

## ODYSSEY 1631

### Chapter 1631: Price To Pay

Xia Yi took a sip of his tea before answering, "All of you here should already know that my Xia family is Progenitor Chen's true descendants, and that his blood flows within us. Progenitor Chen cultivated the Nine Clones Technique, and one of his clones created the Cosmic Art, which forms the foundation of what we currently know as the Cosmic Sect. Everyone should be clear on the immense power the Cosmic Sect wields, but the inheritance of the Cosmic Art should have rightfully been given to the Xia family, as we are descended from Progenitor Chen. Thus, it is not only necessary for the Xia family to have taken the Skystar Jade Wall, it is proper as well.

"Only descendants of Progenitor Chen are capable of utilizing the true strength of the Cosmic Art. The Cosmic Sect has dominated the universe and was established from the advantage of the Cosmic Art that Progenitor Chen created. However, their actions are truly nothing more than thievery, as they had blatantly stolen the Xia family's inheritance."

Ku Pu frowned. "We all know about that, but the Cosmic Sect has long maintained their position in the Neoverse, and their influence is no longer something that can be changed. Senior Xia Ji's recent actions have caused all of the families of the Seven Courts to become enemies of both the Cosmic Sect and Eversky Island. This change has created a very unfavorable situation for when our Seven Courts' descendants venture out into the universe. The only explanation we ask from you is if these consequences are truly worth just gaining the Skystar Jade Wall?"

None of the people seated at this meeting were fools, and they all understood that Xia Ji would most likely not have taken such actions for the Cosmic Art alone, as that was not a powerful enough motive to allow the the Seven Courts become an enemy of both the Cosmic Sect and Eversky Island. All of the family leaders had guessed that Xia Ji had another, hidden motive that he had kept secret. All of them had gathered for this meeting in order to uncover his hidden motive.

The Seven Courts shared all gains, but also similarly shouldered all trials as one. Thus, they needed to know the truth of this matter as well.

Xia Yi did not answer Ku Pu's question directly, but instead said, "Everyone, please be at ease. The Elder has already started negotiations with Arch-Elder Zen, and the tensions will be eased as soon as possible."

"Eased? How the hell is that going to happen? It's not as if you're going to return the Cosmic Art to the Cosmic Sect after all the trouble it took to seize it in the first place, will you?" Yōu Kexin scoffed.

Ce Laoyan stared at Xia Yi. "Let's just put everything out on the table: why exactly did the Xia family grab the Skystar Jade Wall? Does the Skystar Jade Wall contain something worth starting a war with both the Cosmic Sect and Eversky Island? Since our Seven Courts are intended to act as one in position and action, we need to know the reason for this."

"I really want to know why~" Xie A'hua flashed Xia Yi a seductive smile as she focused on him.

Xia Yi's eyes flickered with a hint of uncertainty. Truth be told, he had no idea how to even begin to explain Xia Ji's actions to his peers.

At that moment, Xia Ji's shadow suddenly appeared.

Hui Zhi and the others quickly stood and bowed low. "We juniors offer our respects to Senior Semi-Progenitor."

"We offer our respects to Senior Semi-Progenitor."

...

Xia Ji spoke in an indifferent tone, "The Xia family has given the Triple Blade Will to the Cosmic Sect as compensation for their loss. With that, this recent incident has been resolved. Everyone may return and continue your activities as normal."

Hui Zhi and the others were shocked beyond words, and their emotions fluctuated violently within their hearts.

The Triple Blade Will was the blade technique that had been traditionally passed down within the Xia family, and it was almost as important to the Xia family as the Cosmic Art was to the Cosmic Sect. The Triple Blade Will was a technique that could only be inherited within the family. The Xia family had risen to power from the overlapping power of their blades, and the Triple Blade Will was their most fearsome technique. Despite all of that, they had actually given it to the Cosmic Sect in exchange for the Skystar Jade Wall? Just what did Xia Ji expect to find inside it?

If the Xia family was willing to give away even their Triple Blade Will, Hui Zhi and everyone else clearly understood the stakes of the matter. The exorbitant price that they had willingly paid indicated that Xia Ji had gained something potentially even more valuable.

What could Xia Ji have gained? Despite being a Semi-Progenitor, Xia Ji still did not possess the right to give his family's Triple Blade Will to the Cosmic Sect so casually. This was a matter concerning the Xia family's inheritance. Still, things could have turned out differently if the man had managed to convince the Xia family to support him.

The more various family leaders considered the matter, the clearer their grasp of the situation: acquiring the Skystar Jade Wall had been more important to Xia Ji than absolutely anything else.

"So? What more do you wish to know?" Xia Ji looked around at everyone as he calmly asked.

Hui Zhi and the others glanced at each other, but they really no longer had a choice in the matter. They all left. They had no right to question the matter any further with what Xia Ji had shared, though if they had known that their meeting would end in this manner, they would have brought along their own families' most powerful elders.

After everyone else had left, Xia Yi bowed low to Xia Ji and said, "Elder, this—"

He was instantly cut off by Xia Ji, who commanded, "Show yourself."

Xia Meng appeared at the side of the hall and she looked straight at Xia Ji. "Elder, is this really worth it?"

Xia Ji smiled. It was far too rare to see a smile on his face, as he had not done so since becoming a Semi-Progenitor. Xia Yi had never seen the elder smile, and according to his memory, Xia Ji had only ever smiled once before, and that had been regarding something that had happened thousands of years ago.

“Is it worth the cost paid for a descendant of Progenitor Chen to obtain his inheritance?” Xia Ji responded with his own question.

Xia Meng remained calm, and quietly replied, “Everything was done merely for the Cosmic Art. I don’t believe it’s worth such a price.”

Xia Ji’s lips curled up into another smile as he said, “What if it’s for the possibility of becoming a Progenitor?”

Xia Meng and Xia Yi were startled, and they stared at Xia Ji in disbelief.

Xia Ji’s expression suddenly grew solemn, and he commanded, “Xia Yi, excuse yourself.”

Xia Yi’s face grew pale, but he immediately bowed low and left the room.

Even though Xia Yi was the Xia family patriarch, Xia Ji had been very displeased with the man since the matter with Xia Jiuyou. At the moment, Xia Ji would no longer even allow Xia Yi to participate in this particular conversation.

After Xia Yi had left, Xia Ji spoke rather flatly, “Within the Skystar Jade Wall lies the greatest inheritance of Progenitor Chen’s cosmic clone: the rotating stars of the Cosmic Art. How could you know with absolute certainty that some of the stars in this universe were not brought into existence by the Cosmic Art?”

Xia Meng’s face twisted in confusion. “Brought into existence by the Cosmic Art? True stars?”

Xia Ji nodded. “Once cultivated to its peak, the Cosmic Art can allow the cultivator to create true stars, and even give birth to life. This is a key difference between a Progenitor and a Semi-Progenitor. Progenitor Chen was unrivaled throughout his entire life, and he was able to face nine of his peers alone. He became the most formidable figure in all of history! No matter if one considers his giant clone, his cosmic clone, or even his illusory clone, each and every one of them was able to fight against a Progenitor alone, and each and every one of them was also able to create life; transforming the rotten and lifeless into miracles and life.”

“Stars created by Progenitor Chen’s Cosmic Art exist in this very universe. If one can gain control of these stars, they will also gain control of the civilizations living off those stars. Doing so can instantly grant the Xia family an infinite amount of power, but even more importantly.” He paused to stare at Xia Meng before continuing. “By seizing the power of Progenitor Chen’s stars, a person will be able to surpass Progenitor realm tribulations to finally become a Progenitor.”

Xia Meng gasped, and her eyes blazed with excitement. “Really? One can become a Progenitor in this manner?”

Xia Ji laughed. “That’s only natural. How could a Progenitor’s tribulation not be overcome with Progenitor Chen’s power? Lingzhi Mavis died during her tribulation, and her death has left the rest of us Semi-Progenitors feeling nervous to attempt our breakthroughs. Even though that old man Gong is getting on in years, does he dare challenge his tribulation? Highsage Grandmaster has mastered many sourcebox arrays and has been making preparations on Eversky Island for countless years, but does he dare face his tribulation? Even Arch-Elder Zen does not have the courage, and that’s simply because the route to become a Progenitor is far too difficult. However, I have found my chance here! This is my

shortcut to reach that level. By relying on Progenitor Chen's power, I will have a ninety percent chance of successfully passing my tribulation. After becoming a Progenitor, I'll be the master of the entire Fifth Mainland."

Xia Meng instantly understood everything. No wonder, no wonder Xia Ji had been willing to plot against the relatively insignificant Leon's Armada despite his exalted status as a Semi-Progenitor.

"Do you feel it's worth the price?" Xia Ji stared directly at Xia Meng as he asked the question.

Xia Meng bowed low and replied, "Elder possesses great foresight. You will surely become the next Progenitor Chen."

Xia Ji's eyes gleamed; the next Progenitor Chen? That did not sound bad at all! He would indeed become the next Progenitor Chen! At that time, what would the Triple Blade Will matter? As long as he managed to become Progenitor, he would be willing to abandon everything else. What he needed to focus on was cultivating the Cosmic Art and probing at the Skystar Jade Wall. After that, everything would be taken care of.

Xia Meng suddenly thought of something else, and she asked, "Elder, if such a method exists, why hasn't the Cosmic Sect used it? Reasonably, Elder Gong should have managed to take control of those stars long ago."

Xia Ji shook his head. "Such things are easier said than done. While I'm not entirely clear on the details either, it has something to do with bloodlines. The members of the Cosmic Sect were never Progenitor Chen's descendants, so how could his inheritance land in their hands? We are his true descendants and bear his bloodline! Thus, we're sure to succeed."

Xia Meng nodded. "This junior will send out orders to seal the Xia family. From this moment forward, the Xia family will not host any guests or visitors until after Elder's path to Progenitor has been established."

Xia Ji nodded, and his eyes filled with hope and drifted off to stare into the distance. Every cultivator dreamed of becoming a Progenitor, and he was right at the edge of accomplishing that. Fate had truly sided with him. He had originally believed that Lu Yin's interference would cause his plans to fail, but to Xia Ji's great surprise, everything had still gone according to his plan. It was simply heaven's will. The Fifth Mainland needed a powerful Progenitor.

However, there was one detail that Xia Ji had not mentioned and that Xia Meng had also rather ignored: the fact that while the Triple Blade Will was the Xia family's greatest inheritance, it was still a sword technique that was, by its very nature, incompatible with the Cosmic Sect. In comparison to the miraculous power of the Cosmic Art that could allow any who cultivated it to become a Lockbreaker, the value of the Triple Blade Will was a huge step down.

One of the reasons the Cosmic Sect had agreed to such a compromise was because both Elder Gong and Highsage Grandmaster had been injured, which also meant that the Cosmic Sect could not afford to fight another war if they disagreed to the proposed deal. The other reason was actually because of Arch-Elder Zen's mediation. The Hall of Honor could overlook the major powers of the Fifth Mainland fighting

amongst themselves in chaotic wars, but they would never allow Semi-Progenitors to engage in all-out fights, as Semi-Progenitors were the powerhouses who formed the Fifth Mainland's true foundation. Not to mention, the Semi-Progenitors were the ones who possessed Origin Matter.

Lu Yin stayed with Leon's Armada in the Cosmic Sea for several days. Highsage Leon had been injured, so Lu Yin was not comfortable leaving right away in case anyone wanted to take the opportunity to attack. The potential threat he was considering were mercenaries, but things remained relatively quiet for several days, and nothing much at all happened. The most exciting event was Lu Yin getting chewed out by Big Sis.

The people from Smoke-Eater Peaks and Gods' Origin had all left. The only thing that Lu Yin still felt regretful about was the fact that Jin Mie had managed to escape. That man escaped at practically the speed of light, which left even Purple God from Gods' Origin unable to track the man down.

Jin Mie was a calamity by himself, so even if Lu Yin needed to utilize all his resources and connections, he had to find the man no matter what.

Another thing troubling Lu Yin was that the colossal giants had all disappeared.

Just the day before, the Expeditionary Forces that had attacked Giant Consortium had arrived. They had been ordered to travel to the Cosmic Sea, and after they arrived, Lu Yin learned that Ku Wei and the others had disappeared.

The Expeditionary Forces had been intimidated into retreating by Chen Huang's strength, and their withdrawal had meant that they had quickly traveled to the Cosmic Sea. Lu Yin should have been able to get in contact with Ku Wei and the others, as even if they fled to the Outerverse, they should still have been within range of his calls.

He waited two more days, but still could not connect with Ku Wei. He felt that something was wrong, so Lu Yin sought out Xi Gu, the commander of the Expeditionary Forces.

"I have no idea what you mean by colossal giants," Xi Gu blatantly denied any knowledge of the giants or visiting Giant Consortium's territory.

Lu Yin's eyes instantly turned ruthless and cold, and an astral chessboard appeared beneath his feet. He instantly appeared right in front of Xi Gu and he slapped a palm at the man. Xi Gu was startled, as he had not expected Lu Yin's sudden attack. After all, he was the commander of the elite Expeditionary Forces.

Two hands clashed with a loud bang. Xi Gu tried to use his innate gift Pierce to break through Lu Yin's attack, but faced with Lu Yin's golden battle force and Vacuum Palm, the specks of white and gray light were useless. Xi Gu's arm was forced to the side from the force, and he retreated many steps.

Two Enlighters from the Expeditionary Forces instantly appeared and joined the fight. They tried to attack Lu Yin, but they were both instantly captured by his domain and left utterly immobilized.

A bit further away, killing intent radiated from the rest of the Expeditionary Forces, and all of the members glared at Lu Yin. However, the very next moment, Lu Yin's domain had already spread through the area and enveloped all of them. The soldiers felt like they had been submerged within a swamp.

The commotion drew the attention of people from Leon's Armada, and there was a deafening boom as a massive saber struck the ground and sent out shockwaves through the Cosmic Sea. A terrifying aura swept over the Expeditionary Forces and all the soldiers' hairs stood on end.

Everything had happened in less than an instant.

Da Qiu and the others were startled, and they all feared that Leon's Armada would launch an attack on the Expeditionary Forces. What was happening? Did the Expeditionary Forces want to carry out some order of the overseers' council and capture Highsage Leon? That would be an extremely foolish thing to attempt.

#### Chapter 1632: The Path That Was Chosen

Beads of sweat dripped from Xi Gu's forehead as he glared at Lu Yin in disbelief. This child was merely an Enlightener, and yet just one of his palm attacks was able to force an Envoy like Xi Gu back. Not even his innate gift had helped him at all, as Lu Yin's monstrous strength had been reinforced by his shocking level of battle force. How can this brat be so terrifyingly strong?

Xi Gu had watched ZENITH, and had been confident that he had never underestimated Lu Yin's strength. However, at this moment, Xi Gu learned that he still had.

"Let me ask you again: do you know where all the colossal giants went?" Lu Yin angrily demanded as his cold eyes fixated on Xi Gu. This person's status meant nothing to Lu Yin.

Xi Gu met Lu Yin's eyes for a while before solemnly replying, "I haven't seen them after leaving Giant Consortium. I don't know where they are."

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed, and he started thinking. He stared into Xi Gu's eyes for a long time before finally turning around and leaving.

Lu Yin believed Xi Gu's words, but the problem had instead become just where exactly had Ku Wei and the other colossal giants gone?

In the Innerverses, an imposing silhouette was making its way towards the Outerverses at an extremely high speed. It was as though it were skipping through space. The figure was nearly half the size of a planet.

Normal people would not be able to determine just what the figure was, and not even Enlighteners would be able to get a clear image. Only Envoys and above would be able to see that the shape was actually an isolated section of the void. Within that space were all of the colossal giants, such as Chen Huang and Ku Wei. At the front of the shape was a voluptuous woman. While she was not young, her face was still gorgeous beyond compare. Just one look at her was enough for a person to be tempted by her. This woman was Madam Hong.

When the war in the Cosmic Sea had started, Madam Hong had started making her way there with the intention of lending a hand. However, who could have predicted that top powerhouses would appear one after another. Nightking Dijiang and Gu Laogui had shown themselves, and later on so had Highsage Shenwei and Xia Meng. Such experts left Madam Hong hesitant to show herself and join the fray. However, the war had ended before she had managed to make up her mind, and she lost her chance to

participate in the war, so she turned around to return. To her shock, she ended up stumbling upon a group of colossal giants on her way.

Her heart had pounded in excitement the instant she had seen an entire group of colossal giants; these creatures were natural-born warriors she had been looking for. She immediately captured all of the giants without another thought, and she started dragging them away. The colossal giants would become warriors of her Flying Horse Manor.

Ku Wei had wanted to call Lu Yin from atop Chen Huang's shoulder, but he could not establish any sort of connection or signal from within the isolated space that trapped them. He was really lost as to how to proceed. They had coincidentally met this crazy woman, and she had instantly captured everyone without a single word! She had to be nuts!

There was absolutely no one who knew that Ku Wei and the others had been taken by Madam Hong aside from Cang Yi, as he had been the one to inform Madam Hong of the war before it had broken out in the Cosmic Sea. At this moment, Cang Yi had again taken control of Chaosgod Mountain. He had already learned of the results of the war, as well as the fact that Cang Zhou and Cang Song had both died. Even before taking control, there had been a group within Chaosgod Mountain who had been loyal to Cang Yi.

Not that it really mattered, as the strongest person within Chaosgod Mountain had always been expected to take control of the place. That was tradition. Chaosgod Mountain was a place that was filled with bloodlust and was the power that oversaw the dark side of the Innerverse, so Cang Yi had not struggled to take control.

After not being able to gain any information at all from Xi Gu, Lu Yin tried calling Cong Ying.

Because Overseer Cong Ying had sent new orders of his own, the Expeditionary Forces had made their way to Giant Consortium's territory instead of traveling to the Cosmic Sea. Cong Ying had already been put on trial for this matter of insubordination, and he had already lost his position as an overseer.

His actions had not been a simple mistake. He had deliberately delayed the movements of the Expeditionary Forces, and that had jeopardized the outcome of the war. Things could easily have taken a much worse turn. Even more importantly, overseers were not allowed to make decisions using their personal emotions, and yet it had become clear that Cong Ying had been deliberately targeting the giants for a long time.

As he had just been removed from his position as an overseer, Cong Ying became even more upset with Lu Yin's confrontational question. Cong Ying brusquely replied, "Alliance Leader Lu, you should be asking this question of San Liang, as I am no longer an overseer."

With Cong Ying being removed, San Liang had immediately replaced the former overseer. San Liang had previously been expected to replace another overseer, but due to the situation, he was promoted earlier than expected.

"Does the disappearance of all of the colossal giants have anything to do with you?" Lu Yin demanded.

Cong Ying was actually startled. "The colossal giants disappeared? What do you mean? Didn't Xi Gu fail?"

“So this has nothing to do with you?” Lu Yin pressed.

Cong Ying scoffed. “Wiping out all giants has been my life-long dream. I would never hide such an accomplishment if I had managed to succeed. I was indeed the one who sent the Expeditionary Forces to them, but they failed at their mission. I have not even attempted to hide any aspect of this failed mission from the overseers’ council when I was questioned by them, so I have absolutely no reason to lie to you.”

Lu Yin’s expression grew increasingly worried. If Cong Ying had been the mastermind behind this matter, Lu Yin would have actually felt a bit of relief. However, after finding out that the former overseer was innocent in the matter, just where could Lu Yin turn for answers?

“Alliance Leader Lu, you’re planning on sheltering the colossal giants, aren’t you?” Cong Ying suddenly asked.

Lu Yin’s brows rose in confusion. “They’ve completely disappeared. Other than you, Overseer Cong Ying, who else in the entire Fifth Mainland holds such a strong hatred for the giants?”

Cong Ying sneered. “It’s not hatred, but wariness I feel for them. There are far too many different tribes of giants. I would be fine if they were only the typical brutish giants, but some of them are the survivors of the technologically inclined giants, and intelligent giants pose a far greater threat than those brainless, brutish giants. My goal has always been to wipe out all giants. I hold no personal grudge against any one of them in particular.”

Lu Yin hung up and became immersed in his own thoughts. He then called San Liang, the Cosmic Sect, and every other connection he had in the Inniverse that he could move to look for the colossal giants. Lu Yin considered those colossal giants to be very important due to their limitless potential. Furthermore, Ku Wei was with the giants as well. No matter what, Ku Wei was still Lu Yin’s disciple, and he could not allow things to just lie if anyone dared lay a hand on Ku Wei.

Several more days had passed, and finally Lu Yin bade Leon’s Armada farewell. He then left the Cosmic Sea and made his way towards the Wen family.

The recent war had rattled the entire Fifth Mainland. No one had emerged as a total victor, though the Xia family had managed to soothe the Cosmic Sect’s fury from having their prized treasure stolen by offering the Triple Blade Will. Despite the Cosmic Sect’s reluctance to accept the exchange, the fact was that the deal proceeded regardless. There was nothing the Cosmic Sect could do without waging an all-out war on the Xia family.

The Seven Courts had already been very wary of the Cosmic Sect and Eversky Island, so how could the Cosmic Sect not be on guard as well? Even the Hall of Honor had started interfering in this tense situation.

Lu Yin had already brought up a question regarding the price the Xia family paid as compensation to Eversky Island, and Highsage Grandmaster had answered that it could be a sourcebox array. Regardless, Highsage Grandmaster chose not to pursue the matter any further.



Lu Yin actually really wanted to see Xia Ji face-to-face, especially at the moment Xia Ji discovered that the Skystar Jade Wall did not contain the pattern. Lu Yin really wanted to capture the image of Xia Ji's expression at that moment for himself. The old man would surely blow through the roof.

Elder Jiu Shen also went the extra mile to call Lu Yin and remind him to never reveal the truth about the pattern on the sole of his foot.

Xia Ji had spent years plotting and preparing a war that had shaken up the Fifth Mainland. It had reduced the Cosmic Sea's Pirate Crews by half. On top of all of that, Xia Ji had been forced to give up the Xia family's Triple Blade Will and more valuables in order to smooth things out after taking the Skystar Jade Wall. Once the man found out that all he had obtained was a relatively useless item, he would surely lose any trace of rationality to pure anger. Lu Yin could not afford to become the target or the Semi-Progenitor's rage at that moment.

Lu Yin was also well aware of his own importance, and there was no way he would make any mention of the location of the pattern.

His spacecraft was headed for Erudite Flowzone, and Lu Yin took the chance offered by the trip to formally thank Liu Ye and Fei Hua for their efforts on the battlefield. "Thank you both so much for your assistance. I am beyond grateful to you two."

Sister Fei Hua just rolled her eyes when she heard his words.

Liu Ye replied, "We were just trying to keep ourselves alive."

Lu Yin grew more somber. "Trying to stay alive is one thing, but I want to humbly and genuinely express my gratitude to you two for your help. Please rest assured that you two will not remain stuck forever. After a while, I will return your freedom to you."

Sister Fei Hua's eyes gleamed and she turned around to look at Lu Yin. "When?"

Lu Yin replied firmly, "Soon."

Fei Hua had no idea how to respond.

Liu Ye suddenly spoke up, "Can I ask a question?"

"Please."

After a bit of thought, Liu Ye asked in a stern manner, "Exactly what are you planning?"

Lu Yin was left confused by the question. "What do you mean?"

Liu Ye explained in a worried manner, "You are Lu Xiaoxuan, the only descendent of the Lu family still in the Perennial World. Your appearance brought about great turmoil there Perennial World, and despite a short amount of time, your mere existence has caused the four ruling powers to suffer a massive decline in credibility and power. Countless people would flock over to you and would use your name to rise up against the four ruling powers. Despite that, you're here in the Forsaken Land doing your best to establish a base of power to increase your status and strength. What in the world are you planning?"

Lu Yin stayed silent and did not answer. Instead, he turned to stare out at space.

Staring at Lu Yin's back, Liu Ye pushed more to get some response. "I know without you even saying anything that you intend to get revenge on the four ruling powers for exiling your Lu family."

Sister Fei Hua's eyes went wide in surprise and she also stared at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin turned back around and met Liu Ye's eyes. "Yes, I do want revenge, but is that desire not justified?"

"Doing so will condemn the entire Perennial World to complete chaos. The four ruling powers will crumble, and even the rear battlefield will suffer the consequences. Do you realize that the rear battlefield's commander in chief and the array base generals all herald from the four ruling powers? If anything happens to those people, Ceaseless Impetus will be compromised, which will create an easy opening for the Aeternals to attack the Perennial World," Liu Ye warned sternly.

Lu Yin's voice rose, "So I should just let the four ruling powers continue to force me about like a puppet? Am I supposed to turn a blind eye to the exile and annihilation of my Lu family?"

Liu Ye shook his head. "There is no question that they have been cruel and ruthless to you, but if you seek revenge, you'll be doing the same as them to both the Perennial World and this place as well."

"Is this something that has only recently occurred to you?" Lu Yin retorted.

"I've been thinking about this for a long time."

"In that case, why didn't you bring it up before?" Lu Yin asked.

This time, Liu Ye stayed quiet.

"You said nothing because you don't actually care whether or not I try to get revenge. In other words, you have your own reservations concerning the four ruling powers. Why have you and Fei Hua not joined them? Why have you both remained in the Middle Realm despite your power?" Lu Yin continued his questioning.

Sister Fei Hua snapped, "Not everyone is desperate to join them."

"There are people just like you who can be found everywhere in the Perennial World, and yet many more have been captured and forced into the Star Alliance. If something were to happen to either of you, I wonder if the other would be forced into Star Alliance?" Lu Yin commented aloud.

Liu Ye and Fei Hua looked at each other. Neither knew how to respond.

Together, they had the strength to protect themselves, but if either of them fell, the other would be forced to join the four ruling powers. Otherwise, they would be captured and forced into the Star Alliance.

"We are advisors to Humility's Gate."

"That's the path you chose to take. For the sake of self-protection, your only choice was to become affiliated with Humility's Gate. As for me," Lu Yin paused and gave Liu Ye and Fei Hua a serious stare.

“The only available choice is revenge. It is the only way for me to protect myself. You and I are not any different from each other.”

Soon after, Lu Yin’s gadget beeped. He glanced at who was calling before answering.

“Alliance Leader Lu, this is Cang Yi. I am calling to inform you that I have already taken control of Chaosgod Mountain,” Cang Yi’s courteous voice came through the gadget.

His mood had already been soured from the conversation with Liu Ye and Fei Hua, so Lu Yin merely gave a short reply, “Mhmm, I got it.”

“Alliance Leader Lu, your subordinate will definitely help you to keep an eye on Chaosgod Mountain and will make sure that the Inniverse never learns anything,” Cang Yi continued speaking, already knowing what Lu Yin wanted from him.

Lu Yin replied rather indifferently, “Then I’ll leave it to you.”

He then ended the call. After visiting the Wen family, he still needed to make another trip to Chaosgod Mountain. That was because Cang Yi was someone willing to betray the entire Fifth Mainland, which meant that he had absolutely no bottom line. Lu Yin did not and never would trust such a person with Chaosgod Mountain. Instead, he would someone else to lead the place.

Lu Yin had been to Erudite Flowzone before, as he had visited the flowzone during the Astral Combat Tournament. However, that time he had only passed through the flowzone to get to the border, so this was his first time visiting the Wen family’s home.

After the war in the Cosmic Sea, the Wen family had sent multiple invitations to Lu Yin, but he had not responded even once. He was going to visit the Wen family, and his first visit would be as their formal guest.

The Wen family truly embodied their surname; each of them was well-mannered and intellectual individuals through and through. Everyone in the flowzone exuded some sort of scholarly demeanor. As for those Lu Yin and the other two saw in passing, the cultivators who were practicing their battle techniques and even the merchants traveling about through space were all very cultured. The entire place was unlike any other flowzone Lu Yin had ever seen.

#### Chapter 1633: Mountains And Seas Painting

The Inniverse’s eight great flowzones each had their own unique characteristics. Blazing Mist Flowzone had high temperatures and cultivators with hot tempers. Chaos Flowzone was full of death and darkness. Daynight Flowzone was arrogant. First Flowzone was sharp and peerless. Venom Flowzone was full of poisonous creatures. In comparison, Erudite Flowzone was a very comfortable place to visit.

When Lu Yin and Liu Ye and Fei Hua finally arrived, everyone from the Wen family appeared to greet them, including their patriarch, Wen Zizai.

“Welcome, Alliance Leader Lu, guest of my Wen family. Patriarch Wen Zizai has come to welcome you.” A loud voice spoke up, greeting Lu Yin the moment he exited his vessel.

Wen Zizai was the patriarch of the Wen family, which naturally meant that he was a powerhouse from the older generation. Him personally greeting Lu Yin was a show of great respect.

Lu Yin quickly stepped forward and smiled. "This junior took the liberty of showing up to your home. It is my honor to visit the Wen family's home."

Wen Zizai smiled. "The fact that Alliance Leader Lu is able to visit my Wen family's home is an honor to my Wen family."

The man spoke politely to Lu Yin before turning to Liu Ye and Fei Hua and addressing them. "You two must be Liu Ye and Fei Hua. Welcome, both of you. You are our Wen family's guests."

Liu Ye smiled as he responded, "The Wen family's behavior is worthy of respect."

Wen Zizai laughed. "Alliance Leader Lu, please, come inside."

"Senior, please lead the way."

Wen Zizai proceeded along with everyone else from the Wen family who qualified to speak to Lu Yin, no matter if they were elders or juniors.

Wen Sansi was situated rather close to Wen Zizai, as were Wen Qian'er, Wen Yan, and the others that Lu Yin had met before. As for the elders, he saw Wen Yao, as well as experts such as Lu Jing, who was a guest of the Wen family.

Among everyone present, Lu Yin also saw Wen Zhaocheng, the traitor to the Fifth Mainland who had been named on the same list as Cang Yi. Lu Yin merely glanced at the man and did not show any noticeable interest

Given Lu Yin's present status, neither Wen Sansi nor Wen Zhaocheng qualified to speak to him as a peer. In fact, there was no one in the entire Fifth Mainland who still treated Lu Yin as a junior.

The members of the Wen family merely greeted Lu Yin as a matter of courtesy. After he and Wen Zizai entered the Wen family's home, the others all took their leave with only Wen Sansi remaining behind to accompany the two.

The Wen family favored an antiquated architectural style. Lu Yin had seen this style quite frequently, so he did not find it surprising. However, what did surprise him was seeing a broom at the steps to the entrance to the house, as the broom possessed a number of runes.

Lu Yin did not hesitate to use Truesight in the Inniverse to observe the quantity of runes that anything and anyone possessed. He had never expected to see a broom that possessed runes. Even though there were not very many, it was already bizarre for a mere broom to possess any runes at all.

"I heard that Senior often sweeps the family's grounds. I wonder, do you do that in this place?" Lu Yin asked.

Wen Zizai replied, "That's right. How was Alliance Leader Lu able to tell?"

Lu Yin smiled. "Just a guess. The rest of the grounds are spotless, and this is the only place where I can see fallen leaves and dust."

Wen Zizai nodded. "That's true. This is the only place that's left uncleaned. Just like a human heart that is full of greed, such things can never be clean."

"I'm not sure what Senior is talking about. Are you referring to this junior?" Lu Yin asked slowly.

Wen Zizai laughed. "Of course not. The fact that Alliance Leader Lu has come to my Wen family's home at this time indicates that a fair deal has been reached and that our agreement has come to an end."

Lu Yin hesitated, as he was surprised. "An end? When?"

Wen Zizai's eyes flashed, and Wen Sansi spoke up from behind. "During the war in the Cosmic Sea, my Wen family prevented the Sword Sect from taking action. Additionally, we agreed to allow Alliance Leader Lu to visit and view the painting that he requested. With these tasks accomplished, Alliance Leader Lu will deliver Wen Diyi to us. Does this not mean that our deal is complete?"

Lu Yin looked over at Wen Zizai and laughed. "Senior, those two details were merely stated to start negotiations, not complete the deal. Has your Wen family made some mistake?"

"Brother Lu, my Wen family paid a steep price to stop the Sword Sect, and at the same time, we also paid a high price to obtain the mountains and seas painting from the Lost Radiance Academy. Are these two matters still not enough for us to gain just one Wen Diyi?" Wen Sansi quickly asked.

Lu Yin clasped his hands behind his back. "You merely intimidated the Sword Sect and are allowing me to only look at a painting, and yet you want to acquire what will allow your Wen family to dominate the Inniverse. Isn't this a rather laughable price?"

Wen Zizai calmly replied, "Let's continue and discuss this matter inside. Otherwise people will see that I am not acting as a proper host."

While Lu Yin was being escorted by Wen Zizai, some distance away, the Lost Radiance Academy's Dean Han and several of the academy's teachers arrived, including Han Chong's younger brother, Han Kui.

"That person is Lu Yin. From the moment he first appeared, his legend has never stopped growing. Everything he does is worthy of being recorded down in history," Ying Tang praised. He was one of the academy's teachers.

"As for his age, he's even younger than Wen Sansi and the other Arbiters. He was Han Chong's classmate, but it's impossible to know just how high he has reached by now."

"It's said that he's able to fight against Envoys."

"That child is truly terrifying, though what might be the scariest of all is his ambition. Unifying the Outerverse certainly is not his final goal, and all of the eight major flowzones are wary of him."

Dean Han stared at Lu Yin from a distance as he entered the Wen family's home. The old man sank deep into thought. Just how had this child ever learned about that particular painting?

In a sitting room in the Wen family's home, everyone took a seat.

Wen Zizai said directly, "Mr. Lu, you already know the importance that Wen Diyi has to my Wen family. Please give us your terms."

Lu Yin smiled. "The Wen family indeed stopped the Sword Sect from entering the war in the Cosmic Sea, and I am extremely grateful for your efforts. I came here this time to show you my sincerity."

Wen Zizai's eyes lit up. "How are you going to prove that?"

"I want to take a look at the landscape painting. As for Wen Diyi, I can allow him and Wen Sansi to be alone for an incense stick's worth of time, but I will take him away after that. As for Wen Diyi remaining with the Wen family, I haven't come up with a proper price. I wonder, does Senior have any suggestions?"

Wen Zizai frowned. "Alliance Leader Lu, Wen Diyi is a member of my Wen family."

"He's not from the Fifth Mainland's Wen family," Lu Yin countered.

Wen Zizai stared at Lu Yin. Even though they were currently in the heart of the Wen family's home, the old man was not confident that he could forcefully let Wen Diyi stay behind. Even without anything else, Liu Ye and Fei Hua alone left the Wen family completely helpless. As for Lu Yin, the child was famous for uniting the Outerverse and the strength that he had revealed during ZENITH that made him renowned as invincible among his peers, even without his power vessels and various items.

Also, the youth seemed to have an infinite supply of powerful equipment and tools, and many of them were absolutely terrifying.

The Wen family could not restrain Lu Yin and his two protectors, which meant that they also could not take Wen Diyi from Lu Yin. The number of top-tier powerhouses who had gotten involved in the war in the Cosmic Sea because of Lu Yin had horrified countless people.

"Alliance Leader Lu, have you truly not considered your terms, or do you still have other plans?" Wen Zizai asked. Even in the peace of his own home, he was still close to losing his temper. There were many skills needed for negotiations, and while patience was indeed an important one, the old man was increasingly suspecting that Lu Yin was not being patient, but rather had truly not considered the conditions that he wanted.

That was the most frustrating type of person to deal with. Wen Zizai would much prefer Lu Yin to put forth absurd conditions, as that would allow negotiations to proceed forth. But as things stood, Lu Yin was stalling indefinitely.

Lu Yin shrugged. "I really haven't considered my terms."

He looked over at Wen Sansi. "Given brother Wen's talent that allowed him to become one of the Ten Arbiters, he should be able to gain a great deal from speaking with Wen Diyi. Though, does the Wen family perhaps not want this opportunity?"

Wen Zizai frowned. If he agreed to this, it would negate the price that he had already paid. His family had stalled the Sword Sect and agreed to allow Lu Yin to study the mountains and seas painting, but had they done all of that just to exchange an incense stick's worth of conversation? No, Wen Zizai was even more concerned that he would gain nothing at all.

He had not expected such honesty from Lu Yin. Should they attempt to offer a price for Wen Diyi or agree to a short meeting first?

One other detail had made the patriarch even more hesitant; given the time constraints that Lu Yin was placing on the meeting, would Wen Diyi be able to share anything useful regarding the Literary Prison? If they could not gain anything from the meeting, then everything would have been in vain.

From Wen Zizai's perspective, Wen Diyi would most likely refuse to teach anything regarding the Literary Prison in hopes that their desire for improving the technique would motivate the Wen family into rescuing him. If Wen Diyi taught Wen Sansi what they wanted, Wen Diyi would become worthless, and then it would be very difficult for him to ever escape from Lu Yin's control.

It was only a single moment, but countless thoughts ran through Wen Zizai's mind.

Lu Yin was in no hurry, as he was enjoying the taste of the Wen family's tea.

Liu Ye and Fei Hua glanced at each other. They had spent quite a bit of time with Lu Yin by this point, and they were fully aware of just how cunning the youth was. When it came to understanding human nature, the kid was becoming more and more adept every day, and he was gaining initiative with every step he took. Going against him would be very difficult.

The people who managed to make each step they took count as three were the most difficult to deal with.

In the end, Wen Zizai agreed. An incense stick's worth of time was still a bit of time. After all, they had lost nothing by stopping the Sword Sect, and the painting actually belonged to the Han family, so the Wen family was still not taking any loss. While they had spent a great deal of energy on these matters, that was something that could be easily recovered. A short meeting was still good enough.

Lu Yin took out Zenith Mountain and sent Wen Sansi in. He then raised a hand and burned a stick of incense in the air. It was just a normal stick of incense that was neither long nor short, and even the speed at which it burned was perfectly normal.

Wen Zizai also sipped his tea while quietly waiting. No one in the room spoke, as Lu Yin also waited quietly.

The incense soon burned down, and Lu Yin waved a hand to pull Wen Sansi back out of Zenith Mountain.

Wen Zizai stared at Wen Sansi, and the younger man nodded back, allowing Wen Zizai to let out a sigh of relief. Even though it had not been for very long, Wen Sansi had apparently gained something from the meeting.

Lu Yin noticed the exchange. As expected, Wen Diyi had been able to share a bit with the time they had been given, though it was also impossible for him to share everything regarding the Literary Prison in such a short amount of time. If it were possible, the Perennial World's version of the Literary Prison would have long since spread to the Fifth Mainland.

"Senior, where is the painting?" Lu Yin asked.

Wen Zizai asked Wen Sansi to excuse himself, and he then looked at Liu Ye and Fei Hua.

Lu Yin similarly asked Liu Ye and Fei Hua to leave.

Now, only two people remained in the room.

Finally, Wen Zizai took out a very broken stone that was only a half-meter square. It really was stone. Lu Yin stared in amazement, as the stone clearly lacked any runes, and yet it felt incredibly ancient to him, much like the Daynight clan's stone of inheritance. It was as if the stone had existed for an eternity.

Stars could exist in the universe for countless years, and for much longer than how humans had existed. This stone gave Lu Yin the same sensation as a star, as though it had existed forever.

Wen Zizai's expression grew solemn. "I borrowed this stone from the Han family. The painting is on this stone. Alliance Leader Lu, go ahead and take a look. In fact, even I am unable to see anything."

Lu Yin carefully took the stone, fearful of shattering it, as it seemed quite fragile.

The impression that he received of the stone was that it was beyond ancient, and yet it felt like perfectly ordinary stone. There was a painting on it, but the stone only showed a corner of the image. It seemed that the stone was a shard of the full painting.

There were no runes to be seen, and there was also nothing that stood out when Lu Yin touched the stone. He stared at the painting but could not feel anything at all, which was quite odd.

He continued to study it, and his eyes moved closer to the stone.

Suddenly, he noticed something unusual. It was not a typical landscape painting, but rather a painting that seemed to contain the entire universe. There were stars and entire civilizations in it, similar to the Perennial World. There were many mountains and lakes among the stars, as well as multiple universes and civilizations in it.

#### Chapter 1634: Non-Existent People

Lu Yin stared at the painting for a full hour, and he was able to see many things, but not everything.

He turned to give Wen Zizai a suspicious look. "Senior, are you sure that this is the painting?"

Wen Zizai smiled bitterly. "I understand that Alliance Leader Lu may feel that, but this is the true painting. If Alliance Leader Lu doesn't believe me, you can also see the records of Han Chong's fight. He created a star energy drawing and recreated a picture of mountains and seas, which is exactly the same as this painting."

Lu Yin frowned. He thought back to Han Chong's battle, specifically the moment when the painting had appeared and defeated Xia Ye. That victory had suggested that this painting was not simple, though Han Chong may have simply found something hidden within the painting. Still, the fight that Lu Yin had witnessed had occurred when Han Chong had not even been an Explorer while Lu Yin was already an Enlightener. How was it that Lu Yin still was not able to make anything out?

Everyone had their own unique opportunities, and although Lu Yin felt helpless, he could not force things. He was still at the beginning of the path of cultivation, and with his ability to enter his die's Timestop Space, it was impossible for anyone to know just how long he had cultivated for.



"Alliance Leader Lu, this really is that same painting. The Han family has protected this stone for many years, and Dean Han is here at this time. You can speak with him if you'd like." Wen Zizai was growing increasingly concerned that Lu Yin would not believe him, so he reiterated the point.

Lu Yin said, "In that case, could Senior ask Dean Han to come here?"

Wen Zi nodded.

A short while later, an old man entered the room and faced Lu Yin. The man nervously looked down at the stone that Lu Yin was holding.

Lu Yin recognized the old man, though they had never met face to face. Lu Yin had seen pictures of this person on the network. After all, the headmaster of the Lost Radiance Academy was considered a public figure.

"Junior Lu Yin greets Dean Han," Lu Yin spoke politely.

Dean Han nodded and voiced his admiration. "Alliance Leader Lu, it's been a long time since your name has resounded in my ears like thunder."

"I can't compare to the headmaster's record of teaching and training people. In front of you, Lu Yin is still just a student. I have not even graduated from the Astral Combat Academy," Lu Yin replied.

Dean Han was caught off guard. "You still haven't graduated from the Astral Combat Academy?"

Lu Yin smiled. "Unfortunately I've been away and busy for a long time, and so I simply haven't found the time to formally graduate."

Dean Han laughed. "Given Alliance Leader Lu current strength, you have already surpassed your teachers. It no longer matters whether or not you graduate. By the way, I wonder if I might ask, how did Alliance Leader Lu learn of the existence of this painting?"

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. "The Han family has protected the painting, but naturally, others can learn of it as well. There is no such thing as an eternal secret."

"I understand that Alliance Leader Lu doesn't wish to speak about this." Dean Han looked down at the stone in Lu Yin's hand. "That is indeed the landscape painting that Alliance Leader Lu asked for. When Chong'er accidentally saw it, he was drawn to it. After begging for a long time, I finally allowed him to take a look at it. I never thought that looking at it would lead to his death."

"Just one look?" Lu Yin arched a brow.

Dean Han nodded. "Yes. He was immediately drawn to it. I believe that Chong'er must have formed some kind of a connection with this painting, possibly because of the fact that my Han family has protected it for so many years. I certainly did not expect such a thing to occur."

Lu Yin looked back down at the stone in his hand. It seemed that some others were able to instantly see the hidden meaning in this painting, but Lu Yin could not see anything at all. He had no connection to this painting.

He had even recited the Stonewall Scriptures, but he was still unable to see anything. In the end, his only choice was to return the stone to Dean Han.

Dean Han took the stone and let out a sigh of relief.

After Lu Yin observed the painting and Wen Sansi had met with Wen Diyi alone, the deal had been completed.

Even though Wen Zizai desperately wanted to have Wen Diyi stay in the Wen family, Lu Yin took the young man away.

Doing so gave Lu Yin an odd feeling, almost as though he was separating lovers.

As he left the Wen family's ancestral home, Lu Yin saw Wen Qian'er. Although the two of them had only met a few times and had never really spoken to each other, they could still be considered acquaintances, though their previous interactions felt like a lifetime ago.

Over the course of two years, Lu Yin's mentality had undergone dramatic changes.

Wen Qian'er stared at Lu Yin, but her eyes no longer held any challenge. Lu Yin had reached a level that was simply untouchable to her.

"I didn't expect you, Wen Zizai, to live to see this day. Someone has visited your home and walked away with what you desire most of all, and yet there is nothing that you can do about it," President Han commented as he watched Lu Yin's spacecraft leave.

Wen Zizai answered quietly, "He's not the first one to do so. Even though my Wen family stands at the top of Erudite Flowzone, the Fifth Mainland is too vast. People from the Hall of Honor or the Neoverse do not even see us, and before them, not even the Daynight clan or the Sword Sect can speak up."

"What terms do you think the child will propose?" Dean Han asked, very curious about the matter. The Wen family had shown their great willingness to work with Lu Yin, and they had practically offered to meet any conditions that he put forth. Despite that, Lu Yin still seemed to have no idea what he wanted from the family.

Wen Zizai's mood had been ruined, so he just ignored Dean Han and returned to his home.

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After leaving the Wen family, Lu Yin deliberately made a detour on his way to Chaos Flowzone. The reason for the detour was naturally a corpse king.

Lu Yin's particular target was the corpse king that had killed Han Chong. That creature had spent a long time staring at the Lost Radiance Academy and had been determined to get the painting. Lu Yin wanted to remove that hidden danger. The landscape painting might have proved useless to him, but that did not mean that it would be the same for others. He particularly did not want a corpse king to obtain whatever was hidden within the painting.

The Lost Radiance Academy was not a great distance from the Wen family's home planet, and given the speed of Lu Yin's vessel, it only took them half a day to reach the planet.

It was a perfectly ordinary planet, though it was unfit for human habitation, so it did not house any form of civilization. There were not even very many creatures here.

The corpse king had a power level of more than 400,000, but it could not compare to an Envoy. This was why the creature had not tried to invade the Lost Radiance Academy itself, but had instead simply remained on the planet and observed the academy while awaiting further orders from the Neohuman Alliance.

Lu Yin hesitated over whether or not he should simply destroy the corpse king. Once it was gone, the Neohuman Alliance might realize that Lu Yin had gotten involved with the mountains and seas painting, and that could bring about new trouble. However, it might also reveal the key to unlocking the mystery within the painting.

Dean Han did not know what was hidden within the painting, but the Neohuman Alliance might.

Lu Yin stopped his vessel while still in outer space and simply stared down at the barren planet in the distance. Further away, he could see a colorful nebula spinning.

Liu Ye grew curious. "Aren't you going?"

Lu Yin thought for a while. "Let's go."

With that, he altered their destination, and the ship continued on towards Chaos Flowzone.

It would be very simple to deal with the corpse king, but once that happened, the Neohuman Alliance would definitely send more over. Lu Yin wanted to preserve the corpse king for now. After all, it was one of the only ones that Lu Yin was able to Possess. It might prove to be of great use in the future.

A few days later, Lu Yin received a message from Starsibyl. "I am not able to divinate anything related to Undying Yushan at all. Are you sure that the name is correct?"

Lu Yin solemnly replied, "It should be."

"Undying Yushan, the master of the Great Yu Empire in Frostwave Weave. However, he died more than ten years ago. He's dead," Starsibyl said.

"I saw him. He's not dead."

"That may be true, but I'm unable to determine anything. Perhaps if you have some of his blood it could work."

Lu Yin thought of Wendy Yushan. "I'll bring you some."

"That would be good."

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Far away, in the distant Neoverse, on the Xia family's sword-shaped mainland, Xia Ji had been studying the Skystar Jade Wall for quite a while, but he could not find anything special about it. According to the information he had obtained from Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum, there should be something special

about this treasure that could only be used by those with Progenitor Chen's bloodline. It was supposed to allow them to sense the stars that had been left behind by Progenitor Chen.

"What's wrong? Is it necessary to cultivate the Cosmic Art to its peak?" Xia Ji said to himself. There were nine stars revolving around his body, as he had easily learned the Cosmic Art. "If that's the case, it will take a bit of effort."

He then took a deep breath and began training in the Cosmic Art.

The Cosmic Sect had recently received the Xia family's Triple Blade Will, and naturally, the first people to start training in the battle technique were the true disciples and the elders.

However, there were not many elders willing to practice the Triple Blade Will. They had already become entrenched in their own path of cultivation, and learning the Triple Blade Will would not help them. Most of the Cosmic Sect's disciples were not skilled with the blade.

However, Mu Ziyang was very excited. His cultivation of the Cosmic Art had reached a bottleneck, and training in the Triple Blade Will gave him something that would improve his strength. Also, he enjoyed training with blades.

Even though obtaining the Triple Blade Will had temporarily soothed the Cosmic Sect's rage, when they realized that more and more of the sect's disciples had no talent for the battle technique, their rage would burst forth once more.

Without the Skystar Jade Wall, their speed at mastering the Cosmic Art would drastically slow down, which was not a good thing for the Cosmic Sect.

The current calm was only temporary.

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When Lu Yin arrived at Chaosgod Mountain once more, he quickly concealed himself to meet with Cang Yi.

When he saw Lu Yin, Cang Yi quickly bowed. "This subordinate greets the alliance leader."

Lu Yin nodded calmly. "You were very quick to get started. The deaths of Cang Zhou and the other elites have cost Chaosgod Mountain a great deal of strength. How do you plan to compensate?"

Cang Yi cautiously answered, "Chaosgod Mountain has no shortage of disciples. As long as this subordinate is here, the dark powers of the Inniverse can provide us with a large influx of fresh blood at any time. However, with Cang Zhou dead, we have no Envoy realm powerhouse, which means that we will be an easy target for the other powers controlling the other eight great flowzones. This subordinate can only deal with cultivators from forces other than the forces that control the great flowzones."

The implication from these words were quite straightforward: matters concerning the eight great flowzones would be left for Lu Yin to deal with. Cang Yi was confident that he could deal with everything else, but Lu Yin would have to deal with the major powers of the Inniverse, which was a very difficult task.

"Are you saying that only the underworld forces recognize your position?" Lu Yin asked.

Cang Yi answered in a respectful tone, "This subordinate has been dealing with those people for too long, so we are all very familiar with each other."

"Do you know Thousand Eyes?" Lu Yin suddenly asked.

Cang Yi was startled. "Thousand Eyes? I know him—he's a pirate. He was originally in the Outerverse, but when the Great Eastern Alliance rose to power, he claimed that he was unable to survive there anymore, so he moved to my Chaos Flowzone. Might I ask how you know him? From the surface, he seems to be someone who thrives in this place. Alliance Leader Lu, did he offend you?"

Lu Yin looked at Cang Yi and smiled. "Can you deal with him?"

Cang Yi grew solemn. "Dealing with him is nothing difficult. Although he has formed a connection with many people in Chaos Flowzone over the last few years, such people will never help him."

"So even you've heard of him? It seems like Thousand Eyes is pretty good. He would be a good candidate for someone to replace you in dealing with the underworld powers," Lu Yin casually commented.

Cang Yi was taken aback, and he quickly paled. "Alliance Leader, what do you mean?"

"Thousand Eyes belongs to me, and it sounds like he isn't much worse than you when it comes to his connection with Chaos Flowzone's underworld. Even without you, he can still help Chaosgod Mountain pull in a large number of new disciples. Won't this be very helpful?" Lu Yin stared at Cang Yi as he spoke, and the look sent chills down Cang Yi's spine.

His heart shook. "Alliance Leader, Thousand Eyes is only a Hunter."

"So what? Cang Zhou was an Envoy with a power level of more than 700,000, and yet he also died."

Chapter 1635: The Giants' Whereabouts

"Even if Thousand Eyes can help deal with the underworld powers, what about Chaosgod Mountain itself? He isn't from Chaosgod Mountain, and he has no ability to control the forces that direct Chaos Flowzone," Cang Yi quickly said.

Lu Yin turned to stare outside. He had come alone, but Elder Hu suddenly appeared from the air. He had remained hidden, and Cang Yi had not seen the elder until he revealed himself, startling Cang Yi. "Hu-Elder Hu?"

Elder Hu bowed to Lu Yin. "This subordinate greets the alliance leader."

Lu Yin nodded.

After the Great Eastern Alliance had destroyed the Blaze Realm, Wang Wen and Wei Rong had sent out people to infiltrate the Innerverse powers. Elder Hu was someone whom they had recruited as a mole. He had secretly joined the Great Eastern Alliance more than a year ago.

"Elder Hu, are you part of the Great Eastern Alliance?" Cang Yi could not believe his eyes.

Elder Hu glanced over at Cang Yi and indifferently replied, "I have served Alliance Leader Lu for more than a year, and it was at his order that I kept you hidden."

Cang Yi's entire body trembled, and bitterness filled his eyes. He had thought that everything was in his control and that he had predicted everything, but he had just learned that he was merely dancing in the palm of another.

"Although Elder Hu is not capable of leading Chaosgod Mountain, there's still you, Cang Yi," Lu Yin spoke slowly as he stared at Cang Yi. "With you here, regardless of your cultivation level or lack of it, no one on Chaosgod Mountain will dare to act rashly. With Thousand Eyes and Elder Hu here, it's possible to stabilize the situation. The most important thing is that after the deaths of Cang Zhou, Cang Song, and the others, Chaosgod Mountain will need to seal itself off and cut off contact with the outside world. This is a legitimate excuse."

Cang Yi's mind started racing; regardless of his cultivation or lack of it? That meant that Lu Yin was going to destroy Cang Yi's cultivation! No! Absolutely not! Cang Yi gritted his teeth and looked up at Lu Yin. "Alliance Leader Lu, I have been loyal to you. Why would you destroy my strength?"

Lu Yin answered with evident disgust, "You've betrayed the Fifth Mainland and you lack any redeeming qualities at all. Such a person should never exist."

Right at that moment, Lu Yin intended to kill Cang Yi, as he had no desire to drag things out unnecessarily with such a person.

Cang Yi quickly yelled, "Alliance Leader Lu, I know where the colossal giants are!"

Lu Yin hesitated and stared at Cang Yi. "What did you just say?"

Cang Yi was utterly terrified. He was at the precipice of life and death, and Lu Yin's actions would determine if Cang Yi could at least survive and remain as Elder Hu's puppet for the rest of his life.

"Speak!" Lu Yin shouted.

Even though Cang Yi was terrified, he still forced himself to remain strong and said, "If I tell you, will Alliance Leader Lu let me go?"

Lu Yin's eyes were icy. "You are in no position to give me conditions."

"It's just a request! I, Cang Yi, beg Alliance Leader Lu to let me go!" Cang Yi knelt down, quivering.

Lu Yin withdrew his hand. "Tell me. If what you say proves true, I can move you elsewhere."

Cang Yi gritted his teeth. "Madam Hong. She's most likely the one who captured the giants."

Lu Yin felt the need to ask, "Madam Hong? How could she have even known about the colossal giants? How could she have captured them? Isn't she in the Outerverse?"

Cang Yi trembled. "Well, I told her- No, I mean Madam Hong reached out to me to ask about the recent events on Chaosgod Mountain and the war in the Cosmic Sea. I had no choice but to tell her, and she said that she'd go to the Cosmic Sea. If she did go, she most likely left after the battle, and she probably ran into the giants and captured them."

"If it were anything else, given your influence, Alliance Leader Lu, it's impossible for not a single trace of the giants to have turned up by now."

Lu Yin really wanted to slap Cang Yi dead. This person had to have called Madam Hong and told her about what happened at Chaosgod Mountain. How could someone like Madam Hong have reached out to a traitor like Cang Yi? Given her recent actions regarding the traitors, it seemed quite clear that the Sixth Mainland had no intention of moving against the Fifth Mainland for the time being. Without such a motive, it was impossible for someone with Madam Hong's status in the Sixth Mainland to reach out to Cang Yi of her own initiative.

Cang Yi was practically lying on the floor, waiting in terror. He could not put forth too many conditions to Lu Yin. In fact, Cang Yi could only pray that Lu Yin did as he had offered.

"Are you sure that it's Madam Hong?" Lu Yin asked.

Cang Yi gulped. "No, I'm not sure, but I can get in touch with her and ask."

"Ask, but don't reveal our existence. You should understand that, let alone Madam Hong, not even the Sixth Mainland's Progenitors can protect you right now. The only person who can keep you alive is me," Lu Yin threatened.

"I know! I know!" Cang Yi immediately replied.

After preparing for a while, Cang Yi regained his normal composure, and only then did he try to contact Madam Hong.

After a while, he heard her voice, "What's the matter?"

Cang Yi answered in a cautious tone, "Madam, the war in the Cosmic Sea has ended, and this subordinate called to report the matter to you."

"No need. I know," Madam Hong answered coldly.

Cang Yi glanced over at Lu Yin, who stood nearby with his back to Cang Yi. Cang Yi quickly continued, "Madam, there is one more thing I need to ask."

"Your job is only to wait for my orders. Since when do you get to ask me questions?" Madam Hong's voice turned quiet and icy.

Cang Yi quickly replied, "This is a matter that concerns many forces, even the Hall of Honor's overseers. So-"

"What is this matter?" Madam Hong interrupted.

"Do you know about the giants?"

Madam Hong was surprised. "Why are you asking about that?"

Cang Yi explained, "The Inverseverse has a company called Giant Consortium, and behind them is a race of giants that have already joined Lu Yin. During the war in the Cosmic Sea, the giants traveled to reinforce the battle, but they mysteriously disappeared in transit. At this moment, Lu Yin is using his full influence to find these colossal giants. Right now, the Outerverse's Great Eastern Alliance, the Inverseverse's

Chaosgod Mountain, the Wen family, the Cosmic Sea's Leon's Armada, and the Neoverse's overseers are all looking for the giants."

"Their disappearance has incited great turmoil, and this subordinate is considering the possibility of using news of the giants to incite even greater chaos in the Outerverse and Innerverse. Lu Yin's influence is growing ever larger, and if he is lost and confused, the Fifth Mainland will descend into chaos. By this point, he is able to sway the entire overseers' council."

Madam Hong remained silent, and Cang Yi grew increasingly nervous. His palms started to sweat. He truthfully did not know whether or not the colossal giants had been taken by Madam Hong, and he was just going off of a hunch. The possibility was very high, and this bet was his only option for possible survival. He had actually spoken the words that Lu Yin had dictated, as it was impossible to ask Madam Hong such a question directly.

After a while, Madam Hong asked, "How do you want to use the colossal giants?"

"About that, this subordinate has not come up with a plan yet. I only had the initial idea, and so I contacted Madam Hong."

Madam Hong quietly asked, "These giants belong to Lu Yin?"

"Yes."

"That's quite a coincidence. Those giants are currently at my Flying Horse Manor. Tell Lu Yin plainly that if he wants the giants, he can come to my Flying Horse Manor. I'll be waiting for him."

Cang Yi panicked. "Madam Hong, the moment this subordinate says that to Lu Yin, this subordinate's life will be for-"

"You can come to my Flying Horse Manor before calling him. Cang Zhou is dead, and Lu Yin won't allow you to control Chaosgod Mountain. He will only allow someone who belongs to him to do so, so your life will be forfeit as soon as he returns to Chaosgod Mountain," Madam Hong said.

Cang Yi's heart fell. Madam Hong was absolutely right. Cang Yi looked over at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin nodded.

Cang Yi nervously replied, "Understood, Madam Hong. Your subordinate will go to Flying Horse Manor."

After the call ended, Cang Yi turned to Lu Yin in a respectful manner.

Lu Yin's eyes were dark. The colossal giants really had been taken by Madam Hong. This made things difficult, as it would be practically impossible to take them back from Flying Horse Manor. Madam Hong was an extremely powerful expert with a power level of more than 900,000. The forces at Lu Yin's disposal, even including Lui Ye and Fei Hua, would not be enough, as there was a qualitative difference in strength.

In order to take the giants back, Lu Yin would have to negotiate. He believed that was what Madam Hong wanted, but her price would not be low. Lu Yin did not like to be the one with the lower position in



negotiations. That meant that there was only one other option: forcefully taking the giants away. However, that would only work if Madam Hong was first moved elsewhere.

Lu Yin called Wei Rong, and the two spoke for a while. Wei Rong was the most talented at this sort of thing.

The following day, Lu Yin led Cang Yi, Liu Ye, and Fei Hua to the west towards the Outerverse.

Chaos Flowzone lay to the west of the Innerverse, and it was very close to the western region of the Outerverse if one crossed the Astral River with the massive Ark.

Right after Lu Yin moved out, just when he was about to make a call, his gadget beeped with an incoming call request. It was En Ya.

"Alliance Leader, the Neo-Vestige Sect is in trouble."

"What's the problem?"

"A giant is blocking the Neo-Vestige Sect and has declared that no one is allowed entrance. The giant is from the Sixth Mainland's Arrow Sect, and his name is Man Li."

Lu Yin's expression instantly changed.

En Ya shared an image. Outer space, outside of the Neo-Vestige Sect, there was a nearly ten meter tall giant standing with a longbow hanging on his back and an arrogant expression on his face.

Lu Yin was startled when he saw the giant, as he actually recognized him.

When Lu Yin had last visited the Daosource Sect ruins to visit the Nine Cauldrons Region, he had fought against this giant. The giant was very powerful. Not to mention the current Neo-Vestige Sect, but even if the Arrow Mountain Elder was still alive, he would not have been this giant's opponent.

"The giant has his own rules, and he has not directly attacked the Neo-Vestige Sect. However, we're guessing that he won't wait for long." En Ya's tone was not good; the Great Eastern Alliance was being bullied, as the Neo-Vestige Sect was a part of the Great Eastern Alliance. If the alliance could not handle this matter properly, there would be severe repercussions.

This was the worst time for something like this to happen, as it could invalidate countless plans and efforts that had already been made.

"Understood," Lu Yin said. He ended the call and thought for a bit before accessing his gadget again. He wanted to call Qing Tan.

It did not take long for Qing Tan to answer the call. "Alliance Leader Lu, I'm so glad that you called me."

"Miss Qing Tan, there's something I wish to ask for your help on," Lu Yin said.

In the Neoverse, atop Mt. Microcosms, Qing Tan listened to Lu Yin, and his words caused her eyes to light up. "Alliance Leader Lu, please tell me. If I am able to help, Qing Tan will never refuse you."

Lu Yin said, "I would like to ask Miss Qing Tan to have old man San Shang propose to the overseers' council to have the Hall of Honor stop the war in Blazing Mist Flowzone and allocate the Blaze Realm to my Great Eastern Alliance."

Qing Tan grew curious. "If I remember correctly, I believe that the Great Eastern Alliance voluntarily withdrew from the Blaze Realm."

Lu Yin bitterly complained, "I won't hide anything from Miss Qing Tan. Our intention behind leaving the Blaze Realm was to allow the sylvan dragons to go to war with the Ross Empire. Our intention was to reap the benefits as the fishermen, but starting with the war in Blazing Mist Flowzone, we learned that there are few major powers in the Inniverse that do not have any sort of connection with each other. My Great Eastern Alliance no longer has control of the situation now that the Sword Sect, the Wen family, the Beast Tamers Flowzone, and the other great flowzones are getting involved, and all of these forces are native to the Inniverse."

"If my Great Eastern Alliance forces itself into the issue, we will incite public outrage. Not only will we fail to gain Blazing Mist Flowzone, but we will not even be guaranteed to retain Fennel Flowzone."

Qing Tan's lips curled up into a smile. Lu Yin had spoken with sincerity, as he was not dealing with a fool. Many people had already guessed that the Great Eastern Alliance's motive when pulling out of Blazing Mist Flowzone had been to incite war rather than to stop it. However, two years ago, the Great Eastern Alliance had been too naive, and the sylvan dragons and the Ross Empire had been too impatient. Thus, the war had started despite the alliance's mistakes.

Chapter 1636: Deal

Just as Lu Yin had said, many Inniverse forces had already secretly joined the mess in Blazing Mist Flowzone, and it had become a chaotic storm.

"Alliance Leader Lu, I'm embarrassed to say that you must already be aware that the overseers are not allowed to interfere in disputes between the Human Domain's various powers," Qing Tan replied. "Might I ask, why does Alliance Leader Lu wish to acquire Blazing Mist Flowzone?"

Lu Yin answered in a low voice, "I no longer want to hide this from Miss Qing Tan. The truth is that I've come to an agreement with people from the Sixth Mainland for the Great Eastern Alliance to retain five weaves that the Sixth Mainland will never interfere with. These are the weaves that are closest to Blazing Mist Flowzone, and the alliance already has control of the Astral River Ark, which will not change."

Qing Tan's eyes narrowed. "Alliance Leader Lu managed to reach an agreement with the Sixth Mainland? There are very few from the Sixth Mainland who would dare to agree to such a thing."

Lu Yin smiled. "Of course."

"Might I ask, who promised you this, Alliance Leader Lu?"

Lu Yin hesitated, and Qing Tan quickly back stepped. "If it's inconvenient for Alliance Leader Lu to say more, Qing Tan will not insist on an answer."

Lu Yin replied, "Miss Qing Tan, it's not that I don't wish to share this, but..." He hesitated again. "If I tell you, can Miss Qing Tan keep this matter a secret?"

"Definitely," Qing Tan firmly promised.

"The Autumnfrost family, Flying Horse Manor, and the Arrow Sect."

Qing Tan took a deep breath. "Alliance Leader Lu, how did you accomplish this? Qing Tan is only curious, so if it is difficult for Alliance Leader Lu to say more, Qing Tan won't push."

Lu Yin proudly replied, "It's quite simple. The Autumnfrost family relies on bloodlines for their power, and I happened to come across Progenitor Chen's blood in his tomb. One of his nine clones was a giant, and that bloodline can help Ancestor Autumnfrost advance his own bloodline, as the blood of a Progenitor is invincible. When the Autumnfrost family visited Frostwave Weave, while it might seem like they came to take Autumnfrost Qing and the others back on the surface, they actually visited to take away Progenitor Chen's blood. It was all an act.

"As for Flying Horse Manor's Madam Hong, that was even easier. She was given Progenitor Wushang's hide. It's an item from a Progenitor, and Madam Hong has been a World Imprinter for a long time, so she is very eager to become a Cosmic Imprinter. Progenitor Wushang's hide is naturally something that she was happy to acquire to try to improve her strength.

"As for the Arrow Sect, they have wanted to seize control of the Neo-Vestige Sect in order to claim the inheritance of the Sixth Mainland's Arrow Progenitor. This is not a secret, but I intend to simply give them the inheritance that they are after. There is already someone from the Arrow Sect at the Neo-Vestige Sect, and while he looks to be blocking access to the sect, they have already come to an agreement with me to peacefully obtain the inheritance from the Neo-Vestige Sect."

"The Autumnfrost family, Flying Horse Manor, and the Arrow Sect together are enough to offer my Great Eastern Alliance five weaves."

Qing Tan listened quietly. She knew of the conflict between the Autumnfrost family and the Great Eastern Alliance that had happened rather recently, and the rumors claimed that when the people from the Autumnfrost family had arrived at Zenyu Star, a fight was brewing. The truth turned out to be very different, as it had actually been a cover for secret negotiations. Knowing this, she quickly reached out to a contact to have them look into the Arrow Sect's matters, and she almost immediately learned that the Arrow Sect's Man Li was blocking all traffic to and from the Neo-Vestige Sect.

The Arrow Sect had already made preparations to fight against the Great Eastern Alliance, but that was the Arrow Sect's affairs, and no one else from the Sixth Mainland had any intention or desire to interfere. The Outerverse had been given to the Sixth Mainland, and the entire Sixth Mainland had long since wanted to drive the Great Eastern Alliance out. Their only hesitation was due to a certain level of wariness, but it was clear that the Arrow Sect was more confident than others.

Qing Tan sneered; were they acting as though they planned to start a war? Was it possible that the Arrow Sect's brutish giants had actually become enlightened to carry out such schemes? No, knowing the hidden strength of the Outerverse, that was most likely wrong. It was more likely that Lu Yin had proposed this scheme.

Even the Arrow Sect had secretly reached an agreement with the Great Eastern Alliance. Qing Tan's eyes blazed.

While the Sixth Mainland did not forbid people from communicating with those from the Fifth Mainland, they were forbidden from getting involved with the Outerverse. The Outerverse was the Sixth Mainland's, so dividing or giving away weaves was something that the Sixth Mainland's Daosource Sect absolutely would not allow.

The Sixth Mainland's Daosource Sect had already been destroyed by those monsters, but some powerful experts had survived, particularly their three Progenitors. As long as these powerhouses were still alive, their Daosource Sect would not vanish, and everyone had to obey the will of the Daosource Sect.

"Miss Qing Tan, what about the overseers' council?" Lu Yin asked.

Qing Tan smiled. "Alliance Leader Lu, please rest assured. Qing Tan will work hard on this matter, though the final result will depend entirely on how well Alliance Leader Lu manages to persuade the other overseers. After all, the council decides upon matters through voting, and old man San Shang does not have the final word."

"Of course, that's only natural." Lu Yin expressed his gratitude and hung up before calling the other overseers.

Qing Tan waited a long time before calling Overseer Xin Jiao and asking him if Lu Yin had already spoken to the overseer. Qing Tan quickly learned that Lu Yin had indeed spoken with Xin Jiao and asked the overseer to propose to the council that all fighting in Blazing Mist Flowzone be stopped and that the Great Eastern Alliance be given authority over the Blaze Realm. After that, Qing Tan also called Overseer Si Hong, who had received the same request from Lu Yin.

Only then did Qing Tan feel that she had confirmed Lu Yin's words. The woman was a cautious person, and although Lu Yin had no motive to lie to her, as doing so would be useless, she could never be too careful. After all, she could verify his words with an investigation through the Daosource Sect. Even if he had lied to her, it would not harm her or her position. Ancestor Autumnfrost, Madam Hong, and the Arrow Sect, not to mention Lu Yin, could not possibly know that Qing Tan was actually someone from the Sixth Mainland, so there was no motive for them to lie to her. Still, she worked hard to confirm what Lu Yin had said.

Only once she felt that she had confirmed everything did she submit a secret report to Bluedome Elder in the Outerverse.

Bluedome Elder and the Arrow God of Wilderness were both powerful Emyrean Imprinters, but Bluedome Elder was one of the Daosource Sect's Four Emyreans, while Arrow God of Wilderness was not. Their statuses were not the same, and Bluedome Elder held a much higher status than the Arrow God of Wilderness.

When going through the report that Qing Tan had submitted, Bluedome Elder did not believe the information; how could the Outerverse's weaves be given away to the Great Eastern Alliance so easily? Even if the three organizations had agreed to the matter, no one else would. Bluedome Elder alone could drive the Great Eastern Alliance away with a single word.

However, he still needed to look into this matter. In particular, he stared at some specific words in the report: Progenitor Wushang's hide. Lu Yin actually possessed something from a Progenitor! Anything from a Progenitor could not be underestimated. Madam Hong certainly did not have the qualifications to possess anything that once belonged to a Progenitor.

Elsewhere in the Outerverse, Flying Horse Manor was currently settled in Suna Weave in the western regions of the Outerverse. The Moke Sword Sect had been the original masters of this weave, but after the Sixth Mainland arrived, the sect had moved to the east, leaving Suna Weave for Flying Horse Manor.

The colossal giants had all been tossed onto a planet close to where Flying Horse Manor had settled. It was a barren planet, and the indigenous creatures had no intelligence, only a primal instinct for hunting and killing.

There was a bang as Chen Jian smashed a kilometer long giant python to death with a single punch. The massive snake was then butchered section by section and roasted. To the giant, the kilometer long python was just a small snake.

Ku Wei sat on Chen Jian's shoulder, an expression of despair on his face as he stared upwards; where in the universe were they?

"Master, help!" Ku Wei wailed.

Above the planet, Madam Hong was watching with great interest. These colossal giants were natural born warriors that possessed unlimited potential. Once they were properly trained, Flying Horse Manor's strength would experience a transformation. After all, in the ancient war against the Fifth Mainland, these giants had been very powerful. As she watched and contemplated, Madam Hong's eyes fell onto Ku Wei; how did this person become mixed up with these giants?

Just as she was about to drag Ku Wei away, Madam Hong suddenly received orders to travel to Southside Weave to meet with Bluedome Elder.

She found these orders odd. Bluedome Elder? She was someone from the Progenitor of Combat's Territory while Bluedome Elder was from the Progenitor of Bloodlines' Territory. What did one of the Daosource Sect's four Emphyrean Imprinters want with her? There was no reason for them to ever meet.

Despite the oddness of the orders, she did not dare to refuse a command from Bluedome Elder.

She glanced back down at the colossal giants and decided that she would tame them after her meeting with Bluedome Elder that they were returning to training. Lu Yin would soon learn that she had taken the giants, but regardless of the price he offered to pay, she absolutely could not return all of the giants to him.

One day after confirming that Madam Hong had left Flying Horse Manor, Lu Yin, Liu Ye, and Fei Hua headed towards Flying Horse Manor.

As they traveled, Cang Yi had a clear path before him, as Madam Hong had already prepared everything for him. She was merely waiting for him to arrive at Flying Horse Manor so that he could safely contact Lu Yin.

They stared at the towering mountain with streams before them. Flying Horse Manor had taken over the Moke Sword Sect's former headquarters.

Flying Horse Manor's special production had been horsebeasts, but that had been back in the Sixth Mainland.

When Aeternus had invaded them, the Sixth Mainland had collapsed, and Flying Horse Manor's former territory had been devastated.

When Madam Hong had first laid eyes on the giants, she had been delighted to see such powerful beings, and a big reason behind her enthusiasm was because she wanted the giant to replace their former specialty.

"You're Cang Yi." At the entrance to Flying Horse Manor, an extremely ugly woman stood quietly in front of Lu Yin and the others, and she stared straight at Cang Yi with gloomy eyes.

Cang Yi's hair rose on end at the sight of this woman, but he still quickly stepped forward and bowed. "Yes, this one is Cang Yi, arriving as ordered."

"Madam had to leave temporarily, but do as Madam ordered." The ugly woman then looked over at Lu Yin, Liu Ye, and Fei Hua. Because of their cloakstones, she was unable to determine their strength at all.

However, Lu Yin was clearly able to see the old woman's strength, and she was an Imprinter with a power level of more than 500,000, though it did not reach 600,000.

Aside from Madam Hong, this old woman was the only other Imprinter that belonged to Flying Horse Manor. Before the Sixth Mainland had invaded the Inverse and Cosmic Sea, Flying Horse Manor had had another Imprinter, but that expert had died to the headmaster of Astral-3.

"Who are they?" the ugly woman asked as she stared at the other three people.

Cang Yi respectfully answered, "They are this one's followers from Chaosgod Mountain."

The ugly woman did not say anything more, as she did not care about Lu Yin and the other two at all. As far as she could see, none of them were even Hunters.

"Get in." The woman then led them all inside.

Cang Yi glanced over at Lu Yin, who nodded. He did not know where the giants were being kept, so he wanted to defeat this ugly woman after entering Flying Horse Manor and then force her to reveal where the colossal giants were being held.

Madam Hong would not be gone for very long, so Lu Yin did not want to drag things out. However, he also did not want to create too much chaos. Flying Horse Manor was not close to the Great Eastern Alliance.

After they all entered Flying Horse Manor, the hideous-looking woman casually said, "You can call Lu Yin now and tell him that if he doesn't come, the giants will all die. Also, mention that we already know that he's the one secretly controlling Chaosgod Mountain. If he comes, his safety will be ensured." At the end of her words, the woman's tone grew incredibly serious.

According to the original plan, the woman would be subdued the moment Lu Yin and the others entered Flying Horse Manor, and they would extract the location of the giants from her. However, Lu Yin quickly stopped the two Envoys as soon as he heard the woman's words and glanced over at Cang Yi.

Chapter 1637: Seeing The Sea King Again

Cang Yi carefully asked, "What if Lu Yin still refuses to come?"

The ugly woman sneered, "I heard that he has a good relationship with the Fifth Mainland's Sea King's Dome and that he even nearly became the Sea King's son-in-law. Tell him that the Sea King is here and that if he doesn't come rescue the man, we'll expose the entire affair. The Inniverse will become wary of him, and the Sea King's Dome will also be offended. No one will ever be willing to rely on him ever again in that case."

Lu Yin's eyes grew frosty; Flying Horse Manor clearly knew a great deal about him, and it was information that could not have been gleaned in a short amount of time either. Just what exactly was Madam Hong hoping to accomplish?

"What are the conditions offered to him?" Cang Yi repeated.

The ugly woman suddenly lashed out and seized Cang Yi's neck with a hand. The blue veins on the back of her hand transformed into ferocious little snakes that hissed as they stared at Cang Yi. Fear sprouted in his eyes, and Lu Yin felt revolted as he unconsciously took a step back. It was impossible to know just how many of these miniscule snakes were hidden on this woman's body.

"Is that a question you should be asking? Call Lu Yin and tell him to come to Flying Horse Manor. This is a very important matter," the ugly woman said coldly.

Cang Yi quickly nodded as he stared at the tiny snakes moving closer and closer to him. He was afraid of these hideous and disgusting creatures.

Lu Yin glanced over at Liu Ye, and Liu Ye waved a hand. At the same time, star energy filled Lu Yin's eyes, and Truesight weakened the old woman.

Her heart suddenly skipped a beat as a sense of danger welled up within her heart, but there was no time for her to react before she was trapped within a storm of willow leaves and immobilized.

After being trapped, the ugly woman was struck by a Vacuum Palm. She spat out a mouthful of blood, and some small snakes fell out with the blood, which just made her even more disgusting.

Sister Fei Hua frowned, and stellar energy swept out to eliminate the ugly woman's blood.

The woman stared up at Lu Yin in disbelief, but she was unable to make any sound.

Lu Yin stared back at the woman and reverted to his true appearance.

The ugly woman's pupils shrank and she turned to look at Cang Yi, her eyes full of murder and resentment.

Her gaze startled Cang Yi and he quickly pulled back.

Lu Yin said, "Let her speak."

After he spoke, the ugly woman was again able to speak, and she let out a shriek, "Cang Yi, you dare betray Madam Hong and Flying Horse Manor? Madam Hong will not let you go! You will surely die!"

Lu Yin snapped back, "Doesn't Madam Hong want to talk to me? What does she want to talk about?"

The woman gritted her teeth and turned to stare at Lu Yin. Her expression was ferocious, and a small snake moved about in the air in front of her. The visual was enough to cause nightmares in most people.

Lu Yin had rarely encountered such a disgusting cultivator. "Where are the giants?"

The ugly woman snorted coldly. "No."

Lu Yin frowned and flicked a finger. Wind shot forward where he pointed and pierced the woman's body, leaving heavy injuries and causing her blood to leak into the willow leaves that had her trapped. "Where is the Sea King?"

"No!" the ugly woman growled. She then started threatening Lu Yin, "Lu Yin, this is Flying Horse Manor! As soon as Madam Hong returns, you will never be able to escape."

Lu Yin laughed. "Isn't Madam Hong already trying to guarantee my safety? I am already here, and you can talk to me on her behalf. Let's see if I can accept the conditions she is offering."

"Don't even think about it!" the ugly woman roared. It was clear that Lu Yin had arrived for the giants. With Madam Hong absent, it was likely that the giants would be taken away. At a time like this, stating any conditions would only weaken their position in future negotiations.

"This person is able to cultivate such a vicious battle technique. To be ruthless to others, one must be even more ruthless to themselves. Alliance Leader Lu, interrogating her will be useless. It would be better to investigate this matter for yourself," Liu Ye commented.

Lu Yin frowned and looked at the ugly woman. "You really have nothing at all to say?"

The ugly woman suddenly opened her mouth as an imprint of Madam Hong appeared behind her. The woman spat out a giant python in an attempt to bypass Liu Ye and attack Lu Yin. However, the woman had underestimated Liu Ye, and he sliced the snake in half. The ugly woman was reduced to pus and blood at the large snake's death.

They were struck by a putrid stench, and Sister Fei Hua could not help herself from cleaning up the area while commenting in disgust, "How can such a person exist?"

Lu Yin's expression suddenly changed, and looked outside the room they were in. Someone was coming.

Liu Ye, Fei Hua, and Lu Yin grabbed Cang Yi and fled into the true universe.

Soon after, two people entered the room; a man and a woman. The woman was Hong Ying, Madam Hong's disciple. Lu Yin had fought this woman a couple times, and the most recent had been in ZENITH when she had been badly wounded by the wind from Lu Yin flicking a finger.

Within the true universe, Lu Yin was startled to see the identity of the other person; was that Xun Jiong?

Xun Jiong was a member of the Inniverse's Xun family. When the Xun family had tried to poison Lu Yin after ZENITH, the entire family had been wiped out, with Xun Jiong being the lone survivor. At the time,



he had been determined to find traces of his father in the Higher Realm where the Sixth Mainland had briefly stayed in the Inniverse. Xun Jiong had wanted to find his father's illegitimate child, but Lu Yin had not expected to see him in this place after several years.

"Strange, where are they?" Hong Ying wondered as she glanced around. They were in Flying Horse Manor's main hall, which was where guests were welcomed.

Xun Jiong stood behind Hong Ying. His face was lowered, and there was a begging expression on his face. "Maybe they went somewhere else."

Hong Ying frowned. "That shouldn't be the case. No one leaves so quickly after arriving, as it's been a very short amount of time."

"Are you looking for me?" Lu Yin spoke up and revealed himself, startling Hong Ying. She turned and saw a familiar face, as it belonged to someone she would never forget for her entire life. "Lu Yin?"

As she shouted in exclamation, she reflexively pulled out a spear with a red tassel on it. She instantly stabbed the weapon at Lu Yin as an imprint appeared behind her.

The tip of the spear stopped a meter in front of Lu Yin. With the suppression of his domain, Hong Ying was unable to move at all. She stared at Lu Yin in horror. "Why are you here?"

Lu Yin casually replied, "I've already spared your life several times. Things are over now."

Hong Ying's face grew pale, and she pulled something out of her cosmic ring, but the next moment, Lu Yin's domain contracted sharply, causing Hong Ying to spit out a mouthful of blood. Her muscles had been torn, and her mind had been jolted. She lost all strength, and the spear fell from her hand. The weapon struck the floor with a ringing sound. Hong Ying was already completely dead.

When the Sixth Mainland had invaded the Inniverse, Flying Horse Manor had built up too great of a blood debt. They had destroyed Astral-3, and Hong Ying had slaughtered many people. She had even used Astral-3's students to lure out other Inniverse cultivators who had been desperate to rescue the students.

Finally, the debt had been collected.

Staring at Hong Ying's body on the floor, Xun Jiong shuddered. He looked up at Lu Yin in terror as he slowly dropped to his knees. "Lu- Alliance Leader Lu, I- I-"

Lu Yin calmly looked at Xu Jiong. "Have you found anyone from your Xun family? Your father's bastard?"

Xun Jiong swallowed and shook his head. "No, I didn't find anything."

"Then why are you here in Flying Horse Manor?" Lu Yin asked.

Xun Jiong started to panic. "The Xun family was in touch with the Technocracy for a long time, and Flying Horse Manor was behind them. When the Sixth Mainland invaded the Inniverse, Madam Hong personally reached out to my Xun family, so I came here seeking asylum."

Lu Yin already knew this, as just like Cang Yi, before the Sixth Mainland had invaded, none of the traitors had known that Madam Hong had been behind their connections to the Technocracy. When the Sixth

Mainland had first launched their invasion of the Fifth Mainland, Madam Hong had personally contacted the various traitors. Wen Zhaocheng and everyone else on the list that Lu Yin had discovered had been the same, as none of them had known that Madam Hong had been behind the Technocracy they had been dealing with.

Clearly, it was impossible for just Flying Horse Manor to have managed to gain control of half of the Technocracy's authority, but Madam Hong had another status: she was also one of the Daosource Sect's guardians, and she had far more powerful people backing her.

Lu Yin thought of Bluedome Elder. Qing Tan had been sent to the Neoverse to control an overseer, and she was one of Bluedome Elder's disciples. However, that did not add up to Lu Yin, as Bluedome Elder was from the Progenitor of Bloodlines Territory, while Madam Hong was from the Progenitor of Combat Territory.

However, the connection could still hold up if one ignored the various territories and realms of the Sixth Mainland and looked at the position both people had within the Daosource Sect.

Lu Yin stared at Xun Jiong as the man knelt on the floor and trembled from fear. He was absolutely terrified that Lu Yin would destroy him.

Lu Yin asked, "Where's the Sea King?"

Xun Jiong shuddered. "He's here, on another planet."

"Take me there," Lu Yin commanded.

Xun Jiong did not dare refuse, though he glanced at Hong Ying's body once again.

At the moment, there were no Envoys in Flying Horse Manor, which gave Lu Yin and the others the freedom to come and go as they wished.

Even if there were some defensive measures in place, they meant nothing to Liu Ye and Fei Hua's strength.

Xun Jiong led Lu Yin and the others to a planet close to Flying Horse Manor's headquarters. Lu Yin saw a majestic number of runes, and saw that they came from the colossal giants, which left him pleasantly surprised. He had not expected to discover that the giants and the Sea King had been incarcerated on the same planet.

"Madam Hong likes to collect strong people to be her slaves, and some people are imprisoned on this planet if they aren't obedient," Xun Jiong explained quietly.

Lu Yin asked Liu Ye and Fei Hua to rescue the giants while he made his way to the center of the planet. There, he saw the imprisoned Sea King.

Magma filled the entire area at the planet's core, and there was a thick rock formation overhead. Wind blew through the area to create a whistling sound, and there were also odd insects flying about.

Lu Yin made his way to the center of the planet, and he saw chains that led off into the distant magma.

He released his domain and used it to push back the sea of magma to two sides. He followed along the chains, and soon revealed a miserable figure.

The magma was pushed back further, and at the end of the chains, Lu Yin saw an ugly bald man whose skin was burnt and had festering sores. He was lying on the sea of magma, and it was impossible to know if he was dead or alive.

Lu Yin dropped to the ground and approached the man. He looked at the man calmly. "Are you still alive?"

Suddenly, the man's eyes snapped open and he grabbed hold of Lu Yin. At the same time, Lu Yin raised a hand and met the man's attack. There was a bang, and a shockwave swept out that distorted the void and created spatial cracks that tore through the magma sea. Overhead, the rock formation was struck, which caused the entire planet to tremble.

"Despite not seeing each other for seven years, the Sea King has the same personality as ever," Lu Yin commented while squeezing the Sea King's hand and not giving an inch.

The Sea King was a powerhouse who was comparable to High Sage Leon. At the man's peak, Lu Yin would never have dared face him. However, the man had been weakened greatly, and Lu Yin could see from the Sea King's runes that his strength did not even amount to a power level of 500,000. The man was incapable of hurting Lu Yin.

The Sea King stared at Lu Yin, and finally got a clear look at Lu Yin's face. The older man's hand suddenly went loose and an incredulous expression covered his face. "You?"

A smile crept across Lu Yin's face. "Senior Sea King, it's been a long time."

Over their heads, the rock started to shatter and pieces fell down. The planet's core started to collapse.

The Sea King stared at Lu Yin, but then suddenly remembered something, and his eyes grew dark. "You betrayed the Fifth Mainland?"

Lu Yin shrugged. "I lured Madam Hong elsewhere so that I could save you."

The Sea King's eyes flickered, and he stared at Lu Yin. Madam Hong was a terrifying figure, so how could this mere child possibly do anything to distract her?

Lu Yin casually cut the chains binding the Sea King, causing the older man's eyes to twitch. These chains had imprisoned him, which meant that they could withstand an Envoy's attacks, and yet this kid had just sliced through them?

"What's with your strength?" The Sea King was quite startled by what he had seen.

Chapter 1638: Contradiction

Lu Yin helped the Sea King to his feet. "Let's get out of here, unless you want to say something. Madam Hong will return soon."

Lu Yin then stepped into the true universe, taking the Sea King with him as they immediately left the planet.

Sea King was incredulous; not that how much time had passed, so how was this child already able to enter the true universe? How was this possible?

In outer space, above the planet, Liu Ye and Fei Hua had already retrieved all of the giants. "We can go."

Any activity on this particular planet would be reported to Flying Horse Manor almost instantly.

"Alliance Leader Lu, what should I do?" Xun Jiong quickly asked.

At the same time, Cang Yi also spoke up. "Alliance Leader Lu, please take me with you!"

Lu Yin glanced at Liu Ye and Fei Hua. Liu Ye grabbed Xun Jiong and Cang Yi, tore the true universe open, and sent the two back to Flying Horse Manor. Upon leaving the true universe, Cang Yi was only a corpse while Xun Jiong had received Lu Yin's communication information.

The giants had been rescued, but Madam Hong could never be allowed to learn of the truth of the matter. After all, the woman was a powerful expert with a power level of more than 900,000. Lu Yin had no desire to have such a powerhouse targeting him.

Cang Yi had to die, and anyone else who knew about the matter had to be dealt with as well, though Xun Jiong could not die quite just yet. What's more, with Hong Ying dead, no one would have any idea that Xun Jiong had been involved in the incident. Lu Yin wanted to keep the young man alive as his personal eye in Flying Horse Manor.

Glancing back at the planet, star energy gathered in Lu Yin's hand and then took the form of a sword. It looked like a very ordinary sword formed from star energy.

The Sea King, Liu Ye, Fei Hua, Ku Wei, and all the giants stared at Lu Yin in confusion, not knowing what he intended to do.

Lu Yin's eyes went wide as he lifted the sword and swung it down. They didn't see anything happen, but a sword slash appeared on the distant planet that they had just left.

The Sea King's expression completely changed, and he blurted out, "The Thirteen Swords?"

Ku Wei was startled. Thir- Thirteen Swords? How? Isn't that technique exclusive to the Sword Sect? I thought that only Liu Tianmu and Liu Shaoqiu had mastered that technique in our generation. How did Master learn that?

"Let's go," Lu Yin said. With that, Liu Ye and Fei Hua led the way towards the Inniverse, though they took a detour towards the Great Yu Empire.

The Sea King was still in a daze after seeing Lu Yin use the Thirteen Swords, though he was even more taken aback at Liu Ye and Fei Hua. Even though the Sea King had been seriously injured, his senses and perception were still fully intact, and he could tell that neither of these two was much weaker than him. And yet, they were clearly following Lu Yin's orders. Just what had happened? This kid had even learned the Thirteen Swords!

"Master, Master! Little Wei thought that he would never be able to see you again, Master!" Ku Wei quickly started to wail, and he went rather overboard this time, as he had truly believed that his life had been over.

Lu Yin was curious about Chen Huang's situation, as the tribe's leader had actually become an Envoy while his strength had completely transformed. This meant that the Great Eastern Alliance had gained another Envoy.

"Hey, you little rascal, what about Qiqi and the others?" the Sea King soon asked. He looked rather embarrassed, but there was no way that he could change his domineering personality.

Lu Yin replied, "Don't worry, Senior, all of them are doing very well. The people from the Sea King's Dome are all in the Outerverse."

The Sea King frowned. "The Outerverse was given to the Sixth Mainland."

"It looks like Senior is up to date with current affairs."

The Sea King solemnly replied, "Madam Hong came to visit me every once in a while, trying to force me to submit to her. When she did, she usually shared a bit of information with me."

"Did she say anything about this junior?" Lu Yin felt curious.

The Sea King shook his head. "She just told me that the Hall of Honor agreed to give the Outerverse over to the Sixth Mainland, and there was also something about their three Progenitors arriving."

Lu Yin sneered. "She was trying to deceive you. The Sixth Mainland has already been completely destroyed, and too many of their powerhouses were killed. Of their three Progenitors, only the Progenitor of Combat came to the Fifth Mainland, but only for a moment. He wasn't able to enter the Fifth Mainland and demonstrate his power. And..."

The Sea King had already learned of a few details, but he was ignorant of almost everything that Lu Yin shared. It was impossible for Madam Hong to mention anything that would show the Sixth Mainland in a bad light to the Sea King, so after hearing everything from Lu Yin, the Sea King was left in a bit of a daze from the conflicting information.

"So you're saying that the Sixth Mainland is gone?" the Sea King could not believe this. "And the Starfall Sea as well? It was all part of Progenitor Hui's master plan?"

Liu Ye and Fei Hua were also shocked, as this was their first time hearing the full story.

Lu Yin sighed emotionally. "Progenitor Hui's plan took eons to be carried out, and it managed to trick everyone, even those monsters. When the Sixth Mainland attacked the Fifth Mainland and destroyed the Fifth Mainland's Daosource Sect, Progenitor Hui plotted all of this as revenge."

"Hmph! The Sixth Mainland were not the ones who destroyed the Daosource Sect back then," the Sea King suddenly shouted in clear anger. "Those idiots from the Sixth Mainland were tricked, but they were just pawns. If not for them, with my Fifth Mainland's Nine Mountains and Eight Seas, how could we have been so easily defeated? Not to mention having our sky changed!"

Lu Yin grew curious. "Does Senior know the details about what happened back then?"

The Sea King let out a long breath. "I know a small bit. It's said that a traitor from a certain family in my Fifth Mainland deliberately incited war with the Sixth Mainland and that the Sixth Mainland was

similarly deceived, causing them to become those monsters' unwitting blade. This eventually led my Fifth Mainland to suffer terribly, have our sky changed, and have no Progenitor rise here ever since."

"What about the place beyond the Upper Three Doors?" Lu Yin suddenly asked.

The Sea King was startled. "You know about that?"

He stared intently at Lu Yin. "The place beyond the Upper Three Gates also belongs to a bunch of traitors, but those people did not attack my Fifth Mainland. Instead, they abandoned the Fifth Mainland. The people there are those who have spurned my Fifth Mainland, and the primeval surnames also come from there."

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. He had already known that bearers of primeval surnames were considered public enemies within the Fifth Mainland, but they had a different status from the Neohuman Alliance. There were some people who hated those with primeval surnames and wanted to kill them, but there were also others who did not care and considered everything to be fine so long as the names were legal and registered.

The bearers of primeval surnames were not really public enemies, but more like universally despised people.

Because the ancestors of the people with primeval surnames had abandoned the Fifth Mainland, the Fifth Mainland had undergone great changes and lost all of its Progenitors. However, was that really the truth of the matter?

The Fifth Mainland had not had any Progenitors emerge in many years, and it was impossible for them to stop Aeternus. The only reason why Aeternus had not destroyed the Fifth Mainland yet was because it was protected by the Stellar Tempest which blocked their path. The other reason was the existence of the Perennial World, which also blocked Aeternus. The Fifth Mainland had not suffered any invasion from Aeternus away from the Upper Three Gates.

This was what had allowed the Fifth Mainland to exist as a sheltered greenhouse for so many years.

As for the actual truth of the matter, only those who had witnessed history would ever know it. The primeval surnames had abandoned the Fifth Mainland, but they were also protecting the Fifth Mainland. However, the Perennial World considered the Fifth Mainland to be an abandoned wasteland, and they looked down on it. They protected the place, but they also looked down on it. This was a very contradictory situation and viewpoint.

"Senior used something from a Progenitor and pyrolyte to force open the Upper Three Gates. You wanted to use the place past the gates to change the Fifth Mainland's sky back to its original sky. Did you think that doing so would trigger a war with the Sixth Mainland? Does Senior believe that it was worth it?" Lu Yin asked a question that many people wanted to know the answer to.

The Sea King's expression grew complicated. "Was it worth it? That's a matter for future generations to determine. Many people hate me because I started the war which killed their loved ones. I don't care how people may curse me—I just hope that, for now, the Fifth Mainland's sky is no longer hidden by the Sixth Mainland's."

Lu Yin smiled. He also did not care about what others might think about the Sea King. After all, Lu Yin was currently taking similar actions to the Sea King's, as Lu Yin was working to trigger a war among humanity that would benefit Aeternus. Still, why should Lu Yin willingly sacrifice himself for the so-called greater good? He was not such a selfless person. The Lu family had to return, and he also had to dominate the universe. The more the four ruling powers wanted to stop the Lu family from returning, the more Lu Yin wanted his family back.

Basically, Lu Yin felt that he was the same kind of person as the Sea King, and it was a wonderful thing to fight for what one wanted in life.

Neither Liu Ye nor Fei Hua had any thoughts about the conflict between the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands, but they were truly amazed by Progenitor Hui's plan. He had plotted a scheme spanning eons, and he had even used the passage of time to deceive everyone. In the end, his plan had actually succeeded, which was truly unimaginable to the two of them. This was the power of a Progenitor.

Shortly after Lu Yin and the others left, Hong Ying's body was discovered, followed by the destruction of the planet that had been the Sea King and the colossal giants' prison. These discoveries sent the entire Flying Horse Manor spiraling into chaos.

Xun Jiong watched the figure dash about through the sky and at the chaos that filled Flying Horse Manor. Madam, come back soon!

He wondered just how Lu Yin had managed to time his visit right when Madam Hong had been absent; was it just a coincidence?

He looked down at his gadget, thinking that he should call Lu Yin before Madam Hong returned. Otherwise, it would be very difficult for Xun Jiong to contact Lu Yin once the powerful woman returned.

A group of people traveled through outer space, making their way towards Chaos Flowzone. They had already used the Ark to cross the Astral River.

Liu Ye and Fei Hua had been traveling at top speed due to their fear of being caught by Madam Hong. Even they were fearful of an expert with a power level of over 900,000. Such a person was a top powerhouse even in the Perennial World.

When his gadget beeped with the alert of a call request, Lu Yin answered it.

"Alliance Leader Lu, this is Xun Jiong."

Lu Yin replied, "Flying Horse Manor must already be a mess."

"Yes. Madam Hong will return soon."

"She won't be there that soon," Lu Yin commented.

Xun Jiong was startled; what did that mean? Could Madam Hong's absence have had something to do with Lu Yin? This thought sent chills running down Xun Jiong's back, as this indicated that Lu Yin's influence was beyond powerful. Was he actually able to affect even the Sixth Mainland? How?

No matter how hard Xun Jiong tried to refute this suspicion, when he thought of what Lu Yin had just accomplished, every action that Lu Yin had made truly seemed like it had been dependent on being sure that Madam Hong would not immediately return, as no one would willingly risk their life so casually.

"You were also quite lucky to be able to enter Flying Horse Manor, but don't forget who gave you this opportunity," Lu Yin stated.

Xun Jiong's heart fell. "Alliance Leader Lu was the one who allowed me to die so that I would have a chance to survive."

"It's good to hear that you know. You did well just now, taking me to see the giants and the Sea King and getting me into Flying Horse Manor."

"Alliance Leader Lu, Cang Yi was the one who led you into the manor."

"That was you. Cang Yi's dead."

Xun Jiong's face turned pale, and he helplessly replied, "I see. Might I ask what Alliance Leader Lu would order this one to do?"

"Tell me everything you know about Flying Horse Manor and the Sixth Mainland. It would also be best if you can find out what Madam Hong wants to discuss with me. She seems to want to negotiate something with me," Lu Yin said.

Xun Jiong bitterly explained, "Alliance Leader Lu, it's impossible for me to speak with Madam Hong. While in Flying Horse Manor, I have only been following Hong Ying. I have never once had any contact with Madam Hong at all."

Lu Yin believed that Xun Jiong was just a minor character, and Madam Hong would view such a person as an ant. If not for the fact that the Xun family had been traitors and that Xun Jiong's name had been on the list, there was no way Xun Jiong would have ever been allowed within Flying Horse Manor. He did not qualify to pass through the gates of that place.

"Stay focused on Flying Horse Manor. I need useful information. As long as you're able to provide it, I'll help you change your identity and give you a place to live in the Inniverse. If you can't, then you'll meet Cang Yi's fate," Lu Yin threatened.

Xun Jiong's heart trembled. "I understand."

Chapter 1639: Frankness

Lu Yin ended the call. He actually had no expectations for Xun Jiong and did not expect to gain any useful information at all, but it was still better to leave a hidden spy within Flying Horse Manor than to have nothing at all.

Elder Hu was the hidden tool that Wei Rong had hidden within Chaosgod Mountain. While these tools often seemed inconspicuous, there were also times where they played extremely important roles.

Flying Horse Manor was currently a mess, and no one could reach Madam Hong.



At this moment, Madam Hong was being questioned by Bluedome Elder. The woman's face was completely blank, as she had no idea what Progenitor Wushang's hide even was.

Elsewhere, the overseers' council concluded a meeting, and they refused to stop the war in Blazing Mist Flowzone.

Non-interference with internal powers was a basic tenet of the Hall of Honor. Qing Tan had controlled old man San Shang to have him agree to the proposal, but it had failed to be passed due to the small number of votes in support.

San Liang had actually voted against the proposal, as Lu Yin did not actually have any intention of ending the war in Blazing Mist Flowzone war. Once that war ended, Wang Wen would have to come up with other plans to distract the Inniverse.

Once the overseers' meeting concluded, Qing Tan received a call from Bluedome Elder. He was unable to discover any issue with Madam Hong or her answers, and it was also impossible for him to thoroughly interrogate her given her status. Thus, Bluedome Elder could only slowly investigate this matter.

However, if people really were agreeing to allow the Great Eastern Alliance to retain five weaves, it meant that there was already a problem within the Sixth Mainland.

Qing Tan was very confident that Lu Yin would not lie to her, mostly because he had no reason to do so and he would gain nothing from doing so. Bluedome Elder naturally believed her report along with the claim that the Autumnfrost family and the others had reached an agreement with Lu Yin. However, actual confirmation required hard evidence.

The proof would be whether or not the Great Eastern Alliance managed to retain five weaves. Once that happened, Bluedome Elder would immediately have cause to take action. What he wanted the most was Progenitor Wusheng's hide.

On Mt. Microcosms, Qing Tan felt quite exhausted. Old Man San Shang stared off into the distance with dull eyes. His face betrayed the many years he had lived, and his eyes were blank.

Qing Tan glanced over at the old man, and then no longer cared about him.

Soon after, she received a visitor: San Liang. He was the new overseer who had replaced Cong Ying.

Qing Tan was quite wary of San Liang. Even though he did not have any background or support, he had still been approved by Overseer Si Hong. It was very strange for such a person to have slowly climbed up to his current position one step at a time.

San Liang had stopped by to visit Old Man San Shang. In the outside world, there was almost no one who knew that the overseer was being controlled by Qing Tan.

Qing Tan stood behind San Shang as the two greeted San Liang.

"Overseer San Liang, do you have any business with this old man?" old man San Shang asked politely.

San Liang smiled. "I've wanted to visit Senior for a long time but have never had the opportunity. During our recent meeting, this junior felt that Senior seemed to be in poor health, so I stopped over to check on you."

The old man San Shang smiled back. "You're too kind. I'm old, so many a times the heart is willing but the body is not."

San Liang then asked, "Senior has been made an overseer three times and thus should be very clear on the Hall of Honor's position of non-interference in the disputes of the other various powers. Could I ask, why did you suddenly propose for us to interfere in Blazing Mist Flowzone's war?"

The old man glanced over at Qing Tan. Her eyes flashed. "Overseer San Liang, this matter is rather complicated, and my father-in-law is not in good health. Might I take my father away to rest?"

San Liang apologized, "This junior was abrupt, so Senior, please rest."

"Qing Tan, help me see Overseer San Liang out," the old man said.

Qing Tan agreed and smiled at San Liang. "Overseer, please."

San Liang nodded and followed Qing Tan as she led him out. Once the two were out of sight of San Shang, San Liang suddenly stopped and turned to look at Qing Tan. "By the way, I have a question, though I don't know if Miss Qing Tan will know the answer."

Qing Tan felt curious. "What can this little girl know? If the overseer has any questions, he can bring them to my father in a few days."

"Senior doesn't know about this issue, but Miss Qing Tan definitely does. After all, you know Bluedome Elder, don't you?" San Liang asked as he suddenly lashed out and grabbed Qing Tan by the neck as horror filled her eyes.

San Liang had first worked as one of Mt. Microcosms' guards, which meant that his power level exceeded 400,000. Even though Qing Tan was Bluedome Elder's disciple, she was still a bit weaker than one of the Realmings, let alone someone like San Liang. When he moved against her without warning, she did not even have a chance to react.

San Liang held Qing Tan's neck in a vice-like grip as he grinned at her. "The alliance leader sends his greetings to Miss Qing Tan."

Qing Tan's pupils instantly shrank to pinpricks. Too many people had that title, but only one of them qualified for an overseer like San Liang to use it.

Lu Yin knew that she was from the Sixth Mainland! Not only that, but he also knew that she was Bluedome Elder's disciple; he knew everything!

Qing Tan instantly understood that everything that Lu Yin had told her during their last call had been a lie. He had simply wanted to send Bluedome Elder a message and had decided to use her as the messenger. However, to what end?

Had it all been to verify her identity? Qing Tan instantly regretted her actions. Lu Yin had to have a mole within the Sixth Mainland feeding him information. He had definitely known that Madam Hong had been summoned for questioning, and he had used that to confirm Qing Tan's identity. This had to be the situation.

"Whe- when?" Qing Tan's face grew red as she struggled to speak. San Liang had a very tight grip on her, which made it difficult for her to breathe.

San Liang opened his gadget and called Lu Yin. It was not long before they heard Lu Yin's voice. "Done?"

"Alliance Leader, Miss Qing Tan is with me." San Liang was very respectful towards Lu Yin as he handed his gadget over to Qing Tan and set her down.

Qing Tan gasped for air as she stared at the gadget.

"Miss Qing Tan, why don't you properly introduce yourself?" Lu Yin casually asked. He sounded both overbearing and absolutely confident.

Qing Tan rubbed her neck. "I don't know what Alliance Leader Lu is talking about."

"Since Miss Qing Tan is able to keep Old Man San Shang under control and almost wiped out his family, I fully believe that you are able to keep yourself safe on Mt. Microcosms. However, can Miss Qing Tan leave? Are you able to escape with your life when the Interstellar Supreme Court chases you to the Outerverse?" Lu Yin continued.

Qing Tan sneered. "Alliance Leader Lu, you are too brazen! San Liang clearly is someone who answers to you, which means that you already have a voice representing you among the overseers. And now, you're trying to manipulate things into making my father become your puppet! Stop dreaming! Even if I die, I will still not allow my father to become your puppet!"

"It looks like Miss Qing Tan is convinced that I don't have any proof." Lu Yin fiddled with something on his own gadget, and San Liang raised his own as a video appeared; it showed San Shang's grandson.

Qing Tan paled the moment she saw the little boy.

"Even if you aren't from the Sixth Mainland, secret controlling an overseer is already a crime deserving of capital punishment. Besides, I also have proof that Miss Qing Tan is Bluedome Elder's disciple. Tell me, Miss Qing Tan, do you think the Interstellar Supreme Court will give you the death sentence?" Lu Yin said.

Qing Tan's expression instantly changed. She had never expected Lu Yin to find that little boy. In fact, she had been looking for him herself but had never found any trace of him.

"What is it that Alliance Leader Lu wants?" Qing Tan asked quietly.

Lu Yin spoke slowly, "First of all, I want to know if Miss Qing Tan fears death. San Liang, get in touch with the Interstellar Supreme Court and request for a trial."

"Yes, Alliance Leader Lu." San Liang instantly agreed, and he immediately placed a call to the Interstellar Supreme Court as Qing Tan watched.

Her expression changed even more as she stared at San Liang's actions. She watched carefully, and he was indeed calling the Interstellar Supreme Court, not merely putting on an act. Qing Tan knew that it

was real, not a fake, because she saw that San Liang was calling Da Qiu. He was an Envoy who belonged to the Interstellar Supreme Court, and he was slated to become the fourth Judicial Commissioner.

"Old Man San Shang-"

San Liang had only just started speaking when Qing Tan interrupted him by shouting, "What do you want?"

San Liang stopped and calmly looked over at Qing Tan.

A voice came from the other end of the call, asking, "Overseer San Liang, what were you trying to say?"

Qing Tan stared at San Liang, powerful fear welling up from the depths of her eyes.

San Liang saw her fear and also clearly sensed it in her words and microexpressions. "It's nothing. I was just chatting with Old Man San Shang and Alliance Leader Lu, and the alliance leader mentioned Your Excellency to us. Old Man San Shang became quite curious about you, so I decided to call you."

Da Qiu politely replied, "So it turns out that Overseer San Liang and Alliance Leader Lu knew each other. The alliance leader is the entire reason why I was able to become an Envoy and pass my tribulation. Please send him my regards, and I will soon personally make a visit to Old Man San Shang."

"Understood." San Liang then ended the call and turned to look at Qing Tan.

"It looks like Miss Qing Tan is not yet ready to leave this world, which makes it easier to have a conversation and discuss things." Lu Yin's voice was heard once more. "I would like Miss Qing Tan to reach out to Madam Hong and comment on how you coincidentally heard Overseer Liu Ran of the Sword Sect during a call and how he managed to take the Sea King and the colossal giants away while Madam Hong was absent and that he did so because the Sea King possesses something the Sword Sect wants."

Illumination suddenly struck Qing Tan's mind. "You deliberately told me about an agreement you reached with Madam Hong, Ancestor Autumnfrost, and the Arrow Sect just to get Madam Hong away from Flying Horse Manor so that you could go in and take the Sea King and the giants?"

"It looks like this girl's pretty smart, though you got one thing wrong: the Sword Sect rescued the Sea King and the giants, not Lu Yin," Lu Yin repeated.

Qing Tan ground her teeth. She had been tricked! Completely and totally deceived! Lu Yin had long since known that she was Bluedome Elder's disciple, and that was how he had revealed his agreement with Madam Hong. This was all to force Madam Hong into revealing an opening so that Lu Yin could snatch the colossal giants and the Sea King. This was why he had deceived Qing Tan, and that was the story behind this matter.

"When did you learn about my identity?" Qing Tan asked.

"I'm going to need to have Miss Qing Tan contact Madam Hong to tell her what I just mentioned." Lu Yin ignored her question and repeated his orders.

Qing Tan wanted to refuse, but there was no choice; she wanted to live. The entire reason why she was on Mt. Microcosms was because she was one of Bluedome Elder's disciples who had never been seen by

anyone from the Fifth Mainland. In fact, there were very few people, even in the Sixth Mainland, who even knew of her existence. This was supposed to keep her true identity hidden, but after being exposed, the only way for her to survive would be to listen to Lu Yin.

This was also why Lu Yin had tested her. If she proved to be someone who did not fear death, then there was no chance that Lu Yin would dare to risk letting her speak with Madam Hong.

In the Outerverse, Madam Hong's eyes were cold as she flew through outer space on her way back to Flying Horse Manor. She had just received word that Hong Ying had died and that her manor's Imprinter, the hideous woman, had gone missing. Also, the giants and the Sea King had disappeared. Clearly, someone had attacked her Flying Horse Manor while she had been gone.

Upon her return to Flying Horse Manor, everyone present trembled, and not a single person dared to meet Madam Hong's eyes.

Hong Ying's corpse was still lying flat on the floor. It was clear that she had been killed from the overwhelming pressure of someone's domain.

Madam Hong then went to see the planet where the Sea King and the giants had been imprisoned. On the surface of the planet, she discovered traces of the Sword Sect's Thirteen Swords.

Her gadget let out a gentle beep. People from the Sixth Mainland had gradually started using gadgets, as the little devices were just too convenient.

"Madam Hong, I am Qing Tan."

Madam Hong frowned. "You shouldn't have called me."

Chapter 1640: Reunion

"I just received some information that concerns you, Madam Hong. I wanted to share it with you and see if it might be of help." Qing Tan's voice was perfectly calm.

Madam Hong's eyes flashed. "Go on."

"One of the Hall of Honor's nine overseers is from the Sword Sect. His name is Liu Ran, and just now, I overheard him speaking to someone in the Sword Sect. They sent someone to Flying Horse Manor to take away the Sea King and some giants," Qing Tan reported.

Madam Hong's eyes went wide and then grew extremely cold. She glanced over at the scars on the planet that had been left by a sword. "You said the Sword Sect, correct?"

"That's right."

"Why?" Madam Hong was far from stupid, and it was impossible for her to simply believe Qing Tan's words without question. Madam Hong had a clear grasp on the Fifth Mainland's current political situation, and there was no motive for the Sword Sect to rescue either the Sea King or the colossal giants.

Qing Tan solemnly replied, "That's one of the reasons why I reached out to you, Madam Hong. According to the conversation that I overheard, it was said that the Sword Sect wants something from

the Sea King. Something that's supposed to be related to him opening the Upper Three Gates back then."

Madam Hong frowned. It was true, the Sea King was indeed the person who had broken the Upper Three Gates open, which had caused the Fifth Mainland's sky to change and was also the impetus for the Sixth Mainland to invade the Fifth Mainland.

"The Sea King knows many things, and there are also certain things that only he possesses. The Sword Sect has been keeping an eye on Flying Horse Manor for a long time, and when Madam Hong moved out, they immediately made their move and grabbed the Sea King."

"What about the giants?"

"I don't know anything about that. I'm guessing that they were taken away at the same time out of convenience. Madam Hong, I called you because I want to know what the Sea King possesses that is so important. You've held him captive for so long that you must have some idea."

Madam Hong shrugged. "The Sea King is a resilient man. He was willing to risk the Fifth Mainland's complete destruction in order to open the Upper Three Gates, and his courage is beyond belief. How could I have broken him? However, I never expected the Sword Sect to have been keeping an eye on my Flying Horse Manor."

She had initially believed that Lu Yin had attacked her Flying Horse Manor, but it looked like that was not necessarily the case. After all, Qing Tan had no reason to lie to Madam Hong.

"Since Madam Hong doesn't know about this, then I won't keep asking. However, I do feel the need to remind Madam Hong that the Sword Sect is a power that controls one of the Fifth Mainland's eight great flowzones. Even if Madam Hong wishes to get revenge, it will be necessary to use a more subtle approach. I hope that no conflicts with the Fifth Mainland erupt at this time, as Master wishes to take things slowly," Qing Tan specifically reminded Madam Hong.

Madam Hong ended the call and let out a disdainful snort as she stared in the direction of the Inniverse. "The Sword Sect? They're courting death."

The Sword Sect might be a monster to many others, but Madam Hong was unconcerned. Her strength surpassed the level of the Inniverse. From what she knew of the Sword Sect, no one there was her opponent.

She would not let this matter go without a fight. Those thieves had dared to kill Hong Ying and had even stolen from Flying Horse Manor! She would force them to pay the price.

In the Neoverse, atop Mt. Microcosms, Qing Tan lowered her gadget, feeling completely helpless. She had just lied to Madam Hong, which meant that she had basically betrayed the Sixth Mainland itself. Even though she had been forced to do so, she was already convinced that she would be forced to repeat such actions many more times in the future.

"Miss Qing Tan, that was well done. Thank you," Lu Yin said with clear relief. He had no desire to have Madam Hong already chasing after him, which was why he had come up with a plan to frame everything onto the Sword Sect. After all, the Sword Sect was becoming increasingly influential in recent days.

"Alliance Leader Lu, if you hope to keep forcing me to do your bidding, I'd rather die," Qing Tan solemnly declared.

Lu Yin smiled. "Of course not. Just do a few more tasks for me, and then Miss Qing Tan will be allowed to leave."

Qing Tan sneered. "If I leave, how will Alliance Leader Lu maintain control of Old Man San Shang? Or are you planning to give him his freedom as well?"

"Naturally, there's no need for Miss Qing Tan to worry about such things." Lu Yin simply hung up on the woman.

Lu Yin and his party had already arrived at Chaos Flowzone, but they continued on traveling east without stopping.

As they traveled, the Sea King used his gadget to get caught up on the recent events of the Fifth Mainland. Most surprising was the news concerning Lu Yin.

The youth had united the Outerverse, laid waste to Daynight Flowzone, become the champion of ZENITH, destroyed the Blaze Realm, and done much more. One after another, each of the events that he learned about shocked the Sea King. How long had he been held captive? It had only been a few years, so why had so much happened? Also, just how had Lu Yin pulled off all of these accomplishments?

The more the Sea King learned, the more amazed he was. The information regarding Lu Yin was simply too incredible.

Anyone who learned of Lu Yin's legendary experiences would find them unbelievable.

Despite his shock, the Sea King did not speak to Lu Yin. Instead, he remained silent and merely waited for when he would be reunited with his people from the Sea King's Dome.

As they passed through Giant Consortium's territory, Lu Yin did not drop off the colossal giants. They were going to become a part of the Great Eastern Alliance anyways, so they needed to be relocated.

Chen Huang had no opinion on the matter. After he had absorbed Ku Wei's blood to increase his strength, he had indeed become an Envoy, but just like all of the other colossal giants, the tribe leader's attitude towards Ku Wei had undergone a fundamental change.

Ku Wei was very proud. After all, he now controlled an Envoy, and certainly not an ordinary Envoy at that.

Several days later, due to the help of Liu Ye and Fei Hua's strength speeding up their travels, the group finally boarded the Astral River Ark and made their way to the Outerverse. They were already very close to the Great Yu Empire.

"You control this Astral River Ark, correct?" the Sea King asked as he stared at the Astral River flowing by with a complicated expression.

Lu Yin stood rather close to the Sea King, and answered, "Just a bit."

The Sea King laughed. "You've become the lord of the Outerverse, and you even managed to take down Daynight Flowzone. I learned that there was also a recent war that completely changed the balance of the Cosmic Sea. Things have changed too much, and you no longer need any of my help at all."

Lu Yin looked over at the Sea King. "I would like to cooperate with the Sea King."

The Sea King shook his head and sighed, "There is no Sea King anymore."

During his years in captivity, despite his determination to die rather than give in, the Sea King's mentality had changed.

"What about Highsage Leon?" the Sea King asked.

"He's not doing bad. Just becoming more and more oppressive."

"Really?" The Sea King recalled his fight with Highsage Leon in the Starfall Sea. It had only happened a few years before, and yet it felt as though a long, long time had already passed.

The Sea King had not expected to return to his people so suddenly.

When the various elders and people saw the Sea King, they could not believe their eyes.

Hai Qiqi remained frozen in place.

The Sea King let out a long breath. "I'm back."

The very next moment, Hai Qiqi's eyes had become bloodshot, and she leaped into the Sea King's arms. "Dad!"

Everyone from the Sea King's Dome bowed low. "We welcome the return of the Sea King."

"We welcome the return of the Sea King."

...

During this unique and heartfelt reunion, Lu Yin left the people from the Sea King's Dome alone and did not show himself.

Ku Wei remained atop Chen Huang's shoulder and pouted as he thought of the Ku family. After a while, he shook his head. He had no family there anymore.

Lu Yin watched the Sea King reunite with his loved ones, and Lu Yin was hit by a barrage of complicated emotions; if the Lu family was one day able to return, would he see this same scene?

He longed to reunite with his real family and to see them again.

A full hour passed before Hai Qiqi released the Sea King, though tears still streamed down her face.

Hai Dashao stood where he was, though a previously unseen relaxation could be seen on his face.



The people of the Sea King's Dome had always believed that the Sea King was alive, and they had also wanted to find him. However, they had been helpless to do anything. If the Sea King never returned, the Sea King's Dome would never feel complete.

As he looked out at the emotional expressions on the faces of Hai Qiqi and various others, the Sea King smiled. "It's alright. I'm back."

"Dad, don't ever leave Qiqi again, okay?" Hai Qiqi cried.

The Sea King's expression grew soft as he wiped away Hai Qiqi's tears. "I understand. Dad won't leave."

...

Despite the time that the reunion took up and more for everyone to calm down, it was not actually very long. However, after seeing Hai Qiqi, the Sea King started to feel a great deal of guilt towards his daughter.

Hai Qiqi was not like Hai Dashao. She had not built up a lot of life experience and had not been mentally and emotionally prepared for the pain of losing her father. She had been overprotected.

After seeing Hai Qiqi's painful and also excited face, the Sea King comforted her yet again before saying something to Elder Tong and a few others. After that, he went and found Lu Yin.

"You were the one who lifted the Sea King's trident," the Sea King said as soon as he saw Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was taken aback, as he had not expected the older man to bring up that old matter back at the Sea King's Dome. It felt like something that had taken place ages ago. "Do you remember?"

The Sea King looked at Lu Yin with a serious expression. "Can you answer me honestly? Do you have any desire to marry Qiqi?"

Lu Yin pursed his lips. "Senior, I told you back then that I did not want to pull out the Sea King's trident."

The Sea King frowned. It was true, Lu Yin genuinely had not wanted to pull out the Sea King's trident at the time, but when that had happened, the Sea King had not cared about Lu Yin's opinion at all; he had simply forced the youth to become his son-in-law. Lu Yin had not been able to escape at that time, and no one had been able to stop the Sea King either. However, at present, the Sea King could not act like before. Even if he ignored everything else behind Lu Yin, just Liu Ye and Fei Hua's presence was not something that the Sea King could handle.

That was not even considering the other untouchable powerhouses that also backed Lu Yin.

"It seems that you really don't want to marry Qiqi. If that's the case, then everything from the past can be considered to be erased. I, the Sea King, helped you, and you also saved Qiqi and I. There is no debt at all between you and I, the Sea King," the Sea King solemnly stated. "As for Qiqi, I will find someone suitable for her."

Lu Yin nodded. "I'm sorry, Senior. I do care for Qiqi, but not in that manner. I see her as a sister or as a friend."

The Sea King gazed into the distance. "The universe is changing too fast if even I, the Sea King, need the power of your Great Eastern Alliance in order to survive. If there is anything that you need us to do in the future, let me know, though I may not be able to help."

Without the Starfall Sea, the Sea King and the others had no home to return to. They could not return to the Starfall Sea and while the Sea King's strength was enough for him to conquer an entire flowzone, even one of the eight great flowzones, like the Great Eastern Alliance, the Sea King was seen as an outsider. Making a move against any of the flowzones could make the Sea King or the Great Eastern Alliance an enemy of the entire Innerverse.

The Sea King was also exhausted. The moment he laid eyes on Hai Qiqi, he had realized that he could not abandon her again. He wanted to quietly spend time with Hai Qiqi and the rest of his family.

Lu Yin was able to see the exhaustion in the Sea King's eyes. There were many people who were not afraid of death, but after experiencing a life and death scenario, their mentality would change. The present Sea King was not the same as the Sea King of the past, but more of a father. He was a patriarch who wanted to protect his family.

"I hope that the Sea King can remain missing and that no one will be able to find him," Lu Yin commented.

The Sea King froze for a moment, but then he nodded. "Yes, I will cooperate with you. I haven't returned."

"Thank you." Lu Yin felt truly grateful.

The Sea King was also very grateful towards Lu Yin.

Hai Qiqi went and made a point of finding Lu Yin to say a few words of thanks of her own. It was a rare conversation with Hai Qiqi when Lu Yin did not have to deal with her vicious tongue, and it left him somewhat flabbergasted.

Everyone from the Sea King's Dome left with the Sea King while Liu Ye, Fei Hua, Lu Yin, and the giants continued on to Zenyu Star.

Shortly after Lu Yin arrived, a report spread through the Outerverse and into the Innerverse.

The Sea King was in the hands of the Sword Sect.