

Star Odyssey #Chapter 1861: Face-Off - Read Star Odyssey Chapter 1861: Face-Off

Chapter 1861: Face-Off

"Not only did he not die, but he's even stronger than in the past. If he were as strong as before, he would not be close to being our opponent," Xu Qing said.

The Celestial Demon frowned. "He will be buried on this battlefield."

The lightning finally dissipated in the distance, though the Void Thunderbeast was still unable to slow Lu Yin's progress or impede him in any way. Lu Yin's strength stunned the creature, and it moved out of Lu Yin's way. The young man stared off into the distance, and his eyes locked onto Xu Qing.

"Do you two intend to remain to chat with the young man?" Xu Qing asked.

The Celestial Demon disdainfully spat, "Since he's here, he can forget about living to leave his battlefield. There's nothing to say."

With that, he left.

On the other hand, the Celestial Ice Phoenix did not leave.

Xu Qing made no attempt to chase either of them away, and he simply stood atop the mountain on the asteroid and waited for Lu Yin to arrive.

After passing by the two Void Thunderbeasts, no other astral beast tried to block Lu Yin's path. He moved quickly and crossed the distance in an instant to appear at the top of the mountain. He looked up, and Xu Qing looked down.

At this moment, the mountain on the asteroid cracked and shattered. Xu Qing and the Celestial Ice Phoenix both descended and landed on the resulting gravel to face Lu Yin.

"General Xu Qing, we finally meet." Lu Yin smiled. He did not look at all like he was behind enemy lines or even had an agenda.

Xu Qing observed Lu Yin and commented, "You really are a youth who deserves admiration. The times change too quickly, and we elders are being overtaken by you before we can even react."

"General, you're being too humble. No matter how fast things change, the truly strong will never be eliminated, let alone a powerhouse like you." Lu Yin showed a rare display of humility.

The Celestial Ice Phoenix kept staring at Lu Yin with bright eyes. She could not understand what was going through this youth's mind.

Lu Yin turned to look at the woman. "Who is this?"

Xu Qing introduced her, "She is Feng Lin, of the Celestial Ice Phoenixes."

"Alliance Leader Lu, I've heard about you for a long time," Feng Lin calmly said as she continued to observe Lu Yin.

Lu Yin and Feng Lin faced each other. He remembered that this Celestial Ice Phoenix was the one who had fought against Ling Qiu during their earlier battle. The fact that she was able to stand up to Ling Qiu meant that she was truly powerful. "So you're a senior from the Celestial Ice Phoenixes? You're being too polite."

Feng Lin's eyes lit up. "This isn't the first time that you've faced one of our Celestial Ice Phoenixes, is it?"

Lu Yin nodded and smiled. "I fought against Feng Jiu during the Tournament of the Strongest. I saw your battle earlier as well, and I must admit that the Celestial Ice Phoenixes are all geniuses. There doesn't seem to be any weaklings."

Feng Lin lifted her head higher. "I can agree with that."

Lu Yin's smile remained unchanged. The Celestial Ice Phoenixes were notoriously arrogant, so her answer did not surprise him.

"However, our youths are still unable to compare to you, Alliance Leader Lu," Feng Lin suddenly said.

Lu Yin wanted to remain polite, but the woman's next words caught him off guard. "Could you release the Ghost Monkey? I wish to speak to him."

Xu Qing frowned. They were currently on a battlefield, and they were even in their own territory where Xu Qing intended to intimidate and suppress Lu Yin. The general did not want to let Lu Yin chat with Feng Lin. He wanted to interrupt, but upon seeing Feng Lin's expression, Xu Qing remained silent. It seemed this matter might be incredibly important to the Celestial Ice Phoenixes.

Xu Qing was correct, as the Ghost Monkey was truly important to the Celestial Ice Phoenixes. They had not originally held any interest in the monkey that had been one of the Spiritual Academy's five Academy Masters. Of the Celestial Ice Phoenixes, only Feng Jiu had interacted with the Ghost Monkey, though that had ended when the monkey had been captured.

However, after that, Skymender himself had sought out the Celestial Ice Phoenixes and revealed some secrets. They had then learned that the Ghost Monkey had some unexplainable relationship with them. While they did not know any of the details, they did know that the matter somehow involved Progenitor Wushang, and that alone meant that they could not ignore the matter.

During ZENITH, Skymender had ordered Yao Xuan and the other contestants from the Astral Beast Domain to take the Ghost Monkey back, but they had failed. Feng Lin had traveled to the Outerverse to fight in the war solely to try to take the Ghost Monkey back.

No one in the Astral Beast Domain was aware that the Ghost Monkey had been stolen from Lu Yin by Shaman God, and Lu Yin had never said a thing.

"The Ghost Monkey? What do you want to talk to him about?" Lu Yin felt quite curious.

Feng Lin's expression did not shift at all, "Feng Jiu and the Ghost Monkey were classmates, and I have something that I need to ask the Ghost Monkey."

Lu Yin was amused by this response. This woman was pretending that Feng Jiu had been quite close to the Ghost Monkey in order to provide a reasonable excuse. "The Ghost Monkey is quite treacherous, so if you have any questions, Senior, just tell me, and I'll pass them on to the Ghost Monkey."

Feng Lin frowned. "Alliance Leader Lu, I hope that you can show me some face and allow me to speak with the Ghost Monkey. Please don't worry. Although our armies are at war, as long as you don't attack me, I cannot do anything to you."

Lu Yin shrugged. "I'm sorry, Senior, but the Ghost Monkey isn't with me."

Feng Lin was surprised. "He isn't with you?"

Lu Yin somberly replied, "I have locked up somewhere that no one else knows about. That guy's like an ancient treasure, and he seems to know about everything. I keep feeling like he's hiding some great secret, so I haven't mentioned him to anyone, though I do go and visit him every so often to beat, torture, and ask him some questions."

Only an idiot would believe such an answer. Xu Qing looked over at Feng Lin, and the woman's eyes betrayed her wrath. Clearly, she did not believe Lu Yin. The only reason why the Celestial Ice Phoenixes cared about the Ghost Monkey was because Skymender had mentioned a connection to Progenitor Wushang, but how could Lu Yin value the monkey at all? The Ghost Monkey was no fool, and it was impossible for him to have mentioned Progenitor Wushang to Lu Yin.

Aside from Progenitor Wushang, what else could the Ghost Monkey, who had not even obtained the strength of an Explorer, have done to arouse Lu Yin's interest? Lu Yin was blatantly trying to lie to them.

"It appears that Alliance Leader Lu doesn't wish to show my Celestial Ice Phoenixes any face at all." A terrible chill entered Feng Lin's voice.

Lu Yin blinked. "Senior, do you want to do something to me?"

He looked over at Xu Qing. "General, we still haven't even spoken to each other."

Xu Qing quietly said, "Alliance Leader Lu, you can treat Feng Lin's request as one of our conditions. As long as you allow her to speak with the Ghost Monkey, I will not torture the captive Envoys for now. How about it?"

Feng Lin suddenly interjected, "As long as you give me the Ghost Monkey, you can select one of the Envoys to be freed."

Xu Qing instantly became furious, and he turned to glare at Feng Lin. "What nonsense is this?"

Feng Lin calmly looked back at Xu Qing. "We Celestial Ice Phoenixes will give you an explanation for this. You have my word."

Xu Qing's frown deepened. "This is a matter regarding this war. This is not a minor issue."

"I understand that. I promise you that I will give you an explanation that will fully satisfy you." Feng Lin was dead serious.

Xu Qing's eyes narrowed, but he still would not agree.

Lu Yin did not believe that Xu Qing would easily agree to such terms. If this astral beast really did have the same sort of mind as Wei Rong, then the three captive Envoys could not only allow Xu Qing to win this war, but he could also incite tremendous chaos in the Inniverse. This war was far too important to the Astral Beast Domain, so how could Xu Qing possibly be willing to give up such an advantage just because of the Ghost Monkey?

However, Lu Yin had underestimated the Celestial Ice Phoenixes' status within the Astral Beast Domain. It was also possible that Feng Lin said something to Xu Qing in secret, but the general's expression changed. He eventually gritted his teeth and turned to look at Lu Yin. "Give Feng Lin the Ghost Monkey, and I can offer you one of the Envoys aside from Ling Taizu."

Lu Yin was surprised, but he quickly smiled. "Give me all three of them."

Xu Qing instantly became furious. "You must be joking!"

Feng Lin frowned and glared at Lu Yin. "Alliance Leader Lu, we are offering the limits of what we can accept. Trading that worthless Ghost Monkey for an Envoy is greatly in your favor. I can honestly tell you that the only reason why we even want the Ghost Monkey is because Feng Jiu remembers him fondly, and he could even be said to be Feng Jiu's lover. Without him, Feng Jiu's cultivation has stagnated, and she has been adversely affected to a great extent. My Celestial Ice Phoenixes are rare, and I don't want Feng Jiu to suffer any mishap. However, don't think that you can try to take advantage of this and ask for a ridiculous offer.

"If not for our generosity, not even Feng Jiu herself would qualify to be traded for one of those Envoys."

Lu Yin quite admired Feng Lin's ability to spout such bullshit with a straight face. This woman was even more skilled than Lu Yin himself! She had actually painted Feng Jiu as the Ghost Monkey's lover and invented a love story in an attempt to deceive Lu Yin. He could almost believe that there had been some history between the Ghost Monkey and Feng Jiu.

Lu Yin had not initially realized that this woman somewhat resembled Kui Luo, as she was able to weave such tall tales while remaining so stone-faced.

Feng Lin's face truly did look completely serious. She acted as though every word that she had said was true.

Lu Yin shrugged. "Other people's love affairs have nothing to do with me. All I can say is that you can either give me all three or forget any deals. What's the point of just taking one back with me? The families of the other two will definitely become a massive headache."

Xu Qing's gaze turned cold, as this had actually been his entire purpose in agreeing to Feng Lin's request. He had not only wanted to give the Celestial Ice Phoenixes a bit of face, but he had also wanted to use this exchange to instigate trouble. Each of the three Envoys were supported by powerful groups, and if only one was rescued, the other two would absolutely develop a powerful resentment towards Lu Yin. That, combined with what he planned to do next, would be enough to crush the Great Eastern Alliance, but Lu Yin had not been deceived.

Feng Lin also came to her senses, and she glanced over at Xu Qing. She had actually thought that the general had been agreeing out of respect for her and the Celestial Ice Phoenixes. It had never crossed her mind that he had actually done so to instantly dig a trap for Lu Yin. These people were too adept at scheming.

"Alliance Leader Lu, this is a matter that concerns this war. I do not have the authority to actually make any decisions. You can ask me for our terms, and as long as it is within

the means of my Celestial Ice Phoenixes, we will agree. I just hope that you will return the Ghost Monkey to me so that I can send him to Feng Jiu, the poor girl," Feng Lin said helplessly. Her tone had softened a great deal.

Lu Yin pursed her lips. This woman was a phenomenal actor. "There's nothing else that I want from you. All I desire are those three Envoys."

Feng Lin was so infuriated that she no longer had any thoughts as to what to say, but she wanted to say something. However, Xu Qing raised a hand to stop her. "Leave for now, and I'll speak to Alliance Leader Lu."

Feng Lin stared at the general. His tone left no question to the fact that this was a command. "Step back for now."

While Xu Qing had shown the Celestial Ice Phoenixes a great deal of respect by allowing Feng Lin to speak with Lu Yin for so long during his negotiations and had even allowed one of his prisoners to be used as a bargaining chip, respect still had been shown. Also, Feng Lin had not been able to reach an agreement. It was Xu Qing's turn at the negotiating table.

Feng Lin felt helpless, and she was unwilling to accept this outcome, but she had no choice. After one last glance at Lu Yin, she left.

Only Xu Qing and Lu Yin remained on the asteroid.

As soon as he was facing Xu Qing, Lu Yin grew much more solemn. This was his true opponent in this war. At this moment, he smelled blood.

"I truly did not expect Alliance Leader Lu to come visit me all alone," Xu Qing commented.

Lu Yin shrugged. "There was no choice. You are holding my people in the palm of your hand, so I can't be the aggressor right now."

Xu Qing smiled. "In that case, what price are you willing to pay for them, Alliance Leader Lu?"

"I'm not sure. That depends on what you hope to get, General Xu Qing."

A smile appeared on Xu Qing's face. "Alliance Leader Lu, do you understand the value that these captives hold as pieces for me to use?"

Lu Yin shook his head.

"Only by understanding their value can we agree upon a price." Xu Qing's expression grew more fierce. "I can tell you that I intend to use those three Envoys as bait, not only

to lure out your Great Eastern Alliance in an attempt to rescue them, but also to capture those would-be rescuers. I will then broadcast that event throughout your Fifth Mainland, particularly in the Innerverse. I wonder, how you would explain such a matter to the Innerverse?"

"Why did you come to the Outerverse to wage this war against my Astral Beast Domain? This should be the Sixth Mainland's concern. Why was no one else captured except for the ancestors of the Lingling clan and the Phoenix family? Why did you want to go to war? Do you not care about their lives? How will you address these questions, Alliance Leader Lu?"

Star Odyssey #Chapter 1862: Saving People - Read Star Odyssey Chapter 1862: Saving People

Chapter 1862: Saving People

When Lu Yin heard Xu Qing's explanation, he inwardly acknowledged that this was exactly what Wei Rong had said he would do. However, Lu Yin put on a show of being shocked, and his pupils constricted to pinpricks as he gritted his teeth. "General Xu Qing, I respect you as a senior, and you have behaved in a respectable manner on the battlefield. What do you mean by using such despicable methods?"

Xu Qing shook his head and smiled. "There are no rules or morals in war. Doing what it takes to win is the most important rule, no?"

Lu Yin clenched his hands into fists and quickly grew pale as he stared at Xu Qing. "Despicable!"

Xu Qing laughed. "I've heard that Shui Chuanxiao has joined your Great Eastern Alliance. Did he not tell you about me?"

Lu Yin answered in a low voice, "He spoke of you, and Shui Chuanxiao said that you have employed various methods and strategies both on and off the battlefield. Still, I never expected you to be willing to stoop so low. I actually believed you and Shui Chuanxiao to be the same kind of people."

Xu Qing sneered. "He and I are the same type! Don't tell me that you don't know how and why your Human Domain was able to create a comprehensive network! Shui Chuanxiao is even more ruthless than I could ever be! He sacrificed half of Endless Weave to give your Human Domain a universal network. If not for his efforts, we would have already taken over half of your Outerverse when it was first cut off from the Innerverse.

"No matter how you look at it, Shui Chuanxiao is far more ruthless person than me. I could never manage to do such a thing."

"But you are crueler than him," Lu Yin retorted.

Xu Qing clasped his hands behind his back. "Young man, let me teach you a lesson: war is war. There is nothing cruel or immoral about it. If you achieve victory, a general can be famous throughout time immemorial. If you lose, you will be cursed for thousands of years. I carry no less of a burden than you. Now that you understand these details, tell me, how much are those Envoys worth in my hands?"

Lu Yin struggled, as he did not know what to do.

Xu Qing spoke in a relaxed manner, "It looks like you now understand and are quite clear on the consequences of what I just told you. So, tell me, what are you willing to pay to exchange for the three captives."

"Are you truly willing to allow me to pay for their freedom?" Lu Yin stared at Xu Qing as he asked this question. He no longer showed the calmness he had originally displayed, but rather anxiousness.

Xu Qing nodded. He was as calm as ever. "Why else would I have asked you to come discuss this?"

"What is it that you want?" Lu Yin asked nervously.

Xu Qing felt he held the upper hand, so he said bluntly, "First, give the Ghost Monkey to Feng Lin."

Lu Yin did not refuse.

"Second, turn over the inheritance that you received that provided you with the invincible skills you showed during the end of ZENITH."

Lu Yin still did not refuse.

Xu Qing continued, "Third, leave the Outerverse. I can allow you to retreat in peace. These are the only three conditions."

Lu Yin stared at Xu Qing, unwillingness filling his eyes. "Do you believe that you can force me to submit just because you captured three Envoys?"

Xu Qing sneered. "You don't have to agree. Go back and talk to Shui Chuanxiao. Go find out if you can bear the consequences of what I will do. As soon as it is done, your Great Eastern Alliance will collapse, and you will surely lose this war."

Lu Yin had been aware of the consequences of not agreeing to Xu Qing's terms from the moment that Wei Rong had explained this scenario. However, Lu Yin also was not convinced that things were as serious as they were being made out to be. As long as

the Hall of Honor did not turn against him and he went to speak with Xu Qing alone, the situation in the Inniverse would not reach rock bottom. There would still be chaos, but he had already explained himself.

"I don't understand. You should already know that I used death energy at the end of ZENITH, so why would you want that? Does your Astral Beast Domain even have death energy?" Lu Yin suddenly asked.

Xu Qing's eyes flickered. "So it's death energy? That's not very valuable."

Lu Yin's eyes remained fixed on Xu Qing's eyes.

"Still, that doesn't matter. Our main purpose is to force you out of the Outerverse. That inheritance is merely a gift," Xu Qing casually explained.

Lu Yin could not tell whether Xu Qing was lying about this point. Could there be death energy in the Astral Beast Domain? Lu Yin did not know. In the end, Xu Qing was still the Astral Beast Domain's General, and he was not someone who would let his expressions be easily read.

"I want to see the three captives." Lu Yin weakly tried to put up a bit of resistance.

"So you agree?"

Lu Yin's hands clenched. "It's difficult to pass my skills onto others."

"No matter how difficult it may be, that is one of the conditions. After all, that inheritance allowed you to be invincible and gave you the strength to defeat even the Tri-Yang Ancestral Qi Technique. You could also try asking the Hall of Honor to give the Tri-Yang Technique to me, and I will accept that as well." Xu Qing spoke with great confidence, but also with great anticipation.

Lu Yin answered in a bitter voice, "You think too highly of me. I agree to all your terms, but allow me to see the three Envoys first. How do I know if they're dead or not? After all, they were captured by you astral beasts."

Xu Qing's voice turned cold. "You humans are also beasts. You have rules, and we do as well."

"You have rules and yet you'll use such despicable methods," Lu Yin retorted.

Xu Qing snorted disdainfully. "Naïve."

After he spoke, space nearby fluctuated, but there was nothing to be seen.

"Take Alliance Leader Lu to see the captives," Xu Qing ordered.

Lu Yin looked over in surprise. "You're letting a creeper take me?"

Xu Qing indifferently replied, "If I remember correctly, you also use the Rune Progenitor's technique, Alliance Leader Lu, so you can see the creeper."

Lu Yin's eyes flickered. "Alright."

Xu Qing had ordered a creeper to escort Lu Yin to the captives, but the creeper's task was actually to keep an eye on Lu Yin. There was no better observer than a creeper.

Before leaving, Lu Yin suddenly asked, "Did the astral beast that attacked me die?"

"No."

Lu Yin felt a bit of disappointment as he left with the creeper.

Feng Lin quickly approached Xu Qing when she saw Lu Yin leave. "What do he say?"

Xu Qing confidently replied, "Just wait for the Ghost Monkey."

Feng Lin was overjoyed. "He agreed?"

Xu Qing nodded, but then he gave Feng Lin a harsh look and scolded her, "You are too worked up about this! Why didn't you speak to me about this in advance? You not only lost the initiative to him, but you also showed him just how important the Ghost Monkey is to you. If not for the current situation, you would never be able to get the Ghost Monkey from him!"

Feng Lin had also realized that she had been overly anxious this time. "I'm sorry, Senior. I was too nervous."

Xu Qing had to ask, "Is that mere Ghost Monkey really so important?"

Feng Lin grew very serious. "We were told this by Skymender, so you must forgive me for not speaking more clearly. All that I can tell you right now is that the Celestial Ice Phoenixes will give you an acceptable explanation about this in the future, Senior."

This was what Xu Qing had wanted to hear. Two Envoys had been killed during an earlier battle, so he was under tremendous pressure at this time. If the Celestial Ice Phoenixes stood by him, then he would not need to fear the Celestial Beast Empire when he returned.

Without them, he might be subjected to harsh questioning, and while that would not cause him any real harm, it would be humiliating and a loss of respect.

Elsewhere, Lu Yin had just laid eyes on Ling Taizu, Abel Phoenix, and Elder He.

Even though the three were still alive, they were all seriously injured. Two Void Thunderbeast stood in front of the Envoys, and they were the same beasts that had tried to block Lu Yin's path before.

Lu Yin became furious at what he saw, and he glared at the Void Thunderbeasts. "You even attack people who are defenseless?"

One of the Void Thunderbeasts sneered. "No matter what, they're still Envoys. It will be very difficult to catch them if they try to escape, and it's fine as long as we don't kill them."

"We can quickly just find their stellar energy vortexes, and then we can talk again after they're crippled," the other Void Thunderbeast indifferently suggested.

Lu Yin was so angry that he shot forward and suddenly appeared in between the two Void Thunderbeasts. He raised his hands, intending to push the two away, only to suddenly feel a threat of danger. The Envoy-level creeper had moved in front of Lu Yin.

"Human, do you really dare to try something?" One of the Void Thunderbeasts sneered as it grabbed hold of Ling Taizu with a paw.

The Envoy was already seriously injured, and if he was smashed by the beast's paw, even if he managed to survive, his stellar energy vortex would possibly be destroyed.

Lu Yin fiercely shouted, "Stop!"

His spiritual force burst forth and enveloped the area, only for an even more terrifying spiritual force to overpower him. It was like a tsunami sweeping over a river, and it utterly suppressed Lu Yin's spiritual force. He was shocked, and forced back dozens of steps. He spat out blood and was left in a bit of a daze.

The Celestial Demon with the appearance of a handsome young man appeared and coldly stared down at Lu Yin. "Kid, who gave you the courage to act so boldly?"

Lu Yin looked up. His eyes were bloodshot as he stared at the Void Thunderbeast that was about to attack. He hoarsely threatened, "If any one of them is injured one bit more, I promise that the deal with Xu Qing will be forfeit!"

The Celestial Demon just sneered. He was completely unconcerned by Lu Yin's threat.

However, the Void Thunderbeast who had intended to attack Ling Taizu stopped. Although it made a few more taunts, it did not move to actually attack. Xu Qing was the Void Thunderbeasts' patriarch, so these two did not dare to do something that might affect their patriarch's agreement.

Ling Taizu and the other two Envoys saw Lu Yin, and Elder He hoarsely called out, "Alliance Leader Lu, don't make a deal. This is war, so our deaths don't matter."

Lu Yin sighed. "But this is my war, not yours. You shouldn't have to die for this."

Elder He replied, "This is a war for the entire human race! Alliance Leader Lu, don't agree to any deal."

Lu Yin looked at Ling Taizu, and then at Abel Phoenix. These two clearly did not want to die.

"It was my mistake that led to your capture, not yours." Lu Yin turned his head and stared at the Celestial Demon. "Your Astral Beast Domain will never win."

The Celestial Demon spat back, "Child, you think too highly of yourself! Our opponents are the Sixth Mainland and your Human Domain's Hall of Honor. You don't qualify."

Lu Yin's eyes flashed, "So the majestic Celestial Demons resort to sneak attacks? I've heard that the Celestial Demons rule the Astral Beast Domain, but is this how they control their empire? Starting things off with sneak attacks?"

The Celestial Demon frowned as he stared at Lu Yin. "Are you trying to provoke me?"

Lu Yin stared back at the man without showing any hint of weakness.

After staring back for a while, the Celestial Demon let out a disdainful snort. "You saved Yao Xuan's life, so I won't bother with you. Otherwise, you would not be able to leave today."

The man then turned and left.

Lu Yin watched as the Celestial Demon entered the void and disappeared. He then quickly took out Zenith Mountain from his cosmic ring and threw it down. At that instance, the creeper that had been watching Lu Yin attacked. There was no hesitation as the astral beast lashed out at Lu Yin, but the human's expression did not even twitch as his pupils transformed into runes, and he utilized the power of the Knowing realm of Truesight.

The creeper's attack was powerful yet utterly useless.

And at this moment, the Second Nightking and Liu Huang appeared before the stunned gazes of the creeper and many other nearby astral beasts. Liu Huang released a sword attack in all directions. It was the Fourteenth Sword.

Off in the distance, Xu Qing was still watching Lu Yin, and his pupils instantly constricted. "Not good!"

He leaped forward and returned to his form as a Void Thunderbeast. Lightning flickered as he disappeared.

Liu Huang slashed at the creeper and the two Void Thunderbeasts at the Envoy level. The creeper received greater attention, and it instantly lost its head to the sword.

Lu Yin waved a hand and released Ling Taizu and the other two. "Get into Zenith Mountain!"

The three Envoys did not hesitate as they shot into Zenith Mountain.

At this moment, Xu Qing, the Celestial Demon, and Feng Lin all showed themselves as they attacked Lu Yin.

Star Odyssey #Chapter 1863: Breathe Fire - Read Star Odyssey Chapter 1863: Breathe Fire

Chapter 1863: Breathe Fire

"Lu Yin, you're courting death!" Xu Qing roared angrily.

The Celestial Demon man's expression turned ugly. He had actually been one of the individuals guarding the three captive Envoys, but he had been driven away by Lu Yin's comment. It was now clear that Lu Yin had done so deliberately.

Of course it had all been a part of Lu Yin's plan. Given the reaction speed of an expert with a power level of a million, Lu Yin knew that he might not even be able to pull out Zenith Mountain before him. So, he had needed to find a way to drive the Celestial Demon away. Lu Yin had come up with a lot of different comments, and he had not expected the astral beast to leave so easily.

The Second Nightking showed up a wicked grin. His spiritual force burst out ceaselessly, kicking up winds and moving clouds. The massive figure of Xu Qing appeared behind the Second Nightking, and both the Celestial Demon and Feng Jin appeared in front of him. The Second Nightking unleashed Skybreaker.

Spiritual force shot out, and Feng Lin spat out a mouthful of blood as she flipped over. The Celestial Demon opened his mouth and let out a terrible howl, and spiritual force surged in front of him. "Force Explosion."

Boom!

The asteroid shattered, and countless astral beasts nearby were shredded by the debris. Lu Yin started to lose consciousness, but he quickly started to recite the Origin Sutra as he put Zenith Mountain away and shouted, "RETREAT!"

The Second Nightking's battle with Xu Qing and the Celestial Demon was so intense that no one was able to approach them. Liu Huang grabbed Lu Yin and shot towards the southwest, beheading countless astral beasts as he passed by. There was no creature that could block Liu Huang's sword.

Xu Qing was beyond furious, and his lightning grew even more intense. His body shot through space like a bolt of lightning, ignoring the pressure of the surging spiritual force. He quickly caught up to Liu Huang and struck out with a paw.

Liu Huang's eyes grew stern as he whirled around and countered with his sword. The blade struck the incoming claws, but the shockwave retained the claws' sharpness and pierced through to Lu Yin. He was unable to stop from vomiting blood from his injuries.

Xu Qing's eyes blazed, and his lightning rained down on Liu Huang. "Humans, you are courting death!"

Liu Huang's sword spun, and cuts appeared all across Xu Qing's body. "Get lost!"

Xu Qing raised his paw again and struck out. Lu Yin looked up and stared at Xu Qing while using the Knowing realm of Truesight to weaken the approaching attack as much as he could.

Xu Qing had actually calculated things quite precisely. He had attacked in a manner where his attack would reach Lu Yin just before Liu Huang's attack struck the astral beast. Liu Huang could not abandon Lu Yin, and this attack would force Liu Huang to divert his sword. On top of that, even the shockwave from Xu Qing's attack would be powerful enough to severely injure or even kill Lu Yin. How could a youth possibly endure even the aftershocks of an attack from an expert with a power level of a million?

However, Lu Yin cultivated Truesight and had reached the Knowing realm. This allowed him to weaken even Xu Qing's attack, though not by much. The weakening was barely noticeable, and it was still more than enough to easily kill Lu Yin, but the weakening had also slowed Xu Qing's attack. While it was only a tiny bit slower than before, every inch could prove fatal in a battle between powerhouses at his level.

Liu Huang's sword was faster than Xu Qing's attack, and as the Void Thunderbeast watched in disbelief, the sword pierced through his paw and stabbed towards his head.

Xu Qing had no choice but to pull back. Sword qi wreaked havoc in his body, and he needed to suppress it as soon as possible. He could do nothing but watch as Liu Huang fled with Lu Yin.

Just as Lu Yin was about to let out a sigh of relief, countless runes suddenly appeared in the corner of his vision. Someone was emerging from the true universe, and he quickly shouted, "Watch out!"

Liu Huang only turned his head, and his sword swept out. Terrifying flames fell and enveloped the two humans. The temperature clearly surpassed a power level of 700,000, but such an attack was no threat at all to Liu Huang.

The moment Liu Huang's sword swept out, a large, chymifier appeared from a different direction. Its green eyes were locked onto Lu Yin as it shot through the true universe with its mouth open and ready to bite.

Despite the chymifier's speed, it was impossible for the creature to hide from Liu Huang. The gap in strength was simply too vast. Liu Huang easily blocked the chymifier with the back of his sword. He had expected to slice through the beast, but unexpectedly, the chymifier bit down on the sword, stunning Liu Huang. This was not a style of combat he had ever seen before.

Lu Yin recognized the chymifier. "A chymifier. They're said to be able to devour anything."

Lu Yin had recognized the chymifier because one of the species' members had been one of the Spiritual Academy's Academy Masters. Hua Yishou had participated in the Tournament of the Strongest, and Lu Yin had heard that his father had once eaten members of the Phoenix family, which had triggered an eternal hatred.

Liu Huang's eyes turned cold. He put more force into the sword that had just been bitten, and he slashed through half of the chymifier's body.

The flames shot out from another direction. Liu Huang had already badly injured the chymifier, and his sword swept out once more. The blade sliced through space and cut apart a Karmic Flame Sable that was about the same size as the chymifier.

These two astral beasts had attacked Liu Huang, and while they posed no threat at all to the swordsman, they were still able to stall him for a moment, which allowed Xu Qing to catch up.

Xu Qing had already given up on chasing Lu Yin down, as he had not expected there to be still more hidden experts. These two astral beasts must have also been sent by the imperial family, the Celestial Demons.

However, Xu Qing did not have time to consider the implications behind this. Lightning covered a paw, and he reached out for Liu Huang.

It was at this time that the Second Nightking rushed over. His appearance startled Xu Qing so badly that he instantly pulled back. He did not have the confidence to face both Liu Huang and the Second Nightking on his own.

The Second Nightking stood behind Liu Huang and looked to the northeast. He released another Skybreaker and then he and Liu Huang led Lu Yin to the southwest.

Xu Qing's eyes went wide, and he let out an angry roar. The wonderful opportunity that he had received and that he had believed to be the key to victory in this war had just been ruined. The three captive Envoys, who had been the key to everything, had just been rescued right from under his nose. He was the Astral Beast Domain's General, and he had survived countless battles and life or death crises, but at this moment, he was unable to stop himself from letting out a roar of pure rage.

This was an absolute disgrace, the greatest humiliation of his life.

The Celestial Demon's expression was also horribly contorted. This loss was actually greatly his fault. If he had not left the prisoners without permission, Lu Yin might not have been able to rescue the three Envoys. Humans are despicable!

Feng Lin also mourned the Envoys' rescue. Who would have considered that the human had had living people hiding within his cosmic ring? That defied all common sense! Without that, the Envoys would have never been rescued.

Feng Lin could only see the fact that the Ghost Monkey had almost been in her hands, and she could no longer see any possibility of getting him again in the future.

Compared to the angry roars from the astral beasts, the Great Eastern Alliance's fleet was cheering.

Liu Qianjue and others stared in admiration as Lu Yin returned. They had succeeded. They had actually succeeded! The Human Domain had been at war with the Astral Beast Domain for countless years, and yet even throughout all that history, this was a magnificent achievement for the Human Domain.

After all, the current battlefield had four monsters with power levels of over a million, as well as more than twenty Envoys. This was an unimaginable scale that far surpassed any border war. In fact, never had so many powerhouses participated in a war even when the Sixth Mainland and Technocracy had invaded Endless Weave.

If the rest of the universe were not so busy dealing with the Neohuman Alliance, this war would absolutely have drawn everyone's eye. Even as things were, countless people were focused on the Outerverse's eastern weaves and waiting for the results.

Lu Yin took Zenith Mountain back out and released the three Envoys. He then ordered the fleet to be on guard against a crazed counterattack from the astral beasts and led Abel Phoenix into a spaceship.

Everyone became curious about this, as Abel Phoenix had never interacted with Lu Yin before, so why was Lu Yin meeting with the man alone? Should Lu Yin not be focused on healing his own wounds?

Abel Phoenix was also confused, but he followed Lu Yin into a cabin. There, he saw Lu Yin take out a red stone, though Lu Yin's next words made Abel Phoenix question his entire life. "Alright, breathe some fire on it."

Abel Phoenix saw anticipation in Lu Yin's eyes when he looked at the young man. "Alliance Leader Lu, what are you talking about?"

Lu Yin explained, "This is the Skyflame Stone, and it can absorb flames. I need those flames, and the more and hotter, the better."

Abel Phoenix finally understood, though he still was at a loss for words. Breathe fire? He was not an astral beast! This way of putting things made the Envoy a bit uncomfortable. "Will a battle technique work?"

Lu Yin was getting impatient. "Do it however you want, but fill it with flames. The hotter the better, but I need it to at least exceed a power level of 700,000."

Abel Phoenix was startled. "Alliance Leader Lu, I only have a power level of a bit more than 500,000. How am I supposed to create flames hot enough to compare to a power level of over 700,000?"

Lu Yin was stunned. "Are you really that weak?"

Abel Phoenix was offended, and he wanted to slap Lu Yin for the rude comment, but it only took an instant for the thought to leave his mind. The Envoy could not defeat Lu Yin, so he did not dare to attack the young man. "I've disappointed you."

Lu Yin frowned and looked to the northeast. He had actually forgotten that Abel Phoenix was only a weak Envoy. If he had remembered sooner, Lu Yin would have captured the Karmic Flame Sable. Those flames had absolutely exceeded a power level of 700,000. What a pity.

"Does your Phoenix family have access to some sort of extreme heat source? Something that not even you can endure?" Lu Yin asked.

"Yes. The entire reason why my Phoenix family remains in Daynight Flowzone is because our ancestral home has a source of extreme heat. We actually don't even know how hot it can get. If it weren't for that, we would have long since left with how oppressive the Daynight clan is."

Lu Yin then dismissed Abel Phoenix before taking out a pill he had Enhanced to treat his injuries. Fortunately, his bodysuit armor only had a few minor cracks. Even though he had been struck by some shockwaves from the powerhouses' battle, Lu Yin had only suffered a few flesh wounds, and he quickly recovered.

He had wanted to use Abel Phoenix's flames in order to cultivate, but unfortunately, Lu Yin had miscalculated.

Space trembled as countless astral beasts attacked. The vanguard was none other than the Celestial Demon, and he led with his species' most powerful battle technique: Force Explosion.

The Second Nightking appeared to confront the Celestial Demon. "Where did you summon the courage to come here? You've already been defeated."

The Celestial Demon growled, "All you despicable humans will become our food!"

Even as he spoke, he exploded with more spiritual force.

Countless astral beasts attacked and clashed with the Great Eastern Alliance's fleet. The Envoys had their own battlefield while the fleet fought against the weaker astral beasts.

Once again, Xu Qing faced off against Liu Huang.

When Lu Yin emerged from the ship, he saw an endless battlefield.

The Great Eastern Alliance originally had more Envoys than the Astral Beast Domain, but the appearance of Shadowbeast, the Karmic Flame Sable, and the chymifier had evened the odds.

Each of the additional astral beast powerhouses had a power level of about 800,000, with the exception of Shadowbeast after it had survived being beheaded by Liu Huang. On top of that, Ling Taizu had been seriously injured, so this battle was not looking good for the Great Eastern Alliance. This was also why Xu Qing dared to launch such a crazed counterattack.

Lu Yin glanced across the battlefield, and he quickly focused on the location that was filled with flames that were pouring out from the true universe to scorch the human fleet. That was where the Karmic Flame Sable was fighting.

Lu Yin entered the true universe, and sword qi shot past his face. It came from where Liu Qianjue was fighting Shadowbeast.

Xu Qing was actually the one who was the most shocked to see Lu Yin appear in the true universe. He remembered that Lu Yin had been struck by the shockwaves from his own attack. He had a power level of over a million, so how could Lu Yin be fine? Even a gentle touch from him should have been enough to leave someone at Lu Yin's level seriously injured.

Liu Huang glanced over, but he was unfazed by Lu Yin's appearance. The youth had too many secrets, and if Liu Huang was being honest, he doubted that Lu Yin would die even after being attacked by a Semi-Progenitor. The kid's background was just too mysterious.

An astral chessboard appeared beneath Lu Yin's feet, and he moved over to where Ling Qiu was fighting the Karmic Flame Sable, and he attacked the beast with a Hollow Palm.

Star Odyssey #Chapter 1864: Endless Fear - Read Star Odyssey Chapter 1864: Endless Fear

Chapter 1864: Endless Fear

The Karmic Flame Sable had not expected Lu Yin to suddenly attack it, and its flames abruptly formed a curtain that shielded the beast from all directions. Still, the sable was a bit too slow, and the Hollow Palm smashed into it, sending the creature's body tumbling away.

The Karmic Flame Sable was furious, and it shrieked at Lu Yin. The beast's eyes blazed with killing intent, and flames surged crazily from its body. It was clearly quite small, but in the blink of an eye, a mountain-sized flame had appeared around it. The astral beast raised its paws and slapped one at Lu Yin while attacking Ling Qiu with the other.

When it came to simple power level, Ling Qiu could not compare to the Karmic Flame Sable. However, she was a part of the Lingling Clan, and both her innate gift and battle techniques were unparalleled. The Lingling clan had the Soulsplitting Technique, which allowed a person to split into three clones. Each clone was just as strong as the original body until they were destroyed. This technique alone made anyone from the Lingling clan a challenge to face.

When Ling Taizu had fought against Liu Huang, Ling Taizu had been utterly crushed, as Liu Huang had a power level of over a million while Ling Taizu's was only at around 800,000. During the recent battle, the Celestial Demon with a power level of more than a million had launched a sneak attack, and Ling Taizu had once again been completely powerless.

Still, these losses were no reason to underestimate someone from the Lingling clan. When fighting against someone with an equal power level, people from the Lingling clan were practically invincible.

The Karmic Flame Sable's power level clearly surpassed Ling Qiu's, but the two were nonetheless still in a stalemate. This was also why Ling Qiu was confident that she could deal with the astral beast.

The Soulsplitting Technique gave Ling Qiu the ability to restrain the Karmic Flame Sable and keep it completely occupied.

Ling Qiu dodged the burning claw as she stared at Lu Yin. "I don't need your help. It's just a beast. I can handle it."

Lu Yin was not helping her specifically, but rather capturing the Karmic Flame Sable alive for himself. Still, that looked to be a rather difficult task.

Ling Qiu's words enraged the Karmic Flame Sable. Regardless of how the words were spoken, they sounded like an insult. As the astral beast's fury raged, its flames surged in all directions. Ling Qiu was caught off guard, and the fires burned her to ashes.

Although only a clone from the Soulsplitting Technique had fallen, Ling Qiu's attacks became far fiercer. Drifting leaves floated through space as the Envoy had activated her innate gift.

The most terrifying aspect of people from the Lingling clan was their innate gift. The result of combining ten different innate gifts could become truly incredible.

Ling Qiu's talent was autumnal, just like her name. The falling leaves were from autumn, and although they looked like nothing more than fallen leaves, the Karmic Flame Sable's fires could not burn them. The leaves fell like rain, and unbelievably, they smothered the sable's flames that had formed a mountain.

The Karmic Flame Sable raised its head, and a sharp whistling sound pierced through the air, full of the creature's anger as it glared at Ling Qiu.

Lu Yin's eyes grew cold, and an astral chessboard appeared beneath his feet, allowing him to move.

He appeared directly above the Karmic Flame Sable's head, and as Ling Qiu watched on in astonishment, the Immovable Heavenly King Elephant visualization method appeared as his palm dropped down: Hollow Palm.

Initially, the Karmic Flame Sable had not cared about Lu Yin at all and had been completely focused on Ling Qiu, especially when the woman started using her innate gift. However, the beast felt an even stronger sense of danger from this attack of Lu Yin's, which left the sable stunned. Lu Yin's Hollow Palm was incredibly powerful, and even if the Karmic Flame Sable had a power level of more than 700,000, it still would not be able to endure this strike. Unsurprisingly, it was smacked into the true universe.

Lu Yin seized the opportunity and shouted, "Do it!"

His hand fell again, not giving the sable any chance to mount a defense. Ling Qiu also had not expected Lu Yin's palm strike to be so powerful. Also, what was that image behind him? An elephant?

Ling Qiu did not have any time to think about what she had just seen. She quickly formed a spear with her stellar energy and stabbed it into the Karmic Flame Sable.

The astral beast was pierced through, and blood sprayed out. The excruciating pain woke it from its daze, but only in time for it to see Lu Yin's next attack land. The Hollow Palm incorporated Lu Yin's domain and spiritual force. While the sable might have the physical strength to endure Lu Yin's Overlaying Stacks and even his domain, the beast was weak to spiritual force. The unexpected and mixed nature of Lu Yin's Hollow Palms left the Karmic Flame Sable in a stunned state, and it was completely unable to fight back.

Off in the distance, Feng Lin had returned to her form as a Celestial Ice Phoenix. She rose high above the battlefield, and her tricolored rays swept out.

Lu Yin grabbed the Karmic Flame Sable and used it as a shield. When the tricolored rays arrived, Lu Yin and the sable were both blown back.

Feng Lin's power level was only a bit over 600,000, which meant that it was impossible for her to breach Lu Yin's defenses, but the ray still managed to scorch the sable's fur.

"Despicable!" Feng Lin raged.

Across from her, the Frost Emperor raised a hand. A wreath of five interlocking plum blossoms appeared and shot out. "See if you can melt this."

Feng Lin turned to glare at the Frost Emperor. "Our tricolored ray can melt anything! It's impossible for you to defeat me!"

She fired off another ray even as she spoke.

The Karmic Flame Sable was caught in an unending onslaught from both Lu Yin and Ling Qiu. It was suppressed to the point where it could not fight back at all.

Suddenly, a shadow appeared and wrapped around the Karmic Flame Sable and tried to pull the creature away.

It was Shadowbeast.

Lu Yin instantly became upset. Shadowbeast wanted to steal his prey? Lu Yin immediately formed a sword from his star energy and slashed out, but he could not cut through Shadowbeast's shadow.

At the same time, Liu Qianjue's sword struck from the distance, instantly slicing through the shadow and disrupting Shadowbeast's control. Ling Qiu took advantage of the opening to stab the shadow with her spear, nailing it in place.

Still, Shadowbeast's interference had given the Karmic Flame Sable a moment to breathe, and it quickly regained control of its faculties after being dazed by Lu Yin's Hollow Palm. Flames erupted from its body and shot at Lu Yin. At this moment, the sable hated Lu Yin far more than it did Ling Qiu.

Even if Ling Qiu's fallen leaves reappeared, she would not be able to completely suppress these flames.

However, Lu Yin did not feel any fear against these flames. His bodysuit armor was more than capable of protecting him, and even though it had cracked, the heat that could seep through those openings would not be too fierce. Besides, Lu Yin usually cultivated with the assistance of hot flames, so he had developed a high resistance to heat.

Still, Lu Yin remained cautious, as his goal was to capture the Karmic Flame Sable alive. If he could not accomplish that, then he would have wasted his time and should have just left this beast for Ling Qiu to fight on her own.

As Lu Yin thought about his, the black and white mist seeped out of his chest and formed a large cocoon that enveloped him. Ling Qiu suddenly appeared in front of him, and she swept the encroaching flames away. That done, she turned to look at the black and white cocoon in surprise. What was this?

At the same time, countless others looked over: Feng Lin, the Frost Emperor, Liu Qianjue, Shadowbeast, Liu Huang, Xu Qing, the Celestial Demon, the Second Nightking, and more. This was because the moment the dual-colored mist appeared, an ancient aura had filled the area, and its appearance caused everyone to reflexively look over.

The Karmic Flame Sable stared at the black and white cocoon, and fear appeared in the depths of the beast's eyes. It did not fear Lu Yin, but it was very afraid of this new power that had just appeared. While this new power might not exceed the astral beast's power level, for some reason, just the sight of it elicited an inexplicable fear from the bottom of the sable's heart. It was almost as if its species was suppressed by this power on a primal level.

The sable was not the only astral beast feeling this, as every single astral beast on the entire battlefield had frozen at the same time.

There was one detail that Lu Yin had never even thought about; as he grew stronger, the aura of the God of Death that he gave off also grew stronger, and he became more similar to the God of Death. That ancient powerhouse had faced off against humans,

astral beasts, and even the Aeternals. There was an indelible mark on the very souls of the creatures who had faced the God of Death.

The fear that gripped the astral beasts' hearts was essentially an instinct, and it would only grow more and more pronounced as time passed.

The black and white cocoon broke open, and Lu Yin reappeared. His hair hung to his waist, and black and white mists twined about him. He had used the God of Death Transformation.

When he looked up, his eyes were pure black, and anyone that looked into them would feel endless fear.

At this moment, Lu Yin looked very different from normal.

He shook his hands; he felt much stronger than before. Every time he improved his cultivation or absorbed more death energy, it seemed that his God of Death Transformation would become stronger as well. Lu Yin had never this stronger before, and this increase was far from small.

"Out of my way," Lu Yin growled. He glanced at Ling Qiu before quickly stepping forward. He raised a hand, and the massive scythe slashed at the Karmic Flame Sable.

The astral beast seemed frozen in place as it stared at the approaching scythe. Surprisingly, it never moved at all, and the scythe sliced through half of the sable's body, spilling its blood into space.

Lu Yin was caught off guard. Is this guy stupid? Why didn't it do anything?

Some distance away, Shadowbeast's shadow twisted as he tried to drag the Karmic Flame Sable away once again, but this time, Lu Yin was prepared. The scythe swept out again, this time towards Shadowbeast, and Lu Yin actually managed to block the shadow.

Despite the incredible difference in power level, Lu Yin had actually managed to block the shadow.

Shadowbeast was startled, as this was simply impossible. His power level meant that it should have been impossible for someone as weak as Lu Yin to block him no matter what Lu Yin did. That scythe was odd, and there was also something strange about Lu Yin's strength. Shadowbeast was actually feeling a bit fearful, and he did not dare to look directly into Lu Yin's eyes.

The Karmic Flame Sable finally reacted, and it forced itself to endure its terrible injuries to escape. Lu Yin entered the true universe and chased after the sable. His chains shot

out and captured the Karmic Flame Sable before he turned around and raced towards the human fleet. "Stop them."

From the moment Lu Yin entered the cocoon to when he captured the Karmic Flame Sable, only a few seconds had passed. Still, the shock that his actions brought to the battlefield was unmatched. All the astral beasts were completely stunned, both from the innate fear towards Lu Yin's God of Death Transformation and from the sight of Lu Yin blocking Shadowbeast.

The Celestial Demons were arrogant creatures that devoured spiritual force. They saw themselves as the rulers of the Astral Beast Domain, and they looked down upon all humans. However, the moment the Celestial Demon saw Lu Yin's God of Death Transformation, the Celestial Demon had felt an instinctive fear well up. He did not fear Lu Yin, but rather the power that Lu Yin controlled.

Just what was that power? It actually transcended cultivation and power levels to induce a fear in one's very soul!

Xu Qing stared at Lu Yin's back, and the Void Thundbeast's eyes blazed. This was the power that he wanted! This was it! This was the strength that suppressed all peers, and Xu Qing had to obtain it.

Once Lu Yin was completely out of sight, the countless astral beasts finally reacted. The Karmic Flame Sable had been captured.

Xu Qing screamed, "Lu Yin, let the Karmic Flame Sable go!"

As he yelled, he tried to force his way closer to the humans' fleet in vain, but Liu Huang stopped the astral beasts' general. Xu Qing glanced around, and he saw that none of the astral beasts had any fighting spirit left at all, and their loss of morale caused Xu Qing's heart to sink. Even someone at Xu Qing's level had been scared by Lu Yin, so there was no need to mention any of the others. Realizing this, Xu Qing ordered an immediate retreat. Continuing the fight at this point would only cause the astral beasts to suffer more casualties, especially since they had lost a powerhouse.

The retreat of the horde of astral beasts indicated the Great Eastern Alliance's victory.

In fact, as far as the Great Eastern Alliance was concerned, they were victorious as long as they were not forced to retreat.

However, there were odd expressions on the faces of Liu Huang and the other powerhouses. Winning was winning, so why had Lu Yin captured the Karmic Flame Sable and fled from the battlefield?

No one could understand Lu Yin's intentions aside from Abel Phoenix, who had somewhat of an idea.

In the center of the Great Eastern Alliance's fleet, Lu Yin emerged from the true universe. His chains still bound the Karmic Flame Sable, who struggled frantically. Unfortunately, it had already been injured by Lu Yin's Hollow Palm and Ling Qiu's attacks before being severely wounded by Lu Yin's God of Death Transformation. At the moment, the sable's strength had been reduced to that of a new Envoy, and it was completely unable to escape from Lu Yin, let alone when Lu Yin was using the God of Death Transformation.

Lu Yin took out the Skyblaze Stone and placed it in front of the Karmic Flame Sable's mouth. "Breathe fire."

The sable's little eyes glared at Lu Yin, burning with killing intent. However, there was also an inexplicable fear deep in the beast's eyes.

"I said, breathe fire!" Lu Yin yelled.

"Human, are you trying to humiliate me?" For the first time, the Karmic Flame Sable spoke. Its voice was as sharp as its eyes, and it sounded like grinding metal.

Lu Yin calmly stated, "If you don't breathe fire, you'll die."

The Karmic Flame Sable raged, "We captured three of you humans' Envoys, and yet we never killed any of them!"

"That's just because not enough time passed. Xu Qing was planning to use them to destroy my Great Eastern Alliance's morale, which is even more despicable than just killing them. I entered your army on my own to meet with Xu Qing and to rescue them. Tell me, does Xu Qing have the courage to do the same for you? Would you?" Lu Yin mocked.

Star Odyssey #Chapter 1865: Image - Read Star Odyssey Chapter 1865: Image

Chapter 1865: Image

The Karmic Flame Sable became even more furious when it heard Lu Yin's words. "That's only because you were able to take those two freaks with you!"

"Even if I couldn't have done that, I still would have gone to meet Xu Qing," Lu Yin stated.

The Karmic Flame Sable gave a derisive snort. "Human, I won't believe a word you say! You're too despicable! I've heard of you before, Lu Yin! Greedy, ambitious, despicable, and completely shameless!"

Lu Yin arched a brow before smacking the sable on the head. "Who told you that?"

This made Lu Yin angry. Was this how he was perceived in the Astral Beast Domain? Someone had to be deliberately sabotaging his image! This was terrible! How would he be able to conquer the Astral Beast Domain in the future?

The Karmic Flame Sable's fierce little eyes flickered with a cold glint. "The entire Celestial Beast Empire knows this much. Let me tell you, I didn't actually need to fight in this war, but because you reached out to Xu Qing, the Celestial Demon Emperor made a special point to send us in as secret reinforcements. It's all because of you! He said that you're a despicable human and that we absolutely cannot afford to be unprepared for this war. He ordered all of us to kill you if at all possible."

This information surprised Lu Yin, but it also explained why not even Xu Qing had known which powerhouses would be sent as hidden reserves. They had been sent here specifically to take care of Lu Yin. It seemed that the Celestial Demon Emperor knew Lu Yin quite well.

"The Celestial Demon Emperor was right! You really are completely despicable! If not for us, Xu Qing would have completely lost that second battle. Forget keeping control of the asteroid field—we would have been lucky to defend even the Primal Zone. Every detail of these battles is being reported back to the Celestial Demon Emperor. He knows how the two battles have been lost, as well as how you rescued those three Envoys. He won't give up because of this! Play it smart and leave now, or else you'll be finished!" The Karmic Flame Sable threatened Lu Yin nonstop, and the creature's eyes grew more and more fierce.

Lu Yin was actually amused by this. "Your mouth's so small, and yet you talk so big. I want to see who your Celestial Beast Empire is going to send here as reinforcements next."

The Karmic Flame Sable gritted its teeth and continued glaring at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's pure black eyes suddenly locked onto the Karmic Flame Sable, and Lu Yin's energy spiked as he raised the scythe high.

His movements startled the Karmic Flame Sable, and it was frozen speechless by the fear that blossomed from its very soul. The sable lost all will to resist, and at this moment, its behavior suddenly seemed to match its appearance and size as it started shaking.

Lu Yin seemed to grow taller in the creature's eyes.

The astral beast was unable to stop itself from trembling. "Wha- what kind of power is this? There's no way it's your power! This is not the strength of a human!"

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. It seemed that the God of Death Transformation was especially effective against the astral beasts. He remembered the vision that he had seen when absorbing death energy in the Bizarre Sect. In it, the God of Death seemed to have completely suppressed the astral beasts in ancient times.

The Second Nightking and Liu Huang were waiting for Lu Yin outside the spacecraft that he was using. "Second Nightking, come in."

The old man entered and looked at Lu Yin's God of Death Transformation. Shock and excitement filled the man's eyes, as he was looking at something that confirmed the legends as real.

Everyone thought that the God of Death was nothing more than a legend, and almost no one actually believed that such a powerhouse had ever lived. In fact, the Daynight clan had never believed in the legends, but the entire reason why the Daynight clan had not gone to the Perennial World was because the Bai family had ordered the Daynight clan to remain in the Fifth Mainland and gather fatesand and anything at all related to Destiny. If Destiny had been real, then the God of Death would have also lived.

The Daynight clan had not believed the legends for their own sake, but rather because of the Bai family's convictions.

When the Second Nightking first met Lu Yin, Mr. Feng had mentioned that Lu Yin possessed the power of the God of Death. The Second Nightking had not been in a rush to act at that time, resulting in the Chief Justice acting first.

The Second Nightking had always wanted to see Lu Yin's God of Death Transformation.

Lu Yin's pure black eyes stared back at the Second Nightking for a second. The death energy that filled the air around his body disappeared; the transformation had ended.

The moment the God of Death Transformation faded away, the Karmic Flame Sable shot away. However, the instant it started to move, its mind went blank, and it fell like a stone.

Lu Yin was amused, and he stepped forward to place his foot on the astral beast. It was only the size of his hand, and a single foot was enough to pin it down. "Where do you think you are? Do you really think that you can run away?"

The Karmic Flame Sable's eyes were unfocused, and it took a while for it to regain consciousness. When it did so, the beast shot a glance of fear towards the Second Nightking before turning to stare at Lu Yin. "What do you want, human?"

Lu Yin put the Skyblaze Stone by the sable's mouth once again. "Breathe fire."

The Karmic Flame Sable became furious, just like before. "Human, I'm a powerful Envoy, not your pet! If you think that you can humiliate me and the Celestial Beast Empire with this, you can stop dreaming!"

Lu Yin was stunned. "You're overthinking. This has absolutely nothing to do with your Celestial Beast Empire. Just hurry up and blow out some fire for me."

The Karmic Flame Sable shrieked and cursed, but it refused to release any fire at all. Lu Yin was helpless to do anything. After all, anyone who was able to reach the Envoy level could not be coerced through intimidation. He had to use other means.

The Second Nightking had to ask, "Why do you need it to breathe fire?"

Lu Yin shrugged. "This Skyblaze Stone stores high temperature flames, and I need it to be filled up. The hotter the flames, the better."

The Second Nightking's eyes flashed. "I can get that."

With that, spiritual force wrapped around the Karmic Flame Sable.

Lu Yin's eyes lit up. Right, why had he not thought of that? Illusions would absolutely work, though it was beyond Lu Yin's capabilities as the sable was an Envoy. Even with Daynight Praises, Lu Yin would only be able to control the beast for a short while, and it would be impossible for him to completely fill the Skyblaze Stone.

A short while later, the still dazed Karmic Flame Sable opened its mouth began spewing fire at the Skyblaze Stone. The more fire the creature released, the more excited it became. Even when the cut from Lu Yin's scythe opened up and started to bleed again, the creature did not care and continued as though it was incinerating an enemy.

Lu Yin quickly had the Second Nightking stop the creature before giving it an Enhanced pill to treat its injuries. Given the sable's current strength, the flames were nowhere close to hot enough to actually harm Lu Yin.

To the northeast, Xu Qing's order to retreat had dealt a heavy blow to the astral beasts. The general had expected to either win or lose the war, but he had never expected Lu Yin's God of Death Transformation to have such an incredible impact on the astral beasts.

"I have already contacted the Celestial Demon Emperor, and more support is being sent," the Celestial Demon informed Xu Qing. The arrogant astral beast looked quite upset at the moment.

Xu Qing asked, "How bad are things in the imperial city?"

The Celestial Demon hesitated for a moment, but then he replied, "They all feel that this is a war that we must win, and they also believe that the Great Eastern Alliance is something that should be easily taken out. You've repeatedly lost and asked for greater support, so many people are condemning you."

Xu Qing sneered. "Allowing such individuals to come here will only make things worse."

The Celestial Demon could not deny that the Great Eastern Alliance's strength had defied all their expectations. Before the Astral Beast Domain investigated the Great Eastern Alliance, they had thought that the Hall of Honor must have used the Great Eastern Alliance as a disguise to launch a secret attack on the Astral Beast Domain. How else could a mere Enlighter and a power that had existed for barely a decade stand up to the power of the entire Astral Beast Domain?

However, their investigation had revealed how shockingly powerful the Great Eastern Alliance truly was. They had united both the Inniverse and the Outerverse under a single banner, and they had not even sent out all of their Envoys yet. This was something that those back in the Celestial Beast Empire's imperial city did not know. They were ignorant of the war's details, and it was impossible for them to believe the truth if it was reported. That was just how things were.

Xu Qing was not wrong.

He had been cautious from the very beginning when going up against the Great Eastern Alliance. It was just that the situation on the battlefield had changed too quickly, and Lu Yin, who was a mere human, had hidden his cards too well.

"How are you going to save the Karmic Flame Sable?" An astral beast approached. It was only the size of a hand, but it quickly took on a human form, and it turned out the beast was a female. However, her human form was rather homely looking.

Xu Qing frowned. "I'll find a way."

"Reach out to the humans!" the chymifier said anxiously. She had a very good relationship with the Karmic Flame Sable.

Xu Qing growled, "That is my task, while yours is to guard the perimeter and not let any humans launch a sneak attack."

"The battle just ended, and those humans will need to recuperate for a bit. There won't be any fighting for now. I hope that you can get the Karmic Flame Sable back as soon as possible," the chymifier said anxiously.

The Celestial Demon suddenly shouted, "Leave! This is none of your concern!"

The chymifier wanted to say something else, but the pressure from both Xu Qing and the Celestial Demon caused her to restrain herself. She was much, much weaker than either of these two powerhouses. The chymifier soon left.

Xu Qing became more and more irritated. He had to somehow undo this defeat and rescue the Karmic Flame Sable, but both of those things would be incredibly difficult.

The few interactions that Xu Qing had had with Lu Yin had given the astral beast general what he considered to be an understanding of Lu Yin. Typically, Lu Yin would simply kill the Karmic Flame Sable on the battlefield. Since he had instead captured it, the beast had to have some sort of use to him. There was no point in contacting Lu Yin at this time as Xu Qing was suddenly the one who had been forced into a passive state.

Fortunately, the Karmic Flame Sable was without friends or allies within the Celestial Beast Empire aside from the chymifier. If it were a more popular beast, the situation would have been far more complicated. After all, powerful Envoys could directly approach the Celestial Demon Emperor.

...

In the Neoverse, on Mt. Microcosms, the Arbitration World was practically empty at this time, as the Interstellar Supreme Court's forces had been deployed to eliminate the Neohuman Alliance's bases. Most of the Guardian Force had also been transferred to the Starfall Sea to prevent the pass from falling and the Aeternals from entering the Innerverse.

The Neoverse was constantly drafting more cultivators and sending them to protect the pass in the Starfall Sea, and the same was happening in the Sixth Mainland. Hundreds of millions of cultivators had gathered there, as both the Hall of Honor and the Sixth Mainland feared that the Progenitor of Combat and the Progenitor of Bloodlines would not be able to defend the pass. If that happened, every single part of the Fifth Mainland would be thrust into catastrophe.

There were two matters that were being focused on: wiping out the Neohuman Alliance and gathering strength in the Starfall Sea. These were humanity's main priorities at the moment.

Elsewhere on Mt. Microcosms, Zi Jing met with Arch-Elder Zen.

"What's the general consensus on the network?" Arch-Elder Zen asked. His back was facing Zi Jing as he stared off into the distance.

Zi Jing respectfully replied, "There is a mix of both praise and criticism. The Outerverse praises the Great Eastern Alliance, but the Innerverse, Cosmic Sea, and Neoverse are all condemning them. They claim that the Great Eastern Alliance has secretly colluded

with the Sixth Mainland and that Lu Yin has already gone over to the Sixth Mainland and become one of them."

Arch-Elder Zen's expression remained unchanged. The moment the Great Eastern Alliance had decided to protect the Outerverse, someone had already made such claims. The Sixth Mainland was also praising the Great Eastern Alliance and acting as though the alliance was already part of them.

The more the Sixth Mainland behaved in this manner, the angrier the Great Eastern Alliance's critics would become. There were very few who could see the current situation clearly.

"Publicize the slaughters that took place in Northcastle, Forested, and Eastly Weaves. Those people need to wake up," Arch-Elder Zen said.

Zi Jing respectfully assented.

After Zi Jing left, Arch-Elder Zen disappeared. When he reappeared, he was just outside the Lockbreakers World, and he quickly entered the hidden world.

Xiu Ming frowned. "Even if Mt. Microcosms belongs to you, you shouldn't be so rude. You could easily startle somebody."

Arch-Elder Zen looked at Xiu Ming. "The Lockbreaker Society should take action. Lu Yin may not be able to hold out."

Xiu Ming shrugged. "If I could, I would. I wanted to do so long ago."

Arch-Elder Zen grew puzzled, and Xiu Ming grew solemn. "I've lost control of the society."

Arch-Elder Zen's expression instantly changed. "Lost control? Didn't you say that that was impossible?"

Xiu Ming shrugged. "Logically, it should have been impossible. Someone took action, and you should already know who it was."

"Whiteless God," Arch-Elder Zen grumbled.

Xiu Ming and Arch-Elder Zen both looked at each other. "I have always felt that Whiteless God is the greatest threat of all of the Seven Skygods. When they suffered a loss, we were nervous about what they would do for a long time, and yet the Neohuman Alliance did nothing until they attacked Burial Garden. Now that the Sixth Mainland and the Hall of Honor are trying to wipe out the Neohuman Alliance's bases, Whiteless God has taken action. What happened in Ironblood Weave should be her doing."

Star Odyssey #Chapter 1866: Peak Enlighter - Read Star Odyssey Chapter 1866: Peak Enlighter

Chapter 1866: Peak Enlighter

Arch-Elder Zen's frown deepened. "She's probably trying to use Ironblood Weave to carry out her schemes and alleviate some of the pressure on the Neohuman Alliance. If the place that you're protecting is truly out of your control, I can't say what will happen. It's possible that something even worse than the Astral Beast Domain's invasion is ahead of us."

"I will do my best to not lose control, but you'd better find Whiteless God as soon as possible," Xiu Ming said.

Arch-Elder Zen nodded and left, his heart heavy. He had thought that the incident with Burial Garden would be a turning point for the Fifth Mainland in dealing with the Aeternals. However, who would have thought that, even if six of the Seven Skygods were gone, Whiteless God alone would present such a terrible threat? She had been hiding her abilities for so many years, waiting for this moment to erupt.

No one knew who Whiteless God was, and the Fifth Mainland could not endure her schemes.

Fortunately, Lu Yin's Great Eastern Alliance had already simplified many things for the Hall of Honor. Without the alliance, the Inniverse and Outerverse would still be fractured and disjointed. How could a fractured force possibly stand up to the Astral Beast Domain's invasion?

Arch-Elder Zen glanced at the battle report from the asteroid field once again. Just how long could the Great Eastern Alliance endure for?

...

In the Outerverse's Tyrannical Weave, Cemetery Keeper finally exited his seclusion.

The poison that had afflicted him in Ironblood Weave had not only forced him to use up all of the corpse puppets in Ironblood Weave, but also all of the corpse puppets in Justice Manor as well. Cemetery Keeper had used those corpse puppets as soon as he returned to Justice Manor, and they had allowed him to just barely remove the poison from his system.

Never before had he witnessed such a toxic poison before. This lone poison could be said to have reduced the overall strength of Justice Manor by 70%, as all of the disciples needed to refine their corpse puppets anew.

As Cemetery Keeper exited his seclusion, Corpse Looter gave the elder man a respectful bow. "Master."

Cemetery Keeper said, "What happened in Ironblood Weave?"

Corpse Looter replied in an indifferent tone, "All who fought to defend Ironblood Weave died. There were no survivors."

This was of no concern to Cemetery Keeper, not even if those people had died because of him. "Has the Astral Beast Domain entered the Outerverse?"

Corpse Looter replied, "Yes. At the moment, the Astral Beast Domain is entrenched in the asteroid field, and some have also entered Eastly Weave, Forested Weave..."

Corpse Looter provided a brief explanation of the eastern weaves' current situation.

Cemetery Keeper listened quietly, and a bit later, he remarked, "It would seem that the Great Eastern Alliance has been terribly underestimated. They've actually stopped the Astral Beast Domain's invasion in their tracks. The Daosource Sect was ruthless enough to completely abandon the eastern weaves. Without the Great Eastern Alliance, I don't know just how many people there would have died."

At this comment, Cemetery Keeper's eyes lit up. The eastern weaves were a good place to refine corpse puppets right now.

"Master, what should we do?" Corpse Looter asked.

Cemetery Keeper indifferently replied, "Don't worry about it. Let the Great Eastern Alliance fight the Astral Beast Domain, and once the Progenitor of Secret Arts' Territory has been cleansed thoroughly, someone will handle this situation."

"Yes, Master," Corpse Looter respectfully acknowledged.

Cemetery Keeper stared eastward. He had thought that Lu Yin was a person of great accomplishments, but unfortunately, he was still too soft-hearted. What did it matter if the Great Eastern Alliance actually managed to defeat the Astral Beast Domain? Those weaves would still belong to the Sixth Mainland, but the Great Eastern Alliance was paying the price to save them. The gains could not outweigh the losses.

...

Some people admired Lu Yin, others mocked him, but at this moment, Lu Yin did not care about what the outside world thought about him at all. He was just staring at the Karmic Flame Sable. "Its recovery speed is quite quick."

The Second Nightking said, "Astral beasts typically have a faster recovery speed than humans. There are some astral beasts that focus on recovery and don't use any medications at all. For those, the first time they use a pill, they heal remarkably fast."

Lu Yin had spent three days keeping an eye on the Karmic Flame Sable. When he saw that those three days were enough for most of the beast's injuries to recover, he could not hold his admiration back.

The Karmic Flame Sable woke up and looked around in a daze. All it heard was "Alright" before it was lost in an illusion that it could not escape.

The Second Nightking soon left the spacecraft, dragging the Karmic Flame Sable behind him as he left. At the same time, Lu Yin announced that he was going into seclusion.

This was something that no one would do in the middle of a battlefield, but Lu Yin could do it because of his die's Timestop. Nearly a whole year's worth of secluded training could be done in a single second.

After making sure that no one was watching, Lu Yin raised his hand and brought out his die. He tapped it and eagerly watched as it spun around.

His first roll was six pips. His vision went dark for a moment before returning to normal. He felt quite relieved that he had set his cosmic ring aside; otherwise, he would have entered that strange space with the glowing orbs.

Again.

The second roll resulted in three pips, which was pretty lucky, but unfortunately, Lu Yin had nothing to Enhance at this time. Given his current cultivation realm, he wanted to Enhance a formcast model so that he could use it for his upcoming breakthrough to the Envoy realm, but he had already run the calculations. While it had only cost him 8,000 star essence to Enhance a formcast model to six stages, the price to create a seven-stage formcast model was 100 million star essence. Thus, enhancing one to eight stages would likely cost him trillions of star essence. That was completely beyond his means, so he could only forget about it.

There was nothing else that Lu Yin needed to Enhance. He realized that he lacked a powerful weapon, but all of the weapons that he owned had already been upgraded to the limit, and yet they were useless for his current level.

He shrugged and rolled the die again

This time, he rolled four pips, and he quickly picked up his cosmic ring before entering the Timestop Space. Almost immediately, the scenery changed before his eyes.

He let out a long breath and brought out the Skyblaze Stone. It was time for Lu Yin to reach the peak of the Enlighter realm.

The temperature soared within the space, and star essence vaporized. Stars appeared around Lu Yin and started to revolve around his body as he recited the Origin Sutra. With everything set up, he absorbed star energy at a speed that would shatter the understanding of almost anyone who saw him.

When the scenery around Lu Yin changed, he had spent almost a year in the Timestop Space, but the scorching flames had disappeared long before his time had run out.

The heat of the Karmic Flame Sable's flames exceeded a power level of 700,000, which meant that it was just hot enough for Lu Yin's use.

He had completed his forty sixth cycle.

After resting for a few days and stabilizing himself, Lu Yin called the Second Nightking back.

The Second Nightking gave Lu Yin an odd look. Wasn't this person supposed to be in seclusion? How had he finished after just a few days?

Lu Yin took out his Skyblaze Stone and held it near the Karmic Flame Sable's mouth. "Let's go. Have it breath out more fire."

The Second Nightking was completely confused, but he could only follow Lu Yin's lead.

After the Second Nightking left, Lu Yin resumed rolling his die. He was lucky enough to roll Timestop on his first roll. After his time ran out again, he called the Second Nightking back once more to have the ancient expert make the Karmic Flame Sable spit out yet more fire. They continued this cycle repeatedly.

Every ten days, Lu Yin would roll his die.

A bit more than a month later, Lu Yin completed his forty ninth cycle, though he had absorbed more than 2 billion star essence to do so. It was an astronomical sum.

However, at this point, the sable's flames were almost useless to Lu Yin.

He has reached the peak of the Enlighter realm, and his combat strength was high enough for him to go against Envoys with power levels of more than 700,000. The Karmic Flame Sable's flames were naturally no longer enough to assist Lu Yin, but they were also now unnecessary. After all, at the Envoy realm, Lu Yin would need to absorb stellar energy instead of star energy.

He had finally reached the end of his cultivating shortcut.

Lu Yin felt a bit of regret as he stared at the Skyblaze Stone in his hand. It would be useless as a cultivation aid after he became an Envoy, but he could always Enhance the Skyblaze Stone and find out if a fire dragon or something else would appear.

There had been no fighting on the battlefield for more than a month. Both armies had shown great restraint.

However, Shui Chuanxiao could no longer wait. He was absolutely certain that the Astral Beast Domain was waiting for reinforcements from the Celestial Beast Empire, so he repeatedly begged to meet with Lu Yin, as the commander wanted to reignite the flames of war. He was quite frustrated with Lu Yin at this time.

Shui Chuanxiao was supposed to be the Great Eastern Alliance's General, which meant that he was supposed to have the authority to make such decisions. Having two commanding officers in a single army was a situation that would result in defeat, and thus it was forbidden for any to do so.

Naturally, Lu Yin was aware of this, and he would never have done so in normal circumstances. In most wars, Lu Yin would give Shui Chuanxiao free reign to do as he saw fit, but there were too many Envoys fighting in this war. Such powerhouses were also participating unwillingly, so it would have been nearly impossible to leave the command of the Envoys to Shui Chuanxiao. Even when two people were of similar strength, powerhouses would resist taking orders, let alone when the commander was much weaker than them, like Shui Chuanxiao.

This was why Shui Chuanxiao could not retain full command over the fleet and was unable to dictate the overall flow of the battlefield.

Xu Qing, like Shui Chuanxiao, was a famous tactician, but he had already lost several battles in a row. He had managed to retain his command of the astral beasts due to his overwhelming strength, not his tactics.

Xu Qing was still waiting for reinforcements to arrive from the Celestial Beast Empire while Lu Yin was waiting for Fifth Mainland to regain a bit of internal stability.

As long as the Neohuman Alliance's various bases were cleaned out and the Sixth Mainland finished investigating the people from the Progenitor of Secret Arts' Territory, Lu Yin would receive support in the eastern weaves. Even if that meant that the Great Eastern Alliance needed to vacate the weaves, that was still fine.

This mutual waiting led to a stable calm in the war.

Shui Chuanxiao immediately went to speak to Lu Yin when he exited his seclusion. "We can't wait any longer! As soon as the reinforcements from the Celestial Beast Empire arrive, they'll immediately attack. Then, our chances of victory will be almost nothing."

Lu Yin could sense Shui Chuanxiao's frustrations, and he quietly said, "Changing commanders in the middle of a battle is something to avoid at almost all costs, and the same is true of having two commanders of a single army. While I'm aware of this, our situation is a bit special. Also, even if we start fighting again, we'll just be weakening each other."

"So should we wait for the enemy reinforcements to arrive and wipe us out?" Shui Chuanxiao asked bluntly.

Lu Yin did not become angry. "I know where you're coming from, but you don't need to worry. I know that the Celestial Beast Empire is sending reinforcements over. I'm not an idiot. However, Commander Shui, you can't forget that you are the General of my Great Eastern Alliance, which means that the interests of the alliance should come first. Our entire purpose in fighting this war is to defend the eastern weaves and stop the astral beasts from slaughtering all the humans there. However, if the Great Eastern Alliance fights against the Astral Beast Domain with our full strength, we'll both be weakened, and that will only benefit the Sixth Mainland and our other enemies."

Shui Chuanxiao sighed. At this time, his perspective was completely different from Lu Yin's. Shui Chuanxiao was seeing the war and the battlefield, and he simply wanted to achieve victory here. If he looked at the bigger perspective, he was someone who would sacrifice a weave or even himself for humanity. Lu Yin was another person who could see the big picture, but Lu Yin also looked at things from the perspective of his position as the leader of the Great Eastern Alliance, and he always considered what was best for them.

If the fleet launched an attack, they might be able to win the war, but the Great Eastern Alliance would suffer terrible losses. This was not something that Lu Yin wanted to see happen. He wanted to protect the humans in the eastern weaves and drive the astral beasts back into their own domain. This was not the right time to wage an all-out war against the astral beasts.

"I once promised Ironblood Weave's defenders that I would lead them in a counterattack against the Astral Beast Domain and that we would force our way into the Primal Zone one day. They claimed that this enmity will never be forgotten, but this is not the time," Lu Yin said slowly, "I can ignore how the Sixth Mainland mocks me. Do you really think I don't know what people are saying? I know that they're calling me the Sixth Mainland's lapdog, but I don't care. All I want is to protect the people of the Outerverse. However, that does not mean that I can sacrifice the Great Eastern Alliance. Do you understand?"

Shui Chuanxiao and Lu Yin stared at each other, and the commander's tone softened. "I was hasty. It was already unexpected for you to lead the Great Eastern Alliance to stop the Astral Beast Domain."

Lu Yin knew what Shui Chuanxiao was thinking, and he grew serious. "I'll say it again today: one day, I will force my way into the Primal Zone, and we will collect the blood

debt that we are owed and force the Astral Beast Domain back. But for now, we need to wait. Nothing more."

Shui Chuanxiao nodded. "Understood."

After a moment, he asked, "However, as the Great Eastern Alliance's commander, I need to have an understanding of our total fighting strength, as without that, I can't make any reasonable plans."

Shui Chuanxiao left a short time later. His expression was as solemn as ever, and no one could see what he was thinking.

The Second Nightking went to see Lu Yin once again with the Karmic Flame Sable.

Star Odyssey #Chapter 1867: Sole Of My Foot - Read Star Odyssey Chapter 1867: Sole Of My Foot

Chapter 1867: Sole Of My Foot

Lu Yin no longer needed the Karmic Flame Sable, but the creature was still strong and had a power level of over 700,000. "Can we subdue it?"

The Second Nightking shook his head. "It's very tenacious. Unless it's suppressed by illusions at all times, it will find a way to escape."

"Keep it under control for now," Lu Yin said.

Lu Yin asked the Second Nightking to step away, and he then raised his hand and accessed his gadget to call Xu Qing.

Xu Qing had tried to call Lu Yin twice during his seclusion.

"Commander Xu Qing, were you looking for me?" Lu Yin asked in a relaxed tone.

Xu Qing indifferently replied, "Alliance Leader Lu, how has your recovery progressed?"

Lu Yin had gone into seclusion by publicly stating that he was recuperating from injuries. "Much better now. I'll have to ask you to take care of me in the future, General. You have my thanks for going easy on me."

"You won't be so lucky next time," Xu Qing coldly stated.

Lu Yin frowned. "Did you call me just for this, Commander?"

Xu Qing remained silent for a while. "I'll cut to the chase: give me the Ghost Monkey and the Karmic Flame Sable, and I can retreat from Forested and Eastly Weaves."

Lu Yin's gaze suddenly grew sharp. "Are you offering me a deal?"

"You can see it that way, or as a threat," Xu Qing said.

"What if I refuse?" Lu Yin's voice dropped low.

Xu Qing sneered. "You won't. Will you really send the full strength of your Great Eastern Alliance here just to save the people in the eastern weaves? Both Forested and Eastly Weaves are also places that you're trying to protect, so if you refuse, we will resume slaughtering the humans in those two weaves. You can't afford to refuse."

Lu Yin's eyes chilled. From the time that he had first stepped onto the battlefield, every time he spoke to Xu Qing, he had avoided mentioning the other eastern weaves. As soon as those places were brought up, Lu Yin would be put at a disadvantage. He genuinely wanted to send people to drive the astral beasts out of those other two weaves, but it simply was not realistic. The only option that Lu Yin had was to face Xu Qing head on in an attempt to gain a superior position and force the other astral beasts in the Outerverse to move to the battlefield to support Xu Qing's forces.

However, they had already fought several battles, but Lu Yin had not managed to gain a clear advantage yet. Both sides had celebrated victories and suffered defeats. It was very difficult to force things to a point where Xu Qing had to recall all the astral beasts in the Outerverse to fight on the main battlefield.

Fortunately, there had not been too many deaths in the other two weaves. Liu Ye and Fei Hua had unexpectedly appeared and blocked the giant praying mantis, which had relieved Lu Yin of a great deal of anxiety. It was unexpected for Xu Qing to suddenly threaten Lu Yin with the other two weaves, but if the astral beasts in those places really did resume their previous activities, the number of human casualties would be shocking.

"The Celestial Beast Empire's majestic commander-in-chief is actually trying to intimidate me by threatening me with the lives of ordinary humans. Is this really how you do things?" Lu Yin asked as he suppressed his anger.

Xu Qing sneered. "It's true that ordinary people shouldn't be involved in a war, but the fact is that we are the invaders."

The commander stared into Lu Yin's eyes, giving off a menacing vibe. "Lu Yin, don't forget that this is an invasion, not a war. You and us are two different species. While I can abide by the most basic rules of warfare, I will not fight you while crippling myself. This is how I fight a war. Shui Chuanxiao hasn't taught you enough yet."

Lu Yin lifted his head and icily stared at him.

Xu Qing averted his eyes and suddenly calmed down and spoke casually, "It's clearly impossible for us to simply threaten you and leave you in peace as you retreat, but I can promise to leave your Great Eastern Alliance untouched as long as you return the Ghost Monkey and the Karmic Flame Sable to us. You can even shatter the sable's stellar vortex and cripple it so that it's no longer any threat to you."

"So you really just want the Ghost Monkey," Lu Yin commented softly.

Xu Qing nodded. "That's right. The Celestial Ice Phoenixes have specifically requested the Ghost Monkey's return, so as long as you send him to me, I will immediately call all the astral beasts in Forested and Eastly Weaves to pull out. Additionally, they will never attack those places again unless we win this war."

These conditions were not actually excessive. If Lu Yin still had the Ghost Monkey and did not know about the monkey's importance to Skymender, he would have readily handed the beast over, as doing so would not really affect Lu Yin. However, the Ghost Monkey was not with Lu Yin, but even if he revealed this, there was no way that Xu Qing would believe such a thing.

"Your request isn't overboard." Lu Yin let out a long breath as he replied.

Xu Qing's expression froze. "Do you agree?"

Lu Yin shook his head. "I must refuse."

Xu Qing frowned. "Alliance Leader Lu, are you willing to sacrifice countless lives just for the Ghost Monkey? Then why did you even come here and fight this war?"

Lu Yin shrugged. "Whether you believe me or not, the Ghost Monkey isn't with me anymore."

"What did you say? The Ghost Monkey isn't with you?" Feng Lin suddenly shouted. She had been next to Xu Qing this entire time.

Xu Qing quietly asked, "The Ghost Monkey isn't with you?"

Lu Yin replied, "If he were, I'd happily hand him over, as he holds no value to me. But unfortunately, he was taken from me."

"Impossible! The Ghost Monkey is your tamed beast! There's a brand on your arm! We know this very well! How could he be taken from you?" Feng Lin demanded.

Lu Yin explained, "I was once captured by the Neohuman Alliance, and they were the ones who took the Ghost Monkey from me."

"Who was it?" Feng Lin asked. She did not believe a word that Lu Yin said.

"The Seven Skygods' Shaman God."

His gadget remained silent for a while, but eventually, Lu Yin heard Xu Qing's voice again. "Shaman God? Were you attacked by Shaman God back then?"

Lu Yin indifferently replied, "The Hall of Honor is already fully aware of this matter. The Neohuman Alliance wanted to transform me into a corpse king, but unfortunately for them, they failed. Still, Shaman God took the Ghost Monkey from me, and I don't have any idea where he might be. If you want him, you're going to have to go check with the Neohuman Alliance."

"Do you think we'll believe this?" Xu Qing retorted.

Lu Yin shrugged. "Believe it or don't. I'm ready to start fighting on a second battlefield. You should have already investigated my Great Eastern Alliance, which means that you know that we've unified both the Inniverse and the Outerverse. Not all of our Envoys have appeared yet. If you're going to order the astral beasts in the other eastern weaves to start a massacre, all I can do is send the rest of our Envoys to those weaves. There are always casualties in war, and since I don't want the civilians to get involved, all I can do is my best to protect them.

"Commander Xu Qing, I'll see you on the battlefield." Lu Yin then hung up.

Xu Qing had not been bluffing, as he was completely willing to send out orders to slaughter the regular humans. The astral beasts saw absolutely no value in human life.

At this time, of the Great Eastern Alliance's Envoys, Emperor Luo, the Sea King, Madam Yōu, and Elder Lianxin still had not stepped onto the battlefield. There were also a few hidden powerhouses that Lu Yin had not used yet, such as Yuan Shi and the Yōu family's Elder Su.

Lu Yin sent Emperor Luo and Elder Lianxin to Eastly Weave. Elder Lianxin was still unwilling to obey Lu Yin's orders, so he sent her someplace far away from him, which made her quite happy.

The Sea King and Madam Yōu were both standing guard in Northcastle Weave.

The fighting resumed a few days later, and this time, it was the Great Eastern Alliance that launched the attack. Lu Yin had no choice but to take action.

At Xu Qing's orders, astral beasts were constantly being sent out from the asteroid field into the eastern weaves, and there were no attempts to try to hide these movements at all. The astral beasts were blatantly threatening Lu Yin, and so all he could do was quickly launch an attack to try to suppress the Astral Beast Domain's forces.

Fighting erupted again, and the asteroid field was shattered. If one looked at the entire asteroid field, they would discover that half the asteroids had been shattered into fragments that drifted through space. With all of the dust and debris, the fleet was completely unable to move without using the light beams to clear a path.

This battle lasted for half a month. The two sides understood each other quite well, and without any outside assistance, it would be difficult for either side to achieve victory.

Xu Qing was particularly wary of Lu Yin. The astral beasts' general was not afraid of Liu Huang or the Second Nightking, but he did fear people like Lu Yin who did not follow common sense.

This was why every time Lu Yin stepped onto the battlefield, Xu Qing would personally interfere, and his arrival would immediately force Lu Yin to retreat.

Unsurprisingly, Eastly Weave became a second battlefield. Despite Emperor Luo and Elder Lianxin's lacking strength, they were still enough to handle the situation.

In Forested Weave, the giant praying mantis was still locked in a stalemate with Liu Ye and Fei Hua. Their battle had already been going on for two months.

Lu Yin had not expected the two Envoys to be willing to fight in Forested Weave for so long. After all, they were from the Perennial World, not the Fifth Mainland, and they also did not care about the lives of ordinary humans. The only possibility that Lu Yin could think of was that the two had been intimidated by the Hall of Honor or that they had made some sort of promise when they were allowed to leave Mt. Microcosms.

Another half a month passed, and the fighting still had not stopped at this time. This was not what Lu Yin had wanted when he initiated the second wave of fights, but he had no choice but to bite the bullet and keep fighting.

On a screen that showed the overall situation of the battlefield, nearly half of the human fleet had turned red. This meant that about 70,000 transport vessels and 3,000 warships had been damaged. The death toll was something that Lu Yin did not dare to even look at.

More and more people in the Innerverse were becoming upset with Lu Yin, especially those from the eight great flowzones. Fortunately, the Great Eastern Alliance had already suppressed every flowzone in the Innerverse.

As for the Sixth Mainland, Lu Yin had already reached out to them several times using his status as an overseer. He hoped to have them take over the battlefield, and while they did not refuse, they also did not make any moves. It was clear that they intended to leave the Great Eastern Alliance right where they were.

Lu Yin's eyes flickered. From the moment he had first started cultivating, this was his first time being used by others in such a manner. He did not allow himself to be used as a tool by others without being able to resist.

Beep beep beep beep!

His gadget alerted him to a call from Wei Rong.

"How are things?" Lu Yin asked softly.

Wei Rong sounded exhausted. "Not well, but we have to continue for a while."

"Don't worry, but don't let the Sixth Mainland know," Lu Yin said.

Wei Rong agreed and hung up.

Lu Yin punched the console of the ship, his eyes cold. If the Sixth Mainland wanted to use him, then they could not blame him for dropping the courtesies. They would see who used who in the end.

The war in the asteroid field had already lasted for almost three months when the Great Eastern Alliance lost its first Envoy: Emperor Luo.

Lu Yin's expression twisted when he received this report.

Emperor Luo and Elder Lianxin had been fighting in Eastly Weave, and he had died from an attack from the giant praying mantis.

The mantis had been held up by Liu Ye and Fei Hua in Forested Weave, but it had suddenly fled the weave and retreated towards Xu Qing, killing Emperor Luo in passing.

Emperor Luo had not possessed the strength to mount any sort of resistance and had been sliced to pieces.

Lu Yin let out a long breath. War meant people died, but he had not expected Emperor Luo to be the first to die.

What a pity.

There was a roar outside the spacecraft, and Chen Huang's huge body flew by, tumbling as it flew. Lu Yin froze for a moment before hurrying out.

He saw Chen Huang off in the distance, coughing up blood. The colossal giant's battle force had been ripped through, as had his flesh. He looked terrible.

Further away, Lu Yin saw an astral beast that had the form of a praying mantis, and it brandished two blades as it rushed towards Chen Huang. The giant's pupils constricted. It was impossible for him to stop the astral beast.

Lu Yin was nervous, and his pupils transformed into runes as he attempted to reduce the mantis's speed, but the difference in strength was too great. Even if Lu Yin managed to weaken the beast a bit, it was not enough to affect anything.

"The sole of my foot!" Lu Yin shouted. He was very anxious, as Chen Huang was about to die.

Suddenly, the entire battlefield shook, and countless stars appeared. Everyone reflexively froze, and the giant praying mantis that was attacking Chen Huang was blown back by the stars that had appeared. It fled with a shocking speed, as it had sensed danger.

Star Odyssey #Chapter 1868: Strange Corpse - Read Star Odyssey Chapter 1868: Strange Corpse

Chapter 1868: Strange Corpse

Xu Qing's expression drastically changed. "The Cosmic Art?"

This was a war between the Great Eastern Alliance and the Astral Beast Domain. No one had expected to see the terrifying Cosmic Art suddenly appear. After all, that was the symbol of the Cosmic Sect.

Elder Jiu Shen appeared in outer space, an ugly expression on his face as he shot a fierce glare towards Lu Yin. "Boy, what nonsense are you spouting?"

Lu Yin heaved a sigh of relief. That had almost been the end! The giant praying mantis was too fast and dangerous, making it a grave threat. Thinking of this, Lu Yin quickly said, "Elder, please handle that praying mantis. That thing's a major threat."

Elder Jiu Shen angrily retorted, "I'm not your thug!"

Lu Yin sneered. "I'm sorry to trouble you, Elder."

Jiu Shen snorted derisively. He looked very immature at this moment, and yet Xu Qing stared at the newcomer as though seeing a ghost. "The Cosmic Sect's Elder Jiu Shen? Why are you here?"

Elder Jiu Shen turned his head so that he could look at Xu Qing. "I was just passing by."

Xu Qing's expression changed once more, and this time it was because he was angry. Passing by? Was Jiu Shen treating Xu Qing like an idiot? Who "passed by" a battlefield?

The Second Nightking and Liu Huang were unsurprised to see Jiu Shen. He had arrived half a month before but had kept himself hidden. While others had not been able to sense the powerhouse's presence, the two of them had.

Elder Jiu Shen glanced at the Second Nightking in a very unfriendly manner. He had nearly been killed by the Second Nightking when they encountered each other in the Celestial Frost Sect's ruins. If it had been a normal fight, Jiu Shen would have had no complaints, but at the time, he had been badly wounded after being affected by a Progenitor's strength. Jiu Shen really wanted to get revenge when he saw the Second Nightking again.

As for the Second Nightking, he was unconcerned, as his strength was equal to Jiu Shen's.

"Elder Jiu Shen, why is an elder from the Neoverse's Cosmic Sect joining this Outerverse war?" Xu Qing asked as he warily looked at the elder. The arrival of such a powerful expert put an incredible amount of pressure on the astral beasts.

Elder Jiu Shen stared at Void Thunderbeast. "Who said that this is an Outerverse war? This is a war between our two Domains. Also, I just told you I was just merely passing by."

Xu Qing became furious. "If Elder Jiu Shen insists on joining this battle, you must be prepared to die here!"

Elder Jiu Shen's eyes flickered with killing intent.

Right at this moment, Lu Yin spoke up. "Senior, that guy just threatened you! Kill him!"

Elder Jiu Shen shot a vicious glare towards Lu Yin. "You need to stop spouting so much bullshit! If you mess with me like that again, see if I don't just kill you!"

Lu Yin quickly apologized, but he was inwardly cursing the old man for being too petty. Xia Ji had already targeted Lu Yin in order to get the pattern, so there was no longer any need to keep the pattern on the bottom of Lu Yin's foot a secret.

Elder Jiu Shen looked back at Xu Qing. "If you're bold enough to threaten me, then you must have something to rely on. Show yourself! Let me see which old friend is here."

Xu Qing's expression grew dark.

Off in the distance, a pair of eyes opened. The next moment, everyone stared on in shock as space was sliced open while a massive, dark green long sword appeared. It was pointed straight at Elder Jiu Shen.

The elder's expression changed slightly. "Is that- is that Sword King?"

Liu Huang had been keeping Xu Qing occupied, but this comment startled him. "Sword King? The Astral Beast Domain's swordmaster?"

Lu Yin immediately grew curious. Were there swordmasters in the Astral Beast Domain?

Jiu Shen sneered when he saw the enormous sword approaching him like the sky itself was crashing down. "It's been quite some time, old friend. I'm sorry I didn't kill you on the battlefield back then."

As the elder spoke, the stars revolving around him converged to form a sword: Celestial Sword.

There was a bang that shook the entire battlefield.

Lu Yin was finally able to see the Sword King. He was a dark green, humanoid astral beast with an inverted triangular head and two horns. His two eyes took up nearly half of his head, making him quite disturbing to look at.

"Jiu Shen, today, I will defeat your Celestial Sword!" Sword King declared in a loud but deep voice that gave many people a headache.

Elder Jiu Shen laughed loudly. "Bold words! Don't embarrass yourself."

Liu Huang tightly clenched his sword hilt. Rather than the Celestial Sword Technique, the Sword Sect's Thirteen Swords should be what all swordsmen strove to contend with. Liu Huang wanted to fight Sword King.

Elder Jiu Shen had appeared to reinforce the Great Eastern Alliance, but Sword King had similarly appeared to support the Astral Beast Domain. Also, he was not alone, as countless astral beasts rushed into the asteroid field from Ironblood Weave. The Celestial Beast Empire's reinforcements had arrived.

Lu Yin frowned. The Great Eastern Alliance did not have many forces that could be sent to reinforce them. Fortunately, they did have quite a few Envoys. Rather than sheer numbers like the astral beasts, Lu Yin had instead focused on quality in his reinforcements.

The Sea King and Yuan Shi arrived, which added two more powerhouses to Lu Yin's forces at once. Their arrival caused Xu Qing's eye to twitch, and he ground his teeth.

The Envoy-level reinforcements from the Celestial Beast Empire had also arrived, and they had actually received three more powerhouses.

A battle that shook the entire Fifth Mainland erupted.

There were already more than thirty Envoys fighting in this war, which was unprecedented. The Hall of Honor and the Sixth Mainland's Daosource Sect were both intently focused on the eastern Outerverse.

This moment demonstrated the full extent of Lu Yin's influence. He had actually managed to gather all these Envoys and have them fight with him in this war, and there were even four old monsters with power levels of more than a million. This level of warfare shocked countless people.

Lu Yin had never expected a terrible battle to break out so suddenly, and he immediately ordered the fleet to pull back. When Envoys fought, even the tiniest moment of carelessness could end up affecting the fleet, and Lu Yin did not want his forces to be reduced to nothing more than cannon fodder.

The same was true for the horde of astral beasts that Xu Qing commanded, and they also fell back as a fierce battle broke out between the Envoys.

Lu Yin's opponent was a giant octopus-looking astral beast. It was not considered a powerful creature, but it did possess an amazing level of defense. Not only could it endure Lu Yin's physical attacks, but the octopus also seemed to have robust defenses for both Lu Yin's domain and spiritual force.

His Hollow Palm proved ineffective, and even though he had already finished forty nine cycles and was a peak Enlighter, he still could not harm the beast. The giant octopus had a power level of over 700,000, but Lu Yin felt that it might even be able to block Liu Qianjue's sword.

The Astral Beast Domain was home to far too many different species of strange creatures. The moment that Lu Yin stepped onto the battlefield, the octopus had already focused on him. It seemed that it had been sent over specifically to deal with him.

Lu Yin's greatest advantages were the power of his Hollow Palm and his God of Death Transformation. However, even though the octopus had no battle techniques, it was able to suppress all star energy in the area, freeze space, and its defensive abilities were absolutely monstrous.

A long time passed with Lu Yin unable to do anything to the octopus, though he had to remain very cautious to avoid the astral beast's attacks.

As more and more fights broke out on the battlefield, Xu Qing grew increasingly apprehensive of Lu Yin. The giant octopus was able to lock down someone like Liu

Qianjue, but a powerhouse at Ling Taizu's level could still eliminate the octopus. Despite this, the octopus had been tasked with keeping Lu Yin tied down, which showed just how wary Xu Qing was of the youth.

One thing had not changed for Lu Yin, and that was the fact that the reserves of death energy in his chest were not enough for him to use that power multiple times.

Soon, Lu Yin received another report: Abel Phoenix had died to a sneak attack from the giant praying mantis.

The giant mantis was fighting against the Sea King, but the Sea King's power level was weaker than the mantis, and he could not completely block the creature's attacks. This had led to Abel Phoenix being attacked and summarily cut down. The Sea King was enraged, but he was unable to defeat his opponent.

Lu Yin glared at the enormous praying mantis with eyes that burned with murder, but the astral beast was too powerful for Lu Yin to do anything to it.

If Liu Ye and Fei Hua arrived, they would be able to deal with the mantis, but without them, who could deal with it?

Yuan Shi and the other top powerhouses all had their own opponents.

Suddenly, the giant praying mantis glanced at Lu Yin with its cold eyes. In a flash, the creature had disappeared. Xu Qing had given the mantis an order to kill Lu Yin.

A cold sweat covered Lu Yin's back. He could not use the Ce Secret Art, so he tore into the true universe as fast as he could. The giant octopus's tentacles reached into the true universe, only for them to be sliced off by the giant mantis's blades. Blood spurted out.

The mantis swept its blades at Lu Yin, and at the same time, the Sea King thrust his trident forward, only to be pushed back by the praying mantis's blades.

"Boy, RUN!" the Sea King yelled.

The mantis's right blade slashed down, cutting through space. As the attack passed by, many astral beasts and spacecraft were sliced through, and Lu Yin's pupils shrank to pinpricks. Given the terrifying power of this attack, his bodysuit armor would not be able to protect him.

In the distance, Elder Jiu Shen was about to use the Star Transference secret technique, but Sword King's massive sword fell in front of the elder right when he was about to leave.

If Elder Jiu Shen used Star Transference, Lu Yin would not end up facing the mantis's blades, but rather Sword King's sword. The two were not on the same level at all. Desperate, Jiu Shen's revolving stars exploded in front of the giant mantis, shaking the beast. It was pushed back, and its blades cracked.

However, Elder Jiu Shen himself was not doing well, and he spat out blood after Sword King's blade fell down.

The giant praying mantis did not fall back, but instead continued to attack Lu Yin. The Sea King arrived, and he employed a battle technique that caused what looked like ocean currents to surround the mantis as he stabbed his trident at the astral beast's back.

The giant praying mantis was caught off guard and was finally pushed back. The ferocious light in its eyes instantly disappeared and was replaced with surprise and confusion.

The Sea King's face twisted as he looked back. "Boy, RUN!"

Lu Yin saw the move that the Sea King had used against the mantis, and it seemed to be the Envoy's innate gift. This was Lu Yin's first time seeing the Sea King's innate gift.

Lu Yin had assumed that the mantis would stay to fight the Sea King, but unexpectedly, the creature continued chasing after Lu Yin.

The astral beast appeared in front of Lu Yin. It moved so quickly that Lu Yin could not even see the blades move as they flashed. Lu Yin was cut deeply, and his blood sprayed into outer space.

This strike did not kill Lu Yin, so the giant mantis rushed forward once again. Lu Yin gritted his teeth, but the giant octopus's tentacles struck down towards his head. The star energy in the area was suppressed, and Lu Yin could not dodge.

At this critical moment, the tip of a trident shot past Lu Yin's neck and stabbed at the giant praying mantis.

The creature used its right blade to block the Sea King's trident while the mantis's left blade continued to slice towards Lu Yin. It looked like Lu Yin was about to die.

Nothing that Lu Yin had could stop the mantis at this point in time. Not his secret techniques, battle techniques, sourcebox arrays, or even Truesight. Lu Yin was too weak compared to this beast. It was a powerful astral beast that had managed to fight against both Liu Ye and Fei Hua without losing. The mantis had a power level of 800,000 to 900,000, which meant that it was not an opponent that Lu Yin could handle.

On top of that, the mantis's attacks surpassed the threshold of what Lu Yin's bodysuit armor could block.

Elder Jiu Shen, Yuan Shi, the Second Nightking, Liu Huang, and the other powerhouses were all too busy to offer Lu Yin any assistance.

At this moment, Lu Yin was at death's door. This was almost exactly like when Wang Si had chased after him. Lu Yin felt a terrifying power approach, so he pulled out the corpse that he had picked up in Burial Garden that he had not been able to damage no matter what he had tried.

There was a loud bang as the giant praying mantis's blade struck the corpse's neck. The attack shattered the void, and a shockwave swept across the battlefield, crushing numerous battleships and astral beasts.

The Second Nightking and the other experts all stared at Lu Yin. Some were worried while others were excited. Some were panicking while others were ready to celebrate.

The Sea King almost instantly appeared behind Lu Yin, only to stare blankly at Lu Yin, who was hiding behind a corpse. The corpse was completely unharmed. Although the mantis's blade had landed on the corpse's neck, the Sea King could clearly see that there was not even the smallest mark on the corpse's neck. What the hell?

Star Odyssey #Chapter 1869: Intimidated Comrades - Read Star Odyssey Chapter 1869: Intimidated Comrades

Chapter 1869: Intimidated Comrades

The giant praying mantis's ferocious expression changed as it stared at the corpse in disbelief. Had this corpse actually managed to block its attack? That was absurd!

Lu Yin seized this opportunity to pull out Progenitor Wushang's hide and hold it up to the mantis's eyes.

The astral beast was dazed for the moment and was unable to move.

"Sea King, attack! Three inches below its abdomen!" Lu Yin yelled. His pupils transformed into runes, and he stared at a point three inches down the mantis's abdomen while using Truesight to weaken the beast.

The Sea King instantly reacted, and he thrust his trident forward to attack. He struck exactly three inches down the beast's abdomen, and the powerful force behind it drove the trident deep into the mantis's body and pushed it back. Blood spurted out as the creature was flung away.

Lu Yin coughed and quickly put Progenitor Wushang's hide away again. He gasped for breath. He had almost been done for just then.

Fortunately, he still had that corpse on him. That body had been completely impervious to even the giant praying mantis's blades. It was clearly just a corpse, but Lu Yin could not even begin to imagine how powerful the man must have been when still alive.

The mantis had been severely injured by the Sea King's attack, and it did not return to attack Lu Yin again.

Xu Qing saw that not even the mantis had been able to kill Lu Yin, so he immediately called for the battle to stop.

Lu Yin had been badly injured and desperately needed to treat his injuries. On top of that, he was afraid that the mantis would launch a sneak attack to assassinate the human Envoys, so he did not try to chase after the retreating astral beasts. The two sides tacitly agreed to put a stop to the battle for the moment.

The moment Lu Yin returned to his spacecraft, Elder Jiu Shen arrived and angrily started scolding Lu Yin, "Boy, leave this war now!"

Lu Yin acted as though he had been scared by Elder Jiu Shen, and he clutched at his chest and started coughing without letting up.

Elder Jiu Shen's eyes grew more and more heated. "Kid, listen to me! This war is none of your concern! You need to leave now."

Lu Yin weakly replied, "Elder, this junior- this junior needs to rest."

Elder Jiu Shen became enraged all over again. "Don't give me that act!"

The Second Nightking and Liu Huang suddenly appeared, and when they saw Elder Jiu Shen's expression, they both quickly moved to stand in front of Lu Yin.

Elder Jiu Shen glared at the Second Nightking. "Move!"

The Second Nightking only listened to Lu Yin because the young man controlled the Second Nightking's fate, so he would not easily back down even against Elder Jiu Shen. "That's a rather presumptuous way to speak to me."

"I've put up with you for a long time, Second Nightking! In the past, there were some people who feared your Daynight clan and didn't want you to enter the Neoverse, but I don't fear you," Elder Jiu Shen said sharply.

The Second Nightking's eyes narrowed. "Why don't you try it?"

Long ago, the Daynight clan had been persecuted by Neoverse powers, which had earned the Neoverse the hatred of the entire Daynight clan. Elder Jiu Shen's words were no different from igniting a fuse.

Liu Huang frowned. "You two, we are currently facing a powerful enemy. We should not be fighting amongst ourselves."

Elder Jiu Shen glanced over at Liu Huang, but then he immediately returned to glaring at the Second Nightking before looking at Lu Yin. "Boy, I'm not joking with you. This war has nothing to do with you, and the Celestial Demon Empire is far more complex than what you know. If they were as simple as they appeared to be, we would have wiped them out long ago. Remember that the Human Domain has seven Semi-Progenitors while the Celestial Demon Empire only has one. Despite that, they've always managed to fight against us evenly. Do you really think that they only relied on superior strategies to fight against the Sixth Mainland?"

Lu Yin's eyes flickered. When the Mountain and Sea Zone had exploded and the Aeternals' attention had been redirected to the Sixth Mainland, the truth of the matter had eventually been revealed, and people had learned that everything had been part of Progenitor Hui's plan.

Progenitor Hui had foreseen the future and used the Mountains and Seas Zone as bait, and the war between the Astral Beast Domain and the Human Domain had also been concocted to convince both the Sixth Mainland and the Aeternals that the Fifth Mainland was ignorant of the truth. The constant infighting in the Human Domain had been left alone to lure the Neohuman Alliance into attacking key locations, which had triggered Progenitor Hui's final plan.

The war between the Human Domain and the Astral Beast Domain had originally just been part of Progenitor Hui's scheme, but at this moment, Lu Yin was hearing Elder Jiu Shen suggest that there was another reason why the Astral Beast Domain and the Celestial Demon Empire had not been destroyed.

The Second Nightking frowned. His Daynight clan had been used as a pawn in war against the Astral Beast Domain, but they actually did not know much about the Celestial Demon Empire. He carefully listened to everything that Jiu Shen said, as he wanted to learn if there was any connection to the First Nightking's death or how they could rescue the Third Nightking.

"Since the ancient era, humanity has moved from the original six Mainlands, to the Daosource Sect's peak, and then to the shattering of the five Mainlands. We have experienced too much throughout the eons, but the oldest records suggest that while humans and astral beasts coexisted on the six Mainlands, the Fourth Mainland only held astral beasts and no humans, as they were all forced out of that Mainland. This is one of the oldest legends in existence, and it also claims that the Astral Beast Domain is mostly made up of species that survived the shattering of the Fourth Mainland.

"No one knows what the Astral Beast Domain might be hiding or what the Celestial Beast Empire may have inherited from the Fourth Mainland, but during the war between our Daosource Sect and the Sixth Mainland, the Astral Beast Domain produced Progenitor Wushang, who was hailed as invincible. When the Fifth Mainland shattered and the Mother Tree was taken away, the Astral Beast Domain suffered from the same catastrophe as our Human Domain. We managed to survive since then, but so have they.

"The war between the Human Domain and the Astral Beast Domain was fought not only to deceive the Aeternals and the Sixth Mainland, but also because the Astral Beast Domain wanted to deceive those two as well. Do you think that they would have cooperated with us otherwise? Do not underestimate the Astral Beast Domain, and do not underestimate the Celestial Demon Empire," Elder Jiu Shen said in one long breath.

His audience could hear that the elder had shared everything he knew, whether it was the ancient legends or his own deductions. While he had accompanied his explanation with threats and intimidation, it was clear that Jiu Shen's only desire was for Lu Yin to retreat from the war.

Elder Jiu Shen's explanation caused the Second Nightking, Liu Huang, and even the newly arrived Yuan Shi to all fall deep into thought. Lu Yin remembered what he had seen when he had Possessed the creeper. Untold numbers of the Celestial Demon Empire's top powerhouses had been worshiping a statue, and Lu Yin had also seen countless humanoid sourceboxes.

The Astral Beast Domain was definitely hiding something.

Elder Jiu Shen was not exaggerating. He was truly afraid.

"Besides all that, the only other thing that I want to say is that we humans have our own way of doing things, and the astral beasts have their own way as well. Don't think that you can succeed after you've stopped the Astral Beast Domain for this little bit of time. If you continue with this, even I can't be certain that I'll be able to protect you. Just now, if you hadn't managed to block that mantis, you would have died." Elder Jiu Shen let out a sigh of relief as he solemnly finished talking.

Lu Yin bowed to Elder Jiu Shen and matched the old man's somber attitude. "Thank you for your advice, Senior. This junior is not trying to be brave, nor am I trying to fight against the Astral Beast Domain. However, this junior is unable to abandon the lives of the countless people living in the Outerverse's eastern weaves. My name is Lu Xiaoxuan, but it is also Lu Yin. I traveled from the Cosmic Sea to the Innerverse and then settled down in the Outerverse. I started cultivating on Earth and proceeded one step at a time to reach where I am now. I consider Earth to be one of my home planets. Tell me, if the Cosmic Sect was going to be slaughtered by the Astral Beast Domain, would you be able to act as you are telling me to now, Senior?"

Elder Jiu Shen held his forehead, thinking that all he had said had just gone down the drain.

Ever since Lu Yin had first decided to fight in this war, many people had tried to persuade him to give up on the Outerverse. And yet, all of them had been left speechless by Lu Yin's explanation. Were cultivators truly heartless? Could they really view human lives as worthless? That was not necessarily the case. After all, if cultivators were truly heartless, then why would they fight in wars? Wars were not only fought in order to gain various benefits, but also to protect people.

If Progenitor Chen had not cared about the Fifth Mainland and the countless lives that it held, why would he have ever fought to the death?

Why would the Perennial World fight against Aeternus? In truth, the essence of the Perennial World's war was protection.

"If Lu Yin faces death, then I'm willing to die for him," Yuan Shi said as he gave Lu Yin an admiring look. There was a smile on the old man's face as he spoke.

Elder Jiu Shen directed a vicious glare at Yuan Shi. "Stop getting involved! This is none of your business."

Yuan Shi smiled back at the elder. "You're still the same as ever. No matter what happens, you prefer to keep yourself safe."

Elder Jiu Shen retorted, "That's better than you, who hasn't improved even after so many years! I can now send you away with a single slap!"

"But I have protected many people." Yuan Shi's smile never faded, instead growing prouder.

Elder Jiu Shen sucked in a sharp breath. "Don't bring that stuff up. You still haven't changed after all these years, and it's revolting to even look at you."

He then turned back to Lu Yin. "I've done what I can to persuade you, and I've already given you a proper warning, so don't bother trying to say anything pointless now. If you die, I'll take that back with me."

The man's eyes grew sharp as he continued speaking, and when he finished, his body disappeared.

Yuan Shi shook his head. "Still the same as before."

Lu Yin asked the Second Nightking and Liu Huang to leave. He then turned to Yuan Shi and apologized. "Senior, the war situation might not be as optimistic as I had imagined. This junior is at fault for getting you involved."

Yuan Shi waved a hand dismissively, and he instead looked at Lu Yin with open admiration. "The fact that I am here has nothing to do with you. I am here because of the countless lives at risk. Even if you had not reached out to me, I would have come here. However, I did not expect you to be willing to take the risk to come here and fight. I had actually assumed that I would be on my own when I arrived."

Lu Yin shrugged. "No matter what, all of these weaves used to belong to the Great Eastern Alliance. It's still my home, and countless people from here referred to me as the alliance leader. I can't abandon them."

Yuan Shi sighed. "I understand. I can't abandon them either, which means that fighting is the only option. Even if I die, I will do so with no regrets."

Lu Yin walked to the center console and looked at the fleet display and all the flashing red dots. "We've already lost more than half of our forces. After this, the Great Eastern Alliance's strength will be greatly reduced. Still, that's not the important part. I'm more afraid that I won't be able to hold the Astral Beast Domain back. Are they really as terrifying as Elder Jiu Shen made them out to be?"

Yuan Shi grew solemn. "You need to remember that humans are the most pervasive creatures in the universe. If the Astral Beast Domain were in any way incompetent, regardless of how, humanity would have enslaved them all long ago."

Even though Yuan Shi did not share as many details as Elder Jiu Shen, Lu Yin still understood that Yuan Shi was saying the same thing: the Astral Beast Domain was not easy to deal with.

"Honestly, if you hadn't brought the Great Eastern Alliance, I had every intention of fighting the Astral Beast Domain alone. Even if I die, you've already saved my life." Yuan Shi laughed. He seemed very cheerful.

Lu Yin also laughed. "We're clearly winning this war, and yet it feels like we're losing. Elder Jiu Shen is amazing at discouraging his own people. He's really not someone you want at your side in a fight."

"Hahahaha, you just figured that out? Back when I first met him, he was exactly the same. He has always been better at keeping himself safe than working hard, and there are times when he infuriates his own allies. If not for his innate gift, he would have been hung up and beaten long ago." Yuan Shi laughed.

Lu Yin grew curious. "Senior, can you tell me what it is?"

Yuan Shi was caught off guard. "Let's treat your injuries first. You look seriously injured."

Lu Yin replied in an indifferent tone, "I'll be fine very soon."

The sprout in his third meridian point was constantly releasing vitality into his body. That, when combined with an Enhanced pill that he had taken, meant that he really was able to heal quite quickly. Lu Yin never feared comparing his endurance to others', but unfortunately, he always fought against opponents whom he could either crush or who could crush him. He never fought against someone in a battle of endurance.

One day later, the Frost Emperor was forced to withdraw from the battlefield due to his injuries.

Over the course of the recent battles, his opponent had always been Feng Lin, and the Envoy's injuries were also from Feng Lin.

Lu Yin had no doubt that it had been done deliberately.

The Frost Emperor had always been at a bit of a disadvantage against Feng Lin. While both of them used ice, Feng Lin also had the Celestial Ice Phoenixes' tricolored ray that could melt anything.

The Frost Emperor's withdrawal motivated Mountain God to do the same. He had nearly died during the last battle. There were simply too many powerhouses participating in this war, and Mountain God was not confident in being able to survive despite being an Envoy.

Star Odyssey #Chapter 1870: Multi-Layered Trap - Read Star Odyssey Chapter 1870: Multi-Layered Trap

Chapter 1870: Multi-Layered Trap

Lu Yin felt quite intrigued as he looked at Mountain God. "I'm surprised that you are actually bold enough to ask me to dismiss you from the war."

Mountain God usually took on the appearance of Bai Wanshan, but he did not dare to have such a massive form on this battlefield. Bai Wanshan was far too big, and that form would only make Mountain God a target. He would most likely die the moment that he stepped onto the battlefield in that form, so he had always fought with his own appearance during this war. It turned out that he was just a little old man.

"Alliance Leader Lu, it's not that I want to leave, but that I have to. There are internal conflicts within the Divine Grade Hall, and I need to go back and settle things there as soon as possible." Mountain God tried to provide an excuse.

Lu Yin indifferently responded, "Since your Divine Grade Hall is dealing with some internal turmoil, it should absolutely be put down. However-" At this point, he stared straight at Mountain God and saw the man's anticipation. "I'll send the Allied Forces' Eighth Division to handle things for you."

The Eighth Division was composed of members of the Daynight clan and cultivators from the Outerverse. Yan Yan was the commander, and they were supposed to be stationed in Erudite Flowzone, but the Wen family still had not joined the Great Eastern Alliance. Thus, the Eighth Division had been stationed in Beast Tamers Flowzone in the meantime.

Mountain God's expression completely changed. "Alliance Leader Lu, when we joined this alliance, the agreement was that the Allied Forces would not interfere in the internal affairs of alliance members. Do you intend to violate that agreement?"

Lu Yin replied, "Of course not. This is just something that you requested, so the alliance will do its best to handle this matter for you, Mountain God. You clearly don't have the time to deal with these internal conflicts, as you are occupied here on the battlefield. So, in this situation, it would be best for the Eighth Division to step in on your behalf. Don't you agree, Mountain God?"

Mountain God's anger was displayed on his face. When had he ever asked for the alliance's support? Lu Yin was simply trying to pull the wool over the old man's eyes and ramble on while insisting on forcing Mountain God to his death. This thought prompted Mountain God to grit his teeth and firmly state, "Alliance Leader Lu, this needs to remain an internal matter for the Divine Grade Hall."

Lu Yin suddenly clapped a hand to his forehead. "I almost forgot! Your Divine Grade Hall's losses were quite harsh recently, so the Eighth Division will be sent not only to settle the ongoing conflict, but also to provide relief assistance. How did your Divine Grade Hall suffer such harm?"

Mountain God's heart dropped. The Divine Grade Hall's recent casualties had been because they had kept a second exit from Burial Garden open. He had assumed that Lu Yin had not known about that incident, but the truth was that Lu Yin simply had not mentioned the matter.

Lu Yin had deliberately reached out to all eight great flowzones and ordered them to only keep one exit from Burial Garden open each, and the Divine Grade Hall had been no exception. Mountain God had reported that Beast Tamers Flowzone only had a single exit gate, but an incident had occurred at the secret second exit, and most of the Divine Grade Hall's younger generation had been wiped out.

If this matter was made known, Lu Yin would have a valid excuse to deal with Mountain God.

The Envoy realized that he was trapped. "Thank you very much, Alliance Leader Lu."

Lu Yin nodded, though his eyes flickered as he watched Mountain God leave.

Mountain God was not the only Envoy who wanted to leave. There was also Liu Qianjue, Ling Qiu—actually, who did not want to leave? Lu Yin had realized this, which was why Mountain God could not be allowed to leave. As soon as one person was given permission, they would all demand the same, and Lu Yin would be unable to stop their departures.

The fleet retreated again and again, but more and more reinforcements kept appearing from the Celestial Beast Empire's side. Lu Yin looked to the northeast. He just hoped that Wei Rong would have enough time.

A few days passed, and fighting broke out once more. Combat continued on and off for more than a month, and this battle that included so many Envoys had long since become the focus of countless people throughout the Fifth Mainland.

The Great Eastern Alliance had suffered repeated losses. Abel Phoenix had died, and then the Frost Emperor had withdrawn from battle due to his injuries. Even though Madam Yōu had been added to the fray, Lu Yin could not stop the downward spiral. Mountain God and the other Inniverse powerhouses were not fighting so much as stalling, and this forced the battlefield to move back across the asteroid field and into Northcastle Weave.

Lu Yin had been attacked by the giant praying mantis several times, but Lu Yin had learned to be cautious. He never strayed far from the experts with power levels of over a million, such as Jiu Shen. With the occasional help from those powerhouses, Lu Yin managed to survive.

Finally, the Hall of Honor also released an announcement, and they had sent two androids with the strength of Envoys, as well as a fleet to help. The fleet was much smaller than what the Great Eastern Alliance had sent, but Xu Qing was worried about the humans receiving reinforcements. The fighting calmed down, and Xu Qing carefully observed the situation to see how things would proceed. He was concerned that the Hall of Honor would send more reinforcements over, which would lead to the Astral Beast Domain's defeat or possibly a stalemate.

If a true war broke out between the Astral Beast Domain and the Human Domain, it would create a black hole of death. This was why only a small number of powerhouses and almost no Envoys had been stationed at Ironblood Weave and Erudite Flowzone's border warfronts. The two sides had long since come to a tacit understanding.

The Astral Beast Domain's large-scale invasion had only been launched because of two crucial conditions: the Sixth Mainland did not care about the eastern weaves, and the Hall of Honor could no longer intervene. This was why the astral beasts had launched their invasion. However, they had never expected to be stymied by the Great Eastern Alliance.

At this moment, the astral beasts were fighting against the Great Eastern Alliance, but if the alliance were to be replaced by the Hall of Honor, the Astral Beast Domain absolutely would not continue fighting to the death, but would instead turn Northcastle Weave into the new Ironblood Weave.

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More than half a month passed by. By this time, the war had lasted for about five months. No one had expected the Great Eastern Alliance to last this long.

Xu Qing certainly had not expected it, and the stress was actually making his hair turn white. The longer he looked to the southwest, the angrier he became. He really wanted to make a call on his gadget, but he resisted the urge.

He truly wished to kill Lu Yin with his own hands. Without that bastard stepping in, the Astral Beast Domain would have already conquered the eastern weaves of the Outerverse, and they would have started building defenses in anticipation of the Sixth Mainland's eventual counterattack.

There was a bang as Xu Qing clenched a fist with enough force to shake the void.
"Attack!"

The fighting resumed.

Countless of the Great Eastern Alliance's soldiers had become numb to the fighting, and people died every day. Also, the Envoys on either side were becoming more and more familiar with each other.

For example, as soon as Mountain God entered the battlefield, he would focus on an astral beast who possessed a similar level of strength, and the creature would also focus on Mountain God.

Most living creatures feared death, and them being human or astral beast did not change this.

Elder Jiu Shen continued to fight against Sword King. The Second Nightking had already fought against the Celestial Demon on many occasions. While the Second Nightking was powerful enough to defeat the Celestial Demon, he was not strong enough to easily kill the astral beast. On top of that, any attack that the Celestial Demon launched could wreak havoc on the entire battlefield and cause both sides to suffer terrible casualties.

Therefore, the Second Nightking could not allow the Celestial Demon to attack, and similarly, the Celestial Demon could not allow the Second Nightking to attack either.

Lu Yin stared out at space. Each Envoy had their own opponent, and this war was still rather even.

At this moment, Lu Yin's gadget beeped, and he looked down. How odd; it was Zhou Shan.

Although Zhou Shan had Lu Yin's contact information, he had never called Lu Yin before. This was the first time.

Lu Yin answered, and a display appeared in the air. It showed Zhou Shan's pale face. "Something's happened to Earth!"

He immediately pointed to another display in the background.

Lu Yin stared, and his expression drastically changed; was that an astral beast?

He saw many astral beasts surrounding Earth and attacking it. It looked like a miniature version of the battlefield that Lu Yin was standing on. Much of the planet had been destroyed, and half of Jinlin was in ruins. Just this was not enough to alarm Lu Yin, but as he stared at the images of the region surrounding Earth, he suddenly saw a familiar looking astral beast—it was the octopus.

This was the astral beast with impressive defensive abilities whom Lu Yin had fought against before. Had the beast actually gone to Earth?

It was no wonder why Lu Yin had not seen the creature during the last two battles.

His focus was on the praying mantis, so he had forgotten about the other creature.

"I know that you're currently fighting a war, but the appearance of these creatures is probably connected to your war, and I had no other options. Everyone available is already fighting, but I don't know if we can save Earth," Zhou Quan softly reported.

Lu Yin's voice dropped low, "I'll be there as soon as I can."

He then immediately hung up and stared out into space.

The octopus was strong enough to easily destroy Earth, but it had not done anything at all. It was clearly trying to lure Lu Yin over. This was a trap, and not even a hidden one.

Even though he knew that it was a trap, Lu Yin still had no choice but to enter it. If not, Earth would definitely be destroyed.

The fighting was fierce in space, and each powerhouse had their own opponent, which meant that no one was able to leave.

Lu Yin frowned. Xu Qing had initiated a new battle at this time just to keep everyone occupied while setting the trap for Lu Yin.

"Commander Shui, I'm entrusting you with command of the battlefield," Lu Yin stated before leaving the fleet on his own and making his way south.

Earth was in the northern region of Frostwave Weave, which meant that it was very close to Northcastle Weave. Lu Yin's speed allowed him to quickly cross over Northcastle Weave and enter Frostwave Weave.

Xu Qing and Liu Huang continued fighting, but Xu Qing kept glancing southwards past the human fleet. Would Lu Yin go? Xu Qing was not certain, as it all depended on just what the planet meant to Lu Yin.

After half a day of fighting, Xu Qing shoved Liu Huang's sword back. Excitement filled the Void Thunderbeast's eyes. He had just received word that Lu Yin had arrived at Earth.

...

In Frostwave Weave, Lu Yin emerged from the void above a beautiful blue planet. A flurry of Hollow Palms were thrown out, attacking and killing all of the astral beasts in the area, except for the giant octopus.

Down on the surface of Earth, countless humans stared up at the starry sky and watched as the giant octopus wrapped itself around Lu Yin.

A mountainous astral beast lay beneath Zhou Shan's foot. Although it looked massive, it had only been at the Limiteer level, which meant that even Zhou Shan could kill it. Astral beasts had invaded every land and ocean on Earth, and they had caused uncountable deaths and immeasurable damage to the entire planet.

However, this was not the time to dwell on such things. Defending Earth needed to come first.

This was not Lu Yin's first time fighting against the octopus. It was a very difficult opponent, and Lu Yin had no idea how to go about killing the creature.

It was also impossible that Xu Qing had only sent the octopus to deal with Lu Yin, so he remained highly cautious.

The fight between Lu Yin and the giant octopus shattered space, and the shockwaves caused Earth's oceans to churn. No one questioned that Earth could be destroyed at any moment.

Slowly, Lu Yin led the octopus away from Earth and led it towards Jupiter.

There was a bang as the observation station at Jupiter exploded, but everyone had already evacuated the place.

Lu Yin stood amidst the ruins of the observation station as the octopus slammed into him from the front. Lu Yin's pupils transformed into runes, and he turned to observe his surroundings. He saw nothing at all. This should be impossible! Had the octopus really been sent to deal with Lu Yin by itself?

Lu Yin fell back, and as soon as he did, the observation station shattered into small pieces.

A short distance away, in a place in space where no one was paying any attention to, a creature no bigger than a fingernail slowly moved towards Lu Yin. It was a carrion beetle. These bugs were ranked second on the Celestial Beast List, and their innate ability to ignore physical defenses was said to be because they had been born from the body of an ancient powerhouse. On top of that, they were also extremely durable and fast.

Even if there were very few carrion beetles in existence, their strength still allowed them to rank second on the Celestial Beast List, which showed how highly they were regarded in the Astral Beast Domain.

This carrion beetle was Xu Qing's plan to eliminate Lu Yin.

A carrion beetle had once participated in ZENITH as well, but Liquor Hero had used her Creation level of star energy control to deal with the bug. That was truthfully the most effective manner to deal with a carrion beetle, as actually defeating the bugs with anything else would be too difficult.

This Envoy-level carrion beetle and the giant octopus were enough to kill Lu Yin. This was the trap that Xu Qing had set up.