

### **Chapter 751: Limited Outlook**

With the newly upgraded bracer, Lu Yin would be able to double his physical strength. That meant that he could now blow away an ordinary peak Hunter with a single punch. The upper limit of this bracer should now be close to the physical strength of an Enlighter with a power level of 300,000. Lu Yin was curious if one of his punches with this bracer would be enough to break through Aden's thunder shield. He was really looking forward to finding out!

He had 50,000 or so star essence remaining, so he retrieved a certain box without any hesitation. This box contained a pearl that was about the size of a palm and had a transparent luster. He did not know what this toy was called, but it was something else that he had taken from Old Gu De's collection, and it was another power vessel.

Old Gu De had not cared about this pearl. Its ability was to absorb and then reflect an opponent's attack, but unfortunately, the most it could absorb was an Explorer's strength. It was worthless to someone like Old Gu De, which was why he had not mentioned it to Lu Yin before his death. Still, he had felt like it would be a pity to throw such a unique item away.

Fortunately, Lu Yin had noticed it when he was sorting through everything that Old Gu De had left behind.

It had been useless to Old Gu De, but it was very useful for Lu Yin. Something that was able to absorb attacks and then reflect them back at the attacker was a very beautiful ability.

He named the pearl the Backlash Pearl before starting to crazily upgrade it.

He was more fond of the pearl than the bracer or the pike, namely because, if this pearl was used well, it could make an opponent question their life. Thus, Lu Yin unrestrainedly upgraded it eleven times, using up 35,000 star essence in the process. He wanted to upgrade it one more time, but that would have taken 20,000 star essence. That was all he had left, which meant that he could not upgrade the pearl any further at this time.

Still, after he upgraded the Backlash Pearl eleven times, it was now able to reflect attacks from someone with a power level of around 200,000, which was an Enlighter level attack. The twelfth upgrade would probably only increase the amount it could handle to around 220,000, which was not much of an upgrade. Once Lu Yin's funds recovered, he was planning on upgrading the pearl until it could reflect attacks with a power level of 300,000, which would allow him to wander the Outerverse unhindered.

However, he would have to leave it alone for now since there was one more item that needed to be upgraded.

The Ultra Flash Tear Bomb. He looked down at a ball in his hands, which was the final item that Lu Yin needed to upgrade rather urgently.

Ordinary people used flash bombs as a common weapon, and even if they had a great effect against other ordinary people, they weren't of much use against cultivators. However, while cleaning out one of Aegis's bases, the Allied Forces had suffered losses when Aegis forces used an improved Flash Tear

Bomb on them that was able to cause even Explorers to lose their sight for a moment. Just a single attack had caused the Allied Forces to lose multiple Explorers.

This event had piqued Lu Yin's attention, and he felt that this item could be very useful. He had then made Ban Jiu manufacture an Ultra Flash Tear Bomb with polarium essence. If used well, this toy could save his life, and because it was a basic weapon, it did not cost too much star essence to upgrade. Thus, he started right away.

Although this Flash Tear Bomb wasn't a power vessel and did not take too many star essence to upgrade, it still needed to be upgraded quite a number of times before it could have any sort of effect on Hunters or Enlighters.

Lu Yin used a total of 6,000 star essence to upgrade a single Flash Tear Bomb twenty two times. He felt that it could currently temporarily blind even peak Hunters and make them shed some tears. His remaining funds were enough to allow him to upgrade two more bombs, which meant that he would have three upgraded Ultra Flash Tear Bombs in total. Although that was not a lot, each one would have an extraordinary impact if used at a crucial moment.

And with that, he was broke again.

Lu Yin looked at the empty space within his cosmic ring. At his peak, he had possessed almost 200,000 star essence. Rolling six pips: Possession had burned through a bit more than half of that, and he had just used up the rest. At this moment, he only had a bit more than 2,000 star essence on him.

Lu Yin could not help himself from wanting to force the Great Yu Empire to repay its debt to him, as it currently owed him 80,000 star essence.

He sighed, as he had two days left in the Timestop Space. He spent the remaining time resting and silently revolving the Cosmic Art to absorb a bit of star energy.

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In the Sourcepeak Weave, a giant spacecraft was floating through space, and inside it, Wei Rong was sitting in front of five screens, each one showing a different person. There were both men and women being shown, and though they were all human, minute differences could be seen among them.

These five people each represented a different guiding power of five of the central weaves.

Even if Wei Rong despised their attitudes, he could not afford to act too impudently in front of them. He reduced the arrogance that normally blazed in his eyes and replaced it with modesty and resentment.

"Are you saying that the Great Eastern Alliance is targeting our central weaves?" someone asked in a deep voice.

Wei Rong nodded, and there was an edge of anger in his voice as he replied, "All of you should understand this person, Lu Yin. He has always been arrogant, and he even dared to provoke the Daynight clan when he was in the Innervers. Now that he's established this Great Eastern Alliance, it's clear that his ultimate objective is to unify the entire Outervers. Our central weaves will definitely be his next target."

Someone sneered. "Unify the Outerverse? What a joke. Forget about Lu Yin—not even an enormous Innaverse power like the Daynight clan could accomplish that. You overestimate this Lu Yin. He's just a youth who's overly ambitious, keke."

Wei Rong replied, "What if he's supported by the Hall of Honor?"

The few people there all had a change of expression. "He has the Hall of Honor behind him?"

"It hasn't been verified yet, but while working to establish the Great Eastern Alliance, he repeatedly received assistance from the Hall of Honor, and their attitude towards him could not be any clearer. Or, perhaps unifying the Outerverse is what the Hall of Honor desires."

The five people all sank into silence.

"So what if the Hall of Honor is behind him? Now that the Outerverse is cut off from the Innaverse, the Hall of Honor's strength is not as fearsome as we previously imagined. Moreover, the Great Eastern Alliance is currently battling against Aegis, and the eastern weaves are very remote. The people there may not have a clear understanding of Aegis's strength, but what of us? We all know that Aegis is extraordinary," one person said.

"That's right. We'll talk again if the Great Eastern Alliance is able to survive their confrontation with Aegis, but I think this is all baseless at this junction."

"Aegis has Enlighters."

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Wei Rong did not interrupt the five, and he instead silently observed them as they discussed the matter. Their responses were all within his expectations; if an alliance could be established so easily, then the seventy two weaves of the Outerverse would not have remained fragmented for all these countless years.

Wei Rong found it quite believable that the Hall of Honor was supporting Lu Yin, and as long as there was even a trace of a possibility, he would make sure to prepare for the worst case scenario.

The central weaves were not the eastern weaves, and the situation concerning Ironblood Weave was rather unique. The eastern weaves had always been more remote compared to the rest of the Outerverse, and more than half the Outerverse's powers simply didn't dare to step foot there out of fear that their stronger members would be drafted into Ironblood Weave. This had led to the current situation, where they did not quite understand the eastern weaves, and thus, they simply did not give any weight to the situation concerning the Great Eastern Alliance.

In fact, Wei Rong had once been the same, and when he had roamed about the Outerverse in the past, he had also avoided the eastern weaves. One reason had been his apprehension towards Ironblood Weave, but besides that, he simply did not fancy the eastern weaves in any way. Many experts had left that region, moving towards either the Innaverse or the western half of the Outerverse.

These people holding a discussion in front of Wei Rong were no different.

Wei Rong had not expected them to be apprehensive of the Great Eastern Alliance, as his goal for this discussion was just to leave an impression upon these five. Nothing would be a problem if the Great

Eastern Alliance ended up worn down by Aegis. However, if even Aegis was not able to deal with the Great Eastern Alliance, these people's attitude towards the Great Eastern Alliance would experience an abrupt change, and that would work to his advantage in his efforts to unite the central weaves.

After a period of discussion, the leaders all disconnected from the conference call.

Wei Rong stood in place and stared into the darkness of space. Some believed that the eastern weaves had a limited future, but in truth, they were the ones who were lacking in potential. Wei Rong had a feeling that Aegis would not be able to defeat Lu Yin, and nobody knew for certain who was hiding behind Lu Yin. Even Amethyst Exchange did not have a good understanding of this person, which left Lu Yin shrouded in mystery with many hidden secrets.

"Young Master, we've arrived at Planet Aykar," someone reminded Wei Rong.

Wei Rong looked at the slowly rotating planet in front of them and adjusted his expression.

Ayker Planet was home to one of the stronger clans in Sourcepeak Weave, and only by roping them in could he hope to pull Sourcepeak Weave to his side.

Felynn had been in contact with the Ayker clan recently, and Wei Rong had naturally learned of this matter. He had spoken with Felynn about it, intending to intimidate her into stopping her meddling in Sourcepeak Weave. However, during his most recent call with her, Felynn's attitude had been quite unyielding. Wei Rong did not know what Lu Yin had promised Felynn, but she had clearly set her heart on pulling Sourcepeak Weave into the Great Eastern Alliance, which was something that Wei Rong absolutely could not allow to happen.

As such, he had personally traveled to Sourcepeak Weave to stymie Felynn's efforts.

Half a month quickly went by, and now, it had been a full month since Lu Yin had left the Daosource Sect's ruins. He had no plans on returning anytime soon, as all of his life saving items were useless against an Arbiter or a Realmking, and he had no intention of wasting his treasures.

He would wait a while longer!

He did not know where Wendy had gone with Ku Wei, as he had not heard anything from either of them.

Hai Qiqi, on the other hand, actually occasionally sent him messages to let him know that she was safe.

Shenwu Continent's situation had gradually stabilized, as Ming Zhaoshu had sacrificed his own reputation to purchase a period of temporary peace and stability for Ming Yan. Ming Yan had not let her father down, and she had stabilized the Shenwu Empire. This in part due to the white-haired Ming Yan's contributions, and Shenwu Continent was peaceful at the moment.

Lu Yin had wanted to send some people to help Ming Yan with her administrative duties, but he had eventually given up on that thought. Ming Yan had not gone to the Great Yu Empire with him so that she could live up to Ming Zhaoshu's expectations. If Lu Yin helped Ming Yan too much, it would just make things difficult for her.

During this time, Lu Yin had also been secretly monitoring Liuying Zishan, though the only information he obtained was that the light ball never appeared again. He still felt very uneasy about the light ball, as he did not know where it had come from. However, none of the other captains exhibited any similar situations, though that might be because the person who had influenced Liuying Zishan had been scared by Lu Yin absorbing the ball of light. The lack of activity may just be the other party's cautiousness.

This matter was constantly bugging Lu Yin in the back of his mind.

The further everyone progressed, the less Lu Yin was able to observe Liuying Zishan. She had been appointed as the Allied Forces' Commander, so she could not stay on Zenyu Star.

After she became the Allied Forces' Commander, the Thirteenth Squadron had been left without a captain.

Lu Yin had considered appointing the Nine Stacks Sect's Lan Wu, but he was not satisfied with her. Ideally, his captains should all be at least at the level of Huo Qingshan or the blind monk. Even if they could not match up to Aden and the other captains, there could not be too large of a disparity between the captains. Lan Wu was just an ordinary Hunter, and she was nowhere near close to Huo Qingshan's match, let alone Aden and the others.

Aegis had been very peaceful in this period, disturbingly so.

The quieter his enemies were, the greater the schemes being laid, which made Lu Yin feel uneasy. The reports that he received from the bespectacled Mistchild also made him wary of Aegis at all times. Aegis had a training method that allowed its top assassins to conceal their rune lines, which was the greatest source of Lu Yin's worries. If even he wasn't able to detect Aegis's assassins, then there was no way anyone else would be able to.

Constantly being alert to assassins had taken a toll on his mental energy.

Lu Yin also wanted to take the initiative to act, but he could not think of any way to do so.

He had gone to the Amethyst Exchange a second time, but Zi Xianxian had told him that Aegis had relocated all of its remaining bases out of the Great Eastern Alliance's territory. Its associate organizations were also continuously moving around, so Lu Yin couldn't even find any targets to act against.

Aegis's comprehensive shifting of its assets could only mean one thing: they were preparing for a blitzkrieg attack that would far outdo Feng Zi's previous assassination attempt.

## **Chapter 752: Overbearing Mavis**

After half a month passed by in peace, a piece of news that rocked the Outerverse was released. Even Lu Yin was left stunned by it.

The Mavis Bank had been attacked. It was not just one branch that had been targeted, but more than a hundred scattered throughout the Outerverse were focused. And as a result, almost half of them had been destroyed.

This was obviously a premeditated attack that had been planned a long time ago that was aimed directly at the Mavis Bank.

Lu Yin could not quite believe the news when he first heard it. Someone had actually been daring enough to act against the Mavis Bank, and on such a large scale as well.

Every branch of the Mavis Bank boasted powerful defenses, and even a Hunter might not be able to take down a single branch. But despite that, nearly half of their Outerverse branches had been attacked and destroyed. This proved that the attackers' strength was absolutely terrifying. It should be remembered that Gavin had personally seen a Hunter being torn apart by one of the trees standing guard over a branch of the Mavis Bank. If an ordinary tree branch from one of those trees had the strength to kill a Hunter, then could this attack on the Mavis Bank have involved more than a hundred Hunters?

That was impossible.

As he thought about it, Lu Yin immediately headed over to Amethyst Exchange to speak with Zi Xianxian.

At this moment, Zi Xianxian was sitting on the pink sofa, thinking about something as she stared up at the three mainland rings in the sky.

When Lu Yin arrived, she was still lost in thought.

"I wish to purchase all the information related to the Mavis Bank raids," Lu Yin said.

Zi Xianxian looked over at him, "Deal. Five star essence."

Lu Yin's eyes flashed, as this was his first time actually conducting a regular transaction with Amethyst Exchange, and the price was truly exorbitant. Five star essence was equivalent to 50,000 star crystals.

"Don't look at me like that. The Mavis Bank instantly sealed all of the information as soon as they were raided, and nobody can uncover the true situation aside from us. It's entirely up to you whether or not you want to pay," Zi Xianxian said.

Lu Yin handed her five star essence, and she tossed him a memory chip in return. Lu Yin immediately inserted it into his gadget and perused the stored information with a serious look. There was detailed information about the raids and even a few videos.

The attackers had mostly consisted of mere Explorers with not even twenty Cruisers among them and hardly any Hunters. The attacks on the bank's branches were an overpowering show of force from the beginning, with the attackers taking out almost half of the bank building in an instant, which was just like what Lu Yin had heard. That great tree then killed almost all the attackers, who were naturally unable to retaliate since the tree was even able to wipe out a Hunter.

But then, the tree suddenly rapidly wilted away, and the rest of the Mavis Bank's defenses were obliterated in the blink of an eye. This abrupt change had led to almost half of the Mavis Bank being destroyed. The remaining area was robbed clean, even the sections that had not been destroyed.

Lu Yin carefully read over Amethyst Exchange's analysis, as these attackers were definitely not from a single power, since their movements were actually very uncoordinated and muddled. The vast majority of the attackers were independent cultivators, moving around chaotically like mixed fish. Lu Yin made some comparisons and realized that his 200 androids could wipe out this motley group of attackers, but somehow, despite everything, they had managed to successfully attack the Mavis Bank.

It was all very strange, and the entire ordeal was quite bizarre, especially the part where the bank's guardian tree had actually wilted. He had never noticed anyone damaging it.

Lu Yin looked at Zi Xianxian in puzzlement, and before he could say anything, Zi Xianxian told him, "Don't bother asking. Amethyst Exchange has sold you everything that we know. If you don't know, then we don't either."

"Such as what happened to that tree?" Lu Yin asked.

Zi Xianxian looked at him with a serious face. "The Mavis Bank is the master of the universe's finances, and nobody knows the depths of their strength. Any branch of the bank has the power to kill a Hunter, and this is common knowledge throughout the universe. However, that common knowledge was overturned today. Honestly, we don't know what's going on, and our desire to find out is even more than yours."

"Who were those attackers?" Lu Yin asked.

Zi Xianxian answered, "I've already told you—you know what we know, and we don't know what you don't. All of our conjectures on those attackers are included in the memory chip."

"Someone was clearly controlling things from behind the scenes, so what's your conjecture on that? Or do you guys really not know who the mastermind is?" Lu Yin frowned.

Zi Xianxian rolled her eyes. "Don't insult our professionalism. Amethyst Exchange will forever remain neutral. If you pay up, we'll tell you everything we know and not hide a thing. Also, we won't try to deceive you if we don't know something."

Someone had actually moved against the Mavis Bank, and Lu Yin could not even imagine how they had done it. Wei Rong had set a very bad precedent with his raid on the Lockbreaker Society, and Lu Yin had previously guessed that one of the colossal organizations that had dominated the Outerverse would be targeted again, but he had never thought that it would be the Mavis Bank.

Out of all the colossal companies and organizations, the Mavis Bank stood at the very top. Lu Yin even reckoned that the Outerverse Lockbreaker Society with Geoffrey at their helm could not surpass the Mavis Bank. But inexplicably, it had been raided on this day, and the crux of the issue was that the attackers had actually succeeded.

Lu Yin returned to King Zishan's palace with bright eyes. He then quickly contacted Phantom Sting and had him secretly leak the information that the people who had raided the Mavis Bank were a part of Aegis and that the mercenaries had masterminded everything.

He knew that Aegis was planning on launching a blitzkrieg attack on Zenyu Star, and he wanted to see if he could use the Mavis Bank to force them out of the shadows.

Lu Yin was not counting on the Mavis Bank to take fully care of Aegis, as the Mavis Bank was not filled with fools. They definitely would not trust this information that came from swirling rumors. Rather, Lu Yin wanted information on Aegis; regardless of if the Mavis Bank believed the rumors, there were simply too few organizations in the current Outerverse that had the power to go up against the Mavis Bank, and Aegis just happened to be one of them. Also, the mercenary company had been much more active than normal in recent days, so the Mavis Bank would definitely at least look into these rumors.

Aegis was like a poisonous snake hiding in the dark, and Lu Yin was hoping that the Mavis Bank would be able to cast some light onto the serpent. Even if only a small part was revealed, it would still be enough to embarrass Aegis.

Of course, he was not overly hopeful and was just testing the waters. Even if things didn't work out as he hoped, he wasn't too concerned about it.

Lu Yin was only casually testing out a method to force Aegis out and humiliate them, but the actual results completely caught him by surprise.

An executive from the Mavis Bank had immediately destroyed one of Aegis's bases, astonishing countless people.

Ruthlessness, unreasonable, tyrannical: all of these words were used to describe Aegis, but at this moment, all of these adjectives were thrown onto the Mavis Bank.

Aegis was famous for being ruthless, but the Mavis family were even more tyrannical than the mercenaries. The issue of whether or not Aegis had been the mastermind behind the raids on the bank was something that the Mavis Bank would discuss after destroying one base, and an important base at that. This forced Aegis to send out someone from their upper echelons to negotiate with people from the Mavis Bank.

The Mavis Bank's actions were crude and simple, just like how Aegis dealt with other organizations. This was them looking down on the mercenaries, or rather, disregarding them.

The Mavis Bank had presented a pleasant attitude to customers for countless years, and they were rated very highly for their service and appraisals. Who would have thought that with one move, they would overturn the perceptions of so many people.

The Mavis Bank was like an honest person who seemed to be easily bullied, but once they resisted, their enemy would not even have an opportunity to apologize.

This was what had happened to Aegis. One of their bases was almost instantly destroyed, and they were forced to send a powerful member to personally visit the Mavis Bank and deescalate the situation.

This was the Mavis Bank. It was a true colossal organization whose terrifying strength made even Aegis lose the courage to resist.

This also provided some insight for Lu Yin.

He had only wanted to probe Aegis, and he had never thought that they would instead end up being probed by the Mavis Bank. This was a genuine colossal organization, and even if Aegis wanted to work out an agreement, it all depended on the Mavis Bank's stance.

They had been too low-profile. Lu Yin looked at a star chart that listed the locations of the Mavis Bank's thousands of branches that were scattered throughout the universe. The bank had remained low profile for centuries, and even if Lu Yin had always felt that the Mavis Bank was terrifying, he had never imagined that they would be so fearsome. This was how they had become the masters of the universe's finances.



The Innerverse and Outerverse had been separated, and only after that had Aegis dared to act tyrannically. However, even now, they still did not dare to act up in front of the Mavis Bank.

Due to the Mavis Bank's rapid reaction, the masterminds behind the assaults on the bank would not dare make a move after this. Lu Yin had ended up inadvertently helping them.

Could it be Wei Rong? Lu Yin guessed.

At this moment, Kayze arrived. "Your Majesty, the First Squadron has reported that there are people fighting on an unoccupied planet near Planet Hydrotink. Also, the power level detectors have sensed power levels of over 100,000, which means that there are Hunters there."

"Do you know who they are?" Lu Yin asked.

Kayze replied, "No, the people investigating didn't dare approach the battlefield."

Lu Yin grunted, "Got it."

He then quickly left King Zishan's palace and headed towards Planet Hydrotink.

He was not worried, as Planet Hydrotink had Felynn as well as many other Lockbreakers, not to mention Cai Jianqiang. Unless an Enlighter made a move, not much could threaten them, especially since the planet's defenses were not much worse than Zenyu Star's.

Planet Hydrotink was not very far from Zenyu Star, and when Lu Yin arrived at the overgrown planet, he saw a boundless blade slice down. Even though he was still in outer space, he could acutely sense the impressive display of power, as this blade was filled with an endless malice as it tore through the void. The planet shuddered as the blade descended with a cold light that illuminated the entire region. The instruments on the spacecraft monitoring nearby power levels instantly shattered.

Lu Yin reflexively moved away, and his expression turned solemn. This blade was very terrifying yet also as majestic as a mountain. It carried a boldness with it that sought to slice everything apart.

Following the blade, a large amount of berserk star energy surged forth, and the cold blade was actually split apart, unable to complete its strike. The blade was ultimately reduced to shreds that ricocheted into the void before scattering in all directions.

Lu Yin's gaze trembled, as this berserk energy was Cai Jianqiang's strength. It seemed that there was a person who was actually exchanging blows with Cai Jianqiang. From their rune lines, it seemed that they were also at a peak of the Hunter realm and that they were just slightly shy of becoming an Enlighter.

As the blade completely dissipated, the swordsman's rune lines rapidly dwindled away before finally stabilizing at a power level of around 150,000.

Lu Yin moved forward and flew through space towards the unregistered planet.

There were huge cracks spread all over the surface, and a turbid gas leaked out from the ground, rising into the sky and feeding into a massive hurricane. This planet was covered with poisonous gases that made it unsuitable for normal humans to inhabit, and it also had dreadful storms that constantly roamed about.

There was a loud laugh, and Lu Yin looked over to see a man on the ground wielding a huge blade while facing Cai Jianqiang. His sturdy muscles bulged out, and there was a faint glow that flowed around him. With one look, Lu Yin could tell that this person had a powerful physical body. Additionally, the ground beneath this swordsman's feet had been completely pulverized, but it was currently being held together by the man's star energy.

"Brother Cai, we haven't met for more than ten years, yet you're still so powerful. Even if I've managed to cultivate my Battalion Slash to such a degree, I'm still not your match. Hahaha, it's no wonder why you are the top of our generation," the man laughed, but then he suddenly looked up, his sharp gaze fixated on Lu Yin. Suddenly, he sliced out with his blade. "Who's this puny junior?"

Lu Yin's gaze trembled, and he raised a hand to suppress the surging star energy before gathering it into an attack with the Overlaying Stacks Path in the blink of an eye. He then used the Skybeast Claw to grab at the blade's approaching light. With a bang, the radiant bladelight shattered and broke apart into motes of light that gradually dissipated.

The swordsman on the ground was astonished. Despite only casually releasing an attack with his sword, that had still been an attack from a Hunter. The youth in the sky was just an Explorer, but he had been able to block the attack and had even shattered it. Interesting.

### **Chapter 753: The Spirit Of Cultivation**

Cai Jianqiang's eyes lit up as he watched Lu Yin shatter the sword attack. He then said, "Brother Zi, this is Lu Yin, the leader of the Great Eastern Alliance."

The man standing across from Lu Yin was shocked. "That's Lu Yin?"

Lu Yin descended to land between Cai Jianqiang and the other man. He nodded in greeting to Cai Jianqiang and then turned to look at the other man. "I'm Lu Yin. May I know who you are?"

Cai Jianqiang introduced his companion, "This is Zi Rong. He's the second young master of Amethyst Exchange."

Lu Yin was surprised, and he looked closely at Zi Rong. He had heard of this person before, and he knew that the second Young Master of Amethyst Exchange had never worked for the family business. Instead, he had devoted all of his time and energy to cultivation and fighting. He was truly a battle maniac, and Lu Yin had been very intrigued when he first heard of this person. However, Lu Yin hadn't bothered to find out more about Zi Rong since a battle maniac most likely didn't have much influence within Amethyst Exchange.

Lu Yin hadn't expected to meet this person here.

Zi Rong grinned at Lu Yin. "So you're Lu Yin. I heard that your nickname is Enlighters' Bane. Show me what you can do. You can use any items to fight—I don't mind."

The man's blade instantly crashed towards Lu Yin, distorting the void around them.

He truly is a battle maniac, Lu Yin thought to himself as he answered, "I'm not here to fight, Brother Zi. I heard about you a long time ago."

Zi Rong smirked. "My reputation isn't that good, but you've already killed quite a few Enlighter powerhouses who came from the Innerverse. You're pretty strong, so have a taste of my Battalion Slash." The man then raised his blade again to attack.

Lu Yin's eyes flickered. This fellow had to be crazy!

Cai Jianqiang moved to stand in front of Lu Yin and admonished Zi Rong, saying, "Alliance Leader Lu is just an Explorer, and you're much older than him. Aren't you embarrassed to attack him?"

Zi Rong laughed and put his weapon away. "Age is just a number. The current Ten Arbiters challenged us in the past, and I couldn't even defend myself. Age is no longer important. The universe has truly changed."

Cai Jianqiang was insistent. "No matter what, Alliance Leader Lu is still just an Explorer while you're a Hunter. This fight isn't fair."

Lu Yin raised a brow. So there's still going to be a battle?

Cai Jianqiang turned around and whispered to Lu Yin, "Alliance Leader Lu, Zi Rong is nuts, and he always wants to fight against powerful people. If you don't agree to a fight, then he'll just keep pestering you."

Lu Yin nodded, and then turned to ask Zi Rong, "Do you really want to fight?"

Zi Rong clenched the hilt of his blade tightly. "Are you scared? That's fine. I can suppress my power to the Explorer realm."

Lu Yin shook his head. "That would be too boring. Your attack just now seemed like something that you've spent a great deal of time honing. I would like to face that."

Cai Jianqiang's expression instantly changed. "Alliance Leader Lu, don't be reckless. Zi Rong's blade has almost reached the same level as an Enlighter's attack. He practices everyday and has never slacked off once. His attack is far more powerful than you believe."

Birds of a feather flock together. One would never be able to interact with certain people without reaching a certain level.

Regardless of whether it was Cai Jianqiang, Aden, or Yan Yan, each and every one of them was a genius Realmbreaker.

Lu Yin could already tell how strong Zi Rong was since he had seen the man's rune lines. In the past, Enlighters had been light years away from Lu Yin, but now, at his current level, Enlighters were no longer that uncommon. He encountered them all over the place, and this was the level that he had reached. This was what he was due. He now had the right to frequently interact with Enlighter realm powerhouses.

"Don't worry. I truly want to experience that kind of power." Lu Yin wasn't planning on defeating Zi Rong, but the attack just now gave him a different feeling. What was cultivation? It was one's determination and perseverance. Although Lu Yin was strong, had been hailed as invincible when he was a Limiteer, and was currently able to face off against Hunters while still in the Explorer realm, he had always felt like he was lacking something.

His power had been built off of his die and destiny, which meant that he lacked perseverance. He didn't even recite the Stonewall Scriptures everyday, and he rarely practiced his Cosmic Art. Despite everything, his battle force had improved by leaps and bounds. He had spent even less time on his domain, and he had no clue why it kept improving. All in all, none of his power came from his own determination.

Despite that, Lu Yin could feel Zi Rong's intense determination in that previous attack. He wanted to experience it directly and see if he could determine his future cultivation path.

Zi Rong looked at Lu Yin in astonishment. "You're brave. I heard that you know a secret technique that can divert even an Enlighter's attack. That would make it possible for you to withstand my attack."

Lu Yin shook his head. "What's the point of me facing your attack if I use a secret technique? Come on."

Zi Rong's eyes flashed, and he turned to glance at Cai Jianqiang. "It's no wonder why you were willing to stay here and protect Planet Hydrotink. I'm also impressed by his courage."

Cai Jianqiang wanted to say that he hadn't stayed because of Lu Yin, but rather to gain some experience from the senior Lockbreakers. However, he didn't say this to Zi Rong, as Lu Yin's actions just now had actually impressed him as well. Not everybody had the courage to face Zi Rong's attack, and on top of that, Lu Yin was just an Explorer. Cai Jianqiang stared at Lu Yin in awe, and he suddenly realized that the myriad rumors about this person were not true.

Zi Rong raised his blade as shadows formed and dissipated around it. Although everything happened slowly, Lu Yin could see all of these details clearly with his eyes. The next moment, an astonishing light fell upon him that was quickly followed by an indescribable aura. No matter how powerful this attack ended up being, it would carve out a path for his future—Lu Yin could feel this in his bones.

As the radiance fell onto Lu Yin, he could feel Zi Rong's spirit, determination, and perseverance through it. He was stunned by Zi Rong's perseverance, and Lu Yin felt as though he was facing an indestructible rock. He couldn't win. There was absolutely no way he could defeat this attack.

Lu Yin felt an urge to put on his universal armor and use the Yu Secret Art. These actions had already become an ingrained habit of his, but he forcefully stopped himself as he felt Zi Rong's perseverance. The rune lines of this attack didn't match up to an Enlighter's, as Zi Rong hadn't used his full power. However, this attack was still sincere, and despite Zi Rong reducing the attack's power compared to his battle with Cai Jianqiang, Zi Rong had still managed to put his perseverance, spirit, and determination on full display.

Lu Yin opened his eyes and unleashed his domain. His eight lined battle force appeared and covered his body as visible shockwaves of power emanated out from him. He then lifted his hand and formed a claw, causing an ancient beast's roar to ring out. He used the Skybeast Claw in conjunction with his battle force and domain to defend himself from the attack.

The ground shattered with a bang as a countless amount of invisible force surged into space, causing the various spacecraft observing the planet to tremble. Spatial shockwaves also rippled out into the distance.

Lu Yin fell to the ground as the Skybeast Claw had only helped him block the attack for a brief moment before quickly disintegrating. Although Lu Yin could battle against Hunters with his current strength, Zi Rong wasn't anything like a normal Hunter. He was a Hunter powerhouse who could challenge Enlighters, and even if he hadn't reached the peak Hunter realm, his attack still wasn't something that Lu Yin could easily face.

The classification of realms wasn't the only way of measuring one's power. Kong Shi had already reached the peak Hunter realm, but she couldn't compare to Zi Rong at all.

Lu Yin had used the Yu Secret Art to divert his opponent's attack any time he had faced off against a strong opponent on the level of Yan Yan, Twin Daemon, or Enlighters. He had never directly fought against such people with his own pure strength; after all, those people had far exceeded his strength, so he had never felt embarrassed at using the Yu Secret Art. However, now that he was facing Zi Rong, he didn't feel like retreating. Cultivation was intended to train one's body, and one had to train both their strength and their soul. Without the soul of a powerhouse, one would never be able to achieve greatness no matter how strong their body was.

Zi Rong had only attacked once, but his attack had ignited Lu Yin's passion for cultivation.

He roared and used the Skybeast Claw once again. He continued to use the Skybeast Claw in rapid succession, trying to whittle away at Zi Rong's attack.

Cai Jianqiang watched the two in shock. It was rare that an Explorer could survive an attack from Zi Rong, let alone fight back against it. Even the Ten Arbiters might not have reached Lu Yin's level when they had been Explorers.

Zi Rong maintained his stance and carefully watched Lu Yin.

Suddenly, the space around them solidified, and a strange power caused them to shiver.

Lu Yin raised his hand and used the Dream Finger. The attack was finally shattered with a clang, but Lu Yin's finger was bleeding profusely.

The effects of practicing the Finger Tap Technique could be clearly seen now, as Lu Yin wouldn't have been able to shatter this attack and keep his finger intact before.

Crack.

The mountain range in the distance shattered apart as invisible energies tore the ground apart. Normal cultivators would no longer be able to approach this area as remnants of the blade attack remained in the sky.

Lu Yin smiled despite panting heavily. He had managed to withstand the attack. He had truly held his own against a genius Hunter. Although Zi Rong hadn't used his full strength, Lu Yin had also held back. He could have easily diverted that attack away with the Yu Secret Art, but he hadn't done so because he had wanted to experience Zi Rong's perseverance.

He had accomplished his goal, but Lu Yin wasn't going to change his battle style. He would continue to use the Yu Secret Art and external items whenever he fought against someone like Zi Rong in the future. However, he was no longer confused about his cultivation path either.

Lu Yin felt that he had learned a lot on this day, and he had a feeling that this battle would have a profound effect on his future.

He hadn't improved his strength, but he had nourished his spirit.

Clap clap clap clap!

Cai Jianqiang looked down at Lu Yin from the sky and applauded. "Alliance Leader Lu, I am rarely impressed by people, but you have done it."

Zi Rong also looked at Lu Yin. "I am also rarely impressed by people, but you are one of them."

Lu Yin laughed and quickly bandaged his finger. He then used some special medications from Shamrock Enterprises to help his finger recover quickly.

He then leaped up out of the pit and glanced around. There were countless rune lines hanging in the air, signifying the remnant energy from Zi Rong's attack.

Lu Yin felt relieved; if Zi Rong's attack had been slightly stronger, he wouldn't have gotten off with just a simple finger injury.

"You didn't use your full strength," Lu Yin told Zi Rong with a smile.

Zi Rong shrugged. "I just wanted to witness the abilities of the renowned Lu Yin. I wasn't planning on killing you. Why? Do you want to attack me too? It's only fair."

Lu Yin answered, "No, thank you. My attacks would be useless against you."

At present, his most powerful attacks were the Finger Tap Technique and the Skybeast Claw, but even when he used both techniques together, he had only barely been enough to block Zi Rong's blade. Lu Yin wouldn't be able to injure the Hunter with any of his attacks, and although his spiritual force was comparable to the Ten Arbiters', Zi Rong was a person with incredible determination, which meant that his spiritual force was likely equally as strong.

Zi Rong grinned, as he already knew that.

"This guy's so annoying! Seventh Bro, you shouldn't have risked your life," the Ghost Monkey said with a sneer.

#### **Chapter 754: The Goddess, Luo Shen**

Lu Yin looked at Zi Rong and then at Cai Jianqiang. "You guys know each other?"

Cai Jianqiang nodded. "We met several times when we were younger. If we didn't end up fighting, we wouldn't have become friends."

Zi Rong regretfully said, "This bastard beat the people of our generation until we came to our senses. None of the Ten Arbiters back then—no, there weren't any Ten Arbiters back then—none of the

Universe Youth Councilors were his match in any way. I was unlucky enough to be a part of them, so I also took a beating from him.”

Lu Yin was surprised. “You were a Councilor in your generation’s Universe Youth Council?”

“I was one of the Outerverse Youth Councilors,” Zi Rong corrected.

“Do you know Kong Shi?” Lu Yin asked.

Zi Rong replied, “I’ve heard of her, but I’m one generation older than Kong Shi. Cai Jianqiang and I are from the previous generation, so she’s one generation younger than us.”

“Then why is her power level higher than yours?” Lu Yin was baffled.

The corner of Zi Rong’s mouth twitched as he looked away. This asshole did not know how to have a conversation.

Cai Jianqiang laughed, “Kong Shi was a Councilor from the previous Universe Youth Council, and he’s just one generation older than her and was in the Outerverse Youth Council. You can think of it as the difference between Wendy Yushan and the Ten Arbiters, though not quite that exaggerated. Still, there was a difference, but only in power level. If they truly fought against each other, Kong Shi may not actually be his match.”

Zi Rong rolled his eyes. “Don’t make a comparison between us based on our statuses. Our generation’s councilors all had similar levels of strength, unlike now, where any one of the Ten Arbiters can sweep across several generations of Universe Youth Councilors. Someone like me wouldn’t even qualify to receive a move from one of the Ten Arbiters.”

“Yes, the times have changed. Even I can’t deal with those monsters.” Cai Jianqiang sighed.

Lu Yin looked over at Cai Jianqiang curiously. “Speaking of which, I haven’t even seen you use all your strength. You’re supposed to be the definition of someone unequalled within their generation.”

Cai Jianqiang shook his head. “I’m about the same as this fellow here, and there’s not much difference between us. Don’t listen to other people’s wild exaggerations. Compared to cultivating, I enjoy lockbreaking more.”

Zi Rong snorted, “Alliance Leader Lu, don’t let this guy trick you. When he erupts with his true strength, it’s enough to scare people to death. It’s not like he’s never beaten up an Enlighter.”

“Don’t spout nonsense.” Cai Jianqiang glared at Zi Rong.

Lu Yin was surprised to learn that Cai Jianqiang had actually defeated an Enlighter before, and he probably had not relied on any items to boost his strength either. That was amazing. In that case, how strong would this person be once he became an Enlighter? In that case, wasn’t this person at around the same level as the Ten Arbiters? If that was so, then he could serve as a benchmark. If Lu Yin could go head to head with Cai Jianqiang, then that might indicate that his strength was approaching that of the Ten Arbiters. Lu Yin became a little excited when he thought of this.

Lu Yin was still uncertain how strong the Ten Arbiters truly were. From start to end, during the chaotic battle in the Daosource Sect's ruins, Lu Yin had been either trashed or rescued. And against Nightking

Zhenwu, Lu Yin had not even been able to retaliate. With a fresh benchmark in front of him, Lu Yin planned to come back to this person in the future to test his personal strength after improving.

Cai Jianqiang took out three jars of wine from his cosmic ring, which were actually traditional earthen jars. "It's been a long time since we drank. Come on, cheers."

"Is this a cup?" Zi Rong's eyes went wide.

Cai Jianqiang drank to his heart's content and then wiped the corner of his mouth. "Don't be confused. I got these from a planet that had just broken away from a slaving civilization. It's the best wine, and it can't be purchased anywhere else."

Lu Yin took a mouthful; the wine refreshed his throat, and it was actually very invigorating. There was an uninterrupted sweetness as he drank followed by a fire that seemed to ignite his belly, but the heat quickly cooled afterwards. It was a very contradictory feeling, but it was also very pleasant. "Good wine."

"Good taste." Cai Jianqiang appreciated Lu Yin more. He would only use this wine when entertaining people whom he recognized.

Zi Rong took a mouthful. "Not bad. Where did you get it from?"

Cai Jianqiang quietly replied, "Not telling."

"Why?"

"You're from Amethyst Exchange! If I tell you, this wine will end up becoming widespread."

"Isn't that better? Then you'll be able to drink it more often."

"The rarer, the more valuable."

"That's unrelated to food and drinks. People who say that are talking about items."

"It's the same logic."

"What a wooden brain! You clearly have an amazing talent for cultivating, but you only enjoy lockbreaking. This is why you haven't accomplished anything in your life!"

"That's fine."

...

Lu Yin took another sip of the wine as he watched the two bicker, enjoying the tranquil atmosphere. He had just been strangers with the two of them a short while ago, but these two clearly got along well.

"Hey, come on, tell me. I never meddle with the exchange. You should know that." Zi Rong looked expectantly at Cai Jianqiang.

Cai Jianqiang glanced over at his friend. "I seem to recall that you don't like drinking wine, but here you are, demanding my source so energetically. If you're not asking on behalf of the exchange, then what?"

Zi Rong grinned and then gloomily took a large mouthful of the wine.



Lu Yin set his earthen jar down. "I seldom drink wine, but it's quite refreshing."

Cai Jianqiang smiled. "Every time a lockbreaking session doesn't go smoothly, I have a drink and drown my sorrows. There's no need to dispel it with star energy."

Lu Yin looked at him. "Honestly, why do you pursue lockbreaking so strongly?"

Cai Jianqiang longingly answered, "It's a dream."

"Dream your ass! You just don't want to lose to your brother," Zi Rong mocked.

Cai Jianqiang quietly said, "It was like that at the start, but when I succeeded for the first time and saw the object that had been sealed away by the universe for countless years, it felt as if I was snatching treasures away from the universe. This feeling is something that can never be experienced by those who can't lockbreak." He then looked over at Lu Yin, and his eyes lit up. "I really wish I had the lockbreaking talent that you guys have, but... Hai."

This person truly liked lockbreaking, and Lu Yin did not know how to comfort him. Talent for lockbreaking? Did Lu Yin have such a thing? He didn't know, as he simply relied on his Cosmic Art to supplement his lockbreaking. It seemed as though Cai Jianqiang was not inferior in terms of perception or his star energy control, but for some reason, his lockbreaking did not improve smoothly. And thus, the man was only able to blame himself.

Lu Yin looked over at Zi Rong. "Why don't you want to get involved in the Exchange's business?"

Zi Rong took another swig of wine. "It's too annoying. There's nothing more delightful than cultivating."

Cai Jianqiang countered, saying, "He's afraid of trouble, so he doesn't cultivate any other techniques besides his Battalion Slash. He has trained that one technique for decades."

Lu Yin was stunned. "It's not because of his perseverance?"

"It's because he's lazy," Cai Jianqiang ruthlessly mocked.

Zi Rong retorted, "Don't spout nonsense, I definitely have perseverance. How else would I have managed to persist for decades?"

Lu Yin was left speechless, and he had a feeling that his common sense was being destroyed. Everything had a cause and an effect; Zi Rong had cultivated his Battalion Slash for decades, and even if that was because of his laziness, he also possessed great determination. It was only his motivation that put others off. Lu Yin had nearly worshipped Zi Rong's determination, but now, Lu Yin felt his blood starting to run cold.

There were some things that really should not be said aloud, for once they were spoken, the truth might not match the appearance. Sometimes, imagination was enough.

"Alliance Leader Lu, I know why you are here. I tell you straightforwardly that I cannot represent Amethyst Exchange, and I cannot help you in your feud with Aegis," Zi Rong said.

Lu Yin was not surprised by this, as he had realized that the moment he saw the Battalion Slash, and he had known that he would inevitably be rejected. "It's alright, your sister has helped me enough."

Zi Rong suddenly moved closer and glared at Lu Yin. "Don't make any moves on her. She's going to marry a scholar in the future."

Lu Yin blinked. "I'm a scholar."

"Knowing how to read doesn't make you a scholar," Zi Rong retorted in a deep voice.

Lu Yin did not know how to reply to that. Should he come up with a poem on the spot?

Before long, the three men finished the wine in the three earthen jars. Not one of them used any star energy to sober themselves up, and they were all quite clearly drunk.

Cai Jianqiang was hugging his jar and lockbreaking while crazily lamenting about something or another.

Zi Rong wielded his blade while hacking away with it, slice after slice. It was impossible to tell if he was drunk or sleepwalking.

Lu Yin fell to the ground and reminisced about past memories, though he could not recall what had happened nine years ago. His memory was limited to only these nine years. During this time, he had lived with Big Sis and the others for a year, spent more than a year peacefully living on Earth, and then another seven years cultivating. That was the extent of his memories, and there was nothing from before that.

He felt like a rootless weed, and Earth could barely be considered his roots.

The following day, at King Zishan's palace, Lu Yin massaged his head. He had drunk too much the previous day, but fortunately, he had still managed to get home.

He moved star energy through his body, and his mind became much clearer as his discomfort faded away.

He did not know what had happened to the other two. One had been crazily lockbreaking while the other had been waving a blade about in a berserk fashion. They wouldn't have inexplicably started fighting each other, right? Fortunately, he had been the first to leave.

He had just entered the palace's courtyard when Gavin requested an audience, his face showing a sense of urgency and excitement.

"Your Highness, good news! The Goddess, Luo Shen is on Zenyu Star. Do you want to see her?" Gavin excitedly informed Lu Yin, his expression a little strange.

Lu Yin was confused. "Luo Shen? Who's that?"

Gavin was surprised. "Your Highness doesn't know of the Goddess? She's the most popular celebrity beauty! She's a jade goddess who's popular throughout half of the Outerverse. You've never heard of her?"

Lu Yin shook his head. "What does some celebrity have to do with me?"

Gavin quietly answered, “Luo Shen wants to socialize and meet some new friends on Zenyu Star with a concert. If Your Highness is interested, your subject can invite her to dance for Your Highness alone. With your current status, I don’t believe that Luo Shen will reject an invitation.”

Lu Yin stared at Gavin in astonishment, as this old fellow’s expression did not look quite right. Could this man be trying to bend some rules to dole on Lu Yin? Lu Yin suddenly laughed. “Is she really that beautiful? To the point where Lord Gavin cannot maintain himself?”

Gavin smiled sheepishly. “Your Highness is funny, and your subject does not have the good fortune to be able to watch Luo Shen dance by myself. Right!” Gavin quickly activated his gadget, and a woman appeared on the screen. “Take a look, Your Highness. This is The Goddess, Luo Shen! The jade goddess of Amethyst Exchange.”

Lu Yin looked over and was amazed. His breath was truly stolen by this girl.

The girl on the screen looked to be about twenty years old, and golden hair hung to her waist. She had a gentle look and was attractive in a non-dazzling way. Her appearance was exquisite and refined, beautiful and pure. There was an indescribable attraction about her, and she had a faint smile on her face, as if she was an angel that had descended from the Heavens. Even Lu Yin, who had seen Ming Yan, Bai Xue, Madam Nalan, and other stunning beauties, felt that Luo Shen’s beauty was extremely rare. She was different from any other beautiful woman he had seen before.

This girl had an intoxicating appearance and a smile that could purify people.

Her smile felt like it could illuminate even the darkest corners.

Gavin closely observed Lu Yin, and when he saw the Royal Regent’s eyes brighten, he quietly asked, “Your Highness, do you want a private performance?”

Lu Yin withdrew his gaze. “Is that possible?”

Gavin replied, “For others, of course not. However, this subject can invite her in Your Highness’s name.”

After that, Gavin opened up other images of Luo Shen to share with Lu Yin.

Lu Yin had only noticed her face before being instantly stunned, and he had not really paid much attention to her figure. It had to be said that beautiful women practically all had good figures, and this Luo Shen was no different. Her chest was so large that it did not match her innocent face at all.

### **Chapter 755: Zi Xue & Bai Xue**

Lu Yin suddenly barked, “Stop!” and Gavin paused right when he was about to switch to another picture.

Lu Yin stared at the screen. The image displayed was still that of Luo Shen, but this time, it was a group photo of her with some other people.

Lu Yin stared closely at a corner of the picture, where he could see a figure that left him in disbelief, but also very happy. There was only a side profile of a face, but that person was clearly another girl. Despite only seeing a partial profile, the girl’s beauty could not be hidden, and Lu Yin was drawn to the girl in an instant. That was—Bai Xue.

“Where was this picture of Luo Shen taken?” Lu Yin asked, his tone sounding rather urgent.

Gavin smiled. “Your Highness, there’s no rush. Let this subject arrange things.”

Lu Yin looked at the minister rather sharply. “Speak.”

Gavin trembled, and he felt that something was off with Lu Yin. “In Amethyst Exchange. Goddess Luo Shen has been the jade goddess of Amethyst Exchange for almost the whole past five years, and she has also been a spokesperson for Amethyst Exchange. She will be performing at Amethyst Exchange during her trip to Zenyu Star in order to promote the company.”

Lu Yin instantly vanished as he headed towards Amethyst Exchange.

Amethyst Exchange was packed with people at the moment, as Luo Shen was famous throughout the Outerverse. Even someone like Lu Yin was astounded by her beauty, let alone others who were attracted to beautiful women.

With Luo Shen’s arrival, Amethyst Exchange was overflowing with impassioned crowds of fans, and the security had been raised to the maximum. But even then, they still could not stop the raging crowds. Many carried the celebrity’s pictures in raised hands as they shouted frantically. Luo Shen’s fans filled every corner of the trade center. Even Amethyst Exchange’s employees were looking upwards with expectant faces, hoping that she would appear and that they might be lucky enough to end up getting closer to her.

In Zi Xianxian’s office on the top level of Amethyst Exchange’s mall on Zenyu Star, Luo Shen was sitting on the pink sofa, lazily indulging in its comfort. “How comfortable. Xianxian, you’re still the only one relaxing. I’m about to be worked to death.”

Across from her, Zi Xianxian sat behind the desk as she casually responded, “What relaxing? Eldest Bro is creating trouble for me every day. I’m frustrated as well.”

Luo Shen giggled. “Brother Zi Fang has a soft heart despite his hard exterior. At worst, he’ll just scold you a bit more, but he hasn’t made any real moves against you.”

Zi Xianxian proudly stated, “If he dares to try, then Second Bro will pull off his skin.” At that moment, Zi Xianxian frowned and looked over at a beautiful woman standing beside the window. “Where is Second Bro?”

The woman turned around, her looks brightening the office a little bit more. “I don't know.”

Luo Shen looked over at the woman as well. “Sis Zi Xue, Brother Zi Rong tells you wherever he goes, but you’re saying that he didn’t tell you this time?”

That girl called Zi Xue indifferently answered, “I have no relationships with him.”

Zi Xianxian rolled her eyes. “Whatever. Wherever you go, my Second Bro follows, and you can’t shake him off. Sis Zi Xue, just get used to it. When should I start calling you Second Sister-in-law? Hehe.”

Zi Xue did not respond. Instead, she silently stared out the window with a complex light in her eyes that she did not let the two girls behind her see.

At this moment, there was a knock on the door, causing Zi Xianxian to frown. "Strange, who could it be? We already said that we weren't receiving any guests today."

"It's me," Lu Yin's voice was heard through the door.

At that moment, Zi Xue's body trembled where she stood beside the window, but nobody noticed.

Zi Xianxian was stunned. "Lu Yin? What are you doing here?"

Luo Shen stood up and looked over curiously. Lu Yin: this was a name that had spread throughout the Outerverse and become a legend. She had heard it countless times, and she had also seen this person's picture as well. This was one of the most influential figures in the entire Outerverse: the Alliance Leader of the Great Eastern Alliance.

"May I enter?" Lu Yin asked.

Zi Xianxian rolled her eyes. "Come on in."

When the door opened, Lu Yin first looked at Zi Xianxian, followed by Luo Shen, who was sitting on the pink sofa. She gave off a different feeling in person compared to her photos. Luo Shen was sitting upright in a still position, but her appearance still took Lu Yin's breath away. However, he had not come for Luo Shen today, and his eyes moved past her to look over at the last person beside the window. Even with her back to him, this beautiful woman was very familiar. Despite the two not seeing each other for many years, Lu Yin would never forget this person: Bai Xue. She was someone who had left Earth with him, but she had been taken away by the Hidden Earth Society and had gone missing.

Lu Yin and Bai Xue were not too well acquainted with each other, and there had been no tangled emotions between them either. However, ever since Bai Xue had left Earth together with him, Lu Yin had not been able to rest easy with her disappearance. He had discovered that Zhang Dingtian was in the Starfall Sea, but there had been no news about Xu San or Seruzen. But right now, Bai Xue was right in front of him.

Lu Yin stepped into the office and stared towards the window.

In front of the window, the girl called Zi Xue turned around and calmly looked back at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin said, "Bai Xue, it's been a very long time."

The office fell into an awkward silence before Zi Xianxian asked, "Bai Xue? Lu Yin, who are you talking to?"

Lu Yin continued to stare straight ahead. Bai Xue's appearance hadn't changed in the slightest, and as he looked at her, Lu Yin was reminded of a moment back on Earth, when Zhou Shan had described Bai Xue as a cloud in the sky.

Luo Shen blinked curiously and looked at Lu Yin before shifting her gaze over to the window.

"Alliance Leader Lu has mistaken me for someone else. My name is Zi Xue, not Bai Xue," the girl beside the window said coldly. There was an atmosphere to her that made people feel like strangers should not approach her.

Lu Yin brows furrowed. "Zi Xue? Aren't you Bai Xue?"

Zi Xue coldly answered, "No."

Zi Xianxian's eyes flashed, and she said, "Lu Yin, you are mistaken. She's Zi Xue, my Second Brother's fiancée."

Luo Shen was very interested in this development. Could there be some melodramatic story behind this? Could Brother Zi Rong's fiancée have some kind of relationship with this legend, Lu Yin? Was Sister Zi Xue actually this Bai Xue that he had mentioned? Could she have lost her memory and been saved by Brother Zi Rong? Suddenly, Luo Shen's mind was filled with countless convoluted stories, and she looked at Lu Yin sympathetically.

Lu Yin could not believe Zi Xue, as this woman was the splitting image of Bai Xue. "Did you lose your memory?"

Zi Xue's brows furrowed. "No, I'm Zi Xue. This is the name I've had since I was little."

"Aren't you from Earth?" Lu Yin still was in disbelief.

Zi Xue started to get a little impatient. "Alliance Leader Lu, for the last time, I'm Zi Xue, not this Bai Xue you speak of. And I didn't lose my memory."

Lu Yin stared closely at Zi Xue's appearance, still in complete disbelief at her denial.

Zi Xianxian walked over and blocked Lu Yin's view. "Lu Yin, I can testify that Sister Zi Xue did not lose her memory. Do you have any other matters to talk about? If not, please leave."

Lu Yin averted his gaze. How was it possible for there to be two absolutely identical people, and furthermore, both of their names were Xue.

She hadn't lost her memory? Could her memory have been tampered with? Impossible.

He looked at Zi Xue. "Could we speak alone?"

Zi Xianxian became furious. "Lu Yin, you're going too far! Sister Zi Xue is my Second Bro's fiancée. Do you think meeting to speak with her alone is appropriate?"

Lu Yin's gaze grew cold, and an enormous pressure descended that stifled Zi Xianxian slightly. "I was talking to her."

Suddenly, a second tremendous pressure descended before converging onto a square meter of space that blasted down upon Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's gaze trembled, and he shook his body to resolve the pressure as Zi Rong's figure appeared before him. As he appeared, he glared furiously at Lu Yin. "Alliance Leader Lu, what are you trying to do?"

Lu Yin took a deep breath. "I'm sorry, I forgot myself."

Zi Rong stared closely at Lu Yin, and his eyes narrowed before he looked at Zi Xianxian. "What's going on here?"

Zi Xianxian quickly recounted what had just happened.

Zi Rong was surprised, and he said to Lu Yin, "Alliance Leader Lu, I can promise you that Zi Xue is Zi Xue and not Bai Xue. You must be mistaken, as she has neither lost her memory nor has it been tampered with."

Lu Yin turned to face Zi Rong, and then Zi Xue, before apologizing. "I suppose that I must truly be mistaken. I'm sorry, Brother Zi."

He then left with his scattered thoughts.

Zi Xianxian resentfully commented, "What kind of person is he? I thought that he was decent, but it turns out that he just tries to strike up a conversation with anyone beautiful, and he even wants to use force."

Zi Rong said, "Don't spout nonsense. Alliance Leader Lu is not that kind of person."

"Huh? Are you that familiar with him?" Zi Xianxian rolled her eyes.

Zi Rong sighed. "This person is a son of the heavens. I drank with him yesterday, and I believe my ability to judge character to be rather decent. It should truly be that he was mistaken. Xianxian, don't take offense."

Zi Xianxian snorted.

Zi Rong nodded at Luo Shen and then walked over to Zi Xue. "Sorry to have startled you."

Zi Xue calmly answered, "It's alright."

"Don't mind him. Alliance Leader Lu was mistaken," Zi Rong said.

Zi Xue remained indifferent. "It's nothing."

Zi Rong stared at Zi Xue's beautiful face, and his eyes suddenly grew heated. He had liked this girl for several years, and he had been completely smitten the moment he first saw her. "Zi Xue, we--"

He was interrupted by Zi Xianxian, "Second Bro, we're still here, so watch what you say and don't gross us out."

Zi Rong turned around to stare at Zi Xianxian, but he stopped speaking.

After leaving Amethyst Exchange, Lu Yin was deep in thought all the way back home. Huo Qingshan had admitted that the Hidden Earth Society had taken Zhang Dingtian and the others into the Inniverse, but that meant that Bai Xue should be in the Inniverse right now.

Lu Yin had just looked up some information about Zi Xue, and he quickly found that, a few years ago, she had been adopted by Amethyst Exchange's Chairman Zi Tianchuan. This meant that she had been in the Outerverse for several years. However, nobody knew any details about her past before that.

Lu Yin still believed that this woman was Bai Xue, and he intended to investigate this carefully. How could there be two people with identical appearances? Right, there was also Luo Shen and the Sage of

Aqua, though they were not the same person. In the past, Bai Xue had been known as the Sage of Aqua, which sounded rather similar to Goddess Luo Shen's name, though the title of Goddess may not have necessarily been suggested by Bai Xue.

Zi Rong had come to Zenyu Star since he was protecting Zi Xue and Luo Shen. After another two days, Amethyst Exchange would finish preparing the stage where Luo Shen would perform.

Amethyst Exchange's typical method was to prepare an outdoor stage and hold a performance within one of their malls.

As for advertising, they had already been doing so for a month. Quite a lot of people had arrived at Zenyu Star during this month, all of them to see Luo Shen.

Lu Yin did not disturb Zi Xue during these two days, as he was still investigating information concerning Amethyst Exchange.

One night, Luo Shen began her performance before the crowd's eyes.

Lu Yin was sitting in the foremost row, and beside him sat some important characters from the Great Eastern Alliance. There were some merchants who had associations with Amethyst Exchange in the second row.

The Goddess, Luo Shen, was famous throughout the Outerverse, and aside from her mesmerizing appearance, her dancing was also able to enthrall countless people, and it would leave countless people spellbound.

Lu Yin had come to the performance to observe Zi Xue, but when Luo Shen began dancing, he also became engrossed.

A heavenly palace reverberated with the music, and Luo Shen turned around with a smile. There was only one person on the stage, and with her jade flute, white clothes, and golden hair, she danced in a fairy-like performance. It felt like nothing else existed at this moment besides a single beam of light illuminating Luo Shen and Lu Yin. At that moment, Lu Yin felt like only Luo Shen and he existed in this place, no one else. He was no longer seated in a mall, but rather in a palace in the heavens.

All the stars in the sky seemed to sway along to the rhythm of that beautiful head of hair that was dancing like a dragon.

A pair of bright eyes could be seen through the white clothes, and just seeing them sent a gentle shock coursing through the beholder's body that resonated with the soul.

This is referring to the Chinese names and pronunciation.

### **Chapter 756: Surprise Attack**

Lu Yin had never thought that one person's dance could fascinate him this deeply. He wasn't alone, as everyone else watching was also enthralled. There were tens of thousands of people watching Luo Shen dance, but not a single one of them made a sound. All of them were dazed by her performance.

At this moment, there was a beam of light connecting the earth and sky. It was the Goddess, Luo Shen, and everyone felt like they were alone with this enchantress.



“Seventh Bro, something isn’t right,” the Ghost Monkey’s voice suddenly interrupted, and Lu Yin awoke from his daze to see that rune lines were filling the sky. There was obviously no one to be seen, nor was there any kind of attack or technique that was being used. But despite that, the entire sky was filled with rune lines, and the entire Amethyst Exchange mall was being enveloped in it.

“It’s poison gas!” the monkey bellowed.

The rune lines in the sky suddenly fell, about to cover everyone.

Lu Yin’s brows shot up. These rune lines represented a poisonous gas that could even suppress a Hunter. Space-exploring powerhouses would instantly die if they came into contact with this gas, let alone commoners. He took out the Backlash Pearl and leaped up. He hurriedly used the pearl to absorb as much of the poisonous gas as he could, and at the same time, he shouted, “Everyone, leave!”

Luo Shen’s dance was abruptly interrupted, which initially upset everyone, but when they realized that Lu Yin was the one shouting, they were all stunned.

“Everyone, leave now!” Lu Yin roared again as he unleashed his domain to search for the person who had released the poisonous gas.

Zi Rong walked out from backstage with a solemn expression on his face.

In the sky, the poisonous gas was absorbed by the Backlash Pearl and did not descend upon the audience.

In one corner, a pair of vulture-like eyes stared at Lu Yin and the Backlash Pearl in his hand. “That thing can actually absorb my poisonous gas. As expected, it won’t be that easy to deal with him.”

Countless people ran away from the mall, but there were simply far too many people present. It was not easy to efficiently evacuate tens of thousands of people.

Lu Yin wanted to use his star energy to forcefully push the crowd out, but he quickly saw quite a few bursts of rune lines appear outside the mall. A certain chilliness fell upon the area, and Lu Yin’s pupils shrank. This was the sensation that he had felt when attacked by Feng Zi. One of Aegis’s assassins was attacking at this time.

He immediately donned his universal armor, and he looked to his right, where a boundless number of rune lines were flashing.

A blood-curdling cry pierced the atmosphere, and a splash of fresh blood erupted in the crowd of people, staining others red. The assassin had suddenly started killing the commoners in the crowd.

Lu Yin was enraged. “An assassin.”

There was a thump, as the killer from Aegis hidden within the crowd had been blocked. The Thirteen Imperial Squadrons had arrived, and the soldiers tried to evacuate the crowd out of Amethyst Exchange’s mall as quickly as possible.

Zi Rong clenched his fists, thoroughly enraged. This was an audacious move on Aegis’s part.

At the same time, normal spacecraft above the planet began to morph, revealing weapons that were aimed at Zenyu Star. Attacks rained down upon the planet.

Fortunately, Zenyu Star had a protective barrier. Otherwise, the numerous attacks would have destroyed the three mainland rings.

At this very moment, Aegis was launching a surprise attack upon Zenyu Star.

The full strength of Zenyu Star burst forth. The captains of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons all moved out as Aden, Huo Qingshan, and Yan Yan stepped into outer space.

All around Zenyu Star, a chaotic battle broke out. Not only had Aegis gathered its assassins and mercenaries, but it had also hired independent mercenary cultivators. Aegis wanted to not only deal with Lu Yin, but also completely destroy Zenyu Star. Their goal was to show their might to the entire Outerverse.

Inside the mall, Lu Yin was still searching for Feng Zi when Phantom Sting appeared. "Your Highness, Poisonmaster is here. He is ranked second on the Outerverse's Assassins List."

Lu Yin's pupils shrank. "Is he the one who released all that poisonous gas?"

"Yes, this person once set a record for massacring a hundred billion people in the shortest amount of time, and he also once destroyed an entire filament. He's very hard to deal with," Phantom Sting solemnly explained.

Lu Yin's scalp went numb, as this sort of poison was a frightening prospect to worry about in the middle of a fight. "Go and look for Poisonmaster. You don't have to worry about anything else."

"Yes," Phantom Sting acknowledged his orders as he vanished.

Lu Yin surveyed his surroundings. There were chaotic battles taking place all around him, and Zi Rong had also started fighting. Zi Xianxian, Zi Xue, and the others had moved backstage, but they were similarly facing off against assassins there. The Thirteen Imperial Squadrons had already surrounded the entire mall, but Lu Yin saw more rune lines continuing to appear outside the perimeter. All of Zenyu Star was in a mess at this moment.

Strangely, when he looked up, he saw a boundless amount of rune lines appear. It was an Enlighter, and Lu Yin had seen these rune lines before. It was Lord Egret; Aegis was truly ruthless in its actions during this attack. They had mobilized a majority of their assassins and an Enlighter for the same assault.

Lord Egret appeared and pressed a hand towards Zenyu Star. With the strength of Zenyu Star's protective shield, it was difficult for it to resist an Enlighter's attack.

Aden gritted his teeth and dashed into space. "Thunder Mountain Breach: Thunder Shield."

There was a bang as Aden was sent flying back by Lord Egret's palm, crashing into the three mainland rings.

He quickly flew up once again. He had also blocked Enlighter realm astral beasts back in Ironblood Weave, and he was experienced with facing such powerhouses.

Lord Egret was stunned, as he thought that the only person who would be able to resist him for any amount of time on this planet was Lu Yin, and that was only when the youth used his various items. He had never imagined that there would be someone else who could block him.

Inside the mall, a blade light swept out and bisected three assassins at the waist. Zi Rong glanced over at Lu Yin. "Be careful."

Lu Yin was still using the Backlash Pearl to absorb the poisonous gas when long, black hair appeared beneath his feet twined around him, binding his ankles together. Then, Lu Yin felt his body become powerless as his vitality started being siphoned away.

His expression changed. This was an attack from a powerhouse. Lu Yin pressed down with a hand, using a Skybeast Claw to tear through the hair. He then followed the broken strands back to a nearby place. There was a tall figure hidden there, and he started constantly moving about to dodge Lu Yin's attacks, but his eyes remained fixed upon Lu Yin at all times.

"That's the Magistrate, ranked fourth on the Assassins List," Zi Rong informed Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. Poisonmaster, the Magistrate, and Feng Zi. Aegis had six top-tier killers; would all of them appear today?

There was a cry heard from atop the stage as Amethyst Exchange's experts who were protecting Luo Shen all clutched their necks and fell down while countless blades descended and shot towards Luo Shen.

Her face went pale as she hopelessly watched the approaching sharp blades.

Zi Rong raised a hand and sliced down with his blade, breaking apart all the other blades. "Aegis, how bold! Are you really trying to start a war with my Amethyst Exchange?"

Unfortunately, his words proved to be ineffective. Lu Yin saw rune lines snake through the void towards Luo Shen that looked similar to the poisonous gas's rune lines. Aegis's goal with this operation was not just to deal with Lu Yin, as they also wanted to showcase their strength. Luo Shen was incredibly influential in the Outerverse, so Aegis wanted to kill Luo Shen on Zenyu Star, which would disgrace the Great Yu Empire as well as the Great Eastern Alliance.

Lu Yin's figure flashed as he appeared atop the stage. He then used the Backlash Pearl to absorb the poisonous gas again. He grabbed Luo Shen and threw her towards the nearby Zi Xue.

Zi Rong was truly infuriated this time, and his long sword sliced out, killing several assassins. His power was unstoppable, but Aegis had sent multiple assassins for this assault, rendering Zi Rong's power useless since he was unable to find all of the attackers.

Lu Yin had not counted on Zi Rong to provide much help. Aegis naturally had a way to stall the elite Hunter, and Lu Yin was more worried about Poisonmaster. This killer had been constantly releasing poison from the beginning, which had been keeping Lu Yin busy.

Beneath him, the black long hair twisted about once again, attempting to absorb his vitality. Lu Yin sliced at the hair again, but his attack was not as successful this time, as the hair was actually covered with eight lined battle force.

Lu Yin's expression changed, and the battle force shrouded hair stabbed forward like a spear. Against this imminent threat, Lu Yin revolved his Cosmic Art and bent his head to the side, causing the hair to hit nothing but air. The strength of the attack rattled the entire mall, and the aftershocks radiated all the way into space.

Lu Yin was frightened. If he had not dodged that last attack, although he still wouldn't have died due to his universal armor, his brain still would have been jostled at the very least.

Behind him, The Magistrate appeared. His long, black hair wrapped around Lu Yin from all directions. This hair was reinforced with eight lined battle force, and Lu Yin quickly fell back even as a chill descended. Yan Yan appeared, and his sturdy ice formed a spear that stabbed at the Magistrate while five interlocking plum blossoms sealed the long hair before causing it to freeze and shatter.

The Magistrate glanced at Yan Yan before backing away as his figure vanished. Once he disappeared, not even his rune lines could not be seen.

"Your Highness, are you fine?" Yan Yan asked.

Lu Yin coldly replied, "Seal off Amethyst Exchange. Don't let a single one of them escape."

"What about your safety?"

"I'm fine. Seal this place off immediately!" Lu Yin barked. He then released a Finger Tap that bore through an assassin's neck. He casually tossed the corpse aside.

He was most afraid of Poisonmaster releasing poison into the rest of Zenyu Star, as that would finish the planet. Nothing could be allowed to happen to Zenyu Star.

Yan Yan rose into the air as his body radiated a cold energy. Gradually, Amethyst Exchange's mall was sealed within many layers of ice. From outside, it seemed as if the entire street had been enveloped in a sturdy ice shell.

Zi Rong sternly said, "Alliance Leader Lu, let Luo Shen and the others leave first."

Lu Yin answered in a low voice, "No one can leave right now. Rest assured, I will protect them well."

Zi Rong wanted to reply, but he suddenly felt something peculiar at the top of his head, causing him to raise his blade, slice out, and behead two assassins.

The entirety of Amethyst Exchange's mall reeked of blood.

It wasn't just Luo Shen and the others that had been trapped, as the majority of the audience consisting of tens of thousands of people had been trapped as well. However, Lu Yin had no choice but to do this as he could not allow Poisonmaster to leave this place. As soon as Aegis became desperate enough and allowed Poisonmaster to attack Zenyu Star, it would not end with just tens of thousands of lives being lost, but possibly several billions.

Another benefit of the ice seal was that it dampened the battle's destructive aftershocks. Otherwise, the moves made by the experts fighting would be enough to damage the planet itself.

Behind Lu Yin, the long, black hair that was reinforced with eight lined battle force stabbed at him once again. The Magistrate seemed to be the person who had been assigned to deal with Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's gaze turned cold, and he turned around as he tapped out with a finger. The long black hair stabbed at Lu Yin, but it was diverted by the Yu Secret Art. Lu Yin's solitary finger then struck the Magistrate. The assassin's eyes lit up with glee; he had been sent to assassinate Lu Yin, and how could Aegis have not investigated Lu Yin's abilities?

He had been chosen as the primary attacker to deal with Lu Yin because he was extremely fast. When he saw the finger approaching him, the assassin's figure flashed, and although the finger caused the void to solidify, the Magistrate also ended up moving further and further away from the finger.

At that moment, Lu Yin's lips arched up, and his fingers curled up to form a fist: Daynight Punch.

The Daynight clan's battle techniques contained spiritual force attacks, and Lu Yin's spiritual force had become quite powerful. In fact, he believed that he could even rival the Ten Arbiters in this one aspect. Before this one punch, black and white colors interchanged, and it caused the Magistrate's expression to abruptly change. His entire being was caught up in an endless spiritual storm, forcing him to spit out a mouthful of blood as he retreated at his top speed. However, Lu Yin then tapped out with another finger that solidified the void: Dream Finger.

The Magistrate could not dodge this attack, and his heart was struck by the finger. There was a soft thump as his entire body was blasted against the layer of ice with enough force to crack it.

Seeing Lu Yin injure The Magistrate left Zi Rong astonished. The Magistrate was a peak Hunter, but Lu Yin had diverted the assassin's attacks with that secret technique that could transform trash into treasure. However, what was that punch just now? Had that been a Daynight battle technique?

After landing a strike on The Magistrate, Lu Yin did not give the Hunter a single moment to catch his breath, and he immediately attacked again. This type of fighter prioritized preserving their own life, so it was best to finish them off as fast as possible.

Lu Yin had not made the wrong assumption, but he had underestimated The Magistrate. As a top ranker on the Assassins List, his life-preserving methods were extraordinary, and he had long since buried multiple strands of hair beneath the ground. When Lu Yin struck him heavily with Dream Finger, the Hunter had already activated his hair to absorb the crowd's vitality.

### **Chapter 757: Chaotic Battle**

The assassin's strands of hair were thin and delicate, so nobody noticed them, which meant that nearly 10,000 people had been caught by the hair. They lost all of their life force in an instant and were reduced to corpses. These people had just been commoners, not even as strong as the weakest sort of cultivator. Thus, they had no way to stop the Magistrate from absorbing their life force.

Lu Yin's eyes went wide. "You dare!"

The Magistrate had sunk into the ice seal and absorbed the life force of nearly 10,000 people with his hair. He watched as Lu Yin's hand sneaked out, and he also raised a hand to counter Lu Yin's attack. There was another thump as the Magistrate was once again smashed into the ice by Lu Yin, causing the ice to fracture. But Lu Yin did not come out of the exchange unscathed either, and he was forced back several steps. His Thirty Stacks, Hundredfold Shockwave Palm had actually been reflected back at him, which had rendered his right arm momentarily powerless.

He looked up, astonished. He saw that the Magistrate had been embedded into the ice seal, but the assassin's body was now shrouded with a purple-red battle force lined with red stripes. This was nine lined battle force.

The Magistrate had absorbed the vitality of 10,000 people, and he had also managed to improve his battle force to nine lines.

Lu Yin's scalp turned numb as the Magistrate gave him a cold smile before his figure flashed away. When he reappeared, he was already right in front of Lu Yin, his hair stabbing forth. The assassin's nine lined battle force stunned Lu Yin, but he still activated the Yu Secret Art to quickly divert the hair attack. However, the Magistrate would not fall for the same move twice. Countless strands of hair shot out of the void and stabbed at Lu Yin, each one of them reinforced by nine lined battle force.

Lu Yin was struck by countless strands of hair, and his body was flung back into the ground.

The Magistrate dashed forward again, his hair piercing through the void and stabbing into the ground. Suddenly, the direction of the hair changed as the radiance from a blade slash tore through the area, signalling an approaching attack.

The hair blocked the bladelight, causing a dazzling cascade of sparks to burst forth. The Magistrate was forced back repeatedly by the surging bladelight until the radiance shattered with a bang. However, a second wave of bladelight appeared from Zi Rong right after. A sinister look entered the Magistrate's eyes, and his body suddenly flashed and disappeared.

Zi Rong's bladelight sliced cleanly into the ice seal and caused it to quiver as a solid chunk of ice was shaved off. Still, the attack did not break through it.

Zi Rong was stunned to discover that there was a fellow Hunter in the Great Yu Empire who could actually block his bladelight.

Outside the ice layer, Yan Yan was also surprised by the blade attack. The bladelight had nearly gone through his ice seal, which showed that the attacker was an exceptional powerhouse. As he thought about it, Yan Yan continued to build up the ice, as he definitely would not allow anyone to escape from the battle.

Underground, Lu Yin was panting heavily as waves of pain emanated out from a point in his chest. If not for his universal armor, he would have been killed by that earlier attack since nine lined battle force could easily penetrate his body.

He looked at the bladelight that had shot across the ground, and Lu Yin leaped up to look for the Magistrate.

However, he could not find the Magistrate, though he saw a large number of rune lines approaching Zi Xue and Luo Shen from underground. Zi Rong was busy fending off some other threat, his face solemn. It appeared that he had not noticed the sneak attack yet.

Lu Yin did not bother warning the Hunter out of fear that the hidden assassin would unleash their attack immediately. Lu Yin had no choice but to silently rush over himself.

Unfortunately, he had forgotten that he was actually the primary target of the assassins. As soon as Lu Yin moved out, the underground killer knew that he had been exposed, and he struck at Luo Shen without hesitation as a blade flickering with a cold light slashed out. It was Feng Zi.

Zi Rong turned around and barked, "Stop!"

Luo Shen helplessly watched on as the tip of the blade closed in on her, but then, a layer of blue ice suddenly appeared in front of her. It was Zi Xue, and although the knife easily shattered the blue ice when it struck it, the ice had slowed down the attack enough that Lu Yin was able to arrive. He grabbed Luo Shen for the second time and tossed her away from danger before striking the ground with a loud bang. He ruthlessly unleashed an Overlaying Stacks attack without any restraint and shattered the ground, though there was absolutely no trace of Feng Zi to be seen.

These assassins were very skilled at hiding and disguising themselves, and they also had power vessels that could cause their rune lines to vanish. Even Lu Yin found it difficult to deal with these people, and it was clear that Aegis had made ample preparations for this attack. Even the combined forces of all cultivators on Zenyu Star and Zi Rong couldn't avoid being drawn into a bitter battle.

In outer space, above the planet, Aden was sent flying away once again with another thump. He had blocked Lord Egret's attacks quite a few times now, and his thunder shield was no longer as robust as before. Blocking this Enlighter's attacks was not any easier than defending against the attacks of the Enlighter realm astral beasts back in Ironblood Weave.

Lord Egret's current mood was not great, as he had encountered a Hunter who could actually block him. He felt like he would never be able to beat this person to death, and he couldn't even break through the defense of this thunder shield. Where had such a freak come from, and why had he joined the Great Yu Empire? This man was actually able to block an Enlighter like Lord Egret.

Within the sealed mall, many assassins seemed to sense that they would not be able to deal with Lu Yin, especially The Magistrate. He had not shown any mercy in his last attack against Lu Yin, which should have been strong enough to kill even a Hunter. However, Lu Yin was still dashing about in the battlefield. The kid's defensive items were too absurd, and not even the Magistrate could deal with him. They would have to go with their second plan.

The Magistrate's body flashed, and he suddenly appeared below the ice seal with a growl. He then struck at the ice seal with his nine lined battle force reinforcing his hair at full force. Even if Lu Yin did not die here, Aegis still wanted to destroy Zenyu Star and let the entire Outerverse know the costs of offending Aegis.

The ice seal shattered bit by bit, and outside, Yan Yan's expression turned solemn as he continuously reinforced the seal. The two quickly entered a deadlock.

The Magistrate's attacks grew even more intense, but then, a shovel suddenly appeared beside him and swatted at him. He was completely unprepared for the attack and was sent flying away. The blind monk had joined the battle.

When Lu Yin saw that the blind monk had arrived, he let out a sigh of relief. If this person had arrived, then it meant that the chaos on the rest of Zenyu Star had already stabilized.

Fortunately, to defend against Aegis's impending attack, Lu Yin had kept all the Hunter realm captains of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons close by. Otherwise, they would not have managed to quell the chaos on Zenyu Star in such a short time, as ordinary cultivators would not have been able to defeat the assassins.

Another beam of bladelight sliced out, and Zi Rong arrived beside Zi Xue and Luo Shen. His eyes were cold, and his expression remained vigilant.

Lu Yin surveyed the area. Screams were coming from all directions, and he could tell that there had already been thousands of casualties. There were still quite a few assassins hiding out there, but the most important ones were Poisonmaster, the Magistrate, and Feng Zi. These assassins definitely would not let Lu Yin go free.

Assassins generally followed the pattern that, if their first attack missed, they would retreat a thousand miles away. But right now, Aegis's assassins were determined to demonstrate their superiority, and they did not intend to give Lu Yin a single moment of respite.

Feng Zi appeared behind Lu Yin again, and the Royal Regent quickly turned around to swat out with a Skybeast Claw. The claw shattered the approaching blade, but even more cold blades appeared from all directions, surrounding him.

Lu Yin felt like something was off. The Magistrate's full powered attack had not been able to kill him, and Feng Zi should be aware of Lu Yin's defensive capabilities. If that was the case, then why would he still take action? That is, unless there were other assassins lying in wait nearby.

As he thought about this, Lu Yin's awareness grew hazy, and the scene he saw changed before his eyes. He was suddenly sitting in a spacecraft in space, and there were shouts echoing through the area. He saw a familiar scene; this was the edge of the Astral River, and the Astral River Ark was still inside the Astral River, not coming out. It was late.

All around him, numerous powerful enemies appeared while Big Sis and the others did everything they could to fight the attackers off. Only Lu Yin had been left inside the spacecraft.

One familiar face after another fell during the bloodbath, and space itself was destroyed. Some people were even torn to shreds so thoroughly that not even a corpse remained.

Lu Yin's vision was filled with blood, and he screamed, demanding to go out; he had become powerful, and he could fight with Enlighters now. He could help Big Sis and the others.

But no matter what he did, he could not leave the vessel. All of his previous strength had disappeared, and he had returned to the regular person who had never cultivated. Once again, he experienced the desperation of the powerless.



But then, the sound of the Stonewall Scriptures reverberated through his mind, clearing his thoughts, and Lu Yin's gaze trembled. Not good—this was an illusion and the work of another top ranked assassin.

The scenery once again shifted before his eyes as he returned to the mall. It had only taken a split second for all that to happen, but there were already multiple strands of nine lined battle force reinforced hair in front of him as well as countless cold blades. Lu Yin also noticed that these two attacks had been joined by an even more terrifying air current. Three attacks connected and landed directly on Lu Yin.

Poisonmaster, the Magistrate, and Feng Zi had joined forces to launch a cooperative attack while Lu Yin was caught in an illusion. This assault was something that even an Enlightener would find difficult to withstand, and it blasted Lu Yin back beneath the ground.

Zi Rong saw this, and his expression changed.

Zi Xue saw it, and her fists clenched tightly.

Luo Shen, the blind monk, and quite a few others also witnessed this attack. Three top ranked assassins had just joined forces to launch a single attack; could Lu Yin possibly survive?

At this moment, Phantom Sting who had remained hidden from the very start, finally discovered Poisonmaster's location. His dagger transformed into a white lotus that glistened, and it streaked past Poisonmaster, drawing some blood. Then, Poisonmaster disappeared once again.

Phantom Sting's eyes grew cold, and he also vanished. He did not know what Poisonmaster's current condition was, and he could not even tell where his knife had struck Poisonmaster. It was no wonder why this person was the second ranked assassin, as the ranks were not solely determined by the number of people they had killed. Poisonmaster's ability to stay alive was also top-notch.

The Magistrate and Feng Zi did not pause even for a moment, and they also vanished. They followed Lu Yin underground, as they did not know what Lu Yin's condition was like. If it was possible, they wanted to at least cripple him, as they did not necessarily have to kill him. Death was not the most frightening sentence.

"Hurry up and help him," Zi Xue screamed as she stared anxiously at Zi Rong.

Zi Rong's eyes flashed, but before he could move, an intense beam of light shone from underground. This light had appeared too suddenly, and the luminosity even caused the void to ripple. The entire mall was lit up, and the light even shone through the ice seal, lighting up all of Zenyu Star. Even outer space was lit up, and the light drew Lord Egret's attention.

The next moment, a light beam shot out from Zenyu Star and into space. Along its path, space trembled and layers of the void started to break open.

Lord Egret was stunned; that attack was terrifying beyond belief. If he had taken it headon, then it would have been difficult for him to survive. It was enough to tear through his defenses.

Within the ice seal, beneath the mall, Feng Zi stared at the left half of his body in disbelief. Well, he stared at where that half of his body used to be, as it was now gone. He had been utterly unable to resist that beam of light.

That light beam had come from underground. It had come from Lu Yin.

To the side, the Magistrate's scalp was completely numb, and his figure flashed as he instantly vanished.

From underground, Lu Yin looked upwards and set down the Money Bomb. His last one had just been used. Such a pity.

The Ultra Flash Tear Bomb had been quite effective. If not for the sudden bright flash, then the Money Bomb would not have been able to hit Feng Zi since the assassins were too adept at evading attacks.

One strike had killed Feng Zi, which resolved one of the largest threats.

Lu Yin leaped out from underground once again, which left many feeling flabbergasted. Even Zi Rong was astonished to discover that Lu Yin had survived. It seemed like no one could compare to this youth in terms of survival. The previous combination strike would have even seriously wounded Zi Rong if he were forced to endure it. Sure enough, this person had power vessels that could defend against Enlighteners' attacks, just like the rumors claimed. Was it that universal armor?

With these power vessels, it meant that Lu Yin was invincible.

"Your Highness, are you alright?" Phantom Sting appeared and asked in a gloomy voice.

"Where's Poisonmaster?" Lu Yin surveyed his surroundings to search for the assassins.

"I don't know. I injured him, but I don't know how badly."

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed, and he was panting heavily.

"The one who attacked you before is ranked eighth on the Killers List, Peerless Beauty . She has a strange appearance with two heads: a human head as well as a snake head. She is very adept at creating illusions, so be careful."

Phantom Sting then vanished.

Lu Yin smiled coldly, as Aegis was truly putting forth a huge amount of effort. For this one operation, they had sent out four of the top ten ranked assassins. This was certainly ruthless enough.

In outer space, Aden blocked another strike, but his entire body was blasted away like a meteorite.

Lord Egret did not want to engage with this person anymore, and he turned to face Zenyu Star, only to be blocked once again by Aden, who gritted his teeth.

Lord Egret was won over by the man's determination. "Aren't you afraid of death?"

Aden had already activated his nine lined battle force long ago, or else he would not have lasted this long. "Just try to kill me."

## **Chapter 758: Spear And Shield**

Lord Egret's expression was icy, but it suddenly changed as he turned around to see the space behind him shatter. An incomparably berserk star energy surged out in a wave, as if a massive beast had descended in the distance.

Lord Egret's face looked grave.

Aden and the others also felt the disturbance, as this berserk strength had shocked them all. The most astonishing thing about this strength was that it had not surpassed the realm of a Hunter, which meant an absolutely incredible person was about to arrive.

Lord Egret was about to speak up when the newly arrived person greeted him with a punch. There was a profound light at the center of the fist where an incomparably berserk energy converged. Lord Egret instinctively wanted to avoid this attack, and he quickly evaded away. A deep darkness appeared at the fist's point of impact, and the void was scattered. The aftershocks rippled away and struck Lord Egret, and they made his eye twitch. That had been a ferocious attack.

"Are you the Lord Egret who fought against Saul before?" Cai Jianqiang revealed himself as he asked from nearby.

Lord Egret stared closely at the Hunter. "So it's you."

Cai Jianqiang kneaded his right palm. "If not for you, Sourcepeak Planet might not have been reduced to such a terrible state. I'm going to make you pay the price for your actions on that day!"

Nine lined battle force burst forth from his body, and Cai Jianqiang's figure vanished with an explosion.

Lord Egret shouted, "Arrogant junior!"

A white light radiated from his body, and the phantom image of an astral egret appeared above him. This was his innate gift. He had not used it against Aden earlier, but that was because this egret's nature was not offensive, but rather defensive.

Cai Jianqiang pressed down with a palm. "Heart-Dipping Palm." This palm had a violent force to it, and the surrounding space could not endure its strength. The palm compressed space itself as the hand swatted out and engulfed an entire region. It pressed down upon Lord Egret's head, but it was stopped by the white light. "Junior, you underestimate me. I'm an Enlightener with a power level of 260,000 who came here after cultivating in the Inniverse. You cannot compare me to those Outerverse Enlighteners who only just broke through!"

A bird's crowing was heard as the egret flew out from the Enlightener's hand and rushed towards Cai Jianqiang.

The bird landed with the force of a thousand mountains, and Cai Jianqiang was sent flying away by the enormous strength.

Lord Egret's gaze turned cold, and he raised a hand. One bird after another spread its wings and shot through space, streaking towards Cai Jianqiang, Aden, and also Zenyu Star.

This was Lord Egret's true strength, as Cai Jianqiang had made the man feel threatened.

Cai Jianqiang turned around and shook off the force of the birds' impact. He then stared at Lord Egret as a smile crept onto his face.

Lord Egret saw Cai Jianqiang smile and felt that something was off. The next moment, he let out a dull groan, and his expression changed. He hurriedly merged the phantom image of the astral egret back into his body, but a trace of fresh blood dripped down from his lips.

"What sort of battle technique is this?" Lord Egret stared at Cai Jianqiang. His heart had been damaged.

Cai Jianqiang dodged another flying bird. "Heart-Dipping Palm. It's a technique with ancient roots. How many palms can you take?"

Lord Egret wiped the blood from his lips. "I underestimated you, but it's a pity that just this sort of battle technique cannot defeat me."

Aden dashed forward again, his thunder shield expanding without end. The birds crashed against his thunder shield one by one, forcing him to continuously retreat.

Cai Jianqiang streaked over in front of the thunder shield and raised his hands before pressing down with both hands and releasing countless Heart-Dipping Palms that exploded towards Lord Egret.

The birds flew forth from Lord Egret's palm and crashed towards Cai Jianqiang, yet they were all stopped by the thunder shield, which strangely did not block Cai Jianqiang's Heart-Dipping Palm. This shield was a unidirectional obstruction, and Lord Egret either had to evade or block the attacks headed his way.

Evidently, Lord Egret was unwilling to take the Heart-Dipping Palm straight on, and he was forced to helplessly evade them.

Cai Jianqiang took the position of the berserk spear while Aden acted as the durable shield. The combination of this spear and shield was enough to leave even Lord Egret helpless. Before long, Lord Egret vanished and left.

In the distance, Huo Qingshan stared on in astonishment. He had been constantly observing the battle taking place in outer space. He was stunned to see that, even without Lu Yin, Zenyu Star still had the strength to repel an Enlighter. The Great Yu Empire had truly risen in power.

Lord Egret's retreat signified that the surprise attack had ended. Aden was free to return to Zenyu Star, and he soon arrived inside the ice seal that surrounded the mall.

He was one of the few powerhouses who could change the situation of the entire battlefield.

Aegis apparently had some understanding of Aden's strength. As soon as he appeared, the assassins from Aegis all prepared to flee.

Zi Rong was thrilled to see that Aegis's assassins were trying to escape, as it gave him some degree of relief. However, Lu Yin saw that there was a large number of rune lines hidden in the void, but they were still moving to envelop Luo Shen. This wasn't the poison gas, as it was instead an illusion. Peerless Beauty was making a move on Goddess Luo Shen by dragging her into a fantasy.

Lu Yin fiercely charged over, grabbed a hold of Luo Shen, and threw her to the side for a third time. After that, he turned and rushed towards the source of the rune lines, where he saw Peerless Beauty. This

person had actually disguised themselves as one of the corpses that the Magistrate had drained of life force, and they had always been lying near Luo Shen and the other women.

Lu Yin's hand turned into a claw as he unleashed his Skybeast Claw. Peerless Beauty were unable to remain disguised any longer, and she stood up as she glared coldly at Lu Yin. At the same time, a giant python emerged from beneath the ground that moved to snap at Lu Yin. The python's body was strangely connected with the human body of Peerless Beauty. She had two heads: one human and one snake.

Lu Yin did not bother evading, and he calmly allowed the python to swallow him.

Peerless Beauty was stunned, as she had never expected to swallow Lu Yin so easily.

But the next moment, her expression changed drastically, and she wailed mournfully. The body of the python began to corrode from within. She had been poisoned.

Lu Yin tore through the python's body and poured the remaining bit of poison from one of Elder Wu's bottles onto Peerless Beauty .

Peerless Beauty's python body had been corroded by the poison. She could not escape it, and her human body had similarly been struck by the poison, her body quickly eroding away.

Her wails echoed throughout the entire mall.

Zi Rong and the others watched the events unfold, staring indifferently as Peerless Beauty was reduced to a puddle of blood that finally evaporated, leaving nothing at all behind.

Another top ranked assassin had perished.

The remaining Aegis assassins suddenly gathered together under orders from some unknown person, and they all attacked the ice seal in unison. With the Magistrate's hair combined with Poisonmaster's poison, the ice seal was not able to endure as a hole was torn open, through which the various attackers charged out of the ice seal.

Yan Yan tried his best to hold them back from escaping, but multiple assassins still managed to succeed.

Poisonmaster left the ice seal, releasing his gas the entire way, and it rapidly pervaded the surrounding area.

Lu Yin grew anxious, and he hurriedly used the Backlash Pearl to absorb all the poisonous gas. Meanwhile, Aden and the others were still exterminating the remaining assassins that were in the mall. After a bit more time, everything calmed down, leaving only a huge mess behind.

Zenyu Star's most bustling street had been completely destroyed. The ice seal melted, and the cold water trickled down, diluting the blood as it flowed into the sewers.

The remaining 20,000 odd people had escaped with their lives, and many of them were bawling and rejoicing that they were still alive.

On the ground, piles of corpses were strewn about in disorder.

The venue for the performance had devolved into this macabre scene.

Lu Yin floated calmly in the sky. Unexpectedly, he was not furious, and there were no other emotions within him either. He was already enemies with Aegis, so being attacked by an opponent was nothing unexpected. This debt would have to be paid back some day.

On the other hand, Zi Rong was exceptionally angry. Aegis had carried out an assassination attempt within Amethyst Exchange. They had not just merely destroyed the mall, as they had repeatedly tried to assassinate Goddess Luo Shen. This would have harmed Amethyst Exchange's reputation. Aegis had gone overboard this time.

Gavin, Garope, and the other high officials from the Great Yu Empire quickly arrived to pacify the masses.

There were many spacecraft wrecks and cultivator corpses scattered throughout space, and all of this had to be taken care of.

Lu Yin gave out some orders and also commanded them to not publicize this attack.

Aegis would definitely disseminate information about this attack, and they might have even secretly recorded it, which was something that Lu Yin could not control. He could only reduce his side's casualties to the minimum.

He looked towards the ruins of Amethyst Exchange's mall, coincidentally exchanging glances with Zi Xue in the process. Lu Yin's gaze trembled, as at one point during the chaotic battle, Luo Shen had been protected by a wall of blue ice. That blue ice was Bai Xue's innate gift. He was now completely certain that Zi Xue was Bai Xue, and Lu Yin descended to the ground, wanting to talk to Zi Xue.

Zi Xue saw that Lu Yin was approaching her, and she quickly turned to leave.

Lu Yin wanted to chase her, but he was stopped by Zi Rong.

Zi Rong's expression was not good, but he could not be angry at Lu Yin. During the attack, if not for Lu Yin, Luo Shen would have died. However, this attack had also been because of Lu Yin's grudge with Aegis. Zi Rong did not quite know what to say. "Alliance Leader Lu, our Amethyst Exchange has always refrained from getting involved in the struggles between the various powers. This time, because of your conflict with Aegis, this mall was completely destroyed. I wonder, how are you planning on compensating us?"

Lu Yin apologetically answered, "I'm sorry. I will take responsibility."

Zi Rong nodded, but he did not say much more. He rather appreciated Lu Yin and had even pleasantly drunk wine with him before, which was not common for the Hunter.

Lu Yin still wanted to look for Zi Xue, but Zi Rong blocked his way.

Lu Yin had no choice, so he turned to leave.

As Lu Yin left, Goddess Luo Shen was nearby. She wanted to hurry over to thank Lu Yin, but she was similarly stopped by Zi Rong.

“Brother Zi Rong, I wish to thank Alliance Leader Lu,” Luo Shen delicately said, and as she looked over at Lu Yin, her eyes spun. They seemed to be filled with curiosity along with a hint of something else. She had just been saved by this man thrice, and she had also been embraced by him thrice. From a young age, nobody had ever held her in such a fashion, but it had been very comfortable.

“You’re not permitted to go over there, and you are not allowed to have any relations with him.” Zi Rong rejected her request without mercy.

Luo Shen grew sullen. “Brother Zi Rong, he saved me three times. Shouldn’t I thank him?”

“This attack also happened because of him, and keeping you safe is a must. There’s no need to thank him,” Zi Rong replied.

Luo Shen pursed her lips and looked over Zi Rong’s shoulder. She watched as Lu Yin’s figure gradually vanished, and her heart sank.

Lu Yin immediately returned to King Zishan's palace and activated his gadget to contact Madam Nalan. She quickly answered his call.

“Aegis launched a surprise attack on Zenyu Star.” Lu Yin got right to the point.

She was not surprised. “This matches with Aegis’s style, so it’s not unexpected. Didn’t Your Highness already know that Aegis would attack Zenyu Star?”

“Yes, but I never expected the scale of their forces would be so great. Four of the top ten assassins of the Outerverse came, and there were at least 100 other assassins scattered across Zenyu Star, placed there solely to slaughter commoners and create chaos. On top of that, there were mercenaries that attacked from space, hired independent cultivators, as well as Lord Egret. That wasn’t something as simple as a raid. That was war,” Lu Yin explained in a low voice.

She smiled. “It looks like Your Highness is not injured. Are you angry? How can I help?”

Lu Yin’s eyes narrowed. “Give me a brief introduction of Aegis. I need to know some deeper secrets about them.”

Her eyes flashed. “Your Highness, the four great corporations of the Outerverse will not interfere in each other’s affairs. These are the rules. If you want information, you can look towards Amethyst Exchange. Selling information is just another part of their business, so Aegis cannot do anything even if they tell you everything.”

“Looking for Amethyst Exchange will cause Aegis to become wary, and they will definitely cover up the secrets that Amethyst Exchange tells me, so there’s not much meaning in going to them. I wish to obtain some information from your side that even Amethyst Exchange may not necessarily be aware of,” Lu Yin said.

### **Chapter 759: Smoker**

Madam Nalan shook her head. “I’m sorry to disappoint you, Your Highness. If Amethyst Exchange doesn’t know it, then there’s no way I would. I only have some very limited information that I could share with Your Highness.”

“Then share all of your limited information with me. Rest assured, I only want to know the general situation better. If you could tell me information that would allow me to deal with Aegis, then they would have long since disappeared,” Lu Yin said.

She thought about it and then helplessly responded, “Very well. Listen closely, Your Highness.” She then paused for a moment before continuing in a serious voice. “Tens of thousands of years ago, a huge extermination operation was launched against the Outerverse. As for who instigated it or why, nobody knows anymore. However, that operation specifically targeted all of the Outerverse’s assassination organizations. This operation wiped out more than half of them, and the ones that were the most powerful and also the most important were naturally taken out as well. However, the masterminds behind those assassination organizations managed to escape.

“They were the ones who created Aegis afterwards, and this is also the story of how Aegis was started. Those few people were very smart, and they knew that if they recreated those assassination organizations and grew too strong, it would simply lead to another extermination operations. Hence, they established a mercenary company in the open and trained mercenaries to accumulate wealth from wars. The assassins remained secret.

“These people created Aegis, and they are also the masterminds behind its structure. Nobody knows how many people comprise the original group of founders, only that they take turns in cryostasis. Every hundred years, one of them comes back to life and manages the organization for a hundred years before going back into cryostasis. The next one then takes over, and they take turns managing Aegis like this. They are the true managers of Aegis.

“These people are very smart, and they did not create Aegis to be a private organization. Instead, they have an external board of directors who are supervisors secondary only to the original founders. These board members might be recruited from large clans or huge corporations, and after so many years, nobody knows how many clans and corporations have joined Aegis. The reason why they join is usually to borrow Aegis’s strength, while also avoiding Aegis’s assassins and the fate of ending up as mere sacrifices. Even my Nalan family is a member of Aegis’s second level management...”

Lu Yin was surprised as he listened to Madam Nalan describe the development and composition of the colossal company that was Aegis. Its founders had essentially gathered together the strength of many Outerverse families and corporations. When the Innerverse and Outerverse had still been connected, they had not dared reveal too much of their strength out of fear of being struck down by the Innerverse. However, now that the Outerverse was isolated, they had become more unrestrained, and to a certain degree, their strength had burgeoned.

It was no wonder why so many powers in the Great Eastern Alliance’s territory had been very willing to work with Aegis. The Allied Forces had exterminated no less than 100 groups, and they had all joined Aegis’s second level management.

“Aegis’s second level management is roughly estimated to consist of thousands of people. They are not able to decide the direction of Aegis, but they are able to influence Aegis in certain other aspects. For example, they can decide which member of a certain family is to be assassinated, or which side should be supported in a war, and so on. More importantly, Aegis is able to borrow the strength and influence of its second level members to complete certain tasks, such as discrediting your Great Yu Empire and the



Great Eastern Alliance or finding certain powers to ally with to boycott the Great Eastern Alliance. Such things are rather easy to accomplish for Aegis.

“So, Alliance Leader Lu, as I’ve told you before, it’s best not to provoke Aegis. Once you irritate them, it’s the same as provoking hundreds or even thousands of powers throughout the Outerverse. After so many years, these powers have already grown accustomed to the existence of Aegis, and they have become used to Aegis helping them with tasks that would normally be considered shameful. If you are enemies with Aegis, then those powers will naturally also oppose you.”

Lu Yin had a sudden realization. “Oh, so that’s how Aegis has the ability to provide for Lord Egret. They should be very wealthy.”

She smiled faintly. “Is Your Highness tempted?”

Lu Yin looked at her. “Who’s the highest administrator of Aegis at the moment?”

“Starfox, a mastermind from an assassination organization that existed tens of thousands of years ago. For the last 100 years, he’s been the one managing Aegis. All of the plans that were carried out against you were ordered by him. He’s very cunning,” Madam Nalan said.

“Have you interacted with him?” Lu Yin asked

She shook her head. “Not really, but we’ve chatted a little. After all, our Nalan family is part of the second level management.”

“If I destroy Aegis, would that cause great losses for your Nalan family?” Lu Yin suddenly asked.

She smiled. “If Your Highness thinks that you can cause Aegis to collapse, then by all means, please try. That loss is one that my Nalan family can withstand. Though, I must warn Your Highness once again: with the enemy in the dark and you in the light, a fight to the death will only result in greater casualties to the legitimate side.”

Lu Yin nodded and then ended the call.

No matter how clamorous the outside world became, Lu Yin did not bother with it as he contemplated the information that the beautiful Madam Nalan had just shared with him. He was waiting for Aegis to contact him.

To Aegis, this raid had been conducted to demonstrate their dominance, and thus, they would be eager to contact Lu Yin and have him admit defeat. And the person to contact him would definitely be the same person as before.

Lu Yin did not have to wait very long before he received a call from an unknown ID. It was only a voice call.

Lu Yin answered it.

“Sir Lu Yin, did you like our gift?” The same gloomy voice from before was heard, and it sounded incredibly cold.

Lu Yin indifferently answered, "It was alright. The corpses of Feng Zi and Peerless Beauty have some research value."

The opposing party fell silent for a moment. "They're just two useless people, so it's not a problem for Sir Lu Yin to research them. This is our second time speaking to you—has Sir Lu Yin thought things through? Will you be friends or foes with our Aegis?"

"I still have the same question as before: why do you guys want to gain control of Northcastle Weave?" Lu Yin asked.

"I will not answer Sir Lu Yin's question. I just need your reply: friend or foe?" The sinister voice still sounded extremely arrogant.

Lu Yin laughed. "Does your Aegis wish to be friends or foes with me?"

"It would seem that Sir Lu Yin still hasn't recognized the current situation. Zenyu Star may be able to block a surprise attack, but I wonder, can the other planets of the Great Yu Empire withstand such an assault? Has sir heard of Poisonmaster's previous record?" The sinister voice laughed softly and then ended the call.

Lu Yin put his hand down. He looked rather depressed. Poisonmaster had poisoned hundreds of billions of people to death in the shortest amount of time on record, and he also held the record for having killed the most people. With such records, even if he wasn't a peak Hunter, and even if his assassination techniques were not as terrifying as the Magistrate and the others, it made sense that he was ranked second. This was all due to Poisonmaster's records.

Aegis was willing to do things by hook or by crook.

If that was the case, then there was no need for Lu Yin to restrain himself either. If the enemy was in the dark while he was not, then he just had to use someone also in the dark to deal with this hidden enemy.

"Phantom Sting."

Phantom Sting appeared behind Lu Yin. "Your Highness."

"Contact Smoker," Lu Yin ordered.

Phantom Sting was taken aback. "Your Highness, Smoker's price is steep."

"I know, but I have what he needs. Just initiate contact," Lu Yin said gravely.

Phantom Sting acknowledged his orders and vanished.

Smoker. Nobody knew the history behind this name, and nobody knew if this person was male or female. The only known information about Smoker was that they had once attempted to assassinate the Blaze Realm's master and then escaped unscathed. They were the top assassin in the entire Outerverse.

The Blaze Realm was the guiding power of Blazing Mist Flowzone, which was one of the Eight Great Flowzones of the Innaverse. Nobody knew how many experts that flowzone possessed, nor what level of strength the Blaze Realm's master had reached. But one thing was for certain—the Blaze Realm was home to more than just one Enlighter.

Smoker had been able to sneak deep into the Blaze Realm's territory and had even attempted to kill its master. Although they had ultimately failed, they had still managed to escape unscathed.

Back then, this assassination attempt had shaken the entire Outerverse to its core, and this achievement was how Smoker had become the top on the Assassins Ranking. Nobody had been able to pose a challenge to their position throughout the countless years.

The price Smoker desired could not be paid in star crystals, essence, weapons, battle techniques, or power vessels. Smoker only accepted payment in the form of natural treasures that had reached the degree of instinctively avoiding danger.

After the initial conflict with Aegis, Lu Yin had checked the Outerverse Assassins Ranking, and that was when he had become especially interested in Smoker, as what Smoker wanted was coincidentally what Lu Yin had. Without any exaggeration, he could say that nobody in the Outerverse was more suitable to hire Smoker, because Lu Yin had numerous natural treasures.

Hiring an assassin to deal with other assassins was Lu Yin's bottom line. He had only decided to employ a hitman because Aegis had crossed Lu Yin's bottom line. He did not plan to let his principles restrain him when acting against them any longer, and he would plunge the Outerverse into the panic caused by the top assassin.

Not much time passed before Phantom Sting reappeared. "Your Highness, Smoker has agreed to act, and he wishes to discuss things with you personally."

Lu Yin looked at a screen in front of him. The display was pitch-black with only a faint white smoke that occasionally blew across it. The smoke finally formed a word: "Target."

"Number two ranked assassin, Poisonmaster," Lu Yin said.

"Five natural treasures that have reached the level of evading danger." The white smoke continued to form words.

"Sure, but I must tell you something. The natural treasures that I will give you must be used quickly, as they were all obtained from sourceboxes. Thus, they cannot remain outside for too long, or else they will dissipate."

The white smoke wafted across the screen to form more words. "Okay, but if you go back on your word, you will not survive."

Smoker gave Lu Yin a warning, and then everything on the screen completely disappeared.

Lu Yin looked at the sky. "Tell me, can Smoker kill Poisonmaster? Poisonmaster killed billions of people in the past and threw the Outerverse into a panic. Even the Innerverse sent out experts to kill him, but he still survived."

"Yes," Phantom Sting answered very confidently.

Lu Yin smiled slightly. "That's good." Smoker's price was indeed exorbitant. For a natural treasure to reach the point of avoiding danger, they had to have lived for at least 100,000 to 200,000 years. These

were treasures that nobody would be willing to sell. Obtaining five such treasures was very difficult, and this was why nobody had hired Smoker to act and assassinate Poisonmaster.

Of course, the various great powers would also not pay such a price for the commoners' sake, as in their eyes, the world would be alright no matter how many commoners died.

Lu Yin might not possess much else, but he had an abundance of natural treasures. However, he actually did not have enough even though there were more of them on Bushtree Planet. These natural treasures had to be used quickly, or else they would wither away as soon as they reach ten years of age.

Lu Yin had twenty two of these kinds of natural treasure in his cosmic ring right now, which should be enough to hire Smoker four or five times. If Aegis wanted to play, then Lu Yin would accompany them and give them a good game.

"Has Feng Zi's corpse been checked?" Lu Yin suddenly had a thought.

Phantom Sting replied, "Yes, no abnormalities were found."

"What about the power vessel that he used to evade detection?" This was what Lu Yin was most concerned about. He needed to know how Aegis's assassins made their rune lines disappear.

Phantom Sting answered, "Nothing was found."

Lu Yin felt that it was a pity, but he was not overly disappointed. If it was that easy to find the power vessels, then the assassins wouldn't have been ranked among the top ten.

Days later, the Minister of Finance, Lord Garope, requested an audience.

Garope's expression did not look too great, as he had been busy handling the aftermath of the attack without any time to rest.

### **Chapter 760: Lu Yin And Luo Shen**

"Your Highness, rumors are spreading incessantly, with many people saying that the empire has offended the universe's assassins and that another attack will come soon. Many of them are planning to leave Zenyu Star because of this. Your Highness, please step forward to suppress these rumors," Garope said in an urgent tone as he bowed to Lu Yin.

"I understand. You can leave now," Lu Yin said.

Garope wanted to say more, but he remained silent in the end. It wasn't just the citizens who were clamoring for more information; even the various ministers wanted to know what was going on. This sneak attack had not been some minor issue. At least five Hunters had been stationed on Zenyu Star prior to the attack, but the capital planet had still been thrust into such a miserable state of affairs. Even an Enlighter had appeared during the attack, and many people were terrified because of this.

Even the ministers were feeling uneasy, let alone the commoners.

Lu Yin did not plan to give Garope any explanations, as he was waiting for the news from Smoker. Lu Yin was still worried that Poisonmaster might suddenly act and poison countless people, which would shake the entire Outerverse. Still, these rumors could not be allowed to spread unchecked.

After Lu Yin thought about it, he left King Zishan's palace and headed towards Planet Hydrotink.

It was still relatively easy to manage rumors within the Great Eastern Alliance, but it was much harder to do the same outside its territory.

Sister Ya's media company had received Lu Yin's support, and it was working on increasing its coverage area. However, it would be difficult for them to accomplish any great achievements at the moment, let alone alter such rampant rumors.

The only person who could help Lu Yin at this moment was the Goddess, Luo Shen. She was a celebrity whose fame had spread through half of the Outerverse.

After great difficulty, Lu Yin eventually obtained approval from Zi Rong, and he finally managed to meet with Luo Shen.

When she saw Lu Yin, her eyes lit up. She bit her lips with a shy expression, and both nervousness and some hints of expectations could be seen within her eyes. "Alliance Leader Lu, were you looking for me?"

Lu Yin looked at her strangely. "Why is your face red? Are you sick? I have some medicines from Shamrock Enterprises here." He then poured out a pile of medications.

Luo Shen became even more nervous. "No, there's no need. Thank you for saving me three times."

Lu Yin smiled. "No worries. You faced those assassins because of me. I'm actually the one who is in the wrong, and I should be apologizing to you."

Luo Shen hurriedly denied his claims. "It's no problem. Being a nomad in the Outerverse allows one to live through all kinds of experiences. This wasn't much."

"A nomad?" Lu Yin was puzzled.

Luo Shen forced out a smile. "Yes. We artists are able to perform in all different areas, but we are actually just nomads, with no place to stay or call home. Wherever we go, there is always the chance of running into an accident." She then lowered her head. "I'm sorry. I've said too much. Is there anything that I can help you with?"

Lu Yin looked at Luo Shen's helpless and lonely expression and suddenly recalled what Gavin had mentioned before. This girl had probably faced various incidents in the past, as influential local officials would not be impressed or intimidated by performers. "You are the Jade Goddess, and you are protected by Amethyst Exchange. I would have thought that you'd be living rather comfortably."

Luo Shen squeaked out an acknowledgement, "Things became much better after I became the Jade Goddess."

Lu Yin nodded. "That's good, but by all means, look for me if you need any help in the future." He then shared his contact details with Luo Shen.

Luo Shen's heart warmed, and she looked up at Lu Yin with a sweet smile. "Thank you, Alliance Leader Lu."

This smile was very pure, and it caused a peculiar feeling to arise in Lu Yin's heart, as if he had been touched by something. It really made him want to protect this girl. He hurriedly tried to suppress these emotions and coughed to dispel the atmosphere. "Actually, I came here today to ask for your help."

Luo Shen turned solemn as she carefully saved Lu Yin's contact details. Then, she doubtfully responded, "What is it that Alliance Leader Lu would like?"

Lu Yin answered, "I want you to announce that the attack that Zenyu Star fought off was not very strong so that we can limit the current rumors circulating about."

"Alright," Luo Shen readily agreed. She continued to stare at Lu Yin with her bright eyes.

Lu Yin felt embarrassed that she was looking at him in such a fashion. This girl's appearance was very innocent and bright, and all the schemes in the world seemed to melt away before it. Perhaps only a person like her could perform a pure and beautiful dance that could even entrance Lu Yin.

"Your dance was very beautiful," Lu Yin said.

Luo Shen smiled happily, but then she blushed again and lowered her eyes. "Thank you."

"Seventh Bro, this monkey's in love! I've decided that this girl will become a member of my harem. Don't snatch things from me!" the Ghost Monkey shrieked excitedly.

Lu Yin directly screened it off—what such a nuisance.

"Right, could you please set up a meeting for me with Zi Xue? I wish to speak with her," Lu Yin said.

Luo Shen nodded, her mood suddenly turning slightly downcast. "Alright. Just wait a moment, Alliance Leader Lu."

Lu Yin murmured his assent.

Zi Rong had always stopped Lu Yin from meeting with Zi Xue, so hopefully, he would not step forward this time. The blue ice that Lu Yin had seen during the surprise attack was irrefutable proof that Zi Xue was indeed Bai Xue.

Before long, Zi Xue arrived to meet with Lu Yin, but she was followed closely by Zi Rong, and the Hunter kept his eyes glued to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin felt helpless, but he had indeed been a little too impulsive when he first met Zi Xue. Otherwise, the situation would not have developed into the present moment.

"You are called Zi Xue?" Lu Yin looked at the familiar yet foreign girl before her.

Zi Xue stared at him coldly. "I've been called Zi Xue ever since I was young. Alliance Leader Lu, you've mistaken me for someone else."

"Then what's the situation with your innate gift? Bai Xue's innate gift was also blue ice," Lu Yin said.

Zi Xue's brows knitted together. "There are many coincidences in the universe, and not seeing them doesn't mean that they don't exist. You've seen me, and apparently, I'm very similar to this Bai Xue who

you speak of, and I even have a similar innate gift. However, that's all just a coincidence. There's no need for any more explanations."

Lu Yin looked at Zi Xue with a serious expression. "Is there something that you can't speak about? Tell me. I can handle it with my current position. The Hall of Honor is behind me, as well as my Master. There's nothing in the Outerverse that I cannot handle at this time."

Zi Xue stood up. "Alliance Leader Lu, I've already said what I needed to. I'm not this Bai Xue you're looking for. I'll say this one last time: I'm not her!" She then turned to leave.

Lu Yin did not move to chase after her, as Zi Xue's attitude had been resolute. He had never been that well acquainted with Bai Xue either, so it was useless to chase after her.

Zi Rong sat across from Lu Yin. "You should give up. She really is Zi Xue, and she's been like that since I first met her."

Lu Yin decided not to bother Zi Xue any further. After all, she was not his wife, and he had already made multiple attempts to investigate this. This was the best that he could do. If she did not want to admit to her identity, then he had no choice in the matter. He had already said everything that he needed to.

"Brother Zi, this incident is my responsibility, and I didn't protect your people well. I formally apologize," Lu Yin spoke solemnly.

Zi Rong raised a hand. "There's no need. Nobody would have thought that Aegis would dare make a move during a performance in an Amethyst Exchange mall. We will not let this matter rest, and we also won't stop Luo Shen from quelling the rumors. However, you must compensate us for the expenses of the performance as well as the losses suffered in the mall."

Lu Yin smiled. "That's a given. I have to thank Brother Zi for being there this time, as otherwise, things would have been much more troublesome."

Zi Rong smiled. "You should thank Brother Cai instead, since he was the one who held back Lord Egret."

"Where is he?" Lu Yin asked.

Zi Rong shrugged. "No clue. Maybe in the Lockbreaker Society's headquarters?"

Lu Yin nodded, and left after chatting with Zi Rong for a while. He did indeed need to thank Cai Jianqiang, and it had been the right decision to keep the man close by. Without him, the raid would not have ended as quickly. Lord Egret was no ordinary Enlighter; his power level had reached 260,000, and he had even cultivated in the Innerverse. His strength also surpassed the few Innerverse Enlighters that Lu Yin had encountered before, like Karthika, Huo Houye, and Granny Chan.

Cai Jianqiang and Aden had teamed up to chase Lord Egret away, which had been a huge turning point in the battle.

Planet Hydrotink still forbade outsiders from entering, but the Lockbreakers were gradually growing accustomed to being in Frostwave Weave, mainly because the Great Eastern Alliance would periodically send over batches of resources for them to use, not to mention the lockbreaking records of past

generations of Lockbreakers that Lu Yin had shared. The Lockbreakers were enjoying themselves and living very contentedly, their life just as easy as before.

However, these days were about to end soon, as the Great Eastern Alliance would not freely provide so many resources forever. In the past, Lu Yin had mentioned to Felynn that the Great Eastern Alliance would eventually ask for the Lockbreakers' help, and not just in lockbreaking. They would ask the Lockbreakers to help them explore various strange areas and also train some cultivators. There were too many places to employ Lockbreakers.

The price that they had initially paid had just been in anticipation of days to come.

Cai Jianqiang was indeed at the Outerverse Lockbreaker Society's headquarters, and he was not far from Felynn's quarters. It looked as though he was protecting the box that had been hidden in Geoffrey's secret room.

It was not time yet, but one day, Lu Yin would personally open that box.

Cai Jianqiang sensed Lu Yin's arrival, and he stepped out to invite Lu Yin into his own quarters.

Off in the distance, Felynn was mentoring her own disciples, and there were at least ten of them, including Wei Xin'er.

Felynn was guiding them, and the handful of her disciples looked at her with reverence and adoration. To them, Felynn was the sky, and she was the most incredible Lockbreaker in the entire Outerverse.

They dreamed of one day becoming someone like Felynn. They did not wish to become the Outerverse Society's President, but rather just hoped to become an executive.

Wei Xin'er also stared at Felynn, but her gaze did not contain the same respect that it had back when she first met Felynn on Sourcepeak Planet.

The President seemed to be generally quite well-regarded, but Wei Xin'er could not keep herself from continuously remembering her brother's conversation with Lu Yin. From what they had said, this Outerverse Lockbreaker Society President was a foolish woman who could be easily used. That conversation had affected the way Wei Xin'er saw her master, and she was unable to respect her master like before.

Involuntarily, she thought of Lu Yin, who had chatted cheerfully with her brother. He was a man whose decisions could affect the entire universe. Even her brother admired the young man, while also feeling a hint of danger from him. In her entire life, Wei Xin'er had never seen her brother hold someone in such high regard before. Not even those two others had made her brother feel such a crisis.

Lu Yin, this name is also strange, Wei Xin'er thought to herself.

The next day, while standing in front of countless cameras that belonged to various media outlets from all over the Great Eastern Alliance, Goddess Luo Shen helped Lu Yin suppress the rumors.

An effect could be immediately seen. Many believed her words, but there were also others who continued to secretly spread rumors that were damaging to the Great Yu Empire. This was something that had been ordered by the second level management of Aegis. Among their ranks, there were some that did not care about the conflict between Aegis and the Great Eastern Alliance, like the Nalan family,



but there were also those that shared glory and dishonor together with Aegis. These powers began to crazily campaign for Aegis, trying to discredit the Great Yu Empire.

For a short while, two conflicting rumors clashed everywhere, but the rumors discrediting the Great Yu Empire easily gained the upper hand once the many photos of Zenyu Star were released. That battle had ended with tens of thousands of casualties, and quite a few of those people had come from other weaves. Those who had traveled to Zenyu Star to watch Luo Shen's performance had all been people with decent statuses.

The network allowed the families of the deceased to connect and work together, creating a large commotion. This development was rather discouraging for Lu Yin, as he could not control them at all.

Under these circumstances, Wei Rong contacted Lu Yin.

"Brother Lu, it looks like you're suffering from endless troubles recently. There's news about you every single day," Wei Rong spoke with a relaxed and melodious tone of voice.

Lu Yin smiled. "Brother Wei can just enjoy a good show. Before long, I believe that I'll be able to watch Brother Wei's show."