

ODYSSEY 1681

Chapter 1681: Flourish

"Imprison Emperor Luo?" Ling Qiu was flabbergasted. She was currently on a call with Liu Qianjue, Mountain God, and Wen Zizai.

"That's right. Lu Yin's headed towards Gaia's Swamp with Liu Ye and Fei Hua to imprison Emperor Luo," Mountain God said.

Ling Qiu asked, "Didn't Emperor Luo surrender?"

Liu Qianjue replied, "Lu Yin doesn't trust Emperor Luo since the Ross Empire declared war on the Great Yu Empire when he was studying in the Astral Combat Academy. That war caused great damage to the Great Yu Empire, and when the Great Eastern Alliance attacked Daynight Flowzone and the Blaze Realm, the Ross Empire also actively tried to stop their efforts."

"Then why didn't he just kill Emperor Luo?" Ling Qiu asked.

Wen Zizai said, "Lu Yin is different from other people. He doesn't care solely about his own hatred, but also about the bigger picture. An Envoy could be very useful, so the best choice is to imprison Emperor Luo in Gaia's Swamp. It's also possible that Emperor Luo possesses something that Lu Yin needs."

"Not everyone qualifies to be imprisoned in Gaia's Swamp. Emperor Luo hasn't committed any terrible crimes, so why would he qualify?" Mountain God complained.

Wen Zizai glanced over, but he did not bother answering.

Liu Qianjue spoke up instead. "This shows Lu Yin's influence within the Hall of Honor. Even though Shang Qing is the Hall of Honor's First Honor Chosen, he's not as powerful or as influential as Lu Yin. Lu Yin can have anyone locked up in Gaia's Swamp simply because he has the Chief Justice's bell."

Mountain God grew furious. "He's gone too far! Should we do something?"

"Of course we should." Ling Qiu hated both the Cosmic Sect and Lu Yin. She had been badly deceived, but she could do nothing to the Cosmic Sect. This meant that Lu Yin was the sole target of her frustrations. "Since only Liu Ye and Fei Hua are with Lu Yin, doesn't that mean that Chen Huang is still in the Great Eastern Alliance? Where is the Envoy giant? We should go kill him."

"I've sent people to investigate, but they haven't found him yet," Liu Qianjue answered. "Also, after Long Yi's death, Lu Yin will be on guard. Since he had people hide Chen Huang's whereabouts, he might actually attack our flowzones at this time. We all need to be careful."

They looked at each other and saw the wariness in each person's eyes.

They were the only people in the Inniverse capable of defeating Lu Yin. Thus, even though they knew that Cang Zhou was dead and that they could easily take control of Chaos Flowzone, they did not bother even looking at it as they were entirely focused on dealing with Lu Yin.

"What's the situation like with the Daynight clan?" Ling Qiu asked.

Liu Qianjue answered, "What have you uncovered?"

Ling Qiu answered, "Everything seems normal within the Daynight clan. There is nobody from the Great Eastern Alliance monitoring the clan, and there isn't even anyone from the Great Eastern Alliance in the Celestial Frost Sect's ruins. The Daynight clan has sealed themselves off and are not accepting any visitors."

"That's the same as what we've found. Lu Yin did nothing to the Daynight clan. The people of that clan hate him greatly since he's destroyed their ancestral tablet and Nightking Planet, and it's impossible for them to be loyal to him. It looks like Lu Yin truly has no control over them and that the Great Eastern Alliance has actually left the Daynight clan," Mountain God said.

Wen Zizai met Liu Qianjue's gaze, and they both nodded. "That sounds right."

Liu Qianjue exclaimed, "It looks like the Second Nightking really scared Lu Yin off, and it's also possible that the rumors of the Third Nightking returning are true. Once the Third Nightking is back, the Daynight clan will regain their former glory."

"Then, what should we do about the Daynight clan?" Mountain God asked.

Liu Qianjue spoke up, saying, "The most important thing at this point in time is to force the Great Eastern Alliance out of the Inniverse. Even if the Third Nightking returns, he won't be able to do anything to us as the Hall of Honor will be keeping an eye on him. Compared to the Third Nightking, Lu Yin is a much greater threat."

"We need to keep searching for Chen Huang and work to eliminate all of the Envoys around Lu Yin."

"There's also Elder He from the Sea King's Dome. He's helped Lu Yin in the past."

"We won't let any of them go."

"We'll see what he can do without any Envoys."

"Everyone, aside from eliminating his Envoys, we also need to shut down all trade and any interactions with the Great Eastern Alliance. We need to make them the entire Inniverse's enemy. Our war has begun."

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A spacecraft left First Flowzone and made its way towards Venom Flowzone, carrying Elder Lianxin and Li Zimo.

"Master, the Divine Venom Dynasty doesn't ever get involved in outside politics, and they didn't even participate when the Sixth Mainland invaded. Will they actually help us?" Li Zimo asked.

Elder Lianxin stared upwards. "They're not helping us, but rather themselves. Lu Yin is too ambitious, and he's different from the Sixth Mainland. The Sixth Mainland is the Fifth Mainland's sworn enemy, but Lu Yin is doing something completely different, which means that his actions are threatening the Divine Venom Dynasty as well. As long as Qing Shaohuang is no fool, he will join us."

Li Zimo nodded and fell silent.

The Innerverse had eight great flowzones, and once First Flowzone, Beast Tamers Flowzone, Soulseal Flowzone, Erudite Flowzone, and Venom Flowzone joined hands, they would represent more than half of the Innerverse. The Great Eastern Alliance would have a hard time dealing with such an alliance.

This was especially true since the Venom Flowzone's poisons were very difficult to avoid.

Li Zimo had already sent word to the Great Eastern Alliance, but he had no idea what Lu Yin's response would be.

The Innerverse's eight great flowzones also joined together and cut off all trade with the Great Eastern Alliance. They even stopped all travel in an attempt to isolate Blazing Mist Flowzone.

Lu Yin was already aware of all of this, and it all fell within his expectations. He would deal with everything after returning from Gaia's Swamp.

He was more concerned with news from the Outerverse: Master Qing Hua had officially replaced Toolwielder Ancestor to become one of the Daosource Sect's Four Emphyreans.

Lu Yin turned off his gadget after glancing through the news.

Qing Hua had no interest in politics. If Madam Hong had not tried to make trouble for the man, he would have never done anything even after becoming one of the Four Emphyreans. However, after Madam Hong's actions, nobody knew what Qing Hua was planning.

Lu Yin could not predict the man's actions either, but Lu Yin had simply wanted to incite chaos within the Sixth Mainland by using Qing Hua. Lu Yin had no ability to influence the decisions of an Emphyrean Imprinter.

By now, Qing Hua had already followed through on what he had promised to Lu Yin by taking Man Li away and returning peace to the Neo-Vestige Sect.

Countless bits of information were sent to Lu Yin's gadget every day, including some from En Ya. Lu Yin spent his free time browsing through all of the various reports on his gadget.

Blazing Mist Flowzone was located on the eastern side of the Innerverse, so even with Liu Ye and Fei Hua's speed, they needed ten days to reach Gaia's Swamp.

Gaia's Swamp was connected to both the Innerverse and the Cosmic Sea, and it was a truly unique place.

It only took up a small area, but nobody dared to enter it without permission. Gaia's Swamp was surrounded by a swamp that not even Explorers could pass through due to the dense death energy that surrounded the place.

Lu Yin studied the gray swamp that had even spread into the sky. He was stunned to discover that there was a sourcebox array in this place.

After thinking about it, he realized it made sense. After all, this prison held the Human Domain's most vicious criminals, so it would be normal to have a sourcebook array in place here. However, he wondered if the array would be enough to suppress the upcoming prison break.

The sourcebox array that was set up in Gaia's swamp was perpetually active. Lu Yin clasped his hands behind his back. "I am Lu Yin, and I wish to meet with the Warden."

His voice rang out through Gaia's Swamp.

A pig sleeping in the swamp rolled over.

"I am Lu Yin, and I wish to meet with the Warden." The voice echoed throughout the swamp, and many criminals opened their eyes and looked upwards.

The pig sat up, exasperated. "Who dares to disturb me? Lock him up!"

"I am Lu Yin, and I wish to meet with the Warden." The voice rang out yet again.

The pig finally opened his eyes. "Lu Yin?"

In a corner of the prison, Ze Cu was startled. "Lu Yin?"

A beautiful pair of beautiful eyes opened up within the depths of Gaia's Swamp. "Lu Yin?"

Lu Yin silently stood next to Liu Ye and Fei Hua just outside of Gaia's Swamp. They were also accompanied by Emperor Luo, who had been tied up.

Emperor Luo's eyes flashed. He had voluntarily chosen to be imprisoned in Gaia's Swamp, as Long Yi's death had shown Emperor Luo that Liu Qianjue would kill him the moment the opportunity arose. Instead of living in constant fear, Emperor Luo would rather be a prisoner within Gaia's Swamp.

Lu Yin would also not allow the man to remain imprisoned forever, as he also possessed a route into the Technocracy. This made him extremely valuable to Lu Yin. Even if Lu Yin did not personally want the information, Emperor Luo could still share it with Gaia's Swamp's Warden, as he was certain that the Hall of Honor would be interested in the information.

To Emperor Luo, Gaia's Swamp was not a prison, but a place of refuge.

There was a loud bang, and the swamp trembled. Lu Yin and the others turned around to see an enormous being emerge from the ground. It landed atop of the swamp and met Lu Yin's gaze.

Lu Yin blinked. He had experienced many things and seen many unique creatures throughout his life, including Gui and the corpse of the ancient centipede. He actually believed that he could no longer be shocked by any terrifying beings, but the creature before him truly astonished him once more even though he had seen the pig before when Possessing Liu Huang.

Lu Yin could simply not imagine that a pig was capable of cultivating. Also, judging by the number of its runes, this pig was quite powerful. How could a pig cultivate?

Liu Ye and Fei Hua were equally astonished. Lord Piggy had absolutely defied their expectations.

Gaia's Swamp was a dim place that imprisoned many vicious criminals, so it was absurd to see a pink pig in such a place.

Lord Piggy ignored Liu Ye and Fei Hua and faced Lu Yin. He grinned in a disgusting manner. "Isn't it Alliance Leader Lu? Sorry for not welcoming you sooner. Please enter, Alliance Leader Lu."

The pig raised a trotter and made a welcoming gesture.

Lu Yin felt rather awkward, as he felt as though he was being invited to enter a pig sty. But without a better option, he cleared his throat and slowly entered the prison.

Liu Ye and Fei Hua glanced at each other, as they also found their situation odd.

"Why are you free enough to visit the Gaia's Swamp, Alliance Leader Lu? Are you simply passing by? Or perhaps taking a break? Gaia's Swamp is flourishing at this moment, simply flourishing!" Lord Piggy kept talking nonstop.

Lu Yin and the others were invited to sit on the pig as it moved into the depths of Gaia's Swamp.

Gaia's Swamp was surrounded by death energy, but Lord Piggy parted the death energy as it went by so that Lu Yin and the others would not feel anything.

Lu Yin observed his surroundings. The amount of death energy in this place made it feel very comfortable to him.

The amount of death energy present was comparable to what he had seen beneath Aeternus Nation.

Liu Ye commented, "This place feels like Specter Abyss."

Lu Yin was intrigued. "You've been to Specter Abyss?"

Chapter 1682: The Warden

Liu Ye said, "I went there once by accident, but I left very quickly."

"He went to save me," Fei Hua explained.

Lu Ye smiled and reached out to grasp Fei Hua's hand. "We survived that incident and became Envoys, so it was worth it."

Fei Hua gently smiled back at her husband.

"Alliance Leader, it's very easy to get lost in Gaia's Swamp, and most Enlighters aren't able to withstand the toxic gas here. Many of our prisoners have even been killed by the toxic gas. Actually, the Hall of Honor ordered us to protect the prisoners for a certain amount of time, so they shouldn't be dead, but Sir Warden is too lazy, and I'm too busy to care for everyone. I hope that you won't blame us, Alliance Leader Lu."

The toxic gas that Lord Piggy was referring to was actually death energy, but the pig did not use the term "death energy."

"Sir Warden just watches videos all day and doesn't care about anything. I don't know what he's watching, but sometimes he laughs very loudly, and he's even killed some prisoners with his laughter. A lot of the prisoners say that I'm the warden while he's basically the assistant warden. What do you think,

Alliance Leader Lu?” Lord Piggy babbled on without end, and he even tried to imply that he wanted to become the prison warden.

Lu Yin replied, “That’s a good idea. It’s not bad.”

Lord Piggy was delighted. “Right? Right? Alliance Leader Lu, you also think that I should be the warden, right?”

Lu Yin smiled.

A dark castle soon appeared in front of them. It was tens of thousands meters tall, and it took up nearly half of Gaia’s Swamp.

Lu Yin was surprised. “Is that where Sir Warden stays?”

Lord Piggy exasperatedly answered, “Yes. Sir Warden is too enormous, so that’s the only place where he can stay. Alliance Leader Lu, it cost an incredible amount to build that castle, and if we had used those funds to hire guards instead, we would have been able to double our defenses. Sigh, Sir Warden is too wasteful.”

Lu Yin listened quietly as Lord Piggy kept slandering the Warden. The various guards bowed as the pig and his guests passed by, and they soon entered the castle.

Lord Piggy suddenly picked up his speed after entering the castle, and he ran straight in a certain direction.

While the castle was enormous, its layout was very simple. The interior had the appearance of a storage space, as there were not many rooms or facilities. Actually, there was nothing more than a path that led to the Warden.

Lord Piggy rushed down this path, and Lu Yin saw a tremendous number of rune lines up ahead that were comparable to Cang Zhou’s. As they neared the end of the path, a huge toe suddenly appeared that Lord Piggy crashed into.

Liu Ye and Fei Hua leaped down to the ground with Lu Yin and Emperor Luo. When Lord Piggy collided with the huge toe, it looked like the pig was used to doing such a thing, and Lu Yin felt that the pig had done it intentionally, likely in hopes of killing the Warden from the impact.

“Hmm? What’s wrong?” A loud voice rang out, and a huge wine flask rose high.

Lu Yin looked up to see the Warden’s face, who was a colossal giant 30,000 meters tall.

He had learned of this before arriving at Gaia’s Swamp.

To be honest, he had not expected the warden of Gaia’s Swamp to be a colossal giant, as Chen Huang had mentioned that the colossal giants had gone extinct. The chief of the colossal giants clearly had not known that there was actually a tribe member in Gaia’s Swamp.

Glug glug glug.

The Warden took a long drink of his wine.

Lord Piggy shouted, "Sir Warden, guests are here! It's Alliance Leader Lu from the Great Eastern Alliance."

The Warden lowered his flask and wiped his mouth before glancing down. "Who's here?"

"Alliance Leader Lu! The honorable Alliance Leader Lu is here!" Lord Piggy screamed.

The Warden glanced at Lu Yin and the others, surprised. "Who are these experts? Are you here to break into the prison?"

"Sir Warden, it's Alliance Leader Lu from the Great Eastern Alliance!" Lord Piggy shouted desperately.

Lu Yin shot a sympathetic look at the pig. The creature would probably die soon if it kept on shouting like that. He was even more sure now that it had run into the Warden's toe as an act of revenge.

The Warden knelt down and looked at the humans. "Oh, Alliance Leader Lu, I remember you. You're the one who defeated Ze Cu. Why are you here?"

Lu Yin answered, "I have someone to commit to Gaia's Swamp."

The Warden took another swig from his flask. "It's not that easy for someone to be condemned to Gaia's Swamp. What did you bring me?"

"Sir Warden, you're being too rude!" Lord Piggy shouted as he ran into the Warden's toe again.

Lu Yin grinned. "Do I need to bring a present in order to have a criminal imprisoned in Gaia's Swamp?"

The Warden was shocked. "A criminal? You're not sending someone here to become a guard? That won't do. There's only 3,000 chains here in Gaia's Swamp, and we don't have any free space."

Lu Yin asked, "Are there no empty spaces?"

"No, no. Just leave," the Warden said in frustration while resuming drinking.

Lord Piggy was overjoyed. He had kept quiet in hopes that Lu Yin would end up in a quarrel with the Warden, as that would increase the pig's chances of becoming Warden when the overseers met. Lord Piggy already knew that Lu Yin held a lot of influence over the overseers.

"If there's no space, then just execute a prisoner," Lu Yin suggested.

The Warden smashed his flask onto the ground and glared at Lu Yin. His terrifying aura swept outwards, and Lord Piggy was pushed away.

Liu Ye and Fei Hua moved in front of Lu Yin and glared at the Warden.

The Warden bellowed, "Where do you think this is? No means no!"

Lu Yin's gaze grew sharp, and he locked eyes with the Warden. He took some wine out of his cosmic ring that he had prepared beforehand.

He had previously drunk with Zi Rong, Cai Jianqiang, and even Hui Kong. Many people throughout the universe loved alcohol, so Lu Yin had made it a habit to always carry some wine with him.

“Senior, have a taste of this wine from my home. You might like it.” Lu Yin tossed the wine over to the Warden.

The Warden looked at the flask that floated in the air. It was a minuscule amount to the giant, and he could finish it in a single mouthful. Still, he laughed. “Hahahaha, Alliance Leader, you’re too kind! The wine smells great, and it must taste amazing too.”

He finished the wine and happily wiped his mouth.

“Oh right, what were you saying just now, Alliance Leader?” the Warden asked.

Lu Yin smiled. “This is Emperor Luo, the former emperor of the Ross Empire. He killed a great number of people recently, and I want him locked up here in Gaia’s Swamp.”

“No problem. Piggy, go find a place for Alliance Leader Lu’s guest,” the Warden ordered.

Lord Piggy shook his little tail and muttered to himself reluctantly. Then, he turned to Lu Yin and smiled in an ingratiating manner. “Alliance Leader Lu, this way, please.”

The Warden smiled as he watched Lu Yin leave. What an interesting young man; he truly was the master of the Outerverse.

Lu Yin also possessed the Chief Justice’s bell, which meant that he could have just ordered the Warden to imprison Emperor Luo. However, like the Warden had said, this was Gaia’s Swamp, and he made the rules in this place. Even though all of the criminals had been judged and received prison sentences which meant that they could not be simply thrown out or killed, the Warden could actually do just that as there was no one to question his decisions.

If Lu Yin had actually wanted to force the matter of bringing a prisoner into Gaia’s Swamp, he would be grossly underestimating the place. Still, he had done his best to test the Warden.

“Gaia’s Swamp is connected to both the Innaverse and the Cosmic Sea, and it’s divided into two different areas. The area that’s in the Innaverse houses the criminals who aren’t too powerful and can be easily controlled. However, the area in the Cosmic Sea holds the scary criminals,” Lord Piggy explained as he led Lu Yin towards the area close to the Cosmic Sea.

Lu Yin asked, “So will Emperor Luo be held in the Cosmic Sea?”

Lord Piggy nodded and warily answered, “Emperor Luo is an Envoy, and even the prison in the Cosmic Sea has only a few Envoys. There’s no way he’d be held anywhere else.”

“Aren’t you scared that the prisoners will cooperate and rebel?” Lu Yin asked.

Lord Piggy was shocked by such a question. “Alliance Leader Lu, don’t scare me like that! I’ve never considered such a thing, but these chains are specially made so that even cultivators with power levels of more than a million can’t break them. Everything should be fine.”

“Show me the section in the Innaverse,” Lu Yin said.

Lord Piggy felt torn. “Emperor Luo isn’t suited for that section.”

"I just want to take a look, don't worry," Lu Yin answered. Since he had made it to Gaia's Swamp, releasing Grand Marshal Shui Chuanxiao was another one of Lu Yin's goals, as he had promised that to En Ya long ago. Besides, the Great Eastern Alliance needed a commander for its armed forces.

There were the Allied Forces, the Lu Elite Troops, as well as the Great Eastern Alliance's reserve army. The system was a complete mess! Lu Yin did not have the time to deal with such affairs, and En Ya was too busy gathering intelligence. They needed an actual professional to oversee the military.

Lord Piggy changed directions and started moving towards the portion of the prison that lay within the Inniverse.

Lu Yin saw some prisoners.

The prisoners in Gaia's Swamp were all chained to the ground. There were no cells to be seen, and all of the prisoners were simply exposed to the swamp, allowing the death energy to surround and erode their bodies.

Lu Yin saw many prisoners, some of whom were already dead.

Lu Yin frowned. Grand Marshal Shui Chuanxiao was not a very powerful cultivator, so was it possible for him to have already died? "Not many prisoners are able to last to the end of their sentence given these conditions, are they?"

Lord Piggy answered, "Some prisoners are given special care, like that guy up front. He's been isolated from the toxic gas, though a little bit might seep in from time to time."

"Oh? Some people get special treatment? Who is he?" Lu Yin asked.

Lord Piggy replied, "Some madman. He removed people's brains and used their bodies to stay alive. He's just a Sentinel, but he's managed to live for more than 2,000 years. While he was active, he killed a lot of people, one of whom was the child of a senior member of the Hall of Honor. That person ordered him to be imprisoned here for 10,000 years."

"If he's just a Sentinel, how can he be held here for 10,000 years?" Lu Yin asked.

Lord Piggy pointed to something in front of them.

Lu Yin turned and saw that the death energy had been isolated from an area, and there was a brain sitting in the area that was clear of death energy.

"He died long ago, but his brain has been kept alive. The person from the Hall of Honor ordered us to prepare multiple scenarios with tragic endings for the prisoner's brain so that he can experience pain and suffering for 10,000 years." Lord Piggy shivered. "What a poor thing."

"Who from the Hall of Honor ordered this punishment?" Lu Yin grew curious. Even though the man had been given a terrible punishment, such methods could only be used on normal people, as even Explorers could easily kill themselves.

Lord Piggy glanced around before softly answering, "Overseer Xin Jiao."

Chapter 1683: Do You Regret It?

Lu Yin exclaimed, "Overseer Xin Jiao?"

Lord Piggy made a shushing gesture with his trotter. "Overseer Xin Jiao ordered this to be kept secret! I've only told you about it, so please don't mention anything to Overseer Xin Jiao."

Lu Yin nodded. "Don't worry."

They continued moving forward as Lord Piggy led the way.

They soon encountered another prisoner who had received special treatment. The man's entire family had betrayed the Human Domain to join the Celestial Beast Empire, but he had been caught at the border warfront. As a result, he had been imprisoned in Gaia's Swamp ever since. The Hall of Honor hoped to use the man as bait to lure his family out, so the man had been imprisoned for many years now.

Every single criminal in this prison had their own story and motivations. Some were true criminals while others had more complex backgrounds.

Most of the people in Gaia's Swamp had been locked up for valid reasons, including Shui Chuanxiao.

"This is Shui Chuanxiao, the former commander of the border warfront. He lost his mind and betrayed Endless Weave, resulting in the Technocracy taking control of half of the weave. He's been sentenced to 10,000 years here," Lord Piggy casually mentioned.

Shui Chuanxiao had not been isolated from the death energy, and the man looked half dead. He had indeed forsaken Endless Weave, which had led to countless deaths. Regardless of his reason for his betrayal, he had committed an inexcusable crime.

Lu Yin studied Shui Chuanxiao and discovered that the man's runes still showed the strength of a Cruiser, which meant that he would not die anytime soon. Despite the excessive concentration of death energy present, it seemed to have been processed as it was not as concentrated as the death energy throughout the rest of the swamp. Otherwise, all of the prisoners would have already been transformed like the humans that Lu Yin had seen in Aeternus Nation.

This was something that Lu Yin was quite curious about. "These chains have another function apart from simply being sturdy, don't they?"

Lord Piggy exclaimed, "Alliance Leader Lu, you're very sharp! These chains are a part of a sourcebox array and are able to filter the toxic gas so that it's less concentrated."

Shui Chuanxiao's finger twitched, and he slowly looked up. He opened his eyes and met Lu Yin's gaze.

"Grand Marshal Shui, it's been a long time," Lu Yin said.

Lord Piggy felt shocked; did Lu Yin know Shui Chuanxiao?

Shui Chuanxiao hoarsely answered, "I never expected to see you again."

"You took good care of me at the border warfront in Erudite Flowzone. I never had the chance to thank you," Lu Yin replied.

Shui Chuanxiao hung his head. "The army has a system. I didn't take care of you."

“Do you regret it, Marshal?” Lu Yin asked.

Lord Piggy anxiously interrupted, “Alliance Leader, the rules state that you’re not supposed to talk to the prisoners!”

Shui Chuanxiao smirked. “Regret? If the Human Domain never obtained a unified network, would it have even remained intact?”

Lu Yin’s eyes flickered. When Shui Chuanxiao had forsaken Endless Weave, the network had not been unified throughout the Human Domain, and the proposal to create a universal network had only been approved after Shui Chuanxiao lost Endless Weave. Because of that loss, when Ironblood Weave was invaded, the Outerverse’s eastern weaves had been able to immediately respond. Similarly, the Outerverse had also been able to react quickly when the Sixth Mainland invaded, and both responses were entirely due to the universal network connecting everything together.

If not for the universal network, would the Human Domain still be the Human Domain right now?

Shui Chuanxiao had contributed greatly to the survival of the Human Domain, but he had also done so by betraying Endless Weave. This was a crime that he would never be able to atone for, as human lives could not be priced.

The Sea King had opened the Upper Three Gates in order to let the Fifth Mainland have the possibility of giving birth to Progenitors once more. He had never regretted his actions despite directly inciting the Sixth Mainland’s invasion.

Shui Chuanxiao and the Sea King were quite similar to each other, and Lu Yin shared the same mindset as them. Who cared if there was going to be a civil war? Would he just allow the four ruling powers to kill him? Would he simply allow the Lu family to remain in exile and be destroyed? That was impossible. Lu Yin did not regret triggering a civil war, and he was also willing to bear the consequences of his choices rather than denying his desires.

He was also certain that he needed Shui Chuanxiao to deal with Aeternus’s plans.

Lu Yin walked away with a mysterious smile on his face.

Shui Chuanxiao bent his head and closed his eyes as he continued to endure his confinement in the darkness of Gaia’s Swamp.

Half a day later, they finished touring the Innaverse region of Gaia’s Swamp.

The area of the prison that lay in the Cosmic Sea held fewer prisoners, but all of the prisoners in this smaller region were far more powerful.

The first prisoner that Lu Yin saw was an Enlightener with a power level of more than 400,000. However, the man’s power level had diminished to less than 100,000, showing that he had been incarcerated for a very long time.

“This man is a deserter from the border warfront, and his desertion caused us to lose a battle. His sentence is 3,000 years of confinement,” Lord Piggy spat disdainfully.

Lu Yin nodded, and they continued walking.

Lord Piggy introduced many prisoners to Lu Yin; one left a strong impression on Lu Yin as they had tried to break into Gaia's Swamp.

Lord Piggy showed blatant outrage when seeing that prisoner. "A thousand years ago, an overseer came to observe Gaia's Swamp, and this person accompanied the overseer. He then tried to rescue a prisoner, but fortunately the War- No, I discovered his plan. If not, he would have succeeded. The overseer was in Gaia's Swamp at that time, so we would have been utterly humiliated if he had succeeded."

"Aren't the chains able to withstand an attack with a power level of a million? How could he have possibly succeeded?" Lu Yin asked.

Lord Piggy muttered, "He wasn't able to break the chains, but that was the final step of his plan."

Lu Yin was left speechless; how was that considered a near success? He had thought that the prisoner's chains had been broken.

Since it was so hard to break these chains, then why was the person who was planning the prison break so confident of success? Lu Yin was growing curious.

The chains were different lengths for each prisoner. The stronger the prisoner, the deeper within Gaia's Swamp they had been placed.

Just a few moments later, Lu Yin saw a prisoner who was calmly looking at him. His surroundings were completely clear of death energy, and his clothes were even clean. In no way did he look like a prisoner. If not for the fact that the man was chained up, Lu Yin would have thought that the man was a guard.

"Who's that?" Lu Yin asked.

Lord Piggy answered, "He's someone special: he's Assistant Warden Master Cha's father."

"The assistant warden's father?" Lu Yin was stunned.

Lord Piggy refused to elaborate any further. "Alliance Leader, where would you like to place Emperor Luo? There are a few locations up ahead, but there aren't many down below. Moreover, if any future prisoners are sent here, like the Second Nightking, they'll have to be locked up down below."

"Take me to the Second Nightking," Lu Yin said.

Lord Piggy's ears perked up, and he spoke with clear terror, "The Second Nightking? You want to see him? That's not easy to do, as he's difficult to deal with since he was just imprisoned. He hasn't been affected by the toxic gas yet, so I'm worried that there might be an incident."

"Don't worry, Sir Chief Justice badly injured the Second Nightking, so he's actually quite weak right now," Lu Yin said.

Lord Piggy reluctantly agreed, "Fine."

With that, he headed underground.

Lu Yin asked Lord Piggy to stop before they started moving. "Are there still other prisoners up here?"

“Yes, one more person. The battle technique that he learned was too evil, so he ended up being imprisoned here. He’s quite powerful, as he’s only been here for a few hundred years,” Lord Piggy explained.

“Let me go take a look.” Lu Yin headed over. He wanted to observe all of the prisoners near Liu Huang, as the mastermind behind the prison break was definitely one of these people.

Lord Piggy led the way and parted the swamp’s miasma for Lu Yin. Lu Yin soon saw a pale prisoner chained up. The person did not have many runes, and he seemed to have the strength of an Enlightener.

The prisoner suddenly opened his eyes and looked up at Lu Yin. Lu Yin felt that this gaze felt very familiar.

Surprise also flashed through the prisoner’s eyes when he saw Lu Yin. He then closed his eyes and completely stopped looking at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin carefully observed the prisoner. This person’s eyes felt very familiar, and Lu Yin was utterly certain he had seen them before.

“What’s his name?” Lu Yin asked.

“Can,” Lord Piggy answered. “What an annoying name.”

“He’s been here for a few hundred years?” Lu Yin was quite curious.

“Yes.”

“Why was he sent here?”

Lord Piggy answered easily, “He practiced an evil battle technique that’s related to spiritual force, and he killed many people.”

Lu Yin turned to Can. “Have you seen me before?”

Can said nothing.

Lord Piggy softly spoke up, “Alliance Leader Lu, he’s been here for a few hundred years, and given the fact that you’re so young, it’s impossible for him to have seen you before just now.”

Lu Yin frowned. This person’s gaze felt far too familiar, which meant that Lu Yin must have seen it multiple times in the past. Despite that, Lu Yin could not remember anything. Also, it had not been recent, so when had they met?

“I’m Lu Yin,” Lu Yin continued to say.

Can continued ignoring him.

Lord Piggy gave Lu Yin a strange glance. The alliance leader was acting quite weird. This prisoner had been imprisoned here for a few hundred years, so how could he have seen the Alliance Leader before? Oh, during ZENITH, Sir Warden had allowed the prisoners to watch the broadcast with him, so Can might have seen Lu Yin at that time.

“Alliance Leader Lu, should we go?” Lord Piggy asked.

Lu Yin turned around. "Let's go."

Lord Piggy swished his tail and led Lu Yin towards the Second Nightking.

They soon reached the lowest level of Gaia's Swamp, which was where the Second Nightking was being held. As an expert with a power level of more than a million who was comparable to Elder Jiu Shen, the Second Nightking was one of the strongest people in the entire Fifth Mainland, so he would naturally be imprisoned on the lowest level.

The person next to the Second Nightking was Liu Huang.

"Is there someone else down here? He must be a true powerhouse to be locked up next to the Second Nightking," Lu Yin exclaimed.

Lord Piggy answered, "He's not bad, not bad."

Lu Yin smiled. He already knew who the other person was. Although Liu Huang had never been as powerful as the Second Nightking, the swordsman had still attained a power level of a million at his peak. Even the Sword Sect had been ignorant of Liu Huang's peak strength, as the man had been imprisoned within Gaia's Swamp by the Hall of Honor in an effort to preserve the Fifth Mainland's balance.

Despite being imprisoned in Gaia's Swamp and suffering from the death energy's corrosion, Liu Huang had still managed to create the Fourteenth Sword that he had named Misery. This was a truly impressive accomplishment that amply showed his incredible talent.

Chapter 1684: Take Effect

Liu Huang's power level might not have been equal to the Second Nightking's, as he was much younger than the ancient powerhouse, but Liu Huang was definitely more important than the Second Nightking. He was someone who could never be allowed to escape from Gaia's Swamp as his mere existence was proof of the Hall of Honor's dark side.

Black clouds of death energy floated past the Second Nightking. His limbs were chained up, and the chains extended deep into the ground.

He had only recently been imprisoned, and his eyes were still filled with anger and resentment.

He had spent countless years cultivating within the Celestial Frost Sect's ruins. Not many people were capable of continuously extending their lifespan like he had with the Celestial Frost Pond's water. He was even more powerful than the First Nightking, and the Second Nightking had been confident that he could carry the Daynight clan to even greater heights than ever before. However, he had instead witnessed the defeat of his Daynight clan. Upon his return, he had seen the ruined ancestral tablet and the destroyed Nightking Planet. Then, he had been sent to Gaia's Swamp before he could even get his revenge. Even his enemy, Lu Yin, pitied the Second Nightking.

However, the man still had not given up, and he was simply waiting for an opportunity. This tiny Gaia's Swamp could never contain him.

Lord Piggy arrived.

The Second Nightking opened his eyes and saw Lord Piggy, which caused him to frown. Ever since he had been locked up, this pig had stopped by daily to keep an eye on the Second Nightking. Once the pig had realized that the Second Nightking had been absorbing stellar energy, he had used a sourcebox array and caused the true universe to forcefully remove the man's stellar energy.

If the Second Nightking ever managed to escape from Gaia's Swamp, he would definitely kill the pig.

Hmm? There's someone on the pig's back?

The Second Nightking looked up, and his eyes instantly grew cold. "Lu Yin?"

Lord Piggy cautiously approached the Second Nightking, but he stopped a thousand meters away before fearfully saying, "Alliance Leader Lu, the Second Nightking is too powerful, and he also excels at using spiritual force, so I don't dare get close. Is it ok if I stay here?"

Lu Yin nodded.

The Second Nightking's voice rang out, oozing hatred. "Lu Yin, Lu Yin--"

Lu Yin picked at his ears. "I heard you, Senior. How's Gaia's Swamp?"

The Second Nightking hated the Hall of Honor, the people from the Neoverse who had killed the First Nightking, the Chief Justice who had sent him to Gaia's Swamp, and also Lu Yin. No, to be exact, he hated Lu Yin more than anyone else! Lu Yin had destroyed the Daynight clan and exposed the existence of the Celestial Frost Sect's ruins. If not for this youth, the Second Nightking could have continued training until he reached a level where he no longer needed to be afraid of the Chief Justice, or until he had become a Semi-Progenitor!

If not for Lu Yin, none of this would have occurred. On top of everything, Lu Yin had even deceived the Second Nightking, and the man wished desperately to kill Lu Yin.

The Second Nightking tried to escape from his chains, but his efforts only caused the chains to give off loud clanging sounds. Lu Yin's eyes grew sharp as he saw a tremendous number of runes surge towards him. The Second Nightking had attacked with spiritual force.

The Chief Justice had destroyed the Second Nightking's stellar energy vortex, which had drastically decreased the man's strength, but it was impossible to remove the man's spiritual force. The Daynight clan had always been peerless when it came to spiritual force battle techniques.

Still, they were in Gaia's Swamp, and there were sourcebox arrays everywhere. Since the Second Nightking had already been heavily wounded by the Chief Justice, he was incapable of unleashing his spiritual force's full power, and Lu Yin managed to easily block the attack with an Inception Array.

Lord Piggy retreated the instant the Second Nightking unleashed his spiritual force attack. Goosebumps covered the pig's entire body. "Let's go, Alliance Leader Lu! This is too dangerous!"

The chains binding the Second Nightking kept clanging, and they alerted Liu Huang, Can, and the other prisoners in the area. Soon, all of Gaia's Swamp was roused.

The Warden took another swig of wine, but then turned around and resumed sleeping.

A woman looked towards the prison curiously. "What's happening?"

The guards in Gaia's Swamp solemnly moved out to keep an eye on the various prisoners.

Lu Yin leapt off of Lord Piggy's back, but he did not ask for protection from Liu Ye or Fei Hua. Instead, he started slowly approaching the Second Nightking while reciting the Stonewall Scriptures.

Lord Piggy tried to stop him, but Lu Yin just waved a hand. "It's fine. I'm just meeting an old friend, so there's no need to worry."

Lord Piggy nervously glared at the Second Nightking. He was very worried, as Lu Yin could not be allowed to die at this time and place. Lu Yin was someone who could decide the pig's future, so the youth absolutely had to stay alive. On top of that, Lord Piggy had been the one to lead Lu Yin to the Second Nightking, so he would absolutely be in deep trouble if Lu Yin died.

Why had the Warden not been the one to lead Lu Yin through the prison? If that had happened, then Lord Piggy would have hoped for the Second Nightking to kill Lu Yin, as that would create trouble for the Warden and give Lord Piggy a chance to become the Warden!

Lu Yin stopped 500 meters away from the Second Nightking. Despite the injuries that the Second Nightking had suffered from the Chief Justice and the sourcebox array, Lu Yin was not able to move any closer without risking being injured himself.

"Come here, Lu Yin! Come here!" the Second Nightking bellowed. He struggled against his chains as a figure suddenly appeared behind him and slashed out at Lu Yin. It was Skybreaker.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. "Do you not want the Daynight clan to survive?"

The Second Nightking stopped the Skybreaker and shot a vicious glare at Lu Yin. "What about the Daynight clan? What have you done to them?"

"I didn't expect you to actually drag down your own clan members," Lu Yin sneered.

The Second Nightking did care about the other members of his clan, but not to the degree of sacrificing himself, as he was a selfish person. Still, he would not be able to kill Lu Yin even if the Second Nightking possessed his full strength, which meant that such attempts were meaningless.

"What did you do? You were the one to summon the Chief Justice, weren't you?" the Second Nightking roared.

Lu Yin shrugged. "You overestimate me. How could I summon the Chief Justice?"

"Why are you here? What did you do to the Daynight clan? Are any Nightkings still alive?" the Second Nightking asked.

Lu Yin smiled and activated the Sealed Cage Technique. "Just feel for yourself."

The Second Nightking frowned and started carefully studying Lu Yin.

Gaia's Swamp returned to silence.

Lord Piggy stared at Lu Yin in confusion; why was no one moving?

Liu Ye and Fei Hua glanced at each other, as they both were wondering what Lu Yin was about to do.

Emperor Luo was still tied up and had been left on Lord Piggy's back. He had not said a single word this entire time.

Finally, after quite a while, the Second Nightking asked, "Lu Yin, what are you trying to do?"

Lu Yin frowned. The Second Nightking was too powerful, which made it very difficult for Lu Yin to control him with the Sealed Cage Technique.

The Second Nightking's eyes flickered.

Lu Yin's eyes suddenly opened, and he looked at the Second Nightking. The man's wounds were not terrible enough... Lu Yin would probably only be able to control the man if his injuries were worse.

Lu Yin shrouded his body with his golden battle force and used a Vacuum Palm against the Second Nightking.

The Second Nightking's body trembled, but he was not wounded badly at all. He yelled, "Boy, you're trying to get revenge against me!"

Lord Piggy gaped from a distance. "Alliance- Alliance Leader Lu, you don't have to do that."

The Second Nightking had already been heavily injured, and he was also a prisoner of Gaia's Swamp; had Lu Yin simply come to get revenge on the man?

Liu Ye and Fei Hua also felt that Lu Yin's actions were strange.

Lu Yin felt helpless. The Second Nightking was indeed badly wounded, but he was still a powerhouse comparable to Elder Jiu Shen. Even if the man had not focused on training his physical body, he was still very powerful as his physical strength would naturally increase with every stellar tribulation that he passed. Lu Yin was unable to break through the man's defenses, and he would actually need some sort of tool or weapon to inflict serious injuries upon the man.

What item could help Lu Yin injure the Second Nightking? He had nothing that would work.

"Liu Ye and Fei Hua, you two go beat him," Lu Yin said coldly.

The Second Nightking growled as he struggled, "Boy, you're just insulting me! I'll kill you!"

Lord Piggy also felt bad about what was happening. "Alliance Leader, there's no need for this."

Liu Ye frowned. "Mr Lu, this-"

His pride would not allow him to attack someone incapable of defending themselves, not to mention such a person who was also already heavily injured.

Lu Yin calmly replied, "This is why I asked you to come with me to Gaia's Swamp with me. Did you think that we were just taking a pleasure trip?"

"Never mind, let's just do it," Fei Hua said without any hesitation.

Liu Ye sighed, and the two moved forward and attacked.

Things turned out very differently with Liu Ye and Fei Hua's attacks. Although the two were not nearly as powerful as the Second Nightking, they were still able to injure him, though only slightly. Lu Yin also joined in with his Vacuum Palm.

Lord Piggy felt repulsed. This Lu Yin was too vicious! The Second Nightking had already been left in such bad condition, but Lu Yin had still come here to get revenge. The pig decided that he would never offend Lu Yin in the future, as this person was clearly too petty.

Lord Piggy reflexively retreated, as he did not want to be involved in any way.

The Second Nightking gritted his teeth and glared at Lu Yin. "Boy, if I manage to escape from this place, I'll peel your skin off and hang it on Nightking Planet for 10,000 years!"

Lu Yin ignored the man and just continued launching Vacuum Palms. He was also using the Sealed Cage Technique at the same time, attempting to control the Second Nightking.

The three were only able to cause the Second Nightking minor injuries, but after an hour, Lu Yin's Sealed Cage Technique finally took hold. The Second Nightking's expression instantly changed, and he felt chills run down his spine. Terror overcame his mind. What's happening? Is this the feeling of the Sealed Cage Technique?

The man's eyes flickered, and he turned to stare at Lu Yin in complete disbelief. Lu Yin's presence had suddenly become overwhelming to the Second Nightking because this youth was able to decide his life or death. The hatred that the Second Nightking held towards Lu Yin did not diminish in the least, but he suddenly lost the courage to go against the youth.

"Stop," Lu Yin ordered. He waved a hand and asked Liu Ye and Fei Hua to step back.

Liu Ye and Fei Hua sighed in relief. They did not feel like they had accomplished anything at all, as they had only managed to inflict minor injuries on the Second Nightking. So, they both felt relief when Lu Yin asked them to pull back.

Lu Yin met the Second Nightking's eyes and smirked at the man. "How is it?"

The Second Nightking felt incredibly bitter. He finally understood why Lu Yin had launched all those weak attacks; it had all been so that he could establish control over him with the Sealed Cage Technique. The ancient powerhouse's eyes were filled with hatred and shock. "Why- why do you know the Sealed Cage Technique?"

Lu Yin silenced the man. "Stop talking, or else you'll die."

The Second Nightking gritted his teeth as he glared at Lu Yin. "Why?"

Chapter 1685: No Misery

Lu Yin felt relieved, as the Second Nightking was finally under his control. This was a powerhouse who stood on the same level as Elder Jiu Shen! "There were descendants of the Bai family in Daynight Flowzone, and they led me to the bottom of the Celestial Frost Pond. I saw the treasury there, opened the door, and found the Sealed Cage Technique."

The Second Nightking clenched his fists so tightly that blood dripped from his palms and stained his chains red.

He had spent countless years cultivating in the Celestial Frost Pond, and he had also tried to open the treasury. Despite all of his attempts, the Celestial Frost Sect's treasury was something that not even a Semi-Progenitor could forcefully open without destroying everything within. As for the Second Nightking, he had never possessed enough power to destroy the treasury.

He knew that there had been an inheritance in the treasury, but he had never expected the Sealed Cage Technique to be part of it.

Those idiots had not even managed to completely eliminate all the Bai family's descendants! Idiots, idiots!

Lu Yin smiled. "I already know what you're thinking, but you really blame your clan members for the fact that you didn't handle things cleanly."

The Second Nightking paused. He suddenly thought of something, and his expression completely changed. "That woman?"

Lu Yin nodded. "Yes, that woman."

The Second Nightking coughed up blood. The anger and resentment that bloomed in his heart aggravated his existing injuries. It had been that woman! The woman whom he had seen when he had opened his eyes inside the Celestial Frost Pond! At that time, he had held back, as he had wanted to understand what was happening. That was why he had merely stunned the woman instead of outright killing her. He had never thought that she would be a descendant of the Bai family.

The Second Nightking was beyond furious.

His chains kept trembling, as the Second Nightking's resentment had nearly solidified.

Lu Yin spoke in a calm tone, "Alright, what's past is past, and you can't change it anymore. Now, do you know what's happened to the Daynight clan?"

It was obvious that since Lu Yin possessed the Sealed Cage Technique, the members of the Daynight clan would not have been killed but rather fallen under Lu Yin's control.

The Second Nightking bellowed, "Don't even think about it! I will never listen to you!"

Lu Yin stared intently at the Second Nightking. "So you'd rather die here in Gaia's Swamp? In this moldy prison? You would rather have your Daynight clan be without a leader and vanish into history? You're willing to watch the people who killed the First Nightking continue on with their happy little lives? You're willing to leave the Third Nightking trapped forever in the Profound Void Realm?"

The Second Nightking felt genuinely shocked. "The Third Nightking's in the Profound Void Realm?"

Lu Yin nodded. "The Third Nightking was as fortunate as you. He's still alive, probably in cryostasis, and he's trapped in the Void Wanderer's Profound Void Realm. I'm absolutely certain of the veracity of this information, but if you don't believe me, you can ask the other Nightkings."

The Second Nightking was ecstatic, as it was great news to learn that the Third Nightking was still alive.

“Although the Third Nightking is still alive, he’ll never be able to escape without someone rescuing him. Given his strength, even if he’s been in cryostasis this entire time, he still can’t live forever. You extended your life by using the water in the Celestial Frost Pond, but what about him? The longer he stays in cryostasis for, the weaker he’ll become until he eventually dies,” Lu Yin said.

The Second Nightking lowered his head as he struggled with the information that he had just received.

Lu Yin sighed; he had succeeded. The Second Nightking’s pride would not allow him to remain under someone else’s control, but the man also would not allow himself to die just yet, as he wanted to rescue the Third Nightking and save the Daynight clan.

Lu Yin suddenly felt like he wanted to meet the Third Nightking.

From the time since Lu Yin had first started cultivating, the Third Nightking had been of great help to him. Without the Third Nightking, Lu Yin would have long since been killed by someone from the Daynight clan. On top of that, the Third Nightking had just helped Lu Yin gain a bodyguard in the form of the Second Nightking. The Third Nightking had been Lu Yin’s best assistant so far, and Lu Yin decided that he would try to rescue the man if the opportunity ever arose, as the Third Nightking was clearly Lu Yin’s lucky star.

Unsurprisingly, the Second Nightking finally surrendered. He did not want to spend the rest of his days in Gaia’s Swamp, as the Daynight clan would struggle badly without him. The Third Nightking would also eventually die if nothing changed, so the motivations that Lu Yin had provided worked perfectly.

Lu Yin had blocked off his conversation with the Second Nightking, so Lord Piggy, Liu Ye, and Fei Hua had all been unable to hear a thing.

When Lu Yin turned to leave, the Second Nightking closed his eyes. He had no idea how Lu Yin planned to take him away, given the fact that the Second Nightking had been condemned to Gaia’s Swamp by the Chief Justice himself.

“Let’s go,” Lu Yin said as he jumped up onto Lord Piggy’s back.

Lord Piggy wagged his tail. “Alright, Alliance Leader Lu. Have you chosen a place for Emperor Luo?”

Lu Yin replied, “There’s someone else I want to meet.”

“Someone else?” Lord Piggy asked.

Lu Yin pointed towards Liu Huang.

Lord Piggy’s expression instantly changed. “Alliance Leader Lu, that’s not very convenient.”

“What’s wrong? I’m just curious about who could be imprisoned next to the Second Nightking,” Lu Yin said.

Lord Piggy hesitated, but he eventually led Lu Yin over to Liu Huang. The primary reason for this was that Liu Huang had been imprisoned for so long that Lord Piggy was not concerned that Lu Yin would

recognize the man. Actually, not even the sect master of the Sword Sect might necessarily be able to recognize Liu Huang, as they were from different generations.

Lord Piggy had assumed that Lu Yin would just take a look at Liu Huang as he had with Can and others. The pig had not expected Lu Yin to approach the prisoner.

Lord Piggy was just about to stop Lu Yin, but held his tongue after being glared at by Lu Yin. "Alliance Leader Lu, be careful. This man might be even more dangerous than the Second Nightking."

"Does he also know spiritual force battle techniques?" Lu Yin asked in surprise.

Lord Piggy answered, "No, but--"

He had just wanted to scare Lu Yin, as he was worried that Liu Huang might say the wrong thing.

Unlike many other prisoners, Liu Huang was generally quite obedient and did not make any trouble or attack any of the guards, which was in direct contrast to the Second Nightking, who was very aggressive.

Lu Yin slowly moved closer to Liu Huang.

Liu Huang's head stayed down.

Lu Yin stopped 500 meters away from Liu Huang, and Lord Piggy whispered, "Alliance Leader Lu, be careful! Don't get too close!"

Lu Yin found this quite funny. After all, how could he Possess Liu Huang if he did not get close? He continued moving forward.

Lord Piggy anxiously tried to stop Lu Yin, but he continued moving towards Liu Huang.

Liu Huang's head remained bent until Lu Yin was only ten meters away from the man.

Lord Piggy immediately moved over to Lu Yin, eager to take him away. The pig would end up in deep trouble if Liu Huang mentioned who he was to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin glanced at Lord Piggy. "No need to be so worried. I'm just taking a look."

Lord Piggy was about to cry, and he turned to Liu Huang. "Hey, pick up your head for the alliance leader to take a look! Thanks for your cooperation."

Lu Yin smiled and moved further forward.

Liu Huang's fingers twitched, but he slowly raised his head.

Lu Yin stopped just six meters away from the man.

Liu Huang's gaze was able to make anyone who saw it feel miserable.

Liu Ye and Fei Hua reflexively stepped back when they met the man's gaze. His eyes reminded them of their near-death experience in Specter Abyss and other dire trials that they had survived. Emotions welled up in their hearts, and they felt like vomiting blood.

Puff!

Fei Hua spat out blood, and Liu Ye moved in front of her and bellowed, "Mr. Lu, don't look at the man!"

Lord Piggy wanted to shield Lu Yin from the prisoner, but the creature was too large. Lu Yin was only standing six meters away from Liu Huang while Lord Piggy was more than ten meters wide. Thus, the pig could only try to drag Lu Yin backwards.

Lu Yin did not move, and he continued staring straight at Liu Huang.

In fact, Lu Yin showed no reaction at all.

Liu Huang was astonished. "Do you... have no hatred?"

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. Hatred? Of course he did. Nobody lived a perpetually happy life, but Lu Yin had already Possessed Liu Huang in the past, and that had allowed him to experience the Fourteenth Sword. This was why Lu Yin knew how to deal with the technique. He stayed silent and simply took another step forward.

Lord Piggy could not endure the situation any longer, and he bit Lu Yin's shirt to drag him back.

However, Lord Piggy found that it was impossible to do so, and he was instead pulled forward by Lu Yin.

Lu Yin made it within five meters of Liu Huang, and he Possessed the man again.

Liu Huang entered a daze. He had been imprisoned for far too long, making him much weaker than before, which was how Lu Yin was able to Possess the man.

Lu Yin suddenly gained access to Liu Huang's memories.

At this moment, the chains binding Liu Huang began to vibrate. All 3,000 chains throughout Gaia's Swamp trembled at the same time.

The Warden just turned around yet again; this was none of his business.

Lord Piggy was startled, as this meant that Master Cha had activated the sourcebox array.

Lord Piggy pulled Lu Yin back and worriedly said, "Alliance Leader Lu, Master Cha got angry! Let's go! There's nothing to see."

Lu Yin glanced over at Liu Huang. "Alright."

He got back on Lord Piggy's back, and they headed back to the castle.

Liu Huang felt confused as he watched Lu Yin leave. What was that feeling just now? That young man looked like the champion from ZENITH.

Why did that young man possess no hatred? Was his Fourteenth Sword still incomplete? Could it be flawed? If a young man was able to ignore it so easily, then how could it be considered the Fourteenth Sword?

Lu Yin closed his eyes as he sat on Lord Piggy's back so that nobody could see the surprise filling his eyes.

After Possessing Liu Huang, Lu Yin had learned the identity of the leader of the prison break: Can. Lu Yin did not feel surprised by that, as all 3,000 prisoners in Gaia's Swamp were potential suspects. What surprised him was the means of communication that Can had used to organize the prison break; he was using globes of spiritual force.

Lu Yin had never expected to see globes of spiritual force in Gaia's Swamp.

Liuying Zishan had once been controlled by an orb of spiritual force, and Can was using the same method to contact Liu Huang to organize a prison break. This was how Can had been able to plan anything at all. If these light balls of spiritual force were the same as what had controlled Liuying Zishan, then Can most likely had the ability to control the guards, and possibly even the Assistant Warden, which would allow the prisoners to escape from Gaia's Swamp.

Can had been imprisoned for many years, so could the orb of spiritual force that had controlled Liuying Zishan have any connection to the man? Lu Yin had initially assumed that Undying Yushan was the person controlling Liuying Zishan. Then, he suddenly remembered something else: that familiar gaze was Undying Yushan's!

The familiar eyes that Lu Yin had seen in Can were the same as Undying Yushan's.

Lu Yin became completely confident that Can was Undying Yushan. When he had asked the Starsibyl Sect to perform a divination on Undying Yushan, runes had shot out in various directions. It was impossible for Undying Yushan to possess so many clones, so Lu Yin guessed that the runes were actually the locations of globes of spiritual force. If that was true, then how was Can connected to Undying Yushan? Was it possible that he was one of the many "Undying Yushans?"

Chapter 1686: Send You Off

Lu Yin's eyes suddenly opened wide, and he looked down at the ground. He had seen Undying Yushan in Aeternus Nation while Possessing a corpse king, so Gaia's Swamp was the second place where Lu Yin had seen the man after his death. If this Can person was truly connected to Undying Yushan, then Lu Yin finally had a lead on the mysterious man.

He would have to eventually remove this particular thorn in his side.

Once they were inside the massive castle, Lord Piggy ran straight for the Warden's toe. Lu Yin and the others leaped off the pig's back just before the creature smashed into the toe.

"Did you find a place?" the Warden bent low to look at Lu Yin.

Lord Piggy had flipped over after crashing and was trying to catch his breath.

Lu Yin looked up at the Warden. "Senior, could we speak in private?"

Lord Piggy's ears perked up. A private chat? That did not sound good. He immediately spoke up, saying, "Alliance Leader Lu, I'm willing to stay and listen to your orders."

"There's no need for that," Lu Yin replied.

Lord Piggy opened his mouth, and his tail flicked downwards.

“What do you want to chat about, Alliance Leader Lu?” the Warden asked.

Lu Yin said, “I haven’t enjoyed a drink in a long time. I’d like to have a drink with you, Senior.”

The Warden paused before letting out a hearty laugh. “Alright, it’s been a long time since anyone’s drank with me. Since you’re interested, I’ll definitely join you, hahahaha.”

“I want a drink too,” Lord Piggy muttered, only to be shoved away by the Warden.

Liu Ye and Fei Hua took Emperor Luo away with them so that only Lu Yin and the Warden were left in the room.

The ground shook as a massive flask landed next to Lu Yin. “Alliance Leader, have a taste of my people’s wine.”

Lu Yin’s eyes lit up. “Alright.”

Drinking with a 30,000 meter tall giant was not an enjoyable experience, as Lu Yin had to dodge gigantic drops that fell from the sky. Despite each droplet being a normal size to a colossal giant, they were like waterfalls to Lu Yin.

The wine that the colossal giants made was very strong, dry, and rather bitter in taste. It suited the colossal giants quite well.

Crash!

A flask struck the ground again, and the Warden let out a sigh. His breath created a cloud that enveloped the castle. “So many years have passed with nobody to chat with me in this forsaken place.”

“I heard that you enjoy watching videos, right?” Lu Yin asked.

The Warden smiled. “Yes. I’ve got nothing better to do, so I do like watching videos. I also get the guards and prisoners to watch with me since they’re bored too. This place is so dim, and nobody would voluntarily live here. Your fights during ZENITH were quite interesting.”

“Thanks.” Lu Yin smiled. He swept out a hand and drank more wine. It was a very strong and dry drink that was extremely robust. There was no trace of gentleness to it at all.

“It’s not very tasty, huh? Hahahaha, most people don’t care for our wine, but human wine is too weak and tasteless.” He took another drink and wiped his mouth. “Can the giants who follow you brew wine?”

Lu Yin shook his head. “They’re not real colossal giants. I managed to help them remove some of their weakened bloodline’s restrictions with Progenitor Chen’s blood, which was how they managed to transform.”

The Warden was shocked by this revelation. “Progenitor Chen’s blood? You had some too?”

Lu Yin arched a brow. “You have some as well, Senior?”

The Warden grinned. “The colossal giants almost went extinct during the ancient war. No, they actually did go extinct. I haven’t seen any of my clan members ever since I woke up from cryostasis. Progenitor Chen’s blood was next to me when I woke up, so I should be the last pure-blooded colossal giant.”

The Warden then took another gulp of wine.

Lu Yin found this phrase odd—pure-blooded? It sounded strange.

“Progenitor Chen received blessings from the colossal giants, as they didn’t kill him and even accepted him as one of their own despite him being an outsider. That bottle of blood was his way of repaying us. I didn’t expect that more of it existed. Where did you get Progenitor Chen’s blood from?” the Warden asked curiously.

“Progenitor Chen’s Mausoleum.”

“The one protected by the Seven Courts?”

“That’s right. I visited there before.”

The Warden nodded and no longer asked any more questions on the matter.

After a few moments, the Warden instead asked, “Where do you want to put Emperor Luo?”

Lu Yin’s eyes flickered. “There’s a prisoner called Can. I want Emperor Luo to replace him.”

“Alright, I’ll find another place for Can,” the Warden promised.

Lu Yin looked up. “Senior, I don’t want Can to be moved, I want to replace him. I don’t want him to even exist in Gaia’s Swamp anymore.”

...

One day later, Lord Piggy entered the castle to find an empty flask. Lu Yin had only drunk a small bit as the Warden had essentially finished it all by himself.

A strong smell of alcohol filled the entire castle to the point where the rain smelled of alcohol. Even the mist that covered Gaia’s Swamp had its scent.

“Pig, take Alliance Leader to Can,” the Warden ordered in a booming voice.

Lord Piggy grew curious. “Can?”

“Just follow my orders, or else I’ll peel your skin off and roast it.”

Lord Piggy was startled, and he immediately led Lu Yin into the depth of Gaia’s Swamp.

They soon drew close to Can.

“Alliance Leader, might I know what Sir Warden was saying?” Lord Piggy asked.

Lu Yin leaped off the pig’s back and walked towards Can with Liu Ye and Fei Hua standing guard next to him.

Lord Piggy watched as Lu Yin approached Can. The pig was not at all worried; compared to when Lu Yin had interacted with Liu Huang or the Second Nightking, Can was just an Envoy with a power level of about 500,000. On top of that, he had been a prisoner for many years and was much weaker than his peak. Thus, Can posed no threat at all to Lu Yin. Still, Lord Piggy was quite curious as to what Lu Yin intended to do.

Can opened his eyes and calmly looked at Lu Yin. The familiar gaze that Lu Yin had seen during his last visit to the man was gone. Can had hidden it well.

Lu Yin looked at the prisoner. "Is your name Can?"

Can's eyes swept straight past Lu Yin over to Lord Piggy. "Why is he here?"

Lord Piggy shook his head in confusion.

Can stared at Lu Yin for a bit. "Oh, I remember you. Are you that champion of ZENITH, Lu Yin?"

"Remember the name well, as it will be the last name you hear in your life," Lu Yin said. As he spoke, he suddenly disappeared, only to reappear right in front of Can, grabbing the prisoner's neck.

Can's eyes instantly grew sharply focused. "What are you doing?"

Lord Piggy was completely stunned. "Alliance Leader, are you...?"

Lu Yin coldly replied, "I don't like your name, so I'll send you off."

The killing intention in his eyes flared.

Lord Piggy dumbly watched on. He made no efforts to stop Lu Yin, as that was beyond the pig's abilities.

Can's eyes went wide as he felt the increasing pressure on his neck. Lu Yin was actually trying to kill him!

Suddenly, the chains trembled, and a massive force forced Lu Yin back.

It was the power of the sourcebox array that covered Gaia's Swamp's through the many chains. 3,000 chains existed to lock up the prisoners within Gaia's Swamp, and rumors claimed that not even monsters with power levels of over a million could break free from this sourcebox array. It had been specially made for Gaia's Swamp by an ancient Array Grandmaster.

"Master Cha's angry!" Both Lord Piggy's ears and tail perked up.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed as his eyes locked onto Can's.

Can glared at the young man. "Why do you want to kill me?"

"I told you, I don't like your name," Lu Yin calmly replied.

Liu Ye and Fei Hua were both quite curious about this. Lu Yin was not a violent person, and he always had a reason for killing someone.

After the sourcebox array was activated, everyone in Gaia's Swamp was locked in place, including Lu Yin. He waited for the person who had activated the array to show themselves.

Can said nothing at all and merely continued to glare at Lu Yin. The prisoner's eyes flashed, but there was no hatred in them.

Death energy slowly surrounded them. Although the chains did not release enough death energy to harm Liu Ye and Fei Hua, it was still torturous for the prisoners who were incessantly exposed to it.

Even though Fei Hua had seen many powerful cultivators throughout her life, she was still intimidated by Gaia's Swamp, as life as a prisoner in this place was a fate worse than death.

A few moments later, a woman approached. Lu Yin turned around and was shocked to see this beautiful woman.

Gaia's Swamp was filled with death energy. The woman who was slowly approaching Lu Yin and the others had a cold expression on her face. Although her features were as exquisite as Ling Gong, giving her a similarly cold demeanor, there was killing intent in this woman's gaze that felt like a mountain of ice.

If Ling Gong's delicate features gave her a domineering appearance, then this woman's features just made her look cold, and she was quite well-suited to Gaia's Swamp.

Lord Piggy trembled in fear when he saw the women. "Master- Master Cha."

Can sighed in relief when he saw the woman.

Lu Yin looked at the woman with curiosity. Was this woman Master Cha, one of Gaia's Swamp's assistant wardens? One of the prisoners that he had seen during his visit was this woman's father.

Master Cha approached Lu Yin and stopped when she was a hundred meters away. She looked at him with her cold eyes. "Why are you trying to kill him?"

Lu Yin answered, "I don't need to give you a reason, as the Warden already agreed to it."

Master Cha frowned. "There are 3,000 prisoners in Gaia's Swamp, and each one has their own sentence. Unless they die to the toxic gas, they cannot be allowed to die before their sentence expires. Anyone who tries to kill a prisoner will be sent to the Interstellar Supreme Court."

Lu Yin shrugged and took out the Chief Justice's bell.

Master Cha's brows rose.

Can's expression sank, and he was overcome by a bad feeling.

"You are trying to kill someone in Gaia's Swamp. Give me a reason, or else I'll treat you as though you are a trespasser," Master Cha coldly stated.

Lu Yin calmly met her eyes. This woman could only be objecting to his actions either because she was a stickler for rules or because she was aware that Can was the leader of the planned prison break, and she hoped to use that opportunity to save her father.

Lu Yin suspected the latter to be true.

According to Can's plan, the prison break should not occur anytime soon, as the timing was not right. However, Lu Yin could not afford to keep waiting. Nothing would happen as long as he remained in Gaia's Swamp, as his presence with Liu Ye and Fei Hua had changed the entire situation.

All he could do was force Can.

Lu Yin grabbed hold of Can's neck once again. Master Cha's eyes flashed, and she tried to gain control of the sourcebox array, but she failed. The Warden had altered the sourcebox array.

Lu Yin grabbed Can's neck and squeezed. "I'll send you on your way."

Chapter 1687: Powerful

The familiar eyes returned as Can glared at Lu Yin. "Get lost!"

The 3,000 chains suddenly trembled violently as Can pulled his limbs back. Half of the prisoners' chains that were connected into the ground suddenly broke, and some of the guards attacked their companions as well.

Chaos suddenly descended upon Gaia's Swamp.

Master Cha's eyes went wide, and she grabbed hold of a chain. She twisted it towards Lu Yin at the same time that Can unleashed his spiritual force. While the man's spiritual force could not compare to the Second Nightking's, it was still at a power level of around 600,000. Lu Yin was knocked backwards, but fortunately did not suffer any heavy injuries.

Master Cha once again swung the chains at Lu Yin, but Fei Hua casually shoved the woman away with a snort.

Liu Ye prepared to attack, but Lu Yin stopped the Envoy.

Can was confused when he saw what Lu Yin had done.

Lord Piggy shrieked, "Sir Warden, someone's trying to escape!"

Sword qi sliced through a distant part of Gaia's Swamp. Liu Huang had joined the chaos, and he had used stellar energy to form the same strange sword that Lu Yin had used during his match with Liu Tianmu in the Sword Sect.

Master Cha's father, Lù Yan, covered his body with nine lined battle force as he struggled free from his chains. A huge crimson moon appeared over his head, and a wolf could be seen howling within the moon. This was Crimson Moon Howl.

The Second Nightking's chains also shattered. He looked up and used Celestial Being Shows The Way.

In addition to these top powerhouses, other prisoners also started attacking.

Gaia's Swamp's guards were quickly overwhelmed.

In his castle, the Warden opened his eyes and emerged. He bellowed, "How dare you! Get back to where you belong!"

He punched at the ground, and a terrifying power smashed down at Gaia's Swamp.

Liu Huang's sword, Lù Yan's Crimson Moon Howl, and the Second Nightking's Celestial Being Shows The Way were all shattered.

If these powerhouses were at their peak, then any single one of them would be able to easily defeat the Warden, but they had all been either imprisoned for too long or injured too badly, and they were no longer able to withstand the Warden's strength even when working together.

The Warden clenched his fists and slammed them down upon Gaia's Swamp.

The weaker prisoners who tried to escape all spat out blood and died.

Shui Chuanxiao's chains had also shattered, startling him. This meant that someone was trying to escape, and they had even managed to destroy the prison's sourcebox array.

Lu Yin coughed as the Warden's power spread throughout Gaia's Swamp. The Warden was attacking the entire prison, which meant that Lu Yin was included within the scope as well.

Can grew curious about why Lu Yin had not ordered Liu Ye and Fei Hua to attack him. Can was able to sense just how powerful Liu Ye and Fei Hua were, though he had no time to think about such things at this moment.

Glowing orbs of spiritual force emerged from the bodies of the dead guards and prisoners, all of which were quickly absorbed by Can. His rune lines rapidly increased as his power level surged beyond 600,000.

Lu Yin frowned. He had initially wanted to fight Can for control of the orbs of spiritual force, but Lu Yin had suppressed the urge after considering the Warden's strength.

If no one could defeat the Warden, then how would Lu Yin be able to take the Second Nightking and Shui Chuanxiao away?

Master Cha held a hand to her chest. Blood could be seen dripping from her lips. She glanced at the unmoving Lu Yin, and then at Can in confusion.

Someone suddenly appeared and helped Master Cha up. "Xiao Cha, who hurt you?"

The man was her father, Lù Yan.

Can ordered, "Leave Gaia's Swamp—we'll have to work together to defeat the Warden."

Lù Yan glared at Can. "Did you injure Xiao Cha?"

Lù Cha grabbed hold of her father. "Run, Father!"

Lù Yan shot a vicious glare at Can. His gaze then swept over Lu Yin before the man picked up Lù Cha and rushed upwards. He was attacked by a massive force, but he used his Crimson Moon Howl to counterattack.

Lord Piggy collapsed to the ground. The pig did not even dare to lift his head up.

Lu Yin and the others silently watched without interfering.

Lu Yin had already informed the Warden about the planned prison break, and he had even mentioned that Can was the leader. This was why the Warden had agreed to allow Lu Yin to attack Can and force the prisoner's hand.

The Warden was fully confident that he could suppress all of the prisoners, as he was very powerful, and he also had the assistance of the sourcebox array.

However, Lu Yin had not mentioned Can's precise plans for triggering the prison break, or anything about how the man could control people. Lu Yin had only told the Warden that Can had tried to coordinate with Shui Chuanxiao, but the former grand marshal had refused. Lu Yin had also told the Warden that Shui Chuanxiao was the one who had informed him of Can's planned prison break.

Lu Yin had made Can look weak while making the Warden feel powerful. At this moment, Lu Yin just needed to wait and see whether or not the prisoners could defeat the Warden.

A riot had erupted within Gaia's Swamp.

The castle broke apart, but the Warden continued to rain down powerful punches upon the ground, causing all of Gaia's Swamp to shake.

Lù Yan rushed up from underground with Lù Cha. The man raised a hand. "Banishment."

The Warden was forced back several meters as Lù Yan had just used the Hall of Honor's secret technique: Banishment.

The Warden growled and punched at the escaping prisoner once more. But in response, sword qi appeared in the sky and slashed at the Warden. This was the Thirteenth Sword.

Lù Yan was startled—the Thirteenth Sword? Was there someone from the Sword Sect in Gaia's Swamp?

The Thirteenth Sword could not be avoided, and the Warden coughed up blood. "How dare you try to escape! I'll kill you!"

He threw out another punch.

Liu Huang appeared and confronted the Warden's attack. The man had formed a sword with stellar energy. Despite his greatly reduced strength, Liu Huang was still completely confident in being able to withstand this punch.

Bang!

Liu Huang was flung back as cracks appeared all over his body. The death energy in Gaia's Swamp had weakened him tremendously, and the Warden's punch nearly killed him.

The next moment, more prisoners rushed out, and they all attacked the Warden in unison. However, there were also some prisoners who did not join the attack, instead trying to escape from the prison as soon as possible. These particular prisoners were all quite powerful, and there were even some Envoys among them.

Gaia's Swamp had gathered the Human Domain's most evil people all in one location, and many of them were able to withstand the Warden's attacks. Most of the prisoners were Enlighteners, and each and every one of them had been extremely powerful at their peak.

The Warden clenched his fists and pressed his hands into the ground. He yanked up multiple chains and swept them out across Gaia's Swamp, forcing all of the prisoners back, regardless of whether they were

trying to escape or to attack the Warden. Some of the prisoners were instantly killed, dying a miserable death.

The Second Nightking's eyes flickered as he carefully observed the Warden.

The Warden's vision changed, as he had been targeted by a spiritual force battle technique. The Warden saw a giant as large as a planet before him, and he bellowed, "Even if Progenitor Chen is here, you still won't be able to escape."

The Warden attacked.

The scenery before him shattered, and the Second Nightking spat out blood. He had been injured very badly by the Chief Justice, so the Warden had easily shattered the illusion. If the Second Nightking were still at his peak, he would have easily dealt with the Warden with just Celestial Being Shows The Way.

"Attack him together!" Can ordered. With that, Lù Yan, Liu Huang, and the Second Nightking all attacked as one. They were the most powerful prisoners in Gaia's Swamp, and their escape would have tremendous effects on the rest of the Fifth Mainland.

The Warden watched as they all attacked, and an indescribable aura was suddenly unleashed. The sky began to twist about as though it was being burnt, and countless cracks appeared. Liu Huang and the others were suppressed to the point where they could not move forward. The Warden seemed taller and more invincible than ever.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. "How is this possible? Aurelian force?"

The Warden lifted his head back and released a furious roar. A gale of aurelian force swept through his surroundings, and nobody was able to move. Aurelian force was the pinnacle of battle force, and Lu Yin had previously thought that no one in the entire Fifth Mainland had reached that level. After all, there were only a handful of people who had reached that level even in the Perennial World.

Once the Warden used aurelian force, he gained precise control and dominated his surroundings.

Can and the others were all stunned. The Second Nightking had goosebumps run down his back. "Attack!"

The Warden punched at them, and with his aurelian force, his punch could compare to an Envoy's attack with a power level of 800,000 despite the Warden only having a power level of about 700,000.

Under this attack, Can, the Second Nightking, Lù Yan, and Liu Huang were all thrown back.

Lu Yin nearly fainted, and Liu Ye and Fei Hua were similarly astounded. They would not be able to defeat the Warden even if they worked together, as he had mastered aurelian force.

The Warden had finally unveiled his full strength. Even without the sourcebox array, he was still able to fully control Gaia's Swamp, and this was why he was the Warden.

Master Cha, who had been lying in Lù Yan's arms, was also startled. She had never expected the Warden to actually be this powerful, as he had never revealed his battle force before.

“Oh no, we can’t escape! Xiao Cha, tie me up, now!” Lù Yan ordered.

Lù Cha shook her head and replied in a bitter tone, “Father, the Warden isn’t stupid.”

Lù Yan sighed.

Liu Huang also let out a sigh. He wiped the corner of his mouth. Since there was a chance for him to escape at this moment, he would never give up. No matter how powerful the Warden’s battle force might be, he still could not escape from the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Swords.

Some distance away, the Second Nightking was not actually looking at the Warden. He had redirected his focus to Can, and the Second Nightking saw Can absorbing the glowing balls of spiritual force.

“Let’s work together. Lend me your spiritual force,” the Second Nightking said. Can’s eyes flickered, and orbs of spiritual force appeared. The Second Nightking took control of them and slowly surrounded the Warden.

Lu Yin saw everything take place from underground. He had seen the Warden’s power, Liu Huang preparing to use the Fourteenth Sword, as well as the Second Nightking’s Ten Prison Formation.

The Second Nightking was a Senior Array Master, and he had previously used the Ten Prison Formation to injure Elder Jiu Shen. Since it was a sourcebox array, the Warden might not be able to overpower the experts working against him.

“Pig, are you dead? Get out here!” the Warden shouted. He then grabbed hold of the chains once more and smashed them downwards.

Lu Yin glanced over at Lord Piggy, who was still hiding his head in the ground. Lu Yin just laughed.

Bang!

The ground shook yet again, dazing Lu Yin.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

The Warden gave the prisoners no time to react. He was trying to use his strength to stun everyone, and this caused most of the prisoners to faint, and a few died outright. Only a few people like Liu Huang remained conscious.

Beneath the Warden’s feet, ten orbs of spiritual force grew in size as the Second Nightking merged his own spiritual force with Can’s.

Liu Huang raised his hand to use the Fourteenth Sword.

Lù Yan set his daughter down and leaped forward. He attacked the Warden with his Crimson Moon Howl.

“Since you all want to die, I’ll grant you your wish!” the Warden yelled. He punched forward, shattering the Crimson Moon Howl. As Lù Cha watched on in shock, the Warden punched Lù Yan hard enough to

nearly shatter every bone in his body. The man's body crashed to the ground, but before he landed, he used Discipline against the Warden.

Chapter 1688: The True Leader

Discipline was the Hall of Honor's most infuriating secret technique, as it reflected the wounds that one had suffered onto their opponent. Almost every enemy of the Hall of Honor had experienced this technique in the past, and it was a very difficult secret technique to overcome.

The Warden retreated multiple steps as blood dripped down the corner of his mouth. He had basically suffered the effects of his own attack at the same time that Liu Huang had used the Fourteenth Sword: Misery. This sword forced anyone who faced it to relive the worst moments of their lives. This was unavoidable, as there was no one who had lived a completely happy life. Liu Huang's sword magnified the bitterness that one felt, which was a truly difficult experience for the Warden.

The Warden was ultimately unable to withstand it despite his aurelian force, and he coughed up blood.

The next moment, the sourcebox array of spiritual force, the Ten Prison Formation, activated. The Second Nightking was cooperating with Can to defeat the Warden.

The Warden was heavily injured by the eruption of the sourcebox array.

Discipline had injured his body.

The Fourteenth Sword had wounded his soul.

The Ten Prison Formation had hurt his spirit.

The Warden knelt on the ground, as he was not able withstand the three combined attacks. His aurelian force slowly dissipated until it completely disappeared.

He tried to stand back up.

Lu Yin just shook his head; it was over. While aurelian force was beyond merely being dominating, it also exacted a terrible toll on the person using it. Both Zhou Tang and the Warden were only able to use their aurelian force in short bursts.

With this, the three attacks had sufficiently and completely defeated the colossal giant.

The Warden collapsed onto the ground, causing Gaia's Swamp to shake.

Can sighed in relief. He turned to the Second Nightking in ecstasy.

The Second Nightking also turned towards Can, though the Second Nightking had an odd expression on his face.

The sword formed from stellar energy disappeared from Liu Huang's hand, and he nearly collapsed to the ground.

Lù Cha anxiously rushed over to Lù Yan's side. "Father! Father! How are you?"

Lù Yan coughed up blood. He had suffered the worst injuries, and he was almost dead. Lù Cha continuously fed her father pills for him to recover.

With the Warden's defeat, the rest of the guards were useless. Can absorbed the spiritual force that had been used to set up the Ten Prison Formation, and at the same time, glowing globes of spiritual force appeared over all of the corpses of prisoners and guards, which Can absorbed as well.

The Second Nightking observed the entire thing. "I've never seen such a method for cultivating spiritual force. How interesting."

Can warily glanced over at the Second Nightking. "The Warden has been defeated, so we can leave now."

Only a few people in Gaia's Swamp remained conscious, as nearly everyone had fainted from either the Warden's attacks or Can's spiritual force, including even some of the most powerful prisoners.

Upon hearing Can's words, Lù Cha immediately pulled Lù Yan up so that they could leave, and Liu Huang also slowly rose.

At this moment, Lu Yin appeared with Emperor Luo, Liu Ye, and Fei Hua.

Can glared at Lu Yin. "Do you want to stop us?"

Lu Yin smiled and glanced over at the unconscious Warden. "I warned him not to be overconfident. You guys really aren't easy to handle, but-" His gaze swept over across Can and the others. "You guys have also reached your limit, haven't you?"

"Young man, you're not from the Gaia's Swamp, so you have no reason to stop us. Let us go, and we will make it worth your while," Can said.

Lu Yin's eyes grew sharp.

"The Hall of Honor has a dark side as well. You don't need to stop us," Liu Huang added hoarsely.

Lù Cha glared at Lu Yin with cold eyes. "Go away."

Lu Yin smiled. "No."

Can ordered, "Let's attack together! This is our only chance of escaping."

His spiritual force crashed towards Lu Yin as Can formed a claw with a hand and reached out for Lu Yin's forehead. While the attack looked quite similar to the Skybeast Claw, this attack was actually a spiritual force technique. It had fused a physical battle technique with a spiritual force one to form a truly wicked battle technique.

Can had been captured by the Hall of Honor and locked away in the Gaia's Swamp precisely because of this battle technique.

This attack could instantly shatter a cultivator's head, and Can would then be able to absorb their spiritual force. He had killed countless cultivators with this battle technique.

At the same time, Liu Huang reformed his sword from stellar energy and slashed out at Lu Yin. He was using the Fourteenth Sword once again. The man only had enough energy for a single attack, as he was still exhausted from their battle with the Warden.

Lu Yin remained as he was, and neither Liu Ye nor Fei Hua moved.

Can was attacked by a Ten Prison Formation before his own attack could strike Lu Yin—the Second Nightking had struck. Before the Warden collapsed, Lu Yin had already ordered the Second Nightking to set up a Ten Prison Formation beneath Can's feet.

Can screamed and fell to the ground. He had not expected the Second Nightking to suddenly betray him. He had actually felt the Ten Prison Formation activate but had assumed that the Second Nightking was using it against Lu Yin. Can had not even considered the possibility of the sourcebox array being used against him.

Although Can had powerful spiritual force attacks, he was heavily injured by the Ten Prison Formation, and he fell unconscious.

Lu Yin completely ignored Can, as he was instead studying Liu Huang's Fourteenth Sword. This was an unavoidable technique, but it had no effect on Lu Yin since he had also learned it. This was the greatest flaw of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Swords: they both targeted the spirit, which meant that they were either unavoidable or utterly useless.

Liu Huang helplessly let go of his sword when he saw Lu Yin calmly looking back at him. The swordsman's stellar energy dissipated—he had failed. This youth was able to completely ignore the Fourteenth Sword, which was proof that Liu Huang's greatest accomplishment was flawed.

Can lay on the ground, betrayed by the Second Nightking. Liu Huang had been defeated, so the only people remaining were Lù Cha and Lù Yan. However, Lù Yan was already terribly wounded and could not even stand.

Lù Cha clenched her fists. They were one step away, just one step away from success! Why did this person have to appear? They should have been able to escape, so why? Why?

The woman's body trembled, and her pupils suddenly went dark. Lù Yan, who she was holding, was startled. He pulled at Lù Cha's sleeve. "Xiao Cha, calm down! Stop! Stop!"

But it seemed as though Lù Cha could not hear her father's words. She had somehow become a different person, and there was a very disturbing aura around her at this moment.

Suddenly, the death energy in Gaia's Swamp was pulled towards Lù Cha, and she absorbed it. A whirlpool of death energy formed.

Lu Yin's eyes went wide; what was going on?

"Xiao Cha, stop! Stop!" Lù Yan screamed anxiously.

Lù Cha kept absorbing the death energy, and she was undergoing a massive change.

Her rune lines kept increasing, and they soon exceeded a power level of 500,000. She had entered a new realm.

Becoming an Envoy was a threshold, as only a few people were able to fight against an Envoy.

The four Junior Progenitors in the Perennial World were capable of challenging Envoys, which qualified them to be called Junior Progenitors. Others could not achieve the same feat and would therefore never be able to reach the same level as the Junior Progenitors. While Lù Cha had cultivated for much longer than the four Junior Progenitors, it was still incredibly difficult for an Enlightener to reach an Envoy's power level.

However, this was not the part that surprised Lu Yin. He was more startled by the fact that this woman was able to absorb death energy. Was she from the Specter Clan?

After Lù Cha's runes exceeded a power level of 500,000, she stopped absorbing the death energy. Her eyes opened wide, but they had become silver. This was a characteristic of the Specter Clan, as their eyes could be white, silver, or gold. Not many people had golden eyes, so this silver color indicated that the woman was a senior within the Specter Clan.

"Xiao Cha..." Lù Yan said helplessly as he vomited blood.

Lù Cha gently set Lù Yan down and then glared at Lu Yin. "Leave."

Liu Ye and Fei Hua stepped in front of Lu Yin, as they were able to sense the sudden change in Lù Cha. Although she most likely could not harm Lu Yin, the two Envoys did not want to run that risk. They were on their last trip with Lu Yin, and they would end up in deep trouble if Lu Yin was harmed while with them.

Lu Yin waved a hand to dismiss Liu Ye and Fei Hua before stepping forward. "I wasn't interested in you before, but I didn't expect you to be a part of the Specter Clan. How interesting. Just how did you manage to join the Hall of Honor?"

Lù Cha had no desire to speak with Lu Yin at all. Death energy streamed out of her body and formed chains that wrapped around Lu Yin.

He allowed the chains to twine about him. Fei Hua wanted to help, but Lu Yin shot her a glare. "Don't interfere."

Fei Hua was growing anxious, but Liu Ye set a hand on her shoulder. He shook his head; Lu Yin was not someone who would look for trouble.

Lù Cha's chains managed to bind Lu Yin, much to her surprise. Still, with Lu Yin captured, everything was over. She pulled the chains towards her, as she wanted to use Lu Yin as a hostage while escaping with her father.

However, no matter how Lù Cha manipulated the death energy, Lu Yin did not move an inch. It felt as though she was unable to control her own death energy, but how was that possible?

Lù Cha had kept this ability of hers completely hidden, but she was still aware of just how powerful death energy was, as it allowed her to contest Envoys. Even though she was not able to view the true universe, she could still fight against Envoys, and this demonstrated the ample power of death energy. So, why was it not working right now?

This was impossible! Lù Cha exerted more force, and she absorbed even more death energy from Gaia's Swamp.

“Are you from the Neohuman Alliance?” Lu Yin asked as he studied Lù Cha.

Lù Cha gritted her teeth and met Lu Yin’s gaze with her silver eyes. She was trying to intimidate him, as most people would lose their minds after looking into her silver eyes. Regardless, Lu Yin remained unfazed.

“Why? Why are you immune to death energy?” Lù Cha asked.

Lù Yan then suddenly remembered the final match of ZENITH where Lu Yin had transformed; could the rumors actually be true?

He shouted, “Xiao Cha, stop! You can’t use death energy against him. He’s the true master of death energy.”

Lù Cha became even more confused.

Lu Yin smirked. He raised a hand and beckoned with a finger. The death energy surrounding him suddenly reversed and bound Lù Cha instead. She was completely unable to struggle free.

Lù Yan bellowed, “Lu Yin, the rumors are true! You’re the God of Death’s heir!”

Lu Yin slowly approached Lù Cha. “Are you from the Specter Clan?”

Lù Cha coldly glared at Lu Yin with her silver eyes.

Lù Yan grew anxious and quickly said, “She’s not from the Specter Clan! She’s just a cultivator who was successfully transformed. It’s my fault, as I took her to Aeternus Nation to undergo the transformation. Release her, Lu Yin! It’s not her fault! She’s never betrayed anyone!”

Lu Yin turned to face Lù Yan instead. “You were once a Judicial Commissioner, weren’t you? Your crime was betraying humanity, so it seems that you were working with the Neohuman Alliance.”

Chapter 1689: Control

Lù Yan lay on the ground, coughing. “I- I didn’t betray anyone! I just wanted to treat Xiao Cha.”

Lù Cha had already changed back to her normal condition, though she was still bound with death energy. Her face was pale, and her voice was weak. “Father took me to the Neohuman Alliance in order to save my life, but he didn’t do anything for them. After I was successfully transformed, he confessed everything to the Chief Justice. That’s why the Chief Justice was willing to send my father here to Gaia’s Swamp. Otherwise, he would have simply been killed if he had truly betrayed humanity and joined the Neohuman Alliance. You can ask the Chief Justice about it.”

Lu Yin did not need to ask anything at all, as he already knew that anyone who joined the Neohuman Alliance would be killed without exception. Besides, Lù Yan had once been a Judicial Commissioner, so he would have definitely been sentenced to death if he had joined the Neohuman Alliance. Since the Chief Justice had allowed the man to stay alive and be imprisoned in Gaia’s Swamp, it showed that Lù Yan had not actually done anything bad. In addition, his record clearly stated that he had surrendered.

However, if he had surrendered, why had he just tried to escape?

Lu Yin stopped paying attention to the father and daughter and instead approached Liu Huang.

Liu Huang bitterly said, "We were still defeated."

"You said that the Hall of Honor has a dark side. What were you referring to?" Lu Yin asked.

Liu Huang calmly looked at the youth in front of him. "Do you truly wish to know? You won't be able to turn back after learning of this."

Lu Yin smiled. "You're Liu Huang, right?"

Liu Huang's eyes grew sharp, and he stared at Lu Yin in disbelief. "You know of me?"

Lu Yin sighed. "You were the most talented cultivator that the Sword Sect has ever seen, and also the only person who managed to create a Fourteenth Sword. Well, to be accurate, you were the first person to create the Fourteenth Sword. Someone else managed to create a Fourteenth Sword after you. His name was Liu Guai, and he succeeded in creating a unique variation of the Thirteenth Sword."

Liu Huang was surprised to hear this. "How do you know about me? The Warden would have never told you about me."

Lu Yin answered calmly, "I know everything about you, what you've experienced, what you care about, and even the Fourteenth Sword."

Liu Huang frowned. "The Fourteenth Sword?"

Lu Yin formed a sword with his star energy, and then glanced over at the Second Nightking. "Fourteenth Sword: Misery."

The moment Lu Yin started his attack, Liu Huang instantly recognized the Fourteenth Sword.

The Second Nightking trembled as the Fourteenth Sword struck. Although he was uninjured, he felt extremely uncomfortable as he re-experienced the tragedies of his life.

He turned to look at Lu Yin in astonishment. Lu Yin had used no power in his attack, only showing the meaning of this sword technique. This was his way of proving to Liu Huang that he knew the Fourteenth Sword, so Lu Yin had not genuinely tried to attack the Second Nightking.

Regardless, the Second Nightking was absolutely astonished by the intent behind the Fourteenth Sword. If Lu Yin had been at his power level, he would have been killed by that attack just now. His wariness of Lu Yin immediately increased by another level.

This kid seemed to know about everything. He knew the Daynight clan's Daynight Praises, the Sword Sect's unprecedented Fourteenth Sword, and even the God of Death's inheritance. While the Second Nightking did not truly believe that rumor, it was a fact that Lu Yin could control death energy. The Second Nightking could scarcely believe that such a person existed in the universe.

"Why do you know the Fourteenth Sword?" Liu Huang was stupefied. He also finally understood how Lu Yin had been able to ignore the Fourteenth Sword that he thought that he alone knew.

Lu Yin ignored the man and instead tossed a gadget to Liu Huang so that he could catch up on what had happened in the universe. Lu Yin did not have the energy to explain everything to the man.

Finally, Lu Yin turned to Can.

Can was still sprawled on the ground, and he had watched as Lu Yin took control of the fate of everyone here. There was a trace of excitement in Can's gaze and no trace of resentment at all.

Lu Yin walked over and bent over next to Can.

Can lowered his head. "Kill me if you want."

Lu Yin asked in a calm tone, "Why don't you dare to look at me?"

Can sneered. "What? Do you want to show off to someone you defeated?"

Lu Yin grabbed Can's neck and twisted the man's head to face him.

Eyes were the window to a person's soul, and Lu Yin could not see any resentment and hatred in Can's gaze like he had in Lù Yan and Liu Huang's eyes.

Can frowned, and his expression chilled. "Boy, what do you want?"

Lu Yin released the man. He was certain that this person was Undying Yushan, but the familiar look that Lu Yin had previously seen was hidden, and it was possible that this body was just a shell for Undying Yushan. Liuying Zishan had previously been controlled by an orb of spiritual force, and Can had used the same thing to control the guards and prisoners in Gaia's Swamp. Given the situation, it was possible that Can was also under the control of the globes of spiritual force.

That was Undying Yushan's technique.

Undying Yushan had only been a Hunter, but he had also been ranked among the top ten of the Top 100 Rankings at his peak. He had been weakened greatly after being injured.

How powerful was a person who had stood among the top ten of the Top 100 Rankings? The Ten Arbiters had not existed during that era, so the top ten of the Top 100 Rankings had been comparable to the Universe Youth Council's representatives. If Undying Yushan had been hiding his strength since then, it meant that he was actually one of the strongest members of his generation in the entire Fifth Mainland.

Lu Yin thought further down that path: what realm would Wen Sansi and Liu Tianmu reach after cultivating for a few hundred years? It was impossible for Undying Yushan to still be a mere Hunter.

Lu Yin had cultivated for less than twenty years to reach his current level, and while he had relied on his innate gift and a bit of luck, he did not believe that he was the only person in the entire universe with this level of talent. He would much rather believe that Undying Yushan was just as talented and that he was also someone who was extremely scheming.

Lu Yin truly could not estimate what level of Undying Yushan might have reached after cultivating for a few hundred or even a thousand years. At minimum, Lu Yin was sure that he could become an Envoy within a hundred years, so what about Undying Yushan?

Can had been imprisoned for a few hundred years and was not an Envoy. On the other hand, Undying Yushan could have cultivated for a few hundred years to reach that level, which meant that it was possible that he had taken control of Can.

Just what was Undying Yushan planning?

Lu Yin's eyes drifted back to Can. No matter what Undying Yushan intended to do, Lu Yin could not keep Can around. Imprisoning him was of no use, as he could use his orbs of spiritual force anywhere.

Lu Yin attacked, and glowing balls of spiritual force surged from Can's body, striking heavy blows on Lu Yin.

Liu Ye and Fei Hua were stunned. The Second Nightking saw this happen, but he did nothing to interfere and simply allowed Can's balls of spiritual force light balls to strike Lu Yin.

Oddly enough, the strength of the orbs of spiritual force were very weak. Lu Yin's attack killed Can, and the orbs entered Lu Yin's body.

Can's remaining spiritual force was very powerful, and Lu Yin sat down on the ground and began reciting the Stonewall Scriptures in order to absorb the spiritual force.

Liu Ye and Fei Hua immediately stood guard beside Lu Yin while looking at him in surprise.

"You can absorb someone else's spiritual force?" Fei Hua felt confused.

Liu Ye answered, "It's possible. Anything is possible in the universe. That person was even able to control the guards with his spiritual force."

The Second Nightking glared at Lu Yin. He wanted to attack but could do nothing at all with Liu Ye and Fei Hua present.

Liu Huang, Lù Yan, and the others could only wait while Lu Yin finished absorbing the spiritual force, as this youth was in total control of the current situation.

Fortunately, there had not been much spiritual force remaining, so Lu Yin finished absorbing it shortly. By the time he finished, the Warden, the other prisoners, and the surviving guards still had still not recovered.

Lu Yin opened his eyes and was able to sense that his spiritual force had become much stronger than before.

During ZENITH, he had barely been able to hold off Yao Xuan's attacks with his own spiritual force while also using the Inception Array. After returning from the Perennial World, Lu Yin's spiritual force had grown stronger, but at best, he could withstand a spiritual force attack from an Envoy. At this moment, Lu Yin could easily withstand such an attack, and he could even attempt to hold back the Second Nightking's spiritual force with the Inception Array.

Still, even then Lu Yin would only be able to withstand one of the Second Nightking's casual attacks, as the difference between them was too vast.

Focus returned to Lu Yin's eyes as he stared at Can's body. While Can's final attack had seemed useless, he had actually set something up for Undying Yushan. If Lu Yin's guess was correct, there were orbs of spiritual force within his own body that could be controlled.

Could Undying Yushan control Lu Yin? He did not know. He had the Stonewall Scriptures, but he was unsure if that could stop Undying Yushan.

Wait, that was wrong. If his guess was correct, the balls of spiritual force should have been placed in his body ever since he had absorbed the orbs controlling Liuying Zishan.

Lu Yin felt bitter. If that were true, then Undying Yushan had planned out everything long, long ago, back when Lu Yin had possessed no ability to fight back.

However, if Undying Yushan was as powerful as Lu Yin suspected, why had he stayed in The Great Yu Empire? Why had he remained hidden? Why was he pretending to be dead? Why was he working with the Neohuman Alliance? The Yu family had already been targeted by the Neohuman Alliance.

Lu Yin had too many questions that he wanted to ask Undying Yushan, but he could have never asked Can, as Lu Yin did not want to alert the wrong people.

Some distance away, a curly tail appeared, and a pig head popped out of the ground.

Lord Piggy carefully poked his head out. As soon as he saw the icy eyes of the Second Nightking, the pig's ears perked up, and he dove right back into the swamp.

Lu Yin stood and rubbed his head. "Bring Shui Chuanxiao to me."

Liu Ye left.

Lu Yin turned to face Liu Huang. "Do you understand everything now?"

Liu Huang lowered the gadget and stared at Lu Yin with respect. "Alliance Leader of the Great Eastern Alliance."

"I can take you out of here and let the Sword Sect join the Great Eastern Alliance. If I don't, then the Fourteenth Sword will never reach the Sword Sect, and you will die here in Gaia's Swamp of old age," Lu Yin calmly stated. This was the only way that Liu Huang could help Lu Yin if Lu Yin allowed the man to leave the prison.

Given Liu Huang's strength, he was absolutely someone who would stand at the pinnacle of the Inniverse after regaining his peak strength. However, Liu Huang would never be able to catch up to the Second Nightking. When it came to both the swordsman's cultivation level and the time that he had spent cultivating, he was greatly inferior to the Second Nightking, which was why Lu Yin was not worried about letting Liu Huang out.

Liu Huang stared down at the gadget in silence.

"The Warden will soon regain consciousness. If you don't give me an answer before he wakes up, you will stay here until you die." Lu Yin turned to stare off into the distance. His finger twitched, and the death energy binding Lù Cha rose up into the sky. It then spread out, reformed into the swamp, and pulled Lord Piggy up out of the swamp with his limbs all tied up.

Lord Piggy yelped, "Alliance Leader Lu- Master Lu! I'm Piggy! Your loyal Piggy! I won't say anything! Please don't kill me!"

Chapter 1690: Keep It A Secret

Lord Piggy was thrown to the ground, and he landed with a bang. Stunned with terror, he curled up into a ball and stared at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin spoke calmly, "You've seen everything that happened here, even the people I want to take away."

"No! I didn't see anything!" Lord Piggy screamed anxiously.

At this instance, Liu Ye returned with Shui Chuanxiao.

Lu Yin turned to face Shui Chuanxiao. "Welcome to your prison escape, Grand Marshal."

Shui Chuanxiao glanced around. He noticed the Warden, and his eyes eventually returned to Lu Yin. "Why do you want to take me with you?"

Lu Yin smiled and gave the man a gadget.

Shui Chuanxiao started reading.

Lu Yin glanced over at Lord Piggy. "I can't risk letting the Hall of Honor know about the people I'm taking with me, so your fate has already been determined."

Lord Piggy was terrified, and he started wailing, "Alliance Leader Lu, I'm your servant! I won't say anything, nothing at all! Don't worry, I won't say anything! Never ever! Alliance Leader..."

Lu Yin actually had no plans of killing the pig. The creature had done nothing at all to help after the riot broke out, and only the Warden had taken action against the escaping prisoners. Someone reliable needed to stay in Gaia's Swamp to explain what had happened after the Warden fainted, or else the disappearance of the Second Nightking, Liu Huang, and Shui Chuanxiao would be too suspicious, especially since Lu Yin had suffered no injuries at all.

In addition to Lord Piggy, Lù Cha and Lù Yan also could not leave the prison.

Just like with what had happened in the Dominion Realm, Lu Yin needed witnesses to prove that there was no connection to a major incident.

Lu Yin turned to Lù Cha. "Do you want your father to stay alive?"

Lù Cha stared intently at Lu Yin.

"Stay here with your father. Even if the Warden suspects your involvement in the escape attempt, his suspicions will have no grounds if Lù Yan is still here. I also need you to keep an eye on that pig. And in return, I can promise that I will get your father out of Gaia's Swamp soon," Lu Yin said.

"Alliance Leader Lu, I'll stay," Lù Yan immediately spoke up, as he had no other choice.

Lù Cha helplessly asked, "Will you really save my father?"

"I will make sure that both you and your father are able to leave," Lu Yin answered.

Lù Cha was solemn as she looked at Lu Yin. "Alright, I promise."

Lu Yin nodded. Both prisoners and guards had died during the riot, so not very many people could be allowed to escape. If all of the important prisoners escaped, then the incident would blow up. This was why Lù Yan needed to stay behind, and it was also why Can had to die. Only Liu Huang, the Second Nightking, and Shui Chuanxiao could be allowed to leave.

Lord Piggy silently dived back into the ground as he tried to escape into the depths of the swamp.

Lù Cha glanced over, walked towards the pig, and then easily pulled him up by the ear.

Lord Piggy whined, "Master Cha, please let go! Let me go! Alliance Leader Lu, help! She's trying to kill me!"

Lù Cha tossed Lord Piggy onto the Warden's head, and the pig started to nervously tremble.

"Pee," Lù Cha commanded.

Lord Piggy blinked in confusion.

Lu Yin was also stunned. Pee? He suddenly thought of that bastard, Tu Qiming.

"Pee," Lù Cha ordered again.

Lord Piggy was terrified, and he involuntarily pissed himself. He then started shrieking, "I'm dead! I'm dead! I'm dead! I'm dead! I peed on the Warden, I'm dead!"

"No matter what happens, anyone who pees on the Warden will die," Lù Cha declared. She then turned to Lu Yin. "He won't say anything no matter what."

Lord Piggy rolled off of the Warden, tears filling his eyes. This was the worst day of his entire life, and he was surrounded by terrible people.

Lu Yin shot a sympathetic look towards Lord Piggy.

The Warden's finger twitched, and the ground shook.

Lu Yin turned to Liu Huang. If the man did not make up his mind by the time the Warden regained consciousness, Liu Huang would die here in Gaia's Swamp as Lu Yin would not give the man a chance to say anything.

Liu Huang met Lu Yin's gaze. "The Great Eastern Alliance is a loose yet close-knit alliance. Even if the Sword Sect joins you, you still won't be able to interfere with the Sword Sect's internal affairs and can only decide our overall direction, correct?"

Lu Yin smiled. "Although you've managed to create the Fourteenth Sword, you've been imprisoned for too long. Has your brain spoiled?"

Liu Huang's expression instantly changed.

Lu Yin's voice grew cold, "That's how it will be on paper. However, as soon as the Sword Sect joins the Great Eastern Alliance, you will need to listen to my orders. Still, you can try to replace me as the Alliance Leader, if you are able to do so."

The Warden's finger twitched again.

Lu Yin stared at Liu Huang with cold eyes. Liu Huang was the key for Lu Yin's plan to force the Sword Sect to submit. However even if the man disagreed, Lu Yin would be able to come up with other methods.

Liu Huang turned to look at the Warden and saw the giant's finger twitch yet again. He let out a reluctant sigh. "I want to leave this place and teach the Fourteenth Sword."

Lu Yin glanced over at the Second Nightking. "Take them away."

The moment the Second Nightking had helped Lu Yin stop Can's attack, his position had been made clear. He was no longer in any position to refuse Lu Yin.

Both Liu Huang's and the Second Nightking's lives were under Lu Yin's control. The only exception was Shui Chuanxiao, but regardless of if the man was willing to take on the position of Great Eastern Alliance's Allied Forces' Commander, Lu Yin would still take the man away from Gaia's Swamp. En Ya had done a great deal for Lu Yin over the years, and her only request was Shui Chuanxiao's freedom, and Lu Yin had promised to accomplish it.

Shui Chuanxiao was a terrible criminal, but his crime had ended up greatly benefiting the Human Domain. The former grand marshal's fate lay in Lu Yin's hands; if Lu Yin felt that Shui Chuanxiao's contributions were enough to cancel out his crimes, Shui Chuanxiao would eventually be free to leave. However, if Lu Yin felt that Shui Chuanxiao was a true criminal, the man would die here in Gaia's Swamp.

This was power.

...

The Warden woke up, and he reflexively punched the swamp, tearing the sky apart as he yelled, "Who dares to escape? I'll kill you!"

Lord Piggy was tossed into the distance with a shriek.

The Warden looked around, and he saw Lù Cha silently standing nearby along with Lu Yin and the others.

"Where are the prisoners who escaped?" the Warden bellowed as he glared at Lù Cha.

Lù Cha answered coldly, "The Second Nightking, that old swordsman, and less than ten prisoners escaped. Can is dead, and Lù Yan has been recaptured."

The Warden was shocked. He looked around and saw that everything had already returned to normal, with the exception of his distant castle slowly collapsing.

He glanced at Lu Yin and the others, and then over at Lord Piggy who had become stuck in the swamp. The Warden picked up Lord Piggy and shook him.

Lord Piggy whined, "Sir Warden, I'm Piggy! Don't eat me! Don't eat me!"

The Warden released the animal. "What happened after I fainted?"

Lord Piggy leaped up, panting. "After you fell unconscious, Alliance Leader Lu stepped up. However, your previous attacks were too strong, and Alliance Leader Lu was also wounded, so he wasn't able to capture the Second Nightking and the other prisoners who escaped..."

Since both of Gaia's Swamp's assistant wardens were present, Lù Yan was back in prison, and Can had died, the Warden held no suspicions towards Lu Yin. Of particular importance was the fact that the Second Nightking had escaped, and the Warden believed that Lu Yin would never let that man go, as the Second Nightking was Lu Yin's greatest threat.

Just the fact that the Second Nightking had escaped erased all suspicions towards Lu Yin could be cleared. On top of that, Lu Yin had actually told the Warden about Can's plans before anything had happened, which had further proven that Lu Yin had no connection to the prison break.

Lu Yin was instead seen as the righteous person who had helped them stop a full prison break.

At least, that was the Warden's perception. He profusely apologized to Lu Yin. "I was too careless. I never thought that they would be this powerful after being held captive in the toxic gas for so long."

Lu Yin answered in a helpless manner, "Liu Ye and Fei Hua wanted to help out at first, but, Senior, your aurelian force was just too powerful! We couldn't do anything at all."

The Warden apologized yet again.

"We should find a way to capture the prisoners who escaped! The Second Nightking is one of them," Lu Yin angrily declared.

The Warden continued to apologize, and he guaranteed that the Hall of Honor would quickly capture the Second Nightking.

As far as everyone else was concerned, the Second Nightking's escape seemed to be extremely bad for Lu Yin, so nobody would think that Lu Yin had actually deliberately released the man from Gaia's Swamp.

Emperor Luo was locked up in Can's old place, and Lu Yin led Liu Ye and Fei Hua elsewhere to rest.

The Warden was going to be extremely busy for the time being, as he needed to rechain the prisoners, tally the various deaths, and determine exactly who had managed to escape. In addition, he also had to uncover the reason why there had been a successful prison break to begin with.

The first person the Warden spoke with was Lù Cha.

"Why didn't you escape?" the Warden asked Lù Cha. His castle had already been repaired, as a few guards had easily taken care of that matter.

Lù Cha answered coldly, "The entire universe belongs to the Hall of Honor, so what's the point in trying to escape?"

The Warden's voice was equally cold. "Your father surrendered and never even considered leaving Gaia's Swamp, but then he changed his mind after you arrived to keep him company. He wanted you to leave this place as he doesn't want you to stay here forever. So, why didn't you leave with him?"

Lù Cha raised her head. “This is a good place, so why would we leave? My father has his opinion, and I have my own. I don’t want to leave. I’m the reason why he’s here, so I want him to leave this place proudly, not escape in shame. Even if I am forced to die here, I will still stay with him.”

The Warden took a flask out from his cosmic ring and took a swig. “Hahahaha, that’s the right mindset for an assistant warden of Gaia’s Swamp! Alright, I understand.”

Lord Piggy rushed in as soon as Lù Cha left. However, this time, the pig did not run into the Warden’s toe. After seeing the power of the Warden’s aurelian force, the pig knew that he would never be able to kill the Warden, not even if he grew ten times bigger. “Sir Warden, what should we do regarding Liu Huang’s identity? Alliance Leader Lu asked me about this a few times, and I don’t think we’ll be able to keep it a secret.”

The Warden glared at the pig. “You must keep that from him no matter what! Don’t ever mention that name again!”

Lord Piggy jumped up, and his ears drooped. He then carefully looked up, saw the Warden’s face, and remembered peeing on it. Just thinking about it made Lord Piggy feel like he could be killed at any time. “Yes, keep it. I have to keep it from him. I won’t tell anyone.”

The Warden was satisfied with this response. “That’s right, keep it a secret. Say nothing to anyone.”

“I understand, Sir Warden. I won’t tell anyone.”

...

The Warden reported the riot and the escapes to the Hall of Honor after regaining consciousness. The news shocked the council of overseers, the Interstellar Supreme Court, and even Arch-Elder Zen.

Gaia’s Swamp not only housed criminals, but it also held people like Liu Huang who could expose the Hall of Honor’s dark side. If such matters were revealed, the Hall of Honor’s reputation would be threatened.