

Chapter 291: Return And Trouble

“Master, your subordinate has returned,” Torry Auna said as he greeted Xueshan Auna.

Xueshan’s face was gloomy. “You still haven’t found her?”

“No, she’s hidden herself very well. The Fireforge Planet’s environment is unsuitable for me to search there for prolonged periods of time.”

Xueshan smashed the table. “That idiot! She wants to drive our Auna family into the grave.”

Rocky Auna suddenly spoke up. “Brother, since things have developed in such a bizarre manner, we originally assumed that Jenny’s departure must have been related to His Imperial Majesty’s plan to invade Fireforge Planet or to King Zishan. However, His Imperial Majesty was suddenly attacked and killed, and not a single corpse from any member of the Yushan family remains. Could these two matters be related? Could this be connected to the Daynight clan?”

“The Daynight clan is a powerful family in the universe, and there is no reason for them to fight for the Yushan family’s corpses. We have also confirmed through Schutz that someone has resolved the conflict between King Zishan and the Nightking Clan, at least on the surface. The Daynight clan’s actions of taking Jenny away must be an attempt to take revenge on King Zishan and is wholly unrelated to the attack on His Imperial Majesty,” Xueshan Auna explained. After saying that, he suddenly paused and looked at Rocky Auna. “There will be others with similar opinions.”

Rocky Auna nodded in agreement. “If the attack on His Imperial Majesty has nothing to do with Jenny being captured by the Daynight clan, then that means that the Daynight clan is being used as someone else’s scapegoat. There’s somebody else making use of the grudge between the Daynight clan and King Zishan to hide their true goal of attacking His Imperial Majesty. They must also be behind the disappearance of all the Yushan family’s bodies.”

“That’s not all—even the Ross Empire was dragged into this mess. When they first attacked Captain Liuying Zishan, they injured her seriously enough that she needed half a year to recuperate. The attack at that time was very strange and came out of nowhere. The Ross Empire’s reaction when Princess Wendy attacked them was also very odd, and they acted as if they had been attacked for no reason. All these inconsistencies point to the fact that someone behind the scenes has been using the Daynight clan to attack our Great Yu Empire,” Xueshan Auna analyzed.

“Does this have anything to do with King Zishan?” Rocky Auna asked.

Xueshan Auna felt a headache coming on. “I’m not sure, but King Zishan’s connections are even more complicated than we initially believed. He has multiple connections in the Innerverse, and any one of them is strong enough to annihilate the Great Yu Empire. It’s impossible for my intelligence network to find out everything about him.”

Rocky Auna seemed like he had something else he wanted to say, but he held himself back.

Xueshan Auna glanced at him. “Is there something that you want to say?”

Rocky Auna reluctantly answered, “What do we say to King Zishan if he returns?”

The veins on Xueshan Auna's forehead started throbbing as he sighed, "We need to tell him everything or else our family will be done for in the future. Even if he might not be able to do anything to the Auna family right now, he is someone with the right to inherit the throne."

Zenyu Star had become very lively. Many officials were surrounded by tempting offers to side with various other forces, such as the finance minister, Bailey. When Sicar was still around, Bailey had held no real power, but after Sicar left with the second prince, Duke Yushan, Bailey had regained his power. He had thought that his situation had taken a turn for the better, but when Undying Yushan died, the issue of extended relatives fighting for meager power had appeared. All of them were promising Bailey an astronomical amount of benefits to the point where he was feeling dizzy. He felt very vexed; should he support Clay, Andong, or Luke—who might be backed by the Ross Empire? What a headache this was!

Within the imperial jail, a young man appeared in front of Sigmund Mathers and smiled at him. "Let me introduce myself. My name is Luke, and His Imperial Majesty, Undying Yushan, was my uncle."

Sigmund Mathers eyed Luke silently.

Luke smiled, and someone behind him fetched him a chair. He sat down. "Untie General Mathers."

"There's no need for that. Get to the point, Mr. Luke. I'm a criminal, and I don't have any right to ask anything of you," Sigmund Mathers said in a hoarse voice.

Luke nodded. "Fine, I expected such bluntness from you, so I'll get right to the point. I'd like you to support my ascension to the throne."

Sigmund Mathers was shocked. "Ascension to the throne? You're going to ascend the throne?"

Luke nodded. "All of the Yushan family members are dead, so the next successor is naturally me. I'm related to my uncle by blood, even if it's just a tiny bit, am I not?"

Sigmund Mathers burst into laughter, chortling so hard that his old injuries opened.

Luke grew solemn. "What is the meaning of this, General Mathers?"

Sigmund Mathers eyed Luke and snickered. "A distant relative like you with no blood relations to His Imperial Majesty wants to ascend to the throne? What a joke! Isn't it obvious why I'm laughing? Hahaha!"

A cold glint flashed through Luke's eyes. "The Yushan family is all dead. If I don't ascend to the throne, it'll go to one of those two idiots, Clay or Andong. They're distant relatives as well. If you choose me, then I can pardon you."

The disdain in Sigmund Mathers' eyes became even more apparent. "You're pathetic. You don't even know what I did, do you?"

Luke sneered and replied, "It doesn't matter, even if you betrayed the country. As long as I ascend to the throne, I'll have total control over the empire and will naturally be able to release you."

Sigmund Mathers sighed despondently. "The empire is done for." After saying this, he glanced at Luke and said, "Mr. Luke, it's best that you go back and investigate what crime I committed. Even His Imperial Majesty, Undying Yushan, wasn't able to pardon me, much less you."

Luke was shocked. “Even His Imperial Majesty couldn’t pardon you? Just what kind of crime did you commit?”

Sigmund Mather grinned and slowly answered, “I betrayed... humanity.”

Luke left. He was extremely confused and had no idea what Mathers meant when he said that he had betrayed humanity. These extended relatives had only dared to show themselves after all of the Yushan family members died, which meant that they had never held any high positions in the past and were badly informed on the truly important matters. They hadn’t even heard of the Neohuman Alliance.

Even if Sigmund Mathers had been slandered, everyone already believed that he had committed the crime. The merit of Lu Yin revealing the location of a Corpse King was enough to ensure that Sigmund Mathers wouldn’t die, but it was also certain that Luke would not be able to do anything about this matter. The status of the Great Yu Empire’s emperor would only help facilitate internal matters of the empire; it meant nothing when all of humanity was involved.

Sigmund Meyers sighed. Like many others, he had no idea what would happen to the empire. Thankfully, his son, Wukai, had been lucky enough to enter the Inniverse for training before all this occurred. Even if he died, Wukai’s survival would ensure that the Mathers line would not be extinguished.

It was at this moment that Lu Yin entered his mind; the fact that he was still alive was all thanks to him. King Zishan had done too much for him, and it would be nice if he managed to ascend to the throne. At the very least, it would be better than any of those idiotic distant relatives winning the throne.

The fact that Luke had attempted to get Mathers’ support showed that the contest between the distant relatives was becoming increasingly heated. But even as they continued bickering, the residents of Zenyu Star kept leaving. They were unwilling to stay when they were surrounded by warfare.

If not for Huo Qingshan, Rocky Auna, Ban Jiu, and Liuying Zishan, the four remaining captains of the Thirteen Squadrons, then the battles would have been even worse.

At this point, the spacecraft that Lu Yin was using arrived at the temporary station that was situated outside the three rings of the planet.

“Please identify yourself,” a soldier said as he bowed.

Lu Yin exited the spacecraft and did as asked.

At that moment, a squadron rushed over and surrounded Lu Yin. They pointed their weapons at him, and one of them said, “This person is a spy from the Ross Empire! Hands on your head and don’t move.”

Lu Yin’s eyes glinted. “Who said that I’m a spy from Ross Empire?”

A soldier moved forward and glared at him. “Shut up! Take him away for questioning.”

Lu Yin frowned. Invisible undulations spread out as he allowed his domain to spread out to cover an even larger area. Some time later, he noticed someone in a tall building about a hundred meters away from him. It was a familiar figure—Long Chu. He was currently snickering and looking very pleased with himself.

Bloodlust rose up within Lu Yin. It's him again! This is the second time he's done something like this now. Long Chu thought that Lu Yin wouldn't kill anyone here, but the entire reason he had even come here was actually to kill Long Chu.

Two soldiers grabbed Lu Yin by the arms, intending to arrest him.

Lu Yin's eyes suddenly widened before he vanished into thin air. The void was torn apart, and the ground was rent asunder. The soldiers were all very confused—where had he gone?

At that moment, in the tall building, Long Chu felt goosebumps appear all over his body. He was well-learned, and he could tell how fast Lu Yin had moved with one look. Just as he was about to flee, he heard a voice call out from behind him. "It's been a while, Commander Long Chu."

Long Chu slowly turned around, his face ashen as he looked at Lu Yin. "Y-Y-Your Majesty! Why are you here?"

Lu Yin approached Long Chu step by step, his voice icy cold. "You must have been waiting for me for a long time, Commander. So who are you working for this time around?"

"What are you talking about, Your Majesty? I don't understand," Long Chu answered fearfully. When he first met Lu Yin, he had thought nothing of this youth. Back then, Lu Yin had merely been a Sentinel while Long Chu had personally been a Limiteer, someone who was able to easily crush the young cultivator. However, during their last meeting, Long Chu had felt like he was no match for Lu Yin, who had only been a Melder then. And this time, he only felt sheer terror. They were both Limiteers, so why was Lu Yin so much more powerful than him??

He had watched the Astral Combat Tournament, and his first reaction had been that of disbelief. Like many others, he thought that the Astral Combat Academy had put on the tournament as a show. However, as Lu Yin closed in on him, the indescribable feeling of terror became even more apparent. This was a human's natural instinct, and it could not be faked in any way.

Lu Yin suddenly grabbed Long Chu by the throat and lifted him up. Long Chu's feet flailed about helplessly beneath him as his face grew flushed and his veins popped out.

Lu Yin's tone was cold when he spoke out. "You don't know what I'm talking about? You first pledged loyalty to King Zishan, then to Sicar, and then to the second prince after that. After the second prince left, you sided with the former minister of finance, Bailey. And now that the Yushan family's distant relatives are vying for power, I believe that you've found yourself yet another person to serve."

Long Chu was shocked. "H-how do you know all this?"

Lu Yin sneered and replied, "The fact that a person as greedy as you is still alive is a great humiliation to the Great Yu Empire." After saying that, he ruthlessly flung Long Chu through the glass window and into the space station's square down below.

Long Chu felt as if his body was breaking apart while he coughed out a mouthful of blood. They were both Limiteers, but he couldn't even fight back against Lu Yin. The difference between them was just too great.

The soldiers in the space station quickly surrounded Long Chu in the square. "It's Lord Long Chu! Save him!"

"Save Lord Long Chu immediately!"

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High up in the building, Lu Yin soared into the sky as multiple weapons were aimed at him. The void suddenly tore open, and a man walked out. "Who dares to cause trouble at the space station?"

It was a very familiar voice. Lu Yin looked over and called out, "Bronsen?"

The person who had torn through the void was numbered three on the First Imperial Squadron and someone who had known Lu Yin for a long time.

Bronsen saw Lu Yin, and his face became one of delight. "King Zishan? Greetings to His Majesty."

All the troops in the space station immediately bowed when they heard Bronsen's words. "Greetings to His Majesty."

Lu Yin immediately helped Bronsen stand up. "There's no need for all this formality. Why are you guarding the space station? Aren't you the number three in the First Squadron?"

Bronsen sighed and replied, "It's a long story. By the way, what is this mess all about?"

Lu Yin glanced at the twitching body of Long Chu on the square below. "He claimed that I was a spy from the Ross Empire and wanted to eliminate me."

Bronsen was furious. "Those external relatives are growing increasingly brazen with every passing day! I can't believe that he tried to attack you."

"Who is he working with?" Lu Yin coldly asked.

Bronsen frowned. "Luke. I once saw Long Chu walking behind him. Luke has been going all out trying to curry favor with the various ministers, and he's been very generous in his attempts. I believe that he might have connections to the Ross Empire."

Lu Yin found this hilarious. "A spy from the Ross Empire tried to slander me by claiming that I'm a spy from the Ross Empire. How interesting." Lu Yin unleashed an attack at the floor, and a powerful gale crushed Long Chu to death, leaving nothing but a mangled mess behind.

The sight shocked everyone in the space station. Even Bronsen felt a chill run down his spine when he looked at Lu Yin again. In the time that they had been apart, King Zishan had changed.

Chapter 292: Ring Of Authority

"Please take me to Zenyu Star, Bronsen. I'd like to meet those extended relatives," Lu Yin coldly said.

Bronsen was rather worried. "Those relatives have support from various outsiders, and there are Explorers and even Cruisers backing them. You don't have much in comparison, and you'll definitely lose if you go alone. Even now, they're preparing to eliminate you!"

Lu Yin chuckled. "It's fine. They have the support of other organizations, but I have the most support of them all. Let's go."

Bronsen could only nod in response.

Before Lu Yin arrived at this space station, Peach had already told him that there were four captains of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons on Zenyu star: the Fifth Squadron's captain, Huo Qingshan, the Ninth Squadron's captain, Rocky Auna, the Twelfth Squadron's captain, Ban Jiu, and the Thirteenth Squadron's captain, Liuying Zishan.

These four did not support any of the extended relatives, but Lu Yin did not know if they would support him. The only thing that he could do was give it a shot. Even if they didn't support him, the organizations behind these relatives still wouldn't dare to attack him.

Even if these relatives didn't understand the full scope of the situation, the connections that they had surely knew what the Lockbreaker Society, the Council of the Astral Academy, and the Outerverse Youth Council were. This was the main reason for Lu Yin's fearlessness. Any one of those backers was enough to ensure his safety here, and he had all three. There was only so much that a single person could do on their own, but his connections were certainly powerful enough to support what he wanted to do right now.

Initially, Lu Yin only wanted Bronsen to take him to those relatives, after which he would take them out one by one. However, he did not do that. Instead, he had Bronsen take him directly to the imperial palace.

"The palace has been sealed ever since His Majesty died. Besides Princess Wendy, nobody else is allowed inside," Bronsen told Lu Yin.

Lu Yin approached the palace, but when he arrived at the entrance, he was stopped. The person guarding the palace was Ban Jiu, the captain of the Twelfth Squadron.

When the second prince had turned traitor, Ban Jiu and his vice-captain, Shalosh, had left along with the prince. That meant that he was a traitor to the Great Yu Empire, but Undying Yushan had never deemed him as such. Thus, he was still technically the captain of the Twelfth Squadron.

Many could not understand the rationale behind this move, but Lu Yin knew that Duke Yushan had not turned traitor because he wanted to. Undying Yushan had forced his son to do so in order to shield his son from the oncoming calamity, and thus leaving the Great Yu Empire with a bit of hope.

Rather than saying that Ban Jiu, Batson, Shalosh, and Felut had supported the second prince's decision to betray the empire, it was actually more accurate to say that they had been sent by Undying Yushan to protect Duke Yushan.

However, now that Undying Yushan was dead, Ban Jiu had returned and was now guarding the palace of his own volition. The other traitor captain, Shaolsh, had stayed at the frontlines of the empire's war against the Ross Empire. The Thirteen Squadrons had never betrayed Undying Yushan.

"Stop right there. The palace is an important place that nobody is allowed to enter." At the entrance, the vice-captain of the Twelfth Squadron, Shalosh stopped Lu Yin even though he had a complex look in his eyes. He obviously recognized Lu Yin since he had met him all the way back at the trials on Earth.

However, even as King Zishan, Lu Yin was not allowed to step inside the imperial palace. After all, Undying Yushan had never officially announced that King Zishan had the right to inherit the throne.

Lu Yin paid Shalosh no mind, looked up at the huge palace, and then stared introspectively at the Zishan Residence off in the distance that was second in size only to the palace. He sighed. Things had changed, but Undying Yushan had still died.

For Lu Yin, Undying Yushan had been a benevolent old man who had protected, taught, and supported him. He had no idea how others viewed Undying Yushan, but he didn't care. All he knew was that he did not want everything that Undying Yushan had spent his entire life building up to be destroyed in the blink of an eye.

After his thoughts reached this point, Lu Yin took out a ring from his cosmic ring; it was the ring of authority that Undying Yushan had given him. With this, he had the right to command the Great Yu Empire's troops. It was a ruling symbol of the Great Yu Empire.

The moment he saw the ring, Shalosh's eyes changed, and he bowed. Bronsen jolted and quickly followed suit. Right after that, the palace guards and even the captain of the Twelfth Squadron, Ban Jiu, came out and bowed to Lu Yin.

"May I enter now?" Lu Yin softly asked.

"Please enter, King Zishan," Ban Jiu crisply responded. His voice was cold, and he wore a white garment. If this were Lu Yin's first time meeting this person, he would have never thought that this captain was a Cruiser.

Among the various captains of the Thirteen Squadrons, Huo Qingshan and the Blind Monk represented strength while Ban Jiu represented technology and wisdom. He had provided the Great Yu Empire with advanced technology that had made it possible for them to contest the various organizations in the Inniverse. Otherwise, it would have been impossible for the empire to stop the Ross Empire's attack just based on their respective power levels.

When Undying Yushan had assigned Ban Jiu to Duke Yushan, it was apparent that he had been in total despair and believed that he could not protect his empire.

"Announce to the public that the ring of authority is in my hands, Bronsen. If anyone wants it, then they can come and try to take it from me," Lu Yin declared before stepping into the palace.

Bronsen was shocked and wanted to say something, but instead, he merely watched Lu Yin's figure disappear into the distance. He then bowed and left.

Ban Jiu eyed Lu Yin's back with sparkling eyes.

"It seems like something huge is going to happen soon. Should we stop the extended relatives if they come here?" Shalosh asked.

Ban Jiu glanced at his subordinate. "Focus on your own work. This isn't your business."

Shalosh grunted in acknowledgment, but his eyes were shining with anticipation.

From the outside, the imperial palace seemed the same as ever. It was solemn, dignified, and filled with bits of storied history. However, as soon as one entered it, one would only see the broken spears left behind, the crumbling walls, and the traces of old battles. This was just where the battle had been fought. The real battle to the death had not taken place inside the palace, or else the stray shockwaves from a battle involving a Hunter would have destroyed the entire palace, or even the entirety of Zenyu Star.

Even so, through the deep fissures in the ground, Lu Yin could tell how dangerous the situation had become over the course of the battle.

He slowly crouched down and closed his eyes as he activated his Cosmic Art. His domain then spread down through the cracks in the ground like dripping mercury. With the Giant Emperor's third eye in hand, he eventually found a familiar aura; it was Undying Yushan's. Even after so much time had passed, his aura still managed to shock Lu Yin to the point where he could not stop himself from trembling.

He continued groping at the cracks on the ground until, all of a sudden, an extremely dark and chilling force rushed at him. Lu Yin's eyes snapped open, and he released a punch, causing star energy to explode in all directions and distort the air. He then took a step backwards while panting hard. This chilling force had come from the enemy who had killed Undying Yushan. The force was very cold and extremely bloodthirsty. Lu Yin had a feeling that no living being could survive such a thing.

It reminded him of the Neohuman Alliance because there was someone in that organization who gave him a similar feeling: Silver. While Silver's abilities weren't as dark as this, this energy was eerily similar to Silver's domain, which had been created specifically for killing.

As he expected, the person who had killed Undying Yushan was not a powerhouse from the Ross Empire. Lu Yin was certain of that.

His gaze swept across the ground. All of these cracks must have come from that singular attack in just an instant. He stepped past them and continued on towards the main hall.

There were no guards inside the palace; they had only been stationed outside. The palace was completely silent inside.

The moment Lu Yin arrived at the hall, news of him possessing the ring of authority and entering the palace spread out, shocking Zenyu Star.

Above the sea, the Explorers continued fighting. In the distance, two young men nonchalantly spoke to each other. "He's just some random guy who's not related to the emperor at all, but he's still vying for the throne. Let's temporarily set our grudges aside and deal with that King Zishan or whatever first."

Kelai looked glum. "Fine, but that ring is mine, Andong."

"Pfft. It's mine."

"What did you say!"

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The two Explorers who were locked in battle exchanged looks of shock. Kelai and Andong might be unaware of some things, but the two Explorers were well aware that King Zishan had shocked the universe during the Astral Combat Tournament; he had an unimaginable status now. Apparently he had even entered the Council of Astral Academy and was now directly subordinate to the Ten Arbiters Council. That meant he was definitely someone powerful. The organizations that had sent them here were afraid of no one except for two people - Wendy Yushan and King Zishan, Lu Yin. Now, the latter had returned.

“Young Master Andong, King Zishan is not to be underestimated. It’s best if you treat him kindly and ask for his support and have him peacefully give you the ring of authority,” one of the Explorers advised Andong.

Andong was surprised by this response. Before the Great Yu Empire had ended up in its current tragic state, he had only been able to become a disciple through his connections. He knew nothing about who was in power and hadn’t even watched the Astral Combat Tournament. This was also why he had been chosen to become the emperor—it would be easy to control him. However, there were problems with that as well. He had no idea who Lu Yin was, and he would be even more brazen than before after his recent activities.

“What, are you saying that King Zishan is very powerful?” Andong nonchalantly asked.

The Explorer had a grim expression. He had no idea how to go about persuading this moron. Sometimes, he hoped that this moron would stay this stupid, but his stupidity became a problem in situations like the current one; the fool always overestimated himself.

Meanwhile, Kelai was suffering from the exact same problem. As the person who had the highest chance of succeeding the throne, there was no way he would treat someone outside the Yushan family with any courtesy. Still, he promised to be polite, just like how he had acted when trying to gather support from the empire’s various ministers.

“Don’t worry. I’ll give him the treatment he deserves. As long as he doesn’t betray me, he’ll continue being King Zishan. Of course, that’s only if he knows his place,” Kelai arrogantly declared.

In another part of Zenyu Star, Luke had an ashen expression. “Long Chu’s dead? King Zishan killed him?”

A powerhouse behind him answered, “Yes, Young Master Luke.”

“Hmph, how dare he touch my men! Does he think that he’ll still be able to complete his arranged marriage with the Auna family just because Undying Yushan used to protect him? Dream on!” Luke was enraged.

“It’s best if you treat King Zishan with courtesy. He holds the ring of authority, and there’s quite a few people backing him. If he supports you, then there’s a very high chance that you’ll successfully ascend to the throne,” the powerhouse whispered.

Luke took a few deep breaths and somehow managed to calm himself down. “I got it. Don’t worry, I’ll win over his support with my sincerity.”

“Good, but I still need to remind you that while he’s King Zishan in the Great Yu Empire, he also has other identities that are far more important than that. For instance, he’s a member of the Council of Astral Academy as well as a Lockbreaker.”

Luke was startled. “He’s a Lockbreaker?!”

“Yes. Before he returned to the Frostwave Weave, we investigated him and just recently discovered that he’s a two star Bright Eyed Junior Lockbreaker. His status is not to be underestimated. He has also earned contributions at the border warfront and has even acquired Honor Points. He also recently joined the Outerverse Youth Council after placing first in the Outerverse trials. He wields a great deal of influence,” the Explorer explained. The more he spoke, the more shocked he himself became. Were these really achievements that a young Limiteer from a fringe Weave could accomplish? Lu Yin had achieved so much that it was unbelievable!

Chapter 293: Lu Yin’s Decision

Luke was shocked. He was slightly better off than Clay and Andong since he knew what it meant to be a Lockbreaker. “It looks like he’s going to be a special case.”

The powerhouse made a sound of acknowledgement. “You could view him as the second Wendy Yushan.”

“You’re able to severely injure Wendy Yushan, but you’re saying that we can’t deal with this person?” Luke whispered in shock.

The man’s gaze grew cold. “Young Master, please remember that we are at war with them.”

Luke fell silent.

“Also, Wendy Yushan attacked our empire, which is why she was injured. Even then, the empire still hadn’t dared to actually kill her. And King Zishan has connections that are even more complicated than hers,” the man answered gravely.

Within the imperial palace, Lu Yin was standing within the main hall. From what he could remember, he had attracted everyone’s attention the first time he had stood here. He still remembered the pressure that he had been subjected to as if it had just happened yesterday. And yet, everything had changed now.

After the empire is rebuilt, how many people will be able to return? Lu Yin sighed ruefully and looked up at the highest seat in the hall. If he sat up there, he would become the master of thirteen filaments and hold countless lives in his hand. Naturally, that place was the throne.

Lu Yin stepped closer.

Huo Qingshan, Luke Auna, and Ban Jiu all appeared in the imperial palace at this time. There was also another beautiful girl with them. She was Liuying Zishan, who had been gravely injured before and was staying on the capital star to recuperate.

The four of them did not show themselves and merely observed the main hall. As they watched Lu Yin step closer to the throne, a strange look appeared in all of their eyes.

Step by step, Lu Yin gradually crossed the hall and climbed up to the spot that stood above all else in the Great Yu Empire. He had finally arrived at the throne. When he looked behind the throne, he saw something that had been placed there a long time ago—a star chart.

This star chart had been drawn by Undying Yushan in the past when he first ascended to the throne. In the very beginning, the thirteen filaments had not been a part of the empire, and he had slowly added them in. He had then placed this chart behind the throne as a reminder to himself. However, as his health deteriorated, the map had gradually lost its purpose and seemed to dull. At this moment, Lu Yin picked it up again. He patted it gently, wiped away the dust that covered it, and then looked at it in excitement.

“It’s finally time for this to see the light of day again. What a pity it is that it only has the Outerverse drawn on it,” Lu Yin muttered to himself with a smile. He then placed it on the throne, not even attempting to touch or sit on the throne. In his eyes, the throne did not mean much.

This sight surprised Huo Qingshan. Lu Yin was obviously still young and merely a Limiteer, but for some reason, they could feel a powerful, magnetic charisma from him. That map represented Undying Yushan when he had been young and full of ambition. What did it represent now that it had been taken out once again?

Outside the palace, quite a few people had gathered. Among them were Clay, Andong, Luke, and some of the other extended relatives. All of them wanted to enter the imperial palace.

“Let them in, Ban Jiu,” Huo Qingshan said unenthusiastically.

Soon enough, all of the relatives charged into the palace with their hired powerhouses leading the way. When they arrived at the entrance of the main hall, they all saw Lu Yin standing next to the throne.

“How dare you approach the throne, King Zishan! Move away!” one of the relatives shouted.

Lu Yin turned around. “Oh, you’re all here?”

Andong walked forward. “Are you King Zishan Lu Yin?”

Lu Yin shifted his gaze towards him. “That’s me.”

“Come down, and I won’t pursue the matter of you being disrespectful to the emperor!” Andong loudly declared, as if he were doing Lu Yin a great service.

Lu Yin burst into a fit of laughter. He couldn’t even be bothered to ask who these people were. “Are you all the relatives who are vying for the throne?”

Luke stepped forward. “We don’t desire the throne, brother Lu. However, the Great Yu Empire is currently facing a powerful enemy even though it is filled with internal chaos. Nobody is in charge to deal with the situation, which is a huge disservice to the people of the empire. Additionally, the war has resulted in a high number of casualties among the citizens. Someone has to help them.”

Lu Yin grinned. “That’s a good reason. Keep going.”

Luke’s gaze grew cold. Just as he was about to continue pontificating, Andong interrupted with an upset face. “Give me the ring of authority, Lu Yin! I can let you keep your title of King Zishan and even give you

a filament. You'll be able to rule that land and enjoy the rest of your life in leisure. How does that sound?"

"I can give you two filaments as long as you support my ascension to the throne." Clay did not allow himself to be pushed aside and quickly spoke up as well.

After that, numerous other extended relatives started throwing offers at Lu Yin, trying to tempt him into handing the ring of authority over to them.

This entire mess just looked like a joke and felt very ironic to Lu Yin. This was the Great Yu Empire that encompassed a total of thirteen filaments. If it weren't for the Innderverse stopping Undying Yushan, then the empire would have conquered the entire Frostwave Weave. However, now, a bunch of trash was vying for it, and they even had the gall to preemptively give its territory away. This situation was just a joke.

In one corner of the palace, Huo Qingshan and a few others watched on with ridicule in their eyes. This was the reason why they hadn't supported any of these relatives. If there was a single person among this group with even half a brain, then they captains would have definitely given their support to that person by now. Even if none of these people had the capabilities to become the emperor, it would still be possible for them to give orders in the emperor's stead. However, they were all too useless even for that.

"Shut up! The empire's territory isn't something that you can just give away thoughtlessly!" Luke roared.

"Don't think that I don't know this! You give those ministers a lot of benefits as well. Take Bailey, for instance. You promised him the right to manage the imperial army, which means that you're even worse than us!"

"Exactly! I heard you even had the nerve to try to pardon a criminal. You went to Sigmund Mathers, but you failed. You must just be venting your anger on us," someone else ridiculed.

...

Luke snorted disdainfully. "I went to officials who can help support the empire. Sigmund Mathers is a valiant general who has accomplished a lot for the empire, and Lord Bailey has been working hard for the empire. They are both capable people." After that, he turned to face Lu Yin. "Brother, I might not be able to promise you wealth, but I can promise that, as long as I'm around, the Great Yu Empire will not fall. This place will forever be your home."

Lu Yin smiled as he surveyed everyone. "This is very interesting. Some amongst you try to tempt me with benefits, some act like know-it-alls, and yet others pretend to be sophisticated. It's even more entertaining than watching an actual show."

The relatives all turned furious upon hearing Lu Yin's words. A cold glint appeared in Luke's eyes. That "know-it-all" was definitely referring to him, and he silently clenched his fists. He really wanted to kill Lu Yin right now, but this youth was too special. Nobody, not even the people of the Ross Empire supporting Luke, dared to openly attack Lu Yin. He was like a porcupine.

"What are you trying to say, Lu Yin?" Andong shouted.

The Explorer behind him immediately held Andong back. "This person is very important, Young Master Andong."

Lu Yin coldly replied, "I don't have any time to waste on you all, so I'll only say this once: scram or die."

"You're so full of yourself even though you're just a Limiteer!" Andong howled in anger. "Sieze him!"

All of a sudden, Lu Yin vanished. The powerhouse standing behind Luke made a look of surprise as he moved to push Luke behind himself. The void in front of him then tore apart as Lu Yin attacked with a palm. Andong was frozen in place and couldn't move at all while the Explorer turned serious and desperately tried to kick his charge away. However, it was too late. Andong was instantly killed, and his entire body was launched into the air before it landed on the floor while the Explorer's kick was simultaneously blocked by Lu Yin's left arm. There was a tremendous boom as shock waves spread out from the impact.

There were three Explorers present, and each one protected one of Andong, Clay, and Luke. They were the only ones present who could withstand the shockwaves. All of the other extended relatives and their protectors were sent flying as they coughed up blood.

Lu Yin grabbed the leg of the Explorer in front of him with his left hand and exerted some force through it. His muscles swelled, and the power of a Twentyfold Shockwave Palm flowed through his body. As the void collapsed, the Explorer's eyes went wide and he cried out in misery as he tried to pull his leg out of Lu Yin's grasp.

However, his efforts were all in vain. This protector was merely an ordinary Explorer, and his power level was merely at 10,000. He was nowhere as powerful as Zi Tie, who had been pushed back by Lu Yin back at the border warfront. This person's defenses were basically nonexistent to Lu Yin.

"You're too weak, Mr. Explorer," Lu Yin coldly stated. He exerted some more strength with his left hand, and then, all of a sudden, there was a horrendous cracking sound as the Explorer's right leg splintered apart with a spurt of blood. His body was also sent flying by Lu Yin's attack.

Everything happened so quickly that everyone could only watch on in terror. Clay in particular was trembling from top to bottom. Andong's sudden death had shocked him to the core.

Luke's face grew ashen as he staggered backwards. "A devil. You- You're a devil!"

Lu Yin turned around, and there was an obvious chilly glint in his eyes.

The powerhouse protecting Luke took a few steps forward and stood before Lu Yin. "You're going too far, Your Highness."

Lu Yin narrowed his eyes. This person was very strong and should be a Cruiser. A Cruiser with a power level of over 50,000 was much more powerful than that Explorer just now. Lu Yin's expression grew serious.

Meanwhile, three figures appeared from the void. "The Captain of the Fifth Imperial Squadron, Huo Qingshan, greets His Majesty."

“The Captain of the Ninth Imperial Squadron, Rocky Auna, greets His Majesty.”

“The Captain of the Thirteenth Imperial Squadron, Liuying Zishan, greets His Majesty.”

Of the three captains, one was a Hunter while the other two were Cruisers. Their appearance immediately shocked everyone. The Cruiser who was protecting Luke turned pale as well.

Lu Yin grinned. “You three came just in time. Help me deal with these traitors.”

Huo Qingshan eyed the Cruiser who was protecting Luke and who had paled even further. He immediately responded, “I serve Young Master Luke. I’m not a traitor.”

“Kill him,” Lu Yin casually ordered.

Huo Qingshan suddenly attacked. A tendril of flame transformed into invisible shockwaves. When it appeared, the void froze, and the sky darkened. This was Huo Qingshan’s innate gift: Black Flames. With his strength as a Hunter, as soon as he used his innate gift, nobody in this room was able to fight back unless they were also a Hunter.

Luke and the Cruiser turned to dust in less than a moment.

This scene was too shocking. The difference between someone with a power level of 50,000 and someone with 100,000 was just too great. Nobody could even understand Huo Qingshan’s attack.

Lu Yin’s eyes twinkled. The moment that attack had been launched, he had felt a boundless strength travel through his domain. Is this the power of a Hunter? So this is someone with a power level of 100,000, someone who is able to fight even in outer space?

The Explorer protecting Clay trembled and looked at Huo Qingshan in terror.

Lu Yin coldly surveyed the other extended family members and their protectors. “There’s no need to hold back. Deal with all of them.”

Everyone was shocked; this person was absolutely merciless.

Even Huo Qingshan glanced at Lu Yin with curiosity, but he did not say anything. He immediately acted and turned all of the distant relatives and their protectors to ash, eliminating anyone who had the nerve to vie for the throne.

Chapter 294: Methods And Capabilities

Liuying Zishan’s beautiful eyes stared straight at Lu Yin. This was the first time she had ever stood face to face with him, as all of their previous communication had been done through video calls. Right now, she finally understood what this person from the Zishan family was like. He was extremely tyrannical, ruthless, and very different from what she had imagined. He was also unreasonably powerful to the point where even Explorers were no match for him.

“Since the Yushan family is in trouble, and Princess Wendy is nowhere in sight though probably alive, I, King Zishan Lu Yin, shall become the interim emperor. Do any of you object?” Lu Yin matter-of-factly declared. He disliked beating around the bush and so spoke very directly.

The result was obvious. The fact that Huo Qingshan and the other two had appeared was an answer in and of itself.

“The Fifth Imperial Squadron fully supports King Zishan,” Huo Qingshan answered.

“The Ninth Imperial Squadron fully supports King Zishan,” Rocky Auna answered.

“The Thirteenth Imperial Squadron fully supports King Zishan,” Liuying Zishan answered.

“The Twelfth Imperial Squadron fully supports King Zishan.” Ban Jiu, who had arrived at some point, also added in his support.

Lu Yin looked up, with a tired face. “Henceforth, I am both King Zishan as well as... the Royal Regent.”

For a long time now, it was impossible to rule as emperor just by simply ascending to the throne. Lu Yin could hold a certain amount of power since he had the ring of authority and the position of King Zishan. However, it was impossible for him to actually become the emperor. He did not have the right to inherit the throne; only Wendy Yushan currently had that right.

Hence, he could not touch the throne at this moment. Instead, he would manage the Great Yu Empire as the Royal Regent.

“Your Highness, the empire is currently embroiled with both internal and external problems. Please make some decisions about this as soon as possible.” The very next day, a minister mentioned this matter during a morning meeting. It was a fact that Lu Yin had become the Royal Regent since he had obtained the support of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons, the ring of authority, and the support of the Zishan’s clan’s former subordinates. Thus, he had naturally taken over these meetings.

Lu Yin sat below the emperor’s throne and was the only one who was seated in the main hall. After hearing what the ministers had to say, Lu Yin took a look at his gadget. “I have my plans.”

The ministers exchanged looks, but remained silent.

The extended family members’ fight for the throne was the main reason why Zenyu Star was in its current state of chaos. Now that the relatives have all been wiped out, the empire had the bandwidth to focus on reclaiming its lost territory and repulsing the Ross Empire. As the Royal Regent, Lu Yin should have been making arrangements to handle these matters, but he had done nothing so far. It was very confusing.

Rocky Auna glanced at Lu Yin, and when he saw that Lu Yin was continuously checking his gadget, Rocky Auna frowned; Lu Yin really was too young. These meetings were very solemn occasions, and this was not the time for the Royal Regent to be checking his gadget. Even Dorren Yushan and Undying Yushan had never done anything like this in the past.

The ministers also felt rather uncomfortable. If this wasn’t Lu Yin’s first time attending a meeting as Royal Regent, then their tongues would have immediately started wagging.

The hall lapsed into a momentary silence.

The monkey finally could not hold it in any longer. “The ministers keep looking at you like you’re stupid, Seventh Bro! Aren’t you afraid that they’ll scold you?”

Lu Yin's gaze swept downwards. There were only a third of the original ministers remaining. Bailey was present, but only four of the thirteen captains were present.

"Don't pay them any mind. They don't think much of me right now, and anything I do will be considered pointless to them. Just wait—the outcome will become clear quite soon," Lu Yin replied, seemingly talking to himself.

The secretary of the Empire, Garope, could no longer restrain himself. He stood up and exclaimed, "My lord, this meeting is not a time for you to be on your gadget! Please focus on the matters of the empire."

Lu Yin glanced at Garope. "Tell me this, Lord Garope. What is the most important problem the empire should be focusing on right now?"

"That would be the Ross Empire's war against us. I'm sure that you aren't treating this as a mere joke. Right, my lord?" Garope briskly responded, obviously enraged.

Lu Yin chuckled. "Exactly. I'm taking care of it right now."

Everyone was shocked by his response.

Huo Qingshan's eyes lit up. "Could you please clarify what you mean by this, Your Highness? The Ross Empire is not a joke. You do hold a special position, so the Ross Empire cannot do much to you yourself, but you holding such a high position doesn't necessarily mean you have corresponding influence."

At that moment, Lu Yin's gadget beeped, and his face lit up. With a loud chuckle, he said, "Just in time." As he spoke, he tapped on his gadget's display. "Please read this out, Lord Garope."

Garope examined the screen that was shown on Lu Yin's gadget, and his eyes widened as he read out, "The Soulseal Flowzone's Watermoon Villa has officially denounced the Ross Empire's campaign against the Outerverse's Great Yu Empire. Furthermore, they have stated that the Innerverse should not meddle in the matters of the Outerverse. The Ross Empire has used military force to suppress the Great Yu Empire, resulting in the loss of countless lives. The Watermoon Villa hereby officially warns the Ross Empire and asks it to halt its campaign and allow the universe to return to peace."

With a beep, another notification popped up. "Ascension Flowzone's Xun Family has officially denounced the Ross Empire's campaign against the Outerverse's Great Yu Empire. Furthermore, they have stated that the Innerverse should not meddle in the matters of the Outerverse. The Ross Empire has used military force to suppress the Great Yu Empire, resulting in the loss of countless lives. The Xun Family hereby officially warns the Ross Empire and asks it to halt its campaign and allow the universe to return to peace."

These two notifications were rather stern warnings that completely shocked Garope speechless. He stared at Lu Yin in disbelief, and everyone else was just as astonished as they all looked at the Royal Regent. "Your Highness, this..."

Lu Yin chuckled. "It's just that others are also annoyed about this situation. The universe should be at peace and the Innerverse shouldn't be bullying the Outerverse, right?"

Of course not, but many of the ministers were confused. It was very normal for organizations from the Innerverse to bully or even destroy organizations from the Outerverse. Peace in the universe? When had

that ever existed? That claim was utter crap. Also, these two notices were worded exactly the same, and the only difference between them were the names. Was it possible that Lu Yin had written this himself? Many were suspicious that this was actually what had happened.

Lu Yin grinned. He had obviously written it himself and then collected on two oaths to get these notices published. It was impossible to use the oaths to force the Watermoon Villa or the Xun Family to wage war against the Ross Empire, but sending a warning wasn't a problem. When a couple more notices also popped up, the Ross Empire would become terrified. While they were confident that these organizations wouldn't actually intervene, they would still nonetheless have to stop the war after taking everything into consideration. This was because these two identical notices from powerful organizations were a clear indication that someone was trying to make their stance known, and it also meant that this person was more than what they seemed. The Ross Empire would surely be afraid of the possible consequences, because the universe was truly mysterious.

Lu Yin's gadget beeped again, indicating that another notice had been published. "The Outerverse's Bard Weave's Evenground Palace has officially denounced the Ross Empire's campaign against the Outerverse's Great Yu Empire. Furthermore, they have stated that the Innaverse should not meddle in the matters of the Outerverse. The Ross Empire has used military force to suppress the Great Yu Empire, resulting in the revolting loss of countless lives. The Evenground Palace hereby officially warns the Ross Empire and asks it to halt its campaign and allow the universe to return to peace."

This notice was worded slightly differently since the Evenground Palace was an organization from the Outerverse. However, its contents were very surprising since it included the phrase "revolting." With this, the Ross Empire would have no choice but to consider the possibility of several different Outerverse organizations banding together against them.

After that, even more notices appeared, some from Innaverse organizations and others from Outerverse organizations.

An hour later, all of the ministers in the hall were thoroughly stunned. A total of thirteen warning letters from thirteen different organizations had been posted, with each one addressed to the Ross Empire. The organizations came from both parts of the Human Domain, and some of them were no weaker than the Ross Empire. With so many of these notices being published, the Ross Empire would definitely need to consider withdrawing its troops if its leaders weren't stupid.

The ministers looked up at Lu Yin, who was sitting idly next to the throne. For the first time, they had a feeling that this young Royal Regent should not be underestimated. He had single-handedly resolved this war that had affected the entire Frostwave Weave.

Lu Yin kept looking at his gadget with a smile on his face, not minding the fact that all of the ministers were looking at him strangely. Nobody voiced any objections at this moment.

Garope bowed low. "Please forgive me for my earlier actions, Your Highness."

Lu Yin looked up. "There's no need for that. You did well." After saying that, he finally put his gadget down. He stood up, and his expression turned stern. "The Ross Empire will probably try to end the war. But regardless of what conditions they put forth, reject everything."

One of the ministers below hastily asked, "What if the Ross Empire demands compensation for the war?"

"Like I said, reject everything." Lu Yin's voice was cold.

The minister was startled by the curt response and quickly bowed.

"This war was just a farce. We, the Great Yu Empire, have suffered the worst damage, and I'm already being benevolent by not demanding compensation from them. They are now the ones in the passive position. Besides, with those thirteen warning letters, they won't want this war to wage on for any longer," Lu Yin said.

The rest acknowledged his words.

"Spread the news, announcing that the Great Yu Empire thanks everyone for their help. Say that the peace of the universe is what we of the Great Yu Empire value above all and that we hope to create a peaceful relationship with everyone.

"Bring the residents that fled from Zenyu Star back and conduct a census of the population. Console the family of those who died. I will use my status as Royal Regent to compensate the families of any commoners who died.

"Arrange for the funeral of His Majesty, Undying Yushan. You must also construct a cenotaph for the members and descendants of the Yushan family.

"Repair the three rings of Zenyu Star and increase their defenses.

"Remove the traitor status from the second prince, Duke Yushan, and arrange for him to receive a royal funeral. Remove the traitor status from the Captain of the Seventh Squadron, Batson, and bury him as a captain. Remove the traitor status from the Captain of the Tenth Squadron, Felt, and bury him as a captain. Remove the traitor status from the Captain of the Eighth Squadron, Shalosh, and Captain of the Twelfth Squadron, Ban Jiu, as well."

...

Lu Yin gave at least twenty orders in one go, and the ministers hurriedly noted everything down.

If Lu Yin had not managed to stop the war, then his orders would not have been carried out even if he had held a higher position. However, things were different now. He had managed to avert the empire's crisis with a wave of his hand, thus gaining the reputation of being mysterious, powerful, and worthy of respect. Nobody dared to go against any of his orders anymore.

The meeting continued for a record-breaking three hours, which rarely happened during meetings between the Great Yu Empire's upper echelons. While everyone was leaving afterwards, Lu Yin asked Ban Jiu to stay behind.

Huo Qingshan was very confused. Ban Jiu and Lu Yin had virtually never interacted in the past, but this person had been asked to stay behind for some reason.

Ban Jiu also found this request very surprising. He wondered if it had something to do with Sicar, but that didn't seem very likely to him.

"I hear that you have some understanding of technology, Captain Ban Jiu. I have a question for you." Lu Yin then walked closer to him and whispered, "If I want to transfer an important document into the Ross Empire, is it possible to do it without letting them discover it?"

Ban Jiu's eyes lit up, and he looked at Lu Yin in shock. "You mean..."

Lu Yin handed him a document. "Send this over to the Ross Empire and make sure that they don't find out where it's from. Can you do that?"

Ban Jiu took a look at it, and his expression immediately changed. "This is information regarding the military matters of the empire?"

Lu Yin merely stared at Ban Jiu.

Ban Jiu's first instinct was that Lu Yin was betraying the Great Yu Empire, but that didn't seem quite right. This youth before him stood above tens of thousands of people, and there was no need for him to betray them. Besides, with his position, there was no need to flatter the Ross Empire either. "Why are you sending this to the Ross Empire, Your Highness?"

Chapter 295: The Yu Secret Art

Lu Yin's face turned frosty. "This war has made us pay too high a price. This is revenge that must be carried out."

Ban Jiu was stunned. "Your Majesty wants to use this military intelligence as an excuse to start the next war?"

Lu Yin looked at Ban Jiu before slowly asking, "Does Captain Ban Jiu have no desire to enter the Inniverse?"

Ban Jiu's pupils constricted, and he started to seriously assess Lu Yin. The scene of this person standing in front of the throne and retrieving the star chart reappeared in his mind. He had assumed that this youth was just another proud and arrogant person, but now, he knew that he was qualified to be this ambitious after learning more about him.

With the Great Yu Empire's current ability, it was simply impossible to launch an expedition into the Inniverse while facing an enormous power like the Ross Empire. However, no one could predict the future with certainty, and the Great Yu Empire now had both Princess Wendy and Lu Yin. Even so, it would take dozens of years of preparation before their power would rise to the point where they could suppress the Ross Empire, which meant that this youth was making arrangements for dozens of years into the future!

"Yes, Your Majesty, we can deliver this into the Ross Empire while avoiding detection," Ban Jiu replied with a cold expression and an even icier tone that could cause others to shiver.

Lu Yin nodded. "Good."

Lu Yin returned to a quiet corner of the palace where Undying Yushan had once taken him. This place contained the trap that Undying Yushan had prepared to kill all the powerhouses from the Inniverse. But after the departure of those powerhouses, it had been concealed once again.

Lu Yin moved underground, pushed the heavy metal door open, and entered the room.

He had come to this location because he had seen “Zishan” carved into the inside band of the ring of authority. The only places related to “Zishan” were the King Zishan Palace and this place inside of the imperial palace. These were the two locations that were rumored to hold the hidden treasures of the Zishan family.

Undying Yushan had been a great strategist, and his vision and temperament had also been extraordinary. Because he was primarily concerned about the Innderverse’s forces invading the empire, he had forced Duke Yushan to turn against him in an attempt to preserve a spark for the Great Yu Empire. Perhaps him giving this ring of authority to Lu Yin had been another attempt at preserving a spark of the empire.

Lu Yin entered the spacious room and looked all around him before noticing a small depression in the northeastern corner. He retrieved the ring of authority and placed it within the depression, causing the walls to split open and four items to appear before him.

Two of the items were memory chips while the other two were letters.

Lu Yin retrieved the letters. Both had been written by Undying Yushan, and one had been addressed to Wendy Yushan—which Lu Yin did not open—and the other letter was addressed to him.

‘Little Yin, if you are reading this letter, then it means that Royal Uncle is dead. Don’t be surprised, and don’t search for the Great Yu Empire’s secrets. The less you know, the better. The Great Yu Empire is a common empire in a fringe weave that won’t implicate any others. Remember this—the Great Yu Empire is very ordinary.

‘One chip belongs to you, and the other belongs to Wendy. Your chip is the Yushan family’s dowry for your marriage to Wendy.

‘Do not reveal the contents of the chip. Let me solemnly remind you again; do not reveal it! At least, do not do so until you are capable of protecting yourself.

‘One chip is sufficient to return the favor that This Emperor owes the Zishan Family. Cultivate diligently, and one day, you will be able to converse with the Ten Arbiters and even go to the Neoverse. That is where the peak of the human race resides.’

Lu Yin looked at the date at which the letter was written and saw that it had been written shortly after his last departure from the Great Yu Empire, which showed that Undying Yushan had already been considering the possibility of his death back then. The Ross Empire had just been an accident, or rather, it had ended up being implicated through the Daynight Clan’s resentment towards him. When he wrote this letter, Undying Yushan must not have been thinking about the Ross Empire but rather another power. Who? The Neohuman Alliance?

Lu Yin could not guess what secrets the Great Yu Empire could be hiding that would cause even a Hunter like Undying Yushan to have a premonition of his own death.

It was a pity that his family had not contacted him in a long time.

He took the chip, inserted it into his gadget, and then looked at the display. He thought that the chip would contain top secret information or some powerful technique. He was even hoping that it might actually be the Undying Manual that quite a few powers of the Inniverse were searching for. Instead, what appeared on the screen was not any technique or secret information, but rather some completely incomprehensible method for circulating star energy.

Lu Yin stared closely at the screen and then frowned. Strange, too strange. The written method of circulating star energy went against all logic, and he could not understand it at all. Moreover, his body could not even attempt this method of circulating the star energy, as it would cause many of the channels in his body to become clogged if he did so; it simply could not be circulated at all!

What in the world is this?

The strange method of circulating star energy soon vanished, and Lu Yin did not understand it at all. After the circulation method disappeared, several words appeared on the screen—Yu Secret Art - Void Transfer.

The chip then shattered.

Lu Yin was lost. What? Yu Secret Art? Void Transfer?

“I’ll be damned, it’s a secret art! Seventh Bro, you damn lucky bastard! No wonder the Great Yu Empire is full of trouble—it was actually hiding a secret art!” the Ghost Monkey shouted loudly as he became very agitated.

Lu Yin was puzzled. “Speak clearly. What are you talking about?”

“Don’t you know what a secret art is?”

Lu Yin shook his head.

“Right, it makes sense that you don’t. Those at your level shouldn’t. You humans think that only those super powerhouses are qualified to know about secret arts. Even normal Hunters that have a power level over 100,000 wouldn’t know about them, so it’s not strange that you’re clueless.”

Lu Yin did not interrupt and continued listening silently.

“I can’t clearly explain what these so-called secret arts are even if I try. Anyways, here I go: it’s a unique method of circulating energy that allows one to understand the universe, and they can even contain a method of circulating star energy that allows one to display unique innate gifts. These things are so rare that just hearing of one would make your hair stand on end, and their value is incalculable. That’s as best as I can do,” the monkey explained.

Lu Yin was lost. “So are you saying that it’s a man-made innate gift?”

“Of course not! Innate gifts can’t even begin to compare to secret arts! You humans’ innate gifts are indeed rare and wondrous, and possessing one is a huge edge in the path of cultivation. However, those innate gifts are not on the same level as a secret art. To put it another way, a secret art can only be created by a Progenitor.”

Lu Yin’s pupils shrunk. “A Progenitor?”

“That’s right, so you should understand just how precious and powerful this thing is now. A secret art can only be created by a Progenitor who has observed the changes of the universe. It is a very mysterious and powerful thing that a regular person can’t even comprehend. Even if you memorize it and learn how to circulate your energy according to the method, you still won’t be able to understand anything. Even if you were given a thousand or ten thousand years to ponder its mysteries, nothing would change. This stuff involves the deepest level of the universe, which is something that only a Progenitor can understand,” the Ghost Monkey explained with an excited look.

Lu Yin breathed out and looked at the other chip. This should also contain the Yu Secret Art - Void Transfer.

“That’s strange. If this family had this secret art, they shouldn’t be too weak, but he died in this fringe Weave war? That’s ridiculous.” The Ghost Monkey was puzzled by what the existence of this secret art signified and continued thinking out loud. “Anyone who has practiced a secret art would find Realmbreaking as natural as drinking water. Throughout your entire Human Domain, there should be less than ten people who have grasped a secret art, which should be quite similar to your revered Ten Arbiters. Actually, if one or two out of the Ten Arbiters have comprehended a secret art, then that’s already pretty good.”

“They’re that rare?”

“Bro, this is a secret art that we’re talking about! A Progenitor can only create maybe one or two of these throughout their entire life. Only two or three Progenitors have even been birthed across the entire universe, so how many secret arts do you think there are? Don’t assume that this is something that can be easily spread, as a secret art isn’t easily learned. You should know about the inheritance of the Thirteen Swords—a secret art’s inheritance is ten times more difficult than that, and that’s not even mentioning the fact that no one under an Explorer can cultivate one. You can only imagine how difficult it is to successfully learn it.”

Lu Yin closed his eyes and recalled the secret art’s method of circulating star energy. He had memorized the method and the route, but it would indeed be difficult to learn it, as there were many clogs in his energy channels.

The body would undergo huge changes when one broke through to become an Explorer. Perhaps he would be able to circulate his energy according to the secret technique at that time.

“So does that mean that I can’t use it even if I’m able to master it now?” Lu Yin helplessly asked.

The Ghost Monkey was dismissive, “Master? You must be kidding! If a secret art could be mastered that easily, then experts would be mass-produced by the boatload! You can probably at most memorize this secret art’s circulation path, but if you want to successfully circulate your energy through that path, then you have a long, bitter path ahead of you.” The Ghost Monkey suddenly grew excited. “Seventh Bro, following you’s not so bad after all! Although it’s slightly more dangerous, I’ve gained a lot as well, especially after I discovered your shocking innate gift.”

“What innate gift?” Lu Yin’s brows leaped up. This idiotic monkey should not have discovered his secret die!

“You broke through realms at the border warfront and defeated an Explorer as easily as drinking water. As for your lockbreaking accomplishments, you comprehended the Secret Sidestep! Now, you’ve even gotten your hands on a secret art! I feel like I’m watching a new dazzling star of the universe being born! However, once your situation is made known, you’ll definitely end up on the Heaven-Devouring List, and then you’ll be dead meat.”

Lu Yin laughed. “The high-profile Ten Arbiters are fine, and they are much more threatening than I am.”

“That’s different; the Ten Arbiters are too strong. Although their names are on the Heaven-Devouring List, no one dares to attack them. Those ten are completely immeasurable, and who knows what heights they’ve attained. People like you are different, and many human geniuses die every year. Once your name is placed on the Celestial Vanquisher’s List, countless beasts will come for your life.”

Lu Yin frowned. “I’m still not on that list?”

“I don’t know. Maybe not, but I can’t be too sure. Your performance at the border warfront was too brilliant, and you managed to gain an Honor Point after just two months. Just that level of contribution is enough for the Astral Beast Domain to make note of you. Be careful!”

“As an astral beast yourself, you should be able to sense when any others attack me. Don’t forget that you can’t survive if I’m dead since I’ll definitely kill you first.”

“I know, I know. All you know to do is threaten me! Hurry up and cultivate more so that you can break into the Explorer realm and begin grasping this secret art! The universe is large, and you can head to the other regions. That way, it won’t be as easy for you to die even if the Ten Arbiters want to kill you.”

Lu Yin’s eyes grew cloudy. Breaking into the Explorer realm was a cultivator’s greatest hurdle. He would never forget the obstacles he had encountered while breaking into the Melder realm, and because of that, he felt that it would not be easy to reach the Explorer realm.

At that moment, Lu Yin’s eyes lit up. Right, I should try and see if my die’s Enhance can upgrade the grade of this chip. Lu Yin grew excited at this prospect and immediately screened off the Ghost Monkey without any hesitation.

The more time that passed between each use of his die, the greater the probability of him rolling the desired outcome. Perhaps the innate gift of the die was somehow connected to his heart, as it had been born with his body.

Lu Yin raised his hand, and his die appeared, emitting the same faint radiance. He tapped it, and it quickly spun before eventually stopping on five pips—Gift Copy. He instantly became annoyed; where could he find a cultivator with an innate gift in just ten seconds? Hold on! His right arm shook, and he removed the screen blocking the Ghost Monkey’s senses. Instantly, his head was filled with the Ghost Monkey’s scolding. “Outrageous! I just shared so many secrets with you, but you dare to screen me off! Too shameless...”

Chapter 296: Meeting

Lu Yin pressed his hand against the monkey tattoo on his arm, which the Ghost Monkey found rather strange. “What are you doing? I didn’t scold you on purpose, so don’t take it to heart! Don’t hurt me...”

Lu Yin blocked the monkey off again when a shadow appeared on the fifth face of the die. The shadow represented the Ghost Monkey's innate gift.

It made a lot of sense that he could borrow the monkey's gift, and now, he could finally make use of rolling Gift Copy. It would no longer be a waste to get this roll.

After that, Lu Yin took out a star crystal to restore the die before rolling it once more.

He wasn't disappointed this time. The die stopped on three: Enhance. With this, he was even more certain of his theory—the more time that passed between his rolls, the more likely it was for him to land the number that he wanted. Lu Yin thus made the decision to not roll the die too frequently; it should only be used when absolutely necessary.

Two plates of light appeared, one top of the other. Lu Yin took a deep breath and placed the chip on the uppermost light plate. He then took out five thousand star crystals, placed it inside, and stared intensely at the chip.

Ten seconds passed, but there was no reaction whatsoever. The chip didn't appear to shift at all.

Lu Yin was speechless. It had cost him 300,000 star crystals to upgrade the four-stage formcast model. 5,000 crystals would have made it shift 1/60th of the way down. Although that might not sound like much, the change would have at least been noticeable. However, the chip had seemingly not moved at all. Either the chip could not be upgraded, or the amount needed to upgrade it was so terrifying that 5,000 crystals wasn't enough for it to even budge.

It was a secret art created by a Progenitor, after all. It did make sense for it to be unupgradable.

Just as Lu Yin was about to wave his hand and dispel the layers, he suddenly recalled something and took out five fruits from his cosmic ring.

These were the fruits that he had picked during Astral-10's entrance exam. Lulu had given him five of the fruits that they had found, but he still had no idea what they could be used for.

Since they had been found in a place like that, they probably weren't that valuable. Still, he had nothing better to upgrade, so he might as well improve them.

Lu Yin placed them on the top layer and then flung out a thousand star crystals. The fruits dropped quickly through both layers, and soon enough, the light yellow sheen on the fruits seemed to intensify and reach a new level. The thousand star crystals that had been needed to enhance the fruits couldn't even be considered much to Lu Yin.

These things really aren't very valuable. Lu Yin pondered things over and then flung another handful of star crystals into the light plates. With a thud, all five fruits dropped to the ground after being upgraded once again. The sheen on them had transformed from a light yellow to bright yellow. Again, again, again!

After another thousand star crystals were consumed, the five fruits' sheen had changed to a golden color and were releasing a light fragrance.

Lu Yin put another thousand star crystals in. This time, the five fruits weren't completely upgraded. In other words, he now needed to use more than a thousand star crystals for each level he wanted to raise their quality by.

He still had about five hundred star crystals left, so he threw those in and completed the upgrade.

The golden sheen became even more apparent.

Lu Yin stored the fruits away. He had no idea what they were used for and should probably get them appraised, but for now, it was time to leave.

While Lu Yin was doing this in the secret room, news that he had become the Royal Regent had spread. Even the Astral Combat Academy had heard the news, causing Lu Yin's reputation to grow even further.

However, he was merely the Royal Regent of an empire in a frontier weave, which was nowhere near the level of status he enjoyed as a member of the Council of the Astral Academy. This news merely caused a few ripples in the academy.

However, this same news had a very different effect in the Frostwave Weave.

The Ross Empire had already withdrawn all its troops. When they had threatened the Great Yu Empire for compensation costs, the Blind Monk had bluntly told them that the Great Yu Empire would continue to fight if need be. The commander of the Ross Empire, Angelo, was at a total loss in this situation.

Faced with the pressure from the thirteen organizations, the Ross Empire had ultimately chosen to simply leave the Frostwave Weave.

After the Ross Empire's retreat, the Great Yu Empire was finally able to heave a sigh of relief as attention shifted back to the entirety of the Frostwave Weave.

Firesmelt Planet was one of the more unique planets in the Frostwave Weave, as the entire planet was constantly engulfed in flames. Although it was only a single planet, it had managed to give birth to quite a few powerhouses. Even the Great Yu Empire was cautious of them.

It could be said that, in the entire Frostwave Weave, Firesmelt Planet was one of the greatest enemies that stood in the way of the Great Yu Empire unifying the weave.

The planet's flames filled the skies and covered the ground. A person with his hands clasped behind his back frowned at his gadget. He suddenly snorted, causing flames to shoot out of his nostrils. At that moment, all of the flames on the entire planet blazed more fiercely.

The man was Yan Wujiu, the master of Firesmelt Planet.

"I can't believe that King Zishan has the ability to cooperate with thirteen organizations to force out the Ross Empire. He's good," Yan Wujiu said brashly, the flames calming down as he spoke.

There was a Cruiser, Yan Chong, standing next to Yan Wujiu who was similarly annoyed. "Since the Ross Empire has withdrawn, why don't we move in, my lord? Undying Yushan is finally dead."

"Undying Yushan may be gone, but there's still Huo Qingshan, the Blind Monk, Xueshan Auna, and Wendy Yushan, and not a single one of them is easy to deal with. Huo Qingshan in particular is a very

tricky opponent. He's very mysterious. I could tell at least that much during the war with the Blaze Realm. He's definitely more than he seems," Yan Wujiu solemnly said.

He paused, and then seemed to suddenly recall something. "Is that girl still here?"

"Are you perhaps referring to Jenny Auna, my lord?"

"Yes."

"She's here waiting for the young master."

"Contact Feng and have him deal with her. If possible, have him marry her."

Yan Chong was surprised. "The person that the young master has affections for is Wendy Yushan."

Yan Wujiu snorted. "Wendy Yushan is not someone who we can handle. She already has plenty of people pursuing her, and those people all have powerful connections. Even if Feng manages to become a member of the Outerverse Youth Council, he still might not be able to handle pursuing her. If he marries Jenny Auna, however, we'll have the Auna family in our hands. Xueshan Auna is a rather tricky fellow, and he also controls the Ninth Imperial Squadron as well."

"But this would be a clear move against the Great Yu Empire. We had the young master reach out to Jenny Auna in the past because of the Daynight clan, but if we actually do this, they won't give us any aid." Yan Chong sounded very worried.

Yan Wujiu could only reply, "When it comes down to it, we're just pawns to them. However, just because we are a pawn doesn't mean that we have no choices. Since the Daynight clan is gone, we can now do as we wish. Go and have Feng promise to marry the girl. Then, contact any organizations willing to wage war against the Great Yu Empire. I refuse to believe that the Great Yu Empire can survive if the rest of the Frostwave Weave works together."

"Yes, my lord."

After walking out from the underground area, Lu Yin glanced behind him. He might never return to this place again.

The most important military power of the Great Yu Empire was the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons, and the most important connections that the empire held were with the Huo and Auna families. It was time to appease those families.

Lu Yin left the palace, and Bronsen immediately appeared before him. "I will protect you, Your Majesty."

Lu Yin nodded. "Thank you."

Bronsen hastily bowed and looked at Lu Yin's back. Who would have ever thought that the person holding the most power in the empire would end up being this young man who hadn't even been born in the Great Yu Empire?

Bronsen still remembered the first time he had ever protected Lu Yin. Back then, the youth had merely been a Sentinel, and he could have been casually crushed to death at any given moment. Nobody had

paid him much attention, and they were all waiting for him to screw up. The fact that he had helped Sigmund Mathers had nearly made him a laughing stock among the upper echelons of the empire.

Even at that time, however, this young man had been able to take care of any crises that came his way. Even as a Sentinel, this youth had been able to strike terror into Sicar. And now, Lu Yin had become so strong that even Bronsen had to admit that he was not a match for Lu Yin. How long had it been since those first days? Merely two years.

This young man had changed so quickly.

The Huo residence wasn't too far away from the imperial palace. When Lu Yin arrived, Huo Qingshan personally came out and greeted the Royal Regent. Behind Huo Qingshan stood Huo Xiaoling, whom Lu Yin had seen before, as well as an adorable little girl.

"Greetings to His Majesty." Huo Qingshan immediately bowed, his tone humble.

Huo Xiaoling only gave Lu Yin a look, but she bowed as well.

The little girl clutched Huo Xiaoling's clothes curiously and bowed as well, imitating the older girl.

"There's no need to be so polite. Once we are out of the throne room, you are my elder," Lu Yin politely responded. He definitely would not presume that he stood above Huo Qingshan just because he was the Royal Regent. The main reasons why the man had acknowledged him was because of the ring of authority and because Lu Yin had lived in the Great Yu Empire for a while. A Hunter was powerful no matter where one went, and as such, Huo Qingshan certainly had the right to disregard Lu Yin's tiny bit of local authority.

Huo Qingshan gravely said, "Please, come this way, Your Majesty."

Lu Yin nodded and glanced at Huo Xiaoling. Compared to the time during the Earth trials, this girl had become more mature and broken through to become a Limiteer. Lu Yin was rather surprised by her progress. The fact that she had cultivated so far at her young age meant that she was considerably talented. "It's been a while."

Huo Xiaoling noticed Lu Yin staring at her, and after recalling what her father had said, she blushed. "It has."

Some time later, Lu Yin was led into the residence.

It wasn't very big. Compared to the Auna family's estate, this residence didn't even seem like it belonged to a wealthy family.

"You don't seem to be doing very well, Huo Qingshan," Lu Yin said as he surveyed the surroundings.

Huo Qingshan smiled congenially. "There are only a few members of this family living here. Having a small home makes things convenient."

Lu Yin knew that Huo Qingshan's wife had passed away years ago and that the man had never tried to remarry. The Huo clan's main family now consisted solely of Huo Qingshan and his two daughters. The rest of the Huo clan, such as Huo Zhong, lived elsewhere.

The most powerful family in the Great Yu Empire only had three people with a pure bloodline. This was something that nobody would believe. Beyond that, the family's successor was female.

Lu Yin had mainly visited the Huo family because he wanted to get Huo Qingshan's full support. Lu Yin wanted the Hunter's support not only because of the ring of authority, but also because Lu Yin wanted Huo Qingshan's personal support.

During the time he had been in the Astral Combat Academy, Lu Yin had seen all kinds of organizations. While most of the students there were not stronger than him, many of them had connections that allowed them to send experts out as they wished. This was something that Lu Yin could not do. However if the Great Yu Empire gave Lu Yin its full support, then he would be able to grow more quickly. Of course, one thing to consider was that if he reached a position that was too high, the Great Yu Empire might not be able to keep up and would instead start dragging him down.

"Is it difficult for a Limiteer to break through and become an Explorer?" Lu Yin asked.

Huo Qingshan nodded and seriously answered, "Everyone has a different body and a different cultivation path. Similarly, breaking through the threshold of the Explorer realm is different for everyone. Given your current abilities, it will be much more difficult for you to become an Explorer than it was for me and most other Explorers. However, once you succeed, you'll obtain a great deal of rewards and become much more powerful than your peers."

Lu Yin fell deep into thought. "I heard that Explorers and above will all experience something called a period of exhaustion."

Lu Yin had known about this issue for a long time, but he had never asked about it since it had never seemed applicable to him. But now, it was about time for him to learn more about it, seeing as he was just a single step away from that realm.

Chapter 297: A Mysterious Sign

Huo Qingshan's face turned incredibly grim. "To become an Explorer, one's body must become adjusted to the universe, and the universe's cycle primarily depends on star energy. This is true for the human body as well. If your star energy circulation is not fast enough to support your body's regular functions, then you will undergo something called the 'period of exhaustion.' Once you pass through that period, you'll be fine. However, if you don't manage to get past it, then you'll die."

"So is it impossible to get past this period by absorbing the ambient star energy in the universe?"

"No. The human body is too small compared to the universe, and most Explorers cannot absorb star energy quickly enough to match the cycle of the universe. Thus, they will typically search out star crystals or some sort of powerful technique so that they can absorb enough star energy quickly enough to match the speed of the universe's cycle. That is also one of the reasons why star crystals tend to be scarce."

...

Lu Yin and Huo Qingshan chatted for a long time, and as a result, Lu Yin gained a much better understanding of what being an Explorer entailed. The two of them also grew much closer.

The more they chatted, the more surprised Huo Qingshan became. The amount of power that Lu Yin had was shocking. He had five-lined battle force, could withstand 130 times the usual amount of gravity, had an extreme speed technique that could tear through space, and a shocking comprehension talent, seeing as he was able to imitate battle techniques after seeing them just once. This young man gave Huo Qingshan the chills. It felt impossible that a monster like him had come from the Outerverse.

In her younger days, Wendy Yushan had cultivated at the Innerverse's Myriad Swords Peak to reach her current power level. But in comparison, Lu Yin had still been struggling on Earth just two years ago. In these two years, he had climbed up to his current level. It was astounding.

Lu Yin grinned slightly. This amazement was the effect that he had intended to have. The more valuable he seemed, the more support Huo Qingshan would be willing to give him.

"Have you heard of the Lockbreaker Society?" Lu Yin asked. He wanted to show off even more.

Huo Qingshan nodded. "Of course. The Lockbreaker Society is an immense organisation in the universe, and every Lockbreaker is considered a treasure of the human race that should never be humiliated, killed, or undermined. If any Lockbreaker is humiliated or killed, then the entire Lockbreaker Society will take revenge on their behalf. They have far too many powerhouses."

Lu Yin looked up. "Yes, that's correct. Do we have any Lockbreakers in the Great Yu Empire?"

Huo Qingshan glanced at Lu Yin. "I heard from His Majesty that you are a Lockbreaker yourself."

Lu Yin nodded. "Yes, but Lockbreaking is too dangerous, and it would be great if I could speak with some Lockbreakers from the empire."

"I heard that there were a few in the past. By the way, may I know if you would be willing to divulge your current Lockbreaker ranking?" Huo Qingshan asked curiously.

"I'm a two star Bright-Eyed Junior Lockbreaker," Lu Yin confidently stated.

Huo Qingshan was shocked. "Two stars? You've made achievements already?"

Lu Yin nodded and eyed Huo Qingshan in surprise. "Didn't His Majesty tell you?"

Huo Qingshan shook his head and sighed in admiration at Lu Yin. "You truly are talented, Your Highness. Not only are you personally powerful, but you are also a Lockbreaker with achievements. There is nobody in the Outerverse who can compare to you. Even Princess Wendy Yushan only had her amazing strength when she was your age. She has no talent for Lockbreaking."

Lu Yin smiled. "Princess Wendy is in the top twenty of the Top 100 Rankings and isn't someone who I can compare to.

"Have you heard of Honor Points, Huo Qingshan?"

Huo Qingshan stared blankly at Lu Yin. "Are you saying... that you have Honor Points as well?"

Lu Yin grunted in acknowledgement. "Although, I don't know how to use it. I just have one."

Huo Qingshan was rendered speechless.

The Ghost Monkey couldn't take it any longer. "Stop playing stupid, Seventh Bro! You've said more than enough. I think that he's gone stupid from hearing everything that you have to say."

"How about I give you a tour of my home, Your Highness?" Huo Qingshan did not want to discuss accomplishments anymore. He really could not understand this young man; he was a two star Bright-Eyed Junior Lockbreaker who had Honor Points! If the conversation kept going, then he had a feeling that Lu Yin might scare him even more. He also had a suspicion that the Great Yu Empire would not be enough to contain this young man.

Huo Qingshan was well aware that Lu Yin was already a member of the Council of Astral Academy and also that he had also joined the Outerverse Youth Council after getting first place in the Outerverse trials. Those were horrifying results! Any one of of this youth's identities could scare anyone stupid.

"By the way, I suddenly remembered this—I have something urgent to attend to. You can let Xiaoling give you a tour," Huo Qingshan said, excusing himself.

Lu Yin nodded. "If you're busy, then you should get back to work. Xiaoling and I already know each other anyways."

Huo Qingshan hastily left.

Lu Yin burst into laughter as he looked at his palm. His many identities were indeed terrifying, but they were still far from enough to satisfy him. He had yet to reach a point where even the Daynight clan feared him. That would indicate that his influence had truly reached an untouchable level. To that end, being a highly regarded Lockbreaker and accumulating Honor Points were methods to achieve his goal. However, Honor Points were too difficult to obtain, so the only way for him to move forward was as a Lockbreaker. It seemed that he needed to spend some more time honing his Lockbreaking.

Since his mind was on Lockbreaking, Lu Yin was suddenly reminded of the Shenwu Continent. The five sourceboxes that had trapped everyone in the Tower of Resonating Light had been setup in a similar manner to the five sealing planets that had sealed the continent away. He had had a very terrifying premonition back then that the five sealing planets were five unbelievably huge sourceboxes.

Lu Yin shook his head once more. That can't be possible. No sourcebox can be that massive. However, the Shenwu Continent did seem to have quite a few sourceboxes, and there had even been two standing guard at the entrance of the Ming Constables' headquarters.

"Your Highness." Huo Xiaoling came over and bowed to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin grinned at her. "We've only seen each other once since I came to the Great Yu Empire."

Huo Xiaoling nodded, recalling how Bazeer had humiliated Lu Yin during the banquet back then. Bazeer was probably feeling rather uneasy now that the young man who he had humiliated back then had caught up to him.

"I'll give you a tour of the Huo family residence, Your Highness," Huo Xiaoling said.

Lu Yin nodded. When he stood beside this young woman, he unconsciously smelled the fragrance that wafted off of her. It was quite different from both Ming Yan and Madam Nalan's. Huo Xiaoling's

fragrance seemed to have a bit of heat to it, though he didn't know if it was real or imagined because of her fiery red locks.

Huo Xiaoling's heart raced. The reason why her father had put her in this situation was quite obvious. He wanted her to interact with Lu Yin, and if possible, marry him.

She wasn't romantically interested in anyone at the present, and she was totally fine with marrying this young man, but what were Lu Yin's thoughts? Did he want to marry her? Huo Xiaoling had no idea.

"I seem to remember that you have an innate gift. Is that correct, Ms. Ling?" Lu Yin asked.

Huo Xiaoling nodded. "My innate gift is a fire phoenix."

Lu Yin sighed in admiration. "You have an innate gift and are a Limiteer as well. Did you know? With your qualifications, you'd actually be able to join the Outerverse Youth Council.

Huo Xiaoling looked up at Lu Yin and mulled over this information. "I don't want to leave my father."

Lu Yin nodded. It was a bit of a pity since the girl had a fire phoenix as her innate gift, but it was normal for a daughter to not want to leave her family. What if he had a family as well? His family treated him very well, but they weren't his true family, and he hadn't actually been born to them. From his previous memories, the one place where he had felt the most at home was Earth. Perhaps it would be a good idea to return to Earth at some point with some powerhouses.

Behind the two of them, a little figure kept following them, sometimes hiding and sometimes peeking at them.

Lu Yin had known that she was there from the very beginning due to his domain. However, he hadn't told Huo Qingshan about this because it was important that he leave something as a hidden trump card.

"Is the person behind us your little sister?" Lu Yin asked, finding the little shadow hilarious.

Huo Xiaoling was surprised and immediately turned around. She turned grim. "What are you doing, Xiaoxiao?"

The little girl yelped and tentatively walked out with her head hanging down low.

Huo Xiaoling walked over, glared at her, and then asked again, "What are you doing, Xiaoxiao?"

Lu Yin strolled over, chuckling. "Is your name Huo Xiaoxiao?"

Huo Xiaoxiao looked up at him, her gaze a mix of curiosity and a bit of fear. "Yes, I'm Huo Xiaoxiao."

"How old are you?" Lu Yin gently asked.

Huo Xiaoxiao whispered, "Seven."

"Are you following us because you're worried about your sister?" Lu Yin enquired.

Huo Xiaoxiao nodded. She peeked at Huo Xiaoling and then ducked her head once again.

Huo Xiaoling gazed at Huo Xiaoxiao gently and picked her up. With an apologetic expression, she said, "I'm sorry, Your Highness. She's still young."

Lu Yin grinned. "I like children. Their innocence is always charming. You have a good sister."

Huo Xiaoling smiled in response. "Thank you, Your Highness."

An hour later, Lu Yin left the Huo family's residence. As he left, Huo Qingshan and the rest stood up to see him off.

"What are your thoughts on him, Xiaoling?" Huo Qingshan asked as he watched Lu Yin leave.

Huo Xiaoling pondered over it. "We didn't really talk much, so I can't tell."

"What's your first impression of him?"

Huo Xiaoling blinked. "He's decisive, ruthless, sly, talented, and willing to do anything to achieve his goals."

Huo Qingshan was astounded. "Sly? He's willing to do anything for his goals?"

Huo Xiaoling told him about the last battle during Earth's trial. "This person never lets go of any opportunity he can find, and he knows how to make use of everything around him. He's quite scary."

Huo Qingshan burst into laughter. "That's great! How can the Great Yu Empire survive if the one ruling it was a kind person? He'll do well as Royal Regent."

Huo Xiaoling did not speak any further. She had merely told her father her impression of Lu Yin. Currently, what kind of person he truly was had nothing to do with her, but in the future, perhaps it could become relevant if she ended up marrying him.

After parting from the Huo family, Lu Yin grew sullen. He had discovered something unique in the Huo family's residence. It was a strange symbol composed of a blue ball and a pair of wings. He had never seen the symbol before.

The symbol had been hidden very well, and if not for his domain, he wouldn't have discovered it. Huo Qingshan certainly had no idea that Lu Yin had seen it.

If the symbol had been placed in a very obvious place, then it might not have caught his attention. However, the Huo family had instead carefully concealed it. More importantly, Lu Yin had just searched this symbol up on his gadget, but there was no information about this symbol available anywhere. The Huo family clearly held a secret that nobody was aware of.

Lu Yin had initially assumed that they were just an ordinary noble family, but he had unexpectedly discovered that they were hiding something. Lu Yin was very uncomfortable with this new information. He disliked knowing that there were variables outside his control in the empire. He was now the person in charge of the Great Yu Empire, and he could not tolerate the fact that the Huo family had ties to another organization.

However, there was nothing that he could do about it for now. Lu Yin took a deep breath and disregarded the discomfort brewing within him and instead looked into the distance, towards where the

Auna family's estate lay. He had originally been planning on visiting the Auna family right after the Huo family, but now, after thinking things over, he instead returned to the Zishan residence.

The Auna family had let him down in the matter concerning Jenny Auna. If he rushed over too quickly, then it would make it too obvious that he needed the Auna family's support. They would definitely try to make use of that weakness if he made the wrong move.

He would wait for them to visit him. If they didn't... Lu Yin's eyes flashed dangerously. The Auna family will no longer need to exist. He'd have the two sides fight each other to the death. Huo Qingshan would be his tool to control the Auna family. Similarly, the Auna family could temporarily be used to gain a bit of control over the Huo family. Lu Yin hoped that the Auna family would not disappoint him.

Chapter 298: Attitude

For now, Ban Jiu was the only one whom Lu Yin could trust. This was because Undying Yushan had specifically sent this captain to protect Duke Yushan, which showed the captain's reliability. Actually, there was another captain whom Lu Yin could trust: Liuying Zishan.

It was time to have a chat with this captain who also held the Zishan name. Now that the Thirteenth Squadron came to mind, Lu Yin wondered if Da Lei had joined it as well.

Liuying Zishan's residence was not far from the King Zishan residence, so Lu Yin had Bronsen take him to the captain's home.

Lu Yin was stunned when he saw the mansion ahead of him; the gate had the exact same design as the gate in the Zishan residence.

Liuying Zishan stood silently before the main entrance. She was naturally very pretty, and even from a distance, her figure was sensuous and alluring. Lu Yin secretly sighed in admiration.

"The Thirteenth Captain, Liuying Zishan, pays her respects to the Royal Regent," Liuying Zishan said as she greeted Lu Yin.

"Captain Liuying, there's no need for such formalities."

She looked at Lu Yin. "Does the Royal Regent have any business with me?"

Lu Yin looked towards the entrance of the residence. "It's a familiar layout, but could I have a tour of the premises?"

Liuying Zishan fell silent, but then nodded soon after. "Please, come in."

A familiar man appeared before Lu Yin at the entrance. Lu Yin knew this young man from when he had first rolled six pips—Possession. This young man was Da Lei, and he had been a guard in Liuying Zishan's residence. It turned out that he had joined the Thirteenth Squadron after all.

Lu Yin and Da Lei looked at each other. For some reason, Da Lei felt that Lu Yin was very familiar, as if they had met before, even though he had no recollection of this person in his memory.

Liuying Zishan saw the two men exchange glances and said, "Da Lei, this is the King Zishan Lu Yin who recommended you to me."

Da Lei was pleasantly surprised and immediately saluted. "Da Lei thanks King Zishan for his grace in saving my life."

Lu Yin smiled. When he had Possessed this person, Da Lei had been wanted dead by powerful beings on his planet. If not for Lu Yin, then Da Lei definitely would have died there. That had also been the first time that Lu Yin had ever contacted Liuying Zishan. The two men could be considered to have been brought together by fate.

"There's no need to be overly polite. Captain Liuying, let's go," Lu Yin said. He patted Da Lei's shoulder but then seemed to move on as he entered the mansion.

Da Lei actually wanted to chat with Lu Yin quite badly. He truly wanted to know how Lu Yin had discovered the dangers that had been targeting him and also why Lu Yin had even bothered to contact Liuying Zishan on his behalf. But it was clear from that interaction that Lu Yin was not interested in chatting with Da Lei; thus, the guard could only helplessly withdraw.

Liuying Zishan also wanted to understand more about this matter, but it was not convenient for her to inquire since Lu Yin had not made any further comments.

Lu Yin naturally did not want to chat with Da Lei. There was no logical reason for him to have been aware of Da Lei, and the actual answer was that his innate gift was too ridiculous.

The Liuying Zishan mansion was smaller than the Huo family's, but since she lived here alone, such an area was sufficient.

"The Royal Regent must have something on your mind for you to have come here," Liuying Zishan probingly asked as she followed behind Lu Yin.

Lu Yin turned around and stared at her. "You have nothing to say to me?"

Liuying Zishan looked at Lu Yin and slowly bowed. "Thank you, for the Zishan family's kindness in saving me. Liuying shows her thanks."

Right as she was about to kneel down, Lu Yin hurriedly propped her up. "Captain Liuying, there's no need for that."

"If not for the Zishan Family, I would have died long ago, and in a very miserable manner too. I've always wanted to repay that kindness, but the Zishan family had withered away by the time I developed my strength. Hence, I could only change my surname to Zishan and try to preserve some of the Zishan family's reputation. I hope King Zishan doesn't take offense to my actions."

Lu Yin nodded. Many people had said that Liuying Zishan had changed her surname to Zishan in order to acquire the treasures of the Zishan family, but it had long since been proven that the Zishan treasure was a lie. Despite that, she had not gone back on her original actions, proving her sincerity.

Liuying Zishan was a proud woman and did not see a need to explain her actions. She only did what she felt was right. This woman was quite admirable.

Lu Yin knew that he should not play games when faced with such a forthright person. "Captain Liuying, the Great Yu Empire is currently facing both internal and external troubles. I don't know your answer, but could you help me?"

She solemnly nodded. "The Royal Regent should feel free to relay his instructions."

Lu Yin smiled. "Alright, I'll thank you in advance."

Two days quickly passed by, and during that time, Lu Yin had personally visited the Huo family, Liuying Zishan, Ban Jiu, the research base, and even many of the ministers. However, he had not sought out the Auna family yet, which made them feel rather uneasy.

Xueshan Auna was gloomy. The matter of Jenny Auna had become a barrier between his family and Lu Yin. The Auna family would never be able to raise their heads if they did not resolve this issue.

If it were only Lu Yin, then Xueshan Auna would have been confident in suppressing the youth. After all, he was a Hunter. However, Lu Yin's status was just too exalted. Even without considering his support in the Ten Arbiters Council, just his status as a Lockbreaker was enough to prevent the Auna family from rushing into action. Yet on top of everything else, Lu Yin also had the support of the Huo family, which gave Xueshan Auna a splitting headache.

"Brother, it's been two days. He's even visited Garope, but not our Auna family. What is the Royal Regent trying to say?" Rocky Auna was unhappy.

Xueshan Auna's eyes twinkled, seemingly thinking of something.

Rocky Auna looked up. "Brother, the Royal Regent is most likely dissatisfied with our Auna Family. Will he take action against us?"

Xueshan Auna shook his head. "He's not that foolish. He's waiting for us to seek him out."

"Why?"

"For us to approach and admit our mistake. The matter of Jenny was not settled in a satisfactory manner by our Auna family. If he personally visits us under such circumstances, then he'll either be seen as someone foolish who doesn't care about his prestige, or viewed as someone who can endure many things while being extremely conniving. He's still young, and his tolerance shouldn't have reached that extent. Thus, waiting for us to apologize to him is his natural temperament."

Rocky Auna frowned. "Then let me go."

Xueshan Auna did not reply, as he was still mulling over another matter. The previous day, Yan Wujiu had contacted him, expressing that he wanted Yan Feng to marry Jenny Auna. This request had caused Xueshan Auna to be very hesitant. If he agreed, then his Auna family would be tying their fate to the Firesmelt Planet, which would be equivalent to betraying the Great Yu Empire. But disagreeing, on the other hand, meant that Jenny would never be able to return to the family. This was a horrible dilemma. But even worse, if Jenny disappeared, news would spread and discredit Lu Yin. At that time, the Auna family would no longer be able to establish itself in the Great Yu Empire.

It initially seemed as if agreeing to Yan Wujiu's request was the better option, but the Firesmelt Planet's environment was not suitable for the Auna family either. If they all moved there, then the Auna family would gradually wither away, just like the Zishan family.

It was a difficult choice, as both options involved steep drops.

Xueshan Auna sighed as his expression turned complex. Sometimes, it was not good to think too much about these kinds of decisions. It was difficult to deal with this youth Lu Yin, though he could hope that this youth was not a scheming person and that he would allow the Auna family to safely overcome this crisis. However, Xueshan Auna also wished for this new Royal Regent to be a great strategist who could bring the empire to even greater heights.

“Rocky, I recall that Millie should be of age now,” Xueshan Auna suddenly said.

Rocky Auna was stunned, but he nonetheless replied, “Yes.”

Xueshan Auna’s eyes twinkled.

Rocky Auna’s face changed. “Brother, are you going to try to marry Millie off to the Royal Regent?”

Xueshan Auna had a determined expression. “When our two families arranged this marriage, no names were mentioned. Thus, Millie can be treated as the same as Jennie.”

“With the Royal Regent’s status, he cannot possibly marry my daughter. It must be the family’s eldest daughter,” Rocky Auna replied in shock.

Xueshan Auna’s expression became pained. “Go and bring me the family register.”

A hint of understanding dawned on Rocky Auna, and his face paled. He asked in disbelief, “Brother, you’ve made your decision?”

Xueshan Auna closed his eyes. “Yes. This is the only way we can negate the Royal Regent’s wrath and allow our Auna family to continue living on in the Great Yu Empire.”

“Bu-”

“No need to say any more. For the Auna family, sacrificing one daughter is nothing. Now, go.”

Rocky Auna grudgingly left the office.

That night, at the King Zishan residence, Lu Yin’s hands were clasped behind his back as he gazed up at the night sky. One of the mainland’s three rings had partly collapsed. When Undying Yushan had been attacked by experts, the resulting calamity had affected Zenyu Star so heavily that even the atmosphere had been altered. A battle between powerhouses was just too terrifying, and it was not something that an average person could approach.

“Your Highness, the Auna family’s head, Xueshan Auna, is seeking an audience with you,” Bronsen reported from outside the room.

Lu Yin’s eyes flashed expectantly. “Let him in.”

Not long after, Lu Yin met with Xueshan Auna in the courtyard of the Zishan residence.

“Your guilty subject, Xueshan Auna, pays respect to the Royal Regent,” Xueshan Auna immediately said with a salute when he saw Lu Yin.

Lu Yin hurriedly stopped him and apologetically replied, "I was intending on visiting Patriarch Xueshan Auna tomorrow, but my delays instead caused Senior Xueshan to come to me. This is very disrespectful as a junior."

"The Royal Regent is working from day to night, so it's reasonable for this guilty subject to pay a visit," Xueshan Auna sincerely said.

Lu Yin frowned. "Senior Xueshan, why do you call yourself a guilty subject? I don't recall you having committed any crime."

Xueshan Auna sighed convincingly. "There's an unfilial daughter within my family. The faults of a child are due to their parents' upbringing. Jenny's matter has shamed Your Highness—this is the Auna family's offence."

Upon hearing the man mention Jenny, Lu Yin's face changed unnaturally, and he became serious once again. "Forget it, since it's in the past. Where is she now?"

Xueshan Auna had started intently watching Lu Yin as soon as he mentioned Jenny and thus saw the unnatural change in his expression. Xueshan Auna's heart skipped a beat, as that was proof that Lu Yin had been brooding over this matter recently. He quickly spoke up. "Your Highness, please allow us to atone for our crimes. Your guilty subject has already struck Jenny Auna from the family register. As of this day, she is no longer a part of my Auna family." He then lifted the family register in a respectful manner.

Lu Yin was shocked. He took the register and saw that Jenny Auna's name had indeed been struck from the family register. He marvelled at Xueshan Auna's resolve; this girl was his blood daughter, but he was vicious enough to follow through on his decision.

"Senior Xueshan, this is too excessive. Jenny's only been gone for a few days to have fun. There's no need to deliver such a serious punishment." Lu Yin's index finger pressed against the stricken name and slowly streaked across the page. The originally erased name was gradually fully restored.

This scene caused Xueshan Auna's pupils to constrict in shock. Their family register was made from special materials, and names could not be reinstated after being stricken off, unless a Lockbreaker intervened. Only they were perceptive enough to see through the changes in the register's star energy and restore it to a previous state. He had never expected Lu Yin to actually be capable of doing such a thing.

"Your Highness, yo- you really are a Lockbreaker," Xueshan Auna gasped in astonishment.

Lu Yin smiled, "Yes, a two star Discerning Elementary Lockbreaker."

Great waves rocked Xueshan Auna's heart. A Lockbreaker with contributions was completely different from one with none. He had never expected Lu Yin to have walked so far on the path of Lockbreaking and had automatically assumed this young man was just a normal Lockbreaker without any contributions. The truth was too scary.

Lu Yin gave the family register back to Xueshan Auna and gently said, "Jenny's only looking for some fun, so there's no need to be so strict. She is your daughter after all. Even if she's in the wrong, she can always be corrected. Senior Xueshan, please revoke your decision."

Chapter 299: Assassination

Xueshan Auna emotionally received the register and took a deep breath. He was truly moved by Lu Yin's response. "It's Jenny's loss to not be able to marry the Royal Regent. This is also my Auna family's loss."

Lu Yin faintly smiled. "This matter still hasn't concluded yet. We can discuss things again once Jenny returns."

Xueshan Auna's eyes widened. "Your Highness, please attack the Firesmelt Planet! His Imperial Majesty had already drawn up plans to invade the Firesmelt Planet back then, but he was delayed by the Ross Empire. If Your Highness attacks the Firesmelt Planet, then I, Xueshan Auna, will be the first to charge forward."

Lu Yin nodded. "Alright. With Senior Xueshan's words, I'll be able to rest assured. Please, return home. I'll have to think over your suggestion."

Xueshan Auna bowed to Lu Yin once more, and then left respectfully.

Lu Yin's eyes twinkled. Xueshan Auna, this chess piece, would continue to stay on the board for now. His existence would balance the Huo family's power, and he could even be used to help deal with the Firesmelt Planet. Lu Yin could also use the Auna family's strength to stabilize the Great Yu Empire. Although the incident with Jenny had displeased Lu Yin, it was still tolerable. However, she would have to pay the price in the future.

The Thirteen Imperial Squadrons and top families like the Huo and Auna family held all of the true power within the Great Yu Empire. Thus, Lu Yin had to settle his case with them first before he could truly begin to command the Great Yu Empire.

Back in the royal court, Lu Yin gave out a new set of orders. With Huo Qingshan and Rocky Auna leading the army, the empire would begin reclaiming its lost territory and also start recruiting external candidates to replace the fallen captains of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons. Each candidate had to at least be at the Cruiser realm. Lu Yin also appointed five cabinet ministers to oversee the Great Yu Empire once he left, as he had a nagging feeling that he would not be able to stay here for too long.

Sure enough, after a week passed, San Dios sent a message to him, urging him to check in and report. The person who had urged him was actually Puyu. This councilor had overstepped his bounds by acting to represent Wendy Yushan and using her authority within her jurisdiction.

Lu Yin's face dropped when he saw Puyu's name. This person had finally shown himself; he was the one behind Bazeer.

Wendy Yushan's power level was very formidable, and she was among the top twenty of the Top 100 Rankings. Still, she could not compare to Puyu when it came to scheming. He was no weakling either; Wendy Yushan was ranked nineteenth while Puyu himself was ranked thirteenth. In terms of pure strength, he was one of the top three super powerhouses in the entire Outerverse Youth Council.

As a newcomer, Lu Yin could not beat Puyu, but he did not intend to challenge Puyu at this time either. Without a solid foundation, rushing into battle was nothing more than courting death. Lu Yin only wanted to make his presence briefly known before taking a step back and waiting for his family's arrangements and for Wendy Yushan to appear.

Puyu had not contacted Lu Yin this entire time, but he must know that Lu Yin was also the Lockbreaker, Brother Seven. Lu Yin thought that Puyu probably hated himself very much for wasting all those resources.

“Your Highness, Captain Liuying is seeking an audience,” Bronsen politely announced.

Lu Yin nodded. “Send her in.”

Liuying Zishan soon arrived before Lu Yin and urgently said, “Your Highness, we just received intelligence that Firesmelt Planet’s young master Yan Feng may be promoted to become a council member of the Outerverse Youth Council in the near future.”

Lu Yin was stunned and stood up. “What did you say? Yan Feng will be promoted to become a councilor?”

Liuying Zishan solemnly answered, “Yes, this information was relayed to us by a spy we planted on the Firesmelt Planet. Although Yan Feng has not yet entered the Top 100 Rankings, there are too few councilors on the Outerverse Youth Council. Thus, the Ten Arbiters Council has decided to promote a bunch of people, one of whom will be Yan Feng.”

Lu Yin became downcast. He had not mentioned this person not because he did not care, but rather because he currently had no time to deal with Yan Feng right now. After all, this person had snatched away Lu Yin’s supposed fiancée—how could he not care? But with this new piece of news, Lu Yin could no longer afford to ignore Yan Feng. Once he became a councilor, his status and position would change greatly, and it would become very difficult to deal with him at that time.

“There’s another bit of news, though we cannot verify it at this time.” Liuying Zishan had an ugly expression, as if she was abnormally furious.

Lu Yin frowned. “What’s the news?”

“Yan Wujiu plans to have Yan Feng marry Jenny Auna once he is appointed as a councilor,” she coldly answered.

An overflowing amount of killing intent flashed through Lu Yin’s eyes. This move was directly targeted at him, as the object of Yan Feng’s desires was originally Wendy Yushan; he simply had no desire to marry Jenny Auna. Firesmelt Planet was doing all of this to forcibly rope the Auna family in and to embarrass Lu Yin. Also, this meant that the Auna family would no longer be able to cast their relationship with the Firesmelt Planet aside. It was a vicious move, one aimed to make the Great Yu Empire crumble from within.

Once the Auna family defected, the Great Yu Empire would definitely suffer a heavy loss.

Even if Xueshan Auna had previously made his intentions known, that was before this recent news. If Yan Feng really did become a member of the Outerverse Youth Council, then the situation would completely change, and Xueshan Auna’s original intentions may not be preserved.

If Lu Yin had obtained this information, then Xueshan Auna definitely would as well. This Yan Feng had to be quickly taken care of, or else he would bring great trouble to Lu Yin.

“I got it. I’ll resolve this quickly,” Lu Yin replied indifferently.

Liuying Zishan looked at him with a worried expression, but she left King Zishan's palace afterwards.

Lu Yin's eyes glittered. He could not interfere with the Ten Arbiters Council no matter how high his status was. He then considered those around him, but there was only one person who could intervene in this matter—Nightking Yuanjing. He was perhaps the only one who could delay Yan Feng becoming a councilor.

But Lu Yin could not take the initiative to contact Nightking Yuanjing. The more Lu Yin reached out to him, the more likely it was that he would lose the ability to contact the Nightking. He could only wait for the Nightking to initiate contact, and Lu Yin hoped that it would be within the next two months.

"Yan Feng, that brat, really doesn't know how to behave! Not only does he want to snatch Seventh Bro's wife, but he even wants the councilor position! Go kick his ass!" the Ghost Monkey cried out indignantly.

Lu Yin indifferent replied, "I'm in a bad mood, so don't bother me."

"Seventh Bro, I'm on your side!" The Ghost Monkey felt wronged, but Lu Yin didn't care about his feelings. For now, he had to report to San Dios and then secure his position in the Outerverse Youth Council. After that, he would wait for his family to reach out before considering his next moves.

One day later, Lu Yin sat down in his Aurora and left the Great Yu Empire, heading straight for San Dios.

This Aurora had been gifted to him by the Great Yu Empire, and it had also been upgraded to a radiant-grade craft. The newly appointed finance minister had wanted to upgrade it one more time for Lu Yin. However, this spacecraft was not a personal ship but rather a large spacecraft. Lu Yin had rejected the offer since the empire's financial situation was so shaky that they didn't even have enough funds to cover the military's expenses. The price to upgrade an Aurora to the blackhole grade was just too terrifying, and Lu Yin could not be seen openly embezzling money. Thus, the spacecraft had only been upgraded to the radiant grade.

Still, radiant grade was not bad. Lu Yin's lost spacecraft from before had been at the same grade, which meant that it was about ten times faster than a normal spacecraft and sturdy enough to withstand Cruiser-level attacks.

There were twelve weaves separating the Great Yu Empire from San Dios. The journey normally took two and a half months to complete, but with the speed of a radiant grade Aurora, it would only take Lu Yin eight days.

San Dios did not refer to a single area but rather the entire Outerverse Youth Council headquarters, which included both East and West San Dios.

There were seventy two weaves in the Outerverse, and it was extremely vast. The Councilors could not possibly all congregate in one area. Hence, the council had been split between East and West San Dios.

Wendy Yushan and Puyu were based in East San Dios while the other three councilors met at West San Dios.

And since Wendy Yushan was missing, all of the authority of East San Dios was currently in Puyu's hands.

Lu Yin looked at the map of the Outerverse and felt slightly strange. With the disposition of the Ten Arbiters, they would not possibly allow Puyu to grasp such great power alone. Promoting Yan Feng might be one way they were restricting him, or perhaps they would soon implement other measures soon to control Puyu. Hold on. Lu Yin suddenly thought of Wen Sansi. Will he personally appear to restrain Puyu? Otherwise, why would one of the Ten Arbiters personally appear in the Outerverse?

Lu Yin continued muttering under his breath, and he eventually concluded that this theory was indeed possible. If Wen Sansi was personally restricting Puyu, then Puyu's control over East San Dios was not as solid as Lu Yin had thought it was; he should still have an opportunity to uproot him.

Suddenly, Lu Yin's heart skipped a beat, and he felt a strange chill overcome him. A loud sound rang out within the spacecraft and the internal alarm started flickering incessantly.

Lu Yin's eyes widened, and he looked up. A face filled with cold killing intent had appeared, and then a sword stabbed out at him. Lu Yin did not move and only coldly stared at the sword as it stabbed into the spacecraft. There was a loud bang as an intense impact passed through the body of the spacecraft and headed straight at Lu Yin.

This was an assassination attempt. An assassination attempt from two space-exploring powerhouses.

Lu Yin's body jolted, but the vibration based attack from the space-exploring powerhouse was useless against him. The attacker was only at the Explorer realm, and as such, Lu Yin calmly raised his right hand and placed it against the Aurora's roof. His palm vibrated as a complimentary force was sent through the spacecraft towards the Explorer standing on the roof.

That Explorer only felt his legs go numb before a terrifying force with multiple stacks and folds almost crippled his legs. He immediately leapt off of the vessel and into the starry sky.

In front of the spacecraft, the other Explorer's sword attack had not damaged the Aurora at all. The second assassin cried, "Radiant-grade spacecraft!" He then immediately left without a second thought.

The two Explorer assassins both left without achieving their goal.

From start to end, Lu Yin had not panicked in the slightest, as a radiant-grade spacecraft could withstand even Cruiser-level attacks. He had nothing to be afraid of, but who would dare to send assassins after him? It couldn't be the rebellious powers contesting against the Great Yu Empire, as none of them had the guts to kill a Lockbreaker. If Lu Yin died, not only would the Lockbreaker Society investigate the situation, but the Ten Arbiters Council would appear as well.

Could it be a great hostile power from the Innaverse? Or maybe the Daynight Clan?

"An assassination attempt? Could it be that you've been placed on the Celestial Vanquisher's List?" the Ghost Monkey wondered.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. "Do you think I can get on that list with my current strength?"

"Bullshit, but if you reveal what you told Huo Qingshan to the entire universe, I guarantee that you will enjoy a luxurious experience of an endless buffet of assassinations as befitting of someone on the Celestial Vanquisher's List."

Lu Yin frowned. Being monitored by an entire star domain would spell nothing but trouble. Forget Lu Yin, even the Ten Arbiters themselves would feel troubled by such a hindrance.

The reason why the Ten Arbiters did not publicly reveal their identities might be to protect their authority, but there was also a chance that it was a precaution against the Celestial Vanquisher's List. If the Astral Beast Domain had its own list, then what about the Technocracy? They must have a similar list of assassination targets. Were his actions too high-profile?

"It shouldn't be an assassination resulting from the Celestial Vanquisher's List. They wouldn't be so stingy as to only send two Explorers," the Ghost Monkey guessed.

"You're right, that's too stingy," Lu Yin mumbled, deep in thought. Whether it was an assassination attempt from someone targeting people on the Astral Beast Domain's Celestial Vanquisher's List or from a great Inniverse power, neither group would not send just two Explorers. Those who understood him also knew his power, and two Explorers were nowhere close to being able to take care of him. If that were the case, then who could be behind this attempt?

Lu Yin had forgotten one crucial point. The rebellious powers contesting the Great Yu Empire may be afraid of the Lockbreaker Society and the Ten Arbiters Council, but they were even more afraid of imminent death.

Chapter 300: The "Yu" Surname

When faced with two difficult choices, it was absolutely necessary to make a decision. For certain groups, between the Lockbreaker Society, the Ten Arbiters Council, and the Great Yu Empire, the empire posed a more immediate threat to them. They might be condemned to death the moment Lu Yin died, but they would at least be able to enjoy themselves for a period of time.

When it came down to it, an ignorant person was not afraid of a tyrant because the concept was too far removed from their understanding of the world. Simply put, they would not be able to understand the significance of the threat.

In the distant Astral Beast Domain, there was a huge place called the Celestial Beast Empire, within which was an academy called the Spiritual Academy that had been formed in imitation of the Astral Combat Academy. The strongest members of the Astral Beast Domain's younger generation were all gathered in this academy, where they learned and imitated the behavior of humans.

The Spiritual Academy ranked their students from weakest to strongest by the number of territories that the students controlled, which had led to the rise of the five lords of the academy.

Deep underground, quite a few pieces of polarium fell to the ground. This was a material that was often used to create cosmic armor that could resist corrosion from the various energies of the universe. It was incredibly durable, and some high-grade polarium armors could even block attacks from Explorers. However, the polarium that had been scattered to the ground had numerous small, teeth-like incisions in it, as if it had been bitten by something.

"Make preparations to leave, Hua Yi. We are heading to the Human Domain," a deep voice sounded out within the underground space.

A pair of small, green eyes revealed themselves, releasing rays of demonic green light. From the meager light, one could see that the creature had an appearance similar to a mouse's. "The Human Domain? What for? An invasion?"

"You don't need to know the reason. You only have one mission; to defeat the most powerful students in the human's Astral Combat Academy and spread your name through the Human Domain."

The green eyes of the mouse lit up in interest, and it grabbed a piece of polarium with its teeth before casually gobbling it up like it was enjoying a fine dessert. "Hehe, how interesting! I'll eat all of those powerhouses from the Astral Combat Academy. Hehehe."

Elsewhere, far away from the dark underground cave, there was a group of volcanoes where countless flame beasts gathered. Hot lava would spew forth every once in a while, distorting the very air.

In the very middle of the volcanic region, under a massive, dark red volcano, a gigantic fiery, weasel-like creature was deep in sleep, evenly breathing in and out even as it occasionally swallowed or spat out bits of magma. Each time he exhaled, he would let out a cloud of burning hot air.

Additionally, every time the fire cat spewed out magma, the surrounding temperatures would increase. Quite a few fire beasts were not able to tolerate the intense heat and were thus forced to move further and further away from the central volcano. It was only when the fire weasel awakened that the temperature would decrease once again.

"Ember! Mane!" A deep voice rang out from above the volcanoes. The void suddenly distorted, shattering the heat bubble and instantly lowering the temperature.

At the base of the volcano, the fire weasel sleepily blinked as it woke up, revealing dark red eyes. They contained a strange flame within them that could somehow burn the magma into nothingness. "What is it?"

"Make preparations. We're departing for the Human Domain."

The fire weasel stood up and looked at the sky. Its name was Embermane, and it was a Karmic Flame Sable as well as one of the five lords of the Spiritual Academy. "Can you guarantee my safety?"

"Don't worry—although the humans aren't trustworthy, they won't dare to attack you out in the open. Your safety is guaranteed."

Embermane thought it over. "I would like to meet the disciples of the human's Blaze Realm and discover the true might of their Karmic Flame Sword."

"No, we won't have time for that. However, I can gift you the Blaze Realm once we conquer the Human Domain."

Embermane nodded. "Fine then, it's a deal."

Fire and ice were naturally extreme opposites. If there was light, then there was darkness, and if there was fire, then there was ice. A long distance from the chain of volcanoes, there was an icy region where everything froze over from the violent chilling winds. Even the wind turned to ice and fell to the ground at a rate visible to the naked eye. No living beings could survive here. At the very least, no creatures from the Spiritual Academy dared to live here.

But in this extremely icy region, there was a beautiful ice phoenix that was seemingly frozen, almost as if it were a statue. Strangely enough, the phoenix had sparkling antlers that emanated three different-colored rays of light, giving it a very mysterious look.

“Wake up, Feng Jiu!” The deep voice resounded throughout the icy continent, but compared to the tone used in the other areas, it sounded a bit gentler.

Beneath the ice, the ice phoenix opened its beautiful eyes, and with a flash, its body transformed into a beautiful girl with long, blue hair. She still had a pair of sparkling antlers atop her head that emanated tri-colored rays that enveloped her body, giving her a sacred aura. “Did something happen?”

“Make preparations. We’re going to the Human Domain. I’ve already informed your family.”

The blue-haired girl was surprised, and her eyes revealed her delight. “We’re going to the Human Domain? Really? Why?”

“Our Astral Beast Domain and the Technocracy are banding together to hold a competition with the Human Domain to assess them. We’re focusing on the younger generation. Four lords of the Spiritual Academy will gather at the human’s Astral Combat Academy and fight the final four members of their Astral Combat Tournament. The Technocracy will also send four individuals to participate in this event.”

“That’s great! I’ve been very curious about how powerful the Astral Combat Academy truly is! There’s that mysterious Starsibyl, who seems weak but is actually a cultured, arrogant person, the powerful Mavis family, and also that person with battle force who managed to defeat the inheritor of the Thirteen Swords. I really want to fight them all, so this is great!” The blue-haired girl was elated.

“Don’t underestimate the humans. You have to be careful of everyone, especially that Starsibyl. Even the humans don’t know much about her due to her being shrouded in mystery.”

The blue-haired girl nodded politely. “I got it, thank you for the reminder. By the way, there’s five lords of the academy, no? So who’s not going?”

“The Ghost Monkey has gone missing, but that’s not a problem. He was the weakest of the five of us anyways, so it doesn’t matter if he’s here or not.”

The girl was shocked. “He’s missing? When did that happen?”

“It took place some time ago at the border warfront. He’s probably dead since he ran into Lu Yin, who also defeated the inheritor of the Thirteen Swords. That monkey’s definitely not a match for that human, and it would make sense if he died.”

The blue-haired girl pursed her lips as her eyes glinted coldly. Lu Yin. She would remember this name.

“Were you close to the Ghost Monkey, Feng Jiu? You seem upset.”

She hesitated. “If it’s possible, it’d be for the best if we found him. He’s very well educated and has acquired a lot of arcane knowledge that most have no idea even exist. He’s also not that weak and has a unique innate gift.”

“Haha, you’re still as kind as ever. I understand.”

“Thank you.”

A great distance away from the Spiritual Academy was a territory called the Heavenly Fiend Empire. There was a place there known as the Skymender Gates where a tutor by the name of Skymender taught his disciples. One of those disciples was called Tian Hou. It had been birthed in a strange manner and a wondrous innate gift. It also studied at the Spiritual Academy and was also one of the five academy lords; the strongest one to be exact.

“Make preparations to enter the Human Domain and challenge the top four from the Astral Combat Tournament, Sky.”

“Yes, Master.”

“While some of the strongest young humans are gathered at the Astral Combat Academy, not all of them are there. Aside from Starsibyl, nobody should be able to force you to go all out. However, I have calculated your chances and found that there might be variables in your battles. I hereby give you permission to go all out as you deem necessary.”

“Yes, Master.” It seemed much more excited than before, for it had been restraining itself for a long time. There was nobody in the Spiritual Academy who was strong enough to handle its full strength. It hoped that the humans would not be too disappointing, and it was rather excited to discover the “variables” that its master had spoken of.

While the giant Astral Beast Domain was making preparations to send out the four strongest members of their younger generation, similar events were taking place in the Technocracy. Both sides were sending out four members of their younger generation to participate in the assessment battle of the Human Domain.

At this time, Lu Yin still had not received word about the upcoming battle yet. He had no idea it was nearly time for the final four to fight. The Daynight clan had exerted their influence on the Astral Combat Academy after the last round of elimination matches in the tournament to forcefully send the final four competitors to the Outerverse to participate in a trial. This had been done in hopes that Zhanlong Daynight would be able to reverse the humiliation that Nightqueen Yanqing had brought to the clan. Unfortunately, Zhanlong Daynight had also been defeated by Lu Yin, and their efforts had been rendered for naught. The final four’s true opponents were young experts from the other two domains.

It had been two days since Lu Yin had left the Great Yu Empire. By now, he was far, far away from the Frostwave Weave.

Lu Yin was quietly reciting the Stonewall Scriptures and studying an astral chart at the same time. His gadget quietly beeped, and he looked down to check the notification. His eyes lit up in excitement when he saw that it was an unfamiliar number—it must be someone from home!

Without a second thought, he answered right away and was greeted simply. “Seven.”

Lu Yin was delighted. “Uncle Reuben!”

“Congratulations on joining the Outerverse Youth Council and also becoming the Royal Regent of the Great Yu Empire,” a hoarse voice replied. There seemed to be background sounds of energy waves coming and going on the other side of the call.

Lu Yin was very excited. “Do all of you already know about this?”

“Of course, everyone at home knows about every single thing that you do. Did you think that we had forgotten about you?”

Lu Yin felt a warmth blossom in his heart. After losing his memories, he had awoken to the sight of these people. While he called them his family, he knew that there was no blood connection between them. The time that he spent with them was not as long as the time that he had spent on Earth, but they were still the most important people to him.

“Are things going well at home, Uncle? And is Big Sis... is she still smoking?” Lu Yin asked apprehensively.

There was a moment of silence from the other end. “She heard you, Seven.”

Lu Yin was speechless. “You didn’t even tell me she’s next to you, Uncle! I want to talk to her!”

“She can’t talk to you. You know why.”

Lu Yin could only respond, “Fine. In that case, I’ll just say more terrible things about her. It’s not like she can do anything about it anyways.”

“Hehe, I dare you to keep talking.”

Lu Yin’s heart jolted as the image of a cool girl casually holding a cigarette in her mouth appeared in his mind. He trembled inside. “Uh, um, uncle, I never said anything about her! You’ve got to defend me!”

“Okay, enough of that. It’s already difficult enough for us to contact you. Listen up: there are some things that we need to warn you about.”

Lu Yin froze, knowing they were moving on to serious matters. “Is this about the Great Yu Empire?”

Uncle Reuben replied, “Before we talk about the Great Yu Empire, I need to tell you about something. Have you heard of the Three Dark Hands before?”

Lu Yin raised his eyebrows, and the Ghost Monkey’s adorable little face on his right arm jerked. “The Three Dark Hands? We’ve talked about them before. Seventh Bro, I didn’t know that you had connections like this! If they know about the Three Dark Hands, then this group has to be quite something. Why didn’t you tell me? They-” Before the monkey could finish talking, Lu Yin screened his senses off. He didn’t want the monkey to discover too much about his background.

“What’re the Three Dark Hands?” Lu Yin innocently asked. The Ghost Monkey had only mentioned the Neohuman Alliance before, and he still did not know what the other two were.

“It’s normal for you not to have heard of them before now. There are few even in the Innaverse who’ve heard of them. One is the Neohuman Alliance, which you should already know about. They’re basically enemies of the entire universe. There’s also one called the Court of Seven Names, which is made up of

the seven unique surnames. Each surname represents an unimaginably terrifying organisation, and one of them is called 'Yu.'"