STAR ODYSSEY 1091

Chapter 1091: Promotion Method

Lu Yin had only met the Cosmic Sect's second true disciple once before, in the Cosmic Sea when they had attacked Starlight Island. At that time, they had fallen into a trap, and Lu Yin had raced over to the Whitecliff Region right after. Thus, he had not had the time to talk to this person.

"Brother Mu, we meet again," Lu Yin replied courteously.

Mu Ziying smiled. "Our encounter in the Cosmic Sea feels like it took place an era ago. Since then, not only has Brother Lu defeated the Ten Arbiters' Divine Fist, but you have also personally killed your mortal enemy, Nightking Zhenwu, and taken his place as one of the Ten Arbiters. You have my full admiration."

Mu Ziying had just been given this news. Since the Neoverse was currently sealed off, the Cosmic Sect had received this information straight from the Hall of Honor.

When they had seen the provided information on Lu Yin's background, no matter if it was Elder Hai Yan or Mu Ziying, they were both taken aback. The two had been speechless for a long time, particularly Mu Ziying. He had actually conversed with Hua Xiao about how one of the Neoverse's elites had been suppressed by Nightking Zhenwu when the Nightking had been guaranteed an inheritance, and the second true disciple had never dreamed that Nightking Zhenwu would die so soon after.

Furthermore, the person who had dealt with Zhenwu was someone who everyone had assumed was dead: Lu Yin.

Mu Ziying could not understand what had happened in the Innerverse and Outerverse, as Nightking Zhenwu had made a solemn vow that he had killed Lu Yin. However, despite that, Lu Yin had managed to reappear. And not only had he returned, but he had also unified the entire Outerverse, defeated the Ten Arbiters' Divine Fist, and practically destroyed Daynight Flowzone.

When the Sixth Mainland had invaded, although the Neoverse had been shocked by the strength of the Sixth Mainland cultivators, they had been just as surprised by the Innerverse's Ten Arbiters. Mu Ziying had believed those ten to be absolute freaks, but Lu Yin had already defeated two of those monsters on his own.

Regarding Lu Yin at this moment, Mu Ziying felt sincere admiration, and he was not simply following the required decorum.

Mu Ziying was someone from the Neoverse, and he had always enjoyed an exceptional advantage in terms of resources. But despite that, he held no confidence in being able to defeat Arbiter Divine Fist or Arbiter Zhenwu, which Lu Yin had done.

Lu Yin smiled, as he heard too many similar praises before. Defeating Nightking Zhenwu was indeed a major accomplishment, as was uniting the Outerverse, which had been a difficult and closely managed task. However, Lu Yin would not allow himself to become complacent. Nightking Zhenwu had truly been very powerful, but he was not guaranteed to be the most powerful youth.

Lu Yin also could not forget about the Tri-Yang Technique that Highsage Shenwei had mentioned, the Mavis family's so-called Treeheart Descendant, or the All Rounder Fairy, Qiu Shi. She had thrown the entire Champions' Stage, along with Bu Kong, Nightking Zhenwu, Lu Yin, and others, into outer space.

"Brother Lu, please follow me. You now have the status of an inner disciple in the Cosmic Sect, so you will receive all the treatment due an inner disciple, and you will also need to follow their rules. Right-" Mu Ziying paused for a moment as he took out a chip and passed it over to Lu Yin. "This is the first layer of our Cosmic Art, and it also holds the secret to our Cosmic Palm. Brother Lu, you absolutely cannot give this to any outsiders."

Lu Yin solemnly received the memory chip, though his breathing quickened.

Mu Ziying smiled. No matter who it was, even an Honor Chosen would drool over the Cosmic Art. This was the foundation of the Cosmic Sect, and it was a technique that had shocked the entire universe.

Lu Yin remained serious as he stored it away. "Thank you, Brother Mu."

Mu Ziying smiled. "That's simply how things are supposed to be. Brother Lu, please, I'll take you on a tour of the places that the inner disciples can go to."

With that, he flew into the sky.

Lu Yin followed closely behind.

The Cosmic Sect had every climate imaginable since it covered an extensive territory. Even if Lu Yin was given a full month to explore it, he would not be able to visit all of its public areas. However, he was not interested in such places as he did not plan to cultivate here for an extended amount of time. He was more interested in being promoted to a true disciple, as only true disciples were allowed to access the higher layers of the Cosmic Art.

"The first layer of Cosmic Art can allow you to simulate eight stars, and the second layer of the Cosmic Art has a maximum of ninety nine stars. Brother Lu, with your talent, you should be able to quickly cultivate the entire first layer of the Cosmic Art," Mu Ziying explained.

Lu Yin asked, "How can I get the second layer of the Cosmic Art?"

In the past, Mister Mu had given Lu Yin a scroll of the Cosmic Art as an apprenticeship gift, and that scroll had been the second layer of the Cosmic Art. Hence, at the moment, Lu Yin could manifest ninetynine stars.

Mu Ziying explained, "It's not too difficult to get the second layer of the Cosmic Art, as many inner disciples of my Cosmic Sect have already learned it. As long as you make some contributions or receive some guidance from some of the elders, you'll get it."

Lu Yin understood.

"Since Brother Lu has only just arrived at the Cosmic Sect, and since you're also a nominal disciple from Eversky Island, no elders will take you as their disciple. Thus, it'll take you a bit of time to make some contributions, so it's not too realistic for you to get the second layer of Cosmic Art in a short amount of time. Still, you'll have plenty of time in the future, and the first layer of Cosmic Art should be enough for Brother Lu to use for now." Mu Ziying smiled.

Lu Yin nodded, as what he really wanted was to obtain was Cosmic Art's third layer.

"Right, Brother Mu, how many stars can the third layer of Cosmic Art simulate?" Lu Yin asked curiously, his gaze betraying his expectations.

Mu Ziying rearranged his expression. "720."

Lu Yin was overwhelmed. "720?"

Mu Ziying nodded, now serious. "The third layer of Cosmic Art is a dividing line, and it's something that differentiates the disciples from the elders. Since ancient times, very few disciples of my Cosmic Sect have been able to cultivate the Cosmic Art to the third layer, and all those who were able to have long since grown out of the younger generation, as such a thing takes time."

"Has Qiu Shi cultivated the entire third layer?" Lu Yin asked.

Mu Ziying shook his head. "I don't know, but she shouldn't have. Otherwise, the entire sect would have been notified."

Lu Yin had never expected the difference between the second and third layers of the Cosmic Art to be so large or for it to be this exaggerated. It was no wonder why there were so few youths who were able to successfully cultivate the third layer to completion.

"Right, Brother Mu, if I can get promoted to a true disciple, then can I receive the second layer of Cosmic Art?" Lu Yin asked with a burning look.

Mu Ziying thought about it. "That's possible. Still, unfortunately, if Brother Lu can make some contributions to the sect, then you'll be given the second layer. And with Brother Lu's strength, getting promoted to a true disciple would be very simple. Then, you would instantly have the qualifications to gain access to the third layer of Cosmic Art."

Lu Yin smiled bitterly. "I'm only here as an exchange disciple, so I don't know how long I'll be here for."

Mu Ziying said, "That's true. Since that's the case, then I'll take Brother Lu to where you can participate in the exam to be promoted to a true disciple."

Lu Yin was grateful. "Thank you."

Although it was said that there were opportunities to obtain even higher layers of the Cosmic Art in the Cosmic Sect, Lu Yin did not hold any hopes of obtaining them. The contest at the Astral Tower was right in front of him, and it would be very difficult for him to obtain the third layer of the Cosmic Art within such a short period of time. At the moment, all he wanted was to be able to use the Cosmic Art without fear in the future.

Although he had tried to conceal his use of the Cosmic Art so far, those who were able recognize it were not few, and he would eventually run into trouble if he was exposed some day. This cultivation art was just like the blood-red bell, which felt like a time bomb that could explode without any warning. Lu Yin did his best not to think about such a thing, but that matter was like a knife hanging over his head that could fall down at any moment, and it made him very nervous.

It was better to have fewer matters that could trouble him at any given moment.

The contest at the Astral Tower was a grand occasion for the entire Neoverse, and countless youths were in the midst of preparing for it.

The Cosmic Sect had its own rules, and only true disciples were allowed to participate in the contest.

At present, there were three true disciples within the Cosmic Sect. The first true disciple was the All Rounder Fairy, Qiu Shi. The second true disciple was Mu Ziying, and the third true disciple was Hua Xiao. The other top disciples were all experts on the sect's internal rankings.

Not only was this particular day the day when Lu Yin represented Eversky Island as an exchange disciple at the Cosmic Sect, but it was also the day when many of the experts on the internal ranking would battle and work towards being promoted to a true disciple.

They had to become a true disciple more than a month before the contest began at the Astral Tower, as only then would they have the opportunity to represent the Cosmic Sect at the Astral Tower and fight for a slight chance of becoming one of the Cosmic Five.

It was not easy to be promoted to the true disciple position, as that position represented not only one's strength, but also a chance to learn the Cosmic Sect's core techniques. The disciples needed to demonstrate more than an adequate power level, and it was actually more important for them to have offered sufficient contributions to the Cosmic Sect.

Mu Ziying had evidently forgotten that his promotion to the true disciple position had been very smooth because he had grown up within the Cosmic Sect, which meant that he had already met all of the required conditions. The true disciple promotion was quite organized, but things were different for Lu Yin.

Mu Ziying felt rather embarrassed. "Brother Lu, I'm really sorry. Who knew that being promoted to a true disciple would require such qualifications?"

Lu Yin said, "I'm here representing Eversky Island, so isn't that enough of a qualification?"

Mu Ziying thought about it. "I'll try."

He then sent out a request towards the True Elder. It wasn't long before he received a reply. "He can only be evaluated by the third method."

Mu Ziying was astonished. "Actually, you can only use the third method."

Lu Yin was curious. "What's the third method?"

Mu Ziying solemnly explained, "There are three methods to be promoted to a true disciple within my sect. First, you can bang on the promotion drum under the watch of ten experts on the internal rankings and make the sound spread across the Cosmic Sect. Of the ten experts on the internal ranking, one of them has to be among the top three. Second, you can cultivate our sect's Cosmic Art to ninety nine, become a three star Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker, and then bang on the promotion drum. These are the two standard ways of taking the test to be promoted to a true disciple."

Lu Yin gasped, as neither the first nor second methods were simple. The first meant that a person basically had to force their way through an obstruction formed by ten people at the level of the Top 100 Rankings, and one of them would even have the strength of the top three of the Top 100 Rankings. Although these people were only an obstacle, only the top three experts could possibly overcome such an obstacle, and even then, they were not necessarily guaranteed to succeed. The second method involved cultivating the Cosmic Art, which was still alright. However, becoming a three star Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker was very difficult.

If Lu Yin remembered correctly, then the Innerverse Lockbreaker Society's Distinguished Five were only at that level. In the past, if Ku Wei had not relied on the upgraded gemspring water, then he might not have become a three star Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker during that exam.

These two methods ensured that the true disciples would be around as strong as the Ten Arbiters.

"Then what's the third method?" Lu Yin asked.

Mu Ziying let out a long breath. "The third evaluation method to be promoted to a true disciple is to endure for an entire day without falling and then sound the promotion drum."

Lu Yin was confused.

Mu Ziying explained, "Any disciple from the Cosmic Sect can challenge you, and you can't fall in front of the promotion drum an entire day. After that, you have to bang on the drum to be promoted to a true disciple."

Lu Yin's arched a brow. "All of the Cosmic Sect's disciples?"

Mu Ziying nodded. "All of the disciples, including me, and even including that Grand Senior."

Lu Yin was left speechless. If the All Rounder Fairy attacked him, then wouldn't that be the same as facing off against one of the Ten Arbiters? No, she might be even more difficult than one of the Ten Arbiters, as he simply did not know what she was capable of. "Brother Mu, when you say all of the disciples, then does that mean all of the disciples who are a part of the younger generation, or all of those who haven't completed their apprenticeship yet?"

Mu Ziying smiled. "Of course it's not all of them. This is limited to members of the same generation. Otherwise, if a true disciple from an older generation attacked, then nobody would ever stand a chance. On top of that, not all of the older disciples are willing to complete their apprenticeship, as some prefer to stay behind and look for ways to become sect elders. Thus, it wouldn't be fair for those older disciples to attack Brother Lu either."

Lu Yin nodded. "Alright, then I accept."

Chapter 1092: Reverberating Drumbeats

Mu Ziying was not surprised by Lu Yin's decision, but he still warned Lu Yin. "Brother Lu, I know that your strength is very impressive, but I still have to warn you: the inner disciples from my Cosmic Sect are not weak. Although they might not be your match in a one-on-one battle, an entire day is more than enough time for a lot of disciples to challenge you. Also, there's one more thing: the evaluation never specified that the challenges have to be solo combat."

Lu Yin slowly turned around. "Brother Mu, I'm not particularly concerned about that."

Mu Ziying smiled bitterly. "Please, Brother Lu."

Lu Yin was left with no other choice, and Mu Ziying led him toward where the evaluations for the true disciple promotions were being held.

Countless stars were revolving around the Cosmic Sect, and there was a particular planet among the closest stars that had been specially set aside to hold evaluations for people attempting the true disciple promotion. It was known as Skystar, and beating the drum on Skystar meant that one had successfully been promoted to a true disciple. Doing so represented them leaping into the skies with a single bound, as their status would undergo a complete change. Skystar was also a planet with a special meaning, and anyone who was able to safely return from that planet would be considered a blessed child of the starry sky.

At this moment, there was a girl on Skystar emitting an icy white vapor from head to toe. The chilly vapor formed an endless ice jail that extended out from her. In front of her, there were several cultivators who were being overwhelmed by the ice as they desperately dodged around. There was only one man among them who looked serious, and he raised a hand, causing ninety nine stars to appear and explode as they collided with the icy prison.

The ground vibrated and cracked as the void warped.

The girl leaped forward, directly confronting the man with an open palm.

The man was overwhelmed. "Show mercy, Senior!"

The girl's hand streaked past the man's cheek, and she grabbed hold of the massive drumsticks that lay behind the man and did her best to raise them up. It seemed that the drumsticks were too heavy, as the girl was actually incapable of moving them.

Behind her, the man spoke up. "The drumsticks used to sound the promotion drum are as heavy as a planet, and wanting to sound the promotion drum requires one to use an enormous amount of star energy to support them. In theory, it's impossible for anyone who hasn't reached the Hunter realm to sound the drum, let alone make it echo throughout the entire Cosmic Sect. Senior, please give up."

The girl fiercely growled, "Shut up!"

The man had said his piece, so he helplessly stepped back. All around them, the other nine cultivators also retreated. They were experts on the Cosmic Sect's internal rankings. This girl's name was Yun Feifei, and she had chosen to undergo the first promotion method, and she was actually ranked second on the sect's internal rankings. Nobody could stand against her in terms of combat, but it was still extremely difficult for her to move the drumsticks.

Further away, countless Cosmic Sect disciples watched on with high expectations, and many of them cheered. "Come on, Senior Feifei! You have to become a true disciple!"

"Senior Feifei, use more strength!"

"Senior Feifei, you can do it!"

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Yun Feifei exerted her full strength, and she even bit her lips to the point of bleeding. Finally, she picked up the drumsticks and used them to fiercely bang against the war drum.

With a tremendous bang, Skystar trembled as ripples shot out through the void and dispersed. Visible sound waves spread across the entire Cosmic Sect, and they showed Yun Feifei's determination to be promoted to the true disciple position.

In Skystar's Great Hall, the Cosmic Sect's Sect Leader, Yuan Qiong's eyes opened wide, but then he sighed. "She needed just a little bit more, unfortunately."

The sound of the war drum spread through Skystar's Great Hall and continued on towards the countless stars that lay outside the Cosmic Sect.

Many of the Cosmic Sect disciples looked up. "That must be Senior Feifei. She's going to be promoted to a true disciple."

"Senior Feifei will definitely be able to do it."

"Senior Feifei, we support you!"

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On Skystar, Yun Feifei stared expectantly at the ripples that radiated outwards, but they ultimately dispersed before reaching every corner of the Cosmic Sect.

Yun Feifei's expression fell as she opened her hand, letting the drumsticks fall to the ground. "I failed again?"

Next to her, the man bitterly commented, "Senior, just wait another month. There are still almost two months before the contest at the Astral Tower starts. Thus, you still have a chance."

Yun Feifei shook her head. "There's only one month left, and I can't do it."

The man sighed.

In the distance, countless Cosmic Sect disciples also sighed.

At that moment, a handsome man approached, and he looked at Yun Feifei with a relaxed expression. "Junior, it's my turn."

When Yun Feifei saw the handsome man, her eyes frosted over. "Yao Ji, if I can't do it, then neither can you."

Yao Ji revealed a faint smile. "Junior, don't forget that you're second on the rankings while I'm first."

Many of the Cosmic Sect disciples stared at Yao Ji with aggression in their gazes. They supported Yun Feifei because Yun Feifei was good-natured and never bullied juniors. Yao Ji on the other hand, was completely different. He was the grandson of True Elder Yao Shan, and he had lived a prince's life since birth, acting condescending;y towards everyone. Nobody liked him.

Yun Feifei sneered. "You won't even be able to touch the drumsticks, as I'll block your path to becoming a true disciple."

Yao Ji showed a massive smile as his lips crept upwards. "I'm sorry, but this senior has chosen to undergo the second method."

Yun Feifei and the others were all stunned, "You've already become a three star Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker?"

Yao Ji laughed and activated his gadget. He then shared his Lockbreaker profile page with them, revealing that the emblem of a three star Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker was actually displayed on it.

Yun Feifei's face went pale, as she was completely unwilling to accept this. She was just a two star Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker, and she knew that it was not simple to become a three star Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker. It was just like beating the war drum; although she was only lacking a tiny bit, it would take a long time to make up for that tiny bit.

"Alright, Junior, don't be discouraged. I'll take your place and have fun playing with those people from the Innerverse. I can't believe that the trash from that barbaric Innerverse actually wants to compete over my Neoverse's Astral Tower. I believe that, even if I can't become one of the Cosmic Five, I'll definitely be able to entertain those people quite well. Since this is how things are, will you be satisfied?" Yao Ji arrogantly declared.

Yun Feifei released her hands and helplessly moved to the side.

Yao Ji's gaze swept past Yun Feifei and to the man standing behind her. "Junior Yan, are you trying to block this senior's path?"

The man's name was Yan Kun, and he was ranked third on the sect's internal rankings. Yun Feifei had chosen the first promotion evaluation method, and that method required one of the top three ranked experts to obstruct her path, and he had been the one fulfilling that role.

Yan Kun also moved aside.

Yao Ji walked over to the promotion drum with high spirits. He then bent at the waist, grabbed the drumsticks, but at that moment, his expression suddenly changed.

All of the Cosmic Sect disciples stared at him.

Besides the disciples, some of the older experts in the Cosmic Sect were also watching. Not only was Yao Ji ranked first on the internal rankings, but he was also the grandson of the sect's True Elder. Thus, he was basically guaranteed to be successfully promoted to a true disciple, and many people were waiting to hear the resounding drumbeat when the Cosmic Sect's number of true disciples increased.

In the distance, Mu Ziying and Lu Yin were also watching.

Lu Yin's gaze swept past Yun Feifei. He felt that it was a pity, as this woman was somewhat unable to make full use of her own strength. She could have succeeded if she had used the Cosmic Palm to move the drumsticks, but unfortunately, she was not able to control her strength well enough to do so.

Yun Feifei was only a little weaker than Yao Ji, and she had found it difficult to move the drumsticks. Thus, Yao Ji was the same.

Under everyone's attention, Yao Ji struggled to pick up the drumsticks, after which he firmly struck them against the promotion drum.

There was a bang that caused Skystar to vibrate, and the sound waves spread out, radiating outwards as they made their way towards Skystar's Great Hall.

Sect Leader Yuan Qiong nodded. "Enough."

The sound wave gradually spread out until it reached the endless stars that lay outside the Cosmic Sect, allowing everyone from the Cosmic Sect to hear it.

As the sound wave vanished, a voice rang out through the sect, announcing, "Inner disciple Yao Ji has been promoted to become the fourth true disciple. Protect my Cosmic Sect from ever falling."

"Congratulations, Senior Yao Ji." In the distance, many of the inner disciples helplessly bowed, including both Yun Feifei and Yan Kun.

Within the Cosmic Sect, countless disciples bowed. "Congratulations, Senior Yao Ji."

"Congratulations, Senior Yao Ji."

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Countless voices rang out in the Cosmic Sect, as the sect's fourth true disciple had just appeared. This event would not only shock the Cosmic Sect, but it would also stun the rest of the Neoverse.

Each true disciple would become a pillar of strength for the Cosmic Sect in the future.

Yao Ji clasped his hands behind his back and looked around. He had been waiting for this day for a long time, and it had finally arrived.

Ever since he had been little, with his grandfather's guidance, he had always stood a cut above the rest. However, despite that, he had still been suppressed by Qiu Shi, Mu Ziying, and Hua Xiao. Everyone had envied Yao Ji, but he in private, had always been severely punished by his grandfather for being unable to compare to the others. But at this moment, he had finally become the fourth true disciple, and next, he would defeat Hua Xiao, Mu Ziying, and step to an even loftier status.

As for Qiu Shi, Yao Ji's eyes grew heated. That woman would be his.

Yao Ji looked around, as at this moment, everyone had to lower their heads to him. That was because his status had just reached a completely different level.

Eh? Why aren't those two aren't bowing their heads? He turned around to get a better look, and his expression changed as he slowly smiled. "So it's Senior Mu. Junior Yao Ji greets Senior Mu."

Yun Feifei and the others looked over in astonishment, and they quickly bowed as well. "Greetings, Senior Mu."

Mu Ziying nodded. He did not care for Yao Ji, so he did not really respond. Instead, Mu Ziying told Lu Yin, "Brother Lu, that's the promotion drum. You have to stay in front of it for a full day without falling."

Lu Yin nodded. "I got it."

Off in the distance, Yao Ji frowned as he looked at Mu Ziying before looking back at Lu Yin. He then coldly asked, "Brother Mu, who is this junior? Is he a new disciple? Why haven't I ever met him before?"

"He's a newly arrived inner disciple," Mu Ziying said.

Lu Yin looked over at Yao Ji and nodded. He then looked around at the rest of the disciples. There were many disciples here, and not a single one of them was weak. It was no wonder why the Cosmic Sect was considered a powerful force even within the Neoverse.

Lu Yin's nonchalant attitude angered Yao Ji. He had just become a true disciple, and his arrogance had been renewed. Every disciple needed to bow to him, but not only did this person not bow his head, but he was even putting on such a casual attitude. Yao Ji barked, "Brother Mu, it seems that this junior doesn't understand the rules."

Yun Feifei and the others all looked at Lu Yin with curiosity. He was an unfamiliar face, so was he a new arrival? However, he was able to stand next to Senior Mu, and his attitude was not normal.

Mu Ziying introduced, "This is Lu Yin, from Eversky Island. He's representing Eversky Island as an exchange disciple who's come here to the Cosmic Sect to study. Thus, he's an inner disciple for the moment."

The crowd instantly understood.

Yao Ji was shocked. "So it's a junior from Eversky Island. Junior is called Lu Yin? Your surname is Lu? A primeval surname?"

Lu Yin simply replied, "Legal status."

Yao Ji laughed. "I know, as otherwise, you wouldn't have been able to visit my Cosmic Sect."

Mu Ziying looked at Lu Yin. "Brother Lu, have you thought it through?"

Lu Yin nodded and moved closer to the promotion drum.

Yao Ji's brows rose, and he stared at Lu Yin with a slight look of incomprehension.

The other Cosmic Sect disciples also looked at Lu Yin with strange expressions.

Mu Ziying spoke up, "Juniors, Brother Lu intends to undergo the third promotion method to become a true disciple. I ask all juniors to please start off leniently."

The crowd was stunned, and then a commotion broke out.

"Did I hear wrong? The third method?"

"He can't fall for a full day in front of the promotion drum while any disciple can attack him. What's more, there aren't even any limits to how many people can go up at once!"

"Even true disciples can participate. Since ancient times, nobody's been able to succeed through this method."

"There have been some, but they are very, very few. And that was only when there weren't any really outstanding disciples in their generation or when the true disciples were away."

"He actually wants to use the third method to get promoted? That's just looking down on us too much."

Chapter 1093: Much Obliged

Yun Feifei was shocked; the first promotion method that she had selected was already considered to be extremely difficult. In fact, if Yao Ji had been the one blocking her instead of Yan Kun, then she would have failed to even touch the drumsticks. And yet, did this person actually want to go through the third promotion method?

Yao Ji's face fell. This was too bold. The third method? If this person succeeded, then this would no longer be the day when he, Yao Ji, stepped up to the peak. Rather, he would likely be nothing more than a supporting character. In the Cosmic Sect's entire history, Yao Ji would forever be compared to this person, and he could not allow such a thing to happen.

Fortunately, it was basically impossible to succeed at the third method.

Lu Yin walked past Yao Ji and stepped in front of the promotion drum. He then raised his head and looked at the crowd of disciples with a gentle smile. "I'm Lu Yin. Please forgive my boldness for attempting the third promotion method to become a true disciple. I ask all seniors to please show some leniency."

The crowd of disciples were still processing his words, and many of them simply stared at him blankly.

This method was too difficult, and it was not much different from suicide.

Anyone who underwent the third promotion method would essentially be slapping the faces of an entire generation of Cosmic Sect disciples, even including the true disciples. Nobody would willingly allow themselves to be embarrassed in such a manner.

Within Skystar Hall, Yuan Qiong's eyes pierced through the void, and he focused on Lu Yin's body as he exclaimed, "This child's physical strength is remarkable."

Within the Cosmic Sect, many of the older powerhouses were looking at Skystar and Lu Yin. Someone undergoing the third method for the true disciple promotion was something that had not happened in a very long time. If Lu Yin was an actual disciple of the Cosmic Sect, then these elders would be delighted to see such an attempt, as a successful attempt would be beneficial for the entire sect as it would mark the appearance of a peerless individual. Unfortunately, Lu Yin represented Eversky Island, and although the two powers had a good relationship, they could not allow Lu Yin to succeed. Otherwise, the Cosmic Sect would be utterly humiliated if none of their disciples could challenge this nominal disciple from Eversky Island.

Lu Yin had clearly underestimated this evaluation; in his mind, this was merely one of the ways to be promoted to the true disciple level. However, he had actually forgotten that he represented Eversky Island right now. If he managed to succeed, then he would utterly embarrass the entire Cosmic Sect.

Lu Yin stood in front of the promotion drum, and two minutes passed without a single disciple attacking him.

Mu Ziying was not worried, as one day was plenty of time. Although he respected Lu Yin, Mu Ziyong did not wish to see Lu Yin succeed either.

Yao Ji looked at the crowd of disciples and gave them a look.

One disciple walked forward until he was 100 meters from Lu Yin. "Junior Lu, please excuse me."

"Him? Isn't that Senior Yi, who's ranked ninth on the internal rankings?"

"I heard that Senior Yi was accepted as an elder's disciple, and he should be one of the few inner disciples who has surpassed the second layer of the Cosmic Art."

"I heard that Senior Yao Ji was the one who recommended him."

"That's quite normal. Senior Yi has always been following Senior Yao Ji."

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Lu Yin gestured for the man to begin.

Senior Yi's gaze trembled as stars began revolving around him. There were more than 100 stars circling around him, and he charged straight at Lu Yin as he raised his hand. Stars appeared over the man's palm, the characteristic of the Cosmic Palm, which was something that Lu Yin was extremely familiar with.

Lu Yin had never directly received a Cosmic Palm himself, so his emotions were rather complex since he was being attacked by it for the first time.

As the palm landed, more than 100 stars exploded, and though Lu Yin did not try to see the lines of runes, he could still feel the power of the attack. The strength of this palm was definitely no weaker than what Cool Sis, tenth on the Top 100 Rankings, was capable of with her innate gift of Icy Crystallization. Moreover, this person was an elite disciple of the Cosmic Sect. Lu Yin sidestepped the attack as he waved a hand covered with nine lined battle force, unleashing a violent slap.

Lu Yin pushed all of the Cosmic Palm's exploding stars aside and then shoved his palm into Senior Yi's stomach, making him spit out a mouthful of blood. The older disciple's body flew away outside of his control, and he landed on the ground far away. His face turned ashen, and he was unable to get back up. He looked extremely miserable.

Everyone was shocked, as just one attack had defeated the ninth ranked expert on the sect's internal rankings.

Lu Yin retracted his arm and looked solemn. "Forgive me."

He did not want the challengers to come up one by one, so he had revealed a great deal of strength right from the very start.

Mu Ziying's eyes narrowed when he saw that Lu Yin had nine lined battle force, a terrifying physical physical strength, and the ability to see through a Cosmic Palm. It was no wonder how he had already

defeated two of the Ten Arbiters. Although Lu Yin's palm attack had looked simple, it would be impossible for anyone else to replicate that attack unless they were on the same level as Lu Yin.

On Skystar, everyone went completely silent as they stared at Lu Yin in shock.

The sect's internal rankings were incredibly important, and yet, the expert ranked ninth on those rankings had just been swept aside with one strike, amply demonstrating Lu Yin's strength. Not just anyone would have the courage to face him after seeing this demonstration of his abilities.

At this moment, Yan Kun stepped forward. "Brother Lu, please excuse me."

Yun Feifei stepped out at the same time, and she also looked at Lu Yin. "Brother Lu, don't mind the two of us working together."

Lu Yin smiled slightly. "Please."

The third promotion method did not stipulate that the ones blocking the path forward had to do so in solo combat. This was the most frustrating of the three promotion evaluation methods.

Yun Feifei and Yan Kun exchanged glances briefly before simultaneously attacking; one moved from the left and the other from the right. Since they were both in the top three of the internal rankings, this was equivalent to a joint attack from Tai Yuanjun and Qing Longlong. Lu Yin was not underestimating these two at all, so he took a step forward and opened his eyes wide: Night Advent.

Yun Feifei and Yan Kun were just about to land their attacks when their entire vision suddenly went black before a terrifying spiritual force surged forth. The two youths paused and then subconsciously pulled back. The void warped, and Lu Yin was surprised to see that his attack had not yielded the expected results. Had they actually evaded it?

Yun Feifei gritted her teeth, her face deathly white. Night Advent had jostled her brain, though she had been able to endure it. She raised both of her arms as an endless, icy prison spread out in an attempt to freeze Lu Yin.

Across from her, Yan Kun leaped up to unleash a downwards attack, using another Cosmic Palm. However, his palm contained dozens more stars than Senior Yi's, and the power behind it was naturally different.

As the stars appeared over the palm, they exploded. At the same time, the cold prison froze over and spread out in all directions as Yun Feifei and Yan Kun attacked in unison, enveloping the entire area within a thousand meters. A breeze blew past, and before the two could see the results of their attack, they were both blasted into the ground, suffering the same fate as Senior Yi. This was Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm.

Lu Yin casually waved his hand, dispelling the frosty air. His body soon emerged from the mist, revealing that he had not been harmed in the slightest bit; not even his clothes had been ruffled.

The other disciples were all left speechless.

Yao Ji's pupils shrank; Lu Yin was actually completely unharmed?

Mu Ziying clenched his fists. This was Lu Yin's strength. He had already defeated two of the Ten Arbiters, and those people were Arbiters. While others might not be too concerned about that title, Mu Ziying had personally witnessed the Ten Arbiters' power. Unseen Light and Ling Gong were both extremely powerful, and as fellow Arbiter members, there was no way the Divine Fist or Nightking Zhenwu would be overly weak. But in spite of that, Lu Yin had defeated the two of them. Thus, his power level was something that perhaps only their Grand Senior could contend against out of all of the Cosmic Sect's disciples.

Yun Feifei struggled to stand up, and blood poured from her lips as she half-knelt on the ground and stared at Lu Yin in disbelief. She had not even been able to see Lu Yin's attack, but her body had been blasted away, completely unable to resist the power of his attack. What sort of battle technique was that? This person was basically a monster, and he gave her the same feeling as when she looked at her Grand Senior.

Yan Kun also struggled to pick himself up, and he looked at Lu Yin in shock.

Lu Yin had actually held back with this attack, and that Vacuum Palm had been weaker than what Lan Si had used during their battle. If Lu Yin had attacked with the same power that he had used during his fight with Nightking Zhenwu, then the two disciples definitely would have died.

"Forgive me," Lu Yin said softly.

Yun Feifei spat out a mouthful of blood. "Brother Lu's strength is astounding. Impressive."

Yan Kun bitterly admitted, "We've lost."

At this point, many eyes looked towards Yao Ji.

Lu Yin similarly looked at him.

The second and third ranked disciples on the sect's internal rankings had just been defeated as a team. So now, it was the first ranked disciple's turn.

Mu Ziying also turned to look at Yao Ji.

Yao Ji pursed his lips, as even without looking, he knew that everyone was staring at him—even Lu Yin was focused on the first ranked disciple. Yao Ji cursed in his heart. If possible, he would rather not make a move even if it meant being beaten to death. He had become the fourth true disciple of the Cosmic Sect today, and he did not want it to be the same day when he had been beaten like a sandbag.

He now regretted his actions. If Yao Ji had known that this would happen, then he would have come out for his promotion just a little later; even just a few minutes later would have been enough. Why had he had to come out so quickly? Now he had been forced into a dead end by the crowd.

The atmosphere had suddenly become very awkward!

Everyone stared at Yao Ji, and he could not not step forward.

Yao Ji clenched his fists and exchanged glances with Lu Yin. "Brother Lu, excuse me."

Lu Yin's expression turned solemn. "Please teach me."

Yao Ji was speechless, as he felt that Lu Yin's attitude had become very serious, which meant that he would suffer even more than the previous two. Yao Ji was fully confident that he was not Lu Yin's match, and he wanted to back down. However, everyone was staring at him at this moment, and it was even possible that the Sect Leader was watching.

It seemed that Yao Ji could only compete by relying on his innate gift. He silently considered his options as he focused on Lu Yin. Yao Ji raised a hand, and the dust on the ground rose into the air before exploding forward in a powerful blast.

Lu Yin's figure flashed as he evaded the attack, and when he turned around, he saw that a crater had appeared where he had just been standing. Even the void had been shredded apart, and thin lines of spatial cracks could be seen spreading out from the impact zone.

The strength of this attack surpassed even that of an Enlighter.

It was no wonder why Yao Ji was first on the sect's rankings.

Without any hesitation, Lu Yin threw out a Vacuum Palm.

The invisible palm imprint shot through the void and squarely struck Yao Ji's body, who, just like Yun Feifei and Yan Kun, was struck before he could sense the attack. His body was also sent flying far away. Yai Ji felt his organs burn, and he also spat out a mouthful of blood, but then with great difficulty, he steadied his figure and stared at Lu Yin in shock. What a powerful palm strike.

Lu Yin's brows rose, as Yao Ji had actually managed to withstand a Vacuum Palm. Even though these Vacuum Palms were not as powerful as the ones that Lan Si had used during the battle against Lu Yin, this last one had not been much weaker than that. Its power should have been around the same level as that of One Hundred Stacks. This person's physique must be nearly comparable to an Enlighter's if he had withstood that palm.

The nearby Cosmic Sect disciples might not be fond of Yao Ji, but none of them wanted to see Lu Yin succeed at his promotion. Thus, they all cheered when they saw that Yao Ji had managed to endure.

Yao Ji was aware of his own struggles, and he suppressed the impulse to spit out a mouthful of blood. Instead, he forcefully swallowed the rising blood. This would cause his injuries to be more severe, but his innate gift allowed him to absorb materials and convert them to his own vitality, essentially a more effective way of absorbing the strength of items to heal his own body.

Lu Yin did not make another attack, as he felt that Yao Ji was acting a little strangely at this moment. He seemed to be taking precautions, though he was also wary. An unseen wind drifted above the ground.

The dust vibrated beneath Lu Yin, and he looked at Yao Ji seriously, but to his surprise, he found that Yao Ji's complexion was improving.

Yao Ji let out a deep breath. Fortunately, his injuries had not been too severe, and he grew more confident after recovering. He rolled his shoulders. "Brother Lu, again."

He then raised both hands, and the entire void instantly exploded. "Limitless Explosion."

A ferocious aftershock swept across the ground, radiating in all directions. The nearby Cosmic Sect disciples were all dumbstruck as they tried to avoid the widespread attack. If one was watching from outer space, then they would have seen the aftershock propagate in an arc that spread across the surface of Skystar.

Lu Yin stepped forward with one leg, and his star energy erupted and formed visible ripples that overpowered and isolated Yao Ji's Limitless Explosion. Suddenly, Yao Ji appeared with a raised hand. "Cosmic Palm."

The Cosmic Sect's disciples were most adept at the Cosmic Art and the Cosmic Palm, and as the first ranked disciple, when Yao Ji raised his hand, more than 200 stars appeared around his palm.

The stars of the Cosmic Palm helped by slowing down how the user perceived time, allowing them to see every move of their opponent and even imitate them. Still, the greatest power of the attack was from the explosion of the stars.

Yao Ji's Cosmic Palm was not weak at all, but before the stars could even explode, they were shattered by an invisible attack, and Yao Ji was sent flying once again. This time, he had not been struck by an attack as simple as the previous one, and his abdomen had visibly caved in as a palm-print appeared on his body. He was unable to stop himself from spitting up a mouthful of blood; it felt like his eyeballs had nearly popped out as well, and they were clearly bloodshot.

Chapter 1094: Sweeping Through The Cosmic Sect

With a thump, Yao Ji heavily slammed into the earth, but he did not stop there. Instead, he sank dozens of meters into the ground, and from there, he spat out another mouthful of blood. His vision grew hazy, and he could only vaguely hear a few shouts from some nearby disciples.

In front of the promotion drum, Lu Yin patted the dust off of his body. That last Vacuum Palm had been on the same level as Lan Si's. If Lu Yin took such an attack head on, even he would still have to spit out blood. Yao Ji's innate gift was likely related to healing, as he seemed to be able to slowly heal his injuries. Since Yao Ji had been able to receive the first Vacuum Palm, Lu yin definitely would not give his opponent any more chances.

Besides, this person clearly had a big ego.

The surrounding Cosmic Sect disciples had all fallen silent as their dumbfounded gaze wavered between the few miserable challengers and Lu Yin. If he had not chosen to be evaluated through the third method, then he definitely would have become a true disciple because he had defeated the fourth true disciple, Yao Ji.

However, there was no limit to the number of true disciples who could challenge the examinee during the third evaluation.

Many of the Cosmic Sect disciples looked at Mu Ziying next, as he was the only one they could rely on here.

These disciples were not the only ones looking at him, as quite a few of the powerhouses from the Cosmic Sect's older generation were also looking at Mu Ziying.

Lu Yin similarly looked at the second true disciple.

At this moment, Mu Ziying was the only person who could go up against Lu Yin, and regardless if it was from the perspective of the entire sect, or if it was Mu Ziying's personal opinion, he had to take action. This was also something that Lu Yin had predicted when he had first agreed to the third method of promotion evaluation.

Mu Ziying took a deep breath. His expression was solemn, and he remembered when he had returned to the Cosmic Sect and spoken to Hua Xiao. "Each of the Ten Arbiters are monsters. Who knows how the Innerverse gave birth such monsters?"

"The only one who can go up against the Ten Arbiters is Grand Senior."

"Senior Mu, are you confident in being able to deal with the Ten Arbiters?"

"Honestly, in solo combat, I would either have to break through to the third layer of the Cosmic Art or become a five star Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker and comprehend a sourcebox array. Otherwise, any one of them would be incredibly truly difficult to deal with. White Knight Ling Gong and Unseen Light are both extremely terrifying, and the other Ten Arbiters aren't weak either..."

This person standing before Mu Ziying had defeated both the Ten Arbiters' Divine Fist and Nightking Zhenwu. The Nightking had been considered incredibly powerful even among the Ten Arbiters, which was something that Mu Ziying was aware of.

He did not know how Lu Yin compared to Ling Gong or Unseen Light, but he was definitely on the same level at the very least.

Mu Ziying raised a foot and advanced step by step. Stars revolved around his body, and there were more than 400 of them, twice that of what Yao Ji had displayed. At the same time, Mu Ziying's strength erupted, revealing that he was a Hunter, as visible ripples spread out from him. With each step that he took, the dust on the ground billowed out in all directions. His might seemed incomparable at this moment.

Lu Yin's expression grew much more serious. Although they were both true disciples, Yao Ji and Mu Ziying were in two entirely different classes, and this person was able to challenge the Ten Arbiters.

"Brother Lu, please excuse me," Mu Ziying spoke solemnly.

Lu Yin replied, "Please."

Mu Ziying yelled, "All disciples, retreat from Skystar!"

As he shouted those words, his star energy whistled out and swept over the entirety of Skystar. His star energy took on a bizarre form, and his body instantly vanished only to suddenly reappear next to Lu Yin. Mu Ziying's stars revolved around him, and he unleashed a Cosmic Palm with over 400 stars exploding at once.

Lu Yin had never expected Mu Ziying to be this fast. Actually, that was not right. Mu Ziying was not moving with incredible speed, but rather, he was using a battle technique that had integrated star energy into it. His control over his star energy had definitely reached the Divine Gaze realm.

Lu Yin had not forgotten that everyone in the Cosmic Sect was a Lockbreaker, and he had also not forgotten that the Cosmic Art was an unparalleled technique that all Lockbreakers dreamed of learning. However, at this moment, Lu Yin was finally experiencing for himself just how terrifying it was when the Cosmic Art was used as a lockbreaking technique. In the Cosmic Sea, Hua Xiao had used a similar lockbreaking method to dissolve Realmling Nan Yanfei's attacks.

Nine lined battle force shrouded Lu Yin's body as he kicked off of the ground with his right foot and shot into the sky. Lu Yin released One Hundred Stacks, and its fluctuating strength distorted the void as he tried to isolate Mu Ziying's Cosmic Palm. However, Mu Ziying had predicted this, and he paused for a moment. To his eyes, although Lu Yin's One Hundred Stacks had erupted quickly, Mu Ziying was still able to see it perfectly clear, and the trembling void caused by One Hundred Stacks was not a perfect defense.

There was a loud explosion, and both youths were flung backwards.

Mu Ziying panted heavily as he stared at his opponent.

Across from him, Lu Yin glanced down at his shoulder, where his clothes had been ripped apart. He had just endured the force of dozens of stars exploding from the second true disciple's Cosmic Palm, and Lu Yin's body even felt a bit sore.

"It's no wonder why you're the Cosmic Sect's second true disciple," Lu Yin marveled.

Mu Ziying smiled bitterly. "Brother Lu, please don't mock me. My full powered Cosmic Palm was only able to tear off a bit of your clothes. Honestly, I didn't expect that."

Lu Yin's face grew serious. At this moment, Mu Ziying was in the same position that Lu Yin had been in against Lan Si. Lan Si had never thought that he would be defeated, and he had completely suppressed Lu Yin when he had revealed his Vacuum Palm. But in the end, Lan Si was the one who ultimately lost. Lu Yin did not want to go down the same path as Lan Si.

Lu Yin would not underestimate anyone, especially not the Cosmic Sect's second true disciple.

"Brother Mu, I'm going to attack, so please take care," Lu Yin respectfully warned as he focused entirely on Mu Ziying.

Mu Ziying's expression changed, and a layer of tree-like material suddenly gathered over his skin. It gradually spread out until it covered his entire body.

Lu Yin was stumped; was this an innate gift?

One of the Cosmic Sect disciples cried out, "This is Senior Mu's innate gift! I heard that, in the past, Senior Mu was given his name by the Sect Leader because of this innate gift."

"An innate gift to form wood. Even Senior Hua Xiao isn't able to cause any harm to Senior Mu when he covers himself with wood, and even Grand Senior has praised his defense as almost impenetrable."

"Several years ago, when Senior Mu encountered a Neohuman Alliance corpse king capable of a green eyes transformation, he was still able to face it head on. This is the power of my Cosmic Sect's second true disciple. Lu Yin will definitely lose."

...

Yun Feifei stared at the wooden Mu Ziying in shock, as she had seen Senior Mu fight before. She knew that it was normal for her senior to fight against Enlighters after covering himself with wood, and that had been when Senior Mu had merely been a Cruiser.

After Mu Ziying's body was covered with wood, he had not slowed down at all, and he instantly vanished once again. His star energy control was incredibly precise, and he appeared right behind Lu Yin as Mu Ziyin used his movement technique and attacked with another Cosmic Palm.

Lu Yin's gaze trembled. Although there did not seem to be any movement, Mu Ziying's Cosmic Palm was pierced through, and his body was blasted away just like Yun Feifei, Yao Ji, and the others before.

Many of the Cosmic Sect disciples were stunned, as they were all watching on carefully.

Mu Ziying was forced a thousand meters back before he could stabilize himself. He then vanished again, moving to attack Lu Yin.

Many Cosmic Sect disciples cheered.

Yun Feifei heaved a sigh of relief. Sure enough, Senior Mu could defend himself against Lu Yin's invisible palm imprint.

Lu Yin was shocked, as the strength of that Vacuum Palm had been the same as the one that Lan Si had used against him. Mu Ziying's innate gift was actually incredibly powerful, and it could even block this powerful palm attack.

There was a thump, and Lu Yin dodged. Where he had just been standing, Mu Ziying's Cosmic Palm had struck. "Brother Lu, if that is the full strength of your attack, then you can stop now, as I can last for a very long time with my innate gift."

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed, and he quickly evaded another attack. Mu Ziying was very fast, and he intended to use his innate gift to completely stonewall Lu Yin's offense while using the Cosmic Palm to attack Lu Yin at every opportunity. Although the Cosmic Palm was not very effective against Lu Yin, as long as Mu Ziying could last for long enough, someone else might find an opportunity to make a move.

Mu Ziying had already realized that he could not defeat Lu Yin, but Mu Ziying also believed that Lu Yin could not defeat him either.

Mu Ziying's only response was his innate gift.

When the stars exploded, the dust on the ground flew into the air, and the void tore open. Mu Ziying's attack far surpassed the power of an early Enlighter. And in theory, being able to unleash an attack that surpassed an Enlighter's while still in the Hunter realm indicated that one was able to fight against the Ten Arbiters, even if that was just barely enough to qualify.

Mu Ziying's palm landed once again, but he suddenly froze as his expression changed drastically; his palm had been seized by Lu Yin's tight grip, and the nine lined battle force combined with Lu Yin's enormous strength made it impossible for Mu Ziying to break away.

"Brother Mu, forgive me." Lu Yin then struck out with a Vacuum Palm.

There was a thump as Mu Ziying shot backwards; his entire body had been struck by a Vacuum Palm. The strength of this palm could not compare to those from before, as this was Lu Yin's full force powerful Vacuum Palm, which matched up to the power that he had used against Nightking Zhenwu.

Mu Ziying had an incredible defense, but there would always be a limit. This palm from Lu Yin had almost forced him to cough up blood, and if not for his innate gift of forming wood, his entire body would have been shattered apart.

Even when Nightking Zhenwu had used his nine lined battle force and all sorts of other methods to increase his defense, he had not been able to take much more than a few of these strikes. If not for the Arbiter's innate gift that allowed him to transfer his injuries to others, he would have been defeated far sooner.

Mu Ziying had not yet reached Nightking Zhenwu's level.

Skystar trembled, and shockwaves shot out in all directions as the void split open, and spatial cracks spread out like a spiderweb.

Many Cosmic Sect disciples raced away from Skystar and watched the battle from outer space.

Mu Ziying flew a great distance before he was finally able to stabilize himself. He panted heavily and looked down to see that his wooden skin had actually slightly caved in. If the strength of that attack had been any higher, the wood would have shattered.

He stared into the distance in utter disbelief; the strength of Lu Yin's palm attack was truly terrifying.

Suddenly, another Vacuum Palm was sent out, and this time, Mu Ziying saw it through his Cosmic Art. The Vacuum Palm moved at speeds that could not be seen by the naked eye, but Mu Ziying still managed to track its path. However, seeing was one thing while being able to dodge it was another matter entirely.

During his battle against Lan Si, Lu Yin had used Truesight in order to track the trajectory of Lan Si's Vacuum Palms, and he had also used Truesight to erase some of the attacks' runes so that he could use the Yu Secret Art to defend himself.

Mu Ziying did not have Truesight, let alone a secret technique. Thus, he had no choice but to directly receive Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm.

With a thump, he was struck again, and the palm struck the same location as before. This time, the wood sank in a bit further. Suddenly, Lu Yin appeared. "Brother Mu, how many more strikes can you take?"

His Vacuum Palm landed again.

Thump thump thump!

Truthfully, Lu Yin had never expected Mu Ziying's innate gift to have such an impressive defense, and the man actually managed to endure seven Vacuum Palms. However, that was his limit. When the

eighth Vacuum Palm landed, the wooden skin covering Mu Ziying's body was no longer able to hold on, and it broke apart.

Mu Ziying even spat out a mouthful of blood as his face turned a deathly shade of white. "Brother Lu, I admit defeat."

Lu Yin's raised hand lowered, and a hint of a smile twitched at the corner of his lips. "Forgive me."

Ever since he had been struck by the first full strength Vacuum Palm, Mu Ziying had been unable to retaliate, and he had been passively beaten into submission from then on.

This was the hidden technique that Lan Si of the Ten Arbiters had cultivated, and unless one could reach One Hundred Fifty Stacks in the Overlaying Stacks Path, they would not be able to learn this technique. Within the same generation, how many youths were capable of cultivating the Overlaying Stacks Path to One Hundred Fifty Stacks?

Nightking Zhenwu had been unable to endure this attack, and Mu Ziying had struggled against it even more, and others were similarly unable to endure it.

Above Skystar, many Cosmic Sect disciples fell silent.

Yun Feifei was overwhelmed when even Senior Mu was defeated. Just where had this Lu Yin come from? How had they never heard of him? Lu Yin? A primeval surname? From Eversky Island?

Yao Ji was helped up by a female disciple as he rose up into outer space. He had finally regained consciousness and had seen Mu Ziying admit defeat. Yao Ji heaved a sigh of relief; fortunately, even the second true disciple, Mu Ziying, had lost to Lu Yin. Thus, it was not too embarrassing that he had been defeated.

The rest of the disciples all had complex expressions, as the only person who could possibly stop Lu Yin from being promoted to a true disciple now was their Grand Senior, the All Rounder Fairy Qiu Shi.

Chapter 1095: Skystar Jade Wall

Within Skystar's Great Hall, Sect Leader Yuan Qiong voiced his admiration as he looked at Lu Yin from above the planet in outer space. "A powerful physique, a palm imprint manifested from the Overlaying Stacks Path, and the perception to see through the Cosmic Palm. It's not unreasonable for them to lose."

On the other side of the Great Hall, a Cosmic Sect elder opened his eyes and looked over at a certain planet revolving around the Cosmic Sect. "Qiu Shi, can you come out?"

On that particular planet, Qiu Shi opened her eyes. "My apologies, Elder Yao, but the Astral Tower contest is fast approaching, and it's inadvisable to make enemies."

The elder felt helpless. "If that's the case, then this child will end up becoming one of the few disciples in the history of my Cosmic Sect to be promoted to a true disciple through the third method."

Qiu Shi looked towards Skystar and at Lu Yin. She was not unfamiliar with him. Although he had not fought in the battle atop the Champions' Stage, after the Sixth Mainland's forces retreated, she had seen him charge onto the Champions' Stage and join forces with God Taiyi and Nightking Zhenwu to fight against Bu Kong.

At that time, Qiu Shi had felt that Lu Yin was not an average person, and now, he seemed to be even more unfathomable.

If they were destined to fight, then it should take place within the Mountains and Seas Zone; not here on Skystar.

Besides Qiu Shi, there was nobody else who could stop Lu Yin.

Lu Yin stood silently in front of the promotion drum on Skystar.

Mu Ziying was standing in the distance, as he had no other choice. He had tried his best, but in the end, he had failed to stop Lu Yin. If Hua Xiao was here at this time, then they might stand a chance after joining forces. Of course, at this level, numbers did not make much of a difference, not unless there was a sourcebox array.

Half a day passed, and more and more Cosmic Sect disciples gathered on Skystar. They all looked at Lu Yin with unwilling and grudging looks.

Lu Yin stood there silently as he recited the Stonewall Scriptures.

Quite a few of the disciples discussed joining forces to attack Lu Yin from all sides, but that idea was quickly shut down. They were merely unwilling to accept Lu Yin's success, not idiots.

Another few hours passed, and a dozen Cosmic Sect disciples were finally unable to hold themselves back, and they all stood up. Just as they were about to attack, Mu Ziying stopped them. "Haven't you been embarrassed enough yet? Get back."

Those disciples felt helpless, and they glared hatefully at Lu Yin as they withdrew.

Lu Yin's eyes opened, and he looked at the numerous Cosmic Sect disciples in the area. "Right now, I'm also a Cosmic Sect disciple, and all of us are a part of the same sect."

Same sect your ass, someone cursed to themselves.

This one sentence from Lu Yin had ignited a great deal of fury.

They felt as though Lu Yin was boasting.

Mu Ziying grew frustrated. "Brother Lu, just stop speaking."

Lu Yin pursed his lips, as he had actually been speaking from his heart. He truly did not want to offend the Cosmic Sect. In the future, he hoped to find an opportunity to cultivate the third layer of the Cosmic Art, but when he looked at these current circumstances, these disciples really did not like him.

However, Lu Yin did not believe that he had done anything wrong.

Soon, the day passed without any changes.

The Cosmic Sect disciples in the area exchanged glances and sighed. They had all hoped that their Grand Senior would take action, but she had remained in seclusion and had not emerged.

"Brother Lu, it's time," Mu Ziying said.

Lu Yin looked up. He solemnly picked up the drum sticks while everyone stared at him.

The drum sticks were incredibly heavy, and even Yun Feifei and Yao Ji had found it very difficult just to lift them. However, in Lu Yin's hands, they seemed to be nothing more than normal drum sticks, which caused Yao Ji's eye to twitch. This person was clearly inhuman.

There was a loud boom, and a sound wave shot past the crowd before anyone could even react. It swept across the entire Cosmic Sect so fast that almost everyone in the Cosmic Sect heard it at the same moment.

Yun Feifei was overwhelmed, as this physical strength was simply terrifying.

Yao Ji's face twitched. Monster.

As the sound wave faded, a voice sounded out from space. "Internal disciple Lu Yin has been promoted to become the fifth true disciple. Protect our Cosmic Sect from ever falling."

As those words were spoken, strange expressions appeared on the faces of quite a few Cosmic Sect disciples.

Protect 'our' Cosmic Sect? This guy isn't even from our Cosmic Sect!

At the center of Skystar, an elder frowned, looking rather exasperated. He had been the one who had spoken just now, as he was the elder who oversaw Skystar.

Typically, whenever he announced someone's promotion to the true disciple position, it was good news, as it meant that someone was qualified to become a successor of the Cosmic Sect. But at this moment, the elder felt very sullen as he had ever spoken these words for an outsider before; how embarrassing!

Lu Yin set the drum sticks down and smiled at the nearby Cosmic Sect disciples. He then seemed to think of something, and he turned to face the center of the Cosmic Sect. "Junior Lu Yin thanks the sect for nurturing me."

Many disciples were left speechless.

Mu Ziying's expression showed his embarrassment, as he felt that Lu Yin was simply asking for a beating.

Lu Yin was trying to express his goodwill, but he had forgotten that he was representing Eversky Island, not the Cosmic Sect.

Far away, in another region of the Neoverse, Highsage Shenwei had already returned to Eversky Island after tossing Lu Yin off at the Cosmic Sect. He had wanted to rest for a few days before giving Black and White some guidance. He wanted them to be less mischievous, but he suddenly received a bit of news.

When he saw the message, a strange expression appeared on Shenwei's face, and he quickly tore through the void to arrive at the tallest mountain. "Master, nominal disciple Lu Yin passed the Cosmic Sect's third promotion evaluation method and was promoted to the true disciple position. He is the fifth true disciple."

Within the depths of Eversky Island, two eyes opened wide in astonishment. "He used his own name?"

"Yes." Highsage Shenwei was puzzled as to why his master would ask such a question.

The Highsage Master was confused. Clearly this child had never joined the Cosmic Sect, though he had somehow learned the Cosmic Art. Thus, he must have either once been a part of the Cosmic Sect or his elder had come from the Cosmic Sect and had taught him the Cosmic Art. No matter which possibility was the truth, if there was some relation to the Cosmic Sect, then it was impossible to leave no trace of any connection.

"He's called Lu Yin, correct?" the Highsage Master asked.

Highsage Shenwei respectfully answered, "Yes. He hasn't changed his name in the Innerverse or the Outerverse either."

The Highsage Master could not understand this, as only by changing one's name could they evade the Cosmic Sect's investigation. There was no other way to deceive them. The Cosmic Art would never be taught to outsiders, and whoever learned it would be forever recorded down. Even if Lu Yin had changed his name, why would he have taken on a primeval surname? The Highsage Master could not understand this.

The Highsage Master was not concerned with Lu Yin's past, as at his level, there was no history that could possibly influence him. In fact, it wouldn't even matter if Lu Yin's ancestors had betrayed the Cosmic Sect! The Highsage Master would simply resolve it. However, since the Cosmic Sect had not discovered anything strange, the Highsage Master would not mention anything unnecessary.

"Interesting, so he was promoted to a true disciple? This child is quite interesting," the Highsage Master commented.

Highsage Shenwei smiled. "Yes, very interesting."

One of Eversky Island's nominal disciples had gone to the Cosmic Sect as a part of an exchange program, but he had then become one of the rare few individuals in the history of the Cosmic Sect to be promoted to the true disciple position. When news of this matter spread, it was impossible to estimate how many people would be stunned, and this was definitely a glorious moment for Eversky Island, though not as much for the Cosmic Sect.

However, due to Eversky Island's relationship with the Cosmic Sect, no animosity would arise from this incident.

Within the Cosmic Sect, Lu Yin had successfully been promoted to the true disciple position, which meant that he could now access the second layer of Cosmic Art, which was his true objective.

"Lu-" Mu Ziying paused for a moment as he corrected himself before continuing. "Brother Lu, do you want to immediately start cultivating the second layer, or would you like to go to the Skystar Jade Wall to look around before learning the second layer?"

Lu Yin was puzzled. "The Skystar Jade Wall?"

Mu Ziying explained, "The Skystar Jade Wall has a record of the full Cosmic Art, and even the first and second layers can be learned from the Jade Wall. However, our sect has some rules stating that the first layer of the Cosmic Art cannot be learned directly from the Jade Wall, and only true disciples are allowed to visit the Jade Wall to study the second layer of the Cosmic Art. Everyone else has to learn it from memory chips. However, the third layer can only be learned from the Skystar Jade Wall."

"Why is that?" Lu Yin was puzzled.

Mu Ziying replied, "The complete Cosmic Art has countless stars, and someone who's never studied it before would easily be overwhelmed if they saw the full diagram. In our historical records, many disciples in the past have collapsed from doing so, which meant that they were destined to have nothing to do with the Cosmic Art. Eventually, some ancient senior separated the Cosmic Art into multiple parts. The first layer gives one the qualification to study the art, and the second layer is essentially the introduction. Each layer after that represents different realms."

"So are you saying that I can go straight to the Skystar Jade Wall to study the complete Cosmic Art?" Lu Yin's eyes brightened.

Mu Ziying smiled. "I know what Brother Lu is thinking, so I need to warn you not to get too excited. Eight stars and ninety-nine stars—the first qualifies one while the second is just the basics. Only by comprehending ninety-nine stars will you be able to observe the third layer of Cosmic Art, as otherwise, it will be hidden by all the other stars. Thus, Brother Lu will only be able to see ninety-nine stars."

"If that's the case, then why didn't those ancestors simply hide things until only eight stars were left visible and allow all of the sect's disciples to study the Skystar Jade Wall?" Lu Yin could not understand this bit.

Mu Ziying shook his head. "It's not that simple. It was already hard enough to cover the wall up until only ninety-nine stars are visible. Besides, those who have never cultivated the Cosmic Art would collapse not only because there were too many stars, but also because they could not endure the mental suppression of the Skystar Jade Wall, as the wall released the most fundamental pressure of the Cosmic Art.

"Also, there's one more detail: the first three layers of Cosmic Art are all fine, but once one breaks through the third layer of Cosmic Art, one needs to gain access to the thirty six fatal meridian points of the human body and remove any weak points before they can cultivate the fourth level of Cosmic Art. This is impossible to do alone, and it requires help from the sect's seniors."

At this time, Lu Yin did not have much hope of touching the fourth layer of Cosmic Art. "Brother Mu, let's go and see the Skystar Jade Wall."

Mu Ziying nodded. "Brother Lu, please."

Lu Yin started to get excited. "Brother Mu, please."

The Skystar Jade Wall was one of the Cosmic Sect's treasures, and it was also the origin of Cosmic Art. Without the Cosmic Art from the Skystar Jade Wall, there would never have been a Cosmic Sect.

The Skystar Jade Wall was located on one of the planets that orbited the Cosmic Sect the closest, and it was known as Chen Star. This planet was practically touching the Cosmic Sect, and it looked as though the two might collide at any moment.

The Skystar Jade Wall was not the only thing on Chen Star, as there was also Cosmo Hall. Only the sect's true disciples could enter Cosmo Hall, and it was also where the Cosmic Sect's True Elder stayed.

Mu Ziying and Lu Yin made their way towards Chen Star unimpeded. On the way, Mu Ziying said, "Brother Lu, as a true disciple, you still need to pay your respects and enter Cosmo Hall to carve your name inside for True Elder to authenticate."

Lu Yin asked, "Does Brother Mu really think that my name can be carved in Cosmo Hall?"

Mu Ziying was taken aback and did not know how to respond for a moment. He thought about it and then replied, "I'll take Brother Lu to see the Skystar Jade Wall first."

As long as one's status as a true disciple was recognized, they could visit the Skystar Jade Wall; this was one of the Cosmic Sect's rules. Even if Lu Yin was a nominal disciple from Eversky Island, it made no difference since he had been recognized by the Skystar Elder.

Lu Yin nodded.

The Skystar Jade Wall was located in a large valley 10,000 kilometers away from Cosmo Hall. Surprisingly, it looked like there was no one standing guard over this place, and that appearance was actually true. If someone could invade the Cosmic Sect and reach the Skystar Jade Wall, then the Cosmic Sect was already done for. Thus, it was pointless to assign anyone to guard this place.

Only true disciples were allowed to enter Cosmo Hall, but any inner disciple or person who had received special permission could visit Chen Star.

At this moment, there were at least ten disciples waiting outside the large valley that held the Skystar Jade Wall, as the Skystar Jade Wall could only accommodate one person at a time.

"Senior Mu."

"Senior Mu."

...

When Mu Ziying arrived, all of the disciples bowed in unison.

Mu Ziying nodded and looked over at Lu Yin. "Brother Lu, I'll find somewhere for you to practice the first layer of the Cosmic Art. No one can enter the Skystar Jade Wall without at least completing the first layer."

Lu Yin nodded, as Mu Ziying had mentioned this before. Before completing the first layer, no one was allowed to visit the Skystar Jade Wall.

Chapter 1096: Mavis And Tortoise

"It works out perfectly since there are still a few juniors in front of us who want to enter. By the time you finish cultivating the first layer, it'll be about time for you to head in," Mu Ziying said. He then

pointed to a few well-used caves some distance away from the large valley. "Brother Lu, you can go over there and cultivate in private."

Lu Yin's figure flashed as he reappeared outside a cavern. There was a symbol above each cavern, showing that some were occupied and that others were vacant.

After Lu Yin entered a cave, a female disciple curiously asked Mu Ziying, "Senior Mu, is he the newly promoted fifth true disciple, Lu Yin?"

Mu Ziying nodded. "So you've all already heard?"

The group nodded, and the female disciple looked over at the cavern, clearly curious. "It's practically unheard of for someone to successfully be promoted through the third evaluation method even in ancient times. It's amazing, but unfortunately, he's not a disciple of our Cosmic Sect."

"Eversky Island and my Cosmic Sect fundamentally have a good relationship, and we're lucky that they're not an enemy of ours."

"So what if they are? It's just that Grand Senior never took action. Otherwise, just one Teleportation Formation would have been enough to finish off this Lu Yin." One disciple refused to accept Lu Yin's success.

Mu Ziying barked, "Alright, there's no need to talk so much. Just focus on cultivating while you wait to enter the Skystar Jade Wall."

"Yes, Senior Mu." The crowd quickly bowed and no longer dared to talk any more.

Mu Ziying did not reveal anything openly, but in truth, he was also frustrated about losing to Lu Yin. However, Mu Ziying simply had not been as capable as Lu Yin, and there was nothing more to it.

He glanced over at the cave. One had to learn the first layer of the Cosmic Art before they could move on to the introduction, and even at the fastest speed, it would take Lu Yin at least a month to comprehend eight stars. Mu Ziying wondered how long Lu Yin would actually take.

In the past, when Lu Yin had first cultivated the Cosmic Art to eight stars, it had taken him far longer than one month to do so, but that was also because he had never cultivated before that. At this moment, Lu Yin could cause ninety nine stars to appear, but he needed to put on an act and look like he was cultivating the art from the very beginning. Thus, he was terribly bored as he waited in the cave.

He was within the Cosmic Sect, so he could not be certain whether or not he was being monitored, which prevented him from rolling his die. In the end, it was better to pretend.

After thinking about it, Lu Yin pulled out the chip that he had been given and inserted it into his gadget as if to study the first layer of the Cosmic Art.

On the surface, it looked as though he was studying the movement of the Cosmic Art, but in reality, he had long since started reciting the Stonewall Scriptures.

Soon, the chip automatically self-destructed, and Lu Yin's eyes went wide as he pretended to get excited. "So it's like this? So this is the Cosmic Art? It's really very mysterious."

He then put on a show of trying to cultivate it.

Putting on an act was exhausting.

While Lu Yin was pretending to cultivate the Cosmic Art, the warship that had gone to pick up the Ten Arbiters had finally arrived in the Neoverse.

They were welcomed by an eonlight-grade Aurora, and a very large one at that. Even Aurora Enterprises did not have many of these vessels, and this one specifically belonged to the Hall of Honor. In front of the spacecraft, the passengers saw the Hall of Honor's Interstellar Supreme Court's Judicial Commissioner, the Virtue of Righteousness, Mu En.

Everyone had heard of the powerful Interstellar Supreme Court before, and everyone in the Innerverse and Outerverse knew that the Hall of Honor was the ruling power of the Human Domain. However, very few powerhouses from the Hall of Honor had ever shown themselves in those places. But when the young elites of the Innerverse and Outerverse arrived in the Neoverse, they finally understood what it meant for the Hall of Honor to rule the Human Domain.

The Virtue of Righteousness, Mu En, was a super powerhouse whose power level had far surpassed 600,000 and was approaching 700,000. He gave off the feeling that he ruled over heaven and earth despite merely standing there. Although he was significantly weaker than the Shadow of Death, Lord Shadow was someone from the same generation as the Chief Justice whereas Mu En was even younger than the Sea King. His age was actually similar to the Calm of Despair's.

It was impossible to find a powerhouse on this level throughout the entire Outerverse, aside from the Hall of Honor's Yuan Shi, though he greatly surpassed this power level.

There were not many powerhouses of such strength even in the Innerverse. If all of the Hall of Honor's resources were taken into account, then not even the Daynight clan's patriarch, Nightking Dijiang, could guarantee that he could overpower the Virtue of Righteousness.

This was the power of the Human Domain's ruler, and although there were only three such powerhouses within the Interstellar Supreme Court, above them was the Chief Justice.

"Greetings, Judicial Commissioner, Virtue of Righteousness." Wen Sansi and the other Ten Arbiters bowed as one. Before this, they had acted indifferently, but at this moment, even Little Leaf King bowed despite having never spoken to anyone aboard the warship. There was no one who dared to act arrogantly in front of a Judicial Commissioner.

Mu En looked like a benevolent elder, and he smiled gently at the crowd. "Not bad, not bad. Eras have passed by yet there has never been a generation with so many elite geniuses." His gaze swept over War King Xing Kai and Serati Phoenix. "The two of you are not fated with this contest at the Astral Tower and may only watch."

Xing Kai and Serati Phoenix had no choice, as they were both over forty years old, which meant that they were no longer a part of the younger generation. Technically, they truly did not qualify.

During the battles in the Cosmic Sea, their participation had already been essentially cheating. However, since they had still been considered a part of the Ten Arbiters, the Sixth Mainland had not really cared, and thus, the two had been allowed to act.

"Yes, Lord Commissioner." Xing Kai and Serati Phoenix bowed.

"Move out. We'll head to the Mountain and Seas Zone. There are less than two months before the contest at the Astral Tower begins." Mu En smiled before his figure vanished.

The youths all boarded the spacecraft, and a moment later, the vessel had vanished, headed towards the center of the Neoverse.

This was the first time the stutterer from the Longevity Brigade had been to the Neoverse, and his reaction was the same as Lu Yin's: complete curiosity towards this place. This was particularly so when he saw the landmass that made up the Honor Zone, as the sight of it shocked him so much that his stuttering worsened even further.

"This- this-" The stutterer pointed at the distant landmass that was so massive that he could not even see its peak. His face showed his disbelief.

Next to him, Tai Yuanjun was getting irritated. "This? What this? You've never seen it before? Countryside hick."

The stutterer's mouth opened wide. "Hi- hi- hi."

"Wine? Where's the wine?" Liquor Hero appeared with an expectant look on her face.

Tai Yuanjun felt grossed out, so he snorted as he turned to leave.

The stutterer turned to face Liquor Hero. "Wi- Wine?"

Liquor Hero nodded and looked at him excitedly. "Right! Where's the wine?"

The stutterer swallowed his saliva and was rather confused. To him, Liquor Hero looked like she was about to eat him alive.

"There's no wine. Where would wine come from? You should drink less," Unseen Light said.

Liquor Hero rolled her eyes. "Men who don't understand pleasure are fated to be abandoned by women."

Unseen Light stopped speaking.

Some distance away, Xing Kai's expression dimmed as he stared at the Honor Zone. Since ancient times, the contest at the Astral Tower had always been something exclusive to the Neoverse. However, their generation had finally obtained this opportunity only for him to be unable to compete. Truthfully, he hated this development, but he had no choice.

Lan Si spoke in a low voice, "It's not just you. Lu Yin defeated Nightking Zhenwu, but he also doesn't qualify to participate. He personally strangled his only hope."

Xing Kai smiled bitterly. "This trip is a waste."

Lan Si shook his head as his eyes grew bright. "Not a waste. At the very least, you'll be able to witness the rise of the next Cosmic Five, and you'll be able to see who the true top powerhouses will be in the future. In fact, you might even have a chance to trade blows with them in the future."

Xing Kai nodded and then grinned. "Even if I go up against the Cosmic Five, I still won't admit defeat. Instead, I'll overthrow them."

Starsibyl calmly stared off into outer space. Was Lu Yin here? According to her knowledge of him, he should not be this quiet. Nightking Zhenwu had previously been near the peak, and Lu Yin had defeated him. According to her divinations, Lu Yin should have replaced Zhenwu to climb up to the pinnacle, and the pinnacle of the Innerverse was fated to clash with the top of the Neoverse. This clash would create the most vibrant sparks in the entire Fifth Mainland, and in the future, they would still have to face the Sixth Mainland—and even further beyond that.

Little Leaf King remained indifferent, and he did not seem to be concerned about anyone. He only calmly looked at the Honor Zone.

The Ten Arbiters approached the Mountain and Seas Zone from outer space.

Within the Honor Zone, Shu Jing faced an approaching man and slowly bowed.

The man's face was as white as jade, and his facial features were as exquisite as a statue's. He seemed to be around the same age as Shu Jing. His eyes were calm, and there was a flow of white air that constantly circled around his body, giving him an extraordinary sensation, almost like he was a deity. This young man was Shang Qing, the Hall of Honor's First Chosen.

To others, the Astral Tower was a place for them to compete, but for the Hall of Honor's First Chosen, becoming one of the Cosmic Five was something easily obtained.

All of the previous generations of the Cosmic Five had always had at least one member who was an Honor Chosen, and sometimes, even the Second Chosen would also be one of the Cosmic Five. This was the Hall of Honor's strength.

It was extremely powerful.

In the northern region of the Neoverse, at Gods' Origin's headquarters:

If Lu Yin were present, he would have seen lingering rune lines hovering about here. This place was filled with historic relics from the ancient Rune Civilization, and at times, someone would create something from nothing.

God Taiyi opened his eyes, his pupils shaped like runes. They then effortlessly transformed into an even more complex shape. "Finally, I've entered the Perception Realm. There will definitely be a spot for myself, God Taiyi, among the Cosmic Five."

In the eastern region of the Honor Zone, at the top of the giant landmass, a truly enormous tortoise was slowly climbing up. Each step it took caused the entire mountain range to tremble, and these cracks extended endless into the infinite space above as well as the infinite space below the landmass.

There was a massive, ancient tree on the tortoise's back, and it was flourishing with many leaves and branches.

This was the Mavis family's home, as the Mavis family lived on this tortoise's back.

The base of the tree was shrouded in shadows, as each ancient leaf was as large as an entire city. They trembled as the tortoise moved.

The roots of this ancient tree looked like a mountain range, each root like a giant dragon.

Lulu and Grandini Mavis were sitting atop one of the ancient roots, and Lulu suddenly looked up. "Do you think Sister Yuhua can become one of the Cosmic Five?"

Grandini Mavis gently responded, "As long as Sister Yuhua is smarter than you, it's a strong possibility."

Lulu got upset at this, and she clenched her fists as she glared at Grandini. "Do you get uncomfortable if you don't make fun of me every day? Do you want to be beaten up?"

Grandini was unperturbed as always. "I'm not mocking you but rather stating facts. I'm just too honest."

"You're too irritating! Let's fight."

"Act more ladylike."

The next moment, the two girls attacked each other with their full strength. They were clearly both girls, but they were stronger than monsters.

Right when the two girls' fists collided, a pure-white hand extended from the void and lightly tapped out. The monstrous strength of the two girls was instantly suppressed, and they both took several steps back. A woman who looked like a fairy in a green dress stepped out of the void with long, golden hair and bare feet. She was enchantingly beautiful, and she smiled at the two girls. "Fighting again? You two are very noisy."

Lulu and Grandini were both thrilled to see this woman. "Sister Yuhua."

This woman seemed to have a gentle temperament, and she was stunning and seemed the quiet sort. She had crescent-shaped eyes and a delicate fragrance. There even seemed to be a faint halo around her. Fresh flowers bloomed beneath her bare feet, and even the ancient tree seemed to awaken, as its branches swayed.

Lulu and Grandini felt their worries disappear as they smiled at the woman. "Sister Yuhua, we've missed you!"

"Sister Yuhua, Grandini is bigger than me, and she keeps on bullying me," Lulu immediately complained.

Grandini was upset. "You're the one who always picked fights against me at the academy."

"You're setting me up!" Lulu was angry.

Grandini rolled her eyes. "You tattled first."

Chapter 1097: Cutting In Line

Yuhua Mavis smiled as she watched the two girls bicker. "Alright, you two, give me some quiet."

"Right, Sister Yuhua needs to go to the Astral Tower, so she can't be disturbed. Lulu, you should go," Grandini said gently as she clutched Yuhua Mavis's arm.

Lulu showed her teeth. "Why don't you go? I won't!"

Yuhua Mavis helplessly said, "You can both stay. Tell me more about what you two experienced outside. The academy? Wasn't it interesting? Did you meet anyone you like?"

Lulu quickly said, "Sister Yuhua, I captured a giant tortoise during the apocalypse on a planet called Earth. It's really, really big!"

"Don't brag. How could it be bigger than our ancestral tortoise?"

"Are you trying to annoy me? It's an Explorer! It hasn't matured yet."

"You're too noisy."

In the Neoverse's western region, at Smoke-Eater Peaks, Gu Xiao'er had a stunned expression on his face, and he looked a bit like an idiot.

A ray of sunlight shot through the smoke, and his father, Gu Laogui, appeared with a smile on his face. "Xiao'er, you can come out now. Rest for a bit. Then, we'll head to the Mountain and Seas Zone."

Gu Xiao'er looked up, shocked. "I- I can go out now?"

Gu Laogui nodded.

Gu Xiao'er shouted, "You're lying! I won't go out! You're trying to hurt me."

"Xiao'er, Father has been doing all of this for your own good. Think about it—if you can become one of the Cosmic Five, then won't all of those ladies from Azure Mansion flock to you? Think about that Flower Queen Ming Yu!"

Gu Xiao'er swallowed his saliva, his eyes showing both expectation, nervousness, as well as a longing and a rather obscene glint. "I- I'll go out."

"Come, Xiao'er, come over to Father first and take a puff of smoke."

"You lied to me again, ***!!!"

...

The competition at the Astral Tower was about to begin, and the Mountain and Seas Zone had already opened up. The powers who knew the location of the Mountain and Seas Zone had made their preparations a long time ago, and they were ready to set out at any moment.

At this time, Lu Yin was still putting on a show of learning the first layer of the Cosmic Art. He felt that ten days should be about right, and the group of disciples who had queued up outside the valley should be almost done by now. If not, then he would just cut the line, as a true disciple should have some special privileges.

Ten days later, outside of the Skystar Jade Wall's great valley, five disciples were still queued up and waiting for their turn.

Mu Ziying was waiting to one side, bored. He also wanted to cultivate, but cultivating at this time would have absolutely no bearing on the contest at the Astral Tower. In truth, he just wanted to try his luck.

Yao Ji also arrived at this time. He was still recovering from his battle with Lu Yin, and his face was a bit pale.

After being promoted to a true disciple, he had gone to the Cosmo Hall and had carved his name there before moving onto the Starsky Jade Wall. He still had more than a month left before the contest at the Astral Tower began, and the Cosmic Sect was only half a month away from the Mountain and Seas Zone, which meant that he had about a month left to prepare, which should be enough. In reality, ten days were generally enough to learn the Cosmic Art from the Skystar Jade Wall.

Yao Ji did not plan to wait in line at all, and he simply nodded towards Mu Ziying before moving to the front of the line. The disciples already in line were not surprised by this treatment, as the true disciples would soon leave for the Astral Tower while they would not. Thus, they could continue to wait.

Yao Ji did not even say anything to the other disciples.

Mu Ziying did not mind either.

Some distance away, Lu Yin stepped out of the cave.

Mu Ziying looked over, and his expression instantly changed. Lu Yin had only been in there for a bit over ten days; had he finished already? That was impossible!

"Brother Lu, you-?" Mu Ziying hesitated, but Lu Yin simply smiled and revolved the Cosmic Art, causing eight stars to appear around him.

Mu Ziying was surprised. "You've already succeeded?"

Lu Yin nodded. "Of course. I wouldn't have come out otherwise. Brother Mu, is it my turn?"

Mu Ziying was overwhelmed. This was the level of Lu Yin's talent. When Mu Ziying had first heard how long Lu Yin had been cultivating for, it was already abundantly clear just how talented Lu Yin was. However, Mu Ziying had not been overly concerned at that time. But now, he was witnessing it for himself as he had watched Lu Yin casually shattered the Cosmic Sect's records one after another. First, he had gone through the third promotion method to become a true disciple, and then, just ten short days later, Lu Yin had broken a second record. Mu Ziying was left completely speechless.

Mu Ziying was not the only one. When Lu Yin emerged from the cave and revealed his comprehension of the Cosmic Art, quite a few of the Cosmic Sect's older powerhouses were also stunned.

Sect Leader Yuan Qiong's eyes burned with a fervent light; if this child truly belonged to his Cosmic Sect, then it would be so much better.

Hold on. The sect leader suddenly thought of something, and he immediately called Highsage Shenwei.

Outside of the Skystar Jade Wall's valley, both Lu Yin and Mu Ziying suddenly appeared. "There are still six people? Eh, isn't that the fourth true disciple? When did he get in line?" Lu Yin was puzzled.

Yao Ji similarly noticed Lu Yin, and although he stayed quiet, he inwardly felt disgusted. He could do nothing but quietly wait.

Before Mu Ziying could say anything, Lu Yin walked over next to Yao Ji, looked at the disciples lined up behind the true disciple, and then smiled at Yao Ji.

Yao Ji was stunned. "What are you doing?"

Lu Yin smiled. "I'm a guest from far away. Bro, please let me cut in line."

After Lu Yin spoke, Yao Ji did not even have a chance to respond when a disciple flew out of the valley and Lu Yin shot in. Before Yao Ji had even spoken, Lu Yin had already disappeared underground, which was where the Skystar Jade Wall was hidden.

Yao Ji was infuriated. "Lu Yin, you're cutting in line! Get back here!"

However, Lu Yin was already gone.

The five disciples in line behind Yao Ji stared in stunned silence.

Yao Ji looked at Mu Ziying in indignation. "Brother Mu, this Lu Yin is too shameless!"

Mu Ziying was completely speechless. "Just wait a bit. It'll only be about ten days."

Yao Ji was furious. No one had ever cut in front of him in his entire life. This was too infuriating, and it was completely illogical! He wanted to curse.

The other disciples stifled their laughter, as being cut off in such a manner was indeed infuriating. However, when Yao Ji was the one being cut, they were all somewhat delighted. This person was fine with cutting in line if he did it, but when he was cut, he was insulted?

Lu Yin had also thought of this, and if Yao Ji had not been the one at the front of the line, Lu Yin would have been too embarrassed to cut. However, since Yao Ji had clearly done it to all these people already, Lu Yin felt that his actions were acceptable.

Right when he arrived underground, Lu Yin was greeted by a heavy aura, and it caused him to frown. He had never experienced such a sensation before, and it was indescribable. It was as if the aura in the air was... Grieving? Emotional? Lu Yin could not think of an appropriate word to describe the ineffable sensation.

There were actually remnants of some intelligent being's emotions in the air.

Lu Yin moved forward, step by step, as he ventured deeper underground. He eventually arrived at a place where water dripped onto the floor with a soft sound and a faint blue light shone in front of him.

Lu Yin picked up his pace and moved further underground.

Soon, he saw the Skystar Jade Wall.

He had originally expected it to be a magnificent object that matched its reputation, so he was a little disappointed when he finally saw it. The so-called "Skystar Jade Wall" was just an enormous mirror that emitted a faint blue light. It was framed with ancient wood, and it looked completely ordinary. There was no intimidating aura coming from it, and at best, it had a respectable appearance.

As he slowly approached it, Lu Yin circled around the Skystar Jade Wall once, but it was really just a mirror. This was very strange; this mirror was the foundation behind the grand Cosmic Sect's prosperity?

"Seventh Bro, is this the fabled Skystar Jade Wall?" the Ghost Monkey screamed, his shrill tone revealing his incredulousness.

Lu Yin felt surprised. "You've heard of it before?"

"A powerhouse's journal mentioned this thing once before. It said that the Cosmic Sect's ancestor obtained a jade wall that allowed them to comprehend the Cosmic Art. After that, they founded the Cosmic Sect. Who could have known that the fabled Skystar Jade Wall would look like this?!" the monkey exclaimed.

Lu Yin seriously studied the Skystar Jade Wall up and down.

"Seventh Bro, look, up there! Aren't those things decorative symbols?" the monkey cried.

Lu Yin looked at where the Ghost Monkey was pointing, and he saw a row of diagrams in the upper piece of the wooden framing. The wood was quite old, and although the carvings were somewhat worn, they could still be made out.

"It looks like stars revolving around a flower," Lu Yin muttered to himself.

The Ghost Monkey cried out, "Are there nine stars?"

Lu Yin counted them carefully. "Nine. Have you seen this before?"

The monkey grew excited. "That's Progenitor Chen's symbol!"

Lu Yin was overwhelmed, and his mind quickly descended into chaos. "Progenitor Chen?"

"That's right! This monkey read in a powerhouse's journal that Progenitor Chen's symbol is nine stars supporting a single, pure white flower. Thus, this Skystar Jade Wall must have come from Progenitor Chen! This means that the Cosmic Art was created by Progenitor Chen!" the monkey exclaimed.

Lu Yin fell deep into thought, though he was not surprised. A powerful cultivation art like the Cosmic Art must have been developed by a fearsome powerhouse, so he did not find it strange that Progenitor Chen was the one who had created it. Progenitor Chen had been known as the Progenitor of the Stars, so this actually seemed quite normal.

The Cosmic Art and the Nine Clones Secret Technique. He had truly been an unparalleled powerhouse, and it was no wonder why the Sixth Mainland did not dare to leave a record of this expert behind in its history. The power of Progenitor Chen had been so overwhelming that he had been able to go up against nine opponents from the same generation.

"I never imagined that the Cosmic Sect would actually be founded on Progenitor Chen's techniques. That Progenitor really did leave behind too much good fortune for later generations," the Ghost Monkey said with a sigh.

Lu Yin again started to study the Skystar Jade Wall. There really was not much more to see, so he followed Mu Ziying's earlier instructions. Lu Yin slowly raised his hand and moved closer to the mirror—no, the Jade Wall. When his finger made contact with it, ripples appeared on the surface, and a moment later, Lu Yin was absorbed into the Skystar Jade Wall. When he opened his eyes again, all he saw was a dark, endless void. It was as though he was in outer space, and there were ninety-nine stars around him. This was the second layer of the Cosmic Art.

The fundamental condition to enter the Skystar Jade Wall and study it was to completely cultivate the first layer of Cosmic Art. Long ago, the Cosmic Sect had hidden away all of the other stars, making it so that one would only be able to see the third layer of the Cosmic Art once they cultivated ninety-nine stars.

The complete Cosmic Art was here, but whether or not Lu Yin could access it all depended on him.

Lu Yin stared at the ninety-nine stars revolving through the space. He took a deep breath as stars emerged from his body. As they sped up, more than eight stars appeared from him, and then, ninety-nine stars suddenly started revolving above his head.

He quickly released all ninety-nine stars, and a moment later, the area around him grew clearer, and it was as if the universe was being reborn. More stars emerged and began to revolve around him until there were more than 700 stars.

Lu Yin quickly counted the stars, and he found that there were 726 stars orbiting him, not one less than 726. This was the third layer of the Cosmic Art.

He had never thought that he would actually be able to learn the third layer of the Cosmic Art; it had been the right decision to visit the Cosmic Sect.

The Cosmic Sect's second true disciple, Mu Ziying, had only simulated a bit more than 400 stars so far, proving that not even he had completed the Cosmic Art's third layer. This was enough for Lu Yin for the time being.

As he thought about this, Lu Yin looked up and watched as the stars revolved, entering a cultivation session.

Outside of Skystar Jade Wall's valley, Yao Ji waited for more than ten days, growing exceptionally irritable with each passing day.

Mu Ziying glanced at the other true disciple before looking down towards the underground region. Lu Yin should emerge soon. Ordinary people were only able to remain within the Skystar Jade Wall for around ten days, and one's personal aptitude determined how long they could cultivate in that place for. Even those with the best perception could not stay any longer than a month at best.

But Mu Ziying lost a bit of his confidence once he remembered Lu Yin's abnormal talent and how quickly he had completed the first layer of the Cosmic Art. Would he actually be able to stay in that space for more than a month?

More and more disciples had queued up behind Yao Ji, all of them waiting to visit the Skystar Jade Wall.

These disciples were not qualified to go to the Astral Tower, so they were in no rush.

Only Yao Ji was anxious, and he had become so anxious that he was about to curse. His franticness was made even worse by the fact that Lu Yin had cut in front of him to enter, and Yao Ji had simply been a moment too slow to stop him. Even remembering it caused him to grow more sullen.

Chapter 1098: Mountain and Seas Zone

Another five days passed, and if Mu Ziying and the others could see Lu Yin's state within the Skystar Jade Wall, then their chins would definitely hit the floor as Lu Yin had already simulated 120 stars.

Over this period of half a month, Lu Yin had carefully observed the revolving stars within the Skystar Jade Wall. As he cultivated, one star after another had appeared from his body, and the number that he was simulating had gradually increased to 120 stars. However, he was not done yet, and he was still comprehending more of the Cosmic Art.

In the past, Lu Yin had only managed to see the first and second layers of the Cosmic Art a single time. After that, he could only rely on his memory to simulate the stars. He had never had an opportunity like this, where he could constantly look at and refer to stars revolving in the distance. This was the best way to learn the cultivation method, especially for the Cosmic Art, and it was akin to stepping on an accelerator.

It was no wonder why all the disciples would queue up to enter this place.

In the Neoverse, the Hall of Honor's spacecraft traveled for half a month before finally arriving extremely close to the Mountain and Seas Zone.

The stutterer had been staring out the vessel for this entire half month, and it was as though this was his first time seeing the universe.

The others all rested silently.

The Virtue of Righteousness, Mu En, was rather excited; the youths of this generation were too outstanding, and even the Neoverse's elites might not be able to reach this level.

The great changes that the universe had recently gone through had also brought forth new opportunities. When the Sixth Mainland's false sky vanished, the opportunity to ascend to even greater heights had appeared, though it remained unknown if anyone among these juniors would be able to become a Progenitor.

Only a Progenitor could lead the Fifth Mainland out.

Suddenly, Mu En's bosom trembled, and his expression changed. He stepped out into outer space and stood atop the spacecraft while staring off into the distance.

On the Honor Zone's massive landmass was a silent figure. It looked as if it had been standing there for countless years, and the person was a great distance away from the spacecraft. This distance would be difficult for even the Ten Arbiters to travel across.

However, such a distance could be instantaneously crossed by Mu En.

Mu En carefully stared at this figure, which suddenly looked up. Scarlet eyes looked straight into Mu En's eyes.

Mu En was shocked—the Neohuman Alliance! The Judicial Commission did not hesitate in the slightest, and he immediately took out a blood-red bell from his breast pocket and rang it.

When the bell rang out, the void calmed down; no matter if it was space, the spacecraft, or the various astral phenomena nearby, everything paused for a moment. The Ten Arbiters and everyone aboard the vessel all forgot about their own existences while the only thing they were aware of was a large hand appearing above them and suppressing everything.

In the distance, the Neohuman Alliance corpse king with scarlet eyes growled, causing a sound wave to tear through space. As it rippled out, many planets burst apart, and drifting lines of soil fell apart.

This terrifying sound wave swept towards the spacecraft.

Mu En rang the blood-red bell once again.

The sound wave was overpowered by the bell's ringing, and it gradually vanished.

When Mu En looked back again, the corpse king had already vanished.

He heaved a sigh of relief. Every time the contest at the Astral Tower was about to begin, the Neohuman Alliance would attempt to kill the talented youths headed for the Astral Tower, and they had succeeded more than once. No matter if the youths were from the Hall of Honor, the Cosmic Sect, or even the Seven Courts, losing disciples at this time was very normal.

Mu En had been prepared, and he simply had not wanted to exchange blows with the corpse king. No matter what his opponent's strength might have been, Mu En would rather use the blood-red bell.

The outcome ended up supporting his decision. That corpse king was actually able to withstand the first ring of the blood-red bell, and it had even retaliated. Its power level definitely surpassed 800,000, which meant that it was not something that Mu En could deal with.

After the corpse king vanished, Mu En returned inside the spacecraft.

The Ten Arbiters and the others were all confused, and they looked at each other without any understanding of what had just happened.

Ignorance is bliss, and those who remained ignorant were fearless. They would never know that they had just walked upon the border of life and death.

If not for Mu En's decisiveness, they would have already died.

One day later, the spacecraft stopped, and Mu En's voice rang out, "Children, we've arrived at the Mountain and Seas Zone."

Everyone in the spacecraft exited at the same time, and they stared at the sky. Eh? There seemed to be nothing before them—only another dark expanse.

The stutterer spoke, "Mou- mou- mou-"

"Shut up!" Tai Yuanjun found the stutterer irritating.

Mu En smiled and moved out. The void in front of him warped as he vanished.

"It's a superimposed space." Wen Sansi smiled.

"The Mountain and Seas Zone holds the Progenitors' inheritances. Each inheritance consists of one mountain and one sea. Thus, this should be a superimposed space that contains five mountains and five seas." Jin He smiled and stepped forward, similarly vanishing.

Soon, the rest of the crowd also stepped forward, and they vanished one after another.

When they reappeared, they had arrived on a continent floating in the sky. Above their heads was a blue sky filled with white clouds, and they were surrounded by a vast sea. Some distance away, in five directions, they could see five mountains. Each one had a different shape, but all of them towered into the clouds.

The stutterer was astonished. "Mou-mou-mou-"

"Get lost!" Tai Yuanjun firmly shoved the stutterer a few meters away and then looked around to take in the view. He exclaimed, "So this is the Mountain and Seas Zone's inheritance?"

This was the first time the crowd had ever seen the Mountain and Seas Zone, as each person only had a single opportunity to do so in their lifetime unless they were someone like Mu En who could escort members of the younger generation to the Mountain and Seas Zone.

Mu En stared off into the distance, his expression complex. In his younger years, he had also participated in the contest at the Astral Tower, but nobody from his generation had succeeded. And thus, the position of the Cosmic Five had remained empty during his generation. After so many years, he had returned.

"The ancient legends of my Fifth Mainland speak of nine mountains and eight seas. During the ancient battle, our Daosource Sect collapsed, and at that time, our ancestors moved the inheritances in five mountains and five seas from the Daosource Sect into the Neoverse. That is the origin of this Astral Tower, as this place is the confluence of those five mountains and five seas. This continent floating through space is simply the combination of those five mountains seas. You guys may leave this place once the contest begins, but for the moment, you cannot," Mu En explained.

Mu En looked at the crowd before continuing, "Even if it's impossible to know if anyone among your group is capable of becoming one of the Cosmic Five, I hope that you all will remember one thing: everyone participating in this contest at the Astral Tower is a child of the Fifth Mainland, so if possible, don't be too extreme in your behavior. There are only a few people who will ultimately stand at the peak, and although some of you may be enemies now, you may also become allies in the future."

"Thank you for the lesson, Lord Commissioner, Virtue of Righteousness." the crowd bowed.

Mu En nodded, satisfied. "You are free to roam about this area, and in principle, interactions and duels are not prohibited. However, massacres are forbidden. As for us older folk, we will leave for now." He paused for a moment before continuing, saying, "Right, according to previous experiences, not everyone

who comes to participate in the contest in the Astral Tower necessarily hopes to become one of the Cosmic Five. Aside from battle techniques and cultivation arts, the inheritances here also include all sorts of resources, which is what many participants target. Some come only for this, so if possible, find someone to team up with.

"The Mountain and Seas Zone rejects all outside items, so hand over all of your cosmic rings."

All of the youths had clearly heard of this rule before, so they all gave up their cosmic rings without any hesitation.

Although they were all peerless within the younger generation, when they were compared to the powerhouses from the Hall of Honor, anything that they possessed quickly lost almost all value, so none of them were afraid of having their possessions stolen. Besides, without their blood, their cosmic rings would not even open.

Mu En waved a hand, and everyone was given a set of clothing. "These clothes are made from materials found in the Mountain and Seas Zone, so wear these. Otherwise, you'll be buck naked the moment you enter the inheritance regions, haha."

He then waved a hand towards Xing Kai and Serati Phoenix. "You two come with me. According to the rules, you cannot remain here."

Xing Kai felt depressed at hearing this, and he hung his head as he moved over next to Mu En.

Serati Phoenix did the same.

Mu En took Xing Kai and Serati Phoenix away while the others all put on their new clothes, not really interacting with each other. Liu Tianmu turned to leave.

Unseen Light, Lan Si, Jin He, Little Leaf King, Qing Longlong, and the others all followed suit.

Xia Tian was about to leave as well, but he was stopped by Ling Gong. "You, help me out during the contest here at the Astral Tower."

Xia Tian felt puzzled, and he pointed at himself. "Me?"

Ling Gong coldly said, "There's no hope for you guys, so helping me out is your best choice."

Xia Tian felt helpless. "Can I refuse?"

"No. This is an order," Ling Gong said.

Xia Tian was left speechless, and he thought back to the time when he had dueled with Ling Gong. His rhythm had been disrupted by her favorite phrase: 'This is an order.'

"Alright."

When Tai Yuanjun saw this, he was slightly startled, as he had not expected people to start cooperating so soon, and he chased after Qing Longlong. "You help me."

Qing Longlong did not even glance over and simply left.

Tai Yuanjun was irritated. "Woman, helping me is helping yourself!"

Qing Longlong moved even further away.

Tai Yuanjun snorted, as Qing Longlong clearly did not know how to appreciate his kindness. Thus, he shifted his eyes and ended up exchanging glances with another person: the stutterer.

The stutterer stared at Tai Yuanjun and swallowed.

Tai Yuanjun became upset. "Scram!"

He moved away first.

The stutterer turned to look at Ling Gong and Xia Tian, his eyes filled with envy. "Bri- bri- bring me along!"

Ling Gong coldly responded, "Go and find Lu Yin."

The stutterer felt insulted. "Me- meat's gone."

Xia Tian simply smiled at the stutterer as he left with Ling Gong.

This group of Innerverse cultivators who were competing at the Astral Tower had drawn a great deal of attention to themselves.

In fact, there were more than a hundred people who had already arrived on the continent.

There was no limit to how many people could participate in this contest at the Astral Tower, and anyone from the Neoverse who knew the Astral Tower's location was able to compete.

This floating continent was enormous, and it was large enough to hold several cities.

A market had already started to form some distance away.

This so-called market was a place to trade materials that had been obtained from the Mountain and Seas Zone.

The Mountain and Seas Zone prevented any foreign items from entering it, and even clothes could not be brought in. In fact, only items made from materials originating from this place could be taken in.

After countless years of contests in the Astral Tower, a considerable amount of resources had started circulating outside, and they were controlled by all sorts of people. Whenever a new contest was about to begin, these people would appear on the continent containing the Mountain and Seas Zone in order to barter and trade for items that they needed.

For example, there was something called a Mountain Sea Pouch that was quite popular.

Since it was impossible to bring cosmic rings into the Mountain and Seas Zone, whenever someone found a precious item during the contest, they would have to either strut around with it or end up getting robbed.

Hence, these Mountain Sea Pouches were specially made pouches that could be taken into the Mountain and Seas Zone and store the items found within it. These pouches were very sturdy, and they

could store a great number of items. Although they were just ordinary bags, using them was still better than carrying everything by hand, which would tempt people into stealing.

These pouches were the only items that could store objects within the Mountain and Seas Zone.

Aside from the Mountain Sea Pouch, people were also trading weapons made from materials gathered in the inheritance zone. Among the wares were swords, halberds, and even hidden weapons.

Within the Mountain and Seas Zone, there were quite a few such markets, and they had naturally and spontaneously formed. The largest market was quite near where the Ten Arbiters and the others had arrived since everyone who had entered the Mountain and Seas Zone would appear in the same place.

Chapter 1099: The Might Of The Ten Arbiters

Lan Si arrived at one of the markets, and he looked around out of curiosity.

This market was located just outside of a mountain valley, and there were nearly identical booths set up at regular intervals. The occasional shopper would walk through and look through one booth and then another.

"This junior needs to use his cosmic ring!" someone shouted loudly. The void split open a short distance in front of the cultivator, and multiple cosmic rings appeared.

Lan Si's eyes flashed. This was a trading area, so they could ask to use their cosmic rings in this region.

This was perfectly normal for the people from the Neoverse, but for Lan Si and the others from the Innerverse, this was their time seeing such a thing occur. And that wasn't even mentioning how this was the first time the Innerverse had qualified to participate in the contest at the Astral Tower.

Footsteps sounded from behind Lan Si, and an ugly-looking man with a large bearing appeared. "Bro, you must be from the Innerverse."

Lan Si turned to look at the man. "Is something the matter?"

The large man grinned and stared at the Arbiter. "I never thought that those rumors would actually be true! So people from some primitive place like the Innerverse actually dare to compete for the Astral Tower's inheritances? How ridiculous!"

Lan Si's eyes narrowed, but he decided to ignore the man and continue on his way.

The large man moved his body to block Lan Si's path. "I'm talking to you! Tell me, what's your name? Where are you from? Show me some of your skills, and if they're passable, you can follow me, and I'll give you some of the resources."

The big man's voice was extremely loud, and his shouting attracted a great deal of attention.

The people in this market were all from the Neoverse, and they naturally looked down upon the Innerverse cultivators.

Even though the Neoverse cultivators had not made any moves when the Sixth Mainland invaded.

Lan Si frowned. "Move."

The big man sneered and set a hand on Lan Si's shoulder. He then quietly threatened the Arbiter. "Kid, run back to the Innerverse. The Mountain and Seas Zone's resources aren't something you guys can touch."

The man then exerted some of his strength.

Lan Si's expression remained calm.

The big man exerted more and more pressure with his right hand until his veins started to bulge and the ground seemed to move without any wind. This man was a peak Cruiser, and his physical strength was quite impressive for his realm. Once, he had even trained within a stellar energy storm, which had earned him the epithet of Barbaric Beast. There were not many people who were willing to engage in close-range combat with this man due to his tyrannical strength, as no matter what his opponents did, they were never able to beat him down.

Taunting expressions appeared on the faces of many people throughout the market, and they were anticipating the scene of Lan Si struggling and then falling to the ground.

However, the crowd was soon left stunned.

Lan Si never moved the slightest bit, and he continued to calmly stare at the large man. "Are you done playing around?"

The man's expression changed; even though he was using his full strength, this person was not showing any sign of discomfort or pain. How was this possible?

The man growled, and the ground cracked open beneath his feet as he sank underground. Ripples appeared in the void, showing that the power level of the man's attack had already surpassed 150,000.

A Cruiser who was able to unleash an attack with a power level of 150,000 was enough for them to be ranked within the top ten of the Innerverse's Top 100 Rankings.

However, such an attack was completely useless against Lan Si.

Lan Si frowned, and he stepped past the large man before slowly walking away.

The big man's body froze in place, and a moment later, he spat out a mouthful of blood as he slowly dropped to his knees. There was an extremely ugly expression on his face, and he wailed in agony before crumbling to the ground, where he panted heavily.

All of the people in the market were stunned; what had just happened?

"Interesting. That's a very powerful attack that's based on achieving an impressive level of cultivation in the Overlaying Stacks Path." There was a man in a corner, leaning half-way against a stone wall, and he was looking at Lan Si with blatant curiosity.

Lan Si looked over at the man, his expression growing solemn. This person was very powerful.

The man slowly walked towards Lan Si, a smile tugging at the corner of his lips. "Let's get acquainted. I'm Ku Lei."

Lan Si's expression changed. "The Seven Courts' Ku family?"

Ku Lei smiled. "Which of the Ten Arbiters are you?"

"Lan Si."

Ku Lei nodded. "The Ten Arbiters' Divine Fist, Lan Si. I heard of your prowess with the Overlaying Stacks Path long ago, and sure enough, those rumors were accurate. Follow me. Although you can't become one of the Cosmic Five, I can promise that you'll get plenty of resources. If I remember correctly, during the Sixth Mainland's invasion, Grayweed Continent's seventy-two dojos fell. Since you have nowhere to go, you can come to my Ku family."

Lan Si commented, "There's no need for that. I'm not interested in the Neoverse."

He then moved to leave.

Ku Lei blocked Lan Si's path. "My Ku family isn't interested in the Innerverse or the Outerverse, but there is one thing that we do know: you were defeated by someone called Lu Yin."

Lan Si remained silent.

Ku Lei continued on, saying, "Losers don't have any rights, and you must be very unwilling to accept such a defeat. I can help you get revenge, and if that person comes to the Mountain and Seas Zone, I'll beat him until he kneels on the ground. That's a promise that I can make to you—how about it?"

Lan Si looked at Ku Lei, amused. "You're quite confident."

Ku Lei arrogantly answered, "This is your greatest opportunity, so take it and rise rapidly."

Lan Si shook his head. "I'm sorry, but I can't accept it."

Everyone in the market with a nearby booth immediately packed up their stuff and left. This person was Ku Lei, and they had all heard of him before. He was the Ku family's first inheritor, and his temper was horrible.

Ku Lei's eyes grew cold. "You don't know how to appreciate my kindness."

The next moment, a thunderclap rang out, and star energy clashed while the void warped and twisted. Then, a loud bang split the air as lightning shot out in all directions. Lan Si was directly knocked back a hundred meters, and he stared in front of himself in astonishment.

Lightning covered Ku Lei's body, and a blue light flickered within his eyes as he raised a hand to swat at Lan Si.

Lan Si raised his hand: One Hundred Fifty Stacks.

The two palms struck each other, and the Overlaying Stacks Path clashed against the lightning as a shockwave cut through the mountain range. By now, quite a few people who were off in the distance were looking back in amazement.

As the lightning and thunder faded, a giant crater could be seen at the impact site.

The Mountain and Seas Zone had been reinforced long ago, and it required the power of an Enlighter at the minimum to cause any damage to it.

Quite a few stared at Lan Si in astonishment. This person was actually incredibly powerful, as he was actually able to go up against Ku Lei.

Ku Lei had never considered that Lan Si would be able to stop his attack, but his lips curled up upon seeing this. "An Arbiter, huh? Your power level isn't bad. Consider my offer carefully, and come find me after you've thought things through. My promise still stands."

The lightning covering his body flickered and then instantly vanished.

Lan Si's gaze grew sharp, and he raised his hand. His palm had been slightly burned during that exchange. He had actually been injured, and the power of that lightning had been utterly terrifying as it had even disintegrated the layers of his Overlaying Stacks Path, rendering his attack ineffective. Ku Lei.

In another place, Jin He had also run into a bit of trouble, and people from Gods' Origin were blocking his path.

Jin He had a helpless expression as his long hair flowed in the wind. "You people are really annoying."

Across from him was a youth in an embroidered gown, who shouted, "You actually dare to show yourself here, traitor?"

Jin He picked at his ear with a finger. "Not so loud. I still haven't reached the level of a traitor yet. Back then, captain left peacefully, and the old farts didn't stop him." He then put on a mocking smile. "Or rather, would it be more accurate to say that they didn't dare to stop him?"

"You're asking for it!" The few people were all enraged, and they immediately attacked. Their pupils all transformed into runes as they erased a portion of Jin He's runes lines.

Jin He laughed and did not bother fighting with the people from Gods' Origin. Instead, he flew off at great speed. "If you guys want to play, then head to the Mountain and Seas Zone's inheritance area. I'll play with you there, but I'm afraid that you guys aren't qualified."

"Chase this traitor down and kill him!" The small group pursued Jin He.

Nearby, a few people were discussing what they had seen, "Those lunatics from Gods' Origin are causing trouble for someone again."

"Speak softly! They might be nuts, but they are freakishly strong, and even a single one of them is very difficult to deal with."

"After all, they've received the inheritance of an ancient civilization, so it's best to keep your distance from them."

As more and more people appeared on the Mountain and Seas Zone's continent, the number of conflicts greatly increased.

At the same time, more and more people started forming parties, and although the people from the Seven Courts could not openly participate in the contest at the Astral Tower, they had nonetheless still arrived, and the Hall of Honor did not stop them either.

More and more people from the Neoverse converged at the Mountain and Seas Zone's continent.

Outside the Mountain and Seas Zone, Azure Mansion had quietly appeared.

Wherever people gathered, the Azure Mansion would appear. This was common knowledge throughout the Neoverse, as Azure Mansion could fly.

News of Azure Mansion's appearance outside the Mountain and Seas Zone quickly spread throughout the contestants, and many of them grew excited and became anxious to visit them.

It was at this time that God Taiyi entered Azure Mansion.

After the Sixth Mainland retreated, the contempt that he had previously held for the Innerverse had vanished. Each of the Ten Arbiters were an absolute monster, and even if he was more arrogant, he would not look down on the Ten Arbiters.

The Mountain and Seas Zone would only become more chaotic as more people arrived, and the truly important characters had not arrived yet. He did not want to reveal his strength this soon, so he decided to spend his time relaxing at Azure Mansion.

In the Cosmic Sect, outside the valley that held the Skystar Jade Wall, a disciple walked up behind Mu Ziying and softly whispered to him.

Mu Ziying nodded and then dismissed the disciple.

"Junior Yao, when we enter the Mountain and Seas Zone, what do you want to choose?" Mu Ziying asked, his voice directly entering Yao Ji's ears.

Yao Ji was surprised. "Why is Senior Mu asking?"

Mu Ziying calmly explained, "The Innerverse's Ten Arbiters have already entered the Mountain and Seas Zone, and their Divine Fist has already clashed against the Ku family's first heir. Also, at least ten people from Gods' Origin have already shown up. If Junior Yao wants to compete at the Astral Tower, then please be careful."

Yao Ji muttered, "Senior Mu, just how strong are those Ten Arbiters from the Innerverse?"

Mu Ziying replied, "Very."

Yao Ji frowned. The Ten Arbiters were ten young powerhouses, and there were far too many youths and freakish powerhouse competing for the Astral Tower's inheritances this time. "What path does Senior Mu intend to choose?"

Mu Ziying replied, "I've already discussed this with Junior Hua Xiao, and we'll cooperate at that time. Destiny will determine whether or not we can contest for an inheritance."

Yao Ji said, "I would like to follow Senior Mu."

Mu Ziying nodded, and did not speak any further on this matter. Although he did not like Yao Ji, when they entered the Mountain and Seas Zone, it would always be better to have more allies to face off against those monsters. Truthfully, he did not have much confidence in their team as the Mavis family, the Hall of Honor's Honor Chosens, the Seven Courts' heirs, Burial Garden, and even the Neohuman Alliance would all show up.

During the past contests at the Astral Tower, the Neohuman Alliance would always find some way to enter, and they had actually succeeded at times. Their sect actually had some records of these incidents. Whenever anyone encountered someone from the Neohuman Alliance, very few would manage to survive, so Mu Ziying hoped to find more allies.

It would be great if Lu Yin was willing to cooperate with them, but that was impossible. Lu Yin was clearly trying to become one of the Cosmic Five while Mu Ziying and Yao Ji did not share that ambition. Rather, they were instead more interested in the opportunities that they could find in the Mountain and Seas Zone. These two true disciples did not have any great enmity between them, so it was possible for them to team up. However, if they were going to cooperate, then why not also look for their Grand Senior?

As Mu Ziying thought about this, he looked at the entrance to the underground area; Lu Yin should be heading out soon.

In the blink of an eye, another ten days passed.

Yao Ji looked depressed, as Lu Yin had actually managed to spend another ten days within the Skystar Jade Wall, which Yao Ji found hateful.

Mu Ziying was not surprised, as with Lu Yin's talent, it was not inconceivable for him to stay in there for even an entire month. Wait a moment—just how many stars will Lu Yin be able to simulate when he emerges? Will he have cultivated all the way to ninety nine stars in one go?

There were already more than 200 people within the Mountain and Seas Zone, and almost all of them were elites from the Neoverse.

During the last ten days, people had continuously stirred up trouble for the people from the Innerverse, but the strength of the Ten Arbiters had truly stunned the Neoverse elites, and it left them completely speechless.

The Ten Arbiters' reputation had spread to the Neoverse long ago, but nobody had actually paid any attention to them. It was only when the Sixth Mainland had invaded that the top youths of the Neoverse's great powers had come to understand the Ten Arbiters' power levels. At this moment, the entire Neoverse was learning of the Ten Arbiters' strength.

Chapter 1100: You're Not Worthy

The stutterer was unlucky. He had been constantly bullied by others, but fortunately, he was very quick, and he had been able to run away every time.

Xia Tian's strength was not bad either, and even though he was not quite at the same level as the Ten Arbiters, he was still able to keep himself safe.

Little Leaf King had gone missing, and nobody was able to find him.

Qing Longlong spread poison everywhere, so very few people tried to provoke her, as everyone was wary of a poison user.

The most unfortunate one ended up being Tai Yuanjun, as he was not very impressive, not very strong, and had a sharp tongue. This combination led him to constantly being surrounded and attacked by several people.

Starsibyl remained unbothered, and she had not acted even once. Even the people in the Neoverse were rather hesitant when it came to the Starsibyl Sect, as nobody dared to casually provoke those with the ability of divination. Besides, Starsibyl was far too pretty, so many of the Neoverse cultivators tried to butter her up.

On the continent, the previous one-on-one battles had developed into chaotic battle royales, and quite a few people had already formed parties of groups of two or three. They would work together to attack others, causing a great deal of smoke to drift up from all over.

Within a certain mountain range, there were eight people locked in battle, and they caused the mountains to crumble as the sky shook from numerous explosions.

When a lone figure descended, the chaos instantly stopped, and both sides fled from the mountain range, not a single one of them daring to show their face there.

Soon after, news of the appearance of the Mavis family's Treeheart Descendant shook the Mountain and Seas Zone.

There were a few colossal organizations in the Neoverse that could not be provoked. The Hall of Honor went without saying, and there was also the Cosmic Sect, the Seven Courts, Burial Garden, and the Mavis family. Each one of these forces was incomparably powerful.

The Mavis family was very mysterious, and their residence was not in a fixed location. Many people were aware that the Mavis family's origins stemmed from an ancient tree that grew on the back of a giant tortoise. For countless years, they had controlled the finances of the Human Domain, though nobody knew how they had managed to do so. Still, one could only imagine how terrifying they were.

Beyond the mountain range, two men and a woman panted heavily. "Who knew that the Mavis family's Treeheart Descendant would get here so quickly! The Hall of Honor's Chosen haven't even arrived yet."

"The Mavis family might currently be a bit further away from the Mountain and Seas Zone, leaving them with no choice but to get here earlier," one of the men said.

The three youths were helpless, as the commotion from earlier had been the three of them fighting against another group. However, everything had stopped as soon as the Mavis family's Treeheart Descendant had appeared.

A piece of stone fell down and struck the ground, causing dust to billow up from the ground for a little bit. It moved very gently, but it also contained a power that made the three people too afraid to move at all.

A man had appeared above them at an unknown time, and he was slowly descending towards them until he was right in front of them.

The man looked rather ordinary, and there was nothing noteworthy about his appearance with the sole exception of his eyes; they were unforgettable after just one glance.

"Did you guys just say that the Mavis family appeared in this mountain range?" the man asked with a gentle voice.

The trio nodded in stunned silence.

"How many?"

"O- one."

The man was astonished. "Just one?"

The trio nodded.

The man waved a hand, and the trio felt as though a burden had been lifted off of them. Once free, they instantly fled.

"So there's actually only one. It seems like this generation's Treeheart Descendant is very confident in herself. This is quite troubling," the man mumbled to himself.

The trio ran a great distance before finally stopping.

"That frightened me out of my mind! I thought that he was going to kill us. Who was that?" the woman asked fearfully.

The two men both shook their heads. "I didn't recognize him, but his strength left us paralyzed, so he's definitely a top-notch expert."

"Too many experts have shown up for the Mountain and Seas Zone this time, and the Innerverse's socalled Ten Arbiters don't seem weak either. Apparently, they can go up against the Seven Courts' heirs, which is ridiculous."

"Let's find a few more people to team up with since we're not even considering aiming to become one of the Cosmic Five."

"That's right, let's find a few more teammates."

Within the mountain range, Yuhua Mavis was floating in the air, and tender blades of grass spread out beneath her and propped her up.

She was sitting on the grass as she stared off into the distance, looking at the hazy mountains. It was impossible to know what she was thinking.

Before long, a man arrived and smiled at her. "Sure enough, there's just one person. May I ask for your name?"

Yuhua Mavis looked at the man, her face showing her surprise, but she calmly replied, "Yuhua Mavis."

The man exclaimed, "That's a good name. I'm Xia Jiuyou."

Yuhua Mavis's eyes lit up. "From the Seven Courts, the scion of the Xia family. I've heard of you."

Xia Jiuyou smiled. "The honor is mine."

"What's brought you here?" Yuhua Mavis asked.

Xia Jiuyou said, "I only came to take a look. After all, the Mavis family's Treeheart Descendants are rarely seen."

"That's nothing too strange, isn't it?" Yuhua Mavis said.

Xia Jiuyou smiled and spoke to her for a bit before moving on.

Yuhua Mavis's expression grew solemn as she watched Xia Jiuyou leave. He was somewhat different from the others, though she did not know how to describe it. There was just something about him that seemed rather unfathomable.

The Seven Courts' families were Xia, Yōu, Yu, Ce, Ku, Hui, and Xie. Although there was no differentiation in strength among the families, the Hall of Honor had always been the most wary of the Xia family.

Even her Mavis family, the Cosmic Sect, and other top powers publicly recognized the Xia family as the leader of the Seven Courts, and Xia Jiuyou was definitely one of the most terrifying people to appear at this Astral Tower contest.

Outside the Mountain and Seas Zone, a spacecraft emitting smoke arrived.

Many looked at it with strange expressions, as this vessel looked like it was about to explode!

Within the spacecraft, Gu Xiao'er was excited, as he had arrived and finally escaped from his wretched suffering. He was more than willing to enter into a deathmatch with those freaks if the other option was to remain at Smoke Eater Peaks to be tormented by his father. He had finally escaped alive. As soon as he could, Gu Xiao'er leaped out of the spacecraft and was about to make his way to the Mountain and Seas Zone. However, perhaps due to a twist of fate, Gu Xiao'er slowly turned his head and looked at Azure Mansion. Without any hesitation, he changed directions. He felt that he should relax for a bit first.

Three days later, a massive spacecraft appeared outside the Mountain and Seas Zone, drawing a great deal of attention.

Within Azure Mansion, the originally carefree Gu Xiao'er and God Taiyi were both stunned, and they looked at the ship. This was the Hall of Honor's vessel, and within this impressive vehicle sat the Honor Chosen.

There were many rumors circulating around about the current generation's Honor Chosen, and the most prevalent rumor was that the First Honor Chosen had successfully cultivated the Tri-Yang Technique.

The Tri-Yang Technique was nearly as famous as the Hall of Honor itself. From another angle, the Tri-Yang Technique was what had actually given rise to the Hall of Honor.

It was equivalent to the Cosmic Sect's Cosmic Art.

Everyone had heard of the Tri-Yang Technique, and all of the various organizations had researched it. However, very few individuals knew its true strength. This was because, even in ancient times, nobody had ever managed to bring out the true power of the Tri-Yang Technique.

Of course, there was another reason as well, which was that not many people in each generation were even capable of cultivating the Tri-Yang Technique.

In the past hundreds of thousands of years, nobody had ever managed to cultivate the Tri-Yang Technique, and many did not believe the tales of its power.

Shu Jing was the first to exit the spacecraft. He was the Honor Chosen who had charged into the forefront of the battle against the Sixth Mainland in the Cosmic Sea. During that battle, he had worked with the Ten Arbiters to fight against Bu Kong, and many people respected him for his efforts.

Next was a woman with a mask that completely covered her face. In fact, her power level was also hidden, and not even God Taiyi could see her rune lines.

Finally, Shang Qing appeared. He was the First Honor Chosen.

Shang Qing had a cold face, and three currents of air twisted about his body, giving him the appearance of a deity and leaving many caught off guard.

"That- could that be the fabled Tri-Yang Technique?" someone guessed.

"Shouldn't be. Wasn't the Hall of Honor just bragging?"

"You actually believed them?"

"Sorry, are you asking if I believe that the Hall of Honor was bragging, or if that's the Tri-Yang Technique?"

"Why do I get the feeling that this First Chosen seems to view himself as a god like those maniacs from Gods' Origin?"

"I was just thinking the same thing."

•••

God Taiyi's expression grew darker as he listened to the nearby conversations, and his pupils transformed into runes as he looked at Shang Qing.

However, no matter how hard he stared, he could not determine Shang Qing's true strength, and the woman and Shu Jing were the same.

Gu Xiao'er no longer cared after glancing at the newcomers. His dad had sent him here to compete at the Astral Tower, but he did not want to fight at all. Wouldn't he just be chasing death if he fought against these freaks?

In the blink of an eye, the three Honor Chosens from the Hall of Honor entered the Mountain and Seas Zone.

As these three entered the Mountain and Seas Zone, Tai Yuanjun was confronting two Neoverse cultivators

Tai Yuanjun had an arrogant expression. "These are the so-called elites of the Neoverse? You people are supposed to be the only ones qualified to fight for the Astral Tower's inheritance? What a joke."

Before the Sixth Mainland's invasion, Tai Yuanjun had been extremely arrogant, but even then, he had not shot off his mouth in such a manner. However, after Starsibyl had started following Nightking Zhenwu, Tai Yuanjun had been triggered, and he still struggled with the impulse to vent his frustrations on everything around him.

In front of him, the two cultivators coldly responded, "A cultivator from the barbaric Innerverse dares to act this brazenly here? Are you trying to die?"

Tai Yuanjun waved a hand. "Try me."

At this moment, Shang Qing's trio calmly appeared, and they stood between Tai Yuanjun and the other two cultivators.

The two cultivators saw Shang Qing's small group, and they revealed a look of surprise before quickly backing away. They had recognized Shu Jing and the woman; she was the Second Honor Chosen, and her mask was too recognizable.

Even after his two opponents had moved away, Tai Yuanjun was still unhappy. "Just stand there! Don't you guys know how to walk behind us? Is everyone from the Neoverse this rude?"

Shang Qing's trio paused, and they all looked at Tai Yuanjun.

The two cultivators who had been confronting Tai Yuanjun earlier were overwhelmed, and they exchanged glances before racing away without looking back. Their respect for Tai Yuanjun had just spiked a hundred times over, as he was clearly a person who wanted to die!

Tai Yuanjun frowned. "They ran away? Trash!"

He then glanced over at Shang Qing and the other two before turning to leave.

"Stop there. You- are you from the Innerverse?" Shang Qing spoke up, and when he spoke, the mask-wearing Second Honor Chosen flew up and away.

Shu Jing gave Tai Yuanjun a sympathetic look before also leaving. Now, Shang Qing was standing there alone as he stared at Tai Yuanjun.

Tai Yuanjun turned around. "Why? Do you want to challenge me?"

Shang Qing coldly commanded, "Take me to see the Ten Arbiters."

Tai Yuanjun's gaze grew sharp. "How do you know that I'm not one of them?"

"You can't measure up," Shang Qing indifferently replied.

Fury immediately raged in Tai Yuanjun's eyes, and his first thought was of Nightking Zhenwu and how Starsibyl had followed Nightking Zhenwu for so long. Thoughts about who knew what had happened between those two emerged soon after, and as soon as that thought entered his mind, Tai Yuanjun seemed to lose control. He whipped out his dark green flute without any hesitation and started using his musical battle technique known as Gentleman's Eulogy, as this song would send off a gentleman.

His Gentleman's Eulogy was famous throughout the Innerverse, and it had left countless peers of Tai Yuanjun speechless. As long as this flute released its song, only the Ten Arbiters could withstand the melody.

Recently, Tai Yuanjun had created a name for himself within the Mountain and Seas Zone due to his Gentleman's Eulogy.

Right when the flute was about to release its song, a stream of air swirling around Shang Qing's body suddenly vanished as it shot past Tai Yuanjun. His pupils instantly shrank, and the flute helplessly fell from his hands as his entire body collapsed to the ground. Fresh blood leaked out from the corner of his mouth.