

Chapter 961: So Much Money

Starsibyl did not even feel any desire to warn Lu Yin when she saw him standing there, rooted in place, clearly dumbfounded by what he was confronted with.

The Seventh Stage Augmenter revealed a cruel smile as he smashed down with his hammer, clearly intending on killing Lu Yin in one hit. This attack was simply to let the old man vent his frustrations, and he had no plans of trying to use this youth as a hostage. In the current period of war, such a thing was completely useless.

Lu Yin watched as the hammer smashed down at him. It followed a profound trajectory that sealed off the void, and this attack far surpassed what that Fourth Stage Augmenter had been capable of unleashing. This was the power of an Imprinter's strength, and star energy was useless against it, as such powerhouses were above using star energy.

There was a blast, but Lu Yin managed to avoid the attack as the hammer smashed through the void. It released a powerful shockwave that unleashed multiple ripples of force that encompassed everything within 10,000 kilometers of the site of impact.

At that moment, Lu Yin's pupils transformed into runes, and his eyes flickered. The energy ripples spread out, but their rune lines were continuously erased. In the end, when the energy made contact with Lu Yin, it was not much stronger than the Fourth Stage Augmenter's attacks before Lu Yin had weakened them. This was still within the range of Lu Yin's endurance.

The two other people looked at Lu Yin standing tall in the sky as he endured the ripples of force.

Both the Seventh Stage Augmenter and Starsibyl were completely astonished.

Although the Seventh Stage Augmenter's power level had been suppressed to below 200,000, an Imprinter was still an Imprinter, and their understanding of their own strength was different from any others below their realm. Any random strike from such a powerhouse was capable of surpassing its power level and crushing their enemies, and they were able to use a limited amount of power to unleash widespread destruction. Otherwise, with the condition that they were forced to suppress their power level to under 200,000, they would not be invincible.

Also, star energy was ineffective against such powerhouses.

However, Lu Yin had actually managed to endure the man's attack.

Starsibyl was stupefied; it was impossible even for her to receive such an attack head on, forcing her to dodge them. However, had this youth just done so?

Lu Yin had weakened the rune lines of the spreading energy ripples rather than the Seventh Stage Augmenter's. Thus, the old man was completely unaware that the power of his attack had been reduced, and he truly thought that Lu Yin had blocked the attack.

"Kid, who are you?" he barked as he stared intently at Lu Yin.

Some cultivators appeared to be young but had actually lived for a very long time, and there were quite a few people like that. However, normally, such people could be easily differentiated, as their mannerisms and eyes gave it away. But to the Seventh Stage Augmenter's eyes, Lu Yin was truly a youth, and it was quite odd for such a youth to be able to block attack from him, an Imprinter.

Lu Yin did not answer. Instead, he stared at the ground with a bizarre expression on his face. What had once been an ordinary mountain range had developed many cracks in it, most likely due to the battle between Starsibyl and the Seventh Stage Augmenter. Through these broken areas, piles of glittering star essence could be seen.

If someone asked Lu Yin what he wanted to do the most at this time, then his reply would definitely not be to defeat the Seventh Stage Augmenter, but rather to plunder. With his domain, he was able to sense that there was an endless amount of star essence lying within the mountain range that was right beneath him.

How much was there? A single mountain range would contain at least hundreds of millions of star essence, and there were easily dozens of such mountain ranges spread out below, and that wasn't even all of them.

Lu Yin's breathing quickened. This was way, way too much money, and he could not even calculate it all.

Why was there so much money in this place?

Lu Yin's eyes flushed red.

Upon seeing Lu Yin's bewildering expressions, the Seventh Stage Augmenter grew wary. This kid definitely was not simple, and it was strange for such a person to show up at a time like this.

In the distance, Starsibyl did not move. Her original mission had been to stall the Seventh Stage Augmenter and give the rest of them time. Now, her situation had become much more relaxed since they were not moving at all.

At this point in time, in another corner of the mainland, Yuan Shi slowly gained the upper hand in his battle against Ancestor Sightless, mostly because of Progenitor Wushang's hide.

In Yuan Shi's hand, the Progenitor's hide was of tremendous use, and Progenitor Wushang's hide was not restricted by the cosmic phenomenon since it did not possess any rune lines.

If it weren't for the fact that their power levels had been suppressed to below 200,000, which was something that Yuan Shi was still unaccustomed to, the victor would have been decided long ago.

Venerable Sightless was no match for Yuan Shi, so the Ninth Stage Augmenter from the Toolcasting family who was protecting the transport crew took action. At the same time, Ancestor Tong hid in a corner and did his best to recover from his injuries.

The entire treasure continent had descended into chaos.

The various experts who had been tasked with stalling the Ninth Stage Augmenter had only been able to briefly delay the Imprinter.

Even though everything was completely chaotic, it seemed as though the cultivators from the Innerverse and Outerverse had gained the upper hand. However, they were currently traveling through the Innerverse, and the vast majority of the Innerverse was controlled by the Sixth Mainland. Yuan Shi believed that the transport crew must have contacted the nearby Sixth Mainland experts long ago, and reinforcements would likely arrive soon.

He did not want to be delayed in this place. Otherwise, even if he managed to achieve victory here, the rest of the Fifth Mainland cultivators would surely die.

As he thought about it, Yuan Shi used Progenitor Wushang's hide to repel Venerable Sightless and the Ninth Stage Augmenter. The ancient powerhouse then transmitted his voice across the entire transport continent and ordered everyone to evacuate.

The people from the Outerverse naturally listened to Yuan Shi.

The people from the Innerverse were intent on destroying the stolen resources, and not only had they destroyed quite a bit, but the imprisoned cultivators had also been released. They had gone above and beyond their mission goals, so naturally, they had no plans to linger.

However, even if everyone wanted to leave, it would not be that easy. Ancestor Sightless had also heard Yuan Shi's message, and the Imprinter ordered the Sixth Mainland cultivators to block the fleeing cultivators even if it cost them their lives. After all, reinforcements would arrive soon.

Starsibyl looked up towards the place where Yuan Shi was battling. Evacuation?

Once she thought about it, it was indeed time to retreat, and she retrieved an item that looked like an altar. She stood in the center of the altar, clearly intending to do something.

A little ways away, Lu Yin and the Seventh Stage Augmenter were still keeping a wary eye on each other. When Lu Yin saw what Starsibyl was doing, his expression changed drastically, and he leaped over to her.

The Seventh Stage Augmenter thought that Lu Yin had been about to attack, and the old man took out his hammer to slam it at him.

The valiant ripples of energy spread out once again, encompassing tens of kilometers.

Starsibyl frowned and then helplessly stored the altar away so that she could dodge the ripples of energy. She then turned to look at Lu Yin. "Block him! I'll buy us some time so that we can escape together."

Lu Yin weakened the rune lines of the ripples before blocking another attack. He then stared at Starsibyl. "Escape together? More like you guys are going to run away."

Starsibyl's eyes flickered. "What do you mean?"

Lu Yin barked back at her, "Since you guys dared to come here, then you have to have some kind of escape plan. That thing just now should be able to drag all of the Innerverse cultivators out, and if I've guessed correctly, then everyone that raided this place must have some kind of mark placed on them by you."

Starsibyl was surprised, as this person knew quite a bit. These were the private techniques of the Starsibyl Sect.

“Since you know, then help me stop him. I can bring you with us,” Starsibyl offered indifferently.

By now, the Seventh Stage Augmenter had heard the two talking and realized that the woman actually wanted to escape. The powerhouse ignored Lu Yin and slammed his hammer towards Starsibyl. “You must be dreaming, wanting to escape.”

Starsibyl evaded the attack and looked at Lu Yin. “Block him, and you’ll gain great contributions. I can guarantee that you’ll be given a King title from the Champions’ Stage.”

“Do I need you to promise me that?” Lu Yin ridiculed. With his strength, he could absolutely receive such a title, as only those strong enough to fight against Imprinters would be given the title of King.

Starsibyl softly asked, “Lu Yin, what do you mean by this? Are you trying to betray the Innerverse?”

Lu Yin sullenly answered, “If you guys escape, then my people from the Outerverse will be doomed. Wait for us to leave first. Then, I can guarantee that I’ll help you all escape.”

Starsibyl retorted, “You guys coincidentally barged in here, and it’s impossible for you all to escape! Do you want us to accompany you to the grave? Innerverse cultivators can’t compare to those from the Outerverse. Do you know how important this raid team is? They come from powers all over the Innerverse.”

“Your lives are important, but does that mean that lives from the Outerverse are worthless?” Lu Yin was furious.

Starsibyl frowned. “Lu Yin, don’t be mistaken. I can sweep your reputation away and make it so that you cannot exist anywhere in the universe.”

A chill flashed through Lu Yin’s eyes. “Just try.”

Starsibyl felt helpless, as she had made both threats and promises. However, this person was not intimidated in the slightest. She had investigated this youth before, and she was aware that he had dared to challenge the Daynight clan while just at the Melder realm. He was truly fearless.

The Seventh Stage Augmenter was infuriated, as he felt that this pair was completely disregarding him. He really wanted to unleash a powerful strike and eliminate these damned kids, but the situation did not allow for it. If he did, then he might not even live to see their fate before dying himself.

He grew more sullen the more he thought about it, and the Seventh Stage Augmenter began launching more and more ruthless attacks.

What was disgusting was that Starsibyl could dodge every attack of his.

“Lu Yin, you need to have a broader view of things! Even if we abandon the entire Outerverse, we absolutely cannot give up on the Innerverse, which is the root of the Fifth Mainland.” Starsibyl

continued to try persuading him, but without Lu Yin holding back the Seventh Stage Augmenter, she was unable to use the altar.

Lu Yin simply ignored the girl. Currently, the cultivators from the Innerverse and Outerverse were evenly matched against the Sixth Mainland cultivators on the transportation continent. The moment the people from the Innerverse escaped, the remaining Outerverse cultivators would be doomed. Wendy Yushan, Aden, Cai Jianqiang, and even the powerhouses like Black Mask, Yu Mu, Astral-9's Headmaster, and Elder He would be finished. Lu Yin would rather gamble on his plan, as he was wagering that they could all escape before the Sixth Mainland reinforcements arrived, and he did not want to give up on the Outerverse cultivators.

Screw the nonsense about having a broader perspective—it was not more important than his family and friends.

“If our people die, then in the future, there won’t be anyone left to deal with the Innerverse’s matters. No one will be able to hold back the Sixth Mainland in that scenario. They’ve already reached the Cosmic Sea, and they will be able to truly rule over our Fifth Mainland if they succeed! At that time, you guys will become the Fifth Mainland’s worst sinners,” Starsibyl harshly berated as she looked at Lu Yin.

The Seventh Stage Augmenter burst out into laughter. “Little girl, stop straining yourself! You’re just spouting bullshit. That kid naturally has his own judgement, and he won’t be convinced by your moral arguments.”

Starsibyl became absolutely furious, and she glared at Lu Yin, only to see that he had actually rushed towards the mountain range. In the blink of an eye, he had disappeared. What was he trying to do?

The Seventh Stage Augmenter also realized that Lu Yin had made a move, and the old man felt his hair stand on end. He thought that Lu Yin wanted to destroy all the star essence. “Kid, don’t be a fool! It’s easy to trigger the cosmic phenomenon!”

The Augmenter then ignored Starsibyl and charged underground after Lu Yin.

Starsibyl’s eyes lit up, and she immediately took out the altar and leaped into action.

Lu Yin had planned on stealing as much star essence as he could, as it was too wasteful to leave all this money lying around. However, he did not expect the Seventh Stage Augmenter to chase after him.

Lu Yin waved a hand, and countless star essence fell into his cosmic ring. When he saw that the Seventh Stage Augmenter had arrived, Lu Yin grew flustered. “What did you come down here for? That woman’s about to escape!”

“Kid, what are you trying to do? Don’t make any quick moves! if you’re not careful, you might cause that cosmic phenomenon to appear.”

“I know! Go on out, I’ll just leave after taking some.”

“You head up first.”

“You first.”

“You.”

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Lu Yin had a stare off with the Seventh Stage Augmenter, who was glaring at the youth as if he was a thief. At that moment, Lu Yin realized the old man was getting ready to strike. Lu Yin felt helpless, and he merely collected one more batch of star essence before leaping out to the surface.

At that moment, the altar that Starsibyl had been preparing began to shoot out rays of light. All across the transport continent, the bodies of the cultivators from the Innerverses felt their bodies start to light up. They felt as if a burden had been lifted from them, as they could finally leave.

Lu Yin dashed out to the surface, and he saw that Starsibyl was about to escape. The altar was already surrounded by a barrier of light, and he was quite familiar with this scene. In the past, the people who had managed to flee from Grayweed Continent had relied on a similar altar from the Skyblaze Dojo.

Chapter 962: The Cosmic Sea

When Starsibyl saw Lu Yin, the corner of her mouth twitched triumphantly. "I'll remember all of you. We really have to leave now, so please try to buy us some more time. The longer you stall for, the more meritorious your achievements will be. Don't worry—I promise that your achievements will be delivered to your heirs. Remember, stall for as much time as you possibly can."

This woman was not merely abandoning the Outerverses cultivators to die. At this time, she was actually taking advantage of the Outerverses cultivators to buy her more time to escape.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. This altar seemed to be quite similar to the one that the Skyblaze Dojo had used. It had to be said not even Madam Hong had been able to react to the Skyblaze Dojo's altar, and it had also been near impossible to damage it whatsoever. Madam Hong was a Cosmic Imprinter, which was the equivalent of a Ninth Stage Augmenter.

This was Starsibyl's last ploy. They had never had any intention of dying when they planned this sneak attack on the transport crew. Starsibyl had made many backup plans.

Lu Yin's brain ramped up into overdrive; he could not allow anyone from the Innerverses to leave. Otherwise, even if Yuan Shi remained behind, the rest of them would all be destined to die without any hope of escape. Keeping the people from the Innerverses behind on the transport continent was their only hope of survival.

As his mind raced for a solution, inspiration suddenly struck him. Lu Yin pulled out an item from his cosmic ring: Starsibyl's invitation letter.

Starsibyl's invitation letter was a very strange item, and it was unknown how Starsibyl Sect manufactured these invitations, but they were able to tear open the void and travel straight to Starsibyl.

When Bai Xue had spoken to Lu Yin in the past, she had told him that her sister, Bai Qian, had run into Qingyu Daynight on Neptune. After that discovery, they had used a letter to open a portal in the sky. At that time, Lu Yin had not understood what letter she had been referring to, but now, he understood exactly what Bai Xue had been talking about. It was likely one of Starsibyl's invitation letters.

Later on, Lu Yin had asked a few others about the matter, and he had received the same answer from all of them: Starsibyl's invitation letter could take the owner right to Starsibyl's side. It was very mystical, and it was one of the many mysterious methods of the Starsibyl Sect.

In the distance, Starsibyl watched as Lu Yin took out her invitation letter, and her face went pale. She had given Lu Yin that invitation letter back at the Sea King's Dome. Back then, she had had a vastly different goal, and she became very worried as soon as she saw Lu Yin take it out.

"Lu Yin, don't try anything funny!" Starsibyl yelled frantically.

Lu Yin smiled before disappearing, only to reappear right next to Starsibyl. The altar, which had been glowing, started to warp, almost as though it had encountered a foreign object. After that, random light beams shot out in all directions, and everything that the light touched instantly disappeared.

"Lu Yin, you've gone mad! We will be blown to pieces by spacetime itself!" This was the first time that Starsibyl had ever lost her poise. Everyone who had met her knew that the woman never lost control of herself; she was always calm and in control of everything around her. However, her current facial expression betrayed her rarely seen panic.

Shivers ran down Lu Yin's spine, and he immediately tried to flee. All he had wanted to do was damage the altar, and he had not expected the consequences to be so severe. In retrospect, had he damaged the altar, or had it been the invitation?

Right when Lu Yin was about to speak, beams of light flashed, and the two youths disappeared. Far away, Ling Que, who had been chasing after Lu Yin all the way to the altar, was also struck by a random beam of light, and he disappeared as well. The only thing left behind was the Seventh Stage Augmenter.

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Their surroundings were pitch black, broken only by an occasional lightning strike. Perhaps they were caught in a crack in the void.

Lu Yin felt like his body was about to be ripped apart as an immense pain raged through his entire body. Despite that, he thought back to Starsibyl's last words. Were they really about to be torn apart?!

With a thud, an icy sensation slowly spread through his body, and Lu Yin's breathing grew sluggish. He opened his mouth, but his mouth somehow ended up filled with a massive amount of water. He had fallen into a body of water, so was he alive? But before he could celebrate, a loud crack of thunder shook the sky as a barrage of lightning strikes struck him in a merciless manner. It left his entire body numb, and his skin even started to smoke.

Fortunately, the lightning was not strong enough to injure him at all.

With great difficulty, Lu Yin finally managed to get a good look at where he was. He... seemed to be in the middle of an ocean? As far as Lu Yin could see, in all directions, there were only dark blue skies and drifting clouds.

He raised his head when he saw more streaks of lightning split the sky. Although the sky was clear, it was still filled with lightning, oddly enough, they seemed to come from nowhere. More bolts of lightning

struck down rather close to Lu Yin, and the water conducted the electricity, electrocuting him and leaving him numb once more.

“Fuck!” He heard a miserable shout, and it was a familiar voice.

Lu Yin turned around and saw that Ling Que had been similarly shocked by the lightning bolts. The young man leaped out of the water like a rabbit and then stood on the surface while rubbing his bottom. The lightning had struck Ling Que’s butt, leaving that area a bit charred.

Lu Yin leaped out of the water and then looked at Ling Que with a puzzled expression. “Why are you here?”

Ling Que grimaced from the pain. “I should be the one asking you that! By destroying the altar, you brought me here!”

Lu Yin glanced around the area. If Ling Que had also come here, then Starsibyl should be nearby as well.

Just as Lu Yin thought about Starsibyl, the void above him tore open as a person tumbled out.

Lu Yin reflexively caught the falling body and held it close. Sure enough, it was Starsibyl.

Starsibyl’s appearance was truly stunning, and the sky seemed to dim from her beauty. Holding her felt pretty good.

However, Starsibyl was in very bad shape at this moment. She had lost a tremendous amount of blood, and her snow white skin had been torn open in multiple places, just like Lu Yin and Ling Que. However, she looked to be in far worse shape than either of them two, and she had also just emerged from the void, unlike them.

Starsibyl knitted her brows, and her entire face twisted into an expression of pain. As soon as she realized that Lu Yin was carrying her, her eyes turned cold. “How much longer do you intend to hold me?”

Lu Yin released her, and with a plopping sound, Starsibyl fell into the ocean. Right after that, lightning fell from the sky once more, but Lu Yin did not move an inch. Instead, he allowed the lightning to strike the water in front of him and shock Starsibyl.

Starsibyl was instantly electrocuted.

In the distance, Ling Que watched the scene, completely stunned. He then gave Lu Yin a thumbs up. “Bro, you’ve got balls!”

Lu Yin lowered his gaze as Starsibyl slowly rose out of the ocean, breathing heavily. She then took out a pill from her cosmic ring and swallowed it without saying a word.

Due to the issue with the altar, she had suddenly become enemies with Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was absolutely furious that Starsibyl had wanted to use the Outerverse cultivators as cannon fodder to buy the Inniverse cultivators a bit of time. She had completely disregarded those people’s lives.

In turn, Starsibyl was terribly upset that Lu Yin had ruined her plans, and he had almost killed her in the process. However, what made her even angrier was the fact that Lu Yin's actions had been outside of her divinations. She had even been able to predict that Seventh Stage Augmenter's actions, but she had not been able to predict Lu Yin's actions. That invitation letter had been given to Lu Yin by Starsibyl herself, and logically speaking, such an outcome had been easily foretold through her efforts. However, she had not been able to predict Lu Yin's move.

This was what left Starsibyl the most upset.

If there was no suppression from the cosmic phenomenon in the Innerverse, then her inability to divine information about beings who were in the Envoy realm and above would be of no surprise. However, Lu Yin was nothing more than a mere Cruiser, so why couldn't she make any predictions regarding him? She could not understand this.

Ling Que stared at both people with open admiration. One had just thrown a beautiful girl into the water to be struck by lightning while the other was not upset even after being shocked. These people were crazy!

"Where is this place?" Lu Yin asked calmly.

Starsibyl looked around and became shocked at what she saw. "This is probably the Thunder Zone in the Cosmic Sea."

"We made it to the Cosmic Sea?" Lu Yin asked, flabbergasted. He was shocked by just how far they had traveled.

Starsibyl calmly answered, "Our initial escape destination was a place in the Cosmic Sea. What you used was a treasured item of mine, but you've destroyed it."

"I won't let you use my friends and loved ones as sacrifices to buy you time," Lu Yin steadfastly replied.

With a nasty tone, Starsibyl shot back, "I already told you, it was for the greater good."

"Whatever," Lu Yin dismissively answered.

Starsibyl was frustrated, "It is pointless to talk about any of this now."

The exchange between the two of them had taken place very calmly, and it sounded as if nothing had just transpired between them. This confused Ling Que, who approached and spoke up. "Sorry to interrupt, but do either of you know where to go? I'm pretty sure that we'll be struck by lightning again if we don't do something."

Lu Yin looked at Starsibyl.

Her feet left the water, and she rose into the air as she scanned the surroundings while moving forward.

Ling Que's eyes lit up. "Do you know the way?"

"No, I don't," Starsibyl replied apathetically.

Ling Que was flabbergasted. "Then why do you look so confident?"

Starsibyl shot Ling Que a dirty look. "I can figure it out."

Well then, those words were very reassuring. People from the Starsibyl Sect were known to be trustworthy, and they would keep their words. At least, that was Ling Que's point of view.

Lu Yin rolled his eyes, as divination was useless in his eyes. Things would end up the same no matter which direction they chose to go in. With the war having spread to the Cosmic Sea, there were bound to be people all over the place. Lu Yin was simply hoping that they would not end up walking into one of the Sixth Mainland's bases.

It seemed that the fiercest fighting between the two mainlands had been taking place in the Cosmic Sea.

Starsibyl led the way as she moved to the front, and Lu Yin and Ling Que simply followed behind.

Ling Que moved over to Lu Yin's side and asked in a hushed voice, "Bro, what did Starsibyl's hands feel like?"

"Soft," Lu Yin replied curtly.

Ling Que grew excited, and he hurriedly caught up to Starsibyl. "Starsibyl, you must be tired and injured. Should I carry you?"

Starsibyl's expression turned icy. "You must want to die."

"I'm sorry," Ling Que earnestly apologized as he moved back next to Lu Yin with a reluctant look on his face.

Lu Yin did not bother with the other man as he checked his cosmic ring. As he did so, his face revealed his conflicted feelings. He was happy that he had managed to grab about nine million star essence in such a short amount of time, and it was the largest sum of money he had ever managed to gather so far. However, he was unsatisfied that he had only managed to grab nine million, as it was nothing compared to all of the star essence in the mountain range on the transport continent.

He blamed that old Seventh Stage Augmenter. If not for that old fart, then Lu Yin would have been able to grab much more. It was a pity, as such chances to gain large amounts of wealth would be hard to encounter in the future.

Lu Yin felt it was a pity that he had not been able to take all of that star essence for himself. If he had managed to do such a thing, then he would be a wealthy man at this time. What cost him the most resources to do was rolling six pips: Possession. He believed that it could even send him past the Upper Three Gates for a short amount of time.

It was such a pity.

The three youths flew along for more than twenty minutes, but they still did not encounter anyone.

Ling Que traveled close to Lu Yin and bombarded him with countless questions.

Lu Yin's excitement from seeing the vast piles of star essence in his cosmic ring faded and was quickly replaced by worry for the people back on the transport continent moving the resources to the Sixth Mainland. He hoped that the Outerverse cultivators had managed to escape.

He felt a little guilty towards the people from the Innerverse, but he had had no choice at that time. Them staying behind meant that the people of the Outerverse would at least have some hope of escaping. If the Innerverse cultivators all fled at once, then the people from the Outerverse would have absolutely all died. Lu Yin had done the only thing that he could have done.

"How did you cultivate in the Outerverse? It's amazing that you were able to fight against a Seventh Stage Augmenter! Even Starsibyl had no choice but to escape," Ling Que exclaimed excitedly. He had wanted to ask Lu Yin about his cultivation for a long time.

In front of the two young men, Starsibyl was paying close attention to their conversation, as she was also curious to hear Lu Yin's answer.

To most people, the Outerverse was seen as a destitute region that had no cultivation resources. There were very few star essence in the Outerverse, and there were not many lucky encounters there either. However, Lu Yin's current strength was just too shocking. To put it bluntly, no other Cruiser at five cultivation cycles could defeat Lu Yin, not even the Ten Arbiters when they were at that realm.

Starsibyl was also curious as to how Lu Yin had escaped from her divination.

However, Lu Yin did not respond.

Ling Que continued his barrage of questions, and it seemed as though he would not be satisfied until he heard an answer.

Not knowing how to respond, Lu Yin simply changed the topic. "Actually, I visited the Innerverse once during this time, and I also went to the Starfall Sea."

"When was that?" Ling Que asked, astonished.

Lu Yin thought about the time that had passed and then said, "Around two years ago."

Starsibyl turned to look at Lu Yin. "You visited the Starfall Sea?"

Lu Yin nodded.

"The Starfall Sea has been completely taken over by the Tong family. The Sea King's Dome has also been reduced to nothing more than a mine, and the seventy-two dojos of Grayweed Continent have also been destroyed. How did you escape?" Starsibyl asked.

Chapter 963: Starlight Island

After hearing Starsibyl's question, Lu Yin smiled. "The Skyblaze Dojo had a teleportation altar that was very similar to yours. The Sea King also used an item from a Progenitor, and all that together allowed us to escape to the Outerverse."

"No wonder it seemed like I saw people from the Starfall Sea." Ling Que quickly understood some things.

Starsibyl did not speak and continued to lead the way. She finally understood how Lu Yin had learned about how her altar worked.

“Is the Sea King still alive?” Lu Yin asked as he looked at Starsibyl’s back.

Her response was calm. “I don't know.”

Lu Yin’s expression grew dim. There were truly no positive signs regarding the Sea King.

The Sea King had broken through the so-called Upper Three Gates, which had then caused the Sixth Mainland’s invasion of the Human Domain. The man could be considered as the primary instigator of this entire war, and he might have even sent the Innerverse and Outerverse to their graves. However, he had also restored the Fifth Mainland’s sky, which gave the Cosmic Five the opportunity to reach the Progenitor realm. Thus, his actions had also given the Fifth Mainland a glimmer of hope.

If he hadn’t restored the Fifth Mainland’s sky, then it was possible that their mainland would have never been able to give rise to another Progenitor and that they would have been forever suppressed by the Sixth Mainland.

This had been a heroic gamble. If the Fifth Mainland won, then they would not have to fear the Sixth Mainland anymore. But if they lost, they would lose everything.

Only someone like the Sea King would be bold enough to make such a gamble, as even the Hall of Honor might not be so daring.

The Hall of Honor seemed to protect humanity, but in reality, they actually wanted to protect themselves even more.

The pills that the three youths took while traveling were quite effective. Starsibyl had suffered the worst injuries, but even hers had faded away, though she would need some more time before she fully recovered.

Lu Yin was the same. Even with his tyrannical physique, only his surface wounds had healed. It had not at all been exaggerated for Starsibyl to claim that they would be ripped apart .

Before long, Starsibyl suddenly stopped. She stared at a beautiful piece of scenery off in the distance that looked like a curtain of stars as she mumbled, “That’s Starlight Island.”

Ling Que was surprised. “What did you say? Starlight Island?”

Lu Yin was puzzled. “What’s Starlight Island?”

Ling Que’s face had already turned ashen. “It’s over! Over! Starlight Island is one of the Sixth Mainland’s bases, and there are nothing but Sixth Mainland experts over there. There are Enlighters, Imprinters, and even World and Cosmic Imprinters around this area. The Sixth Mainland spent several years exploring the Cosmic Sea, and Starlight Island is located at the very center of the regions that they’ve become familiar with. We’re doomed if that’s actually where we are.”

Lu Yin turned to look at Starsibyl.

Starsibyl softly replied, "The weather in the Cosmic Sea is difficult to predict, and only the Four Pirate Crews can truly understand it. Even the Neoverse cultivators who wish to cross the Cosmic Sea will need to have someone from the Four Pirate Crews lead the way. Because of this, when the various great powers of the Inniverse were defeated by the invasion, they retreated to the Cosmic Sea. The Sixth Mainland chased after them and tried to understand the weather conditions here over the last few years, and they made countless sacrifices while doing so, but they were only able to find a few stable regions. Starlight Island is one of those regions, so there are numerous Sixth Mainland experts gathered there. They use Starlight Island as a base to explore the Cosmic Sea as they prepare to invade the Neoverse."

Lu Yin was left speechless, as this was simply too coincidental. They were still thinking of how to not get too close to the enemy's camps, but Starlight Island was essentially one of the Sixth Mainland's main headquarters that they were using to invade the Neoverse!

"Let's run. We'll be doomed if those Imprinters catch sight of us. The Sixth Mainland has numerous Imprinters, and even freaks like those World Imprinters might show up. We're also finished if we run into any of the Realmings, and the ones who rank just behind the Realmings aren't bad either. Let's not wait around and get out of here right now," Ling Que urgently suggested.

Starsibyl's eyes flashed. "We can't run. The region that we just passed through was a part of Starlight Island's inner territory, so there weren't too many people there. However, if we want to leave, we'll definitely have to cross through the outer region, and that place will be filled with the Sixth Mainland's experts."

"That still has to be better than what's up ahead of us! That's Starlight Island!" Ling Que wailed.

Lu Yin's expression suddenly changed. "There are people surrounding us, and they've already encircled us."

He saw numerous rune lines approaching them from all directions.

"Could they have already found us?" Ling Que cried out in fear.

Lu Yin shook his head. "No."

"How do you know?"

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. These rune lines were not very powerful, and at most, these people were initial stage Hunters. If the trio had been discovered, then more powerful people would have been sent over. Of course, this was assuming that nobody within that group was hiding their strength. Some people could use techniques that concealed their power level, and those methods were also able to reduce the number of rune lines that Lu Yin could see.

Lu Yin suddenly looked in a certain direction. "Let's drop down to the seabed. People are coming."

Starsibyl and Ling Que did not oppose Lu Yin, as they had already seen his strength. Even if Starsibyl was confident that Lu Yin could not defeat her, it would absolutely be impossible for her to beat him as well. Lu Yin could be considered as one of the absolute top powerhouses beneath the Ten Arbiters. Among the Inniverse and Outerverse's younger generation, only the top few experts of the Top 100 Rankings might be able to challenge him. Actually, it was possible that even Tai Yuanjun, who was ranked second,

might not be able to match up to Lu Yin's strength. It might be that only the person who stood at the top of the rankings, the one who was publicly acknowledged as the person who would take over one of the Ten Arbiters' seats when they retired, could stand next to Lu Yin on equal footing.

The trio hid on the bottom of the seafloor, and in the sky above them, thunder continued to rumble as lightning occasionally struck the ocean, causing everything to tremble.

In the distance, a giant ship slowly sailed along the ocean surface, not hiding in the slightest. At the ship's bow, there was a young lord who was hugging a beautiful girl while talking in high spirits. Behind them were a dozen servants waiting on the youth. There was also a group of tied up cultivators scattered all over the ship. The ship was propelled along by neither oar nor machine. Rather, it was those captive cultivators who were dragging the ship along. They were indeed cultivators, but since they were forced to tow the ship with a rope, they were more like slaves. They were all cultivators from the Inniverse.

The Sixth Mainland cultivators gathered from all directions to surround the ship. One particular Cruiser boarded the ship and respectfully said, "Your Highness, please show your ID and your imprint to be allowed to enter Starlight Island."

That young lord's expression fell, and he walked over to the Cruiser. "This isn't my first time visiting Starlight Island. You must be blind! The slaves that you see below were bought by me from Starlight Island."

That Cruiser was placed in a difficult position. "Your Highness, anyone who wishes to enter Starlight Island must display their imprint. You--"

Before the man could even finish speaking, the young lord slapped him with an open palm and sent the Cruiser flying from the ship.

The Sixth Mainland cultivators surrounding the ship were angered, and they all moved forward as one.

On the ship, among the dozen slaves, there was an older person who looked up and snorted. Star energy pressed downwards as thunder rumbled in the sky. The expressions of all the approaching Sixth Mainland cultivators changed; there was an expert aboard the ship.

The Cruiser who had been slapped immediately declared his mistake. "Your subordinate was the one who is blind! Your Highness, please don't be mistaken and please proceed."

The young lord snorted. "Someone from a mere Imprinter's family dares to block me! You must be tired of living. Slap yourself."

The mark of the young lord's five fingers was still very clear on the Cruiser's face. Upon hearing the young lord's words, the Cruiser helplessly raised a hand and slapped himself.

"Hehehe." The beautiful woman at the ship's bow was delighted.

The young lord laughed and waved a hand. The ship then continued on towards Starlight Island.

After the ship had sailed a long ways away, the Cruiser finally stopped striking himself, and a cultivator approached him from behind and immediately offered some medication.

“So hateful! These young lords aren’t strong themselves, but they still abuse the rest of us and even dare to treat us military officials like this!” The subordinate was seething.

That Cruiser shook his head in a helpless manner. “Forget it. The elder among those slaves was an Enlighter at the very least, and we can’t offend such a powerhouse.”

“They’re too arrogant, to do that just because they have a powerhouse openly protecting them,” the cultivator replied.

Some distance away, the entire scene was seen by Lu Yin’s small group.

Ling Que watched the ship sail away with envy in his eyes.

Lu Yin had his own thoughts, and he looked over at Starsibyl.

Starsibyl’s eyes narrowed. “We can try it.”

Lu Yin nodded.

Ling Que was lost. “What are you guys talking about?”

Lu Yin patted his companion’s shoulder. “Have you ever enjoyed the experience of slapping someone?”

Ling Que was very honest, and he shook his head.

Lu Yin was satisfied. “You’ll be able to try it.”

As they began to approach Starlight Island, the Sixth Mainland would have even more means of detecting intruders, and even the seabed would become dangerous. The trio dashed up, and then Lu Yin took out his collapsible spacecraft and moved inside it. Ling Que had an ugly expression on his face.

“Come on, don’t be shy.” Lu Yin smiled at Ling Que.

Ling Que’s mouth twisted, but he complied, picking up the vessel and holding it on his shoulder. Starsibyl also boarded the ship.

Before long, the three youths were discovered, and they were even discovered by the same group that they had seen before, though the handprint had already disappeared from the Cruiser’s face.

“Everyone, please show your IDs and display your imprints,” the Cruiser requested while keeping an eye on Ling Que, who was carrying the spacecraft on his shoulder. The Cruiser carefully observed the vessel, but it was indeed a spacecraft, and it was very impressive for this person to carry such a thing on his shoulder.

Who had ever seen a person carrying a spacecraft to transport it?

It was not only the Cruiser who was shocked, but all of the other Sixth Mainland cultivators were also staring at Ling Que and the spacecraft in amazement. This was pure genius! These people really knew how to entertain themselves.

The hatch swung open, and Lu Yin emerged with one arm wrapped around Starsibyl and an arrogant expression on his face as he stared down at the Cruiser with blatant contempt in his eyes. "This isn't my first time visiting Starlight Island. You must be blind! I bought that slave down below from Starlight Island myself."

This scene was too familiar. The Cruiser was completely taken aback while the other Sixth Mainland cultivators surrounding the trio were similarly stunned.

"That—" At this moment, the Cruiser felt a bit hesitant, as the sense of déjà vu was too strong. He simply did not know how to reply.

The Cruiser did not even get a chance to say another word as Ling Que raised a hand and directly slapped the man. Splat! A crisp sound rang out in all directions. "Scram!"

The Cruiser instinctively backed off to the side and did not dare to stop these people.

None of the other cultivators in the area dared to react either. They simply all stared on in astonishment as Ling Que carried the spacecraft away while walking.

High above the ocean, the storm raged and startled the Cruiser. His face was stinging, and there was still a blank expression on his face. What was going on today? It was just his bad luck to run into such ruthless people all on the same day.

Within the spacecraft, Lu Yin let out a deep breath. These people had been easy to deal with, but if they had made a single move, then all of Starlight Island's experts would have appeared, and Realmings would have likely shown up as well. They would not have been able to escape from that situation, so this had been their only option. Fortunately, that young lord had provided them with a good example to follow.

The spacecraft trembled a bit as Ling Que threw it down. "Alright, get out. Why are we still putting on this act?"

Lu Yin casually answered, "There's no rush. Just wait till we get to Starlight Island. Do you really think that nobody's watching us? Don't forget—there are Imprinters on Starlight Island, as well as World Imprinters and even Cosmic Imprinters."

Ling Que's face twisted, and without any other choice, he picked the ship back up and continued to carry it onwards.

Starsibyl calmly said, "The Sixth Mainland conducts stringent checks on all cultivators. Even if we manage to successfully get onto Starlight Island, we still won't be able to openly walk around, as we'll easily be discovered."

"Then just find somewhere to hide," Lu Yin replied.

Ling Que sullenly carried the spacecraft forward as he continued walking towards Starlight Island step by step, leaving many astonished people in their wake.

Chapter 964: Battle Borne Of Mutual Understanding

It was very normal for people to have Fifth Mainland cultivators as slaves, and many of the heirs of influential families had eccentric tastes. However, this was still everyone's first time seeing someone walking while carrying a spacecraft around.

Ling Que was also showing his true face at this time. Fortunately, he had spent most of his time in the Inniverse and rarely ever fought in the Cosmic Sea. Otherwise, he would have been instantly recognized.

It was extremely risky to alter one's appearance in such a place, as the war had already dragged on for many years, and all sorts of things had occurred during this time. It was not uncommon for people to try to alter their own appearance, and both sides had long since come up with ways to deal with such people. Once they were discovered, it would not even be necessary to interrogate the person, as a bunch of experts would instantly surround and capture them.

Lu Yin was finally able to get a clear view of Starlight Island, and he saw countless rune lines covering the island and soaring into the sky. Although everyone's power level had been suppressed to below 200,000, there were simply too many sources of rune lines.

Despite them being headed to an island, it was not small at all. Starlight Island was actually roughly the size of an entire continent.

Suddenly, the sky went dark as countless bolts of lightning fell down like raindrops, continuously blasting the ocean around Starlight Island. The seawater started to boil, and the sky constantly flickered back and forth between brightness and darkness. It was as if there were evil spirits at work.

This island was located in the Cosmic Sea, where the weather constantly changed without notice. This time, the lightning storm was very powerful, and even the average Limiteer might not be able to endure one of these strikes. Some of the bolts even twined together in the sky, causing their power to spike to the level where they could threaten Explorers or even Cruisers.

Lu Yin was rendered speechless by this sight, and he finally realized why so few people were willing to charge into the Cosmic Sea. If he had visited the Cosmic Sea at the Limiteer realm, he would have been in deep trouble.

He suddenly thought of someone: Ye Xingchen. That person had been hailed as an unparalleled Limiteer, and he had been just as famous as Mu Rong, Ling Que, and Lu Yin himself. Ye Xingchen had established a crew and roamed the Cosmic Sea, which was not a simple accomplishment at all. It was not easy to survive in this place.

Of course, Lu Yin did not presume that Ye Xingchen had survived by purely relying on his own abilities. A Limiteer with exceptional talent was not capable of such a thing, so he must have used some other method.

The bombardment of falling lightning lasted for quite a long time, during which Ling Que successfully carried the spacecraft all the way over to Starlight Island.

Nobody blocked their path, but this caused Lu Yin to become even more vigilant, as it showed there was some secret surveillance method protecting the island.

At that moment, a streak of lightning struck down off in the distance, and it illuminated a dark corner where a little girl was shivering.

The lightning slammed onto the island before being scattered everywhere, and coincidentally, one spark shot towards the little girl.

Her face went pale. In front of the lightning shard, her thin body looked incredibly fragile while the pulsing lightning seemed like some giant beast's maw about to swallow her.

Lu Yin was just about to make a move, but Starsibyl suddenly made a move, embracing the girl. A wave of the woman's hand caused the lightning to disappear.

Lu Yin was surprised when he realized that Starsibyl had moved out the moment the lightning bolt had appeared in the sky; she had actually anticipated that the lightning would scatter and that a shard would fly out towards the little girl. This was divination, and this was her ability to take action in advance based off of the predictions that she made.

The child was frightened, and her face was pale. But after being saved, her expression turned grateful as she said something to Starsibyl.

Starsibyl's image was just too perfect. She was exceptionally attractive, had impeccable manners, and a stainless reputation to the point where nobody would believe a claim of her behaving badly. The little girl was quickly won over by Starsibyl, and she quickly started calling the young woman "sister."

"Yaya, where do you live? I'll take you back," Starsibyl gently offered as she tousled the girl's hair.

The girl blinked with bright eyes and quietly answered, "Thank you, Sister."

Starsibyl smiled, which left Ling Que stunned for a moment.

Lu Yin surveyed the surroundings, and another batch of lightning exploded. The vast majority of people had hidden themselves, and it was evident that the houses on the island had been built with the frequent lightning showers in mind. Nobody was showing, but he did see some rune lines flash by from the corner of his eye, evidently from the Sixth Mainland cultivators who were observing them.

However, since Lu Yin's group had passed through the outer blockade to reach Starlight Island, the cultivators on the island would not be too extreme towards the three youths.

Due to how long the lightning storm bombarded Starlight Island for, the houses all had simple designs, and there were not that many people out on the streets. Even when there were clear skies, the atmosphere was no different. The truth was that, most of the time, the sky was clear.

Above the houses, the stars looked like there was a curtain shrouding them. It was a beautiful scene, but if one carefully observed the sky, then eventually, they would notice that the lights were not stars, though Lu Yin did not know exactly those were either. Still, he did not ask, and he would only question this matter after his small group managed to stabilize their situation.

Although Starlight Island was a base that the Sixth Mainland was using to invade the Cosmic Sea, the majority of the island's population were actually natives. The Sixth Mainland had taken control of Starlight Island, but they simply ruled the top levels. Nobody was concerned about a person like Yaya, who was from an ordinary family.

As the group of four moved along, they would occasionally see a Sixth Mainland cultivator who flashed by, but nobody paid the group any attention.

However, Lu Yin saw that there was a group of rune lines following behind them. They were not from a human, but rather from some kind of machine-like object that was continuously monitoring them.

They were not alone, as such monitoring objects were everywhere. At a rough glance, it actually looked like every part of Starlight Island was under surveillance.

It seemed that every cultivator who visited Starlight Island would be monitored, even if they were confirmed to be from the Sixth Mainland.

Yaya's family lived rather close to the island's edge, inside a boxy, five-story building. This structure even had lightning facilities installed on the roof, which an electric current would occasionally flash through.

"Sister, we're here." Yaya shot a cautious look at Starsibyl, and the little girl could not hide the envy and embarrassment in her eyes.

Starsibyl touched the child's head and asked her with some concern, "Where are the adults of your family?"

Yaya replied, "They went out to get some things, so it'll take a few days before they get back."

Ling Que suddenly piped up. "Why doesn't Big Brother here stay behind here and protect you?"

Yaya jumped in fright and immediately took a step back.

Starsibyl grabbed hold of Ling Que's shoulder and flung him away before smiling at Yaya. "Yaya, there's no need to be afraid. That brother isn't a bad person."

Yaya blinked. "Anyone who's with Sister isn't bad."

Starsibyl smiled. "Can this sister go in and have a seat?"

Yaya grunted in agreement and led Starsibyl into the house.

Lu Yin felt a blush of shame, and he felt like they were deceiving the child. He glanced over at Starsibyl, as there were truly many sides to this woman. She treated Lu Yin and Ling Que one way and this little girl a completely different way, but she still managed to join the two miens seamlessly.

Over the next two days, the three youths stayed in Yaya's house. Meanwhile, outside, the machine with the weak rune lines continued to monitor them.

Lu Yin was constantly worried that someone would come out to check on them, but fortunately, no one did.

During these two days, he had discovered something strange. Yaya's home was located close to the sea, and many Sixth Mainland cultivators would pass by the place as they headed out. He saw that all of the cultivators were youths, and almost no one from the older generation went by.

The cosmic phenomenon only suppressed one's power level—there was no restriction concerning age.

To prove his theory, Lu Yin continued to observe the passersby for another two days, but he saw that it was always the same.

He shared his observations with the others.

Ling Que rolled his eyes. "You must be mistaken."

Starsibyl calmly replied, "He isn't. Right now, the Cosmic Sea is indeed being contested by the younger generation."

Lu Yin and Ling Que were both astonished. "Why?"

Starsibyl explained, "The weather in the Cosmic Sea is simply too bizarre. The Cosmic Sea's Four Pirate Crews have paved the way forward by taking advantage of the weather to slaughter many people from the Sixth Mainland. At the same time, many of the older experts from the Sixth Mainland have killed too many of our people. Because of this, both sides are mutually restraining each other, and the situation has developed into a war of attrition. This stalemate has continued for years now, and both sides are finding it difficult to continue any longer, so both were forced to give way. We will not take advantage of this place's weather, and the Sixth Mainland will not send out any powerhouses from the older generation. In short, both sides are sending out their youths to fight, and they will determine the direction of the war in the Cosmic Sea."

Lu Yin quickly understood the situation, and he also realized why, back in the ruins of the Daosource Sect, he had heard people mention that various conditions were being used to lure the younger generation into joining the Innerverses invasion. It was not that the Sixth Mainland wanted to rely on numbers to gain victory, but rather, it was to push more people into the fight in the Cosmic Sea. The Cosmic Sea was one of the most crucial battlefields in the Fifth Mainland, and if the Sixth Mainland secured victory there, they would be able to make their way into the Neoverse, where there was no suppression from the cosmic phenomenon. At that point, absolute experts would appear and demonstrate their true strength.

Before the suppression from the cosmic phenomenon appeared, the Sixth Mainland had been able to overpower the entire Innerverse, and if not for the sudden appearance of the cosmic phenomenon, they would have long since fought their way into the Neoverse.

"Hold on, so only the Sixth Mainland's younger generation is here on Starlight Island?" Ling Que asked.

Starsibyl did not deny anything.

Ling Que gritted his teeth. "Why didn't you say something earlier? And here I've been living in terror."

Starsibyl glanced to the side at him. "There's a Realmling on Starlight Island."

This sentence made Ling Que shut up, as there was not much of a difference between Realmlings and Imprinters to him, as they were both unstoppable existences.

Yaya walked in and served drinks to the three older people.

Starsibyl hurriedly put a smile on her face.

Ling Que smiled even more brilliantly, but Yaya was still afraid of him. She kept thinking that he was a bad person. Although Lu Yin did not really speak or smile, Yaya felt like he was the more reliable of the two men; at the least, Lu Yin did not seem like a bad person.

A child's perspective tended to be quite innocent, and just like that, Ling Que had been deemed a bad person.

Starsibyl sighed as she watched Yaya leave the room. "Her parents are gone."

Lu Yin and Ling Que were not surprised. Neither of them was foolish, and they had been able to tell the situation with one look.

Yaya had lied to them, but this was her own way of protecting herself. The child had even set out sets of adult clothing in the house, and she always acted as if there were adults in this house, all for her own self-preservation.

Although the child had never said anything, the three youths were able to tell that their presence made Yaya very happy as she hurried to and fro in the house.

"If this war ends, I'll take her to the Starsibyl Sect," Starsibyl said.

Lu Yin was astonished. "You're quite kind."

Starsibyl did not reply.

"I'm also willing to take her to the Lingling clan," Ling Que said with a tinge of sadness in his voice.

Lu Yin instantly shot down that idea. "She won't go with you. You seem like a bad person."

"You're the bad person! I have my cheerleaders. Just go and ask any of them about Ling Que's reputation—which cheerleader won't support me?" Ling Que was furious.

Lu Yin rolled his eyes. "They still prefer money and Mu Rong."

Ling Que opened his mouth, but he found that he could not retort to Lu Yin. The comment also reminded Ling Que of an incident in the past that he did not want to think about.

Lu Yin also remembered that incident. Those cheerleaders were truly scary. He then thought of Big, Little Pao, Lulu Mavis, and his other friends. He wondered how all of them were doing. Lu Yin had too many friends from the Inniverse, and it was certain that some of them had died during this war. He just hoped that those few people had not died.

Lu Yin reminisced about the past and looked out the window. Eh?

He felt like he had just seen a familiar person.

Lu Yin looked over and carefully observed the familiar person's face. His mouth then fell open, and he rubbed his eyes with an expression of disbelief on his face.

At this moment, a procession of Sixth Mainland cultivators were moving down the street as they cleared a path for eight cultivators who were carrying a large sedan chair. There was a youth lounging atop the

sedan with his legs casually propped up. The young man was wearing a very comfortable expression as he munched on some fruit.

The youth was quite shifty-eyed, and with one look, one could tell that this person was a bad apple. He was just a Limiteer, but all of the surrounding cultivators treated him with a great deal of respect.

There was a young lord walking along beside the sedan, and he was the person who Lu Yin and company had seen slap the Cruiser while traveling to Starlight Island. At this moment, that young lord did not show any of his previous arrogance; rather, he was acting more like a sycophant. He licked his lips and smiled obsequiously while occasionally nodding his head and parroting what was said by the youth in the sedan. The young lord looked as though he was listening to the shift-eyed youth's instructions.

The more humble and respectful this young lord behaved, the happier the shifty-eyed youth became. He did his best to act reserved when he smiled, but he just could not hide his inner delight. He looked like a rat who had become an immortal; the happier he smiled, the more wretched he appeared.

Chapter 965: Meeting With An Old Friend

"I have to say Sixteen, you're already so old, so why are you still acting so recklessly? I heard that you slapped someone again," the shifty-eyed youth commented leisurely while snacking on some fruit.

The young man, Sixteen, answered in a respectful tone, saying, "Brother San, you truly know everything. You're aware of 90% of what happens in the Sixth Mainland and everything that happens here in the Fifth Mainland."

"Hahahaha, you're exaggerating. I just know what enters my eyes, hahahaha," the shifty-eyed youth replied with a merry laugh. At that moment, a flash of lightning startled him, and he accidentally dropped the piece of fruit that he had been holding. The fruit landed next to Sixteen's mouth, and the young lord quickly swallowed it. "Thank you for the gift, Brother San."

The shifty-eyed youth paused and then turned to look at Sixteen in a satisfied matter. "You'll definitely have a bright future. Don't worry, I'll remember you. When I meet with the elder, I'll definitely compliment you."

Sixteen was elated. "Thank you, Brother San. Thank you."

Lu Yin's mouth fell open as he watched the two in shock. Was that Xu San?

Starsibyl and Ling Que noticed Lu Yin's disbelief and followed his gaze.

"They're from the Swifteyes clan," Starsibyl said.

"The Swifteyes clan?" Ling Que's brows rose. His surname also started with Ling, and he did not like this coincidence.

Starsibyl continued. "The Swifteyes clan is from a World Imprinter Clan in the Blackblood Realm. Ancestor Swifteyes is second only to Ancestor Sightless in the Blackblood Realm, and he has almost reached the Cosmic Imprinter realm. He has an extremely high status and is even one of the Daosource Sect's Venerables. The clan absorbed an ancient bloodline which gave them the gift of double sight. According to the rumors, Ancestor Swifteyes has taken in a disciple with an innate gift of double sight,

which is probably that guy. If not, there's no way he would be treated so well since he's just a Limiteer. There's even an Enlighter protecting him."

"An Enlighter? I thought that everyone from the older generation had left!" Ling Que was shocked.

Starsibyl remained calm. "There are loopholes in every rule, and those powerhouses can still remain here as long as they remain undetected. The Sixth Mainland wouldn't completely pull their forces out. The Four Pirate Crews also won't simply ignore the situation, and the two sides are just restricting each other."

Ling Que felt envious. "I can't believe that he has an Enlighter as a bodyguard! If I hadn't been separated from my clan, I'd also have an Enlighter protecting me, but this guy just looks so despicable!"

Starsibyl turned towards Lu Yin and her eyes gleamed. "You know him?"

Ling Que looked at Lu Yin in surprise.

Lu Yin paused and then slowly answered, "He was my follower."

Their eyes went wide, especially Starsibyl, as she had a good understanding of just how powerful the Swifteyes clan truly was. She knew that Ancestor Swifteyes was someone who was comparable to Ancestor Sightless, but he was actually much younger than Ancestor Sightless, which showed just how talented Ancestor Swifteyes was. Basically, Ancestor Swifteyes was already halfway to the level of a Cosmic Imprinter.

The shifty-eyed youth was Ancestor Swifteyes' most important disciple, which gave him a high status. Yet that man had actually been Lu Yin's follower?

"Your follower? Then doesn't that mean that he's from our universe? How did he become Ancestor Swifteyes' disciple? Lu Yin, don't talk shit." Ling Que did not believe Lu Yin.

Starsibyl frowned. She stared into the distance as her eyes flickered.

Lu Yin sighed. "Maybe they just look alike, but I don't think things could be that coincidental, because my follower's innate gift was also double sight."

Ling Que was left speechless. "Then that person should be your follower. Is he close to you?"

Lu Yin thought back and suddenly realized that he had not seen Xu San for around ten years. They had not seen each other ever since Lu Yin had left the Great Yu Empire to participate in the Astral Combat Academy's entrance examination. He had never expected to run into Xu San like this, and Lu Yin could barely believe that his former follower was in the Cosmic Sea and that he had even become the disciple of a World Imprinter from the Sixth Mainland. What a unique destiny.

"It's time for a reunion," Starsibyl muttered.

Lu Yin's eyes lit up. "Yep, it's time."

The people from the Swifteyes clan carried Xu San down to the beach, and everyone who passed the procession looked at it with respect.

Xu San felt very relaxed. He had never had such a good time before. Back during Earth's apocalypse, he had been a mere bug. Then, he had finally found a boss and thought that he would be able to enjoy his life, but then that boss disappeared. After leaving Earth, Xu San had suddenly arrived in the Cosmic Sea and had made a living by sneaking around for a few years.

He had assumed that his life would continue on like that forever, but the Sixth Mainland's invasion caused all of the Inniverse's major powers to flee to the Cosmic Sea. In addition, the place where he had been living ended up being conquered by the Sixth Mainland within less than two years. Fortunately, Xu San was not a powerful person, and he had been spared with the condition that he would pray to the statues of the Sixth Mainland's powerhouses.

However, his circumstances had changed drastically on one sunny day that had been highlighted by the occasional lightning strike that always left him feeling nervous.

A new statue had appeared on the island that day. It was of an old man who looked powerful, but the most important thing was that the old man possessed the innate gift of double sight, just like Xu San.

When he saw that statue, Xu San had been stunned. He had become incomparably excited and had revealed his innate gift—perhaps he had done that because he hadn't been able to stand the continuous strain of suppressing his innate gift for all those years, going crazy in the end. Either way, after showing his innate gift, he had been discovered. This had become his new life.

Ancestor Swifteyes was actually Xu San's master! His most respected master! Although the people from the Inniverse wanted to defeat the Sixth Mainland, Xu San did not care since this conflict was none of his business. He had lived like a bug in the past, and he would be nice to whoever was nice to him.

After thinking of all this, Xu San bowed towards Ancestor Swifteyes' statue, looking very devout in his actions.

The cultivators from the Swifteyes clan looked at Xu San with respect, and they carried his sedan with greater vigour after seeing Xu San's demonstration of loyalty. Even though Xu San was from the Fifth Mainland, he had been accepted as a disciple of their ancestor, and he would thus have to change his blood and cultivate under an Imprinter in the future. At that time, he would truly belong to the Sixth Mainland. Also, he was the ancestor's only disciple, so he would be their master in the future.

Sixteen passed some more fruit up to Xu San with a smile.

Xu San laid back down. What a great life!

At that moment, the sedan shook as the leg of one of the cultivators carrying the sedan bent awkwardly, and the jostling almost caused Xu San to fall. Meanwhile, the Enlighter who was protecting Xu San suddenly opened his eyes wide. He took a step forward, but space congealed around him as a finger struck his forehead. It was Lu Yin's Dream Finger.

This Enlighter was a very powerful expert, and he was still able to react despite his circumstances, and he tried to dodge. However, even though he wanted to dodge, he was unable to do so—his rune lines had been erased at that exact moment, causing his movements to become incredibly slow. Right after, his forehead was struck by the finger, and he instantly fainted.

At the same time, Que's Mighty Slash appeared, causing the rest of the cultivators surrounding Xu San to fall unconscious.

This all took place in less than a second, ending unbelievably quickly. It left Xu San alone in a daze as his sedan crashed to the ground.

Lu Yin pulled his hand back with a stunned look. This was the skill of those from the Starsibyl Sect. He had followed Starsibyl's instructions and attacked the precise location that she had shared with him. Before Lu Yin had attacked, nobody had been there, but the Enlightener had moved as Lu Yin had attacked, appearing in the exact spot that Lu Yin had targeted.

This was an attack aimed with divination, and it was absolutely terrifying.

Ling Que's attack had also been planned by Starsibyl, and the path of his Que's Mighty Slash had been provided by Starsibyl, which was how Ling Que had managed to stun all of the cultivators surrounding Xu San.

Meanwhile, Starsibyl had been busy taking care of the machines that had been monitoring them the whole time.

Three people walked over from three different directions and approached Xu San. They had created a hole in Starlight Island's surveillance, which meant that Xu San had completely disappeared for a moment.

Xu San was frightened, and he was just about to scream when he heard Lu Yin's voice. "Long time no see, Xu San."

Xu San whirled around in shock and looked at Lu Yin in a daze. "Boss?"

Lu Yin smirked. "So you still remember me?"

Xu San suddenly leaped up and rushed towards Lu Yin while screaming, "Boss! You finally came back for me, Boss!"

Lu Yin took a step to the side, grabbed a hold of Xu San's back collar, and picked him up.

Xu San looked miserable. "Boss, you're finally here! I'd be dead if you hadn't come for me."

Lu Yin laughed. "Aren't you living a great life?"

"Nothing can compare to Earth. Boss, it's great to see you! Take me with you, Boss," Xu San wailed miserably.

Starsibyl coldly said, "Shut up and stop with the act."

Xu San blinked. He glanced from Lu Yin to Starsibyl as a wretched smile spread across his face. "Boss, this must be the Boss Lady. She's so beautiful and has a great body!"

Ling Que reflexively glanced over at Starsibyl.

Starsibyl's expression grew sharp, and an icy light flickered within her eyes.

Lu Yin then grabbed Xu San and quickly fled. Lu Yin was terrified that Starsibyl would kill Xu San out of rage, as nobody had ever been so rude to her before. A great figure? Probably!

“Is it fine for you to have destroyed those surveillance drones? They’ll definitely notice that,” Ling Que whispered to Starsibyl as he glanced at the ground.

Starsibyl answered calmly, “I didn’t destroy them, so nobody will notice.”

She then looked around the area and at the regular people who were nearby. These people did not actually matter since they were unable to do anything.

Ling Que stepped forward, but he tripped over something. He almost fell and only managed to catch himself after taking a few steps. Starsibyl snorted in response and then left.

Ling Que pouted, as this woman was too petty! He had just stolen a glance—did she really need to do that?

However, the methods of the Starsibyl Sect were truly powerful, as they could actually predict their opponents’ attacks. But just how did they do it? This woman had been on the Top Hundred Rankings before, but she had only had an average ranking. Soon after joining, she left the Top 100 Rankings, which had led many to assume that Starsibyl was relatively weak at fighting. Those people were all idiots, as the woman was unbelievably powerful.

She had been able to stall an Imprinter, which was something that not even the Ten Arbiters could do haphazardly. However, Starsibyl had accomplished it, which showed just how powerful she was.

Lu Yin did not choose to take Xu San to Yaya’s house, as he had no desire to involve the little girl in their troubles.

1 In this situation, the pronunciation of the name is Lingtong, but the meaning was more important than the sound. Ling Que is pissed that the surnames sound similar.

Chapter 966: Daosource Three Skies

Lu Yin carried Xu San over to a quiet location. Thunder rumbled above them as Xu San whined, “Boss, I missed you so much!”

Lu Yin snapped back when he saw Xu San’s expression, “Stop acting! You’re living such a great life. It’s definitely much better than when you were living on Earth.”

“But that’s my home! Who can forget their home?” Xu San said in an exaggerated fashion.

Lu Yin hesitated. “You want to go back rich, don’t you?!”

Xu San smiled in a bashful manner. “Boss, you know me the best. You’re the smartest!”

“Stop your nonsense. We want to know about the current situation in the Cosmic Sea,” Starsibyl stated coldly.

Xu San gave her a sly smile. “What do you want to know, Boss Lady?”

In a glacial tone, Starsibyl replied, “I’ll cut your tongue out if you ever speak to me like that again.”

Xu San quickly shut his mouth.

Ling Que walked over while rubbing his calf. "Talk quickly, as they're going to wake up soon."

Lu Yin turned back to Xu San. "Since you're willing to follow the people from the Sixth Mainland, I won't force you to come back, but you still have to help me."

Xu San grew serious. "Boss, you brought me away from Earth, so even if I betray the entire universe, I still wouldn't betray you. I'll tell you everything I know."

"What's the current situation like in the Cosmic Sea?" Lu Yin asked.

Xu San was instantly distressed. "Boss, I only know about Starlight Island's circumstances. I don't know what's happening with the other places."

"Then just tell me about this place."

Xu San thought for a moment and then said, "Starlight Island is one of the Sixth Mainland's main bases that they're using to invade the Cosmic Sea. Ever since the Sixth Mainland and the Fifth Mainland agreed to let the younger generation fight it out, many young experts from the Sixth Mainland have come to Starlight Island. Right now, there are about ten million Sixth Mainland cultivators on Starlight Island, and the strongest among them are probably the Realmlings, Nan Yanfei and Shang Rong."

The three people listening were moved when they heard about the Realmlings. Realmlings were experts who were comparable to the Ten Arbiters, and there were actually two of them on the island.

Lu Yin thought back to his different encounters, but he had never met Nan Yanfei, so Nan Yanfei would not be able to recognize Lu Yin. As for Shang Rong, Lu Yin had battled against that Realmling before, but the man might not recognize Lu Yin's face either.

"With the two Realmlings as their leaders, the younger generation powerhouses from the Progenitor of Bloodlines' territory have all gathered on Starlight Island. Of course, there are also powerhouses from the other territories, such as the Greenmen Duo from the Brahman Realm and some young experts from the Toolcasting family who are right behind Toolwielder. Oh right! Boss, I need to introduce you to someone: my fiancé, Little Xiang."

Xu San's expression grew even more lecherous when he mentioned this topic, which left Ling Que feeling quite annoyed. "Keep talking!"

"Oh, Little Xiang's name is actually He Xiang, but-"

"Shut up! I'm asking if any of the Daosource Three Skies have appeared!" Ling Que interrupted.

Xu San glared at Ling Que. "Who the hell are you? Even my boss didn't interrupt me, so how is it your turn?"

Ling Que arched a brow as his Que's Mighty Slash appeared, revolving around him. "It seems like you want to test the power of my Que's Mighty Slash."

Xu San was shocked. “Que’s Mighty Slash? You’re Ling Que? Tch, you’re just a nobody. Don’t even talk to me until you get the title of King! My master is Venerable Swifteyes, and my fiancé is the heir of the Swifteyes clan.”

Ling Que grew furious. “What did you just say?”

Lu Yin helplessly interjected, “Alright, stop fighting.” He then looked at Xu San. “Have any of the Daosource Three Skies appeared?”

Xu San shook his head. “Not yet, but they’ll definitely come here.”

“Why?” Lu Yin asked.

Xu San proceeded to explain, “The war in the Inniverse has gone on for a few years, and although people keep saying that the Daosource Three Skies will join, the older powerhouses are still more powerful than the Daosource Three Skies. That’s why they haven’t joined the war yet, as their participation would have been meaningless. However, since the older powerhouses have left the Cosmic Sea to let the younger generation duke things out, the three of them will definitely show up since they’re the Sixth Mainland’s strongest young experts. In fact, they’ll probably get here pretty soon.”

“Who are the Daosource Three Skies?” Ling Que asked out of curiosity.

Lu Yin was curious as well since the Daosource Three Skies were like the Ten Arbiters—everyone had heard of them, but nobody knew exactly who they were.

To the Sixth Mainland’s younger generation, the Daosource Three Skies were truly the sky. They were the heirs of the Sixth Mainland’s Daosource Sect, and they were also the ones who were the most likely to become Progenitors of the mainland in the future: they were the sky, and they were the true heirs of the Progenitors.

Even Xu San grew serious when speaking of the Daosource Three Skies. “Actually, I don’t know much about them. Although everyone in the Sixth Mainland is curious about them, nobody really knows much about them since they don’t interact with outsiders. Even Little Xiang doesn’t know much about them.”

After pausing for a moment, Xu San continued, saying, “The heir of the Progenitor of Bloodlines is Zhi Yi, and although she’s known to have a secret technique, I don’t know anything specific about her. I’ve only heard people talk about it since someone once challenged her before, attempting to take her position within the Daosource Three Skies. That person was completely crazy, but he was still easily defeated.

“The heir of the Progenitor of Combat is Wu Taibai, and he has both an innate gift and a secret technique. I’ve also heard that he likes to roam around the Sixth Mainland in disguise. A lot of people have met him, but most never even realize that he’s one of the Daosource Three Skies. Apparently, he’s also very easygoing.

“The heir of the Progenitor of Secret Art is the most mysterious because there’s no information about him, and nobody has mentioned him before either. The Greenmen Duo don’t know anything about him either.”

Lu Yin paused. The heir of the Progenitor of Bloodlines—Zhi Yi, the heir of the Progenitor of Combat—Wu Taibai, and the heir of the Progenitor of Secret Arts; these were the three heirs of the three Progenitors.

Lu Yin was the most familiar with Wu Taibai. Just like Xu San had mentioned, that person liked to disguise himself as a normal cultivator and wander around. Lu Yin had even explored the ruins of the Daosource Sect with Wu Taibai, and that person was very good at acting. If he hadn't bumped into Nightking Zhenwu, Lu Yin would have never realized that his companion was actually Wu Taibai.

Wu Taibai had forced Nightking Zhenwu to use the Arrow Progenitor's battle technique, which was also an indication of how powerful Wu Taibai was.

The Daosource Three Skies were probably even more powerful than the Ten Arbiters.

"What other information do you have, aside from the Daosource Three Skies?" Ling Que asked.

Xu San became annoyed, and he glanced at Lu Yin and Starsibyl. Seeing that they both looked ready to hit him, Xu San continued. "Actually, there are a lot of experts from the Sixth Mainland, and even the heirs of the Imprinter clans are comparable to the top people on the Top 100 Rankings. As for the heirs of Cosmic or World Imprinters, those people are even more powerful. If not for the experts from the Neoverse, the Cosmic Sea would have been conquered long ago.

"Now that the war has reached this stage, both sides have come to a consensus about the magnetic poles. The thunder zone has a unique aspect in that there are positive and negative poles scattered throughout the zone. Positive poles attract lightning while the negative poles repel it. According to the rumors, during ancient times, there was an expert who split the poles into five pieces and then placed them in various parts of the thunder zone. This allowed the attractive and repulsive force of the poles to control the lightning and keep it in the sky. Otherwise, if the lightning falls down, even Enlighters will die.

"Cultivators from both the Sixth Mainland and the Innerverse are fighting over control of these poles so that they can draw the lighting into the opposing zones and destroy the other side. This is the simplest way to end the battle, but the price is that the thunder zone will descend into chaos once again. However, this is also what the Innerverse wants. As for the Sixth Mainland, they are confident in their ability to defeat the Innerverse, so they don't care about the aftermath. Anyways, no matter what happens, once the poles start moving, the thunder zone will be constantly blasted by lightning, though it will take some time for the lightning to return to its previous power."

Starsibyl coldly asked, "So are you saying that the Sixth Mainland is confident in taking control of all the poles and eliminating the cultivators of the Fifth Mainland?"

Xu San nodded. "The Fifth Mainland's the same. Both sides want to destroy the other, but it's actually not that easy. Some people have guessed that once the poles are moved, there will still be some time before the lightning strikes destroy the losing side. They are doing this more to determine who will control the thunder zone by who is able to seize control of more poles. Similar things will happen in the other areas of the Cosmic Sea, and they'll each have their own way of determining the winning side."

“When are they going to start fighting for these poles?” Lu Yin asked.

Xu San replied, “It should be sometime soon. I don’t know who coordinated the agreement with the Fifth Mainland, but they probably want to determine the winner of this war by fighting for the poles. One of the Daosource Three Skies will probably appear before the fighting starts.”

“This sounds interesting—fighting for poles?” Ling Que was excited.

Xu San rolled his eyes. “With your ability, you won’t even be able to get near any of the poles. Stop dreaming. At best, you’ll just be cannon fodder.”

“What did you say? You’re not even cannon fodder!” Ling Que roared.

Xu San arrogantly raised his head. “I don’t need to fight since there will be people protecting me.”

Ling Que gritted his teeth in anger.

Starsibyl kept staring at Xu San and then suddenly asked, “Where are you headed?”

Xu San’s eyes flashed. “I was headed out to take a stroll since I’m bored.”

“Really? I can foresee that there will be danger during your trip, but we can protect you,” Starsibyl said.

Lu Yin arched a brow and then glared at Xu San. “Where are you going?”

Xu San put on a pitiful expression and looked over at Lu Yin. “Boss, I’ve already told you everything, so please let me go! I have never harmed anyone from the Inniverse.”

Lu Yin sighed and looked at Xu San in a serious manner. “No matter what, you’re still from Earth, and we come from the same planet. Thus, you should try to help us.”

Xu San hesitated.

Ling Que bent a finger as his blade rotated around the fingertip. “Don’t even bother trying to talk to him. He looks like a spy, so we should just cut off his arms.”

Xu San glared at Ling Que. “You look like a spy! Your whole family are spies!”

“Do you want to die?” Ling Que bellowed.

Lu Yin casually shoved Ling Que away and turned to look back at Xu San. “Help me this one time, and we can pretend to not know each other in the future: you’ll live your life, and I’ll live mine. If we meet on the battlefield, then I’ll try not to hurt you. How does that sound?”

Xu San answered helplessly, “Do I have a choice?”

He then bitterly said, “I finally found someone to support me, so I hope that I don’t die.”

Lu Yin patted Xu San on the shoulder. “The Sixth Mainland might not win, as the Fifth Mainland isn’t as simple as you believe it to be. By helping us, you’re also making a backup plan for yourself, as you might be able to return in the future.”

Xu San nodded. “Actually, I was already invited by Shang Rong to join the pre-war meeting.”

All three people were interested in this: Shang Rong was a Realmling.

“A pre-war meeting?” Ling Que asked.

Xu San explained, “Boss, I’ll be honest. Both sides have agreed to decide the winner of this area by fighting for the poles, so this pre-war meeting is to determine the roles for how we’ll be fighting for the poles. The most important thing is that one of the Daosource Three Skies, Zhi Yi, might show up for the meeting.”

Chapter 967: Greenmen Duo

After hearing Xu San’s words, Lu Yin and Starsibyl exchanged glances of surprise.

Ling Que was furious. “You bastard, you just said that you didn’t know when the Daosource Three Skies would show up!”

Xu San rolled his eyes. “Might, might! Don’t you understand?”

Lu Yin quietly asked, “Is this pre-war meeting being convened by Shang Rong or Zhi Yi?”

Xu San shook his head. “I’m not sure, but most likely, it’s Zhi Yi. That woman is one of the Daosource Three Skies, and according to the rumors, it’s not combat that she’s the most skilled at, but rather strategy. Little Xiang also mentioned that Zhi Yi has been obsessed with war strategies since a young age. She enjoys schemes, is proficient at defeating a large force with a smaller one, and is extremely gifted at just about anything involving strategy. This time, the fight for the poles will be very important, so it wouldn’t be strange at all for her to show up.”

Starsibyl’s expression grew cold. “You just told us that you didn’t know anything at all about the Daosource Three Skies.”

Lu Yin glared at her. “Let him finish.”

Starsibyl averted her gaze.

Xu San swallowed his saliva. “There are certain things that can’t be said, and you have to understand them intuitively.”

“Cut the bullshit! What you’re really saying is that one of the Daosource Three Skies, Zhi Yi, will come here, that she’ll be overseeing this fight for the poles herself, and that she will also be participating in the battle herself, correct?” Lu Yin asked.

Xu San’s eyes flitted about, and he carefully scanned the area. “That’s just your guesses. I didn’t tell you anything.”

Lu Yin muttered to himself. This was very disturbing news—nobody knew just how strong the Daosource Three Skies truly were. Even worse, the woman who was likely to show up was gifted at strategy, and Lu Yin had already learned how difficult it was to go against such people. For example, the Great Eastern Alliance had had an overwhelming advantage over Armament Weave, and logically, Armament Weave should have been easily bulldozed over. However, Wei Rong had actually managed to stall the attackers for two years. In another case, Wang Wen had overseen Ironblood Weave, and his deep strategies had

propelled him to the top of the Astral Beast Domain's must-kill list. This was the influence that strategic geniuses had.

Such people were many times more frightening than powerful cultivators, and they were also more difficult to deal with due to their intelligence.

Why did it seem that he bumped into such people wherever he went? Lu Yin felt helpless.

"Take us to the strategy meeting," Starsibyl ordered.

Xu San blinked awkwardly. "I've already told you everything I should."

Starsibyl stared at him. "I don't want to repeat myself."

"We won't be discovered, right?" Ling Que felt uneasy with this plan.

Starsibyl's eyes flickered. "No. There are quite a few people who will be attending this event, so we won't be discovered as long as we don't attract too much attention. The outcome that I've divined is actually pretty good."

Lu Yin glanced at her from the corner of his eye. Divined outcome?

Xu San looked at Lu Yin in a pleading manner. "Boss..."

Lu Yin looked over at Starsibyl, who calmly said, "Starlight Island is surrounded on all sides, and it will be extremely difficult for us to force our way out. But if we join this war meeting, then we might be able to escape by joining the fight for these poles."

That sounded quite reasonable, and Lu Yin let out a breath as he looked at Xu San. "One last thing: help us finish this since you've already started helping us."

Xu San was about to cry. It had not been easy for him to obtain his current status, and he had suffered quite miserably in the process. The moment these three people were discovered and taken in for questioning, even Xu San's master, Ancestor Swifteyes, would flay him alive. Xu San did not dare to do such a thing.

Ling Que leaned over and quietly threatened Xu San, saying, "If you don't take us, then we can just go ourselves, but only after we rip off your face and use it as a mask, hehehe."

Xu San was both furious and terrified.

Lu Yin also had no choice in this matter. The Sixth Mainland had sent their younger generation to Starlight Island, though members of the older generation would still be around as well. Thus, it was impossible for these three youths to escape from this island without confronting the island's full strength. They could only join the teams that would be fighting for the poles if they wanted to leave. Also, Lu Yin wanted to see for himself just how terrifying these Daosource Three Skies were.

In fact, regardless of whether he had to face the Daosource Three Skies or the Realmings, Lu Yin was not too concerned. He had even exchanged blows with an Imprinter before, so no matter how powerful the Daosource Three Skies were, in Lu Yin's mind, they could not possibly surpass the strength of an Imprinter.

After confronting the various threats leveled against him, Xu San was left with no other choice. He could only agree to take the three with him into the strategy meeting.

Truthfully, calling it a strategy meeting was just a social nicety. It was actually a gathering of the young elites who were on Starlight Island. Youths were often competitive, and they liked to fight to gain an advantage against each other. Also, many of them wanted to look good in front of one of the Daosource Three Skies, especially since there was a chance that the only female of the Daosource Three Skies might attend, and she was obviously someone whom countless men longed for.

To prevent Xu San from betraying them partway through, Starsibyl used some of her techniques on him to guard them against any possible betrayal.

Xu San had already resigned himself to his fate. Once the other Sixth Mainland cultivators who had been knocked unconscious came to, he easily placated them before escorting Lu Yin's trio to another island that was close to Starlight Island.

Of the three youths, Lu Yin and Ling Que did not draw too much attention, but Starsibyl was just too attractive, and her face easily caught a great deal of attention.

However, Starsibyl had her own mysterious techniques. Although they did not know what she did, and despite her face looking the same, she had somehow lost her bewitching beauty. At first glance, people would feel that she was not very attractive, and her countenance would actually seem more average than the longer one looked at her.

Lu Yin was really taken aback by the woman's methods, and he suddenly thought of the Starsibyl Sect. He decided to take another look at it when he had the time.

Divination was already very mystical to begin with, and when the various strange methods that they used were added on, the Starsibyl Sect only became more and more interesting to Lu Yin.

The only thing that left the three feeling uncomfortable was Yaya. Although the little girl had acted strong and told innocent lies about how she was waiting for her parents to return, that innocence only made them care for the girl even more.

Lu Yin, Ling Que, and Starsibyl—all of them had decided that, if there was even a small possibility, they would return to take the little girl away. A person would be lonely if they lived on Starlight Island by themselves, even if they had inherited great wealth from their parents. Yaya was living in such a difficult situation that normal people could not even imagine what she had to deal with.

The sea was calm as they traveled along, and the passing Sixth Mainland cultivators would occasionally respectfully bow to Xu San once they saw him.

All of the Sixth Mainland cultivators that Lu Yin had met thus far had either been visiting the Daosource Sect's ruins or been a part of the Outerverse invasion force. Thus, those who had fought against Lu Yin thus far were about as strong as Autumnfrost Qing, which meant that most of the Sixth Mainland cultivators who Lu Yin had seen so far were elites despite the fact that the average cultivator from the mainland was much weaker.

They walked across the surface of the sea, but every cultivator who they encountered bowed to Xu San without exception. These people were all bottom-rung cultivators, and the procession met more than a thousand such people, none of whom could even compare to Sixteen's noble status.

The higher one stood, the further they could see. In other words, what one saw was largely determined by the heights from which they viewed things. It was a matter of level and perspective.

Lu Yin followed along behind the sedan with Ling Que and Starsibyl beside him. The old Enlighter who was protecting Xu San would occasionally glance at the three, but he did not say much since Xu San had already settled things with the powerhouse.

Sixteen continued to flatter Xu San, but Xu San was not as stimulated as before, which left Sixteen feeling quite lost.

Sixteen was ranked sixteenth within the Swifteyes Clan, and he definitely was not someone who could be considered weak. He actually held a position that was not much lower than the Swifteyes Clan's primary heir, and Sixteen could even be considered a genius among the elites of the Sixth Mainland. Regarding his personal strength, Sixteen could compare to the top few rankers of the Inniverse's Top 100 Rankings, and the youth naturally had his own arrogance, such as when he had slapped that Cruiser while traveling to Starlight Island. However, Sixteen wanted to climb even higher, which was the motivation behind his ingratiating attitude towards Xu San, as he was absolutely ready to give and take.

Another burst of lightning exploded in the sky, much to Xu San's annoyance. The presence of Lu Yin's trio traveling behind Xu San also left him feeling quite agitated, so he simply decided to close himself off.

Sixteen felt that something was strange, as he did not know what was going on with the person whom he was planning on following.

Rather close to where Xu San's procession was making its way, two strange-looking silhouettes slowly walked across the surface of the sea. No matter what angle the two were viewed from, it was clear that they were very odd. One was exceptionally fat while the other was skinny to the point where he could have been the rotund figure's arm.

Quite a few nearby people saw the two young men, and everyone either felt afraid or amused when they saw the contrasting pair. However, not a single person spoke to the duo, and some even blatantly showed their revulsion.

"The lighting up above is too jarring, and it's even a bit frightening. Fat Bro, are you scared?"

"No, we aren't even afraid of Realmings, so why would we be scared of some mere lighting? Skinny Bro, are you afraid?"

"A little."

"Actually, I'm also a bit scared."

"Fat Bro, you must protect me."

"Rest assured, Skinny Bro. We are brothers forever, and Fat Bro will be your shield."

“Thank you, Fat Bro. Right, Fat Bro, it looks like you got even fatter recently.”

“Is that so? Hahaha, thanks, Skinny Bro! Actually, you seem to have gotten skinnier as well.”

“Really? Thanks, Fat Bro! We really are brothers.”

“Brothers forever.”

...

As the fat and skinny duo approached, Xu San’s group also overheard their conversation.

Lu Yin’s expression grew rather strange; was this some kind of joke?

Xu San looked over, but he rolled his eyes when he saw the two youths. “Stupid Greenmen Duo.”

Ling Que moved over next to Lu Yin. “No matter how I look at them, those two seem like idiots. Still, that skinny one kind of looks like Mu Rong to me.”

Lu Yin glanced at Ling Que. “You seem to have quite the grudge with Mu Rong.”

Ling Que sneered, but he did not answer. The truth was that he still could not let go of what had happened with his cheerleaders.

“Eh? Fat Bro, look. Isn’t that Wretched Xu?” The voice in the distance grew louder, as if the speaker was afraid that Xu San’s group would not hear him.

“Sure is. Wretched Xu’s here.”

Xu San grew furious. “Stupid Greenmen Duo, I didn’t do anything to you!”

“Haha! Fat Bro, Wretched Xu has spoken, but he seems to only become more wretched by the minute.”

“Skinny Bro, we can’t insult others when they’re already so wretched, so don’t add any more scars to such a person’s soul. Come on, apologize.”

“Oh, okay. Sorry, Wretched Xu, we shouldn’t tell the truth.”

“Yes, Wretched Xu, speaking honestly is our shortcoming, so we’ll work on that. Actually, you don’t really look that wretched, just a bit embarrassing.”

“Fat Bro, your words are too subtle. Can he understand?”

“Maybe not. Given his looks, he can’t be very smart.”

...

The group of people furiously glared as the fat and skinny youths continued to saunter off into the distance. The two spoke non-stop from beginning to end, and they never gave anyone else the slightest opportunity to interrupt them.

Even though Xu San wanted to retort, he had not been able to.

Ling Que stared at the two men with admiration. He suddenly recalled the time when he had convinced that Sixth Mainland cultivator to commit suicide. That had been the most glorious moment of his life, and he only felt that it was a pity that he had not been able to repeat that feat.

Xu San had become so angry that his entire body started trembling, but there was nothing he could do against those two youths. Although the fat and skinny pair seemed stupid, anyone who assumed that they were weak would end up encountering terrible misfortune. On their own, the two idiots were not very impressive, but when they worked together, even a Realmking would have a difficult time.

“Blargh, what bad luck.” Xu San glared fiercely at the departing duo.

Starlight Island was not just a single island, as the thunder region endlessly spread out around Starlight Island, and there were another dozen islands within the region. The strategy meeting had been arranged to take place on one of the other islands, and the closer the group drew to the meeting location, the more people they met, and every single person they saw was a youth.

Quite a few of the people called out to Xu San, and it was clear that his position was quite high.

Although most people could not determine others’ strength by observing their rune lines, there was still a very clear distinction in status between people. The stronger the person was, the higher their position would be. Actually, it would be more accurate to say that, the higher the position, the stronger one would be. This was because a large portion of the Sixth Mainland cultivators’ strength came from their imprints, and the stronger their Imprinter was, the stronger their imprint would be. Thus, the strength of one’s Imprinter was indicative of their importance.

With Xu San leading the way, nobody dared to investigate the identities of the people in his group. This allowed Lu Yin’s trio to successfully infiltrate the strategy meeting despite Xu San’s guards being left outside of the island.

Chapter 968: Battle News

Naturally, Sixteen was also qualified to attend the strategy meeting. He gave Lu Yin’s trio a strange look, and he seemed to want to ask something, but after seeing Xu San’s expression, he ultimately decided not to speak.

The island where the meeting was taking place was extremely busy, as the gathering had been called in Shang Rong’s name on top of it being the strategy meeting for the battle for the poles. Thus, all of the elites in the nearby region had flocked to this island. However, there were bound to be conflicts when so many people gathered in one place.

For example, there was that fat and skinny duo. On their way to the island, they had instigated a great deal of resentment, as the two idiots continuously shot their mouths off, saying anything that they wanted. They had even caused Xu San to be disgusted, let alone others.

In some sense, they could be seen as quite awesome due to the fact that they had not been beaten to death yet.

Xu San led Lu Yin’s trio and Sixteen to the center of the island, where there was a tall obelisk towering high into the sky.

“The top of that obelisk is where the true elites will gather, and basically, only the heirs of Imprinter families can participate. These people who we’ve passed by so far can all just be ignored,” Xu San loudly explained as he led the way.

Quite a few people in the area had just been aggravated by the Greenmen Duo, and when Xu San passed by, stirring up more trouble, many of their faces turned purple once again.

Sixteen immediately moved over to flatter Xu San while also conveniently remembering to mock the nearby people a little.

Lu Yin quite admired the fact that Sixteen had also managed to not be beaten to death yet, not to mention the fat and skinny pair.

“Little Xiang!” After their group had walked quite a ways across the island, Xu San suddenly hollered out, startling Lu Yin and the others quite badly.

Quite a few others around them also jumped in surprise.

A bit away, a group of people had appeared around the corner, led by a petite girl who had a beautiful smile. There were quite a few youths in the group, and the girl was obviously from a powerful family.

All of the people in the group had been walking along and minding their own business, but when Xu San shouted, the face of the girl in the lead darkened. When the rest of the group members looked over, all of their expressions changed as well.

Xu San jogged over to the group with a pandering smile plastered on his face as he moved next to the girl in the lead. “Little Xiang, where’ve you been all this time? Brother Xu has been looking for you.”

The girl’s face became extremely ugly, but she replied in a gentle voice, saying, “I went out for a stroll.”

“Stroll?” Xu San maintained the same cajoling tone. “Do you know how dangerous this place is? There are enemies everywhere as well as a bunch of guys who are happy to take advantage of their family’s influence. It’s very dangerous for you to wander around like this! Little Xiang, please promise Brother Xu that you won’t walk around by yourself next time. You should know...”

Xu San’s saliva sprayed everywhere as he talked, which caused many of the nearby people to glance over. The girl’s expression grew uglier by the second, but she refused to allow herself to blow up.

The people around her felt equally helpless, though they also seemed accustomed to this situation.

Lu Yin and the others walked over closer, where they stood silently at the side, watching Xu San speak and looking like nothing more than his henchmen.

After speaking for a while, Xu San finally wound down. “Little Xiang, let’s go! We’ll go to the strategy meeting together.”

The girl did not answer him, and she instead silently started walking ahead. Xu San licked his lips and continued to talk as he walked by her side. All of the handsome young men in the area thought that Xu San was thoroughly irritating to see, but they all held their tempers back, and no one spoke up.

As Ancestor Swifteyes' disciple, Xu San enjoyed an extremely high status, and there were very few who dared to speak out against him.

Ling Que quietly commented, "Just one bad apple spoils the whole bunch."

...

The obelisk could be seen from a fair distance due to how high up it shot into the sky. It did not seem very large, but as one approached it, they would quickly realize that the obelisk was actually quite thick and that there was an entire courtyard at the very top.

This courtyard had once belonged to the island's master, but during the Sixth Mainland's invasion, the former master had died. The courtyard, however, had been perfectly preserved, and it was currently occupied by Shang Rong.

Lu Yin and the others followed Xu San as he ascended the obelisk, but then, Xu San chased after Little Xiang and ignored the three people following him.

The courtyard was massive, and there was exquisite food and liquor scattered all about as well as quite a few servers shuttling about to and fro.

Cultivators sought out one another to chat, and the atmosphere was completely identical to that of a wine reception.

Sixteen followed behind Xu San, as he was determined to stay close to him.

Starsibyl also went her own way.

Ling Que's eyes lit up, and he went off on his own as well.

Lu Yin had no particular goal in mind, and so he decided to simply enjoy the food.

Actually, he had always had a bit of an interest in gourmet food. He still remembered how Silver's ambition had been to be a gourmet, and that thought suddenly made Lu Yin wonder where Silver was at the moment, or if he was even still alive.

Lu Yin still felt uncomfortable whenever he recalled Silver's detestable, sly smile.

When Lu Yin thought of Silver, he also recalled Xia Luo. Opposed to Silver, Lu Yin really did not know much about what Xia Luo might be doing.

Lu Yin had been separated from his old friends for several years, and he did not even know when he might meet them again.

"Did you hear? The Fifth Mainland's Champions' Stage granted Hua Xiao the title of King Xiao, and he is currently fighting against our Starlight Island," someone discussed, as people were exchanging rumors all around.

Lu Yin calmly listened to the surrounding conversations as he ate.

“The Fifth Mainland doesn’t amount to much, but those who were given the title of King or Queen are all very powerful. Hua Xiao is reportedly a true disciple of the Neoverse’s Cosmic Sect, and he’s extremely powerful. He’s even able to fight on par with the Realmings.”

“It’s a bit strange to talk about this. The Fifth Mainland has been suppressed by us all this time, but they’re never been short of experts, especially their Neoverse. That place has way too many people who’ve been given a title of King or Queen. Each of them are strong enough to go up against a Realming, and their strength is not inferior to a heir from an Imprinter family.”

“We have more powerhouses than them, so we can deal with however many of them show up. Besides, only around half of our younger generation has joined the invasion so far with the other half not having even shown up yet. Rumor has it that Wu Taibai of the Daosource Three Skies still doesn’t intend to come over.”

“It’s not just Wu Taibai—many disciples from our Daosource Sect don’t intend to come out, and the main force of the invasion is still the nine realms.”

...

Lu Yin’s gaze flickered, and he suddenly remembered that the Sixth Mainland had its own Daosource Sect, which naturally had its own disciples. At this moment, the Innerverse was fighting against experts from the Sixth Mainland’s Nine Realms, as the experts from their Daosource Sect actually had not even appeared yet. However, even if the Daosource Sect’s disciples did show up, they would not be able to surpass the strength of the Realmings, and at best, they would only be on the same level.

Still, it was terrifying to realize that the Sixth Mainland was still holding back. The number of heirs of Imprinter families in the Nine Realms combined with the Daosource Sect’s disciples definitely surpassed the number of elites that the Innerverse could send out, and any more reinforcements from the Sixth Mainland would crush the Innerverse.

The strength of the Sixth Mainland surpassed the Fifth Mainland’s by far too much.

There were various discussions taking place all around, most of it was regarding the thunder region, and listening to them allowed Lu Yin to gather a great deal of information. The main forces opposing the Sixth Mainland in the contest for the thunder region was a former crew from the Cosmic Sea, a few other crews that had come together, and the reinforcements from the Soulseal Flowzone who had withdrawn to the Cosmic Sea, such as members of the Lingling clan.

The Ten Arbiters’ Ling Gong was actually going to be fighting against Shang Rong.

When Lu Yin heard the news about Ling Gong, his expression became rather strange. These two people really seemed to share some sort of fate; even in the Daosource Sect’s ruins, Ling Gong and Shang Rong had fought against each other several times. Now, they were going against each other in the Cosmic Sea once again. Would they fight until they fell in love?

“Speaking of which, the Fifth Mainland’s Ten Arbiters are really ruthless. They don’t have any imprints or bloodlines, but they can match up to the Realmings.”

“Shh, don’t talk about that! Realming Shang Rong always gets upset when people say things like that. In fact, he’s always been the one to hold the disadvantage.”

“No way?! The Realmings can actually be overpowered?”

“It seems like it. Someone personally confirmed that Realming Shang Rong was beaten by the Ten Arbiters’ White Knight. What’s more, it did not seem like they were evenly matched, as one of them was just stalling, and apparently, it was Realming Shang Rong who was trying to delay White Knight.”

“Wha- that’s just too fierce! Where did these freaks come from in the Fifth Mainland?”

“Haven’t you heard? The Fifth Mainland’s Champions’ Stage’s highest title that it can grant is Arbiter, but even until now, nobody has received that title. Whoever gets that title will be able to challenge the Ten Arbiters. Not even those crazy experts from the Neoverse can openly challenge the Ten Arbiters. Those ten are just freaks.”

“It seems like only the Daosource Three Skies can keep them under control.”

“Not necessarily, as the Ten Arbiters also has stronger and weaker members, just like the Realmings. Realming Shang Rong might not be able to compare to them, but that doesn’t mean that the other Realmings are the same. Let’s just wait and see.”

...

“Bro, I heard that you were trashed by some guy called Avery from the Fifth Mainland? Hahaha!”

“Bullshit! I’m the one who beat him up!”

“Stop playing, a bunch of people saw it all. If not for your power vessel letting you escape, your body probably would have already turned cold.”

“Don’t worry. Next time I meet him, I’ll definitely take care of him.”

...

“It seems like someone issued a bounty for people from the Mavis family. Have you guys bumped into any of them?”

“Once. That woman’s strength is just scary. Honestly, it wouldn’t be too bad if it was just her, but when we fought, she actually brought out a tamed sea turtle from the Cosmic Sea, and it nearly swallowed me whole!”

“The Mavis family is really strange. Supposedly, no one has killed anyone from the Mavis family so far.”

...

“Actually, this thunder region is comparatively peaceful. I’ve heard that quite a lot of strange powerhouses have appeared in the other regions. Some call themselves deities, others drive around spacecraft, knocking people around, and there are even some bastards who keep releasing smoke. There have even been rumors of a brothel flying through space.”

“I’ve heard about that too. Apparently, there are also some places that even have dead people riding skeletal horses.”

“Right? There are also some who know secret techniques, and it’s not just one or two people at that. The Fifth Mainland is getting stranger and stranger.”

“Not exactly. Those people are basically all from the Fifth Mainland’s Neoverse, which is where their strongest cultivators have gathered. When the Progenitor of Combat acted, it was to deal with the Neoverse with one strike,” someone explained.

“Unfortunately, the Progenitor failed, and that fight even caused the cosmic phenomenon to show up.”

“No matter how powerful the Neoverse is, if our Nine Realms act together, then we’d be able to easily take care of them. Even if we don’t consider the other powerhouses, if each realm just sends out one Cosmic Imprinter each, then that would be nine powerhouses who each have a power level of more than 1,000,000. Beyond them, we also have Empyrean Imprinters and our Progenitors. All evil monsters would be slain before them. What a pity.”

...

“I believe that the first one that should be dealt with from the Fifth Mainland is the Starsibyl Sect. There are reports that those people can even divine the future, and apparently, they have a bunch of blind people.”

“Just because they can divine things doesn’t mean that they’re blind.”

“If they aren’t blind, then how can they do any divinations?”

“That’s reasonable.”

...

Lu Yin leisurely sipped a drink. Listening to all the various conversations taking place around him allowed him to gain a better understanding of what was happening in the Cosmic Sea. He also felt that everything he was hearing was completely bizarre, even without listening to the opinions of these Sixth Mainland cultivators.

Spacecraft that bumped into people, others who referred to themselves as deities, people who released smoke, flying brothels, and blind people who could perform divinations. It all sounded like something from a chaotic dream.

However, the overall situation did not sound too terrible for the Fifth Mainland, and Lu Yin also did not have a clear understanding of what lay within the Neoverse. Ah, that was right—he could try asking Starsibyl.

After thinking about it, Lu Yin looked around for Starsibyl, but he could not find her. If that woman did not want others to find her, then very few would be able to.

Lu Yin did not find Starsibyl, but he did see Ling Que scolding some people.

Lu Yin suddenly felt a headache develop.

Xu San immediately moved over and did his best to persuade Ling Que to back down.

“You’re trying to set me up!” Xu San barked.

Ling Que rolled his eyes. "Whoever's got the moves can win the women. Who is that guy? He actually dared to snatch my woman!"

"His father's an Imprinter," Xu San fiercely retorted.

Ling Que pursed his lips; an Imprinter was an Envoy. He grudgingly responded, "It will take a very long time for me to realize my dreams of reforming my cheerleader squad."

As Lu Yin casually picked up a plate of delicious food to munch on, he glanced at the door. Then, he immediately whirled back around and ducked his head as low as he could.

Chapter 969: Crimson Servant And The Lifesource Tokens

When Xu San saw Lu Yin's behavior, his heart skipped a beat. "Boss, did you recognize someone?"

Lu Yin coughed. "Don't talk to me."

Xu San's face went pale, and he glanced around the room.

A group of people had just entered the room. At the front was Di Luo, and he was followed by a group of young cultivators from the Bloodburn Realm. Noticeably, among them was Autumnfrost Qing.

Lu Yin had not expected people from the Bloodburn Realm to appear.

The Sixth Mainland was not internally united, and the Bloodburn and Blackblood Realms often waged war against each other. Thus, the grievances between the two sides were quite deep.

"Oh, aren't these the stray dogs from the Bloodburn Realm? Why have they run to a territory that belongs to our Blackblood Realm?" someone mocked savagely.

"They wanted to use the strength of just their single realm to take control of the entire Outerverse. But after failing at that, they've come to the Innaverse and want to steal some contributions from us."

"Actually, the Fifth Mainland's Outerverse doesn't even have the strength to resist a single realm. However, they still managed to fail. It's truly a feat worthy of the Bloodburn Realm."

...

Di Luo and the others with him all maintained their calm expressions. They had come to the Innaverse from the Sixth Mainland, and along the way, they had suffered so much ridicule that they had stopped caring long ago.

At this time, the void distorted a bit, and Realmling Shang Rong suddenly appeared.

A Realmling was the strongest member of the younger generation within an entire realm, and Shang Rong's appearance caused everyone to go silent.

"The war between the mainlands means that we should be united against a single enemy. There shall be no more such ridicule, and any who break this rule will immediately leave this place," Shang Rong commanded as his gaze swept across the entire gathering.

Everyone who he glanced at felt their scalps go numb, and no one dared to talk back to him.

Di Luo had an appreciative look on his face, and he slowly bowed. "Thank you, Realmling Shang Rong."

Shang Rong nodded. He was the Realmling of the Blackblood Realm, and he had fought against the Bloodburn Realm for many years. Thus, he also held a deep loathing for the people of that realm. However, he could not openly show such feelings, as he needed to demonstrate the open mind that a Realmling should possess. "We welcome everyone who has come to support Starlight Island."

Di Luo and the others immediately expressed their gratitude.

The arrival of Di Luo and the others caused the entire gathering's atmosphere to change. Although the mockery had been stopped by Shang Rong with no one else daring to mock the newcomers, the way people looked at the youths from the Bloodburn Realm still was not quite right.

Lu Yin tried his best to hide, as he did not want to be noticed by Autumnfrost Qing.

He randomly snatched up a plate of delicacies, but another hand also reached for it. It was a very fat hand, and it belonged to the fatty of the Greenmen Duo.

The fatty looked at Lu Yin, and Lu Yin also looked at the fat youth before reflexively letting go of the platter.

The fatty took the platter of food and looked at Lu Yin with appreciation. "You're very polite. Fat Bro approves."

Lu Yin felt a wave of disgust rise within him.

Behind the fatty, the skinny young man appeared. "Fat Bro, since this bro is so polite, we should give him the food. Look at how skinny he is."

The fatty sized Lu Yin up and down and then offered the platter to Lu Yin. "Eat, you must have been hungry for a very long time."

Lu Yin did not want to mess with these two, as they easily drew attention to themselves and everyone around them. He wordlessly accepted the platter and turned to leave.

But the fatty was not happy at his silence. "Skinny Bro, look at the quality of people these days! They can't even offer a word of thanks."

"That's right, Fat Bro. Who knows where that ancient legend of virtue has gone? We must learn from this person's mistakes, so as not to be as uncultured as him."

"Skinny Bro, well spoken. Oh, you look even skinnier now."

"Is that so, Fat Bro? Truth is, you've become fatter."

"Hahaha, thanks for the compliment!"

"That's just the truth! Thanks, Fat Bro, for your compliments as well!"

...

Their unrestrained laughter drew a great deal of attention, and the words "Stupid Green Duo" could be vaguely heard from murmurs.

Lu Yin quickly put some distance between himself and the two idiots.

Autumnfrost Qing looked over from the distance, and he glanced at Lu Yin. He then looked at the Greenmen Duo before staring back at Lu Yin again. Coincidentally, Lu Yin's back was facing Autumnfrost Qing, so the youth could not get a clear look at Lu Yin, though Autumnfrost Qing did feel that this person seemed somewhat familiar. Still, he did not pay much mind to this.

Lu Yin quickly distanced himself from the Greenmen Duo and heaved a sigh of relief. It would have been too ridiculous if he had been exposed by those two weirdos.

Countless people moved to surround Shang Rong after he appeared, each of them with the intention of looking like an elite of their generation. Xu San also moved over, and Lu Yin watched the man approach, as he did indeed look incredibly wretched.

Lu Yin was not the only one with such thoughts, as Shang Rong and the others around him all revealed ugly expressions when they noticed Xu San approaching them. It was impressive for one person to lower the appeal of an entire group by such a degree.

However, even though he was disgusted by Xu San, Shang Rong still forced himself to be polite. Not only was Xu San the sole disciple of Ancestor Swifteyes, but he was also the poster child for talented Fifth Mainland cultivators that had been recruited by the Sixth Mainland after they surrendered.

From the Sixth Mainland's perspective, if they could even accept someone like Xu San, then who would they not accept? This was what they wanted to demonstrate to the people of the Fifth Mainland.

The more luxurious a life Xu San led, the more willing the people of the Fifth Mainland would be to surrender to the Sixth Mainland.

Shang Rong reluctantly forced out a smile. "Xu San, come over here and get to know everyone."

Xu San hurriedly plastered on a pandering smile, and he began to crazily flatter everyone in the group. Those who could stand near Shang Rong were not common cultivators, and even the worst of them were direct heirs of Imprinter families. In fact, some of them were even heirs to Cosmic Imprinter families. It was not embarrassing to kiss up to such people.

Everyone had their own method of surviving.

As Lu Yin watched Xu San do his best to ingratiate himself into Shang Rong's little circle of elites, Lu Yin sighed. However, he could not hate Xu San for showing such behavior, as the man only wanted to have a better life, which was something that the Fifth Mainland could not offer him. That was why Xu San had joined the Sixth Mainland. Some people might see Xu San as a traitor, but which person was not selfish? As long as Xu San did not purposefully massacre the people of the Fifth Mainland, nobody had the right to blame him, as he was merely seeking out a better life.

Lu Yin avoided people from the Bloodburn Realm like Autumnfrost Qing, and he made his way around the gathering. He saw quite a few people, and he also learned of quite a few matters.

After a while, Shang Rong signaled everyone to quiet down, and it seemed as if he was waiting for something.

Soon, a solemn-looking man appeared at the entrance of the room, and he gave off a valiant aura from head to toe.

His appearance caused many people to cry out in surprise.

“It’s Crimson Servant! The servant of Daosource Three Skies Zhi Yi,” someone exclaimed in astonishment.

Lu Yin’s eyes lit up; had one of the Daosource Three Skies arrived?

Shang Rong immediately welcomed Crimson Servant into the room. As a Realmmling, he should not have been the one to welcome a servant, but Crimson Servant was different. Although he was referred to as a servant, he was actually a disciple of the Daosource Sect, and he only followed Zhi Yi due to his admiration of her. If one did not include the Daosource Three Skies or the Realmmlings, then this person would be a pinnacle expert among the Sixth Mainland’s younger generation, and he was one of the few members who had already reached the Hunter realm.

Although Shang Rong was a Realmmling, if one compared their status within the Daosource Sect, Crimson Servant was on the same level as the Realmmling.

“Brother Qiu, I thought that you would come, haha.” Shang Rong welcomed the young man with a big smile.

The name of this person called Crimson Servant was Qiu He, and he smiled slightly when he saw Shang Rong approach. “By the orders of the Daosource Three Skies, I am here to deliver a mission to everyone. Brother Shang, can you cooperate?”

“Of course. Under Elder Sister Zhi Yi’s command, the thunder region will definitely achieve victory.” Shang Rong smiled.

Qiu He was satisfied with this response, and he made a gesture as a show of his appreciation.

Shang Rong responded in kind with the same gesture.

Everyone was currently focused on the two young men.

Lu Yin also grew solemn. This Crimson Servant was not inferior to the Realmmling at all, and it allowed Lu Yin to see how terrifying the Daosource Three Skies were; they could actually convince one of the few Hunters in the younger generation to act as their servant. No matter what the reasons behind such a decision were, it was still shocking.

In the Fifth Mainland’s entire younger generation, only the Ten Arbiters had reached the Hunter realm, and even the person at the very top of the Top 100 Rankings, Xia Tian, had not become a Hunter yet. This was the disparity between the two mainlands.

Shang Rong and Qiu He exchanged a few pleasantries and then turned to face everyone else in the room. “By the order of Sky Zhi of the Daosource Three Skies, all combatants in the thunder region who wish to fight against the Fifth Mainland will obey Sky Zhi’s commands. Does anyone have any objections?”

“We pledge our lives to work for Sky Zhi,” everyone shouted back.

There was a strange look on Ling Que’s face, and he meandered over towards Lu Yin. “Did all these people practice this? That was so coordinated! Sky Zhi seems to be better at putting on an act than even the Ten Arbiters.”

Qiu He was very pleased with everyone’s attitude. For him, the more respect these people showed to Zhi Yi, the better he felt. “Everyone is clear on the situation in this thunder region: the contest for the poles will soon begin. If everyone is allowed to fight however they wish, then the situation will quickly devolve into a mess. Thus, Sky Zhi has turned some of the Daosource Sect’s source materials into tokens. The team leaders for this contest will be given tokens made from semi-source material while only Sky Zhi will have a token made from true source material. She will use this token to send out commands, and her commands will be shown on all of the semi-Lifeforce tokens. Anyone who receives an order must fulfill them—otherwise, they will be treated as traitors to the Sixth Mainland.”

Shang Rong continued his explanation, “Everyone should have already heard of Sky Zhi’s abilities, and whenever she demonstrates her military prowess through strategic games, very few are able to match her abilities. With her commanding us, even if we all die, we must still execute her orders and show the unity and loyalty of our Sixth Mainland. I hope that no one will embarrass...”

As he listened to Shang Rong’s words, Lu Yin started to frown a bit. Battles between cultivators rarely employed any sort of military strategy. If both sides were of roughly the same strength, then the side that used a militaristic deployment style would enjoy too much of an advantage. The Sixth Mainland’s forces already surpassed those of the Fifth Mainland, and if they were led by one of the Daosource Three Skies in a formal military order, then it would be too difficult for the Fifth Mainland to win the battle in the thunder region.

The only good news that Lu Yin heard during this meeting was that not all three of the Daosource Three Skies would participate in this contest. At the moment, Zhi Yi was the only one who had not yet arrived, and Wu Taibai would likely not come. It was also not very likely that the final member of the Daosource Three Skies, the mysterious heir to the Progenitor of Secret Arts, would appear. This was quite different from what Xu San had told the three of them, as he had previously mentioned that it was possible for all of the Daosource Three Skies to appear.

However, Xu San had merely been postulating, and it was impossible to know if his conjectures had been accurate or not at that time.

The next part of the meeting was to distribute the tokens. At this moment, all of the people present at the meeting were true experts of the younger generation currently present in the thunder region. Qiu He had brought dozens of semi-Lifeforce tokens with him, and he allowed Shang Rong to distribute the tokens to the gathered youths.

The Realmking had to have one, and those such as He Xiang, Di Luo, and Autumnfrost Qing were also given tokens. Even the Greenmen Duo received one, and Sixteen was given two. Almost all of the heirs of Imprinter families received tokens, as they were the top experts of the younger generation in the thunder region.

There were five areas that contained poles, but there were more than just five teams competing for them. Some of the teams would be open while others would be hidden. Under Xu San's arrangements, Lu Yin joined Sixteen's team, which was an open team. This meant that they would be openly fighting for a pole in a certain region. In truth, there was also another secret team with the same mission, and there were also hidden experts who would be participating in the contest.

Xu San would not participate in the fighting, and nobody even asked him to. With his level of strength, he would be of no help and would simply be running to his death. Many people assumed that the Fifth Mainland cultivators would be quite malicious during the battle.

Sixteen was given two tokens, and one of them was intended for his second in command so that the two would receive Zhi Yi's commands at the same time. This was also to safeguard against losing a token.

Xu San asked for the second token, which he then passed on to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin took the token and was rather surprised by it. Semi-source material was supposed to be unique to the Sixth Mainland's Daosource Sect. No, that wasn't right. The material was actually called source, and the immature bits were known as semi-source.

Wait a moment. Lu Yin's eyes suddenly brightened. If this material was called semi-source because it had not fully matured yet, then could he upgrade it with his die's three pips: Enhance to genuine source material? Would that mean that he would have the same level of authority as Zhi Yi and that he would be able to give out orders to everyone carrying tokens made from semi-source material?

This thought excited Lu Yin.

Chapter 970: Hello

Lu Yin spent the rest of his time during the meeting avoiding the people from the Bloodburn Realm while others mingled with their friends.

Xu San was not able to fit in with Shang Rong's group, so instead, he clung to He Xiang.

As for Sixteen, he remained determined to stay at Xu San's side.

Although Ancestor Swifteyes was only a World Imprinter at the moment, it was quite likely that he would become a Cosmic Imprinter some time within the next few years. Since Xu San was Ancestor Swifteyes' sole disciple, his status would rise even higher despite his lacking personal strength, and at that time, his status would be comparable to a Realmking's. Thus, Sixteen was determined to suck up to Xu San.

The gathering lasted for half a day before finally ending.

Lu Yin quickly left while Xu San was still pestering He Xiang. His persistence caused her to be anxious to leave.

"There will be tens of millions of cultivators from the Sixth Mainland who will be joining the contest for the poles. The team that we'll be joining might have even a hundred thousand or even a million people in it. Although this is nothing compared to the scale of the entire Cosmic Sea, it's still quite a large number of people, and there is the possibility of death no matter how powerful we are," Ling Que seriously said after they returned to Xu San's residence.

Starsibyl glanced out the window. She had barely spoken ever since they had first arrived at the meeting.

“Just stay at the back and escape when you get a chance. Nobody will be paying attention to you when there’s that many people around,” Xu San replied.

Ling Que had no desire to answer Xu San. This person had barely fought in any battles during the invasion, and he had never witnessed a large-scale battle before.

Meanwhile, Lu Yin was in his room. He lifted his head and caused his die to appear. Then, he tapped it, and the die slowly spun before finally landing on Timestop.

Since he was now in the Timestop Space, he would definitely be able to roll Enhance eventually. Additionally, Lu Yin was not anxious in the least since he was quite wealthy at the moment. If not for the fact that he was concerned about becoming overwhelmed with loneliness, he would have remained within the Timestop Space forever.

He had technically cultivated for ten years in total, but that time would be much longer if he included all of the time that he had spent in the Timestop space. That would push his cultivation time to around thirteen or fourteen years.

Within the Timestop Space, he was able to roll his die every ten days, and after spending thirty days in the space, Lu Yin finally rolled Enhance.

He placed the semi-Lifesource token on the upper light screen and started with tossing out ten thousand star essence. The semi-Lifesource token immediately fell through to the next layer. The token’s color had deepened, and its texture had somewhat changed as well. It had only cost Lu Yin about a thousand star essence to upgrade it once.

The material had become higher quality, and it was now about the same quality level as the flesh of an Astral Beast.

It was time for Lu Yin to test out the upgraded token, but he didn’t want to waste this Enhance. Unfortunately, he did not have anything else that was worth upgrading. Oh, right, there was the Skyblaze Stone.

Lu Yin threw the stone onto the top light screen, but then he wondered if he could even upgrade this stone. After all, it was originally the source of strength of the Skyblaze Dojo’s fire dragon.

The pile of star essence on the top layer disappeared, which indicated that the Skyblaze Stone could indeed be upgraded. However, the stone did not move very much.

Lu Yin thought about it, and then threw out more and more star essence onto the light screen. Ten thousand, twenty thousand, one hundred thousand, two hundred thousand...

As Lu Yin threw out more and more star essence, the stone gradually dropped through the two light screens. In the end, it was fully upgraded once, and the entire stone seemed to have been qualitatively changed. Lu Yin could even hear vague roars coming from the stone.

Lu Yin smiled bitterly as it had cost him 1.2 million star essence to upgrade the stone.

However, this price was understandable, as that fire dragon had been extremely powerful. Its strength had been comparable to that of an Enlighter with a power level between 300,000 and 400,000. Thus, it was quite reasonable for an upgrade to cost more than one million star essence. In comparison, Lu Yin had spent 900,000 star essence to upgrade his former universal armor to the point where it could protect him from attacks of power levels of 400,000.

However, it was still an exorbitant amount of money, and Lu Yin would not try upgrading the stone again unless he had several million star essence on him.

Next, he took out the Giant Emperor's third eye and tried to upgrade it, but nothing happened.

After that was the gemspring water. Lu Yin tested it and found that he could indeed upgrade it. Gemspring water was a lockbreaking tool that helped a Lockbreaker to see more clearly, so he continued to toss more star essence out to upgrade it.

After fourteen full upgrades, the gemspring water had completely changed. Now, it looked more like an energy mixture than water. He had spent 560,000 star essence on it to bring it to such a level.

Could he still use it? Lu Yin was not entirely certain, so he decided to try it on someone else sometime in the future.

He still had 714,000 star essence remaining, which was a huge sum compared to what he had previously possessed. However, his heart bled whenever he recalled the mountains of star essence that he had left behind on the floating continent. If he had only had a few more seconds, he would have been able to double his wealth.

As the scenery changed before his eyes, Lu Yin reappeared in his room. Only a second had passed in the real world during his couple of weeks in the Timestop Space.

To Starsibyl and the others, Lu Yin simply came out from his room after staying there for a while, and they did not suspect anything at all.

"Xu San, show me your token," Lu Yin ordered. He had asked Xu San to bring Sixteen's token over earlier.

Xu San took out the token.

Lu Yin tried out his newly upgraded token, and some words suddenly appeared on the token in Xu San's hand. It was a single word: "Hello."

Starsibyl and the others were stunned when they saw the writing.

Xu San was shocked. "Zhi- Sky Zhi has sent me an order."

Lu Yin smirked, but he stayed quiet. He had succeeded.

Starsibyl's eyes snapped towards Lu Yin.

Ling Que also looked at Lu Yin. These two were not dumb.

Only Xu San was still staring at his token in a daze. He felt like the token in his hand had started to heat up; Sky Zhi, Sky Zhi had said hello to him!

She was one of the Daosource Three Skies, and even with Xu San's new status, it would be impossible for Xu San to meet with any of the Daosource Three Skies. He had never even imagined that one of them would greet him.

Actually, he should have also noticed that something was off, as Lu Yin had randomly asked Xu San to take out the token beforehand. However, Xu San was far too excited with the thought that Sky Zhi might have greeted him, so he was unable to even consider any other possibility.

Starsibyl stared at Lu Yin in surprise. "How did you do it?"

Lu Yin smiled. "I had some source material on hand, and I was able to incorporate it into the token. Don't forget that I'm a Lockbreaker."

"You're that lucky?" Ling Que did not believe Lu Yin.

Lu Yin took out the broken sword that he had received from a sourcebox on Planet Hydrotink. "Source material is actually softer than semi-source material, so it's really easy to combine with other materials."

Source material was something unique to the Sixth Mainland's Daosource Sect, so nobody here could recognize it. Lu Yin could basically say anything that he wanted to about the substance.

Starsibyl's eyes flickered. She felt that she was more and more unable to understand Lu Yin, and it had even reached the point where she could no longer determine if he was telling the truth or not. This was a very strange feeling for her as she had always been able to easily determine whether or not people were lying just through her experience. However, she was unable to determine anything related to Lu Yin, and she felt like he was obscured by a heavy mist.

However, she was not able to prove that Lu Yin was lying, as it was impossible for him to tamper with an item that had come from the Daosource Three Skies. Still, it was too coincidental for his story to be true.

Ling Que praised Lu Yin, "Bro, you're great! Come on, say hi to Zhi Yi. Tell her that Brother Que is still missing one person for his cheerleading squad, and ask her if she's interested! We can negotiate the compensation."

Lu Yin laughed. "Don't worry, I'll tell her before we leave."

Ling Que was stunned. "I was just joking!"

He did not want to be targeted by any of the Daosource Three Skies.

...

Lightning occasionally crashed down from the sky.

Countless cultivators headed out in a specific direction as they moved across the sea. They were all a part of the team that was led by Sixteen. He was a Cruiser as well as a member of the Swifteyes clan, which meant that his status was quite high. Thus, nobody dared to object to him leading a team.

There were nearly 800,000 people in this team, but most of them were not even Explorers. However, there was also a large number of cultivators above the Explorer realm.

The weather in the Cosmic Sea was very unpredictable, and aside from the occasional lightning storms, spatial cracks would also sporadically open within the thunder region, which always startled the cultivators.

Lu Yin stayed in the middle of the team as they headed to the southeast. This was the location where they would be fighting over a pole.

The lightning in the sky rumbled and grew more intense the closer they drew to the pole, and massive lightning bolts flashed across in the sky every once in a while, though at other times, it would be eerily quiet.

Sixteen's expression was grim as he led his team.

The cultivators immediately behind him were mostly from the Swifteyes clan, and most of them were either Explorers or Cruisers.

"There's a reef up ahead that's peeking above the water. There might be some natives from the Fifth Mainland hiding there, so be careful," someone called out.

The aforementioned reef suddenly exploded, followed by the other reefs along the beach. Each explosion had a power level that exceeded 100,000, and Fifth Mainland cultivators suddenly appeared from the sea and the sky.

However, they only attacked the outside members of the Sixth Mainland's team, and nobody dared to target the inside of the crowd. It seemed that the ambushers' goal was to stall the Sixth Mainland's assault team.

Since the two sides were going to fight for the poles, some would be tasked with fighting for the pole while others would have to stall the enemy. This was actually the same strategy that the Sixth Mainland had been planning on using.

Zhi Yi had accounted for many different scenarios, and she had naturally assigned some people to act as a shield to block the Fifth Mainland cultivators so that they would not waste any time.

Furthermore, tens of thousands of cultivators had broken away from the team to check nearby areas, ensuring that the tens of thousands of cultivators who remained in the center of the assault team were left undisturbed.

The whole conflict seemed to proceed in a very orderly fashion.

Lu Yin was also impressed. The status of the Daosource Three Skies was truly high for them to control so many cultivators even from a distance.

Ling Que exclaimed, "If only there were so many people who would fight for me." He then turned to look at Lu Yin. "What do you think?"

Lu Yin ignored Ling Que and continued to observe the surrounding area.

Ling Que then turned towards Starsibyl, but she also ignored him as she remained focused on what was happening around them.

Feeling awkward, Ling Que raised a hand and patted the shoulder of a random cultivator who was in front of him. "Brother, what do you think?"

The cultivator gave Ling Que a strange look, but he nodded. "Yeah, you're right."

Ling Que's eyes lit up. This person's attitude reminded him of the cultivator from the Sixth Mainland who had died while talking to him. Could that event possibly happen once again? Ling Que's interest was piqued, and he immediately moved closer to the cultivator and started spouting nonsense about his aspirations, goals, dreams, and more. His continuous chatter left the cultivator in a daze.

Meanwhile, the amount of lightning in the sky gradually increased, and it left the youths of both sides feeling increasingly anxious.