

STAR ODYSSEY

Chapter 1821: Praying To A Statue

Xia Yi looked up at the person who had just appeared and sneered. "Help me? Why?"

"Simply because I don't like the Great Eastern Alliance."

Xia Yi stared at the person. "Can you even save me? Don't bother wasting your time. There are masters in Blazing Mist Flowzone with power levels of over a million. You can't save me."

"I can briefly restore you to your peak strength. The Great Eastern Alliance hasn't dispersed your stellar energy vortex, which means that you should be able to escape on your own." At that moment, the person raised a hand, and a green light enveloped Xia Yi.

About an hour later, the Ross Empire's mobile fortress trembled and then cracked. Xia Yi shot out, nervousness clouding his face. He glanced around and then charged to the south.

An alarm instantly sounded in the Great Eastern Alliance.

Xia Yi's escape presented a grave threat to the Great Eastern Alliance. If news of the Great Eastern Alliance imprisoning the Xia family's patriarch leaked, the Xia family would not be willing to quietly endure such an insult. Lu Yin was currently absent, so this matter had to be kept hidden.

Wei Rong immediately called Liu Huang and the Second Nightking in hopes that the two would be able to stop Xia Yi.

Xia Yi had fled at his fastest possible speed, so Wei Rong did not know if even the two powerhouses could stop him. Xia Yi was not some average Envoy, but rather the patriarch of the Xia family. He definitely had some tricks hidden up his sleeves.

Xia Yi's escape shook Blazing Mist Flowzone, and both Liu Huang and the Second Nightking abandoned the exit gate they had been protecting just to chase after the fugitive.

At the same time, a figure appeared just outside of Lu Yin's botanical garden and walked in. The big tree was still trying to escape. The intruder raised a foot and moved past the defensive boundary and to the escaping tree.

Through the branches, it was possible to see Sapling, which was sleeping soundly within the big tree's canopy. The person's eyes suddenly went wide, and they stretched out a hand to grab Sapling from the big tree.

Sapling was completely clueless, but just as the person's hand was about to make contact, the big tree's branches moved and wrapped around them.

The ground shattered, and a terrifying shockwave swept out in all directions, stirring up the entire garden.

Balaror, who oversaw the botanical garden, was blasted back by the shockwave, and he fell off of his bed. He rubbed his head and looked out of his quarters.

The big tree was very famous throughout the Ross Empire's mobile fortress, so everyone just assumed that the tree had gone berserk and tried to escape again.

No one noticed a figure hidden in a corner of the garden who was staring in the direction that the big tree had fled in disbelief. After a moment, the person coughed up blood.

In Burial Garden, Lu Yin was ignorant of everything that had happened within the Great Eastern Alliance, and he had no idea that the big tree had successfully escaped from the garden while carrying Sapling.

At the moment, Lu Yin was making his way through a wasteland and approaching an abandoned settlement. All he could see were dilapidated buildings, and it was clear that the city had been abandoned for a very long time.

Lu Yin entered the forsaken city. He reached out to touch a wall, but his touch did not cause the building to crumble to dust.

He also noticed footprints on the ground, which meant that he was not the first person to visit this place.

He slowly moved into the city. He could not figure out why, but this city gave him a familiar sensation, though he could not quite place it.

He eventually made his way to the center of the city.

There was a bang, and he looked to see that an abandoned long spear had fallen nearby and that the noise had come from it striking the ground.

Lu Yin glanced over, but he was unconcerned, so he kept moving. However, he did not take another step, but rather remained frozen as he slowly turned his head to re-examine the spear.

The shaft was riddled with holes that made it look ancient, but oddly enough, there was no trace of any corrosion. The pits and holes had not been caused by decay, but instead seemed like they had formed as the material naturally fell away from the shaft of the spear.

This strange sight reminded Lu Yin of the ruins that he had once seen from the Rune Civilization. He had come across a knife that had become pitted from age, but not from rust or corrosion. Instead, it had become pitted because some of its runes had vanished due to the passage of time.

Everything that he had seen in those ruins had been created from runes, and this spear looked almost exactly the same.

While considering this, Lu Yin's pupils transformed into runes, and he started to look around. He was shocked by what met his eyes, as he was once again able to see runes, but only within the small forsaken city. This place was another ruin of Rune Technology.

Excitement lit up Lu Yin's eyes, as these ruins belonged to the civilization that the Rune Progenitor had created. Lu Yin practiced Truesight, and it had been of great help to him throughout his life and had saved him on multiple occasions. He had wanted to improve his mastery of Truesight for some time, but he had reached a bottleneck.

The only way to break through this bottleneck was for him to visit Gods' Origin.

In the Outerverse, Lu Yin had learned that Amethyst Exchange's Zi family had been ordered by Gods' Origin to search for any remnants of Rune Technology or the Rune Progenitor's civilization. They had found four such remnants, and all of them had been taken to the Neoverse by Gods' Origin. Breakthroughs in Truesight were only possible with the assistance of remnants of Rune Technology.

Lu Yin had already been planning to make a trip to Gods' Origin, and he certainly had not expected to stumble upon ruins of Rune Technology in Burial Garden.

When he looked across the small town, he noticed that the greatest concentration of runes was at the southeast.

He slowly approached the area, and he soon saw a statue of an ordinary looking man with nothing special about his appearance. However, Lu Yin's transformed pupils twitched the moment he looked at the statue, and he gravitated towards it as though something was dragging him closer.

He noticed a large crowd of people kneeling in front of the statue, all looking as though they were praying to the statue, but these people were also statues themselves.

This was not an unfamiliar scene to Lu Yin, as he had seen a similar sight in the last Rune Technology ruins that he had visited. All of the people who had died and been reduced to bone had died in a posture of prayer. However, the statue that Lu Yin had seen in the last ruins had only been half of its body, while the statue he saw at this moment was whole.

Lu Yin approached one step at a time, worried that the statue or the praying figures might turn to dust if he disturbed them too much.

The closer he moved, the more indistinct the statue's details. Lu Yin felt as though there was a veil concealing the statue's features, and he no longer felt like he was looking at a face, but rather at a rune.

Lu Yin glanced around at the kneeling statues that were in positions of prayer. Who had carved so many peculiar statues in this place? What had happened to everyone who had visited this abandoned town before Lu Yin?

He looked down at his feet. There were other tracks on the ground, which showed that other people had visited this town, but all of the prints simply ended in the plaza with the statue.

Had the people disappeared? Lu Yin's heart dropped. Was this place dangerous? He remembered what he had seen in the tea hills, and he immediately turned to leave. It would be better to let someone else explore this place first.

However, he was already too late. Lu Yin had never noticed that the statue that all of the figures were praying to was not actually a statue. Rather, it was a wandering corpse that was covered with some kind of shell that made it look like a statue.

The moment that Lu Yin turned away, the wandering corpse made its move. It instantly appeared in front of Lu Yin without him sensing anything, and he could only watch on in horror as it reached out a hand to grab him.

His pupils shrank to pinpricks, and Lu Yin instantly took out the blood-red bell. He would never hesitate to use his most powerful means against a wandering corpse this powerful.

Unfortunately, he never even had the chance to ring the bell before the wandering corpse grabbed his shoulder. The world spun, and when Lu Yin could see clearly again, he could no longer move his body.

His eyes spun about, and he tried to move, but it was impossible. He looked forward and saw kneeling statues around him. Based on his own position, Lu Yin finally understood. None of these figures were statues, but were rather all people who had visited the abandoned town before him.

It was no wonder why the footprints just stopped in this plaza—everyone who entered this place had been turned into a statue. They were doomed to eternally worship the statue of what might have been the Rune Progenitor himself.

As for the blood-red bell, it had fallen to the ground where Lu Yin had been grabbed.

This place was no different from the tea hills! One wandering corpse planted people like tea bushes while this one forced people to become statues that worshiped another statue.

Lu Yin had managed to escape from the first one, but he had not been as lucky the second time around.

He tried to move around, but it was completely impossible.

His pupils transformed into runes, and he observed the entire area. The stone shell covering the wandering corpse that made it look like a statue was actually formed from runes, and when Lu Yin tried to erase a portion of the runes, he failed. It was clear that the wandering corpse had been a master of Truesight.

Suddenly, a jolt shot through Lu Yin's brain, his eyes became confused as he stared at the statue being worshiped by all of the kneeling figures. The face suddenly turned clear, and Lu Yin saw a strange sight as the number of runes started surging. He was looking at the next level of Truesight: Knowing.

A few people that participated in ZENITH had managed to reach the Knowing level of Truesight, but Lu Yin had no clue how he could reach that level of comprehension.

Truesight was not a cultivation art that required a person to comprehend it on their own like other techniques, but was rather a complete technology that had

been used to found an entire civilization by the Rune Progenitor himself. He had been a Progenitor who was erased from history. No one was able to master Truesight on their own, and the only way to advance was to find an inheritance.

At this moment, Lu Yin was finally able to catch a glimpse of the Knowing realm of Truesight. Did he need to master that level before he could leave this place?

What about the other people who had been captured by the wandering corpse? Was it only possible for those who had trained in Truesight to leave this place?

Lu Yin took a deep breath and calmed himself down. He already knew how to train, so he would simply do so where he was.

Half a month quickly passed, and a new statue appeared next to Lu Yin. It was another person who had stumbled upon the abandoned town and been turned into a statue by the wandering corpse.

Training in Truesight was not unfamiliar to Lu Yin, and its difficulty lay in how challenging its profound depths were to comprehend. Once that was done, the cultivation itself was not too difficult.

It seemed possible that this was the main reason why the Rune Progenitor had been able to stand up against the Sixth Mainland by relying only on the members of the civilization that he had established. Just how many powerhouses had risen up within that civilization? Lu Yin could not even imagine it.

The Sixth Mainland had refused to keep any records of Progenitor Chen because Progenitor Chen had been an invincible powerhouse even amongst Progenitors. As for the Rune Progenitor, the Sixth Mainland had simply refused to admit that the powerhouse even existed. From this, it seemed quite likely that the Rune Progenitor had posed an even greater threat to the Sixth Mainland than Progenitor Chen.

Soon, another half a month passed. Lu Yin had been practicing here for a month, and his experience in the Knowing realm was steadily increasing. Since Jin He and God Taiyi could reach this realm, he could too.

Two more statues were added beside him.

Ten days passed and then another ten days passed.

On this day, a man came and slowly approached the statue.

Lu Yin was able to move his eyes, and his position allowed him to see where he had entered the plaza, the blood-red bell lying on the ground, as well as a bit further beyond.

He was startled when he saw who had entered the plaza. Was it really him?

This man was Mr. Lifeview, one of the Sixth Mainland's Four Emphyreans. He was the master of the Sage Martial Realm's Higher Temple, as well as also Xiao Qing's master.

Lu Yin was shocked that such a powerhouse had actually entered Burial Garden. Something truly amazing must have been found if even the Four Emphyreans were willing to enter.

Mr. Lifeview saw the central statue, as well as the various kneeling figures, and he immediately stopped moving.

Lu Yin's eyes flickered. He could not decide if he actually wanted Mr. Lifeview to enter the plaza or not. He had no idea how strong the wandering corpse pretending to be a statue actually was, and while the various people would most likely be saved if Mr. Lifeview was stronger than the wandering corpse, that would not necessarily work out in Lu Yin's favor.

Chapter 1822: Infinity Realm

Lu Yin had known about the Knowing realm of Truesight, but he had been clueless as to how to reach it himself. If Mr. Lifeview destroyed the statue, Lu Yin might lose this opportunity. On top of that, there was an extremely high likelihood that Mr. Lifeview would simply attack if he discovered Lu Yin.

On the other hand, if the wandering corpse was powerful enough to be able to capture even Mr. Lifeview, then it would not be a bad situation for Lu Yin either. At least the Sixth Mainland would lose a powerhouse.

Would Mr. Lifeview enter the plaza or not? This was the biggest question at the moment.

Mr. Lifeview remained standing, and he stared at the plaza for a long time without moving. Lu Yin felt disappointed, as it looked like the Emphyrean Imprinter did not intend to enter the plaza.

At this moment, a breeze blew by and kicked up some dust from the ground. This revealed the blood-red bell that Lu Yin had dropped.

Mr. Lifeview noticed the bell, and shock could be seen in his eyes. He immediately stepped forward and started walking towards the bell.

Lu Yin was startled, and he grew terrified. Would this guy take his bell? That was a life saving treasure as well as a status symbol. The more Lu Yin thought about losing the bell, the more anxious he became, but there was not a single thing he could do about it.

Mr. Lifeview walked over to the blood-red bell, bent down, and reached for it.

Lu Yin's eyes went wide. Don't pick it up! Don't pick it up! Don't pick it up...

No matter how he prayed, Mr. Lifeview still ended up touching the bell, and Lu Yin's heart dropped. His treasure was lost.

The exact moment that Mr. Lifeview made contact with the blood-red bell, everything in the ruins changed. The wandering corpse disguised as a statue disappeared from where it had been standing, and it instantly reappeared behind Mr. Lifeview with a single hand stretched out.

Mr. Lifeview's gaze focused, and the Progenitor of Combat's imprint appeared behind him as a sword formed from stellar energy. A martial print appeared on the edge of the blade while a terrifying aura surged out. An Empyrean Imprinter's full might was on full display within Burial Garden at this moment.

Burial Garden's Tombkeeper was their only Semi-Progenitor, so Mr. Lifeview had thought that there would not be a single powerhouse within Burial Garden that could threaten him.

However, the edge of the sword started to disappear, stunning Mr. Lifeview. He could not believe his eyes as he watched his sword formed from stellar energy disappear into nothingness as soon as it passed within ten centimeters of the wandering corpse. The sword truly became nothing, as though it had been erased from existence. This was beyond his understanding.

The wandering corpse continued to stretch out its hand, and a moment later, there was another statue kneeling on its knees in the plaza, and the blood-red bell fell back to the ground with a gentle clang.

Lu Yin watched the entire exchange take place. Mr. Lifeview had not been strong enough to even put up a fight against the wandering corpse. He had been right, and the wandering corpse was definitely a Semi-Progenitor who had once trained in Truesight. The corpse's strength was unfathomable, and within the realms of the Rune Civilization's ruins, it could practically be considered invincible.

Lu Yin let out a sigh of relief, though he also felt rather nervous. He could not remain trapped in this place forever. No matter what it took, he had to master the Knowing realm of Truesight.

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Another month passed. Lu Yin had been trapped in the plaza for more than two months already.

One day, his pupils transformed into an ever-changing rune when he opened his eyes. He was ecstatic, as he had finally reached the Knowing realm of Truesight.

Knowing. This realm was referred to as Knowing because, at this level, Truesight cultivators were able to deny something from affecting the universe. For example, during ZENITH, when Jin He and Fan Shun had fought, Jin He had not made any attempt to evade Fan Shun's attacks. Rather, he had decided to face the attacks head on because he knew that he would not be harmed at all. The Knowing realm of Truesight had allowed Jin He to deny Fan Shun's attacks from affecting a certain region. The attacks had been so weak that they could not even harm the dirt beneath Jin He's feet, so how could such an attack have harmed him?

This was what Knowing meant.

No one who did not train in Truesight would ever be able to comprehend the power of the Knowing realm, and they would never be able to understand the magic of Rune Technology either.

Lu Yin believed that Mr. Lifeview's sword had been erased by the wandering corpse, but he had not been able to understand how it had happened. An attack could be resisted or negated, but how could an attack simply be erased? This was only possible with Truesight.

When Lu Yin's mastery of Truesight reached the Knowing realm, he also learned of the next level: Infinity.

It was an even more miraculous realm, but Lu Yin's current understanding of Truesight did not allow him to even fathom what the Infinity realm was capable of doing. In this plaza, Lu Yin was confident that he could achieve the Infinity realm if time was not an issue, but he could not afford the amount of time needed for that.

It was a large leap to rise from the Knowing to the Infinity realm of Truesight, and it would naturally take a very long time to accomplish that. Lu Yin did not want to stay in the plaza for that long.

Therefore, Lu Yin started using his new mastery of Truesight to try to erase the statue in front of him that had trapped him, as he wanted to escape.

Half an hour later, Lu Yin's face had gone pale, though it was impossible to tell because of Extremes Must Be Reversed.

If he was not able to escape, then it meant that the Knowing realm of Truesight was not sufficient. Did he have to reach the Infinity realm? Could the requirement be even higher than that?

Lu Yin felt frustrated after trying, but his Knowing realm of Truesight simply was not enough to even disturb the statue that had trapped Lu Yin. Finally, Lu Yin's hopes of escaping with his current mastery of Truesight were shattered. The wandering corpse had even captured an Empyrean Imprinter, which indicated that no one could escape from this plaza unless they were at least a Semi-Progenitor.

Lu Yin grew bitter, as he did not want to remain trapped here in the abandoned town. Even if he eventually achieved true mastery of Truesight, it would not matter if too much time passed and the Great Eastern Alliance disappeared.

Suddenly, he remembered to try reciting the Origin Sutra. Whenever Lu Yin encountered an odd situation, he had made it a habit to recite the sutra. It had proven to be of great assistance in training in the Cosmic Art, so could it possibly also help with training Truesight?

Lu Yin immediately tried it out. He began silently reciting the Origin Progenitor's Sutra. As he did so, he tried various things with Truesight to escape from the statue.

As Lu Yin continued reciting, his kneeling statue began to shake, and soon, all of the other kneeling statues also started to tremble. Eventually, even the erect statue of the person who might have been the Rune Progenitor began to shake.

Lu Yin was thrilled, as it was clearly working. He continued to recite the sutra.

Despite the fact that Lu Yin was doing everything silently, a faint voice could be heard in the Rune Civilization's ruins. A pair of eyes opened in a far-off corner of Burial Garden. They flickered between confusion and clarity as they stared towards the Rune Technology ruins. After a moment, an earth-shattering roar was released.

As it roared, the figure shot through space and flew towards the ruins. The wandering corpse disguised as a statue opened its eyes and waved a hand, erasing the roar into nothingness. The next moment, the statue turned to face Lu Yin and waved its hand again, blasting Lu Yin out of the ruins.

As Lu Yin was thrown away, he snagged the blood-red bell with the Yu Secret Art. When he slammed into the ground far away, his bones snapped with a crisp sound.

He raised his head and looked back towards the ruins that were still nearby. Lu Yin let out a laugh, as he had escaped. The Origin Progenitor's Sutra was far too useful, and it had actually allowed him to break free from that terrifying trap. He put the bell away and caught his breath. His smile would not leave his face. He had reached the Knowing realm of Truesight, and he had even managed to gain a flicker of insight regarding the Infinity realm. That insight could possibly allow him to break through another level of Truesight in the future.

Fear, nervousness, and elation all tumbled about within Lu Yin's mind. Just as he was about to leave, he felt that something was wrong. He was well aware of his body's strength, and although the wandering corpse had thrown him out with a tremendous amount of force, Lu Yin should not have been harmed even if he had smashed into a weapon, let alone the ground. So why had his bones been damaged?

Lu Yin looked down and saw a small black bump that looked like the calf of a human. He frowned and pressed a hand down, shattering the earth so that he could see what he had slammed into. It turned out to be a corpse.

The corpse had been buried just a few meters underground, and nothing about it seemed unusual at first glance. If not for the fact that he had slammed into it and been hurt, Lu Yin would not have paid any attention to this corpse even if he had found it with his domain.

However, things had changed. Slamming into this corpse had actually injured Lu Yin despite his powerful physique. He had almost shattered his bones, but this corpse was still fully intact. Something was clearly wrong.

Even if an Envoy with a power level of over 700,000 died, its corpse still would not have been hard enough to hurt Lu Yin this badly after he slammed into it.

Lu Yin started examining the corpse carefully.

He could not determine how long the corpse had existed for. The facial features were still clear, and its complexion was just like that of a normal person. It looked like the person had just died, but the clothes were weathered as though they had endured the ravages of time passing.

Lu Yin tried to smash the corpse apart as he wanted to see how much this body could endure, only to find that he was unable to do a thing to the corpse. He could not cause the slightest bit of damage with either Hollow Palm or the

Thirteen Swords. Even more terrifyingly, he was not able to harm the clothes either.

Finally, Lu Yin noticed that the corpse's clothes were able to easily endure his most powerful attacks.

He sucked in a breath of cold air. This corpse's clothes were no different from a set of armor that could resist attacks with a power level of 800,000 or even 900,000! Despite that, the clothes were extremely worn and faded. Lu Yin did not believe that this sort of aging could have happened even after hundreds of millions of years, so just how long had this corpse been around? Why was it next to the ruins of the Rune Civilization?

He flipped the corpse over, and a cosmic ring fell out. His eyes lit up as he picked the ring up. It looked ancient and did not match any design that he had ever seen before.

If there was a cosmic ring, then it had to be holding something.

Lu Yin became excited, and he tried various means to damage the corpse so that he could use its blood to open the ring.

Someone approached the area at this time, so Lu Yin hid alongside the corpse.

A while later, a heavily breathing man approached. It looked like he was being pursued, as he kept glancing behind him.

Lu Yin hid in the void and looked far behind the approaching man. There was another man far away, clearly intent on chasing down and killing the man next to Lu Yin. They were both only Hunters, so Lu Yin was unconcerned.

It was not long before the fleeing man entered the abandoned town, and there were no surprises as he was captured and turned into a kneeling statue. His pursuer also entered the ruins and became a statue.

Lu Yin was not a bad person, but he also was not a saint. He had seen no reason to warn either of the two men. Each person would find their own opportunities, and since these two had decided to become cultivators, they were responsible for their own lives and deaths.

It was even possible for them to comprehend Truesight after becoming statues. Thus, it was impossible to say what the future held for the two men.

Lu Yin put the corpse into his own cosmic ring and moved away from the ruins.

One day later, he was lucky enough to find an exit gate, so he hurried over towards it.

The distant gate had more than a dozen people surrounding it. A woman approached them and offered a respectful bow. "This one hails from the Cosmic Sea. Might I ask you seniors to allow me through this gate?"

One of the people surrounding the gate replied, "This gate leads to the Outerverse's Umbral Butterfly Weave. Are you sure you want to use it?"

The woman's expression remained unchanged even after hearing his words. She simply bowed once again. "Thank you, Senior, for telling me. This junior won't continue bothering you."

She moved to leave, but before she was able to take more than a few steps, the man spoke up again. "Since you're here, you need to leave something behind."

Chapter 1823: Hua Wu

The woman turned around, her face already growing pale. "This junior didn't manage to find anything in Burial Garden, so Seniors, I beg you to let me go."

"Didn't get anything? Open up your cosmic ring and dump everything out for me to check!" the man demanded.

This had become the normal state inside Burial Garden. At the moment, not only were there people gathered outside of the gates who were searching everyone exiting, but the inside of the gates were also being controlled. Everyone was doing their best to grab what they could, and even if the people being searched had not found anything in Burial Garden, they still needed to turn over their cosmic rings to be searched.

This was not a good situation for the people exploring Burial Garden. Unless they came from a powerful enough organization or were sufficiently powerful themselves, everything depended on luck.

The woman felt frustrated and offended. "Senior, this junior swears that she did not find anything! I've seen the dangers in Burial Garden, and I just want to leave."

"Cut the bullshit and open your ring!" Someone next to the gate leaped to their feet and almost instantly appeared next to the woman and snatched her cosmic ring.

Her face flushed red, and she raised a hand to fight back, only to have her arm instantly broken when she touched the man. One of the man's hands grabbed her ring while the other reached for her neck.

The man was ruthless and did not care about whether the woman lived or died. All he cared about was if she had anything valuable.

If the woman was not strong enough, this attack would kill her.

The woman felt a chill at her neck, and she started to despair. Was she about to die? She should have listened to her father and not entered Burial Garden. She had not found anything, and even when she was about to die, she could not say anything.

Suddenly, an invisible force swept through the group of people, and all of them, including the woman and the man who had attacked her, were stunned. Many of the people instantly fell unconscious, and even those who retained their senses fell to the ground and felt their vision grow blurry. Was this a domain?

The man who had attacked the woman saw a burry figure appear in front of him and crouch down. A voice spoke. "Tell me, where does this exit from Burial Garden lead to?"

The man's brain was still in a fog due to the pressure placed on him by the domain. He could not stop his body from trembling, and he struggled to even speak. "Out- Outerverse. Umbral- Umbral Butterfly Weave."

After answering, the man fainted.

Lu Yin stood up. These were people from the Sixth Mainland, and this gate led to the Umbral Butterfly Weave, which currently belonged to the Sixth Mainland. If he went out through this gate, he would immediately be captured by the Sixth Mainland, which was not an ideal situation. On top of that, the Outerverse was quite a long way from the Neoverse.

Lu Yin decided to continue searching for another exit from Burial Garden.

He looked over at the woman and then waved a hand to move her a bit further away from the gate and the people guarding it, which was essentially saving her life.

Despite many of the exit gates from Burial Garden leading to known locations, Lu Yin was still quite nervous about finding an exit that led to the Neoverse. He had been trapped by the statue for more than two months, and Yang Kong had tried and failed to get in touch with Lu Yin during this time.

Lu Yin had no idea how long the poison would remain dormant within his body, and while he was fairly confident that he could deal with it, he did not want to take such a risk.

Elsewhere in Burial Garden, Yang Kong released his hand, and an old man slowly fell to the ground. There were several other people around, but all of them were already dead.

The old man had been someone with an ancient bloodline. A desiccated corpse had been chasing after him, but after he was rescued, he had been forced to enter Burial Garden. He had been lucky enough to find a stone in Burial Garden, and the words written on the stone had entered his mind and given him the power to release vocalization attacks.

However, he had been seen during this encounter, and word of it had spread, which had eventually led to the old man's death at Yang Kong's hands.

His entire mission was to slaughter anyone with an ancient bloodline and cut off any inheritances from ancient times.

Yang Kong wiped his hands clean, unconcerned with what had just happened.

"You- aren't you Bu Kong?" A weak voice spoke up.

Yang Kong's expression grew sharp, and he looked over at a nearby person who should have already died.

The old man had been ganged up on by this person and all of the other dead people, as they had been trying to steal his inheritance. However, all of them had ended up dying at Yang Kong's hands.

"Bu Kong, aren't you dead? How are you still alive?" The person could not believe what they were seeing and could not understand the situation.

Yang Kong walked over to the man. "What's the point in telling you anything? You're already dead."

He stomped on the man's body and walked away.

More and more bearers of ancient bloodlines were finding their way into Burial Garden, and the place seemed to be undergoing greater and greater changes.

There were even people in the Human Domain who were not eliminating the dried up corpses, but instead using them to hunt down people with ancient bloodlines so that they could use them to explore Burial Garden.

Lu Yin still knew nothing about these events. He was also quite lucky, as after just a few more days, he came upon another exit gate. This time, there was no one guarding it despite it being readily visible. That was because this gate stood within a sourcebox array.

The more rumors about Burial Garden that spread, the more the place became known, and the more that certain dangers were also discovered.

Many of the people entering Burial Garden were becoming increasingly cautious, and with an obvious sourcebox array surrounding this gate, it was seen as a place to avoid despite the fact it was an exit gate.

Lu Yin arrived, but he was in no hurry to examine the sourcebox array. He had already noticed that there were several other people hiding in the area, all waiting for someone else to step forward and investigate the sourcebox array.

This was the exact same situation as what he had encountered in the tea hills.

One, two, three, four. Lu Yin found four hidden people when he glanced around, though not one of them noticed him.

He considered tossing them into the array to probe it, but at that moment, he noticed another person approaching through his domain. This person looked very young and quite worried, though he held his nose high and had a rather odd appearance.

Immediately, the four other people leaped out, startling the man, who unconsciously started rubbing the bridge of his nose and licking his lips. "Little- little brother Hua Wu pays his respect to these big brothers. I didn't know that you big brothers were resting here, and your little brother ended up disturbing you. Here's a gift to apologize to you big brothers."

As he spoke, he emptied his entire cosmic ring. He made no attempt to hide anything at all.

The four men glanced at each other, and one of them smiled. "You're quite direct."

The young man named Hua Wu replied, "I didn't see you big brothers here, and you startled me with your prowess when you came out. I know that you big brothers only have a bit of time, so I don't want to waste my big brothers' precious time. You might be able to use this time to find an inheritance, so delaying you all would really be a sin. You little brother isn't very talented, and I don't deserve to hold onto anything valuable, as that would be a case of handing pearls to swine. You big brothers can instead use it to a much greater

effect, and if you become stronger, that's already enough to help out your little brother. I really want to thank you again.

Lu Yin was left speechless by this monologue as he watched from a distance. This guy had a slick tongue, and he really knew how to flatter people. He did not stop after he got started, and he never once repeated himself. It was impressive to watch.

The four people surrounding Hua Wu were stunned speechless, and a couple of them grew embarrassed. "How can we accept this? These are your possessions, so how can you just give them to us?"

Hua Wu acted angry. "Third Brother, that's just wrong! How can this stuff be mine? All of this belongs to my big brothers! Please don't act polite."

"Third- third brother?" The man who had spoken felt confused.

Hua Wu quickly continued, "Of course you're Third Brother! Third brother is powerful and domineering! Just a glance is enough to know you're a direct and upfront person."

The man was caught off guard, and he laughed a few times. So he was domineering? That sounded pretty good.

Hua Wu turned to face a different man. "You're Eldest Brother. You're the eldest, and you're amazing at strategizing and can see things from thousands of miles away. I really admire the wisdom in your eyes!"

The man puffed his chest out. Eldest brother? Strategist? How did this kid see how smart I am?

Hua Wu then turned to the man on his right. "Second Brother, your little brother really admires your confidence! The only woman in the entire universe who could be worthy of you is Starsibyl!"

The second brother's eyes lit up, and swung his long hair behind his head. "My little brother is right!"

Hua Wu grew excited as he finally looked at the man who stood behind him. "Fourth Brother, when I look at you, your little brother is instantly reminded of Lu Yin! Excuse me, but are you possibly Lu Yin?"

The man who was called fourth brother was startled. "I- do I look like Lu Yin?"

Hua Wu shouted, "Of course! If you aren't Lu Yin, then who is?"

"Hahaha, Little Brother, don't be so silly! You need to be careful, as you might be overheard by someone from the Great Eastern Alliance, haha."

"Little brother Hua Wu formally submits himself to his big brothers." Hua Wu stepped back and bowed low.

The four men who had surrounded him all quickly moved forward to help him back up. "You're welcome with us, Fifth Brother."

"Fifth Brother, you're one of us! There's no need for this."

"You're our fifth brother."

...

Lu Yin was stunned. Was there something wrong with them? Were those men complete idiots? Were they just playing around and messing with Hua Wu? No, judging by their eyes, it seemed like they fully believed everything they said. Why? Lu Yin did not believe that someone could trick people so easily with just a few words. This was something beyond even Kui Luo.

He watched as the five people chatted with each other as Hua Wu was warmly welcomed into the group. In the end, they actually did not even know what Hua Wu said. They had intended to attack and rob him, but instead, they had offered him gifts and seen him off safely. They never even once considered why they had first surrounded the young man.

Lu Yin's eyes flickered, and he kept an eye on Hua Wu with his domain as he observed the four men left behind.

They should have forced Hua Wu to check the sourcebox array surrounding the exit gate for them, but reality had played out very differently. Something had gone wrong.

After Hua Wu was a good ways away, the four suddenly reacted. "Where'd that kid go?"

"What did we just do?"

"Bro, what's the matter?"

"Get lost! Who's your brother? We were scammed! Find that kid!"

"He's gone! I can't find him!"

"Bastard! He already left. We need to go find him!"

"Second Brother, help me!"

"Scram! Who's your second brother?"

...

Lu Yin stepped out and disappeared to chase after Hua Wu.

Far away, Hua Wu clapped a hand to his chest. "Those idiots! Thankfully, none of them were strong enough, or else I wouldn't have been able to trick them. Go be a strategist! Go get your Starsibyl and your Lu Yin! Go get your fifth brother!"

"Even if you curse someone, it's not good to drag others into it. Besides, Lu Yin didn't do anything to you." A voice entered Hua Wu's ear.

Hua Wu retorted, "I've already offended too many people! Even if Lu Yin were right here, I'd still curse him!"

Right at that moment, Hua Wu froze. He slowly turned around and saw a figure next to him. This figure had a dried up appearance, and it looked just like a dried up corpse.

Chapter 1824: Man Of My Word

Hua Wu's mouth fell open. "Ah~~!"

Lu Yin frowned and clicked his tongue. Hua Wu's scream was snuffed out, and his legs grew soft to the point where he nearly collapsed.

He stared at Lu Yin in terror. "A desiccated corpse? Can they hunt us down even here?"

Lu Yin remained calm and stared at the young man. "What did you just do?"

Hua Wu's eyes flickered when he heard Lu Yin speak, and the fear and panic that had filled his eyes began to dim. "Aren't you one of those desiccated corpses trying to hunt me down?"

"Do you have an ancient bloodline?" Lu Yin was taken aback.

Hua Wu's eyes darted about for a moment. He took a few deep breaths, and then a relaxed smile appeared on his face as he looked at Lu Yin. "Of course not! I'm Hua Wu, just an ordinary person. Big Brother, as soon as I saw you, I was amazed by your appearance! Look at the muscles on your body and your majestic figure! That's right, you must be Lu Yin, right? Aside from him, this little brother can't think of anyone else who could be as impressive as you, Big Brother. Here, a gift for you, Big Brother."

As Hua Wu spoke, he emptied his cosmic ring. "Everything that this little brother owns is yours, Big Brother! Only a hero like you is worthy to pick up the universe's treasures. I wasn't able to find anything good, but if Big Brother can check and see if your little brother missed something. I would never refuse to offer anything that you might need! The treasures in this universe must be..."

"How many times have you spouted this same spiel?" Lu Yin asked in an odd tone.

Hua Wu blinked. "What are you talking about, Big Brother? I only mentioned that your little brother feels that others are trash in comparison to you. Be honest: Big Brother, are you really Lu Yin? Aside from him, I really can't think of anyone else who could be as talented as you, Big Brother."

"I am Lu Yin," Lu Yin casually replied.

Hua Wu was momentarily stunned. "You- you are Lu Yin?"

Lu Yin nodded in a completely serious manner. "That's right."

Hua Wu turned red. What's going on? Why does this guy actually believe that? Is the secret technique useless? That's impossible. Those four idiots just now were all deceived and confused, so it's clearly working. But why is this shameless guy actually claiming to be Lu Yin? If you're Lu Yin, then I'm Lu Yin's father!

"So you're Alliance Leader Lu! Your little brother's been rude, but I have to tell you—aside from the leader of the Great Eastern Alliance, who could else be as talented as you, Big Brother? Your little brother didn't see wrong! You really are the alliance leader! Your little brother would be eternally grateful if you could take care of me. It's true that only Alliance Leader Lu is..."

Lu Yin set a hand onto Hua Wu's shoulder. "I just heard you curse me."

Hua Wu was taken aback. "Nope. Definitely not."

"I heard what you said," Lu Yin insisted.

The corner of Hua Wu's mouth twitched. This guy really believed himself to be Lu Yin! "Cough, It's really not true. Alliance Leader Lu, Big Brother Lu, you have you believe that your little brother's admiration for you is greater than the size of this entire Burial Garden! I admire you as much as anyone in the Great Eastern Alliance—no! More! Your little brother..."

"What did you just do to those four men?" Lu Yin asked.

Hua Wu grew confused. "What did who do?"

A smile appeared on Lu Yin's face. He grabbed hold of Hua Wu and instantly tore through the void to return to the exit gate that stood in the middle of the sourcebox array.

When they arrived, Lu Yin happened to see someone entering the sourcebox array, so he dragged Hua Wu a bit away to watch.

The person who was approaching the sourcebox array was one of the four men who had previously surrounded Hua Wu. To be precise, he was the youngest of the four.

The man who had been called Fourth Brother looked quite scared as he stepped into the sourcebox array. He felt like his entire being was being seen through. Entering the sourcebox array felt like he was being observed by a legendary powerhouse, though Fourth Brother had never come into contact with such an expert in his entire life. After all, how many people had met a true powerhouse?

Before the Sixth Mainland's invasion, most people had never even heard of a sourcebox array. After the invasion, the rise of Lu Yin and the broadcast of ZENITH had gradually spread knowledge of sourcebox arrays, and the universe had slowly learned about a terrifying fighting style.

However, didn't that mean that there were very few sourcebox arrays? It was even rare for powerful Lockbreakers to comprehend sourcebox arrays, and yet there was one surrounding the exit. Fourth Brother was being forced to investigate it, and as far as he was concerned, this was a life-or-death matter.

Suddenly, the man's vision changed, and a terrible pain erupted at his back. He smashed into the ground, and the wind was knocked out of him.

Where am I? The man rolled over onto his back after being slammed into the ground. When he sat up, he looked around. He immediately noticed Lu Yin and Hua Wu staring at him, and Fourth Brother's expression became enraged when he saw Hua Wu next to Lu Yin. "It's you, brat!"

The man wanted to say more, but he finally took notice of Lu Yin's appearance as he stood next to Hua Wu, and Fourth Brother instantly suppressed his words.

Hua Wu blinked. What just happened? How did he get here from so far away?

Lu Yin was staring at the sourcebox array surrounding the exit gate off in the distance. It was easy to know which sourcebox array he was looking at.

Lockbreaking required Lockbreakers to risk their lives while fighting against the universe and unlocking sourceboxes. Sourceboxes contained unpredictable dangers, and it was also possible for Lockbreakers to come across a rare, natural sourcebox array. Many Lockbreakers lost their lives while trying to unravel these sourcebox arrays.

Lu Yin was not comfortable trying to probe an unknown sourcebox array on his own, but things were much easier now that he knew what this sourcebox array actually did.

Although Lu Yin knew the sourcebox array's function, the same was not true of the three men standing outside of the array. They had just seen the youngest of the four of them disappear, and they all grew pale. They all believed that the man had been erased, and their legs grew weak as they quickly retreated.

"Let's get out of here! Let's leave and never see each other again!" one person said as he fled as fast as possible without ever turning around.

The other two glanced at each other before taking off in two different directions. None of them had the courage to return to the sourcebox array as they were all terrified that some powerhouse would suddenly appear and force them into the sourcebox array to test it out. Then, their lives would be forfeit.

Fourth Brother also wanted to escape, but Lu Yin gestured for him to move closer.

Fourth Brother nervously swallowed. He had landed a fair distance from Lu Yin and Hua Wu, so the man turned and fled without any hesitation.

Lu Yin shook his head and wiggled a finger. Star energy fell down like the sky was collapsing, and space shattered in front of Fourth Brother.

The man's pupils shrank at this amazing sight, and he slowly turned around to stare at Lu Yin. This person was an unfathomable powerhouse.

Lu Yin waved the man over again.

This time, Fourth Brother immediately obeyed, and he acted very respectfully as he stood in front of Lu Yin, though sweat was dripping from the man's forehead. "Um, Senior, were you looking for me?"

Lu Yin pointed over at Hua Wu. "Do you remember him?"

Fourth Brother and Hua Wu glanced at each other, and the man started to act excited. "Fifth Brother! Fifth Brother, it's really you! Damn, this is so lucky! You managed to meet such a powerful expert? Fourth Brother is so happy for you, Fifth Brother."

Hua Wu felt that this was a bit awkward, as this man believed that Lu Yin was Hua Wu's backer, which was why the man known as Fourth Brother had started acting so strangely. It was really quite disturbing to see.

"Since you two know each other, you can both die," Lu Yin stated in a cold voice.

Hua Wu was startled, and Fourth Brother's scalp went numb. In an instant, he kicked at Hua Wu. "Senior, I don't know him! I promise that I don't know him at all!"

He pointed at Hua Wu and shouted, "This bastard tricked all of us, though I have no idea what he did. He somehow made the four of us believe his bullshit and become sworn brothers! Senior, I swear that this is only the second time this junior has even seen this man, and I beg you to look into what happened!"

Hua Wu gritted his teeth from the pain of the kick. The bastard had not been gentle.

Lu Yin waved a hand to dismiss Fourth Brother. "You can go."

Fourth Brother turned right around and took off as though he had just escaped from death. He did not even dare to look back.

Lu Yin looked at Hua Wu with greater interest. "Well, it's time for us to talk."

Hua Wu rubbed his waist where he had been kicked and sneered. "Brother Lu, what do you want to talk about?"

Lu Yin stared at the young man. "I don't believe that there are any idiots in this universe who would unconditionally trust someone else after just exchanging a few words, and I find the likelihood of that even less when the people involved are cultivators. What's more, it was even a group of four people. How did you do it?"

Hua Wu rolled his eyes and pointed towards Fourth Brother who was still running away. He started talking in a bitter tone. "Brother Lu, don't believe him! The truth is that we've known each other for a long time, but-"

"I want to hear the truth, and I don't want to waste any more time. If I don't believe every word that comes out of your mouth the next time you open it, you'll die." Lu Yin's eyes suddenly turned cold.

Hua Wu met Lu Yin's cold gaze, and his heart dropped. He opened his mouth, wanting to say something, but a chill came over his entire body, and he felt like he saw his own death. While he had no idea who the person in front of him was or why he was pretending to be Lu Yin, most cultivators were ruthless and decisive and had nothing holding them back from killing people with whom they had no relationship.

Lu Yin's eyes grew increasingly colder.

Hua Wu shrugged and closed his eyes. He let out a sigh, and then reluctantly opened his eyes and started speaking. "Secret technique: Man of My Word."

Lu Yin was completely confused. "What?"

Hua Wu's voice was earnest as he continued, "I stumbled upon an inheritance when I entered Burial Garden. It's a secret technique called Man of My Word. Anything I say to another person is considered absolutely true, as long as their cultivation doesn't exceed mine by too much. As for you, you're way too strong for this to do anything at all to you, which means that Senior should at least be an Enlightener."

Lu Yin stared intently at Hua Wu. "Is this a joke?"

Hua Wu's heart skipped a beat and he turned pale. "Senior, this junior is being honest! It really is a secret technique! You saw what happened to those four guys, and you already mentioned how it's impossible for people to simply believe a person that they just met. Their reactions were all because of this secret technique!"

Lu Yin still did not believe that such a ridiculous secret technique had been created. Who would do that?

Secret techniques were exclusively created by Progenitors. Lu Yin was rather aware of the different secret techniques that existed in the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands, but in ancient times, there had been four more Mainlands that had eventually been destroyed. How many Progenitors had those Mainlands possessed?

Just how many Progenitors had been born over the eons?

It was not an exaggeration to say that, if all of the secret techniques that had ever existed were compiled into a single book, Lu Yin would still refuse to believe that such a ridiculous secret technique would be found in the pages.

Which Progenitor would be petty enough to create such a secret technique?

Suddenly, Lu Yin was reminded of Kui Luo, and his expression grew weird. If Kui Luo one day became a Progenitor, just what kind of secret technique would he end up creating?

Was this a coincidence? This sort of secret technique was the exact sort of technique that Kui Luo would create. Since there was such a person alive, it was possible that someone with a similar personality had lived in ancient times as well.

"Which Progenitor created the secret technique that you received?" Lu Yin asked.

Hua Wu's face twitched. "Um, I don't know."

"You don't know?" Lu Yin arched a brow, and his eyes grew cold once more.

Hua Wu dropped to his knees. "Senior, I really don't know! All I know is that the bridge of my nose grew longer after I learned this secret technique!"

Chapter 1825: Poison Triggered

Lu Yin stared at Hua Wu's nose. "You weren't born like that?"

"No, absolutely not! I used to have a normal appearance, but my nose turned into this after I learned the secret technique. Senior, I really don't know who created this secret technique. Something accidentally smacked my head, and I suddenly learned this technique. I never saw or learned anything at all about the person who made it." Hua Wu spoke honestly and practically swore that he was telling the truth.

Lu Yin believed that Hua Wu did not have the courage to lie at this moment.

"Since you have an ancient bloodline, what sort of legacy does your family have?"

"Senior, I swear that if my family has any legacy at all, this secret technique will never be used again!" Hua Wu loudly declared.

Lu Yin was left speechless at this reaction, as he had only been mildly curious.

He then moved over next to the sourcebox array with Hua Wu. "Wait here, and I'll take you out with me."

He then stepped forward and entered the sourcebox array.

Hua Wu's eyes flashed, and he debated with himself over whether or not he should try to escape. Was this guy testing him?

Lu Yin actually did not care if Hua Wu left or not. If the man left, it was no problem, and if he stayed, then Lu Yin would take Hua Wu through the exit. After all, Hua Wu was someone with an ancient bloodline, as was Lu Yin. Their meeting was a bit of fate.

After all these years, the sourcebox array was not as powerful as it had once been, and Lu Yin only needed half a day to unlock it. He looked back and saw that Hua Wu was still waiting for him.

"Let's go." Lu Yin grabbed Hua Wu and passed through the exit gate to leave.

The next instant, they arrived somewhere with a brilliant, star-filled sky overhead. They were surrounded by people who were warily staring at the gate and holding weapons. Nearby, there were even powerhouses who were at the cusp of becoming Envoys, which Lu Yin easily determined based on the number of runes he saw.

"State your names and turn over your cosmic rings!" A command was shouted by the most powerful Enlighter present.

Lu Yin gave a small smile, took a step, and vanished.

All of the guards were stunned.

The Enlighter's expression changed drastically, though he also felt a powerful sense of relief. They had run into a true powerhouse who had to have at least been an Envoy. Luckily, the expert had not bothered himself with them, as otherwise, they would not have even known how they died.

Lu Yin and Hua Wu appeared at the bottom of a skyscraper. They were in a roaming city. Lu Yin released his domain and was pleasantly surprised to learn that they were in the Neoverse.

He had exited a gate that had taken him straight out of Burial Garden and into the Neoverse.

"You can head out by yourself. We're in the Neoverse," Lu Yin said as he released Hua Wu.

Hua Wu could not believe his ears. "I- I can go?"

"Were you thinking of something else?" Lu Yin asked back.

Hua Wu pursed his lips. "So can I leave?"

Lu Yin's gaze suddenly focused. "Unless you want me to introduce you to a master?"

Hua Wu was startled, and he quickly replied, "Senior doesn't need to do that! This junior enjoys his wild ways and freedom. I just can't attach myself to a master, so I'll take my leave!"

He then quickly fled.

A small smile appeared on Lu Yin's face. He found Hua Wu to be quite interesting. Lu Yin had genuinely wanted to introduce the young man to a master: Kui Luo. However, it seemed that Hua Wu had misunderstood something.

Hua Wu had misread Lu Yin's intentions. It was not an uncommon occurrence for a master to steal an inheritance that their disciple found. Hua Wu had mistakenly thought that those were Lu Yin's intentions and that Lu Yin coveted the Man of My Word secret technique. He was also afraid that Lu Yin would react poorly if he did not get the secret technique.

However, Hua Wu had overthought the matter. Lu Yin was aware that secret techniques could not be easily spread from one person to another, and he even knew of one secret technique that only a single person could know at a time, which was the Yōu Secret Art.

As for the master that Lu Yin had offered to find for Hua Wu, it had naturally been Kui Luo. If that man learned that someone had inherited something like Man of My Word, his interest would absolutely be roused. Unfortunately, Hua Wu had walked away from the chance to have a Semi-Progenitor as his master.

Hua Wu left, and Lu Yin took out Zenith Mountain to release someone: Ku Lei.

Ku Lei was quite miserable at this time, as he had been tortured by Crown Prince Gui Qian during his entire time on Zenith Mountain. He had not been able to defeat the prince, nor had he been able to escape. Only a few months had passed, but Ku Lei had lost so much weight that Lu Yin had nearly failed to recognize the young man when he saw him.

"You can leave now. We're in the Neoverse," Lu Yin stated.

Ku Lei grew excited. "The Neoverse? I'm back?"

Lu Yin said, "Go on."

Ku Lei stared at Lu Yin's cosmic ring for a long moment, resentment building up in his eyes. He would not forget the debt that Crown Prince Gui Qian owed him, and Ku Lei was determined to repay the torture that he had suffered over these few months.

After releasing Ku Lei, Lu Yin wanted to report what had happened, but he quickly decided to do so after he visited Black Street.

Fortunately, the exit that Lu Yin had come out through was rather close to Black Street, as it was already in the northern region of the Neoverse.

Black Street was quite famous, and Lu Yin had also visited the place before. Thus, it was not difficult for him to find it.

Shortly after he left the roaming city, a pair of black eyes swept through the region and locked onto Lu Yin's path. It was one of the desiccated corpses.

Given the corpse's speed, it shouldn't have been able to catch up to Lu Yin, but it was coincidentally situated in front of Lu Yin's path.

After just half an hour, Lu Yin ran into the corpse.

"Ancient bloodline detected. Target acquired: kill." The corpse's eyes were locked onto Lu Yin, and it shot towards him with a hand raised to grab him.

Lu Yin was caught off guard, though not by the desiccated corpse. He was surprised because there were several figures behind the corpse who were staring at him.

Just as the corpse tried to grab Lu Yin, several cultivators moved as one. Two of them went after the desiccated corpse while the third one targeted Lu Yin. "Follow us."

He tried to pull Lu Yin away several times but soon found that it was impossible. The man looked at Lu Yin in surprise, and it was only then that he got a good look at Lu Yin's face and realized that this person looked very similar to the desiccated corpse. The man reflexively released Lu Yin. "What the hell?"

The other nearby cultivators also turned to stare at Lu Yin in surprise, though the two who were keeping the corpse occupied continued to fight it.

The corpse only had a power level of about 200,000, and the people who had been following it were all Enlighters.

"What are you doing?" Lu Yin asked.

The cultivator who had tried to drag Lu Yin away just stared at him. "You can talk? Aren't you a corpse?"

Lu Yin glanced over at the dried up corpse and understood the situation. "You guys are fishing with those corpses, huh. Are you looking for ancient bloodlines?"

"I'm glad that you figured it out, so come with us. We're sending you into Burial Garden." The man tried to pull Lu Yin away once again.

Lu Yin shook his head and disappeared. Right after that, the desiccated corpse stopped moving.

The group of people were all startled, and they glanced at each other. They all realized that they had just targeted a true powerhouse.

"We're lucky that he didn't attack us! He cleared the corpse's detection range in an instant. That's not someone we can go up against." One person was terrified by what had happened.

"What now? Keep going?"

"Of course we continue! He didn't attack us, which basically means that he approves of us fishing for more ancient bloodlines with the corpse. What are you so afraid of? Aren't all the most powerful organizations in the universe doing the same thing? If we don't flush out the ancient bloodlines, then how can we make sure that the inheritances in Burial Garden will activate?"

"Those people are the most ruthless there are. You and I might be grabbing the people with ancient bloodlines, but those powers are the ones controlling us."

"You don't need to say it out loud! No one likes to hear that. Let's just keep going. There are many people with ancient bloodlines, and we can always find more."

...

Of course, Lu Yin was indeed hoping that more people with ancient bloodlines would appear. Even though people were sneaky and clever enough to come up with ways to control the people with ancient bloodlines and force them to enter Burial Garden, those people were still obtaining many unique inheritances in Burial Garden. Hua Wu and Unseen Light were both examples of that.

Standing at different heights allowed people to see different perspectives.

An ordinary cultivator would hope for the people at the top to make decisions that benefited them, especially regarding the ancient bloodlines. However, the people standing at the top were not seeing individual gains and losses, but rather what would benefit the entire Fifth Mainland.

The more inheritances that appeared, the better it would be for the Fifth Mainland, regardless of who obtained them. In particular, those who knew about the Aeternals had this bigger picture in mind. It did not matter who obtained the inheritances, as all of humanity had a common enemy: the Aeternals.

The more inheritances that were acquired, the greater the blow to the Aeternals. This was the entire reason why Burial Garden had opened.

The ancient bloodlines were the key, and the people with those bloodlines could either obtain an inheritance for themselves or be used by others. It was all dependent on their destiny.

This was the way of the universe.

Lu Yin had no intention to act as a guardian for the ancient bloodlines. He did not have the energy to attempt such a thing. If he happened to stumble upon a situation, he would help if possible, but he would not make himself into an enemy of the entire universe just to help the people.

In fact, Lu Yin even had hopes that the ancient bloodlines would be found and that their bearers would be tossed into Burial Garden. That was the only way that even more inheritances could be released and used to deal with the Aeternals.

The thinking of those at the top had always been different from that of ordinary people, and it was because their perspectives were different.

Still, Lu Yin had always maintained a bottom line. For example, in order to establish a battlefield for the Sixth Mainland to fight upon, he had given up Ironblood Weave. He would one day take the weave back and fulfill the promise that he had made to the defenders of the weave. This was Lu Yin's bottom line. He was willing to make sacrifices for the greater good, but whatever he sacrificed would have to one day be taken back.

As these thoughts ran through his mind, he arrived at Black Street.

...

Back in Burial Garden, Dojo Master Si stared off into the distance at the enormous wandering corpse of an astral beast that was carrying a palace upon its back. A terrible killing intent flared up in her eyes, and water flowed out of the void to surround a group of people who were following the giant corpse. The water quickly took on the form of the Water God's Tears.

By the time the giant was completely out of sight, rivers of blood flowed across the ground.

Yang Kong emerged from the void. "As expected of the master of Water God Dojo. You're quite ruthless with your attacks."

Dojo Master Si replied indifferently, "If they don't die, I will."

Yang Kong smiled. "If only that Lie Yanzi could be as smart as you."

Dojo Master Si grew puzzled. "What happened to him?"

Yang Kong looked upwards. "I mentioned before we entered Burial Garden that none of you could leave Burial Garden and that you had to first speak with me if you wanted to leave. No one would be allowed to leave without my consent. Unfortunately, Lie Yanzi did exactly that, so he's going to die."

"How do you know that he left Burial Garden?" Dojo Master Si wondered.

Yang Kong casually replied, "The communication crystals won't connect, which means that he has either been destroyed, or he's left. Regardless, it means that his life is over."

Dojo Master Si's eyes narrowed. Yang Kong was casually speaking about an Envoy's death, and his words truly did mean that Lie Yanzi would die. Yang Kong was clearly far more ruthless than Dojo Master Si, and he handled his affairs in the same manner as the Aeternals.

...

Lu Yin and Ming Yan were reunited in Black Street, though his appearance startled her quite badly. He was forced to explain himself multiple times before Ming Yan actually believed that Lu Yin was who he claimed to be.

Suddenly, the poisons in his body erupted.

Lu Yin spat out a mouthful of blood, and he felt his life fading. His expression changed completely. "This is bad!"

As he spoke, he quickly consumed some medicinal pills to help him survive.

Ming Yan was startled, and she grabbed Lu Yin tightly. "Brother Lu, what's wrong?"

"Bring out your white-haired self! I've been poisoned with Vitality Poison," Lu Yin said in a low voice. He had not expected the poison to erupt so suddenly and without any sort of warning.

Chapter 1826: Completing More Cycles

Ming Yan's hair turned white very quickly. The personality of the white-haired Ming Yan was completely different from her black-haired self.

The girl's eyes grew cold after she grabbed Lu Yin's wrist with a hand. "You have been afflicted with Vitality Poison, but there are also other poisons. How did you get poisoned?"

Lu Yin felt his vitality flowing away, and his body was overcome with a feeling of powerlessness. It was an odd sensation, as if he was turning to liquid, and it was very difficult to move his star energy. Vitality flowed into his body from

his upper meridian point and the sprout that was in there, but the amount could not compare to the speed of the poisons in Lu Yin's body. After all, there was not only the Vitality Poison, but also Samaritan's Tears. The two poisons worked together to ravage his already dried out body.

The white-haired Ming Yan placed Lu Yin's finger in her mouth and bit down. Lu Yin stared at her in shock. "You?"

White-haired Ming Yan bit down on Lu Yin's finger, and blood spilled out from his finger and her lips. The next moment, Lu Yin could feel something within his body being sucked away by Ming Yan, and his vitality also stopped draining from his body.

"I removed the Vitality Poison, but I can't do anything about the other poison," Ming Yan said quickly as she stared at Lu Yin in a rather helpless manner. She represented all of Ming Yan's negative emotions, and she had never shown such a reaction to Lu Yin before, so he was quite surprised to see this.

Also, Lu Yin had not thought that the Samaritan's Tears would actually be just as potent as the Vitality Poison. Just how many poisons had the Aeternals developed?

With the removal of the Vitality Poison, Lu Yin's vitality was no longer draining away. But instead, his hair had started to become white at a clearly noticeable rate. The remaining poison was not affecting his vitality, but rather seemed to be speeding up time for his body.

Lu Yin could not believe that Samaritan's Tears was actually capable of such a thing. How could such a poison even exist?

The white-haired Ming Yan put Lu Yin's finger back in her mouth, but Lu Yin pulled back. He instead reached out to hold her face. "Don't worry. I know how to deal with this."

The young woman's eyes were already bloodshot. "Really?"

Lu Yin nodded. "Head on out first."

Ming Yan gritted her teeth and replied, "If you die, I'll be sure to avenge you!"

Right after that, her hair turned back to black, and the original Ming Yan appeared. Her eyes also turned bright red. "Big Brother Lu!"

"It's ok, go on out." Lu Yin tried to reassure her.

Ming Yan nodded and slowly walked out of the room.

Lu Yin took a deep breath. He lifted a hand and brought out his die to tap it.

One by one, his hair turned white.

Lu Yin stared at his die. It stopped on Pilfer, and something useless fell out. He rolled the die again, only to get Enhance. Continue.

The fourth roll got him four pips, and the scenery changed before Lu Yin's eyes as he entered the Timestop Space.

Upon entering the space, Lu Yin instantly extended his time in the space to about a year and then started focusing on fixing things.

He had clearly underestimated the Aeternals. He had been confident that Extremes Must Be Reversed would be enough to protect him from even Vitality Poison, and he certainly had not expected the Samaritan's Tears to be so shockingly potent.

It was not that the technique was ineffective, but rather that Lu Yin's recovery speed was not enough to offset the effects of Samaritan Tears. The only thing that he could think of was to recite the Origin Sutra.

As soon as the indistinct voice rose up, the surface of Lu Yin's withered body began to shine. Within his body, the Samaritan's Tears was destroying his body, but Extremes Must Be Reversed eventually managed to surpass the speed at which the poison ravaged Lu Yin's body, and he slowly began to recover.

"Never underestimate the Aeternals." Many people had said this, and Lu Yin had thought that he was more than cautious and wary enough. But in the end, he had still underestimated the Aeternals.

Vitality Poison was not their most potent poison. They had even more terrifying toxins at their disposal.

This was a poison that normally could not be dealt with or countered.

Extremes Must Be Reversed was a legendary healing and recovery technique that had been created by a Progenitor, which meant that it should have been powerful enough to even allow Semi-Progenitors to recover, and yet it had nearly failed to help Lu Yin deal with a poison, which was completely out of Lu Yin's expectations.

Lu Yin spent more than half a year within the Timestop Space to completely remove the poison from his body and turn it into a powerful tonic for his recovery.

This was the basis of Extremes Must Be Reversed. As long as an attack did not surpass what the technique was capable of handling, the attack would

actually restore whatever one suffered, which meant that they would not be injured. Instead, the more damage they suffered, the more power they would accumulate within their body.

Lu Yin let out a sigh of relief, as he knew that he had been lucky to survive the poison.

His mind calmed down. He knew that he had underestimated the Aeternals this time. He had known that Vitality Poison was incredibly powerful, but he had not expected there to be other, even more ruthless poisons.

A thought occurred to Lu Yin, and he pulled out his own vial of Samaritan's Tears from his cosmic ring.

When he had first bought it, Yi's Emporium had told him that the poison was able to kill even an Envoy with a power level of 700,000. Lu Yin had not actually believed them at that time, but at the moment, he had a new question. Just how in the world had Yi's Emporium managed to get their hands on Samaritan's Tears?

The Divine Venom Dynasty needed to look into just what the Neohuman Alliance had been researching in Venom Flowzone in addition to Vitality Poison.

Lu Yin's time soon ran out, and he left the Timestop Space. He went to meet with Ming Yan, reassured her that he was fine, and then returned to seclusion.

Since he had managed to acquire a new batch of funds, it was time to improve his cultivation. He still had quite a few flames stored in the Skyblaze Stone, and he hoped to raise his cultivation as much as possible.

Ten days quickly passed, and he rolled his die again. The first roll ended up being Timestop, which was wonderful to see.

He was resolute in his actions as he pulled out over a billion star essence and the Skyblaze Stone. The temperature in the Timestop Space soared, and the star essence melted. Stars appeared and began to revolve around Lu Yin. This time, Lu Yin was also reciting the Origin Sutra, which sped up the rate at which he could absorb the star essence even more.

Lu Yin was quite confident that no one was capable of cultivating faster than him.

He had already completed forty one cycles, so after absorbing 300 million star essence, he finished his forty second cycle and continued on without stopping.

He could never stay in the Timestop Space for a full year, as such an amount of time would cost too much.

He had no idea if it was pure luck or what, but after his time in the Timestop Space ended, his very next roll ended up being four pips once again.

All Lu Yin knew was that this was very unusual. He had actually assumed that he would roll Possession or something along those lines.

These two trips into the Timestop Space was enough for Lu Yin to complete forty three cycles, but he felt that this was still not enough, so he continued.

...

The die slowly stopped to show Gift Copy. Again. Pilfer. Again.

Lu Yin was forced to rest for ten days before rolling his die again.

During this cultivation session, his goal was to drain all of the heat and flames from the Skyblaze Stone to see how high he could push his cultivation.

Lu Yin's strength was high enough that there was no such thing as cultivating too quickly.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed when he saw Possession on his die, but fortunately, he had already set his cosmic ring aside. Given the incredible amount of star essence that he had in his ring, he had no idea how far away the target of his Possession would be. It was possible for him to Possess someone in the Perennial World, or even the Aeternal's native regions. However, his funds would only support one such Possession.

He would definitely have time to take advantage of Possession later, but not right now.

Again.

...

Black Street was as calm as ever. It was a different sort of calm that could be found in the outside world. This was a calm that belonged to Black Street alone.

Cruel and dark affairs were conducted in this place at every minute of every hour of every day. This was a unique feature of Black Street.

Disgust filled Ming Yan's eyes as she stared out at the filthy region of Black Street that lay off in the distance. She hated this entire place, but she had to stay. If she left, Big Brother Lu would have no source of income and would lose his source of raw materials.

Unwanted refuse from all parts of the Neoverse ended up in Black Street, but that trash might possibly be great treasures for Lu Yin. Even if such things were only rarely found, it still made sense for Ming Yan to stay.

"The recently collected items have all been sorted." Ming Yu approached Ming Yan from behind and whispered a report.

Ming Yan sighed. "Has anyone else tried making trouble?"

This question caused Ming Yu's body to tremble. "No. There have been none."

When the desiccated corpses had been chasing down people with ancient bloodlines, some of them had fled to Black Street. The corpses had been used by people to uncover ancient bloodlines, and their appearance caused a period of chaos in Black Street. However, the white-haired Ming Yan had revealed an iron fist, suppressing and cleansing Black Street in short order. She had even dealt with the people who caused problems for Bu Laoweng. In the end, there was no one who contested Ming Yan's absolute control over Black Street.

During her cleanup operations, more than 10,000 people had died. Ming Yu had been truly terrified by the methods that the white-haired Ming Yan had employed. The young woman was becoming increasingly intimidating in Ming Yu's eyes, and it was not just the white-haired Ming Yan. The black-haired version was also growing stronger by the day.

Lu Yin emerged from the void, and Ming Yu bowed her head and backed away when she saw him. He had already regained his normal appearance, as his previous physique would have badly frightened Ming Yu.

On the other hand, Ming Yan's eyes lit up when she saw Lu Yin appear. "Brother Lu, are you finished?"

Lu Yin nodded and casually put an arm around Ming Yan's waist. She rested her head on his shoulder, enjoying the rare moment of warmth.

During his last retreat into Timestop Space, Lu Yin had completed his forty-fifth cycle. In total, he had absorbed 1.7 billion star essence. If not for the Skyblaze Stone running out of flames, Lu Yin would not have exited seclusion. After all, he still had more than 30 billion star essence in his possession.

Completing his forty-fifth cycle as an Enlighter had only slightly improved Lu Yin's strength, but with the addition of Hollow Palm, his new level of Truesight, and his other improvements, he was now capable of dealing with second-tribulation Envoys, and he could even face off against experts with power

levels of 700,000. He even had a hope of escaping from a monster with a power level of a million. All of this was also without taking his bodysuit armor into account. If he considered that as well, he was absolutely able to go head-to-head against Envoys with power levels of 700,000.

"Brother Lu, these are the things that we prepared for you." Ming Yan offered the various items that Black Street had collected that could possibly contain rare components to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin had actually forgotten all about this request. He knew that he could easily Decompose all of these items when he next went into seclusion, but there was no rush. He would simply deal with this the next time he rolled his die. "Yan'er, do you still not want to leave this place?"

Ming Yan shook her head and firmly replied, "Black Street is able to gather all sorts of news and rumors from the entire Neoverse. Brother Lu, would you like to know how Yang Ji became an overseer?"

Lu Yin was surprised. "How did you find out about that?"

Yang Ji was the master of the Light World, and he was a powerhouse who was about as strong as Cang Zhou had been, or possibly slightly weaker. Throughout history, there had never once been anyone from the Honor Zone's 3,000 hidden worlds who had become an overseer, but Yang Ji had accomplished just that.

Lu Yin had thought that the man had been given his position because the Hall of Honor intended to keep a closer eye on the 3,000 hidden worlds, but Ming Yan was suggesting that there was something else to the man's appointment.

She smiled at Lu Yin. "Yang Ji provided a gift."

"A gift?" Lu Yin was puzzled.

Ming Yan nodded. "He gave a gift to Arch-Elder Zen himself. I have no idea what the gift actually was, but after that, Arch-Elder Zen agreed to make Yang Ji an overseer."

Lu Yin found this quite odd. Arch-Elder Zen was a Semi-Progenitor, and he was naturally removed from most worldly affairs. He was someone who should be immune to being bribed with gifts.

"I only found out about this by accident, but Yang Ji made a bet with some people that he could become an overseer despite there being no precedent for anyone from the 3,000 hidden worlds being given such a post. Even gaining the approval of all of the other overseers would not have helped Yang

Ji achieve his goal. Whatever he gave to Arch-Elder Zen could not have been a small price..." Ming Yan took some time to explain it a bit more for Lu Yin.

It was only then that Lu Yin understood that Yang Ji had no real interest in the position of overseer. Rather, he had been elevated to that post so that he would have adequate prestige.

"Also, an elder from the Cosmic Sect who's a powerful Lockbreaker, Yuan Miao, has a thing for Sect Master Yuan Qiong," Ming Yan whispered.

Lu Yin was completely speechless. "Where did you get that info?"

Chapter 1827: Ancestor Tortoise

"A lot of news makes its way into Black Street. A lot of it also can't be spread in the outside world, which is why it ends up in Black Street, as the powerhouse involved can't come to Black Street. Here, the information gets locked up and then doesn't spread anywhere." Ming Yan was quite proud of herself.

"Oh, and also..."

Lu Yin was thrilled as he listened to Ming Yan proudly share all kinds of gossip. He hugged and kissed her, making her blush. Most of the information that made it to Black Street was unreliable, but when enough information was compiled and combined, it was possible to learn some secrets.

Lu Yin asked Ming Yan to get in touch with En Ya so that Black Street's information could be collected and shared with the Great Eastern Alliance in the future.

Lu Yin left after spending just a few days at Black Street. He could not afford to stay at Black Street for long. Burial Garden's gates made everything uncertain, and no one knew who might suddenly come out of an exit.

Xia Yi had arrived in the heart of the Great Eastern Alliance after exiting Burial Garden, but fortunately, the Sea King had appeared. If not for that, the Great Eastern Alliance would have suffered severe losses, and both Chen Huang and Emperor Luo would have died without question.

After leaving Black Street, Lu Yin called the Sea King. He had tried to get through to Wang Wen while on his way to Black Street, but he had not been able to connect. Instead, Lu Yin had been updated on the recent happenings of the Great Eastern Alliance through Wei Rong. There were a few matters that Wei Rong did not know how to handle, so he had put them off until hearing from Lu Yin or Wang Wen.

There were certain things that had to be taken care of quickly.

"Give me a good explanation." Lu Yin heard a low voice when the call connected.

Lu Yin coughed. "What is Senior talking about?"

The Sea King shouted angrily, "That bastard Wang Wen who's under your command dared to try to hook up with my Qiqi! He's yours, isn't he?"

"Hook up with Qiqi? That's impossible, Senior. This junior knows Wang Wen. He's a talented and well-disciplined young man with integrity, morals, and wisdom. How could he possibly have pursued Qiqi?" Lu Yin retorted.

The Sea King just snorted. "Cut the bullshit and give me an answer."

"Where's Wang Wen? I want to talk to him," Lu Yin replied.

The Sea King spat back, "I locked him up. When did I go soft and start letting things go?"

"Where's Qiqi?" Lu Yin continued.

The Sea King suddenly sounded frustrated. "I don't know."

"Senior, this is all your fault! You broke up a happy couple with a good relationship."

"Good relationship my ass! That kid's too arrogant! He set a trap and made a bet that if Qiqi loses she'll have to marry him! When has anyone toyed with my daughter like this?" the Sea King roared.

Lu Yin pursed his lips. Listening to this old man was giving him a headache. He hung up and instead called Hai Qiqi.

Hai Qiqi did not want to answer, but Lu Yin did not relent until she finally had no choice but to answer. "State your matters, or else you may take your leave."

"Qiqi, Wang Wen's been tortured very badly," Lu Yin quietly informed her.

Hai Qiqi yelled back, "He deserves it! Who made him so ugly? I'd marry him if he were handsome, but he sucks! On top of that, he called me a chesspiece! Bastard!"

"It's about his appearance?" Lu Yin asked. He purposely ignored her comment about Wang Wen's insults, as Hai Qiqi's tongue was just as sharp as Wang Wen's.

"Yes, it's his face!" Hai Qiqi said.

Lu Yin retorted, "Then your taste is the problem."

Hai Qiqi screamed, "That's ridiculous! He's even uglier than you!"

Lu Yin pursed his lips. "Honestly, Wang Wen's cared for you for quite a while, and he's currently being tortured by your father. Even if you don't feel anything for him, you still shouldn't let him suffer like this. Think about it."

Lu Yin hung up without waiting for a reply.

Lu Yin did not know what Wang Wen was thinking. Lu Yin could still remember a conversation that the two of them once had, and Wang Wen would not have purposely flirted with Hai Qiqi. After all, he wanted the Sea King to step in and lead the Lu Elite Troops.

Lu Yin decided to forget about the whole thing. This was not a situation that he could do much about.

As for what Hai Qiqi felt towards Wang Wen, that was not for Lu Yin to consider, as he did not even know where to begin. No matter what may have happened between the two young people, Lu Yin knew that the Sea King would not actually kill Wang Wen. At most, he would teach the youth a lesson.

Lu Yin released Lulu from Zenith Mountain. "Let's go. We'll take a trip to see your Mavis family."

While Lulu was leading Lu Yin to visit the Mavis family, images of Yang Kong and the others in his group had been exposed and spread across the Fifth Mainland's network. All of them were denounced as traitors who had betrayed humanity, as they had clearly only entered Burial Garden to hunt down the ancient bloodlines.

Lu Yin was the one who had released this information, as he was determined to ruin every plan that the Aeternals tried to enact.

However, this matter naturally led to an even greater scandal, which was Yang Kong's identity.

Many people recognized that Yang Kong was actually Bu Kong, and this revelation stirred up waves of commotion in both the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands.

After ZENITH, Bu Kong's death had been confirmed, but it was just been revealed that Bu Kong had actually betrayed humanity and was currently hunting down people with ancient bloodlines under the Aeternals' orders! This was something that no one in either the Fifth Mainland or the Sixth Mainland could understand.

The Progenitor of Secret Arts' Territory became the focus of everyone's attention, and the Sixth Mainland's Daosource Sect even sent someone to speak to the Progenitor of Secret Arts himself and ask about the authenticity of Yang Kong's true identity being Bu Kong. However, they were firmly told that Bu Kong was dead and that Yang Kong was not Bu Kong.

The universe started boiling because of the information that Lu Yin had exposed, but Lu Yin himself was quietly traveling with Lulu to visit the Mavis family.

The Mavis family was located in the eastern region of the Neoverse, which was in the same general area as Black Street, so the two were not far apart. However, the Mavis family could not be found in outer space, but were instead crawling through the mountains of the Honor Zone.

"Actually, they're not in the eastern region, but rather on the eastern side," Lulu corrected.

"Eastern side?" Lu Yin had to ask.

Lulu lifted her head up high. "My Mavis family lives on the back of our Ancestor Tortoise, and the Ancestor Tortoise roams about the entire Neoverse. My Mavis family is always with the Ancestor Tortoise, so our home doesn't have a fixed location."

"What if it wanders over to Mt. Microcosms?" Lu Yin asked.

Lulu froze for a moment and then rolled her eyes at Lu Yin. "You're a really amazing conversationalist, aren't you?."

However, Lu Yin had not been messing around. He genuinely wanted to know what would happen if the Ancestor Tortoise tried to climb Mt. Microcosms. Would the Hall of Honor kick the Mavis family out?

As Lu Yin stared out at the wilderness of the Honor Zone, he sighed. He always found the Honor Zone's landscape to be amazing. He truly could not understand how the Fifth Mainland had once been an actual continent, and even had something to do with becoming a Progenitor.

"Oh, Lulu, what happened to that Explorer-level turtle you tamed back on Earth?" Lu Yin suddenly remembered and asked.

A gloomy look appeared on Lulu's face. "It's dead."

Lu Yin was surprised. "What happened?"

Lulu sighed. "I wanted to take it back home to my family, but it ended up dying in a storm on the way back."

Lu Yin shrugged. "How long will it take us to get to your family from here?"

"More than a month," Lulu calculated, "But that's also assuming that we can find a cniu. If we don't get one, we won't be able to move nearly as fast through the Honor Zone."

"Then let's find a cniu."

"We're not at one of the Honor Zone's ports, so it won't be easy to find one, and even if we do, it will be someone else's mount."

Someone else's mount? Lu Yin had no understanding of such a concept.

Three days later, Lu Yin and Lulu rode away on a cniu, continuing on their way towards the Mavis family. They left behind an entire group of cultivators who were all gnashing their teeth and cursing at the two. They had been robbed.

"You're too embarrassing," Lulu sneered.

Lu Yin smiled. "Hey, we're right at the edge of the Honor Zone, so they'll only be delayed a few days without their cniu. It's not a big deal."

Lulu stared at Lu Yin in a very serious manner. "You're completely different from when you first entered the academy with me."

Lu Yin just smiled. When he had first joined Astral-10, he had never experienced being treated as white meat or nearly dying in the Technocracy. He had not lived through betrayal, and neither had he seen how the strong preyed upon the weak. Since then, he had experienced all that.

People had to learn to change.

"Lulu, how many people are in your Mavis family?"

"You'll know when we get there."

"How much money do you guys have?"

"Why are you asking that? Don't be an idiot."

"I think too much."

"Humph!"

"Hey, be nice! I saved your life, and you invited me to see your family."

"So what? You think you're amazing?"

"I'm not bad, I'd say."

...

After traveling on the cniu for a bit less than half a month, Lulu suddenly pointed to a black dot off in the distance. She was happily surprised to see it. "The Ancestor Tortoise! That's the Ancestor Tortoise!"

Lu Yin looked over, but all he could see was a black spot. He could not make out any details at all. "Are you sure?"

"You'll see it yourself in a few days," Lulu said excitedly. Since the Ancestor Tortoise did not remain in a single location, even the members of the Mavis family had to search for it.

Lu Yin blinked. A few days? They could already see the black dot, so why would it take them a few days to see the tortoise's details?

However, two days later, Lu Yin finally understood Lulu's comment.

The Ancestor Tortoise was simply far too massive. The black spot that they had first seen was not even the tortoise, but rather a massive tree that grew on its back. The tree was large enough to have stars in its branches, and the Mavis family referred to it as the divine tree. It was only at this time that Lu Yin was able to see the Ancestor Tortoise itself.

He had never even dreamed of seeing such a large tortoise. It looked just like a tortoise, but it was large enough to swallow a star whole.

The Ancestor Tortoise was gray, but its form was exactly the same as a common tortoise's. The only difference was in size, as the tortoise's shell alone was large enough to be a continent. A few stars hung in front of the tortoise's eyes, and there were also a few brilliant stars shining above its head. Lu Yin could do nothing but stare at the sight before his eyes.

The closer the cniu got to the Ancestor Tortoise, the more frightened the creature became. It eventually reached the point where the cniu refused to take a single step forward.

"Now we'll need to go on our own. Every creature becomes terrified when they get close to the Ancestor Tortoise," Lulu stated.

Lu Yin exclaimed, "It's still alive?"

"Of course! Lu Yin, you're being too rude! Don't say that kind of crap when visiting my family. This is the Ancestor Tortoise! It gave birth to my Mavis family!" Lulu angrily scolded.

Lu Yin quickly apologized. "But I thought that your Mavis family was born from the divine tree?"

"The divine tree did give birth to us, but the Ancestor Tortoise has carried us for countless years. Without the Ancestor Tortoise, there's no divine tree. It's our ancestor." Lulu stared at the Ancestor Tortoise with bright eyes.

Lu Yin felt curious. "So, just how strong is your Ancestor Tortoise?"

Lulu shook her head. "I don't know."

"You don't know?" Lu Yin was surprised.

Lulu nodded. "There have been many people since ancient times who wanted to find out how strong the Ancestor Tortoise is, but Ancestor Lingzhi stopped them in their tracks. I don't think that even the Hall of Honor has any idea how strong the Ancestor Tortoise is."

"It can't be as strong as a Progenitor, right?" Lu Yin was speechless, but then he laughed. As strong as a Progenitor? How could that be possible? If that was the case, then why would it carry a tree and the Mavis family on its back?

Lulu rolled her eyes. "Let's go. Everyone is waiting."

Lu Yin grabbed Lulu with a hand. He tore through the void and headed straight for the Ancestor Tortoise.

It was only possible for experts with power levels of more than 300,000 to travel through the void in the Honor Zone, but Lu Yin had far surpassed that.

There were many people waiting to speak with the Mavis family.

Lu Yin stared at all the people trailing behind the Ancestor Tortoise. "Do all of them hope to speak with your Mavis family?"

Lulu answered proudly, "My Mavis family controls the entire Fifth Mainland's economy! Countless people come to visit us every day, so this is nothing strange. Still, very, very few are qualified to step onto the Ancestor Tortoise's back. You should be grateful."

Lu Yin laughed and looked up. They were very close to the enormous tortoise.

Chapter 1828: A Meeting Gift

The giant tortoise was massive enough to swallow stars, which left Lu Yin completely shocked. It made him wonder if big Progenitor Chen's clone had been this large as well.

There was a shining tree growing on the back of the tortoise's shell. This was the tree that the Mavis family called the divine tree, and it had given birth to the entire Mavis family.

Lu Yin's pupils transformed into runes, as he wanted to see the number of runes that the Mavis family had. However, just like on Eversky Island and in the Hall of Honor, Lu Yin found that he could not see runes at any of the Neoverse's top powers.

Just as Lu Yin and Lulu were approaching the Ancestor Tortoise, the originally motionless creature suddenly moved its eyes, and the tortoise's long neck twisted so that it could look towards Lu Yin and Lulu.

The entire Mavis family was stunned.

Above the divine tree, members of the Mavis family appeared one after another to stare in shock.

"The Ancestor Tortoise is actually looking back? What's going on?"

"Throughout history, the Ancestor Tortoise's always only looked ahead! It's never changed the direction it looks in! Go look! What is it looking at?"

The people trailing behind the Ancestor Tortoise were similarly stunned. They were all familiar with the history of the Mavis family, and thus they knew that the Ancestor Tortoise had only ever looked forward since the ancient era. However, it had just turned its head around to look back. This was an incident that would shock the entire Neoverse.

Lulu stared at the Ancestor Tortoise's huge eyeballs that were locked onto her. She was so overcome with excitement that she had no idea how to react. "The Ancestor Tortoise, is the Ancestor Tortoise looking at me?"

Lu Yin frowned and stared into the Ancestor Tortoise's eyes. The creature was looking at him. Sure enough, the creature was staring straight at Lu Yin, but what did he see in the creature's eyes? Confusion? Contemplation?

A chill ran down Lu Yin's back, and he felt an unbearable sense of tension. This creature was beyond massive, and no one knew how strong it might be, but luckily, Lu Yin could not sense any hostility from the tortoise. When the tortoise looked back at him, Lu Yin's greatest fear had been that the creature would be hostile towards him in the same manner that some of the Fifth Mainland's people were hostile towards him. If that were true, Lu Yin would be in deep trouble.

The Ancestor Tortoise stared at Lu Yin for ten breaths' of time before turning back to look forwards and freezing once more.

Members of the Mavis family emerged from the void, all of them excitedly staring at Lulu.

"Lulu, child, did the Ancestor Tortoise just look at you?" A silver-haired old woman stepped forward to grab hold of Lulu's hand as she excitedly asked her question.

All the members of the Mavis family eagerly stared at Lulu.

The Ancestor Tortoise had carried the Mavis family and their divine tree for too long. They had tried their best to communicate with the Ancestor Tortoise, but from the very beginning, the Ancestor Tortoise had always completely ignored them. This was the first time that the Ancestor Tortoise had actually moved, so everyone was incredibly excited, and they were eager to see if they could establish communications with it.

Lulu was taken aback. "I don't know. I really don't know."

"It was definitely looking at you! Be a good child and hurry up and go talk to Lord Ancestor Tortoise. Go move up to the front." The old woman grabbed Lulu and disappeared. It was as if she had never even seen Lu Yin.

The other members of the Mavis family also excitedly followed behind the old woman.

Lu Yin blinked. Had he just been dropped? What about being their honored guest?

"Alliance Leader Lu, welcome to my Mavis family's home." A voice spoke from beside Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was startled, as he had not noticed anyone nearby. He turned his head and found another old woman who was looking at him with a kind smile.

This was a true expert! Lu Yin was stunned and quickly bowed. "Junior Lu Yin greets Senior Mavis."

The old woman smiled. "Are you visiting my Mavis family as a junior? In that case, let me offer you a gift."

As she spoke, the woman pulled out a gray Mavis Bank card from her cosmic ring and handed it to Lu Yin, who took it.

"That card contains 5 billion star essence that you can withdraw at any time. It will also allow you to get an emergency loan of up to 20 billion star essence. It's a gift from an old lady." The old woman smiled.

Lu Yin was startled, and waves billowed in his heart. He was meeting rich people. Real, authentic rich people! Just a greeting gift was already 5 billion star essence! This was too much wealth. Lu Yin rarely ever came across so much money before he went to the Starfall Sea, and the woman was even

offering him an emergency loan of up to 20 billion star essence. That was almost his entire net worth!

This old woman's generosity left Lu Yin completely stunned, and he looked at her with an unprecedented degree of affection in his eyes. The first thing that popped into his mind was to ask himself why he had not visited this family sooner!

He quickly put the card away and bowed again to the old woman. "Thank you, Senior, for your gift. This junior really has nothing to offer you in exchange, so I must apologize."

"Haha, it's already exceptional to have Alliance Leader Lu as my Mavis family's guest, so how can I not offer you a welcome gift? I am the Mavis family's momentary chief elder, Yunying Mavis," the old woman kindly introduced herself with a gentle smile.

Lu Yin felt even more grateful. "Thank you, Senior Yunying."

In the Mavis family, Yunying Mavis had been second to only Lingzhi Mavis, and after the Semi-Progenitor had failed her breakthrough to become a Progenitor, Yunying Mavis had become the matriarch of the family. This was the most important figure in the Mavis family who Lu Yin had wanted to meet this day.

Lu Yin had actually been wondering how he should behave when meeting the Mavis family, but the gift from Yunying Mavis had thrown such considerations out of his mind. The Mavis family was being very polite to him.

While the Mavis family was exceptionally wealthy, not everyone qualified to receive a welcome gift when visiting, let alone such a generous one.

Truthfully, it was too much. Lu Yin's mouth actually went dry as he thought about the 5 billion star essence that he had just been handed.

As Lu Yin followed Yunying Mavis onto the Ancestor Tortoise's back, he saw the strange environment that was the Mavis family's home.

The Ancestor Tortoise was large enough to swallow stars, and its back was no different from a massive landmass that held the divine tree.

"Most outsiders are hosted beneath the divine tree when they come to visit my Mavis family, as only a few are qualified to climb the divine tree. Alliance Leader Lu, please." Yunying Mavis laughed.

Lu Yin nodded when he saw that he was being genuinely welcomed. His status in the Fifth Mainland certainly qualified him to be able to climb the divine tree.

Few outsiders ever saw the inside of the canopy of the Mavis family's divine tree. The fact that Lu Yin was climbing the divine tree drew the attention of a large number of people from the Mavis family, and they finally turned to look at him.

The Ancestor Tortoise was large enough that it used stars as light sources, and the divine tree was large enough to cover the entire Ancestor Tortoise. This was the tree that had given birth to the Mavis family.

Lu Yin felt as though the divine tree seemed more like an umbrella for the Ancestor Tortoise. As for the Mavis family themselves, the tortoise might see them as tiny bugs.

The members of the Mavis family were scattered throughout the divine tree. Lu Yin followed Yunying Mavis up the tree, and they soon arrived at a branch that was quite high up. While it was called a branch, it was more like a land mass. Each of the divine tree's branches was large enough to hold entire stars.

"It's truly impressive," Lu Yin praised as he followed Yunying Mavis.

Yunying Mavis led Lu Yin to a wooden house. It was very simple and seemed completely at odds with the expected living conditions for someone from the Mavis family that controlled the Fifth Mainland's economy.

"Alliance Leader Lu, taste this tea from the divine tree's leaves." Yunying Mavis gestured for Lu Yin to help himself.

He quickly accepted the cup. "Thank you, Senior."

He then took a sip, and a fragrant smell filled the air. On top of that, he felt as though his body had undergone some sort of baptism as a cool energy rose up from within. He could not stop himself from voicing his admiration. "It's excellent tea."

Yunying Mavis smiled. "It's made from the divine tree's bark that's been dried. If you enjoy it, you can take some with you when you go."

Lu Yin smiled back at the woman. "Thank you so much, Senior."

He set his teacup down. "Why didn't Senior accompany Lulu to speak to the Ancestor Tortoise?"

"There's no reason to keep a distinguished guest waiting."

Lu Yin remained humble. "I'm simply visiting. I'm no honored guest that a senior like you needs to treat me so carefully."

Lu Yin felt that Yunying Mavis had noticed the details and knew that the Ancestor Tortoise had not been looking at Lulu, but rather at him. He felt that this was why the matriarch had stayed to play host to Lu Yin instead of accompanying Lulu to speak to the Ancestor Tortoise. If not for this possibility, Lu Yin could not think of any reason for the Mavis family to treat him with such care, or even Arch-Elder Zen, for that matter. For this family, no one was more important than their Ancestor Tortoise.

Yunying Mavis sipped her own tea, but she did not continue discussing the Ancestor Tortoise with Lu Yin. "Alliance Leader Lu, did you just mention that you find the divine tree to be impressive?"

Lu Yin nodded and shared his admiration once again. "Such a massive tree is quite magnificent. Its branches can carry stars while it also gave birth to the Mavis family. It truly is a unique specimen."

"This should not be the largest tree you've ever seen, Alliance Leader," Yunying Mavis said.

Lu Yin set his cup down once more and let out a sigh. "The Mother Tree is indeed the largest tree this junior has ever seen. When placed next to the Mother Tree, both the divine tree and the Ancestor Tortoise can only walk on its branches."

"The divine tree itself is so large as to be unbelievable. I simply can't imagine the sight of something like the Mother Tree in that place. If the divine tree gave birth to my Mavis family, then the Mother Tree gave birth to all of human civilization." Yunying Mavis also let out a sigh.

Lu Yin's eyes flickered. "Gave birth to all of human civilization? No, at best, just part of humanity."

"Do you happen to know why that tree is called the Mother Tree?" Yunying Mavis suddenly asked.

Lu Yin shook his head. In the Perennial World, he had heard that the Mother Tree had given life to all of human civilization. But as far as Lu Yin was concerned, despite the Mother Tree's size, it was impossible for it to have given rise to all of humanity. There were the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands, as well as the other four Mainlands that had already been completely destroyed. How could the Mother Tree have nurtured all of that?

Yunying Mavis gave a small smile, and the tea in her cup formed a stream that trickled into the air to form a model of five irregularly shaped landmasses that extended from a central landmass. Above the primary landmass, the tea took on the shape of a tree so large that it covered almost all the landmasses below it.

Lu Yin was surprised by what he saw.

"This is what the universe looked like when the first human civilization appeared. The Mother Tree grew from the landmass that was known as the First Mainland. When the First Mainland collapsed, the Mother Tree attached itself to the Fifth Mainland. The Second, Third, and Fourth Mainlands eventually all disappeared one after another. Later, some people from the Fifth Mainland left with the Mother Tree, abandoning the Fifth Mainland and establishing the Perennial World that you visited," Yunying Mavis slowly explained. When she finished speaking, she waved a hand and dispersed the image made from tea leaves.

This was the first time that anyone had shared such an image with Lu Yin. The Sixth Mainland's invasion of the Fifth Mainland had revealed to the public that humanity had once inhabited six Mainlands, but very few people knew anything at all about how the Mainlands had been arranged. Lu Yin himself had only just learned of it.

"Is that really what human civilization looked like at the beginning?" Lu Yin hesitantly asked.

Yunying Mavis nodded. "My Mavis clan has been around for a long, long time. Much longer than even the Hall of Honor. I myself have experienced many things, and what I just showed you is what the universe looked like at the dawn of humanity. The Mother Tree sprouted from the First Mainland and covered the six Mainlands, each of which had their own Daosource Sect."

"How did the other Mainlands disappear?" Lu Yin asked as he stared at Yunying Mavis.

The old woman just shook her head. "I've already told you all I know. If Elder Lingzhi were alive, she might be able to answer such a question, but with her death, a great deal of my Mavis family's history was buried. This is a history that even the Hall of Honor would want to learn. It's really a pity."

Chapter 1829: An Alliance

Lu Yin grew increasingly curious. "There aren't any records?"

Yunying Mavis gave Lu Yin a peculiar look. "There are certain things that cannot be recorded, and there are also certain pieces of information that are inconvenient to record down."

"Is this somehow connected to the Aeternals?" Lu Yin asked, though it truly seemed as though every major event was related to them.

The old woman replied, "It must be related to them, but I honestly don't know anyone who would be able to give you more details."

There was a moment of silence.

Lu Yin took another sip of tea. "May I ask, why did your Mavis family invite me for a visit?"

Yunying Mavis leaned forward and grew more serious. "It's nothing big. We simply wish to form an alliance."

Lu Yin was startled. "An alliance?"

Yunying Mavis nodded and continued with a smile, "Yes, we wish to form an alliance. I, and my Mavis family, would like to establish an alliance with you, Alliance Leader Lu."

Lu Yin was completely caught off guard, and he looked into Yunying Mavis' eyes with a great deal of confusion. "An alliance with me? Do you mean with the Great Eastern Alliance?"

Yunying Mavis shook her head. She was very somber at this moment. "We don't wish for an alliance with the Great Eastern Alliance, but rather with you, Lu Yin. I, Yunying Mavis, can represent the entire Mavis family to agree to an alliance with you. We will advance or retreat together, and I will also promise to do my best to help you. In return, you must do everything you can to protect my Mavis family."

Lu Yin could not understand any part of this proposal. While he believed that he had a very powerful foundation and a great deal of influence, especially after uniting the Outerverse and the Innerverse with potential to move on to the Cosmic Sea and the Neoverse, that still was not enough to intimidate the Mavis family at all. They were the Mavis family! Even if they had lost their Semi-Progenitor, they definitely still had a powerhouse on a similar level as the Chief Justice or at least the First Protector. And this was not even mentioning their Ancestor Turtle, whose strength no one knew.

In truth, Lu Yin had realized that he had absolutely no idea how to convince the Mavis family to join the Great Eastern Alliance at any point in the future after seeing the Ancestor Turtle. He had previously envisioned various plans

for dealing with the Neoverse's behemoths, but all such thoughts had vanished at the first sight of the Ancestor Turtle.

And yet despite that, Yunying Mavis was saying that she wanted to establish an alliance with him.

"Is there anything at all that a junior like me can offer your Mavis family for you to wish to form an alliance with me?" Lu Yin asked. He really could not understand the motives for this proposal.

"The Great Eastern Alliance has united both the Outerverse and the Innerverse, and my Mavis Bank has branches all over the universe. Naturally, I would ask the Great Eastern Alliance to take care of us."

"In that case, wouldn't forming an alliance directly with the Great Eastern Alliance be more beneficial for you?" Lu Yin wondered.

Yunying Mavis shook her head. "Without you, Lu Yin, the Great Eastern Alliance is nothing more than loose sand that will quickly disintegrate. There is no one aside from you who is capable of controlling such a large alliance, and that is why my Mavis family wishes to instead form an alliance with you. What do you say, Alliance Leader Lu?"

Lu Yin had no reason to refuse. An alliance with the Mavis family would be extremely beneficial for him. Even if he gained nothing else, it would be more than enough if he was able to take out a loan from the Mavis Bank that had no interest. How much money did the Mavis Bank possess? Lu Yin did not dare to even think about it.

If he could be put in a position where he could freely spend money without any worries... Just the thought of it excited him.

Yunying Mavis smiled and presented the terms for the proposed alliance for Lu Yin to peruse.

The terms were perfectly normal, and it was a simple proposal for a common alliance. Lu Yin could not see any problems, but he still felt like a pie had fallen from the sky, so he shared the terms of the proposal with Huan Sha, En Ya, and Wei Rong to receive their opinions.

Yunying Mavis was unbothered by Lu Yin's diligence, and she actually invited Yuhua Mavis over. "Show Alliance Leader Lu around the divine tree and arrange some quarters for him to use during his stay. Make sure that no one disturbs him while he's visiting."

"Yes, Great Elder." Yuhua Mavis glanced at Lu Yin before respectfully responding to her elder.

Some time later, as Yuhua Mavis was leading Lu Yin on a walk at the top of the divine tree, he looked up at a glowing fruit that hung overhead like a star, and he exclaimed, "I thought that was a planet!"

Yuhua Mavis indifferently replied, "You think too much."

Lu Yin could tell that the young woman was not happy about leading him around, but he was unconcerned. He had deliberately antagonized her on Zenith Mountain one time when he had asked for a spar, and during that fight, Yuhua Mavis had been rendered completely helpless against Lu Yin. "Doesn't your Mavis family have some kind of fruit that, if eaten, will temporarily increase your power level?"

Yuhua Mavis gave him a blank look. "Those things are useless to outsiders, so you should just forget about them."

Lu Yin shrugged. "I was just asking."

"Given your reputation, nothing good comes from your questions," Yuhua Mavis casually retorted.

Lu Yin pursed his lips. "Something's clearly wrong with your attitude. I'm your family's distinguished guest."

"Yep."

"I'm going to be your Mavis family's ally."

These words finally triggered a reaction from Yuhua Mavis, as she was stunned. She stared at Lu Yin in shock. "An ally?"

Lu Yin nodded and proudly stated, "Elder Yunying just proposed making an alliance, and not even with the Great Eastern Alliance, but with me personally."

Yuhua Mavis frowned. "Why would we form an alliance with you?"

"No idea. Maybe because it's me?" Lu Yin guessed.

Yuhua Mavis then quickly settled the matter of Lu Yin's quarters and hurried away.

Lu Yin watched as she left. She had been clueless about the proposed alliance, and it was possible that the other family members were also ignorant. In that case, Yunying Mavis had made this decision without informing her clansmen. That indicated that this proposed alliance was either a trivial matter for the family or something that Yunying Mavis could not explain.

Judging by Yuhua Mavis's reaction to hearing about the proposed alliance, it seemed more likely that Elder Yunying could not explain the motives behind this proposition to others. In that case, why propose an alliance at all? The Mavis family had no reason to fear the Great Eastern Alliance, and it seemed even more improbable for her to want Lu Yin's assistance in the Mavis Bank's standard development.

Even if the Great Eastern Alliance fully united the Innerverse and Outerverse, it would still be impossible for them to move against the Mavis Bank, as doing so would incite chaos throughout the entire Fifth Mainland.

In that case, what was the real motivation behind this proposed alliance?

Lu Yin raised his hand to call Huan Sha.

"Alliance Leader, there really isn't anything wrong with the proposed terms. This is a perfectly normal alliance agreement, and there are actually some terms that are clearly in our favor," Huan Sha replied.

Lu Yin's voice dropped a bit, "Are you sure? Check again. Maybe there's some small print that even you can't see."

Huan Sha was left speechless. "Alliance Leader, we've already checked everything."

Lu Yin then called En Ya, as well as Wei Rong, and even Shui Chuanxiao. Each of them gave him the same answer: there was no problem with the proposed terms.

Wei Rong even showed a bit of surprise. "Why would the Mavis family's matriarch take the initiative to ask for an alliance with you? These terms clearly offer them very little, and the protection terms that they're requesting are basically irrelevant. What sort of protection can you offer a force as powerful as the Mavis family?"

This was completely true. At least in the short term, Lu Yin did not possess the strength to offer the Mavis family any sort of protection. Were they looking at his backing? That was even more unlikely. The Mavis family was strong enough to not fear anyone in the Fifth Mainland aside from Semi-Progenitors, and Lu Yin was not someone who could order such powerhouses around.

Neither Arch-Elder Zen nor the Chief Justice would listen to Lu Yin's requests. If either of them decided to attack the Mavis family, Lu Yin alone would be far from enough to convince them to change their plans.

However, the more the terms of the alliance proposal seemed to favor Lu Yin, the more uncomfortable he became with the whole thing. Eventually, he simply called Arch-Elder Zen.

After not being able to get through to the old man, Lu Yin instead called Mu En to ask to speak to the Chief Justice, but he was again unable to get through. Lu Yin was so worried about this alliance proposal that he almost wanted to speak with Shaman God and get another opinion.

Elsewhere, Lulu had already returned to the divine tree, though she was still surrounded by members of her family. All of them believed that the Ancestor Turtle had turned to look at her.

However, Lulu had already started to consider the possibility that the Ancestor Turtle had not been looking at her, but rather at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin decided to spend a few days on the divine tree. The very next day, he tried to call Arch-Elder Zen again. The old man picked up this time, but he did not have a clear opinion on the Mavis family's alliance proposal, and he simply said that the decision was Lu Yin's to make.

Lu Yin finally was able to get in touch with the Chief Justice.

"This is your business." The Chief Justice was completely indifferent to the matter.

Lu Yin complained, "But Senior Brother, the Mavis family specifically sought me out to ask for an alliance! I can't help but feel that there has to be something wrong, and I really don't want to get tricked."

The Chief Justice remained silent for a bit, and just when Lu Yin thought the man was about to say something, the call simply ended.

The corner of Lu Yin's mouth twitched. His senior brother was really irresponsible.

Yunying Mavis stopped by to speak with Lu Yin. "Well, Alliance Leader Lu, what do you say? Do you want to form an alliance with us?"

Lu Yin gritted his teeth, and he once again weighed the pros and cons. However, no matter what, he simply could not resist the temptation of so much money. "Let's do this."

Yunying Mavis seemed quite amused by Lu Yin's reaction. "This proposal doesn't benefit my Mavis family, but rather greatly favors you. Why is there so much hesitation, Alliance Leader Lu?"

Lu Yin took a deep breath. "Since you've asked, Elder Yunying, I'll be honest and forthright. I just can't understand why you would want to establish an alliance with me. Also, it seems like the other members of your family don't know about this."

Yunying Mavis smiled. "Though there are indeed other members of my family who can weigh in on various matters, I am the family's great elder and therefore have the authority to make decisions regarding all important affairs. Why should I discuss such things with them?"

"Then tell me, what benefits can your Mavis family receive from forming an alliance with me?"

"Nothing at all."

"Then why ask for an alliance?"

Yunying Mavis's eyes locked onto Lu Yin. "Because of you."

Lu Yin became even more confused.

Yunying Mavis thought for a while before continuing. "Allow me to put things this way: it's because you've received the God of Death's inheritance."

Lu Yin's expression tightened. "The God of Death's inheritance?"

Yunying Mavis stared out at the Ancestor Turtle's long neck that stretched out into the distance as she delved into old memories. "When Elder Lingzhi was still alive, I vaguely remember her saying something about how the God of Death indeed existed during the time of the ancient war."

Lu Yin listened in silence.

"The God of Death was an incomparably powerful Ancient Progenitor, though the Ancient Progenitors have always been treated as legends, and no one has ever been able to prove their existence. In fact, even though I thought that the elder was speaking of myths, after watching the last match of ZENITH, I became fully convinced." At this point, Yunying Mavis looked back at Lu Yin. "The God of Death did indeed once live, which is why I now believe that the other legends that Elder Lingzhi spoke of were true as well."

"According to Elder Lingzhi, the God of Death was unfathomably powerful. The Progenitors of that ancient era were incomparable to the Progenitors of our time. If you truly do possess the God of Death's inheritance, then I am absolutely confident that if you become a Progenitor, you will be the most powerful person in the entire universe. This is because, even in legends, the

God of Death was considered to be one of the most powerful Ancient Progenitors."

"So, are you saying that you're betting on my future? You're really forming an alliance with future me?" Lu Yin felt like he finally understood.

Yunying Mavis nodded. "I am investing in your future. No matter if I consider your inheritance from the God of Death or the likelihood that you possess a peerless innate gift, either one is worthy of my investment."

Lu Yin suddenly thought of something. "You know of my Lu surname."

Yunying Mavis smiled. "It's just a primeval surname. While this place hates those with primeval surnames, the bearers of those names are not hunted down and killed. In essence, while the primeval surnames did indeed abandon the Fifth Mainland, they are not the actual enemies."

Lu Yin smiled. "Let's make an alliance."

Yunying Mavis also smiled. "Let's make an alliance."

Lu Yin had not heard anything suspicious in Yunying Mavis' words. He had been testing her at the end, but it did not seem like she was aware that he was a direct descendant of the Perennial World's Lu family. This was good, as if she became aware of such a thing, the Mavis family might lose all interest in forming an alliance with Lu Yin. After all, a relationship with a member of the Lu family was not too beneficial for them.

Chapter 1830: Dismissal

Yunying Mavis must have heard all about the Perennial World's Lu family and the four ruling powers from Yuhua Mavis. So if Yunying Mavis was aware that Lu Yin was a direct descendant of the Lu family, proposing an alliance with him would have been equivalent to deliberately creating problems for the Mavis family.

Lu Yin felt grateful to Arch-Elder Zen for not telling the Mavis family about those details.

Lingzhi Mavis was dead, which meant that the Mavis family had lost their only Semi-Progenitor. Thus, they lacked access to the highest level of information, and Lu Yin had been able to take advantage of this particular loophole.

There was no ceremony necessary for this alliance, and the Mavis family's agreement with Lu Yin had nothing to do with the Great Eastern Alliance. Lu Yin was perfectly happy to keep this entire matter hidden.

This was similar to how, when the Sword Sect had first joined the Great Eastern Alliance, Lu Yin had kept the matter hidden so well that not even the Lingling clan or the Divine Grade Hall had learned about it.

With the Mavis family secretly allying with him, Lu Yin had no idea whom he could take advantage of with this new-found alliance.

"Alliance Leader Lu, there's something that I must mention." After formalizing the alliance, Yunying Mavis gazed at Lu Yin with warmer eyes as she spoke. "Try to not enter Burial Garden."

Lu Yin was caught off guard by this request. "Why?"

Yunying Mavis grew serious. "Burial Garden, as the name suggests, is essentially a cemetery. When the first four mainlands were destroyed and the Mother Tree attached itself to the Fifth Mainland, many areas that were previously connected to the Mother Tree were integrated into Burial Garden. There are simply too many dangers in that place. Have you ever asked yourself why the Aeternals have never tried to deal with Burial Garden despite the number of inheritances that it possesses? It's because there are dangers hidden in there that can even pose a threat to a Progenitor."

Lu Yin thought of the tea hills and the Rune Technology ruins. He absolutely agreed with Yunying Mavis's assessment. "It truly is a dangerous place. By the way, why can Burial Garden's gates appear everywhere in the entire Fifth Mainland? Is Burial Garden really that terrifyingly powerful?"

His biggest question was why Burial Garden's gates had still opened in the Starfall Sea. Burial Garden should not possess the ability to break through the defenses of the three Progenitors who were guarding the pass.

Yunying Mavis replied, "Burial Garden boasts a history just as long as the Mavis family. Who knows just how many gates Burial Garden might have hidden throughout the ages. It's also perfectly reasonable that not all the gates have been opened."

"Why can Burial Garden's gates allow people to travel throughout the universe?" Lu Yin asked again.

"I don't know much about that particular topic, but historically, the Daosource Sect has been capable of doing the same thing. No matter where a person might be, as long as they have a futon, they can enter the Daosource Sect. It's possible that Burial Garden uses the same principles as the Daosource Sect."

"Senior Yunying, would you be able to tell me about what happened when Senior Lingzhi Mavis attempted her breakthrough?"

"Oh, back then..."

...

Lu Yin learned of many things through his conversation with Yunying Mavis. If possible, he would love to spend more time visiting the Mavis family and interact with the Ancestor Tortoise again. It might be possible for Lu Yin to actually communicate with the tortoise, but a sudden piece of information had thrown his planning into disarray.

The Hall of Honor decided to dismiss Liu Ran from his position as an overseer, and Leaf King took his place.

Lu Yin immediately decided to return to Mt. Microcosms when he learned of this news.

Liu Ran had represented the Sword Sect. When the Sword Sect first joined the Great Eastern Alliance, Lu Yin had already known that Liu Ran would not be able to remain as an overseer for much longer. The same thing had happened with Nightking Zhengye. However, against all of Lu Yin's expectations, Mr. You still had not been removed from his post yet, and Liu Ran had actually been removed first. On top of that, Liu Ran was being replaced by Leaf King, which was something that Lu Yin absolutely could not accept.

He immediately contacted Bu Laoweng, San Liang, and the other overseers in an attempt to delay the overseers' meeting while Lu Yin rushed back to Mt. Microcosms.

In the Honor Zone, on Mt. Microcosms, the overseers' meeting had been scheduled to be held in two days, but it was abruptly delayed due to Bu Laoweng coming down with a sudden illness.

Nan Yuan immediately went to visit Bu Laoweng in his home.

The old man was lying on his bed, clearly weak and surrounded by fluorescent medicinal pills, a nutrient solution, and more. There were even various healers caring for him.

"It's rare for a cultivator to come down with a malady. Even if you became sick, you can only delay Liu Ran's dismissal by a few days," Nan Yuan casually stated from outside Bu Laoweng's home.

The old man replied weakly, "Overseer Nan Yuan, I'm a weak old man, and I am unable to participate at this time."

Nan Yuan sneered. "I know that you're stalling. According to the council's principles, Liu Ran must be removed from his post. What you're doing is useless, Bu Laoweng. Even though you lost your privilege as an overseer after Highsage Wudi suppressed you back then, don't you have any sort of backbone left?"

Bu Laoweng remained silent.

Nan Yuan continued, "You've becoming timid in your old age. You won't be able to keep your position for much longer."

Nan Yuan left, but someone else soon arrived to visit Bu Laoweng. It was Leaf King.

"I heard that Overseer Bu Laoweng fell ill, so I made a point to stop by with some of my Shamrock Enterprise's more powerful medications. I hope that you will accept them, Overseer Laoweng." Leaf King also spoke from outside Bu Laoweng's door.

The old man feebly replied, "I must thank you, Leaf King, for your kindness. I will be sure to express my gratitude in person as soon as my condition improves."

Leaf King also left.

Mr. You made a visit as well, and he said similar things as Nan Yuan, but Bu Laoweng was more open about his disdain for Mr. You and simply ignored the visiting overseer.

One person after another visited Bu Laoweng. All of them were Nan Yuan's associates, but it quickly became clear that Bu Laoweng's condition was not good at all.

Nan Yuan went to meet with Leaf King.

"That old man's efforts to stall are useless. No matter what, the overseers' council will eventually meet, and Liu Ran will absolutely be dismissed from his post," Nan Yuan stated with absolute confidence.

Leaf King frowned. "Why is he trying to stall?"

Nan Yuan had no answer. No one was aware of Lu Yin's whereabouts, as the Mavis family had purposely not announced Lu Yin's visit. This meant that no one knew that Lu Yin was already in the Honor Zone and was currently racing back to Mt. Microcosms.

"No matter what he's waiting for, nothing can change the current situation. That is something that I can promise you, Brother Leaf King." Nan Yuan looked at Leaf King and smiled as he spoke. "I paid a steep price to Arch-Elder Zen to ensure that Liu Ran will be dismissed, and I have a feeling that his attitude towards Lu Yin has changed recently. While it is nothing overt, I was still able to pick up on something."

Leaf King's eyes flashed. "His attitude changed?"

Nan Yuan nodded. "It's very subtle, but I'm rather certain that Arch-Elder Zen's feelings towards Lu Yin have indeed changed. He no longer offers Lu Yin as much support, which is also why Liu Ran is being dismissed. There needs to be someone representing the Inniverse as an overseer, but the powers controlling the eight great flowzones have all fallen in with the Great Eastern Alliance aside from the Wen family. However, they do not dare to openly stand against the Great Eastern Alliance. This means that you, Brother Leaf King, are the only one who can take the position of overseer while representing the Inniverse. Congratulations!"

Leaf King smiled. "Once I become an overseer, I will never forget Brother Nan's kindness. I will be sure to fulfill the promise I made to the Xia family."

Nan Yuan laughed. "No need to worry about that, haha."

Although Bu Laoweng did his best to buy some time, he was not able to delay the meeting by much. However, Old Man San Shang also fell ill afterwards.

Nan Yuan was furious and began cursing, but there was nothing to indicate that San Shang was trying to postpone the meeting like Bu Laoweng, as he was truly very old.

First Bu Laoweng got sick, and then San Shang also fell ill. Nan Yuan could not take the delays any more, so he rushed over to San Shang's home to give the man a tongue lashing. It was clear to anyone that one overseer after another was having health issues.

Leaf King looked upset, and he was becoming increasingly uneasy. He urged Nan Yuan to convene a council meeting as soon as possible.

In the end, the overseers decided that their meeting would be held in three days, regardless of whether anyone else became sick.

This was the situation when Lu Yin arrived at Mt. Microcosms. The moment he arrived, the entire Hall of Honor was aware of it.

Nan Yuan was shocked. "How did Lu Yin get here? Isn't he supposed to be in Burial Garden?"

Leaf King's expression was not good. He had been wondering what the overseers were stalling, but he had not expected them to have been waiting for Lu Yin's arrival.

It was impossible to reach the Neoverse from the Innerverse in such a short amount of time, and it would have been impossible for anyone to get in touch with Lu Yin if he had been in Burial Garden. Despite all these obstacles, he had still rushed over to Mt. Microcosms. His appearance created many waves.

At this time, no one could ignore the young man. He had already conquered the Innerverse, and he actually had more than ten Envoys under his command. No matter how one looked at the situation, Lu Yin had become a big player in the universe.

In fact, he had reached a level where he was greeted by one of Mt. Microcosms' Envoy-level protectors upon arriving, and the powerhouse personally escorted Lu Yin into Mt. Microcosms.

After arriving, Lu Yin first went to visit Overseer Xin Jiao.

Xin Jiao shrugged. "A proposal was put forth to relieve Liu Ran of his post after the Sword Sect joined the Great Eastern Alliance. This is something that cannot be changed. Liu Ran must be removed, so please don't make things hard for me, Alliance Leader Lu."

Xin Jiao was absolutely willing to do something to cause Lu Yin to owe her a favor, but there was no way to overturn Liu Ran's dismissal.

Lu Yin smiled at the woman. "Of course I wouldn't do that to you, Overseer Xin Jiao. However, I do have a suggestion to offer."

...

Many eyes were locked onto Lu Yin when he left Xin Jiao's residence. He made his way straight towards CyNet World, as he intended to visit each of the overseers individually.

Nan Yuan started to get nervous, and he quickly proposed to hold a council meeting as soon as possible, and his proposal was easily approved. In fact, it went so well that Nan Yuan suspected that something was going on.

It was perfectly natural for all the overseers to attend a meeting involving something as important as the dismissal of one of their own.

The Hall of Honor's nine overseers gathered, though they were joined by Leaf King. In fact, he was the only outsider present.

Liu Ran instantly became angry when he saw Leaf King attending the council meeting. "Are outsiders allowed to attend the overseers' council meetings?"

Nan Yuan answered calmly, "Overseer Liu Ran, there's no need to bother hiding anything. His Excellency Leaf King is about to replace you as overseer, so how is he an outsider?"

Liu Ran righteously retorted, "Even if you want to replace me, he still has not officially assumed his post. Isn't it rather presumptuous of him to attend a meeting at this time?"

"Yes," Bu Laoweng spoke up in a weak voice. "All attendees of council meetings must be overseers. As you are not yet an overseer, please wait outside."

Leaf King smiled and nodded towards Overseer Nan Yuan before walking out of the room.

Overseer Nan Yuan was similarly unbothered by this demand. After all, it was nothing more than Liu Ran's dying struggle. So what if Lu Yin had personally come? How could the overseers' councils' countless years of tradition be changed so easily? Nan Yuan was rather confident in his belief that Arch-Elder Zen's attitude towards Lu Yin had already changed.

Arch-Elder Zen's attitude represented the attitude of the entire Hall of Honor. The moment the old man's attitude changed, Lu Yin would cease having such a loud voice within the Hall of Honor. Liu Ran would absolutely be dismissed.

Overseer Nan Yuan made to speak, but San Liang spoke up first. "With the start of our council meeting, the first matter to be discussed is a dismissal."

He paused for a moment and looked at Liu Ran, quite surprising the man.

Nan Yuan was similarly astonished that the word "dismissal" had been brought up by San Liang. Was the man even more concerned than Nan Yuan? Could Leaf King have offered gifts to San Liang? Or could someone else be pulling the overseer's strings?

Overseer Nan Yuan was not alone, as Mr. You, Xin Jiao, Zi Jing, and all the other overseers had the same reaction. They had not realized that San Liang was in favor of dismissing Liu Ran before this meeting. He had also called in sick before.

No one was stupid, and San Liang's performance so far had convinced everyone that he supported Lu Yin.

"The dismissal of Mr. You as an overseer." San Liang slowly finished his sentence as he turned to stare at Mr. You.

The man was stunned, but then he grew furious. "What did you just say?"