dynasty only controlled twelve filaments during the time of the events on Planet Pyrolyte. The emperor at that time had not even been willing to interact with Frostwave Weave due to him having certain misgivings about Undying Yushan.

At this moment, in the capital of Swordian Planet, within a majestic palace, a group of ministers were kneeling on the floor, trembling. A youth in embroidered clothing was standing in front of them, and next to him stood Ding Xing while surrounding them were mercenaries from Aegis, who were clearly distinct from Ding Xing and the others even at just a casual glance.

These mercenaries hailed from all parts of the Outerverse, and they were all wearing combat suits unique to Aegis as well as carrying firearms. They looked majestic and formidable. Most of them had normal appearances, but there were a few people who had more bizarre body shapes, such as their arms being exceptionally long, their heads being square-shaped, their skin being scaled, and more. Different environments gave birth to different types of people, and although they were all still human, some places had gone through hundreds, thousands, millions, or even tens of millions of years of development, which would lead to various changes in their anatomy.

Aegis's mercenaries were trained and gathered from all over the seventy two weaves of the Outerverse, and naturally, there were all sorts of people among them.

Of this group, their leader was a thin person who was about three meters tall, though his legs were exceptionally slender, and they looked to be about two meters long on their own. The man also looked slightly out of sorts.

Ding Xing occasionally looked up with terror in his eyes, and he felt very conflicted. He had originally been living comfortably on Zenyu Star, waiting for Lu Yin to rescue the Greatsword Dynasty. However, he had constantly been very anxious there, since he felt like he had been left with no other choice. But then, one day, someone from Aegis had suddenly contacted him and enquired if he wanted to save the Greatsword Dynasty, placing him in a dilemma. He had tried to meet the Royal Regent, even requesting an audience several times, but never managed to do so. Thus, in his nervous state, he had employed Aegis.

Aegis had acted too ruthlessly. Not only had they massacred the members of the Second Grade Hall, but they had even killed off quite a few cultivators who had originally been a part of the Greatsword Dynasty that happened to be in the Greatsword Dynasty's palace. These mercenaries from Aegis did not care who had been killed, but more importantly, they had no plans of leaving at all.

Ding Xing had thought that by offering the Greatsword Dynasty's treasury to these people, they would leave, as that had been the originally agreed upon payment. But now, Aegis had reneged on their original agreement, and they wanted to stay in the Greatsword Dynasty in much the same way that the Second Grade Hall had before. Their excuse was that they wanted to establish a training base on Swordian Planet, and it was this request that made Ding Xing realize that he had been duped.

Aegis had wanted to occupy Swordian Planet from the very beginning, which was why they had lured Ding Xing away from Zenyu Star. These people's final objective had always been the Greatsword Dynasty.

The tall, thin leader was sitting nearby while looking at a star chart on his gadget. Aegis's objective this trip was to gain control of the Greatsword Dynasty, and this location was vital to the mission. Although the Outerverse was currently isolated from the Innerverse, the search for pyrolyte had not diminished at all, and many people were still entering the Astral Wilderness to find more pyrolyte. The price of pyrolyte on the black market had continuously risen, which pushed the demand to find more constantly higher. The situation had moved away from the few great powers of the Innerverse searching, and now, there were countless independent cultivators from the Outerverse looking to strike it rich.

Before the Innerverse and Outerverse had been separated, Aegis had not dared to scheme for any pyrolyte. It wasn't just them—no Outerverse power had dared to have any thoughts about it. But right now, since they were separated from those Innerverse organizations, Aegis was no longer afraid of anybody. Their sights had naturally been drawn towards pyrolyte, and if they controlled the Northcastle Weave, then it would be equivalent to them controlling the only passageway between the Outerverse and the region of the Astral Wilderness where pyrolyte could be found. Not only would this be convenient for transport and exploration, but it would also facilitate their plundering.

The more pyrolyte they obtained, the more powerful their weapons would become, and the stronger their organization would become.

This was Aegis's dream, as they wanted to intimidate the entire Outerverse.

#### **Chapter 744: Lu Yin's Power**

"Ding Xing, where is this treasury you mentioned that's able to restore the empire?" the tall, thin person leisurely asked. Their goal was to occupy the Greatsword Dynasty, but they still wanted their promised reward.

Ding Xing's expression changed. "If we deliver that to you, will you leave?"

The tall and thin person sneered. A figure suddenly appeared in front of Ding Xing, and kicked him a hundred meters back, where he crashed against a wall.

Ding Xing felt a sharp pain in his abdomen, and he almost couldn't breathe after being kicked.

Everyone else in the room was stunned, and the youth almost soiled himself.

"I don't think that you understood me. Remember this: we are from Aegis," the lanky man stated confidently.

Ding Xing's lips were bleeding, and he panted heavily as he lowered his head. He regretted his decision to leave Planet Zenyu. These people from Aegis were clearly intimidated by Lu Yin, which was why they had tricked Ding Xing into leaving Zenyu Planet on his own. He couldn't believe that he had fallen for their scam, not to mention the fact that he had even revealed his prince's identity.

He turned to look at the youth, and the tall, thin man walked towards the youth at that same moment.

The youth was the prince of the Greatsword Dynasty, and he was also the only member of the imperial family who had survived the Second Grade Hall's massacre.

Ding Xing was very loyal to the imperial family, as his entire goal was to rebuild the Greatsword Dynasty. However, at this moment, he was powerless.

The lanky man bent over and looked down at the youth. "Tell me, are you willing to let us stay here and help you?"

The youth turned pale. "Yes, yes."

The tall, thin man smirked and patted the youth on the shoulder. He then glanced over at Ding Xing. "Go and bring the treasury over. Otherwise, you will die."

Ding Xing answered bitterly, "This is Northcastle Weave, and we are very close to Frostwave Weave. Aren't you scared of the Great Eastern Alliance?"

His words caused the lanky man's face to become quite grim. Aegis had always been very aggressive, and they normally would have never even tried to negotiate with the Greatsword Dynasty. In the past, they would have just directly taken over the area similar to what the Second Grade Hall had done. However, Aegis was holding themselves back by trying to gain the Greatsword Dynasty's official support, and this was precisely because of the Great Eastern Alliance and Lu Yin.

Although they weren't scared of Lu Yin, they still didn't want to give him any excuse to create trouble for them, as that would certainly be a huge hassle. Thus, they were eager to gain the Greatsword Dynasty's official support. Otherwise, they would have never stayed in this place.

This reminder annoyed the lanky man as Aegis had never been worried about anyone before, let alone some Explorer. The Great Eastern Alliance was just some small fry to them.

A loud crack rang through the hall as Ding Xing was kicked again, and he almost spat out his intestines.

"Nobody dares to rebuke Aegis's actions," the lanky man said coldly.

Ding Xing's heart fell, as it seemed that the Greatsword Dynasty was finished. He watched on as blood dripped down from the corner of his mouth and froze as it landed on the floor. Wait, hold on. Ice?

Ding Xing touched the floor and was shocked at how cold it was. Swordian Planet was perpetually sunny, and it was impossible to find ice anywhere on the mainland. Ding Xing looked around the great hall. Could this chill be because of the innate gift of someone from Aegis? He glanced around, but he couldn't see anyone using their innate gift.



Ding Xing was confused, and he looked back down at the floor, only to be stunned even more. The floor had completely frozen over, and his legs were stuck now. He tried to pull his legs out of the ice, but he quickly realized that he had lost all feeling in his legs, and the chill was quickly spreading all around him.

Ding Xing was frightened. He was a Cruiser with a power level of 60,000, but he had still been frozen by someone without even realizing it. "Who is it?"

At that moment, everyone realized that they had been frozen in place.

The lanky man was astonished by this sudden change, and the ice beneath his feet shattered as he rose into the sky. He was the only person not frozen to the floor, as everyone else—including the Aegis mercenaries—had been frozen in place.

The mercenaries tried their best to free themselves as soon as they realized that they were stuck.

The lanky man looked up and saw what seemed like crimson meteors crashing towards the ground. These meteors were actually personal spacecraft, and from the looks of it, at least a hundred people had landed on the planet.

The lanky man was shocked. "Who would dare to move against Aegis?"

Ding Xing felt the iciness that surrounded him and suddenly thought of a person: the captain of the Seventh Imperial Squadron.

Ding Xing had stayed on Planet Zenyu for quite a long time, and he had become quite familiar with the captains of the Imperial Thirteen Squadrons. The captain of the Seventh Imperial Squadron was relatively new compared to the rest, and Ding Xing had heard rumors claiming that this person had almost frozen the entire Auna family solid, and even Xueshan Auna, who was a Hunter, hadn't been able to withstand his power. This person was definitely one of the most elite fighters among the captains of the Imperial Thirteen Squadrons.

Ding Xing's eyes gleamed. If it really was that person, then that meant that Lu Yin was taking action.

The tall, thin leader of Aegis's forces grew restless, and he looked into the distance, where he saw someone slowly walking towards them. It was Yan Yan, and the cold grew more intense as he drew closer. However, Yan Yan had only frozen the bottom half of the people in the palace. Nobody, not even the Cruisers, were able to move a finger aside from the skinny leader.

Yan Yan was someone who even Old Gu De hadn't been able to deal with, and Xueshan Auna had not been able to withstand Yan Yan's powers either. He was a powerhouse comparable to Aden, and there was no way that these people from Aegis could defeat him.

Yan Yan had listened to Lu Yin's warning, and since these people were good at playing dirty, he had been determined to immobilize them as quickly as possible. This was the sort of task that Yan Yan excelled at.

Multiple figures appeared in the sky, and they quickly surrounded the Greatsword Dynasty's imperial palace.

The lanky man glared at Yan Yan. "Who are you? We are from Aegis!"

Yan Yan raised his head. "I'm Yan Yan, the captain of the Great Yu Empire's Seventh Imperial Squadron."

The skinny man's eyes narrowed. He had already expected this to happen. The Great Yu Empire would definitely take action once Aegis gained control of Northcastle Weave, but he hadn't expected them to retaliate so quickly.

"Aegis was hired by the Greatsword Dynasty to get rid of the Second Grade Hall. What does the Great Yu Empire want?" the lanky man asked sternly.

Yan Yan answered in a cold voice, "We want to arrest the criminal, Ding Xing, for the crime of attacking our cultivators."

The lanky man quickly responded, "Alright, you can take him away."

Ding Xing shouted, "Captain Yan Yan, I have a deal with the Royal Regent, and he promised me that the Great Yu Empire would help reinstate the Greatsword Dynasty. Captain Yan Yan, please fulfill that promise!"

The tall, thin man became furious, and he lashed out at Ding Xing, but he was stopped by a wave of frost.

Yan Yan glared at the man. "Ding Xing's crime will be judged by the Great Yu Empire. The Royal Regent has ordered that whenever Ding Xing calls for the Great Yu Empire's aid, we must provide assistance according to their agreement. Aegis can leave now."

The thin man's brows rose. "Captain Yan Yan, you can't conduct business like this. Aegis has already chased away the members of the Second Grade Hall, so isn't it too late for you to try to help them now?"

Ding Xing piped up anxiously before Yan Yan could even answer. "I made a deal with the Royal Regent to reinstate the Greatsword Dynasty! That's not just limited to chasing away the Second Grade Hall. Anyone who dares to attack the Greatsword Dynasty will be treated as an enemy."

The lanky man was furious, and he glared at Ding Xing. "You're asking to die!"

Ding Xing wasn't scared of death; the only thing that mattered to him now was the survival of the Greatsword Dynasty. Aegis clearly wanted to take over the Greatsword Dynasty, but Ding Xing would never let that happen. He knelt down as he faced Yan Yan. "Captain Yan Yan, please help the Greatsword Dynasty chase away the members of Aegis. I will be eternally grateful."

Yan Yan looked over at the lanky man. "You also heard him. Leave."

Lu Yin had told Yan Yan that he wasn't to fight against the people from Aegis if he could help it, as Lu Yin didn't want to become enemies with them.

The lanky man had realized how powerful Yan Yan was, and just his frost energy alone was enough to make the leader of Aegis's forces anxious. There weren't many experts in the Seventh Squadron, but their captain was intimidating enough already. How could there be such an overwhelming expert in the Great Yu Empire?

“Fine, Captain Yan Yan. Aegis will remember today’s events, so please inform the Royal Regent of our stance. I hope that he can handle the consequences.” He then leaped into the sky and quickly flew away.

Yan Yan melted his ice, and the other people from Aegis quietly left in an orderly fashion.

Yan Yan watched them all leave in surprise. These people were from Aegis, the most powerful security and mercenary company in the Outerverse. The Great Yu Empire had definitely made some powerful enemies this day.

Aegis wasn’t some remnant of a major Innerverse power that had been stranded in the Outerverse. Those forces didn’t have a strong foundation in the Outerverse and were only able to survive by relying on their Enlighter realm powerhouses. If anything happened to their Enlighter powerhouses, they would be doomed and unable to accomplish much of anything. However, Aegis was different. They had an extremely strong foundation in the Outerverse and were also familiar with many of the underworld powers. If they made a move, then they would definitely be able to cause much more trouble than a single Enlighter powerhouse.

After Aegis left, Ding Xing expressed his gratitude to Yan Yan. “Thank you for your help on behalf of the entire Greatsword Dynasty, Captain Yan Yan.”

Yan Yan coldly answered, “His Highness has already verified your crime.”

Ding Xing bitterly responded, “I understand, and I will definitely admit to my guilt.”

“Where’s the treasury?” Yan Yan asked.

Ding Xing said, “I will go bring it now.”

The youth fearfully looked up at Yan Yan from the crowd. He was a prince from the Northcastle Weave, but he was so terrified at this moment that he didn’t even have the courage to stand up. The Greatsword Dynasty had been completely controlled by the Second Grade Hall for nearly two years, and the royal family had lost all of its dignity.

Although the past few emperors of the Greatsword Dynasty had been useless, they had still maintained the tradition of taking care of their national treasury.

The cosmological location of the Greatsword Dynasty was unique, as it was situated right next to the Astral Wilderness. The previous emperors of the dynasty had possessed great foresight, knowing that their empire would encounter troubles in future. This was where the treasury came into play.

## **Chapter 745: Revenge**

Lu Yin’s eyes lit up when he looked at the inventory that Yan Yan sent him. He hadn’t expected the treasury of the Greatsword Dynasty to provide such a pleasant surprise to him.

Most treasuries held valuable items that weren’t easily traded, but the Greatsword Dynasty’s treasury was very simple; it was straight up star crystals and star essence, as well as a bit of savings in universal currency.

The Greatsword Dynasty's treasury consisted of three billion star crystals and twelve thousand star essence, the total value of which was more than forty thousand star essence. This was a large sum that could even pique the interest of Enlighters.

Lu Yin felt as though he had struck gold.

He commanded Yan Yan to transport all the star essence to King Zishan's palace while the three billion star crystals were to be delivered to the Great Yu Empire's treasury. He had sent the Seventh Squadron over this time, so he couldn't keep all of the loot for himself.

Nonetheless, he still went ahead and quietly increased the amount that the empire owed him to 80,000 star essence. He was treating these star crystals as a loan to the empire.

The treasury was just an unexpected bonus, as what Lu Yin truly wanted was the Greatsword Dynasty's influence over Northcastle Weave.

Northcastle Weave had been on the verge of collapsing during the battles on Planet Pyrolyte, and the Greatsword Dynasty had long been the most powerful force in Northcastle Weave for many years. Therefore, once the Greatsword Dynasty joined the Great Eastern Alliance, all of Northcastle Weave could be considered theirs as well.

But when he thought about Aegis, Lu Yin's face fell. According to what Ding Xing had just told him, the mercenaries had actually been planning on occupying the Greatsword Dynasty, which was not as simple as merely taking over Lu Yin's employment contract.

It seemed that Aegis had grown much more ambitious; it wanted to imitate the Innerverse powers and obtain its own pyrolyte stash. That was just looking to die. If it was possible, then Lu Yin would have long since taken action to gather pyrolyte. However, Elder Lohar had once said that pyrolyte was a strategic resource, and whoever tried to take it would die. Lu Yin did not dare to cross that line.

Now that the Innerverse and Outerverse were separated, Aegis had grown more confident, and they also had their own Enlighters, which was why the mercenaries dared to act without inhibition.

A power that was domineering to begin with had acquired an inflated ego, which was very disturbing, as they were completely fearless.

Lu Yin had already been making preparations to wage war against Aegis, as he would not abandon roping Northcastle Weave into the Great Eastern Alliance.

However, even if Lu Yin had made preparations for war, he had never expected Aegis to actually act this quickly.

Only two days passed, and Lu Yin was currently lockbreaking on a desolate planet that was close to Zenyu Star. Zenyu Star was densely populated, and the sourcebox that he was currently unlocking was at the Perceptive Intermediate level. He had been worried that the sourcebox's formless danger might leak out and cause deaths on Zenyu Star, so he had decided to conduct his lockbreaking session in a more isolated place.

This planet had been swept clean of people by some of the empire's troops, and he had decided that this place would be his personal hideaway for any future lockbreaking or cultivating. That way, no one else could possibly get caught up in anything if an accident occurred.

Many space-exploring powerhouses tended to cultivate in places where there were no other humans. This was because if an accident occurred during cultivation, the range of the potential disaster would be devastating.

In the past, Lu Yin had practiced the Skybeast Claw, and Wendy Yushan had warned him about the potential danger to normal people and weaker cultivators as an effect of such training sessions. This was what had prompted him to leave Zenyu Star for this lockbreaking session.

The sourcebox that he was currently working on was one that he had gotten from the Lockbreaker Society. When Felynn had relocated the Outerverse Lockbreaker Society's headquarters to Planet Hydrotink, they had also taken everything remaining on Sourcepeak Planet with them. The Hall of Insight's treasures had been plundered during the attack, but fortunately, many of their sourceboxes had been stored elsewhere.

Lu Yin did not know exactly how many sourceboxes the Lockbreaker Society possessed, but any time he wanted to do some lockbreaking, he would send people over to Planet Hydrotink and buy some sourceboxes.

A one star Perceptive Intermediate sourcebox had a starting price of 500 star essence, but Lu Yin had spent just 300 star essence to buy this one, which was not too expensive.

It took a long time to successfully unlock a Perceptive Intermediate sourcebox, and even though Lu Yin had done so before, this one was a little more difficult since it was not harmless. Additionally, it also constantly emitted a suffocating stench.

Lu Yin was left speechless by the unique way this sourcebox's formless danger manifested, and he felt like Felynn had intentionally chosen to sell this particular sourcebox to him. This sourcebox did not hold any special danger, but it was just horribly smelly, to the point where the smell was unbearable. Even if one did not breathe it in, the smell would still penetrate straight to one's brain, and there was no way to avoid it.

It was precisely because of this smell that, even if this sourcebox held no danger, no Lockbreaker would willingly touch it. Thus, Felynn had taken advantage of this opportunity to rid herself of it.

Lu Yin was very curious as to what was inside this sourcebox.

The stench even had a visible sheen and form to it, which showed just how strong this smell was. Lu Yin was utterly surrounded by it as he approached the sourcebox, and he had to constantly fight the urge to vomit. He was sure that Felynn had purposefully chosen this sourcebox to disgust him.

As he began lockbreaking, oddly enough, Lu Yin felt his heart palpitate as though someone or something was staring at him. He unleashed his domain, not to observe the sourcebox, but rather to check his surroundings. He trusted his intuition, even if he couldn't see any rune lines nearby.

The next instance, a deathly pale radiance streaked by, and Lu Yin saw multiple cutting edges fall down towards him. An assassin.

Without hesitation, Lu Yin stopped lockbreaking and pulled back from the sourcebox as he watched the blades fall before him. This was a Hunter realm assassin. Lu Yin's gaze trembled as he retreated step by step. This attacker was extremely fast, as he was causing multiple blades to appear from all directions, each one of them tearing through the void towards Lu Yin. The knives cut the land and the sky apart, and black spatial tears spread out in all directions.

This was a blitzkrieg attack that did not give Lu Yin a single moment to catch his breath, especially since there was always a blade that continuously chased after Lu Yin's right hand, preventing him from retrieving anything from his cosmic ring.

External items were not unbeatable, as if a person could not access them, then they might as well not have them.

Lu Yin realized this detail at this moment. He had a set of universal armor, but at this moment, it was nearly impossible to put it on since he had not found an opportunity to do so since the battle began. This assassin was an experienced veteran.

But Lu Yin had never planned on taking out his universal armor. If he actually wanted to take it out, then this person could not stop him. So why hadn't he grabbed it?

He lightly stepped forward and shifted his body with Secret Sidestep. He then raised a hand and punched out in a direction where there was seemingly nothing. A spiritual force attack swept out in all directions, and Lu Yin heard a dull groan. From close by, a person suddenly appeared. Unexpectedly, this person had been lying on the ground the entire time. The blades that were flying around had to be controlled by a person, but they had appeared without any visible cause. Thus, they could only have been the innate gift of an assassin hiding nearby.

Although Lu Yin did not know how to specifically unleash a spiritual force attack, the Daynight Punch was able to unleash his raw spiritual force, which was able to rival the Ten Arbiters'. The hidden assassin could not withstand such an overpowering spiritual force, and he had been forced out after being caught off guard.

With a single finger, Lu Yin tapped out, and this attack caused the killer to feel dizzy. He could not understand how Lu Yin could unleash such a terrifying spiritual force attack. Still, as an assassin, he had firm willpower and was a Hunter. Thus, he had been able to forcibly endure the pressure and had not fainted.

With a bang, Lu Yin tapped on the assassin's body, but it felt more like he had struck a weapon. It felt as though his fingertip had not touched a human body, but rather an icy cold weapon.

With a whoosh, the assassin fled, and all of the killing intent withdrew like the tide. He fell back a thousand miles, which was typical of an assassin.

Still, Lu Yin would not let him leave that easily, and he pressed down in the direction that the killer had fled with a Skybeast Claw. An ancient beast howled from across the ages as a claw descended and covered an area of a hundred miles, causing the planet to tremble. The attack was so terrifying that even the planet started rupturing, and lava shot up into the sky that had temperatures so scorching hot that it burned the void.

However, the assassin had already vanished, and even with a wide area attack, Lu Yin was not able to find any trace of the man.

Lu Yin's face fell. Where were the rune lines? This person was a Hunter, and he should have rune lines, so why couldn't he see any? This assassin had been difficult to find to begin with, but rune lines had long since allowed Lu Yin to predict many things in advance. If someone was able to completely hide their rune lines, then it would be extremely disadvantageous for Lu Yin as he had already come to heavily rely on them.

The universe was filled with mysterious things, and there would always be something that surpassed one's understanding. However, Lu Yin had never thought that this situation would arise so quickly.

However, in the Daosource Sect's ruins, there were also no rune lines. Could the two events be related?

Lu Yin immediately contacted Phantom Sting and described the attack to the assassin. On his screen, Phantom Sting quietly replied, "That was Feng Zi, who's ranked ninth among the Outerverse's assassins. He should be the one who just tried to assassinate you."

"Where's he from?" Lu Yin asked.

Phantom Sting answered, "I don't know, but according to some rumors, he should be connected to Aegis. Six of the Outerverse's top ten assassins are from Aegis, and this person should be one of them."

Lu Yin had already guessed as much. Aegis was the only group that was both desperate to see him dead and had the means of deploying such an assassin.

He had not thought that Aegis would seek revenge this quickly. This was not a simple warning, but an act of war. Aegis had acted too ruthlessly this time. They had not even made an attempt to negotiate, instead opting to immediately send an assassin. Lu Yin had not experienced such ruthlessness in a long while. In fact, he had not felt this since he had killed several Enlighteners. After returning from the Ironblood Weave, aside from the people in the Daosource Sect's ruins who could make him miserable, he had ascended to practically the top in this part of the universe.

Aegis's behavior reminded him of how the Daynight clan had treated him before. This was a complete disregard, and they had an attitude that overlooked everyone else.

"What does Aegis use to train so many assassins? And what's your rank?" Lu Yin asked curiously.

Phantom Sting seriously replied, "Twelfth."

"That low?" Lu Yin was surprised. "Your innate gift is pretty decent, and you're also a Hunter who's comprehended a domain. But despite that, you're not even in the top ten?"

"Assassins are ranked by efficiency, not strength. My innate gift gives me a powerful survival ability, but it cannot compare to the top ten in terms of efficiency. As for Aegis, it's rumored that their top assassins all have the ability to completely hide their auras, but I don't know any specific details. The success rates of Aegis's assassins far surpass those of other assassin organizations. Thus, for countless years, Aegis has long been the Outerverse's largest assassination organization, and it has even reached the point where the Innaverse fears it," Phantom Sting explained.

Lu Yin mulled over this new information. If they were able to completely restrain their aura, then it was no wonder why he had not been able to see any rune lines. Dealing with Aegis was going to be a little troublesome.

Lu Yin finally managed to unlock the smelly sourcebox after great difficulty, and when it opened, it revealed something that looked like a fruit. He casually picked it up and then left the desolate planet.

Lu Yin returned to Zenyu Star and received a call request from an unknown ID. He was instantly suspicious, as not many people had his contact details. Regardless, he accepted it anyways.

“Your Highness Lu Yin, did you like our gift?” A sinister voice was heard that could make people shiver in fear.

Lu Yin’s eyes narrowed. “Who are you guys?”

“You should have already realized. We are from Aegis.” The sinister voice laughed strangely.

Lu Yin softly replied, “Feng Zi was the gift you sent?”

“We do not wish to become enemies with Sir Lu Yin, and so long as Your Highness does not intervene in Northcastle Weave, Aegis is willing to compensate you. Throughout history, few people have been able to receive such treatment from us. Sir Lu Yin, we wonder, would you be willing to accept our goodwill?” The sinister voice sounded like the person was smiling, and Lu Yin could hear arrogance and self-satisfaction in the voice’s tone. This was not going to be easy.

“If nearly succeeding in an assassination attempt is showing me Aegis’s goodwill, it’s difficult to accept such a gift,” Lu Yin mocked the voice.

“Your Highness has experience in both the Innerverse and Outerverse, and you are not a simple person either, so why bother dancing around? If you were able to survive our assassin’s attack, then it demonstrates that you are worthy of our respect. To put it bluntly, Feng Zi is only the ninth ranked assassin, and there are certainly people who are more powerful than him. You should have heard a little about our strength, and just because Feng Zi wasn’t able to succeed doesn’t mean that others cannot. Your Highness, it’s best to consider things carefully.”

Lu Yin’s expression turned gloomy. “Are you threatening me?”

“If Your Highness wants to take it as such, then that’s not entirely wrong. Lord Egret has asked me to send his regards,” the sinister voice indifferently responded in the same saccharine, smiling tone.

Lu Yin fell silent, as Aegis indeed possessed numerous assassins, as well as Lord Egret, who was an Enlighter. Their strength was very impressive. In the past, when the Outerverse had still been connected to the Innerverse, they had remained low-profile. However, now, they were baring their fangs.

“Why must you guys gain control of Northcastle Weave?” Lu Yin asked.

“This is none of Your Highness’s business. Please give us an answer, as the people above don’t like to wait.”

Lu Yin coldly answered, “Get your boss to talk to me.”



“I am enough. If Your Highness has anything to say, then please feel free to speak to me.”

Lu Yin replied in an even colder voice, “You aren’t qualified to speak with me.”

The voice fell silent. “Your Highness, Lu Yin, it seems that you haven’t understood the situation of the current Outerverse. When you are able to more clearly understand things, we’ll speak again. At that time, I hope to see how you are able to remain this arrogant.”

The person then immediately ended the call.

### **Chapter 746: All-Out War**

Lu Yin lowered his gadget and returned to King Zishan's palace. He then summoned Phantom Sting to ask him about the locations of all of Aegis’s bases.

Phantom Sting was able to share the locations of a few, but these were only the bases that Mafioso Planet was aware of. However, Aegis was not just an assassination organization, as they were also a mercenary company that took on protective details and other similar missions. Just the eastern weaves alone contained more than a thousand separate detachments of Aegis’s mercenaries, not to mention the hidden contacts and assassination commissions.

Lu Yin did not bother trying to hide the matter of Aegis attempting to kill him. Instead, he announced it while also declaring that the Great Eastern Alliance would purge Aegis from its territory. It didn’t matter if they were mercenary detachments or underground contacts that took on assassination requests; anything related to Aegis was to be purged so long as there was even a sliver of a connection to the conglomerate.

This was the greatest undertaking that the Great Eastern Alliance had ever attempted since its establishment, and the entire Great Eastern Alliance was mobilized.

After just a few days, any organization that was known to be related to Aegis was purged from the eastern weaves, and all of their personnel were captured. Aegis’s assassins were either captured or killed, which led to great losses for Aegis within the territories of the Great Eastern Alliance.

The greatest loss that the corporation suffered was the loss of Aegis’s training grounds.

They had many training grounds scattered throughout the Outerverse that were specially used to train mercenaries, assassins, bodyguards, and other specialists. It took exorbitant amounts of time and money to build each training ground, and losing any one of their training grounds was a massive loss for Aegis. But this time, the Great Eastern Alliance had eliminated a dozen training grounds within just a few days after the allies moved to weed out Aegis’s public strength.

Also, because of Aegis’s training ground being eliminated, many people in the eastern weaves learned about Aegis’s hidden activities and how the company did not merely provide mercenaries and bodyguards but was actually more of an assassination organization.

The Vastdearth Sect, Evenground Palace, the Six-Fingered Tribe, and others all contacted Lu Yin to ask what had triggered this move.

Lu Yin did not hide anything, and he straightforwardly shared the details about what had happened between him and Aegis, though he did keep the company’s full strength hidden. He didn’t want anyone

defecting from the alliance out of fear, as the Great Eastern Alliance had not yet solidified as a single entity.

In many people's eyes, Aegis was one of the wealthiest corporations in the Outerverse, though they had never bothered considering just how powerful such an organization really was.

Lu Yin believed that once Aegis's true strength was revealed, Greenpeak Gorge, the Vastdearth Sect, and the other powers might possibly not want to participate in the operation against Aegis. And Lu Yin definitely could not risk facing such a monster on his own.

Of course, even if he did not speak up, there was no way Aegis would remain silent. To prevent Aegis from threatening the various great powers of the Great Eastern Alliance, Lu Yin attributed many past assassinations to Aegis, regardless of whether or not they were actually guilty. Even Mafioso Planet's assassinations ended up being thrown onto Aegis's head, which incited many voices of condemnation.

Many powers and great families had suffered from their members being assassinated in the past, and those killers had finally been found. Despite the fact that the true culprit was the person who had hired the killer, Aegis had still been the executioner.

Suddenly, the cries to purge Aegis from the Great Eastern Alliance's territory grew louder, as countless people called for the company to be eradicated.

Lu Yin was the type of person who generally did not do much, but as soon as he made up his mind to accomplish something, he would see it through to the very end, and he would not tread slowly either. Given Aegis's attitude in the call, it was obvious that Lu Yin could not coexist peacefully with them, so he would go all the way when moving against them. As a bonus, he was also using Aegis as the Great Eastern Alliance's first trial.

Beep beep beep!

Lu Yin activated his gadget as the screen appeared before him. Madam Nalan greeted his eyes, though she was looking at him with a stern face. "Your Highness, are you really waging war against Aegis?"

"I'm not the one who wants a war, but they started things with me first," Lu Yin defended.

She revealed a bitter smile. "Your Highness, if possible, try not to become mortal enemies with Aegis. They are not like the Innerverse powers, and they have very deep foundations in the Outerverse, to the extent where even I don't know which powers support them from the shadows. They have nurtured countless mercenaries as well as countless assassins over many years, which has led to them having partnerships with countless powers. It's not very prudent to wage an all-out war against them."

Lu Yin replied, "I'm aware of this, but you should know about them trying to assassinate me. If I don't respond to such blatant aggression, then what was the purpose in establishing the Great Eastern Alliance? How can I continue walking my path in the future? If Aegis is willing to try to kill me just because of some mild offense, then how will they treat others? Aegis is attempting to use me to assert their dominance over the current Outerverse."

She replied, "Has Your Highness considered the possibility that this might be a part of Wei Rong's schemes? That he might be the one instigating you into becoming enemies with Aegis?"

Lu Yin emotionally answered, "Wei Rong is indeed smart, and it's not impossible for this to be something that he planned. However, my current circumstances are clear. So what even if we know that he's the one who started this? Aegis and I are incompatible, and Aegis will either completely back out of the areas where I have control, or Aegis will simply take care of me. There are the only two possible outcomes."

She sighed. "Your Highness, the scariest aspect of Aegis is not just their assassins and Enlighters, but rather their control of the human heart. They are adept at creating public panic, as this is what their mercenaries are best at. They may not necessarily act directly against you, but rather the entire Great Eastern Alliance."

Lu Yin's brow arched up. "Do you have any suggestions?"

She solemnly answered, "If Your Highness truly wishes to wage an all-out war against Aegis, then you cannot go in blind. You must know exactly how much strength Aegis has hidden within the Great Eastern Alliance, and you must come up with ways to discover where their headquarters are hidden. You will need to learn exactly how powerful they are and who they cooperate with, but I am unable to provide you with such assistance."

Lu Yin instantly made a connection. "Amethyst Exchange?"

The beautiful Madam Nalan smiled sweetly. "I don't know anything about what Your Highness is speaking of. I merely gave you some friendly advice as one of the Outerverse's four great corporations. Since Your Highness doesn't wish to heed my advice, then I'll simply wish you speedy success."

And with that, she disconnected from the call.

Lu Yin opened the network to search up some information on the Amethyst Exchange when a name suddenly appeared in his mind: Zi Xianxian. This girl had given him 5% of Zenyu Star's Amethyst Exchange's annual profits as a gift despite Lu Yin having never interacted with Amethyst Exchange before. They were another one of the Outerverse's four great corporations, and such an excessive gift had guaranteed that Lu Yin would remember them. It seemed that it was time to pay a visit to this Zi Xianxian.

Suddenly, his gadget received another call, and Lu Yin answered it. Huan Sha appeared on his screen, looking solemn as her eyes contained both anxiety and resentment. "Your Highness, there's a problem. Dozens of planets throughout the empire are being attacked, and the preliminary casualty estimation numbers in the tens of millions. Three military bases have been completely destroyed, and a dozen ministers have mysteriously died. Over a thousand companies have declared bankruptcy, and protests and demonstrations have erupted in various filaments of the empire. They're protesting the creation of the Great Eastern Alliance while also claiming that you are trying to pull in outsiders into the empire."

Lu Yin's eyes flashed, as Aegis had acted yet again, and with quite ruthless methods once again.

Following Huan Sha's report, En Ya also delivered a report. Various allies of the Great Eastern Alliance had also suffered losses. Over a hundred disciples from the Vastdearth Sect who had been out training had died. The Six-Fingered Tribe, the Tri-Banner Federation, Greenpeak Gorge, and more had also

suffered from assassinations, whereas the Evenground Palace's Mistress Mu Nichang had personally suffered from an attack, and she had even been mildly injured. Numerous casualty reports continued to pour in.

Lu Yin had underestimated Aegis's capabilities, as they had actually retaliated against the entire Great Eastern Alliance, showing that their influence had spread throughout all the eastern weaves.

"Your Highness, some people in Northcastle Weave, Eastly Weave, and various other places have started spreading slanderous rumors about the Great Eastern Alliance. Quite a few organizations from those weaves have now vowed to never join the Great Eastern Alliance," Lord Garope reported.

"Your Highness, the empire's transport vessels were destroyed by an unknown group. Not only did they destroy the resources being carried, but they also killed everyone on the spacecraft. They were utterly merciless," Gavin reported.

...

Bad news flooded in one after another, which fully put Aegis's enormous influence on display. All of these incidents could not have been accomplished by Aegis on its own, but after existing in the Outerverse for countless years, Aegis had established relationships with many other organizations. Thus, they did not need to take any direct action now since there were many others who were happy to make a move on Aegis's behalf.

Just Mafioso Planet alone had been able to gather many secrets concerning quite a number of forces throughout the eastern weaves, so there was no need to even mention Aegis, which was the largest assassination group.

The Great Eastern Alliance declaring war on Aegis was akin to poking a bee's nest, and countless people now realized the terror of this company.

The Great Eastern Alliance was a legitimate and open power, but Aegis hid in the depths of darkness. Thus, the alliance would always be at a certain disadvantage no matter how the war was waged.

Meng Tianlong had long since contacted En Ya, hoping that Lu Yin would quickly come up with a solution. He had a feeling that he was being implicated. The Vastdearth Sect had had no dealings with Aegis in the past, but they were currently being targeted without a valid cause. He was especially concerned because he could already tell that Aegis was not a group that would cave to pressure. Instead, they would only bring about more trouble.

Meng Tianlong was not the only one who had reached out; Mu Nichang, Feng Shu, Bach Shamus, and the other leaders had all done the same, and they were frequently calling En Ya in hopes that Lu Yin would quickly resolve the conflict with Aegis.

Lu Yin ended his call with En Ya. The cons of this alliance had now appeared. It had been established too quickly, and their hearts had not unified yet. In fact, they were even suspicious of one another. As soon as trouble appeared, such an alliance would quickly fall apart. These people were all only thinking of their own organization, and they had no concern for the overall alliance.

This was indeed the first trial, and it even targeted every single member of the Great Eastern Alliance. If they successfully passed this trial, the Great Eastern Alliance would become as steady as a boulder, and it would gradually pull in the remaining eastern weaves.

However, if they failed to make it through this trial, the Great Eastern Alliance would cease to exist, and Lu Yin would become a joke throughout the entire Outerverse. He would never let such a thing happen, and he was busy pondering over the situation as he left King Zishan's palace.

Zenyu Star was the capital of the Great Yu Empire, and as such, it was exceptionally busy. Practically all the major corporations had a branch on the planet, especially after the Great Yu Empire had unified Frostwave Weave and increased their prestige even further. Even Shamrock Enterprises, which was a great corporation that was found throughout both the Innaverse and Outerverse, had established a branch on the planet.

Amethyst Exchange had similarly established a mall here, and it was large enough to occupy an entire block on the busiest street on all of Zenyu Star. This street also held the offices of Shamrock Enterprises, the Mavis Bank, and various spacecraft companies, making it the financial hub of the entire Great Yu Empire. Any company that could afford a venue on this street had to be able to influence at least a galaxy or even an entire filament.

Amethyst Exchange's mall sold all sorts of items, so there were many people coming and going on a daily basis, as well as many people who visited just to window shop.

Lu Yin followed the crowd into Amethyst Exchange's mall and looked around inside, fairly surprised at what he saw. There was indeed everything available in this place. Various retail stores sold products that catered to all aspects of human existence, and there were also powerful cultivators standing guard nearby. There was merchandise as far as the eye could see, and nearly every universally recognized brand could be found within this trading center. This was Amethyst Exchange.

#### **Chapter 747: Zi Xianxian**

Those who could shop in Amethyst Exchange's mall were in the uppermost echelon of society. What's more, there seemed to be an excessive number of beautiful women scattered around, which gave the place a pleasant atmosphere as there were many beauties who were young and full of vitality.

Lu Yin also felt himself relax as he looked at the young women. These people had sought shelter in the Great Yu Empire, and he would not let their smiles disappear.

"Sister Ya, look at that country bumpkin. He's still smiling at us," whispered a few girls who were standing nearby Lu Yin. They occasionally tittered to themselves like bells, which attracted a bit of attention.

Lu Yin's face blushed red. Country bumpkin? Did he really look that unsophisticated?

Lu Yin looked down at his own clothes and started to sweat a bit. His sense of style could be considered rather simple, and all of his outfits fell into the same few styles, which were all out of fashion. Actually, when he thought about it, why hadn't Zhao Ran prepared some more suitable clothing for him?

Lu Yin thought of Zhao Ran's vacant expression and sighed. Maybe King Zishan's palace should look for a housekeeper.

“See, he’s embarrassed now, hehe,” the girl giggled.

“This person looks somewhat familiar. I feel like I’ve seen him somewhere before.”

“Yeah, although his appearance is rather ordinary, he’s not bad looking, and his temperament seems special. Sisters, who’s going to go tease him?” a girl wearing a more revealing outfit eagerly asked.

“Girl, don’t be desperate to fall in love. You should be careful of being caught by a man.”

“You’re all nothing but hypocrites putting on an act. It’s not often where you can see this kind of country bumpkin walking around. Sister Ya, let’s hurry up and head over,” the girl urged.

The one named Sister Ya was currently looking at the directory listing the shops, and she grudgingly looked up. “Don’t tease others unnecessarily.”

She then reflexively glanced over at Lu Yin, and her entire body froze.

The other few girls could tell that something was up with Sister Ya, and they hurriedly rushed over to her. “Sister Ya, what’s the matter with you?”

She was stumped, but then she gathered herself and suppressed the shock in her eyes. “Nothing much, what were you girls talking about?”

“We said that we wanted to go tease that country bumpkin. Sister Ya, are you going with us?” The girl with the revealing clothing giggled at Sister Ya.

Sister Ya rearranged her face and then loudly said, “Don’t spout nonsense.”

The few girls were startled, as they had never seen Sister Ya this angry before. She was their immediate superior, as they all worked for a very influential media company. They were normally quite close, so why was she treating them so harshly right now?

Still, since Sister Ya was angry, the other girls didn’t dare talk back to her. They all sullenly hung their heads, not knowing what was going on.

Lu Yin was still looking around the mall curiously, as he was wondering where Zi Xianxian could be. After a moment, he gave up and decided to just head to the top, as the decision-makers were usually at the top levels of a building.

Nearby, those few girls were feeling very wronged.

Sister Ya took a deep breath. “You girls, stay here and don’t move around.” She then swallowed her saliva and walked over towards Lu Yin.

The few girls exchanged glances in surprise; had Sister Ya taken a fancy towards that country bumpkin? Was she infatuated? That was news.

“He- hello. I’m Xiao Ya from the empire’s morning newspaper. It’s an honor to meet you.” Sister Ya walked before Lu Yin, bowed very respectfully, and did her best to keep her face calm as she greeted him.

Behind the two people, the group of girls was surprised by Sister Ya's deferential mien, and they exchanged glances. They were not stupid; Sister Ya's previous reaction combined with her current behavior could only mean one thing: that country bumpkin was actually a very important person and not someone ordinary at all. Their morning newspaper wielded great influence, and they themselves could even meet the top members of the empire. Sister Ya was even more adept, and apparently, she could even meet the cabinet members. Despite that, she was being extremely respectful at this moment, which showed that this young man must have a terrifying identity.

They adjusted their expressions and no longer dared to speak a word.

Lu Yin turned around in surprise. "You recognize me?" He had made some slight adjustments to his appearance before visiting the mall in order to prevent others from recognizing him.

Sister Ya respectfully answered, "You are His Highness, the Royal Regent."

Lu Yin was astonished. "How did you recognize me?"

She took a deep breath to suppress the nervousness running rampant in her heart and replied, "Every cultivator, especially those with great strength or influence, will often change their appearance when they step out. We've long since created models of such changes for many of the empire's top members and have simulated those alternative looks. Your Highness's adjusted appearance is still within our simulated predictions."

Lu Yin nodded and muttered to himself. "It looks like in the future minor adjustments won't cut it."

She looked at Lu Yin and respectfully asked, "Is Your Highness strolling about? Xiao Ya is willing to show you around and give you a tour."

"You know this place well?" Lu Yin asked.

Sister Ya replied, "We come here every week, so we've been here many times."

Lu Yin was amused. "It looks like you're a wealthy woman."

Her face flushed, as Lu Yin's teasing had reduced her nervousness a bit. The person standing before her was truly the most important person who stood at the pinnacle—not just the pinnacle of the Great Yu Empire, but even the pinnacle of the entire Great Eastern Alliance. A single sentence from him could determine the fate of countless people. Although Sister Ya was well-connected and could even visit members of the Imperial Cabinet, she had never even dreamed that she would be able to speak with Lu Yin or that such an opportunity would come to her.

"Show me around. I'm rather curious about Amethyst Exchange," Lu Yin said, as he wanted to understand more about this company before meeting or cooperating with them.

"Yes, Your Highness."

"There's no need for that. Just call me Brother Lu."

She blinked. "It looks like you're younger than me."

Lu Yin smiled. "Then call me Seventh Bro."

Isn't that the same thing? Sister Ya thought to herself. She found that the Royal Regent was very different from what she expected; he was not the stern type that tended to scare children. Rather, he was actually someone who joked around.

"Seventh Bro, may I ask you some questions?" she asked carefully while leading the way.

Lu Yin casually replied, "Sure."

Sister Ya was delighted.

"Just don't publish anything," Lu Yin continued.

She was left speechless at that.

...

The few girls stared on blankly as Sister Ya respectfully led the country bumpkin around the mall, carefully following behind him. Their eyes sparkled, as that person was clearly someone very important.

"Do you girls think that that person looks very familiar?" one pipped up.

"I said that he looked familiar from the beginning, but I just can't think of where."

The girl with revealing clothing suddenly covered her mouth. "He changed his looks."

The other girls' expressions abruptly changed before they all weaved through the building, repositioning themselves so that they could see Lu Yin's face from the front. They then exchanged glances, as they had all realized his identity. It was no wonder why Sister Ya was being so respectful.

...

Even after half an hour, they had not finished going through even a tenth of Amethyst Exchange's mall. This place was truly mammoth.

After listening to Sister Ya's words, Lu Yin was able to gain a better understanding of Amethyst Exchange. This trading company held a certain status in the hearts of the commoners, and it could be described as a provider of great bargains.

"Amethyst Exchange does not sell items at high prices, and they seem to make their profits by purchasing in bulk. Even extravagant jewelry is much cheaper here than elsewhere. Rumors claim that their prices are low because they don't pay taxes and that their suppliers are too widespread. However, others claim that the prices are low because they manufacture many of their items themselves. Regardless, there are all kinds of theories about their business model," Sister Ya explained.

"Doesn't anybody suspect that the items are fake?" Lu Yin asked.

She pushed her hair behind her ear and smiled. "Even if they do sell fake products, due to Amethyst Exchange's influence, the fakes would quickly become more valuable than the original products, as long as Amethyst Exchange is the one selling it."



Lu Yin's lips curled upwards. That was true—so what if the products were fake? As long as the seller had enough influence, fake products could become even more valuable than the authentic versions. Lu Yin's own status as King Zishan had been faked, but his current status greatly surpassed Undying Yushan's previous position when he had been alive.

"Your colleagues are rather lively," Lu Yin commented.

She quickly apologized, "I'm sorry if they've disturbed you, Seventh Bro."

Lu Yin waved a hand. "It's fine, they're interesting." He then looked up at the highest level of the trade center. "Have you heard of Zi Xianxian?"

Sister Ya shook her head. "No, I haven't."

Lu Yin grunted. "Alright, thanks for today. You can go and do your own business now." He then suddenly vanished, almost as if he had never been there.

She vacantly stared at the empty space and reached out a hand, but Seventh Bro was already gone.

Not too far away, the few girls who had been following them saw Lu Yin leave, and they all hurriedly rushed over to boisterously interrogate Sister Ya.

Sister Ya sternly told them, "Nobody is to say a word about today to anyone. If I find out that any of you are speaking nonsense, it won't be as simple as just getting sacked. There will be no place in the entire Great Yu Empire for you to hide. Do you understand?"

The girls were frightened, and they quickly acknowledged Sister Ya's words.

Sister Ya was quite experienced, and she had a broad range of knowledge, so she vaguely knew that Amethyst Exchange was not as simple as it appeared to be on the surface. The fact that the Royal Regent had appeared in this place indicated some deeper purpose, and while Sister Ya could make some conjectures, she didn't dare to make any wild guesses. Also, just like the Royal Regent had said, they could not publish anything about this event.

The Great Yu Empire and Amethyst Exchange, or rather, the Great Eastern Alliance and Amethyst Exchange—Sister Ya was determined to remember the connection between these two, as well as the name "Zi Xianxian."

After his conversation with Sister Ya, Lu Yin had gained a basic judgement of Amethyst Exchange, and he had also used his domain to search for Zi Xianxian. Even though he had no idea what she looked like and there was practically no information about her online, he still found her quite easily. There was only one girl who was at the top level of the building, and she was wearing a purple gown, so who else could she be?

Strangely, he was only bumping into girls today.

Zi Xianxian was very upset. She was the third heir to Amethyst Exchange, and the family expected a great deal from her. However, in reality, she did not want to participate in Amethyst Exchange's affairs. She blamed her situation on her second brother, who was a cultivating idiot. It was all he knew and all he focused on, and it had nearly led to him having a falling out with their family. Although he had not

been ultimately estranged, her second brother had given up on the possibility of inheriting Amethyst Exchange.

Zi Xianxian's eldest brother was the first heir, and if nothing went wrong, he would be the one to inherit the company. However, Zi Xianxian did not know who, but someone had created a rift between her and her brother by telling him that she was competing against him to inherit the company, and this had led him to oppose her at every turn.

Because of this, Zi Xianxian had been forced to escape to the eastern weaves, as she had thought that she would be able to live a peaceful life there. But inexplicably, the eastern weaves had united and established some Great Eastern Alliance.

This turned out to be good, as the board of directors had suddenly started complimenting her on her vision, commenting on how the Great Eastern Alliance's market would greatly surpass her eldest brother's available prospects in the central weaves' markets, how Lu Yin was someone who was unwilling to be left behind, how the Great Eastern Alliance had a great future, and other such drivel.

Anyway, ever since the Great Eastern Alliance had been established, the board had lavished her with praise.

Due to this strange turn of events, Zi Xianxian had suddenly fallen victim to her brother's insane resentment, and he had even scolded her during several video calls.

Zi Xianxian felt very helpless, as how could she have foreseen something like the alliance being formed? Her brother's tirades made her angry, and she had decided to actually go against him. Regardless of whether or not she would inherit the company in the future, she wanted to prove to her brother that she would not be easily bullied, as only that would stop him from causing more trouble for her in the future. Thus, she needed to create some trouble for him at this time.

This had been her motivation behind her decision to give Lu Yin 5% of the profits from Zenyu Star's Amethyst Exchange. She had wanted to attract his attention, as she had seen that the Royal Regent was very adept at causing trouble.

However, even after such a long time, Lu Yin still had not sought her out, which seemed very strange.

However, in the near future, he would absolutely come look for her. Aegis would force Lu Yin to come, as that crazy assassination organization would definitely put him under a great deal of pressure.

Speaking of which, Aegis was clearly crazy, but that was fine. This heap of trouble was intended for her brother, after all, and only they could satisfy her desire to create trouble for him.

"Dearest Eldest Brother, what a huge pile of a mess is waiting for you, hehe." Zi Xianxian smiled happily. She would let him deal with Aegis's mess, as her greatest task was to prod Aegis when she had nothing to do. Thus, Aegis would go look for her brother to vent their anger.

## **Chapter 748: Mislead**

Thud thud thud!

"Come in." Zi Xianxian stretched her body out. Making trouble for someone else was rather tiring, as it required her to think a lot.

Lu Yin walked into the room. He did a serious double take when he saw the pink sofa across from Zi Xianxian. It was exceptionally pink. Who would place such a pink sofa in their office? Was this actually meant to be sat on?

Zi Xianxian's gaze trembled as she stared at Lu Yin. "Who are you?"

Lu Yin had wanted to sit down to speak with her, as that would have been more conducive towards presenting the image that he wanted to. However, he decided against it after realizing that his backdrop would be the intensely pink sofa. He returned to his normal appearance and looked at her. "This is the first time we're meeting. Hello, Miss Zi Xianxian."

Lu Yin's face was not unfamiliar to Zi Xianxian, as she had seen his picture before. She had also been expecting him to look for her some time soon, though she had not thought that it would be at this moment. "So it's the Great Eastern Alliance's leader. I have been looking forward to meeting you. Please, sit."

Lu Yin felt awkward. Sit? That didn't feel right. With the bright pink sofa as the only option, he really didn't dare to sit down.

Zi Xianxian blinked, gestured towards Lu Yin, and then brought him out of the office and into another, more spacious one.

Upon entering the second office, Lu Yin saw another vividly pink sofa. How many pink sofas did this woman have? Fortunately, there was also a tea set in this room, which gave it a slightly more refined atmosphere.

Zi Xianxian gestured for Lu Yin to sit down, and then personally brewed him a cup of tea. "Why has the Alliance Leader come looking for me?"

Lu Yin took the offered cup and tasted the tea, but it was nothing special. "Miss Zi Xianxian gave me 5% of this exchange's shares, so I can also be considered a shareholder, correct?"

Zi Xianxian smiled. "Of sorts. Did the Alliance Leader come by to offer your opinions on the exchange? Or are you here to collect a bonus?"

Lu Yin set down the teacup. "Neither. My objective, as Miss Zi Xianxian knows, is to obtain the top-tier information that is in Amethyst Exchange's possession."

"It looks like the Alliance Leader is in trouble." Zi Xianxian beamed at Lu Yin. At this moment, Lu Yin finally took a serious look at the girl, as all his attention had previously been distracted by the pink sofas.

The young girl in front of him was very pretty, and her eyes were bright and lively. She even had bangs with the rest of her hair falling all the way to her waist, all of which gave her a very gentle demeanor. She seemed to be around the same age as Hai Qiqi, though she also felt a bit more mature than Hai Qiqi.

The most striking aspect of her was her purple gown that matched her black boots, and her outfit contained a hint of a fairytale princess's charm. She was obviously from a wealthy background.

"I'm curious—how does Amethyst Exchange charge people for the information it provides?" Lu Yin got right to the point, as he felt that the pink sofa was exceptionally irritating.

Zi Xianxian sized him up with her bright eyes, and she continued to stare at him curiously, some degree of probing visible in her gaze.

Lu Yin felt awkward. "Is there something on my face?"

Zi Xianxian smiled. "I'm just thinking about how best to cooperate with you."

Lu Yin acknowledged her with a grunt, but he said nothing more after that. He simply minded his own business and sipped his tea as he waited.

After looking at him for a while, Zi Xianxian finally shifted her gaze, "We've conducted some investigations into your background. You have cultivated for no more than seven years and only began to rise up over the last two years. Before the Outerverse was isolated from the Innerverse, you were just a normal male who was a part of the younger generation. However, ever since the Outerverse was isolated, you've undergone a complete change that started off with you killing Enlighters and becoming a brilliant star in the Outerverse. I am very curious—were you always keeping yourself hidden, or did you suddenly come across some lucky opportunity?"

Lu Yin looked up at her. "Is this related to our cooperation?"

"If we are to cooperate with you, then we must first come to understand all we can about our potential partner. Our Amethyst Exchange believes that we can gain a complete view of the background of anyone from the Outerverse, but we were still very surprised by your sudden rise. Aside from that, we are even more baffled at how we cannot find any reason to explain how you managed to kill Enlighters, where your external items came from, how you obtained your secret technique, or even how you survived the attack on the pirate port in the past. We have no clue regarding any of these questions."

Lu Yin smiled. "I'm here to purchase information, not to provide it for you."

Zi Xianxian casually took out a memory chip from her cosmic ring and set it on the tea table. "This chip contains information on all the various powers related to your Great Eastern Alliance as well as the ones related to Aegis. As long as you answer my questions, this chip is yours."

Lu Yin pondered a moment and then lightly tapped the table. Those who knew him well would recognize this as a habit of his.

He looked at the memory chip and said, "Some time ago, the Innerverse's Xun Family and the Daynight clan allied to deal with me so that they could prevent the Great Eastern Alliance from being established. During this, some members of the Xun family personally appeared to obstruct me, and they also accused me of crimes that made it all the way to the Hall of Honor. Do you know about this matter?"

Zi Xianxian nodded. "Yes. The Xun family was then abandoned by the Hall of Honor, and the Daynight clan no longer moved against you. This has lasted until today, and they are almost completely low-profile."

Lu Yin nodded. "Do you know how Darkstar Gorge was annihilated?"

Zi Xianxian nodded. "Yes. They colluded with the Neohuman Alliance and were therefore exterminated by the Hall of Honor."

“The Daynight clan, the Xun family, and Darkstar Gorge all tried to interfere with the establishment of my Great Eastern Alliance, but not one of them succeeded. There’s one common factor in all of these situations.” At this time, Lu Yin paused, no longer speaking as he simply stared at Zi Xianxian with a sly half-smile on his face.

Zi Xianxian’s expression changed, as the common detail was the Hall of Honor. She stared at Lu Yin in disbelief. “Could you actually be—”

Lu Yin raised a hand to stop Zi Xianxian from completing her sentence. “I didn’t tell you anything, and I cannot tell you anything either.”

Zi Xianxian quickly thought things through. If this was true, then it was no wonder how Lu Yin had been able to repeatedly obtain such opportunities and establish the Great Eastern Alliance so quickly. Not even their Amethyst Exchange could check on those messages. This person had to be from the Hall of Honor, as nothing else could explain why the Hall of Honor supported him so much. Even the Xun family and the Daynight clan had been abandoned, as the Hall of Honor was directly supporting Lu Yin.

Those external items of his that had been able to eliminate Enlighteners must have also been given to him by the Hall of Honor. Otherwise, how else could a puny Limiteer cultivator have obtained such items? Even their Amethyst Exchange might not necessarily possess such powerful power vessels—only the Hall of Honor would.

Reportedly, during the defense of Ironblood Weave, Lu Yin had obtained extraordinary rewards from his Ironblood Points, which was very strange. How could a Limiteer achieve such impressive contributions? There were even rumors claiming that he had forced back an old monster with a power level of 300,000. That was only possible if this person had the Hall of Honor’s support? With this added detail, everything suddenly made sense.

The more Zi Xianxian thought about it, the more certain she became that this person was backed by the Hall of Honor and that they had also assisted him in establishing the Great Eastern Alliance. Hold on, could the Hall of Honor’s goal be to unify the entire Outerverse? Zi Xianxian instantly felt as though she had stumbled upon some supreme secret.

Throughout history, the Hall of Honor had stood above the rest of the universe, seldom intervening with the Outerverse’s affairs. But now that the Innerverse and Outerverse had been separated, had the Hall of Honor’s policies somehow changed?

Zi Xianxian’s mind was in turmoil, as the four great corporations could not compete against the Hall of Honor; not a single one of them was a colossal giant like Shamrock Enterprises, Aurora Enterprises, Mavis Bank, or other such monsters. The Hall of Honor was the true master of the Human Domain, dominating all others. Once it decided to act, who could possibly go against them? The person in front of her had hidden his immense backing all along.

Lu Yin smiled to himself, as he knew that Zi Xianxian had misunderstood his words. This was the effect that he had intended to have, and it was not that Zi Xianxian was being foolish, but rather that the Hall of Honor’s support could easily create misunderstandings. He knew that he had gained the support due to his futon, but others did not know about that. Thus, they would simply assume that the Hall of Honor

was supporting him. Once some choice words were added to instigate certain thoughts, even Wei Rong would likely find it hard to refute the idea, and so, people could only choose to believe it.

He slowly reached out and picked up the memory chip.

Zi Xianxian saw what he was doing, but she did not stop him. She was still considering her best course of action. If the Hall of Honor was planning on supporting this person and unifying the Outerverse, then what should their Amethyst Exchange do? How would the Outerverse's situation shift in the future? She did not know, as the details concerning this matter were too complex.

"What is it that you intend to do?" Zi Xianxian stared at Lu Yin. She had originally only wanted to stir up some trouble for her brother, but she had inadvertently stumbled upon a huge secret. If his information was improperly handled, then it might even lead to Amethyst Exchange being utterly destroyed. Against the Hall of Honor, even all four great corporations combined would not be able to do much.

Lu Yin smiled at her. "What do you think?"

Zi Xianxian's voice trembled slightly. "You want to unify the Outerverse?"

Lu Yin deftly spun the memory chip around in his fingers. "I don't know, and I wouldn't be able to say even if I did know. The consequences concerning this matter are very severe, so you best not say anything or make any wild guesses, as they may not even be accurate."

She had definitely been correct with her guess; Zi Xianxian was completely certain of this. The more this person denied her guesses or refused to answer, the stronger she believed that she had discovered the truth.

"Alliance Leader Lu, our Amethyst Exchange has never held any malice towards you. It's the same now, and it will be in the future as well. We are just playing our role as business people," Zi Xianxian gently explained.

Lu Yin smiled. "I know, which is why I came here to do business with you."

Zi Xianxian averted her eyes. "The memory chip has been given to you, and that should be enough for you to work with for a while."

"It's not enough. Once the powers listed in this memory chip are taken care of, the others will immediately run and hide. I need the full list of all the powers."

Zi Xianxian replied, "Although there's only a portion of the organizations listed in that information chip, the scope is simply too broad. With Alliance Leader Lu's current control over the alliance, it won't be easy to exterminate all of them, and attempting anything further would be impossible. Alliance Leader Lu, you can't possibly be thinking of taking care of Aegis in one breath, right? That's just not possible."

Lu Yin agreed after thinking about it. The forces recorded in this memory chip were about what the current Allied Forces should be able to handle. If more were added, the alliance might not be able to wipe out all of the forces, and some of the allies might even leak some of the information to Aegis to gain a bit of favor. Lu Yin was not overly hopeful about those organizations, and after thinking about it, he stood up. "It was a pleasure chatting with you today, Miss Zi Xianxian. Thank you for the gift."

Zi Xianxian hurriedly denied his words, "It's not a gift. This was an equal exchange."

Lu Yin smiled, as it seemed that Amethyst Exchange's doctrine of maintaining a neutral position had been engraved into their very bones. She believed that she had verified the secret that the Hall of Honor was backing Lu Yin, but she was still unwilling to support him. That's fine, as this at least meant that they would not lean towards supporting Aegis either.

Aegis by itself was already so difficult to deal with, and he could not afford to offend any of the other corporations at the moment.

### **Chapter 749: Clean-Up Operation**

The darkness of outer space could be very oppressive. In one corner of Vastdearth Weave, there were three connected planets that were revolving around an enormous star. Numerous spacecraft occasionally landed or took off from these three planets.

There were also various fluctuations around the planets that spread out into the surrounding space.

This was one of Aegis's secret training grounds within Vastdearth Weave, and it was also the largest one in the weave. At least 10,000 mercenaries, assassins, and bodyguards graduated from this place every year.

For them, this cruel training was an ordinary day. To those who were being trained, the days here felt endless.

Suddenly, a piercing alarm sounded, and dozens of light beams shot towards the three planets from the distance. A battleship was attacking.

Aegis activated the planets' defensive barriers, and their own spacecraft shot up into space to do battle, only to be shot down by the light beams.

Light beams rained down upon the planets from all directions, not giving the Aegis base even a moment to react, preventing them from communicating with anyone.

Multiple figures stepped into outer space from the planets and attacked in a specific direction. They were all Cruisers who were responsible for guarding the company's bases in this region.

At an unknown time, another figure appeared in outer space and then just stood there silently.

Four Cruisers charged out from the planet and faced the figure, "This is one of Aegis's bases. Who are you guys?"

The figure grinned back at the Cruisers. "The Great Eastern Alliance's Allied Forces."

The defenders were shocked, and their faces went pale as they exchanged glances. They then gritted their teeth and moved to attack in unison. The person in front of them was a Hunter, and they had absolutely no confidence in their ability to win.

Now that the Great Eastern Alliance and Aegis had officially gone to war and fought against each other for a few days, all Aegis members knew that once they encountered Great Eastern Alliance troops, there was no need for discussion. It would always be a battle to the death.

This Hunter was not from any of the major powers from the eight large weaves, and he had instead been independently recruited by Lu Yin from one of the eastern weaves. He was an independent cultivator, and against these four Cruisers, he drew a long blade and sliced across space. One of the Cruisers died instantly, but the other three were able to display their battle techniques.

Still, there was just too great of a disparity between a Cruiser and a Hunter. Even though these Cruisers had been trained, they were still ordinary Cruisers who, at best, were better than average when it came to concealing their presence. They were quickly reduced to bloody pools under the Hunter's blade, their corpses strewn across the emptiness of space.

Suddenly, the Hunter's blade flew out, and its shadow became a radiant white as it sliced out in all directions, tearing the firmament apart and forcing a hidden figure to appear.

"His Majesty was right. There really was a hidden assassin." The Hunter's blade sliced upwards. The newly revealed cultivator was also a Cruiser, and they were completely powerless to resist against such a terrifying attack, and they were summarily sliced in half.

Five Cruisers had guarded this base, which showcased Aegis's strength. Back when Undying Yushan had ruled the Great Yu Empire, only the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons' captains had reached the Cruiser realm or above, and the entire empire had contained less than twenty Cruisers. There were five in just this solitary base, and this was just one of the Aegis's training grounds in the eastern weaves.

Once the five Cruisers were killed, Aegis's base was quickly cleaned up as well.

At the same time that this attack was carried out, the Allied Forces also launched fourteen other attacks on other secret bases of Aegis's. Not every base had five Cruisers guarding it, but they all had at least one. Lu Yin even had to send the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons into battle, which meant that all of the secret bases had been destroyed at the same time.

They didn't just target these secret training grounds, and some powers that had established forms of cooperation with Aegis were also eliminated by the Allied Forces.

The Allied Forces then headed towards Northcastle Weave, where they continued their clean-up mission.

This operation shocked all of the eastern weaves. Not only were they surprised at the Great Eastern Alliance's strength, but they were even more stunned at Aegis's hidden strength.

Who would have thought that a mere mercenary company was hiding such enormous battle potential? Together, all of the mercenaries that had been targeted by the Great Eastern Alliance's clean-up operation was enough to wage a bloody war against an entire weave.

The Vastdearth Sect and other powers now clearly understand Aegis's strength and threat, and they were both frightened and thrilled. They had had no inkling whatsoever that such a terrifyingly overwhelming power had been hiding so close to them.

Aegis was not able to react to this clean-up mission. They could live with some of their bases and associated organizations being destroyed, but the current level of destruction was different, as it had even wiped out their hidden bases and associates. Some of the bases were located in hidden places that



even some of Aegis's higher ups might not necessarily know about. So, how had the Great Eastern Alliance learned of them? The only possibility was Amethyst Exchange.

Even with Aegis's conceited and tyrannical nature, they still didn't dare claim that their operations could be entirely hidden from Amethyst Exchange.

Aegis leveled a complaint against the intelligence dealer. Even though the mercenaries were tyrannical, they were not courageous enough to go overboard when dealing with the Amethyst Exchange. They were both a part of the four great corporations, and the two of them had similarly deep foundations. Aegis did not care about some newborn government organization that had yet to be firmly established, such as the Great Eastern Alliance, but they were fearful of a power that had deeply hidden methods like Amethyst Exchange.

At the top of an impressive tower, a loud thump rang out in a luxurious office as a youth angrily shattered a table. "What is she thinking? Waging war against Aegis? That stupid slut!"

The young man was Zi Fang, and he was Amethyst Exchange's first heir and future chairman.

Originally, Amethyst Exchange's businesses had been proceeding rather normally, as external disputes were not their problems. However, one call had disrupted Zi Fang's peaceful life. People from the board of directors had also reached out to contact him, ordering him to investigate who had revealed the locations of Aegis's secret bases to the Great Eastern Alliance.

There was no need for him to check, as the only person who would do such a thing was that slut, Zi Xianxian, as only she was stationed in the Great Eastern Alliance.

He thought about it and immediately contacted Zi Xianxian.

After a long wait, Zi Xianxian's image finally appeared on his screen with a lazy appearance, obviously having just woken from a nap. In fact, she was still chewing on a piece of fruit. She had a very leisurely and content expression.

Zi Fang was infuriated as soon as he saw her. "Did you sell the locations of Aegis's bases to Lu Yin?"

Zi Xianxian blinked and swallowed her fruit, "Bro, when did you become the chairman? Congrats!"

Zi Fang was seething. "Zi Xianxian, don't test my patience! You should know how severe this matter is. Aegis has never had any enmity with us, and sharing this information will damage the relationship that we have built up after countless years. This will cause massive losses for the exchange."

Zi Xianxian played with her hair. "Are you saying that our Amethyst Exchange is afraid of Aegis?"

"It's not a matter of being afraid of them—there's simply no need to provoke Aegis! They are a bunch of lunatics. If you want to live a good, long life, then don't draw their focus," Zi Fang said, his tone settling a little.

Zi Xianxian pondered his words. "Right, being watched by a bunch of lunatics wouldn't be good. Alright, when Lu Yin comes again, I won't sell him any more information."

Zi Fang relaxed, and his expression became more gentle. "Alright, you must clearly remember the severity of this matter. None of the four great corporations should be provoked without heavy consideration, as the losses that we'll suffer won't be small."

"Then what about this situation?" Zi Xianxian was curious.

Zi Fang replied, "I'll take care of it. Don't make any further dealings with Lu Yin in the future, as this person will always cause trouble. You should already know that."

He then quickly ended the call.

Zi Xianxian watched as the call ended before smiling happily. "Dear brother, I told you that I won't sell Lu Yin any information, but I never said that I wouldn't give it to him. Your trouble is just beginning, so let's have a good game. Hmph, who told you to scold me!"

Zi Fang did not understand women at all. Sometimes, there was no logic to their actions; they simply wanted to be happy.

\*\*\*

Lu Yin did not allow himself to relax despite cleaning out a huge portion of the Aegis's forces in the eastern weaves. Instead, he ordered the Great Eastern Alliance to remain fully vigilant, as he was certain that Aegis would retaliate.

From his trip to Amethyst Exchange, Lu Yin had gained a rather deep impression of Sister Ya, especially of a particular sentence that she had spoken. 'The responsibility of the media is to reveal the truth to the public.'

Lu Yin felt that he should give the Outerverse a proper opportunity to learn more about him.

Cai Jianqiang, Felynn, Wei Rong, and many others had not had a very high opinion of Lu Yin before meeting him in person, as their impressions had been formed purely from the information available online or rumors that they had heard. This made Lu Yin very uncomfortable, and it had also taught him a salient point: he had ignored the media's propaganda about him for too long.

Many news outlets painted Lu Yin in a poor light, and Lu Yin had seen that when he looked himself up on the network. The media groups within the eastern weaves were somewhat better since none of them dared to offend him. However, the further west the media group was located, the worse their opinions of him became. They made him out to be a conniving person with wild ambitions and ruthless methods who freely abused people's lives. The publicly available information on him made Lu Yin's brows twitch the more he read.

Was he really such a person? Definitely not! These people were slandering him. Was being smart the same as being conniving? Was it wildly ambitious to not want others to control his fate? These ruthless methods referred to him killing his enemies? The universe obeyed the law of the jungle, and the strong stood at the top. If he was not ruthless to his enemies, then he would be trampled over sooner or later.

The greatest value of the media was advertising. In other words, it was to build a reputation. Lu Yin definitely would not allow others to continue slandering him, as that would impact his future ability to recruit talented individuals as well as his own development.

He thought about it and then sent someone to summon Sister Ya from the empire's morning newspaper.

Sister Ya's full name was Ah Ya, and although she was used to interviewing important figures, she had never expected to receive an invitation to King Zishan's palace. Lu Yin's face entered her mind, and she quickly packed her things and followed the escort of soldiers to King Zishan's palace.

"Miss Ah Ya, please sit." Lu Yin smiled.

She was very nervous, as she was not meeting him in the Amethyst Exchange this time. Right now, the person in front of her was speaking to her as the Royal Regent of the Great Yu Empire, and this made her have some difficulty breathing.

Lu Yin smiled and got Zhao Ran to serve her a glass of fruit juice, as some girls did not care to drink tea.

"Miss Ah Ya, I requested you to visit me so that I could ask you some questions."

She nodded respectfully. "Please ask them, Your Highness."

"Have you seen the media's description of me?"

She thought about it and then nodded. "Some accounts were shared to intentionally discredit Your Highness, so there's no need to pay them any mind."

He looked at her. "Even if I didn't pay them any mind before, I can no longer continue to do so. Can you think of any ways to reverse my negative public image? I'm not just talking about the eastern weaves, but throughout the entire Outerverse."

Ah Ya felt that this would be difficult. "Your Highness, the empire's morning newspaper only has some limited influence within the Frostwave Weave, and it cannot even spread throughout the Great Eastern Alliance, let alone the entire Outerverse."

"If the Great Eastern Alliance wholly supports a media outlet, then would there be any way to spread its influence throughout the entire Outerverse?"

She shook her head. "That's very difficult. Larger media companies are supported by local governments in exchange for promoting those local powers. If an external media company wants to enter, then they have to follow the local powers' positions. Otherwise, they will not survive."

"So it's not too realistic for me to change my image?" Lu Yin asked.

## **Chapter 750: Disappearance**

Ah Ya thought about Lu Yin's question and then replied, "Actually, it's not like there aren't any methods. With just a sentence from you, the entire Great Eastern Alliance will start campaigning for you. That means that, as the Great Eastern Alliance's size increases, its influence will naturally grow as well. The media can only follow the empire. Otherwise, they will be censored."

...

After talking with Ah Ya for a short while, Lu Yin dismissed her. The responsibility of the media was to disseminate the truth to the masses, but was that saying actually the truth of the matter? Lu Yin laughed; if he could not influence any outside regions, then he would just work on influencing the Great Eastern Alliance for the moment.

He contacted Gavin and had the minister send out an order making all the media companies in the entire Great Eastern Alliance speak highly of him. Just this simple order was enough. It didn't matter what the outside universe thought about him for the moment, but the Great Eastern Alliance at least needed to be filled with voices of approval.

Something like reputation could not be seen or touched, but its uses were greater than what could be imagined.

Ever since Old Gu De had died, that brat, Hai Qiqi, had spent all of her time at the Astral River's border, still exploring.

Lu Yin suddenly thought of Wendy and wondered how her recovery from the injuries that she had suffered in the Daosource Sect was going. Once the thought entered his head, he moved out to visit her manor. Unfortunately, upon arriving at the Fifth Princess's residence, he was told that she was not available. She was not in seclusion this time, and had instead gone out with a young man.

"Did she elope? Seventh Bro, your woman just eloped with someone else!" the Ghost Monkey shouted.

Lu Yin directly screened the monkey off and then replicated Ku Wei's image with star energy. "Is this who she went out with?"

The guard quickly answered, "Yes. This man requested an audience with the princess. Then, she left with him. Neither of them have returned yet."

"Did they say where they were headed?" Lu Yin frowned.

The guard shook his head.

Lu Yin sent out an order throughout the empire to be on the lookout for any traces of Ku Wei. Since Wendy Yushan had left with him, then did that mean that he had discovered a trace of the Yu bloodline?

This possibility left Lu Yin feeling a bit uneasy. If members of the Yu bloodline appeared, then who would end up ruling the Great Yu Empire? If Undying Yushan was actually not dead, then would Lu Yin still have any authority as the Royal Regent?

Not much time passed before Ban Jiu contacted Lu Yin, reporting that 200 of the androids had been completed.

Lu Yin went to visit the Technology Department, where he saw 200 androids silently standing in place. He could see that each one of them had rune lines that nearly matched those of a Cruiser, leaving him ecstatic. He immediately added them to the empire's First Squadron.

200 peak Explorer realm androids amounted to a rather frightening strength, and they would be enough to shock many when they were sent out.

Not even Aegis could assemble so many peak Explorers at such short notice.

Currently, the First Squadron consisted entirely of Lu Yin's trusted people. Those who had joined previously included Kayze, Yue Xianzi, An Shaohua, and Ah Fan, who were later followed by Li Zimo and Bei Qing. All of the First Squadron's members boasted extraordinary talent. And now, 200 androids and Lu Yin himself had been added to their ranks, which allowed the First Squadron to completely surpass the other twelve squadrons. Even if Undying Yushan were still alive, unless his strength had reached a level where Lu Yin could not even resist, then he was confident that he could at least stay alive.

Unfortunately, the Yu bloodline might also have old monsters hidden away, which was a most frightening possibility.

Ding!

A message arrived, and Lu Yin grew somber as soon as he read it. Aegis was about to retaliate.

He had managed to eradicate around half of Aegis's bases and strength that had been scattered throughout the Great Eastern Alliance. This move had forced Aegis into a situation where their only option was to prepare for a direct confrontation.

The message that Lu Yin had just received had been sent by the bespectacled Mistchild. Aegis had made an announcement to the entire underworld and were recruiting assassins to launch a sneak attack on Zenyu Star. They wanted to eradicate all of the Great Yu Empire's upper levels in one go.

Many weaves in the Outerverse were still isolated, but despite that, Aegis was able to gather a considerable number of assassins and mercenaries as well as Enlighters such as Lord Egret. If an attack was really launched on Zenyu Star, the result would be devastating.

Lu Yin did not doubt that Aegis had the ability to sneak into Frostwave Weave undetected.

These assassins and mercenaries were well trained and experienced, and thus, they would not be discovered by the empire's soldiers.

Aegis's planned retaliation was well within Lu Yin's expectations, and at this moment, he was not even thinking about Aegis. Rather, he was thinking about Wei Rong.

Aegis appeared to have a great deal of strength, but in truth, they were not strong enough to actually frighten him. Wei Rong was the true hidden snake. Since he had lurked behind the scenes and orchestrated the events that led to the Outerverse Lockbreaker Society's collapse, Lu Yin did not doubt Wei Rong's ability to take advantage of this chaotic situation that Aegis was stirring up with the Great Eastern Alliance.

After Lu Yin thought about it, he quickly contacted Felynn. "President Felynn, how are things progressing with Sourcepeak Weave?"

Felynn had an awkward look on the screen. "Sourcepeak Weave and the Great Eastern Alliance are too far apart, as there are several weaves separating them. Thus, they aren't willing to join the Great Eastern Alliance."

Lu Yin replied in a low voice, "Raise the price. President Felynn, I hope that you can take care of this matter for me, and I can guarantee that I won't mistreat you in the future. I have a general idea

concerning Deng Pu movements, and he holds some pages of the True Insight. If you can pull Sourcepeak Weave into joining the Great Eastern Alliance, then you will receive a portion of True Insight.”

Felynn’s eyes lit up. “You’ve discovered Deng Pu’s whereabouts?”

Lu Yin nodded with a smile. “That’s right. My people discovered him in the Astral Wilderness, but unfortunately, he slipped away. However, he won’t be able to escape, and it won’t take long to actually capture him. By that time, I hope that you will be able to give me a reason for me to reward you with the True Insight.” Lu Yin then abruptly ended the call.

He had always been searching for traces of Deng Pu, but the man had proven to be completely untraceable. Still, that did not stop Lu Yin from tempting Felynn with the True Insight.

No Lockbreaker was able to ignore True Insight, as it was truly a supreme treasure to all Lockbreaker.

On Sourcepeak Planet, the scene of that Corpse King being instantly disintegrated by the sourcebox array had been seen by not only him, but also by Felynn. She fully understood the terror of a sourcebox array, and True Insight was something that she strongly desired.

However, Lu Yin was not actually counting on her pulling Sourcepeak Weave into the Great Eastern Alliance, as he only wanted to use this to keep Wei Rong as busy as possible.

Lu Yin was certain that he was doing the right thing. Regardless of what Felynn’s efforts became, a portion of Wei Rong’s energies would be consumed by her actions.

Although Felynn had an escape route in Wei Xin’er, and even though she also occasionally provided Wei Rong with a bit of information, the allure of True Insight was too strong, and she could not ignore it. She started to seriously pursue the matter concerning Sourcepeak Weave, and it eventually led to Wei Rong having to personally head to Sourcepeak Weave to stymie her efforts.

Lu Yin was not sure how much the matter with Sourcepeak Weave could occupy Wei Rong’s attention, and he did not count on that entirely. His die was what he was truly relying on.

Only his die gave him the confidence to deal with Aegis.

“Seventh Bro, why don’t you make use of the Hall of Honor to suppress Aegis? They dared to openly try to assassinate you, and if you die, the Hall of Honor will investigate your death and seek revenge. They are going after the Hall of Honor’s reputation,” the monkey curiously asked.

“The Hall of Honor is not a bodyguard. Them investigating the cause of death and seeking revenge is simply the Hall of Honor safeguarding their own dignity. The Hall of Honor will not intervene in struggles between powers, and as long as Aegis doesn’t kill me, the Hall of Honor will not interfere no matter what. Even if they destroy the Great Yu Empire, the Hall of Honor will not step forward. Only we can resolve the problem that is Aegis,” Lu Yin answered in a low voice.

There was no reason why Lu Yin wouldn’t use the Hall of Honor to deal with Aegis if he could, but with the way things were, the Hall of Honor would not help him since they would be breaking their own rules

to do so. Breaking the rules in such a fashion would lead to a terrible outcome, and this was why the Hall of Honor never intervened in struggles between the various powers of the Human Domain.

Otherwise, it would have only taken a single sentence from Elder Lohar to establish the Great Eastern Alliance, and there would have been no need for Lu Yin to go through so much trouble.

The Hall of Honor surpassed countless powers and protected its own dignity, but once it intervened, nobody could predict the final outcome.

Still, Aegis was certainly crazy, as they had dared to send Feng Zi to kill Lu Yin despite knowing that he had eleven Honor Points. Had they been that certain he would not die? Or were they crazy to the point where they were not intimidated even by the Hall of Honor? The Outerverse was currently isolated from the Innerverse, and Aegis had been acting too arrogantly. Not even the Daynight clan dared to openly challenge the Hall of Honor.

Lu Yin's expression suddenly changed, as he had just thought of another possibility.

Lu Yin immediately went into seclusion when he returned to King Zishan's palace. Aegis, the Yu bloodline, and the Daosource Sect's ruins: all of these issues demanded that he increase his strength, and there was nothing wrong with Lu Yin upgrading his own strength. However, he simply did not have enough time. Just like when Karthika had intimidated Lu Yin when the Outerverse and Innerverse were first separated, Lu Yin once again needed a strength that could shock everyone.

He screened the Ghost Monkey off and pulled out a few objects. The first was his universal armor, which was strong enough to withstand attacks from powerhouses whose power levels were around 300,000. Although some force would still penetrate through the universal armor and attack his body, he was able to withstand those forces with his own physical strength.

The next item that he pulled out was a Money Bomb, the last one in his possession. He had already upgraded it to the point where it could threaten an Enlightener, and when he used it in combination with Progenitor Wushang's hide, it could kill Enlighteners.

These were Lu Yin's trump cards.

It was a pity that Granny Chan had exposed the existence of this item in the past, as it had led to many people becoming familiar with how he could kill Enlighteners. It was very difficult for such a method to succeed against people on guard against it, and that wasn't even mentioning how a small piece of Progenitor Wushang's Hide was still suppressing the mummy in the Primal Zone. Fortunately, Lu Yin still had the larger piece in his possession. It gave him some degree of protection.

The only external items that Lu Yin could rely on at the moment were these two. Wait, he also had Elder Wu's poisons. The other powerful items that he had owned, such as the Enneadic Wings, the pike, his gun, and the Void Thunderbeast's flesh, had all been ruined.

It was time to upgrade another batch of items to the level of being able to threaten Enlighteners.

Recently, after the establishment of the Great Eastern Alliance, many people and organizations had sent Lu Yin gifts. That, combined with what he had gained from killing Old Gu De and destroying Aegis's various associates and bases, meant that he now had several decent items. Once they were upgraded to the level of being a threat to Enlighteners, they would be able to serve his purposes.

Lu Yin raised a hand, and his die appeared. He took a deep breath and placed his cosmic ring to one side. He tapped out, and the die slowly spun before finally stopping on four pips: Timestop.

Lu Yin quickly grabbed his cosmic ring as the scenery changed before his eyes. He had appeared in the Timestop Space.

Coming to this place allowed him to feel at ease, because as long as he stayed in this place long enough, he was guaranteed to eventually roll three pips: Enhance.

After thinking about it, he restored the die and tapped it again. It spun, before finally stopping on three pips: Enhance.

Lu Yin was delighted. That had been so easy!

The first item to be upgraded was the bracer that he had gotten from Old Gu De. It was a power vessel that, according to Old Gu De, would double the wearer's physical strength as long as their strength did not surpass the upper limit of a Hunter's strength.

Lu Yin had tested it before, and sure enough, it could only upgrade his strength to the point of matching a peak Hunter's.

Still, that was fine. Lu Yin held high expectations as he set the bracer on the upper light screen. He then started to throw out a crazy amount of star essence as he upgraded the bracer over and over again. His eyes grew brighter as the bracer was continuously upgraded, until it finally reached the point where it made Lu Yin palpitate, at which point he stored it away.

He had upgraded it seven times, which had cost him about 20,000 star essence, which was much more than what he had previously spent on upgrading the gun. It had cost him 27,000 star essence to upgrade the gun thirteen times. Still, the bracer was cheaper than the pike. He had had to use 26,000 star essence to upgrade the pike just six times.

Different items required differing amounts of star essence for their upgrades. The Void Thunderbeast's flesh had also been extremely expensive to upgrade, but Lu Yin had not even counted since there had been nothing he could do about it. No matter how much it cost, he had had no choice but to follow through, so there had been no point in counting the costs.