

STAR ODYSSEY

Chapter 1831: Lu Yin And Leaf King

San Liang indifferently replied, "Everyone here should still remember the war in the Cosmic Sea. That matter caused a great deal of damage to the Cosmic Sea, and it also had a wide-spread impact. The Longevity Brigade instigated the entire matter, and Mr. You, you are a member of that same Longevity Brigade. Naturally, you are unqualified to hold the post of an overseer."

Nan Yuan had not expected San Liang to immediately target Mr. You, and of course, Mr. You had not considered such a possibility either. "San Liang, why are you, a new, junior overseer, proposing to dismiss me? You're overstepping yourself!"

San Liang gave a small smile. "While you're right in saying that you are my senior, as you indeed joined the council before me, that is an entirely separate matter from whether you are qualified to retain your position. Mr. You, do you still remember the responsibilities of an overseer and the oath that you swore when you joined this council?"

Mr. You glared. "Of course I remember!"

San Liang raised his hand and caused a display to appear in the air. "This is a joint letter from twenty eight islands of the Cosmic Sea, expressing their wish to have Mr. You removed from his position as an overseer. Additionally, nine crews, including Leon's Armada, have added their signatures to the letter. They state here that they refuse to acknowledge that Mr. You can represent the rights and interests of the Cosmic Sea. Given this, how can Mr. You retain his post?"

Mr. You immediately grew pale. He had assumed that this meeting would be to remove Liu Ran from serving as an overseer, and he had not even considered that he might be sacked first. How did this happen?

Suddenly, Mr. You thought of Lu Yin, and his expression turned grim. This had to be Lu Yin's doing, as no one else could move so quickly.

Mr. You's guess was quite right. Lu Yin was indeed behind this attack. He had started making arrangements while on his way to Mt. Microcosms.

There was no way to avoid Liu Ran being removed from his position. This was a basic rule of the overseers' council. However, Liu Ran being removed would

mean one less person speaking for Lu Yin on the overseers' council. Thus, he had to remove one of his enemies' pawns as well.

Also, it was indisputable that Mr. You needed to be removed from his office. This was another unavoidable inevitability.

At the moment, Leon's Armada was the dominant force in the Cosmic Sea. As long as Highsage Leon did not acknowledge Mr. You, any resistance that Mr. You attempted to put up would be useless.

Nan Yuan's expression fell. He had not expected to suffer the first loss during a meeting that everyone knew was being held to remove Liu Ran from his post.

Mr. You was supposed to represent the interests of the Cosmic Sea to the Hall of Honor, and if the Cosmic Sea did not recognize him as their representative, how could he be accepted?

Mr. You had lost all standing and authority in an instant.

Yang Ji glanced at San Liang, Bu Laoweng, and Liu Ran. Of the Hall of Honor's nine overseers, how many were working for Lu Yin? How did such a young man accomplish this? Yang Ji could not understand any of this.

It turned out that the rumors were true. The young man had Arch-Elder Zen in his corner. How else could the old man allow someone to control the overseers' council?

At the top of Mt. Microcosms, Arch-Elder Zen was quietly watching the council with a complicated expression.

Ever since he had learned that Lu Yin was a member of the Perennial World's Lu family and the Perennial World's current situation, Arch-Elder Zen's attitude towards Lu Yin had somewhat changed. This was not because the Semi-Progenitor felt that Lu Yin was a bad person, but rather because the old man did not want to see Lu Yin amass too much influence in the Fifth Mainland. Humanity would not stand to benefit from the Fifth Mainland becoming enemies with the Perennial World's four ruling powers.

This was why Arch-Elder Zen had agreed to dismiss Liu Ran from his post and had supported Nan Yuan's proposal. This was supposed to be Arch-Elder Zen's first step in curbing Lu Yin's influence. After that, he also intended to remove Bu Laoweng and San Liang in order to return the overseers' council to a state where the Hall of Honor was in control. This would also prevent Lu Yin from entering the Neoverse.

However, Arch-Elder Zen was quickly realizing that his goals were not as easy to accomplish as he had initially assumed. He had already given Lu Yin too much leeway, which made it difficult to remove Lu Yin's people and his influence after they had already been put in place. The easiest solution was to erase all of Lu Yin's rights within the Hall of Honor, but that would be no different from turning his back entirely on the youth.

Lu Yin alone was not worth the Semi-Progenitor's concern, not even if the youth did have a strong chance of becoming a Progenitor in the future. No matter what, Lu Yin was of no threat at the moment. Besides, regardless of how ruthless and ambitious Lu Yin might be, he also had a bottom line that he would not cross. Even if Arch-Elder Zen one day ended up as Lu Yin's enemy due to various circumstances, that future was not written in stone.

No, what Arch-Elder Zen was more concerned about were the people behind Lu Yin. First, there was Qing Ping, but far more importantly, there was that other person.

The Semi-Progenitor let out a sigh at the thought of that person. He really did not have the courage to become enemies with that person. He was impossible to see through. No matter what, that person was a complete mystery to Arch-Elder Zen.

"Arch-Elder Zen." Shang Qing, Lei Nü, and Shu Jing walked up behind the Semi-Progenitor and gave him a respectful bow.

They were the Hall of Honor's Honor Chosen. They were the future of the Hall of Honor and were already its representatives, to a degree. In particular, Shang Qing was the only person capable of using the Tri-Yang Ancestral Qi Technique. If he matured, he was guaranteed to become a peerless expert like Progenitor Chen. Shang Qing alone was able to suppress all of his peers from the Sixth Mainland.

"What are your thoughts regarding Lu Yin?" Arch-Elder Zen asked.

Shu Jing was surprised by the question. Despite their impressive power for their ages, they were still far too young to have any say or even opinions concerning the Hall of Honor's decisions. On top of that, this was a question concerning Lu Yin, so why was Arch-Elder Zen asking the three of them?

Wait a second, isn't Lu Yin the same age as us?

Lu Yin had accomplished so many things and had become so impressive that many people had forgotten that he was still a mere youth. He was actually still one of the Ten Arbiters!

"Lu Yin is truly peerless within his generation," Lei Nü answered succinctly. She offered a single sentence and then stopped speaking.

Shu Jing considered the matter for a bit before answering. "He's incredibly ambitious, but he's not a bad person. He's able to get along with others, and he's done great things for humanity as a whole. He's someone who will stand on the frontlines against the Neohuman Alliance."

Arch-Elder Zen then looked at Shang Qing. This was the opinion that the old man cared about the most.

Shang Qing remained thoughtful for a bit before looking at the old man. "He saved my life in Burial Garden."

This information shocked Arch-Elder Zen. "When did that happen?"

Lei Nü and Shu Jing were similarly surprised, as they had not heard about this. Shang Qing had kept the matter entirely to himself.

Shang Qing replied, "It was a few months ago, just a bit after Burial Garden first opened. There was an Envoy chasing me down, and Lu Yin saved me."

"Where's your Voidsoul Umbrella?" Arch-Elder Zen quickly asked.

"I still have it."

Arch-Elder Zen let out a sigh of relief. The Voidsoul Umbrella was a Progenitor-level power vessel that Shang Qing had picked up in the Perennial World.

Truthfully, if Arch-Elder Zen had known that Lu Yin was a descendant of the Perennial World's Lu family, he would have never given the youth Zenith Mountain. In fact, Arch-Elder Zen still regretted that matter a bit.

"Head on back for now." Arch-Elder Zen waved a hand to dismiss the youths, who all retreated.

More and more complicated and conflicting emotions emerged in the old man's eyes as he stared at the display showing the overseers' council meeting. So Lu Yin had saved Shang Qing? How should the Hall of Honor treat Lu Yin? It would simply be irresponsible to bet the fate of the entire Fifth Mainland on the youth and agree to join him in fighting against the Perennial World's four ruling powers.

What to do?

The old man felt increasingly confused.

Arch-Elder Zen then remembered the First Protector, and he quickly decided to ask the man about Lu Yin after his return. This was the first time that Arch-Elder Zen had felt so torn.

Regardless of Arch-Elder Zen's thoughts, the meeting proceeded normally, and Mr. You was relieved of his position. Nan Yuan asked to delay the implementation of the decision, but his efforts were useless as everyone else was in favor of removing Mr. You.

Even though Liu Ran was also about to be dismissed, for the moment, he was still an overseer and was fully qualified to participate in this vote.

Nan Yuan's teeth itched at how things were progressing, and he was forced to take a step back. If Liu Ran had been removed from his post first, then the balance of the votes might not have been the same. While Mr. You would have still inevitably been removed, there might have been a small buffer that could have allowed Nan Yuan to find a replacement. He had been surprised, and being so caught off guard had forced him to take a step back.

Mr. You left the council meeting trembling. He had lost his status, and his only option at this point was to beg the Seven Courts' Xia family for refuge. After all, Mr. You had originally followed the captain of the Longevity Brigade, Ji Qiang, who had been one of Xia Ji's clones.

Leaf King was still waiting outside the council's meeting room, and he looked at Mr. You in surprise. "Why have you come out, Mr. You?"

Mr. You took a deep breath and softly answered, "Don't let Lu Yin feel like he's won, please."

He then bowed low.

Leaf King was an intelligent person and instantly understood what had happened.

It had only been a matter of time before Mr. You was removed from his post. This was something that many people had been aware of, though Leaf King had not expected Mr. You to lose his seat before he entered the council. Leaf King suddenly became far more wary of Lu Yin.

Had Mr. You been dismissed because of Lu Yin's arrival at Mt. Microcosms?

Without warning, Leaf King suddenly had a bad premonition.

It was also at this moment that Lu Yin suddenly appeared.

Hatred flared up in Mr. You's eyes the moment he saw Lu Yin, though he did not dare to express anything. Instead, he dropped his head low and walked in

another direction. He did not dare to risk letting Lu Yin seeing the hatred in his gaze, as Mr. You feared for his life. He had no doubts that Lu Yin was capable of killing him even in the Honor Zone.

Lu Yin no longer cared about Mr. You. There was no need to waste time with such a minor character. Instead, his eyes fell onto Leaf King, and Lu Yin looked quite surprised to see the man.

Leaf King was a devilishly handsome man whose appearance even surpassed that of the Celestial Demon, Yuan Xuan. In fact, Leaf King looked even younger than the Celestial Beast Empire's crown prince, which was something that Lu Yin had not expected. This was because there were no pictures of Leaf King on the Human Domain's network.

There were many rumors and stories about Leaf King throughout the universe, and even more within Shamrock Enterprise. There were people who claimed that he was the epitome of creativity and healing, or in brief, practically a god.

This was Lu Yin's first time meeting Leaf King.

"The Great Eastern Alliance's leader, Lu Yin." Leaf King and Lu Yin gazed at each other as Leaf King greeted Lu Yin with a gentle voice and a faint smile. It was an appearance that would be very comforting to most people.

A smile crept across Lu Yin's face. "Shamrock Enterprise's Leaf King."

"I've long since wanted to meet you, Alliance Leader Lu," Leaf King said with a smile. To outsiders, Shamrock Enterprise and the Great Eastern Alliance were friendly with each other. Even if people were aware of the incident involving Lu Yin and Yu Mu, everything had seemed to end with Yu Mu's death.

To date, Shamrock Enterprise had provided a tremendous amount of assistance to the Great Eastern Alliance. Qiong Xi'er and Balsam were still negotiating the purchase of stellar energy pills and the two powers jointly researching immortality.

Lu Yin stepped forward. "I've heard of Leaf King far too many times, and I've wanted to meet you for a long time. Today, I've finally gotten the chance."

Leaf King was a handsome man with an easy-going temperament who seemed very personable. "Balsam told me that you are interested in researching immortality, Alliance Leader Lu."

"That's true. I've wanted to research it for quite some time, and that's also why I've gathered all kinds of unique and exotic plants from across the universe as a foundation to research immortality," Lu Yin excitedly announced.

Leaf King smiled. "Immortality is too elusive a goal. Progenitors might be capable of living forever, but even the most powerful Progenitors have failed to accomplish that. Progenitor Chen, the Rune Progenitor, the Astral Beast Domain's Progenitor Wushang, and even the Ancient Progenitors—not a single one of them has ever been said to have achieved eternal life."

"This is precisely why it needs to be studied. Balsam suggested that I visit your Shamrock Enterprise to conduct some research. I wonder, do you have any interest in a collaborative project, Leaf King?"

"Absolutely. My Shamrock Enterprise would be lucky to research such a topic with Alliance Leader Lu."

"Then it's settled. After settling things here, I'll make a point to visit Shamrock Enterprise," Lu Yin politely replied.

The two chatted very amiably, though internally they were far from friendly.

Even though it was absolutely impossible for Liu Ran to retain his position as an overseer, San Liang and several others still fought to keep him as though there were a real possibility. Even Nan Yuan struggled to overcome the resistance, as the votes were equal.

Liu Ran's dismissal was supported by Yang Ji, Nan Yuan, Si Hong, and Zi Jing while those who pushed for him to remain were Xin Jiao, Old Man San Shang, San Liang, and Bu Laoweng.

Chapter 1832: The New Overseer

The votes were even at four in favor and four against, which meant that some negotiating was needed.

This was also why San Liang had immediately pushed for Mr. You's dismissal at the beginning of the meeting, as the loss of an ally made things more difficult for Nan Yuan. If Mr. You were still present, there would be no deadlock, as it would be five votes to four.

Zi Jing, Yang Ji, and Si Hong had no enmity with Lu Yin, but they also intended to abide by the principles of the overseers' council.

This vote also clearly demonstrated which of the overseers were Lu Yin's staunch supporters. One surprise to Nan Yuan was the realization that Old Man San Shang was one of Lu Yin's firm supporters.

Xin Jiao's support was no surprise, as she was the overseer representing the Cosmic Sea. At the moment, Leon's Armada was indisputably the dominant power in the Cosmic Sea, so Xin Jiao would likely face the same fate as Mr. You if she did not support Lu Yin. Mr. You's dismissal had served as a powerful incentive for Xin Jiao to cast her lot in with Lu Yin.

Lu Yin had surpassed the point where he needed to draw people to his side to support him, and at the moment, Lu Yin could bluntly threaten people into supporting him.

Given the deadlock, Liu Ran's dismissal merited further discussion.

While the council's meeting room grew noisy, Leaf King and Lu Yin were still happily chatting away with each other just outside the room.

Regardless of how the two men truly felt about each other, neither would reveal a single thing openly.

Lu Yin carefully examined Leaf King, feeling curiosity and confusion; was this man really the same sort of creature as Sapling?

After leaving Burial Garden, while on his way to Black Street, Lu Yin had learned that someone had attacked the Ross Empire's mobile fortress and that both Xia Yi and the big tree had escaped.

Even though there was no evidence that anyone had attacked Lu Yin's garden, Wei Rong and several others were convinced that the big tree had hidden its true strength and had fled when a commotion had erupted. Lu Yin did not believe any of that. He felt that it was far more likely that his companion outside the overseers' council had secretly attacked the garden by using Xia Yi's escape as a diversionary tactic.

Lu Yin's biggest question was just how the big tree had managed to escape from Leaf King along with Sapling. Leaf King was powerful enough to escape from Liu Huang's attack, which was more than enough proof of the man's strength.

Actually, after considering the matter a bit more objectively, Lu Yin felt that there was something quite suspicious about the big tree that had constantly tried to escape.

The answers were with the man right in front of Lu Yin, but unfortunately, there was no way to get any answers from Leaf King.

"Alliance Leader Lu, do you have any thoughts about Liu Ran's dismissal?" Leaf King suddenly asked. He stared at Lu Yin with a charming and handsome face, but he was unable to see through the youth's thoughts.

Lu Yin acted completely unconcerned. "That's the council's business. I really don't have an opinion."

"Then why are you here, Alliance Leader Lu?" Leaf King felt quite puzzled by Lu Yin's presence.

Lu Yin turned to face Leaf King and gave the man a brilliant smile. "I'm about to replace Liu Ran to become the new overseer."

Hearing these words caused Leaf King's expression to completely change.

At the same time, the overseers finally managed to come to an agreement to dismiss Liu Ran from his post as an Overseer and appoint a different person to represent the Inniverse on the overseers' council.

Liu Ran exited the overseers' meeting just as Mr. You had done. However, in stark contrast, Liu Ran did not look discouraged like the other former overseer.

Instead, Liu Ran faced Lu Yin and gave the young man a deep bow.

Lu Yin nodded, and then Liu Ran walked away. He looked quite relaxed.

If Liu Ran was being honest, he had never wanted to be an overseer as he had only ever been the Sword Sect's puppet. Liu Qianjue had made all the decisions, and Liu Ran had merely been Liu Qianjue's mouthpiece on the overseers' council.

Liu Ran's dismissal meant that he would be generously compensated by the Great Eastern Alliance, and after he returned to the Sword Sect, he would enjoy a very respected status. Liu Ran essentially considered himself a pensioner.

"The new overseer needs to be someone with a great deal of influence in the Inniverse, and they must also be supported by many different powers. I propose that Shamrock Enterprise's Leaf King take the vacant overseer position to represent the Inniverse. Any thoughts?" Nan Yuan immediately spoke up in the overseers' meeting room, and he started staring at all of his colleagues when he finished speaking.

Everyone had long since known about this appointment.

The Great Eastern Alliance utterly dominated the Inniverse, and Shamrock Enterprise was the only option for an overseer if there was a requirement that the overseer had to be someone from outside the Great Eastern Alliance. Nan Yuan's choice was very obvious to everyone.

The Great Eastern Alliance controlled the Inniverse while Leon's Armada controlled the Cosmic Sea. While this made it look like Mr. You and Leaf King were in very similar positions, the key difference was that Mr. You was no different from a stray dog while Leaf King controlled Shamrock Enterprise. Such tremendous influence, wealth, and power made Leaf King perfectly qualified to become an overseer.

Mr. You had also once enjoyed the support of a powerful force in the Cosmic Sea, and even if the Longevity Brigade no longer existed, he was not someone who should have been removed so unceremoniously. For example, no one had suggested that Xin Jiao be dismissed from her post, and even if Lu Yin wanted to do so, he would have to plot and scheme quite a bit to make it happen.

San Liang looked up. "Overseer Nan Yuan has proposed a candidate, so I will do the same: the leader of the Great Eastern Alliance, Lu Yin."

Nan Yuan's expression instantly changed. "What did you just say?"

San Liang repeated, "I propose that the leader of the Great Eastern Alliance, Lu Yin, replace Liu Ran as the new overseer."

"Seconded," Bu Laoweng quietly said.

"Seconded," Old Man San Shang repeated.

"Seconded," Xin Jiao said.

Nan Yuan's face contorted. "Lu Yin is the leader of the Great Eastern Alliance! How can he be allowed to become an overseer?"

Yang Ji arched a brow. "What do you mean? Can the leader of the Great Eastern Alliance not become an overseer? Then what about me? I'm the leader of the Light World."

Nan Yuan hastened to explain himself, "Overseer Yang Ji, I didn't mean it like that."

Yang Ji gave a derisive snort. "Seconded!"

Nan Yuan quickly said, "Overseer Yang Ji, you-"

"Seconded," From the other side of the table, Zi Jing also voiced her support.

Nan Yuan's pupils shrank. Already, five of the overseers had agreed to appoint Lu Yin as an overseer, so even if Si Hong disagreed, there was nothing that Nan Yuan could do about it.

"Seconded," Si Hong said.

Nan Yuan's vote meant absolutely nothing. Of the current seven overseers, six had already voiced their support of Lu Yin becoming an overseer. There was nothing that Nan Yuan could do to stop this.

San Liang smiled at Nan Yuan. "Overseer Nan Yuan, it's your vote. Do you support appointing the Great Eastern Alliance's leader Lu Yin to become the new overseer?"

Nan Yuan's eyes turned stony. He gritted his teeth and softly said, "I don't support this."

San Liang happily stated, "Very well, six in favor and one against. Lu Yin is to be our newest overseer. Let's welcome the overseer to our ranks."

The door was opened by the stationed protector as soon as San Liang finished speaking. The man had already watched Mr. You be forcefully ousted from his seat and had clearly seen Lu Yin's control of the overseers' council.

As Lu Yin passed through the door, the protector bowed low. "Congratulations to the overseer."

San Liang and the other overseers all stood up. This was a show of respect that was given to new overseers, and even Nan Yuan was forced to follow suit. He needed to at least adhere to the minimum required decorum.

In the room behind Lu Yin, Leaf King appeared to still be perfectly calm. So this was the goal of Bu Laoweng and the other overseers feigning sickness. They had made a gross miscalculation. Leaf King had not expected Lu Yin to actually reach for the position of overseer himself, and there was no doubt in Leaf King's mind that the final vote had been six to one in favor of Lu Yin's appointment.

Leaf King averted his eyes and rose to take his leave.

At the top of Mt. Microcosms, Arch-Elder Zen quietly watched as Lu Yin entered the council's meeting room. A person appeared behind the Semi-Progenitor. "Reporting to Arch-Elder Zen! The overseers' council's Mr. You and Liu Ran have been dismissed from their posts. The newest overseer is the leader of the Great Eastern Alliance, Lu Yin."

"What do you think of Lu Yin?" Arch-Elder Zen suddenly asked.

The person who had arrived to make the report was none other than the Interstellar Supreme Court's Da Qiu.

The Hall of Honor's current Honor Chosen were Shang Qing and the others of his generation, but Da Qiu was someone from a previous generation of Honor Chosen.

Throughout the years, the Hall of Honor had had many, many Honor Chosen, though very few of the selected youths ever managed to become Envoys. The moment they passed that particular threshold, their status in the Hall of Honor would transform. This was what had happened to Da Qiu.

He was already considered as the Hall of Honor's fourth Judicial Commissioner, and Arch-Elder Zen greatly favored the newly risen Envoy. In fact, Da Qiu was the youngster that Arch-Elder Zen favored the most highly, aside from Shang Qing.

"Lu Yin?" Da Qiu was caught off guard by the question.

Arch-Elder Zen indifferently explained, "You traveled a bit with him once, so what do you think of him?"

Da Qiu did not hesitate to consider the question at all. "Lu Yin is this subordinate's friend. He helped me with my breakthrough to become an Envoy, and without him, your subordinate would not have survived to this day. I owe him greatly."

Arch-Elder Zen was left speechless. This was not the first time that he had asked this question, but apparently, Shang Qing and now Da Qiu both openly viewed Lu Yin as their benefactor. How could he have expected this?

Shang Qing and Da Qiu represented the future of the Hall of Honor, and yet both of them were close to Lu Yin and felt that they owed him a favor. How was Arch-Elder Zen supposed to treat Lu Yin after learning about this? This was not even considering the fact that the Chief Justice, Qing Ping, was Lu Yin's senior disciple brother!

At this moment, Arch-Elder Zen felt incredibly fatigued. He had never dreamed that the day might come where he would lose control of the Hall of Honor, but that day was upon him.

Even if he tried to suppress Lu Yin at this time, all such efforts would prove useless. No matter what, Lu Yin would be able to reach the top in the future. He had the charm and skill required to do so. Additionally, Lu Yin was treated as the Lockbreakers Society's darling, and old man Xiu Ming was quite fond of the youth and greatly appreciated his talent.

"Let's take a step back," Arch-Elder Zen said tiredly.

Da Qiu felt a bit confused, but he slowly backed away and left.

There were certain people that could only be dealt with early, as they would become unstoppable once they built up enough momentum. This perfectly described Lu Yin.

No one was aware of the fact the Lu Yin had reached the point where not even Arch-Elder Zen could suppress him, as Lu Yin's influence had spread too far.

Inside the council's meeting room, Lu Yin took his seat and examined the room. "I assumed that you all held your meetings in some sort of special place, but this room is perfectly ordinary."

San Liang smiled. "This is the room where the first overseers council was held back when the Hall of Honor was first established. This room holds a special significance to the Hall of Honor."

"Alliance Leader Lu, I may call you Overseer Lu in the future, haha!" Yang Ji laughed.

Lu Yin smiled. "Overseer Lu doesn't have a very pleasant ring to it, so just call me Brother Lu. There's no reason to maintain distance between us."

"Alright, Brother Lu." Yang Ji smiled brightly, though his true thoughts were known only to himself.

Lu Yin had actually contacted many of the overseers on his way to Mt. Microcosms, and Lu Yin had actually threatened Yang Ji with the knowledge that he had gained his seat as an overseer by offering a gift. If this news ever leaked, Yang Ji's reputation would be damaged badly, which was why Yang Ji had become willing to support Lu Yin, though only once.

This stipulation did not bother Lu Yin, as he had sufficient support from the other overseers even without Yang Ji.

"I haven't seen you for a while, but you're becoming more and more active, Brother Lu." Zi Jing smiled.

Lu Yin smiled back at the woman. "Naturally. As for you, you're becoming more and more beautiful."

Zi Jing laughed. "Brother Lu is as entertaining as ever. How about coming to my place to enjoy some tea once this meeting is over?"

"Sure."

"This old man also has some good tea to share," Old Man San Shang spoke up as he smiled at Lu Yin. It was impossible to tell that the old man was merely a puppet.

Lu Yin nodded to San Shang.

The atmosphere had completely changed in the meeting room the moment that Lu Yin entered. The somber feeling had disappeared, and it felt more like a place to visit and chat about tea.

Nan Yuan stared at Lu Yin with cold eyes, but the man was powerless to do a single thing. Except for Nan Yuan, not a single one of the other overseers dared to offend Lu Yin, even if they did not unilaterally support him.

Lu Yin's gaze suddenly fell onto Nan Yuan. "Is there some issue that Overseer Nan Yuan would like to bring up? This is my first day as an overseer, so I admit that I'm quite curious about everything."

Nan Yuan's expression instantly changed, and he casually replied, "There's no issue to address on my part. Is there something that you would like to discuss, Alliance Leader Lu? You can just speak your mind."

Lu Yin smiled. "Actually, there is."

He looked around. "This council needs to have nine overseers to avoid a deadlock, like what happened just a bit ago. Deadlocks accomplish nothing and only waste time and energy, so I propose that the council be completed with the appointment of Lei Qingqing as the final overseer."

Chapter 1833: Reminder

"I object!" Nan Yuan spoke up immediately, his eyes fixated on Lu Yin. "Overseer Lu has only just been appointed, so you may not be clear on how this council operates. Please take a moment to present your proposed candidate for the final overseer position."

Lu Yin and Nan Yuan stared at each other. "Are you questioning my candidate, Overseer Nan Yuan?"

"Yes." Nan Yuan was direct with his answer. He represented the Seven Courts and the Xia family, which meant that he was able to completely disregard Lu Yin's influence. Regardless of how much clout Lu Yin amassed within the overseers' council, it was impossible for Nan Yuan to be removed from his position. Arch-Elder Zen would never allow such a thing, as it would create too many conflicts with the Seven Courts.

This was what gave Nan Yuan the confidence to directly confront Lu Yin.

"Overseer Nan Yuan, do you even know who Lei Qingqing is?" Lu Yin asked in an odd tone. He suspected that Nan Yuan had no idea who Lei Qingqing

was. In fact, Lu Yin was confident that no one in the entire room had ever heard Lei Qingqing's name before.

Nan Yuan simply replied, "I don't."

Lu Yin then looked over at Yang Ji, Si Hong, and the other overseers. "Do any of you?"

The all shook their heads as they blankly stared at Lu Yin.

Nan Yuan sneered. "An overseer is supposed to represent an entire region of the Human Domain! How can an unknown person ever be allowed to become an overseer?"

"Lei Qingqing is the leader of a group of mercenaries in the Cosmic Sea. She's also known as Leon's Armada's Big Sis. Her real name is Lei Qingqing," Xin Jiao slowly stated.

Lu Yin had actually forgotten that Xin Jiao was also someone from the Cosmic Sea, so she would naturally know about the influential people from the same region. However, she was the only overseer who had heard of Lei Qingqing before. However, this was nothing strange, as there were very few people even in Leon's Armada who had heard the name "Lei Qingqing" before.

Clearly, no one had any idea who Lei Qingqing was, but Big Sis was far from an unknown name. She was one of the biggest reasons behind Lu Yin's first rise to power.

"So she's just an interstellar pirate! In what era could a pirate qualify to become an overseer?" Nan Yuan mocked.

Lu Yin indifferently replied, "She's a mercenary. An interstellar mercenary. Big Sis's crew is a formally registered mercenary team."

He stared at Nan Yuan. "Overseer Nan Yuan, you just insulted a mercenary group by calling them pirates. That will upset the mercenary association."

Nan Yuan's expression turned grim, and he slightly leaned forward. "Big Sis's mercenary squad belongs to Leon's Armada, and everyone knows what they are!"

"Oh? What are they? Tell me." Lu Yin smiled as he stared at the man.

Nan Yuan wanted to comment about how Leon's Armada was a pirate crew, but he suddenly stopped himself. There was actually no evidence that Leon's Armada was a pirate crew. While everyone was aware that Highsage Leon was the Pirate King, who would provide real evidence to support accusations

against the man? A Pirate King was not something one chose to be, but was rather a title that was given by others.

Nan Yuan desperately wanted to accuse Leon's Armada of being a pirate crew, but doing so would be no different from validating a position held by a powerful man who was idealized by countless people. This was not a reasonable thing to do.

How could a title that was nothing more than a concept that had never been formally recognized or bestowed be treated as a real thing?

Nan Yuan spent a good bit of time struggling to find the right words.

Highsage Leon had repeatedly proclaimed himself as the Pirate King, but what of it? Was Nan Yuan supposed to drag Highsage Leon before the overseers' council and force him to admit such a thing? The threat of death was what kept Nan Yuan's mouth shut, as he was terrified that Highsage Leon would kill him with a single slap.

In his desperation, Nan Yuan had no choice but to say, "We have dismissed two overseers today, as well as confirmed a new one. Such sudden changes to the overseers' council are rare throughout the council's entire history. Any further proposals for dismissals or new appointments of overseers need to be delayed. None, none of us want an unknown person to join us as our final overseer."

His words held a great deal of merit.

Si Hong was the first to agree to Nan Yuan's proposal. Si Hong was not one of Lu Yin's people, and while he had fully supported San Liang becoming an overseer, Si Hong did not actually belong to any faction on the council.

Yang Ji also quickly agreed.

Right after that, Zi Jing voiced her approval as well.

The rest of the overseers were all Lu Yin's people, so he could attempt to force his proposal, but that would be no different from publicly announcing that he completely controlled the overseers' council. Lu Yin was worried that doing so would incite Arch-Elder Zen's ire.

The meeting ended with the proposal to raise Lei Qingqing up as an overseer being postponed, and the Hall of Honor prepared to send someone to investigate the woman. The proposal would only be addressed after the investigation was completed.

Lu Yin was absolutely certain that Nan Yuan would take this time to search for a potential candidate to replace Mr. You on the overseers' council.

At the moment, Leon's Armada reigned over almost the entire Cosmic Sea, so it would not be an easy task to find an overseer who could represent the Cosmic Sea while not being under High Sage Leon's thumb. The only possibility that Lu Yin could think of was the mysterious Soldier Crew.

The meeting concluded with Liu Ran and Mr. You both being removed from their positions while Lu Yin became a new overseer.

These results shocked everyone once word of the meeting's results spread.

Mt. Microcosms was the first place to receive word of what had transpired. No one had expected Lu Yin to suddenly become an overseer. It was common knowledge that, while all the Hall of Honor's overseers were influential people, they were also people without any real power. Yang Ji had been the sole exception, but at this moment, Lu Yin had overturned the entire board.

The overseers' council had changed.

When the news spread out from Mt. Microcosms and reached the various Neoverse powers, there were different reactions from each organization.

The person who found this matter the most bizarre was Yunying Mavis. She had already had her own plans in mind when she proposed an alliance to Lu Yin. She had believed that Lu Yin's chances of getting his Great Eastern Alliance into the Neoverse were nonexistent.

After all, the Neoverse was not the Innerverse. Not only were the two separated by the Cosmic Sea, but the behemoth powers of the Neoverse were also not easy to deal with. Any organization that was qualified to maintain a place in the Neoverse could not be simple.

Even if Lu Yin did manage to lead his Great Eastern Alliance into the Neoverse, it would take him a very long time.

Naturally, Yunying Mavis had not expected Lu Yin to become an overseer right after leaving her Mavis family. It was not an easy task to become an overseer, and this suggested that Lu Yin actually controlled the overseers' council. This meant that it was entirely possible for him to lead the Great Eastern Alliance into the Neoverse.

What sort of impact would this have on the Neoverse? Yunying Mavis could not even begin to guess.

Why was Arch-Elder Zen so lenient with Lu Yin? Was the situation really as the rumors described it? Was Arch-Elder Zen supporting Lu Yin?

If he really is able to bring the Great Eastern Alliance into the Neoverse, then... Yunying Mavis looked at the agreement she had signed with Lu Yin. It was clear that the value of this alliance to Lu Yin was simply too great, but just how would he take advantage of it?

Yunying Mavis had a sudden headache.

As soon as the Mavis family learned that Lu Yin had become an overseer, many of them hurried over to speak with their matriarch.

"Even if we had known that he was about to become an overseer, we still needed to establish an alliance with him. This is something that had to happen regardless," Yunying Mavis stated very firmly while being confronted by many members of her family.

...

After becoming an overseer, Lu Yin's first stop was to meet with Arch-Elder Zen, but Lu Yin was informed that the Semi-Progenitor had gone into seclusion. Lu Yin wondered if the old man simply did not want to see him.

Lu Yin felt a bit uncertain, so he made a trip to the Arbitration World to speak with the Chief Justice, but his senior brother was also in seclusion.

In the end, Lu Yin spoke to Mu En.

Mu En was solemn when he spoke to Lu Yin. "The Chief Justice has been in seclusion ever since he returned from Venom Flowzone. He has not come out a single time."

"Really?" Lu Yin's eyes flickered. This had to be related to the black crystal that had been found. The Chief Justice had answered Lu Yin's call once during this time, though he had ended up ignoring Lu Yin instead of giving him an actual answer.

Mu En felt rather curious. "Lu-"

He suddenly stopped, as he no longer knew how to refer to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin smiled and said, "Judicial Commissioner, you can just call me-"

He intended to say that Mu En could call him Little Seven, but as soon as Lu Yin thought about his relationship with Mu En, he no longer knew what to suggest.

Both of the men suddenly stopped talking.

Mu En pursed his lips. "Overseer Lu, I have a question, but I'm not sure how to bring it up."

"Please speak freely, Judicial Commissioner," Lu Yin spoke politely.

Mu En still took a while to process his thoughts. "After the Chief Justice returned from Venom Flowzone, he did not inform anyone where he was headed to next. Is there a chance our Chief Justice got injured while he was in Venom Flowzone?"

Lu Yin was caught off guard by this question. "Why would you think that?"

Mu En grew somber. "My Interstellar Supreme Court has people everywhere in the universe. While the Chief Justice was gone, a strange phenomenon was observed in Venom Flowzone where a starry expanse of space changed into a brightly light sky. This is very similar to the phenomenon that appears when our Chief Justice takes action. Many people have begun speculating that our lord was fighting against a powerful opponent in Venom Flowzone, which was why people were able to see such a thing. If this is true, his opponent must have been a terrifying powerhouse."

Mu En's voice suddenly dropped very low. "It would have most likely have been one of the Seven Skygods."

Lu Yin's eyes glinted. "Each of the Seven Skygods are Semi-Progenitors."

Mu En shook his head. "So what if they are Semi-Progenitors? The strength of the members of the Interstellar Supreme Court cannot be judged by the standards of their peers, and the best example of this is the Shadow of Death. For the Chief Justice to have displayed his power in such a fashion, he most likely faced one of the Seven Skygods. Though, his opponent may have also been another Semi-Progenitor, such as one from the Sixth Mainland."

Lu Yin shrugged. "I'm sorry, but the Chief Justice told me to keep that matter to myself, so I can't tell you anything."

Mu En smiled. "In that case, I'll stop with my questions. I would like to thank Overseer Lu on behalf of Da Qiu. If it is not for you, Da Qiu certainly would have failed to become an Envoy, and my Interstellar Supreme Court would have lost an expert."

Lu Yin smiled. "I only helped as much as I was able to.

"I should head on out."

Mu En nodded, but after Lu Yin had only gone a short ways, the Judicial Commissioner suddenly said, "Overseer Lu, I heard that the Sea King is currently in your Great Eastern Alliance, no?"

Lu Yin stopped and turned around to look at Mu En, wondering why the man had mentioned the Sea King. "That's right."

"It's just a small matter, but there is a bit of a disagreement between the Sea King and the Chief Justice. Keeping the Sea King close might strain matters between you and the Chief Justice," Mu En stated.

Lu Yin instantly became curious. "How could the Sea King have any sort of disagreement with the Chief Justice? They aren't from the same generation, are they?"

Mu En sighed. "The Sea King's father, the former master of the Starfall Sea, was from the same era as the Chief Justice. The two of them had a falling out, and that matter continued on to the next generation. However, it is a matter that is difficult to resolve, so keeping the Sea King close may create tension between you and the Chief Justice. It's not my place to say anything further, but you should be careful about this."

"Thank you for the warning." Lu Yin felt truly grateful. Mu En had not needed to mention anything at all to Lu Yin, but he had deliberately done so anyway. Lu Yin was someone whom the Chief Justice had openly taken care of and had a good relationship with. Mu En had never considered that the two could be fellow disciples. This relationship meant that nothing would change between the two even if the Sea King ended up becoming Lu Yin's father-in-law.

After leaving the Arbitration World, Lu Yin made his way to CyNet World to speak with Zi Jing for quite a long time. After that, he went to see Li.

Li started to panic when he saw Lu Yin approaching, as he assumed that Lu Yin was coming to make trouble. Why else would Lu Yin seek out someone like Li? The protector could not understand why such a lofty figure would be so petty as to come after him.

"Where is the First Protector? I want to speak with him," Lu Yin stated after finding Li.

Li started to panic even more. Is he going to file a complaint about him?

"Alliance Leader Lu, this lowly one was the one who was blind and foolish! I shouldn't have offended you! Please, show mercy and let this lowly one go! I promise that I will never cross you or step in your path again! I promise-"

Lu Yin raised a hand to cut the man off. "I'm looking to speak with the First Protector. I don't have the time to make things difficult for you, so can you just tell me where your senior is?"

Li released a sigh of relief. So Lu Yin was not looking to make trouble for him! "The First- the First Protector has gone into seclusion."

Lu Yin stared at Li. "What was that?"

Li trembled. "The First- the First Protector gave us orders to let the world know that he's gone into seclusion for the moment."

Chapter 1834: Crisis

Lu Yin was at a complete loss for words. Arch-Elder Zen seemed to be avoiding him, Lu Yin's senior brother, the Chief Justice, was studying the black crystals that he had found, and finally, the First Protector had gone into seclusion!

"Is he really in seclusion?" Lu Yin pressed.

Li was freaking out by this point. "The First Protector really did tell us that he is in seclusion! I would not dare to lie to you, Alliance Leader Lu!"

There was nothing that Lu Yin could do, so he left. Everyone was in seclusion!

Lu Yin decided to make a trip to the Lockbreakers World to see if President Xiu Ming was also in seclusion.

Finally, Lu Yin had a bit of luck. Xiu Ming, Lockbreaker Society's president, was not in seclusion, so Lu Yin was able to meet with the old man. When he did, Lu Yin also met Aurora Enterprises' Director Zhi.

"Alliance Leader Lu, it's been a long time." Director Zhi smiled politely as he greeted Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was taken aback at the man's presence. "Why is Director Zhi here?"

Director Zhi smiled. "I needed to ask the president here about some things, though I did not expect to meet you here."

Lu Yin smiled. "It's quite a coincidence. I also have some things to discuss with the president."

"In that case, I'll leave first, as I've already addressed everything I needed to discuss." Director Zhi turned to bow to Xiu Ming. "This junior will take his leave."

Xiu Ming nodded.

After Director Zhi left, Lu Yin turned to face Xiu Ming. "President, have you ever seen a humanoid sourcebox before?"

Xiu Ming's expression instantly changed. "You know about humanoid sourceboxes?"

Lu Yin nodded and then pulled out a number of humanoid sourceboxes from his cosmic ring. Xiu Ming was surprised by the sight, and he checked them all one by one. "Where did all of these come from?"

"Burial Garden," Lu Yin replied.

Xiu Ming was amazed. "It really is true that that place holds countless inheritances. It even had humanoid sourceboxes, and so many of them at that!"

"President Xiu, just what are humanoid sourceboxes?" Lu Yin was curious.

Xiu Ming stared at Lu Yin for a moment. "Did Xiao Shi tell you not to open one if you came across one?"

Lu Yin nodded. "He told me that more than just once."

Xiu Ming solemnly explained, "I actually don't know what these humanoid sourceboxes are, as they are simply too old, and the Hall of Honor has no records about them. The few mentions of them that can be found are unclear. For example, the Mavis family is old enough to know of such things, but their records are incomplete, and they have gone through various changes.

"From the Mavis family's records, the only thing that can be conclusively determined is that humanoid sourceboxes have some connection to the Fourth Mainland."

"The Fourth Mainland?" Lu Yin was confused.

Xiu Ming continued, "The Fourth Mainland is from the ancient era. It seems that these humanoid sourceboxes may have come from that place before it was destroyed."

"You haven't unlocked one, President?" Lu Yin was surprised at what he was being told. He had visited the Mavis family and asked them various questions, but apparently, he should have also asked about humanoid sourceboxes.

Xiu Ming took out another humanoid sourcebox from his own cosmic ring. It was practically identical to the one that Lu Yin had brought out. "The information the Mavis family shared with us stated the same thing that Xiao Shi said: do not open them. Because of that, I have held off from unlocking one, though I once wanted to do so. Humanoid sourceboxes are quite curious,

but there are historical warnings about them. Ignoring such historical records can bring about catastrophes, so I have stopped myself from opening this sourcebox. In fact, if you had not brought this matter up to me, I most likely would have forgotten all about it."

Even Xiu Ming was extremely hesitant to unlock a humanoid sourcebox, and Lu Yin felt that the string tied to the series of humanoid sourceboxes was likely something terrible. He had no idea which idiot had found them and pulled them out. "President, I'd like to give you all of these sourceboxes that are tied together with the string."

Xiu Ming's eyebrows climbed high. "To me?"

Lu Yin offered, "A donation to the Lockbreakers Society."

Xiu Ming laughed. "Do you want to trade them for something of equal value that my Lockbreakers Society has?"

Lu Yin grew embarrassed, but still answered, "Would that be okay?"

Xiu Ming laughed and shook his head. "Everyone in this universe says that Alliance Leader Lu loves wealth, and it turns out to be true! I'll give you enough star essence for you to be quite happy."

Lu Yin's expression remained pure and unruffled. "This junior isn't a greedy person. There's no need to offer any star essence."

Xiu Ming was taken aback. "You don't want star essence?"

He felt that he must have heard wrong. Lu Yin was someone who loved money; was there anyone in the entire universe who did not know about this? Had something changed?

Lu Yin continued in a serious tone, "This junior is focused on my cultivation, so how could I lust after for money? Those are nothing but rumors spread by those who hate me. President Xiu, you shouldn't believe such things."

"In that case, would you prefer to receive a sourcebox of the same grade?"

Xiu Ming was no longer confident in what to offer Lu Yin.

Lu Yin awkwardly asked, "Is there anything else? Like, maybe a page of True Insight or something?"

Xiu Ming was left speechless. "You want to trade a bunch of useless humanoid sourceboxes for some pages of True Insight? You're overestimating the value of these things."

Lu Yin grew even more embarrassed.

"While you did indeed return a page of True Insight to us in the past, and we rewarded you for that, several of the thirty-six pages of True Insight are still missing. So, it's impossible to lend out any of the pages for you to research and study," Xiu Ming stated.

Lu Yin reflexively touched his ring, which still held five pages of True Insight. Unfortunately, all of those sourcebox arrays were too difficult for him to comprehend.

After everything was said and done, Lu Yin managed to walk away with some rare materials in exchange for the humanoid sourceboxes that he had turned over to the Lockbreakers Society. Lu Yin had no idea what any of the materials were used for, and judging from Xiu Ming's reaction, the old man was similarly ignorant. Regardless, Lu Yin just took what he was offered, despite feeling like he had suffered a loss.

Still, it was not important, as hanging on to the humanoid sourceboxes would do nothing at all for Lu Yin. In the end, it was better to hand all of them over to Xiu Ming.

When it came to lockbreaking, Lu Yin was far, far away from being able to compare to someone like Xiu Ming.

After leaving the Lockbreakers World without running into the Chi Shi Duo, Lu Yin ran into Director Zhi just outside the hidden world. Apparently, the man had been waiting for Lu Yin.

"Alliance Leader Lu, the last time we parted ways, we agreed to cooperate, and yet we have never done so." Director Zhi spoke politely, but he was clearly hoping to get some rare materials from Lu Yin.

Lu Yin had always been conscientious of Aurora Enterprises, as he was still waiting for their microarray technology to be successfully developed. "It's been quite a while since then, but if Director Zhi needs some rare materials, I have quite a bit with me right now."

Director Zhi's eyes lit up. "This is wonderful! Do you happen to have some time now, Alliance Leader Lu? Why don't you come visit my Aurora Fortress for a bit?"

Microarray technology still had not been fully developed yet, and Lu Yin was not sure that he would be able to hide a meeting with Wan Gong if he did visit Aurora Fortress. Thus, he had no desire to make the trip. "Now isn't the best time. I really need to get back to the Inniverse. With Burial Garden open, every open gate poses a grave danger. I'm sure you understand, Director Zhi."

Director Zhi felt that this was a pity. "That's truly too bad. When do you intend to return to the Innerverse?"

"Right now."

"Then let's walk to the exit together, as we're headed in the same direction."

"That would be great. I was actually hoping to ask Director Zhi a few questions about the Neoverse."

...

Normally, the Hall of Honor's overseers were not allowed to leave Mt. Microcosms. Throughout the ages, the overseers had been people with a great deal of influence but little personal power. It was nearly impossible to guarantee their safety if they left Mt. Microcosms. This was also why Mr. You had been escorted by Li when he had gone to visit Venom Flowzone.

However, Lu Yin was different. He had broken the council's conventions, which was something that left Nan Yuan grinding his teeth.

Lu Yin and Director Zhi made their way to the Honor Zone's entrance, chatting as they moved along. Most of the time, Lu Yin asked about the Neoverse, while Director Zhi expressed a great deal of interest in the Great Eastern Alliance.

Soon, half a month passed, and they were quickly approaching the entrance to the Honor Zone and were about to go their separate ways. Lu Yin was headed towards the west and the Cosmic Sect, while Director Zhi was headed towards Aurora Fortress in the northern region of the Neoverse.

Before parting ways, Lu Yin suddenly asked, "What are Director Zhi's thoughts concerning the Cosmic Sect?"

Director Zhi felt a bit confused by the question. "Why this question? The Cosmic Sect is an absolute monster here in the Neoverse, but they are a far way away from my Aurora Fortress. Honestly, I don't know much about them."

"I was just curious." Lu Yin did not give much of an explanation.

However, he fell into deep thought as he watched Director Zhi leave. Wan Gong had told Lu Yin some time ago that there was someone in Aurora Enterprises who had connections to the Cosmic Sect. This detail had stood out to Lu Yin, and when San Liang had been in contact with Wan Gong, he had also been secretly investigating any possible connections between the two organizations, but he had failed to find a common thread.

Lu Yin had only mentioned the Cosmic Sect to Director Zhi as a casual test, but the man's reaction had been perfectly normal.

Was it just a coincidence? Or had Wan Gong been wrong?

After leaving the Honor Zone, Lu Yin plotted a course for the Cosmic Sect in the western region of the Neoverse.

As he traveled, his gadget suddenly beeped, and when Lu Yin looked down, he saw it was a call from First Edition City.

"Do you recognize this person?" A voice came through as a picture of a human appeared on the display.

Lu Yin glanced at the picture, and he instantly grew pale. Was that Bai Laogui?

"Where is he?" Lu Yin asked anxiously.

"He was at Sky Creation Academy more than half a month ago, but he has since disappeared."

Both Bai Laogui and Wang Si had been trapped in a spatial layer in the Technocracy by the Master Brain's materialized thoughts. If Bai Laogui had broken free, then Wang Si clearly had as well. "Was he alone?"

"Yes."

Lu Yin's heart dropped. Bai Laogui had shown himself at Sky Creation Academy before disappearing, which meant he had most likely returned to the Perennial World. In that case, where was Wang Si?

"You didn't miss anyone?" Lu Yin confirmed.

"Absolutely not. He was the only person to appear at Sky Creation Academy. You asked us to monitor the place, and he was someone powerful and unknown. So, we reported this matter to you."

"Why didn't you tell me sooner?" Lu Yin's voice dropped low as frustration appeared across his face. Bai Laogui had been at Sky Creation Academy more than a month ago, which meant that Wang Si could have been causing trouble for more than fifteen days! While traveling from one domain to another was difficult, it was not a huge challenge to a Semi-Progenitor.

"We've been trying to reach you, but we haven't been able to get through until just now."

Lu Yin then realized that, more than half a month ago, he had been traveling from the Mavis family to Mt. Microcosms. It was impossible to use a gadget

freely in the Honor Zone, so First Edition City had not been able to get through to Lu Yin until this very moment.

"I understand. Keep an eye on Sky Creation Academy," Lu Yin said solemnly.

After hanging up, Lu Yin resumed his course. He had no idea where Wang Si was headed at the moment. But given the Perennial World's attitude towards Lu Yin, the old woman had most likely not returned to the Perennial World, but was instead trying to hunt Lu Yin down.

In the past, Lu Yin had not been particularly worried. Even if Wang Si was a Semi-Progenitor, she was not powerful enough to determine Lu Yin's location. However, things had changed after Lu Yin had become an overseer. His whereabouts were being somewhat monitored, and the fact that he had left Mt. Microcosms was widely known. If Wang Si was hunting Lu Yin, it was impossible for her not to know that he had left the Honor Zone, and it was possible that she was already traveling towards him.

Lu Yin had no confidence that he would not be attacked by Wang Si on his way to the Cosmic Sect, and if that happened, Elder Gong would most likely not have the chance to rescue Lu Yin. This was not a risk that Lu Yin was comfortable taking, and after calculating the distance he still needed to travel, the only safe option was to return to Mt. Microcosms for the time being.

As soon as he turned around, Lu Yin tried to call Arch-Elder Zen again, but he was still unable to get in touch with the old man. Instead, Lu Yin called Yuan Qiong. Recently, he had come across a few Semi-Progenitors, and he needed to find someone who could keep him safe at any time. The best options were either Kui Luo or Gong Gong. It was impossible for Arch-Elder Zen or Highsage Grandmaster to stay close to Lu Yin to keep him safe.

"What's the matter?" Yuan Qiong spoke the moment the call connected.

Just as Lu Yin was about to answer, his ship exploded. Before he had a chance to even react, he felt a pressure that suppressed the entire area, and he lost consciousness. A figure emerged from the void, grabbed Lu Yin, and left.

Chapter 1835: Struggle

In the Cosmic Sect, Yuan Qiong leaped to his feet when the call was cut short. Something had clearly happened, so he raced away to find Elder Gong.

...

Lu Yin had no idea how much time passed, but he was awakened by a stinging pain. When he opened his eyes, he saw that he was on a barren

planet with an enormous maelstrom covering the sky. It was a yellow cyclone that stretched out of sight.

What had happened? Why was he in this place? Lu Yin's mind raced as he tried to figure out what had happened.

The earth was stained red, and when Lu Yin looked down, he saw that it was due to the blood streaming from his own right leg. It had been badly injured and was also the source of the stinging pain that had woken him.

"Unbelievable." A hoarse and flat voice spoke up from behind Lu Yin. He was still laying on the ground, staring at his bleeding right leg, and remaining absolutely still as he recalled what had happened. He had been speaking with the Cosmic Sect's master, Yuan Qiong, when he had instantly lost consciousness. A true powerhouse had attacked him.

Given Lu Yin's current strength, not even Envoys with power levels of 800,000 or 900,000 could instantly deal with him. While he was not able to defeat Envoys with power levels of 700,000, he could still put up a fight without losing. At the moment, even if Lu Yin faced off against someone as strong as Cang Zhou, he would still be able to put up a fight. However, he had not been able to mount any sort of resistance at all against the person who had attacked him, and Lu Yin did not even know how he had lost consciousness.

Who was speaking to him? The voice was not familiar.

"You're only an Enlighter, and yet your body possesses a physical strength that surpasses what most Envoys are capable of even after reaching a power level of 600,000. This is simply incredible. It's no wonder you were able to create so much trouble in this Forsaken Land and establish that Great Eastern Alliance." The flat, hoarse voice continued.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. The Perennial World called the Fifth Mainland the Forsaken Land.

"Still pretending to be unconscious?" A terrible pain shot through Lu Yin's left leg, and more blood dripped onto the ground. Off in the distance, the maelstrom picked up sand and rocks into the air, and it looked as though the sky above him was about to drop down and crush him.

Lu Yin wiggled his fingers and slowly sat up. He turned his head and saw a blurry figure. It was impossible to see who the person was, if they were male or female, or even if they were fat or skinny. This blurred image seemed to block Lu Yin's sight somehow.

His pupils transformed into runes, and he stared at the person, but what he saw was a number of runes that could not even match up to an Envoy with a power level of 600,000.

This was impossible. There was no way that an Envoy with that sort of power level could possibly be strong enough to defeat Lu Yin so easily.

"Who are you?" Lu Yin warily asked.

The figure looked at Lu Yin. "It's time to end this, Lu Xiaoxuan."

Lu Yin's expression changed. He gritted his teeth and solemnly asked, "Who did the Perennial World send after me? Even if you want me dead, at least tell me who's killing me."

"Dead men don't need to know such things." As they spoke, the blurry figure waved their right arm like it was a blade. It sliced through the air, the ground, and apparently, even a planet. The pressure of the attack suppressed Lu Yin even as his skin tore open from the blade-like attack.

An incomparably sharp edge descended. This was a more powerful attack than Lu Yin had ever faced before.

As though by reflex, an astral chessboard appeared beneath Lu Yin's feet, and he moved.

The only abilities that Lu Yin could use against Envoys were his physical strength, his spiritual force, his domain, and his battle force. Absolutely any technique or ability that used star energy in any form could not be used, and yet his secret technique somehow succeeded. Even though the sharp attack that had been launched at Lu Yin was overwhelming, it had not suppressed any of the star energy in the area.

After Lu Yin moved away, his eyes flickered, and he moved again. This time, he attempted to enter the true universe to escape.

The blurry figure instantly appeared in front of Lu Yin, moving far faster than Lu Yin and blocking his path. The sharp attack appeared again, and this time, the runes that Lu Yin saw exceeded a power level of 700,000. Clearly, this hidden person did not merely have a power level of 600,000, but was instead doing something to hide their strength.

Lu Yin instantly left the true universe by dodging the attack with the Ce Secret Art. He focused on the space in front of him, and the moment the blurry figure appeared, Lu Yin released a Hollow Palm.

Hollow Palm was not a purely physical attack like Vacuum Palm, as it incorporated everything that a person was capable of unleashing, such as domain, battle force, and more. A single Hollow Palm was the same as being struck by Lu Yin's most powerful attack that used star energy.

It was difficult to know if Lu Yin would have struggled this much against Jiu Han if he had possessed the Hollow Palm back then. She had been quite weak to spiritual force attacks and domain attacks, and just a single Hollow Palm might have been enough to force out the woman's trump cards.

However, Lu Yin's Hollow Palm failed him. While the attack did land on the blurry figure, it did not cause any damage at all. Instead, the person just voiced a bit of surprise. "Impressive palm attack! It carries a variety of different energies, and anyone weaker than you would definitely be injured. Very good."

The figure then raised an arm and swung it down, releasing another sharp attack that swept forward like a blade.

It looked like this was the only attack method that this person intended to use.

However, Lu Yin did not want to avoid this attack. Instead, his pupils transformed into runes, and he started to weaken the attack while simultaneously setting up a Channeling Diagram.

Against this sharp attack, Truesight managed to erase a tremendous number of runes, but the attack still struck the sourcebox array and sliced through the Channeling Diagram before continuing on towards Lu Yin.

He quickly retreated to dodge the attack, and the sharp slice swept past his side, tearing through the void and space as it passed by.

Just what was this mysterious person thinking? This was clearly a powerful attack, but it was very easy to dodge. It was also obvious that Lu Yin's attacker was powerful enough to instantly deal with Lu Yin and also suppress his star energy, and yet they had not done so. Just what was this person's goal?

Since star energy was not being suppressed, Lu Yin decided to do his best. He formed a sword with his star energy and released the Fourteenth Sword.

"Oh? A sword technique that surpasses the Thirteenth Sword? Unfortunately, the gap between us is too vast for this to be able to hurt me." The blurry figure said as they once more slashed down with their arm. Lu Yin was feeling more and more stifled.

Determination filled Lu Yin's eyes, and he released Daynight Praises next in an attempt to overwhelm his attacker with spiritual force. But once again, all efforts proved useless.

This person was clearly allowing Lu Yin to use everything at his disposal, which felt very similar to what Mister Mu had done when he had accepted Lu Yin as his disciple. However, at the moment, Lu Yin's opponent was actually trying to kill him. Lu Yin could sense the power of the blade-like attacks, and the strength behind them never changed at all. If he was ever cornered or slipped up, Lu Yin would die. This person was simply toying with him.

Lu Yin raised a hand and brought out the Champions' Stage. "With my name, I summon a champion."

Finally, the blurry figure's arm hesitated while swinging down. "The Lu family's Champions' Stage? Who did you summon?"

It was pointless for Lu Yin to summon a champion with his star energy. His only option was to summon champions with his death energy: Cang Zhou, Long Yi, and finally, Jiu Han.

The three Envoys charged the blurry figure as Lu Yin stared at his opponent. He wanted to see just how powerful this person actually was.

"Useless." After uttering a single word, the blurred figure attacked the champions in the exact same manner that they had attacked Lu Yin. The blade-like attack swept out, and Cang Zhou, Long Yi, and Jiu Han were all sliced in half at the same time. Death energy recoiled within Lu Yin's chest, and he retreated a few steps, slightly weakened. He stared at his opponent in shock.

"While merely an Enlighter, you're able to summon Envoys from your Champions' Stage, and there are even champions with power levels of more than 700,000. Quite impressive, but unfortunately, Lu Xiaoxuan, you will still die. When you see your Lu family again, say hello for me." The blurry figure raised a hand once more and sent out another slashing attack.

Lu Yin's blazed, and the astral chessboard reappeared beneath his feet. However, this time, he did not try to dodge, but instead moved himself directly behind his attack. He threw out another Hollow Palm, and this time, numerous Hollow Palms rained down upon the blurry figure. An arm swept up and down, releasing slashing attacks to counter Lu Yin's Hollow Palms, but Lu Yin did not retreat. He instead appeared on the other side of his attacker with the Teleportation Formation. At the same time, he pulled out the Void Rip sourcebox array and released the attack.

Two points were connected by a line, and the Void Rip swept forward. However, the Void Rip did not cause any damage to the blurry figure, as the sourcebox array had only contained the first part of the technique.

"Is this all you have?" The blurry figure raised an arm high. "Then you can go to hell."

Lu Yin suddenly sneered. "Too bad, but I can't die yet. You should take care of yourself first."

The blurry figure felt puzzled, but they hesitated just as they were about to drop their arm. They stared at their arm just in time to see a drop of some sort of transparent liquid melting into their skin. "Poison?"

"That's not even an ordinary poison, so go save your life," Lu Yin said as an astral chessboard appeared beneath his feet. He moved, trying again to escape.

When Lu Yin had appeared behind his attacker for the second time, which was when he had used the Teleportation Formation, he had left a drop of Samaritan's Tears in the air. The moment the blurry figure had spun around to attack, their raised arm had come into contact with the poison, which was precisely what Lu Yin had predicted.

His attacker was simply too confident. Every time they attacked, their arm followed the exact same movements, which just went to show how little they regarded Lu Yin. After all, Samaritan's Tears were not invisible or undetectable. Just when Lu Yin had thought that all of his options were useless, a poison had finally managed to prove effective.

Yi's Emporium had claimed that Samaritan's Tears was Venom Flowzone's most potent poison, and they had even claimed that an Envoy with a power level of 700,000 had once been killed by the poison. Lu Yin had then Enhanced the poison with his die, which meant that it should be deadly even to experts with power levels of 900,000. Even more importantly, Lu Yin had learned that Samaritan's Tears was developed by the Neohuman Alliance, just like Vitality Poison. Thus, its toxicity could not be evaluated merely by its power level.

In fact, Lu Yin had nearly died to Samaritan's Tears despite using Extremes Must Be Reversed.

Lu Yin had spent nearly 2 billion star essence Enhancing this poison, so even if the blurry figure was a master with a power level of a million, they still might meet their death from this poison.

At the moment, all that Lu Yin could do was try to escape, and the further, the better.

Back where Lu Yin had awoken, the blurry figure stared at their arm. "This poison is so vicious even after all this time! How could that child have such a thing?"

The figure then disappeared.

Lu Yin turned his head back, but he saw that the overwhelming number of runes had disappeared. He glanced around in all directions, afraid that his attacker might strike from the true universe.

Luckily, the blurry figure had truly left.

The Samaritan's Tears had proven powerful enough that Lu Yin felt truly lucky.

He glanced down at his wrist and saw that his gadget had not been damaged during the scuffle. He tried to call Yuan Qiong, only to learn that there was no signal. This barren planet was apparently in some sort of pocket dimension or isolated space.

Lu Yin jumped into the air, intending to leave the planet.

He charged into the maelstrom that looked like a collapsing sky. The storm looked like it could destroy anything, but it posed no danger to Lu Yin. He easily pierced through the storm. However, he was not met by outer space on the other side of the storm, but rather by a white mist. As he looked around, there was a massive pillar, and the landmass that he had been atop of was nothing more than the top of that pillar.

Chapter 1836: Test

Lu Yin stared off into the distance. There were more erect pillars that stretched out for as far as he could see, each one topped by a landmass and covered with some sort of natural disaster. He saw storms, flames, tsunamis, and more. There were even some pillars that had black holes devouring everything near the top of the pillars.

Where the hell was he?

He looked down, but he could not see anything below him. The pillars extend deep into the white fog, which seemed to be exactly what it appeared to be: just fog. It was possible that there was land beneath the fog and that he was on a planet, but what planet was this massive?

Lu Yin didn't know where he was. After thinking about it, he flew into the distance. Since he didn't know where he was, he could only go in the direction of the pillars. These pillars were obviously man-made, and perhaps they led to an exit.

In the Neoverse, a spacecraft that was packed with people cruised towards the west.

"Is that someone out in open space? Is that- That's someone from the Interstellar Supreme Court!" One of the occupants exclaimed, quickly drawing the attention of everyone else aboard.

Outside the vessel stood Mu En, Da Qiu, and many other members of the Interstellar Supreme Court. Across from them were the Cosmic Sect's Yuan Qiong and a seemingly innocuous elder.

The ship's passengers could not hear a word that was being said.

Outside, an ugly expression painted Yuan Qiong's face. "He had to have been taken by someone who was able to suppress him instantly! They had to at least have been an Envoy, so check into all the possible suspects."

Mu En growled, "They dare to kidnap one of the Hall of Honor's overseers? This person is clearly not an average Envoy."

Da Qiu was quite anxious. "What could have happened to Alliance Leader Lu?"

Yuan Qiong was actually even more worked up than Da Qiu, as Lu Yin was the sole source of the Cosmic Sect's greatest inheritance. He had no idea what would happen to the pattern on the sole of Lu Yin's foot if he died. The sect master glanced over at the old man accompanying him.

Elder Gong's expression was solemn. It was an expression that Yuan Qiong had never seen before on the man's face.

"Elder, have you found any clues?" Yuan Qiong asked.

Mu En and everyone else looked over at Elder Gong. Everyone present was aware that the old man was one of the Human Domain's Semi-Progenitors, which made him one of the most powerful individuals in the universe. They had not expected Lu Yin's abduction to pull out such a powerful individual.

Elder Gong's eyes suddenly grew more focused. "I can feel the energy from an inner world."

Yuan Qiong's pupils instantly shrank. "A Semi-Progenitor?"

Elder Gong frowned. "I'm not sure."

He then immediately moved out to visit Mt. Microcosms. Lu Yin possessed a unique status, and Elder Gong needed to discuss this matter with Arch-Elder Zen. This was not only about the Cosmic Sect's inheritance, but also about the people who stood behind Lu Yin.

Elder Gong somewhat suspected that someone from that place might have come to the Fifth Mainland.

The spacecraft slowly flew by as it continued on towards the west. Many of the occupants were busy discussing what they had seen, as none of them could understand why people from both the Interstellar Supreme Court and the Cosmic Sect had been standing in the middle of nowhere. Regardless, it was fairly obvious that something major had happened.

Within the onlookers, there was an old woman who was staring at her gadget with riveted interest. This woman was Wang Si. She had left the Technocracy, and she had recently learned that Lu Yin had become one of the Hall of Honor's overseers. This had led her to come to the Neoverse to hunt him down, but she had not found him. Instead, her interest had been drawn to Burial Garden.

Wang Si was browsing through her gadget, soaking up everything related to Burial Garden. "Tea mountains? Could that person be the Eastern Mountains Tea King who used to like raising tea bushes from people? He's from an incredibly long time ago."

Another video appeared. This one was of a younger girl who kept slapping down on the air with a hand. The video showed her slapping down on a person's head and smashing it apart. It was a disturbing video to watch.

Wang Si stared at the image of a wandering corpse with a young girl's image. This sight startled the woman. "She seems so familiar! I feel that she might be a powerhouse from the Second Mainland who was mentioned in an ancient record. I believe she had some sort of connection to Progenitor Yōu."

Wang Si continued to browse through the videos and images. There were many posts to go through, and many included information about inheritances that people had found.

There was a video of a massive wandering corpse that pounded the ground, another one of a wandering corpse that made tripod-shaped objects that it then stomped on and smashed, and even a blind wandering corpse that

crawled and rolled over the ground. She also saw a video of someone who found a human blood fruit, a strange power vessel, and even an image of a pillar of tribulation crystals.

When it came to mere rumors, there were countless more, and Wang Si even found posts from people who claimed to have seen Progenitor Chen.

This was shocking news to Wang Si. Why would there be anything at all from that particular era in Burial Garden? She was quite certain that she had seen things related to the Second, Third, and Fourth Mainlands in the pictures and videos from Burial Garden, as well as rumors about things connected to Progenitor Chen's time. There were numerous news of things related to the ancient era.

Of everything that Wang Si saw, the Eastern Mountains Tea King was one of the oldest.

When Wang Si closed her gadget, she was far more subdued than before. She had believed that the Forsaken Land was a worthless place, but it looked like the truth was far different from that. This Burial Garden was clearly hiding some secrets, and if there were any inheritances related to those legendary figures, it would be a waste to leave them for the residents of the Forsaken Land.

It was time for the four ruling powers to descend upon the Forsaken Land. The primeval surnames may have abandoned the place, but the hatred and hostility that this place carried for the primeval surnames was something that could not be allowed to continue. On top of that, how could such trash deserve those ancient inheritances? After thinking for a bit, Wang Si suddenly vanished.

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In another place in the universe, the master of the Starsibyl Sect, the man who Lu Yin referred to as Senior Zhu, wrote the word "Murkiness" in the air in front of himself.

"I'm supposed to perform a divination on this word?" Senior Zhu muttered to himself as he stared at the character and his eyes grew unfocused.

Before long, his body trembled, and the word "Murkiness" burned into the void. "Why did I see that one?"

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Lu Yin had no idea how long he traveled for, but he finally landed atop a pillar that was riddled with spatial cracks. Each one was dangerous enough to slice through an Enlightener.

He had no idea how many pillars he had passed by, but there was still no end in sight. All he could do was grit his teeth and continue on.

His body flew through the air as he stepped forward, continuing in the same direction that he had been traveling.

Suddenly, a blurry figure appeared up in front of Lu Yin. His expression changed drastically, and he instantly froze. "You- you're all right?"

The blurred figure stood facing Lu Yin and replied in a cold tone, "That was a potent poison, but still too weak. So, one of the glorious Lu family's descendants fell so low as to use a method as despicable as poison. You've disgraced your ancestors."

As the figure spoke, they raised an arm and dropped it down in the exact same manner as before. Also as before, there was no attempt to suppress Lu Yin's star energy.

Lu Yin dodged as he shouted, "What do you want? Who are you?"

There was no way his attacker was actually someone from the Perennial World despite them repeatedly referring to Lu Yin as Lu Xiaoxuan. It was clear this person wanted Lu Yin to believe that they were from the Perennial World, but they clearly had no idea that Wang Si was already in the Fifth Mainland. Since a Semi-Progenitor had already been sent to hunt Lu Yin down, there was no reason for the Perennial World to send anyone else. Of course, it was still possible that this blurry figure was someone from the Perennial World, just not from one of the four ruling powers, but that possibility was beyond remote.

Kui Luo had used Wang Yun to get to the Fifth Mainland, and after that, it was guaranteed that the four ruling powers had locked down the passage that led from the Perennial World to Sky Creation Academy. It was practically impossible for anyone not from one of the four ruling powers to have made it to the Fifth Mainland.

However, if Lu Yin's attacker was not someone from the Perennial World, but they still knew of his identity as Lu Xiaoxuan, then there was only one explanation. They must have learned of this through Arch-Elder Zen.

Lu Yin believed that the First Protector would not say a word without Arch-Elder Zen's consent, and Arch-Elder Zen would only tell his peers about Lu Yin's identity, which were the Fifth Mainland's other Semi-Progenitors.

Any Semi-Progenitor could easily suppress Lu Yin, and it would also take them no more than a few days to deal with a poison as potent as Samaritan's Tears. In fact, that was something that only a Semi-Progenitor could possibly do.

At the moment, the Human Domain had six Semi-Progenitors: Arch-Elder Zen, Highsage Grandmaster, Elder Gong, Tombkeeper, Xia Ji, but Lu Yin didn't know the last person. He had forgotten to ask about the final Semi-Progenitor's identity, but could his attacker be that person? Was this the Semi-Progenitor that Lu Yin had never heard of?

Actually, there was also another possibility. Lu Yin stared at the blurry figure. Could this person actually be Xia Ji?

Out of the Human Domain's Semi-Progenitors, the only one who viewed Lu Yin with any sort of hostility was Xia Ji. While others might not know precisely when Lu Yin left the Honor Zone, Xia Ji absolutely could have known, as he could have found out from Nan Yuan.

In fact, as Lu Yin and Director Zhi had been leaving the Honor Zone, Director Zhi had been speaking to Nan Yuan.

Lu Yin's heart fell as his mind raced. If he was really facing Xia Ji, then Lu Yin's luck was much worse than he had believed. He had no idea where he was, and no one would even know if he died. A Semi-Progenitor could easily deal with Lu Yin, and there was absolutely nothing that Lu Yin could do about it.

The blurry figure clearly had no intention of speaking with Lu Yin, and they merely raised a hand and swung it down.

Lu Yin again evaded the attack. If his attacker truly was Xia Ji, then why attack at all? Because of the overseers' council? That was impossible. What else could there be?

Lu Yin's mind raced as the sharp attack shot out once again.

Why was this person not simply killing Lu Yin? Why were they letting him resist?

Suddenly, Lu Yin figured it out: the Cosmic Art. Xia Ji was trying to force Lu Yin to use the Cosmic Art.

The war that had ravaged the Cosmic Sea was the result of countless years of Xia Ji's planning. He had succeeded in stealing the Skystar Jade Wall, but the man's ultimate goal was the pattern that had originally been a part of that treasure. That pattern was the most vital part of Progenitor Chen's

inheritance. However, despite all the time that Xia Ji had possessed the Skystar Jade Wall for, he had received nothing from it at all. During this same time, Lu Yin's status within the Cosmic Sect had completely transformed, and his progress in cultivating the Cosmic Art had been exceptional.

The Xia family had always kept an eye on Lu Yin. Also, Xia Ji had escaped from the Great Eastern Alliance. Before that, he had attacked Lu Yin within Burial Garden, and Lu Yin had attacked by using the Celestial Sword Technique to unleash the Fourteenth Sword. Xia Yi had definitely noticed the attack, and he had most likely reported the matter to Xia Ji after returning home. This would have piqued Xia Ji's curiosity and sparked some questions in the Semi-Progenitor's mind.

This was what had most likely led to Lu Yin's current situation. Xia Ji was trying to force Lu Yin to use the Cosmic Art so that the old man could determine whether Lu Yin possessed Progenitor Chen's inheritance.

Lu Yin kept dodging the blurry figure's attacks. If this person really was Xia Ji, then Lu Yin could not allow himself to use the Cosmic Art. Wait, that was not quite right. If Lu Yin refused to use the Cosmic Art, wouldn't that just prolong the current situation? If Lu Yin wanted proof that he was being attacked by Xia Ji, then he could find out by using the Cosmic Art.

Lu Yin kept avoiding the attacks as he slowly retreated. If this person truly was Xia Ji, then he would never actually kill Lu Yin. The fight had suddenly become a battle of patience.

Lu Yin continuously retreated, and the blurry figure never let up on their attacks. Lu Yin kept moving along the pillars that continued out of sight.

The blurry figure was in no hurry, as there was no way for Lu Yin to escape from the current situation.

One day. Two days. Three days... Ten days.

Lu Yin was breathing heavily. He had managed to evade the blurry figure's attacks for ten days, but he was reaching his limits. Fortunately, the last stone pillar was finally in sight, and past it, Lu Yin saw buildings.

He became excited and he rushed towards the buildings.

The blurry figure suddenly appeared in Lu Yin's path. "All of your efforts mean nothing. Why don't you start again."

Lu Yin's eyes suddenly widened, and 10,000 stars instantly appeared around his body, covering a vast area as they started to revolve around his body.

The blurry figure froze and stopped moving for a bit while staring at Lu Yin's Cosmic Art.

This person had never once stopped attacking Lu Yin no matter what Lu Yin had said or done, but at this moment, they finally stopped.

Chapter 1837: Means Of Escape

Lu Yin once again started racing towards the buildings, and the simulated stars moved with him.

The blurry figure instantly blocked him. "Move, and you'll die."

Lu Yin sneered. "In your dreams!"

He suddenly pulled out the blood-stained clothes that he had picked up in Burial Garden. The moment he touched them, all the death energy in his body surged. The sky behind him boiled, and a figure appeared that covered the sky. There was a scythe in the figure's hand, and it slashed out at the blurry figure.

Lu Yin's kidnapper was horrified; what kind of power was this?

A long knife appeared in front of the blurry figure, and in that moment, space itself changed. Lu Yin merely felt as though the blurry figure had suddenly become the master of space in that area. Lu Yin's eyes were drawn to the knife that had appeared. There was a similar feeling to when the Chief Justice had fought against the Forgotten Ruins God. This was a power that came from an inner world.

The blurry figure faced the incoming scythe with a slash of their long knife.

There was a deafening bang, and the long knife completely shattered. Space warped, and a devastating shockwave swept out from the impact. All the nearby pillars instantly shattered, as did the distant buildings. Lu Yin seized this opportunity; an astral chessboard appeared beneath his feet as he moved. He next appeared past the blurry figure and near where the buildings had stood.

The blurry figure held the hilt of a broken knife. This was completely unbelievable! How could a mere Enlightener damage a Semi-Progenitor's inner world? Had that figure who had just appeared been the legendary God of Death? The God of Death was the only powerhouse who had ever used a weapon as odd as a scythe.

At this thought, the blurry figure's eyes lit up. The Cosmic Art and the God of Death's inheritance? Neither were things that the Semi-Progenitor could let go. Boy, you can't escape!

Lu Yin recklessly charged straight into the area where the buildings had stood. Unfortunately, because of the shockwave, all the buildings had been destroyed.

There was no one to be seen no matter where Lu Yin looked. All he could see were some distant buildings that had survived, so he hurried over to them.

However, even in that place, Lu Yin could not find a single person. He looked off into the distance. Could he be in an abandoned city?

The blurry figure appeared nearby. "I must admit that you are truly amazing."

Lu Yin stared at his opponent. He had already done his absolute best. Was escape really impossible?

"Are you desperate yet? Even if you had a power level of a million, you would still be helpless right now. You're truly unlucky to have met me." The blurry figure spoke in a casual manner while openly expressing their admiration.

"Who are you?" Lu Yin demanded.

"Give me the God of Death's inheritance and the Cosmic Art's inheritance, and I can agree to fulfill your last wish," the blurry figure stated. The person was becoming more and more talkative.

p-A- n-d-A-n-0-v-e-1、 (c)om Lu Yin's eyes narrowed sharply. "You're Xia Ji!"

The blurry figure fell silent for a bit, and then the blurriness that had been hiding their appearance disappeared before Lu Yin's eyes, and he was met with the sight of Xia Ji.

Lu Yin spat, "A Semi-Progenitor actually stooped low enough to attack a mere Enlighter like me. You damned old man, you really have no shame."

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Xia Ji instead praised Lu Yin, "Throughout all of human history, there has never been an Enlighter capable of what you've done. You're actually able to force a Semi-Progenitor to put forth a bit of effort."

"That's only because you've been trying to force me to use the Cosmic Art. You kept pushing me, forcing me to reveal everything I'm capable of. If not for that, you would have instantly dealt with me like you did when you captured me," Lu Yin mocked the old man.

Xia Ji indifferently replied, "I already told you. Give me the Cosmic Art's inheritance and the God of Death's inheritance, and I'll fulfill your last wish."

"Aren't you afraid of Arch-Elder Zen or the others finding out and making things difficult for you?" Lu Yin still could not accept his fate.

Xia Ji laughed. "Maybe in the past, but you are Lu Xiaoxuan. The people from that place all want you dead, so who will come after me for your sake? Maybe I can even use your head to gain some sort of reward from that place."

"You've been planning this from the moment you learned that I'm Lu Xiaoxuan," Lu Yin accused.

"Like I said, there's nothing you can do. No one knows where you are, and no one can save you. Even you don't know where you are, so why keep struggling? Just give me the inheritances, and I will fulfill whatever your last wish may be, as long as it's nothing shameful. I swear it."

Lu Yin laughed loudly. "You'll stop at nothing to get your hands on that inheritance! You're even willing to swear to fulfill a promise to a measly Enlightener!"

Xia Ji clasped his hands behind his back. "If you refuse, I won't kill you, but will instead keep you here and torture you for the next 1,000 years. I will completely destroy your Great Eastern Alliance and torture and kill all of your friends, family, and lovers. I am a Semi-Progenitor! I can accomplish all of this, and there is no one who can stop me!"

Lu Yin clenched his hands into fists. At this moment, his eyes were colder than they had ever been before, and they burned with an overflowing killing intent.

"Do you hate me? Given enough time, even if I am a Semi-Progenitor, you might be able to rise up high enough to get revenge on me. Unfortunately, you won't have the time. For the last time, give me the Cosmic Art's inheritance and the God of Death's inheritance, and I promise to fulfill your last wish. If not, everyone you love and cherish will die, so don't even try to escape!" Every word Xia Ji spoke was a threat, and he stared at Lu Yin as though he were looking at a corpse.

Lu Yin felt incredibly frustrated, and he was overcome with despair. "I never thought that I would meet my end like this. I've cultivated and wandered the universe, surviving near-death encounters numerous times, only to fall at your hands."

"It's nothing to regret. After all, not every Enlightener qualifies to force a Semi-Progenitor to make a move. Are you going to agree or not?" Xia Ji coldly demanded.

Lu Yin closed his eyes. Some time later, they opened again, and determination filled his eyes as he stared at Xia Ji. "Will you really fulfill my last wish?" please visit panda(-)N0ve1.co)m

"Yes." A flicker of excitement burned in the depths of Xia Ji's eyes. He had already pushed Lu Yin to the brink, and he was about to finally achieve his goal. Even if his expression seemed rather indifferent, his actions and behavior betrayed his anxious state of mind.

He was absolutely, completely obsessed with the inheritance that Progenitor Chen had left behind in the Cosmic Art. Lu Yin was the person with the closest connection to numerous legendary figures, and regardless of whether it was the Cosmic Art's inheritance or the God of Death's, Xia Ji had to acquire them! With them, he would become one of the most terrifying Progenitors in history after he broke through, and it was even possible that Xia Ji would be able to surpass Progenitor Chen!

The more the old man thought about the future, the more excited he became as he stared at Lu Yin. "What is your last wish?"

Lu Yin took a deep breath, but he hesitated to speak.

"Let's go!" Xia Ji shouted.

Lu Yin's face twitched. "I- I want to leave the Lu family's bloodline behind."

Xia Ji arched a brow. "Leave your bloodline behind?"

Lu Yin softly continued, "The four ruling powers have banished my Lu family, leaving me the only one left alive. If I die, my entire Lu family will be gone, so I want to leave a trace of the Lu bloodline behind."

Xia Ji frowned and started thinking about something.

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Lu Yin quickly continued, saying, "Such a bloodline doesn't need to keep the Lu surname, though they will be able to keep the family's innate gift of the Champions' Stage. You should understand what this means."

Xia Ji's heart skipped a beat. This was true, people carrying the Lu family's bloodline did not necessarily have to carry the family's name! They could instead have the Xia surname, for example. However, if the bloodline retained the Lu family's innate gift of the Champions' Stage, the Fifth Mainland's Xia

family would eventually have members with Champions' Stages, which would allow their family's strength to skyrocket. The Champions' Stage was a truly terrifying innate gift.

This meant that not only would Xia Ji's family be able to acquire the Champions' Stage innate gift, but he would also personally take the Cosmic Art and God of Death's inheritances! Those inheritances, combined with the Lu family's innate gift, meant that the Fifth Mainland's Xia family might eventually be able to surpass the main family in the Perennial World and become the true main line of the Xia family.

Xia Ji's eyes blazed as he looked at Lu Yin. This was a condition that the Semi-Progenitor could not say no to. "I'll find you a woman right now."

He turned to leave, but he suddenly thought of something and turned back to leave Lu Yin unconscious while he was gone. However, when the old man turned around, he caught the sight of a yellow futon. Xia Ji instantly made a mental connection, and he shouted, "STOP!"

Unfortunately, he was too late. Lu Yin had been ready to take out the futon the moment he had decided to try to tempt Xia Ji with the Lu family's Champions' Stage. He sat on the futon and simultaneously rang the blood-red bell.

That bell held the Chief Justice's power, and there was suddenly the sensation of a massive hand crushing down on the area.

Xia Ji roared, and he used his inner world to try to capture Lu Yin, but he clashed with the power of the bell. The blood-red bell shattered, and Lu Yin disappeared from Xia Ji's sight to enter the ruins of the Fifth Mainland's Daosource Sect.

Xia Ji stared at the ground that was empty aside from some red fragments of a small bell, and he let out a roar of fury, as he knew that he had been tricked. He was aware of the function of the futons and how they allowed a person to visit the Daosource Sect. Lu Yin would return to the place that he had disappeared from within no more than a month. However, during that time, Lu Yin would have numerous ways to leak word that he had been attacked by Xia Ji. Arch-Elder Zen, Elder Gong, and Highsage Grandmaster would all definitely look to make trouble for Xia Ji.

He also had no guarantee that those people would not be able to find where he had taken Lu Yin.

Xia Ji clenched his hands into tight fists. He was a powerful Semi-Progenitor who was always in control of everything! It had been countless years since he had last felt so powerless. Even during the war in the Cosmic Sea, Xia Ji had

ultimately been successful, due to various reasons. However, he had actually miscalculated when facing a mere Enlightener.

Lu Yin was a cautious person who had an excellent grasp of timing. He had considered every step of his plan, and he had ultimately managed to escape from a Semi-Progenitor! This was despicable! Hateful!

Given the inheritances that Lu Yin possessed, Xia Ji was horribly tempted to stay and wait for the youth to return, but there was a very low chance of success if he did so.

"Boy, you were lucky this time, but next time, you won't be able to escape!" Xia Ji muttered to himself. His eyes grew dark as he left.

...

In the Daosource Sect's ruins, Lu Yin appeared in a plaza. He glanced around and soon let out a sigh of relief. He had finally managed to escape. Facing a Semi-Progenitor was terrifying.

No one would ever believe that Lu Yin had managed to escape from a Semi-Progenitor on his own, but he had accomplished just that.

He had actually considered trying to use his futon to escape the moment he had regained consciousness, but the opportunity had never presented itself. Even when Xia Ji had been poisoned by the Samaritan's Tears and had left him alone for a while, Lu Yin had not tried to use the futon. After all, he had not known whether his kidnapper had still been keeping an eye on him. If the roles were reversed, Lu Yin would have absolutely kept an eye on his captive to ensure that there was no chance of escape no matter what.

Lu Yin had actually dismissed the prospect of escaping from Xia Ji by using the futon when Xia Ji was distracted. However, after a few moments of consideration, using the futon in front of Xia Ji would give him the greatest chance of escape.

While he had successfully escaped, it had cost Lu Yin quite a bit. He looked at the shards of the red bell that were still in his hand. It had been a wonderful treasure to have, but it was now gone.

Suddenly, hatred appeared in Lu Yin's eyes, and he gritted his teeth. Xia Ji had forced Lu Yin to suffer unprecedented losses. He had used his Samaritan's Tears, the blood-stained clothes from the God of Death, and even the Chief Justice's blood-red bell. Those three things had been Lu Yin's trump cards against true powerhouses, but all of them had been destroyed and lost

while facing Xia Ji. Lu Yin's losses had been terrible, and Xia Ji needed to pay back what he owed.

Still, the most important thing at the moment was how to proceed to remove the danger that would still face Lu Yin upon his return.

It was very unlikely that Xia Ji would remain where Lu Yin had disappeared and wait for his return. Lu Yin knew that the old man would assume that Lu Yin would find a way while in the Daosource Sect's ruins to expose what had happened. This was the only way for Lu Yin to remove the danger that still plagued him.

Lu Yin had no idea where he had been taken and imprisoned, and the only person who could reveal Lu Yin's whereabouts was Xia Ji himself.

Lu Yin stood up, as he already had an idea.

Chapter 1838: Why Is Your Surname Lu?

Just as Lu Yin was about to leave, his eye twitched, and he froze in place. He slowly turned his head to look at a particular corner of the plaza. There was a man there who was practicing some sort of battle technique.

In the massive plaza, there was only Lu Yin and this man.

While it was perfectly normal for a cultivator to practice in such a manner, this man had glanced over at Lu Yin several times already. As a cultivator, Lu Yin had keen senses, and he instantly was put on guard when he looked at this man. He certainly was not weak.

More importantly, Lu Yin had not changed his appearance, which meant that this man might have recognized him. This thought prompted Lu Yin to walk over towards the man.

The man continued with what he had been doing, and only after Lu Yin reached the man's side did the man finally look over. "Is there something wrong?"

"Nothing much. I'm just going to kill you." Lu Yin then suddenly released an attack. The man's eyes flashed, and an imprint appeared behind him as a terrifying aura swept out.

Lu Yin was shocked. He had only been probing the man with his attack, and he had not expected to encounter a powerhouse. "Imprinter."

"You really did show up, Lu Yin. Since you're here, you can forget about leaving!" The man shouted. He had actually been ordered to stay in the plaza just in case Lu Yin appeared.

Lu Yin had obtained the inheritance from the Nine Cauldrons Region, and even after this was discovered, he had returned several times. Four of the cauldrons had already been broken, and the Sixth Mainland could not endure this. Not only had powerhouses been sent to protect the Nine Cauldrons, but people had also been sent to keep an eye on the plazas where people came in. Quite a bit of time had passed, and everyone was aware that Lu Yin might change his appearance before visiting the Daosource Sect's ruins. As such, the Imprinter stationed in the entrance plaza had been ordered to report anyone arriving with an altered appearance.

The Imprinter had already reported many people who had entered the ruins with altered appearances, and he had actually never expected Lu Yin to arrive using his own face. Still, he had been waiting for Lu Yin for a long time. His only task was to immediately report Lu Yin's arrival.

This was not a dangerous task. If Lu Yin arrived with an altered appearance, the Imprinter would not be able to attack someone just because they had altered their appearance, but Lu Yin had not changed anything about his face. The Imprinter had been observing Lu Yin, and Lu Yin had felt it likely that he had been recognized, so he felt forced to take action.

Boom!

There was a bang, and the Imprinter was forced to retreat more than ten steps, his hand numb. He looked up at Lu Yin in horror. "What?"

Lu Yin threw out another Hollow Palm, but the Imprinter could not even see the attack. He had only just become an Envoy, and his power level barely surpassed 500,000. Forget Lu Yin's Hollow Palm—this man would not even be able to block a Vacuum Palm.

Puff!

He spat out a mouthful of blood and immediately tried to escape by fleeing into the true universe, but Lu Yin was already blocking the man's path.

Lu Yin released all of his anger and frustrations from dealing with Xia Ji, venting on the Imprinter.

The man was quickly defeated, and one arm was badly broken. It was the location of his stellar energy vortex.

Lu Yin walked up to the Imprinter. "I placed some hidden energy at your stellar vortex. If you don't want to be crippled, then when you leave, contact this person. Tell him that I'm in the Daosource Sect's ruins and give him this name: Xia Ji."

The Imprinter stared at Lu Yin in horror. Blood painted his entire body. "I understand! I get it! I'll definitely call him, so please, just remove the hidden energy!"

How could Lu Yin hide any energy in the Imprinter's body? This was nothing more than an empty threat. Still, cultivators cared more about their cultivation than their lives. This was why Lu Yin was not afraid of letting the man go. Even if the Sixth Mainland learned that Lu Yin was in the Daosource Sect, what did it matter? How many powerhouses could they send in after him? Their own Daosource Sect had recently been attacked by the Neohuman Alliance, and with the experts who had been sent into Burial Garden, the Sixth Mainland was too busy to deal with Lu Yin or pay any attention to what he was doing.

As for the contact information that the Imprinter had been given, it had been Yuan Qiong's.

At this time, the only people truly willing to help Lu Yin were the Cosmic Sect and Eversky Island. The Cosmic Sect wanted to protect him because he alone possessed the inheritance of their Cosmic Art while Eversky Island cared about Lu Yin because of Highsage Leon. At this time, Lu Yin could only count on Elder Gong and Highsage Grandmaster.

"That person will help you remove the hidden energy, so make sure you speak to him," Lu Yin ordered in an indifferent tone. He then altered his appearance, took a step forward, and vanished.

The Imprinter had no idea whether Lu Yin had actually left any energy hidden within his body, but the man did not dare to take the risk. If he lost such a gamble, he would lose all of his cultivation.

Cultivators fought the universe and other people for their lives. This Imprinter had left behind countless corpses and enemies in his wake, and if his cultivation was destroyed, his family and he would both suffer tragic endings. There was no way the man would risk such an outcome.

However, timing was key for Lu Yin to save himself. If the Imprinter had only been in the ruins for half a month or less, then even if he did get in touch with Yuan Qiong after leaving, Elder Gong would not have much time to try to find Lu Yin.

Lu Yin could not leave his fate to only one or two people.

He rushed through the First Divine Gate and Budding Terrace and then began to frantically search for people who were about to leave the Daosource Sect's

ruins. He threatened and bribed people, trying everything possible to get numerous people to call Yuan Qiong and Highsage Leon.

The more people Lu Yin sent out to deliver a message, the more likely he was to be revealed to the Sixth Mainland, but there was no other option. This was the only means for Lu Yin to save himself.

Half a month passed, and Lu Yin had lost count of how many people he had sent to deliver messages. All that he knew was that there had to be an Imprinter hunting for him in the Daosource Sect's ruins. The Sixth Mainland cultivators all seemed to be a bit nervous, so Lu Yin decided to go visit the Mountains and Seas to check the inheritances in there.

Lu Yin was ignorant of just how much influence he wielded in the outside world. After a Sixth Mainland cultivator left the Daosource Sect's ruins, he weakly made a call to Yuan Qiong.

"Who is this?" Yuan Qiong demanded. It was a call request from an unknown contact. He was the sect master of the Cosmic Sect, so it was highly unlikely for anyone unknown to obtain his contact information.

"Xia Ji- Xia Ji took him!" a weak voice said.

Yuan Qiong felt terribly confused. "What did you say?"

"I don't know! That person just told me to contact you and tell you that Xia Ji took him!" the weak voice answered in a helpless manner. The man had only been told this much, and he knew nothing more.

Yuan Qiong suddenly became highly focused. "Who are you? What person are you talking about? Where did they tell you this?"

"I was in the Daosource Sect's ruins. I have no idea who that person is, but he told me to tell you that message and that if I did, you'd give me the antidote. He said that you're the only one with the antidote that can save me," the weak voice explained.

At this time, another call request came through, and it was another unknown contact.

"It's Xia Ji! Xia Ji took him!" This voice sounded terribly frightened. "Give me the antidote! I don't want to die! I don't want to be devoured by poisonous bugs!"

"Who told you to give me this message?" Yuan Qiong already had his suspicions.

"I don't know, but I don't want to die! Give me the antidote!" A rising panic could be heard in the desperate voice.

...

Far away, in the Cosmic Sea, Highsage Leon was getting similar calls from all different unknown contacts. "It's that old fart Xia Ji again! I'll kill him one day!"

Neither man was stupid, and they both quickly understood that Lu Yin had escaped to the Daosource Sect's ruins and was sending requests for help. Leon immediately reached out to Eversky Island and asked Highsage Grandmaster to step out to confront Xia Ji.

Yuan Qiong similarly made a request of Elder Gong, and many people quickly became active.

Elder Gong's expression was solemn. "Xia Ji must have figured out that there's some connection between Lu Yin and the Cosmic Art's inheritance."

"Elder, Lu Yin won't be able to stay in the Daosource Sect's ruins for very long." Yuan Qiong was very anxious. The Cosmic Art's inheritance could not be lost while he was the sect master. The Cosmic Sect had already been forced to share the Cosmic Art with the Xia family after the Skystar Jade Wall had been stolen. If the Cosmic Art's inheritance was also lost, then Yuan Qiong would be cursed for eternity by the Cosmic Art. He could not allow his Cosmic Sect to suffer such a tragedy.

Elder Gong immediately left the Cosmic Sect, and Highsage Grandmaster similarly left Eversky Island.

...

In the Daosource Sect's ruins, Lu Yin let out a sigh at the edge of the sea. He had failed again.

He had entered a mountain and seen the flames again, only to fail. He had then moved onto another mountain and sea, and seen the spring of water, but he had failed again.

He really could not understand what was going wrong and why he was failing the trials.

A figure appeared in the distance. They moved towards the sea and traveled alone.

Lu Yin was surprised to see this person. "Xin Nü?"

Xin Nü had arrived, and she looked over when Lu Yin called out and was surprised to see him. "Lu Yin?"

"You can still recognize me?" Lu Yin was surprised.

"It's your eyes."

Lu Yin blinked. "Really?"

He walked over closer to Xin Nü.

"Sure enough, it's you. Recently, people have been talking about a lunatic wandering the Daosource Sect's ruins, forcing them to send crazy messages after they left. It looks like you're in some kind of trouble." Xin Nü stared at Lu Yin as she spoke.

Lu Yin responded with a bitter smile. "That old bastard Xia Ji came after me, so I've been doing what I can to survive."

"Xia Ji?" Xin Nu had no idea who that was. Xia Ji was one of the Human Domain's Semi-Progenitors, and not many people from the Human Domain had ever heard of him, let alone someone like Xin Nü who was from the Sixth Mainland.

Lu Yin shared some information about who Xia Ji was.

Xin Nü's expression turned solemn. "How shameful for such a person to go after you."

Lu Yin shrugged. "I never said it wasn't, but sooner or later, I'm going to force that old bastard to repay this debt a hundredfold."

"Are you sure you'll be ok?"

Xin Nü was a bit worried about Lu Yin, and he was also not entirely confident himself. "I should be. I'm 80-90% certain."

Xin Nü nodded and said nothing in response. The two of them sat there in silence for a while.

Lu Yin and Xin Nü had enjoyed a very good relationship for quite some time. They both felt an inexplicable connection towards each other, even if they came from enemy mainlands. Xin Nü would rather betray her own homeland than risk Lu Yin being put in danger, and Lu Yin had actually rescued Xin Nü during ZENITH. There was no explaining it, but the two were absolutely friends.

Also, they both had something in common: amnesia.

"Lu Yin," Xin Nü said.

Lu Yin looked over.

"Why is your surname Lu?" Xin Nü asked as she turned to look at Lu Yin. The wind picked up and blew through her hair, carrying a faint scent.

Lu Yin automatically replied, "Do I have a choice?"

Xin Nü turned back to stare at some distant mountains. "Lu's an unusual surname."

Lu Yin's eyes flickered. "Why unusual? Just because it's a primeval surname?"

Xin Nü mumbled, "It's a very powerful surname. Actually, it's also my surname."

Lu Yin was stunned by this. "Is your surname also Lu?"

Xin Nü nodded. "My memories have returned, and I've remembered that I'm Lu Xin. I'm from an ancient family."

Lu Yin stared blankly at his companion. "Is the ancient family you're talking about the Lu family?"

Xin Nü replied, "You can't possibly understand what the Lu surname actually means. It represents time, control, ancient legends, and more."

After a short pause, she whispered, "Invincible."

Lu Yin's eye twitched. "Invincible? Why invincible? How can a surname represent invincibility?"

Xin Nu took a deep breath and stared off into the distance again before standing up. "I've already said a lot. I don't even know why I'm telling you about this. We're from different eras."

She moved to leave, as she felt she had said too much. Even if she had a good relationship with Lu Yin, there were certain things that could not be spoken.

"Champions' Stage," Lu Yin suddenly spoke up and uttered two words.

Chapter 1839: Direct Family And Branch Families

Xin Nü's body froze in place. She suddenly whirled around to stare at Lu Yin. "What did you just say?"

Lu Yin met Xin Nü's eyes and quietly said, "Champions' Stage."

Xin Nü was completely incredulous as she stared at Lu Yin. "How do you know about that?"

Lu Yin smiled. "The top ten finalists of ZENITH were sent to another place in the universe. There, there was an ancient and powerful family with the Lu surname. They're known for their invincible innate gift that's known as the Champions' Stage."

Xin Nü grew excited. "Have you seen that family? Do you know how to get there?"

"Are you from the Lu family with the Champions' Stages?" Lu Yin asked.

Xin Nü nodded and grew increasingly excited. "I'm from that Lu family! Lu Yin, tell me how to get there!"

Lu Yin stared at the young woman. "Why should I believe that you're from that Lu family?"

Xin Nü felt confused. "Why wouldn't you believe me?"

Suddenly, her eyes went wide and her mouth dropped. "You- your surname is Lu! Are you?"

Lu Yin spread his hands. "Make me believe that you're from that Lu family."

"Why should I believe you're from that Lu family?" Xin Nü countered.

Lu Yin sat back down. "Believe me or don't. I don't care."

Xin Nü stared at Lu Yin with complicated emotions churning in her eyes. "Are you really from that Lu family?"

Lu Yin said nothing at all and instead stared out at the sea. He looked perfectly calm, but his heart was in turmoil. He actually already believed that Xin Nü was from his Lu family, as what else could explain the implicit trust he felt for her that had absolutely no reason behind it? When the two had first met, neither of them had even heard of the Lu family or the Champions' Stage. There had been no one to vouch for Lu Yin at that time, and it was impossible for anyone to have known that he was Lu Xiaoxuan.

Even if she wanted to plot against him, what could Xin Nü do to him?

Xin Nü stared at Lu Yin's back. "No wonder I felt like I could trust you from the first time I saw you. You want me to prove I'm from the Lu family? Alright."

As she spoke, she raised a hand and released a palm strike. As the attack moved away, the palm print grew more and more corporeal until the moment it struck the sea.

"This is the Lu family's Lifeseizer Palm. It's a technique that's exclusive to my Lu family's branch families. Is this enough to prove myself?" Xin Nü said, her tone very calm.

Lu Yin stared at where the palm print had disappeared in the distance. It was very similar to the Celestial Frost Sect's Gap Between Heaven and Human. "Can this attack steal the opponent's life force?"

Xin Nü solemnly replied, "Yes. The Lifeseizer Palm is a technique that's exclusive to the Lu family, and it can steal an enemy's life force."

This Lifeseizer Palm was very similar to the Gap Between Heaven and Human, but it was supposed to be a battle technique that was exclusive to the Lu family. This meant that the Celestial Frost Sect had stolen one of the Lu family's exclusive techniques, which was far from impossible. The Celestial Frost Sect had many secret techniques, including the Yu Secret Art, so it was not very surprising for them to also have the Lu family's Lifeseizer Palm.

"That's not enough," Lu Yin stated.

Xin Nü retorted, "Make me believe you're from the Lu family."

Lu Yin smiled and the Champions' Stage suddenly appeared in front of him. There was nothing else that could prove his identity easier than his inherited innate gift.

Xin Nü went stiff when she saw the Champions' Stage suddenly appear, and her pupils shrank to points. "The Champions' Stage? You're a direct descendant!"

"Prove to me that you're from the Lu family."

Xin Nü again became excited. "Okay!"

Space behind her began to distort, and Lu Yin felt an unusual energy. He looked behind her, and he saw a life-like animal foot appear in the air, and it was quickly followed by a leg that looked like an elephant's. A creature continued to gradually appear, and once it fully formed, it roared at the sky with a voice that produced visible sound waves that broke open the sky and radiated into the distance.

The earth trembled, and the sea boiled. The phenomenon that appeared behind Xin Nü caused her aura to spike, in much the same manner as an imprint.

Lu Yin stared the creature that simultaneously appeared to be both real and illusory. As he did, he recalled a voice in his mind. 'Little Seven, this is one of my Lu family's visualizations. What do you think? Isn't it spectacular!'

'Second Brother, it's amazing! I want one, too.'

'Haha, there's no need for that. That's the Immovable Heavenly King Elephant that's the visualization method used by one of the branch families. We're part of the main family, and we use another, more powerful visualization method.'

'Really? Second Brother, I want to visualize! Teach me how to visualize!'

'Don't worry, Little Seven, first practice the Hidden Needle.'

The arrival of the voice brought about a terrible pain on Lu Yin's back. His seal was activating. All of his fingers tore out gouges in the stone beneath him as he stared at the creature that had appeared behind Xin Nü. The voices he had heard were his past memories. He wanted to be able to recall them.

Suddenly, bones snapped inside his body, and Lu Yin's breathing was cut short. He tumbled into the sea.

Xin Nü quickly grabbed him—what in the world had just happened? Lu Yin's energy had just become terribly unstable.

The voices disappeared from Lu Yin's head, and he found himself again sitting atop the cliff, breathing heavily and dripping with sweat.

"What's wrong with you?" Xin Nü was quite worried.

A more serious expression was on Lu Yin's face at this moment, and a strong frustration filled his eyes. His memories, cultivation, and even his innate gift had all been sealed. The crazy headmaster, the desiccated corpse, and even Progenitor Chen's blood had unlocked multiple layers of his seal, but there was still more.

It was inevitable that the seal would act up during his breakthrough to the Envoy realm, which meant that he would face even greater dangers than other people during his breakthrough.

Everyone faced their first stellar tribulation when becoming an Envoy. However, Lu Yin also had his seal, which was no different from a death sentence from the four ruling powers. However, he would completely break free of the seal one day, and he would welcome back his Lu family.

"Immovable Heavenly King Elephant," Lu Yin forced out in a quiet but hoarse voice.

The image disappeared from behind Xin Nü. "This should be enough to prove my identity."

Although Lu Yin's memory had not been fully restored yet, the voice that he had heard when looking at Xin Nü's visualization had told him that it was the visualization of a branch family of the Lu family. It was the same concept as the four ruling powers' visualization methods.

Lu Yin suddenly remembered that someone had once said that the four ruling powers had also stolen their visualization methods from the Lu family and that the Lu family was the originator of all visualization methods.

"I am both Lu Yin and Lu Xiaoxuan," Lu Yin stated.

Xin Nü asked, "Is Lu Xiaoxuan your real name?"

Lu Yin explained, "It was my name from before I lost my memory."

"You still haven't recovered your memories?" Xin Nü was taken aback. Given Lu Yin's cultivation level, it seemed very odd for him not to have recovered his memories.

Lu Yin coldly stated, "My memories were sealed."

"By who?" A chill entered Xin Nü's voice as well.

Lu Yin shared with Xin Nü everything that had happened in the Perennial World. It was information that many people were already aware of, so there was no need to hide such things, especially from someone from his same Lu family.

Xin Nü's expression grew colder and colder. After hearing Lu Yin's story, hatred blazed in her eyes. "If we had known before that those families would betray us, they would have never been given a single chance."

"What era are you from? You've never heard my name before, so you must be from a long time ago, but you don't look very old," Lu Yin asked.

Xin Nü solemnly replied, "I come from the Daosource Sect's era."

Lu Yin was stunned. "The Daosource Sect's era? And you're still alive now?"

Xin Nü began to reminisce. "Back then, you could still see the Mother Tree, and everyone was under the Daosource Sect's authority. In the Fifth Mainland, there were the Nine Mountains and Eight Seas. However, everything changed because of that war."

"The war between the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands?" Lu Yin interjected.

"Yes, the war between the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands. That war brought about an unprecedented disaster to the Fifth Mainland, and countless people died. Progenitors fell, the heavens wept, and the Daosource Sect collapsed. The Nine Mountains and Eight Seas were broken.

"Back then, I was nothing more than an insignificant Hunter, and I fought on a battlefield that couldn't even count as the tip of the iceberg, and yet I saw several Progenitors be wounded."

The weight of her memories caused Xin Nü to slowly squat down. She was remembering a terrifying scene, and fear and mourning could be seen in her eyes. "During those years of war, enough blood was shed to destroy the universe. No one knew what places were safe, or if you would live for even another second. No one was sure."

"I said that I was just a tiny Hunter back then, but even Envoys and Semi-Progenitors could get drawn into a battle and killed at any moment as collateral damage. The Mother Tree trembled, and everything was painted red. I saw massive corpses floating through space that were devoured by enormous beasts. I saw old Progenitors look up at the sky and cry. I saw countless eyes filled with despair, and..." Xin Nü started to shake as she thought back to that ancient war, and her face grew pale.

Lu Yin quickly reached out and grabbed her hand. "Don't think about it, Xin Nü! Xin Nü!"

He shouted, and the young woman quivered, and her breathing grew ragged before she slowly calmed back down.

"I'm sorry." Xin Nü's voice was wooden and uncertain. It was clear that she was still traumatized by the war. If even someone from a branch of the Lu family had suffered so badly, one could only imagine how horrifying that ancient war must have been.

Lu Yin had fought in wars. He had first fought on the border warfront in Erudite Flowzone, and later on in Ironblood Weave and Endless Weave as well. He had fought in a war in the Cosmic Sea, and many others. However, all the wars and battles that Lu Yin had participated in were still far from comparing to the one war that Xin Nü had participated in. That was a war that had involved Progenitors.

"So, the Fifth Mainland with its Nine Mountains and Eight Seas still lost to the Sixth Mainland?" Lu Yin slowly asked.

Xin Nü's hands clenched into fists as she gritted her teeth and angrily replied, "No! The Sixth Mainland has always been far inferior to the Fifth Mainland!"

Any one of the Fifth Mainland's Progenitors could have overwhelmed their peers in the Sixth Mainland with the Nine Mountains and Eight Seas. It was those monsters! The Fifth Mainland lost to those monsters!"

"The Aeternals?" Lu Yin's voice dropped low.

Xin Nü could not remain sitting. "Yes, the Aeternals! The Sixth Mainland was nothing more than a hoodwinked tool of the Aeternals! They were the ones who actually entered our Daosource Sect and fought against our Progenitors with the Nine Mountains and Eight Seas. However, the Sixth Mainland's invasion took up half of the Fifth Mainland's strength, which was why we were defeated by the Aeternals! One by one, our Progenitors sacrificed themselves. I was also affected by some power and sealed in stone. I have no idea what happened after that."

This did not surprise Lu Yin, as there were already various hints that the Sixth Mainland had been deceived. "Why were they tricked?"

Xin Nü shook her head. "That I don't know."

Lu Yin felt disappointed, but Xin Nü had only been a Hunter back then, so how could she have been privy to such secrets?

"I did hear that it had something to do with the Wang family," Xin Nü hesitantly said.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. "Did you hear any details?"

Xin Nü frowned. "No, but one thing I'm sure of is that when the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands went to war, the Fifth Mainland was the one to attack, and Progenitor Chen led the charge."

Lu Yin's brows rose high. "Progenitor Chen led the attack?"

Xin Nü nodded. "Back then, he was one of the Progenitors who controlled the Nine Mountains and Eight Seas, and he held the highest status in my Fifth Mainland's Daosource Sect. His actions caused the two Mainlands to go to war, though I don't know why he attacked."

Xin Nü shared everything that she remembered, but aside from the fact that Progenitor Chen had been the first one to attack and that he had actually triggered the war, nothing else that Xin Nü mentioned was too surprising. "Which Progenitors controlled the Nine Mountains and Eight Seas?"

This was something that Lu Yin had always wondered about.

Chapter 1840: Immovable Heavenly King Elephant

Xin Nü considered the question for a while. "While others may not know this, I am still a member of a branch of the Lu family, so I've heard of it before. First, there was my Lu family's ancestor, Lu Tianyi, the Xia family's Progenitor Chen, the Celestial Frost Sect's Bai Wangyuan, the Wang family's Wang Fan, Progenitor Hui, the Rune Progenitor, Progenitor Ku, and Progenitor Smoke."

"That's only eight people."

"Progenitor Chen controlled two Mountains and a Sea."

While this amazed Lu Yin, it was expected that the invincible Progenitor Chen had been able to seize more than just one.

"Lu Tianyi was my Lu family's ancestor?" Lu Yin asked.

Xin Nü corrected him, saying, "Progenitor Lu Tianyi was merely the current ancestor of the Lu family. Our Lu family has a very long history, as do the Nine Mountains and Eight Seas. Before the Progenitors that I just mentioned, others controlled the Mountains and Seas, but they were the ones during my time. There were rumors that, at the weakest moment of the Fifth Mainland's Daosource Sect, there were only one or two Progenitors who managed to be recognized by the Nine Mountains and Eight Seas."

"What sort of person was Progenitor Smoke?" Lu Yin asked. Of everyone that Xin Nü had mentioned, Progenitor Smoke was the one that Lu Yin had heard the least about, though this was not Lu Yin's first time hearing the name. Progenitor Smoke's smoke was truly miraculous. Both Eversky Island and Smoke-Eater Peaks possessed a bit of the smoke. While Progenitor Smoke was not particularly famous, they had left behind many legacies.

Xin Nü's smile turned bitter. "I only ever heard a bit about the powerhouses at the Progenitor level. There were stories that claimed that Progenitor Smoke liked to create all kinds of smoke, but I don't really know anything more than that."

"Did you hear of Progenitor Wushang back then?" Lu Yin eagerly asked. This was his first time meeting someone from the ancient era, and he wanted to learn everything possible.

Xin Nü replied, "Progenitor Wushang was another powerful Progenitor from my Fifth Mainland, and he also fought in the war."

Lu Yin stared at Xin Nü, waiting for her to continue, but she stayed silent. She had not been a part of the main battle, and she had even been sealed in stone halfway through the war. On top of that, because of how weak she had been at the time, she had not known about many matters. It was actually quite

impressive that she knew this much about the Nine Mountains and Eight Seas.

Lu Yin asked a few more questions, but Xin Nü was not really able to answer anything more.

Given Lu Yin's status and perspective in the Fifth Mainland, the questions that he asked were all regarding matters at the heart of the ancient war, and Xin Nü's status had been far from high enough for her to know about such things. All she could do was share some rumors that she had heard, but they were essentially meaningless.

Still, Lu Yin felt quite satisfied, as he had at least learned about some of the general details regarding the first war between the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands.

The two ended up talking for a long time without even realizing it. "Is the visualization method unique to my Lu family?"

"Not unique, but at least it wasn't something that those traitors possessed."

"Did the Sixth Mainland have imprints back then?"

"No."

Lu Yin fell deep into thought.

"Since you still don't have your memories, you aren't able to use a visualization method, are you? I can teach you, though the only method that I know is my branch family's Immovable Heavenly King Elephant. The Lu family's direct line has a different visualization method, but that's not something that I can help you with," Xin Nü offered.

Lu Yin considered the proposal. "Okay."

"The Immovable Heavenly King Elephant was a creature from ancient times. It was said to be one of the largest creatures in the entire universe, and at the moment of its birth, the universe itself roared, and the six Mainlands all shook. The ancestors of our Lu family watched that first Immovable Heavenly King Elephant and used it to create this visualization method. This method of copying powers formed the path to help our family develop an invincible style of fighting." As Xin Nü spoke, the Immovable Heavenly King Elephant appeared behind her. "This visualization is the result of that."

Lu Yin stared intently at the Immovable Heavenly King Elephant and immediately began to follow Xin Nü's instructions to comprehend the visualization method.

...

In the Neoverse, just beyond the Xia family's sword-shaped mainland, Elder Gong and Highsage Grandmaster both appeared. "Xia Ji, come out!"

There was a shout loud enough to shake the entire region controlled by the Seven Courts.

The various powers that formed the Court of Seven Names occupied a circular region that surrounded Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum.

The old man's fierce shout prompted various eyes to open within the various Seven Courts. They were the individual families' strongest powerhouses.

Of the seven different territories, the two old men were closest to the Xia family's.

Xia Meng's eyes opened. Semi-Progenitors? Why are they here?

Elder Gong and Highsage Grandmaster had done nothing to hide their strength, and the power of two Semi-Progenitors caused the Xia family's mainland to shake.

Xia Ji soon appeared, looking perfectly calm. "Have you two come to my Seven Courts to put on a demonstration?"

Elder Gong stepped forward, his old face no longer appearing indifferent to worldly affairs. There was steel in his gaze. "Xia Ji, where is Lu Yin?"

Xia Ji's expression changed. While he had expected someone to confront him in an attempt to rescue Lu Yin, Xia Ji had not expected two Semi-Progenitors to show up at once. In particular, Elder Gong's attitude left Xia Ji more convinced than ever that Lu Yin had some sort of extraordinary relationship with the Cosmic Sect. "Is this a joke? Two respected Semi-Progenitors have come to see me just because of some child?"

"You're a respected Semi-Progenitor yourself, and yet you actually went and attacked a child! Tell me, which sounds more like a joke?" Elder Gong retorted.

Xia Ji's eyes flickered. "Just what is Lu Yin's relationship with your Cosmic Sect? What is it about him that makes him worthy of the sect's Supreme Elder stepping out to save him?"

"So do you admit that you kidnapped Lu Yin?" Elder Gong would not be distracted.

Xia Ji replied indifferently, "I didn't kidnap him. I simply wanted to ask him about something, and I intended to release him afterwards."

"Where is he now?" Elder Gong demanded.

"He already left, so go find him yourselves."

"He's currently in the ruins of the Daosource Sect, so tell us, where will he appear once he leaves that place?" Highsage Grandmaster spoke up.

Xia Ji looked over at the Grandmaster. "I already allowed him to leave. Figure out where he'll return on your own."

"Xia Ji, do you really want to force my Cosmic Sect to go to war with your Xia family?" Elder Gong suddenly shouted, and countless stars appeared around his body and replaced the universe that surrounded the three men. This was Elder Gong's inner world.

Each star was massive, and some of them even smashed into true stars and formed black holes.

A long knife appeared before Xia Ji as he stared at Elder Gong. He did not want to fight these two despite pulling off a victory before. He had taken advantage of Highsage Grandmaster's Thousand Rivers Return to Sea secret technique to steal a win, but Xia Ji knew that he could not defeat the two together when it came to true strength. On top of that, Xia Ji was currently injured.

"Does your Cosmic Sect wants to start a war with my Seven Courts just because of Lu Yin? Why is he so important to you?" Xia Ji held his knife and pointed it at Elder Gong.

Highsage Grandmaster looked up. "Every disciple from Eversky Island is my child. If there is a fight between them their peers, I will not interfere. However, Xia Ji, you are a Semi-Progenitor and yet you went after one of my Eversky Island's children. I cannot ignore this."

Xia Ji's eyes flickered.

The three Semi-Progenitors' inner worlds collided, and space within the Seven Courts' territory began to shatter.

At this moment, Xia Meng suddenly appeared. "Ancestor, Arch-Elder Zen is calling you."

Xia Ji lowered his knife and took the offered gadget. He immediately saw Arch-Elder Zen. "Where is Lu Yin?"

Xia Ji quietly replied, "I let him go."

The two stared at each other for a while, and then Arch-Elder Zen asked, "Did you really let him go?"

Xia Ji's voice grew cold. "He's gone."

Arch-Elder Zen nodded. "I believe you, though I hope that you aren't lying to me. You cannot touch Lu Yin."

Xia Ji subconsciously glanced over at Elder Gong and Highsage Grandmaster. "Just because of the Cosmic Sect and Eversky Island? Do not forget that his true identity will bring disaster to the Fifth Mainland."

"There is someone else behind him," Arch-Elder Zen stated. "That person is someone whom you and I cannot afford to offend. I will be blunt: I cannot cross that person."

Xia Ji was startled, as he was very familiar with Arch-Elder Zen's personality. It was impossible for the man to try to scare Xia Ji into releasing Lu Yin, which meant that these words had to be true. "Who?"

"All you need to know is that you cannot touch Lu Yin, or else no one will be able to protect you." Arch-Elder Zen immediately ended the call.

Xia Ji tossed the gadget back to Xia Meng before turning back to face Elder Gong and Highsage Grandmaster. "If I tell you I let him go, then I don't have him. He won't encounter any trouble from me."

Elder Gong and Highsage Grandmaster glanced at each other, as neither was certain that Xia Ji was being truthful.

"In that case, we believe you," Highsage Grandmaster declared.

Elder Gong then spoke up, "By the way, how long has it been since we last visited the Seven Courts? We should take a look again."

Highsage Grandmaster smiled. "I quite enjoy the sight of the Netherworld River."

"I find that I enjoy the mountains and rivers on the Xia family's mainland."

"Then let's stay and visit for a while."

Xia Ji's brows climbed high. While these two old men said they trusted him, they clearly wanted to keep an eye on him! They were going to monitor him. "I'll accompany you."

At the moment, there was no reason to make another move, but there was also no way that Xia Ji could simply let Lu Yin go. The old man had plotted for so long and had even fought off two Semi-Progenitors in order to acquire

Progenitor Chen's inheritance, and he was now almost completely certain that Lu Yin possessed that inheritance. It was impossible for Xia Ji to forget about Lu Yin.

In Burial Garden, water rained down from the sky to form Water God's Tears as it surrounded Liu Feng. Dojo Master Si was covered in blood, but she still raised a hand and caused the stream of water to form two cliffs that were about to fall.

Liu Feng appeared as calm as ever despite being trapped by the Water God's Tears. There was not even a hint of panic to be seen. Instead, the edge of his sword twitched, and a sword slash swept out.

The Water God's Tears was sliced through, and the sword qi continued on straight towards Dojo Master Si. Her hands dropped, and the cliffs of water formed from her innate gift fell. Not only was Liu Feng's sword qi shattered, but he was also pressed to the ground. "Go! Now!"

One of Burial Garden's exit gates stood nearby, and Yang Kong was standing next to it. However, when he started moving, he suddenly charged at Liu Feng. "Why would I leave? I'm going to kill him."

"Watch out!" Dojo Master Si shouted. Liu Feng had been suppressed beneath the two cliffs of water, but he still flipped his sword around, and a slash sped across the sky, slicing through space and into the true universe as it approached Yang Kong. The young man had not expected Liu Feng to still be able to fight back after being trapped by Dojo Master Si, so Yang Kong was caught off guard, and his arm was almost cut off.

At this moment, a beam of light shot through the sky towards the three people from the distance. It was one of the Hall of Honor's Envoy-level androids.

Yang Kong's face twisted.

"Someone else has arrived. We've been branded as public enemies. We need to find our way back to the Starfall Sea." Dojo Master Si coughed up blood as she spoke.

But how could Yang Kong possibly know where the gate that led to the Starfall Sea was? They had never planned to return so quickly after entering Burial Garden, but that was because Yang Kong had not expected to be exposed so quickly. It had to have been that bastard Lie Yanzi, as there was no other option.

However, Lie Yanzi also had to already be dead, as no one could survive the Aeternals' poisons.

"Go!" Yang Kong spun around and prepared to flee.

Liu Feng slashed at the two cliffs of water with his sword at just the right time. He stared at both Dojo Master Si and Yang Kong while clenching the hilt of his sword before slashing out again.

Dojo Master Si was furious, and she turned around to defend against the attack with her water while simultaneously trying to extract the water from Liu Feng's body. However, the swordsman's strength surpassed Dojo Master Si's, and Liu Feng passed by the woman and attacked Yang Kong.

However, Yang Kong's eyes turned green. This was a Green Eyes Transformation.

A strange light flickered within the android's eyes, and it instantly attacked Yang Kong, who retaliated with a punch that drove the android back.

Right when Yang Kong turned around and was about to leave through the gate, the space around him was cut off, and he was surrounded by something black. It was the secret technique: Black Coffin. Unseen Light had arrived.

Countless sharp spikes stabbed into the black coffin, and a roar shook the skies. The coffin shattered with a bang to reveal Yang Kong. There were wounds across his entire body, and his clothes were stained with blood. He moved forward and instantly entered the true universe to attack Unseen Light.