

Chapter 1401: Transformation

“How did you manage to acquire so many tribulation crystals, Brother Xian?” Long Kui asked. He was still shaken by the sheer amount of tribulation crystals here, but he had finally managed to calm himself. They were in Flying Armor Pass, and both Long Xian and the Flying Armor Array were present. Even without those two, Long Kui would still be condemned by the clan if he attempted to seize this treasure from Long Xian.

Long Xian explained, “I unexpectedly received an inheritance from an elder, and this crystal pillar was a part of it.”

Long Kui knew that this was not the full truth, as not even the four ruling powers were able to gather that many tribulation crystals within a century. Just which elder had amassed such a hoard of crystals? Only a Progenitor could be capable of doing such a thing. However, if Long Xian had actually received an inheritance from a Progenitor, then he should be far stronger than what he currently was.

“The Fourteenth Gate might suspect that these tribulation crystals came from those monsters, so it isn’t surprising that they’re suspicious of me. Fortunately, I’m no traitor. If I were, I would never have allowed you to watch my son open his first meridian point.” Long Xian glanced at Guo Shan with evident delight on his face.

Guo Shan had no interest in listening to Long Xian. Instead, he was focused on Long Ding, who had already begun to refine the crystal pillar.

Long Ding spent two full days refining the crystal pillar. The pillar grew smaller and smaller, and eventually, Long Ding was absorbing nothing more than a glow supported by numerous threads.

The moment the threads appeared, everybody present—Guo Shan, Lu Yin, the members of the Flying Armor Troops, and even Long Kui and Long Xian—wanted to seize them. It was an instinct that ran through every cultivator.

“Can I grab that?” Lu Yin softly asked Guo Shan.

Guo Shan was startled. “You’re nuts! We’re in Flying Armor Pass, and the Flying Armor Array is even able to stop Envoys who’ve passed through their third or fourth tribulations. Even Elder Long Kui wouldn’t be able to pull that off, let alone you.”

The man then gave Lu Yin an odd look. What was this kid saying? Grab it? How could he even consider such a thing? Even if he succeeded, how would he explain himself to the White Dragon Clan?

Guo Shan suddenly felt that Lu Yin might not be as nice as he had previously believed; this was a shocking question to ask.

Lu Yin had only casually asked this question, as he did not have any real intention of fighting Long Ding for the threads. Since Long Xian was willing to allow his son to absorb the tribulation crystals in public, then he must have made ample preparations. Despite that, if Lu Yin actually went all out, then he might be able to pull it off, given his various treasures.

As the crystal threads entered Long Ding's body, he felt an excruciating pain run through his body. He collapsed to his knees, and his face went pale. All five fingers of both hands pierced into the platform, shattering it with a bang and sending Long Ding crashing to the ground below.

Long Xian immediately stepped forward, but Long Ding stopped him. "Father, I'm fine."

Long Xian clenched his fists tightly. He was even more nervous than Long Ding. "You have to succeed, Ding'er! You must!"

Long Ding roared from where he lay on the ground. His body constantly trembled, and even the sky shook. In pain, he raised a fist and slammed it down, leaving a massive dent in the ground. Then, he suddenly looked up and roared as dragon scales appeared on his skin. It was caused by the White Dragon Transformation.

Lu Yin walked forward and carefully observed Long Ding. The youth's breathing had become very irregular, but Lu Yin had a strange feeling that some form of transformation was taking place.

"He's opening his lower meridian point, which means that he's going to have to suffer the incredible pain that comes from breaking past his body's limits. His body will be changed to be more suitable for cultivation, but there's a steep price to pay for that change. It's about to start, and his struggle will begin then." Guo Shan kept his eyes locked on Long Ding.

Lu Yin had never heard of this detail before. "A struggle?"

Guo Shan muttered, "A normal human body can't withstand tribulation crystals, so the body has to be reformed and adjusted to the crystals. This is one part of the overall transformation, but the pain from this process is ten times worse than what he's endured up to now."

Lu Yin felt a chill. When Guo Shan had mentioned that a body needed to be reformed, it had reminded Lu Yin of formcast models. Whenever Lu Yin had broken through with one of those things, he had to endure the pain of his body being shattered and rebuilt. That transformation was what allowed his body to accommodate the increased power that he gained from breaking through. It looked like this process was similar as the body needed to adjust to the tribulation crystals.

Ah!

Long Ding vomited blood as cracks appeared on his body. Blood dripped to the ground, and a metallic scent filled the air.

Long Xian went pale, and he shouted, "Ding'er! You have to get through this! Your life will completely change after this! Keep going, Ding'er!"

Long Ding responded with a hoarse voice, "I'll definitely get through this!"

Long Kui frowned as he watched the entire process. While he should be happy to see any member of the White Dragon Clan open a meridian point, he simply could not feel that satisfaction here. Long Xian was not completely loyal to the main family, and traitors had appeared within the White Dragon Clan before. If the decision were left to Long Kui, then he would much rather see Long Qi open his lower meridian point instead of Long Ding.

Where had Long Xian gotten all of these tribulation crystals?

The transformation and pain were different from when Long Ding had refined the crystal pillar, and it did not take as long. Still, it felt like eternity to Long Ding due to the extreme pain.

After a while, Long Ding was just about to pass out from the pain, but suddenly, his breathing stabilized. His sweat had long since mixed with his blood and pooled in a distant corner.

He panted heavily as he ripped off his shirt, revealing firm muscles and vanishing dragon scales.

Long Xian was elated; his son had succeeded.

To be fair, as long as there were enough tribulation crystals, it was perfectly normal to successfully open a meridian point. The only drawback was the pain caused by the process, and this was also just the lower meridian point. It took even more tribulation crystals to open the middle meridian point, and the pain was far worse as well.

Long Ding closed his eyes as he slowly stood up.

The red blood looked bright beneath his feet.

Lu Yin could feel that Long Ding's aura had changed, and he felt like a completely different person. Was this the transformation that occurred from opening the first meridian point?

Guo Shan was envious. "No matter how painful it might be, everybody would be willing to try this. This is the only way to even have a hope of becoming a Progenitor. "This child will accomplish great things in the future."

"Hahahaha! Ding'er, as long as you completely absorb the crystal threads, you'll stabilize! Hahahaha!" Long Xian was ecstatic. Long Ding was definitely much more powerful after opening his meridian point.

Long Xian immediately contacted Long Tian.

Long Tian had not expected Long Xian to contact him, as the two rarely interacted. The only reason why Long Xian had contacted the Junior Progenitor earlier was because the Fourteenth Gate had sent people to investigate matters in Flying Armor Pass. Was Long Qi in trouble once again?

Everyone fell silent when they saw the image of Long Tian appear. Long Ding opened his eyes and proudly looked back at Long Tian.

Nobody dared to be rude when facing the White Dragon Clan's heir. This person had the potential to eventually become a Progenitor. Even Long Kui stood a bit straighter, and Guo Shan also adjusted himself. Long Tian was the heir to one of the four ruling powers, and he also possessed a rather high position within Humility's Gate.

"Commander Long Xian, why are you contacting me?" Long Tian was curious. He was a member of the main family while Long Xian had a strong rivalry with the main family. Thus, it was very strange for Long Xian to reach out to Long Tian.

Long Xian respectfully explained, "Young Master, I am sorry for disturbing you. You will soon be heading to the Dominion Realm. Might I ask if you have found any suitable companions?"

Long Tian smiled. "Commander Long Xian, do you have anyone you wish to recommend?"

“My son, Long Ding.”

Long Tian arched a brow. “Long Ding? I’ve never heard of him.”

Long Xian did not grow upset, and he simply continued. “My son has just opened his lower meridian point and is currently stabilizing his condition. Thus, it’s understandable for you not to have heard of him yet.”

Long Tian was shocked. “What did you say? He’s opened his lower meridian point?”

“Yes, he just finished.”

Long Xian waved Long Ding over. The youth walked over and bowed to Long Tian. “I am Long Ding. It’s my honor to meet you, Young Master.”

Long Tian looked from Long Ding to Long Xian. “How did you find enough tribulation crystals for him to open his meridian point?”

“I received them from an elder.”

Long Tian did not believe this excuse at all. He turned towards Long Ding. “What’s your power level?”

“I’m still a Hunter, but I will be an Enlighter within the month,” Long Ding confidently stated.

Long Tian was surprised. “You’ll be an Enlighter with an opened meridian point from the White Dragon Clan. You really do qualify to follow me to the Dominion Realm.”

Long Ding grinned. “Thank you for this opportunity, Young Master.”

Long Tian smiled. “You’ll be helping me as well. As long as you help me find some Origin Matter to open my upper meridian point, I’ll never let you down in the future.”

Long Ding bowed low. “It would be an honor to work for you, young master.”

Long Tian smiled. He actually did not care about any of the grudges between the main family and Long Xian at all, and nor was he concerned about where Long Xian had gotten the tribulation crystals. To Long Tian, the trip to the Dominion Realm was the most important thing. He had always been thinking about who to take with him, so he was thrilled that Long Ding qualified to go. Given that Long Xi would also be going, Long Tian only needed to invite two more people to his team.

Long Tian then saw Lu Yin out of the corner of his eye. He glared at Long Qi and rudely demanded, “What are you doing in Flying Armor Pass? Don’t make trouble for Commander Long Xian.”

Lu Yin’s gaze grew sharper. “They’ve been quite welcoming.”

Long Tian frowned. “Leave there and get back to White Mountain soon.”

He then turned towards Long Kui. “Elder, take Long Qi back to White Mountain. Don’t allow him to make any trouble.”

“Yes, Young Master,” Long Kui said.

Long Tian turned back to Long Ding and spoke in a kind voice. "You'll need to work hard. As long as you become an Enlighter, you'll be able to help me when I go to the Dominion Realm. I'll be waiting for you on our Junior Progenitor Planet."

"Yes, Young Master," Long Ding loudly agreed.

Long Tian nodded at Long Xian, and his image disappeared.

Long Ding proudly raised his head high. Everything had been successful.

Long Xian sighed; everything had ended up as expected. He had gotten the tribulation crystals a long time ago, and thus, he had made sure that Long Ding remained a Hunter, as it would allow him to open his lower meridian point more easily. Also, he would be much more powerful after becoming an Enlighter, and he would become one of the top elites of his generation.

Guo Shan was jealous. "What a good life!"

Lu Yin was also envious. The cultivation system in the Perennial World was much more complete than the Fifth Mainland's. After opening a meridian point, Long Ding could already compare to Enlighters like Unseen Light. Once Long Ding became an Enlighter himself, he might be just as strong as Wang Yi, which meant that he truly did qualify to travel to the Dominion Realm with Long Tian.

Everyone else felt flashes of envy while Long Ding felt excitement. He felt like he had reached the peak, and he needed a target to feel out his increased strength. Naturally, he turned towards Lu Yin. "Brother Long Qi, I heard that you received an inheritance from the Sword Monument and that you took even longer to receive it than that person from the Celestial Frost Sect. I've been feeling quite curious about it. Would you be willing to have a spar?"

Chapter 1402: Can I Snatch it?

Long Xian made no attempt to stop the battle as he and his son had already planned things out beforehand. He had wanted Long Ding to break through first and then defeat Long Qi. Only like this would Long Ding get revenge for the earlier incident and simultaneously demonstrate how much his strength had increased.

Long Kui reflexively tried to stop the matter. "No, we must hurry back to White Mountain."

Long Xian smiled. "Why are you so nervous, elder? It's just a spar between two youths to let them test out their strength. Don't worry, neither of them will go overboard in a friendly spar."

Long Kui became a bit annoyed. "Brother Xian, Long Qi is the main family's son-in-law, and he can't fight with any random person."

Long Xian retorted, "What does it matter, elder, if he is from the main family? The White Dragon Clan's main family has raised their reputation through their members' constant battles. I can't believe that Long Qi would be timid enough to be scared of a simple spar."

He then turned to Lu Yin. "Isn't that right, Long Qi?"

Since Long Xian had already said so much, Lu Yin was essentially being forced to fight against Long Ding, as refusing would embarrass the main family.

Long Kui was no longer able to stop the matter, and he glanced over at Lu Qin. “Don’t force yourself.”

Long Ding’s strength had spiked after opening his lower meridian point. Even though Lu Yin had managed to defeat Liu Lu before, Liu Lu could not compare to Long Ding’s current strength. At this moment, Long Ding was strong enough to even challenge Liu Hao.

Lu Yin hesitantly walked forward. He looked like Long Ding’s polar opposite.

“It’s just a spar, Brother Long Ding. Don’t forget that we’re just sparring,” Lu Yin emphasized, sounding as though he was scared of getting hurt.

Long Ding smirked and a cruel glint flickered across his eyes. “Don’t worry, Brother Long Qi. It’s just a spar.”

A spear appeared in his hand that he pointed at Lu Yin. “Are you ready? I’ll let you have the first move.”

Lu Yin immediately used his Vacuum Palm, and Long Ding struggled to dodge the invisible attack. This was the same attack that had even surprised Wang Yi, and it was hard for Long Ding to evade even though he had opened his lower meridian point. However, he proved very lucky, as Lu Yin’s palm struck his spear. Long Ding was forced a few steps back, and he looked up. “Nice one, Brother Qi.”

He then roared and started moving towards Lu Yin with a strange technique.

It was the Roving White Dragon.

Lu Yin grew solemn. Long Ding had become much stronger from before, as shown by his ability to withstand Lu Yin’s Vacuum Palm despite Lu Yin using a full 200 Stacks.

The spear flashed, and nine lined battle force appeared on it as Long Ding thrust the spear forward, tearing the air apart. This attack was much stronger than any attack launched during their last fight, even the ones made after he used the White Dragon Transformation. Lu Yin had used his Vacuum Palm against Long Ding back then as well, which was why he had some understanding of Long Ding’s attack. Also, there was what Lu Yin had learned from the Sword Monument’s inheritance.

Lu Yin’s domain was unable to predict Long Ding’s attacks due to Long Ding’s greatly increased strength. So, Lu Yin kept a careful watch on the spear, and he suddenly dodged once the spear was about to strike. Long Ding sneered—he had already known that Lu Yin was able to read the trajectory of his weapon, but did that even matter?

The spear suddenly shifted and moved in the same direction that Lu Yin had dodged in.

Lu Yin’s domain erupted, and the spear slowed down as though it was moving through mud. Lu Yin immediately retaliated with a Vacuum Palm.

Long Ding roared as scales appeared on his body. He had used the White Dragon Transformation.

The Vacuum Palm crashed into Long Ding, but it did nothing despite injuring him before.

Long Ding grabbed his spear, and the shaft smashed against Lu Yin’s shoulder, sending him flying backwards.

Long Ding continued to press the attack, and he leaped towards Lu Yin, still attacking with the spear.

From the distance, Long Kui shouted, “Stop!” and he moved to interfere.

Long Xian blocked Long Kui’s path. “Elder, there’s no need to worry. It’s just a match. Ding’er won’t go too far.”

Long Kui looked at the battle, furious.

Long Ding’s spear shot towards Lu Yin’s neck, and it looked like he was about to kill Lu Yin, especially since Long Xian was not even keeping an eye on the two youths. Even if Long Ding did not dare to kill Lu Yin, he could still maim him. Long Xian would not be held responsible for such an accident if he was not watching, and Long Tian would definitely protect Long Ding.

There was no way that Long Tian would care about what happened to Lu Yin as long as he was not killed.

Long Ding looked at Lu Yin with cruel eyes. He had been waiting for this moment ever since he had learned that Long Qi would marry Long Xi. This attack was not merely revenge for the earlier battle, as Long Ding was also venting his anger. Furthermore, there was another motivation that he had not shared with even his father: Yu Chen had met with Long Ding right before Long Qi had arrived at Flying Armor Pass.

This attack could become a bridge between Long Ding and Bai Shaohong.

The trip to the Dominion Realm would be extremely dangerous, and even Young Master Long Tian might die there. Long Ding did not intend to place all of his hopes of survival on Long Tian. Thus, if he was able to get closer to Bai Shaohong, he would increase his own chances of survival. Long Ding believed that Bai Shaohong would be even more willing to save him than Long Tian because Long Tian was the White Dragon Clan’s young master.

This attack could increase Long Ding’s chances of survival in the Dominion Realm, and personally, he also wanted to kill Lu Yin. Thus, this attack was completely ruthless.

As the spear moved towards Lu Yin, Guo Shan stepped forward, only to be blocked by somebody else.

The spear continued to close in on Lu Yin, and he could feel a threat from the spear. Just as the spear was about to strike, the Channeling Diagram appeared. The spear was stopped by the combination of Lu Yin’s domain and the Channeling Diagram, redirecting the force of the spear attack away in all directions and causing the ground to tear apart.

The Channeling Diagram managed to disperse Long Ding’s attack as well as his battle force. Long Ding was stunned. This was not something that he had seen during their last battle. Was this a sourcebox array?

Long Ding had not expected some random person from a branch family to be able to comprehend a sourcebox array, let alone be able to use it to withstand his attack.

Lu Yin took advantage of Long Ding’s shock to spot the weaknesses in Long Ding’s techniques. Without any pause, Lu Yin’s hands moved past the spear, and he repeatedly used Vacuum Palms to attack Long Ding. Long Ding’s eyes went wide as the barrage struck his body and smashed him deep into the ground.

Although he could withstand one or even two Vacuum Palms after opening his lower meridian point and using the White Dragon Transformation, there was no way he could withstand this many continuous

attacks from such a short distance. On top of that, Lu Yin had increased his Vacuum Palm to 220 Stacks, which was much stronger than his previous ones.

Long Ding had no chance to retaliate, and he was already injured by the fourth attack. His battle force shattered, and his scales faded away. However, Lu Yin had launched more than ten Vacuum Palms in an instant. Nobody had ever managed to endure this sort of onslaught aside from Nightking Zhenwu.

No Hunter was able to withstand ten Vacuum Palms without any sort of injury, and Long Ding was no exception.

The earth shattered as the force of Lu Yin's attacks spread throughout the area.

Long Xian instantly whirled around, furious. "Stop!"

He moved forward to grab Lu Yin, but right at that moment, Long Kui caught Long Xian from behind. "Brother Xian, we shouldn't interfere. It's just a spar between youths."

Suddenly, a strange fluctuation swept over the grounds, and a glowing thread lit up the army's headquarters. It was a thread of tribulation crystal.

Long Xian and Long Kui were both stunned when they saw the thread of tribulation crystal. Lu Yin had actually forced the crystal thread out of Long Ding's body.

Lu Yin was also shocked. He had not known that the crystal thread could be forced back out, but he reflexively grabbed it since it was right in front of him.

Long Ding bellowed in anger. He had been heavily injured by Lu Yin's Vacuum Palms, but he still tried to snatch the crystal thread back from Lu Yin.

This was a rare opportunity that Lu Yin had not expected to encounter, but now that it had appeared, he would not allow it to pass him by.

"Long Qi, do you want to die? The Flying Armor Troops won't let you off!" Long Ding threatened.

Lu Yin immediately took out the ring that Long Xi had given him and stood within its protective circle.

The ground broke apart, and Long Xian, Long Kui, and the others finally saw the crystal thread in Lu Yin's hand.

Long Xian was enraged. He tried to grab Lu Yin, but he was stopped by the ring's barrier. Although he was certainly strong enough to destroy the ring, it would still take him quite some time. On top of that, Long Kui was right beside him, and the elder would not allow Long Xian to continue attacking Long Qi. "Long Qi, put down that crystal thread, and I can pretend that nothing has happened!"

Lu Yin frowned, but he did not even bother to look up.

Long Kui did not know what to say. He had secretly hoped that Lu Yin would be able to absorb the crystal thread and open a meridian point, but now that the opportunity had actually arrived, the elder did not know what to do. How should he handle this? One of the two youths was a captain in the Flying Armor Troops while the other was the son-in-law of the White Dragon Clan's main family.

Long Ding spat out a mouthful of blood. At this moment, everything in his vision was blood red. He glared at Lu Yin and ordered in a hoarse voice, "Long Qi, give me back the crystal thread! Give it to me!"

Long Xian roared, "Long Qi, put down that crystal thread! Don't make a mistake! If you steal from a clan member, then the main family won't let you off!"

He then turned to Long Kui. "Elder, please say something! You're an elder of the White Dragon Clan, and you are aware of the rules. Don't allow Long Qi to make this mistake."

Long Kui's lips went dry. He did not know how to react to what he was seeing. The tiniest bit of favoritism that he held in his heart stopped him from speaking up.

The Flying Armor Troops surrounded the two youths, brimming with a powerful killing intent.

Guo Shan was shocked. He suddenly remembered Lu Yin's words. "Can I grab that?"

"Can I grab that?"

"Can I grab that?" ...

Guo Shan could not believe that the kid had actually managed to grab the thread. What a lunatic!

Lu Yin stood inside the ring and looked up at Long Kui. "Elder, you need to consider the bigger picture. I'm the main family's son-in-law, so if anything happens to me, you'll have a hard time answering to Long Xi and the clan. Don't forget how I managed to become the main family's son-in-law."

Long Kui suddenly remembered the Celestial Frost Sect. Nothing could be allowed to happen to Long Qi, as that would cause Long Xi to be threatened by Bai Shaohong. The Celestial Frost Sect craved the power of the White Dragon, and that was the motivation behind all of their schemes.

"The commander of the Flying Armor Troops, Long Xian, is suspected to be a traitor! Whoever aids Long Xian will be considered an enemy of Humility's Gate! I, Long Qi, am from the Fourteenth Gate, and I suspect that Long Xian is a traitor! Who dares to help him?" Lu Yin suddenly shouted. He was not actually trying to threaten the members of the Flying Armor Troops, as he knew that that was impossible. They would always follow the orders that they received from the army. Rather, Lu Yin was reminding Guo Shan about his connection to the Fourteenth Gate and that he had both the authority and a valid reason to stand up to Long Xian.

Chapter 1403: Flying Armor Array

Guo Shan was left speechless by Lu Yin's words. Their mission had already ended, and Long Xian had even been cleared of all suspicions. Despite that, Lu Yin had still levied such an accusation against the man. However, there was one thing that was irrefutable: Lu Yin was from the Fourteenth Gate.

Because of this, Guo Shan shouted, "Long Xian, you are suspected of being a spy! Humility's Gate is currently investigating you, so put down your weapons and surrender now!"

Guo Shan felt strange saying such a thing, as Humility's Gate had never before asked anyone to surrender. They either captured people or simply killed them. Also, Long Xian was not even holding a weapon at the moment.

Long Xian was outraged, and he immediately attacked Lu Yin. Long Kui instantly stopped the attack, forcing Long Xian backwards. His silhouette started to flicker as he traveled between the true universe and the visible universe.

Lu Yin immediately began absorbing the thread of tribulation crystal.

Long Ding shouted, "Long Qi, how dare you!"

Long Xian was also furious. "Long Kui, you're going too far! This is Flying Armor Pass! Activate the Flying Armor Array!"

The city began to tremble after Long Xian delivered this command.

Gui leaped off of Long Kui's shoulder as its size increased. It bellowed angrily as its two heads looked around the area.

The Flying Armor Troops were immediately intimidated. They were not capable of defeating an Envoy.

At this same time, beams of light began to appear around Flying Armor Pass. The beams formed a light cube that quickly surrounded Gui and shrank down, trapping the beast.

Gui banged against the cube, but it was unable to destroy the cage. All the beast could do was make all of Flying Armor Pass shake.

Many people tried to flee, but nobody was able to enter or leave Flying Armor Pass after the Flying Armor Array was activated. Thus, they could only watch as Gui tried to escape from the cage of light.

Inside the military headquarters, Long Xian lifted a hand, causing multiple cubes of light to form and surround Long Kui. The elder looked grim. Flying Armor Pass's defenses were extremely robust. When Long Xian's abilities were coupled with the Flying Armor Array, the commander was able to stand up to Long Kui and possibly even defeat him.

Long Kui and Long Xian both used the White Dragon Transformation at the same time. Their bodies were covered in far more dragon scales than what Long Ding had shown, and both Envoys' pupils became slitted.

As soon as the cube of light from the Flying Armor Array appeared, a battle technique with five tokens surrounded Long Xian. It was White Dragon Surveying the Sky.

"Long Kui, are you really going to help that child? I promise that I won't touch Long Qi at all if you stop fighting, and I'll even send both of you safely away from Flying Armor Pass. We can all just pretend that nothing ever happened," Long Xian anxiously offered. With the Flying Armor Array activated, nobody was able to leave the area, not even Envoys.

A spear appeared in Long Kui's hand. There was no way that he would allow Long Xian to attack Lu Yin, even if Long Xian had no intentions of hurting the youth. As an elder from the main family, Long Kui would be humiliated if he did not do anything while Long Xian attacked the main family's son-in-law.

"Long Xian, you started this fight! Why didn't you stop Long Ding from attacking Long Qi so viciously? You caused all of this!" Long Kui retorted loudly.

Long Xian gritted his teeth. "Fine! In that case, don't blame me for not bothering to protect you. Neither of you will be able to escape from Flying Armor Pass, and even if he really does manage to absorb the crystal thread, he will still have to return it!"

A spear also appeared in Long Xian's hand, and he shattered the White Dragon Surveying the Sky as he thrust the spear at Long Kui.

Long Kui used his own spear to block the attack.

The power of the two Envoys clashed above Flying Armor Pass. Since Envoys were able to use stellar energy, their stellar energy-based attacks clashed and caused the nearby star energy to surge. Countless people lost control of their own body's star energy.

Guo Shan looked up. Why have things turned out like this? Weren't we just invited to watch a ceremony? Wasn't this just supposed to be a casual spar?

Oh right, how's Long Qi? Guo Shan turned to look.

Lu Yin was still inside the protective ring. He was trembling while absorbing the crystal thread. At the moment, he was experiencing the same agony that Long Ding had recently been forced to endure. However, Lu Yin's pain was far worse than what Long Ding had suffered, as Lu Yin was much stronger than Long Ding. This level of pain was something that Lu Yin rarely ever encountered since he had started cultivating, and he immediately vomited blood.

Guo Shan looked up; would Long Kui be able to withstand Long Xian's attacks? If Long Kui was defeated, then the crystal thread would be forced out of Long Qi. Had the kid even considered that outcome? Was there any chance of Long Qi succeeding?

Lu Yin actually had not considered the possibility of failure. Even if Long Kui was defeated, Lu Yin would still successfully absorb the crystal thread, even if it meant revealing the walnut-shaped power vessel that he had received from Yuan Shi or using the Desolate Array that he had received from Highsage Grandmaster. Lu Yin did not care about anything else at this moment aside from opening his first meridian point.

Long Xian and his son both held grudges towards the clan's main family. Despite that, Long Tian's attitude towards the two had become much better after he had learned that Long Ding was about to break through. In other words, Long Tian only cared about who could help him, and he was completely unconcerned about who actually broke through. Since Lu Yin wanted to go to the Dominion Realm, this was actually a precious opportunity for him, and Long Ding could only blame himself for starting a fight with Long Qi.

The crystal thread entered Lu Yin's body and touched his lower abdomen where his star energy was stored. Lu Yin had never paid attention to that particular location before, and he had not known that this was where his lower meridian point was located. The crystal thread stopped at that point, and then he felt an excruciating pain spread out from that point in his body. It felt as if his body was being torn apart.

Sweat beaded out from his forehead as his body started cracking apart like Long Ding's. Blood pooled around his feet as he was forced to suffer the pain while also being wary of Long Xian.

At this moment, the Flying Armor Troops' powerhouses all showed up, and they started attacking him. Even though there were no Envoys present, there were still numerous attackers.

Despite that, all of the attacks were blocked by the protective ring. Lu Yin felt extremely grateful towards Long Xi at this moment.

The battle between Long Xian and Long Kui heated up, and their power caused Flying Armor Pass to shake. Gui roared nonstop, still trapped by the Flying Armor Array.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. The pain was almost enough to cause him to faint. He knew that he had to stay conscious, as Long Kui might not be able to endure against the Flying Armor Array. If the elder was trapped by the array, then Long Xian would be able to freely attack. Lu Yin preferred to reveal as little of his items as possible, as most of them could only be used once.

"Long Qi, give me back the crystal thread!" Long Ding thrust his spear at Lu Yin, but the attack was easily blocked by the ring. Numerous powerhouses from the Flying Armor Troops were still surrounding the protective ring.

Lu Yin glanced over at Long Ding. Blood dripped down from the corner of Lu Yin's mouth. Suddenly, he reached out and pulled Long Ding into the ring. Long Ding's strength had already returned to its previous level, and he was completely unable to oppose Lu Yin. The Flying Armor Troops' powerhouses shouted when they saw Lu Yin drag Long Ding into the protective circle, but Lu Yin just ignored them. He looked up and took a deep breath. "Long Xian, take a look at your precious son!"

His powerful shout actually helped to slightly alleviate Lu Yin's pain.

High in the sky, Long Xian was still controlling the Flying Armor Array and trying to trap Long Kui while Long Kui retaliated with White Dragon Surveying the Sky. Lu Yin's yell had drawn both of their attention, and they looked down to see Long Ding being strangled by Lu Yin.

Long Xian's face went pale, and he immediately dropped to the ground. He glared at Lu Yin. "Long Qi, don't you dare!"

Long Kui remained high in the sky, but he was staring at Lu Yin in shock. Was this person really the same Long Qi? The Long Qi who had not even dared to dodge an attack from the Celestial Frost Sect's Elder Qing Xing? Long Kui had never expected Long Qi to have the courage to threaten Long Xian with the life of his own son.

Lu Yin met Long Xian's eyes and viciously threatened, "Why would I be scared? If I kill your dear son, what are you going to do with the crystal thread when I return it to you? Do you have another son?"

Long Xian was breathing heavily from his outrage. He was overwhelmed with regret at this moment. He should have been much more cautious of Long Qi. Since Long Qi was daring enough to steal the crystal thread and start a battle inside Flying Armor Pass, there was nothing that he would not be willing to do.

"Release Long Ding and give me that crystal thread, and I promise that I won't hurt you. I can even promise to fulfill one request from you. The Flying Armor Troops will also fully support you in the future." Long Xian quickly started making anxious promises.

Lu Yin sneered. "Do you think that I'm an idiot? What use do I have for your support? I'm just the main family's son-in-law, not the young master."

Long Xian roared, "What do you want? Tell me what you want!"

Lu Yin turned even paler as his body continued to crack. Blood was still streaming down from his body, and he was enduring an intense pain that made him want to curse.

Long Ding was constantly trying to escape as Lu Yin endured the pain of the process. However, Lu Yin's domain alone was enough to keep Long Ding trapped.

Lu Yin ignored everything that Long Xian said, as Lu Yin was simply wanting to use the threat against Long Ding's life to stall for time. As soon as Lu Yin fully absorbed the crystal thread, Long Xian would be unable to do anything to him with Long Kui around.

Long Kui descended to the ground.

Long Xian looked over and raised a hand. His communication crystal vibrated, and Long Tian's image quickly appeared. The young man smiled. "Commander Long Xian, what's the matter?"

But once he noticed how disheveled Long Xian was, Long Tian was shocked. The man looked as though he had gone through a war.

Long Xian immediately explained, "Young master, please save Long Ding! Long Qi's gone insane! He stole Long Ding's crystal thread and is threatening me with Long Ding's life!"

Long Tian turned around and saw Lu Yin attempting to open his lower meridian point, and also that he had captured Long Ding. Long Tian was completely stunned despite his status as the clan's young master. Just what was going on?

"Young master, please save Long Ding! Long Ding purposely suppressed his cultivation to ensure that he would be able to successfully break through and help you during your trip to the Dominion Realm. Please save him and force Long Qi to return the crystal thread. I, Long Xian, swear that Long Ding will definitely be of great help to you when you go to the Dominion Realm. He will even be willing to sacrifice his life for you!" Long Ding pleaded in a rough voice. He sounded truly pitiful.

Long Tian's gaze flickered as he observed the scene displayed before him. Long Ding? Long Qi? Long Ding? Long Qi? Who should he help here?

Just like Long Kui, Long Tian also secretly hoped for Long Qi to open his meridian point.

"Young Master, Long Qi is only a Hunter, and he won't be able to become an Enlightener anytime soon. Even if he successfully opens his meridian point, he still won't be of any help in the Dominion Realm!" Long Xian shouted.

True, this was the most important detail. Long Qi would not be able to help Long Tian no matter how much strength he potentially gained. There was no way he would ever be able to improve faster than Long Tian himself. In the end, Long Tian cared only about himself, and thus, he quickly spoke up. "Long Qi, release Long Ding and return the crystal thread. The White Dragon Clan has its rules, and it is forbidden to steal from fellow clansmen. Do you want to die?"

Long Xian also shouted, "As long as you release Long Ding and return the crystal thread, I can pretend that nothing has happened today."

Long Tian was quite satisfied with Long Xian's attitude. Regardless of everything else, Long Qi was still the main family's son-in-law. Long Tian had promised Long Xi that he would protect Long Qi, and Long Xi was far more important than Long Ding.

Chapter 1404: Biased

Lu Yin kept his head low as he endured the pain of opening his lower meridian point. He could not care less about what Long Tian was saying; it was none of his business.

Long Tian grew annoyed when Lu Yin ignored him. "Long Qi, did you hear me? I said to release Long Ding and return the crystal thread."

Lu Yin remained focused on his task. He could tell that he would succeed soon.

Long Tian bellowed, "Long Qi, I'm talking to you!"

Lu Yin frowned; this guy was so noisy! If Lu Yin did not need to hide his strength, then he would have already used his God of Death Transformation and attacked Long Tian with his scythe. Lu Yin wanted to see if this Junior Progenitor was able to withstand an attack from his God of Death Transformation.

"LONG QI!" Long Tian roared. He was furious that Long Qi was still ignoring him.

Long Xian grew tense and clenched his fists. The situation that he had been the most worried about had still occurred. Long Qi was so tempted by the crystal thread that he was ignoring the Junior Progenitor.

Long Tian was about to scream at Lu Yin once again when a melodious female voice was heard. "Brother, why are you so angry?"

Long Tian turned around to see that Long Xi's image had appeared in front of Long Kui. Her turquoise hair billowed in the wind, and her amber eyes were locked onto Long Tian. She was as beautiful as a painting of a fairy.

Long Tian suppressed his anger when he saw that Long Xi had appeared. "Long Qi is too arrogant! He's ignoring my orders."

Long Xi looked into the hole in the ground. She was already aware of what had happened. This incident had shocked the entire White Dragon Clan. Long Tian was the only one unaware of the situation, as he had been busy training. Long Xi had not expected Long Xian to contact her brother so quickly.

When Long Xi had first heard about the battle in Flying Armor Pass and that Long Qi had seized the crystal thread, she had been unexpectedly happy. Every wife would hope for their husband to become powerful, and although it was not kind for Long Qi to steal the crystal thread from Long Ding, gaining a crystal thread would completely change Long Qi's future if he managed to open his meridian point.

Long Xi was not the only one happy with this development, as many people from the main family were delighted that Lu Yin had grabbed the crystal thread, though some of them hoped that Long Qi would bring the crystal thread back to the clan to help one of the clan's powerhouses open their meridian point. Long Tian's generation had a few experts besides Long Xi, and some were about to become

Enlighteners. Even if Long Qi just gave the crystal thread to Long Xi, it would still be good for the clan, even though the clan had already prepared a crystal pillar for her. No matter what, the people of the main family did not want to help Long Xian.

“Brother, what do you want to tell Long Qi? Tell me,” Long Xi said in a cold voice.

Long Tian’s eyes narrowed. “Tell him to return the crystal thread and release Long Ding.”

Long Xi laughed. “Brother, you’re making things difficult for Long Qi.”

Long Tian’s eyes flashed.

“Long Qi is currently opening his meridian point, and his body is undergoing a transformation. There’s no way he can hear you right now due to the pain that he’s experiencing,” Long Xi explained.

Long Tian finally relaxed; Long Xi was correct. When Long Tian observed Lu Yin more closely, he saw his deathly pale face and the pool of blood that had formed beneath him. At this moment, Lu Yin was suffering terrible pain, and this was something that Long Tian himself had already experienced. He had managed to endure the pain, but it was possible that Long Qi would fail. There was no way that Long Qi could compare to Long Tian, so it was entirely possible that Long Qi could not hear anything at this moment.

Long Xian also accepted this explanation and forced himself to calm down.

Long Tian kept his voice calm. “Sister, after Long Qi is finished with this, tell him to release Long Ding and return the crystal thread.”

Long Xi retorted harshly, “Brother, do you want to force the crystal thread out of Long Qi’s body?”

Long Tian paused, but then he fell silent. He would have to force the crystal thread out of Long Qi’s body in order to return it to Long Ding.

Long Xian anxiously spoke up. “Don’t worry, princess. I won’t be too harsh on your husband, and I will definitely compensate the main family as well. Starting from now, the Flying Armor Troops will fully support the Junior Progenitor, and Long Ding will definitely be of help to you and the Junior Progenitor when you travel to the Dominion Realm.”

Long Xian behaved in a very servile manner, as he was scared that Long Xi would reject this suggestion.

Long Xi smiled at Long Xian. “You being able to support my brother will all depend on whether or not you are a traitor to humanity.”

Long Xian looked up at her in shock. “Why would you say such a thing, princess?”

Long Xi replied, “The Fourteenth Gate is already investigating you. Don’t tell me that you’re unaware.”

Long Xian clenched his fists. He knew that Long Xi was trying to help Long Qi. “The Fourteenth Gate is only trying to find out how I managed to obtain so many tribulation crystals. I received all of them from an elder, and I have no connection to the traitors. Moreover, why would those monsters spend so many resources on me? I’m just the commander of the Flying Armor Troops. To be realistic, I’m not worth that much effort.”

Long Xi clearly understood what the man meant, and the Fourteenth Gate understood as well. This was why Long Xian was no longer suspected of being a traitor. However, at this moment, the accusation was merely an excuse, and it was irrelevant whether or not Long Xian was actually a traitor.

“The tribulation crystals has allowed you to help Long Ding get closer to my brother, or maybe the crystals could allow Long Ding to ambush my brother when in the Dominion Realm. This price would definitely be worth it if these crystals helped them eliminate a future Progenitor,” Long Xi said calmly.

Long Xian was enraged. “This is nonsense! Even if you are the clan’s princess, you can’t slander me in order to support your husband. You will disappoint the people of the White Dragon Clan, particularly the people from the branch families.”

Long Tian reprimanded his sister, “That’s enough. Sister, that’s too far.”

Long Xi replied, “It’s just speculation. But brother, how can you be sure that I’m wrong? You can ask Master Guo. He’s also from the Fourteenth Gate.”

Long Tian turned towards Guo Shan.

Guo Shan slowly said, “I’m here to investigate Long Xian.”

This was all he said, but everyone heard him agreeing with Long Xi.

Long Xian almost vomited blood. These bastards were slandering him; he really was not a traitor!

Long Tian also grew suspicious. He had always been a paranoid, selfish, and narcissistic person. If it was true that Long Xian was a traitor and that he had planned to have Long Ding attack once they were in the Dominion Realm, there was a very real chance of the plot succeeding. Long Tian was very arrogant, which made him feel that such betrayal was quite likely.

Eliminating a future Progenitor for the price of some tribulation crystals was definitely worth the price.

Long Xian knew that nobody would stand up for him once he saw Long Tian’s expression change. The White Dragon Clan’s main family and the Fourteenth Gate were both working against him now.

“Junior Progenitor, I swear that I’ve never made any plans to have Long Ding attack you! I am definitely not a traitor!” Long Xian shouted pathetically, still trying to gain Long Tian’s support.

Guo Shan felt torn. If he said anything at this point in time, it would definitely change the situation for Long Xian and Long Ding, but it was also true that Guo Shan and Long Qi were both from the Fourteenth Gate. Thus, Guo Shan would not help Long Xian. Moreover, Guo Shan had not lied and had not slandered Long Xian. He really had been sent to Flying Armor Pass to investigate Long Xin; it was just that he had not mentioned that the investigation had already finished. There was no need to announce that particular detail as there was no reason to publicize the results of Humility’s Gate’s investigations. Thus, Guo Shan had done nothing wrong.

Everyone carefully observed Long Tian as they waited for his decision. He was the White Dragon Clan’s Junior Progenitor, and his decisions affected many people’s lives. Lu Yin was the only person present who was completely ignoring Long Tian.

Long Tian finally made a decision. He looked towards the hole in the ground. “Long Qi, come to Dragon Mountain in the Higher Realm with that crystal thread. Commander Long Xian and Long Ding should do the same. We will then conduct an internal investigation within the clan. If Commander Long Xian isn’t a traitor, then the crystal thread will be returned to Long Ding, and Long Qi will be punished.” He then turned to face Long Xian. “What do you think, commander?”

When Lu Yin heard Long Tian’s decision, he realized how ruthless this person was. Long Xian and Long Ding would be completely powerless once they were at Dragon Mountain. They were only able to speak up at this moment because of the Flying Armor Array. There was no way the White Dragon Clan’s main family would ever let the two off after they arrived at Dragon Mountain, and Lu Yin would not be allowed to keep the crystal thread either. In fact, he might even receive a punishment.

Long Tian’s goal was simple; he wanted to get his hands on the crystal thread and then find the most suitable candidate who would unconditionally support him in the Dominion Realm. Long Tian did not care about Long Xian or his son at all.

Long Xian’s expression turned grim, and he coldly replied, “Junior Progenitor, Long Ding contacted you the moment he was about to finish opening his meridian point because he has idolized you since childhood, and he truly wishes to help you.”

Long Tian remained calm. “Don’t worry. As long as you aren’t a traitor, nobody will be able to do anything to you.”

He then turned to face Long Xi. “Sister, what do you think?”

He shot her a pointed look, and she obviously was aware of his intentions. She looked at Lu Yin, who was suffering terribly, and said, “Brother, Long Qi has absorbed the crystal thread and is about to open his meridian point. With his strength, he might actually die if we force the crystal thread out of his body. As an alternative, if we manage to confirm that Commander Long Xian isn’t a traitor, then I, Long Xi, will use the rest of my life to repay his family.”

Guo Shan rolled his eyes. The moment Long Xian and his son arrived at Dragon Mountain, they would have other crimes pinned on them, even if they were not traitors. Guo Shan realized that the White Dragon Clan’s people were all experts at speaking meaningless words. Who had claimed that these people were honest?

Long Tian frowned. His goal was the crystal thread; what would be the point if Long Qi kept the crystal thread?

Long Xian sneered. Everyone was trying to take advantage of him. Long Tian, Long Xi, and even the Fourteenth Gate were merely using him. It was pointless for him to rely on any of these people. He took a deep breath and pressed down with a hand. The cube of light that had kept Gui trapped suddenly fell to the ground, trapping Long Kui instead while leaving Gui free in the sky.

Long Xian then suddenly threw his spear at Lu Yin, as he wanted to kill the youth and seize the crystal thread back, even if it meant betraying the White Dragon Clan. The moment Ding’er opened his meridian point, the two of them would be welcome to join any of the other ruling powers in the Higher Realm. Also, Long Xian himself was an Envoy, so he was not stuck with the White Dragon Clan.

Nobody had expected Long Xian to suddenly attack, as doing so meant betraying the White Dragon Clan. Did he no longer care about Long Ding?

“Stop!” Long Tian shouted.

Long Kui roared and tried to escape from the Flying Armor Array. Despite his efforts, his physical strength could not compare to Gui’s, even though the human was more powerful overall. Given how long Gui had been trapped for, there was no way the Envoy would be able to escape without spending a great deal of time and effort on it.

The four eyes on Gui’s two heads went wide as it charged towards Long Xian.

Chapter 1405: Decisive

Long Xian quickly reached the protective ring around Lu Yin. This power vessel was able to withstand an attack from an Envoy who had passed their first tribulation. However, Long Xian had already passed his second tribulation, so he was much more powerful.

Long Xian was taking a gamble. He was hoping that the ring would not be able to withstand his attack and that Long Qi would either not dare to or not have the ability to kill Long Ding. Since Long Qi was still opening his meridian point, the pain that he was suffering should render him barely conscious.

Long Xian was a vicious person, which was how he had managed to become the commander of the Flying Armor Troops. No matter how desperate he might be, he would still make this choice, even if it ended up with the two of them dying together.

If Lu Yin were a normal cultivator or the person that Long Xi believed him to be, then being attacked by an Envoy would have flustered badly. Furthermore, he was still busy opening his first meridian point. However, Lu Yin was not Long Qi; he was Lu Yin. He was the master of the Fifth Mainland’s Outerverse, champion of ZENITH, and the person who had trashed Daynight Flowzone.

Although Long Xian was vicious, Lu Yin was even worse. The moment Long Xian’s spear pierced through the ring’s protective barrier, Lu Yin immediately shoved Long Ding in front of the spear. If Long Xian continued his attack, he would definitely kill his own son.

Long Xian had considered all of Lu Yin's possible reactions, and he had assumed that the youth would most likely be frozen with fear. He had not expected Lu Yin to decisively force Long Ding towards the spear within the instant that the spear pierced the ring. Long Xian immediately pulled his spear back and stopped his attack.

Lu Yin took this opportunity to push Long Ding towards Long Xian before shooting up and out of the hole in the ground.

Long Xian caught Long Ding as the youth fell. Long Ding spat a mouthful of blood onto Long Xian’s face, but Long Xian ignored the blood and instantly pulled out some pills to treat Long Ding.

Long Ding had been injured heavily, but he still managed to grab Long Xian’s shirt and said, “Father, kill-kill Long Qi! Re- revenge.”

“Alright, I’ll get your revenge! I’ll kill Long Qi.” Long Xian screamed, “Flying Armor Troops! Protect the young master!”

“Yes, Commander.”

Long Tian’s image had disappeared the moment Long Xian had attacked, as the connection between the communication crystals had been lost. At the same time, Long Xi’s call had been lost when Long Kui had been trapped by the Flying Armor Array.

They had both seen Long Xian attack, but they had not seen what had happened right afterwards.

However, Long Kui had witnessed the entire incident. He was shocked, and his impression of Lu Yin changed once again. He had been near certain that Lu Yin would be killed by Long Xian, and he had not thought that Lu Yin would be able to do anything like what he had.

Gui flew towards the ground, its claws grasping for Long Xian.

Countless scales covered Long Xian’s body as he used his spear to stop Gui. The beast forced the Envoy beneath the ground, and the man roared, “Get away!”

He called down the stellar energy in the sky above, which caused visible ripples to spread out that forced Gui back. The stellar energy continued on, sweeping across the entire city and stripping everyone of their control over their star energy, even Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was scared. It was too unrealistic for him to fight against an Envoy when he was not even able to properly control his own star energy. Lu Yin had reached the Worldliness realm of star energy control, but he still was unable to control the star energy within his body.

He moved to hide behind Long Kui while keeping a careful eye on Long Xian.

Long Xian was such a massive threat that Lu Yin even forgot about the pain that he was currently suffering. Long Xian’s killing intent was so strong that it had physically manifested as that surge of stellar energy.

Lu Yin suddenly felt a chill run down his back and a cold wind envelop his feet. His eyes narrowed; something was wrong. There was an assassin behind him. An Astral Chessboard appeared below his feet, and within his vision, everyone became a chess piece in that moment, including Long Kui, Long Xian, Guo Shan, the Flying Armor Troops, their battle techniques, and even the hidden assassin’s attack.

Lu Yin instantly understood his situation, and he saw that a powerful wind was only a few meters away from him. This wind had come from an average looking old man outside the military headquarters. Although this attack would not be enough to kill Lu Yin, the old man had used stellar energy in this attack, which meant that this assassin was an Envoy.

Realmless kept sending more and more powerful assassins.

Lu Yin immediately used the Ce Secret Art to move the strong wind towards Long Xian.

Long Kui had his back to Lu Yin, so he did not see anything.

However, Long Xian had seen what Lu Yin had done. Was that a secret technique?!

Even in the Perennial World, secret techniques were very rare. Long Xian did not have any, and neither did Long Ding. Long Kui, Liu Lu, and many others also had no secret techniques.

For Long Xian, it was completely unexpected that Lu Yin would know a secret technique.

It was also out of the expectations of the assassin from Realmless.

The strong wind swept right past Lu Yin and Long Kui and headed towards Long Xian.

Long Xian used his spear and blocked the attack out of reflex, but Gui's attack landed at the same time. Three battle techniques clashed, and a crack appeared in the Flying Armor Array. Coincidentally, a crack spread towards Long Ding's direction, and it split his body in half.

Long Xian went pale and screamed, "Ding'er—!"

The crack devoured everything nearby, and many of the Flying Armor Troops were shredded.

Guo Shan anxiously moved without stopping as he tried to escape from the crack.

The assassin from Realmless was astonished. Lu Yin had actually learned a secret technique, and it was also one that the assassin had never seen before. This assassination attempt had failed like all the others, so the assassin immediately left.

A crack appeared in the sky, and it caused a fissure to appear in the Flying Armor Array. Long Kui took this chance to escape, grabbing Lu Yin and Guo Shan and putting them on Gui's back.

The rift in the Flying Armor Array only lasted for a brief moment before being repaired by the sourcebox array. Long Xian had a tremendous advantage within Flying Armor Pass, and Lu Yin and Guo Shan were nothing more than burdens to Long Kui. Since Long Ding had died, Long Xian would not think twice about betraying the White Dragon Clan, and nobody knew what he might do.

As Gui flew away from Flying Armor Pass, Lu Yin heard Long Xian's vengeful scream. It was clear this man had a huge grudge against him.

Long Kui raised a hand. His communication crystal vibrated, and Long Xi's image appeared. She looked extremely worried, and she sighed in relief when she saw that Lu Yin was fine. "Elder, protect Long Qi while he opens his lower meridian point."

"I understand. Don't worry, Princess. What should we do about Long Xian?" Long Kui asked.

Long Xi frostily replied, "He betrayed the White Dragon Clan, so you can deal with him as soon as Long Qi is safe, Elder."

"I understand." Long Kui nodded.

Lu Yin finally refocused on the pain that he was still suffering after leaving Flying Armor Pass. Waves of pain and nausea swept over him, but fortunately he had already endured through half of the process.

Long Xi looked at Lu Yin with concern, but her voice remained firm. "You must get through this and successfully open your meridian point. Once you do so, nobody will ever look down on you, and you will become one of my White Dragon Clan's pillars. You have to get through this."

Lu Yin growled, "I will."

Long Xi closed her eyes and disappeared.

Gui sped up, and Lu Yin was taken to a hidden area two hours away. There were no people in this area, and Gui's aura was enough to prevent random beasts from approaching.

Long Kui and Guo Shan quietly stood some distance away.

Lu Yin continued enduring the pain. Finally, after some more time passed, the pain disappeared. His body had completely adapted to the tribulation crystals, and he had successfully opened his first meridian point.

Opening this point gave Lu Yin an indescribable feeling. He could feel that the star energy flowing through his body had subtly changed, but it was only a slight change. Still, it made him much stronger, and he could now shift the form of his star energy more easily. He casually attempted some attacks and noticed some obvious changes in his techniques. Despite that, the changes to his body were the greatest.

Lu Yin could feel that he had become physically stronger. Before, he had been limited to 250 Stack Vacuum Palms, but he felt that he was now capable of unleashing 300 Stacks. Unfortunately, he didn't have any Root of Intelligence to make tea, so he would not be able to simulate 300 Stacks for the time being. Regardless, this increase in strength would allow his 250 Stack Vacuum Palms to become stronger.

Given the increase in physical strength, Lu Yin's speed had also increased, and the flow of star energy within his body had also improved. Lu Yin clenched his fists in excitement. This was a huge improvement to his overall strength. Given his current ability, he would be able to defeat Wang Yi and Wu Taibai, who had been comparable to him during ZENITH. Back then, his attacks had just barely reached the limit that they could endure, but now, he easily exceeded that limit. At this time, given Lu Yin's various abilities, he would be able to easily defeat either of them. However, this increase in strength was still not comparable to the power that he had achieved with the God of Death Transformation.

If he could achieve that level of power, it would be ideal.

Opening the first meridian point had practically doubled Long Ding's strength, but due to Lu Yin's greater strength, his power had not doubled. Rather, his power would likely double once he opened the middle meridian point, and it might even allow him to reach the same level of strength that he had enjoyed with the God of Death Transformation.

Blood stained the ground beneath his feet. Lu Yin still felt a touch of fear, and he hoped that he would not have to endure so much pain when opening the next two meridian points. This ordeal had truly been excruciating.

The crystal thread was still in his first meridian point, and he would need to slowly absorb it.

Long Ding had been too hasty. If he had waited for the tribulation crystal to be fully absorbed before challenging Lu Yin, then events would have proceeded far differently.

"You've succeeded?" Long Kui and Guo Shan looked at Lu Yin with blazing eyes.

Lu Yin nodded and clenched his fists. "I feel like I've become much stronger. It feels like my strength has more than doubled! It would be much easier for me to defeat Long Ding now."

Neither of the older men were at all surprised.

Long Kui smiled. "Long Ding was much stronger than you. The stronger the person is, the less pronounced the results of opening a meridian point. However, your improvements should be even more impressive than his. Congratulations."

Guo Shan turned to look at Long Kui in shock before gazing at Lu Yin with a clear question in his eyes. It looked like the White Dragon Clan did not know much about Long Qi. How could Long Ding possibly be stronger than this kid? It was the complete opposite!

Lu Yin cleared his throat and glared back at Guo Shan.

"Since you've managed to successfully open your lower meridian point, stay here until you fully absorb the tribulation crystal. Don't repeat Long Ding's mistakes," Long Kui said coldly.

Lu Yin already knew what the elder intended to do. Long Xian now held an intense hatred for the White Dragon Clan, and Long Kui had to eliminate such an enemy.

"Gui will stay here and protect you. Conceal your aura and don't go anywhere until I return." Long Kui then leaped up and disappeared into the true universe as he made his way back to Flying Armor Pass.

Gui shrank down to the size of a palm and then hopped onto Lu Yin's shoulder. The beast was Lu Yin's temporary personal bodyguard.

Lu Yin turned to Guo Shan. "Thank you."

Guo Shan was taken aback. "For what? I didn't help you with anything. I only spoke the truth. Don't randomly thank me, as you'll get me in trouble."

Lu Yin smiled. "I know."

Chapter 1406: A Sinister Plan

"Alright, I need to go. I didn't expect this mission to become so eventful, and I should do some self reflection," Guo Shan said helplessly.

"Do I have another mission?" Lu Yin asked.

Guo Shan answered, "You might have had one before what just happened, but now, I'm not so sure."

"What do you mean?" Lu Yin was confused.

Guo Shan enviously explained, "You've opened your lower meridian point, and you also beat Liu Lu earlier, which means that you might have a chance of going to the Dominion Realm. That's why you won't be given any missions unless you're confirmed to not be going. You should know that no mission is considered more important than someone potentially becoming a Progenitor."

Lu Yin's eyes lit up. If Humility's Gate felt that he had a chance, then it meant that there was a good chance that Long Tian would contact him soon.

Opening his lower meridian point had provided Lu Yin with an excuse to reveal more of his strength. Even though he still couldn't fully reveal everything, it should be fine for him to appear to be as powerful as Unseen Light. The best time for Lu Yin to demonstrate his increased strength would be after becoming an Enlighter.

It would not be easy for him to become an Enlighter, as he had only completed his sixteenth cycle as a Hunter even after using Long Xi's blood. If he suddenly became an Enlighter within such a short period of time, then Long Xi would become suspicious, and that would get him in trouble.

More importantly, would he face any obstacles when becoming an Enlighter?

He recalled the issues that he had faced during his previous breakthroughs and felt a bit of panic. Several of his past breakthroughs had been very difficult—would he face the same situation when breaking through to the Enlighter realm?

Lu Yin quietly stayed in the forest while Long Kui returned to Flying Armor Pass.

After Long Kui arrived, he realized that Long Xian had long since disappeared, along with Long Ding's body. The former commander had left the Flying Armor Troops behind.

"He fled really quickly, huh," Long Kui muttered to himself. He looked towards the north. Even if Long Xian had run away, Long Kui could still track him down.

He was going after Long Xian not only because the man was a traitor to the clan, but also because of the tribulation crystals.

The White Dragon Clan desperately wished to know how Long Xian had acquired so many tribulation crystals, and that was another reason why Long Tian had wanted Long Xian to return to Dragon Mountain. Once Long Xian reached the family's headquarters, there would be no escaping for him.

The sky grew dark, and it started raining. The raindrops were light blue, and the drops looked like beams of light falling from the sky. Even though there was not much light, there was enough to illuminate Long Xian's face.

Long Xian silently buried Long Ding in the ground with a scarily calm expression. He had nobody to talk to, and he hid his hatred deep within his heart as the rain splashed onto his hand.

He looked back at where he had come from. Five hours had passed since he had left Flying Armor Pass, which was the moment that Long Kui had taken Long Qi. Long Xian had already known that the White Dragon Clan would never let him off.

He was in great danger at this moment, as he had lost the White Dragon Clan's protection. There were countless people who wanted to learn where he had gotten that pillar of tribulation crystal from.

He hoped that nobody would be able to find him.

Homeless, he moved towards the north. Long Xian was making his way to the Middle Ocean, as it covered a huge area, and there were many places devoid of people. There were even a few places that had developed along alternative lines of civilization. He was confident that nobody would be able to find him in the Middle Ocean, and he would only return after achieving a power level of at least a million.

He did not have much interest in joining the Celestial Frost Sect, the Wang family, or the Xia family. All of them would demand that he tell them the origins of the tribulation crystal pillar, and that was not something that he could explain.

An hour later, Long Xian was still fleeing from Flying Armor Pass when the sky in front of him suddenly cracked open. He saw a pair of cruel eyes appear and a hand that tried to grab him. Long Xian had already prepared himself for this, so he was not shocked that somebody would pursue him.

He took out his spear and thrust it towards the person. Suddenly, five fingers appeared in front of him: "Four Arts: Pearl."

This person was from the Wang family. Long Xian quickly tried to dodge, but he was already too late; one of his powers was sealed. Scales began to appear on his body, and when the hand struck his chest, his eyes nearly flew out of his head. He spat out a mouthful of blood and flew back, smashing into the ground.

His physical strength must have been sealed, as he had been easily injured by that blow. Long Xian vomited blood once again as a black silhouette appeared in front of him.

The attacker had a comparable strength to Long Xian's, as they had also passed through a second tribulation. However, the attacker had sealed Long Xian's physical strength, and his attack had seriously injured Long Xian, which left him unable to retaliate.

The attacker said nothing at all, simply continuing to launch more attacks against Long Xian.

Long Xian clenched his spear tightly before throwing it forward. The blade pierced through the sky—Long Xian was not actually trying to defeat his attacker. Instead, his main goal was to attract more people here.

Long Xian was confident that, since somebody from the Wang family had appeared, people from Shenwu's Sky and the Celestial Frost Sect would arrive as well.

The attacker dodged the spear and immediately used Four Arts: Celestial Blade when they saw that the sky had been split open by the spear.

Long Xian narrowly dodged this attack, but the attack's shockwaves injured his left arm. It also flung him ten meters away, and the attacker leaped after him. However, a finger suddenly appeared and pointed at Long Xian's attacker.

The attacker backed off immediately as the finger shattered the entire area.

Long Xian's eyes gleamed; this was the Celestial Frost Sect's Celestial Being Shows the Way. They had shown up after all.

The two people then started fighting each other, leaving Long Xian in between them. A few other famous powerhouses joined in a bit later, and Long Kui also arrived. He wanted to take Long Xian away, but he was unable to do so with so many powerhouses around.

Long Xian recovered his strength and leaped into the true universe to escape. However, before he left, he cut off his right hand. It fell to the ground along with a cosmic ring on a finger.

“What you all want is in that cosmic ring. Nobody will be able to get anything if you chase after me,” Long Xian shouted before running away.

Long Kui wanted to go after the clan traitor, but his attention shifted to the cosmic ring. When he thought of the crystal pillar, his eyes glittered, and he reached for the cosmic ring at the same time that the other people did.

Long Xian did not even know who managed to snatch the cosmic ring, as there were still people chasing him. Not everyone had believed him.

Even though Long Xian was an Envoy, he had already been seriously injured, and the stellar energy vortex in his left arm had been destroyed. This caused him to eventually fall out of the true universe, and several people rushed towards him from behind.

Long Xian felt bitter. He had been the commander of the Flying Armor Troops, and yet, he had still been forced into such a situation. If everything had gone according to plan, then he would currently be under the protection of the White Dragon Clan’s main family, and Long Ding would have been preparing to become an Enlightener. Then, Long Xian’s son would have gone to the Dominion Realm with Long Tian. How had everything gone so horribly wrong? It was all that Long Qi’s fault! Revenge! Long Xian wanted revenge.

He could not die, as he still had to avenge Ding’er. There was no way Long Xian could die here.

Multiple people descended in front of him. Every last one of them wanted to capture him. These people had not spoken a single word, as they did not want to reveal their identities.

Although Long Xian had been injured, the people chasing after him were not Envoys. If any of them were, he would have been caught while still in the true universe. These people were just Enlighteners.

Long Xian managed to kill a few by putting his full efforts forth. Both his left arm and right hand were injured now, and he panted heavily. He had never suffered such terrible injuries before.

“Do you think that they came to capture you? That’s wrong. They were only supposed to share your location. Only Envoys can capture you,” a soft voice said.

Long Xian was shocked. There was blood at the corner of his lips, and a pool of blood on the ground. “Who- who’s speaking?”

“Was the tribulation crystal pillar that I gave you useful?” the voice taunted.

Long Xian was astonished. “It was you! Are you the one who gave me that cosmic ring with the crystal pillar? Who are you?”

“Sigh. You’re so useless. I gave you a crystal pillar, yet you let someone else reap the benefit of it.”

“Who are you?” Long Xian shouted.

“Are you trying to attract more people? Would that help you?”

Long Xian collapsed onto the ground and looked around. “Who- who are you?”

“You already have your answer, and it’s just that you don’t dare to say it aloud. Fine, I’ll tell you: I am the enemy of all humanity. You are a traitor.”

Long Xian grew furious. “No, I’m not! I never promised you anything, and I never helped you to do anything! What do you want? Why did you give me that crystal? What could I even do for you?”

“You’ve already helped me. Who do you think spread the word that you had a crystal pillar?”

Long Xian gritted his teeth. “It was you! You told Humility’s Gate! Why would you do that?”

“I merely spilled the information to them, and their conclusion was that you weren’t a traitor. You got yourself into your current situation because you and your son were useless. That’s why both of you were destroyed by others, and that’s none of my business. Regardless, I still got the results I wanted, so you’ve succeeded at your mission.”

Long Xian felt confused. “What mission?”

“Hahahaha, take a guess. Think about what you did.”

Long Xian suddenly remembered the cosmic ring that he had left behind and the item that had been in the cosmic ring along with the tribulation crystal pillar. His face went pale. “It’s a trap?”

“Using a pillar of tribulation crystal to deal with four Junior Progenitors? Sounds like a good deal, no?”

Long Xian trembled. He was finished. If the item in the cosmic ring was really a trap, then the deaths of the four Junior Progenitors would shock the entire Perennial World, and he would become the universe’s biggest criminal. “Why? Why did you choose me?”

“Weren’t you very happy when you received the crystal pillar? Are you regretting it now?”

Long Xian closed his eyes. He had still held a glimmer of hope in his heart that he would be able to join the Celestial Frost Sect, Shenwu’s Sky, or the Wang family in order to get revenge on the White Dragon Clan. But now, he had nothing. He was going to become humanity’s greatest traitor, and nobody would let him off. There would be no place for him even in the Middle Ocean.

“You became a traitor the moment you left that cosmic ring behind. You did a great job on your mission, so why are you blaming yourself? Just join us. You don’t have any other choice.”

Long Xian looked up at the sky. He was overcome with bitterness, desperation, and hatred. “So this is how you groom traitors.”

Most people had no desire to betray humanity but were instead forced to do so. Long Xian had been the commander of the Flying Armor Troops, and yet he had unknowingly completed a mission for these monsters.

“Do you want revenge?”

These four words flashed through Long Xian’s mind, and he remembered the scene of Long Ding dying in his arms. He had to get revenge on Long Qi! He wanted to kill Long Qi and destroy the White Dragon Clan. He was going to get revenge on the four ruling powers. Long Xian had already changed.

“Humans will eventually die from their greed and hatred, and we will be the ultimate winners. Still, why is he here? That’s quite interesting. Really interesting, hahahaha. Our plans will have to change, humans. Hahahaha!”

Chapter 1407: Reveal

The battle in Flying Armor Pass had even shocked the Higher Realm. Although the individuals participating in the battle were unimportant, they still represented many major forces.

Flying Armor Pass had always been a place that the Higher Realm’s four ruling powers all coveted, and Long Xian had unexpectedly obtained enough tribulation crystals to allow Long Ding to open his lower meridian point. Every power desperately wanted to discover where these crystals had come from.

In the end, Long Xian went missing. However, the people chasing after him had found something that seemed to be a map within the cosmic ring that he had left behind. The four ruling powers naturally split the map into four parts.

There was chaos within the White Dragon Clan while everybody spoke about this incident. Many people criticized the main family for being too biased while the main family tried to use Humility’s Gate as an excuse. The argument lasted for several days until the Celestial Frost Sect suggested that the map be pieced together.

The map was eventually recognized as a sketch of the Dominion Realm, which meant that it most likely led to a massive treasure in the Dominion Realm that was somehow related to the tribulation crystals that Long Xian had received.

Lu Yin did not know how the four ruling powers would use the map that they had found, but he was excited as he looked at the man standing before him.

“If you want to stay in Dragon Mountain for the rest of your life and receive my sister’s protection, then you can reject my offer. I will only ask you this once, and you will only ever have this one chance.” The man speaking to Lu Yin was Long Tian. The White Dragon Clan’s Junior Progenitor had looked for Lu Yin, and he was asking Lu Yin to head to the White Dragon Clan’s Junior Progenitor Planet. There, Long Tian would provide the resources for Lu Yin to become an Enlighter, and once Lu Yin succeeded, he would be able to join the trip to the Dominion Realm.

Lu Yin felt as though this opportunity had fallen into his lap. Although he had faced some struggles when he first arrived in the Perennial World, things were progressing quite smoothly now, and he had managed to achieve almost everything he had wanted.

“Will Long Xi agree to this?” Lu Yin pretended to be nervous as he asked.

Long Tian frowned. “You don’t need to worry about that. This is the only time I will ask you this, and I will provide you with the resources to help you become an Enlighter. Are you willing to join me on the trip to the Dominion Realm?”

Lu Yin took a deep breath and solemnly replied, “I will definitely help you without any conditions, brother.”

Long Tian hesitated. While Long Qi's words sounded good, they also felt completely fake. Long Tian still remembered the matter in Flying Armor Pass; had Lu Yin merely pretended not to hear the Junior Progenitor's commands, or had he truly been unable to hear?

Long Tian's gaze softened as he looked at Lu Yin's sincere expression. No, he was certain that this person had been unable to hear at that time. Nobody from a secondary bloodline would dare to defy him. "Fine. Come to the White Dragon Clan's Junior Progenitor Planet. I'll get everything ready for you."

With that, Long Tian's image disappeared.

Lu Yin looked up at the sky; get everything ready? He would need a massive amount of star crystals to become an Enlightener, but he had also prepared a decent amount himself. Nobody would suspect him if he received Long Tian's help to become an Enlightener. Since Long Tian was so confident, then it meant that he had probably already prepared a large amount of resources.

Long Tian had approached Lu Yin because Lu Yin had defeated Long Ding after opening his first meridian point. On top of that, Lu Yin had then gone on to open his own lower meridian point. Thus, when he became an Enlightener, he would definitely be much more powerful than Long Ding could have ever been.

Lu Yin smiled as he thought about this. The trip to the Dominion Realm would be very interesting. He wondered just how many familiar faces he would see there.

Long Kui had ordered Lu Yin to remain where he was before returning to Flying Armor Pass. From the information that he had received from Guo Shan, Lu Yin knew that he likely would not be assigned any missions for the time being. Therefore, he decided to just patiently wait for Long Kui to lead him to the White Dragon Clan's Junior Progenitor Planet.

In the Higher Realm, Yu Chen was carefully reading something within the Celestial Frost Sect when a man walked over and respectfully passed her a thick report. "Miss, this is the information regarding the battle in Flying Armor Pass."

Yu Chen took the documents and slowly flipped through them. The information that she read shocked her. Long Qi had actually managed to defeat Long Ding even after Long Ding opened his first meridian point. Although Long Ding could not be considered an elite within the four ruling powers, he should have still been quite powerful after opening his first meridian point, enough to place him within the three most powerful people within the Junior Progenitor's generation. Yu Chen could barely believe that Long Qi had already become so powerful. He had improved far too quickly.

She grew serious as she scanned the information. The report was very detailed, and it included everything that had happened during the battle, including the conversation between Long Tian and Long Xi.

After perusing the details, Yu Chen closed the folder. Had Long Qi really been unable to hear Long Tian's order? This was an important detail. Everything would be fine if Long Qi had been unable to hear Long Tian, but if he had heard the Junior Progenitor and simply ignored him, then that had huge implications. That would mean that Long Qi did not care about even a Junior Progenitor, which also would indicate that everything that had happened that day had been staged by Long Qi.

Yu Chen was accustomed to considering events from the viewpoint of the worst case scenario. She used such reasoning to reexamine all of the information that she had on Long Qi, especially the incidents where he had tricked Mo Gaohe and the Guan brothers. She was astounded; could Long Qi have possibly arranged everything?

However, how could he have known that the Guan brothers had all been Redbacks? How had he won Unseen Light over to his side? Had it really been nothing but a coincidence and that they were really old friends? That should not be possible.

Yu Chen spent an hour reviewing everything that she had received on Long Qi before finally closing the folder with a bang.

There had to be something more to this person. How could someone who had spent more time receiving an inheritance from the Sword Monument than even Bai Xian'er be so weak? How could such a person be willing to marry into the White Dragon Clan? What's more, all of Yu Chen's plans to deal with Lu Yin had failed spectacularly. This could not be a coincidence. She had been tricked by him, somebody who everyone had looked down on.

Yu Chen carefully studied a picture of Long Qi's face. It was possible that there was a huge mystery behind this person, and she had to find out the truth.

She immediately sent out an order. "Tell everyone that Long Qi received an inheritance from Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo."

The man standing behind her was stunned. "We will have to sacrifice a jade butterfly to spread this bit of news."

Jade butterflies were what Yu Chen called the spies whom she had placed within the various forces, much like how the monsters had their own spies in the form of traitors to humanity.

"According to the reports that we've received from the jade butterflies, fewer than ten people within the White Dragon Clan are privy to this secret. Our man could very well be easily exposed," the man emphasized.

Yu Chen firmly replied, "Then sacrifice him."

The man's eyes flashed. He looked at the image of Long Qi and sneered. This person had been trouble all along, and now, he was causing Yu Chen to sacrifice one of her jade butterflies. "Understood."

Yu Chen sighed. It had not been easy for her to develop this particular jade butterfly, and she was making a massive sacrifice. However, she strongly believed that there was a tremendous mystery behind Long Qi, and she hated not knowing the truth. She hoped that her guesses were wrong and that Long Qi was nothing more than a lucky person. However, the more she thought about it, the less likely that seemed to be.

"I don't care if you're real or fake—I just need you to disappear," Yu Chen said calmly, her eyes cold.

Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo had been infamous throughout the Perennial World, and many people had had grudges with him. Also, his spiritual force had been very strong, and he had loved to uncover other

people's secrets and expose them. He had also enjoyed revealing other people's battle techniques, and these pastimes had caused many people to attempt to kill him or otherwise hold grudges against him.

Kui Luo had uncovered enough secrets to write an entire book, and it was even more comprehensive than Realmless's intelligence reports. The Semi-Progenitor's greatest achievement had been instigating a battle between two Progenitors.

Most people suspected him of being a Redback, but there were other people who insisted that that was not true, as he was too high profile. Instead, they claimed that he was insane.

No matter what the man's sanity was, he was still an enemy of the public who had caused chaos throughout the Perennial World. Before his death, he had arranged for people to reveal all the secrets that he had uncovered, which disgusted many people.

There were a number of people who could no longer live with their heads held high due to the secrets that Kui Luo had revealed, and they hated Kui Luo to their core.

Lu Yin was leisurely reciting the Stonewall Scriptures and considering how he would break through to become an Enlightener when his communication crystal suddenly vibrated and Long Xi's image appeared. She looked exceptionally grim.

Lu Yin felt guilty when he saw Long Xi's face, and he tried to remember if he had screwed anything up. He could not think of anything aside from stealing the crystal thread from Long Xian.

"Where are you?" Long Xi asked coldly.

Lu Yin pouted. "I'm still here! I haven't even moved!"

He continued to say, "I haven't dared to move since you told me to wait here."

Long Xi looked upset, but she helplessly said, "Don't go anywhere. Elder Long Kui is on his way back from the Middle Ocean for you, and he'll get there within half a month."

Lu Yin blinked. "I thought that the elder had just left the Middle Ocean, no? Are you saying that he'll get here that quickly?"

"The four ruling powers each have their own methods," Long Xi said calmly. She then rubbed her temples as she mulled over something.

Lu Yin felt curious, but he did not dare to ask any more questions.

After a while, Long Xi asked, "Who else knew that you received an inheritance from Kui Luo?"

Lu Yin reflexively shook his head. "You're the only ones I've ever told. I never said anything to anyone else."

"Does Unseen Light know about it?" Long Xi was staring intently at Lu Yin. She was the only one who knew that Unseen Light was a close friend of Long Qi's.

Lu Yin answered firmly, "He doesn't know. I wouldn't tell anyone about this."

Unseen Light? He had never even heard of Kui Luo! They were just two trespassers!

Long Xi sighed. "This matter has been leaked."

Lu Yin's face fell. He had chosen to claim to have received an inheritance from Kui Luo because he did not want the White Dragon Clan to investigate his past. Kui Luo had died a long time ago, but he had been everyone's enemy while he was alive. This was why Lu Yin had not been worried about the White Dragon Clan finding anything out. He also had no need to worry about the White Dragon Clan revealing anything, as it would be humiliating if such information was revealed.

However, Lu Yin had not expected someone to reveal this. He was now in huge trouble, as Kui Luo had offended too many people. Although some of the Semi-Progenitor's enemies were already dead, the ones that were still alive were all ancient, and Lu Yin trembled at the thought of these ancient powerhouses chasing after him.

Chapter 1408: Hope Restaurant

"Who let this slip? Is someone trying to kill me? Do you realize that I'll be targeted by all those ancient people, and maybe even their descendants? And..." Lu Yin angrily began shouting at Long Xi.

Long Xi felt guilty, so she quietly waited as Lu Yin yelled. After he finished ranting, she answered, "One of our elder's nephew let this news slip. He was in charge of the clan's intelligence gathering, and he was quite sharp. Nobody thought that he could be one of the Celestial Frost Sect's jade butterflies."

Lu Yin was left confused. "This isn't something that he would have lightly revealed. He must have known that doing this would expose him."

Long Xi kept her eyes on Lu Yin. "That's actually something I need to ask you about. Just what did you do that forced Yu Chen to sacrifice such an important jade butterfly to deal with you?"

Lu Yin gulped. That woman had to be insane! He had not done anything, so why would she give up such an important spy just to deal with him? Something had to be wrong!

Ruminating, Lu Yin went over his recent actions. He really had not done anything particularly shocking. Back in the Fifth Mainland, he had trashed Daynight Flowzone and unified the entire Outerverse; compared to that, he had kept quite a low profile in the Perennial World.

Long Xi sighed helplessly. "Never mind. Just ignore her. Keep waiting where you are for Elder Long Kui to bring you to the White Dragon Clan's Junior Progenitor Planet."

"You're fine with me going to the White Dragon Clan's Junior Progenitor Planet?" Lu Yin asked.

Long Xi frowned. "I know that my brother made you a promise. I didn't want to agree to it at first, but you're in a rather unique situation right now. There aren't many places where you can openly walk about in the Perennial World. Even on Dragon Mountain, there are quite a few people who still hate Kui Luo, so they will not be polite to you here either. The only safe place for you is on the White Dragon Clan's Junior Progenitor Planet as that place is a reward for the Junior Progenitors due to their potential to become Progenitors in the future. Only members of the same generation can enter the planets, and no one else is allowed there. Therefore, once you are on the planet, the Junior Progenitor is the most powerful individual there, and my brother will protect you."

Lu Yin nodded. "Alright. Actually, I don't really want to go to the Dominion Realm since it sounds so dangerous."

"I know. As long as you don't become an Enlighter, my brother won't force you to go with him." Long Xi was worried that Lu Yin would misunderstand her, so she continued to say, "That's not because he's worried about you, but rather because he won't want to take you since you won't be able to help him unless you manage to become an Enlighter."

"I understand," Lu Yin replied.

Long Xi reminded him of a few more details before ending the call.

Lu Yin felt troubled, and he looked up towards the Higher Realm. Yu Chen had made trouble for him, and sooner or later, he would get even with her.

Elsewhere in the Middle Realm, Liu Hao stood beside the Sword Monument as Elder Gao walked towards him. "You've come to a decision?"

Liu Hao nodded and respectfully answered, "Xia Shenfei."

Elder Gao smiled. "Out of the four ruling powers' Junior Progenitors, Xia Shenfei is one of the better ones."

Liu Hao replied, "At least I won't have to worry about being betrayed if I'm with him."

Elder Gao turned around as Liu Tianmu approached from another direction and bowed.

"Young one, have you considered who you will support?" Elder Gao asked.

Liu Tianmu replied, "Long Tian."

Neither Elder Gao nor Liu Hao were surprised. Bai Shaohong was not an option, as there were many powerhouses within the Celestial Frost Sect. Liu Hao could potentially replace one of them, but there was no way that Liu Tianmu would ever be considered an option, especially since no one in this place had seen her Thirteen Swords. Thus, her only option was to go to the White Dragon Clan's Junior Progenitor Planet and try her luck if she wanted to try to visit the Dominion Realm.

"Let's go. I'm going to go to Shenwu's Sky's Junior Progenitor Planet, so I can escort you along the way," Liu Hao offered.

"Thank you," Liu Tianmu calmly accepted.

Within Seed Garden, Nong Sanniang was rubbing her back out in the field. "Am I getting older? I feel exhausted."

Nong Lie smirked. "Yes, you're old."

Nong Sanniang glared at him. "What did you just say? I'll beat you up!"

Nong Lie grinned. "Who are you going to help, sis?"

Nong Sanniang wiped off her sweat with a towel. As the towel unwrapped from around her head, her long black hair billowed out with the wind. Although she only had average looks, she had a special aura as she stood in the field with her muddy feet. "I guess Wang Su. We're both women, so I should help her."

Nong Lie nodded enthusiastically. "I think that Wang Su's a good choice as well! The other three are guys, and you'll just get annoyed if you go with them."

Nong Sanniang rolled her eyes. "As if I'm that charming."

A Guo fruit suddenly rushed up from the field and leaped into Nong Sanniang's arms. It chattered adorably, seemingly attached to her a lot.

Nong Sanniang laughed happily.

In the distance, Qiu Shi quietly sat on the ground in the middle of a golden wheat field.

Then, she opened her eyes and leaped into the wheat field. The field suddenly gathered around and began to rapidly grow. Stars revolved around Qiu Shi before converging into the Celestial Sword. She slashed her sword towards the wheat field and managed to break some of the plants, allowing her to see beyond the wheat field for a split second before the wheat continued its rapid growth.

No matter how many slashes Qiu Shi unleashed, she was still unable to escape the field. The field even moved with her as she moved around, trapping her within a circular area.

Qiu Shi had been trapped within this wheat field ever since she had first landed in the Perennial World. She knew that someone must have intentionally done this, and that person was unwilling to let her go no matter what she said or did.

Two sprouts of wheat moved past her and disappeared into the wheat field.

Qiu Shi was confused; what was this place? There were many weird things here, but they were all very friendly and never fought. How could she escape?

A great distance away, there was a city and an army on the unmoving yellow stripe of the Bifrost.

The Bifrost was controlled by Shenwu's Sky.

Yao Xuan looked up as an enormous creature flew towards him. It landed, and a middle aged man motioned for Yao Xuan to approach him. "Given your strength, you'll definitely be able to draw a Junior Progenitor's attention. When you achieve success in the future, don't forget about me."

Yao Xuan smiled. "I could never forget your help."

"Hahahaha, let's go to Shenwu's Sky's Junior Progenitor Planet."

Multiple powerhouses were making their way towards the Junior Progenitor Planets. Although the trip to the Dominion Realm was always dangerous, it was also an opportunity that had to be undertaken if one wanted to become a Progenitor. Even if the people who went on this trip were never able to become a Progenitor themselves, they would still have a good life after getting closer to a Junior Progenitor.

Even people who were not particularly powerful would head to the Junior Progenitor Planets. Oftentimes, their goal was to get a look at the young powerhouses and make sure that they did not offend them in the future.

After half a month passed, Lu Yin also started making his way towards a Junior Progenitor Planet. Long Kui felt annoyed when he saw the youth.

The elder had realized that more and more problems had arisen ever since Long Qi had become engaged to Long Xi. Long Kui had initially believed that Long Qi was a quiet person and that his only task would be to protect the youth. However, many incidents had recently taken place, and in particular, Long Qi had become a target even for other members of the White Dragon Clan after his connection to Kui Luo had been revealed.

People kept asking Long Kui and Princess Long Xi about Long Qi's secrets. The elder had become quite annoyed by all of the hints that people kept dropping, and people had even started searching for the elder's mount, Gui.

The worst part was that some of Long Kui's old friends had broken things off with him, which made the elder truly understand Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo's influence. Long Kui felt disgusted that he was even being associated with Kui Luo, and this had led to his terrible mood.

Meanwhile, the source of all of Long Kui's troubles, Long Qi, still appeared completely calm and relaxed, which made the Envoy even more frustrated.

"Apart from leaving you his inheritance, did Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo leave you any information?" Long Kui asked angrily.

Lu Yin did not understand the question. "Like what?"

"Any secrets?"

Lu Yin immediately shook his head. "Definitely not."

Long Kui glanced at the youth. "Are you sure? A lot of my friends have reached out to me, and even people from the other ruling powers have contacted the White Dragon Clan, hoping to discover what you know. If he left any secrets to you, then you cannot tell anyone about them. Do you understand?"

Lu Yin was left speechless. "Elder, I'm not lying! I only received some old materials and cultivation resources. The battle techniques that I received were just normal ones like the Overlaying Stacks Path as well as a few techniques to train my spiritual force. There was nothing else."

Long Kui stared at Lu Yin. "Our trip to the Junior Progenitor Planet might not be all that smooth. As soon as people find out where we're headed, a lot of people who want to find you will be after us. Be careful and don't say anything wrong."

Lu Yin regretted choosing Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo as the excuse for his strength. However, even if he had not done so, there were no other choices. He would have never been able to explain his extreme physical strength or his extremely powerful spiritual force while being a mere Hunter.

Despite that, Long Kui was overly worried. The Middle Realm covered a huge area, so it would not be easy for anyone to catch up to them even if they knew where the two were headed to.

At this same time, at one end of the Middle Ocean, there was a floating piece of land. This was Island of Hope, and it was connected to all four Junior Progenitor Planets. Anybody who wanted to go to the Junior Progenitor Planets had to go through Island of Hope and cross one of the bridges connecting the planets to the island.

There was a huge restaurant on Island of Hope called Hope Restaurant. It stood directly in front of the bridges that connected Island of Hope to the four Junior Progenitor Planets, and the unique bridges were all clearly visible from the restaurant, as were the planets at the other ends of the bridges.

As the trip to the Dominion Realm drew closer, groups of visitors of all ages arrived at Hope Restaurant, and not all of them were planning to continue on to the Junior Progenitor Planets. Most of these people only wanted to take a look at who had earned the right to go to the Junior Progenitor Planets while others just hoped to gain a bit of reputation.

Hope Restaurant was huge and had seven levels, and each level had a radius of 100 kilometers. Despite that, cultivators were easily able to take in the situation of each entire level.

Although fighting was not forbidden inside Hope Restaurant, the building had not decayed or been destroyed by the fighting because it had been built from the Mother Tree.

Wood from the Mother Tree could only be destroyed by Semi-Progenitors at the minimum, and even such powerhouses could only cause minimal damage. This was why Hope Restaurant had managed to stay relatively intact, not being destroyed even if battles occurred on a daily basis.

Furthermore, the most special thing about Hope Restaurant was that there were no waiters or chefs. Still, as long as there were customers, various dishes would appear on the tables for them. Nobody knew where the dishes came from despite countless people trying to find out; all efforts had proven fruitless.

Chapter 1409: Mr. Zui

Apart from Hope Restaurant, the rest of the Island of Hope was covered in forest growth. There were not that many beasts in the forest, and since many people did not like how crowded Hope Restaurant was, they preferred to wait in the forest until the best time to enter a Junior Progenitor Planet arrived.

As more cultivators came to the Island of Hope, more and more conflicts and fights broke out.

One day, a strange looking creature that resembled a piece of paper arrived on the Island of Hope and headed towards Hope Restaurant. There was one elder and one youth on the back of this paper creature.

As the old man looked at the enormous building in front of him, he lifted a hand. The paper creature then folded itself into a piece of paper that fell into the old man's palm. "This is Hope Restaurant, and it only opens once an era. The Island of Hope only appears once the Junior Progenitors are determined, and your current goal is to build up your reputation inside Hope Restaurant until you are invited to a Junior Progenitor Planet. Are you confident?"

"I'm confident that I can do that. Don't worry, senior," the young man replied.

The elder looked at the youth in a kindly manner. "You came from my Nest, and I don't care about what you may have done in the past. As long as you successfully enter a Junior Progenitor Planet and travel to the Dominion Realm with a Junior Progenitor, all of your past crimes will be erased. Let's go—Shang Qing's story will begin here at Hope Restaurant."

"Alright, Mr. Zui."

Each of the building's seven floors were very crowded. Anyone who was able to come here was either an elite or led by a powerhouse. Additionally, the higher the floor level, the more confident the occupants were of their own strength, as there were a fixed number of tables inside Hope Restaurant, and that number would never increase.

Nobody would willingly allow someone to step on their heads.

Everyone wanted to sit at the top floor of Hope Restaurant, but there was an unspoken rule in the restaurant: only Envoys and the people they brought were allowed on the top floor. Everyone else had to remain on the lower six floors.

Mr. Zui led Shang Qing to the first floor, and he had no intention of moving onto a higher floor.

Nest was the Middle Realm's largest prison, so given their status, they had to keep a low profile.

Most of the people on the first floor were young elites who had come on their own. People who had arrived with a senior would usually continue on to the higher floors. Still, the people on the first floor would not have been considered very powerful even if they had arrived with a senior.

The first floor of Hope Restaurant also had the most empty seats.

The two people sat down at a random table.

Delicious dishes and alcohol soon appeared on the table.

Mr. Zui took a deep breath and smiled happily. "This is the smell that I remember! The alcohol here is the best."

He took a large gulp of the wine.

Shang Qing was not interested in food or alcohol. Ever since he arrived in the Perennial World, he had kept his three streams of qi gathered at his waist as letting them swirl about his body would have attracted too much attention. Arch-Elder Zen had also advised everyone to keep a low profile before sending them to the Perennial World.

After spending an hour drinking, Mr. Zui let out a burp. He had clearly drunk far too much, and he muttered to himself, "The Island of Hope only appears once every era, and there are just too few people who can live for more than an era. Even most of those Envoys have to go into cryostasis to allow themselves to see the next era. Meanwhile, any random asteroid in a galaxy can last longer than us humans."

However, it did not matter how long a random asteroid could exist for; any random Explorer could easily destroy a planet that had existed for multiple eras while a Limiteer could easily destroy an asteroid. It did not even matter if the asteroid had witnessed the birth of humanity or any other species that might have existed before humans.

"Wisdom is the root of humankind."

Shang Qing felt confused. It seemed strange to hear such a thing from a criminal from Nest.

Mr. Zui took another sip from his glass and sighed. "Some people are just too smart, and their intelligence exceeds human limitations. Because of this, their ideas, plans, and schemes are able to change history." He continued drinking as he rambled on. "Those people are able to change history within just a few decades, and it's way, way too scary."

Shang Qing could not understand what Mr. Zui was talking about, and he was actually uninterested in listening to the older man's thoughts. Shang Qing was more interested in listening into the conversation at the table next to them.

There was a rather large gap between the two tables, but as long as the cultivators did not intentionally stop others from listening in, it was rather easy to overhear conversations.

"Did you hear about the fight that just happened up on the sixth floor? I heard that quite a few families got involved."

"Yeah, I heard about it too. Families from the Middle Realm who support Shenwu's Sky and the Celestial Frost Sect started fighting against each other when the families supporting the Wang family and the White Dragon Clan suddenly joined in."

"I heard that it all started because of the Liu family and Seed Garden. Miss Yu Chen, the maid of the Celestial Frost Sect's Junior Progenitor, personally went to invite Liu Hao, but he chose to support Shenwu's Sky instead. Meanwhile, Seed Garden's Nong Sanniang chose to support the Wang family. Both of those outcomes upset the people from the Celestial Frost Sect. Yu Chen is many people's idol, so a lot of people are happy to start a fight for her since she was rejected."

"Hmm, those people are idiots. None of that is any of their business. No matter how intense the battle might get, Miss Yu Chen would still never take a look at any of them."

At another table, other people were talking as well. "I heard that Wan Wu went to the White Dragon Clan's Junior Progenitor Planet, right?"

"You're right. He was sent by the Adventure King."

“I didn’t expect the Adventure King to come to the Middle Realm. He’s the most important person in Root, and he is devoted to cleaning up the Lower Realm. He’s the most knowledgeable person when it comes to the Lower Realm.”

“The Adventure King is truly a respectable man, which is why Wan Wu was accepted to the White Dragon Clan Junior Progenitor Planet.”

“That’s where you’re wrong. Wan Wu didn’t go to the White Dragon Clan’s Junior Progenitor Planet because of the Adventure King. Wan Wu is already an Enlightener, and he’s been training in the Lower Realm. Thus, Junior Progenitor Long Tian will need to rely on him during his trip to the Dominion Realm.”

“That’s true.”

Shang Qing paused; Wan Wu was a disciple of the Adventure King who had been in the Lower Realm.

“Oh, someone from Root went up again. Those people are hard to deal with. They’re always down in the Lower Realm, so all of them have a strong killing aura.”

“Hmph, so what if they have a killing aura? The elites of our Middle Realm are all from the four ruling powers or their subordinate powers. If they were from anywhere else, they would have already been removed.”

“Shh! Don’t talk about that! Don’t you want to stay alive?”

“Did I say something wrong? The Star Alliance is-”

A stick of bamboo suddenly flew towards the speaker from a distance and pierced through his neck, spilling his blood on the ground.

The man collapsed to the ground, dead.

Most people turned towards the entrance as an old man walked in. His eyes were vicious, and golden flames covered his body that burned the sky and distorted space. He was clearly an Envoy.

“He deserved to die for spouting such nonsense.” The old man continued on his way to a higher floor without even glancing at anyone on the first floor.

The people on the first floor all fell silent as they stared at the dead man.

Everyone knew what they could and could not say if they wanted to survive in the Perennial World. This person must have had a grudge against the four ruling powers. Otherwise, he would have never said something so extreme.

“That senior is from the Purple-Gold Family, right?”

“Right. The people from the Purple-Gold Family are easily recognized. In that case, Jin Feiyuan should arrive soon.”

“Jin Feiyuan has already been confirmed to be going to the Dominion Realm with the team from Shenwu's Sky. We'll be able to see the Purple-Gold Family's young master.”

Mr. Zui was very drunk at this time, and even the man's death a moment ago had not drawn a bit of his attention. He finally set his glass down after hearing Jin Feiyuan's name. “Are you confident that you can defeat him?”

Shang Qing calmly replied, “I'm not sure about his strength, but I'm pretty confident.”

“If you lose, you'll be killed,” Mr. Zui calmly stated.

Shang Qing kept quiet.

In the distance, a purple-gold Undying Bird descended.

Many people in Hope Restaurant looked over with envious expressions. Those flames were from Jin Feiyuan, a powerhouse who would soon be going to the Dominion Realm with Shenwu's Sky's Junior Progenitor.

There were four unique bridges in front of Hope Restaurant, and the bridge that looked like a chain led to Shenwu's Sky's Junior Progenitor Planet. A young girl, Xia Taili, was standing on that bridge as she looked up. “You're here! How dare you defy me? I'm going to teach you a lesson.”

The purple-gold Undying Bird flew towards the bridge leading to Shenwu's Sky's Junior Progenitor Planet, but suddenly, it felt an attack approach. The bird looked down and saw Shang Qing, who had walked out of Hope Restaurant. The bird was furious and it dived down.

Shang Qing looked up. This would be his first battle since coming to the Perennial World, so he knew that he should not use his Tri-Yang Ancestral Qi Technique here.

Nobody had expected Jin Feiyuan to be attacked. Although the Purple-Gold Family was not as well known as the Liu family or Seed Garden, they were still considered one of the more powerful families in the Middle Realm. They were Shenwu's Sky's subordinates, and Jin Feiyuan had even been confirmed as one of the powerhouses who would be going to the Dominion Realm. Thus, nobody had expected anyone to attack him.

...

Half an hour later, countless people, including Xia Taili, were staring at the scene before them in a daze.

Jin Feiyuan had been defeated while the man who had attacked him had not been injured at all. No matter how Jin Feiyuan had attacked, he had not been able to cause the slightest injury to the man.

“How dare you!” the old man who had killed someone with a bamboo stick roared from within Hope Restaurant. He stepped forward and tried to grab Shang Qing. Mr. Zui watched, but he did nothing to help, and Shang Qing remained perfectly calm as well.

Just as the elder was about to grab hold of Shang Qing, an indescribable force swept towards the older man and forced him a thousand meters back.

“Since when were you allowed to be so rude on the Island of Hope!” a booming voice echoed through the area. It clearly belonged to a top powerhouse.

Each Junior Progenitor Planet was protected by a top powerhouse, as each planet held the resources given to a future Progenitor by the Perennial World. The people protecting these planets always included a powerhouse with a power level exceeding a million, two Envoys, and at least ten Enlighters. These people were not forced to protect the planet, but were rather actually all volunteers.

They had all either reached their limits regarding cultivation or were reaching the end of their life. Thus, these people’s only choice was to follow a Junior Progenitor in hopes of gaining a new lease on life after the Junior Progenitor became a Progenitor. Therefore, they were extremely loyal to their chosen Junior Progenitors, and they already treated the youths as Progenitors.

The person who had attacked was the top powerhouse from Shenwu's Sky’s Junior Progenitor Planet. He had a power level of more than a million, and he had passed through six tribulations.

The elder from the Purple-Gold Family trembled. “Forgive me, senior! I was too brash. Please forgive me, Junior Progenitor.”

Chapter 1410: Virtue Archives

People from Shenwu's Sky could only be dealt with by other people from Shenwu's Sky’s Junior Progenitor Planet. If anyone else tried to make a move against them, that person would be treated as though they were challenging the authority of Shenwu's Sky.

Nobody paid any attention to the old man, as they were all busy staring at Shang Qing. Since when had such a powerful individual appeared in the Middle Realm? This youth had managed to defeat Jin Feiyuan without suffering any injuries!

The purple-gold flames covering Jin Feiyuan had weakened considerably, and he looked very disheveled. He viciously asked, “Who are you? Where do you come from?”

Shang Qing ignored the defeated youth and watched as three women and one man approached him from the Junior Progenitor Planets.

These people were the representatives of the four Junior Progenitors, and they had been watching everything.

The Celestial Frost Sect’s representative was Yu Chen, Shenwu’s Sky’s was Xia Taili, the White Dragon Clan’s was Long Xi, and the Wang family’s was, surprisingly, Wang Dashuai.

Yu Chen, Xia Taili, and Long Xi slowly approached him. Wang Dashuai, however, peeked over at them before suddenly racing towards Shang Qing.

His actions surprised the onlookers; what was going on?

Shang Qing also watched Wang Dashuai with curiosity. The three girls were approaching him in an elegant and reserved manner, but this guy looked like he was in a footrace, and his words and actions completely ruined the atmosphere.

“Come here, brother! Follow me! I’ll take you to see Wang Su, our family’s Junior Progenitor! She’s a beauty, so come on! Follow me!” Wang Dashuai shouted enthusiastically.

The countless people who heard the fatty’s words were all left speechless; was this guy a salesman?

Shang Qing looked at the young man in a daze, not knowing how to react. He had been raised in Honor Mountain from a young age, and he had only ever interacted with well mannered people. He had never met anyone as uncouth as Wang Dashuai; even during his time in nest, no hoodlum had ever dared approach him.

The only person who acted like this that Shang Qing could think of was Lu Yin, who had refused Yuhua Mavis’s request for a fight in the Mountain and Seas Zone. That scene was very memorable to Shang Qing.

Wang Dashuai’s words and actions completely disrupted Yu Chen, Long Xi, and Xia Taili’s plans. Their expressions all changed; they would all look stupid if they continued to just slowly approach this new candidate.

Xia Taili rolled her eyes and leaped in front of Shang Qing. “Hey, the elder from Shenwu's Sky’s Junior Progenitor Planet was the one who just helped you. Follow me to Shenwu's Sky’s Junior Progenitor Planet. My brother will definitely acknowledge your strength.”

“The Purple-Gold Family follows under Shenwu's Sky. If this person goes to Shenwu's Sky Junior Progenitor Planet, then nobody knows how the Purple-Gold Family might act during the trip to the Dominion Realm. Or is Shenwu's Sky willing to abandon Jin Feiyuan for this young man?” Yu Chen’s words left Xia Taili speechless.

The Purple-Gold Family had long since supported Shenwu's Sky, and abandoning Jin Feiyuan would disappoint the clan. However, if they did not abandon him, then just as Yu Chen had said, nobody knew what Jin Feiyuan might do to Shang Qing. This was especially true since the elder from the Purple-Gold family had been the one who had attacked Shang Qing a moment ago, and Shang Qing would understandably feel a bit of animosity towards the clan.

Xia Taili glared at the elder from the Purple-Gold family. His attack had put her in a difficult situation. “Jin Feiyuan is Jin Feiyuan, and that old man’s actions can’t represent the entire Purple-Gold Family.”

Yu Chen smiled. “That will depend on what this young man thinks. Look, Jin Feiyuan already isn’t looking at this person in a friendly manner.”

Xia Taili turned to look at Jin Feiyuan.

Jin Feiyuan immediately dropped his head, but he was not able to hide the hatred within his eyes.

Xia Taili gritted her teeth; what an idiot!

Yu Chen’s words left Shenwu's Sky with absolutely no chance of inviting Shang Qing to their team. Moreover, no matter how enthusiastically Wang Dashuai behaved, Shang Qing would never join the fatty given the drastic difference in their personality.

“The Celestial Frost Sect has numerous powerhouses, and you have both Dong Shan and Dong He, who are Enlighters, which means that both of them will definitely be sent to the Dominion Realm. In other

words, you really only have two slots open for outsiders. Given the Celestial Frost Sect's status in the Perennial World, the number of powerhouses that you've already invited certainly surpasses the other three powers'. It will be very difficult to fight for those two spots given the number of competing powerhouses," Long Xi calmly stated.

Yu Chen laughed. "I heard that both Wan Wu and Nong Lie are interested in joining Junior Progenitor Long Tian, and both of them are also Enlighters. If we include you, Princess Long Xi, then doesn't your clan only have one slot open for outsiders?"

Long Xi glanced over at Yu Chen. "I can give up my slot."

Yu Chen had nothing to say to that.

In the end, Shang Qing still chose the Celestial Frost Sect. He had been the Hall of Honor's First Honor Chosen in the Fifth Mainland, and he had been invincible among his peers. If not for Lu Yin, Shang Qing would have become the champion of ZENITH, and he felt that the only place that suited him in this universe was the Celestial Frost Sect. On top of that, Shang Qing hoped to find out if Bai Shaohong could defeat the Tri-Yang Ancestral Qi Technique.

Shang Qing felt that he stood on the same level as the four Junior Progenitors. After all, Shang Qing was not fighting alone, but with the clones of Progenitor Chen and Progenitor Hui.

Wang Dashuai whined, "I was so enthusiastic about inviting him, but he still rejected me! Is it because I'm too handsome and he feels inferior? That's got to be it."

Long Xi glanced towards the Celestial Frost Sect's Junior Progenitor Planet before returning to the bridge.

Xia Taili stomped her foot and grumbled to herself. Not only was she upset about the fact that Shang Qing had gone to the Celestial Frost Sect Junior Progenitor Planet, but she was also annoyed that Yu Chen had completely overwhelmed her in this verbal battle. Xia Taili had not had a chance to rebut anything that Yu Chen had said.

Jin Feiyuan stood up and bowed to Xia Taili. "I was too careless this time, but I definitely won't lose to him in the future."

Xia Taili turned around and glared. "Nonsense! You'll never be able to defeat him."

Jin Feiyuan wanted to say something else, but Xia Taili dismissively waved a hand. "Never mind. Just recuperate here and go to meet with my brother after you've recovered. Don't make any more problems for him, ok?"

She then turned around and returned to the bridge.

Jin Feiyuan felt offended, and another thin stream of blood trickled down the corner of his mouth. As he reflected on the battle with Shang Qing, Jin Feiyuan could not understand why his attacks had been completely ineffective against his opponent.

The elder from the Purple-Gold Family approached, his face still pale. "Young Master, let's return to Hope Restaurant. We will go meet Shenwu's Sky's Junior Progenitor after you've recuperated."

Jin Feiyuan gritted his teeth. "Just you wait! I won't be defeated so easily!"

He made his way back towards Hope Restaurant.

At this time, Lu Yin had finally reached the Middle Ocean while riding the back of Gui.

The Middle Ocean encircled the entire Middle Realm, so it covered an enormous area.

Due to the incident regarding Long Qi's connection to Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo, Long Kui was worried that people would intercept them along their journey. Fortunately, they had not met anybody, but his communication crystal kept vibrating as they traveled.

Lu Yin became very curious as to just how many secrets Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo had discovered over the years; why else was everybody so riled up? There were also certain people who were interested in uncovering others' secrets.

"Didn't you say that Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo already exposed all of the secrets that he uncovered? If so, why are there still so many people trying to find out about the secrets now?" Lu Yin asked, curious.

Long Kui felt annoyed. "He didn't reveal everything. Before he died, he announced that he had hidden many secrets all over the Perennial World and that they might be discovered at any time. This is why many people have searched for them over the years and endlessly analyzed Kui Luo's journeys. Despite that, nobody has found anything yet."

"Could it have just been a scam?" Lu Yin guessed.

Long Kui answered, "I'm pretty sure that it was a lie. If not, it wouldn't make sense for there to be absolutely nothing after all these years, especially since some Semi-Progenitors have also searched around."

Lu Yin smiled. He had become very curious about Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo, who had created trouble for the entire Perennial World. The man really had been insane. Lu Yin could not understand why anyone would do such a thing, but if the man really had been insane, then he might have just done it all for fun.

"Huh? Jin Feiyuan lost. It looks like a few more hidden elites just revealed themselves," Long Kui commented.

"Jin Feiyuan?" Lu Yin asked.

Long Kui explained, "He's the heir to the Purple-Gold Family. They're a faction under Shenwu's Sky, and the clan is quite powerful as they have a purple-gold Undying Bird that can be reborn."

A phoenix? Lu Yin nearly asked aloud.

"Someone easily defeated Jin Feiyuan, and then they chose to go to the Celestial Frost Sect's Junior Progenitor Planet? It looks like the Celestial Frost Sect really is the most appealing team," Long Kui said. He then continued, adding on, "According to the princess, you can go to the Junior Progenitor Planet, but you are not to go to the Dominion Realm, as that place is too dangerous. Furthermore, you might

encounter Bai Shaohong in the Dominion Realm, so the princess said that you shouldn't become an Enlightener no matter what, even if doing so might offend the Junior Progenitor."

Lu Yin nodded. "Alright."

"After you arrive at the Junior Progenitor Planet, people will definitely challenge you because of your connection to Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo. Just ignore them and go straight to the Junior Progenitor Planet, as nobody will be able to do anything to you there."

Lu Yin replied, "Don't worry, you can definitely trust me."

Long Kui paused; those words sounded awfully familiar. He remembered that Long Qi had said the exact same thing before joining Humility's Gate. However, many incidents had happened after that, and even the supervisor of the Middle Realm's nine gates had gotten involved.

Jin Feiyuan was busy resting on the top floor of Hope Restaurant for several days, and he had already recovered from most of his injuries.

"Young Master, someone from Virtue Archives is here," the elder from the Purple-Gold Family murmured.

Jin Feiyuan turned to look at the entrance to the seventh floor.

A man in a white robe was walking towards them with a book in his hand and a smile on his face. While this man was not very handsome, his disposition somehow put people at ease. His eyes also gave off a strange sense of pressure.

Only people who were accompanied by Envoys were allowed to step onto the seventh floor, but nobody moved to stop this man.

Many people on the lower floors started talking about the man, "That's him! Virtue Archives's Wen Diyi!"

"I didn't expect to see someone from the Virtue Archives come here. I thought that they didn't get involved in anything concerning the four ruling powers."

"This isn't just about the four ruling powers—this involves the Dominion Realm! Who doesn't want to become a Progenitor?"

"But I've never heard anything about someone from the Virtue Archives joining a team. I think that this has to be the first time."

Jin Feiyuan looked at the man who had just stepped onto the seventh floor. He frowned and asked, "Doesn't the Virtue Archives say that one can become a Progenitor by arriving at the end of learning? Have you realized that they're mistaken? Is that why you're planning to go explore the Dominion Realm?"

The man dressed in white stood with his hands clasped behind his back and smiled. "The academy's sage indeed once said that one can become a Progenitor through studying, but is there truly an end to learning? Writings exist when there are humans, so who could ever truly finish studying? Sigh, illiterate people are so scary."

