

Star Odyssey

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Chapter 1757: Qing Cao

Lu Yin could see from the rune lines of this poisonous gas, and it was as strong as Enlighters, which made it extremely dangerous. Still, the old man had even more runes, which meant that he had no problem walking through the gas. In fact, it even looked like the old man was studying something.

The most interesting thing of all was the old man's identity, as he was wearing clothes with Windrift Hall's emblem on them.

Lu Yin exited his vessel and made his way towards the old man.

The old man was wearing a white robe, and he was staring intently at one of the strange little flowers that grew within the poisonous gas.

Lu Yin did not want to bother the old man, so he just stood behind him, waiting. More than ten hours passed until the small flower finally wilted. The old man suddenly moved, and his hand shot out to grab hold of the flower. There was a satisfied smile on his face as he collected it.

"May I ask what Senior is doing?" Lu Yin asked. He did not raise his voice, but due to the absolute silence in the area, the old man was quite startled.

He turned around, an ugly expression on his face, but he let out a sigh of relief when he saw the curiosity in Lu Yin's eyes. The man patted his chest. "Young man, do you know that it's possible to scare people to death?"

Lu Yin quickly apologized, "I'm really sorry. This junior didn't mean to startle you."

The old man waved a hand dismissively. "I know. You must have been waiting here for quite a while."

"A bit more than ten hours."

The old man admired Lu Yin's patience. "You waited here more than ten hours without disturbing me? You're pretty good. Actually, young man, have we met before? You seem rather familiar."

Lu Yin smiled. "This junior is Lu Yin."

The old man thought for a moment before suddenly exclaiming, "Lu Yin? I remember now—you're the leader of the Great Eastern Alliance. You must need something quite important."

Lu Yin said, "It's nothing too important. I just wanted to ask for Senior's name."

"I am Qing Cao," the old man said with a smile.

Lu Yin was surprised. "The master of Windrift Hall? That Master Qing Cao?"

The old man smiled and waved a hand dismissively. "It's nothing worth mentioning."

Lu Yin was quite impressed, as he had not expected this old man to be the master of Windrift Hall. Even though it was not a particularly large power, its members were all well respected individuals because they all healed and saved other people. They had no connection to any other organization, and they had no conflicts of interest either. They simply wanted to help save the world.

If Shamrock Enterprise was a company that manufactured pharmaceuticals purely due to their desire for profits, then Windrift Hall was a place that was formed on the basis of kindness.

The truth was that cultivation encouraged cruelty and ruthlessness, which was why Lu Yin had never believed that a group like Windrift Hall could actually exist. Even if a power was established on such principles, things would change over time. However, Windrift Hall had not changed; it had always remained the same.

This was also why when Lu Yin had seen that the old man was from Windrift Hall, he had not left or disturbed him. Lu Yin had instead stayed, mostly hoping to help the old man if possible. After all, Lu Yin had been helped by Windrift Hall before. When Lu Yin had been at the pirate port with Zhuo Daynight, Windrift Hall's Zeng Die had saved the girl. Also, Lu Yin had a good relationship with both Coco and Zora; overall, Lu Yin had a very good impression of Windrift Hall.

Windrift Hall was a place that deserved respect.

"Windrift Hall helps the world and saves people. This junior had been helped by Windrift Hall in the past, and Master Qing Cao has done much to help others in the universe. This junior is genuinely grateful." Lu Yin sincerely expressed his appreciation.

Master Qing Cao smiled. "There's no need to concern yourself with that. Windrift Hall is able to cure diseases and save people, but part of why I do such things is that I enjoy studying pharmacology, and I also am not by any means short of money. This is why I can often help others for free. However, things will become quite different if I end up broke, haha."

Lu Yin smiled. "If Windrift Hall ever ends up short of funds, this junior would be happy to help."

"Then I'll offer Alliance Leader Lu my thanks. I've long since heard that you are quite wealthy, so this old man won't be shy." Master Qing Cao remained calm and did not refuse Lu Yin's gesture.

Lu Yin looked out at the poison gas before them. "What did Master Qing Cao just do?"

"Venom Flowzone is sick, so I am treating it."

Lu Yin was stunned for a moment, and he blinked, as he did not understand the old man at all. "Master Qing Cao, what do you mean?"

Master Qing Cao smiled and repeated himself. "Venom Flowzone is sick, so I'm treating it."

Lu Yin looked around. "I guess so."

Master Qing Cao laughed. "Do you understand?"

"Not at all."

Master Qing Cao smiled. "Life is truly miraculous. It is capable of self-repair and can expel harmful substances. For example, when people get sick, there are some minor illnesses that can be healed without outside assistance because of life's innate ability to protect itself. Venom Flowzone is also a form of life—the poison is its blood, and the planets form its meridians. At the moment, it is sick, so I want to find the cause."

Lu Yin finally understood. "This junior understands what you're saying, but how do you treat such a disease?"

Master Qing Cao shook his head. "I don't know. I've been studying this place for hundreds of years, but I still can't find the source of this sickness."

"How do you know that Venom Flowzone is sick?"

"It's quite easy to see that the poisonous gasses are moving about abnormally. It's just like when a human's breathing is wrong."

"You can see this?"

"You can't?"

Lu Yin was left speechless. Still, everyone has their own abilities. If an ordinary person was asked to observe another person's rune lines, it would be impossible for them to

see anything at all. Qing Cao was able to see Venom Flowzone from a completely different perspective than Lu Yin.

"I know that you can't see it," Qing Cao continued quietly.

Lu Yin pursed his lips. He had first believed that Qing Cao was an honest and straightforward person, but why would the old man ask such a question if he already knew the answer?

"Let me give you something." Master Qing Cao took a piece of grass out from his cosmic ring and handed it over to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's eyes lit up; green grass? Just like Master Qing Cao's name. Could this grass be a natural treasure? While surprised, Lu Yin did not feel such a thing was completely unexpected. While Master Qing Cao was just an Enlightener, his power level was more than 400,000. The man was mostly admired for his skills in healing and his eagerness to heal and save people, not his personal strength.

Even if this green grass was a rare natural treasure, it could not be anything too impressive.

Lu Yin took the grass and studied it. He frowned, as there were no runes at all. No matter how he looked at it, it was the most ordinary sort of grass.

"Senior, what is this?" Lu Yin felt quite puzzled.

Master Qing Cao solemnly replied, "Grass."

"This junior knows that much."

"Then why ask?"

Lu Yin hesitated. "Why did you give me a blade of grass?"

Master Qing Cao grew serious. "Look, when the day comes that you are able to see this grass observing you, you should also be able to see Venom Flowzone's breath. In this universe, every natural order has its own breath and its own life."

Lu Yin blinked. While this sounded quite profound and quite logical, why did it also feel rather strange?

Suddenly, Lu Yin remembered something else and he asked, "Do battle techniques also have breath?"

Master Qing Cao glanced over at Lu Yin in surprise, and he voiced his admiration. "Young man, that's quite perceptive."

"So, do battle techniques have breath?"

"Are you asking me? I thought you already knew. Keep working at it." Master Qing Cao sighed.

Lu Yin left, as Master Qing Cao wanted to remain where he was and continue his research. There was no need for Lu Yin to be concerned with the old man's safety, as he had already been in Venom Flowzone for hundreds of years.

Before leaving, Lu Yin asked about Coco and the other people he knew from Windrift Hall, as he had not seen any of them for a long time. However, Master Qing Cao could not answer, as he had absolutely no idea who any of the people Lu Yin asked about were.

There was a massive landmass in the center of Venom Flowzone that was known as the Divine Venom Continent. It was surrounded by poisonous gas, and rumors claimed that Venom Flowzone's oldest and most powerful creatures lived beneath the landmass, but no one knew what creatures there might be.

At the center of the continent, there was a city known as Venom King City, which was the capital of the Divine Venom Dynasty. It was ruled by the Qing family, which had established the city as the capital from which they ruled the entire Divine Venom Dynasty.

It was not easy for outsiders to get access to the Divine Venom Continent, and each person had to go through stringent identity checks before entering the continent. They also had to have a token from the Divine Venom Dynasty, which gave people the ability to resist the countless poisonous creatures that lived on the Divine Venom Continent.

Of course, this only applied to ordinary cultivators. For people like the Second Nightking, the Divine Venom Continent, Venom King City, and even the Divine Venom Dynasty's imperial palace were perfectly accessible and safe to enter.

"Second Nightking?" Qing Shaohuang blurted out in shock as he stared at a man relaxing in the imperial garden while quietly enjoying a drink.

Even though the Divine Venom Dynasty was sealed off, they were not completely isolated from the outside world. They remained quite aware and informed about major events that occurred, but their focus was simply different. They were merely concerned about whether or not any major events would affect Venom Flowzone.

For example, both battles between Envoys and the war between the Daynight clan and the Great Eastern Alliance had garnered attention, particularly so the current situation regarding the Daynight clan. After all, the Divine Venom Dynasty and the Daynight clan have an inseparable relationship.

Qing Shaohuang had always paid attention to news regarding the Second Nightking. There was when the ancient powerhouse had left the Celestial Frost Sect's ruins, the prison break that had occurred in Gaia's Swamp that had allowed the Second Nightking to escape, and how the man had become wanted by the Hall of Honor; Qing Shaohuang had paid attention to all of these details.

The imperial garden was quite beautiful, and it was full of all kinds of exotic flowers and plants that were in full bloom. This place was not as poisonous as many people would expect.

As for the Second Nightking, he lowered his wine glass and calmly looked over at Qing Shaohuang. "You look a great deal like your ancestor."

Qing Shaohuang glanced around, but the guards patrolling around the garden acted no differently than usual. They were likely being controlled by the Second Nightking, as it would have been otherwise impossible for them to show absolutely no reaction to his presence. No one in the entire imperial palace had sensed the Second Nightking's arrival or presence. The emperor's heart sank; if the Second Nightking wanted to attack, the emperor would most likely not be able to escape.

"Junior Qing Shaohuang greets Senior Second Nightking." Qing Shaohuang stepped forward and bowed in the manner of a junior. He behaved in a very respectful manner.

The Second Nightking stood up. "The Third Nightking was the one who helped your family found your empire, but we all knew what he was doing at that time and allowed it."

Qing Shaohuang expressed his gratitude. "Many thanks to the Daynight family for the help that they gave my Qing clan."

"Back then, there was only one person in the Qing family who barely managed to become an Envoy, which was the first emperor, Qing Fan. However, right now, your strength exceeds what he achieved. If I still possessed my strength from back then and not what I have achieved more recently, I might not even be able to compare to you." The Second Nightking sighed.

Qing Shaohuang grew solemn. "The Daynight clan's kindness towards my Qing clan is something that can never be repaid. Senior is like an ancestor to my Qing clan."

"Very well." The Second Nightking stared at Qing Shaohuang. "I had thought that your Qing clan had forgotten about your original oath, but since you remember, then can you help me? With this, there will be no debts between us."

Qing Shaohuang instantly became serious. "Senior, please tell."

Hatred filled the Second Nightking's eyes. "I want Lu Yin to die."

Qing Shaohuang was startled. "Senior, this-"

"What? Is there a problem?" The Second Nightking stared at Qing Shaohuang with cold eyes.

Qing Shaohuang answered in a solemn tone, "Lu Yin is visiting the Divine Venom Dynasty because he was personally invited by this junior. If he dies while here, my Divine Venom Dynasty would lose the entire universe's trust."

Chapter 1758: Local Produce

The Second Nightking laughed at Qing Shaohuang's response. "Are you trying to say that you wouldn't do anything to Lu Yin without my request?"

Qing Shaohuang's expression twitched slightly, but he just stared at the Second Nightking. "What are you trying to say, Senior?"

"The current situation of the Inniverse is clear at a glance. The Sword Sect has been trying to work with you for some time, and you would not have invited Lu Yin here for no reason. Since you have invited him, you must have some sort of plan. While I might not know what exactly you hope to do, it has to be related to poison. Making your position clear is your best option here, as you want to show that your Divine Venom Dynasty has no intention of getting involved with the outside world," the Second Nightking coldly stated.

Qing Shaohuang felt embarrassed, and his mind started racing. He was already aware of the Second Nightking's hatred for Lu Yin, as the youth had destroyed the Daynight clan, ruined their ancestral grounds, and released the Dayking clan from their enslavement. In truth, even if the Second Nightking had not been imprisoned in Gaia's Swamp, he still would have possessed enough motivation to kill Lu Yin a million times over.

However, Lu Yin could not be killed while he was in the Divine Venom Dynasty, and neither could the Second Nightking be allowed to move against the youth. Even though the Divine Venom Dynasty had isolated themselves from the outside world, they were not completely cut off. Not to mention, the powerhouses supporting Lu Yin could easily deal with all of Venom Flowzone by themselves.

If the Divine Venom Dynasty did not feel fear, they would have never considered cooperating with the Sword Sect and the other Inniverse powers, but it was precisely because of the threat that Qing Shaohuang felt from Lu Yin that he was considering joining the Inniverse in working against Lu Yin.

Qing Shaohuang stared at the Second Nightking, unsure of how to refuse the ancient powerhouse's request. The only option was to agree as much as possible. "Senior, this junior will help you."

The Second Nightking nodded. "Good. I don't want Lu Yin to live to see the outside of Venom Flowzone."

"If Senior takes action, you will be exposing yourself. This-"

Qing Shaohuang tried to bring up an objection, but the Second Nightking just sneered. "Given the size of the Fifth Mainland, it's not difficult to find somewhere to hide."

"Senior can hide within my Divine Venom Dynasty," Qing Shaohuang offered.

The Second Nightking shot the emperor a cold look. "We'll talk about it later."

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A few days later, Lu Yin finally saw the Divine Venom Continent from his spacecraft.

From a distance, the Divine Venom Continent looked like a monster lying in space that was emitting a strange gas. He stared at the landmass as he thought of the rumors claiming that there was a terrifying poison beneath it.

Lu Yin was still very interested in poison. Long ago, Elder Wu's poisons had been a great deal of help to him. There had to be a poison in the Divine Venom Dynasty that Lu Yin could Enhance to a level where it would threaten even experts with power levels of more than a million. Like that Transience poison... Lu Yin felt that he would need to pay the king a visit.

Given Lu Yin's status, he was welcomed by King Qing Li, who was Qing Shaohuang's younger brother. In other words, Qing Li was among the top three people in the entire Divine Venom Dynasty. Even if Qing Longlong, the first princess, saw Qing Li, she would only refer to him as uncle. He was one of the few people in the entire empire who was qualified to know about Transience and use it.

Qing Li did not want to be the one to greet Lu Yin, but Qing Shaohuang had ordered the king to go. Given the fact that either Qing Li or Qing Shaohuang would have to greet Lu Yin, there was no way for Qing Li to refuse.

Lu Yin smiled when he saw Qing Li appear to welcome him.

The king despaired when he saw Lu Yin's smile, as he could still remember how much he had suffered when he had last seen Lu Yin; he had almost confessed to wetting the bed as a child at that time. Still, Qing Li forced out a smile. "Welcome, Alliance Leader Lu, to the Divine Venom Dynasty. You're a welcome guest to my Venom King City."

Lu Yin smiled back and said, "So it's Qing Li. This isn't our first time meeting."

Qing Li smiled back. "Of course not, Alliance Leader Lu. Please, follow me."

Lu Yin followed Qing Li towards the Divine Venom Continent. The sky was overcast and misty, but it was still possible to make out the outline of the continent from a bird's eye view.

The Divine Venom Continent actually looked no different from an ordinary landmass, as it had mountains and rivers, but there were also strange patterns that covered the land, and some places actually contained poisoned corpses that could easily be seen.

As they moved along, Qing Li shared information about the land with Lu Yin. The visiting Lu Yin was quite interested in this place, and he already saw it as something that would eventually belong to him. In his mind, learning more about it would never hurt.

"Your Highness, do you still remember what I said back then?" Lu Yin suddenly asked as the two of them were wandering about the sky above the Divine Venom Continent. At this moment, they were close to Venom King City.

Qing Li's eyes flickered. "I don't really have any interest in the outside world, but thank you, Alliance Leader Lu, for your kindness."

Lu Yin expressed his disappointment. "Regardless of how beautiful the scenery in Venom Flowzone might be, it's just one place, and it's honestly too small. Even the outside world is like that—there's just the Inniverse, the Outerverse, the Cosmic Sea, the Neoverse, the 3,000 hidden worlds, and the rest of the Fifth Mainland. However, the massive region beyond the Fifth Mainland is truly fascinating. With Your Highness's strength, it really is a pity that you aren't able to go out and explore."

"A place beyond the Fifth Mainland? Are you referring to the Sixth Mainland?" Qing Li asked. Before the Sixth Mainland had invaded them, not even Qing Shaohuang had known about the existence of the Sixth Mainland. But afterwards, almost every cultivator in the entire Fifth Mainland had learned of them.

However, there was only the Fifth and the Sixth Mainlands.

Lu Yin shook his head. "Aeternus took over the entire Sixth Mainland. I'm talking about another place."

Qing Li was stunned. "Another place?"

Lu Yi was surprised. "Did your brother not tell you about this? There's another place where people can still become Progenitors."

Qing Li's expression grew sharp, and he instantly froze in place. Every cultivator's greatest dream was to one day become a Progenitor. Even someone who had only just started cultivating would dream about reaching the apex as a Progenitor, even if they knew that their chances were not even one in ten billion. Qing Li was no different. He

was the closest person to the threshold of the Envoy realm in the Divine Venom Dynasty, and he naturally also dreamed about one day becoming a Progenitor. Still, he knew that his dream was too far out of reach.

Lu Yin continued moving along without pausing, and Qing Li hurried to catch back up. "Alliance Leader Lu, where is this place where one can become a Progenitor?"

Lu Yin indifferently replied, "Go ask your brother. If he hasn't told you yet, he must have a reason."

Qing Li's eyes flashed; was Lu Yin trying to instigate something between them? Seeing Lu Yin's serious expression, the king felt confident that Lu Yin was trying to sow doubt into his relationship with Qing Shaohuang. Still, the desire to become a Progenitor was too strong. Was it possible that Qing Shaohuang really did know about such a place? If so, why would he have never told him about it?

"Is that Venom King City right in front of us? Your Highness, could you show me around?" Lu Yin asked, and Qing Li hurried to catch up once again.

"Yes, that's Venom King City, Alliance Leader Lu."

Venom King City was surrounded by high walls, and water poured down from them like waterfalls. Mist shrouded the river, but this mist was not the normal white color, but rather iridescent as it was actually spat out by giant toads that crouched along the walls.

Lu Yin observed the wall surrounding Venom King City in surprise.

He stared at the wall as the enormous toads spat out rainbow-colored balls at regular intervals. Each of the orbs would strike a pillar above the city, and then shatter. Rainbow colors then rained down upon the city.

With the number of giant toads contributing to the mist, the iridescent mist was able to cover the entire city.

"What are those toads?" Lu Yin asked in surprise.

Qing Li proudly answered, "Those are not just any ordinary toads but rainbow toads. While they aren't aggressive, they are an extremely poisonous species that our Divine Venom Dynasty has bred. The rainbow-colored balls that they spit out strike the poisonous heart pillar of Venom King City, and the mist that is produced by that combination is something that even Envoys fear."

Lu Yin entered the true universe and tried to move into the city through that method, only to be caught off guard when he discovered that the iridescent fog also surrounded the area in the true universe that corresponded to Venom King City.

"While Envoys are able to enter Venom King City through the true universe, their bodies will still be contaminated by the iridescent mist's poison, which means that they will be discovered the moment they enter the city. Only peak experts are strong enough to avoid the mist, and those powerhouses are strong enough to easily enter the city without needing to sneak in, as my Venom King City would welcome such powerhouses with all the respect that they are due," Qing Li explained.

Lu Yin nodded and then praised, "This is the first time I've ever seen such a defensive method."

Qing Li smiled. "This is not a means of defense, but rather just a warning system. Anyone weaker than an Envoy can't force their way in while even Envoys will be discovered."

"How do ordinary people enter?"

"They just need to have a token from Venom King City. Those tokens naturally repel the rainbow mist, so they allow anyone can enter."

"What if an enemy grabs a token?"

"Each person's token is unique," Qing Li said as he lifted a hand to show a common-looking token that had the character for venom on it that he handed over to Lu Yin. "This is yours, Alliance Leader Lu."

Lu Yin took the token and then saw a series of nine digits on it.

"The number entered the first time must precisely match the number entered after in order to open the token's compartment and release the substance that repels the iridescent mist. Without that, the tokens are useless. By the way, there's only one chance to enter the number," the king explained.

Lu Yin was left speechless; was this any different from a password? With something as ancient-looking as these tokens, he had assumed that they would be bound to a person by blood or some other method, though he would not have been willing to bind it with his blood.

While Venom King City's defenses seemed quite impressive at a glance, Lu Yin's opinion of it dropped substantially after he learned how the tokens worked.

Qing Li led the way, so Lu Yin easily entered the city.

Venom King City was quite lively, and the clothing style of the Divine Venom Dynasty was quite unique. Lu Yin's eyes lit up when he saw what the local people were wearing.

No matter what sort of impression the outside world had of the Divine Venom Dynasty, the people that Lu Yin saw seemed very happy, and everyone had a sincere smile. He understood why Yuan Taishi was so determined for the Divine Venom Dynasty to remain uninvolved with the matters of the outside world.

For better or worse, such a thing would disrupt the peaceful lives of all the residents in the Divine Venom Dynasty.

Not long after entering the city, Lu Yin ran into an acquaintance.

"One million star crystals. Deal or no deal?" Wen Qian'er's voice drifted out of a shop in the city while Wen Sansi was standing beside her.

All kinds of poisons were being sold in the store, and it was the most common kind in the Divine Venom Dynasty as everyone here needed poison.

"No, this is a highly venomous snake! How can such a creature be bought for just a million star crystals? A million and a half, minimum," the shop owner flatly replied.

Wen Qian'er shouted, "I'll give you 1.2 million star crystals."

"It has to be a million and a half."

"1.3 million."

"One and a half."

"Boss, is something wrong with your head? This isn't how negotiating works! You have to at least give in a little bit."

"The listed price is 3 million! You got me to lower it to 1.5 million, and yet you still want me to lower it further? That's just too much!"

"Cough, 1.4 million. Show me some face."

"Who are you? Why should I give you any face?"

Wen Qian'er grew furious, and her eyes flared.

Lu Yin then walked in, attracting the attention of the small group of people.

Wen Qian'er looked over and was surprised. "Lu Yin?"

Lu Yin nodded to Wen Sansi before looking at Wen Qian'er. "You like poisonous snakes?"

Wen Qian'er retorted, "Of course not! Still, since I'm here, I need to get some local produce to take back."

Lu Yin found this quite funny.

Chapter 1759: Measure For Measure

"Local produce? Girl, are you messing with me? This is a gemsnake! Go search through the entire Divine Venom Dynasty and tell me how many people can afford one!" the shop owner screamed in a strangled voice.

Wen Qian'er glanced back at the man. "You really don't know how to run a business."

Ordinary people used universal currency, or even local currency like the Yushan coins that the Great Yu Empire had used. One piece of universal currency could be exchanged for ten Yushan coins, and a million star crystals could be exchanged for ten trillion Yushan coins. Lu Yin had no idea what the exchange rate existed between the Divine Venom Dynasty's local currency and universal currency was, but even if the Divine Venom Dynasty's local currency was traded at a rate of one to one, a million star crystals was still enough to trade for one trillion pieces of universal currency.

A snake that was worth trillions of pieces of universal currency was truly a special product that could not be looked down upon.

Of course, universal currency was never used in this manner, as only ordinary humans used the currency. As far as cultivators were concerned, universal currency was little different from trash. Still, this snake was being sold for an impressive amount of star crystals.

"Fine, I don't want to buy it anymore. Let's go." Wen Qian'er had become upset, so she immediately started walking out of the store.

The shop owner became furious. "Girl, you spent so long haggling with me. Do you realize how much business you lost me? If you weren't going to buy it, then why waste my time?"

"What? You still dare to try to talk business with me?" Wen Qian'er turned her head around just enough to glare at the shop owner.

The man gritted his teeth and then glanced at Wen Sansi and Lu Yin, as well as Qing Li. He felt that he should not mess with these people. He snorted and punched the counter of his shop, causing the building to tremble. Just outside the front door, a fine powder drifted into the air.

Believing it to be only dust, Wen Qian'er was unconcerned, and she was about to walk right through it.

Suddenly, Wen Sansi grabbed her and pulled her back, startling the girl. He turned to shoot a cold glare towards the shop owner. "You dare to use poison?"

The shop owner was confused. "What poison?"

Wen Sansi frowned and waved a hand. The powder that had settled to the floor was pulled up and launched at the shop owner. The man did not move a muscle, and he looked confused even as the powder fell onto his body. "Sir, what are you doing?"

Wen Sansi's eyes narrowed.

Lu Yin was taken aback, but this was a custom of people in the Divine Venom Dynasty. This shop owner was clearly unafraid of poison, and he had merely attempted a tiny bit of revenge. If Wen Qian'er had not noticed, she would only suffer a bit, but if the man was caught, he could just feign ignorance. Even if the powder was thrown onto himself, he would not care at all.

This was the Divine Venom Dynasty.

Qing Li watched from the side, but he had no intention of intervening.

The Divine Venom Dynasty was sealed to the outside world, but that did not mean that its inhabitants were easy to bully.

Wen Sansi had eaten a complete loss. Although he could easily handle someone with the shop owner's strength, they were also in the Divine Venom Dynasty, and Wen Sansi had already made a move. Attacking again would not make him look good.

"I understand," Wen Sansi said casually as he prepared to lead Wen Qian'er away.

At this time, several people entered the shop from the street. They were Balsam, Yan, and the Hall of Honor's Overseer You.

The group almost ran straight into Wen Sansi and Wen Qian'er.

Wen Sansi instantly recognized Mr. You, and he was surprised to see the overseer. "Overseer You? Why are you here?"

Mr. You glanced around at everyone in the store, and his expression noticeably changed when he saw Lu Yin. The overseer then smiled at Wen Sansi. "I received an invitation from the Divine Venom Dynasty, so I came here to have a look. I just happened to be passing by, and I sensed that I must have missed something."

Wen Sansi casually said, "It was nothing much. Just a little misunderstanding."

Wen Sansi did not know Balsam, though he recognized Yan, who was Shamrock Enterprise's Innerverse president's secretary. Yan was a well known figure.

Balsam looked at Lu Yin and smiled. "I didn't expect to meet Alliance Leader Lu here. Please stay safe."

Lu Yin gave a small smile in return. "Oh, was Shamrock Enterprise also invited?"

"Yes. I'm here to deliver a congratulatory gift," Balsam replied.

Mr. You stared at Lu Yin and said in a measured tone, "I didn't expect to run into Alliance Leader Lu here. It's been a long time."

Lu Yin arched a brow. "Do I know you?"

Wen Sansi, Balsam, and the others were all startled, as Lu Yin was being decidedly rude. Even though everyone was aware that Lu Yin and Mr. You stood on opposing sides, no one had expected shots to be fired the moment the two met.

Lu Yin had absolutely no regard for Mr. You. The man was technically an overseer, but he was about to lose the position. If not for him always being protected by Overseer Nan Yuan, Mr. You would have lost his overseer seat even faster than Nightking Zheng. Lu Yin had a high enough status that there was no need for him to put on an act and be polite to Mr. You.

Mr. You sneered. "Mr. Lu is a hot-shot, so it's only to be expected that you wouldn't know a little guy like me."

"You can introduce yourself: name, affiliation, background, strength, and position. Tell me, and maybe I'll be able to remember who you are after," Lu Yin casually replied.

Mr. You's expression grew ugly. This was not a request for an introduction, but rather an interrogation! Lu Yin's tone and choice of words were offensive and infuriating.

There was a man who had remained right at Mr. You's side, and he spoke up at this time. "This is Mr. You, one of the Hall of Honor's nine overseers."

No one had expected the man to speak up, and Balsam glanced at him in surprise. She knew who this man was; he was Li, one of Mt. Microcosms' protectors. He had a very good relationship with Shamrock Enterprise, and he was also one of Yan's friends on Mt. Microcosms. Balsam had not thought that Li would be dumb enough to interrupt at this moment.

Yan's expression instantly changed, and he quickly tried to gesture at Li for him to back out.

Even Mr. You's expression became worse, as he felt that announcing his identity at this moment would only give Lu Yin more opportunities to sling insults.

Sure enough, Lu Yin replied, "One of the nine overseers? I seem to recall there being someone with that name, though it seems to be temporary. I wonder, how long will you be able to keep your position for?"

At this moment, Lu Yin's eyes turned cold. "Things will go downhill for you soon."

Mr. You was furious, and he glared at Lu Yin. "Alliance Leader Lu, watch yourself! The overseers' council is not something that you can control. If you aren't careful with your words, the overseers can hold you accountable."

Lu Yin did not care at all. "Give it a shot."

Mr. You's face flushed with anger.

At this moment, Li finally felt that he had made a mistake. After all, how could Lu Yin not recognize Mr. You? In fact, Mr. You had made the trip to the Divine Venom Dynasty just to curry favor with Overseer Nan Yuan, who had offered to protect Mr. You. Li realized that he should not have spoken up, as Lu Yin had openly mocked Mr. You. If Mr. You was removed from his position as an overseer, Li would be fine, but if Mr. You retained his position. Li would likely have a very difficult time in the near future.

"Who are you?" Lu Yin suddenly asked as he looked at Li.

Li's heart plummeted, but he summoned the courage to reply, "I'm Li. I've been sent to protect Mr. You."

"On whose order?" Lu Yin asked.

Li bitterly replied, "The overseers' council."

Lu Yin looked puzzled. "The overseers' council sent a special order to have you protect Mr. You while he's visiting the Divine Venom Dynasty, right when he's about to lose his position? That doesn't seem very likely. I remember you now—you're one of Mt. Microcosms's protectors. I know Senior First Protector. If you get the chance, you should ask him why Mt. Microcosms' protectors are being sent out as bodyguards for traveling overseers."

Li instantly grew pale, and fear filled his eyes. He had not even considered the possibility that Lu Yin would know the First Protector of Mt. Microcosms. How could the youth know that powerhouse?

Balsam spoke up to smooth the situation over. "Alliance Leader Lu, what gifts have you brought for your visit to the Divine Venom Dynasty? Don't be too excessive, or else you'll make the rest of us look bad."

Lu Yin smiled. "I didn't bring anything, so I'm actually out shopping."

Balsam was stunned speechless. Out shopping? In Venom King City? This had to be a joke!

"You are King Qing Li, correct?" Balsam looked over at the man standing next to Lu Yin who not yet spoken a single word.

Qing Li had not expected Balsam to recognize him. He had been silently watching the show with growing excitement. "That's correct. And you must be Shamrock Enterprise's Innerverse President Balsam, no?"

Balsam smiled. "I didn't expect Your Highness the king to recognize me."

Qing Li smiled. "Of course I would recognize you. No one should be ignorant of Miss Balsam's name."

The shop owner became increasingly stunned as he listened to the people carry on within his shop. Alliance Leader Lu? An overseer from the Hall of Honor? While the man was rather ignorant of the outside world, even he had heard these two names more than once. How could he not have heard something about the VIPs currently visiting Venom King City?

Suddenly, the name "Qing Li" registered in the shop owner's mind, and he spun to stare at the only man dressed in the customary clothes of the Divine Venom Dynasty in disbelief. Was he King Qing Li?

At this thought, the shop owner quickly hurriedly stepped forward and bowed low. "This lowly one greets King Qing Li."

Qing Li dismissed the man with a wave of his hand. "Be at ease. Do what you have to."

What do I have to do? The shop owner was stunned. What was with these people's conversation? Was it actually something he could listen to?

"Hey Boss, do you have anything special here? I want to buy a gift for your emperor," Lu Yin asked while smiling at the shop owner.

The man was a bit slow to react, as he had no idea how to respond.

Wen Qian'er just rolled her eyes. "What sort of quality goods could this man have?"

Mr. You snorted disdainfully. "Mr. Lu is being too insulting to Qing Shaohuang. Don't you feel that it's rude to buy a last minute gift for your host?"

Lu Yin's mouth curled up into a smile. "I wanted to give him the Longevity Brigade, but unfortunately, it was already destroyed."

"You!" Mr. You was furious.

Suddenly, a condescending voice spoke up from just outside the door to the shop. "Such a powerful aura. If I'm not wrong, it has to belong to Alliance Leader Lu Yin."

As the door opened, a man with a snow-white skin and cold eyes slowly entered. It was impossible to tell how old the man was, but his voice was sharp and carried the weight of many years.

Lu Yin frowned, as this man was staring at him with vicious eyes that gave the impression of needles. A strange tugged at the corner of the man's mouth, which left Lu Yin feeling very uncomfortable.

"Who are you?" Lu Yin asked.

The man stepped the rest of the way into the shop and slowly bowed to Qing Li. "I greet the king."

King Qing Li just snorted. "This is the imperial palace's chief attendant and also my brother's confidant."

Attendant Yi quickly smiled and spoke up, "What is Your Highness saying? I wouldn't dare be referred to as a confidant! I'm just a mere servant who served His Majesty and Your Highness."

Lu Yin observed Attendant Yi. "Were you the one speaking earlier?"

Attendant Yi turned to face Lu Yin, still showing the same slimy smile as before. "If it isn't Alliance Leader Lu. I came here to greet you at His Majesty's orders, but as soon as I arrived, I felt your presence, which terrified this lowly one. Might I ask who in Venom King City might have offended you, Alliance Leader Lu?"

Lu Yin's eyes flashed, but he did not answer. This was because one more person had just entered the shop, and this time, it was a woman: Qing Longlong.

The shop owner prostrated himself on the floor and no longer dared to even lift his head. Lu Yin and Mr. You being in his store was not a big deal to the man, as they were important figures in the world outside of the Divine Venom Dynasty. Thus, no matter how powerful they might be, they had nothing to do with someone like the shop owner. On the other hand, Attendant Yi's arrival had scared the man stiff, as he was the

second-highest ranking person in the entire Divine Venom Dynasty, and he was responsible for countless millions of people.

Chapter 1760: Lu Yin's Gift

In particular, when it came to the ordinary people of the Divine Venom Dynasty, Attendant Yi was someone who held their lives in his hands. This was not simply because of the man's strength and position, but also because of the man's greed for wealth. He treated the entire street as his business, and he acted as the general manager.

On top of that, even without Attendant Yi present, the emperor's daughter Qing Longlong was also in the shop, which left the shop owner trembling.

"Attendant Yi, who authorized you to speak to Alliance Leader Lu in such a manner?" Qing Longlong rudely scolded Attendant Yi the moment she entered the building.

Attendant Yi maintained his smile as he slowly bowed to the princess. "This old slave greets Your Highness."

Qing Longlong stared at Attendant Yi with a look of disgust on her face. "Father asked you to come greet Alliance Leader Lu and the others; what were you just doing?"

Attendant Yi smiled. "This old slave simply saw the power of the alliance leader, and I was so impressed that I could not stop myself from voicing my admiration. There was nothing more to it than that."

He then turned and bowed to Lu Yin. "I beg that the alliance leader will not hold this against me."

Lu Yin gave a tiny smile.

Attendant Yi kept the same smile as ever, and it was both irritating and disturbing to see.

"Honestly, given the fact that you're a member of the Divine Venom Dynasty, I can't blame you even if I wanted to. The only thing I can say is that your master is too kind and doesn't wish to discipline his slaves." Lu Yin replied indifferently.

The smile disappeared from Attendant Yi's face, and his eyes moved upwards to stare Lu Yin. "It appears that Alliance Leader Lu has some bit of skill."

Lu Yin smiled. "You just asked that I wouldn't hold your words against you, so I'll train you on behalf of your master. This is a gift for Emperor Qing's recent breakthrough."

Lu Yin then swept out a hand that landed on Attendant Yi. The man was blown away by the slap, and he crashed into the street outside the shop.

Everyone was startled, as no one had expected Lu Yin to act so brazenly without showing any sort of respect for anyone.

Qing Li's brows rose high, and it was clear that he had also been taken aback by Lu Yin's actions.

The people who followed Attendant Yi rushed into the store to attack Lu Yin, only to be stopped by Qing Longlong who simply ordered, "Get out."

Attendant Yi quickly stood back up, but already half of his face had become swollen. He also stopped his guards from taking any action. "Step back. Her Highness and the king are both present; how can you forget your place?"

The various guards quickly pulled back.

Attendant Yi glared at Lu Yin with hatred, and a deep cold appeared in the man's eyes. He had not expected Lu Yin or anyone else to have the audacity to strike him within the Divine Venom Dynasty, and he had been caught off guard by Lu Yin's attack. However, there was nothing that Attendant Yi could even do about it with Lu Yin's status. "This old slave misspoke just now; has the alliance leader relieved his anger?"

Lu Yin lazily replied, "Tell Emperor Qing that this was my congratulatory gift for him. I hope he finds it to his liking."

The disturbing smile returned to Attendant Yi's face. "Understood. This old slave will take his leave."

He then left without even acknowledging Qing Li or Qing Longlong.

Everyone could see the burning resentment within the man's eyes.

Qing Longlong turned to face Lu Yin with a complicated expression and a bitter smile. "Why did Alliance Leader Lu do that?"

Lu Yin frowned. "I don't like the look of him."

He was being perfectly honest. However, in all of Venom King City, the only person who qualified to treat Attendant Yi with such rudeness was Qing Shaohuang himself. Lu Yin had the status to act the same, not even Qing Li would dare treat the chief attendant so rudely. This was mostly because Attendant Yi was notoriously vengeful.

Despite Qing Longlong's comment, she had felt quite a bit of pleasure from watching Lu Yin slapping Attendant Yi. Even though the chief attendant would be polite to the

princess, it was also quite obvious that he did not have even the slightest bit of respect for her, and he would often prevent her from seeing Qing Shaohuang. Qing Li was the same, but no one could say anything about Attendant Yi's behavior.

Lu Yin's fearlessness and boldness had been perfectly revealed by his actions. He did not care at all about Attendant Yi, nor about Emperor Qing Shaohuang either. Their relationship as friends or enemies had already been determined.

"Alliance Leader Lu, we'll head out first. We will see you at the banquet," Balsam politely bade farewell to Lu Yin.

Mr. You also left, though he did not speak a single word more to Lu Yin.

Before Wen Sansi left, he whispered, "You shouldn't have come."

Qing Li separated from Lu Yin as well, as Qing Longlong had taken over the responsibility of entertaining Lu Yin. The two were of similar age, and so it was more suitable for the two to interact.

One by one, everyone else left, until finally, only Lu Yin, Qing Longlong, and the shop owner remained in the shop.

The shop owner was still prostrated on the ground with his head as low as he could force it. He did not dare raise his head the slightest bit, though he had still caught the slightest glimpse of Attendant Yi being slapped out of the shop. The young alliance leader was truly a ruthless man, but fortunately, the shop owner had done nothing to offend Lu Yin.

Qing Longlong said, "Alliance Leader Lu-"

However, before she could say anything more, Lu Yin raised a hand to stop her. "We're peers, so there's no need to speak like that. I'll see you outside."

Are we that familiar with each other? Qing Longlong wanted to ask this question, but refrained. "Alright, Brother Lu. Let me show you somewhere you can rest."

Lu Yin nodded and followed Qing Longlong out of the shop.

Such a small shop had just been the center of the entire Divine Venom Dynasty. For the next while, the shop owner would absolutely not have even a moment of peace. Every word and each tiny detail of what had happened in his shop would be pulled from him.

Qing Shaohuang had arranged an entire residence as Lu Yin's quarters for his stay. It was in Venom King City, but it was a house that almost no one knew of. It was a place for Qing Shaohuang to use when he needed some peace.

After hearing Qing Longlong's introduction of the place, Lu Yin asked, "Your father, the emperor, can't be hoping that I'll be creating less chaos in the future, could he?"

Qing Longlong smiled. "Brother Lu, you're overthinking. My imperial father has no such intentions. It's simply that this palace is rather remote, but also has quite a pleasant environment, so there will be few people to disturb you. I'll take care of any arrangements for you."

Lu Yin nodded. Neither of the two was in any hurry to arrive at Lu Yin's guest quarters, so they just wandered about the streets of Venom King City.

Venom King City was a very lively place, and everywhere the hustle and bustle of a busy city could be seen, as well as the occasional fight. Each conflict would see people bringing out all kinds of poisons. If cultivators were not taken into account, then Venom King City would give the impression of being an ancient imperial city that was inhabited by ordinary humans.

"Attendant Yi is highly trusted by your father?" Lu Yin asked.

Qing Longlong nodded. "He's served my imperial father since he was very young, and he's continued to work hard for many years."

"He's still not dead?" Lu Yin was surprised at this. Qing Shaohuang was far from weak, and he had even invited people from all parts of the Human Domain to celebrate a recent breakthrough. The emperor should be an expert with a power level of at least 800,000, so how was it that Attendant Yi had managed to keep up with Qing Shaohuang?

"That is something incredibly unique about Attendant Yi; in order to stay alive, he periodically uses a poisonous ice," Qing Longlong said. Though her tone of voice sounded quite casual, her words were heavy.

Qing Shaohuang was an emperor, and as such, there was no shortage of people willing to serve him, and yet he would rather be attended by Attendant Yi. This was a friendship that was no longer an ordinary master-servant relationship. It was no wonder that even Qing Li and Qing Longlong were so polite towards Attendant Yi. If looked at from a certain perspective, Lu Yin had slapped Qing Shaohuang himself.

Qing Longlong was unconcerned, but she did look over to check Lu Yin's reaction. However, she noticed that his complexion and coloring had not changed even the slightest bit; did he truly not care?

After thinking for a moment, Qing Longlong realized that both the Sword Sect and the Daynight clan had been stronger than the Divine Venom Dynasty. The Divine Venom Dynasty's uniqueness lay in its location and the surrounding environment. Without such things, the Divine Venom Dynasty might not even be able to compare to the Wen family.

Lu Yin had led the Great Eastern Alliance to destroy the Daynight clan, suppress the Sword Sect, and harass the Wen family. Naturally, such a person would not care about the Divine Venom Dynasty, let alone someone like Attendant Yi.

After half an hour of walking down the busiest street in Venom King City, Qing Longlong stopped in front of a very upscale restaurant.

It was the tallest building on the entire street, and it also covered a large area in every direction. There were two rows of servers waiting at the door.

"Brother Lu, I want to introduce you to someone," Qing Longlong said with a smile.

Lu Yin nodded. "Alright."

Lu Yin was greeted by an unexpected scene upon entering the restaurant, as the atmosphere was completely different from the outside. While the outside was grand, the inside was simple and homey.

Lu Yin followed Qing Longlong up to the top floor, where two beautiful maids bowed to greet the princess. Due to the style of clothing, Lu Yin was almost able to catch a peak at snowy white chests, and he quickly averted his eyes.

"Brother Lu, please." Qing Longlong found this reaction quite amusing; who would believe that the dignified leader of the Great Eastern Alliance would have such a side to him?

Lu Yin entered a private dining room and saw a woman in a frilly black coat and a delicate mask who stood up and bowed as Lu Yin entered. "This humble one is Yuan Miaomiao. I greet Alliance Leader Lu."

Even though the woman was clad completely in black and wore a mask, it was still not enough to conceal her beauty. Lu Yin was able to clearly see an attractive mouth, as well as eyes that were as bright as stars.

"Yuan Taishi's granddaughter?" Lu Yin was surprised by the woman's name.

Yuan Miaomiao bowed a second time. "I didn't expect Alliance Leader Lu to know of this small one."

Lu Yin looked over at Qing Longlong, who said, "Miaomiao and I are best friends, and she asked me to help her meet you."

Lu Yin was rather perplexed. Yuan Taishi had been advocating for Venom Flowzone to remain completely uninvolved with matters regarding the outside world, yet Qing Shaohuang was in favor of working with the Sword Sect and the other Inniverse forces to find a means of containing the Great Eastern Alliance's spread. The two held different

opinions, but they were not actually enemies. They were both part of the Divine Venom Dynasty that was dealing with the Great Eastern Alliance. Given the current circumstances, it did not make any sense for Qing Longlong to set up a meeting between Yuan Miaomiao and Lu Yin. What was the reason for this?

"Longlong doesn't have any intentions, so please don't read into this, Alliance Leader Lu. She just wasn't able to refuse this one's request to bring Alliance Leader Lu here," Yuan Miaomiao spoke up. Her voice was soft and relaxing.

Lu Yin sat down. "Is there something that Miss Miaomiao wants to say?"

Qing Longlong looked at her friend, and Yuan Miaomiao looked back at the princess. "Go away, and don't try to listen in."

Qing Longlong pursed her lips, but still nodded and walked out.

Lu Yin stared at Yuan Miaomiao with heightened interest. "You two have a truly unusual relationship. She's the Divine Venom Dynasty's eldest princess, and yet she's willing to go against her father to help you meet me without even asking why. I'm quite curious."

Yuan Miaomiao replied with a small smile, "That's how our friendship is. From childhood to now, I've spent more time with Longlong than even my own parents, grandfather, and other family members. Longlong's also spent more time with me than His Majesty. We found each other, and we feel that our friendship is more valuable than our families."

This was the first time Lu Yin had heard of such a relationship. "Alright then, why did you want to see me?"

Yuan Miaomiao stood back up and very solemnly bowed to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin did not say anything. Given his status, let alone Yuan Miaomiao, even if Yuan Taishi bowed to him, it would not be anything improper. He was deserving of such signs of respect.

"This one wishes to ask Alliance Leader Lu to leave Venom Flowzone," Yuan Miaomiao solemnly stated.

The room remained silent for a bit. Yuan Miaomiao continued to bow without ever rising back up.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. "What does Yuan Taishi intend?"

Yuan Miaomiao's tone was serious, "The Divine Venom Dynasty should not interfere in the external affairs. This has always been my grandfather's belief. The people here are very prosperous and we have no wars. As soon as we interfere in outside conflicts, our future is impossible to predict. It's not worth the risk."

Lu Yin smiled. "Just because I'm here, why are you so certain that the Divine Venom Dynasty will get involved in outside conflicts? What is the Divine Venom Dynasty going to do to me? Or rather, is Qing Shaohuang planning to do something to me?"

Chapter 1758: Local Produce

The Second Nightking laughed at Qing Shaohuang's response. "Are you trying to say that you wouldn't do anything to Lu Yin without my request?"

Qing Shaohuang's expression twitched slightly, but he just stared at the Second Nightking. "What are you trying to say, Senior?"

"The current situation of the Inniverse is clear at a glance. The Sword Sect has been trying to work with you for some time, and you would not have invited Lu Yin here for no reason. Since you have invited him, you must have some sort of plan. While I might not know what exactly you hope to do, it has to be related to poison. Making your position clear is your best option here, as you want to show that your Divine Venom Dynasty has no intention of getting involved with the outside world," the Second Nightking coldly stated.

Qing Shaohuang felt embarrassed, and his mind started racing. He was already aware of the Second Nightking's hatred for Lu Yin, as the youth had destroyed the Daynight clan, ruined their ancestral grounds, and released the Dayking clan from their enslavement. In truth, even if the Second Nightking had not been imprisoned in Gaia's Swamp, he still would have possessed enough motivation to kill Lu Yin a million times over.

However, Lu Yin could not be killed while he was in the Divine Venom Dynasty, and neither could the Second Nightking be allowed to move against the youth. Even though the Divine Venom Dynasty had isolated themselves from the outside world, they were not completely cut off. Not to mention, the powerhouses supporting Lu Yin could easily deal with all of Venom Flowzone by themselves.

If the Divine Venom Dynasty did not feel fear, they would have never considered cooperating with the Sword Sect and the other Inniverse powers, but it was precisely because of the threat that Qing Shaohuang felt from Lu Yin that he was considering joining the Inniverse in working against Lu Yin.

Qing Shaohuang stared at the Second Nightking, unsure of how to refuse the ancient powerhouse's request. The only option was to agree as much as possible. "Senior, this junior will help you."

The Second Nightking nodded. "Good. I don't want Lu Yin to live to see the outside of Venom Flowzone."

"If Senior takes action, you will be exposing yourself. This-

Qing Shaohuang tried to bring up an objection, but the Second Nightking just sneered. "Given the size of the Fifth Mainland, it's not difficult to find somewhere to hide."

"Senior can hide within my Divine Venom Dynasty," Qing Shaohuang offered. The Second Nightking shot the emperor a cold look. "We'll talk about it later."

...

A few days later, Lu Yin finally saw the Divine Venom Continent from his spacecraft.

From a distance, the Divine Venom Continent looked like a monster lying in space that was emitting a strange gas. He stared at the landmass as he thought of the rumors claiming that there was a terrifying poison beneath it.

Lu Yin was still very interested in poison. Long ago, Elder Wu's poisons had been a great deal of help to him. There had to be a poison in the Divine Venom Dynasty that Lu Yin could Enhance to a level where it would threaten even experts with power levels of more than a million. Like that Transience poison... Lu Yin felt that he would need to pay the king a visit.

Given Lu Yin's status, he was welcomed by King Qing Li, who was Qing Shaohuang's younger brother. In other words, Qing Li was among the top three people in the entire Divine Venom Dynasty. Even if Qing Longlong, the first princess, saw Qing Li, she would only refer to him as uncle. He was one of the few people in the entire empire who was qualified to know about Transience and use it.

Qing Li did not want to be the one to greet Lu Yin, but Qing Shaohuang had ordered the king to go. Given the fact that either Qing Li or Qing Shaohuang would have to greet Lu Yin, there was no way for Qing Li to refuse.

Lu Yin smiled when he saw Qing Li appear to welcome him.

The king despaired when he saw Lu Yin's smile, as he could still remember how much he had suffered when he had last seen Lu Yin; he had almost confessed to wetting the bed as a child at that time. Still, Qing Li forced out a smile. "Welcome, Alliance Leader Lu, to the Divine Venom Dynasty. You're a welcome guest to my Venom King City."

Lu Yin smiled back and said, "So it's Qing Li. This isn't our first time meeting."

Qing Li smiled back. "Of course not, Alliance Leader Lu. Please, follow me."

Lu Yin followed Qing Li towards the Divine Venom Continent. The sky was overcast and misty, but it was still possible to make out the outline of the continent from a bird's eye view.

The Divine Venom Continent actually looked no different from an ordinary landmass, as it had mountains and rivers, but there were also strange patterns that covered the land, and some places actually contained poisoned corpses that could easily be seen.

As they moved along, Qing Li shared information about the land with Lu Yin. The visiting Lu Yin was quite interested in this place, and he already saw it as something that would eventually belong to him. In his mind, learning more about it would never hurt.

"Your Highness, do you still remember what I said back then?" Lu Yin suddenly asked as the two of them were wandering about the sky above the Divine Venom Continent. At this moment, they were close to Venom King City.

Qing Li's eyes flickered. "I don't really have any interest in the outside world, but thank you, Alliance Leader Lu, for your kindness."

Lu Yin expressed his disappointment. "Regardless of how beautiful the scenery in Venom Flowzone might be, it's just one place, and it's honestly too small. Even the outside world is like that—there's just the Inniverse, the Outerverse, the Cosmic Sea, the Neoverse, the 3,000 hidden worlds, and the rest of the Fifth Mainland. However, the massive region beyond the Fifth Mainland is truly fascinating. With Your Highness's strength, it really is a pity that you aren't able to go out and explore."

"A place beyond the Fifth Mainland? Are you referring to the Sixth Mainland?" Qing Li asked. Before the Sixth Mainland had invaded them, not even Qing Shaohuang had known about the existence of the Sixth Mainland. But afterwards, almost every cultivator in the entire Fifth Mainland had learned of them.

However, there was only the Fifth and the Sixth Mainlands.

Lu Yin shook his head. "Aeternus took over the entire Sixth Mainland. I'm talking about another place."

Qing Li was stunned. "Another place?"

Lu Yi was surprised. "Did your brother not tell you about this? There's another place where people can still become Progenitors."

Qing Li's expression grew sharp, and he instantly froze in place. Every cultivator's greatest dream was to one day become a Progenitor. Even

someone who had only just started cultivating would dream about reaching the apex as a Progenitor, even if they knew that their chances were not even one in ten billion. Qing Li was no different. He was the closest person to the threshold of the Envoy realm in the Divine Venom Dynasty, and he naturally also dreamed about one day becoming a Progenitor. Still, he knew that his dream was too far out of reach.

Lu Yin continued moving along without pausing, and Qing Li hurried to catch back up. "Alliance Leader Lu, where is this place where one can become a Progenitor?"

Lu Yin indifferently replied, "Go ask your brother. If he hasn't told you yet, he must have a reason."

Qing Li's eyes flashed; was Lu Yin trying to instigate something between them? Seeing Lu Yin's serious expression, the king felt confident that Lu Yin was trying to sow doubt into his relationship with Qing Shaohuang. Still, the desire to become a Progenitor was too strong. Was it possible that Qing Shaohuang really did know about such a place? If so, why would he have never told him about it?

"Is that Venom King City right in front of us? Your Highness, could you show me around?" Lu Yin asked, and Qing Li hurried to catch up once again.

"Yes, that's Venom King City, Alliance Leader Lu."

Venom King City was surrounded by high walls, and water poured down from them like waterfalls. Mist shrouded the river, but this mist was not the normal white color, but rather iridescent as it was actually spat out by giant toads that crouched along the walls.

Lu Yin observed the wall surrounding Venom King City in surprise.

He stared at the wall as the enormous toads spat out rainbow-colored balls at regular intervals. Each of the orbs would strike a pillar above the city, and then shatter. Rainbow colors then rained down upon the city.

With the number of giant toads contributing to the mist, the iridescent mist was able to cover the entire city.

"What are those toads?" Lu Yin asked in surprise.

Qing Li proudly answered, "Those are not just any ordinary toads but rainbow toads. While they aren't aggressive, they are an extremely poisonous species that our Divine Venom Dynasty has bred. The rainbow-colored balls that they spit out strike the poisonous heart pillar of Venom King City, and the mist that is produced by that combination is something that even Envoys fear."

Lu Yin entered the true universe and tried to move into the city through that method, only to be caught off guard when he discovered that the iridescent fog also surrounded the area in the true universe that corresponded to Venom King City.

"While Envoys are able to enter Venom King City through the true universe, their bodies will still be contaminated by the iridescent mist's poison, which means that they will be discovered the moment they enter the city. Only peak experts are strong enough to avoid the mist, and those powerhouses are strong enough to easily enter the city without needing to sneak in, as my Venom King City would welcome such powerhouses with all the respect that they are due," Qing Li explained.

Lu Yin nodded and then praised, "This is the first time I've ever seen such a defensive method."

Qing Li smiled. "This is not a means of defense, but rather just a warning system. Anyone weaker than an Envoy can't force their way in while even Envoys will be discovered."

"How do ordinary people enter?"

"They just need to have a token from Venom King City. Those tokens naturally repel the rainbow mist, so they allow anyone can enter."

"What if an enemy grabs a token?"

"Each person's token is unique," Qing Li said as he lifted a hand to show a common-looking token that had the character for venom on it that he handed over to Lu Yin. "This is yours, Alliance Leader Lu."

Lu Yin took the token and then saw a series of nine digits on it.

"The number entered the first time must precisely match the number entered after in order to open the token's compartment and release the substance that repels the iridescent mist. Without that, the tokens are useless. By the way, there's only one chance to enter the number," the king explained.

Lu Yin was left speechless; was this any different from a password? With something as ancient-looking as these tokens, he had assumed that they would be bound to a person by blood or some other method, though he would not have been willing to bind it with his blood.

While Venom King City's defenses seemed quite impressive at a glance, Lu Yin's opinion of it dropped substantially after he learned how the tokens worked.

Qing Li led the way, so Lu Yin easily entered the city.

Venom King City was quite lively, and the clothing style of the Divine Venom Dynasty was quite unique. Lu Yin's eyes lit up when he saw what the local people were wearing.

No matter what sort of impression the outside world had of the Divine Venom Dynasty, the people that Lu Yin saw seemed very happy, and everyone had a sincere smile. He understood why Yuan Taishi was so determined for the Divine Venom Dynasty to remain uninvolved with the matters of the outside world.

For better or worse, such a thing would disrupt the peaceful lives of all the residents in the Divine Venom Dynasty.

Not long after entering the city, Lu Yin ran into an acquaintance.

"One million star crystals. Deal or no deal?" Wen Qian'er's voice drifted out of a shop in the city while Wen Sansi was standing beside her.

All kinds of poisons were being sold in the store, and it was the most common kind in the Divine Venom Dynasty as everyone here needed poison.

"No, this is a highly venomous snake! How can such a creature be bought for just a million star crystals? A million and a half, minimum," the shop owner flatly replied.

Wen Qian'er shouted, "I'll give you 1.2 million star crystals."

"It has to be a million and a half."

"1.3 million."

"One and a half."

"Boss, is something wrong with your head? This isn't how negotiating works! You have to at least give in a little bit."

"The listed price is 3 million! You got me to lower it to 1.5 million, and yet you still want me to lower it further? That's just too much!"

"Cough, 1.4 million. Show me some face."

"Who are you? Why should I give you any face?"

Wen Qian'er grew furious, and her eyes flared.

Lu Yin then walked in, attracting the attention of the small group of people.

Wen Qian'er looked over and was surprised. "Lu Yin?"

Lu Yin nodded to Wen Sansi before looking at Wen Qian'er. "You like poisonous snakes?"

Wen Qian'er retorted, "Of course not! Still, since I'm here, I need to get some local produce to take back."

Lu Yin found this quite funny.

Chapter 1759: Measure For Measure

"Local produce? Girl, are you messing with me? This is a gemsnake! Go search through the entire Divine Venom Dynasty and tell me how many people can afford one!" the shop owner screamed in a strangled voice.

Wen Qian'er glanced back at the man. "You really don't know how to run a business."

Ordinary people used universal currency, or even local currency like the Yushan coins that the Great Yu Empire had used. One piece of universal currency could be exchanged for ten Yushan coins, and a million star crystals could be exchanged for ten trillion Yushan coins. Lu Yin had no idea what the exchange rate existed between the Divine Venom Dynasty's local currency and universal currency was, but even if the Divine Venom Dynasty's local currency was traded at a rate of one to one, a million star crystals was still enough to trade for one trillion pieces of universal currency.

A snake that was worth trillions of pieces of universal currency was truly a special product that could not be looked down upon.

Of course, universal currency was never used in this manner, as only ordinary humans used the currency. As far as cultivators were concerned, universal currency was little different from trash. Still, this snake was being sold for an impressive amount of star crystals.

"Fine, I don't want to buy it anymore. Let's go." Wen Qian'er had become upset, so she immediately started walking out of the store.

The shop owner became furious. "Girl, you spent so long haggling with me. Do you realize how much business you lost me? If you weren't going to buy it, then why waste my time?"

"What? You still dare to try to talk business with me?" Wen Qian'er turned her head around just enough to glare at the shop owner.

The man gritted his teeth and then glanced at Wen Sansi and Lu Yin, as well as Qing Li. He felt that he should not mess with these people. He snorted and

punched the counter of his shop, causing the building to tremble. Just outside the front door, a fine powder drifted into the air.

Believing it to be only dust, Wen Qian'er was unconcerned, and she was about to walk right through it.

Suddenly, Wen Sansi grabbed her and pulled her back, startling the girl. He turned to shoot a cold glare towards the shop owner. "You dare to use poison?"

The shop owner was confused. "What poison?"

Wen Sansi frowned and waved a hand. The powder that had settled to the floor was pulled up and launched at the shop owner. The man did not move a muscle, and he looked confused even as the powder fell onto his body. "Sir, what are you doing?"

Wen Sansi's eyes narrowed.

Lu Yin was taken aback, but this was a custom of people in the Divine Venom Dynasty. This shop owner was clearly unafraid of poison, and he had merely attempted a tiny bit of revenge. If Wen Qian'er had not noticed, she would only suffer a bit, but if the man was caught, he could just feign ignorance. Even if the powder was thrown onto himself, he would not care at all.

This was the Divine Venom Dynasty.

Qing Li watched from the side, but he had no intention of intervening.

The Divine Venom Dynasty was sealed to the outside world, but that did not mean that its inhabitants were easy to bully.

Wen Sansi had eaten a complete loss. Although he could easily handle someone with the shop owner's strength, they were also in the Divine Venom Dynasty, and Wen Sansi had already made a move. Attacking again would not make him look good.

"I understand," Wen Sansi said casually as he prepared to lead Wen Qian'er away.

At this time, several people entered the shop from the street. They were Balsam, Yan, and the Hall of Honor's Overseer You.

The group almost ran straight into Wen Sansi and Wen Qian'er.

Wen Sansi instantly recognized Mr. You, and he was surprised to see the overseer. "Overseer You? Why are you here?"

Mr. You glanced around at everyone in the store, and his expression noticeably changed when he saw Lu Yin. The overseer then smiled at Wen Sansi. "I received an invitation from the Divine Venom Dynasty, so I came here to have a look. I just happened to be passing by, and I sensed that I must have missed something."

Wen Sansi casually said, "It was nothing much. Just a little misunderstanding."

Wen Sansi did not know Balsam, though he recognized Yan, who was Shamrock Enterprise's Innerverse president's secretary. Yan was a well known figure.

Balsam looked at Lu Yin and smiled. "I didn't expect to meet Alliance Leader Lu here. Please stay safe."

Lu Yin gave a small smile in return. "Oh, was Shamrock Enterprise also invited?"

"Yes. I'm here to deliver a congratulatory gift," Balsam replied.

Mr. You stared at Lu Yin and said in a measured tone, "I didn't expect to run into Alliance Leader Lu here. It's been a long time."

Lu Yin arched a brow. "Do I know you?"

Wen Sansi, Balsam, and the others were all startled, as Lu Yin was being decidedly rude. Even though everyone was aware that Lu Yin and Mr. You stood on opposing sides, no one had expected shots to be fired the moment the two met.

Lu Yin had absolutely no regard for Mr. You. The man was technically an overseer, but he was about to lose the position. If not for him always being protected by Overseer Nan Yuan, Mr. You would have lost his overseer seat even faster than Nightking Zheng. Lu Yin had a high enough status that there was no need for him to put on an act and be polite to Mr. You.

Mr. You sneered. "Mr. Lu is a hot-shot, so it's only to be expected that you wouldn't know a little guy like me."

"You can introduce yourself: name, affiliation, background, strength, and position. Tell me, and maybe I'll be able to remember who you are after," Lu Yin casually replied.

Mr. You's expression grew ugly. This was not a request for an introduction, but rather an interrogation! Lu Yin's tone and choice of words were offensive and infuriating.

There was a man who had remained right at Mr. You's side, and he spoke up at this time. "This is Mr. You, one of the Hall of Honor's nine overseers."

No one had expected the man to speak up, and Balsam glanced at him in surprise. She knew who this man was; he was Li, one of Mt. Microcosms' protectors. He had a very good relationship with Shamrock Enterprise, and he was also one of Yan's friends on Mt. Microcosms. Balsam had not thought that Li would be dumb enough to interrupt at this moment.

Yan's expression instantly changed, and he quickly tried to gesture at Li for him to back out.

Even Mr. You's expression became worse, as he felt that announcing his identity at this moment would only give Lu Yin more opportunities to sling insults.

Sure enough, Lu Yin replied, "One of the nine overseers? I seem to recall there being someone with that name, though it seems to be temporary. I wonder, how long will you be able to keep your position for?"

At this moment, Lu Yin's eyes turned cold. "Things will go downhill for you soon."

Mr. You was furious, and he glared at Lu Yin. "Alliance Leader Lu, watch yourself! The overseers' council is not something that you can control. If you aren't careful with your words, the overseers can hold you accountable."

Lu Yin did not care at all. "Give it a shot."

Mr. You's face flushed with anger.

At this moment, Li finally felt that he had made a mistake. After all, how could Lu Yin not recognize Mr. You? In fact, Mr. You had made the trip to the Divine Venom Dynasty just to curry favor with Overseer Nan Yuan, who had offered to protect Mr. You. Li realized that he should not have spoken up, as Lu Yin had openly mocked Mr. You. If Mr. You was removed from his position as an overseer, Li would be fine, but if Mr. You retained his position. Li would likely have a very difficult time in the near future.

"Who are you?" Lu Yin suddenly asked as he looked at Li.

Li's heart plummeted, but he summoned the courage to reply, "I'm Li. I've been sent to protect Mr. You."

"On whose order?" Lu Yin asked.

Li bitterly replied, "The overseers' council."

Lu Yin looked puzzled. "The overseers' council sent a special order to have you protect Mr. You while he's visiting the Divine Venom Dynasty, right when he's about to lose his position? That doesn't seem very likely. I remember you now—you're one of Mt. Microcosms's protectors. I know Senior First Protector. If you get the chance, you should ask him why Mt. Microcosms' protectors are being sent out as bodyguards for traveling overseers."

Li instantly grew pale, and fear filled his eyes. He had not even considered the possibility that Lu Yin would know the First Protector of Mt. Microcosms. How could the youth know that powerhouse?

Balsam spoke up to smooth the situation over. "Alliance Leader Lu, what gifts have you brought for your visit to the Divine Venom Dynasty? Don't be too excessive, or else you'll make the rest of us look bad."

Lu Yin smiled. "I didn't bring anything, so I'm actually out shopping."

Balsam was stunned speechless. Out shopping? In Venom King City? This had to be a joke!

"You are King Qing Li, correct?" Balsam looked over at the man standing next to Lu Yin who not yet spoken a single word.

Qing Li had not expected Balsam to recognize him. He had been silently watching the show with growing excitement. "That's correct. And you must be Shamrock Enterprise's Inniverse President Balsam, no?"

Balsam smiled. "I didn't expect Your Highness the king to recognize me."

Qing Li smiled. "Of course I would recognize you. No one should be ignorant of Miss Balsam's name."

The shop owner became increasingly stunned as he listened to the people carry on within his shop. Alliance Leader Lu? An overseer from the Hall of Honor? While the man was rather ignorant of the outside world, even he had heard these two names more than once. How could he not have heard something about the VIPs currently visiting Venom King City?

Suddenly, the name "Qing Li" registered in the shop owner's mind, and he spun to stare at the only man dressed in the customary clothes of the Divine Venom Dynasty in disbelief. Was he King Qing Li?

At this thought, the shop owner quickly hurriedly stepped forward and bowed low. "This lowly one greets King Qing Li."

Qing Li dismissed the man with a wave of his hand. "Be at ease. Do what you have to."

What do I have to do? The shop owner was stunned. What was with these people's conversation? Was it actually something he could listen to?

"Hey Boss, do you have anything special here? I want to buy a gift for your emperor," Lu Yin asked while smiling at the shop owner.

The man was a bit slow to react, as he had no idea how to respond.

Wen Qian'er just rolled her eyes. "What sort of quality goods could this man have?"

Mr. You snorted disdainfully. "Mr. Lu is being too insulting to Qing Shaohuang. Don't you feel that it's rude to buy a last minute gift for your host?"

Lu Yin's mouth curled up into a smile. "I wanted to give him the Longevity Brigade, but unfortunately, it was already destroyed."

"You!" Mr. You was furious.

Suddenly, a condescending voice spoke up from just outside the door to the shop. "Such a powerful aura. If I'm not wrong, it has to belong to Alliance Leader Lu Yin."

As the door opened, a man with a snow-white skin and cold eyes slowly entered. It was impossible to tell how old the man was, but his voice was sharp and carried the weight of many years.

Lu Yin frowned, as this man was staring at him with vicious eyes that gave the impression of needles. A strange tugged at the corner of the man's mouth, which left Lu Yin feeling very uncomfortable.

"Who are you?" Lu Yin asked.

The man stepped the rest of the way into the shop and slowly bowed to Qing Li. "I greet the king."

King Qing Li just snorted. "This is the imperial palace's chief attendant and also my brother's confidant."

Attendant Yi quickly smiled and spoke up, "What is Your Highness saying? I wouldn't dare be referred to as a confidant! I'm just a mere servant who served His Majesty and Your Highness."

Lu Yin observed Attendant Yi. "Were you the one speaking earlier?"

Attendant Yi turned to face Lu Yin, still showing the same slimy smile as before. "If it isn't Alliance Leader Lu. I came here to greet you at His Majesty's orders, but as soon as I arrived, I felt your presence, which terrified this lowly

one. Might I ask who in Venom King City might have offended you, Alliance Leader Lu?"

Lu Yin's eyes flashed, but he did not answer. This was because one more person had just entered the shop, and this time, it was a woman: Qing Longlong.

The shop owner prostrated himself on the floor and no longer dared to even lift his head. Lu Yin and Mr. You being in his store was not a big deal to the man, as they were important figures in the world outside of the Divine Venom Dynasty. Thus, no matter how powerful they might be, they had nothing to do with someone like the shop owner. On the other hand, Attendant Yi's arrival had scared the man stiff, as he was the second-highest ranking person in the entire Divine Venom Dynasty, and he was responsible for countless millions of people.

Chapter 1760: Lu Yin's Gift

In particular, when it came to the ordinary people of the Divine Venom Dynasty, Attendant Yi was someone who held their lives in his hands. This was not simply because of the man's strength and position, but also because of the man's greed for wealth. He treated the entire street as his business, and he acted as the general manager.

On top of that, even without Attendant Yi present, the emperor's daughter Qing Longlong was also in the shop, which left the shop owner trembling.

"Attendant Yi, who authorized you to speak to Alliance Leader Lu in such a manner?" Qing Longlong rudely scolded Attendant Yi the moment she entered the building.

Attendant Yi maintained his smile as he slowly bowed to the princess. "This old slave greets Your Highness."

Qing Longlong stared at Attendant Yi with a look of disgust on her face. "Father asked you to come greet Alliance Leader Lu and the others; what were you just doing?"

Attendant Yi smiled. "This old slave simply saw the power of the alliance leader, and I was so impressed that I could not stop myself from voicing my admiration. There was nothing more to it than that."

He then turned and bowed to Lu Yin. "I beg that the alliance leader will not hold this against me."

Lu Yin gave a tiny smile.

Attendant Yi kept the same smile as ever, and it was both irritating and disturbing to see.

"Honestly, given the fact that you're a member of the Divine Venom Dynasty, I can't blame you even if I wanted to. The only thing I can say is that your master is too kind and doesn't wish to discipline his slaves." Lu Yin replied indifferently.

The smile disappeared from Attendant Yi's face, and his eyes moved upwards to stare Lu Yin. "It appears that Alliance Leader Lu has some bit of skill."

Lu Yin smiled. "You just asked that I wouldn't hold your words against you, so I'll train you on behalf of your master. This is a gift for Emperor Qing's recent breakthrough."

Lu Yin then swept out a hand that landed on Attendant Yi. The man was blown away by the slap, and he crashed into the street outside the shop.

Everyone was startled, as no one had expected Lu Yin to act so brazenly without showing any sort of respect for anyone.

Qing Li's brows rose high, and it was clear that he had also been taken aback by Lu Yin's actions.

The people who followed Attendant Yi rushed into the store to attack Lu Yin, only to be stopped by Qing Longlong who simply ordered, "Get out."

Attendant Yi quickly stood back up, but already half of his face had become swollen. He also stopped his guards from taking any action. "Step back. Her Highness and the king are both present; how can you forget your place?"

The various guards quickly pulled back.

Attendant Yi glared at Lu Yin with hatred, and a deep cold appeared in the man's eyes. He had not expected Lu Yin or anyone else to have the audacity to strike him within the Divine Venom Dynasty, and he had been caught off guard by Lu Yin's attack. However, there was nothing that Attendant Yi could even do about it with Lu Yin's status. "This old slave misspoke just now; has the alliance leader relieved his anger?"

Lu Yin lazily replied, "Tell Emperor Qing that this was my congratulatory gift for him. I hope he finds it to his liking."

The disturbing smile returned to Attendant Yi's face. "Understood. This old slave will take his leave."

He then left without even acknowledging Qing Li or Qing Longlong.

Everyone could see the burning resentment within the man's eyes.

Qing Longlong turned to face Lu Yin with a complicated expression and a bitter smile. "Why did Alliance Leader Lu do that?"

Lu Yin frowned. "I don't like the look of him."

He was being perfectly honest. However, in all of Venom King City, the only person who qualified to treat Attendant Yi with such rudeness was Qing Shaohuang himself. Lu Yin had the status to act the same, not even Qing Li would dare treat the chief attendant so rudely. This was mostly because Attendant Yi was notoriously vengeful.

Despite Qing Longlong's comment, she had felt quite a bit of pleasure from watching Lu Yin slapping Attendant Yi. Even though the chief attendant would be polite to the princess, it was also quite obvious that he did not have even the slightest bit of respect for her, and he would often prevent her from seeing Qing Shaohuang. Qing Li was the same, but no one could say anything about Attendant Yi's behavior.

Lu Yin's fearlessness and boldness had been perfectly revealed by his actions. He did not care at all about Attendant Yi, nor about Emperor Qing Shaohuang either. Their relationship as friends or enemies had already been determined.

"Alliance Leader Lu, we'll head out first. We will see you at the banquet," Balsam politely bade farewell to Lu Yin.

Mr. You also left, though he did not speak a single word more to Lu Yin.

Before Wen Sansi left, he whispered, "You shouldn't have come."

Qing Li separated from Lu Yin as well, as Qing Longlong had taken over the responsibility of entertaining Lu Yin. The two were of similar age, and so it was more suitable for the two to interact.

One by one, everyone else left, until finally, only Lu Yin, Qing Longlong, and the shop owner remained in the shop.

The shop owner was still prostrated on the ground with his head as low as he could force it. He did not dare raise his head the slightest bit, though he had still caught the slightest glimpse of Attendant Yi being slapped out of the shop. The young alliance leader was truly a ruthless man, but fortunately, the shop owner had done nothing to offend Lu Yin.

Qing Longlong said, "Alliance Leader Lu-"

However, before she could say anything more, Lu Yin raised a hand to stop her. "We're peers, so there's no need to speak like that. I'll see you outside."

Are we that familiar with each other? Qing Longlong wanted to ask this question, but refrained. "Alright, Brother Lu. Let me show you somewhere you can rest."

Lu Yin nodded and followed Qing Longlong out of the shop.

Such a small shop had just been the center of the entire Divine Venom Dynasty. For the next while, the shop owner would absolutely not have even a moment of peace. Every word and each tiny detail of what had happened in his shop would be pulled from him.

Qing Shaohuang had arranged an entire residence as Lu Yin's quarters for his stay. It was in Venom King City, but it was a house that almost no one knew of. It was a place for Qing Shaohuang to use when he needed some peace.

After hearing Qing Longlong's introduction of the place, Lu Yin asked, "Your father, the emperor, can't be hoping that I'll be creating less chaos in the future, could he?"

Qing Longlong smiled. "Brother Lu, you're overthinking. My imperial father has no such intentions. It's simply that this palace is rather remote, but also has quite a pleasant environment, so there will be few people to disturb you. I'll take care of any arrangements for you."

Lu Yin nodded. Neither of the two was in any hurry to arrive at Lu Yin's guest quarters, so they just wandered about the streets of Venom King City.

Venom King City was a very lively place, and everywhere the hustle and bustle of a busy city could be seen, as well as the occasional fight. Each conflict would see people bringing out all kinds of poisons. If cultivators were not taken into account, then Venom King City would give the impression of being an ancient imperial city that was inhabited by ordinary humans.

"Attendant Yi is highly trusted by your father?" Lu Yin asked.

Qing Longlong nodded. "He's served my imperial father since he was very young, and he's continued to work hard for many years."

"He's still not dead?" Lu Yin was surprised at this. Qing Shaohuang was far from weak, and he had even invited people from all parts of the Human Domain to celebrate a recent breakthrough. The emperor should be an expert with a power level of at least 800,000, so how was it that Attendant Yi had managed to keep up with Qing Shaohuang?

"That is something incredibly unique about Attendant Yi; in order to stay alive, he periodically uses a poisonous ice," Qing Longlong said. Though her tone of voice sounded quite casual, her words were heavy.

Qing Shaohuang was an emperor, and as such, there was no shortage of people willing to serve him, and yet he would rather be attended by Attendant Yi. This was a friendship that was no longer an ordinary master-servant relationship. It was no wonder that even Qing Li and Qing Longlong were so polite towards Attendant Yi. If looked at from a certain perspective, Lu Yin had slapped Qing Shaohuang himself.

Qing Longlong was unconcerned, but she did look over to check Lu Yin's reaction. However, she noticed that his complexion and coloring had not changed even the slightest bit; did he truly not care?

After thinking for a moment, Qing Longlong realized that both the Sword Sect and the Daynight clan had been stronger than the Divine Venom Dynasty. The Divine Venom Dynasty's uniqueness lay in its location and the surrounding environment. Without such things, the Divine Venom Dynasty might not even be able to compare to the Wen family.

Lu Yin had led the Great Eastern Alliance to destroy the Daynight clan, suppress the Sword Sect, and harass the Wen family. Naturally, such a person would not care about the Divine Venom Dynasty, let alone someone like Attendant Yi.

After half an hour of walking down the busiest street in Venom King City, Qing Longlong stopped in front of a very upscale restaurant.

It was the tallest building on the entire street, and it also covered a large area in every direction. There were two rows of servers waiting at the door.

"Brother Lu, I want to introduce you to someone," Qing Longlong said with a smile.

Lu Yin nodded. "Alright."

Lu Yin was greeted by an unexpected scene upon entering the restaurant, as the atmosphere was completely different from the outside. While the outside was grand, the inside was simple and homey.

Lu Yin followed Qing Longlong up to the top floor, where two beautiful maids bowed to greet the princess. Due to the style of clothing, Lu Yin was almost able to catch a peak at snowy white chests, and he quickly averted his eyes.

"Brother Lu, please." Qing Longlong found this reaction quite amusing; who would believe that the dignified leader of the Great Eastern Alliance would have such a side to him?

Lu Yin entered a private dining room and saw a woman in a frilly black coat and a delicate mask who stood up and bowed as Lu Yin entered. "This humble one is Yuan Miaomiao. I greet Alliance Leader Lu."

Even though the woman was clad completely in black and wore a mask, it was still not enough to conceal her beauty. Lu Yin was able to clearly see an attractive mouth, as well as eyes that were as bright as stars.

"Yuan Taishi's granddaughter?" Lu Yin was surprised by the woman's name.

Yuan Miaomiao bowed a second time. "I didn't expect Alliance Leader Lu to know of this small one."

Lu Yin looked over at Qing Longlong, who said, "Miaomiao and I are best friends, and she asked me to help her meet you."

Lu Yin was rather perplexed. Yuan Taishi had been advocating for Venom Flowzone to remain completely uninvolved with matters regarding the outside world, yet Qing Shaohuang was in favor of working with the Sword Sect and the other Inniverse forces to find a means of containing the Great Eastern Alliance's spread. The two held different opinions, but they were not actually enemies. They were both part of the Divine Venom Dynasty that was dealing with the Great Eastern Alliance. Given the current circumstances, it did not make any sense for Qing Longlong to set up a meeting between Yuan Miaomiao and Lu Yin. What was the reason for this?

"Longlong doesn't have any intentions, so please don't read into this, Alliance Leader Lu. She just wasn't able to refuse this one's request to bring Alliance Leader Lu here," Yuan Miaomiao spoke up. Her voice was soft and relaxing.

Lu Yin sat down. "Is there something that Miss Miaomiao wants to say?"

Qing Longlong looked at her friend, and Yuan Miaomiao looked back at the princess. "Go away, and don't try to listen in."

Qing Longlong pursed her lips, but still nodded and walked out.

Lu Yin stared at Yuan Miaomiao with heightened interest. "You two have a truly unusual relationship. She's the Divine Venom Dynasty's eldest princess, and yet she's willing to go against her father to help you meet me without even asking why. I'm quite curious."

Yuan Miaomiao replied with a small smile, "That's how our friendship is. From childhood to now, I've spent more time with Longlong than even my own parents, grandfather, and other family members. Longlong's also spent more time with me than His Majesty. We found each other, and we feel that our friendship is more valuable than our families."

This was the first time Lu Yin had heard of such a relationship. "Alright then, why did you want to see me?"

Yuan Miaomiao stood back up and very solemnly bowed to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin did not say anything. Given his status, let alone Yuan Miaomiao, even if Yuan Taishi bowed to him, it would not be anything improper. He was deserving of such signs of respect.

"This one wishes to ask Alliance Leader Lu to leave Venom Flowzone," Yuan Miaomiao solemnly stated.

The room remained silent for a bit. Yuan Miaomiao continued to bow without ever rising back up.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. "What does Yuan Taishi intend?"

Yuan Miaomiao's tone was serious, "The Divine Venom Dynasty should not interfere in the external affairs. This has always been my grandfather's belief. The people here are very prosperous and we have no wars. As soon as we interfere in outside conflicts, our future is impossible to predict. It's not worth the risk."

Lu Yin smiled. "Just because I'm here, why are you so certain that the Divine Venom Dynasty will get involved in outside conflicts? What is the Divine Venom Dynasty going to do to me? Or rather, is Qing Shaohuang planning to do something to me?"