

Chapter 911: Wang Wen's Gift

Gong Ling's words left Lu Yin excited. "Very well. Sect Leader Gong is indeed trustworthy. I will send some people over to the Neo-Vestige Sect to discuss certain details, and I hope that the Neo-Vestige Sect will not make things difficult. I trust that we will be able to live together harmoniously and protect the territory of the Great Eastern Alliance together."

After that, Lu Yin immediately ended the call, and he turned to look at En Ya. "I want you to personally go to the Neo-Vestige Sect. Sect Leader Gong has agreed to join the Great Eastern Alliance."

En Ya was delighted. "Yes, Your Highness."

"Be more unyielding in your behavior—we are no longer what we once were." Lu Yin suddenly seemed to think of something, and he solemnly told En Ya, "We will also denounce the humiliation that Yu Mu gave you."

En Ya grew emotional, and she felt extremely grateful as she bowed deeply. "Thank you, Your Highness."

On the other side of the terminated call, at the Neo-Vestige Sect, Gong Ling lowered his gadget and sighed. In the end, they still could not escape, but this was also good.

"Father, sect leader, are we truly going to join the Great Eastern Alliance?" Gong Chou hesitantly asked.

Gong Ling nodded. "We cannot go back on a promise."

"I have a way." Gong Chou's eyes lit up. "If Father truly does not wish to join the Great Eastern Alliance, then step down. Besides, you've always held thoughts of stepping down, so just pass your position over to someone else. Then, Father's words naturally will not hold any weight."

Gong Ling turned around and looked at his son with a serious expression. "Remember, although these methods may work on the Hall of Honor or others, they are useless against Lu Yin. Do you really think that he will allow himself to be pushed around so easily? Back when the Great Eastern Alliance was only first established, he already dared to personally visit our Neo-Vestige Sect and become enemies with your Uncle-Master Bei. Even if he didn't have the Hall of Honor's backing, this person cannot be casually provoked. If he becomes offended, then he may be capable of doing anything."

Gong Chou could not help himself from speaking up. "During the defense of Endless Weave's border, our Neo-Vestige Sect accomplished the most, and the Arrow Mountain Elder even sacrificed himself. I don't believe that Lu Yin would dare to go against us with such achievements. Even if his background was more impressive, even if he was Yuan Shi's son, the Hall of Honor still would not let him run amok."

"And after that?" Gong Ling barked.

Gong Chou opened his mouth, but no words came out.

"Lu Yin is ruthless, and nobody knows what he may do. Although he has his own bottom line, this time, we would indeed be going back on our word. If he focuses on us, then things would be very troublesome in the future. Do you think that the weaves in the central region are enjoying pleasant days? The Wei family's outcome has become an example for the entire Outerverse. Since we've already agreed to join,

then we will do so, and we can thus be seen as being trustworthy. Furthermore, it's not a big deal to join this alliance. The advice of the ancestors can change," Gong Ling said.

Gong Chou nodded. He did not hate Lu Yin; he just did not want to defy the teachings of their ancestors. If anything happened in the future, then they would become sinners in the history of the Neo-Vestige Sect.

And the probability of them encountering problems was quite high. Gong Chou may not quite understand Lu Yin, but he knew that this person managed to stir up trouble quite often, such as during the wedding of Amethyst Exchange's chairman's second son, when Lu Yin had completely ruined things. The Amethyst Exchange was still being investigated by the Hall of Honor, and even if they managed to survive, their strength would sharply decline, and they would no longer be one of the four great conglomerates of the Outerverse like before.

There were too many similar examples. Wherever Lu Yin went, problems seemed to inevitably appear before him.

After calling the Neo-Vestige Sect, Lu Yin next called Wang Wen.

Wang Wen had long since expected for Lu Yin to contact him, and there was a sly smile on his face. "Chesspiece Bro, you're even more capable than I gave you credit for."

Lu Yin smiled as he looked at the image of Wang Wen on his screen. "Join me. Let's play together."

"We'll have to play to our hearts' content, as we'll simply be enjoying ourselves. I want to know what you're planning on focusing next—just the Outerverse?" Wang Wen stared intently at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin took a deep breath as he lazily stretched his arms. "Whatever. We'll just play however we want. Humans should have targets, but it's also fine to not have any objectives every once in a while. Wherever I look will become my territory."

Wang Wen laughed. "Chesspiece Bro is very ambitious. Do you want to leave your name in history?"

Lu Yin rearranged his expression and stared at Wang Wen. "I don't want to leave my name in the history books. Rather, I want history to not even dare to record my name."

Wang Wen's expression changed slightly. "Alright, then let's cooperate well. From now on, the overall advisor of both the Great Eastern Alliance and the Great Yu Empire will be me, Wang Wen. I will contact En Ya, and I'll also send you a gift that will make you very happy."

They ended their call, and Lu Yin gave En Ya a few more orders.

En Ya was not very willing to accept Wang Wen's advice, but she could not go against Lu Yin's orders.

Wang Wen's efficiency was truly exceptional. That same day, En Ya passed the young man all sorts of information concerning the Great Yu Empire, and he immediately found three moles who had hidden themselves very deeply while also obtaining quite high positions. One of them was in the Lu Office of Defense and had almost been nominated to join the Lu Ministry of Defense. If he had joined the Lu Ministry of Defense, then it would be the same as him stepping into the Great Yu Empire's upper brass. Wang Wen had only needed to look through the gathered information to find these moles.

According to Wang Wen, rather than just three moles among their forces, there were actually as many as thirty. There was no need to dig them all out, as it would actually be more useful to keep them around for the time being. He had only dug out the moles who could cause the Great Yu Empire to suffer real losses.

Wang Wen's ability was not limited to just that much. Over the course of several days, he amended the alliance's constitution and adjusted their troop deployment before setting out to establish the new legions. His actions left En Ya watching on dumbfounded. She simply could not imagine how one person who had not even visited the Great Yu Empire could do so much.

Although Lu Yin was very confident in Wang Wen, he had not expected the young man to be so capable. Wang Wen was able to accomplish so much because he fully understood the matters involved since he had been constantly observing the Great Yu Empire this entire time.

Even if Lu Yin had not sought out Wang Wen of his own accord, Wang Wen would still have found a way to move over.

Some people were simply not suited to remain nested in just one place for their entire lives. Ironblood Weave had merely been a place for Wang Wen to cultivate, though he had not cultivated his power level, but rather his brain.

Wang Wen also gave Lu Yin another suggestion: contact Endless Borders. Although the company did not seem very prominent, they had simply grasped too many secret routes. Any one of these routes was invaluable, and more importantly, this group understood the Astral Wilderness very well.

Humans were often embroiled in internal conflict, but the truth was that the universe was endlessly vast. Nobody knew exactly what was in the Astral Wilderness, and an unknown civilization that was capable of vanquishing the entire human race might appear at any time.

Wang Wen cared about this detail the most, as the unknown was often the most frightening thing.

In the darkness of outer space, there was a spacecraft speeding towards the west. It was Lu Yin's vessel and behind him sat Wang Wen's gift, which was actually a person named Alan. He had been stationed on Endless Weave's border in the Dark Phoenix Lavazone.

Alan was a Melder, and he was just like Lu Yin. He had been taken off of a trial planet by cultivators before stepping foot onto the path of cultivation.

Unfortunately, his luck was a bit worse than Lu Yin's, as the people who had taken him from his home planet had immediately thrown him to the border warfront. If not for his good luck, he would have died a long time ago. Of course, he also had his own abilities, which was an innate gift that allowed him to hear the strength of those around him. Although it was not of much use at his current power level, it still allowed him to avoid disasters.

He had been sent to Zenyu Star by the Hall of Honor a few months ago because he had discovered a secret.

"You can listen to the heartbeats of those around you and determine who's strong or weak?" Lu Yin asked quietly.

Alan carefully replied, "Yes."

Lu Yin looked at him curiously. "How does my heartbeat sound?"

Alan was scared stiff, and he bowed deeply. "Your heartbeat is very rare among those that I've heard, and only those almighty powerhouses can compare to you."

"And compared to the person who brought you away?" Lu Yin was asking about Goldric Phoenix, as he had been the one to bring Alan away from the border.

Alan quickly replied, "You're much stronger than him."

Lu Yin withdrew his gaze. He did not actually care about whether or not Alan was stating the truth because the man's secret was his most valuable aspect.

This was Lu Yin's second trip to Millions City.

The first difference from his first visit was that, this time, Lu Yin entered without any obstructions. This was the treatment that was reserved only for almighty powerhouses such as Enlighters.

When he entered Millions City this time, Lu Yin suddenly realized something. Millions City usually required people to have a tattoo on their wrists that differentiated between people's status based on their wealth.

This was a very ordinary authentication method, and Lu Yin had assumed that it was done just to facilitate business transactions for those in Millions City. However, after the battle in Millions City, he had realized that those tattoos might not be as simple as he had initially assumed. It was possible that they were like the Skyblaze Dojo's altar's mark, where only those who had received a burning seal on the backs of their hands would be brought away when the altar was activated while the rest would be completely ignored.

The tattoo that the people arriving at Millions City received was likely the same thing. The city likely had a function that allowed it to take away those who had received the tattoo while also allowing the city to track certain people through their tattoos and then carry out a precision attack.

Millions City itself was a mobile fortress, and everyone who entered received a tattoo, which was the equivalent of having a target above their heads. Whoever moved would die.

Unless the person was like that corpse king from the Neohuman Alliance who had slipped in, no one would be able to avoid their tracking.

As he thought about it, Lu Yin raised his wrist and entered Millions City, watching as the tattoo automatically appeared. There was no need for him to receive it a second time. If he ever waged war against Millions City, then even if he was on the distant Zenyu Star, he might be able to be targeted through this tattoo.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed, and a burning sensation suddenly appeared around his wrist as the skin in that area was quickly cauterized, causing the seal to soon vanish.

He did not want to be targeted by Millions City.

When Lu Yin arrived in Millions City this time, he attracted a great deal of attention. His status was very different compared to when he had last visited, as this time, his influence had already spread to the weaves in the central area of the Outerverse, and not even the western weaves dared to look down upon him any longer.

City Master Qiong Shanhai even personally welcomed Lu Yin.

“Alliance Leader Lu, our Millions City is honored by your presence.” Qiong Shanhai was very cordial.

Lu Yin smiled. “City Master Qiong is too courteous. I’m just here to see a friend, but I’ve troubled the city master to come out and welcome me. Please forgive me.”

“Haha, Alliance Leader Lu is no ordinary person, and this is something I should do.” Qiong Shanhai smiled as he led Lu Yin along.

“I wonder, which friend Alliance Leader Lu is visiting? I may be able to lead you there,” Qiong Shanhai asked as he looked over at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's lips curled upwards. “There’s no hurry. Last time, I left the city master’s home in a rush, so I never was able to enjoy a tour. I wonder, could City Master Qiong welcome me into your home again?”

Qiong Shanhai’s expression changed, but only for an instance. He quickly smiled once again. “Of course. Xi'er has missed Alliance Leader Lu very much. Please.”

“Please.” Lu Yin gave a faint smile as he followed Qiong Shanhai.

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In a corner of Millions City, within the Wei family’s estate, the atmosphere had become very tense, and everyone looked desperate.

Lu Yin had clearly arrived to take care of their Wei family’s leader, and although they hated it, they were also very afraid.

At this moment, they merely hoped that Lu Yin would not remember them while also hoping that Millions City would protect them.

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In the Zhu family’s estate, Zhu Jie stared at the sky, while wondering why Lu Yin would come at this time. Zhu Jie was aware that Wei Rong was hiding in the city master’s home. However, would Lu Yin be brazen enough to demand that Wei Rong be turned over to him? If he did, then Qiong Shanhai definitely would not agree for the sake of Millions City’s reputation, and it was even possible that a war might break out.

“Father, I’ll head over for a look,” Zhu San said.

Zhu Jie thought about it and then nodded. “Act the same as you did before.”

“I understand.”

Chapter 912: A Choice Without A Solution

Lu Yin's arrival caused countless people's imaginations to wander, especially since news of Mordo and Canopy Weaves joining the Great Eastern Alliance had only recently begun to spread. Everyone was guessing as to whether or not Lu Yin was trying to lure in Millions City as well.

Countless powers from the central region of the Outerverse tried to contact Millions City, and western region's powers were even more frantic, as they were afraid that Millions City would agree to join the Great Eastern Alliance. That would give Lu Yin the ability to directly bypass the central region and use Millions City as a springboard to interfere with the weaves in the western region. If he launched a war similar to the one that he had conducted against Armament Weave, then Millions City would allow him to access territories that were a great distance away from the Great Eastern Alliance's territory. The thought of Lu Yin being able to attack so freely was absolutely frightening.

Many recalled the two invasion plans that had been exposed before; could they have been real?

The city master's residence's imposing appearance had been restored, and every single part of it revealed its inhabitants' wealth.

This was not Lu Yin's first time visiting the city master's home. Last time, he had been shown Phantom Sting's corpse here, and he had had no time to take a tour. This time, he wanted to receive the full tour.

Qiong Xi'er was a girl, and many people had spread news that she hoped to marry Lu Yin, which made it improper for her to welcome him. However, she was still waiting within the city master's residence, and she had even personally made some refreshments.

In the underground region, beneath the city master's residence, Wei Rong silently read through some scrolls. He was even more nervous at the prospects of Lu Yin's arrival, as this meant that Lu Yin knew that Wei Rong was hiding in this place. However, Wei Rong still wanted to see if Lu Yin had the ability to take him, the refugee, away!

Qiong Xi'er followed Qiong Shanhai into the family estate, where a maid served them the refreshments as she waited on Lu Yin.

"Brother Lu, why didn't you send a message that you were coming? Then I could have prepared some better snacks." Qiong Xi'er pretended to blame Lu Yin even as she personally offered a snack to him.

She was dressed exceptionally well this time, and her typical male clothing had been traded away for a more feminine dress. Her originally beautiful face had been meticulously made up, and she looked very alluring.

For some reason, when he saw Qiong Xi'er offer him snacks, Lu Yin suddenly felt that if he married this woman, Yan'er would be taken advantage of. After thinking about that, he quickly forced out a smile. "I'm not hungry, so I don't want to eat too much. There's no need to be so courteous, Miss Xi'er."

Qiong Xi'er rolled her beautiful eyes and then looked over at Qiong Shanhai. "Father, you can go and take care of your own business. Brother Lu is my friend, so I'll take him around on a tour."

She then looked back at Lu Yin. "Brother Lu doesn't mind, right?"

Lu Yin smiled. "That would actually be for the best. City master, please don't inconvenience yourself."

Qiong Shanhai then said, "Since that's the case, then forgive my manners. Xi'er, please take Alliance Leader Lu on a good tour."

Qiong Xi'er murmured her assent.

After her father left, Qiong Xi'er adjusted her expression and waved a hand to dismiss the other people in the room. She then looked at Lu Yin with a serene expression. "Brother Lu must have some reason to come here, so speak. What's your objective?"

Lu Yin looked puzzled. "Everyone knows your personality, so why were you acting like that just now? And you're even wearing a woman's clothes at that."

Qiong Xi'er smiled craftily. "If I don't do at least this much, then how will outsiders be certain that I like Brother Lu?"

Lu Yin was curious about this. "Do those rumors give you any benefits?"

"Of course, much fewer flies," Qiong Xi'er replied.

Lu Yin was amused. "Millions City's son-in-law. This title is quite attractive. It seems that you're trying to make some new enemies for me."

Qiong Xi'er smiled. "Brother Lu won't mind. Right now, in the entire Outerverse, the only person at your age who you could care about is the Ten Arbiters' Divine Fist."

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. "Wrong, there's someone else besides him. I am also concerned about you, Wang Wen, and the one who's hiding here in your home."

Qiong Xi'er's expression changed. "The one in my home? Is Brother Lu certain about that?"

Lu Yin looked up at the sky. "Call him out. I want to talk with him. Relax, I won't do anything—I just want to chat."

Qiong Xi'er frowned. "Is Brother Lu going to threaten him with his family?"

Lu Yin shook his head. "I'm not that despicable, and this has nothing to do with his family. Alright, bring him out."

Qiong Xi'er sent some orders through her gadget. Since Lu Yin had come, it showed that he was confident. Thus, there was indeed no need to keep hiding Wei Rong. Besides, she also wanted to see what Lu Yin would use to take Wei Rong away.

Lu Yin had initially wanted to use the rumors that Zhu San had spread, the ones about Wei Rong taking advantage of Lan Si, in order to coerce Wei Rong into revealing himself. Then, Lu Yin could find some excuse to capture Wei Rong. However, the gift that Wang Wen had sent to Lu Yin no longer required him to take such round-about methods, though Lu Yin still had to deal with certain complications. That was because he still needed to deal with Mt. Stacks Dojo, though that was a small matter in the grand scheme of things. Mt. Stacks Dojo was willing to cause trouble for Millions City, but they would not dare to cause trouble for Lu Yin.

Wei Rong calmly walked towards Lu Yin, his emotions seemingly completely calm and without any fluctuations.

After the battle in Armament Weave that had led to the ultimate defeat of the Wei family, this was the first time the two had met each other, and this would also be their first time talking to each other since then.

"I believe that you are confident in taking me away, so let's hear it." Wei Rong calmly stared at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin looked over at Qiong Xi'er.

She frowned, as she did not want to leave.

"There's no benefit to you if she hears this," Lu Yin told Wei Rong.

Wei Rong looked at Qiong Xi'er. "Sorry."

Qiong Xi'er snorted, but she still turned to leave.

After she left, Lu Yin exchanged glances with Wei Rong. "Wang Wen has joined the Great Eastern Alliance."

Wei Rong's eyes flickered. "That's not unexpected. It would appear that I'm the gift he sent you. What did he do?"

Lu Yin waved a hand, and Alan, who had been standing at a distance, walked over with a wary expression on his face. As he approached, his nervous breathing quickened.

Alan was just an ordinary cultivator who had been tossed to the border warfront, and he had never been anywhere like Millions City, let alone the city master's residence.

Wei Rong did not know Alan, and he looked completely lost.

"Alan, introduce yourself," Lu Yin said softly.

Alan swallowed his saliva, and under Wei Rong's doubtful eyes, said, "I'm Alan. I was taken away from my home during a trial conducted by the Dark Phoenix family, and after that, I stepped onto the path of cultivation. I'm currently a Melder, and we've also met before."

Wei Rong was still completely confused. "We've met?"

Alan nodded and quietly answered, "In the Dark Phoenix Lavazone. I was always there guarding the Dark Phoenix Lavazone."

Wei Rong frowned, as he simply could not remember this person. Suddenly, his expression changed drastically, and he stared at Alan. Wei Rong's face went horribly pale in just an instant.

Lu Yin's lips curled up. "It looks like you've suddenly remembered."

He looked appreciatively at Wei Rong. "Legends have it that the Wei family has spread a web throughout the Outerverse while producing geniuses for generations, and that part seems to be true

enough. Others remain in their own weaves, but you guys have already set your focus on the wars between domains. To prevent me from eliminating your Wei family, you actually intentionally sent an attack against the Technocracy and triggered an invasion. The response of the Human Domain was very fierce.”

Wei Rong continued to stare at Alan. “What do you know?”

Alan did not reply, so Lu Yin cut in. “He knows quite a bit, and he also saw quite a bit. Do you know what his innate gift is? He can differentiate between the strong from the weak through hearing, and his innate gift also allows him to learn things that most can’t.”

Wei Rong looked at Lu Yin and then softly said, “I didn’t think that it would bring over the Sixth Mainland.”

Lu Yin nodded. “The Sixth Mainland’s invasion wasn’t triggered by you, as they had already wanted to invade the Outerverse. However, who will believe that?”

Wei Rong was unable to defend himself. True—who would believe him? The Human Domain and Technocracy had been fighting a war, and Wei Rong had been the fuse. If the Wei family had not attacked the Technocracy of their own accord, then the Technocracy would not have invaded. Of course, Wei Rong had merely hoped to use the battle at the border warfront to buy some time for the Wei family’s survival, but in retrospect, others would not think the same. They would only take the border war, as well as the countless deaths that had occurred, into account. They would also remember those powerhouses like the Dark Phoenix family’s ancestor and the Arrow Mountain Elder, whose deaths had seemingly been caused by Wei Rong’s actions. He had become a sinner against the entire Outerverse.

In fact, this single action would make Wei Rong a sinner known throughout history. Because of him, countless people from the Outerverse had died with the number of casualties being inestimable. As soon as this matter was exposed, countless people in the Outerverse would want to eat Wei Rong alive. The suffering that the war had brought to the Ourverse needed a scapegoat as an outlet, and he was the best candidate.

This had been Wang Wen’s gift to Lu Yin, a gift that was able to easily push Wei Rong into the abyss.

Nobody would even listen to Wei Rong’s explanation. Even if he was able to avoid being judged by the Hall of Honor, he would never have a place in the Outerverse ever again. Everything that he had ever accomplished would be erased, and even Millions City would not be able to shelter him.

Wei Rong closed his eyes. He had failed, and he had been completely defeated. He had not lost to Lu Yin, but rather to Wang Wen.

Wei Rong, Wang Wen, and Qiong Xi'er were all equally famous in the Outerverse, and they also had a mutual understanding of each other’s abilities. Wei Rong had thought that he was on the same level as Wang Wen and that he might even be better than Wang Wen when it came to their connections. However, at this moment, Wei Rong realized that Wang Wen had simply never taken any action. The moment that Wang Wen had moved, it had been checkmate.

Lu Yin was also astounded at Wang Wen’s methods. This bastard had been keeping an eye on Wei Rong since who knows when. Then, in one fell swoop, he had become the final victor. No matter how smart

Wei Rong was, no matter how many backup plans he had, it was all useless if he was rejected by the entire Fifth Domain. This move of Wang Wen could actually make Wei Rong the enemy of the entire Fifth Domain.

The battles in the Outerverse had been very lively, and Wang Wen had always seemed to be an outsider. However, at this moment, he had simply ended the game.

Wei Rong sighed. "I will join you and the Great Yu Empire."

Lu Yin's lips curled up. "Welcome. From today on, you are officially a member of the Great Yu Empire's Lu Ministry of Defense, and you will also have the authority to command a portion of the Great Yu Empire and the Great Eastern Alliance's military."

Wei Rong looked up into the sky. Two years should have passed since the Great Eastern Alliance had first declared war against Armament Weave. He had come up with all kinds of methods to protect the Wei family and save himself, but in the end, he had not been able to go against the tides.

Wei Rong was reluctant, as he had his own aspirations and dreams; he had wanted to become the pioneer of a new era. But in the end, he had been defeated and thrown to Lu Yin's feet. Now, Wei Rong would need to open new frontiers for Lu Yin.

Although he was unwilling, Wei Rong still heaved a sigh of relief, as the mountain that had been constantly pressing down on him from above had disappeared.

He averted his eyes and looked at Lu Yin. He then bowed deeply. "Your subject pays his respects to the Royal Regent."

Lu Yin reached out a hand to lift Wei Rong back up. "We'll erase all the grievances between the two of us. Your Wei family can also return to Armament Weave now."

"Thank you, Royal Regent," Wei Rong acknowledged.

When Qiong Xi'er learned that Wei Rong had joined the Great Yu Empire, the expression on her face as she looked at Lu Yin was filled with apprehension and wariness. She understood Wei Rong quite well, and she could not understand how Lu Yin had accomplished such a thing. At this moment, her apprehension towards Lu Yin had become very strong.

Qiong Xi'er was quickly followed behind by Zhu San, as he had just arrived at the city master's estate, where upon arrival, he had learned that Wei Rong had already joined the Great Yu Empire. His pupils constricted, as he could not comprehend this development.

Lu Yin did not linger in Millions City for now. Now that he had roped in Wei Rong, it meant that many matters in the future would no longer require Lu Yin's direct attention. Wang Wen and Wei Rong would become Lu Yin's tools while En Ya, Huan Sha, and the Imperial Cabinet would be responsible for supervision. Lu Yin's existence would become nothing more than their spiritual leader.

Soon, the Outerverse erupted in a clamor, as the Wei family had announced that they would join the Great Yu Empire. News of Wei Rong formally joining the Great Yu Empire's Lu Ministry of Defense also spread everywhere, shocking countless people.

In the past few years, the biggest event in the Outerverse had certainly been the border defenses in the east and west, but right below them was the war between Wei Rong and Lu Yin. And at this moment, it had finally ended with Wei Rong's surrender.

Chapter 913: Shattered Cauldron

Currently, the forces most terrified of the news that Wei Rong had joined the Great Eastern Alliance were, of course, the various great powers that ruled the weaves in the Outerverse's central area. Wei Rong had always been in touch with these people, and now that Wei Rong had surrendered to Lu Yin, the blow to their morale was rather impressive.

Under these circumstances, someone proposed a suggestion that they imitate the Great Eastern Alliance and form their own allied military force that had an express military route.

At first, there were people who opposed this, as they claimed that doing so would be the same as establishing an alliance. However, in the end, this proposal was approved. The Great Eastern Alliance was like a slumbering beast that could devour them at any moment.

Joining the alliance was just a euphemism; put more unpleasantly, joining the alliance was equivalent to accepting Lu Yin's leadership. One word from Lu Yin could shift the resources of the various powers, and that was something that nobody was willing to accept.

When Lu Yin saw the strong reactions that people had to this development, he actually did nothing in response. This was to avoid pushing them any further than necessary.

He quickly arranged a position for Wei Rong and then headed straight back to the secret room in King Zishan's palace. Lu Yin then took out his futon and returned to the Daosource Sect's ruins.

A considerable amount of time had passed since Lu Yin had last visited the ruins, and he could not allow this bountiful source of wealth lie fallow any longer.

The war in the Innerverse had drawn quite a few of the Sixth Mainland's experts away from the Daosource Sect's ruins, even the youths that were not of the three invading realms. Experts from all over the Sixth Mainland had joined the invasion forces, which led to far fewer youths visiting the ruins.

Lu Yin sped along the path that led from the First Divine Gate to the Budding Terrace, not stopping until he finally arrived in the space that held the Nine Cauldrons.

Just as before, any Sixth Mainland cultivators within the space with the Nine Cauldrons were knocked unconscious by Lu Yin before being tossed aside.

Such an incident had already occurred thrice before, and people had started spreading rumors that experts occasionally appeared in this place. However, the timings of Lu Yin's visits to the Daosource Sect's ruins were patternless, and it had been quite some time since his last trip. Thus, many people had forgotten about it.

This was the fourth time that Lu Yin had come to absorb the cauldron energy, and Lu Yin had thought that this visit would be the same as the previous three visits where he left after absorbing as much cauldron energy as he could. However, something new happened this time. As he absorbed the cauldron energy, a crack appeared in the cauldron he was sitting in.

Each of the Nine Cauldrons was exceptionally durable, and even when White Knight had fought against Blood Looney, they hadn't been able to cause even a trace of damage to appear on them. But while Lu Yin was absorbing the cauldron energy, cracks suddenly appeared on the cauldron, and they quickly began spreading out. He did not notice the cracks at first, but when they reached the area beneath him, he finally noticed them.

The crisp sound of the cracks grew louder as they continued to spread, and Lu Yin's expression grew solemn. The invisible cauldron energy was still flowing into his palm and body, and he had a feeling that the cauldron energy within this particular cauldron was about to be completely absorbed.

Four times. It had taken him four sessions to completely absorb the cauldron energy from this cauldron. Since there were nine cauldrons, that meant that he would have to spend a total of thirty six sessions absorbing the cauldron energy with thirty two remaining sessions, which was equivalent to thirty two months. That amount of time wasn't even factoring the amount of time that Lu Yin had to wait between each visit to the ruins. In other words, it would take him far too long for him to completely absorb all of the cauldron energy from all nine cauldrons. The only way to shorten this time was for him to learn how to use his spiritual force to extend the time he could spend within the Daosource Sect's ruins.

Lu Yin naturally thought of the Daynight clan, as they were the most adept at using spiritual force.

At the entrance to the Nine Cauldrons space, where the pillar of light allowed people to transport between the regions of the Daosource Sect, a procession of five people entered the space, cheerfully joking around with each other. However, when they entered the space, they heard a loud bang, and to their horror, they discovered that one of the cauldrons had shattered.

The five were all stunned. The Nine Cauldrons had existed in this place for countless years, and they had even survived the war between the two mainlands without ever suffering any damage. It was rumored that the Nine Cauldrons each contained a battle technique that could then be combined into one invincible technique. This was a place where countless cultivators from the Sixth Mainland had searched for destined opportunities, as countless people dreamed of obtaining the battle technique that lay within the Nine Cauldrons.

However, at this moment, a cauldron had shattered.

The five hurriedly charged over, as it was possible that there might be a battle technique within the shattered fragments of the cauldron.

Lu Yin stepped over the shattered fragments beneath him and turned around as the five people charged over at their top speeds.

He did not reveal himself to them. Instead, Lu Yin vanished in a flash. He did not have that many days remaining in the Daosource Sect's ruins, and he did not want the people from the Sixth Mainland to discover him. If they did, it would no longer be as easy for him to peacefully absorb the cauldron energy the next time he visited.

As Lu Yin moved to leave, the five cultivators did not notice anything at all. Their eyes were solely focused on the cauldron's shattered fragments, and they were frantically searching for something.

Lu Yin quickly left the space with the Nine Cauldrons, as that region would definitely attract countless cultivators from the Sixth Mainland, and even the Realmings might visit it. The space with the Nine Cauldrons was just too famous, and Lu Yin would not find it unexpected if even the Daosource Three Skies made a visit. It seemed that he would need to temporarily pause his sessions of absorbing the cauldron energy.

With just a single step, he had left the region. Lu Yin had assumed that he would appear rather close to Budding Terrace, but he actually ended up in an unknown location.

This entire area was foggy, and after Lu Yin took just two steps, the white fog suddenly transformed into chains that entangled his four limbs. Lu Yin was surprised, and he quickly used his strength to break free. The chains stretched, snapped, and then reformed into white fog again before dissipating away.

This place was very strange, and Lu Yin instantly became vigilant. Suddenly, the white fog transformed once again, but this time, it took the form of a longsword that stabbed at him. Lu Yin casually waved a hand and shattered the longsword, which once again reverted back into white fog that then dissipated.

He did not know what sort of place this was, but the surrounding fog was very strange. It seemed to be incorporeal, and yet it could form itself into weapons that could kill. Fortunately, these weapons were not very powerful; otherwise, he would have been quite worried.

Every few steps, the fog shifted into new forms, either weapons or other strange objects. There were even some humanoid forms that appeared and attacked Lu Yin. The most dangerous moment was when the fog took on the shape of a human, as this figure was not weak at all. In fact, it possessed a strength that nearly rivaled Autumnfrost Qing's.

Lu Yin unleashed his domain, but it was useless against the white fog. Additionally, rune lines could not be seen within the Daosource Sect's ruins, so he could only slowly move forward step by step. In any case, after another two days passed, he would be able to leave the ruins. Actually, remaining in place might also be a good way to deal with this place.

After thinking about it, Lu Yin sat down cross-legged. He had decided that this place was just too strange, so he would rather remain still and wait for his time to be up.

Half a day passed, after which Lu Yin opened his eyes and exhaled.

As long as he did not move, the surrounding fog would be nothing more than just fog, and it would not automatically transform into objects that attacked him.

He still had about a whole day left in the ruins, and Lu Yin mentally submerged himself as he began to silently recite the Stonewall Scriptures.

Reciting the Stonewall Scriptures allowed him to strengthen his spiritual force, but he did not know how to use that strength effectively. In fact, his only technique that employed spiritual force was the Daynight Punch. The strength of that punch was enough to even render someone at Hong Ying's level unable to fight. However, such an attack would not work against the Ten Arbiters.

He had to find some other way to take advantage of his spiritual force.

It did not take long for another half day to pass.

Lu Yin was currently silently sitting down cross-legged, but he suddenly opened his eyes and looked to the right—some activity had just occurred in that direction.

He merely stared, but then he suddenly saw the fog to his right begin to transform, and a tender palm streaked through the fog to swat at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's eye twitched, but he responded in kind by raising his own hand. There was a bang as two opposing waves of energy collided and the void warped. A formless shockwave also swept away the nearby fog.

When the two palms collided, there was no sense of any physical contact. Lu Yin received a very strange feeling from that palm—it was as if he had struck cotton. That palm had contained a ferocious strength that had quickly dissolved away as well as a formless strength that had burst forth and forced him to retreat several steps. The soft hand then continued to press forward and suppress him.

Lu Yin frowned and raised his hand once again. This time, he was using Fifty Stacks in his attack.

There was another bang, but Lu Yin felt the same strange sensation again. His attack had been violent, but the response from the soft hand was even more unendurable. Just as his opponent's palm released a bit of force, Lu Yin's Overlaying Stacks Path erupted, and a surprised wail was heard. A girl stepped out of the fog and pulled back her hand as she stared at Lu Yin in amazement.

Lu Yin similarly pulled back his hand as the force of the shockwave spread out in various directions.

"You aren't something formed by the fog?" Lu Yin blurted out.

The girl in front of him looked at him calmly before shifting her gaze to his hand. "You aren't weak."

Lu Yin looked at her, and his pupils shrank. This woman had seen him before, as she had been present when the Ten Arbiters and Realmings had fought for that jade stone in the Daosource Sect's ruins. He had unintentionally joined that battlefield, and he had been like an ant thrown into a tornado, only barely surviving that calamity. This girl had arrived at the last moment, and her strength had been astounding. She was definitely someone on the same level as a Realming.

Lu Yin had never expected to bump into her again in this place. He had not exchanged blows with her before, but he had a feeling for how powerful she was. Additionally, he recalled that someone had called her Xin Nü at that time.

The woman stared at Lu Yin suspiciously. She also remembered Lu Yin, though not because of his strength. She remembered him because of a feeling. When they first met, she had felt a strange sense of intimacy towards him, almost as if there was a resonance between their bloodlines. Now that they were meeting again, that same feeling had come again. This person was definitely related to her in some manner.

"When you saw me, did you feel any sort of sensation?" the girl asked as she stared at Lu Yin with a serious expression.

Lu Yin blinked. "What feeling?"

“Seventh Bro, is she about to declare her love for you?” the Ghost Monkey asked in an odd tone.

The girl stared straight into Lu Yin’s eyes, as if she was trying to see something within them. “Do you know me?”

Lu Yin shook his head.

The girl was disappointed, as she could tell from his eyes that this person truly did not know her.

“What’s your name? Where are you from?” she continued.

Lu Yin was puzzled, but because he was nervous, he answered, “I’m Huang San, from the Progenitor of Bloodlines’ territory.”

She shook her head. “You aren’t from the Progenitor of Bloodlines’ territory, as no other bloodlines have merged into your body.”

Lu Yin felt embarrassed, as his lie had been instantly seen through. “It’s not none—it’s just that I recently changed, and I haven’t found a new one yet.”

She seriously answered, “It’s alright if you don’t want to answer. I have no intention of interrogating you.”

She then surveyed their surroundings. “This is the fog barrier that surrounds the Platform of Inception, and few are able to cross it. However, if they can make it through, then they can ascend the Platform of Inception. That place contains some ancient Lockbreakers’ personal experiences if you’re lucky, which is of great help to a Lockbreaker. Since you’re here, you must be a Lockbreaker as well.”

Lu Yin was astonished, as he had never expected the Daosource Sect’s ruins to contain such a place. “Somewhat. Are you headed to the Platform of Inception?”

The girl nodded. “I’m at a threshold, so I want to use the Platform of Inception to break through to the next lockbreaking level.”

“What level are you?” Lu Yin asked reflexively, only to immediately regret it. This sort of question pried into others’ privacy, and such a question could easily trigger hostility.

However, the girl did not seem to care one bit. “Five star Perceptive Intermediate.”

Lu Yin was surprised. “You’re a five star Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker?”

The girl nodded. “Is that a problem?”

Lu Yin’s face contorted. Of course that was a problem! She was so young and was already a five star Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker! That was something that even a regular genius could not hope to achieve.

Generally speaking, Melders and Limiteers were only able to reach the Discerning Elementary level while Explorers and Cruisers could reach the Perceptive Intermediate level. Only Hunters and above were able to break through and reach the Boundless Advanced level.

It seemed quite abnormal for this woman to have attained the level of a five star Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker, but who could use strength to determine one's Lockbreaker level? Strength merely provided the foundation. In reality, there were many members of the Lockbreaker Society who were Hunters, but very few of them had reached the Boundless Advanced level. Even a peak Hunter like Fiend Li was only a five star Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker whereas, of Mr. Jun, Felynn, and Yi Feng, who were also all Hunters, not a single one of them had reached the level of a five star Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker.

In the Outerverse Lockbreaker Society, Vice President Saul was the only one who had reached the Boundless Advanced level while still in the Hunter realm.

Chapter 914: Xin Nu And The Platform of Inception

The Innerverse Lockbreaker Society did not have that many Boundless Advanced Lockbreakers either. Additionally, strength was wholly unrelated to one's Lockbreaker level, but this woman also had the strength of a Realmling, which indicated that she should also be in the Hunter realm. It was rather terrifying that she was also a five star Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker, and her previous words even insinuated that she was on the verge of breaking through to the Boundless Advanced level. Despite all that, just how young was this girl?

The most innately talented Lockbreaker that Lu Yin had ever heard of was Tutor Wusheng, who had become a five star Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker while still in the Explorer realm. However, Tutor Wusheng was over a hundred years old, and he had attained the five star Perceptive Intermediate level as an Explorer not because his lockbreaking talent was too extraordinary, but rather because his cultivation talent was too lacking.

This woman was truly talented at cultivating while also being extraordinarily talented at Lockbreaking.

Once she reached the Boundless Advanced level, she would step into another world, where she would be able to compete with the likes of Saul. At that moment, her strength would greatly surpass Lu Yin's.

"What about you? Are you also a Lockbreaker?" the girl asked curiously. Those who knew her would definitely be confused by her behavior at this time. To start, she rarely spoke, and when she did, she never took the initiative to inquire about anything, and she certainly did not ever give anyone any respect. But on this day, she had asked Lu Yin several questions in a row and even revealed a strong curiosity.

Lu Yin coughed awkwardly. "I'm not."

The girl murmured an acknowledgement and then stopped asking questions.

Lu Yin heaved a sigh of relief, embarrassed. He did not dare to reveal anything about himself.

"Seventh Bro, actually you're quite impressive," the Ghost Monkey said.

Lu Yin was speechless. He obviously knew that he was impressive. Even though this girl was just an Explorer, her lockbreaking level might not be any lower than his own. However, he merely did not want to say that since it would embarrass him. More importantly, he did not dare to ask how old she was, as it would be even more embarrassing if she turned out to be the same age as him.

“Do you want me to take you to the Platform of Inception? If your luck is good enough, you might be able to improve your lockbreaking skills.” The girl looked at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin replied, “But I’m not a Lockbreaker.”

“I know.”

“Then?”

“Just treat it as a trip.”

Lu Yin was speechless, as this woman had definitely assumed that he was a Lockbreaker, and she also knew that he was unwilling to say anything out of embarrassment, which was because of her attempt to help him. But just why was she helping him? Lu Yin was rather confused. “Are you helping me?”

The girl shook her head. “Nope. I just want to take you on a trip to the Platform of Inception.”

“Why?” Lu Yin asked blankly.

She thought about it. “I don’t know.”

“You’re quite kind.”

“Thank you.”

“Right, what’s your name?” Lu Yin asked.

“Xin Nü, and you?” She asked, evidently not believing the name “Huang San” that he had given before.

Lu Yin was too embarrassed to lie to her now. “Could you not ask?”

Xin Nü nodded. “Alright.”

Why was she so straightforward about everything? Lu Yin felt that this girl was quite eccentric, but for some reason, he had a good feeling about her. He felt that she was a good person!

With Xin Nü paving the way forward, the surrounding fog was not able to stop the two of them no matter how it transformed.

“Can very few people reach the Platform of Inception? Is that place very dangerous?” Lu Yin asked.

Xin Nü replied, “Mm.”

“Are you confident that you can reach that place?” Lu Yin asked. He was suspicious that this woman had the same motivations that White Knight once had in the past; perhaps she was asking Lu Yin for his help in a matter that was impossible to complete alone.

Xin Nü replied, “I’ve been there once, and it’s not difficult, though it would be extremely difficult for you to get there.”

Lu Yin stopped speaking.

Xin Nü was right, as it would indeed not be easy for Lu Yin to proceed through the fog on his own. Although he had been able to make it through the initial part, the further they proceeded, the stronger

the white fog's attacks became. Eventually, the attacks reached the level of a Realmking-level powerhouse. If not for Xin Nü, then Lu Yin might not have been able to break through.

After taking one last step, they emerged from the fog, and the two people ascended onto a square platform.

It was large and very spacious, but there was nothing actually there.

"Is this the Platform of Inception?" Lu Yin was puzzled.

Xin Nü explained, "In the ancient Daosource Sect, Master Lockbreakers would perform their lockbreaking attempts here, and their experiences would be pulled into the fog, which then preserved those lockbreaking scenes. These scenes have not dissipated despite the countless years, and those who are lucky enough can experience those fog traces, which is the same as experiencing those lockbreaking sessions for yourself, which will upgrade your understanding of lockbreaking by a great deal."

Lu Yin quickly understood the point of this platform, as it was similar to how he watched videos of lockbreaking sessions. It was just that this form of observation was on an even higher level, and it was the same as personally experiencing those sessions.

"Is there a lot of that fog?" Lu Yin asked.

Xin Nü shook her head. "I'm not sure, as very few people can reach the Platform of Inception in any given year. Only those with the strength of a Realmking can get here, and there are very few Lockbreakers among the Realmkings."

"Few is few, but even after so many years, the total number of visitors will still be quite high." Lu Yin sighed.

Xin Nü did not respond, as that was a simple fact. Even if only one person arrived at this place every hundred years, there would still be an uncountable number of cultivators who had visited this place over the countless years. It all depended on how many lockbreaking experts had existed within the original Daosource Sect, as well as how many ages this place had endured through.

"When I was here before, I was able to absorb a strand of grey fog, which increased my lockbreaking experience significantly." Just as Xin Nü uttered those words, a strand of grey fog appeared in the white fog surrounding the platform. It swam through the air like a small snake, and Xin Nü's eyes lit up. She waved a hand, pulled that grey fog over, and then pushed it over towards Lu Yin. "For you."

Lu Yin was stumped, and he looked at Xin Nü. "Is this a strand of ancient lockbreaking experience?"

She nodded.

Lu Yin was puzzled, as this shouldn't be happening. This experience was extremely precious, especially to this girl, who was on the verge of breaking through and becoming a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker. For her, this experience was valuable beyond measure, so could she be willing to just give it to him like that? He was rather incredulous; this strand might be poisoned!

Xin Nü likely noticed Lu Yin's hesitation, so she waved her hand again and absorbed the grey fog with her body. After that, she sat down and looked like she was comprehending something.

Lu Yin observed her as she sat there.

As time passed, Xin Nü lifted her hands and involuntarily moved them around, as if she was lockbreaking. However, she merely went through the motions without using any star energy.

After some time, Xin Nü opened her eyes, her expression bright. She turned to face Lu Yin's curious expression and said, "There's still a bit more I have to do before I can break through and become a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker, but thank you for letting me have it."

Lu Yin was rendered speechless. She had found that grey fog in the first place, and he had not absorbed it because he had been worried about being poisoned. But now, he was unexpectedly being offered gratitude for some reason. This woman was too much, and she made even him feel a little embarrassed.

There was now less than a day remaining before Lu Yin's time in the Daosource Sect's ruins expired.

According to Xin Nü, the odds of more grey fog appearing was not very high. She had once stayed on this platform for more than a month, but she had only found and absorbed two strands of the grey fog during that time. This time, their luck proved to be much better, as a strand had appeared almost as soon as they had arrived.

Lu Yin did not hold any hopes of seeing more grey fog since he had so little time remaining.

However, his luck was quite good, and a couple of hours later, another strand of grey fog swam out. Xin Nü's eyes grew bright, and she waved a hand to pull the grey fog towards Lu Yin. "This time it's yours."

Lu Yin did not hesitate and forcefully sucked the grey fog into his body. It entered from his nostrils, flooding his brain and jostling his consciousness. He quickly sat down, as everything he was perceiving had changed. He became another person, or more accurately, his perspective had changed to that of another person who was currently in front of a triangular sourcebox that was dozens of meters tall.

There were strange designs covering the surface of the sourcebox, but they had not been carved or branded on. Rather, they were formed by the sourcebox's overly dense energy that had been gathered in specific patterns. All around the sourcebox, there were dozens of ethereal figures standing in a formation. They released an indescribable killing aura that shot into the sky, and not even space itself was able to fully endure it.

Lu Yin was overwhelmed, as these empty figures were actually the danger zone that the sourcebox naturally emanated, and the space around the sourcebox could not quite endure its danger zone. He did not know what sort of power level these ethereal figures possessed, but based on what he could see, their power levels should exceed 200,000 at the minimum. This sourcebox was definitely at the Boundless Advanced level.

At this moment, from Lu Yin's perspective, the person who he had merged with moved. He lifted a hand, swatted at one of the ethereal figures, and grabbed it. The figure then exploded, and at the same moment, one of the layers of energy covering the triangular sourcebox cracked.

Lu Yin was shocked, as he simply could not understand how or what this person had done, or even how he had determined what needed to be done. Lu Yin could not make sense of anything at all.

As time passed, the triangular sourcebox was quickly unlocked, and the sealing energies that formed the sourcebox's surface were constantly stripped away. Lu Yin gradually saw something, and it seemed as though the experience he was gaining from this merged perspective allowed him to comprehend this lockbreaking experience.

After Lu Yin observed for some time, although the triangular sourcebox had not been successfully unlocked yet, the scenery changed before his eyes. When he opened his eyes, the first thing he saw was the face of a curious Xin Nü.

Lu Yin did not speak. Instead, he directly raised a hand. Above his outstretched hand, his star energy converged before dissipating; it converged, and then dissipated once again. He was able to observe some changes in his star energy, but those changes were ineffably profound. In the past, he had been able to observe the various changes in the surface energy of sourceboxes. His eyes had then been transformed due to an inheritance from the Rune Civilization, allowing him to see rune lines. Those rune lines were like the inner layer whereas the energy that he had been able to observe earlier had been the surface layer. Now, Lu Yin felt that he was able to see an even deeper level.

His degree of control over his star energy had reached the Skywise realm.

Lockbreakers were mostly concerned about improving their star energy control, and from lowest to highest, they had been categorized into distinct realms: Intricacy, Cloudwalk, Skywise, Divine Gaze, Worldliness, and Creation. He did not know what level that Master Lockbreaker who had unlocked the triangular sourcebox had attained, and he could not even guess. However, after experiencing that lockbreaking session, Lu Yin's star energy control had already reached the Skywise realm.

That meant that, if Lu Yin returned to the Inniverse at this moment, then with the cosmic phenomenon suppressing everyone's power level to under 200,000, Enlighters would hold no advantage over Lu Yin with their experience of wielding and using star energy. He would no longer have to use his secret technique or Truesight to reduce their rune lines, and he could actually challenge them head on in a one-on-one battle. In fact, Lu Yin might even be able to go against Enlighters whose power levels were at 300,000 or even 400,000.

If he had another duel with Elder Song, Lu Yin would not struggle nearly as much. This was one of the many benefits to improving one's star energy control.

Unfortunately, he had not been able to see what was inside that triangular sourcebox. Lu Yin was still very curious about the results, as that killing aura had felt like a battlefield.

"How long?" Lu Yin asked Xin Nü.

Xin Nü answered, "Seven hours."

Lu Yin calculated the time and was overwhelmed. It had been just seven hours, but the person whose perspective he had shared had already unlocked that triangular sourcebox more than halfway. That person's lockbreaking level was probably absolutely terrifying.

During the last bit of time that Lu Yin had left in the Daosource Sect's Ruins, the two youths merely waited quietly, hoping to find some more of the grey fog once again.

"Sorry, but my time is about up," Lu Yin told Xin Nü.

She nodded and calmly responded, "Come again when you have time. I'll likely stay at the Platform of Inception during this period, at least until I break through to the Boundless Advanced level."

Lu Yin grunted in acknowledgement before turning around and looking around the area as the scenery changed before his eyes. He had left the Daosource Sect's ruins and returned to King Zishan's palace.

The first thing Lu Yin did after standing up was to lift his hand. This time, he was not sensing how fine his star energy control was, but rather observing—First Sun.

He had completely absorbed all of the cauldron energy from one of the cauldrons, and the First Sun of the Ninesuns Cauldron Transformation had been completed.

Chapter 915: Central Coalition

Star energy converged over Lu Yin's right palm as the First Sun appeared once again, as resplendent as ever with its radiating, overwhelming might. However, the sun had changed in one aspect—it had become solid, and it felt as if there was an actual sun in his hand. It was roiling, magnificent, and indomitable.

Lu Yin could feel the valiant power of this First Sun, and its strength had increased substantially compared to before. It also had a golden silhouette now, which was very beautiful.

He gradually let the sun dissipate and let out a deep breath before walking out of the secret room.

Although Lu Yin had been in seclusion for a whole month, he expected the heated discussions among the outsiders about the Great Eastern Alliance to not have died off yet.

Lu Yin had not guessed wrong. The Great Eastern Alliance had doubled its territory in a very short period of time, drawn in the Neo-Vestige Sect, and even recruited Lu Yin's old enemy, Wei Rong. All of these events had given the Outerverse an unimaginable shock.

The weaves in the central region had established their own allied force with extraordinary efficiency, and nobody dragged their feet in doing so. These weaves' only goal was to quickly establish their own Central Coalition so that they could resist the spread of the Great Eastern Alliance from the east.

The weaves in the central region were not the only ones making such moves, as even the weaves in the west had become afraid. This had led to them quietly sending the central weaves quite a few experts to reinforce them as well as a significant amount of resources and materials to assist them in constructing an express military route in the central region.

Because of the Great Eastern Alliance, the entire Outerverse had become less fractured than before. If these military expressways were open routes for ordinary citizens, universal travel times would be cut by a third, which was equivalent to reducing the size of the Outerverse's territory by a third.

The central weaves' military force greatly surpassed the Great Eastern Alliance's in numbers, and their unified military was also established with an unprecedented speed. Many members of the media were very frightened of the Great Eastern Alliance.

When Lu Yin stepped out of the secret room, he was met with this situation.

To the west of the Great Eastern Alliance, the weaves in the central region had formed a complete defensive line, and it was being protected by the central weaves' recently established Central Coalition. If war truly broke out, it would be the largest war to occur in the Outerverse yet. Even if Lu Yin was given various privileges due to his special status, the Hall of Honor would not allow such an all-out conflict to occur.

In fact, while Lu Yin had been in seclusion, the Hall of Honor had sent him quite a few messages ordering him to not start any wars. This brewing conflict would not erupt into a small-scale skirmish like when Lu Yin had invaded Armament Weave. The moment this war broke out, it would implicate the entire Outerverse.

Lu Yin smiled when he saw these messages. These people were too nervous. Of course he would not casually start a war, as such things required a valid excuse, even if it was merely fabricated.

At this time, the Great Eastern Alliance had just significantly expanded its territory, and the various allies had not fully meshed together. Thus, it would not benefit Lu Yin to start a war either.

He had to at least wait for a period of time before he could trigger another war.

However, his expression soon grew colder; he had to merge the eastern weaves together into a solid alliance, but he could not allow the central weaves to have the same opportunity. Otherwise, when he was ready to start a war, it would be difficult to do so.

After thinking about it, he activated his gadget to contact someone.

Suna Weave was located to the west of Armament Weave, and the two weaves shared a common border. This weave was very far from Frostwave Weave, and the two weaves generally had no interactions. However, after Armament Weave became a part of the Great Eastern Alliance's territory, Suna Weave essentially became the Great Eastern Alliance's neighbor, as the weave was right in front of the alliance's sharp blade.

When the central region established their Central Coalition, Suna Weave naturally became one of their most important nodes of defense due to its strategic location. Ah Mu was also in Suna Weave.

Even though his strength was not very impressive, not even reaching the Cruiser realm, he was the confidante of the Umbral Butterfly Tribe's young mistress, Angie. This status allowed him to wield quite a bit of authority at the Weave's border defenses.

In outer space, battleships cruised along as they patrolled back and forth across the entire length of the defensive line.

As far as one's eyes could see, there were firearms and weapons, and each planet contained a network of weapons that was powerful enough to sweep through the nearby region of space. This was Suna Weave's defensive perimeter. It was very long, and its troops numbered in the billions.

The Great Eastern Alliance consisted of twenty two weaves, which seem incomparably powerful. However, the moment all of the central weaves united, their strength would instantly surpass that of the Great Eastern Alliance. This was also without even considering the secret support that had been sent over by the western weaves.

If the Great Eastern Alliance intended to advance further westwards through military conquest, the campaign would be extremely difficult.

Ah Mu stared to the east, towards Armament Weave with a complicated expression on his face. Wei Rong had ultimately been defeated, which fell within his expectations. That man had an almost demonic level of intelligence that frightened Ah Mu greatly, as any tiny slip-ups would be instantly discovered. Ever since Wei Rong had almost discovered Ah Mu's cooperation with Lu Yin, the young man from the Umbral Butterfly Tribe had felt a sense of apprehension and terror towards Wei Rong that stemmed from his very core, and as a result, he had not dared to try contacting Lu Yin again.

But now, Wei Rong had become Lu Yin's subordinate, and it was possible that the portion of the defensive line where Ah Mu was stationed was directly across from Wei Rong.

Ah Mu had no confidence in winning a military confrontation against Wei Rong, and Ah Mu also did not know what Angie was thinking for her to actually become enemies with Wei Rong. In fact, he was wondering if she would even be able to persevere with this decision.

Upon thinking about Angie, Ah Mu also thought about the Umbral Butterfly Tribe, and his expression grew cold. He had played that chesspiece correctly back then; Seventh Bro was Seventh Bro, and he was invincible. Since that was the case, it would not be too long before Ah Mu could reap his harvest.

While Ah Mu was thinking about Lu Yin, his gadget beeped, and Ah Mu looked down at it. His pupils shrank. Seventh Bro was calling him, and despite Ah Mu deleting the contact information, he was still able to recognize this number.

He quickly found a vacant corner and respectfully answered the call. "Seventh Bro."

In King Zishan's palace, Lu Yin had indeed called Ah Mu. Lu Yin wanted to know some details about the central weaves' Central Coalition. "You haven't called me for quite a while, and I even thought that you might've forgotten about me."

Ah Mu hurriedly tried to explain himself.

Lu Yin was amused. "It's fine; I'm joking. Tell me about what's happening with the central weaves' Central Coalition."

Ah Mu took a deep breath before sharing everything that he was aware of concerning the military's circumstances. This even included the secret support that they had received from the western weaves. He also shared all sorts of conjectures.

Lu Yin listened gravely, as the situation was even worse than what he had imagined. Rather than an allied military of the central weaves, this military was essentially the Central Coalition of all of the powers that were not a part of the Great Eastern Alliance. The main forces naturally consisted of soldiers from the central weaves, but various powers from the west had also sent over quite a few experts. The allied military forces already boasted more than twenty Hunters, and the number of Cruisers and Explorers didn't need to be mentioned. Even their number of battleships had surpassed 10,000.

That was 10,000 battleships, which was ten times more than the Great Eastern Alliance's fleet.

These numbers were not something that the central weaves could possibly mobilize on their own, and it was possible that not even support from the west would be able to provide them with such impressive numbers. Some other powers had to have also secretly provided their own assistance.

Lu Yin first considered Millions City and the Dark Phoenix family, as one was incredibly wealthy while the other was quite resourceful. Aside from those two forces, there could also be other, unknown organizations supporting this gigantic force.

Many powers did not dare to openly oppose Lu Yin. Thus, they would instead secretly support the central weaves.

Lu Yin's expression became glacial, as he had expected that after growing to a sufficient size, the Great Eastern Alliance would intimidate many organizations. However, he had not expected people to be so fearful of further expansion, and it seemed as though he had acted too blatantly.

No one wished for a ruler to appear above them. The Outerverse's previous power structure had allowed each group to freely govern themselves, but at this time, they no longer dared to leave the Great Eastern Alliance alone and allow them to expand endlessly, as that would inevitably lead to the Outerverse actually being unified.

After Ah Mu finished speaking, he nervously waited for Lu Yin's response.

Lu Yin remained silent for a long time before asking, "Did you find any hints of support from powers like Shamrock Enterprises, the Mavis Bank, or Aurora Enterprises?"

"Not yet," Ah Mu replied.

Lu Yin frowned, as he had been hoping for a more definitive response. With the Great Eastern Alliance's current power, if these powers were still ignoring them, then it simply showed that they did not care what the Great Eastern Alliance could possibly achieve. In other words, it meant that those financial powerhouse were still confident in being able to deal with the alliance, which caused Lu Yin to become apprehensive. This was the most troubling news.

The exposed enemy was not scary, but hidden aces were frightening.

The border war against the Sixth Mainland had pulled out all of the Outerverse's hidden old freaks, and as a result, Lu Yin had been able to act quite willfully. However, this was still just the Outerverse, and powers like Shamrock Enterprises were based out of the Innerverse. In their eyes, even if the Outerverse united, it still would not pose much of a threat to them.

Lu Yin suddenly felt quite eager; if he truly managed to unite the Outerverse one day and then used that momentum to move into the Innerverse, then would those powers still be able to remain indifferent? He wanted to see the Daynight clan, the Sword Sect, the Wen family, and other colossal groups look at him then. That would be quite entertaining. However, that was all based on the premise that the Innerverse would survive the Sixth Mainland's invasion.

"Seventh Bro?" Ah Mu cautiously spoke up.

Lu Yin then said, "Gather everything you know about the locations of the central weaves' Central Coalition's high-ranking officers and send it to me. The more, the better."

Ah Mu was puzzled. "Seventh Bro, what are you thinking?"

"That's none of your business. Just get me the information," Lu Yin answered sternly.

Ah Mu did not dare to talk back. "Yes, I'll go and sort this out as quickly as possible."

The central weaves' Central Coalition had only just finished gathering together, and the powers behind them had disregarded all costs to expedite their troops' movements so that they could defend any sudden movements from the Great Eastern Alliance. Even so, Lu Yin would not allow his opponents to remain comfortable. Since they wanted to play, he would play.

After half a day, Ah Mu passed all the positions of the high-ranking officials to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin passed a great deal of this information over to Aegis, and then as a member of the first level management, he issued an order: kill without mercy.

At the same time, he also passed a few of these contracts over to Mafioso Planet's bespectacled Mistchild and Thousand Eyes. These were the daggers in the dark that he controlled at this time.

He wanted to tear away the arrogance of the central weaves' Central Coalition in one fell swoop.

Nobody would have imagined that Lu Yin would make such an overwhelming move right off the bat.

The bespectacled Mistchild wanted to refuse the contracts, but she lacked the courage to do so. She no longer stood in a position where she could bargain with Lu Yin. Thus, she could only dispatch all of Mafioso Planet's assassins.

Thousand Eyes controlled pirates, which were unrelated to assassins. However, Lu Yin did not believe pirates had no ability when it came to assassinations.

Thousand Eyes was also helpless, and he could only send down the appropriate orders.

The most unwilling participant was Aegis, as there were quite a few officers among the central weaves' Central Coalition who belonged to organizations that were a part of Aegis's second level management. It would not be easy to give an answer as to why they had attacked these people.

Starfox contacted Lu Yin, intending to refuse the contract.

However, Lu Yin remained very firm, and he even hinted at some vague threats. Starfox was frustrated, and he informed Black Mask of the matter, who also never imagined that Lu Yin would issue such aggressive assassination missions so soon after obtaining his first level management status. This was playing with big stakes. However, Black Mask paid no further attention to the matter. Compared to those second level management members, Lu Yin was definitely more important. Aegis had already gotten on the boat, and there was no logic in jumping ship so quickly.

Actually, Starfox was mostly worried about possibly receiving retaliation from half of the Outerverse. If Aegis followed through with Lu Yin's wishes to assassinate these people, they would definitely draw a great deal of anger.

“We are clear about who are in the central weaves’ Central Coalition, but these people include nearly half of the Outerverse’s powers! The moment we act, our losses will be catastrophic, and we are likely to be annihilated ourselves,” Starfox commented in concern.

Black Mask’s face remained calm. “This is different from that time tens of thousands of years ago. Back then, we truly had no foundation and were easily surrounded. Others had no hesitation when they dealt with us. However, this time, the moment that those forces hope to surround us, the Hall of Honor will not simply watch on and do nothing.”

“Will the Hall of Honor really help us?” Starfox was still uncertain of this detail, as he knew too little about the Hall of Honor. In all of Aegis, only Black Mask had some understanding of the Hall of Honor, and that was because he had interacted with them before.

Chapter 916: Lu Yin’s Hidden Influence

Black Mask revealed a cold sneer. “The so-called ‘Hall of Honor’ is nothing more than a more powerful organization. Do not take them as the saviors of mankind. These guardians of the Human Domain are no different than how the Wei family protects Armament Weave. They are not honorable at all. Lu Yin is a member of the Hall of Honor, so they will naturally help him while neglecting the insignificant people.”

Starfox nodded his head. “I understand. So, what should we do now? Are we going to move?”

Black Mask looked at the hit list and saw that there were some powerful Hunters on the list who could prove to be slightly troublesome. “Attack.”

The sky had grown dark, and Lu Yin was standing in a courtyard within King Zishan’s palace with his hands behind his back as he looked down at the brightly lit city. Zenyu Star had become the busiest planet in the entire Outerverse. Countless people arrived here each day, and it had become more or less the Great Eastern Alliance’s center of power. This fact, coupled with the Lu’s Grand Auction and the presence of the Mavis Bank and other merchants, meant that this planet was the economic hub of the Great Eastern Alliance.

This was the most crucial aspect for the eastern region. Only the Zenyu Star’s Mavis Bank branch had deep reserves of star essence that could be withdrawn, and this was all to facilitate more convenient bidding for items in Lu’s Grand Auction.

Lu Yin spread out his domain, observing everything that was happening in the dark of night. At the same time, he was also able to overhear many secrets. Despite all of that, these secrets were worthless to Lu Yin as they were nothing more than the gossip of the common people.

Just below King Zishan’s palace, a certain pub had been renovated.

Ever since King Zishan’s palace had reopened, the property value of that tavern’s location had spiked. Many people wanted to buy it out, but the owner was smart enough to refuse to sell it. Owning and running a pub that was right below King Zishan’s palace was enough to show that the man had a certain level of influence. His refusal to sell even after all this time had led to the tavern’s value increasing by more than a thousandfold. When the day came that the owner finally decided to sell, he would be able to live off those profits for multiple lifetimes.

Despite that, the owner still had not sold the pub. Rather, he was instead renovating it.

Groups of people entered the bar in high hopes, but they always left disappointed.

For some reason, the windows and the door of the pub were always left wide open, and at this time, lively music could be heard outside. The lively music drew in crowds of people who had gathered outside the pub and were partying hard out on the street.

Imperial guards were about to chase those people away, but they were stopped by Lu Yin. He felt that the music currently being played was well suited to his current mood. That lively music paired well with a night of death and a good glass of red wine.

In Suna Weave, Ah Mu sat in a spacecraft, staring up at the sky.

On another spacecraft, a high-ranking officer at the Cruiser realm had just finished inspecting his troops and was about to return to rest. But in the shadows of a corner, a cold killing intent burst out that made the officer's eyes grow round. A bloody line was drawn on his neck as blood spurted across half the room. He then slowly crumpled to the ground, twitching.

Inside a stylish hotel, there were a few hundred people celebrating the promotion of a man who had just become a general in the central weaves' Central Coalition. This promotion marked the beginning of the man's meteoric rise.

The man had an aloof, arrogant smile on his face as he walked up to the stage. He raised his arms to calm the raucous cheers and show off his new status. "I am honored to represent the central weaves' Central Coalition's Fifth--"

But before he could finish speaking, the man's skull exploded, and blood sprayed across the stage. It even splashed onto many audience members who were sitting in the front row, causing them to scream in alarm. Everyone present was stunned by this turn of events, and they did not know what to think.

In a hidden room, a woman opened her eyes, revealing a cold glare. She raised her head, as it was time for her to give a report. The Great Eastern Alliance? Lu Yin? She was confident that she could take care of everything in one sweep. As soon as the central weaves' Central Coalition finished gathering, it would be time to utterly destroy the Great Eastern Alliance.

The woman stood up and took a single step forward. But then, she discovered that the bottom of her feet was covered with blood, and blood had also covered the room's entire floor. She blankly stared down and turned around, but half her body was sliced off. In the darkness, her pair of ruthless eyes closed forever.

An elderly man was seated on a strange wooden plank that was flying through space. There were a dozen young people on the wooden plank, and they were all disciples of the elderly man. At this time,

the old man was leading the youths to the central weaves' Central Coalition to participate as a form of training. The elderly man himself was a peak Hunter who had been invited by the central weaves. He was well known in the central region of the Outerverse, and he was only a few steps from becoming an Enlighter, marking him as a truly powerful expert.

The disciples behind the elderly man were all very excited. The fact that they had been chosen to join their master showed that they were all favored by him and that they would soon be joining the allied troops. Although they were all a bit nervous, they were mostly eager, as they expected their master to break through to the Enlighter realm during the war with the Great Eastern Alliance. The moment that happened, they would also experience instant glory.

Naturally, there were some disciples among them who were worried. The forces that they were about to face were no ordinary foes, as they were led by the powerful Lu Yin. He was a legend who possessed peerless abilities, and there were countless rumors floating around about his strength. If even half of them were true, it was enough to send cold shivers down people's spines.

"What are you worried about? It's just Lu Yin. They say that he only managed to unite the weaves in the eastern region due to the Hall of Honor's support. Besides, he only managed to kill an Enlighter by using powerful external items. He's nothing to be scared of."

"Now that half of the Outerverse has allied together, even the Hall of Honor would have to bow to our combined might! A mere Lu Yin can only cower in fear at our strength! Hahaha."

"When you become an Enlighter, master, we can definitely force Lu Yin to kneel down when we see him."

...

In front of his disciples, the old man had a calm expression on his face. He was quite content with what he had overheard from his disciples behind him. Lu Yin had an impressive reputation and was known as Enlighters' Bane whereas the old man was not even an Enlighter yet. Did that not imply that he did not even qualify to be targeted by Lu Yin? The old man had long since felt that Lu Yin was a thorn in his side. One of the reasons why the man had agreed to join the central weaves' Central Coalition was because he wanted to tell the younger generation to not have any delusions or act rashly. He was going to teach Lu Yin a lesson in respect.

All of a sudden, an indescribable sense of danger swept over the old man and caused his expression to change. His blood went cold, as this sensation of danger was more terrifying than anything he had ever experienced before. It was as though the sky had collapsed and the earth had broken apart. The old man tried to escape, but it was already too late. Black Mask emerged from the void and then disappeared in the blink of an eye. On the other hand, the old man had already been eliminated.

The disciples on the back of the wooden plank were stunned by what had just happened. They could not even understand what had just transpired.

This same scene repeated itself at various places throughout the central region. That night, there was a death every minute amongst the Central Coalition's higher ups. Desperation became widespread, and

fear intensified every minute as chills crawled down the spines of every member of the central weaves' Central Coalition.

Beneath King Zishan's palace, the lively music continued on well past midnight. Lu Yin rhythmically snapped his fingers to the beat, feeling as though he was conducting an overture of death.

The following day, the number of assassinations that had occurred among the Central Coalition's ranks sent shockwaves throughout the Outerverse. In just one night, more than three hundred high-ranking officers had been killed. They had all died without the assassin drawing any attention to themselves, and this led to a wave of panic in the central regions.

Many people pinned accusations onto the Great Eastern Alliance, and they looked at Zenyu Star. At this time, Lu Yin was the leading suspect among those capable of orchestrating such a thing.

The members of the central region's Central Coalition all grew frightened. While there were certainly far more than just three hundred high-ranking officers in the Central Coalitions, the other officers immediately went into hiding and did not dare show their faces. Even the lower ranking officers were panicking.

They had wrongly assumed that gathering so many experts and forming a large military force would strike fear into the hearts of the Great Eastern Alliance. They had thought that their sheer numbers would be enough to withstand or even overcome the Great Eastern Alliance, but after these numerous assassinations, their thinking changed as they realized the sheer influence their opponent wielded.

Ah Mu released a sigh as he checked the news. Countless news outlets from the central regions expressed their resentment towards the assassinations and condemned some people as mass murderers. While they did not dare to go into any sort of specifics, everyone knew that they were referring to Lu Yin.

If Lu Yin was called a murderer, then that would make Ah Mu the executioner. He had been the one who had shared the locations of those high-ranking officers with Lu Yin; if not for Ah Mu's actions, these deaths would not have occurred.

Just like everyone else, Ah Mu was quite fearful of Lu Yin.

If a war broke out, then the number of casualties would far surpass a mere three hundred deaths. Even a death toll of 300,000 or 3,000,000 would not be surprising during a war of that scale. The main reason for the uproar this time was that only high-ranking officers had died, and these people had not been just anyone.

The fact that Lu Yin had killed so many high-ranking officers at once was also a demonstration of just how powerful he was.

Even though most of the assassins had come from Aegis, that was terrifying in and of itself. Why was Lu Yin able to mobilize such a large number of Aegis' assassins?

War always brought desperation and pain with it whereas assassinations delivered fear and panic. Since the central weaves' Central Coalition was still in their infancy, the last thing that the people in charge

wanted was for the troops to panic. However, that was exactly what Lu Yin had inflicted upon the heart of the military.

Starfox was put into a difficult position, as many powers who were members of Aegis' second level management were trying to contact him and ask if he had been the one who had ordered the hits. Starfox did not know how to respond, so he simply pretended not to notice the calls at all.

On Zenyu Star, at King Zishan's palace, Wei Rong requested an audience.

After Wei Rong joined the Great Yu Empire and came to Zenyu Star, the first thing that he had done was free Wei Baichuan and some other family members and lead the remaining members of the Wei family back to their ancestral planet. Even though he had been very busy during this time, he had naturally not neglected to keep up with the Outerverse's news.

After hearing about Lu Yin's recent action of assassinating more than three hundred high-ranking officers, Wei Rong felt that he needed to look for Lu Yin and have a chat with him. Wei Rong wanted to find out just how much power Lu Yin actually held.

After waiting for a while in front of King Zishan's palace, Zhao Ran brought out some floral tea to serve Wei Rong. The tea was thick and had a green color that gave it a strange appearance. It was the same tea that Lu Yin had sampled before.

Wei Rong was not bothered about the color, but the thickness of the tea combined with the vibrant green color was just too jarring. He could not help but look at his glass before looking back at Zhao Ran. He started overanalyzing the situation; could Lu Yin possibly be trying to poison him with this tea, or was it a show of strength? However, there was no need for any such tests, as Wei Rong had already pledged his complete loyalty. However, the question still lingered—just what was with this thick green color in his glass?

Also, what was this servant's longing expression all about?

Wei Rong was confused, and despite his intelligence, he really could not understand what Lu Yin was trying to do with this.

Then, Lu Yin arrived, and Zhao Ran immediately served him a cup of the aromatic tea.

Wei Rong stared blankly, and he assumed that Lu Yin was either playing a joke or showing his strength. However, the servant had just served Lu Yin the exact same tea, so could it really be just a simple drink? Could this thing actually be ingested? Or could it be that Lu Yin was immune to this poison?

When Lu Yin noticed Wei Rong's confused expression, he knew what Wei Rong was thinking about. Lu Yin immediately picked up his glass of tea and took a sip. "Just try it. This was specially brewed by Zhao Ran, and it tastes great."

Wei Rong swallowed a bit of saliva before taking another look over at Zhao Ran. When he saw her eyes which were full of anticipation, he was left with no choice but to brace himself and drink the tea. Once he sipped a bit, his eyes lit up. The tea was amazing!

Zhao Ran was smiling as she left, full of happiness.

Lu Yin set his own glass of tea down. "Have the arrangements for your family already been made?"

Wei Rong hurriedly set his glass down as well. Since he had pledged his loyalty to Lu Yin, he felt that he should show some degree of deference. He was very smart and would not do anything that would make him look foolish. "I have already made those arrangements. Thank you for your generosity, Your Highness."

"I hope that your father does not blame me for my actions," Lu Yin replied with a smile.

Wei Rong hurriedly replied, "Your Highness, you were not the one who destroyed the Wei family, and you have also never mistreated my relatives. You also did not forbid Xin'er from visiting my father either. With such kindness, why would the Wei family have anything to complain about? We are truly grateful to you!"

Lu Yin smiled, as he was quite pleased with Wei Rong's attitude. It was always a pleasure to talk to smart people, as there was no need for any prompting; they always knew how to behave.

Chapter 917: Wei Rong's Gift

"Since you've finished making arrangements for your family, you can start brainstorming strategic plans for the Great Eastern Alliance and then prepare a proposal for me later," Lu Yin said.

Wei Rong respectfully answered, "Your Highness, can I be given information regarding the military's current strength in order to properly prepare the proposal?"

Lu Yin considered his request. "I'm a part of Aegis' first level management and am also an Honor Chosen of the Hall of Honor. I can also request help from the experts of the Sea King's Dome if needed, and there are actually a few Envoys from the Sea King's Dome that might take action."

Wei Rong was stunned by all this information, and he suddenly realized that he had been left far behind by Lu Yin. Although the Wei family had a legacy that stretched back many years, they had always been restricted to the Outerverse. Thus, their development had stagnated. Lu Yin was like a different breed; he had surpassed the Wei family's accomplishments after just ten years, and his connections were far superior to what the Wei family had gathered. This was truly Lu Yin's unique gift.

Everyone had their own unique destiny and future, and compared to Lu Yin, Wei Rong lacked both opportunities as well as talent.

"I understand. I'll go and draft a proposal with Wang Wen..."

Wei Rong left soon afterward, and Lu Yin was feeling excited as he watched Wei Rong leave. He had told Lu Yin that he had left some spies within the Umbral Butterfly Tribe.

Wei Rong had been very close to the Umbral Butterfly Tribe's young mistress, Angie, and she had even fallen for him at one point. However, Wei Rong wasn't someone who would be swayed by emotions, and he had still planted some spies within the Umbral Butterfly Tribe. By revealing these spies now, he was demonstrating his loyalty to Lu Yin, much like how Wang Wen had given Wei Rong to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin had not told Wei Rong anything about Ah Mu yet, as Lu Yin was still not confident where Wei Rong's true loyalties lay.

The central weaves had started panicking after many of their top officers were assassinated within the span of a single day. Although the main figures of the Central Coalition did their best to calm the rest of

the officers down, many of them were so scared that they did not even dare to leave their houses, which were being guarded by numerous elite soldiers.

“Although the locations of our higher-ranking officers isn't a very well-kept secret, it still isn't realistic for someone to kill three hundred of them at the same time. This would only be possible if there was someone helping them from the inside,” Gui Wuzong stated coldly after turning on a screen in a dark room .

Nearly a dozen leaders from the various weaves in the Outerverse's central region were on the screen, though some of them were keeping their faces.

“Leader Gui, are you saying that there's a spy among us?” someone asked in a gruff voice.

Gui Wuzong answered, “Absolutely, though this spy has to be in a high position since they knew the locations of three hundred officers. I'm sure that they would have revealed all the locations of our higher-ranking officers and have had them assassinated if not for the fact that the Great Eastern Alliance didn't have the strength to carry out such a task. In fact , this person might even be one of us.”

“Leader Gui, don't be swayed by others. It's not difficult for someone in the organization to learn about the locations of our higher-ranking officers, and most of the other officers in the military would have been able to gain access to that information. We shouldn't grow suspicious of each other and allow this incident to affect our cooperation,” Angie calmly interposed. She was the one attending the meeting as the Umbral Butterfly Tribe's representative.

Gui Wuzong looked over at Angie. “Then I'll be direct. Angie, I suspect you to be the spy.”

Everyone else also turned to look at Angie.

Angie grew furious. “What do you mean by that, Leader Gui?”

“Everyone here knows that you were very close to Wei Rong and that the two of you were more than just friends. Now that Wei Rong has joined Lu Yin's side, what of you? Will you be persuaded over to Lu Yin's side as well?” Gui Wuzong asked coldly.

Everyone carefully watched Angie.

Angie was outraged. “Wei Rong is a useless person who was beaten by Lu Yin, and I would never stay with such a man. I'm the young mistress of the Umbral Butterfly Tribe, and I will lead the Umbral Butterfly Weave in the future! How could he possibly persuade me? Leader Gui, please be more respectful.”

Leader Gui did not respond.

Someone else spoke up at this moment. “Alright, don't start fighting between ourselves before the actual war begins. We all have the same goal right now, which is to deal with Lu Yin, who brought chaos to our formerly peaceful Outerverse weaves. Leader Gui, in the future, we shouldn't voice accusations like this that don't have any evidence behind them.”

Gui Wuzong calmly answered, “It's still just a guess, but I will find evidence.”

Angie glared at Gui Wuzong with clenched fists.

Ever since Angie had heard the news that Wei Rong had joined the Great Yu Empire, she had been in a horrible mood. She had initially fallen for Wei Rong due to his grand ambition and assured confidence in being able to control his own future. She had thus given herself to him, but he had ultimately been defeated and even joined the enemy's side, which left her feeling humiliated.

Gui Wuzong's accusations intensified these frustrations even further, and she would have immediately left if not for the meeting.

At this moment, she really wanted to find Wei Rong and ask him why he had decided to follow Lu Yin. In fact, she actually wanted to kill Wei Rong herself.

The meeting between the leaders of the central weaves ended after an hour, but they were unable to come to any agreement about their next move as they were all unsure of what Lu Yin would do next. Was it possible that they themselves would be Lu Yin's next target?

But for some of the leaders, their chances of being targeted were even less than the high-ranking officers', as some of those officers had been Hunter realm powerhouses.

These assassinations had reminded the Outerverse of how powerful Lu Yin had become, and many people were even more intimidated of him than ever.

After the meeting ended, Angie walked out to her balcony that had a clear view of a forest and took a deep breath, which made her feel a bit better. Then, her gadget suddenly beeped, and her expression darkened the moment she saw that Wei Rong was calling her.

"How dare you still contact me?" Angie's voice was filled with her anger and disappointment.

Wei Rong's image on the screen looked shocked. "Who made my dear Angie so angry?"

Angie angrily demanded, "You, you coward! What happened to the courage that you had when you orchestrated the events on Sourcepeak Planet? What happened to your ambition? It's already humiliating enough that you were defeated, but it's even worse that you surrendered. Not only did you lose to Lu Yin, but you also lost your dignity."

Wei Rong rubbed his temples. "It seems that you're very disappointed in me."

Angie glared at him. "You really have disappointed me, Wei Rong. I wanted to let you rule over the Umbral Butterfly Tribe and help you as you ushered in a new era. However, what did you do? You let me down, and you've let down everyone who ever trusted you! Does it matter if you were defeated? Who hasn't been defeated before? You can always start over. But instead, you actually surrendered! Don't tell me that this is a part of your plan! I'm not stupid, and neither is Lu Yin."

Wei Rong sighed. "It looks like your love for me has transformed into hate, so there's no reason for me to try consoling you."

Angie sneered. "Consoling me? How could you possibly console me? I hate you, and I also despise you!"

Wei Rong's expression grew cold. "Are the central weaves' Central Coalition preparing to go to war against the Great Eastern Alliance?"

Angie laughed. “Did you call me just to try to figure out our strategy? Wei Rong, not only have you lost your dignity after joining Lu Yin, but even your intelligence has decreased. Why would I ever tell you anything?”

“I can always just guess the answer even if you don’t say anything. The weaves in the Outerverse’s central region must have implemented a few strategies to handle Lu Yin’s actions. For example, past mistakes can be forgiven, and years of rivalries can be temporarily reconciled. In addition, the most important factor would be to lure over powerhouses from the west. That means that you’re no longer merely a coalition that represents the weaves of the central region, but are rather an organization representing half of the Outerverse,” Wei Rong slowly explained.

Angie glared at him. “Does it matter even if your guess is correct? You can’t stop us.”

Wei Rong hesitated.

The next moment, Angie suddenly changed the topic. “Wei Rong, I know that you’re unwilling to work under Lu Yin, but your family is under his control. He must be holding your family hostage as a threat, right?”

Wei Rong didn’t answer and merely calmly looked at Angie.

Angie gently urged, “Just give up. You have such grand ambitions, so don’t let your family become a burden. Can you really give up on your dreams just for your family? Don’t forget that you’re the first person to outsmart the Outerverse Lockbreaker Society! You also helped countless people in the Outerverse realize that it’s possible to overthrow those powerful organizations! Wei Rong, your future should not be limited by anyone. Join us, and help us defeat the Great Eastern Alliance. We’re not Armament Weave, and neither are we the Wei family—we have tens of thousands of battleships and experts, and we also have countless resources for you to use.”

Most people were under the assumption that Wei Rong had surrendered because Lu Yin had threatened Wei Rong with the lives of his family, especially since both Wei Baichuan and Wei Xing’er had been in the Great Yu Empire. However, Wei Rong was not a normal person, and he would never be held back by his family. There was no need for Angie to tell him that he should not give up on his dreams to save his family.

Angie understood Wei Rong quite well, but Lu Yin also understood the young man just as well. This was why Lu Yin had never threatened Wei Rong with the lives of his family, as Lu Yin had no desire to do so, and he also did not want Wei Rong to look down upon him.

Since she understood Wei Rong so well, Angie was even more confused by his actions, especially whenever she thought about why Wei Rong had simply surrendered. This confusion made her feel like she had been both deceived and humiliated.

Wei Rong listened to Angie’s advice and sighed. “There aren’t that many people in this universe who can understand me, but Angie, you’re one of them. Since you understand me, then you should know that I will never change my mind once I have decided to do something.”

Angie frowned.

“Also, you know very well that I always like to have a backup plan,” Wei Rong leisurely continued.

Angie didn't initially understand what he was implying, but then, she suddenly had a bad feeling. She had almost forgotten that she was now enemies with this man, and the same tactics that he had once used to impress her suddenly seemed quite frightening when she was on the receiving end.

"I don't trust many people, no matter if they might be my friends, siblings, family, or allies." Wei Rong looked at Angie. "Thus, I always ensure that I have a backup plan to deal with the people I don't trust. Do you remember that you once invited me to visit the Umbral Butterfly Tribe's home planet?"

Angie's eyes grew sharp. "What- what have you done?"

Wei Rong smiled. "Nothing much. I just added some stuff to your body by taking advantage of your ability to absorb energy from plants. I didn't use a great deal of it, and it's also something that can't be discovered easily. However, you might face some difficulties once it accumulates in your body over a long period of time."

Angie's face went pale, and she screamed, "You're despicable!"

Many powerhouses from the Umbral Butterfly Tribe who were near that particular tree looked up in shock to see Angie crazily screaming at someone from the treetops.

Wei Rong shrugged. "You can't blame me, as that's just how I am. Perhaps everyone from the Wei family has this trait. Still, you should go and get yourself checked out. Maybe you'll be able to find a way to cure yourself? Of course, it's also fine if you can't find a cure, as I can help you."

Angie hung up, immediately called over all of the tribe's elders who were on the planet, and had them all check their bodies.

Chapter 918: New Captain

It took a bit of time to examine everyone, which included Angie herself. In the end, to everyone's horror, they found that their bodies indeed contained some strange poison—it was like maggots had tightly bound themselves to each cultivators' blood vessels. If there was only a small amount of the poison in each person, then they would be able to simply remove the affected portion of the blood vessels, effectively eliminating all of the poison, in a simple procedure. However, the longer this poison incubated, the further it would spread until it eventually bound itself to every blood vessel in a person's body. At that point, their entire circulatory system would have to be replaced if they wanted to remove the poison.

This discovery caused the Umbral Butterfly Tribe to panic, and Angie immediately ordered the information to be sealed. After that, she called Wei Rong back. "You're despicable! I trusted you so much back then, and I even entrusted myself to you. However, you still schemed against my Umbral Butterfly Tribe!"

Wei Rong put on an innocent expression. "I'm sorry, but I simply wanted to do an experiment back then. As our relationship grew deeper, I would have removed the poison, but who could have seen that things would turn out the way that they did? I simply informed you out of goodwill earlier, as I can't go there to remove the poison myself. If I had told you earlier, then do you think perhaps you guys could have cured yourselves?"

Angie became so angry that her body started trembling. She was deeply fearful of Wei Rong's methods, as this man was truly able to live up to his reputation of being Armament Weave's genius who had forcibly held back the Great Eastern Alliance. He was someone who always had multiple backup plans, and what he had done to their Umbral Butterfly Tribe definitely was not a one time thing; he had definitely employed similar methods against the various other organizations and groups that he had contacted throughout the universe.

At this moment, Angie understood why Lu Yin had openly destroyed the Wei family's ancestral planet but never harmed the Wei family itself. Lu Yin, more than anyone else, understood Wei Rong. In Lu Yin's eyes, Wei Rong had been able to stall a much more powerful army on his own.

At the same time, Angie also understood why Wei Rong had intentionally told Lu Yin that he could be brought over to Lu Yin's side. Wei Rong had obviously been aware of his own value in Lu Yin's eyes.

Every sentence that was spoken between the two men, and every action that they took was able to influence the future, which was something that Angie could not understand.

"What do you want?" Angie gritted her teeth.

Wei Rong smiled. "I need information concerning all of the high-ranking officials of the central region's Central Coalition as well as the relationship network between the various powers. I need the most detailed intelligence."

"Impossible! I won't betray the central region!" Angie bellowed.

Wei Rong casually responded, "If the weaves of the central region join the Great Eastern Alliance in the future, then at that time, you won't be considered a traitor, but rather someone who made outstanding contributions. You will be the one who brought them on board before they were swallowed by the waves. Angie, you're very smart, so think about it."

And with that, Wei Rong ended the call.

Lu Yin had not expected Wei Rong to have already dealt with the Umbral Butterfly Tribe, as Wei Rong's methods were simply hidden too deeply. Fortunately, Lu Yin had been able to suppress Wei Rong. Otherwise, Lu Yin would have preferred to kill this kind of person if they couldn't be used.

According to Wei Rong's words, as long as he was able to obtain information regarding the relationships between the various members of the central alliance along with information regarding the military officers, he would be able to cause the Central Coalition to disintegrate within two months and their forces to crumble.

A war was sometimes a contest of strength, but there were also times where a war could be waged off of the battlefield. Wei Rong was adept at strategizing off of the battlefield, Wang Wen was adept at achieving victory on the battlefield, and Qiong Xi'er focused on contesting resources. Each of the three had something different about them, and Lu Yin occasionally fantasized about gathering all three of them under him. If that happened, he would truly be invincible in the Outerverse unless someone was able to crush him with overwhelming strength.

Actually, that was also impossible, as there was nobody in the Outerverse who could crush Lu Yin with pure power. Not even the Hall of Honor was able to do so, as Lu Yin had Mister Mu behind him.

Angie did not take long to consider her options before agreeing to Wei Rong's demands. The Umbral Butterfly Tribe had no desire to join the Great Eastern Alliance since they did not want to be controlled by someone else. However, joining the alliance was not a calamity that would exterminate the tribe. It was just an alliance, not a declaration of their allegiance towards Lu Yin, so it was not too severe. However, if they did not agree to Wei Rong's demands, then their situation would become much more troublesome.

Even if they were able to cure the poison, the price that they would have to pay would not be light. Compared to the price of joining the Great Eastern Alliance, they were not willing to pay what was needed to cure the poison. This was in large part due to the fact that they were on their ancestral planet, and everyone who had been poisoned had a high standing within the tribe, and losing any one of them would cause a huge commotion.

More importantly, Angie truly was frightened, as she was afraid of Wei Rong's methods.

Just as Angie had realized earlier, all of her past worship towards Wei Rong had become fear at this time. As soon as Lu Yin was also added into the equation, she truly had no courage to become enemies with the two young men.

It had only taken a breath to join the central region's alliance, but that breath had been snatched away by Wei Rong. Angie was just a small woman, and she could not compare to even Ah Mu in terms of courage.

During this time, quite a few people had tried to contact Lu Yin, especially the leaders of the central weaves' guiding powers. They wanted to probe his intentions, but all of these calls were all rejected by Lu Yin, as he did not have the time to care about such people.

He would be better off using this time to cultivate.

His gadget beeped yet again, and when Lu Yin looked at it, he was surprised to see that Smoker was actually calling him.

Ever since the war in Armament Weave had ended, Lu Yin had not contacted Smoker, and the assassin had not contacted Lu Yin, either. Generally, assassins would not contact their employers on their own. However, Smoker had actually taken the initiative to contact Lu Yin this time.

He opened the screen, and the familiar smoke floated about the screen to form words. 'Is there anyone not pleasing to your eye? Inexpensive fees.'

Lu Yin felt taken aback by this. "Are you running out of natural treasures?"

The smoke floated about, as if hesitating, but then they formed, 'Yes.'

"What do you need so many natural treasures for? Cultivation?" Lu Yin asked curiously.

'Something like that. Do you have more?'

Lu Yin's lips curled up. "I do, but there's nobody that I need assassinated right now. Don't you forget that I've already become a VIP client of yours, and I paid you with twenty natural treasures for that. Those things belong to me, so you can't just handle them as you wish."

The smoke floated about the screen for a bit without forming any words. It was as if the person on the other side of the call was at a loss.

Lu Yin frowned and then unhappily said, “What? Did you already use those?”

‘The membership fee belongs to me. You can’t take it back.’

Lu Yin grew amused. “Twenty natural treasures that have reached the point of evading danger should be enough to hire you to kill at least ten people, and if they aren’t too strong, then killing twenty shouldn’t be a problem either. There are not many in the entire Outerverse who qualify to have me hire you to deal with them.”

‘There are the upper ranks of the central weaves’ Central Coalition.’

“There’s no need for that—I have Aegis,” Lu Yin answered immediately.

Smoker did not reply, and the white smoke drifted about the screen endlessly, constantly forming words that quickly dissipated.

“It seems that you’re really lacking natural treasures. How about this: I’ll give you an opportunity, and then however many natural treasures you want, I’ll provide them for you,” Lu Yin offered in a tempting voice.

‘Conditions?’

Lu Yin’s eyes narrowed. “Join the Great Yu Empire and become the Second Squadron’s captain. Each year, I’ll pay you 100 natural treasures that have reached the point of evading danger.”

Smoker did not reply.

Lu Yin continued trying to lure the assassin over. “Only I am able to offer these conditions, and you can consider whether or not you want to accept them. Or, you can instead try to assassinate me. However, let me warn you: the moment you even attempt to do so, the Hall of Honor will declare you as a must-kill target, and nobody will ever hire you again. You will never be able to obtain any additional natural treasures.”

Smoker still did not respond, but the assassin did not end the call either.

Lu Yin did not speak any further, and the two just waited in silence.

After a long while, the white smoke finally formed words. ‘I can join the empire and follow your orders, but I cannot allow you to see me. However, I can still train your Second Squadron, and I can fully accomplish all of the responsibilities.’

“Deal!” Lu Yin was thrilled, as he had long since wanted to recruit Smoker. It didn’t matter whether or not they met face to face, as that would happen some day in the future.

Out of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons, only the Thirteenth Squadron was still missing a captain. The rest of the positions had finally been filled.

However, Peach, Shalosh, and Rocky Auna no longer had the strength to hold their positions, which made Lu Yin want to replace them. However, he was not able to. Peach had the Neo-Vestige Sect behind her and was able to get the Neo-Vestige Sect's experts to join the Sixth Squadron and assist her. Rocky Auna represented the Auna family, and that family had become Lu Yin's knife that had cleaned out the Great Yu Empire's government. He had also promised the Auna patriarch that that captain's seat would forever remain with the Auna family, so Lu Yin could not touch it. Shalosh was the only person that Lu Yin could remove from his position as captain, but no suitable replacement had been found yet.

Now that Smoker had become the Second Squadron's captain, the Great Yu Empire's strength had been boosted significantly, and its deterrence against other organizations had risen as well, which was what Lu Yin was hoping for.

Who knew what was special about this particular day, but good news came in one after another. First, Smoker had joined the Great Yu Empire and become the Second Squadron's captain. Then, Thousand Eyes' pirates had discovered someone from Northline Flowzone who had been hiding.

Northline Flowzone had originally maintained a good relationship with Lu Yin, but Granny Chan had later deliberately revealed the method Lu Yin had been using to kill Enlighters, which had nearly resulted in his death. Then, she had even tried to instigate Topmist into helping her assassinate Lu Yin. Finally, during the war against Armament Weave, she had stood alongside the Wei family. Thus, Northline Flowzone's people were now Lu Yin's mortal enemies.

Lu Yin had ordered Thousand Eyes to have his people keep an eye out for people from Northline Flowzone. Lu Yin was hoping to use them as bait so that he could lure out Granny Chan and finally take care of that witch.

That day, there were actually three pieces of good news, which made Lu Yin want to check the date. To the north of the weaves, in the central region, something emitting a high temperature had appeared in the space between two weaves. It was reported that the temperature was high enough to even scorch the void, and not even Hunters dared to approach it, though some had tested its heat. The temperature was high enough that it might even pose a threat to Enlighters.

Lu Yin had long since ordered the Great Eastern Alliance to search for flames with an astoundingly high temperature. In the past, he had wanted to use a high temperature flame to help him absorb star energy faster, but his current desire for a high temperature flame was even greater than before because he wanted to see if the Skyblaze Stone could absorb heat from an outside source. That would mean that he could restore it multiple times.

The Skyblaze Stone had improved Lu Yin's cultivation speed by way too much, and he had become addicted to it.

When he learned of the high temperature's location, Lu Yin immediately took a spacecraft and headed out, as he did not want to waste even a single minute.

This was a benefit to controlling the alliance; if there was anything that he needed, if it existed almost anywhere at all, then he would quickly learn of it.

Some days later, Lu Yin looked at the distorted space ahead of him, and his brows furrowed tightly.

The temperature was indeed high, but it did not possess the boundless amount of rune lines that he had expected it to. This temperature could not make him feel any sort of pressure, and it definitely could not compare to the heat that the Skyblaze Stone had initially released.

Lu Yin felt a little disappointed, but since he had already come, he did not bother immediately heading back.

After thinking about it, Lu Yin flew towards the source of the heat.

This region of space had not originally been this high in temperature, but this sudden change was most likely a result of something suddenly appearing. It was even possible that a sourcebox was the source of this heat.

The hot area was not very large, but as Lu Yin proceeded deeper, the temperature did not increase at all. Lu Yin spun around, disappointed, and decided to return to Frostwave Weave.

But then, a black shadow suddenly emerged from within the flames and charged at Lu Yin, moving so quickly that it tore through the void. Lu Yin's eyes narrowed, and runes appeared in his pupils as he reduced the amount of rune lines before him. This was the only action he could react with given the time that he had, and the next moment, a sharp pain was felt from his chest, and a pair of deathly cold eyes appeared not even ten centimeters away from him. Looking into these eyes sent chills across Lu Yin's entire body. This was a corpse king.

Plop!

Lu Yin spat out a mouthful of blood as his entire body was blasted into the inferno by the corpse king's punch. The corpse king did not stay still, and it ferociously charged towards Lu Yin once again. This time, both of its arms were raised high as it ruthlessly pounded down at him.

Chapter 919: Ambush

Lu Yin immediately put on his universal armor, and a thump rang out as his body was struck once again. He crashed into a burning planet like a meteor and plunged deep into a pool of magma as his body pierced through the other side of the planet and shot back into outer space. Behind him, the planet fell apart before finally exploding in a violent shower of flames.

An intense pain erupted from Lu Yin's chest, and he looked up to see that the corpse king had suddenly appeared right beside him as it smashed down at him with black lightning. Lu Yin casually waved a hand to activate the Yu Secret Art and successfully diverted a portion of the lightning. However, the remaining portion still struck him, and it sent his body tumbling once again.

Fortunately, Lu Yin had put on his universal armor earlier. Otherwise, this attack would have severely injured him if not killed him outright.

He had not thought that a corpse king of the Neohuman Alliance would appear in this place, and more surprisingly, he even recognized this corpse king, as it was the one that had appeared at Millions City. Back then, even that Specter Clan expert had died, but this corpse king had survived and fled from Millions City.

This was a trap, and Lu Yin immediately realized that he had fallen for it.

The corpse king did not speak to Lu Yin, as it had apparently been specifically sent here to deal with the youth. However, Lu Yin had already put on his universal armor, and although the corpse king's first attack had severely injured him, its subsequent attacks had not done much to him.

With a loud bang, Lu Yin was sent flying yet again. He was not really able to retaliate against this Enlighter-level corpse king, but he still put on his bracer and threw out an Ultra Flash Tearbomb. A dazzling radiance illuminated this region of outer space, and it was even more dazzling than the nearby burning flames.

The corpse king had long since anticipated this move from Lu Yin, and even as the overwhelming light washed over it, its pupils became grey: Grey Eyes Transformation. Its strength increased by tenfold as it unleashed another punch.

Lu Yin similarly lashed out with a punch. With the support of his bracer, a single punch from Lu Yin was enough to repel even Sall Phoenix, and his physical strength had reached a level that could rival an Enlighter with a power level of 300,000. In addition, his attacks were reinforced with both the Overlaying Stacks Path and eight lined battle force. However, Lu Yin's physical power could only compare to that of an ordinary Enlighter whereas he was currently fighting against a corpse king whose strength had been increased tenfold by a Grey Eyes Transformation.

A bang shook all of the nearby planets as space itself warped while shockwaves were unleashed in all directions. The fiery blaze that had been raging in space was instantly extinguished, and the nearby planets were all affected by the tremendous force as they shattered one by one. A few blackholes even appeared that devoured one another.

An unimaginable amount of physical strain crashed into Lu Yin's right arm before the bracer cracked apart and broke. The corpse king's strength continued and coursed through the universal armor, shaking everything up. Not only did this vibration disperse Lu Yin's eight lined battle force, but it also twisted his arm.

The universal armor was able to defend against attacks with power levels of almost 400,000, but this punch from the corpse king, with its vibrating strength, was able to deform Lu Yin's arm while also blasting him through a planet that had exploded.

Lu Yin gritted his teeth, and he forcefully diverted his body in another direction. When he finally came to a stop, his breath was still labored as he stood in outer space. He then looked into the distance at where the corpse king had been.

Lu Yin's expression changed drastically, and he checked everywhere around him only to see a large number of rune lines rapidly approaching him from behind. He quickly dodged to the side while his Fatesand defended his front, but it was dispersed by the corpse king's kick. The endless black lightning formed a spear that stabbed at him, and Lu Yin waved his hand to activate the Yu Secret Art and redirect the black lightning spear again. Despite that, another full strength punch from the corpse king came for him without any pause.

In the Outerverse, with his various items to assist him, Lu Yin had not been beaten this one-sidedly in a long time. This corpse king had endured and survived the attacks of several Enlighters, including Yuehua Mavis, and it had even managed to kill Shamrock Enterprises' Western Chairman Hoffman before

ultimately fleeing. Normally, it would only possess a power level of about 200,000 at most, but its power level could surpass 300,000 when it displayed its full power. It was incomparably tough.

This was Lu Yin's first time trading blows with an expert with a power level of 300,000, and he was overpowered right from the beginning.

Another punch that contained a ferocious destructive power and was accompanied by a terrifying physical force flew towards him. Lu Yin raised his hand as his star energy converged. "First Sun."

There was a rumble as the corpse king's physical body collided with the star energy attack. Lu Yin had brought out almost all of the star energy in his body to display the most fearsome First Sun possible. It was as glorious as a true star, and it collided against the corpse king's fist. Space fractured repeatedly, and countless spatial cracks radiated out from the point of impact.

Lu Yin shouted ferociously, and his pupils transformed into runes as he erased some of the corpse king's rune lines. The corpse king's punch exploded when it met the sun, and green smoke poured out as a thunderous explosion reverberated through space and almost caused the First Sun to crumble. Blood dripped out of Lu Yin's eyes, ears, and even his nose. His eyes had started spinning about frantically ever since his pupils had transformed into runes as he was constantly erasing the corpse king's rune lines.

With a boom, the sun completely collapsed, sending an explosion sweeping throughout the surrounding area and causing space to undulate like ocean waves.

This was the first time the corpse king had ever been beaten back in such a manner, and its fist had even been scorched black by the sun. However, this sort of injury was nothing to its terrifying physical strength.

Lu Yin panted heavily. His right arm was twisted unnaturally, and his left arm was still trembling slightly due to him unleashing First Sun at full force, which had become something that he could not fully control. The initial injury on his chest had also become more serious, and Lu Yin could not stop the blood from flowing down the corners of his lips, which left him looking horribly battered.

"Is this the desolation that you guys will bring me?" Lu Yin shouted while keeping a close eye on the corpse king.

Across from him, the corpse king did not say a single word, and it merely looked at Lu Yin with its dead eyes. It then slowly raised its right fist before its body suddenly vanished once again as it launched another attack. At the same time, from the corner of his eye, Lu Yin caught a glimpse of a shadow's smudge, but its rune lines were not actually any less than the corpse king's. Another powerful enemy had arrived, and the Neohuman Alliance was cutting off any of Lu Yin's paths of survival. They had sent out two Enlighter-level corpse kings for this trap.

This corpse king should have been the one that had stolen True Insight from Millions City.

Two corpse kings. Even if Elder Lohar was the one up against these opponents, he would definitely die. But their opponent was Lu Yin and not Elder Lohar. He had his own methods, and he also had his various items.

Another thump rang out as Lu Yin's abdomen was struck, and right after that, his back was similarly attacked. He was consecutively struck by dozens of attacks as the two corpse kings assailed him relentlessly, attempting to force their way through his universal armor.

Even though Lu Yin's universal armor was able to withstand attacks of power levels of almost 400,000, under the repeated attacks of these two corpse kings, the shaking force his body was being forced to endure was almost too much for him to bear.

Lu Yin carefully chose the perfect moment; right when the two corpse kings attacked him from the same direction, the beaded bracelet appeared in his hand, and one of the pearls disappeared. Each one of these pearls was formed by Yuan Shi's strength, and the power of one pearl merged into Lu Yin's body. He then raised a finger and pushed forward with Yuan Shi's strength, and his attack was incomprehensibly raised by a power level of 300,000 as it stretched out towards the two corpse kings: Dream Finger.

The Dream Finger caused the void to congeal, and what emerged was not the normal piercing finger, but rather a snow-white finger that had been enlarged countless times that looked as if it was descending from beyond the sky. The finger fell down, and the two corpse kings were not able to resist in any manner whatsoever as their skulls were instantly crushed. Space split in two, and this incomparably terrifying strength extinguished flames and severed stars as it extended an unknown distance away.

At that same time, in a foreign space, a pair of elegant eyes opened and looked towards the Fifth Mainland's Outerverse.

Plop!

Lu Yin spat out a mouthful of blood and completely passed out. His injuries were too severe, and the first punch that had struck his abdomen was particularly bad, as that injury had become more painful as time had passed. Before he lost consciousness, Lu Yin swallowed the ancient pill that he had upgraded to the point where its rune lines matched that of an Enlightener. This sort of pill should be able to treat even an Enlightener's injuries, so it should be even more effective on him.

In a distant part of outer space, a massive spacecraft sped along that only had a dozen people on board. It was not a large number of people, but the strength of these people was not low, as even the weakest member was still an Explorer. The spacecraft also had the emblem of Endless Borders etched onto its hull.

The moment Lu Yin had shattered the heads of the two corpse kings with his Dream Finger, the tremendous shockwave had swept through outer space, transforming into a horrifying cosmic phenomenon that nearly split the universe in half as it endlessly extended out. This large spacecraft was coincidentally within the affected range, and if not for one of their powerhouses noticing the shockwave in time to alter the ship's course, the entire ship would have been shattered.

"Wind Crew, the power level from that shockwave moments ago has been calculated: 390,000," a calm-looking youth announced with some amazement in his voice. Behind him stood two experienced-looking old men, and one of them had a nameplate on his chest that read, "Wind Crew," while the other elder's nameplate read, "Flower Crew."

The Windflower Crew was one of Endless Borders' expedition crews that explored the Astral Wilderness.

Endless Borders had previously gone by the name of the Adventurers' Guild, and countless cultivators had gathered there, all of them with a passion for risk-taking. By nature, the endless universe was something to be explored, and some people even believed that the true essence of cultivation was to explore the universe. The birth of the Adventurers' Guild had drawn in countless such cultivators.

At its peak, the Adventurers' Guild had actually been powerful enough to draw the Hall of Honor's notice, and the Hall of Honor had actually wanted to forcibly incorporate the Adventurers' Guild into its organization. Due to that incident, the guild had changed its name to Endless Borders, which was the name that Lu Yin knew it by.

Endless Borders took on the guise of a financial corporation, but in reality, it was still focused on exploring the unknown and taking risks.

Nobody knew exactly how many expedition crews there were within Endless Borders, but even among these crews, the Windflower Crew was absolutely a strange group. This was because this crew had two captains: one was named Wind and the other Flower. The two competed with each other, but neither would leave the other behind, which had led to the birth of the Windflower Crew.

Upon hearing that the energy reading had reached a power level of 390,000, the two captains looked over at each other in shock. Ever since the Outerverse had been isolated from the Innerverse, Enlighters with power levels higher than 200,000 had been considered top-tier powerhouses, and only the border war in Endless Weave had managed to force out an old freak with a power level in the several hundred thousands. Almost all of those old monsters had gathered at the border, but now, one of them had appeared in this place.

"Captains, will we take a detour?" the calm-looking youth asked.

The older men exchanged glances. "No need, continue forward."

The youth hesitated. "But an attack with a power level of 390,000 was just unleashed, and what we felt was just the aftershock."

"It's not very normal for such a power level to appear in the Outerverse, and this area is quite close to the Astral Wilderness. If any freak event occurs, then the people in this region will be left in a pitiful state. Since we found it first, we can't just run away," Captain Wind said firmly.

Aboard the spacecraft, the other cultivators all had solemn expressions. Although they were frozen with fear, nobody opposed the captain.

Joining one of the Astral Wilderness expedition crews meant that one had to be prepared to make certain sacrifices. Rather than escaping, these people tended to be more curious about what was up ahead.

The youth was also curious, and since the two captains had confirmed their course, he no longer hesitated and entered in the commands for the ship to continue moving forward.

The universe in front of them had been split in two under the force of a finger, and the crew aboard the spacecraft was overwhelmed by the sight. Even if they were people who often skirted the edge of life and death, they seldom ever encountered a scene of such terrifying destruction.

Eventually, the spacecraft entered the region of space where the fire had previously been burning. All of the planets in the area had long since collapsed, and they had turned into blackholes that were currently engulfing each other.

The crew looked around, and the spacecraft also scanned the surroundings. The entire time, the device that measured and detected power levels was ringing with an alarm. Clearly, there were still some aftershocks that had not dissipated yet.

“Captains, we have a situation!” someone cried out.

Everyone looked over, and one of the vessel’s screens rose up and showed the image of a figure floating through space, slowly drawing closer to the spacecraft.

“There’s still signs of life! It’s an Explorer. He’s not dead yet,” someone reported.

That calm-faced youth ordered for the person to be brought inside the spacecraft, as it was possible that this person might know about what had happened in this place.

Chapter 920: The Windflower Crew

Naturally, the floating figure that the Windflower Crew had discovered was Lu Yin. Although his Dream Finger had destroyed the two corpse kings, Lu Yin had also been severely injured by the fight. The Neohuman Alliance was ruthless in their actions, and he had fallen unconscious afterwards.

Lu Yin was not in too serious of a state as he had swallowed that upgraded ancient pill. Thus, he would heal from his injuries after some time passed. However, he had been rescued by the Windflower Crew.

Lu Yin was currently having a dream that his body had been cut open for research. In fact, he himself had long since had a small urge to research his own body due to the way his physical strength, spiritual force, and domain were all constantly improving on their own, which was simply too strange. However, Lu Yin wanting to research himself was one thing while others conducting research on his body was another matter entirely.

Lu Yin suddenly shouted, and his eyes opened as he found himself in a nutrient fluid bath. Due to his shout, the nutrient container exploded, frightening all of the people outside, and they quickly pulled back while keeping a wary eye on Lu Yin.

These people did not dare to get close to Lu Yin, as he was wearing a set of universal armor that had an extraordinary defense. They did want to research his body a bit, but not even their two captains had been able to remove Lu Yin’s universal armor. Thus, they had only been able to conduct some rather crude analysis.

The data that they had obtained had shocked them, and they simply felt that Lu Yin was not human.

When this person’s data made it into the hands of the two captains, it triggered a massive battle, as each of the two captains wanted to take this person as their disciple.

Since this being was able to use a cosmic ring, had a gadget on his wrist, and was even wearing a set of universal armor, it was clear that he was no monster, but rather a human.

The rudimentary data that they had gathered on this Explorer indicated that he was able to rival an Enlighter, which had blinded those two captains of the Windflower Crew. It was actually very normal for such an abnormal person to be highly desirable as a disciple.

Lu Yin walked out of the nutrient tank while still wearing his universal armor. He checked his surroundings, and quite a large number of rune lines entered his vision. There were actually two people on this vessel with rune lines capable of rivaling an Enlighter's. This spacecraft was actually carrying two Enlighters.

Lu Yin instantly grew wary, as Enlighters were not common in the Outerverse, but two such powerhouses had appeared in this place, which was rather strange.

At this moment, quite a few people arrived outside the door and warily observed Lu Yin.

"Excuse me, where am I?" Lu Yin asked calmly and politely.

The crewmembers' expressions all relaxed a little.

At this time, a calm-looking youth walked forward and sized Lu Yin up and down before stretching out his hand. "I'm the Windflower Crew's Vice Captain Mo."

Lu Yin grabbed the hand and shook it. "You can call me Seven."

Vice Captain Mo's eyes flickered. "Is it not convenient for you to give out your real name?"

Lu Yin smiled. "You wouldn't know me even if I told you. Everyone just calls me Seven."

Vice Captain Mo did not care. "Let's bring you somewhere to get a bite to eat."

Lu Yin nodded and thanked the youth before following behind the young man.

At the top level of the vessel, the two captains were looking at a screen. "This kid is truly exceptional. Just his universal armor is something that not just anyone can own."

"Obviously." Captain Flower rolled his eyes.

Captain Wind became irritated. "Old Flower, you should be more courteous."

"Will you leave him to me if I'm courteous?"

"Impossible! He's my disciple."

"Just forget it. You can't even take off his armor."

"And can you?"

"I'll try."

"Go ahead."

...

Lu Yin looked at the pile of food that had been set down in front of him. He was just about to start eating when the void distorted before him. Then, two elders appeared, both of them looking at him with fervent eyes. "I'll strip him for you."

"I'll be the one to strip him, you'll see!"

The conversation of the two elders shocked Lu Yin. Strip? What strip?

He looked down at himself, and his expression changed drastically. These two old perverts!

The two captains both reached out towards Lu Yin at the same time. Although Lu Yin was unafraid of these men, they were still Enlighters while their objective was actually something so despicable. Lu Yin became slightly panicked, and he instantly pulled out an Ultra Flash Tearbomb and set it off. The dazzling radiance illuminated the entire spacecraft, and even the two Enlighters were unable to resist the flash and were forced to stop.

Lu Yin stepped into the void, emerging outside the spacecraft with the intention of leaving. In any case, his injuries had somewhat recovered as the ancient pill's efficacy had been much better than normal. It was now time for him to leave.

Still, there being two Enlighters on this vessel felt a bit off to him. He turned around and looked seriously at the spacecraft, curious to know where they were from.

A familiar symbol entered his vision. Was that the symbol of Endless Borders?

Within the spacecraft, the dazzling radiance quickly dissipated. The two captains had only felt a little sting, but it was nothing much to them. The rest of the crew members, however, were unluckier, as all of their eyes were burning if not leaking tears nonstop.

Even the spacecraft had been influenced by the flash bomb and had stopped in space.

A long while later, Captain Wind and Captain Flower both recovered, and they opened their eyes as they faced Lu Yin.

"The two of you seem to be overly excited about me," Lu Yin commented as he looked at the two elders with a wary expression.

They were both embarrassed. "Little one, we were only betting on who could strip off your universal armor."

Lu Yin arched his brow. "Why?"

"Whoever can do it will be able to take you as his disciple," Captain Flower blurted out.

Lu Yin was amused at this reveal. "Sorry, but I already have a master."

Neither of the two was surprised. For someone to have a physique that could rival an Enlighter's while only in the Explorer realm would be too strange if one did not have a master, not to mention a truly extraordinary one at that.

"Let me introduce myself. My surname is Wind, and I am one of the Windflower Crew's captains."

“Mine is Flower, and I am also one of the Windflower Crew’s captains.”

Lu Yin politely replied, “Seven. Both elders can call me Little Seven.”

“Little Seven? Are you from the Outerverse?” Captain Wind asked.

Lu Yin nodded. “Junior is from Ironblood Weave.”

Captain Wind was surprised. “Ironblood Weave? Which fortress are you from?”

Lu Yin smiled, but he did not answer.

Some time later, the two elders left, and Lu Yin resumed eating and thinking.

Lu Yin had not expected to be rescued by a group like the Windflower Crew. He had initially intended to return to Frostwave Weave, but there wasn't any urgent business there.

These people were from Endless Borders, whom Lu Yin had always wanted to build up a relationship with. Wang Wen had also reminded Lu Yin numerous times that he needed to interact with this company more, and there just so happened to be an opportunity to do so at this moment.

In fact, when considering all of the organizations in the entire Outerverse, even including Shamrock Enterprises and the Mavis Bank, the groups that Lu Yin had the least understanding of were the Nalan family and Endless Borders.

He had tried searching for more information concerning the Nalan family members who were cursed from birth. This family contained a deep mystery, and he could not find out anything more about them no matter what he tried.

As for Endless Borders, they were a power that even the Hall of Honor was unable to interfere with, which naturally indicated that they were not simple. These people’s philosophy seemed to align with that of the majority of cultivators, and there were definitely many people who were willing to join Endless Borders, especially if it was to explore the Astral Wilderness. Perhaps they would discover another civilization, find some strange natural treasure, or a new type of battle style. Whether it was purely for the thrill of exploring the unknown or for some other objective, the concept behind Endless Borders would always attract countless people to them.

Lu Yin was very curious about how many Endless Borders expedition crews were still in the Astral Wilderness, and he had actually coincidentally encountered one of them here.

As such, he decided to follow along the Windflower Crew, and it also helped that the two elderly captains wanted to take him on as their disciple. There was no problem for the two of them if Lu Yin already had a master, and this was still an opportunity for him.

However, Lu Yin felt that these two old men were a bit familiar, almost as if he had met them somewhere before.

The Windflower Crew had returned to the Outerverse this time to head to Endless Borders’ headquarters, though Lu Yin did not ask for what reason.

Although he did not ask, the crew was not able to hide anything from him, especially the two old men who were constantly arguing in front of him and revealing everything regardless of if they should or shouldn't. This even included one of the Outerverse's greatest secrets at this time: a path to the Innaverse.

When Lu Yin learned of this secret, he was truly shocked. This was such an incredible secret, or at least, it was an astounding secret to him. However, they had let such a thing slip so easily! He had not been the slightest bit prepared for such a bombshell.

However, the rest of the crew did not seem to care at all.

Actually, that was quite accurate. Since the Windflower Crew was one of the expedition crews that explored the Astral Wilderness, they did not care much for the Innaverse. Even if they found a path that led back to the Innaverse, they would not use it, and such information was completely worthless to them. On the other hand, such a thing was invaluable to Lu Yin, and it would be worth more than anything else.

That calm-looking youth believed that Lu Yin had been frightened by the argument between the two elders, and he patted Lu Yin's shoulder to comfort him.

Meanwhile, Lu Yin was considering how he could weedle out more information concerning this secret route.

Wang Wen had been right—Lu Yin could ignore anyone else in the Outerverse, but he could not disregard the Endless Borders. This organization had discovered too many unknown routes, and they had even found a secret passage to the Innaverse.

Endless Borders' headquarters was located in a place called the Silentflock System. The star system had once been in Endless Weave, but during the border war, when the defensive line had been moved to Southside Weave, the Silentflock System had also pushed into Southside Weave.

The system consisted of the main headquarters, which was known as Silentflock Planet, and twenty two sub-planets that revolved around that central planet. Each sub-planet represented one of twenty two expedition crews.

Whenever a new expedition crew was born, another sub-planet would be added.

This was actually a secret to outsiders, but Lu Yin had already learned of it.

These sub-planets that represented expedition crews did not only include the ones that explored the Astral Wilderness, as there were also crews that explored the Outerverse.

One such crew had been led by Yang Hai, whom Lu Yin had met in the past. Yang Hai was an expedition crew captain that had their own sub-planet. They were the same as Bach, who Lu Yin had hired Smoker to take out. Bach's crew also had a sub-planet.

The Windflower Crew also had a sub-planet, but they had not visited it in many years.

The Windflower Crew's spacecraft was not a radiant-grade Aurora, but rather, it was a blackhole-grade Aurora that was capable of traveling ten times as fast as a radiant-grade vessel. Such a high-grade ship would cost at least 10,000 star essence to purchase, though that was just for a personal spacecraft.

Lu Yin had once owned such a spacecraft, but unfortunately, it had been destroyed.

They had already covered nearly half of the distance between Southside Weave and the Silentflock System, and with the blackhole-grade Aurora, they would only need a few more days to arrive.

Lu Yin was rather bored during the journey, but suddenly, a middle-aged Windflower Crew member suddenly proposed a duel with Lu Yin.

Quite a few of the others started to gather around and worked up a small commotion.

After spending two days aboard the ship, Lu Yin could be considered as having partially joined the Windflower Crew, and as soon as they arrived at Endless Borders' headquarters and confirmed his status, he would officially be allowed to join them. As far as the members of the Windflower Crew were concerned, Lu Yin was already one of them. They were an expedition crew, and there were no stringent background checks. These people had only gathered together due to similar interests, but not much else.

The crewmembers were absolutely amazed by Lu Yin's physical strength, though there were some people who had naturally powerful physiques as well. For the crew, it was perfectly normal for people to start dueling after having one drink too many.

However, things were not as usual this time around, as the two captains, Wind and Flower, were both present as well.

Lu Yin did not refuse. "Please."

The middle-aged man smashed his fists together, which released a dull thudding sound, and his skin took on a visible golden luster. This was the man's innate gift, and one could feel tough his skin was just by looking at him.