

### **Chapter 1251: Circumstances**

Xun Jiong panted heavily as he glared at An Shaohua. “You will destroy Watermoon Villa one day! You’re from the Innerverse, yet working for Lu Yin.”

An Shaohua sneered. “Isn’t the Xun family just working for the Daynight clan?”

“My family comes from Ascension Flowzone! We’re not related to the Daynight clan.’

“So you deny it? If not for my Watermoon Villa, your Xun family would have gone to help the Daynight clan. However, now that the Daynight clan has been dealt with, your family can’t wait to sever all ties with them. I’ve never seen such a shameless clan!”

“I’ll kill you!” Xun Jiong charged at An Shaohua.

An Shaohua smirked. “You’re getting desperate.”

He rushed also towards Xun Jiong.

Off in the distance, someone crouched in a corner while sneakily filming the battle. His name was Wu Da and he was someone from the Astral Combat Academy. He had founded the academy’s tabloid and had done multiple reports on Lu Yin’s fights. His ambition was to be the best reporter ever, and he had spent a long time preparing for ZENITH, as his goal was to interview the final champion.

Although neither Xun Jiong nor An Shaohua were very famous, the trigger for their fight was itself interesting enough for Wu Da.

The greatest source of conflict at the moment was the mere existence of the Great Eastern Alliance, and Wu Da had kept his eye on the matter for a long time. Additionally, the Great Eastern Alliance had been founded by one of Wu Da’s peers: Lu Yin. This made the alliance even more interesting to the would-be reporter.

Xun Jiong and An Shaohua’s battle was a representation of the conflict between the Innerverse and the Great Eastern Alliance, and there was no way that Wu Da would miss this battle.

In another hidden location, someone else was also recording the fight. She was Yun Yun, and she had been the girl who had interviewed the Ten Arbiters at the Cosmic Sea on their way to the Neoverse. She had still been inexperienced at that and had been absolutely terrified of the Ten Arbiters. However, she had since gained more experience and was determined to take advantage of ZENITH to shake off her image as a terrified girl.

Even though Xun Jiong and An Shaohua were not very powerful when compared to others contestants, their battle was still being filmed from all angles.

Senior generation powerhouses from both the Xun family and Watermoon Villa were also present. However, since they were already right next to Zenith Mountain, and since the battle was only between two members of the younger generation, none of the elders would interfere.

The older powerhouses would not generally interfere with most of their juniors' battles unless someone's life was at stake.

The battle continued for yet another hour, as two combatants' strengths were too close, and no victor could be determined. Xun Jiong grew impatient and asked for reinforcements. Someone else from Ascension Flowzone stepped out to help him, as the Xun family had many allies due to the usefulness of their Gear Construction Technique.

In contrast, An Shaohua was a quiet person who did not have many friends. Fortunately, he belonged to the Great Eastern Alliance.

After seeing that Xun Jiong was getting reinforcements, An Shaohua immediately requested help for himself. Yue Xianzi, Ah Fan, and even Lilyrose, who had left for Zenith Mountain before Lu Yin, moved out to help An Shaohua.

Suddenly, more than thirty people had gathered within the area, and the battle intensified.

Nearly a hundred people had gathered around the arena, one side represented the Innerverse and the other side represented the Great Eastern Alliance. The Great Eastern Alliance in turn represented the entire Outerverse, which made it a battle between the Innerverse and the Outerverse.

"Since when did the Outerverse dare to fight against the Innerverse? Has the sky fallen?" a woman standing next to Xun Jiong sneered.

Someone behind Yue Xianzi retorted, "Even if the sky collapses, tall people die first. Woman, you're pretty tall; you must still be single."

The woman snapped, "You're shameless! Is everyone from the Great Eastern Alliance like you? No wonder it's about to be given over to the Sixth Mainland."

Yue Xianzi coldly replied, "The Sixth Mainland is supposed to be our common enemy; are you actually on their side?"

Xun Jiong answered, "Yue Xianzi, aren't you the heir of the Innerverse's Frostmoon Sect? Why would you stoop to An Shaohua's level and become Lu Yin's lackey? No wonder your sect went into hiding. You better be careful the Daynight clan doesn't destroy your sect."

"Worry about your own family, first. I heard that the Xun family were the first to escape when the Sixth Mainland invaded the Innerverse."

Xun Jiong smirked. "Watermoon Villa took off pretty quick, too."

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Hundreds of people taunting each other created an impressive sight.

Both sides had similar strength at the moment, but the situation did not favor the Great Eastern Alliance, as there were simply too many people from the Innerverse who despised the Great Eastern Alliance.

Also, most of the people taking the lead for the Great Eastern Alliance's side were actually from the Innerverse.

There truly was a huge gap between the Outerverse and the Innerverse.

A large crowd gathered some distance away to watch the fight, and among them were some people from the Cosmic Sea and even the Neoverse. They watched the entire scene with disdain, as though looking at ants.

As more and more people from the Innerverse appeared, someone famous finally arrived: Avery, a genius from the Dire Barbarian Clan who was ranked fourth on the Top 100 Rankings. He had called himself the Second War King when participating in the ported battles, and he was extremely powerful.

Of the people from the Great Eastern Alliance, only Lilyrose could be considered somewhat comparable to Avery. However, Lilyrose only ranked 31st, which was much lower than Avery.

Avery's presence caused the area to fall silent, and even some of the people from the Neoverse grew serious upon seeing Avery.

Although the number of powerhouses in the Outerverse and the Innerverse could not compare to the Neoverse, both regions still had numerous youths who were close to the level of the top talents. This became more apparent once they became Hunters, as talented cultivators would improve greatly after that breakthrough.

Avery was a hideous man, and he glared at the people from the Great Eastern Alliance. "Who gave you the courage to challenge the Innerverse? Do you really think you can rebel against us simply by joining forces?"

He glanced at An Shaohua, Yue Xianzai, and the others with cold eyes. "As people from the Innerverse, how could you follow someone from the Outerverse? You all have no right to claim to be from the Innerverse."

Lilyrose stepped forward. She had changed quite a bit after the destruction of the Blaze Realm and the death of Leader Hong. Also, her mother's death had traumatized Lilyrose. She had previously been very arrogant because of her mother, but that had changed entirely. "You have no right to taunt us, Avery. The Dire Barbarian Clan is just a subordinate to the Lingling Clan."

Avery looked at Lilyrose and sneered. "Oh? It's a bitch who betrayed her own sect."

Lilyrose froze.

The people from the Great Eastern Alliance all looked furious.

"Since you were able to betray your own and surrendered to Lu Yin, you two must be very close," Avery said suggestively.

"Avery, how dare you!" Ah Fan bellowed. He leapt forward, and An Shaohua and the others were unable to stop him. Avery lifted his head, he had not actually intended to attack the Great Eastern Alliance, as he was still scared of Lu Yin's reputation after Lu Yin had defeated two of the Ten Arbiters one after the other, not to mention the fact that the Hall of Honor itself had recognized Lu Yin's strength. Therefore, no matter how much Avery despised the Great Eastern Alliance, he still did not dare openly cross Lu Yin.

If he attacked anybody from the Great Eastern Alliance, he would simply be giving Lu Yin a reason to target him.

However, there was no need to worry about such things if the person from the Great Eastern Alliance attacked first.

Avery roared as soon as he saw Ah Fan, and overpowering soundwaves shattered air. Ah Fan went pale as the sky in front of him was torn apart. He was not able to withstand the attack at all. However, suddenly, someone moved in front of Ah Fan and instantly dissolved Avery's attack.

Everyone in the area pulled back a bit.

The person in front of Ah Fan was Ye Gui, who was an Enlighter who Lu Yin had assigned to protect Zenyu Star after the man had tried to ambush Lu Yin. Ye Gui had traveled with the youths from the Great Eastern Alliance.

As soon as Ye Gui appeared, the Enlighter from the Dire Barbarian Clan showed up as well. The two Enlighters glared at each other, but nobody attacked.

Ah Fan panted heavily and warily eyed Avery.

Avery laughed. "So the Great Eastern Alliance can only rely on their elders?"

Ye Gui did not want to fight against the Dire Barbarian Clan, as he did not want to become an enemy of the Inniverse. He turned to face the Dire Barbarian Clan's elder. "The young ones can fight, but there's no need to use deadly force."

The Enlighter from the Dire Barbarian Clan looked at Avery in a threatening manner.

The Great Eastern Alliance had just defeated the Blaze Realm, and the Dire Barbarian Clan definitely could not compare to the Blaze Realm. Only idiots would try to fight against the Great Eastern Alliance at this time. Since nobody from any of the eight great flowzones had attacked, smaller powers should not initiate anything on their own.

Avery was not dumb, and he stopped attacking Ah Fan.

At that moment, another famous person appeared, though it could not really be considered a person. It was a rock that floated in the air.

Despite that, everyone kept a wary eye on the rock, as this was the inheritor of Beast Tamer Flowzone's Divine Grade Hall. This was a powerhouse who had been in cryostasis for a thousand years: Little Mountain God.

Bai Wanshan had always used the appearance of a great mountain when appearing in public, while Little Mountain God always took the appearance of a round stone.

When compared to the steadfastness of Bai Wanshan, Little Mountain God seemed far more energetic, as well as more impatient. "How dare the Great Eastern Alliance challenge us?"

An Shaohua and the others warily watched Little Mountain God.

The names of the participants in ZENITH had already been announced, and while Little Mountain God had not been included within the list of the predicted top ten, he was still considered a powerful competitor and had been listed within the top thirty. Despite not being an Arbiter, he was nearly as strong as the Arbiters. This was a true elite.

Little Mountain God's appearance stressed Ye Gui, as this was the heir of one of the eight great flowzones. Ye Gui did not dare offend such a person, as that would be no different from insulting the entire Beast Tamer Flowzone. Moreover, Ye Gui was not even confident that he could actually beat Little Mountain God.

Ye Gui felt the shift in the atmosphere. These youths were insane. Back when Ye Gui had been a youth, no matter how powerful his peers had been, not one of them had been able to compare to an Enlighter. This was a change brought about by the introduction of formcast models, and they had led to the rise of so many geniuses.

The people from the Great Eastern Alliance had no more allies.

Lightning flashed across the sky and a terrifying aura descended upon the area.

"The Great Eastern Alliance? Lu Yin's Great Eastern Alliance? You all are nothing but a joke." Ku Lei appeared and glared at An Shaohua and everyone standing behind him.

Ku Lei's appearance was shocking not only to the people from the Great Eastern Alliance, but also to Little Mountain God. Ku Lei was extremely powerful.

Avery's expression grew much more serious. This man's aura was terrifying.

Ku Lei arrogantly surveyed the area. As an inheritor to one of the Seven Courts from the Neoverse, there was nobody from the Innerverse or Outerverse who could beat him.

The people surrounding the crowd all started retreating. The Great Eastern Alliance had offended too many people, or to be more accurate, Lu Yin had offended too many people, and all of them wanted to get revenge from the Great Eastern Alliance.

Ye Gui started sweating. He was absolutely certain that he could not defeat Ku Lei. How could he protect the people under his protection when he was not able to keep even himself safe? How had the Alliance Leader managed to offend so many people?

Ku Lei turned to An Shaohua. "Where's Lu Yin?"

An Shaohua reluctantly replied, "The Alliance Leader isn't here yet."

Ku Lei sneered. "I heard that he was injured quite badly when invading the Blaze Realm. Tell him that he should avoid me during ZENITH, or else I'll be the first to deal with him."

### **Chapter 1252: The Friendship Of The Ten Academies**

Someone from among the people watching exclaimed, "Ku Lei? Is he from the Court of Seven Names?"

"Aren't they one of the Three Dark Hands? Why would he dare show up here? Won't the Hall of Honor come after him?"

“I heard that the people from the Seven Courts can freely travel about the Neoverse and aren’t suppressed by the Hall of Honor.”

“So he’s one of the Seven Courts’ inheritors? Lu Yin’s in big trouble this time! He’s really offended too many people.”

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Little Mountain God said, “I’m quite interested in meeting Lu Yin. He’s just a Hunter, yet he actually dares to threaten the Innaverse.”

Ku Lei glanced over at Little Mountain God, and was shocked at the person’s appearance, though he remained silent. Instead, Ku Lei turned to face An Shaohua and shouted, “Did you hear me? Answer me!”

Lightning exploded across the sky after he finished speaking.

Ye Gui’s eye twitched.

Ku Lei had revealed his strength as an elite from the Neoverse, and everyone felt threatened and no one dared to speak up.

Suddenly, Ku Lei’s expression changed and his lightning dispersed. He stared off into the distance as Lan Si suddenly appeared in the sky.

An Shaohua and the others heaved a sigh of relief as soon as they saw Lan Si.

Everybody else was shocked, as they had not expected the Divine Fist to appear.

Little Mountain God turned towards Lan Si; this guy was an Arbiter? After being in cryostasis for a thousand years, Little Mountain God had been eagerly anticipating challenging an Arbiter.

Lan Si descended and stared at Ku Lei. “How dare you threaten Lu Yin’s followers when he’s not here? Did you already forget how he thrashed you in the Neoverse?”

Ku Lei glared at the Arbiter. “Lan Si, this is none of your business! Leave!”

“I can keep you company if you’re looking for a fight. When Lu Yin shows up, you won’t even have the opportunity to kneel and beg,” Lan Si calmly replied.

The crowd all turned to look at Ku Lei with great curiosity. They had thought that this person was a peak powerhouse, and none of them had realized that he had already been defeated by Lu Yin.

Ku Lei snorted. “There’s no meaning in fighting you; you’re the weakest of the Ten Arbiters, which is why Lu Yin chose to fight you. I can’t believe you’re helping him.”

He then transformed into lightning and disappeared.

Little Mountain God turned to Lan Si. “See you at the competition! I’ll help you accomplish what you Ten Arbiters aren’t able to achieve.”

With that, he flew away.

Lan Si's gaze fell onto Avery, and Avery left without a single word.

Everyone left behind was shocked. Even though Lan Si had lost to Lu Yin and had not shown any astonishing achievements in the Mountain and Seas Zone, he was still an Arbiter. Nobody would be confident of defeating such a person with the exception of other Arbiters. Lan Si was not weak, he had simply met extraordinarily powerful opponents.

Wu Da put away his gadget, his eyes shining with excitement; he would definitely get some good so long as he kept following these people. The Great Eastern Alliance and Lu Yin had many more enemies still, so there would definitely be newsworthy events wherever these people went.

Yun Yun had the same thought, and she had even come up with a title for the incident she had just witnessed.

This incident had occurred on a planet on one side of Zenith Mountain. On the opposite side of Zenith Mountain, there was a landmass with a beautiful landscape that was even larger than an entire planet.

At this moment, Xia Luo fell from the sky onto a corner of the landmass. He looked back and immediately dodged. A blade flashed through where he had just been, splitting the sky as it passed. Xia Jiuyou calmly walked out.

"Xia Luo, you can't escape. We are the same person, so why are you opposing me?" Xia Jiuyou bellowed. He glared over at Xia Luo and raised his blade.

Xia Luo smiled bitterly. "I have my own personality, and besides, who would want to be fused with you?"

"You don't have a choice. Once I fuse with you I will reach my peak and will be able to enter the top ten. I'll even be able to challenge Shang Qing, as Nine Clones Secret Technique is definitely capable of overpowering his Tri-Yang Technique; don't you want that to happen?" Xia Jiuyou asked as he slashed his blade at Xia Luo.

As the blade approached, Xia Luo raised a hand and used a finger to gently redirect the blade. However, he was still thrown back by tremendous force, and half of his body went numb.

Xia Jiuyou walked closer to Xia Luo and commented, "I never expected you to reach this stage. If I hadn't fused with a few clones in the Mountain and Seas Zone, I might not be able to defeat you in a one on one. Of my nine clones, you are the most powerful aside from me. As long as you cooperate and join with me, we will be able to reach new heights."

Xia Luo shook his head. "I'll die during the fusion. Xia Jiuyou, a technique can't make you invincible. You have too much faith in the Nine Clones Secret Technique."

"So what?" Xia Jiuyou raised his blade once again. He felt incredibly anxious as he was feeling overwhelmed by the elites who had registered for ZENITH. Even with Nine Clones Technique, he had still only placed fifth in the list of predicted ten finalists. There were simply too many powerhouses present, especially Lu Yin. Although Lu Yin was only ranked thirteenth on the prediction list, Xia Jiuyou had interacted with Lu Yin before in Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum, and he felt that Lu Yin was very mysterious and that nobody was entirely certain just how powerful Lu Yin had truly become. On top of that, Xia Jiuyou believed the Hall of Honor had chosen Lu Yin to be a gatekeeper for a reason.

Since they had selected Lu Yin, he was guaranteed to be one of the most powerful people in ZENITH.

Thus, Xia Jiuyou was feeling extremely nervous about ZENITH, and he felt that he had to fuse with Xia Luo to raise his strength.

Xia Luo had no place to go, so he could only attempt to fly into the sky. However, Xia Jiuyou intercepted the escape with a blade, simultaneously destroying a spacecraft full of people from Windrift Hall, including Coco and Zora.

Although there were Hunters inside the vessel, none of them were able to stand up to Xia Jiuyou's attack.

The attack left Coco, Zora, and a few other Windrift Hall disciples falling from the sky.

Xia Jiuyou was completely unconcerned about the people from Windrift Hall, and he continued to attack Xia Luo. Xia Luo's eyes narrowed and his hands quickly flitted about, and he managed to use his lockbreaking technique to dissolve Xia Jiuyou's attack.

The fact that Xia Luo was able to handle Xia Jiuyou's attack by using lockbreaking skills proved that his control of star energy had reached the Wordliness realm.

Xia Jiuyou was stunned, and he raised his blade once more to continue viciously attacking Xia Luo.

Xia Luo was not the only one within range of these attacks, as all of the people from Windrift Hall were also within range.

Coco screamed.

Xia Luo whirled around and saw Coco. He was shocked and he immediately diverted the attack that was about to strike Coco. However, since one side of his body had already gone numb, he was unable to completely dodge, and blood flowed down from his arm. He collapsed to the ground along with Coco.

Zora had been a bit luckier and was not injured by the attack.

Of the dozens of people from Windrift Hall, nearly half of them had died from the attack.

"Xia- Xia Luo?" Coco stared at her savior in shock, as she couldn't believe such a coincidence.

Xia Luo's face was pale and he quickly let her go. "Sorry for getting you caught up in this."

Zora landed and instantly rushed for Coco. She also saw Xia Luo and exclaimed in surprise, "Xia Luo? Why are you here?"

Xia Luo got up slowly, blood raining from his arm and staining the ground red. He had no time to chat with the two girls, and he turned to face Xia Jiuyou.

An elder from among the survivors from Windrift Hall shouted at Xia Jiuyou, "Who are you? We are from Windrift Hall and will not forgive such actions!"

Xia Jiuyou arrogantly ignored the elder and continued his attack on Xia Luo.

Xia Luo shoved Coco and Zora away. "Hurry up and run!"

At this moment, a girl rushed at Xia Jiuyou and tried to punch him. He simply frowned and gently shook his sword. His star energy spread out and took the form of blades that scattered in all directions. The girl's attack was not able to overcome the blades and her arms were injured and her clothes shredded by the blades. Xia Jiuyou launched another attack and tried to attack Xia Luo yet again.

Suddenly, his blade changed direction and slashed at the sky. A woman appeared in front of his attack and stomped a foot downwards. A massive force created visible shockwaves that clashed with Xia Jiuyou's sword.

The sky shattered with a bang, and the entire landmass trembled, causing countless creatures to flee.

A crack appeared on the ground.

Everyone turned in awe.

Xia Jiuyou grew solemn as he looked up at the sky. "This is an internal matter of my Xia family, and it's none of your business, Yuhua Mavis."

The woman in the sky was Yuhua Mavis, while the girl who had attacked Xia Jiuyou was Lulu Mavis.

Lulu Mavis was not able to get anywhere near Xia Jiuyou. If not for Yuhua Mavis, Lulu would have been in grave danger.

Yuhua Mavis coldly replied, "I have no plans of interfering with your family's issues. I just wanted to save Lulu."

Xia Jiuyou turned around to stare at Lulu Mavis.

Lulu Mavis was panting heavily. Her arms were all scratched up, but she still glared at Xia Jiuyou. "He's my classmate."

Xia Jiuyou frowned. "The Mavis family shouldn't get involved in my Xia family's problems."

Lulu was stubborn, and she shot towards Xia Luo. Xia Luo had never expected to be saved by friends from Astral-10.

Astral-10 had just been a passing phase for him, and he had not particularly cared about the people there with the exceptions of Lu Yin and Silver. Thus, he had not expected his former schoolmates to move to save him.

Coco kept a wary eye on Xia Jiuyou while holding an enormous syringe in her arms and gritted her teeth. She had grown much braver from the time she had entered Astral-10.

Zora stood next to Coco and nervously watched everything. She had finally recognized Xia Jiuyou, and knew that he was a powerhouse from the Neoverse and an heir from the Seven Courts. He was ranked fifth on the list predicting the top ten finalists of ZENITH, and he was known far and wide as someone guaranteed to be on of the top ten. She had never expected to meet someone like him as soon as they arrived at Zenith Mountain.

This was not somebody they could defeat.

Even the entire Windrift Hall was meaningless to the Xia family, as the Windrift Hall could be destroyed at whim.

Xia Jiuyou didn't care about Lulu and the rest and was only concerned about Yuhua Mavis.

He looked up at her. "I won't harm anyone from your Mavis clan, so you shouldn't interfere in my Xia family's problems."

Yuhua Mavis replied, "Sure."

Lulu Mavis immediately began begging, "Sister Yuhua, they're my classmates from Astral-10 and are like my siblings. I can't ignore their situation! Please save them."

Xia Jiuyou's eyes flashed. "I want to take Xia Luo with me."

Lulu Mavis cried out, "Sister Yuhua, please help them! Please!"

Xia Jiuyou used a battle technique, Yōu Reinforced Palm, showing how serious he was about the matter.

He directed this attack at Xia Luo, but it was blocked by a green fist. Yuhua Mavis stood in front of Xia Jiuyou and said, "I won't interfere with the Xia family's problems, but as long as Lulu is with him, you won't attack him."

Xia Jiuyou glared at her. "Yuhua Mavis, this is my family's issue. Are you trying to stir up chaos in the Neoverse?"

Yuhua Mavis answered in a cold voice, "The Mavis family is not scared of any trouble."

### **Chapter 1253: Challenge**

Xia Jiuyou was very upset and he glared at Yuhua Mavis.

Yuhua Mavis glared straight back.

They were both among the forecast top ten and ranked fifth and sixth. It would be difficult for them to determine a winner if they fought.

Lulu gloated, "Thanks, Sister Yuhua."

Xia Luo was also grateful. "Thank you."

Coco sighed in relief, and Zora was feeling the same way at the moment.

Xia Jiuyou put away his sword and looked at Xia Luo. "ZENITH is about to begin, and I don't believe you will always have someone protecting you." He then turned and left.

Xia Luo's arm was still bleeding. His eyes flashed, but nobody knew what was going through his mind.

Yuhua Mavis turned back to look at Xia Luo. "A rebellious personality. That's the flaw of the Nine Clones Technique."

Xia Luo agreed, "The more powerful the battle technique, the greater the flaw."

“It’s a flaw, but also a motivation. He can fuse with you, but you can also fuse with him in turn,” Yuhua Mavis said meaningfully.

Xia Luo smiled. “Thank you.”

Not many people managed to see this exchange, and even those who did only saw it from a distance, so they were unable to fully understand what had happened.

A great distance away, a woman muttered to herself, “The Nine Clones Technique’s flaw... Interesting. Back in the day, Progenitor Chen fused with his eight clones to become invincible, but it seems like Xia Jiuyou isn’t able to do the same. This Xia Luo is interesting.”

This woman was Zi Jing, and she was from CyNet World in the Neoverse.

Countless people had gathered at Zenith Mountain, and most of the youths were being protected by their elders.

At this time, most of the people who had gathered on Zenith Mountain’s western side were from the Sixth Mainland.

The Sixth Mainland’s invasion of the Inniverse had created too much hatred, and everyone from the Inniverse despised these people. Besides that, the people from the Sixth Mainland looked down on anyone from the Fifth Mainland.

With both groups gathered at Zenith Mountain, there were an increasing number of fights breaking out.

The verbal conflicts soon escalated into a massive battle.

Hundreds of people joined the fight, and someone died moments later while others suffered fatal injuries. At this rate, the area would end up as a graveyard for both sides before ZENITH even began, especially since more and more powerhouses kept flocking towards the battle.

Everyone was focused on this fight, and there were even livestreams being broadcast as though it were a war.

However, everything was soon stopped as the Fifth Mainland’s Shang Qing and the Sixth Mainland’s Zhi Yi separated the cultivators from each side.

“This planet will serve as a divider, and the western side will belong to the Sixth Mainland, while the eastern, northern and southern sides will belong to the Fifth Mainland,” Shang Qing calmly ordered.

“Why do you guys get three sides!” someone from the Sixth Mainland called out.

Vitality Qi erupted from Zhi Yi and swept over the planet, forcing all the cultivators from the Sixth Mainland down. “I command you, as one of the Daosource Three Skies: remain silent.”

The cultivators from the Sixth Mainland all went quiet as nobody dared to oppose this woman.

The Daosource Three Skies stood at the top of the Sixth Mainland’s hierarchy among their peers, and any of the Daosource Three Skies was invincible. This was a simple fact to people of the Sixth Mainland.

In the same manner that the Ten Arbiters were allowed to pass judgement on anyone from the younger generation in the Inniverse or Outerverse, the Daosource Three Skies had the same authority in the Sixth Mainland and could even execute anybody who defied them.

Zhi Yi suppressed the cultivators from the Sixth Mainland and then cautiously looked over at Shang Qing. "I agree."

Shang Qing was solemn as he looked at Zhi Yi. This was his first time understanding what it meant for someone to be one of the Daosource Three Skies. Although Shang Qing was the Hall of Honor's First Honor Chosen, he was definitely unable to suppress the Fifth Mainland's youths as casually as Zhi Yi had done for her own people. This showed how the Sixth Mainland operated.

Shang Qing was impressed by the respect Zhi Yi's peers gave her, whereas Zhi Yi was impressed by Shang Qing's abilities.

When she had been separating people, she had intentionally allowed her Vitality Qi near Shang Qing's Tri-Yang Technique, and she had been stunned to realise that her Vitality Qi was completely ineffective against ancestral qi.

Her Vitality Qi was supposed to isolate the ancestral qi, yet it had been ineffective. This reminded her of Lu Yin, who had also been unaffected by her Vitality Qi.

Just this one interaction had given Zhi Yi an understanding of why Shang Qing had been the only person who had been named to represent the Fifth Mainland; their legends claimed the Tri-Yang Ancestral Qi Technique to be completely invincible.

Zhi Yi felt that it was a shame that this guy had not participated in the defensive efforts during the invasion, as that way she would have been able to learn more about him.

"I have wanted to meet one of the Daosource Three Skies for a long time," Shang Qing said.

Zhi Yi answered, "I've also wanted to observe the legendary Tri-Yang Technique."

"You will," Shang Qing replied before turning around and calmly leaving. He behaved as though he did not care at all about Zhi Yi's abilities.

Zhi Yi's eyes narrowed and she grew a bit more wary. The Tri-Yang Technique was indeed very mysterious.

After Shang Qing had left, Zhi Yi turned around to look at the cultivators from the Sixth Mainland and saw how unsatisfied they all appeared. "Did all of you hear what the three Progenitors said? The disaster striking our Sixth Mainland is only temporary and we'll return soon. So what if the Fifth Mainland hosts this ZENITH? So what if we only have one side of the mountain? Everyone believes Shang Qing will win the competition, but we'll see what happens during the actual competition. I hope all of you are able to defeat their Fifth Mainland and turn ZENITH into an internal battle for our Sixth Mainland."

"Sky Zhi, don't worry. These people from the Fifth Mainland can't defeat us."

"ZENITH will definitely become an internal competition for the Sixth Mainland."

“The only winners will be the Daosource Three Skies.”

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Many other conflicts broke out around Zenith Mountain, and countless articles were posted daily, with the conflicts between the Sixth Mainland and the Fifth Mainland and the skirmishes between the Innerverse and the Great Eastern Alliance being the most common stories.

There were also some personal grudges that came out.

Lu Yin was browsing the network while Ku Wei was cursing under his breath at the Innerverse. “Seventh Bro, after we get to Zenith Mountain, we have to teach these people a lesson and let them know how powerful Seventh Bro really is!”

Ku Wei was referring to the people from the Innerverse who had tried to fight against the Great Eastern Alliance. Lu Yin had seen the video and remembered who the people were. They thought they could do whatever they wanted because of their numbers, but they did not realise that numbers were actually meaningless to certain people.

Lu Yin was the most interested in the video of Xia Jiuyou trying to kill Xia Luo. The Nine Clones Technique’s critical flaw was that each clone had a unique personality, and none of them would want to disappear. Instead, each would want to become the primary individual.

Xia Luo was clearly unwilling to fuse with Xia Jiuyou, and had even managed to escape, though it had taken the help of the Mavises. Regardless, Xia Luo’s mere existence was Xia Jiuyou’s greatest weakness. Xia Jiuyou’s power would improve drastically after fusing with Xia Luo, but without that, Xia Jiuyou would still be quite limited.

Xia Jiuyou would also have a much more difficult time trying to fuse with Xia Luo, as the other competitors in ZENITH would do their best to not let him succeed.

It would be practically impossible for Xia Jiuyou to complete the fusion after moving to Zenith Mountain. Both because of ZENITH itself and because Xia Luo had been Lu Yin’s classmate, there was no way that Lu Yin would allow Xia Luo to disappear.

He also wondered if Silver would be hiding among the contestants.

“Wendy should be arriving at Zenith Mountain soon,” Cool Sis shared from nearby Lu Yin.

Lu Yin’s eyes flickered. “What’s her cultivation realm now?”

Cool Sis answered, “She’s still a Cruiser, but I can’t tell how strong she’s become.”

Lu Yin looked at Cool Sis. “Do you remember our first fight? You used some battle technique that I wasn’t even able to understand.”

Cool Sis did not respond and instead turned to stare out at space. Suddenly, a ball of light flashed by, and Lu Yin immediately looked in front of their vessel. He saw an incredible number of runes that could compare or even surpass Northgate Taisui. This was an expert with a power level of more than 400,000.

The spacecraft quickly stopped and an alarm rang. A soldier reported, "Your Highness, there's someone blocking our way."

Ku Wei shot to his feet. "Who dares block Seventh Bro?"

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed and he looked at a screen in front of him that displayed what lay in front of their ship.

There was a familiar looking ball of light directly in front of them.

Lu Yin remembered the Light World he had seen in the Neoverse, and this orb of light looked exactly the same. Could this be the Light World?

The light twisted and a smaller orb of light detached and transformed into a golden silhouette. Although Lu Yin was unable to clearly see the face, the person was clearly a young man. He turned to look at Lu Yin's spacecraft. "I am Lightson, from Light World. Lu Yin is in there, correct?"

Lu Yin emerged from the vessel and stood in space across from Lightson. "You're Lightson?"

Lightson raised his head. "You've heard of me?"

"I once saw the Light World," Lu Yin answered.

Lightson said, "Lu Yin, the Hall of Honor has given you the position of gatekeeper, and the master of the Light World also met you in the past. He told me that you're an elite who's second only to Shang Qing, and even told me that I am not your opponent, but I don't believe it."

Lu Yin carefully observed Lightson and saw the youth's face. He was an average looking young man, but the light surrounding him made him appear quite intimidating, and some people might even think he was a god.

"So you want to fight me during ZENITH?" Lu Yin asked.

Lightson snorted. "We don't have to wait for ZENITH, we can fight now. Let me see if you qualify to be a gatekeeper."

A spear appeared in his hand and the halo surrounding him intensified as he launched an attack on Lu Yin.

The Light World was in the Honor Zone and was one of the few major forces that Mu En acknowledged did not rely on protection from the Hall of Honor.

As the representative of the Light World, Lightson was arrogant and completely self-confident. His sudden challenge also showed that he looked down on the Outerverse, as he would not have done so if Lu Yin were an elite from the Neoverse.

Lightson thrust his spear at Lu Yin, and the runes from this attack indicated a power level of 250,000. It was actually comparable to Lan Si's Vacuum Palm, and it gave off a sensation that space was about to shatter.

Lu Yin remained calm and simply raised a hand to grab hold of the spear. Lightson's eyes went wide. "You're insane!"

With that, his spear suddenly grew illusory.

Light was something that could be seen, but not touched. It could take various forms, and though light could not be touched, it could still cause injuries. This was similar to the ability shown by Burial Garden's Yōu Qi. However, he had used illusory flames that made him look like someone not of this world, while the other was pure light.

Lu Yin tilted his head to the side, and the spear shot past him, taking away a few hairs from his head. The speartip tore space apart and extended as a lightray that shot through the universe.

Cool Sis and the others still inside the spacecraft were all shocked. That had been a terrifying attack that none of them would have been able to defend against.

Ku Wei was stunned. "That ball of light is so arrogant."

### **Chapter 1254: Lu Yin VS Lightson**

Lightson forced his spear downwards and the lightspear changed into multiple beams that shot into all directions. Since it was all light, the attack was not limited by distance. Lightson felt that he possessed comparable strength to the Honor Chosens and that he was just as powerful as the inheritors of the Neoverse's major forces. Thus, he felt that running into Lu Yin was a good opportunity for him to prove himself.

Lu Yin was surprised by the attack, as he had not known that the spear was nothing but light. Still, no matter how hard it was to catch a ray of light, this attack had still been formed by star energy, and since it was star energy, Lu Yin was able to overcome it due to his control over star energy already reaching the Wordliness realm.

Lightson was attempting to push his spear down, but it suddenly stopped as it approached Lu Yin's shoulder. Lightson's expression changed, as he had lost control of his spear. The light quickly dissipated.

Lu Yin stared at Lightson. "How dare you challenge me when you can't even hold your weapon properly?"

He lifted a hand and his palm approached Lightson. As the palm approached, the light shrouding Lightson's body began to dim.

Lightson's eyes narrowed as his star energy began wildly surging. Although Lu Yin was in the same cultivation realm as Lightson, Lu Yin was able to control his opponent's star energy. Lightson suddenly remembered that Lu Yin was a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker, and Lockbreakers carried the advantage when fighting against opponents within the same realm.

Lu Yin's palm slowly approached. Although Lightson was not weak, he still was not much of a threat to Lu Yin, and Lightson's strength could at best compare to Lu Yin's when he had fought against Lan Si in the Outerverse. This meant that Lightson was actually weaker than the Ten Arbiters, which caused Lu Yin to grow curious as to whether Lightson still had any hidden skills.

Lightson's star energy was suppressed and this caused his battle technique to become unstable. As Lu Yin's palm approached him, he knew that he would lose once Lu Yin struck him. He didn't challenge Lu Yin rashly as everyone knew that Lu Yin was physically gifted. Thus, since his attack was light, he should

have been able to defeat physically strong powerhouses. However, he hadn't realized that Lu Yin had such good control over star energy.

Lightson gritted his teeth and another ball of light appeared from within his body to confront Lu Yin's attack.

Lu Yin's palm landed on the light and his eyes went wide. "Fatesand?"

Lightson's face grew red as the fatesand blocked Lu Yin's attack and the light around his body intensified. "Light Explosion."

Lu Yin saw countless rays of light fill his field of vision, and then suddenly, he was unable to see anything.

With the light removed, Lu Yin had become blind.

Lightson lifted his spear again and thrust it at Lu Yin. Most people would panic after losing their vision, Lightson saw this as his opportunity.

However, his attack missed its mark yet again. Lu Yin's voice rang out, "Is this your last attempt? I'm quite disappointed."

Lightson stared at Lu Yin in shock and saw glowing eyes. "You can still see?"

Lu Yin smiled. "Seeing? That doesn't matter."

His palm moved a bit and Lightson's fatesand was shattered. A shockwave from Lu Yin's attack struck Lightson and forced him back. He spat out a mouthful of blood and his shroud of light dissipated, revealing him as a young man with an average appearance.

A middle aged man appeared and helped Lightson. The older man glanced over at Lu Yin in surprise; his Young Master had been completely defeated.

Lightson had received a Vacuum Palm. Fortunately, Lu Yin had not used his full strength in the attack, as if he had even used the same power of the attack as he had used against Lan Si, Lightson would have died.

The fatesand returned to Lightson's body. There was blood at the corner of his mouth and the middle aged man anxiously gave the youth some pills. "Young Master, how are you?"

Lightson's face was pale and he was panting heavily. He stared at Lu Yin in astonishment. He had underestimated this person. Lu Yin really did have the strength to be one of ZENITH's gatekeepers. Lightson had not even had the strength to retaliate, as the gap between them was too massive.

"I'm- I'm fine," Lightson spoke slowly. He turned to Lu Yin. "Thank you for holding back."

Lu Yin nodded. "Your attack is quite special. Is that how people from the Light World attack?"

Lightson laughed bitterly. "You still overcame it."

"But normal people aren't able to do so," Lu Yin answered.

Lightson was not sure if Lu Yin was complimenting himself or the Light World. "I admit defeat. Master was right, only a handful of people in our generation might be able to defeat you. I thought he had been exaggerating in order to encourage me to work harder, but I can now see he spoke the truth."

Lu Yin shrugged.

"Sorry for disturbing you." Lightson turned to return to his vessel.

Lu Yin suddenly asked, "Does your fatesand also take the form of light?"

Lightson nodded. "Fatesand will take different forms depending on its owner. Do you also have some?"

Lu Yin nodded. He had actually wanted to absorb Lightson's fatesand. Despite the fact that Lu Yin did not believe the legends that fatesand could lead someone to Destiny, he still felt that it would not be bad for him to gather more of it. However, he had refrained from taking Lightson's fatesand since it was such a precious treasure, and even Mister Mu had mentioned that it was difficult to obtain. There was no way that Lightson would agree to trade such a treasure to Lu Yin, especially considering the fact that the inheritor of a hidden world was definitely not hurting for money.

The orb of light left.

Lu Yin returned to his own spacecraft.

Ku Wei immediately laid on the compliments, "Seventh Bro, who was that lightbulb? How dare he challenge Seventh Bro! He should go and consider his own abilities!"

Lu Yin asked, "Have you heard of the Light World?"

Ku Wei paused. "The Light World? I think I've heard of it before. It's probably one of the hidden worlds within the Honor Zone, and I think it's quite well known as one of the stronger hidden worlds."

Lu Yin continued, "Apart from the Light World, what are the other stronger hidden worlds within the Honor Zone?"

Ku Wei thought for a moment, but then shook his head. "I'm not sure. The Seven Courts typically ignore any of the hidden worlds. If the people in them were more powerful, they wouldn't be hiding in the hidden worlds."

Hiding? Lu Yin did not agree with that view. When Mu En had first introduced the concept of the hidden worlds to Lu Yin, in addition to the regular hidden worlds, Mu En had also mentioned that some of the hidden worlds were not even recorded by the Hall of Honor, like the world that had nearly taken off Lu Yin's finger.

Lu Yin had heard before that the limit of the microscopic was the macroscopic, and he felt there was a possibility of there being some unimaginable hidden world in some corner of the Honor Zone that not even the Hall of Honor was aware of. Although the Hall of Honor kept an eye on the hidden worlds, it was just as possible that there might be some terrifyingly powerful hidden world that was observing the Hall of Honor.

He would never forget what he had witnessed on his way to Erudite Flowzone's border: a civilization had been monitored by another civilization as though it were a bug.

Could there be another civilization monitoring their universe as well?

The spacecraft continued on its way towards Chaos Flowzone as Lu Yin's head spun with wild ideas. They would soon arrive in the flowzone.

A few days later, Lu Yin's spacecraft crossed the Astral River and officially entered Chaos Flowzone.

Meanwhile, to the southeast of Zenith Mountain, participants from the Astral Beast Domain had started to arrive.

The Astral Beast Domain had no need of spacecraft, as all of their participants and guardians were atop an enormous skeleton. The skeleton was massive and there were multiple curved bones that held various beasts.

The beasts were in all different shapes and sizes. Some were enormous, while others were smaller than a finger. Although the Human Domain had fought against the Astral Beast Domain for countless years, they still were unable to recognize all of the beasts, in large part because some of the creatures were able to evolve.

As the skeleton drew closer, everyone in the area surrounding Zenith Mountain turned to look at it.

They saw an enormous snake.

They saw bugs that were tens of thousands of meters long that released noises that gave people chills.

They saw gorgeous snow witches.<sup>1</sup>

On the western side of Zenith Mountain, cultivators from the Sixth Mainland stared at the skeleton in surprise.

"What is that? There are so many beasts! Are we supposed to compete with them?"

"The Fifth Mainland is so useless. We also had powerful astral beasts in the Sixth Mainland, but they were tamed long ago by the Daosource Sect and they're now helping us fight those monsters. The Fifth Mainland can't even tame some beasts."

"Don't underestimate those beasts, they're different from the beasts in our Sixth Mainland. These ones are much stronger and are actually intelligent. The Blood Homage Realm suffered terrible losses when they invaded the Astral Beast Domain."

"That's because the Astral Beast Domain is too barren and is completely worthless."

"Of ZENITH's five gatekeepers, one is from the Astral Beast Domain. Even the three Progenitors have acknowledged the power of that place, and yet you still want to underestimate them? We shouldn't underestimate either the Astral Beast Domain or the Technocracy."

"The Technocracy is also participating? Aren't they helping us?"

"That's actually uncertain. We only managed to seize control of half of the Technocracy's Master Brain. The rest is still unknown."

...

To the north of Zenith Mountain, Xia Luo was still with his former classmates. He needed to stay close to Lulu Mavis, as he would be fused with Xia Jiuyou if he did not.

“Those beasts are so scary! Do we have to fight them?” Coco wondered as she stared out at the enormous snake and bugs that were riding atop the skeleton. She was terrified.

Zora consoled her, “That’s nothing we need to worry about. The beasts sent by the Astral Beast Domain have to all be powerhouses aiming for the top. We can just leave them to Lu Yin and the others.”

Lulu asked, “Where is Lu Yin? Why isn’t he here yet?”

Xia Luo smiled. “He should be arriving soon. He just took over Blaze Realm, so he’s probably quite busy.”

Coco carefully observed Xia Luo. “Hey, let me give you an injection. I think you’ve been quite seriously injured.”

Xia Luo’s eye twitched. He looked over at the huge syringe on Coco’s back and instinctively refused. He felt that getting stabbed by that needle would be as pleasant as being stabbed by a sword.

Some distance away, God Taiyi and a few others sat inside a restaurant as they stared at the skeleton in astonishment. “That’s a lot of runes! The Celestial Beast Empire is going all out, and even Yao Xuan woke up.”

God White looked at the skeleton with Truesight before turning to God Taiyi. “Judging by these runes, those beasts from the Astral Beast Domain are powerful, but they still aren’t too strong. They must be hiding their abilities.”

“Obviously.” God Qingguang rolled his eyes.

Some people nearby muttered, “It’s those nuts from Gods’ Origin! Stay away from them.”

“You’re right; keep your distance. They’re crazy.”

### **Chapter 1255: Lu Yin And Wu Taibai**

One day, Gu Xiao’er arrived at the east of Zenith Mountain. He was feeling quite smug at the moment, as he was in the Innerverse. Thus, as a powerhouse from the Neoverse, he naturally felt very superior.

After just walking a few steps, he spotted a fortune teller wearing a grey robe with a star chart drawn on the back in ink. He was also carrying a flag with two words on one side: “Staribyl’s Grandfather.” The other side had six words: “Fortune Teller—believe it or not.” This was precisely Xuan Jiu, and he had just made it just in time.

Gu Xiao'er stared at Xuan Jiu in surprise, especially after reading what was written on the flag. He walked towards Xuan Jiu and asked, “Are you really Starsibyl’s grandfather?”

Xuan Jiu looked over at Gu Xiao'er. “Let me see... Young man, you’re not from the Outerverse.”

Gu Xiao'er was shocked. “You can see that?”

Xuan Jiu smirked and began to act all mysterious. “Of course.”

Gu Xiao'er was stunned. "What else can you see?"

Xuan Jiu snorted. "My fortune telling is a rare skill! Do you think that I'll just do it whenever you want?"

Gu Xiao'er was about to answer, but then someone started shouting from up above. "Xuan Jiu, stop embarrassing us and follow me."

It was Starsibyl. She had tracked Xuan Jiu down to this place.

Xuan Jiu cursed under his breath before replying, saying, "Granddaughter, this young man is here to ask for your hand, so let me take a look at him for you."

Starsibyl arched a brow before a sudden and massive surge of star energy crashed down towards both Xuan Jiu and Gu Xiao'er.

Gu Xiao'er felt a terrible chill. "Hey! What are you doing? I'm innocent!"

"You're all the same," Starsibyl retorted coldly as she continued attacking.

Xuan Jiu immediately made his escape, but Starsibyl chased after him.

Gu Xiao'er had already been dragged into this mess for no reason. Although he had not been injured, he still felt wronged since Starsibyl had shoved him underground with star energy.

After finally climbing out from the hole, Gu Xiao'er heard a mocking voice. "Girl, look at this! This two-legged beast is insane—he actually likes being buried in the ground."

Gu Xiao'er was outraged. When he turned around, he saw a girl walking towards him, but there seemed to be something on her head... Was that a fish? She had a fish on her head?

Gu Xiao'er felt like he was most likely hallucinating after being hit by Starsibyl.

It was Xi Qi. She also intended to compete in ZENITH, and when she saw Gu Xiao'er staring at her in shock, she gently asked, "Hey, are you ok?"

The fish flapped its fins. "Stupid! Why are you talking to him? He's clearly crazy. Such a two-legged beast can't even qualify to be my ride. Let's go. Lord Fish will give you special training to ensure that you win ZENITH."

Xi Qi reluctantly replied, "You already said that you would teach me about sourcebox arrays, but you still haven't taught me any of that."

"Stupid! I know countless sourcebox arrays that you can't even imagine. Even if I teach you just a few, you'll still be way better than that Xiu Ming."

"Shh! Don't say that! What if Master Xiu hears you?"

"What are you scared of? I want him to be my ride."

...

As they walked away, Gu Xiao'er listened in on their conversation in a daze and rubbed his eyes. He had only just arrived in the Inniverse, but he had already gotten beat up and heard a fish say that he wanted to find a ride. Gu Xiao'er felt like his life was going downhill.

Some distance away, atop the Astral Beast Domain's skeleton, Tian Hou appeared and stared out at the distant Zenith Mountain. It had been ten years since he had last been in the Human Domain, so he wondered if he would meet that person here again. Lu Yin's image appeared in Tian Hou's mind, and although there were many talented youths participating in ZENITH, Tian Hou still felt the most threatened by Lu Yin.

Apparently, Lu Yin had been selected as one of the five gatekeepers. That proved that Lu Yin was someone on the same level as Crown Prince Yao Xuan. There was a huge gap between them, but Tian Hou was a unique lifeform. Thus, even powerhouses that were much stronger than him were not guaranteed to emerge victorious over him.

However, within the Astral Beast Domain, there were many other unique lifeforms as well.

ZENITH had brought all of the younger powerhouses from both the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands to one place, and from among them, the champion would soon emerge.

More and more experts arrived at Zenith Mountain.

One day later, Lu Yin's spacecraft arrived at Zenith Mountain.

As the ship's occupants looked out at the distant towering Zenith Mountain, they were all shocked.

Lu Yin had been to the Honor Zone before, but he was still blown away by Zenith Mountain. This had nothing to do with the size of the mountain, but rather because Zenith Mountain represented the peak of his generation.

His eyes were invariably drawn towards the highest peak of Zenith Mountain. He would only be considered peerless if he could stand at that point alone.

Lu Yin altered his appearance and left on his own without waiting for Ku Wei or the others to tag along. He did not want people following him everywhere he went.

There were many planets surrounding Zenith Mountain, and Lu Yin sipped some alcohol as he listened to the gossip around him on one of the planets.

Many projected lists and leaderboards had been created, and aside from predicting the top ten, he also heard about something called a genius leaderboard, an appearance leaderboard, and many more.

His name kept appearing on the various leaderboards, as he was simply too famous. The people of the Neoverse did not know anything about the various powerhouses from the Inniverse or Outerverse, and the same was true in the reverse direction. And yet, everyone knew of Lu Yin.

Lu Yin felt that it was not ideal to be so famous.

He heard a bang as a fight broke out nearby.

This particular fight was between disciples of the Sword Sect and the Cosmic Sect after the two groups had upset each other. The Sword Sect was fearless of even the Neoverse's major forces while the Cosmic Sect disciples instinctively felt superior to the Innerverse, especially since Qiu Shi outranked Liu Tianmu in the most popular prediction list for the top ten. This made the Cosmic Sect disciples even more arrogant than normal, and thus, a battle had erupted between the two sides.

The restaurant was soon destroyed by both sects' disciples.

Lu Yin did not interfere at all, as he could simply move to another location if this restaurant was destroyed.

He had only walked a few steps when two silhouettes flashed past him. He smiled, as the two were Black and White, and the two brats were laughing as they ran along.

Qian Zou hurriedly chased after Black and White. Lu Yin had not expected him to be the one who had become Black and White's prey, and Qian Zou looked extremely reluctant.

"Please, let's return his items to him! He's not someone who we can offend! He's predicted to be one of the top ten," Qian Zou wailed as he chased after Black and White.

"Haha, stupid! We'll get beat up if we give it back. This is fun, so let's just keep running since he's chasing us." White laughed.

Black looked more serious. "Stop laughing, White. We are going to get beat up soon."

White smiled slyly. "Oh, right. I don't want to get beaten up, so let's run faster."

They then did just that.

Qian Zou was helpless. This had nothing to do with him, but he had been implicated in the end even though he was not the thief.

Wu Dan was right behind the trio, and he furiously shouted, "You crazy girls! Give it back to me!"

The two brats had stolen his pills together with another bastard a few days before. They were healing pills that he had received from Master Xiu, and he had especially saved them for ZENITH, making him absolutely furious.

Lu Yin was speechless. Black and White were always getting into trouble, regardless of if they were in the Mountain and Seas Zone or at ZENITH. This time, they had even dragged someone else into their mess.

Lu Yin did not interfere and simply allowed Wu Dan to continue chasing after the three. Nothing would happen to them anyway. The fact that the twins were present meant that someone else from Eversky Island would also be nearby. Between Highsage Shenwei and Highsage Wudi, either one was perfectly capable of protecting the two girls.

The older powerhouses generally stayed away from Zenith Mountain in an attempt to create a fair environment.

Lu Yin wandered around Zenith Mountain on his own, and he saw many things take place, some of which were even related to him.

The powerhouses from the Inniverse kept causing trouble for anyone who was from the Great Eastern Alliance, as the Great Eastern Alliance presented a threat to the Inniverse.

Some of Lu Yin's close friends also got into trouble. For example, he saw Ku Wei challenging Ku Lei and then getting chased around. Lu Yin also saw Starsibyl chasing after Xuan Jiu, but he did not interfere in either of these incidents.

ZENITH was approaching, so everyone was trying to reserve their strength. Thus, none of them attacked with their full strength.

Additionally, when Lu Yin looked up at outer space, he could see some truly enormous clusters of rune lines around the mountain. These rune lines belonged to Envoys who were present to ensure that ZENITH would proceed smoothly.

ZENITH was different from the competition for the Cosmic Five. ZENITH was a true competition, and nobody knew just how many peak powerhouses had been sent by the Hall of Honor. Lu Yin had even seen Yuan Shi's rune lines over on the western side of the mountain. This meant that, unless the Neohuman Alliance wanted to start a war against both mainlands, they absolutely would not create any problems during ZENITH.

The most important detail was that Zenith Mountain was quite close to the Starfall Sea, which was where the three Progenitors were. Nobody knew just how powerful the Progenitors were, but that was enough reason for even the Seven Skygods to be unwilling to show up.

A few days later, Lu Yin saw another familiar face from someone who was similarly wandering around aimlessly: Mr. Bai.

The two of them stood at opposite sides of a waterfall on some planet.

Mr. Bai was still as calm and unruffled as always, looking as if nothing could affect him. "Deafmute Bro—no, Brother Lu, it's been a long time."

Lu Yin smiled. "Mr. Bai—no Brother Wu, it certainly has."

"People say that a person can change a great deal in just three days. Brother Lu, you have certainly changed a lot," Mr. Bai replied.

Lu Yin shrugged. "I've interacted with you before, but even when I stand this close to you, I still can't see you clearly."

Mr. Bai laughed. He stepped atop the waterfall, and Lu Yin also began walking towards the other youth. Finally, they ended up a meter away from the center of the waterfall, and an unseen force clashed between them. Although there was no impressive explosion, the waterfall tore apart, quickly followed by the ground, the mountains, rivers, and even a few cities.

Nobody on the planet understood just what was happening, and even the Enlighters on the planet were confused since they were unable to locate the source of energy that was splitting the planet apart.

Fortunately, the clash between the two only lasted for a short moment. The waterfall merged back together, though with a slight split due to how the ground had changed. The water flowed towards the ground, but it was quickly vaporized into steam.

Mr. Bai laughed. "Brother Lu, it's boring to walk around all alone. Would you care to join me?"

Lu Yin nodded. "Let's go, Brother Wu. It really is boring to be alone."

"After you."

Although the collision between the two had just been a test, it had allowed them to gain some understanding of the other's strength.

Lu Yin did not know what Wu Taibai's thoughts were, but Lu Yin was extremely wary of the Daosource Three Skies. This carefree person had actually given Lu Yin a feeling of being threatened. With Lu Yin's current strength, it was rare for him to feel threatened by anything. Even when he had been in Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum, neither Xia Jiuyou nor Corpse Beast had made Lu Yin feel threatened despite their incredible strength.

### **Chapter 1256: Attack**

The Daosource Three Skies were the future leaders of the Sixth Mainland, and thus, they were the three strongest members of their generation. Both Zhi Yi and Bu Kong had taken part in the Sixth Mainland's war against the Fifth Mainland, but Wu Taibai had never revealed himself. Thus, most people from the Fifth Mainland knew almost nothing about Wu Taibai.

It was possible that he was the strongest of the Daosource Three Skies.

With Wu Taibai as his companion, Lu Yin no longer wandered only around the regions occupied by the Fifth Mainland; the two also visited the western side of Zenith Mountain where the Sixth Mainland's cultivators stayed.

Cultivators from the Sixth Mainland generally looked down on those from the Fifth Mainland, which included the Astral Beast Domain.

However, when Lu Yin compared the current cultivators from the Sixth Mainland to their attitude back when they had invaded the Fifth Mainland, everyone seemed rather down, likely due to being forced from their homes. No matter how arrogant they had been, they were still losers at the moment.

"Brother Wu, are those monsters really that powerful? Not even your three Progenitors could defeat them?" Lu Yin asked Wu Taibai curiously.

Wu Taibai sighed. "How should I put this? If you've never fought against them directly, then you will never know the fear that they induce. It's a primal fear. They are actually more like evolved humans; they have human intelligence, an unaging body, and endless abilities. They are not simple killing machines."

"Humanity has progressed through technology and cultivation until we've reached a point where we no longer have natural enemies. However, the appearance of these creatures has caused everyone from the Sixth Mainland to realize that our natural enemy has finally arrived."

Lu Yin fell deep into thought.

Wu Taibai continued to speak in a softer voice. "Actually, nobody knows just how vast the universe truly is. Many people have guessed that a civilization that surpasses us humans will appear one day, and that civilization might destroy or enslave us. Still, nobody really cares about such conjectures since we have our Progenitors and everyone believes them to be invincible. However..."

Lu Yin continued, "So, you're saying that these monsters seem like they're from another civilization, right?"

Wu Taibai nodded.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. "Has the Sixth Mainland ever interacted with the monsters before?"

Wu Taibai's eyes narrowed and he focused on Lu Yin. "What are you saying, Brother Lu?"

Lu Yin glanced at Wu Taibai, but then he just shook his head. "Nothing much."

Wu Taibai looked at Lu Yin with a meaningful expression, but he also remained silent.

They both wanted to go and take a look at the Astral Beast Domain's skeleton, but neither one had any idea how to go about doing so. In the end, they did not attempt to climb the skeleton since they knew that they were not welcome among the astral beasts, and any attempt to do so would just be looking for trouble.

Although the two were among the strongest of their generation, they were not arrogant enough to pick fights with the senior powerhouses.

There was only half a month left before ZENITH commenced.

One day, while the two were talking about something, Lu Yin's gadget beeped. He looked down, and his expression suddenly changed.

Something huge had happened. Xia Jiuyou had joined hands with Ce Jiu and Hui Santong to overpower Yuhua Mavis in order to forcefully absorb Xia Luo.

Everyone was resting before the competition, but for Xia Jiuyou, fusing with Xia Luo was far more important than resting.

Although Ce Jiu and Hui Santong were unable to defeat Yuhua Mavis, they were still strong enough to stall her for a bit. Additionally, since Xia Jiuyou had waited so long to spring this attack, he had to have gathered even more helpers. The entire Seven Courts might have formed an alliance to help Xia Jiuyou in ZENITH.

Lu Yin immediately tore through the void and disappeared.

Wu Taibai looked at where Lu Yin had just disappeared from, but he did not chase after him. Instead, Wu Taibai just looked at the forecasted list of the top ten finalists and smiled.

There was a sea to the north of Zenith Mountain, and a continent lay in this sea. An invisible force supported the entire place.

On that continent within the sea, both Ce Jiu and Hui Santong were simultaneously retreating while Yuhua Mavis stood opposite them with a raised hand. Grass frantically grew out and formed into a green fist that then punched at the two inheritors of the Seven Courts.

Ce Jiu cursed, and an Astral Chessboard appeared beneath his feet. He shifted himself to the side and dragged Hui Santong along. Then, Hui Santong stepped forward and raised his hand, causing golden comets to fall towards Yuhua Mavis, completely covering the entire battlefield.

Although the two young men were working together, they still were unable to defeat Yuhua Mavis. But despite their failure, they had managed to succeed in dragging Yuhua Mavis some distance away.

Off in the distance, Xia Jiuyou's blade flashed, and a massive wound appeared on Xia Luo's abdomen as he was slammed deep into the ground. "I told you, your fate is to fuse with me! All nine clones must fuse."

He tried to grab Xia Luo.

Xia Luo's eyes were sharp, and he also lifted a hand to meet Xia Jiuyou's palm. However, Xia Jiuyou was an Enlighter while Xia Luo was still only a Hunter. Additionally, Xia Luo had only managed to reach such a realm because he was Xia Jiuyou's clone. Otherwise, Xia Luo would have still been stuck in the Cruiser realm at the moment.

Xia Luo's arm broke with a snap, and Xia Jiuyou moved to grab his clone again when his expression suddenly changed. He pulled back as a bullet suddenly appeared where he had just been standing, but it disappeared the next moment.

Xia Jiuyou turned around. "God Taiyi."

God Taiyi had launched the attack, but he tossed his gun aside. "Xia Jiuyou, you're an Enlighter, but you're attacking a Hunter? That doesn't seem right."

Xia Jiuyou narrowed his eyes. "How dare you stop me?"

God Taiyi smiled. "I'm just giving it a shot."

He was not actually trying to be righteous at the moment; rather, he did not want Xia Jiuyou to fuse with all of his clones. If possible, God Taiyi actually wanted to kill Xia Luo.

Xia Jiuyou snorted and turned to look in another direction.

Xie Xiaoxian rushed towards God Taiyi. "I'll be your opponent."

God Taiyi's brows rose up. "Have the Seven Courts formed an alliance? It looks like you guys all want to help Xia Jiuyou win ZENITH. Unless I'm wrong, this was probably the Hui family's plan."

Xia Jiuyou completely ignored God Taiyi.

Xie Xiaoxian was not able to defeat God Taiyi, and Xia Jiuyou was also aware that Ce Jiu and Hui Santong were not Yuhua Mavis's opponents. He needed to act quickly, as God Taiyi was not the only one who wanted to prevent him from fusing with his final clone.

This thought prompted Xia Jiuyou to reach towards Xia Luo once again.

Xia Luo was helpless; was this the end?

Coco and Lulu were of no help at all.

A sword suddenly appeared out of nowhere and pointed at Xia Jiuyou.

Xia Jiuyou's eyes flashed as he shattered the sword. Wendy Yushan appeared, as that sword strike had been a battle technique from Myriad Swords Peak: Ten Thousand Swords as One.

Xia Jiuyou snorted. "A mere Cruiser."

He swiped at the air. It was a Yōu Reinforced Palm.

Off in the distance, God Taiyi's pupils transformed into runes. Xia Jiuyou's Yōu Reinforced Palm weakened a bit, but Wendy Yushan's sword still shattered. Fortunately, she had managed to use the You Secret Art to transfer the coldness from the Yōu Reinforced Palm away. Otherwise, the attack would have killed her.

At the same time, a conflict broke out above the youths. Two elders had appeared, one with black and white hair. This person was Ying Daynight, a member of the Dayking Clan who had escaped from the Daynight clan and had been given the responsibility of escorting Wendy Yushan to Zenith Mountain. The other elder was from the Xia family.

The elder from the Xia family coldly warned, "We shouldn't interfere in our juniors' fights. Don't you know that?"

Ying Daynight frowned. He knew that many elders from the Seven Courts were remaining hidden near this battle and that there were also elders from the Mavis clan who had not appeared.

However, Ying Daynight was not able to stop himself from taking action, as Xia Jiuyou had almost killed Wendy Yushan. He knew just how important this girl was to Lu Yin, and if Ying Daynight allowed Wendy to die, it would be a grave sin.

Wendy Yushan nodded. "Senior, it's fine."

Ying Daynight was left helpless. "Don't interfere."

Wendy Yushan turned towards Xia Luo and knelt down. She pressed a hand against his abdomen, and his wound visibly recovered.

Most of the people present were shocked, as this girl had an innate gift of healing.

Xia Jiuyou's brows rose. "You're going to die."

His blade rose up once more.

Wendy Yushan whispered to Xia Luo, "This is all that I can do."

"Why are you helping me?" Xia Luo asked.

Wendy Yushan replied, "You're Lu Yin's classmate."

Xia Luo nodded. "Thanks."

He then stood up and faced Xia Jiuyou. "She won't interfere anymore. I'm your only target."

Xia Jiuyou's eyes were icy. "I don't have time for this! Let's end this!"

He disappeared, and his blade became a shadow. This was the first blade of his Triple Blade Will.

Xia Luo's eyes went wide, and his fingers trembled. Right when he was about to attack, someone appeared in front of him with a raised hand. Xia Luo did not see the hand move, but Xia Jiuyou suddenly flew back a hundred meters.

Nobody had expected Xia Jiuyou to actually be forced back.

Everyone turned to look at the person in front of Xia Luo in shock. "Lu- Lu Yin?"

"Brother Lu?"

"Brother Lu?"

It was Lu Yin. He had a calm look after forcing Xia Jiuyou to retreat with a Vacuum Palm.

Off in the distance, Wu Da grew excited; a famous person had shown up.

Yun Yun also grew excited. "This is huge, huge news! Two people predicted to be in the top ten are actually already fighting."

Ce Jiu, Hui Santong, and everyone else all stopped.

Yuhua Mavis turned to stare at Lu Yin in shock. That had been a truly powerful attack.

God Taiyi also stared at Lu Yin in stupefaction; why did Lu Yin have such an insane number of rune lines?

Xia Jiuyou picked himself up and looked over at Lu Yin as he clenched his fists. "This is an internal matter of our Xia family. This is none of your business!"

Lu Yin calmly retorted, "Xia Luo is my classmate."

Xia Jiuyou coldly replied, "Lu Yin, do you want to become enemies with the Seven Courts?"

Lu Yin frowned. "A lot of people have asked me that very question before. And as I've always said, I don't like making enemies, but I'm not scared to do so either."

Xia Jiuyou gritted his teeth.

Hui Santong felt helpless. With Lu Yin present, even though he might not be able to defeat Xia Jiuyou if Xia Jiuyou unleashed his full strength, it would still be impossible for Xia Jiuyou to fuse with Xia Luo at this time. When Hui Santong realized this, he murmured something to Xia Jiuyou.

Xia Jiuyou was unwilling to give up, as his Nine Clones Secret Technique had already been revealed. Thus, he had to quickly reach his most powerful state.

He wanted to attack, but he was stopped when he saw the cracks in his sword. Lu Yin was much more powerful than he appeared to be. Xia Jiuyou had already known this when they had all been in Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum, and he would have to wait to beat Lu Yin during ZENITH.

Xie Xiaoxian was speechless; why was it this guy yet again? This was so annoying!

Xia Jiuyou looked past Lu Yin and at Xia Luo. "We eventually have to fuse together. This isn't for you or for me—it's for the Xia family and for us to restore Progenitor Chen's past achievements."

He gave Xia Luo a meaningful look before finally leaving.

Hui Santong nodded a greeting to Lu Yin. Although the Seven Courts all supported Xia Jiuyou, it was because he was worthy of such support. However, the seven individual families were still not harmonious. Compared to Xia Jiuyou, Hui Santong actually had a better feeling about Lu Yin. Additionally, Hui Santong was closer to Lu Yin, as they were connected through Hui Kong.

Ce Jiu just quietly left, and Xie Xiaoxian did the same.

### **Chapter 1257: Declaration**

Xia Luo finally relaxed when he saw his enemies leaving.

Lu Yin turned around and smiled. "It's been a long time. You've gotten much stronger."

Xia Luo laughed. "You're talking about yourself, right?"

Lu Yin smiled before turning to face Wendy Yushan. He gently asked, "Are you alright?"

Wendy Yushan nodded her head in assent.

Lulu punched Lu Yin's back. "I knew you'd come!"

The punch actually hurt Lu Yin, and he turned to glare at Lulu. "Brat! Don't you know how strong you are? Be gentler!"

Lulu clenched her fists. "I'll get even stronger."

"Brother- Brother Lu, are you injured? Do you need me to give you an injection?" a soft yet familiar voice called out.

Lu Yin laughed. "There's no need, Coco. I'm not hurt."

Coco was disappointed and turned to look at Xia Luo with hope-filled eyes.

Xia Luo's eye twitched. "I'm fine now."

Coco's pout deepened, and she turned to look at Wendy Yushan with a pitiful expression.

Wendy Yushan just stared at Coco's syringe in a daze; was that the girl's innate gift?

Yuhua Mavis walked over and looked at Lu Yin. "I'm looking forward to comparing our strengths again."

Lu Yin's eyes flickered. "I hope that you can withstand seven of my attacks."

Yuhua Mavis did not even have a chance to reply when Grandini Mavis appeared. “You’re too smug! Sister Yuhua, he’s looking down on you.”

Lulu also stared at Lu Yin in shock. “Hey, are you crazy? Do you really want to compare your strength to Sister Yuhua’s?”

Lu Yin felt confident.

Yuhua Mavis looked at Lu Yin with a meaningful expression. “It looks like you’ve improved quite a bit. Becoming a Hunter’s made you arrogant.”

Lu Yin smiled. “We’ll find out soon.”

“I can’t wait,” Yuhua Mavis answered.

God Taiyi walked over. “Brother Lu, not bad. You’ve become much stronger than when you were in the Mountain and Seas Zone.”

Lu Yin turned to face God Taiyi and checked the man’s pupils. “You’ve also improved. What level are you at now?”

“Still the same—nothing much’s changed. Come and visit Gods’ Origin when you’re free.” God Taiyi waved a hand and left.

Off in the distance, Wu Da was still recording everything. Many of the most talented members of their generation had approached and greeted Lu Yin; he was like a lamp in how he attracted both friends and enemies like bugs.

Aside from reuniting with his friends, Lu Yin’s arrival also drew over everyone from the Great Eastern Alliance, as their backbone had finally arrived.

Meanwhile, the people who had been causing trouble for the Great Eastern Alliance all fell silent.

Lu Yin was one of the five gatekeepers, and he was also predicted to be one of the top ten finalists. If not for his lower cultivation realm, he would practically be guaranteed to end up in the top ten. Thus, despite the millions of participants gathered around Zenith Mountain, not a single person dared to challenge him.

To the west of Zenith Mountain, quite a few cultivators from the Sixth Mainland were also discussing Lu Yin.

The battle that Xia Jiuyou had triggered was the most intense battle to break out during this stewing period before ZENITH started, as the participants had included the Seven Courts’ inheritors, the Mavis family, and even Gods’ Origin. Videos of the battle had spread everywhere, and many people were shocked to discover that Lu Yin had been able to force Xia Jiuyou to retreat with just one attack.

The Little Arrow Saint was one such person, staring at the video in disbelief; was that really Lu Yin? The same Lu Yin whom he had chased for three days and had almost killed? How could he have improved so quickly? There had to be something wrong. Yes, it had to be because the people from the Fifth Mainland were too weak. There was no way that that guy could have become so strong so suddenly.

That Xia Jiuyou was probably just a weakling.

Xin Nü happily watched the video. Although she was not very good at expressing her emotions, she always had a feeling of wanting to protect Lu Yin whenever she saw him.

“It looks like you’ve been doing well, and you have a lot of friends too.” Xin Nü smiled, which was a rare occurrence.

Zhi Yi was the angriest. She was not as naive as the Little Arrow Saint, and she was perfectly aware that Xia Jiuyou had to be quite powerful since he was someone who cultivated the Nine Clones Secret Technique. But despite all that, Lu Yin had been able to overwhelm Xia Jiuyou with just one attack, which meant that Lu Yin’s strength had increased greatly.

That was a problem for Zhi Yi, as she had never given up on capturing Lu Yin because of his immunity to her Vitality Qi. That was why she had to take him away. However, this task had become increasingly monumental as it was far more difficult for Zhi Yi to do anything to Lu Yin now.

Many people from the Sixth Mainland had fought against Lu Yin in the past; Autumnfrost Qing, Tong Zhan, Hong Ying, and the others all grew frustrated when they saw the video. How had Lu Yin improved so quickly?

Elsewhere, many astral beasts atop the Astral Beast Domain’s massive skeleton were also watching the video.

An enormous blue lion took the form of a man and glared at the video. He had previously fought against Lu Yin in Ironblood Weave, and if not for Lu Yin, the Astral Beast Domain would have succeeded in their attempt to capture Wang Wen. The blue lion would never be able to forget how Lu Yin’s finger had pierced through a Yin Guai.

The blue lion had fought against Lu Yin when the human had been using external items to improve his combat ability. But in these few years, Lu Yin’s base strength had already surpassed the lion’s.

Some distance away, Yao Gu and a few other beasts were also watching the video.

Tian Hou was the one who paid the most attention to the video, and he immediately left the skeleton after finishing.

...

Lu Yin was like a magnet with the way that his arrival had attracted people’s attention.

Apart from Ku Wei and the others, Black, White, and Qian Zou all sought out Lu Yin even with Wu Dan still on their tail.

Lu Yin scolded the two girls and asked them to return Wu Dan’s property to him, so they reluctantly obeyed.

Qian Zou nearly wept as he thanked Lu Yin.

Wu Dan glared at Black and White before turning to face Lu Yin. “I’m not going to hold this against them on your account. Don’t embarrass us Lockbreakers during ZENITH.”

He then turned around and left.

Ku Wei grew annoyed, and he appeared in front of Wu Dan and said in a respectful tone, "I didn't realize you were Grandmaster Xiu, Chairman of the Lockbreaker Society. I would like to ask you to teach me some lockbreaking skills."

Wu Dan was stunned. "I'm not Grandmaster Xiu."

Ku Wei's eyebrows rose up high, and he shouted, "THEN WHY ARE YOU SO ARROGANT IF YOU AREN'T GRANDMASTER XIU!"

Wu Dan was astonished by Ku Wei's outburst. In his rage, he attacked Ku Wei, but Ku Wei immediately ducked behind Lu Yin. Ku Wei was not dumb and knew that if Wu Dan dared to act disrespectfully in front of Lu Yin, then he had to be quite powerful himself. After all, Ku Wei was just a sycophant, not a bodyguard.

Wu Dan glared at Lu Yin. "Control your people."

Black and White both laughed at Wu Dan.

Wu Dan snorted and immediately left, as he did not want to hang around these people a second longer.

Soon after Wu Dan left, Gu Xiao'er arrived. He immediately began complaining the moment he saw Lu Yin. "Bro, you've gotta help me! I was almost killed by that Starsibyl and stupid fortune teller..."

Ling Que also appeared, as he similarly wanted to catch up with Lu Yin.

After Ling Que, Ling Gong similarly showed up.

As soon as Ling Gong arrived, Wendy Yushan immediately appeared. She had been sent to Myriad Swords Peak by Ling Gong, and Lu Yin had once even suspected that there might be something going on between the two. However, he had later realized his suspicions were unfounded when he discovered that Ling Gong was a girl during their encounter in the ruins of the Fifth Mainland's Daosource Sect.

"Lu Yin, you need to be more serious! Don't embarrass the Inverse and the Outerverse—you're publicly recognized as an Arbiter, so don't associate yourself with just anyone!" Ling Gong was annoyed by the fact that random people were constantly surrounding Lu Yin. To her, everyone in this area was a random nobody.

Lulu arched a brow. "Hey, what are you saying? Are you too ugly to take off that mask?"

Ling Gong glared at Lulu. "Shut up!"

Lulu was furious, as nobody had ever shouted at her like that before. "Who are you?"

"Arbiter White Knight," Ling Gong proudly replied.

Lu Yin pouted. "Fine, just stop complaining. Why are you here?"

Ling Gong snorted. "You shut up too. Don't embarrass us."

She then glared over at Ling Que. "Stop staring. Let's go!"

With that, she dragged Ling Que away.

Lulu was enraged. "That person is so rude! She ruined my mood."

Wendy Yushan felt helpless. "That's just how she is."

Lu Yin was just thankful that Ling Que had not told him that it was an order.

A few days later, Liquor Hero arrived. She had somehow gotten the idea that Lu Yin liked to drink, and so, she gave him a barrel of wine the moment she arrived. Lu Yin did not hate drinking, but he also did not want to get drunk at this time.

"Cheers!" Liquor Hero always looked drunk.

Lu Yin wanted to ask her where she had gone after the Mountain and Seas Zone, as he had not seen her even once.

This woman would probably get along very well with Geoffrey if the two ever met.

Thunder rumbled across the sky; Ku Lei was passing by.

When Ku Wei saw the lightning, his eyes flashed. "Hey, don't you see Brother Wei? Get over here and greet me now!"

Ku Lei was furious; he had just been passing by, but he had still been mocked by Ku Wei.

"I'll kill you!" Ku Lei was about to rush over.

Suddenly, Lu Yin's voice rang out. "Go."

This single word was followed by a terrifying domain that forced Ku Lei to retreat.

Although Lu Yin's domain had not reached the level of Unseen Light's where it allowed him to predict his opponent's attacks, Lu Yin was still confident about fighting against Unseen Light, and Unseen Light was someone who was comparable to Yuhua Mavis.

Ku Lei warily glanced at Lu Yin and glared at Ku Wei before leaving.

Ku Wei was delighted; that was fun!

A young man observed Lu Yin from the distance. His face was expressionless, and nobody could tell what the man was thinking. His name was Wang Yi, and he was the only competitor from the Technocracy.

More and more elders began to appear around Zenith Mountain. "It's about to start. Despite the passage of so many years, we've never been able to determine a champion from both mainlands. This is a truly rare event."

"Only in Progenitor Chen's and the Rune Progenitor's era were there champions."

"I can't wait. I hope it starts soon."

"Me too."

...

In the Outerverse's Frostwave Weave, there was a huge statue of Lu Yin on Earth.

When the people of Earth had heard that the Neohuman Alliance had captured Lu Yin, countless crowds had knelt before this statue to pray for him. When they had learned of his return, they had rejoiced and made the statue even taller in celebration.

At the moment, the statue had become the tallest monument on Earth, and it could even be seen from space.

The statue was taller than the clouds, and it was the structure on Earth that came closest to surpassing the atmosphere.

Everyday, people would pray before the statue. No matter if they were survivors from Earth's apocalypse or recently born children, they all prayed to Lu Yin like a god.

Some thousands of meters away from the statue, a young man leaned against a wall with a drink. He muttered to himself, "That damned rabbit escaped again. Just you wait! I finally got the bead from dad that'll let me travel across planes. I'll definitely get you someday."

After swearing, he choked on his drink and coughed a few times before chucking the bottle away in irritation.

### **Chapter 1258: ZENITH Begins**

The unknown young man pressed his hat down and looked back at Lu Yin's statue. "That's a huge pocket dimension, and time passes differently there. I should go take a look."

At that same moment, a massive screen appeared next to Lu Yin's statue which attracted the attention of everybody nearby.

Screens then appeared all over Earth.

The screens showed a towering mountain, and a loud voice rang out: "ZENITH has begun."

At this same time, a screen appeared on the busiest street on Zenyu Star, right next to Lu's Grand Auction. Screens also appeared next to King Zishan's palace, the imperial palace and many other locations on the capital planet.

There was a competition occurring on the first mainland ring surrounding Zenyu Star. Huo Xiaoling, Gerbach, Logan, Huo Zhong, and Ruky Mathers were all present, as well as Hall Master Schutz. They were all watching a match between Fu Xiaoshu and Song Shi. Although the two had only trained for a short period, their innate gifts made them almost comparable to the Hall Masters.

Everyone from the Yu Academy was cheering.

A screen suddenly appeared in the sky: "ZENITH has begun."

Schutz immediately stopped the match and looked up at the screen in excitement. This was ZENITH, and the Great Yu Empire's Royal Regent, Lu Yin, was one of the five gatekeepers, and the competition was finally beginning.

Countless planets throughout the entire Outerverse, as well as all of the major forces were watching ZENITH and Zenith Mountain.

Similar events could be seen in the Innaverse, as screens also appeared at the Sword Sect, the Wen family's territory, the Lingling clan's territory, and even about the Astral River Ark. Screens even appeared in the Cosmic Sea and the Neoverse.

In the western region of Chaos Flowzone, all of the cultivators from the Sixth Mainland looked up at the screens. ZENITH was finally about to begin, and everyone vividly remembered what the three Progenitors had said, and everyone believed that the Daosource Three Skies were the three strongest competitors in ZENITH due to their status as the future leaders of the Sixth Mainland.

In another part of the universe, a screen appeared within a majestic, futuristic looking city in the Technocracy.

Hui Kong was sitting in the plaza and looked up at the screen. "ZENITH? Even the Sixth Mainland has joined? This is really an unprecedented matter. I wonder who will appear."

Within the Astral Beast Domain, a screen appeared in parts of the Celestial Beast Empire. Countless beasts stared at the image of Zenith Mountain with hopeful expressions. Their crown prince, Yao Xuan, would undoubtedly become the champion.

The Celestial Demon race was invincible, which was a simple fact that all beasts in the Astral Beast Domain simply accepted.

The Fifth Mainland, the Sixth Mainland, and all planets that were part of civilization were attentively watching various screens; ZENITH had begun.

...

How many young cultivators were there throughout the universe? Nobody knew the answer, and not even the Hall of Honor had an estimate. Even a wasteland like the Outerverse had billions of cultivators.

Proportionally, not many cultivators had been able to successfully reach Zenith Mountain to participate in ZENITH. The competition was being held in the Innaverse, and the location alone disqualified many would-be participants. Despite that, millions of cultivators had still arrived at Zenith Mountain along with their elders.

Not every cultivator dared to participate in the competition, as items and such were not allowed to be used during ZENITH, and there was also a possibility that the competitors could lose their lives.

Also, anyone who had not even become a Limiteers did not dare participate, as only Explorers and above had a chance of placing well during ZENITH.

Despite all of those limitations, there were still millions of competitors, which just showed how anticipated the competition was.

Also, this horde was merely the people who had successfully arrived at Zenith Mountain. If everyone who had registered had successfully arrived, there would have been billions of competitors. Most people simply wanted to see their names on the side of Zenith Mountain for a while, and some of the people who had registered were mere Melders and Sentinels.

However, their names would only remain on the mountain briefly, as anyone who did not successfully pass the five gatekeepers would be eliminated; only those who passed those five obstacles would enter the second round, which was the actual start of ZENITH.

There were also a massive number of elders who had escorted their young juniors. They surrounded Zenith Mountain, and some of them were nervous, while others were excited or concerned.

...

Zenith Mountain possessed steep slopes and a powerful current blew down from the peak. The wind was strong enough to kill Limiteers.

At the moment, millions of cultivators were gathered around the mountain. They were divided into four areas: east, south, north, and west. There were four passes a third of the way up Zenith Mountain, and the competitors would only be able to continue climbing after passing through the checkpoints. Additionally, another third of the way up Zenith Mountain, there was another, enormous checkpoint. Only those who passed through this fifth checkpoint would remain in the competition, which made it the gateway to the true competition.

Countless eyes were focused on Zenith Mountain, and every corner of the mountain were being broadcast to the Universe.

All of the video feeds were naturally focusing on the five gatekeepers.

At the northern pass, a handsome man leaned against the mountainside with closed eyes. He looked like he was sleeping. The man's clothes were ornate, and he exuded nobility. He was the Crown Prince of the Astral Beast Domain's Celestial Beast Empire, Yao Xuan.

At first glance, Yao Xuan looked similar to an average human, except for his exquisite looks. However, as people continued looking at him, they felt that his image became increasingly vague, and their memory of him began to fade.

The longer they stared at this person, the more people felt that he was shrouded in fog.

At the western pass, Zhi Yi wore a white cotton robe and had her black hair carelessly thrown over her shoulders as she stood there with a solemn expression. Although she looked normal, her usage of Vitality Qi gave her an indescribable aura.

She stared down at the base of the mountain where hundreds of thousands of cultivators had already gathered. All of them hoped to pass through her checkpoint.

Zhi Yi's eyes flashed; most of the gathered people were useless and were unqualified to fight with her, yet there were a few elites within the crowd. Of particular note was that girl Qiu Shi. During the battle in the Cosmic Sea, Qiu Shi had always been nearby, yet had never used her full strength.

The Daosource Three Skies were the future leaders of the Sixth Mainland. After this competition, Zhi Yi intended to be the future leader of the Fifth Mainland as well.

Compared to Zhi Yi, Bu Kong's thoughts were much simpler; he simply wanted to teach the Fifth Mainland's people a lesson. However, he only intended to do that during the real competition.

He was confident that he would become the champion. Since that was the case, he did not mind giving some people a chance.

Bu Kong was clearly not as mature as Zhi Yi, and had a much more casual appearance.

Yet despite appearances, more people were willing to face Zhi Yi than Bu Kong, because Bu Kong was a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker who had comprehended a sourcebox array. Although he looked young, he was amazingly talented to be able to become one of the Daosource Three Skies.

Bu Kong protected the northern pass. A playful smile appeared on his face as he looked down. "Just a bunch of ants. My mood will determine whether or not I'll let them pass."

At the eastern pass, Lu Yin leaned against the mountain much like Yao Xuan as he silently stared at the base of the mountain.

It would not be easy for the contestants to reach the gatekeepers' positions. Of the millions of competitors, less than half of them would reach the checkpoints. This was not only because of the difficulty in ascending Zenith Mountain, but also because of the challenge presented by the other competitors as everyone made their way up to the gatekeepers.

As the gatekeeper, Lu Yin was able to attack at random. If he wished, he could even attack all of the cultivators waiting down below.

Millions of cultivators created a massive horde, yet quantity could never make up for pure quality.

Lu Yin had not expected to be able to watch the battles between elites like Yuhua Mavis and Liu Tianmu. He still remembered the awe and eagerness he had initially felt when hearing about the Ten Arbiters, yet the Ten Arbiters currently had to look up at him.

The lowest points in one's life never lasted forever, and everything depended on one's destiny.

Lu Yin was sure that out of the other Ten Arbiters or even the elites from the Neoverse, no one had gone through as many life and death experiences as he. Lu Yin had even actually died a few times in order to reach his current place.

However, Lu Yin was still not recognized as the pinnacle. He turned and looked up to see the enormous pass further up the mountain. Shang Qing stood there silently, as if a statue. He was surrounded by three streams of qi, and he was floating above the ground.

Lu Yin pouted; nobody looked more like a god than that person. What a poser!

However, due to Shang Qing's ability to summon a past Progenitor from when they had possessed the same cultivation as himself, Shang Qing had been widely acknowledged as the strongest person in the tournament. Nobody would dare claim to be able to defeat a Progenitor when having the same strength, let alone three Progenitors. This was even more true due to the fact that nobody knew who the last Progenitor even was, and it had become the subject of a great deal of speculation.

Only those who had been present for the battle in the Mountain and Seas Zone understood just how helpless it felt to go up against Shang Qing. This Tri-Yang Ancestral Qi Technique was truly invincible.

Yao Xuan, Bu Kong, Zhi Yi, and everyone below them wanted to take first place, yet they all felt that their greatest obstacle was Shang Qing.

Lu Yin let out a long breath. Even with his current strength, he still felt threatened by Shang Qing. People were always scared of the unknown, and Lu Yin was worried about which Progenitor would be the summoned from Shang Qing's third strand of qi.

The sky trembled as a huge ripple spread across all of Zenith Mountain. Somebody released the first roar, and then millions of cultivators simultaneously rushed towards Zenith Mountain.

Although millions of cultivators were surging forward at once, Zenith Mountain was truly enormous and it was not crowded at all, and there was a considerable distance separating all of the contestants from each other.

On the eastern side, Yuhua Mavis was the first to race forward. Although she did not move very fast, she had already spread out grass beneath her feet. The moment the competition started, the grass formed a palm that threw her forward.

Lu Yin was shocked, as this woman was clearly rushing at him.

If this were a normal location, the throw would launch Yuhua Mavis all the way to the peak, yet Zenith Mountain was different, and it was the location chosen for all of the universe's most talented youths to compete against each other.

#### **Chapter 1259: Breeze**

Yuhua Mavis managed to rush forward a thousand meters before finally meeting an opposing force that pushed her downwards. At the same time, a fierce wind began to howl from the peak, and the first person to be struck by it was naturally Yuhua Mavis.

However, she was not overly affected by the wind, though she was still forced downwards by the force, preventing her from simply leaping up the mountain.

Aside from Yuhua Mavis, a lot of other participants similarly wanted to fly towards the peak, but they all met with the same fate. Some unfortunate Limiteers were even heavily injured.

Lu Yin's brows rose up, and his gaze grew sharp as his pupils transformed into runes and scanned the mountain. He could see an endless amount of runes floating around Zenith Mountain, and the number far exceeded what he had seen on the Frost Emperor or Leader Hong. This meant that there were Envoys surrounding Zenith Mountain, ready to ensure that Zenith Mountain would not be destroyed by the various attacks.

Even a mere Limiteer was able to destroy an entire planet, let alone an Enlighter.

Since Zenith Mountain had been chosen as the location for ZENITH, it was definitely tough enough to withstand many attacks.

Additionally, cosmic rings were forbidden during ZENITH, and all external items were similarly restricted the moment the participants stepped onto Zenith Mountain, as a means of ensuring that the competition remained fair.

However, there were certain items that would not be restricted, such as fatesand and personal weapons. These were allowed as long as they were not power vessels.

Although Yuhua Mavis had been forced back, she was still the person closest to Lu Yin, as her first leap had been very powerful.

Yuhua Mavis looked up and locked eyes with Lu Yin. Her eyes flickered, and she bent her knees to jump once again, but then, she suddenly heard some weird noises right next to her. When she turned to the side to look, she saw that some strange lines had transformed into birds, insects, animals, and plants.

These strange creatures suddenly exploded as a weird noise rippled through the area. Yuhua Mavis was momentarily dazed and rooted to the ground.

In addition to Yuhua Mavis, thousands of people on the eastern side of Zenith Mountain were also affected by the explosion, and most of them immediately vomited blood and collapsed. This attack had been launched by Bai Ling, the Realmking from the Sixth Mainland's Grand Martial Realm with her martial print. In the past, she had made quite a name for herself in the Starfall Sea.

This was the first time that Yuhua Mavis had been hit by such an attack, but fortunately, she was very physically strong. Thus, Bai Ling's attack did not greatly affect Yuhua Mavis.

The Treeheart Descendant looked into the distance while Bai Ling looked back at the same time. Bai Ling raised a hand, and Yuhua Mavis felt all sound around her disappear. The sound then transformed into strange lines that took various forms.

"Get down," Bai Ling calmly ordered. She then clenched her fists, and the lines around Yuhua Mavis exploded once again.

Suddenly, Bai Ling's figure flashed away as a huge fist formed from grass appeared right where she had just been standing while a terrifying power sent shockwaves rippling throughout the area. Although Bai Ling managed to dodge the fist itself, the shockwaves still forced her to retreat.

Yuhua Mavis's eyes narrowed. "Don't go looking for trouble."

Bai Ling's expression chilled as she raised an index finger. An invisible force expanded outwards a thousand meters, ten thousand meters, and then a hundred thousand meters...

The entire eastern side of the mountain fell within her attack range, and she intended to use sound to deal with all of the other contestants on this side of the mountain.

Any place with sound was a place where Bai Ling could use her power.

At that same moment, a domain spread out that covered the eastern face of the mountain.

Bai Ling was shocked, and she turned to face a certain direction. Unseen Light had raised his head high. "This is the Fifth Mainland."

His domain transformed into a forcefield that took the shape of a giant that attacked Bai Ling.

Bai Ling's expression grew cold. Countless lines combined to form an enormous beast that clashed against the forcefield.

There was a loud bang.

The eastern face of Zenith Mountain shook, and the millions of cultivators on it were impacted by the powerful shockwaves. Most of them were unable to withstand the force and either directly fainted or were thrown down the mountain.

The battle between Unseen Light and Bai Ling drew the attention of many people watching from beyond Zenith Mountain.

Many cultivators screamed as they watched the situation on their screens.

Everyone had known that ZENITH would be a thrilling competition, but most people had not expected the competition to start off with such a bang. A Realmling from the Sixth Mainland and an Arbiter from the Fifth Mainland had already clashed; they were both elites.

Lu Yin watched their battle from atop the pass that he protected on the eastern side of Zenith Mountain.

Although the battle looked intense, neither one of them had unleashed their full strength, as they were aware that the true competition would take place later on. They both wanted to make it into the top ten, and they knew that having an all-out battle at this point in time would just benefit others.

However, even though they were just casually feeling each other out, their battle was not something that the other participants were qualified to join, as they were simply on vastly different levels.

Yuhua Mavis did not bother stepping in to fight Bai Ling. Instead, she continued rushing up—her only goal at this moment was Lu Yin.

She had not forgotten about Lu Yin's comment, and in truth, everyone from the Mavis family was very impulsive. Although Yuhua Mavis had a quiet appearance and loved to read on a grassy plain, that was simply because nobody was able to ruffle her. However, Lu Yin had succeeded. She wanted to know why Lu Yin would say such a thing and why he was qualified to be one of the five gatekeepers.

At the same time, thousands of meters away from Bai Ling and Unseen Light's battle, Gu Xiao'er excitedly stared at a Celestial Ice Phoenix flying above him. It was the most beautiful creature that he had ever seen.

Gu Xiao'er had always wanted to capture an impressive and beautiful creature to use as his mount, and this looked like his best chance.

This Celestial Ice Phoenix was Feng Liu, and she had just flown past Gu Xiao'er. She had been added to Skymender's List to replace someone who had died as she was the strongest member of the Celestial Ice Phoenix clan's younger generation, and she far surpassed Feng Jiu, who had participated in the Tournament of the Strongest.

Most of the participants in ZENITH were from the Fifth Mainland's Human Domain, and since the Human Domain was enemies with the Astral Beast Domain, most of the human participants targeted the participating astral beasts in an unspoken agreement.

However, since Feng Liu was one of the Astral Beast Domain's representatives, she was far stronger than most of the humans, and she had frozen thousands of participants in one move, including some people from the Sixth Mainland.

The Celestial Ice Phoenixes possessed both tricolored rays as well as extremely cold ice. Their rays could melt everything, and the stronger the phoenixes became, the stronger their tricolored rays would be.

As tricolored rays swept through the area, Gu Xiao'er yelped out and quickly dodged away.

"You're going to be my ride. Don't run!" Gu Xiao'er screamed as he chased after Feng Liu.

Feng Liu's beautiful eyes grew cold, and a pale blue light radiated out from her body that spread out, freezing the sky.

Gu Xiao'er started huffing and puffing, and soon, a strange smoke appeared. Although it looked quite delicate, the smoke managed to isolate the cold, and Gu Xiao'er followed the path opened up by the smoke to leap onto Feng Liu's back. "Hahahaha! Now I have a ride!"

Lu Yin was stunned; this guy was too obnoxious! He suddenly remembered that the Ghost Monkey had always claimed that the Celestial Ice Phoenixes were a part of his harem. If that monkey saw Gu Xiao'er riding Feng Liu, he would be livid.

Lu Yin was unaware that the monkey had indeed seen this scene and was absolutely furious.

As the Ghost Monkey stared at the screen showing Gu Xiao'er riding on Feng Liu, the monkey screamed, "I won't forgive you, you bastard! Don't let me meet you, as I'll kill you! How dare you touch Feng Liu! I'll kill you! I'll kill you!"

The monkey was angry whereas Feng Liu was humiliated. "You stupid human, die!"

Feng Liu transformed into a beautiful, long haired girl wearing a blue dress.

Before Gu Xiao'er could even react, Feng Liu raised a hand and tapped her finger against the sky. A terrible cold froze the sky around Gu Xiao'er.

However, the cold was held back by Gu Xiao'er's smoke and was unable to hurt him.

Feng Liu was shocked to discover that this smoke was powerful enough to withstand her attack.

Although the smoke was not frozen, Gu Xiao'er could still feel how cold Feng Liu's ability was. He suddenly realized that the phoenix he was targeting was not an easy opponent. "Hey, I'll just leave for now. Remember my name, it's Gu Xiao'er."

He then shrouded himself in smoke and turned around to flee.

Suddenly, a huge shadow covered Gu Xiao'er's entire body. He raised his head, and his mouth fell open in shock. "What a huge lion."

A huge blue lion stared down at him. His left eye was made of wind while his right eye was made of fire, and his body emanated a terrifying aura. The lion then swiped a paw at Gu Xiao'er.

Gu Xiao'er was instantly slammed to the ground.

Cursewind was the one who had attacked Gu Xiao'er. This blue lion was another powerhouse on Skymender's List, and he had recently become an Enlighter, making him one of the strongest competitors in ZENITH.

Feng Liu grew annoyed. "Cursewind, I don't need your help."

Cursewind answered in a cold voice. "You're too gentle."

"You from the Astral Beast Domain, so prepare to die." Someone suddenly attacked both Cursewind and Feng Liu.

Cursewind snorted, and although he did not make any large movements, a storm suddenly appeared and descended upon the area. Although it did not look very powerful, any cultivators that tried to attack Cursewind screamed the moment they touched the storm.

A bone chilling wind and soul burning fire—this was Cursewind. He was a powerhouse comparable to Yao Gu and the others on Skymender's List, and he could absolutely compare to the Ten Arbiters.

Up on the mountain pass, Lu Yin watched the battles breaking out beneath him. His attention was drawn to Cursewind, as Lu Yin had a strong impression of the blue lion. Cursewind had been one of the first powerhouses among the younger generation that Lu Yin had ever fought. He lifted his finger and gently flicked it.

People were always paying attention to Lu Yin, as the various broadcasts that were being played around the universe showed the various scenes taking place across the mountain, and most cameras were focused on the most powerful youths.

There were also feeds entirely focused on the five gatekeepers. Even if the five were not moving, there would always be cameras focused on them.

The moment Lu Yin moved his hand, countless people switched their focus onto him.

A breeze was sent out by his finger flick, and it landed at the foot of the mountain and struck Cursewind.

Cursewind turned and saw the approaching breeze. When he looked to see where the wind had come from, he instantly saw Lu Yin's arrogant expression and grew furious. "You're insane."

The lion's bone chilling wind grew into a powerful gale that moved to clash against the breeze.

When the breeze struck the gale, the gale was shredded apart in a mere second. The breeze then swept past Cursewind's enormous body and pierced into the mountain, leaving behind a deep cave.

Cursewind stared at Lu Yin in disbelief. How was this possible? It had been less than ten years since the two had last fought, and back then, there had been a huge power difference between them. Even though humans improved faster than beasts, it still was impossible to reverse the power gap in such an extreme manner.

Lu Yin smirked and turned away from Cursewind to focus on another part of the mountain's eastern face. He had noticed the Thirteen Swords appearing there, as Liu Tianmu had launched an attack against Xin Nü.

### **Chapter 1260: Lu Yin's Power**

Cursewind's bone chilling wind slowly dissipated, though some of it scattered onto the ground where it injured some unlucky participants.

Lu Yin had overwhelmed that bone chilling wind by just flicking a finger and sending out a small breeze, which terribly confused both Cursewind and Feng Liu. Cursewind was an Enlighter, and even though his bone chilling wind was not his most powerful move due to its ability of corroding his enemies to the bone, it still should not have been so easily overpowered.

The only explanation was that Lu Yin was far more powerful than the others.

"His pure strength has reached a level that only Star Devourer can overcome," Feng Liu said solemnly as she kept a wary eye on Lu Yin. She recalled how upset Feng Jiu had looked after returning from her defeat during the Tournament of the Strongest.

Fortunately, Feng Jiu had not come to ZENITH, as she would have been in huge trouble if she had impulsively challenged Lu Yin.

Lu Yin had improved tremendously, and if he was truly just as strong as the other gatekeepers, then it would be hard for them to accomplish the mission that their master had given them.

Cursewind stood in the sky, unable to go any further without being forced down to the ground like Yuhua Mavis.

"Cursewind, don't attack yet. Don't forget Master's mission."

Cursewind was unwilling, but he ultimately stopped challenging Lu Yin. He descended to the mountainside, his landing causing the mountain to shake.

Gu Xiao'er had been secretly watching the astral beasts from a distance. When he saw that the two beasts had tried to challenge Lu Yin, he had been surprised by their guts. After all, Lu Yin was an absolute genius.

Of the millions of people on Zenith Mountain's eastern side, there were not that many Explorers, as most of the competitors were from the Fifth Mainland's Inverse and Outverse, and most of them were Limiteers.

Liu Tianmu continued to fight against Xin Nü. Countless shockwaves spread throughout the area, causing most of the competitors to hastily retreat, and some unlucky ones were even instantly killed.

Even Lu Yin at his peak power when he had been a Limiteer would not have been able to endure the shockwaves from Liu Tianmu's battle, let alone the Limiteers participating in ZENITH.

Liu Tianmu represented the Fifth Mainland and the Inverse's Ten Arbiters. And since most of the participants were also from the Fifth Mainland, they naturally hoped for Liu Tianmu's victory. However, Lu Yin was actually rooting for Xin Nü.

Xin Nü had helped him multiple times, and he always felt a familial connection whenever he met with Xin Nü. Regardless of which side people were on, Lu Yin cared more about who treated him well.

Liu Tianmu had rarely interacted with Lu Yin, and the Sword Sect had actually become one of his adversaries.

Liu Tianmu stood across from Xin Nü on a corner of the mountain's eastern face. Xin Nü frowned, as Liu Tianmu wasn't an easy opponent. She had fought against Zhi Yi with just a sword, and even Zhi Yi had been unable to secure a quick victory.

Liu Tianmu was also very wary of Xin Nü. Xin Nü was able to dissolve the swordswoman's attacks, and she was clearly a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker.

Before the start of ZENITH, nobody had known that there would be five Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker among the participants—the only publicly known Boundless Advanced Lockbreakers were Bu Kong, Qiu Shi, Wu Dan, and Lu Yin.

Every Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker presented a huge threat, as their control of star energy was terrifying for their opponents to have to deal with.

Liu Tianmu had exceptional skills, but she was also feeling frustrated due to how her star energy was being suppressed.

She unleashed her domain before suddenly contracting it. She then launched an attack—the Thirteen Swords's Fifth Sword, sword and domain as one.

Xin Nü's expression changed slightly as she could tell that this particular attack was unavoidable. Every move that she made was being monitored by her opponent's domain, and Xin Nü had a feeling that she would be injured when the sword drew close.

Lu Yin's eyes widened, and he instinctively wanted to help Xin Nü.

Xin Nü raised a hand, and her palm met the tip of the sword, slightly diverting the attack. At the same time, her left hand shot forwards towards Liu Tianmu.

Liu Tianmu instantly dodged aside while using the Sixth Sword, which was a defensive stance.

Xin Nü's attack did not strike Liu Tianmu, though the shockwave did hit an unlucky individual.

At the same time, Liu Tianmu's attack traveled a vast distance and struck numerous people.

The two girls were not injured by the two attacks, but the people nearby had. For example, Xun Jiong had been unfortunate enough to be in the way.

When ZENITH had commenced, all of the competitors had been randomly assigned to one of the four mountain faces, and Xun Jiong had been assigned to the eastern face.

When Xun Jiong saw that Lu Yin was the gatekeeper for his side, he had been devastated. He had hoped to rush through the mountain pass along with a large group of people so that Lu Yin would not notice him.

With Xu Jiong's ability and position in the Xun family, his family would never let the matter go if he was unable to even pass the first checkpoint of the competition.

Thus, he had always kept a low profile, not even talking back when random people had challenged him. By doing so, he had simply followed along the crowd, but the group that he had been a part of had been suddenly implicated by Liu Tianmu's attack.

Xun Jiong was quite powerful. He was only an Explorer, though not even a Cruiser or a Hunter could endure Liu Tianmu's Fifth Sword. Thus, Xun Jiong's left arm was sliced off, and he was eliminated from ZENITH.

Nearly a hundred people were affected by the attack, and all of them were immediately eliminated.

These were just the people who had been affected by Liu Tianmu's attack; Xin Nu's attack had struck Hart Phoenix. He was Arbiter Serati Phoenix's younger brother, and he had once fought against Lu Yin back when they had both been students at the Astral Combat Academy. Ever since Hart Phoenix had become an Explorer, he had hoped to make a name for himself. Although he recognized that he was not as strong as Lu Yin or the other Arbiters, he still felt that he could break into the Top Hundred Rankings.

However, he suddenly fainted because of Xin Nü's attack. What did it matter if he was an Undying Bird? The attack that struck him far exceeded his limit, and he was instantly eliminated.

Both Xun Jiong and Hart Phoenix possessed the strength to join the true competition of ZENITH and clear the first checkpoints. Both of them had enough strength where the gatekeepers should not cause too much trouble for them, and they should have been able to easily pass the first checkpoints.

However, they had both been very unlucky.

Another unfortunate person was Young Master Zhi. Most people did not know much about him, but if people knew about his background, they would be shocked.

He was the heir to Aurora Enterprises and had participated in the battle for the Cosmic Five. Although he had not done much at that time, he had still been qualified to participate in the battle.

He had been eliminated by the Little Arrow Saint when the Little Arrow Saint had unleashed a wave of arrows, eliminating thousands of contestants at once. If not for the Little Arrow Saint wanting to catch up to Yuhua Mavis, then he would have continued eliminating more contestants.

Yuhua Mavis still held the lead on the eastern face.

The people from the Sixth Mainland did not want to allow someone from the Fifth Mainland to clear the checkpoint first. And since Lu Yin was the gatekeeper, the Little Arrow Saint felt certain that Lu Yin would not cause trouble for Yuhua Mavis. Thus, the Realmling focused his attacks on her.

From the peak of Zenith Mountain, larger waves crashed down like ocean waves.

Countless screams rang out as the waves eliminated tens of thousands of contestants.

Although they were quite powerful, Coco and Zora had also already been eliminated. Neither of them had been able to endure the waves cascading down the mountain or the ambushes from the Sixth Mainland cultivators. Thus, they had eventually been eliminated.

Typically, people would not continue attacking anyone who had already given up and was voluntarily descending the mountain. After all, nothing was more important than continuing with the competition.

Coco and Zora's elimination attracted Lu Yin's attention. He had been watching the battle between Liu Tianmu and Xin Nü closely, but he had not expected Coco and Zora to be eliminated so soon. He saw excited expressions on the faces of the Sixth Mainland cultivators who had eliminated them and frowned before gently flicking his fingers.

Several winds struck the cultivators who had eliminated Coco and Zora, instantly crippling them. Hong Ying looked up at Lu Yin and then turned to look at the Sixth Mainland cultivators who he had attacked. She ignored them and even distanced herself from them.

However, Lu Yin had not forgotten about her. The other cultivators from the Sixth Mainland had just been random people to Lu Yin whereas the people he actually felt the need to eliminate were those like Hong Ying.

As Lu Yin turned to Hong Ying, nine lined battle force appeared over his fingertip, which caused many people to shout out in surprise.

It was extremely rare for someone so young to cultivate nine lined battle force. That, when coupled with Lu Yin's physical strength, meant that this blow would be enough to eliminate half of the competitors.

Although Lu Yin was close to the bottom of the list of forecasted finalists, nobody could deny his strength. It was just that the people rated above him were truly insanely powerful.

When Lu Yin's nine lined battle force appeared, Hong Ying raised her head and met Lu Yin's gaze. She saw him bend his finger, causing her to panic and race in another direction. She would much rather move to another side of the mountain than face Lu Yin.

Even in the Starfall Sea, she had not been his opponent, and Lu Yin had improved far too much in the short time since then. Thus, Hong Ying was absolutely terrified.

However, it would not be so easy for her to escape.

Lu Yin flicked his finger. This time, the wind tore the sky apart and created a spatial crack that appeared in front of Hong Ying.

Lu Yin had not held back at all. Hong Ying had also not held back when killing countless Fifth Mainland cultivators in the Starfall Sea, and her victims had even included Lan Si's younger brother, Lan Yu.

Hong Ying was shocked, as this finger strike was very threatening to her. Madam Hong's image instantly appeared behind the young woman as Hong Ying counterattacked. Her martial print appeared as she had been forced to use her full strength to contend with the breeze that Lu Yin had casually sent towards her.

Hong Ying's spear snapped in half as the wind shot through the red spear and shattered her martial print. It struck Hong Ying heavily and continued on through her shoulder before entering the ground.

Hong Ying spat out a mouthful of blood as her imprint disappeared. A massive force flung her away, and she fell down the mountain.

At the same moment, in Chaos Flowzone's western region, countless people from the Sixth Mainland were left stunned.

Hong Ying, the heir to the Grand Martial Realm's Flying Horse Manor, someone who was second only to their Realmling Bai Ling, had just been eliminated. She had recently become a Hunter, and she could almost stand on par with Bai Ling. But despite all that, she had been completely defeated by a mere breeze.

Most of the Sixth Mainland cultivators who were on Lu Yin's side of the mountain had not initially cared much about him. They had heard of his background and assumed that he had only been given his position as a gatekeeper due to his reputation. Although they all knew that he was powerful, they still felt that he did not qualify to be a gatekeeper. Even after he had merely flicked his finger and used a breeze to defeat Cursewind, they had not been impressed.

However, at this moment, all of them fell silent; Lu Yin had just defeated Hong Ying by flicking a finger. Could a Realmling do that?

Countless people across the universe watched Lu Yin in awe; he turned out to be much stronger than they had expected.

Bai Ling saw what had happened and threw a cautious eye to Lu Yin. Her voice rang out. "Everybody hide—don't reveal who you are and just try to get past this checkpoint."

She also felt threatened. Bai Ling was well aware of Hong Ying's strength, and although Hong Ying was weaker than Bai Ling, she definitely could not defeat Hong Ying by flicking a single finger. The fact that Lu Yin could do so meant that he was much stronger than what they had assumed. Bai Ling did not want the Sixth Mainland's cultivators to be singled out and eliminated by this gatekeeper.