

ODYSSEY 1621

Chapter 1621: Future Catastrophe

After listening to Lu Yin's question, Fei Hua sneered, "You actually still believe in such things?"

Lu Yin was too lazy to give any attention to the woman, and instead looked over at Liu Ye, who said, "Divination is essentially guessing. We haven't dealt much with such things."

"This is Little Millennium Flowzone. The only sect here is the Starsibyl Sect, and the Starsibyl Sect focuses exclusively on divination," Lu Yin explained.

The moment they entered Little Millennium Flowzone, Liu Ye and Fei Hua had both felt that something was wrong, but neither could determine exactly what that was.

The feeling of being watched simply would not go away, and yet they could not find the source. It was as though the entire flowzone was a pair of eyes.

Starsibyl then arrived and greeted Lu Yin.

"Brother Lu, I didn't expect you to visit us." Starsibyl smiled when she saw Lu Yin.

Lu Yin showed a small smile in return. "Why? You didn't predict this?"

Starsibyl revealed a beautiful smile. "I've never been able to predict Brother Lu's whereabouts, so it's not surprising that I wasn't able to divinate that you would visit my Starsibyl Sect."

She then turned to look at Liu Ye and Fei Hua and showed a very respectful manner as she slowly bowed. "Starsibyl greets the two seniors who have worked hard to get here."

"It's just a journey; where's the hard work?" Fei Hua said casually.

Starsibyl smiled. "This is a path that most people cannot step upon for their entire lives."

After speaking these profound words, Starsibyl escorted Lu Yin, Liu Ye, and Fei Hua to the Starsibyl Sect.

Liu Ye and Fei Hua fell back, allowing Lu Yin and Starsibyl to speak privately. "Are you aware of my identity?"

Starsibyl felt puzzled. "What is Brother Lu referring to?"

Lu Yin grew solemn. "The Perennial World's Lu family."

Starsibyl's expression showed no change at all. "Brother Lu, remember how during your last visit here I told you how fate can have conflicts? There are those who visit us who we worry a divination will cause them to miss their fate, and this is also why we do not perform divinations on ourselves. No matter what we learn, we must stay silent about it, so there is no reason for Brother Lu to worry about anything."

"You avoided answering my actual question: do you guys know my identity?" Lu Yin repeated.

Starsibyl and Lu Yin stared at each other, one with bright eyes that were so beautiful. "Divination is able to allow one to see cause and effect. This matter is not miraculous enough to see through a person's entire being."

Lu Yin nodded.

"What matter has brought Brother Lu here this time?" Starsibyl asked.

"I would like to ask for a divination. Please tell me what it will cost."

"That depends on what Brother Lu would like divinated. Last time I asked Brother Lu to visit us here, my master said that we should try to have a good relationship, and I would also like to have a good relationship with Brother Lu," Starsibyl said with a smile.

Lu Yin replied, "Last time you helped me uncover Overseer Nan Yuan. You've already helped me quite a bit."

"I'm still willing to offer even more assistance to Brother Lu. After all, you are someone worthy of the Starsibyl Sect's support," Starsibyl said.

Lu Yin had no desire to owe the Starsibyl Sect anything. He had already heard that the more people and things that were related to a specific divination, the more troublesome it became. "You'll have to start giving me a price, as otherwise I won't be able to tell you anything."

Starsibyl felt cornered. "It looks like Brother Lu still wants to keep my Starsibyl Sect at a bit of a distance. In that case, I will need Brother Lu to make me a promise."

As she spoke, she suddenly grew more serious.

"What promise?" Lu Yin felt curious.

Starsibyl's eyes narrowed. "Some day in the future, humanity will face our greatest disaster in our entire history. I ask for Brother Lu to try his best to keep a remnant of the light of my Starsibyl Sect preserved if you are able. If nothing else, let the name of the Starsibyl Sect be passed down."

Lu Yin arched a brow. "Mankind will face a catastrophe in the future?"

A complicated light filled Starsibyl's eyes. "I'm not sure. When it comes to divination and predicting the future and peering into events that have not yet occurred, there are things that neither I nor my master can see. However, there seems to be a certainty that at some point in the future, all traces of humanity are ripped away, which does not seem to be a good thing in the least. At the very least, I cannot see any trace of myself in that future."

Lu Yin was able to understand nothing of what Starsibyl said. "That day won't come, but if it does, I promise to do my best."

"Then I want to thank Brother Lu now. What is it that Brother Lu would like to learn about this time?" Starsibyl asked.

Lu Yin grew solemn. "Some time ago, Big Sis had a disagreement with Leon's Armada, and she took a group of people with her and created her mercenaries and moved to the Inverseverse. At that time, Jin He accused people with my Lu surname of illegally possessing the primeval surname, and she chased down Big Sis's mercenary crew, eventually killing 72 people. The Leo family also ended up getting involved, and I would like to ask you to uncover the truth of the matter."

Starsibyl was caught off guard. "Hasn't everything already been made clear? After Big Sis's mercenary crew returned to Leon's Armada, they declared war on the Ignition Crew, and neither side has stopped fighting even now. The Ignition Crew has suffered heavy losses, and they are recruiting and hiring people from the Cosmic Sea and the Neoverse."

Lu Yin's expression suddenly grew incredibly downcast. "While from the surface everything looks to have been settled and understood, I recently learned that the Leo family attacked Big Sis's mercenaries because of orders from Chaosgod Mountain, and also that Chaosgod Mountain has some sort of connection with the Ignition Crew. There must be something deeper behind this matter, and I want to find out what it is."

Starsibyl nodded. "I understand. Brother Lu, please wait a bit."

It was clear that this divination would be much more difficult than the first one that Lu Yin had asked for, and he ended up having to wait much longer.

Even though Lu Yin had taken the initiative to approach the Starsibyl Sect to ask for a divination, he still did not fully believe in things like divination. However, his previous experience with the sect had left him feeling some degree of doubt, and so his uncertainty had brought him back to seek answers.

If he was honest, he would prefer to have divination be real, as it would be a valuable means of gathering valuable intelligence, which he felt was more important than seeing the future or the past.

Starsibyl had once claimed that divination allowed one to ride on the river of time, but Lu Yin did not believe that for a moment. If they were capable of influencing the river of time, the Starsibyl Sect would never have remained in the Innerverse.

"Brother Lu, divination is unable to uncover many details regarding this matter, but I was able to learn the surname of another involved in that incident that you never mention," Starsibyl informed Lu Yin when she finally returned.

Lu Yin's eyes flickered. "Which surname?"

Starsibyl grew somber. "Xia."

Lu Yin was startled. "Xia?"

Starsibyl nodded. "When conducting the divination, the Xia surname appeared in my mind from the very beginning and I was unable to remove it, and I was also unable to push further with the divination attempt. All I can be sure of is the involvement of the Xia surname."

Lu Yin started thinking, and Starsibyl left in order to give him time to consider the new information.

After a while, Lu Yin called Highsage Leon to ask if Leon's Armada had any connection with the Xia family.

"The Xia family? How'd you end up getting caught up with them? How are they connected to my armada and how do you know it's the Xia family?"

"I'm at the Starsibyl Sect."

"Dumbass! Only idiots believe those kinds of people. If you've got time to waste on that kind of thing, it would be better for you to come drink with me."

"Captain, Eversky Island stands behind Leon's Armada, so tell me, could this matter pull Hightsage Grandmaster and Xia Ji into things?" Lu Yin suddenly asked. He was trying to process things from the most basic premise and then build his way up.

The Leo family, Chaosgod Mountain, the Ignition Crew, and the Xia family. However, the only ones to face them were Big Sis's mercenary crew, Leon's Armada, and Eversky Island. If there really was a connection to the Xia family, all that Lu Yin could think of was Xia Ji. Why else would they be willing to go up against Eversky Island?

Hightsage Leon fell silent. He was someone from Eversky Island who had created Leon's Armada. However, Leon's Armada really did not have anything to do with Eversky Island, and Hightsage Grandmaster did not acknowledge a pirate crew as being subordinate to his Eversky Island. Despite that, if anything happened to Hightsage Leon, how could Hightsage Grandmaster sit by and do nothing? If the Xia family really did have some sort of involvement in the matter, the only force that could stand up to them would be Eversky Island.

"Just wait." Hightsage Leon immediately called his master.

It did not take long for Hightsage Leon to call Lu Yin back. "Master says there's no bad blood between him and Xia Ji."

Lu Yin's head started to ache, as he felt there was some connection that he could not uncover. The Xia family's involvement made no sense as they had no reason or motivation. How had these different forces been brought together? Why did Chaosgod Mountain want to deal with Leon's Armada?

Lu Yin went to find Starsibyl again, but Starsibyl shook her head. "Everything that can be determined through divination has already been revealed. Divination cannot be performed from nothing, as there must be clues to work off of. Without such things, there's no way to limit what one is looking at and finding any sort of information becomes like searching for a needle in a haystack."

Lu Yin again started mulling over the matter. There was no reason for Xia Ji to want to move against Hightsage Grandmaster, let alone become an enemy of Eversky Island. Could Starsibyl have made a mistake?

He glanced at Starsibyl with a bit of doubt. "Um... could you get in touch with your master?"

Starsibyl showed a small smile. "Does Brother Lu not trust me?"

Lu Yin coughed. "Not at all. It's just that I was in too much of a hurry to try to speak with Master Zhu, and I also wanted to see you again."

Starsibyl explained, "Brother Lu, my divination turned out the same results as my master would achieve. It seems that Brother Lu has no leads regarding this matter. I would like to help you find something new through divination, but this ability is not omnipotent. Honestly, it's already a very good result to just be able to learn of the Xia surname."

Lu Yin blew out a long breath. If Starsibyl Sect was correct, then the Xia family really was involved in this matter, but Xia Ji had no grudges or enmity with High Sage Grandmaster. In that case, what about the other members of the Xia family? Lu Yin instantly let out a laugh. There was no one else in the Xia family who was able to challenge Eversky Island, not even their patriarch.

Suddenly, Lu Yin thought of a certain possibility: was it possible that Xia Ji had cultivated the Nine Clones Secret Technique?

During the competition for the Astral Tower, Xia Jiyou had revealed his mastery of the Nine Clones technique, which had shocked the entire universe. Also, it had been revealed that Starsibyl had also comprehended the technique and cultivated it. While it had been discovered that the Nine Clones Secret Technique was not merely a myth, no one aside from the two of them had ever trained in the technique.

No one else from the Xia family knew the technique, either.

All along, everyone in the Fifth Mainland had believed that the Nine Clones Secret Technique had been created by Progenitor Chen, but truly, how could Progenitor Chen have created a secret technique when he had still been young?

Xia Ji might not have any grudge or enmity with Eversky Island, but was it possible that the Semi-Progenitor had a clone who was behind everything? There was no one else from the Xia family who qualified to make any moves against Eversky Island.

After considering this possibility, Lu Yin immediately went back to Starsibyl.

"I have a question that I'm not sure I should ask you." Lu Yin hesitated.

Starsibyl smiled. "Brother Lu, please speak. I'll answer you if I can."

"Where did you learn the Nine Clones Secret Technique?"

Starsibyl was momentarily taken aback, as she had not expected this question from Lu Yin. Such matters were closely guarded secrets, and were considered private matters second only to a woman's personal matters.

Lu Yin instantly apologized, "I know I shouldn't have asked. You can just forget this if you don't want to say."

Starsibyl's voice grew soft, "It's not that I don't want to answer, but I'm afraid that Brother Lu won't believe me when I tell you."

Lu Yin grew increasingly curious.

"Divination allows one to observe the long river of time. When Xia Jiyou visited the Starsibyl Sect, I happened to be doing some divination. Possibly because of his presence, or because of some other coincidence, I was able to observe the Nine Clones Secret Technique when looking into the river of time."

Lu Yin's eyes went wide; was such a thing actually possible?

"How about Xia Jiuyou?" Lu Yin asked.

Chapter 1622: The Real Enemy

Starsibyl continued, "Xia Jiuyou saw the same technique with me."

Lu Yin understood and also realized why Xia Jiuyou had exposed Starsibyl after revealing that he had mastered the Nine Clones Secret Technique back in the Mountains and Seas Zone. It was because the two of them had learned the technique together.

"Xia Jiuyou told others that he obtained the secret technique from Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum, but honestly, no one even knows if the technique can be found there or not. The fact that I was able to learn it was purely coincidental," Starsibyl said.

"It shouldn't have been a coincidence."

"Master said that Xia Jiuyou and his bloodline were too close to me, and that allowed me to witness the Nine Clones Secret Technique within the river of time. My view on the matter is no different. While divination is complex and beyond full understanding, there are many things that cannot be seen through divination. Much like Brother Lu's past, which I can't see," Starsibyl said.

Lu Yin sighed. "If the legendary Destiny were looking, he should be able to see everything."

Starsibyl laughed. "Brother Lu still believes in that?"

Lu Yin frowned. "You don't?"

Starsibyl shook her head. "There have only ever been vague references to Destiny, and while people have studied divination since ancient times, no evidence has ever appeared to support the existence of Destiny. My Starsibyl Sect does not believe such a person ever existed."

Lu Yin snorted, but had no desire to argue with Starsibyl. "With what you're saying, is it possible that Xia Ji was able to learn the Nine Clones Technique?"

Starsibyl's eyes lit up. "Brother Lu, are you saying...?"

"Help me determine whether or not Xia Ji has a clone," Lu Yin said seriously.

Starsibyl shrugged. "Xia Ji is one of the seven Semi-Progenitors. He stands at the very peak of humanity and is not someone my abilities can work on. Not even my master could do that. You will be disappointed by the results."

"You just said that because of Xia Jiuyou's presence and the fact that you were too close to him and his bloodline was why you were able to see the Nine Clones Secret Technique in the river of time. In that case, what if you were able to have Progenitor Chen's blood? Would that help you to be able to perform a divination to determine if Xia Ji has a clone?" Lu Yin asked as he pulled out a bottle of Progenitor Chen's blood.

Lu Yin had managed to enhance three bottles of Progenitor Chen's blood from the blood that Ku Wei had provided. Lu Yin had given Ku Wei one bottle, which had enhanced Ku Wei's blood and allowed him

to help the colossal giants break away from the restrictions in their bloodline, but Lu Yin had saved the other two bottles.

Starsibyl was startled. "Progenitor Chen's blood?"

"Will this help?" Lu Yin asked.

Starsibyl took the bottle. She had witnessed countless major events with her divination, and yet she still felt incredibly excited at this moment. This was a Progenitor's blood! The power it contained could not be fathomed, and if she held this, she would likely be able to see ancient legends for herself. She heard roars and the sounds of slaughter. She perceived much more than Lu Yin was able to from this blood, and she even vaguely saw a pair of eyes in the bottle. They possessed a peerless majesty, and seeing them left Starsibyl turning pale.

She suddenly dropped the bottle, though Lu Yin quickly caught it. He looked up at Starsibyl with an odd expression.

Starsibyl gasped for breath. "I'm sorry, Alliance Leader Lu. I'm used to using my divination and looking at the river of time. I just saw Progenitor Chen."

Her words sent a chill down Lu Yin's spine; how was this any different from seeing a ghost?

He quickly handed Progenitor Chen's blood back over to Starsibyl. "Can you perform a divination to see if Xia Ji has a clone?"

Starsibyl nodded. "I can certainly try."

She then turned and left.

Shortly thereafter, Lu Yin's head whipped around as he looked in the direction Starsibyl had gone. He saw an amazing and uncountable number of runes shooting up into space and traveling in an indeterminate direction. This was completely different from the previous divination Starsibyl had done for Lu Yin. This was the power of Progenitor Chen's blood.

Suddenly, all of the runes shot to the south, and Lu Yin's eyes grew more focused.

Starsibyl stepped out of the void, her face pale and she looked exhausted. She also looked to the south. "The Cosmic Sea and the Neoverse."

She looked back over at Lu Yin. "You guessed right; Xia Ji does have clones, and more than one. He has one in both the Cosmic Sea and the Neoverse."

Things suddenly grew clear in Lu Yin's mind. It looked like Xia Ji's clone was plotting against Eversky Island and using the Ignition Crew and Chaosgod Mountain, but why Chaosgod Mountain? Also, how did the Longevity Brigade get dragged in as well? There were still details that Lu Yin did not understand, but there was one thing that he was absolutely confident about: Xia Ji was the one behind everything.

"Were you able to determine how many clones he has?" Lu Yin asked eagerly.

"Three in total."

Lu Yin's expression grew darker. The Xia family's Nine Clones Secret Technique was truly revolting, especially how it could be used. Wait, there was another detail that Lu Yin suddenly remembered; Xia Luo used the technique, so could he have left any of his clones in the Fifth Mainland? That was certainly not impossible.

Lu Yin immediately called Highsage Leon and the results of the divination and his various conjectures. This matter involved a Semi-Progenitor, which made it extremely serious.

In the Neoverse, Xia Ji's eyes suddenly opened and he looked to the north. He had just had the feeling that someone had been spying on him, but who could it have been? Who was even capable of spying on him? The Sixth Mainland's three Progenitors? That should not be the case, but was there anyone else who was capable of spying on him?

He was a Semi-Progenitor, and he had survived too many storms and seen too many things, such as how Xia Luo had taken over Xia Jiuyou. Rather, Xia Ji had done nothing to interfere with Xia Yi's cruel methods for training the family's children. Even though Xia Ji had known about those matters, he had still done nothing, not even when several of the family's direct descendants had been killed. After all, Xia Jiuyou's fate was bound to Xia Ji's.

Any accident that occurred would result in irreversible consequences, and Xia Ji was well aware of this fact.

Nothing good would come from being spied on, regardless of the intentions of the person who had been peeping on Xia Ji. After a moment's thought, he lifted his hand and accessed his gadget.

In the Innerverse, in Chaos Flowzone, Chaosgod Mountain had finally settled down after the battle between the various Envoys. The many low-ranked disciples were clueless as to what happened at the sect's upper levels, as they almost never had any contact or interactions with people at that level.

Elder Hu's eyes flitted about as he walked through Chaosgod Mountain. Even though several disciples greeted him, Elder Hu merely nodded in reply.

Those several disciples all wondered at the elder's reaction. "What's with Elder Hu today? He's ignoring people."

"Elder Hu is usually very quiet, so maybe he's just frightened from that recent battle."

"Forget Elder Hu; who on the mountain wasn't terrified? That must have been a battle that involved Envoys, though I have no idea just what happened. If not for Elder Cang Song stepping forward, we all would have thought that Chaosgod Mountain had been taken over by someone."

"Elder Cang Song looked really rough. He must have been badly injured."

"That whole thing's got nothing to do with us. However, our top disciples and the elders haven't been around since then, and I'm thinking that something big is about to happen."

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Some distance away from the gossiping disciples, Elder Hu returned to his quarters. Within, someone looked up and asked in a hoarse voice, "How is it?"

Elder Hu replied in a respectful tone, "Of course Elder Cang Song was seriously injured, but the Sect Master hasn't noticed any problems."

"Hmph, how could he be okay? That old man had to have been seriously injured. How could Lu Yin have let him get away without a problem?" Cang Yi was the second figure. After Lu Yin had lost control of Chaosgod Mountain, Cang Yi had fled as quickly as possible. Cang Zhou had not initially had the time to waste chasing Cang Yi down, and had not been able to track him down later on.

Who would have expected that Cang Yi had not left Chaosgod Mountain but had instead remained hidden right under Cang Zhou's eyes?

Because of the next stage in his plans, Cang Zhou had not revealed to anyone that Cang Yi was a traitor.

"Why did you return so quickly this time?" Cang Yi asked while shooting Elder Hu an odd look.

Elder Hu hesitated. "Elder Cang Song said that for the time being, the amount of resources don't need to be reported to him."

Cang Yi frowned. "For how long?"

"Until further notice."

Cang Yi suddenly shot to his feet. He ruminated over this information for a bit. "Go take a walk and see if the Explorer realm disciples have returned."

"No, none of them have."

Cang Yi's eyes flickered. Something was not right. It had already been more than half a month since Lu Yin had been driven away, so those elite disciples should all have been released, so why had they not been seen? Could Cang Zhou have already made other plans for those elites?

After thinking things over for a long time, Cang Yi finally decided to contact Lu Yin.

He could no longer stay on Chaosgod Mountain, and Cang Yi was also absolutely certain that Lu Yin would never let him free. As long as Cang Yi stayed with Lu Yin, there would remain the possibility of again taking control of Chaosgod Mountain, just as he had half a month before. That had been an unforgettable experience.

"A group of the elites have disappeared?" Lu Yin's voice was heard from a gadget that belonged to Elder Hu.

Cang Yi solemnly replied, "Yes, and I've already looked into this. A lot of supplies have already been sent out, such as medicine, star essence, offensive power vessels, and more. There's only one reason for all of this to be sent out: Chaosgod Mountain is preparing for war."

"The Cosmic Sea," Lu Yin subconsciously replied. "Keep an eye on things. It would be best if you can let me know when Cang Zhou leaves."

"Yes, Alliance Leader," Cang Yi spoke with respect.

Lu Yin's voice was heard once more, "I'll take note of your merits, and I will always need someone to run things for me in the future."

Cang Yi was overjoyed at this response. "Thank you, Alliance Leader."

After ending his call with Lu Yin, Cang Yi thought for a moment before making another call. He called someone who should not have access to a gadget, but who had started using one after entering the Fifth Mainland: the Sixth Mainland's Madam Hong.

Most cultivators from the Sixth Mainland had not originally been comfortable using gadgets, but most of them had started using them, as the things were just too convenient.

Cang Yi passed the same information to Madam Hong. He did not want to fully rely on Lu Yin. Even though Lu Yin seemed to be powerful and someone who was trying to control everything, Lu Yin's bottom line was too clear. Cang Yi was still a traitor from the Fifth Mainland, and it was not very likely that Lu Yin would have multiple uses for such a person. Cang Yi knew that he would be lucky just to not die, and so he continued to work for the Sixth Mainland as well.

It was impossible for the Sixth Mainland to sit still and do nothing at all in the Outerverse, or at least that was what Cang Yi fully believed to be true.

Madam Hong was quite happy with Cang Yi's information. After the Sixth Mainland had ended its invasion into the Fifth Mainland, she had no longer had any use for the traitors she had previously used. There was no possibility of war breaking out again between the two Mainlands, but that did not stop Madam Hong from making her own plans. The Fifth Mainland would soon undergo a few new changes.

The Cosmic Sea is a very strange place within the Fifth Mainland. Normal people could not even imagine the sea's weather, as the phenomena there defied nature.

There were places in the sea where it rained thunder, places where volcanoes erupted without ceasing, and others where the seawater itself was dangerous, such as the Whitecliff Region. Still, even these were just a few specific locations within the Cosmic Sea. The weather in this region had truly made things difficult for the Sixth Mainland when they had tried to invade.

At the moment, there was a portion of the Cosmic Sea where there was a rain of stones. There were not the commonly seen, naturally occurring stones, but instead unusually heavy objects that seemed similar to stone while not actually being stone. In the Cosmic Sea, these rocks were still referred to as stones, but each and every piece weighed as much as a mountain.

The stones rained down and fell into the sea, creating massive waves as each stone forced the seawater back.

A pair of eyes snapped open at the bottom of the sea. The eyes possessed a bone-piercing coldness that seemed to linger, and the owner of the eyes suddenly shot out of the sea while wielding a trident. There was a bang, and the figure blocked an attack from the void. "A pair of eyes suddenly opened, their eyes

were cold, with a bone-piercing lingering cold, they rushed out with a three-pronged weapon, a loud noise of pong, and an attack from the void was blocked, "You want to attack Leon's Armada? Die!"

Chapter 1623: Battle Of The Four Pirate Crews

"You sure talk big, but you still need Highsage Leon to protect you freaks. Today I'm going to slaughter all of you mermen!" A voice shouted, and then one figure after another emerged from the void. Some distance away, a huge warship appeared. On the hull, "Ignition" could be seen carved, showing where these people came from.

"You're looking to die!" The merman's trident stabbed forward, shattering the void. The spatial cracks spread, and it looked as though a black line had been drawn through the void. It shot forward in an attempt to destroy the distant ship.

At the same time, the stones raining down from above fell harder and harder. Many of the stones smashed onto the Ignition Crew's warship, but they accomplished absolutely nothing.

One of the stones crashed down towards the Ignition Crew's massive ship, clearly much larger than the other stones.

Inside the warship, a woman looked up and sneered. Her pupils suddenly transformed. "It's a big stone, but it still can't avoid the issue with sneak attacks."

As she spoke, Truesight weakened the stone as the woman waved her hand. She created a weapon from nothing and shot an arrow at the large stone.

The large stone and the long arrow collided in mid-air, causing a dazzling explosion.

The resulting boom forced the seawater back, and then the water shot into the sky. Mermen shot out one after another, and more warships appeared behind the Ignition Crew's massive ship. Countless cultivators poured out of the fleet.

"Today, my Ignition Crew will destroy Leon's Armada!" someone roared.

"Arrogant, starting today, no one will remain of the Ignition Crew! There will no longer be the Four Pirate Crews!" There was another shout that responded to the first, and the five-meter-tall Elephant King appeared in the distance. He flung his massive nose about as he stared at the Ignition Crew. Another warship suddenly appeared.

All eight of the regiments under Leon's Armada appeared, as well as the Ignition Crew's full forces.

A beautiful woman stood atop a massive ship. Though her face was beautiful, her body was bloated. She was Big Sis, and her brow was furrowed.

After she and her crew had returned to Leon's Armada, Highsage Leon had declared war on the Ignition Crew. The fighting had already continued for more than ten years without ever stopping. Even when the Sixth Mainland had invaded, the two Pirate Crews had not stopped having friction between them. From the very beginning, Leon's Armada had held the upper hand, and members of the Ignition Crew had constantly been slaughtered, forcing the crew to retreat. At the moment, they controlled less than half of their original territory.

Despite their current circumstances, the Ignition Crew was actually bold enough to directly confront Leon's Armada; why? They had to have gained their confidence from something.

The cold glint of a sword appeared, and Liu Feng, captain of the Lightning Sword Regiment tore his sword through the void. The slash extended a great distance, and cut right through the rain of stones and continued on towards the Ignition Crew's largest warship.

The captain of the Ignition Crew, Jin Mie, opened his eyes as an impressive shield of light appeared and protected the front of the ship as Liu Feng's sword qi smashed through it. The attack was no longer able to injure even a wounded Enlightener with a power level of 300,000.

Liu Feng had already expected such a result, and he lifted a foot to step into the true universe. When he reappeared, he was already above the Ignition Crew's largest ship, and his arms were raised high.

Of the Cosmic Sea's Four Pirate Crews, only Leon's Armada had two Envoys, which was also why Leon's Armada was able to dominate the Cosmic Sea and was heralded as the leader of the Four Pirate Crews.

Only the Ignition Crew's captain was capable of stopping Liu Feng.

Jin Mie appeared and he looked up at Liu Feng. "What a pity that you're a genius swordsman. In your next life, choose to follow the right person."

Jin Mie took a step forward as soon as he finished speaking, just barely evading a sword slash that shot out of the true universe. He was nearly cut, and even though he managed to dodge, the slice still slid across the tip of his nose, drawing blood.

Jin Mie quickly retreated, his face pale. Highsage Leon suddenly stepped out of the void. He was holding an intimidating-looking saber and was also laughing wildly. "Jin Mie, you finally worked up the guts to step out for your daddy? You can forget about leaving today, unless you leave your head here for me!"

After speaking, Highsage Leon hefted his massive blade and twirled it around. The pressure given off by the gesture caused the Cosmic Sea to boil, and the rain of stones suddenly stopped. The stones instead started to agglomerate into what looked like an entire landmass that then moved back up into the sky. It was a spectacular sight to behold.

Jin Mie shook his head. "Truly, Highsage Leon, you are too arrogant. This will be the day that your armada will be destroyed!"

"Try it." Highsage Leon slashed his blade at Jin Mie.

Jin Mie's pupils shrank, and a screen of light appeared in front of him, weakening Highsage Leon's attack. At the same time, a weapon appeared in Jin Mie's hand, and he entered the true universe. Highsage Leon just sneered as he did the same.

Without Jin Mie's presence, there was no one in the Ignition Crew who was Liu Feng's opponent. He again attacked the massive warship, but the cultivators aboard showed no fear. The descending sword qi was blocked and torn apart before it could land on the vessel.

Liu Feng's expression changed. "Cang Zhou."

Cang Zhou looked up and charged straight for Liu Feng without ever uttering a single word. Liu Feng grew solemn. While he was an Envoy, his power level only slightly exceeded 500,000, whereas Cang Zhou had a power level that surpassed 700,000. The master of Chaosgod Mountain was not someone Liu Feng could stand up to.

To Liu Feng's understanding, he would absolutely lose, as the gap between him and his opponent was simply too large. It was impossible for Liu Feng to block Cang Zhou.

However, Liu Feng was startled to discover that Cang Zhou's attack was not that bad, and the result was not as one-sided as the swordsman had feared.

Cang Zhou felt quite helpless. When he had been held captive by Liu Ye and Fei Hua, Lu Yin had made sure that the master of Chaosgod Mountain had been badly injured in order to ensure the man could not escape. Of particular note, the injuries Cang Zhou suffered to his stellar energy vortex were not easy to heal, and they affected the power he could display in battle. At best, he could use the strength of an Envoy with a power level of 600,000, which was not much different from Liu Feng.

If not for Cang Zhou's injuries, Liu Feng would have already become a corpse.

Cang Song and other experts from Chaosgod Mountain appeared and they all attacked Leon's Armada.

The armada had tens of thousands of cultivators, and while their numbers could not compare to a force like Chaosgod Mountain, every single member of Leon's Armada was an elite, just the same as the Ignition Crew. A large number of people in a group was mostly useless in the Cosmic Sea and did not provide almost any advantage.

Just by the numbers, this war could not compare to the battle that had been fought at the Outerverse's border, and yet the intensity and power used in the current battle were enough to shake up the entire Fifth Mainland. It was a rare, all-out war in the Cosmic Sea.

There was no way for anyone to keep the fighting in the Cosmic Sea hidden, and news of it quickly reached all of the Innerverse's eight great flowzones.

The Lingling clan, the Divine Venom Dynasty, and the Divine Grade Hall were all unconcerned, as none of them had anything to do with the Four Pirate Crews. It was only the Wen family that managed to put all of the pieces together after they heard about the war between two of the Four Pirate Crews.

Wen Zizai stared at a report, and then looked towards First Flowzone. "It seems that that old bastard Liu Qianjue is preparing for this war in the Cosmic Sea."

The Wen family's patriarch was still in the Lost Radiance Academy, and Dean Han commented, "Lu Yin moved your entire Wen family to suppress the Sword Sect because of Wen Diyi. It appears that he was already aware that the Sword Sect was planning to attack Leon's Armada."

"That child told us that the Sword Sect was going to attack Fennel Flowzone; I never considered that they would actually be targeting Leon's Armada," Wen Zizai said in a cold voice.

Dean Han sighed. "Someone like Liu Shaoqiu is born only once in a hundred years, while those like Liu Tianmu are only seen once in a thousand years, and someone comparable to Shang Qing is only born once every ten millennia. However, how many years must pass for someone of Lu Yin's caliber to

appear? His talent is freakish, and his ambition is unfathomable, as he looks at the entire universe. On top of that, he has a unique personality and is able to draw people to his side and has countless people following. Not to mention, his luck is absurd.

"He is truly a child of destiny, and the Wen family should not become his enemy."

At this moment, Wen Zizai could not tolerate hearing anyone compliment Lu Yin. "What? Do you want to have your Han family cling to him?"

Dean Han laughed. "The Han family will always remain in Erudite Flowzone, and that will never change. Lu Yin is too controlling and is unwilling to allow people or forces under him to not be under his control. My Han family could never serve such a person."

Wen Zizai's eyes flickered. "The sword that Lu Yin wields is Leon's armada. If they are destroyed in this war, Lu Yin will no longer present any sort of threat. What about his other backing? The Hall of Honor can't help him with his fights."

Dean Han was caught off guard; Wen Zizai's words indicated that the man had heard something different and dangerous from Dean Han's comment.

In the Sword Sect, Liu Qianjue had a solemn expression. He should have participated in this battle, but Lu Yin had destroyed that opportunity. At this point in time, all that Liu Qianjue could do was hope that the Ignition Crew and Chaosgod Mountain would actually be able to join forces and destroy Leon's Armada and remove Lu Yin's sharpest blade. Liu Qianjue could allow Lu Yin to stay in the Outerverse and Fennel Flowzone without issue, but he could not tolerate Lu Yin having any further ambitions.

The sect master of the Sword Sect had still not learned that Lu Yin had attacked Chaosgod Mountain. As Lu Yin had guessed, Cang Zhou had no explanation to provide for how he had managed to recover the mountain, especially from Liu Ye and Fei Hua. Each of the two was an expert with a power level of more than 700,000, so who could be strong enough to help Cang Zhou and save him from such powerhouses?

The war between two of the Four Pirate Crews had no effect on Blazing Mist Flowzone, and so the war between the Ross Empire and the sylvan dragons continued with both sides doing their best to recruit outside experts to their own side.

While the fighting in the Cosmic Sea did not have much of an impact on the Innerverse, it created a great deal of turbulence within the Hall of Honor, and the nine overseers immediately convened to discuss the matter.

"It's best for us to stop this war. The Fifth Mainland has already achieved a level of balance, and this war will destroy that. No matter if we look at Leon's Armada or the Ignition Crew, nothing can be allowed to happen to either."

"How do we stop it? We can't intervene in such matters so long as they don't create too big of an impact on ordinary people. This battle will have no impact at all on any regular humans."

"The Ignition Crew has actually teamed up with Chaosgod Mountain, but why would Chaosgod Mountain work with them?"

"It's definitely impossible for them to target Leon's Armada, unless they have another motivation."

All of the nine overseers looked at each other. None of them were stupid, so such a thing was readily apparent to all of them. Still, not one of them could see the true purpose pushing Chaosgod Mountain forward. Even if the Hall of Honor received information regarding the entire universe, there was nothing that they could find on this matter.

"Overseer Xin, please share your opinion," San Sheng looked at Xin Jiao as he spoke.

Everyone else looked over at Xin Jiao. After all, Xin Jiao and Mr. Yu were both from the Cosmic Sea.

Xin Jiao shook her head. "I can't speak with certainty on this matter, but the conflict between Leon's Armada and the Ignition Crew did not appear overnight. An all-out war was only to be expected."

San Sheng then looked at Mr. Yu. "I wonder if Mr. Yu has an opinion on the matter?"

It had been a long time since Mr. Yu had spoken to all of the nine overseers. The man had a gentle demeanor and was easy to overlook. He only occasionally would speak up, and he held no additional role with any real authority. The only time that he had spoken up in recent times had been to give Lu Yin his firm support. Mr. Yu had been supported by Yuan Shi, and so he readily helped Lu Yin stop Shamrock Enterprise from moving their hidden world headquarters to Mt. Microcosms.

Everyone expected Mr. Yu would speak up in support of Leon's Armada at this time and push for stopping the war. After all, the current situation did not look good for Leon's Armada. On top of everything else, Mr. Yu was someone from the Longevity Brigade, and the Longevity Brigade maintained a good relationship with Leon's Armada.

However, his words caught everyone off guard. Sure enough, Mr. Yu did take a firm stance on the situation, but surprisingly, he demanded the eradication of Leon's Armada.

"Everyone, we cannot forget that Highsage Leon is also the pirate king, and that Leon's Armada controls the pirates throughout the universe. Pirates have always been seen as criminals to be wiped out, so there's no need to mention Highsage Leon. He is indeed the Pirate King, but because of various hesitations held by many different powers, no one has ever attempted to punish Highsage Leon. Now is the time to do so," Mr. Yu declared in a firm tone.

Cong Ying and other overseers stared at Mr. Yu with odd expressions, as none of them could understand why he had suddenly started aiming at Leon's Armada.

Upon hearing Mr. Yu's words, Bu Laoweng immediately sent Lu Yin a message, informing the youth that the Longevity Brigade was determined to become enemies with Leon's Armada, which was the only reason for Mr. Yu to have openly declared such a position.

Lu Yin had hoped to learn of the opinion of the Longevity Brigade through the overseers, but the information he received left him disappointed.

Chapter 1624: Position

"I request that the Interstellar Supreme Court immediately place sanctions on Highsage Leon, expose the crimes he has committed over the years, eradicate the pirates he shelters, and cast all of them into Gaia's Swamp," Mr. Yu coldly declared.

"Mr. Yu, you've never suggested any such thing before," Overseer Si Hong commented.

Mr. Yu remained stoic. "There was never any opportunity. So long as the opportunity arose, I would always have been the first person to call for the removal of Leon's Armada and his interstellar pirates."

The other overseers all wondered just what Mr. Yu's attitude meant? Could it be that the Longevity Brigade would also join the battle? If that truly happened, Leon's Armada would be placed in a truly dangerous position.

"I second Mr. Yu's proposal. Leon's Armada has supported too many criminals, and it must be wiped out," Nightking Zheng stated.

The overseer from the Sword Sect, Liu Ran also spoke his support, "I also support Mr. Yu."

"I voice my support as well," Cong Ying said. He did not particularly care about Leon's Armada, but he was quite concerned with Giant Consortium. That company had worked together with Leon's Armada to establish Continental Shipping, so if Leon's Armada was not dealt with, Giant Consortium would never be eliminated.

Overseer Nan Yuan also agreed. He was the Seven Courts' representative to the Hall of Honor's overseers, and as a member of the Xia family, he naturally also agreed.

With more than half of the members of the council agreeing, they submitted a formal proposal for the Interstellar Supreme Court to place charges against Highsage Leon and Leon's Armada.

Bu Laoweng frowned and sent more information to Lu Yin.

In the Inverseverse, Lu Yin was currently racing towards the Cosmic Sea. When he saw San Sheng's message, he quickly sent a reminder to Big Sis to keep an eye on the Longevity Brigade, and then Lu Yin called the Chief Justice.

At the moment, Lu Yin was unable to interfere with the council's decision, so his only choice was to approach the Interstellar Supreme Court, which was his senior brother's jurisdiction.

However, Lu Yin's call would not connect no matter what, so he was left with no choice but to call Judicial Commissioner Mu En.

This time, Lu Yin's call went through.

"Judicial Commissioner, has the overseers' council submitted their proposal regarding Highsage Leon and Leon's Armada to the Interstellar Supreme Court?" Lu Yin asked.

"That's classified information. I can't tell you anything about that," Mu En replied.

Lu Yin immediately asked, "Is there any way to stop it?"

Mu En shook his head. "Lu Yin, you're an intelligent person, and you should know that the Interstellar Supreme Court is the Hall of Honor's sharpest blade. Which direction a blade strikes is not up to the blade itself, but to the mind of the wielder. The overseers' council is the mind of the Hall of Honor. I can at least tell you that the council did submit a proposal regarding Highsage Leon, but..."

"But what?" Lu Yin pressed.

"But the Chief Justice is currently in seclusion, and so he is unable to receive the proposal, so it was instead delivered to us three Judicial Commissioners. However, we have no authority to make any decision regarding Highsage Leon or Eversky Island that stands behind him. Thus, our only option is to send someone to the Cosmic Sea to observe the situation for now and wait for the Chief Justice to leave seclusion and make a decision."

Lu Yin let out a sigh of relief. "I understand. Thank you, Judicial Commissioner Mu En."

"Lu Yin, the Chief Justice is impartial. I don't know what your relationship with him might be, but since the overseers' council has submitted a ruling against Leon's Armada, the Chief Justice will carry it out to the letter. He will not be swayed just because of you, so you must prepare yourself," Mu En cautioned.

Lu Yin hung up, his heart sinking at Mu En's words. It sounded like his senior brother was truly an impartial person, which meant that there was nothing that could be done about the matter using this avenue. Lu Yin touched his cosmic ring, Since you're in seclusion, your junior brother will make a decision for you.

On Mt. Microcosms, Cong Ying made a call of his own after returning from the council meeting. He called Xi Gu, the commander of the Expeditionary Forces. Using the reasoning that the Interstellar Supreme Court was unable to immediately take action, Cong Ying asked the Expeditionary Forces to travel to the Inniverse to eliminate Giant Consortium with the excuse that Giants Consortium would send support to Leon's Armada.

Cong Ying had been born with connections to Expeditionary Forces, and he possessed powerful influence with them. Given his position as an overseer, he was able to make requests of the Expeditionary forces. While the military was free to accept or refuse the request, Xi Gu chose to accept it.

Even if the commander knew that he was being given mere excuses, it didn't matter. The Expeditionary Forces never needed to explain themselves to others, and at this time, they were acting on the request of an overseer.

The fighting in the Cosmic Sea escalated, and the Longevity Brigade finally stepped onto the battlefield beneath many eyes. Their target: Leon's Armada.

The rain of stones continued to fall, and Highsage Leon constantly slashed at Jin Mei with his saber. The captain of the Ignition Crew was extremely powerful, but he was not able to stop Highsage Leon, and his shoulder was cut almost halfway through.

Highsage Leon looked off into the distance at the Longevity Brigade's massive flagship, and his expression fell. "Surrounded by three attackers."

"Is Brother Leon talking about me?" A person appeared nearby. He carried a long spear and calmly gazed at Highsage Leon.

Highsage Leon was not surprised by the man's appearance. "Ji Qiang, your Longevity Brigade has always had a good relationship with my armada, so why are you here?"

Ji Qiang looked up. "It's time for things in the Cosmic Sea to change."

Higsage Leon sneered. "So you're not here because of the Xia family?"

Ji Qiang's expression instantly became sharply focused. "I don't know what Brother Leon might be talking about."

Higsage Leon clenched the saber in his hand. "Cut the bullshit. If you're here, then you should be ready to die! Today, I'll make a dish with both of your corpses!" As he spoke, Higsage Leon hefted his blade and attacked Ji Qiang.

An impressive amount of stellar energy erupted and swept across the battlefield and all of the fighters paused for a moment. They reflexively turned to look, but none of them could see Higsage Leon or the other two, as all three had already entered the true universe.

Higsage Leon was recognized as being the strongest of the captains of the Four Pirate Crews, and Jin Mie alone was not able to stand up to Leon, but Ji Qiang's arrival balanced the odds.

The Longevity Brigade was powerful. Even though they were not as strong as Leon's Armada, they were still stronger than the Ignition Crew. With the Longevity Brigade teaming up with the Ignition Crew, Leon's Armada instantly lost any advantage.

However, thus far, Leon's Armada had fought alone, but Higsage Leon was the pirate king. When Lu Yin had moved to deal with the Daynight clan, Higsage Leon had called upon countless pirates from across the Inniverse to trash Daynight Flowzone and suppress the Daynight clan. Since that day, the Daynight clan's status had sank low in the Inniverse.

At the moment, that scene from Daynight Flowzone was repeating itself.

Countless pirates arrived from all directions, mostly from the Inniverse.

These were crews that were not capable of traveling deep into the Cosmic Sea alone, and they were only present because of Lu Yin's reminder to Higsage Leon to prepare early for the battle. This had allowed them to summon reinforcements to the Cosmic Sea.

The arrival of the Longevity Brigade and countless pirates caused the war to escalate even further. Such a large scale battle had never been seen in the Cosmic Sea with the sole exception of when the Sixth Mainland had invaded.

Three of the Four Pirate Crews were already involved in the battle, and many people kept an eye on the fourth crew; the Soldier Crew. Everyone was wondering if the final Pirate Crew would join the fray.

Cultivators' wars did not end overnight, and they could last for several days, dozens of days, or even for years.

Two days later, the rain of stones stopped, and then a school of strange fish appeared. These odd fish appeared in the air and swam through the battlefield as though they were migrating, and their passage killed countless people. A fresh layer of corpses appeared floating in the sea along with the strange fish.

By this time, Lu Yin had already entered the Cosmic Sea and was close to the battlefield. He suddenly received a call from Wen Zizai.

"Alliance Leader Lu, how is Leon's Armada?" Wen Zizi asked.

Lu Yin answered solemnly, "I don't know. They're fighting a war with others of the Cosmic Sea's Four Pirate Crews. I have nothing to do with any of it."

"Why bother with the act now, Alliance Leader Lu? The Sword Sect was preparing for war with Leon's Armada, which you already knew before. That was why you had my Wen family move against the Sword Sect. If the Longevity Brigade and Chaosgod Mountain aren't able to be held back, then my Wen family can help." Wen Zizi smiled as he spoke in a relaxed tone of voice.

"Thank you, Senior, but they're just a few clowns. There's nothing difficult to this matter."

"What if other people get involved? Like the Sword Sect?"

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. What he had been most worried about was now happening: the Wen family was unwilling to be involved, and they would absolutely start making threats at this time. "What do you mean by that, Senior?"

"Haha, Leon's Armada might be able to hold off their enemies for now, and if Alliance Leader Lu arrives in time, it may not be impossible to achieve victory, as I believe you must have already entered the Cosmic Sea. the enemy's attack. However, if the Sword Sect gets involved, or perhaps even my Wen family, then what might happen? Even if no one else makes a move, just Liu Qianjue and I, Wen Zizai, are enough to determine the outcome of the battle by destroying the balance," Wen Zizai declared.

"What do you mean?" Lu Yin snapped.

Wen Zizai let out a long breath. He felt much better all of a sudden. For a long time, the entire Wen family had been controlled like a puppet by Lu Yin because of Wen Diyi, and even their patriarch, Wen Zizai, was no different. It was terrible to suffer such humiliation, but now, it was not Lu Yin threatening the Wen family, but them threatening him.

"Alliance Leader Lu should be perfectly aware of what I just said. Do you need to force me to travel to the Cosmic Sea to speak with you? Maybe I'll bring Liu Qianjue with me. By the way, if we make a move, the Beast Tamers' Mountain God might not be able to stay still, or even the Lingling clan might move out. Alliance Leader Lu should carefully consider this matter," Wen Zizai said.

Lu Yin's voice dropped low, "You're threatening me."

"Isn't this what Alliance Leader Lu excels at? Wen Diyi is part of my Wen family, and yet Alliance Leader Lu used him to threaten and continuously push additional conditions on us. Don't you think you pushed too much? Right now, Alliance Leader Lu only needs to deliver Wen Diyi to my Wen family, my Wen family promises that we will continue to restrain the Sword Sect so that the war in the Cosmic Sea will not escalate. If not, this war may spread to the Inniverse and even Outerverse," Wen Zizai declared.

Lu Yin took a deep breath and slowly blinked.

Beside him, Liu Ye frowned. Lu Yin was really not in a good situation at this moment. His backing was only able to intimidate people into not moving against Lu Yin himself, but that did not mean that those under his protection were untouchable as well. Many experts would remain independent to avoid being worried about such things.

"There are times when taking a step back isn't a bad thing," Liu Ye suddenly said.

"What's the matter with you? Shut up?" Sister Fei Hua glared at Liu Ye and yelled at him.

Liu Ye reluctantly glanced over at Sister Fei Hua before continuing, "When you tried to secretly deal with Chaosgod Mountain, you didn't do so just to ensure that other powers kept their guard down. Right now, take advantage of this opportunity to step back and strengthen yourself. For you, it's just taking a step back, but to others, it will show that you're not as much of a threat as they fear. This should achieve your goal."

Lu Yin looked up. "While it might achieve my goal, the path to it is not one I wish to take."

Fei Hua sneered, "Why not? Do you still have any other choice? If any of the people behind you make a move, their actions will sway the balance of your Fifth Mainland, and others will grow increasingly wary of you. Your threat to them will only grow increasingly larger before a target is placed on your back."

Lu Yin understood what Fei Hua meant. Whether it was Yuan Shi, the Chief Justice, or Arch-Elder Zen who had always been kind to him, any of them could easily resolve this matter and stop the war. However, if this happened, it would likely unite all of the forces of the Inniverse for the first time ever, and they would all be against him. Also, the same would be true of the Cosmic Sea's Ignition Crew, Longevity Brigade, and even the Soldier Crew. As for the Neoverse, the Seven Courts would start viewing Lu Yin with much greater concern.

All of this would have a heavy impact on the next phase of his plans.

Chapter 1625: Crisis Of The Giants

The most logical decision at this time would be for Lu Yin to step back and hand Wen Diyi over to the Wen family and agree to have the Wen family hold the Sword Sect back so that they could not rush into the Cosmic Sea and participate in the fight. Doing that as soon as possible would be the best decision given the current circumstances, but that was only when considering their current situation. However, Liu Qianjue and Wen Zizai were both unaware that the person behind everything was very likely the Xia family's Xia Ji.

The Xia family had triggered this war, and everything had been initiated because of secrets that they were privy to that no one else knew about. How could the matter be resolved so easily? Even if the Sword Sect and the Wen family did not get involved, there was no way that this war would not escalate to the point that even Eversky Island and the Seven Courts would be forced to participate.

The final stage of this massive war had already been laid out long ago.

"Alliance Leader Lu, have you considered this matter?" Wen Zizai asked. He was utterly confident in his demands, as nearly everyone would agree with his proposition. The Wen family would hold the Sword Sect back as part of the deal, and if one were to look at the overall impact of things, giving up just Wen Diyi alone would be able to free up two Envoys to support Highsage Leon, and simultaneously prevent three of even for Envoys from moving against Leon's Armada. This was an excellent bargain.

"Senior, if the Wen family wishes to obtain Wen Diyi, then it must be on my terms. If you hold the Sword Sect back, I abandon my demand for the painting of the Mountains and Seas and simply look at it at

your Wen family's home planet. If you can't agree to even this, then you can forget about ever getting your hands on Wen Diyi for as long as you live."

Lu Yin hung up the moment he finished speaking.

Wen Zizai was left in a daze; what had just happened? He looked over Dean Han, who was also in a state of shock. Neither one had expected Lu Yin to completely reject the offer.

"He actually rejected us," Wen Zizai muttered in disbelief.

Dean Han's eyes narrowed in suspicion. "He must have some sort of backup plan."

Wen Zizai's fingers started trembling, and he began contemplating the possibility of joining hands with the Sword Sect and traveling to the Cosmic Sea.

"Tread carefully and keep a close eye on Lu Yin and the entire Outerverse. There's a high chance that he has someone else supporting him," Dean Han warned.

"But it's also possible that he's merely trying to intimidate me. He's gambling, and he could be counting on the fact that I can't do without Wen Diyi and that because of that I won't dare fight him," Wen Zizai muttered under his breath.

Dean Han stared at Wen Zizai. "In that case, are you willing to risk challenging him?"

Wen Zizai's face twitched at hearing the question. Did he dare do it? Untold years had passed since anyone had asked him such a question. Who possessed the ability to cause him, the almighty Wen Zizai, hesitate with his actions? Who dared gamble with him? However, there really was a young man at the moment who had the capabilities and the daring to do just that.

This was a bet that Wen Zizai could not afford to lose, as if he did, he would become an outcast who would be condemned by the entire Wen family for all eternity.

Wen Zizai was unafraid of death, but there was one thing that scholars like him all feared, which was having their name go down in history as a synonym for infamy. If he took this bet and lost, it was possible that his Wen family would lose their position as one of the top powers of the Inniverse, and they would likely lose any opportunity to ever enter the Neoverse. Did he dare take this bet?

Seeing Wen Zizai's apprehension, Dean Han shook his head. The moment one hesitated, it already became clear that they lacked the courage to do something. To think that the ruler of one of the eight great flowzones, the mighty Wen family and their distinguished patriarch, would end up being toyed with by a mere youth! Was the Wen family pitiable, or was that young man simply too terrifying?

Lu Yin did not put much thought into the ultimatum he gave to Wen Zizai, and it was because he genuinely did have a backup plan. He picked up his gadget and called someone: Ming Yan.

There was one type of humans that was the most pathetic, which were those who knew they were being used, and yet could do nothing aside from continue letting themselves be used. Lu Yin was such a person.

Shaman God's doll had told Lu Yin that the Aeternals wanted to use Lu Yin's identity as the heir of the Lu family to incite the greatest civil war humankind had ever seen in order to weaken all of humanity.

Shaman God had even clearly laid the plan out for Lu Yin, and yet there was still nothing he could do to extricate himself from the situation. War would eventually break out, because the Perennial World's four ruling powers would never spare Lu Yin, even if he was unwilling to fight them.

However, Shaman God had also clearly underestimated Lu Yin's schemes. He was willing to be used because he had no other option, but since he was unable to remove himself from the Aeternals' plan, Lu Yin had found another means to get by: that of mutual exploitation.

He called Ming Yan via Bu Laoweng's gadget in order to ask the Neohuman Alliance for their help.

The Seven Dark Towers of Aeternus Nation would always stand tall. This was an immutable fact that had been true from the dawn of time. Those towers represented the supreme Seven Skygods of the Neohuman Alliance, and Mr. Feng was someone whose importance placed him directly below the Seven Skygods. Not only was Mr. Feng Aeternus Nation's custodian, he was also the Seven Skygods' spokesperson, as well as the one who held control of Aeterna, the list of traitors.

Mr. Feng was the one who always gave Bu Laoweng his orders.

As for the war in the Cosmic Sea, naturally the Neohuman Alliance had immediately received news about it, and Mr. Feng had been following the developments quite closely. Suddenly, his gadget began to beep, and he answered the call request after seeing who it was.

"Mr. Feng." Bu Laoweng's voice came through the call.

Mr. Feng's brows furrowed. "Did you forget your manners?"

"No sir, I haven't forgotten. But I have an urgent report for you, Mr. Feng."

"Speak."

"Lu Yin reached out to me and told me to do whatever I can to stop the council's decision regarding Leon's Armada from being carried out and to have Azure Mansion join the war in the Cosmic Sea. He's clearly worried and he's already used up everything at his disposal."

Mr. Feng frowned. "Is it that bad?"

Bu Laoweng sighed. "The fact that Lu Yin asked me to send our forces into the war is proof enough. Leon's Armada is his sharpest blade, and once he loses it, he'll be left with practically nothing. Even if he had the ambition to do so, it would be nearly impossible for him to build his strength back up and make a comeback in the future. I previously received orders to support Lu Yin to the best of my abilities in any way possible, so I figured that Lu Yin was probably someone we treat as one of us. This is why I wanted to consult with Mr. Feng on what to regarding his request for help."

Mr. Feng replied, "I understand how things are right now, but you don't need to do anything."

The custodian then quickly hung up after speaking and then turned round and headed straight towards Shaman God's black tower.

Only a short bit of time passed before Mr. Feng reemerged and sent out orders to all of the corpse kings in the Inverseverse, Cosmic Sea, and any that were close to Cosmic Sea. All of them were ordered to join the war in the Cosmic Sea and launch attacks simultaneously on Leon's Armada, the Ignition Crew, and

Chaosgod Mountain. Naturally, they were to try their best to minimize any damage done to Leon's Armada, and their attacks were to mostly target the Ignition Crew, the Longevity Brigade, and Chaosgod Mountain.

Lu Yin stared off into the distance. He was vaguely able to feel the energy of a major battle. Many experts and groups had been dragged into this battle that was only second to Fifth Mainland's efforts to stop the Sixth Mainland in the Cosmic Sea during the invasion. If even a single wrong step was taken, the entire plan would result in total failure. There was one thing that Bu Laoweng had been completely accurate about, which was that if Leon's Armada were destroyed, Lu Yin would have to trash all of his plans that he had concocted against the Innerverse, the Cosmic Sea, and even the Neoverse because he simply would no longer possess the necessary foundation and power.

There were many different events occurring throughout the Fifth Mainland at this time. There was also the war in Blazing Mist Flowzone between the Ross Empire and the sylvan dragons. The war in the Cosmic Sea had already become a muddle mess that involved nearly all of the top powers of the Cosmic Sea. Also, Giant Consortium's connection to Leon's Armada had caused the Expeditionary Forces to be sent out against the company.

The Expeditionary Forces were not a military that was permanently stationed in a single location. They were the Hall of Honor's primary sword to be used within the Fifth Mainland. Coincidentally, when they had been contacted by Overseer Cong Ying, they had already been in the Innerverse.

By the time that Lu Yin had connected with Ming Yan, the Expeditionary Forces had already reached Giant Consortium.

Who would have expected that the Expeditionary Forces would suddenly appear and attack Giant Consortium? The rage of war had already enveloped all of the planets under the company's control, and even though not all of the Expeditionary Forces' members were participating, in fact, only half of their soldiers were present, they still presented a force to be reckoned with. They had more than 1,500 Explorers, twenty Hunters, more than a few Enlighteners, as well as Xi Gu. The military's commander was actually an Envoy.

The tribe of colossal giants were more than capable of going up against the Expeditionary Forces' cultivators, with the exception of Xi Gu, but his presence alone made things more than the giants could handle.

After a planet exploded, Qing Kong gritted his teeth and ordered, "Open fire."

The moment the words left his mouth, all of the planets within Giant Consortium's territory all began firing beams of light that formed a net of attacks that encompassed the entire area and attacked the Expeditionary Forces.

At the same time, another colossal giant entered space and charged towards the Expeditionary Forces to slaughter their soldiers.

The soldiers were taken by surprise, as none of them had expected to encounter such a large number of powerful colossal giants. They had suffered horrible losses right from the start of the battle, as Chen Jian alone was able to suppress everyone in the Expeditionary Forces aside from Xi Gu.

Xi Gu emerged from the true universe, looked over at Chen Jian, and raised a hand. Flecks of white and gray started to appear over his palm, and when he struck out, each of the flecks shot through the void and struck Chen Jian's body. The giant was stunned, and could not figure out what had just happened. The gray and white flecks suddenly became unbearably hot before finally boring through his body.

Chen Jian screamed in pain, and his massive body fell towards a planet.

From behind Xi Gu, Chen Ling threw a punch at the Envoy. The giant's battle power exceeded 400,000, which placed him second to only the tribe's chief, Chen Huang. Chen Ling certainly had the strength and ability to fight against an ordinary Envoy, but only an average Envoy.

As the commander of the Hall of Honor's Expeditionary Forces, how could Xi Gu be an average Envoy? He had been an Honor Chosen when young, and had started defeating various opponents after becoming the Expeditionary Forces' commander. Even though he had not become widely renowned, that had only been because the Hall of Honor had deliberately manipulated matters to ensure that he remained somewhat unknown. He had survived countless battles, and was far from lacking power vessels.

Xi Gu's power as an Envoy was more than enough to suppress Chen Ling, but the commander had no intention of facing the giant directly. Instead, he took a power vessel out from his cosmic ring and used it to strike Chen Ling down in an instant. Suddenly, dozens of colossal giants stood tall above the nearby planets, each one prepared to smash Xi Gu.

Xi Gu looked around. "Overseer Cong Ying's concerns were valid; with so many colossal giants in hiding here, we would deal with trouble from them sooner or later."

Xi Gu then took out another power vessel, and he slaughtered the colossal giants one after another. It was not long before the corpses of hundreds of colossal giants drifted through space. Still, the Expeditionary Forces had sustained even greater losses, as they had lost hundreds of cultivators. Many of Giant Consortium's planets had been destroyed, and Qing Kong's line of the technological giants had also sustained hundreds of deaths.

"Expeditionary Forces, full retreat!" Xi Gu ordered. He looked out at the numerous corpses of his cultivators that littered space, and he clenched his fists in rage. He had let his guard down this time. He had believed that he would be able to easily exterminate Giants Conglomerate, but who could have known that the hidden colossal giants were so incredibly powerful? If he had known of their existence, he would never have launched a direct attack. The Expeditionary Forces had other methods to deal with such things.

"I'll handle this on my own and destroy all of these colossal giants," Xi Gu vowed with a cold glint in his eyes.

All of a sudden, the void around him began to distort, and a whirlpool that released a terrifying energy appeared above him.

Xi Gu looked up, and his pupils shrank; was this a stellar tribulation?

There was no one in all of Giant Consortium who could stand up to an Envoy like Xi Gu, so their only hope was Chen Huang.

Chen Huang had already been confident of holding his own against ordinary Envoys given the fact that he was a colossal giant, but he did not have the confidence of taking his tribe with him and allowing everyone to escape. He was not even confident that he would be able to escape himself without Xi Gu pursuing him. Xi Gu was clearly not some average Envoy, so Chen Huang had been left with no choice but to assimilate with Ku Wei's blood in order to strengthen himself and remove the shackles of his own bloodline. He needed the power of an Envoy.

In the presence of a stellar tribulation, even Xi Gu had no other choice but to pull back, as the only other option would be to directly face the tribulation head on.

Chen Huang's stellar tribulation was truly terrifying. After all, he was a colossal giant. The size of this stellar tribulation had already become much larger than that of a regular human. The tribulation encompassed the entire region belonging to Giant Consortium, and it then spread out to cover the Expeditionary Forces as well.

The Expeditionary Forces retreated again and again, staring at the tribulation in utter shock.

Chen Huang looked up to take measure of the situation. There was a somber expression on his face. As the stellar tribulation took form, a mountain slowly appeared above him. It was majestic and it towered over him and moved to crash into him.

The giant roared in rage and lifted both arms up to aggressively retaliate against the giant mountain in an attempt to hold it back. Right after that, another mountain appeared and merged with the first one. The combined weight increased exponentially, and it caused both of Chen Huang's arms to tremble and swell. His veins popped out across his skin, and his skin flushed blood-red as both of his eyes bulged.

Then, a third mountain suddenly appeared.

Xi Gu heaved a sigh of relief as he watched Chen Huang's struggle from afar. Fortunately, it looked like the giant would not be able to survive his stellar tribulation. Colossal giants did not train in any battle techniques, which meant that they were practically unable to survive any stellar tribulation.

Ku Wei was also watching everything from a distance. He was on top of Chen Ji's shoulder, and Ku Wei shouted at the top of his lungs, "Bear with it! You must push through!"

Chapter 1626: Arrival

Seeing that Chen Huang was about to be completely smashed to the ground by the merged mountains, all of the colossal giants began roaring at the sky, unleashing a noise that was familiar to only those of their blood. These roars had been passed down from ancient times and were carved into their blood, bones, and the very cells of each and every colossal giant. Carried along by instinct, even Ku Wei unconsciously transformed into a colossal giant and began roaring as well.

Ku Wei's voice instantly overpowered those of all of the other giants. The blood in his body began to boil, and the faint image of an even bigger and more imposing figure appeared behind him. It looked as

though a true giant had stood up, instantly dwarfing all of the colossal giants. Before this giant, Ku Wei's height of 8,000 meters left him as insignificant as an ant. All of the giants in the surroundings who saw this were shocked.

Xi Gu was also watching from the distance. He and Ku Wei stood opposite from each other, but even so, Xi Gu was still able to clearly make out the giant silhouette, even though he was not able to clearly make out the face. The size of the giant far exceeded Chen Huang, and even the stellar tribulation.

Xi Gu could not believe his eyes; how could such a massive giant exist? Was that still considered human? It was much bigger than even the surrounding planets!

Qing Kong and the others all saw the image as well, and the humans employees of Giant Consortium, such as Leng Yan, saw it as well, but all that they could see were the legs of the image – no, not even all of the silhouette's legs, but rather just the ankles. From where the humans stood, their eyes could only see the ankles of the image.

Ku Wei lifted his head and looked up at the massive giant behind him, completely dumbfounded. What in the world was that?

That enormous giant let out an angry roar. It was a sound that came from the soul, and it triggered a change in Chen Huang's physique. When he saw the massive giant, he also felt a resonant aura rise up within himself, and it caused his bloodline to ignite. He could not resist the urge to roar along with the enormous giant, and a faint white of battle power quickly turned black as it twined around his body. The black could only be seen momentarily before it turned purple, and then the purple changed into dark gold, which then turned green before becoming blue. The moment the blue lines covered Chen Huang's body, the pressure put on him by the three combined mountains suddenly decreased. However, things had not yet finished; the blue lines became magenta, which finally completed the transformation by turning red.

The magenta lines that covered the colossal giant's entire body were accompanied by red, which signified nine lined battle force.

Ku Wei was stunned, as was everyone else who had just witnessed the same scene. Was it that easy to cultivate battle force?

The unbelievably large giant only remained visible for a moment before it completely vanished. If not for the fact that literally every single person present had seen it, its entire existence could easily have been dismissed as an illusion.

The giant's appearance had granted Chen Huang nine lined battle force, as well as the power to overcome the force of the three mountains.

Chen Huang roared with rage, and with one punch, he managed to shatter all three of the mountains. That accomplished, the stellar tribulation disappeared.

The thousands of colossal giants surrounding Chen Huang started cheering loudly as they stared at him with blazing emotions of respect and admiration.

Chen Huang raised his head. His body felt much younger than before, and his height had doubled, making him 20,000 meters tall. He was forced to look down at all of the other colossal giants, and even Ku Wei only reached Chen Huang's waist at best.

Xi Gu clenched his fists as he watched everything from a distance. The Expeditionary Forces had no more time to waste; if they let Chen Huang become accustomed to his strength as an Envoy, it would become incredibly difficult to deal with the giants. This thought prompted Xi Gu to immediately take action, and his flecks of gray and white light shot towards Chen Huang.

Chen Huang raised a hand to meet the approaching attack with a slap, and the giant's hand completely crushed the gray and white lights with nine lined battle force. Even the void was distorted by the overwhelming power. Chen Huang's body suddenly shot out of the true universe, and he crashed into Xi Gu. Both of Xi Gu's arms were blown back by the impact, and he was sent flying from the powerful impact.

At this moment, Xi Gu only had one thought, which was to cheat.

In a battle between Envoys, each person was forced to face their enemy and the true universe at the same time. If a person happened to overuse their stellar energy and was not careful to conceal their presence, they would have their stellar energy forcefully extracted from their body. This was why only Envoys who possessed curios were able to fight without restraint. Without such protection, the only option was to remain wary at all times. However, things were different for colossal giants, as they tended to fight solely with pure physical strength, which meant that they rarely had to worry about other factors. In particular, after Chen Huang had comprehended nine lined battle force, he had instantly become far more terrifying when compared to humans who had accomplished the same. This was entirely because of his strength as a giant.

Xi Gu then suddenly recalled that battle force had originally been adapted from the giants' race to begin with. It looked like it was a form of cultivation that giants were the best suited for.

Suffering from one of Chen Huang's slaps forced Xi Gu to understand that the Expeditionary Forces' current mission had ended in failure. No matter what they did at this point in time, they would be able to do nothing to Giant Consortium, as Chen Huang alone was able to defeat all of them. The Expeditionary Forces could not go up against the colossal giants or Giant Consortium.

Left with no other choice, the military was ordered to retreat.

The battle with Giant Consortium proved to be a short one, yet the impact it had was quite considerable. What had shocked the Expeditionary Forces the most was not that Chen Huang had become an Envoy, but rather the silhouette of the massive giant that had appeared behind Ku Wei. Even Chen Huang's full height after his breakthrough was nothing at all when compared to that enormous giant. The difference between the two had been just too much.

Because Chen Huang had also absorbed Ku Wei's blood, the way the tribe's chief looked at Ku Wei had changed. This was something that could not have been avoided.

After the Expeditionary Forces left, Ku Wei immediately called Lu Yin and gave a report about the attack on Giant Consortium.

On hearing the news, Lu Yin's expression turned grim. To think that Cong Ying would take the opportunity brought about by the war in the Cosmic Sea to try to exterminate Giant Consortium. If it not for the fact that Chen Huang had managed to break through and become an Envoy, things would have ended up truly bleak for Giant Consortium. Still, the events in Giant Consortium's territory had already been adding hail to snow.

As he processed the news, Lu Yin immediately sent a message to Bu Laoweng, asking him to denounce Cong Ying and the Expeditionary Forces. After that, Lu Yin intended to lead Ku Wei's group of colossal giants into the Cosmic Sea. He hoped to amass all the forces he could in order to assist Leon's Armada.

At the same time, the flames of war continued to rage furiously in the Cosmic Sea. Highsage Leon, who had drifted away from the main battlefield, was alone facing the captain of the Longevity Brigade, Ji Qiang. The intense battle between the three captains caused the heavens and earth of the Cosmic Sea to crack and crumble.

Of the seven regiments that made up Leon's Armada, the captain of the Cross Regiment – Rocky – had died, as had the captain of the Charging Elephants Regiment, Elephant King. The Longevity Brigade and the Ignition Crew had both suffered terrible losses, as had Chaosgod Mountain. Of particular note, Cang Song had been injured even before the battle had started, and he ended up dying during the war in the Cosmic Sea.

Cang Song had been the one to kill Elephant King, and Elephant King's last counterattack before death had managed to take Cang Song down as well.

Cang Shi stood above the sea. It was no longer seawater beneath his feet, but blood.

Half of his body was already stained red. He had no idea why Chaosgod Mountain needed to be involved in this war, but one thing he did know was that more than half of the cultivators from Chaosgod Mountain had already died, though the casualties suffered by the pirates who had arrived to reinforce Leon's Armada were even more catastrophic.

Cang Mu had also arrived. As someone who had once held ninth place on the Top 100 Rankings, he was no longer considered part of the younger generation. He had followed Arbiter War King, which had caused Cang Mu to be known as the disgrace of Chaosgod Mountain. However, the moment this war had started, he had rushed over at top speed to help Chaosgod Mountain, as Cang Mu had already been training in the Cosmic Sea before the fighting had even started. Despite his strength, he had still not been able to avoid death.

The young stutterer was still on one of the Longevity Brigade's warships, and he was quite anxious; just what in the world was going on? Why were they fighting a war all of a sudden? The youth did not dare step even a single foot into the sea after seeing the countless corpses that filled it.

Somewhere nearby, Zi Jun was panting heavily. He had already lost half of an arm during the fighting. He looked up at the sky far above, clearly deep in thought. He knew that he likely did not stand much of a chance of surviving to the end of this war.

From Big Sis's mercenary crew, Da Chong had died, and so had Que Zi. People who Lu Yin knew had died one after another.

Lu Yin stared at all of the corpses floating atop the sea with his bloodshot eyes. There were some from Leon's Armada, but more were from the Ignition Crew, Chaosgod Mountain, and the Longevity Brigade.

Following a glimmer that flashed in front of them, Liu Ye and Fei Hua led Lu Yin to the most vicious portion of the battlefield. Lu Yin's heart raced the moment he arrived, and he looked off into the distance in the direction of where Highsage Leon, Jin Mei, and Ji Qiang were fighting. He caught sight of a fourth cluster of runes in that place, and their number was beyond terrifying.

Lu Yin had seen that particular group of runes before in Daynight Flowzone above the Nightking Planet. Nightking Dijiang was present.

Lu Yin transformed his pupils into runes to get a better view. He had not expected Nightking Dijiang to appear, and so Lu Yin unhesitatingly released Daynight Praises in an attempt to ambush the Nightking.

Not even Highsage Leon had noticed Nightking Dijiang's presence, as he had been too focused on dealing with Ji Qiang and Jin Mie; how could Highsage Leon have any attention to spare on the possibility of another expert lying in wait for him nearby? Even in a one-on-one battle, Highsage Leon would struggle to fight against Nightking Dijiang, as if that were not the case, he would never have asked Highsage Shenwei for help in the past.

Nightking Dijiang had originally planned to sneak attack, since Highsage Leon had not noticed him. The only people who had sensed his presence were from the Ignition Crew, but there was no way any of them would reveal his presence. However, Lu Yin's attack had caused Nightking Dijiang to lose his cover.

Even if Lu Yin's Daynight Praises was no different from scratching an itch for Nightking Dijiang, the attack had still drawn Highsage Leon's attention, which had been Lu Yin's entire goal.

Nightking Dijiang was furious, and he retaliated against the spiritual force of Daynight Praises with counter-attacks. Lu Yin had already been prepared for such an event, and he had already set up his Inception Array for protection. Despite using the sourcebox array, Lu Yin still ended up coughing up blood from the counter-attack, and he even suffered a mental blow that nearly left him unconscious.

"Dijiang, you're courting death!" Highsage Leon roared as he slashed his impressive saber at Nightking Dijiang.

Ji Qiang swept his spear at Highsage Leon while mocking the man, "Highsage Leon, say that after you defeat the two of us!"

Nightking Dijiang shot a death glare towards Lu Yin. If not for the various powerhouses protecting Lu Yin, Nightking Dijiang would not have been so gentle with his attacks. He easily could have killed the youth.

Lu Yin's body was shaking. This was not because of fear, but due to the aftereffects of Nightking Dijiang's counter-attacks. Once the disparity between people's spiritual forces became too vast, the pain one would feel from an attack would far exceed physical pain.

"Hurry up and take care of him!" Lu Yin shouted.

Liu Ye and Fei Hua glanced at each other. "We're no match for him."

When Nightking Dijiang had used a spiritual force attack against Lu Yin, both of the Envoys had tried to shield Lu Yin from the damage Yin, but sadly, neither of them were very proficient with spiritual force, and thus they had only been able to watch as the attack had struck Lu Yin.

Lu Yin roared in a deep voice, "Deal with him now or I'll detonate the sourcebox arrays in your bodies this instant!"

"You!" Sister Fei Hua angrily retorted, but Liu Ye held her back as he shook his head.

"Just do it." After speaking, Liu Ye stepped forward and unleashed his fluttering willow leaves against Nightking Dijiang. Sister Fei Hua snorted in rage before joining her husband. She could never allow him to confront someone so incredibly dangerous alone.

Lu Yin had also been left with no choice in the matter; he could not just leave Highsage Leon alone to face three powerhouses. On top of that, Nightking Dijiang's spiritual force was extremely difficult to counter.

Lu Yin had not expected the Daynight clan to get caught up in the war as well. Ever since he had trashed their flowzone, they had almost entirely isolated themselves and had kept a very low profile. Their forces had been slowly chipped away at by the Sword Sect, and the Daynight clan had long since lost their title of being the most powerful clan in the Innerverse. In fact, as time had passed, they had become practically irrelevant. This was also why it was so shocking to see them suddenly reappear, not to mention that their entrance to the war was the one that was forcing Lu Yin into a corner.

Liu Ye and Fei Hua would never be able to match up to Nightking Dijiang. Even though their combined attacks were truly remarkable, Nightking Dijiang was no ordinary powerhouse. He was the patriarch of the Daynight clan, and he had cultivated many mysterious techniques. Even if he were placed next to powerhouses from the Perennial World who matched his cultivation, Nightking Dijiang would still be considered one of the best.

All that Liu Ye and Fei Hua were capable of was to buy a bit of time and stall for a while. They had absolutely no chance of victory.

Lu Yin stared into the distance in worry; Liu Ye and Fei Hua had to hold out!

Someone from the Ignition Crew tried to attack Lu Yin from behind, but Lu Yin never even moved a muscle. His attacker tried to stab a knife into Lu Yin's back, but it was pointless. The attack could not break through Lu Yin's defenses, and Lu Yin then easily dealt with the person.

Out of everyone on the entire battlefield, the only opponents Lu Yin truly really wanted to fight with were the Envoys.

Chapter 1627: Back-up Plan

The Envoys' battlefields were where Highsage Leon was fighting or where Liu Feng was holding back Cang Zhou, but the former was much too high-level for Lu Yin, as the experts fighting there were trading blows with power levels of about 800,000. Lu Yin could not step foot onto such a battlefield.

Killing intent flashed through Lu Yin's eyes as he entered the true universe. He wanted to kill Cang Zhou, but as he was making his way there, he saw that Sister Fei was in danger.

Sister Fei was the captain of the Quickstream Regiment of Leon's Armada. She had streams of water twining around her, and they gave her an enchanting appearance. Given her power and her quickstream knife, even experts with power levels of 400,000 would not dare underestimate her. Despite that, her life was hanging by a thread at this moment.

The battlefield in the Cosmic Sea encompassed a very large area, and where Sister Fei was fighting there were only others from her Quickstream Regiment, though none of them were able to help Sister Fei.

Her opponent was someone from the Longevity Brigade, and he had also suffered rather serious injuries, though his were not as severe as Sister Fei's.

"What a pathetic beauty! Die!" the man bellowed in a deep voice. All five of his fingers were pressed together as he reached for Sister Fei's head. She closed her eyes, giving up, but strangely enough, when she reopened them again after a moment, her opponent was already dead. Lu Yin said, "Be careful, Sister Fei."

He then returned to the true universe.

Sister Fei stared where Lu Yin had disappeared and let out a sigh of relief. She had survived.

She never would have imagined that that little brat from back then would have already surpassed her.

Lu Yin wanted to join the fight against Cang Zhou, but Liu Feng refused as he wanted to face Cang Zhou alone. All that Lu Yin could do was to unleash his domain to attack the Ignition Crew, Longevity Brigade, and Chaosgod Mountain across a wide region.

Off in the distance, Liu Ye and Fei Hua were struggling terribly enduring against Nightking Dijiang. His spiritual force attacks were forcing them to suffer unspeakable pain.

With no other choice, Fei Hua sent Lu Yin a quick message, "Hey brat, this guy's too difficult for us to deal with. We'll never beat him, so find someone else to keep him occupied."

Lu Yin frowned. "Endure just a little longer."

"How?" Fei Hua was getting impatient and her tone had turned rude.

Lu Yin yelled back at her, "Do you want to die?"

"If I keep fighting this man, I'll still most likely die!" Sister Fei Hua yelled back.

Lu Yin clenched his fists in anger, but just when he was about to retort, he felt a sudden chill run down his spine. He was not the only one, either, as everyone felt a chill. After that, they heard a horrifying laughter echo from the distance. One shadow after another began to appear and tear through the void and they fell upon the battlefield. Each of those shadows proved to be a corpse king, as each one possessed their characteristic scarlet eyes!

When they saw the Neohuman Alliance's forces appear, Jin Mie, Ji Qiang, and the others were dumbfounded. Even Nightking Dijiang was startled; why would the Neohuman Alliance show up?

Hightsage Leon growled in rage when he saw the corpse kings step onto the battlefield. He slashed his saber at Ji Qiang, forcing the man to step back. "You actually went ahead and teamed up with these monsters?!"

Ji Qiang glared at Hightsage Leon with cold eyes. "Hightsage Leon, you dare try to slander us!"

"If not for helping you, why else would the Neohuman Alliance be here?" Hightsage Leon shouted in rage.

Ji Qiang looked around at the corpse kings with a fierce glare. He also had no idea how or why the Neohuman Alliance had appeared. Even if the Neohuman Alliance wanted to target them, wouldn't it have been better to wait until after the war ended? At that time, both sides would have suffered tremendous losses from an all-out war. So what was the point in showing up at such a time?

Could it be that there were humans who had collaborated with the monsters?

The very next moment, the corpse kings were already attacking. There were dozens of corpse kings, and two of them had the strength of an Envoy, which was truly terrifying.

One of the corpse kings was even able to undergo a red eye transformation, which was beyond horrifying.

Lu Yin's eye started twitching from this terrible turn of events; the Neohuman Alliance was too powerful a force to be contended with. The fact that they had managed to rush over to the Cosmic Sea so quickly also suggested that they had not been far away to begin with, which meant that this terrifying force had been close to the powers of the Cosmic Sea. Almost no one from the Fifth Mainland was aware that the Aeternals were the force behind Neohuman Alliance. The Aeternals had managed to suppress humanity to the point that they had never had any opportunity to relax and recover.

That corpse king who had undergone the red eyes transformation had targeted Nightking Dijiang, which caught the man off guard. Just when he was about to curse Leon's Armada for working with the Neohuman Alliance, the other Envoy-level corpse king started attacking Liu Ye and Fei Hua. Just like Nightking Dijiang, Liu Ye and Fei Hua were fighting with their full strength. After all, they were originally from the Perennial World, and they hated corpse kings to their core.

Dozens of corpse kings had fallen onto the battlefield, and while the Neohuman Alliance's forces seemed to be severely lacking numbers, the impact they were able to have on the battlefield was immense. The balance of the battlefield had been instantly destroyed, though at least Nightking Dijiang had been given a different opponent to keep him company and occupied.

Corpse kings were a natural nemesis to spiritual force. Any corpse king that was capable of completing the red eye transformation would be able to stand up to Nightking Dijiang so long as their initial power level was at least 600,000. However, the corpse king's chances of victory would remain debatable.

Lu Yin was also targeted by a corpse king, and it was even a rather powerful one. It was able to use a green eyes transformation, and its initial power level had already surpassed 300,000.

There was a tremendous boom as the corpse king was forced back by one of Lu Yin's punches. Though its green eye transformation had enhanced its power level by an additional 300,000 more, which meant

that it was capable of unleashing attacks comparable to an Envoy, Lu Yin was someone who was already capable of facing Envoys with power levels of more than 600,000 on his own.

Hightsage Leon still firmly believed that the Longevity Brigade and the others had been the ones to collude with the Neohuman Alliance, while Ji Qiang and the others all insisted that Leon's Armada had cooperated with the Neohuman Alliance.

Even if everyone was able to see that the corpse kings were indiscriminately attacking everyone, they all still wished to pin the blame onto their opponents. Whoever ended up shouldering the blame would end up as the universal enemy of the entire Fifth Mainland.

A woman with an incredibly beautiful face stood atop the Cosmic Sea. She had a plump figure and was panting and trying to catch her breath. She was up against a powerhouse from the Longevity Brigade.

She was Big Sis, and she was currently in imminent danger. However, all of a sudden, a corpse king attacked from nowhere. It not only attacked Big Sis, but also her opponent from the Longevity Brigade.

Soon enough, the expert from the Longevity Brigade and the corpse king had fought to their deaths, and Big Sis ended up as the sole survivor. She found the entire turn of events a little odd, but did not bother putting much thought to it.

Leon's Armada had summoned various pirates to deal with the Longevity Brigade, Ignition Crew, and Chaosgod Mountain, and the armada and pirates had certainly grabbed the short end of the stick. While the pirates were able to help compensate for numbers, they could do nothing to contribute to the numbers of true powerhouses on the battlefield.

A deafening boom was heard, and a corpse king was smashed across the sea. Lu Yin allowed his arm to relax, and he looked over at Liu Ye and Fei Hua. They had already managed to suppress the Envoy-leveled corpse king they had faced, and it looked like they would soon eliminate it. However, the fight between Nightking Dijiang and the other corpse king would not end so easily.

Lu Yin again unleashed his domain, and it swept the arena. He was able to affect thousands of people, and he immediately began taking advantage of his domain.

Suddenly, Hightsage Leon, Ji Qiang, and Jin Mie started to work together to defeat the corpse king that had been fighting Nightking Dijiang. Instantly, one of the corpse king's arms was chopped off by Hightsage Leon.

Lu Yin's eye started to twitch nonstop, and he almost wanted to curse at everyone. If they dealt with the corpse king at this moment, who would keep Nightking Dijiang occupied?

However, Hightsage Leon had no other choice, as Ji Qiang had already reported the new development to the Hall of Honor. At any time, regardless of any war, even a battle where one knew they would surely die, the moment that anyone from the Hall of Honor learned of the presence of a corpse king or made contact with one, they were required to immediately work to eliminate any and all corpse kings, or else they would be punished for inaction. This was an inviolable law of the Hall of Honor.

Ji Qiang had even instantly reached out to one of the Hall of Honor's Judicial Commissioners, Mu Tianlun. Because of that, Hightsage Leon had been forced to unite with his enemies against the corpse king. If Mu Tianlun was not paying attention to the situation, there was no way that Hightsage Leon

would have been foolish enough to leave Nightking Dijiang without an opponent. As for Higsage Leon, even if he saw the Neohuman Alliance as an enemy, he would not have chosen to fight them at this moment.

After being surrounded by four powerhouses, the corpse king suffered a miserable end.

Lu Yin sighed helplessly. "Liu Ye, please help me to keep Nightking Dijiang occupied."

Liu Ye gritted his teeth in anger. He really wanted to refuse at this moment, but Liu Ye was also much quicker than Fei Hua, and he knew that he could not afford to reject Lu Yin's orders at this time, as doing so would ensure that Lu Yin would make them pay the price in the future. Liu Ye was already well aware of Lu Yin's extremely vindictive nature.

The corpse kings were quickly killed. Even if the dozens of corpse kings had managed to introduce an element of chaos into the battle, the overall impact they had made had not been very significant. Still, they had managed to buy a bit of time, which was exactly what Lu Yin needed most desperately.

Half an hour later, a white smoke seeped out from the void, shattering the void as it passed, but also spreading back into the cracks that appeared.

Lu Yin became thrilled when he saw the smoke, as it meant that Smoke-Eater Peaks had arrived.

This was one of the back-up plans Lu Yin had prepared earlier. He had not expected Smoke-Eater Peaks to arrive in time after discovering the unplanned presence of Nightking Dijiang, but thankfully, the Neohuman Alliance had arrived and joined the battle, which had bought the time needed for Smoke-Eater Peaks to arrive.

Their appearance was not anything that Ji Qiang or the others could have seen coming.

Gu Laogui was laughing maniacally when the white smoke shrouding his body began twirling towards Nightking Dijiang. "Aren't you from the Daynight clan? Let's play!"

Ji Qiang just stared at Gu Laogui and asked, "Why is Smoke-Eater Peaks getting involved?"

Gu Laogui ignored the question and replaced Liu Ye and Fei Hua as Nightking Dijiang's opponent. Just the two powerhouses testing each other out was enough to cause a mind-blowing collision that jostled the entire Cosmic Sea. The impact between the white smoke and the spiritual force swept the entire battlefield, and even continued on into the far distance. If one was able to capture a clear view of the entire Cosmic Sea, they would have noticed that the shockwave from the impact of the white smoke and the spiritual force spread across nearly a fifth of the Cosmic Sea.

Both Nightking Dijiang and Gu Laogui were extremely powerful.

Liu Ye and Fei Hua let out sighs of relief as they looked at each other. How could they ever have imagined that such an intense war would break out in the Forsaken Land.

Gu Laogui was not the only one from Smoke-Eater Peaks who had arrived, as many disciples had also shown up. White smoke quickly enveloped the battlefield, and it twined around the cultivators from Leon's Armada, exponentially increasing their combat power.

The white smoke was able to serve the same purpose as power vessels.

Gu Xiao'er shot towards Lu Yin while shouting, "Brother, aren't I so loyal! As soon as I heard that you were caught up in a fight, I immediately dragged over everyone I knew! Look at that auntie, she was my wet nurse!"

Lu Yin pursed his lips in concern. "Be careful and don't get yourself killed."

Gu Xiao'er bravely patted his chest, though he apparently used too much force, as he coughed a few times. "Don't worry; your brother can't die that easily!"

Lu Yin smiled. The tides of the war had finally changed, though there was no way that it had already entered its final state. There were still some absent players who were certain to make an appearance: the Xia family.

A peerless powerhouse was capable of instantly changing the balance of a war. The moment that Liu Ye and Fei Hua were no longer needed to hold back Nightking Dijiang, the balance of the battlefield had already shifted towards Lu Yin's favor. This was an outcome that would be completely unacceptable to the Xia family, and they were the ones controlling things from the dark.

This was also why a mysterious person arrived on the battlefield before much more time passed, and they prepared to attack Lu Yin in a quite sneaky manner.

Lu Yin did not notice the person's presence at all, as they possessed absolutely no runes before their attack. This was a perfect sneak attack.

The mysterious individual felt that they had already successfully completed their mission as their sword was thrust into Lu Yin's back. The attack was not intended to kill Lu Yin, merely leave him severely injured. However, Lu Yin was completely unharmed aside from being knocked forward by the impact. Still, he did feel an excruciating tearing sensation at his waist.

The hidden person was shocked beyond words; how was this possible?

Lu Yin spun around and stared at his attacker with murder in his eyes. Thankfully, he had been wearing his bodysuit armor, as taking a direct attack from that sword would have left him seriously injured or even dead.

"Who are you?" Lu Yin roared fiercely as he shifted himself with the Ce Secret Art as an astral chessboard appeared beneath his feet.

Lu Yin's mysterious attacker slashed the sword through the air, tearing the void with an attack that used stellar energy which then stopped Lu Yin from using the Ce Secret Art. As a result, Lu Yin fell through the air, and his attacker seized the moment to leap towards Lu Yin and strike again with their sword. However, further up above, Highsage Leon bellowed in rage, "Stop!"

He swung his massive saber towards the mysterious attacker even as he shouted.

Lu Yin's heart fell. Things were looking bad.

The mysterious attacker spun the sword around so that the blade faced the incoming attack from the saber. The sword was cracked by the impact, and blood dripped from the hidden person's body. They

immediately spun around and fled into the true universe in an attempt to escape. A single attack from Highsage Leon had managed to injure the person, but in exchange, Highsage Leon had been stabbed in the gut by Ji Qiang's spear. The spearhead pierced out of Highsage Leon's back, and blood soaked his clothes. Jin Mie took advantage of the opening and used Truesight to further weaken Highsage Leon's body, aggravating injuries suffered from the attack.

Chapter 1628: Who In The World Is That?

Lu Yin's pupils constricted, and the power vessel he had received from Elder Jiu Shen appeared in his hand. He used the Cosmic Art to activate the badge, and instantly, 100,000 stars filled every corner of the battlefield, making it look as though they were fighting in outer space. At that moment, everything happening on the battlefield slowed to Lu Yin's perception. It was as though time had slowed. This was the same sensation he had felt when facing opponents with the same level of cultivation back when he had first started cultivating the Cosmic Art.

Speed was meaningless against someone who used the Cosmic Art.

Lu Yin raised a hand, and the 100,000 stars coalesced to form a Celestial Sword. He then swung it down upon Ji Qiang without any hesitation.

The look in Ji Qiang's eyes instantly changed, and he immediately spun his spear around and yelled, "Jin Mie, with me!"

Jin Mie raised a hand, causing a shield of light to appear in front of him. Truesight was being utilized to its maximum potential.

Lu Yin's Celestial Sword contained the 100,000 stars that Elder Shen Jiu's had simulated, while Lu Yin also unleashed his own golden battle force. This gave the Celestial Sword a golden color. Lu Yin attacked with the sword, and it shot straight past the shield of light and slammed against Ji Qiang's spear, forcing the man to retreat.

Unfortunately, even with the support from the power vessel, Lu Yin was only capable of releasing an attack with a power level of about 800,000. After Jin Mie had weakened the attack with Truesight, the power level had fallen below 700,000. Lu Yin had absolutely no chance to injure either of the two experts attacking Highsage Leon.

Still, by forcing Ji Qiang to retreat and Jin Mie to shift his attention, Lu Yin had managed to buy Highsage Leon some time.

Highsage Leon held a hand over the wound on his abdomen, and Ghost Doc quickly appeared to help his commander. From the moment the fighting had started, Ghost Doc had remained out of sight until the moment that Highsage Leon had been injured.

One powerhouse after another stepped onto the battlefield, leaving Lu Yin's efforts to turn the tides futile, even if he did use Elder Jiu Shen's power vessel. This was completely different from how he had impacted the wars he had participated in in both the Inniverse and the Outerverse.

It was time he used the Chief Justice's emblem once again. Lu Yin thought long and deep on the matter while keeping a close watch on Ji Qiang and Jin Mie.

Elsewhere on the battlefield, the mysterious person who had attacked Lu Yin emerged from the true universe, their body sprinkled with blood stains. The sword appeared in their hand once more, and they stared at Lu Yin intently. This person's goal was Lu Yin and Lu Yin alone.

Lu Yin felt the air grow cold around him. Even though his mysterious attacker was unable to break through the defense of his bodysuit armor, the attacker was not much weaker than Jin Mie and the others, so there was no way for Lu Yin to fight the person given his current situation. Lu Yin also fully understood his attacker's motive, which was to take advantage of Lu Yin to sway the situation of the entire battlefield.

The tides of the battle were shifting increasingly away from Lu Yin's favor, though at least Liu Ye and Fei Hua had managed to keep the mysterious attacker occupied.

A great distance away, Gu Laogui was in the middle of a fight with Nightking Dijiang, when suddenly an expression of shock appeared on Gu Laogui's face. He carefully looked at the mysterious attacker, and a wave of emotions surged within him. Wasn't that someone from the Xia family? While the others on this battlefield might not know, Gu Laogui certainly did. That person was the Xia family patriarch, Xia Yi! Xia Yi had a habit of wielding his sword in a diagonal angle to the left when attacking. This was a habit that not even Xia Yi might be aware of, but Gu Laogui recognized it.

For Xia Yi to personally step onto this battlefield, did it mean that the Xia family was involved in this war as well? The Xia family, Jin Mie, the Longevity Brigade, as well as the Inniverse's Chaosgod Mountain and the Daynight clan... From Gu Laogui's perspective, things did not feel quite right. This did not seem to be a simple fight between the Four Pirate Crews. There were far too many complications tangled up for that to be the case.

The more the man considered the situation, the weirder it became. Gu Laogui could not help himself from turning to look at Lu Yin. The kid had tricked him.

Gu Laogui was able to see that the mysterious attacker was someone from the Xia family, though Lu Yin was able to guess the same. Lu Yin frowned in frustration; if the Xia family was stepping into this war, then was it possible that Xia Meng was not involved? After all, she was a top ranked powerhouse who had a power level of more than 900,000. There was no one on the entire battlefield who would be her opponent if she stepped onto the battlefield.

At that moment, yet another group of powerhouses stepped into the battlefield.

With the appearance of this new group, the balance of the war shifted yet again. The newcomers were from Gods' Origin, and they were led by a stern-looking person who wore a purple robe. Jin Mie's face twisted in hatred when he saw the people from Gods' Origin.

Ji Qiang's brows rose high in confusion; why did more and more people keep on joining this fight? All of his plans had been completely ruined! Smoke-Eater Peaks and Gods' Origin were both forces that were never supposed to have participated in this war.

Naturally, Gods' Origin arrival was another of Lu Yin's plans. He had explicitly told God Taiyi about the upcoming war and how it would be fought between the Ignition Crew and Leon's Armada. Gods' Origin had long been wanting to destroy the Ignition Crew, but they had just never had the opportunity to do

so. Naturally, they would never miss such a rare opportunity, and thus they had rushed over to join the war.

Lu Yin had not been certain that God Taiyi would respond positively when calling him, and Lu Yin had not been particularly hopeful that Gods' Origin would participate. Their arrival at this time was a complete, though pleasant, surprise for him as well.

The person in the purple robes was known as Purple God, and he was the strongest member of Gods' Origin. The entire group launched an attack on the Ignition Crew the moment they arrived.

With the Ignition Crew thus preoccupied, Ji Qiang was forced to deal with Highsage Leon on his own.

Purple God was not the only powerhouse from Gods' Origin to step onto the battlefield, as another Envoy had come as well. The full strength of Gods' Origin's forces was just enough for them to handle the entire Ignition Crew.

Gods' Origin had taken a great deal of pressure off of Leon's Armada.

The Envoys who Lu Yin had brought, Liu Ye and Fei Hua, were enough to occupy the enemies' last Envoys, which meant that the two new Envoys who had come with Gods' Origin were able to storm the battlefield.

Given the rapid development, Lu Yin's mysterious attacker was quickly exposed, and shockingly to many people, he was the Xia family's patriarch, Xia Yi. Seeing Xia Yi on the battlefield was a clear indication that the Xia family had also joined the war.

The first person from the Xia family who stepped forward was Xia Meng.

With her appearance, she was instantly the most powerful person on the entire battlefield. She had held no intention of joining this war, but had been forced to come.

Lu Yin actually felt relief when he saw Xia Meng, as it meant that the Xia family no longer had anything hidden that they could pull out. Also, her appearance meant that Eversky Island could finally step forward as well.

"Who dares mess with my junior!" Highsage Shenwei roared as he appeared on the battlefield, his aura fully unleashed as he glared at Xia Meng.

Xia Meng frowned. "This is a war, so we all are fighting for victory."

Highsage Shenwei clenched his fists. "This is a war that your Xia family started! You will need to bear the consequences regardless of the outcome."

Xia Meng's eyes blazed. While she was not entirely certain what the underlying motives behind this war actually were, how many people fighting were privy to that information? Despite being a top expert with a power level approaching a million, Xia Meng was still nothing more than a pawn in this war.

If that was true for Xia Meng, it was even more so for Highsage Shenwei.

The real masterminds behind everything were Xia Ji and Lu Yin. Xia Ji had been the puppet master behind everything, while Lu Yin had deliberately forced one major power after another to join the mess.

In fact, the war had actually not yet reached the level that had originally been intended, as if not for Lu Yin's maneuvers, the Sword Sect would also have gotten involved in the matter.

The Lu Elite Troops appeared and announced their arrival with the appearance of more than 6,000 cultivators, the weakest of which was an Explorer. The formation of this army had been expedited by the war. Regardless of the numbers that the the Ignition Crew and the Longevity Brigade could send out, they could never compare to the staggering numbers of the Lu Elite Troops.

However, the Lu Elite Troops still was not enough to turn the odds of the battle, and they had mostly come in order to gain battle experience.

Everyone had believed that the victor of the war had already been written in stone, Lu Yin's side clearly had the upper hand. In fact, they even had two unhindered Envoys at this moment.

However, right after Highsage Leon's devastating injury, the battle shifted in an unforeseeable direction.

Lu Yin had managed to successfully calculate and plan for a great number of events regarding this war, but he had not considered Highsage Leon being personally defeated, much less to Ji Qiang.

As the leader of the most powerful of the Four Pirate Crews, Highsage Leon should have been the strongest of all of the leaders. Even injured, he should not have lost to Ji Qiang in a one-on-one fight, but the facts remained that he really had been defeated by Ji Qiang.

Highsage Leon was breathing heavily, and half of his body was stained with blood. He turned around to look at Ji Qiang, who was standing in the void. There was a look of absolute disbelief on Highsage Leon's face. "You're not Ji Qiang! Who the hell are you?"

Ji Qiang looked down at Highsage Leon from above. His eyes were calm, but also indifferent. It was as though he had become jaded after seeing everything the universe held. "I am Ji Qiang."

"No, there's no way," Highsage Leon said even as he coughed up blood. Ghost Doc reappeared, but this time he just shook his head. His efforts were of no use; Highsage Leon could not be healed by Ghost Doc. Highsage Leon's injuries were severe enough that only time would allow him to recover.

The spear still in hand, the commander of the Longevity Brigade turned to look at Xia Meng as she fought with Highsage Shenwei, and then over towards Nightking Dijiang before finally looking at the Ignition Crew. "The fighting has already gone on for too long. Time to end it."

Lu Yin felt his eye start twitching again, because the look in Ji Qiang's eyes reminded him of Starsibyl's divination. After studying the man's runes, Lu Yin stared at Ji Qiang in complete shock; this man was actually Xia Ji's clone!

Everything suddenly made sense! No wonder Chaosgod Mountain had thrown themselves into the war efforts; Cang Zhou had originally come from the Longevity Brigade, and the leader of the Longevity Brigade, Ji Qiang, was the hidden mastermind behind the whole scheme that had been plotted against Leon's Armada. However, his real target was absolutely not Leon's Armada, but rather Eversky Island and Highsage Grandmaster.

The Ignition Crew had been easily recruited as well, due to their hatred towards Leon's Armada being so deep. As for the Sword Sect, Lu Yin was not exactly sure what they would gain from this war. Had Nightking Dijiang been allied with them from the beginning, or had he spontaneously joined the war?

However, there was one thing that Lu Yin just could not understand at all: why was Xia Ji targeting Highsage Grandmaster?

The sky over the Cosmic Sea grew dark without any warning, and Gu Laogui felt chills suddenly run down his spine while he was fighting against Nightking Dijiang. He turned to look at where Highsage Leon had been defeated by Ji Qiang, and instantly felt that something was off. Gu Laogui was able to feel a frightening sense of danger coming from Ji Qiang.

Gu Laogui was not the only one sensing such a thing, as Highsage Shenwei, Liu Ye, and all of the other top powerhouse felt the same thing. People like Xia Meng, Xia Yi, and Nightking Dijiang stopped fighting and pulled back to keep a close eye on Ji Qiang.

"It is time to end this war," Ji Qiang calmly declared as he raised his spear and stabbed it forward. Two phantom spears appeared from the attack, and one of them shot towards Highsage Shenwei, while the other darted towards Gu Laogui.

Both Highsage Shenwei and Gu Laogui felt their scalps go numb. The attacks aimed at them were clearly ordinary spear strikes, and neither weapon was moving terribly fast, and yet neither man seemed to be able to escape the attacks. For each of them, the spear appeared like it represented heaven and earth. Each spear was accompanied by a flurry of star energy, and while the attack did not enter the true universe. The afterimages of these spears existed even within the true universe, projecting countless shadows of themselves.

This attack surpassed even Highsage Wudi's comprehension. He was a top expert in the Human Domain whose power level exceeded 900,000. As for Gu Laogui, he stood on par with Nightking Dijiang, as both of them possessed power levels of more than 800,000. It was unimaginable for such powerhouses to be unable to evade the mere projection of a spear.

"Thousand Rivers Return to Sea!" Highsage Shenwei shouted at the top of his lungs. He unleashed Eversky Island's secret technique that converted all forms of attack into their raw energy form. Gu Laogui brought out a great deal of white smoke in front of himself in an attempt to block the incoming spear.

Fresh blood splattered from the sky. As for Highsage Shenwei and Gu Laogui, both of them had been seriously injured by the spear attack.

Gu Laogui gritted his teeth in pain as blood dripped from the corner of his mouth. He had suffered a loss this time, a huge loss! He had thought that he would just be stepping into a war between the Cosmic Sea's Four Pirate Crews, and he had wanted to make Lu Yin owe him a favor by personally helping out in the battle. That favor could reduce the amount of smoke that Smoke-Eater Peaks owed Lu Yin. However, how was Gu Laogui supposed to have known that top-tier experts would appear? In particular, he had definitely not been attacked by the Longevity Brigade's commander Ji Qiang, as the person who had attacked Gu Laogui had absolutely been someone with a power level that exceeded a million. What an insanely terrifying powerhouse!

If Gu Laogui had known that such powerhouses would be present, he would never have stepped on the battlefield, not even if he had been beaten to death. He had just suffered a loss that was more than he could bear.

Hightsage Shenwei glared at Ji Qiang and shouted, "Who the hell are you?"

Ji Qiang hefted his spear once more as he said, "It's time to send all of you off."

As he spoke, he swept his spear out, and one, two, three, four, five, six, seven... seven spear images appeared. He clearly intended to eliminate all of the Envoys supporting Leon's Armada with one attack.

Ring ring ring

The crisp sound of a bell could be heard. It passed through the vast battlefield like a breeze of cool air that gently brushed by everyone's ears.

The next moment, everybody was only able to feel a boundless darkness suppress heaven and earth; a massive hand was slamming down towards them, and it would crush them all.

Lu Yin had pulled out the Chief Justice's emblem, as this was the only option at this moment.

Chapter 1629: Formidable Clone

The ringing of the bell was indiscriminate, and it instantly affected everyone, leaving the entire battlefield silent.

Most people started swaying and falling into the sea. Their eyes were filled with nothing but fear and despair. The sensation they had just suffered from had felt like the universe collapsing upon them.

Ji Qiang's spear shadows hesitated for a moment and he looked over at Lu Yin and commented in a deep voice, "The Chief Justice's emblem... You're Lu Yin, aren't you?"

Lu Yin met Ji Qiang's eyes. "I already know who you are."

Ji Qiang was caught off guard. "Oh, really?"

Lu Yin's voice grew solemn. "You're the one who started this whole mess. From the moment Jin He accused those with the Lu surname of being criminals by using his status as an Arbiter, all the way until now, I already know everything you've done."

"Looks like I'm not the only one manipulating this war. You are as well," Ji Qiang said rather indifferently. His eyes swept over the battlefield as he continued, "The Sword Sect wasn't able to get here in time because of the Wen family's interference, and Smoke-Eater Peaks and Gods' Origin both showed up here unexpectedly. That all was your doing. You're also why Leon's Armada managed to summon so many pirates.

"I can't help but commend you for being able to accomplish such a feat despite your young age. Never before has someone to compare to you appeared in history. However, for you to have the courage to face me, you must be one-hundred percent confident that I can't kill you, no?"

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed in irritation.

Ji Qiang scoffed, "Since you already know who I am, do you really believe that I don't dare to kill you?"

Lu Yin's pupils instantly shrank, and he felt all the hair on his body suddenly stand on end. Ji Qiang's eyes burned with killing intent. It was clear that he absolutely meant what he said, and he truly intended to kill Lu Yin.

Lu Yin had never actually believed that there would be no one who would dare lay a finger on him. So what if he would eventually become a Progenitor or that he had incredible powerhouses standing behind him? None of that would matter to any opponent if they were pushed too far. All that Lu Yin could hope for at this moment was that the Chief Justice's Emblem could save him, or Mister Mu.

"Whoever or whatever's behind you can't pose any threat to me! Since you've managed to guess who I am and what I've already done, you should also already know that I don't care about what happens to anyone else." The moment he finished speaking, Ji Qiang raised his spear and thrust it forward. His only target this time was Lu Yin.

Hightsage Leon and the others all shouted in shock, "Stop!"

Lu Yin rang the bell again, and this time he brought out his die into his hand. His face was growing more pale by the moment. He had already crushed the jade talisman he had received from Mister Mu in the Perennial World, which meant that Lu Yin was down to his last resort.

Any of Lu Yin's battle techniques or attacks would be pointless against Ji Qiang's spear. All that Lu Yin could do was pray that his bodysuit armor and the Chief Justice's emblem would be enough to keep him alive.

Everyone else on the battlefield was only able to watch as well, as Ji Qiang was currently the strongest powerhouse on the entire battlefield.

Lu Yin endured the same experience as Hightsage Leon and the others had gone through earlier. The attack was just a spear thrust, yet the spear tip seemed to cover the entire universe and overshadowed everything else in his perception.

Lu Yin was barely able to suppress the urge to detonate his own body due to the overwhelming sensation of despair and suppression that had struck him.

The moment when the projection of the spear was just about to pierce Lu Yin, a hand suddenly appeared and grabbed hold of the spear, halting its action. The hand completely crushed the spear, leaving nothing more than specks of light.

The hand looked to belong to someone quite young.

Lu Yin stared in front of himself in a complete daze before finally catching sight of a boy. "Elder Jiu Shen?"

The person who had appeared in front of Lu Yin was indeed the Cosmic Sect's Elder Jiu Shen. Despite his youthful appearance, he was actually incredibly old, and his strength had nearly reached the level of a Semi-Progenitor, as he was an expert with a power level of more than a million.

Elder Jiu Shen's arrival left Ji Qiang's face contorting in shock. He was Xia Ji's clone, and though his power level was impressive, he still fell far behind the level of a Semi-Progenitor. As for Elder Jiu Shen,

even if he was not a Semi-Progenitor, he was terrifyingly close. He was completely capable of dealing with Ji Qiang despite the gap still between Elder Jiu Shen and a Semi-Progenitor.

“It seems the brat’s information he shared is right; this man might truly be Xia Jia’s clone,” Elder Jiu Shen commented, and his words sent shudders through the hearts of everyone who heard him.

Gu Laogui turned to stare at Ji Qiang in disbelief; Xia Ji’s clone? Xia Ji was the mighty protector of the Seven Courts! He was a Semi-Progenitor and the Xia family’s ancestor. This person had always been a Semi-Progenitor’s clone? No wonder Ji Qiang was so terrifying.

Gu Laogui then shot a glare at Lu Yin. The older man was just about to crush his own teeth from grinding them in his rage. That little bastard! How dare he lie to me? He said this war was only going to be fought between the Four Pirate Crews; he never even mentioned the fact that even Semi-Progenitors might get dragged into it.

Lu Yin had even given the Cosmic Sect advanced warning regarding this detail, and both Leon’s Armada and Eversky Island would absolutely have been informed as well. In fact, Gu Laogui instantly realized that he had been the only one left ignorant, and yet he foolishly charged into the battle without any reservations.

He had even nearly died just a moment before, all because of that little bastard.

Gu Laogui had never been so angry before in his entire life, not even when Gu Xiao’er had lost the Cosmic Art those years ago.

Gu Laogui had not been the only victim, as Gods’ Origin’s Purple God was also confused, as was Cang Zhou. Even though Cang Zhou had been part of the initial plan to defeat Leon’s Armada, he had only ever been a small part and had possessed no right to be given access to the truth of the matter. Who would have thought that the commander of the Longevity Brigade would be a Semi-Progenitor’s clone?

Wasn’t Xia Jiyou supposed to be the only member of the Xia family who had managed to cultivate the Nine Clones Secret Technique?

Elder Jiu Shen’s words set the entire Cosmic Sea ablaze, as even those who had been spectating the battle and people like Da Qiu who had not yet gotten dragged into the fighting were startled. They had followed orders and traveled to the battlefield, but had been left on standby to await further orders. None of them had ever expected to learn such earth-shattering news.

The information that Lu Yin kept concealed had just been viciously revealed by Elder Jiu Shen.

Ji Qiang heaved a sigh and met Elder Jiu Shen’s gaze. “So you all really already know about everything.”

He then looked back at Lu Yin and asked, “Were you the one to tell them? How did you manage to discover such a thing?”

“Divination,” Lu Yin replied.

“There’s no longer any need to hide. Elder Gong and Highsage Grandmaster are already on their way to the Seven Courts. You’ve already lost,” Elder Jiu Shen declared.

Ji Qiang's expression turned grim, and at this time, yet another figure appeared on the battlefield: Highsage Wudi.

Both Elder Jiu Shen and Highsage Wudi possessed power levels of more than a million, and they were each powerhouses who surpassed even Yuan Shi. Their appearance had already brought about the end of the war in the Cosmic Sea.

Lu Yin let out a huge sigh of relief.

He had won this round. Leon's Armada would be safe, and Xia Ji's secret had actually been exposed.

Even though Ji Qiang was unable to defeat either Elder Jiu Shen or Highsage Wudi, they would each also struggle to defeat Ji Qiang. After all, he was the clone of Xia Ji, who was a Semi-Progenitor. Defeating such a person would not be easy.

Xia Meng took this moment to escape, and she took Xia Yi with her. There was no longer any need for them to keep fighting.

Nightking Dijiang also left the battlefield.

Since Highsage Shenwei and Gu Laogui had both been injured, they were unable to prevent their opponents from escaping.

Jin Mie also tried to escape, but Purple God had been keeping a close eye on him. There was no way that Gods' Origin would let the Ignition Crew escape so easily.

Cang Zhou wanted to escape, but Sister Fei Hua kept him behind.

With Xia Meng and the others escaping, the curtains were slowly being closed on this war that had dragged in practically the entire Fifth Mainland. Chaosgod Mountain, the Ignition Crew, and the Longevity Brigade had all suffered terrible losses, especially the Ignition Crew and the Longevity Brigade. There was no chance that either crew would last much longer.

Cang Zhou coughed up blood as he glared at Fei Hua with an expression of indignation. A burst of sword qi brushed past the man. It came from Liu Feng.

The battle had already reached a conclusion, so Liu Feng stopped being so fixated on wanting to fight Cang Zhou one-on-one. Instead, he worked together with Fei Hua, and they beat Cang Zhou into a truly pathetic state.

Cang Zhou's hair was a total mess, and his eyes were bloodshot as he glared at his two attackers and roared, "I won't let things end like this! It's taken ten years of planning; how could I just fail? I won't let this be the end!"

Without any hesitation, the man charged straight for Lu Yin. Even if Cang Zhou was about to die, he would make sure that he dragged Lu Yin to hell as well.

Liu Feng quickly moved to stop Cang Zhou, but an astral chessboard suddenly appeared beneath Lu Yin's feet, and he moved himself in front of Cang Zhou. The youth confronted the older man, which

absolutely enraged Cang Zhou, and he let out a growl of rage. Energy exploded from his fists, and the attack shot straight for Lu Yin. The target of the attack stopped Liu Feng and Fei Hua from interfering, as Cang Zhou had already been badly injured, and was actually even weaker than he had been on Chaosgod Mountain. At best, at this moment Cang Zhou could unleash attacks with power levels of just over 500,000, which was only a bit more powerful than what Leader Hong had been capable of when Lu Yin had faced the leader of the Blaze Realm. This level of strength was nothing much in Lu Yin's eyes.

Lu Yin raised a hand, and a golden battle force enveloped it. He unleashed a Vacuum Palm, and his first attack pierced straight through Cang Zhou's punch. The palm attack sent Cang Zhou plunging deep into the Cosmic Sea. He looked up and spat out a bit of blood before pulling a power vessel out of his cosmic ring. However, before he ever had a chance to use it, it was taken away from him by the Yu Secret Art.

Lu Yin took a few quick steps and almost instantly appeared in front of Cang Zhou. Lu Yin unleashed repeated Vacuum Palms, leaving Cang Zhou without even a moment to recover. Palm prints started to appear across Cang Zhou's body, until at last, a hole pierced the Envoy's body, again smashing him down to the seawater below

Blood spread along the surface of the sea.

Lu Yin placed a hand atop Cang Zhou's head, and said coldly, "It's over."

He then released a great deal of force from his palm and attacked Cang Zhou's head. A crazed light entered the Envoy's eyes, but then they changed to the color of scarlet. A few veins appeared before the eyes grew lifeless before finally closing.

The Champions' Stage appeared by Lu Yin, and he commanded, "By my name, I appoint you as my champion."

As his voice echoed, Cang Zhou's image appeared on the Champions' Stage. This was the third image to appear, and Cang Zhou was by far the strongest of Lu Yin's champions.

Given the power Cang Zhou had possessed during his life, the amount of star energy Lu Yin would need to use to summon the Envoy as a champion was something unimaginable to an ordinary cultivator. No, it was possible that star energy would not even work. It was possible that Lu Yin would have to use stellar energy to summon Cang Zhou.

As he watched Cang Zhou's corpse fall to the sea, many thoughts ran through Lu Yin's mind. To think that the life of a man who had controlled one of the Innerverse's eight great flowzones had ended just like that. Cang Zhou had been a powerhouse with a power level of more than 700,000. The man had been someone who stood at the top of the Innerverse, who Lu Yin had once thought he would never be able to compare to, and yet the man had still died at Lu Yin's hand. There would surely be a day in the future when Lu Yin would be able to eliminate Semi-Progenitors, and even Progenitors.

Lu Yin leaped up from the surface of the sea, only to see people hunting down the survivors from the Ignition Crew. Some people had already surrendered, among them was the stutterer who Lu Yin had met before. With his domain, Lu Yin also managed to notice Zi Jun's corpse floating in the water, which was shocking. The woman had once fought in the Tournament of the Strongest, and yet she had met her end in this battle.

Lu Yin himself had no confidence that this war had fulfilled any purpose at all.

Had the war been triggered because he had discovered the truth about the past, or had Xia Ji already been planning on this war from the beginning? Lu Yin was no longer certain.

Lu Yin's most pressing question at this time was why Xia Ji even wanted to go after Highsage Grandmaster via Leon's Armada. At this moment, a war was also starting in the Neoverse that involved Xia Ji, Highsage Grandmaster, and Elder Gong, which meant that Lu Yin and the others in the Cosmic Sea still needed to wait for an ultimate victor to be decided. Once all of the fighting was ended, they would learn the motivation behind Xia Ji's actions.

Was it possible that even Highsage Grandmaster was one of Xia Ji's clones? That would be similar to how Xia Luo had been one of Xia Jiuyou's clones. Or could Eversky Island have been holding one of Xia Ji's clones hostage? Or...

While Lu Yin became lost in senseless speculations, Ji Qiang's body fell into the sea off in the distance. His body had been sent flying, and it tore through the void from the speed, and blood dripped from his body as well. The stars that Elder Jiu Shen had simulated filled the entire Cosmic Sea, and Highsage Wudi released a domineering aura. It was completely impossible for Ji Qiang to even escape with the two of them working together to fight him.

Even though Xia Ji had been dictating the flow of events leading up to the war from the very start, he had never considered the possibility that his involvement would end up complicating things so much and pulling in so many powerhouses to the point that his clone could not even escape.

There were only three people fighting on the battlefield in the Cosmic Sea at this moment, while everyone else was only able to watch.

Lu Yin went and helped Highsage Leon up, earning a smirk and a light scolding from the older man. "Get lost! I'm not so bad off I can't even stand up."

"Cut your bullshit! You nearly died just now! If it weren't for Little Yin here pulling in so many allies, we would have been dead before we even realized what was happening," Big Sis scolded. She was still suffering from the fear induced by her own near-death experience on the battlefield, and so she turned to glare fiercely at Highsage Leon.

Nearby, Gu Laogui heard her words and his face twitched. What could he say in the current situation? Admit that he had been duped into participating? There was no way he would ever admit to such a thing, so he might as well pretend that he had come specifically at Lu Yin's request in order to force the youth to owe a favor.

Gu Xiao'er blurted in surprise, "Old man, you knew about this all along? Why didn't I know anything?"

Gu Laogui slapped his son's cheek quite hard. "Don't go sticking your nose in my business!"

Chapter 1630: The Reason

Elder Jiu Shen's and Highsage Wudi's fight with Ji Qiang lasted more than two hours before finally ending. In the end, Ji Qiang had not been able to escape defeat.

At one point during the fight, Ji Qiang had even tried to attack Lu Yin, but he had almost instantly been restrained by Elder Jiu Shen. Anyone other than Lu Yin could suffer a mishap on the battlefield, but Lu Yin had to be kept safe no matter what. His safety was directly related to the Cosmic Sect's inheritance.

Lu Yin thanked Elder Jiu Shen, and the man glanced at Lu Yin's foot and then warned,, "Take good care of your soles."

Highsage Wudi was very confused to hear such a thing. The soles of his feet? Had he heard wrong?

Ji Qiang lay atop the sea, injuries covering his entire body. He looked truly miserable. Lu Yin was able to see that the man's runes indicated that his power level at this moment did not even amount to 600,000, which meant that he was about as weak as Cang Zhou had been. Lu Yin immediately started thinking about how to make the man into another champion.

The group that gained the most from the war ended up being Leon's Armada. Of the Four Pirate Crews, the Soldier Crew had never been ones to engage in conflicts, so with the Ignition Crew and the Longevity Brigade both out of the picture, Leon's Armada had essentially become the sole ruler of the Cosmic Sea.

The worst thing for them was that so many of the commanders of the various regiments had been killed in battle.

While everyone else was cleaning up the Cosmic Sea battlefield, Da Qiu approached Lu Yin and said, "Alliance Leader Lu, please inform Commander Highsage Leon that gathering such a large number of pirates may not necessarily be a good thing, so he should dismiss them as soon as possible. If not, we'll be forced to take action as soon as things get out of hand."

Lu Yin understood Da Qiu's position, and quickly assured the man, "Don't worry, they'll leave quick enough."

After the fighting had ended, the pirates had all suffered severe casualties, and it would take a great deal of time for them to recover.

Most people were feeling pretty happy about Leon's Armada's victory, but then they received news from the Neoverse that startled everyone. They suffered from disbelief like a person who was struck by lightning from a clear sky.

Highsage Grandmaster and Elder Gong had been defeated by Xia Ji, despite the two of them working together against a single opponent. Not only had Xia Ji won, he had even forced his way into the Cosmic Sect and had stolen the Skystar Jade Wall, which devastated the Cosmic Sect.

Nobody could believe the news when they heard it. It sounded like the biggest of the century! How could Xia Ji defeat two peers at the same time, especially when neither one was an average cultivator? Highsage Grandmaster and Elder Gong were each members of the Human Domain's seven Semi-Progenitors, which meant that they were experts who had been unparalleled throughout the ages. Highsage Grandmaster's loss was even more of a shock, as he was an Array Grandmaster.

Elder Jiu Shen immediately reached out to the Cosmic Sect, while Highsage Wudi and the others called Highsage Grandmaster.

Lu Yin's brows were tightly furrowed. He just could not process the outcome of the battle no matter how hard he tried.

Cang Zhou had not been able to process his side's defeat in the war, and yet he had still ended up becoming one of Lu Yin's champions. In much the same manner, Lu Yin was unable to comprehend how Highsage Grandmaster and Elder Gong could have lost even after teaming up. Even if they had not succeeded in destroying the entire Xia family, they still should have been able to deal Xia Ji a terrible blow.

Wait a minute, it all makes sense now! Lu Yin suddenly remembered that Xia Ji had yet another clone.

According to Starsibyl's earlier divination, she had found three sources of power towards the Neoverse that were connected to Xia Ji. That had indicated that the real Xia Ji possessed three clones; could one of those three be another Semi-Progenitor? Had Xia Ji managed to defeat Highsage Grandmaster and Elder Gong because he had worked together with a clone?

It did not take almost any time for Lu Yin to discover the truth of the matter. It turned out that Xia Ji had not actually defeated Highsage Grandmaster and Elder Gong through his own strength, but because of the help of Highsage Grandmaster's secret technique.

Eversky Island's secret technique, Thousand Rivers Return to Sea, was able to revert an enemy's attack back into the form of energy that powered the attack, which essentially dispelled an attack. This was the same secret technique that Highsage Grandmaster had been willing to share with Lu Yin in the past. However, Lu Yin had not accepted as he had already possessed the Yu Secret Art and the Ce Secret Technique.

In the previous battle, Highsage Shenwei had also used the Thousand Rivers Return to Sea in an attempt to stop Ji Qiang's spear, and though the secret technique had indeed managed to weaken more than half of the spear's power, the remnant power had still ended up injuring Highsage Shenwei.

Logically speaking, Highsage Shenwei should not have been injured by the spear after half of its force had been eliminated, especially considering the man's strength. Instead, the attack had resulted in Highsage Shenwei suffering grave injuries. The only reason for it was the greatest disadvantage of the Thousand Rivers Return to Sea, which was that it affected everyone indiscriminately.

The moment the Thousand Rivers Return to Sea was used, it would not only reduce the user's opponent's attack to raw energy, the secret technique would also do the same to the user's own stellar energy. The only way that Highsage Shenwei could have truly countered the spear attack would have been to fully convert the attack back to raw energy, but since that had not happened, his physical body had been left unable to resist the remaining power of the spear attack due to Highsage Shenwei's own weakened state.

This was much the same as when Lu Yin used pure physical strength to fight against an Envoy; Envoys were able to suppress star energy, which left Lu Yin unable to use his battle techniques or even secret techniques. All he was able to use against Envoys was his Vacuum Palm, which used pure physical strength. However, Xia Ji had taken advantage of the weakness of Highsage Grandmaster's Thousand Rivers Return to Sea to deal a powerful attack against the two while they had still been dealing with the effects of the secret technique.

Xia Ji had also been affected by the secret technique, but he had been extremely well prepared for everything that he had faced. However, Elder Jiu Shen and the others were unsure exactly how the man had managed to launch such a terrible attack against Highsage Grandmaster and Elder Gong. All that anyone knew was that the two Semi-Progenitors had lost because of the secret technique Highsage Grandmaster had used: Thousand Rivers Return to Sea.

Fortunately, the two had only been defeated, and they were still in a rather decent condition. On top of that, Xia Ji would only ever be able to pull off such a trick once. It would never work again.

However, once had already been more than enough for Xia Ji, as his entire goal had been the Skystar Jade Wall.

“Could that have been his goal from the start? Obtaining the Skystar Jade Wall?” The question slipped from Lu Yin’s mouth.

Elder Jiu Shen grimaced. “All along, Xia Ji was aiming at the Cosmic Sect, hoping to get his hands on our Skystar Jade Wall. However, there had never been any chance for him to do so. He targeted Eversky Island so that he could find a way to fight against Highsage Grandmaster, as he knew that as soon as he started fighting against Highsage Grandmaster, Elder Gong would not stand by, but would definitely join the fray, creating the two-on-one scenario Xia Ji hoped for. The moment he achieved that situation, all of his plots would have already fallen into place, especially the Thousand Rivers Return to Sea.

“Even if the user gets affected by the Thousand Rivers Return to Sea as well, it still couldn’t have been easy to defeat a Semi-Progenitor. He must have truly been thoroughly prepared.”

It was only at this moment that Lu Yin finally understood that when Jin He had accused those with the Lu surname of having an illegal status, it had merely been the first step to Xia Ji’s plan. The last step had been to lure out Highsage Grandmaster and Elder Gong in order to seize the Skystar Jade Wall. Truthfully, it was not that brilliant of a plan, but it had undeniably been a very practical one.

Xia Ji had managed to consider everything when concocting his scheme, and the only step that he had not predicted was the reveal of his connection to his clone and his direct involvement in the matter, which had resulted in a defeat in the battle in the Cosmic Sea. If things had gone according to his plan, the final battlefield should have been in the Cosmic Sea.

Xia Ji’s original plan had involved capturing Highsage Leon and forcing Highsage Grandmaster to show himself, and then finally forcing Elder Gong out. The actual events could only be considered an unfortunate accident.

However, this same accident had been precisely what had led Xia Ji to victory. How fickle fate could be.

“What does he need the Skystar Jade Wall for?” Lu Yin asked in confusion.

Elder Jiu Shen glanced down at Lu Yin’s feet before answering. “You don’t know?”

Lu Yin was briefly stunned, but then his expression changed. “Do you mean...”

Elder Jiu Shen spoke in a rather indifferent tone, “Has Elder Gong not mentioned Cosmic Art’s secret to you before?”

Lu Yin finally understood; Xia Ji was also after the pattern on the bottom of his foot.

Lu Yin wanted to cultivate the Cosmic Art to its highest level, and it was possible with the help of the pattern. It would also allow him to take control of the stars that remained in the universe that had been simulated by Progenitor Chen in the past, which would allow him to seize control of limitless power that had only ever been possessed by Progenitor Chen. If Xia Ji managed to achieve that, he would make the Xia family the ruler of the entire Fifth Mainland, and would even likely become a Progenitor. At that point, nothing would be able to stop him.

No wonder he had gone to such great lengths to seize the Skystar Jade Wall.

However, there was a new problem: the Skystar Jade Wall did not have any pattern, as it was etched onto the sole of Lu Yin's foot.

Things were quickly becoming awkward, and Lu Yin blinked his eyes. Xia Ji's plans had been so extensive, and he had not even been concerned with making both Eversky Island and the Cosmic Sect his enemies, so he should have been beyond ecstatic at finally getting his hands on the Skystar Jade Wall after so much effort. How would he react once he realized that the pattern he had been so eager to obtain was not within the Skystar Jade Wall, but had instead been on the bottom of Lu Yin's foot all along? The old man would probably cough up blood from his rage. On the other hand, Lu Yin was strangely happy about learning of Xia Ji's demise. Truly, very happy.

What did it look like to use a wicker basket to try to draw water? Xia Ji was the best example of this. To think that a plan which he had believed would succeed had actually been ruined by Lu Yin. Fate was out to get that old man! His plan had actually succeeded perfectly, but his goal had not even been part of his target from the beginning. The entire thing was much like a tragedy becoming a celebration, only to again become a tragedy. Even Lu Yin felt a bit bad for Xia Ji.

How he hoped that old man Xia Ji would end up kicking the bucket from shock after discovering the truth! Regardless of anything else, the one behind the deaths of those 72 people from Big Sis's mercenary crew were still on Xia Ji's head.

Off in the distance, Higsage Wudi had a grim and displeased expression on his face.

Higsage Shenwei quietly asked, "How's master?"

Higsage Wudi answered in a somber tone, "Let's go. We're returning to Eversky Island. We will need to get revenge for this no matter what."

"I'll go too," Higsage Leon declared.

Higsage Wudi glared at his junior brother. "Stay here. What can you even do with your body in such a condition? Help to stabilize things here in the Cosmic Sea."

After speaking, Higsage Wudi left with Higsage Shenwei.

Elder Jiu Shen spoke up, "I must also go."

Lu Yin asked, "Will the Cosmic Sect wage war on the Seven Courts?"

"I can't say for sure, but this matter concerns the Skystar Jade Wall – my Cosmic Sect's greatest inheritance – so we will not be able to leave things as they are. There is a high possibility of war, but that matter might not be something the Hall of Honor is willing to allow." He looked at Lu Yin and continued in a quieter tone, "The location of the pattern should never be revealed to anyone. Xia Ji has been working for so many years to get it, so if he learns that it is with you, he will never let you go and he will kill you."

Lu Yin nodded. "What about Ji Qiang? How are we going to deal with him?"

Hightsage Wudi had already left, so only Elder Jiu Shen could make such a decision.

Elder Jiu Shen shot a cold glare down at Ji Qiang where he had been immobilized and was laying on the surface of the sea. The youthful-looking elder stepped over the man as he left the battlefield, and Ji Qiang's body slowly vanished. That was the manner of death for clones from the Nine Clones Secret Technique.

Elder Jiu Shen was ruthless in his methods, which also represented the Cosmic's Sect attitude at the moment.

As soon as the Cosmic Sect had learned that their Skystar Jade Wall had been stolen by the Xia family, every single disciple erupted in rage. Many disciples began shouting and demanding for it to be retrieved, but the even more extreme disciples immediately began making their way south. They were ready to start a war with the Seven Courts.

As for the Seven Court, the other families had never considered that Xia Ji would do such a thing. The entire scheme had been planned and carried out by Xia Ji alone, and it had nothing to do with the Seven Courts as a whole. They were united solely to maintain custody of Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum.

Despite that fact, the Cosmic Sect and Eversky Island would never allow matters to rest after everything that had happened. Once the two fully united, even the Seven Courts would likely find it difficult to face them.

Still, the Seven Courts could not afford to place the blame on the Xia family at the moment, as Xia Ji was the only Semi-Progenitor in all of the Seven Courts. His presence was what had allowed them to maintain control of Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum, and if not for Xia Ji, Arch-Elder Zen would already have destroyed the Seven Courts on his own.

If the Cosmic Sect and Eversky Island truly intended to wage a war on the Seven Courts, the only option available to the Seven Courts would be to fight.

As far as fighting the Cosmic Sect and Eversky Island, the Seven Courts actually needed a reason, or else they would become the passive party in the war. The Seven Courts had been formed through a matter of mutual benefit, and Xia Ji was not the only one directing their decisions.

Several days later, a rare meeting took place between the patriarchs of the Seven Courts on the Xia family's sword-shaped mainland.

At this moment, Yōu Kexin – matriarch of the Yōu clan, Ku Pu – patriarch of the Ku family, Ce Laoyan – patriarch of the Ce family, Hui Zhi – patriarch of the Hui Family, and Xie A'hua – matriarch of the Xie family, were all quietly sitting in the Xia family's main hall. Xia Yi had taken the host's seat for himself.

Xia Yi looked calm, and no one could tell from his demeanor that he had been injured during the battle in the Cosmic Sea.

“Brother Xia, the union of the Seven Courts is intended to exist for our mutual benefit and in order to claim a place for ourselves here in the Neoverse. None of us have an easy time of things, but now we run the possibility of becoming an enemy of the entire Neoverse due to Senior Xia Ji’s actions. Can Brother Xia give us an explanation for that matter?” Hui Zhi spoke up. In some manner, the Hui family was a bit of the spokesperson for the Seven Courts.

Everyone else turned to stare at Xia Yi. None of them were willing to place blame onto Xia Ji, but they did need to know the reason for such actions.