

### **Chapter 321: Divination Attack And Forcefield**

Tian Hou slightly raised his body when he saw Starsibyl appear. This woman was his only opponent in this tournament.

On the west side, the Technocracy's Yun glanced at Starsibyl. This woman had given her a very strange feeling, and she felt strangely hateful towards her.

Starsibyl's opponent was Yar Pater, a competitor from the Technocracy. It was not a humanoid, but rather a wolf-shaped machine that followed closely beside Yun, like a docile pet.

Many spectators became angry when they realized that Starsibyl's opponent was actually only that arrogant woman's pet; they could not accept such a match.

Yun sneered coldly. These people don't even deserve to be called pets.

Starsibyl showed no such reaction and only silently observed the wolf-shaped Yar Pater before taking action. She suddenly shifted to her left, and sharp claws bore through where she had been standing just moments earlier. The void collapsed, and a second Yar Pater appeared after boring through it. Only then did the original Yar Pater gradually vanish.

This was an extreme speed that surpassed even Hua Yishou's, and it shocked a large portion of the audience members as they had completely missed the wolf's movements.

Lu Yin's heart also skipped a beat upon seeing such speed, but what was even more staggering was Starsibyl, as she had actually dodged the mechanical wolf's attack. No, that was incorrect. She had not dodged the attack, but rather, she had stepped away in advance. How did she do that?

Lu Yin was not the only one astounded, as many others were similarly perplexed at how Starsibyl had been able to avoid Yar Pater's attack that had been launched at such incredible speeds.

Yar Pater's first strike missed, and it immediately turned around to attack again. But before it could move, lightning flickered around its body, followed immediately by an explosion. Its body then vanished from the Lifeseek Realm.

The audience fell completely silent, and this even included the spectators watching on the screens throughout the universe, such as those on Zenyu Star, East San Dios, the various powers of the Innerverse, Sword Sect, etc. They were all shocked that Yar Pater had been defeated so inexplicably, as no one had even seen Starsibyl attack. But if she hadn't attacked, then how had the mechanical wolf been defeated?

Yun had a solemn face, and her expression quickly changed as she stared at Starsibyl. She seemed to be deep in thought about something.

Tian Hou stepped forward and raised his body. "The power of divination, to take action before the attack. This is the Starsibyl Sect."

Everyone was completely astounded by Starsibyl's showing, including Lu Yin.

He had never believed in this so-called “divination,” but there was no other explanation for Starsibyl’s movements at this moment. Yar Patar’s speed had been so fast that not even Lu Yin had been able to discern the wolf’s movements at that moment. If Lu Yin had been in that battle, then he would have had to forcefully receive the attack, but Starsibyl had managed to sidestep it as it came out. What could it be besides divination? And Lu Yin had not even been able to see the attack that had defeated her opponent, which was just like what had happened during the Astral Combat Tournament battle from before. This woman always won in an incomprehensible manner, and it was very astounding every time.

“Fifth match. Victor: Starsibyl.”

Many were taken aback again. Starsibyl? She’s Starsibyl? It wasn’t just the foreign participants in the tournament; even many students of the Astral Combat Academy had not realized that this girl was Starsibyl.

Disregarding the audience’s shock, Starsibyl walked out from the battlefield and smiled gently at Lu Yin. Her gaze was clearly tender, but Lu Yin only felt his back turn cold. Divination was such a mysterious and unfathomable ability. Could it really exist? But then how had she attacked? Even with his current comprehension of his domain, he had not been able to see it at all. He would have to also activate the Cosmic Art and use Giant Emperor’s third eye to even have a chance of observing it. How would he fight against her if he had been in Yar Patar’s place?

Many were thinking this same question; how could they fight against Starsibyl? How could they defend? There was no answer!

While everyone was still lost in their shock, the next battle had already begun. It was the Cosmic Sea expert, Zi Jun, facing off against the Astral Beast Domain’s Embermane.

As for Embermane, this sable was not unknown to the students from Astral-7. Not only had he defeated Dai Ao, but he had also defeated Astral-7’s student leader Liu Xiaoyun, dazzling all of Astral-7.

Meanwhile, although someone like Zi Jun seemed normal, no one understood her identity or strength besides the fact that she clearly represented the Cosmic Sea.

The original two who were going to represent the Cosmic Sea in the Tournament of the Strongest had both withdrawn. Zi Jun and Liu Shaoqiu had appeared afterwards.

From the audience’s perspective, despite Zi Jun being an unknown power, she should not be a match for Embermane, as the sable had easily defeated Liu Xiaoyun. However, the battle ended up exceeding their expectations, and Zi Jun easily dealt with Embermane’s inferno that could burn everything.

Lu Yin felt puzzled when he saw Zi Jun’s familiar-looking movement, which seemed to be something one learned after living in the Cosmic Sea all year round. Silus, the previous competitor from the Cosmic Sea, had also used the same technique. Was this woman really from the Cosmic Sea as well?

The most upset person at this moment was Embermane, as he had believed that his blazes would burn everything down and could even ignite the void. However, every time he attacked this woman, a green radiance would stop him in his tracks. It was very perplexing, but he could not break through the strange radiance no matter what he tried.

Whoosh!

Embermane's tail fiercely swung out towards Zi Jun, as he was trying out a different attack pattern.

In his previous battle against Dai Ao, Embermane's tail had sent Dai Ao stumbling in retreat. But against Zi Jun, his tail could not even make her move. The shockwaves from their collisions rippled out, tearing the ground to pieces and scattering the clouds. Zi Jun's hands were covered with a green aura, and they moved in an odd manner only to slam against Embermane's body, causing him to be swatted away.

Embermane adjusted himself in midair while an incomparably scorching heat wave filled the void. Countless glittering sparks filled the air, as if another sun had appeared in the sky.

Many students felt defenseless; first, they had witnessed freezing cold, and now, they were experiencing unbearable heat, neither of which the audience members could resist. These competitors were all Limiteers who had reached the peak of strength within their realm, and their battles were terrifying beyond belief to the regular students.

Flames flashed across Embermane's eyes before he opened his mouth to release a strand of fire that tore through the void as it shot straight at Zi Jun.

From afar, Liu Xiaoyun's heart skipped a beat. This was the firestorm attack that had melted her sword, burned her battle technique away, and nearly burned her to ashes as well.

In another area of the crowd, Jared's breath was also snatched away. How is this possible? This inferno could not be any more familiar to him, as this was the conflagration that was unleashed from the inherited battle technique, the Karmic Flame Sword. Why did this fire sable have this flame?

Zi Jun's face changed slightly when she saw these extreme flames that could burn everything heading towards her, and seemed to be a bit surprised. Her right foot took a step forward as the dark green radiance extended from her entire body and dispersed the heat. The next moment, everyone felt a groundbreaking change as the entire battlefield was transformed into dark-green jade.

Starsibyl, Lu Yin, Tian Hou, and the others were all stunned, as well as many of the spectating powerhouses like Liu Xiaoyun and Kuang Wang, whose faces all quickly drained of color. This was a forcefield, and it was something that could only be displayed after one's comprehension into their domain reached such a high degree that they could change the natural environment to better suit themselves at will. The fact that Zi Jun had a forcefield was proof that this woman was currently the most outstanding domain user in this competition.

Many powers similarly stared at the screen in shock. It was terrifying that a Limiteer had unleashed their own forcefield.

From the movements of a single hand, Embermane's flames were solidified and then transformed into jade. They fell to the ground, appearing quite lifelike, almost as if they were a sealed sourcebox.

All of the onlookers were stunned and speechless as they stared at the battlefield.

Embermane's pupils shrank as he could only look on in horror. His flames had been solidified into jade, and even though he could not exhibit the true power of his flames with the strength of a Limiteer, his flames still should not have been able to be affected that easily. While still frozen with shock, he was

enveloped by a jade finger. Embermane could no longer think of anything else, as he had also been turned into jade.

This was an innate gift that could turn everything into jade, and it showed off Zi Jun's strength; she was able to release her own forcefield to change the environment around her. She was also the only one to date who had achieved such a thing at the Limiteer realm. She had greatly surpassed the domains of all the other competitors that had been displayed during the Astral Combat Tournament.

"Sixth match. Victor: Zi Jun."

Zi Jun calmly stood within the battlefield and raised her head to scan across everyone present. "I'm Zi Jun of the Longevity Brigade of the Cosmic Sea."

Countless people were astonished once again, as "great regiment" referred to one of the Four Pirate Crews of the Cosmic Sea. The unparalleled Four Pirate Crews were the four strongest regiments, and the great Longevity Brigade was one of them.

Lu Yin was astonished to hear that she truly was from the Cosmic Sea. The Longevity Brigade? Her power was far beyond Silus, and more importantly, she was about the same age as the other competing students. Lu Yin had exchanged blows with Silus before, but that person was significantly older, and strictly speaking, was not of the same generation as him. However, this woman was an expert from the same generation as the Astral Combat Academy students. This showcased the true top-notch power of the Cosmic Sea's younger generation.

Lu Yin suddenly recalled Ye Xingchen, who must be even stronger than this woman. He was the publicly recognized Ten Arbiters' candidate from the Cosmic Sea.

There was one battle left for this first round of the drawn lots. The last competitors were Tian Hou from the Astral Beast Domain and Ben from the Technocracy.

Both of these two had eye-catching appearances. Tian Hou was clad entirely in black and not much of him could be seen. Ben's appearance was even stranger, as it was just a book that floated around. Many were interested in this battle, and people's attention quickly shifted from the previous battles of Starsibyl's and Zi Jun's to this next match.

Few knew that this black-garbed Tian Hou was the strongest competitor from the Astral Beast Domain, but Ben was one of the few who were privy to this information. This wasn't because the book had insider information, but rather because it had been informed as such by Yun right before the match. "You're not his match." These words caused Ben to firmly believe that it was no match for Tian Hou.

Outside the battlefield, Starsibyl, Yun, and Lu Yin all watched Tian Hou with serious expressions. This was a strong person, and even the arrogant Yun viewed Tian Hou in a different light, similar to how she viewed Starsibyl.

Amongst the observing students, one's face turned particularly pale the moment they saw Tian Hou. He was from Astral-7, and was coincidentally the student who had initially ridiculed Tian Hou before being paralyzed by just one look. This had left a traumatic psychological shadow that lasted to this day and the student didn't dare to even look towards the battlefield.

Tian Hou did not act first, and only faced Ben quietly.

Ben wobbled in mid-air and watched with vigilant eyes while a strange fluctuation flashed around the book.

From where he was watching in the east, Lu Yin quietly asked. "What's this Tian Hou's power?"

"I've already said that I don't know. I know the strengths and weaknesses of all the other students from the Spiritual Academy, but I couldn't find out anything about this Tian Hou. He's Skymender's disciple, which means that he can rival Starsibyl with just his status alone. I couldn't find out anything else about him," the Ghost Monkey replied.

Lu Yin looked at the battlefield and watched Ben attack first. Since it was just a book with neither hands nor legs, it was not so much attacking as releasing a undulation that enveloped the entire battlefield without the onlookers' notice.

One student curiously touched the mentors' barrier that isolated the battlefield to feel the undulations. The next moment, he started to bleed dreadfully from his seven orifices before quickly disappearing from the Lifeseek Realm.

"It's a fantasy realm; don't touch the barrier," someone loudly called out to remind everyone.

Everyone felt slightly numb; this fantasy realm was a terrifying attack that was both invisible and formless. No matter how strong someone may be, they could end up helpless against this fantasy realm. The majority of people would be frightened by the mere prospect of facing this sort of fantasy realm.

### **Chapter 322: Oppression**

Out of all the Astral Combat Academy students, Jared was the most well-known for his expertise in fantasy realms. He had become an Area Master with his fantasy realm battle technique and had even become the strongest in the Blaze Realm's younger generation with it. However, his fantasy realm battle technique was too weak, and he had ultimately been defeated by Xia Luo.

At this moment, Ben's fantasy realm made everyone feel apprehensive. It felt as if it could instantly defeat the average Limiteer from the Astral Combat Academy, which was very terrifying indeed.

As time continued to tick by, everyone felt that something was amiss. Ben's fantasy realm had shrouded the entire battlefield, but Tian Hou still showed no abnormal reactions. He remained so calm that it was almost frightening.

On the west side of the battlefield, Yun's expression grew heavier as the disdain in her eyes gradually morphed into shock. It seemed as if she had discovered something extraordinary.

Suddenly, Tian Hou raised his head, and while the body underneath the black gowns remained hidden, everyone felt as if his body had become distorted the moment he raised his head. And then, he vanished.

This was not due to extreme speed or tearing through the void. It was more like he had merged into the void as one.

Lu Yin's eyes widened, as he had never seen such an extraordinary method before. A space-exploring powerhouse could tear through the void to cross enormous distances while Lu Yin himself could rely on

extreme speed to shuttle through the void. However, he had never met someone who could merge into the void like that.

A moment later, Tian Hou's figure appeared above Ben, and he kicked down at the book with both legs. His attack was so forceful that Ben was directly buried underground. Then, the void distorted once again as Ben's body vanished. The book-like competitor had been swallowed by the void, just like what had happened during Liu Xiaoyun's battle against Tu Bo during the Astral Combat Tournament. Even though Liu Xiaoyun had won, she had still been banished into the void by Tu Bo, which meant that the match had ended with mutual destruction.

"Seventh match. Victor: Tian Hou."

The crowd finally reacted after the battle had already ended. This battle had been one of the quickest, second only to Starsibyl's, and it had taken around as long as Yun's battle against Han Chong. The outcome had been decided in an instant, as the difference between the two sides was just too significant.

Was Ben weak? That was impossible. Of the four competitors from the Technocracy, Yun's power was unfathomable, Domi had forced Grandini Mavis into a difficult position, and Yar Patar's speed had been overwhelming. The overall strength of the four definitely surpassed that of the vast majority of the Astral Combat Academy's student leaders, but unfortunately, they had run into the wrong opponents, and now, only Yun remained.

Three out of the four competitors from the Astral Beast Domain had also been defeated. Like the Technocracy, the beasts were not weak, and their competitors' strength greatly surpassed the average Academy leader's, but they had also encountered the wrong match ups. It could only be said that the participants in the Tournament of the Strongest were at an extremely high level, where even a student leader such as Kuang Wang could not hope to compete.

Only Han Chong of the four competitors from Astral Combat Academy had fallen, as he had faced Yun. Both competitors from the Cosmic Sea had advanced.

The seven competitors to enter the next round of drawing lots were Starsibyl, Grandini Mavis, Lu Yin, Tian Hou, Yun, Liu Shaoqiu, and Zi Jun.

"The first round of battles is over. The next will begin in one day."

One day was enough to allow everyone to recover; since the tournament was taking place in the Lifeseek Realm, the participants' recovery rate was extremely quick.

Although there had only been seven battles this round, each one had been a feast for countless eyes.

The Astral Combat Tournament had only been a tournament for the students from Astral Combat Academy, and it was not sufficient to represent the wider universe's selection of elites from the younger generation. The Tournament of the Strongest was different; whether one looked at Starsibyl, Tian Hou, or Yun, they were all the top elites of their respective star domain. Within the same generation, few could rival them. Through these battles, one could truly witness the peak power of a Limiteer.

It was a pity that this level of competition was not suitable for the general public to spectate.

Fortunately, the Great Yu Empire, Earth, East San Dios, and various large powers could watch it, though normal folks had no way to access the tournament.

While the Tournament of the Strongest was being held, the negotiation between the three star realms was also underway.

“Continuing this battle has brought all three sides irreparable losses. It’s absolutely necessary to stop this war.”

“You humans are so hypocritical. You fight when you want to and stop when you don’t.”

“Isn’t this what your Teacher Skymender intends? Otherwise that Tian Hou of yours wouldn’t have been allowed to step foot in our star realm.”

“Teacher is benevolent, but that shouldn’t be the platform for your human hypocrisy.”

“Regardless of whether we fight or not, we will not return the territories that we have captured.”

“Although your Technocracy has inherited some powerful ancient technology, your resources will be exhausted one day. Your resources are your foundation, and once you run out, you can only wait for your slow but inevitable demise.”

“Before that, we will completely conquer your Human Domain.”

“Alright, there’s no need for such nonsense. Before this negotiation begins, the general direction has already been set for us. Let’s talk about the details.”

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Atop Astral-10’s trial zone mountain, Lu Yin opened his eyes, and the other Astral-10 students awakened one after another as well. They all turned to Lu Yin. None of them disturbed him, except for Xia Luo who walked up to Lu Yin. “Let’s chat.”

Lu Yin nodded. “What’s the matter?”

Xia Luo gave Lu Yin a serious look. “How strong do you think Han Chong is?”

Lu Yin was baffled, as Xia Luo and Han Chong were strangers. Why would he ask about Han Chong?

“Very strong,” he replied.

“And yet, he still lost.”

“What are you trying to say?” Lu Yin asked. At the space station, before he left, Silver had made certain remarks about Xia Luo that made Lu Yin harbor suspicions about Xia Luo. As such, and Lu Yin had taken some precautions.

Xia Luo smiled slightly. “During the Astral Combat Tournament, Xia Ye fought Han Chong but was crushed. That final painting of the mountains and seas is very special, and according to Xia Ye, it holds an unavoidable power. And yet, Han Chong lost to Yun. I’m here to remind you to not underestimate that Yun, as she is extremely terrifying.”

Lu Yin was deep in thought. “I know.”

“You don’t.” Xia Luo looked at Lu Yin’s surprised expression and then continued, explaining, “There’re many mysterious matters in this universe, such as natural phenomena, sceneries, historical remnants, and other such things. The average person will not encounter these mysterious matters, or they won’t be able to remember or replicate them. However, once such a thing has been mimicked, that imitation gains an unfathomable power. Han Chong’s scenery painting is precisely that. You did not exchange blows with him, so you can’t understand the level of oppression it contains.”

Xia Luo’s words reminded Lu Yin of the Stonewall Scriptures. It was just a string of characters, but it could not be recited in full. This was essentially a non-memorizable, non-readable mysterious power.

“Brother Lu, we walked out together, and I hope that you’ll be able to tread a further path,” Xia Luo sincerely said to Lu Yin before turning to leave.

Lu Yin had felt lost from start to finish, not knowing what Xia Luo meant by his words.

After Xia Luo left, no one else bothered Lu Yin. He enjoyed a good rest, and when he opened his eyes again, it was time to reenter the Lifeseek Realm.

Everyone else was already present, and the battlefield had been returned to its original state as well.

“Seven lots. There is a single blank one that represents directly advancing through a bye. Help yourselves,” a giant voice boomed out.

Lu Yin raised his head as lots of three different colors spun in the air, the colors constantly changing. It was the same lot drawing method as the first round, though this time there was one colorless lot that also did not change, evidently the one that represented a bye to the next round.

Under the countless gazes of the audience, all the tournament competitors felt like it would be pathetic to grab that blank lot, aside from Lu Yin, and of course, someone else: Grandini Mavis. Their two star energies competed against each other as they fought for that blank lot while the rest of the competitors randomly picked a colored lot.

Their two star energies collided above the blank lot, but Lu Yin was slightly faster and managed to snatch it first. Grandini furiously grit her teeth. “Hey, are you a man? If you are, then go and have an honorable battle.”

Lu Yin looked sideways. “Isn’t the Mavis family composed of brawlers? Why don’t you fight?”

Grandini Mavis was furious, but was left with no choice since the blank lot had already been taken by Lu Yin. She snorted and finally took the last colored lot.

At this point, the Astral-10 students were all embarrassed. The rest had grabbed a random lot, but Lu Yin had deliberately snatched the blank lot, clearly saying that he was not interested in fighting this round. This caused many to feel that he had no confidence in winning. Even the viewers on Zenyu Star were struck speechless.

“The Royal Regent sure does things as he wishes,” one minister carefully said after considering the matter.



“Yes, the Royal Regent is trying to preserve his strength.”

“That’s smart, he should. Haha!”

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On Earth, Zhou Shan laughed as he remembered his experiences with Lu Yin on Earth. This fellow was still the same and refused to be at a disadvantage or do more than what was necessary.

Wendy Yushan watched Lu Yin on her screen, and her eyes lit up. This man was approaching her level, and now that the Yushan family had been wiped out, he was perhaps the only kin she had left, which meant that it was impossible for them to marry. Still, she could be his elder sister!

In East San Dios, Yan Feng relaxed for some reason when he saw Lu Yin going straight for a free pass. From his perspective, this was Lu Yin revealing a sign of weakness. Although this person was far weaker than himself at this moment, the two were bound to become irreconcilable enemies. Yan Feng was also planning to wed Jenny Auna, who was technically Lu Yin’s fiancée. This matter would definitely incite a never ending conflict between the two of them.

In the Lifeseek Realm, Grandini Mavis glared unhappily at Lu Yin. It turned out that she was in the first match, and her opponent was Tian Hou.

Lu Yin shrugged and gave Grandini a sympathetic expression. Although she was from the Mavis family, she most likely wouldn’t be able to compare to Tian Hou in terms of power. If Lu Yin had yielded that blank lot to Grandini, then he would be the one facing Tian Hou in the arena right now.

“Just wait for me to get back,” Grandini softly threatened Lu Yin. She then waved her fist and entered the arena.

Lu Yin laughed. This woman did not seem confident, since the fiery nature of the Mavis family typically meant that any of them would always be itching for a fight.

Boom!

The ground vibrated, and smoke rose up. A giant crack appeared along the surface of the ground as multiple spatial cracks flickered above it, giving off the impression that lightning had torn through the heavens.

Grandini’s five-lined battle force flickered with a dark-gold radiance. Just like when she had dealt with Domi, her attack covered the entire battlefield.

Many were left speechless; this woman had erupted with her entire strength from the very start! The pressure of facing Tian Hou was clear to all those watching.

Lu Yin shivered in expectation. Five-lined battle force reinforcing Thirteen Stacks was the technique that Grandini had used to defeat Domi of the Technocracy. Lu Yin wondered how Tian Hou would fare against this attack.

When the smoke dispersed, the void distorted, and Tian Hou slowly stepped out, not a flaw to be seen on his robes.

Grandini's pupils constricted, and she clenched her fists and charged forward with another punch.

Tian Hou's body distorted as he merged into the void once again, causing Grandini's attack to strike nothing but air. The sheer force of her punch pierced the void and tore out a large spatial crack. It was a mighty attack, but completely useless.

Everyone was overwhelmed with shock, as this Tian Hou was just too mysterious. Grandini had used all her power, but she could not even touch him.

Suddenly, Tian Hou appeared behind Grandini Mavis and used a single hand to press against her shoulder, causing the void to distort. This scene was very familiar. Ben from the Technocracy had been similarly banished into the void with this one move. The book had been completely powerless against Tian Hou.

Grandini felt Tian Hou's hand transmit an unimaginable tearing force into her as her green clothes tore apart. She growled softly as her five-lined battle force revolved around her body, and she forcibly flung Tian Hou away before spinning around to lash out with a kick. Tian Hou merged into the void again to retreat, staring at her with an amazed look.

### **Chapter 323: Tian Hou And Pressure**

Five-lined battle force might not necessarily dominate in the Tournament of the Strongest, but it was still very powerful within the Limiteer realm. Tian Hou had assumed that he would be able to easily defeat Grandini, but his thoughts had been too simple. After all, she had comprehended battle force and cultivated it all the way to five lines.

"Don't look down on the Mavis family!" Grandini shouted and the void vibrated with a thump. She charged at Tian Hou with a raised fist as her five-lined battle force burst forth to sweep through the void, attempting to seal Tian Hou in place and prevent him from merging with the void.

Tian Hou did not vanish this time, and instead, he raised his hand shrouded in his black robes to meet Grandini's punch head-on.

Under everyone's gazes, the intense shockwaves from the resulting explosion crushed the ground and destroyed the entire battlefield. An enormous spatial crack that led to the void appeared, opening from above and tearing down into the ground once more, releasing an ear-splitting sound.

Lu Yin and the rest's eyes narrowed as they stared on in horror. This was impossible. Grandini had exhibited an inhuman strength that was strengthened even further by five-lined battle force and Thirteen Stacks, and yet, her attack had been blocked by Tian Hou! What was more even more terrifying was that he had not taken a single step back.

This scene shocked Lu Yin as well as everyone else, including Yun who had belittled everyone else with her gaze.

This strike was extremely powerful! It was backed by five-lined battle force, fused with Thirteen Stacks, and propelled by the Mavis family's unique strength. This punch already surpassed Lu Yin's peak attack when he had fought against Nightqueen Yanqing during their battle. This singular punch was definitely enough to contest for the championship in any of the previous Astral Combat Tournaments. And yet,

such a powerful punch had been easily received by Tian Hou, to the point where his clothes had not even fluttered.

Grandini's eyes flickered. "Impossible, yo—" But before she could finish speaking, Tian Hou grabbed, twisted Grandini's right hand, and released a black shine. An intense pain rushed through her body, and Grandini's face changed. She waved her left hand to decisively sever her right arm and then quickly retreated. The next instant, her right arm vanished into the void.

Many students were stunned while Lulu stared on in disbelief. That woman was being suppressed to the extent where she could not even retaliate. Despite all else, they were both from the Mavis family.

Tian Hou released his hand, and his eyes that were hidden beneath his black robes flashed with admiration. "Pretty good battle awareness. Just a moment more, and you would have been defeated."

Grandini panted heavily as fresh blood flowed down from her amputated right shoulder and dripped onto the ruined ground. She stared at Tian Hou in amazement. "What is your actual body? You must be at least one of the top five existences in the Heavenly Beast List to be able to receive my punch so easily."

"I'm not on the Heavenly Beast List," Tian Hou faintly replied.

Grandini's eyes narrowed. "An uncommon race?"

"Shall we continue? The Mavis family is powerful, but it's a pity that you haven't used your innate gift yet."

She frowned. "You even know about the Mavis family's innate gift?"

"I'm Skymender's disciple."

She took a deep breath. During this battle, she had been suppressed from start to finish and hadn't even had a chance to catch her breath. Now, her right arm was even gone, but she was still unwilling to forfeit. Just like what Lu Yin had said, the Mavis family was born with a strange strength and a thirst for battle to match. Since she had already fought to such an extent, she would stake her all on this fight.

The air swirled around Grandini before sweeping upwards as a verdant green color flashed through in her eyes, just like when she had dealt with that Explorer in the Shenwu Continent's imperial palace during the Outverse trial. The green in her eyes was not obvious, but it was like a firefly in the night to Tian Hou, who had been carefully observing her. "You want to forcibly display your innate gift? Even if you could display it in full force, it would still be ineffective against me."

"The Mavis family is unparalleled!" Grandini shouted valiantly as her eyes opened wide. She looked at Tian Hou and then charged forward with her left palm extended. All of her five-lined battle force was concentrated onto her left palm as she slammed it downwards. "Seventeen Stacks."

From the sky, a hand covered in a dense, dark golden radiance pressed down with Seventeen Stacks, shaking the void. Nearly causing the entire heavens to tear apart and causing many to be overwhelmed with horror.

Tian Hou slowly raised his head, but he did not move. Instead, he allowed the palm to slam straight into him.

In that instant, even the competitors from the Astral Beast Domain felt numb, as this attack had shocked them greatly. If they were the ones on the battlefield, then they would have definitely been instantly crushed to pieces.

The competitors from the Technocracy similarly stared at the battlefield in shock. This was a very powerful strike, and the Seventeen Stacks exploded at the same time as Grandini's five-lined battle force.

Lu Yin, Starsibyl, Han Chong, Liu Shaoqiu, Zi Jun, and the rest all watched on with somber expressions. This strike would determine the outcome of this battle.

Grandini's palm landed on Tian Hou's head, causing his black gown to rip apart as the shockwaves disturbed the entire battlefield, flipping it over and warping the void. The majestic and terrifying strength of this attack had transformed into ripples that affected even the mentors' barrier around the arena.

"Wha- what is that?" Some students stared upwards, their expressions looking as if they had seen something inexplicable.

Up in the sky, beneath Grandini's left palm, stood a silent, black humanoid being. It looked like a human shaped spiral but without any physical body or skin. And yet, the figure had seven orifices as well as limbs.

Everyone was dumbfounded. What kind of trick is this?

Lu Yin was lost as well. What is that?

Starsibyl abruptly stepped forward, and her face grew extremely solemn. So it was this living creature. No wonder it was so terrifying.

Yun from the Technocracy was shocked as well. Such a creature has actually been born.

The other competitors from the Astral Beast Domain were shocked as well, as this was their first time seeing Tian Hou's true body.

Countless audience members were stunned, and even though they could not comprehend this scene, many of them seemed to realize something as their faces paled.

"The Astral Beast Domain has actually given birth to such a creature once again. Immediately send a request to destroy it," an Astral Combat Academy mentor spoke up.

"There's no point. The higher-ups have already reached a consensus. Since this creature dares to appear, it must be confident that we won't kill it. No wonder it's called Tian Hou."

...

Throughout the Human Domain's great organizations, many astonished elders stared at the screens in front of them displaying the competition. "The Astral Beast Domain actually dares to bring such a creature over! It looks like this truce is inevitable, but the humans don't have the initiative."

The Sword Sect's leader stared at the screen with a profound bitterness. This being had once left an indelible stain on the Sword Sect. This was because a previous sect leader had been swallowed by such a creature.

At the border of the Erudite Flowzone, Shui Chuanxiao watched as Tian Hou appeared and laughed grimly as he released his wine glass. "It looks like that bunch of elders has reached a common understanding. My time is over."

"Hey monkey, what's this toy?" Lu Yin asked.

The Ghost Monkey was appalled. "It's appeared again... no wonder he's called Tian Hou. How did I not realize this earlier?"

"Hurry up! What is this thing?" Lu Yin was curious, especially since he had seen an expression of shock appear on Starsibyl's face—it was his first time seeing such an expression on her.

"Cosmic Hou. It's a bizarre lifeform. You can think of it like a lifeform born from natural phenomena. It once appeared tens of thousands of years ago. Back then, it also swallowed the Sword Sect's leader." The monkey didn't say very much, but his last sentence was enough to send chills running down Lu Yin's spine.

"Is it very powerful?"

"It's not just powerful, but extremely formidable as well. This thing can train, has a consciousness, and can do anything that normal beings can do. Within the same realm, very few can launch an attack that can surpass its upper limits of resistance. You remember the Daynight clan's Technique of Immunity—you can think of this as having an upgraded version of that. There's almost no attack that this thing can't withstand."

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed as he stared up at the mysterious creature in horror. Grandini had put all of her strength into that strike, yet Tian Hou showed no change. That had been a punch powered by five-lined battle force combined with Seventeen Stacks, but not even that could make Tian Hou retreat a single step. This was Tian Hou.

"Seventh Bro, you're really unlucky. Any of you would have been considered to be the strongest before the universe's great changes, but everything changed when formcast models were developed. The Ten Arbiters were birthed, and now, people like you have become normal. There are more and more monsters like Tian Hou appearing every day now. I pity you." The Ghost Monkey seemed to rejoice in Lu Yin's misfortune.

Lu Yin remained silent and only gazed upwards.

Everyone else also looked upwards.

Tian Hou raised his head. Apart from the creature's seven orifices, its face was a pitch black vortex, though its eyes still flitted about. "I've already said that it's pointless. Even if you use your innate gift to forcibly seal me, you still can't harm me."

Grandini withdrew her left hand with a pained look. "So you're actually a Cosmic Hou. There should be no one who's your match in this competition. I've lost."

Tian Hou unhurriedly raised his hand and placed it upon Grandini's forehead. A black vortex appeared within his palm, distorting the void as Grandini was banished.

"The first match of the second round. Victor: Tian Hou."

No one spoke, as everyone had been overwhelmed by the reveal of the Cosmic Hou. This battle had been too oppressive; Grandini had started out at full force, but she had only managed to destroy Tian Hou's robes and couldn't injure him in the slightest.

Before Tian Hou left the battlefield, his eyes swept across Starsibyl and Yun, and then, he slowly exited.

"Seventh Bro, he's blowing you off!" the monkey shrieked unhappily.

Lu Yin muttered to himself, deep in thought. The pressure that he felt from this Tournament of the Strongest was growing stronger with every match he watched, especially since no one knew how far the strength of a mysterious lifeform like Tian Hou went. It seemed as if his preparations had still been insufficient, and that he needed to upgrade his strength even further, but how could he do it? He first thought of the strengthening fruits, but he had no money left. Did he need to take out a loan?

As Lu Yin thought about it, he started looking around; who would lend him some money?

"Brother Lu, fortunately, you snatched that blank lot, or else you would have been the one fighting this battle." Han Chong smiled at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin sized Han Chong up and down. Is this fellow loaded?

Han Chong felt uncomfortable when placed under Lu Yin's avaricious gaze. "Brother Lu, what's the matter?"

"Nothing." Lu Yin turned around.

Han Chong felt strange, but he did not press the matter any further.

At that moment, the second match of the round was about to start, and this battle seemed that it would be even more interesting to watch than the previous one. On one side was Liu Shaoqiu; the Sword Sect's Thirteen Swords had always been one of the biggest attractions in this tournament, especially since Liu Shaoqiu was reported to have completely comprehended the Fourth Sword. Everyone wanted to witness the might of the Fourth Sword. His opponent was Yun.

Her familiar contempt reappeared on her face, and Yun remained as haughty as before even when facing Liu Shaoqiu.

In front of their screens, many viewers were seething with excitement, especially the Sword Sect disciples who wished for the Thirteen Swords to directly eliminate this arrogant woman.

Against Yun, Liu Shaoqiu did not dare be careless, and he quickly used star energy to form his blade. The tip flickered as the blade distorted the void without even moving at all.

Yun was astonished. "Not a bad sword technique. What's the name?"

Liu Shaoqiu indifferently replied, "The Sword Sect's Thirteen Swords."

Yun instantly understood. "So it's the Thirteen Swords. How many can you use?"

"That depends on how many you can take." Liu Shaoqiu slowly raised his sword.

Yun sneered. "How foolish. I heard that your Sword Sect has proclaimed itself to be the emperor on the path of the sword. Well then, let's see if you can unleash a sword technique that can defeat me." Then, a single finger of hers tapped towards Liu Shaoqiu. It was very clearly one finger, but it released a sudden thunderclap as an extremely sharp energy tunnelled through the void, aimed directly at Liu Shaoqiu.

### **Chapter 324: Formidable**

Liu Shaoqiu's eyes changed as he slashed out with his sword. With a bang, a torrential amount of sword qi inundated the battlefield, creating multiple minute spatial cracks that then scattered like raindrops.

Liu Shaoqiu was astonished, as a casual finger strike from Yun had actually stopped his attack from proceeding.

Yun was also stunned. "Not bad. Again." She tapped out once more, but this time, she used two fingers. An even sharper blade of energy composed of wind sliced through the air at Liu Shaoqiu. No explanation was required, as the wind blade shredded the void as it sped towards Liu Shaoqiu.

Countless watched on, dumbfounded. Just Yun's finger alone could execute an attack that could rival the Thirteen Swords! How could such a terrifying battle technique exist?

Liu Shaoqiu did not dare to be careless here, and he seriously swung his sword as vast amounts of sword qi shot out from the void to collide against the wind blade. Suddenly, just like the previous battle, the entire battlefield was reduced to a state of ruin. Liu Shaoqiu's Second Sword offset the wind blade, but he was still at a disadvantage.

When had the Thirteen Swords ever been suppressed to such an extent?

Countless disciples of the Sword Sect were confused by what they were seeing. They were fully aware of just how powerful the formidable Thirteen Swords were, but its first two swords had been easily dissolved by this person, and one could even say suppressed. How had this woman from the Technocracy managed to do such a thing?

Even the Sword Sect's leader frowned. This shouldn't be possible, as this woman had not even displayed any overly powerful battle techniques. How was she suppressing the sword qi of the Thirteen Swords?

The disdain in Yun's eyes only grew stronger. "You're already at the Second Sword? Hurry up, I want to see the complete version of your so-called Thirteen Swords."

Lu Yin was astonished by what he had just witnessed. He personally understood the might of the Thirteen Swords very well. What was this woman relying on to block Liu Shaoqiu's attacks? The energy emitted from her fingertip was not some powerful battle technique, or was it just that he could not see through her battle technique? He suddenly thought of the possibility of a secret technique; could this be an example of those absolute techniques?

At that moment, within the battlefield, Yun raised her entire hand. A soaring energy ripped through the sky and caused the very ground to tremble as the boundless force suppressed the entire battlefield, overwhelming even the students outside the barriers.

It was Yun's first time revealing her horrifying strength. Her previous battle with Han Chong had not shown the crowd her true strength outright, and only now were they able to clearly observe it.

"My strength is not something that can be understood by you people. I'll give you one last chance to display all the remaining sword forms. Otherwise, you can go and die," Yun arrogantly declared.

Liu Shaoqiu did not become angry upon hearing her words. Within the Human Domain, he stood among the top Limiteers of the younger generation, but he had never been arrogant. His opponent was similarly one of the strongest from one of the other star domains, so he was not at all taken aback by this scene. All that was left was to see if his Fourth Sword could truly suppress all others.

Against those from the Technocracy, Liu Shaoqiu decided to skip the Third Sword, as a spiritual attack would not be very useful against them. Thus, the Fourth Sword was next to appear.

The energy undulation created by Yun's single palm became even more terrifying and extreme as it nearly pierced through the sky.

Liu Shaoqiu stood tall and raised his sword. The star energy that had originally covered his body suddenly dissipated as he closed both of his eyes.

Yun snorted coldly. "Time to die." She then pressed down with a single hand, and the entire battlefield seemed to be suppressed, affecting the audience to the point where they could not even breathe. Even the mentors' barrier isolating the battlefield started to warp, demonstrating the raw power of Yun's palm. But at that moment, Liu Shaoqiu opened his eyes, and a formless energy swept across, forming a sweeping gale. Many looked up at the incomparably large blade that had suddenly appeared. This was a forcefield, which meant that Liu Shaoqiu was now the second powerhouse in the Tournament of the Strongest to reveal that he had comprehended a forcefield.

That single palm collided against the massive sword, and the impact caused the void to explode. The earth and sky pulled back as an impossibly large spatial crack appeared in the center of the battlefield; it looked like a river of stars had appeared, dividing the two regions.

A powerful suppression descended upon the audience members. It was formless, but also completely overwhelming, and it caused quite a few students to spit out blood and fall to the ground in pain.

Even Lu Yin's breathing grew sluggish when he looked up at the skies, flabbergasted at the scene before him. He could feel the terrifying might of this collision in his bones, and Liu Shaoqiu's technique lived up to the reputation of the Fourth Sword. Fortunately, Lu Yin had correctly estimated Liu Shaoqiu's ability during their match in the Astral Combat Tournament, or else Lu Yin would have been defeated by this Fourth Sword. This was something that not even five-lined battle force could withstand.

But Yun was even more horrifying. Her single palm strike was enough to rival the Fourth Sword, which confused many, including the Sword Sect's leader. This girl's attack was so formidable and powerful; it felt as if it had a natural suppressive effect.



On the battlefield, Yun grew excited. “How interesting! Your Thirteen Swords is not bad at all, but it’s a pity that you’ve reached your limits.” The shadow of a mountain appeared above where the Fourth Sword and Yun’s palm collided. At that same moment, the Lifeseek Realm trembled once again, though no one noticed it.

This mountain was majestic and imposing, and its peak could not be seen, similar to Han Chong’s landscape painting. This mountain was a bit more monotonous than the painting, but even still, the Fourth Sword collapsed when this illusory mountain appeared, the materialized star energy that made up Liu Shaoqiu’s sword crumbling away as the sword disappeared. After that, his body also crumbled apart, and he vanished from the Lifeseek Realm.

The shockwaves reverberated high up into the sky, and then visible lines of star energy came sprinkling back down like rain, almost as if they were in the Rain Observatory.

“The second match of the second round. Victor: Yun.”

Everyone was still dumbfounded with shock. Liu Shaoqiu had lost once again. He had even learned the Fourth Sword this time, but he had still been defeated in the Tournament of the Strongest. It was not that he was weak, but rather that his opponent was just too powerful.

Yun was arrogant, but she was in a position to look down on all others, just like a queen.

Starsibyl was solemn, and her eyes flickered continuously. Sure enough, Yun was not within the scope of her divinations either.

Tian Hou had put his black gowns on once again and was staring closely at Yun with a hint of apprehension.

Lu Yin’s eyes narrowed. Sure enough, he had to improve his own strength. This Yun could not be understood; she had even crushed the Fourth Sword.

Although Liu Shaoqiu had lost this battle, he should have no regrets this time since he had unleashed his most powerful attack. This defeat was even more thorough than his loss to Lu Yin.

However, the Sword Sect was fired up. They did not know why Liu Shaoqiu had lost, nor what that palm had relied on to crush the Fourth Sword. Even their leader could not understand this matter.

In the depths of the universe, atop a lonely cliff on an inverted planet, a white, long sword was stabbed into the ground. Underground was a space-exploring astral beast howling in grief while suffering from being suppressed. Above the white sword was a screen that was displaying the Tournament of the Strongest.

“Hahahaha, the Thirteen Swords have been suppressed! To think that your Sword Sect would have such a day as well! Hahahaha, Arbiter Liu, your Thirteen Swords isn’t invincible...” The astral beast laughed maniacally even as it was suppressed by the white sword while the entire planet fell apart. This beast had the strength of a Hunter.

Beside the white blade stood a young female with long, black hair and large glasses. She stared at the screen, entranced, while her left hand pressed down on the sword’s hilt. A blinding light streaked out as the blade was unsheathed and instantly resheathed, slicing the Hunter realm astral beast to pieces.

There were only two competitors left to battle in the second round of the tournament: Starsibyl and Zi Jun.

When faced with Starsibyl, Zi Jun's originally indifferent expression became much more solemn. The Cosmic Sea experts looked down upon the Innerverses and Outerverses since the two regions did not have anyplace that could match the danger of the Cosmic Sea aside from the border warfront. However, no matter how much Zi Jun looked down on others, she did not dare to underestimate Starsibyl. This woman was famed for her power throughout the universe, and her combat abilities were completely mysterious.

In particular, Starsibyl's previous battle against Yar Patar from the Technocracy had made the mystery surrounding her even deeper. She seemed to be able to divine her opponent's attacks and evade them before they even came out, which was a terrifying ability.

No one liked having their every move be predicted, and Zi Jun was no exception. Hence, she used her full strength the moment she stepped onto the battlefield, as her dark-green forcefield quickly swept across the entire field in an attempt to suppress Starsibyl.

A forcefield was formed from the foundation of a domain, and it was an extension of the person's spirit. It was also a physical manifestation that only appeared after one's comprehensions into their domain reached a sufficient level. A powerhouse could use a personal forcefield to complement their battle skills and techniques, which increased their power rather significantly.

Zi Jun was the same, and she could even merge her innate gift into her forcefield. She leapt up and pressed down with her palm. "Jade Sieving Technique."

The battlefield seemed to solidify and turn into indestructible jade that could not even be broken. Starsibyl was seemingly oppressed by this jade and could not dodge no matter how she tried. Divination could allow her to dodge many attacks, but not one that enveloped the entire battlefield and even sealed the void.

There was a loud explosion as the entire battlefield was crushed. Large spatial cracks snaked out of the void like pythons, causing the audience to tremble in fear. Zi Jun's full-force explosive power shocked many, as this attack rivaled Yun's single palm that had defeated Liu Shaoqiu's Fourth Sword. The oppressiveness of this attack even caused a few students to vomit blood.

This was the power of an expert from the Cosmic Sea.

But what about Starsibyl? Was she dead?

Outside the battlefield, Lu Yin's gaze sharpened. Something wasn't right. Starsibyl was not in her original spot! Lu Yin had even risked revolving the Cosmic Art to observe Starsibyl's movements, and what he had seen was Starsibyl's body being pulverized, but only a phantom image had been hit and not her actual body. From the very start of the attack, Starsibyl had already left her original location. She had evaded the attack in advance and was standing high in the sky.

Lu Yin looked up, and at the same moment, Zi Jun's entire body trembled as she suddenly raised her head only to see Starsibyl's indifferent expression. "Astral Banishment."

This battle technique rooted Zi Jun to the ground. Starsibyl's palm then landed on Zi Jun and directly banished her from the Lifeseek Realm.

"Third match of the second round. Victor: Starsibyl."

From these three battles, people had seen Tian Hou's body, which was overwhelmingly frightening, Yun's unbelievable power level, and Starsibyl's strange abilities that caused everyone to tremble. Every battle of hers appeared to be relaxed, as if she could truly divine the future.

Since Zi Jun understood Starsibyl's battle style, she had used her full force from the start, and her attack had targeted the entire battlefield and even sealed the void. However, Starsibyl had anticipated all that Zi Jun had done and had fled from the Cosmic Sea competitor's attack range from the very start. It could only be said that Zi Jun's moves had been completely predicted, resulting in a battle with no suspense and a great deal of injustice.

It wasn't just Zi Jun; even the audience felt frustrated by this outcome. Lu Yin was the same, as he had no idea what he could do if he had to face off against Starsibyl in the next match. Attack early? Or wait to be attacked?

Tian Hou, Yun, and Starsibyl were all too powerful. Over the course of three battles, they had solidified their rankings in the Tournament of the Strongest, leaving Lu Yin as just a prop. Compared to them, his five-lined battle force was too weak, leaving Lu Yin in a similar situation to Grandini Mavis. Many thought that he would be crushed no matter who he was paired against in the next round.

On Zenyu Star, Huo Qingshan sighed, as Lu Yin was indeed amazingly powerful within the Limiteer realm, but he was still too weak when compared to those freaks.

Xueshan Auna's gaze flickered as he looked at his screen and then at his gadget. The gadget was displaying Yan Feng's wedding date with Jenny Auna.

On Earth, many just stared at the screens. This tournament consisted of battles that they could not even begin to understand. At the very least, they could tell that Lu Yin had snatched his top four position for free in this competition while the other three had easily crushed their opponents. No one spoke; this was an undeniable fact.

### **Chapter 325: Borrowing Money**

"The third round of drawing lots will begin in one day," the giant voice boomed across the Lifeseek Realm.

Many were roused and looked at Lu Yin with sympathy in their gazes before leaving one after another.

Han Chong turned to Lu Yin. "Brother Lu, don't overthink. Just prepare well."

Beside him, Grandini Mavis shook her head helplessly. "Even I feel luckier than you since they won't make such obvious comparisons."

Lu Yin was left speechless.

"Seventh Bro, are you confident? Actually if you use your Secret Sidestep, you'll be able to easily deal with any one of them's attack, but to win against these people is way too difficult. No one knows the

upper limits of Tian Hou's resistance, and that woman, Yun, is way too weird. Even you humans' Starsibyl seems to be disgustingly strong." The Ghost monkey seemed to take joy in Lu Yin's current predicament.

Lu Yin released a breath and immediately screened the monkey off before leaving the Lifeseek Realm.

Lu Yin opened his eyes atop the trial zone mountain. This time, there were no students of Astral-10 surrounding him. They wanted to give Lu Yin some peace and quiet to rest since he was about to face off against one of those three freaks.

Lu Yin stepped out from the trial zone mountain, bowed to the Trialmaster, and then headed for the space station, hoping that the beautiful Madam Nalan was still there.

The mentor watched Lu Yin's figure disappear; this kid had done very well, but he was still just a shade weaker than the remaining participants. If he could truly reach the level of strength that the Ten Arbiters had attained while they were in the Astral Combat Academy, Lu Yin would be able to face anyone and even suppress everyone. The title of "Ten Arbiters candidate" was just a bit of flattery, as the only Limiteers in the younger generation who could truly qualify to be a Ten Arbiters candidate were still only those three.

The Nalan family's spacecraft was still docked at Astral-10's space station.

Lu Yin entered and saw the stunning Madam Nalan.

This time, she wore an even more enticing set of clothes that complemented her already enchanting figure. Lu Yin felt heated at the sight, growing rather embarrassed.

"The semi-finals are tomorrow, so why has Student Lu come to seek me out today?" she asked curiously as she poured Lu Yin a drink.

Lu Yin felt awkward, but when he thought of those three freaks, he decided to speak up. "Madam Nalan, could I borrow some money?"

She was astonished by his request. "Borrow money?"

Lu Yin nodded. "It's very embarrassing, but honestly, I am urgently in need of money right now."

Madam Nalan smiled faintly as she pursed her lips. "Very well. How much?"

Lu Yin did some quick mental math. He had used about 400,000 star crystals during his last upgrading session for that strengthening fruit, and even then, it should not have reached its peak state. If he extrapolated from that and rounded up to the nearest million... He tried to test Madam Nalan's limits. "Two million star crystals."

She nodded. "So not much."

Lu Yin's heart skipped a beat. Not much? When he had been at his wealthiest, he had only possessed ten star essence, which was the equivalent of one million star crystals. And now, when he asked for two million, it was "not much?" No wonder she was the Outerverse's wealthiest widow—she was just too rich!

Not long after, a Mavis Bank crystal card was delivered to him.

Lu Yin hurriedly asked, "Madam Nalan, do you have the actual goods? I need the actual crystals."

She clasped her forehead and smiled. "My mistake. Since you urgently need money, you will naturally require the physical form." She then instructed someone to deliver twenty star essences to Lu Yin. "I don't have two million star crystals on me, so are these essences alright?"

Lu Yin nodded. "Thank you, madam. Oh right, how much is the interest?"

"Hehe, Student Lu, do we have to calculate interest even with our relationship?" She beamed at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin felt embarrassed. He hurriedly stood up and bade farewell to Madam Nalan.

Her lips quirked up as she watched Lu Yin leave. This youth was very interesting. While two million star crystals were not much, it was still not an amount that just anyone could borrow. As an investment in this youth, two million star crystals was indeed not much.

More than half a month had passed since Lu Yin last rolled the die, which was a considerably long time. Lu Yin found a secluded area and hoped to roll three pips: Enhance. But before he began, he placed his cosmic ring to the side.

The more time that passed, the greater the probability of rolling a good number. If he rolled six pips: Possession, then he would lose all hope of being able to upgrade the strengthening fruit this time around since Possession could use up all of his star crystals in the blink of an eye.

He raised his hand, and the die appeared over his palm. He tapped on it, causing it to quickly spin. When it finally stopped, the surrounding scenery changed for a moment before returning to normal.

Lu Yin let out a pent up breath; this was the sensation of rolling Possession. He had expected to roll this, and fortunately, he had placed his cosmic ring to the side, or else all of his hard-earned star crystals might have already been consumed.

Possession was useful, but currently, his best chance of improving his strength was by upgrading the strengthening fruit. Possession was a gamble, as he might Possess the body of a powerhouse and greatly increase his own power, or he might just as likely Possess someone like Wu Xia. He could not afford to gamble at this time.

He used a cube of star crystal to restore the die and tapped it again. He also picked up his cosmic ring in case he rolled Time Stop.

As the die slowly came to a stop, Lu Yin's breathing quickened, and he saw the rolled number. He was rather moved as it was three pips: Enhance. He had actually rolled it already! Sure enough, the more time that passed between each roll, the higher the chances of rolling something good.

As he watched the two screens appear, Lu Yin took out a strengthening fruit and threw it on top of the upper light screen along with one star essence.

As the strengthening fruit underwent a repeated chain of upgrades, it started to change just like the previous one.

After four star essences were consumed, this strengthening fruit's upgrade slowed down a bit compared to the previous time Lu Yin had upgraded a fruit. Although a star essence's energy was of much higher quality than a normal star crystal, that did not mean that they held the same amount of energy. But Lu Yin was helpless to do anything about it. He could only retrieve another star essence and continue upgrading this strengthening fruit to the same extent as the previous one.

Five star essence was valued to be the same as 500,000 star crystals, and it had all been used to upgrade a single strengthening fruit.

As he watched the strengthening fruit release ripples that started distorting the void, the star energy started automatically circulating through his meridians.

He considered his situation for a moment, and then threw the strengthening fruit onto the light screen one more time, immediately followed by two star essence. The strengthening fruit fell down once more, but only about half way this time. He calculated that he would need to use three more star essence if he wanted to completely upgrade the fruit one more time. This meant that it cost double the amount of star crystals each time Lu Yin wanted to upgrade a fruit to a higher level.

Lu Yin grit his teeth and threw out another three star essence. The strengthening fruit fell to the ground with an audible thump, and the pumping energy circulating through Lu Yin's meridians became even louder and clearer, as if it had become tangible. All the while, the ripples that distorted the void became more noticeable.

Lu Yin had wanted to upgrade the fruit even further, but when he saw that he had only ten star essence remaining in his cosmic ring, he reckoned that he might not have enough to completely upgrade it one more time. The further he upgraded something, the more resources the upgrade required. This strengthening fruit was even better than the previous one, and it should be able to strengthen Lu Yin to a level where he could deal with this competition.

Lu Yin did not hesitate, and he immediately swallowed the strengthening fruit.

One day later, in the Lifeseek Realm, all of the students arrived and excitedly looked into the distance. The semi-finals were about to begin.

All the competitors had arrived on scene, except for Lu Yin.

"What happened? Is Lu Yin not coming?" some students wondered.

"Could he be afraid? He's slated to face those three freaks."

"Shh, don't spout nonsense. Those Astral-10 people are looking at you."

...

In the distance, Xia Luo remained calm while Michelle frowned; Lu Yin had not arrived yet.

"Senior, should we go look for him?" Coco asked.

Little Pao shook his head. "There's no need."

On the west side of the battlefield, Yun sneered. Her contempt for everyone was readily apparent, save for a slight modicum of respect that she showed towards Starsibyl and Tian Hou. The rest, however, were not worthy of her attention. Oh, there was also that kid from the Sword Sect. His sword technique wasn't bad, but of course, that was all. It was merely not bad.

In the east, Starsibyl remained calm.

Grandini Mavis frowned.

On the north side, Liu Shaoqiu's eyes narrowed. Lu Yin was about on par with him in terms of power, so Lu Yin's chances of victory were slim against those three, especially Yun. Even now, Liu Shaoqiu still could not understand what she had used to crush his Fourth Sword.

At that moment, four wooden lots flickering with color appeared in the sky. The lot-drawing was about to begin.

Beside Grandini Mavis, Lu Yin suddenly appeared, startling her quite badly.

"Why did you only arrive now?" she shrieked.

Lu Yin grinned, but even that small movement caused him to experience an intense pain. He felt rather helpless, as the effects of the strengthening fruit had been too startling. He had forcibly endured a day of wracking pain. Even now, the pain had not lessened in the slightest. He could not casually eat these high leveled natural treasures in future.

"I overslept," Lu Yin casually replied.

Grandini rolled her eyes in disbelief.

Starsibyl studied Lu Yin, and her eyes then gleamed. This person had changed a bit.

As the four star energies rushed out, the four lots were drawn. The first match was determined to be Lu Yin against Yun.

Lu Yin had no change of expression when he saw his opponent, though the looks of everyone else changed abruptly.

Could this be a predestined confrontation?

Many immediately remembered the battle between Lu Yin and Liu Shaoqiu during the Astral Combat Tournament. That battle had propelled Lu Yin to fame, and now, his opponent was Yun, who had knocked Liu Shaoqiu out of this tournament.

On the north side, Liu Shaoqiu's eyes flashed, and he carefully observed the scene. He believed that Lu Yin stood no chance in this battle, as Yun was too bizarre.

Many of the other students thought so as well. Of the final four, the three besides Lu Yin were on a different level where their strength couldn't even be gauged. Only Lu Yin was slightly weaker, as Grandini Mavis, a user of five-lined battle force, had been defeated even after using Seventeen Stacks. From what most people knew, Lu Yin had only used Nine Stacks to defeat Nightqueen Yanqing, so there was nothing more that he could do in this tournament.

In the distance, Nightqueen Yanqing sneered. Lu Yin would lose without a doubt, and she hoped that Yun could give that worm a humiliating experience.

On the other side of the stage, the other student leaders looked solemn. This tournament had progressed to a point where there were clear delineations between the competitors. Those three were top-notch Limiters of the younger generation, and they could be considered to be absolute experts even when placed beside an Explorer. Lu Yin was slightly lacking compared to them.

Even further away from the battlefield, the veiled lady focused on Lu Yin. She was the woman who had instantly eliminated Sai Luo.

“Since these two are battling, Hou, it means that your opponent is that human, Starsibyl,” Feng Jiu said.

Tian Hou growled, “I’ve been waiting for this for a long time.”

Feng Jiu looked at Lu Yin, then at Starsibyl as she pondered who would emerge victorious in this tournament. Nothing was for certain, but she already knew that Lu Yin would be the first to be knocked out.

Out on the battlefield, it was painful for Lu Yin to even walk. He had not yet recovered from the pain of ingesting the strengthening fruit, and did not know how it would influence this battle, but he hoped that it would not be too severe.

In front of him, Yun had already appeared, still with that expression of absolute disdain towards everything under the sky. It was as if she had her eyes fixed on only the very top. She sneered, as she did not even see Lu Yin as her opponent.

When the duo appeared, the battle started.

### **Chapter 326: Lu Yin vs Yun**

Lu Yin did not move, even as Yun, who was opposite him, snorted and raised a finger to release a sharp burst of energy.

This was a very familiar scene, as this was the same technique that had been used against Liu Shaoqiu in Yun’s previous match. One finger had countered the First Sword of the Thirteen Swords, and the seemingly gentle finger held a terrifyingly, matchless power.

Lu Yin shivered and stared at the void as he watched the sharp energy tear through the void. He raised his hand, wanting to use overlaying stacks to disperse this force. However, as the suppression from the energy drew closer, the pain in his body surprisingly diminished. This amazed him, and the hand rising up to meet the attack unconsciously slowed down. The energy hit him directly on the shoulder and sent him flying a hundred meters backwards.

Many felt their hearts skip a beat. Could this be it? Had he been defeated that simply?

Yun felt contempt for Lu Yin and the fact that he could not even withstand a single strike of hers.

Trash.

Starsibyl’s gaze trembled as she watched from outside the battlefield.



The grin on Nightqueen Yanqing's face grew even wider. This was the result she wanted to see: the greatest humiliation that Lu Yin could receive.

On Zenyu Star, Huo Qingshan and the others all had grave expressions. Lu Yin should not have been defeated so easily, as he had also defeated Liu Shaoqiu once.

Many Earthlings watched their screens with similarly complicated emotions.

...

Lu Yin's head was bent down after receiving the impact of the blast. The pain in his right shoulder actually lessened a little after receiving the blow. It was effective! He raised his head and said to Yun in a delighted tone, "Continue!"

Yun's originally derisive expression sank. "Are you challenging me?"

Lu Yin shrugged. "Whatever you want to think. Continue."

Many released their pent up breaths when they heard Lu Yin's words. He had not been defeated yet, and it seemed that he could still endure many more blows.

A killing intent formed in Yun's eyes. "How audacious."

She next struck out with her finger in a series of consecutive jabs, releasing multiple energy blades that sliced through the void, towards Lu Yin. He could dodge them, but he consciously made the decision not to do so since they were effective in dulling the pain that wracked his body after consuming the strengthening fruit. This battle couldn't be any better for him!

Bang bang bang bang...

In front of their screens, countless individuals watched this remarkable scene. Lu Yin was like a sandbag enduring Yun's countless attacks. His clothes had long since turned to rags, and some parts of his body had started to bleed. And yet, despite all of this, he did not attempt to dodge or resist in the slightest. What was going on? If he could not withstand these attacks, then he should have been subdued by them long ago.

More and more people felt that something was amiss as Lu Yin was blasted beneath the ground.

Yun's brows bunched together; she was furious. She had unleashed countless strikes, and all of them had hit this person, and yet, this bastard was still alive. His physical body was a little too tough, so she decided to stop wasting her time. She raised a single palm high into the air, and a frightening force pressed down. Many students felt the pressure even in the stands and spat out blood the moment they did.

It was this pressure that had smashed Liu Shaoqiu's Fourth Sword apart. This was Yun's most powerful attack.

Liu Shaoqiu subconsciously stepped forward. He could not make sense of how this palm worked, but it was extremely powerful.

Everyone stared at Yun, as she had become serious with this attack.

As Yun's palm pressed down, everyone felt their hearts thump as a great strength swept out, startling many students.

The ground completely shattered, and the palm strike landed squarely on Lu Yin. His entire body was forced underground, and a giant spatial crack ruptured in all directions, and even the mentors' barrier was distorted.

Everyone stared underground as their hearts sank. Even Liu Shaoqiu's Fourth Sword had crumbled against this palm, so how could a human body possibly withstand it? Lu Yin had clearly been overwhelmed.

Starsibyl's brows wrinkled subconsciously. This can't be. How could he be defeated this easily?

The people on Zenyu Star, Earth, East San Dios, and the Sword Sect as well as the various powers of the Inniverse and even Wendy Yushan all stared closely at their screens. This battle was simply too strange, as Lu Yin had not retaliated from start to finish. He hadn't even tried to dodge an attack once. Many had guessed that he was being controlled by some special technique of Yun's, such as a fantasy realm.

Yun silently glowered at the ground from up in the sky, waiting for the giant voice to announce her victory. She could not even be bothered to spare a glance at the corpse below.

But no voice rang out even after she waited for quite a while.

She looked downwards to see a gale sweep out while a crushed rock was tossed up from deep underground. A figure suddenly sat up, and with a deep breath, shouted, "Great!"

Many mouths hung open in shock. What did they hear? "Great?" Did they hear him wrongly?

Yun's pupils shrunk as she stared at Lu Yin in disbelief. Great? Could she have heard wrongly? This bastard actually dared to take pleasure in receiving her attacks? In that instant, Yun flew into a blind rage. She felt humiliated, and her eyes turned bloodshot. "You're asking for death!" She vanished with a flash only to appear right above Lu Yin. She pressed down with a ferocious palm that caused the void to tremble. The force of this attack was no less than that of her previous attack.

Lu Yin looked up, as Yun's actions could not be concealed within the range of his domain. At the same time that Yun's palm landed, Lu Yin turned to face it without any intentions of evading and slammed out with a palm of his own. "Seventeen Stacks, Twentyfold Shockwave Palm."

Bang!

The violent rumbling shook the void, and countless spatial cracks flickered like lightning. A dazzling light spread out along with an irrepressible shockwave that filled the entire arena. The students in the audience were blown backwards by the force of the shockwave, even if they were a good distance away from the battlefield. The mentors' barrier distorted and nearly dissipated while everyone stared on in horror at the battlefield. Even if the void was distorted and unclear, the two competitors still remained standing in their positions.

Yun was infuriated, and the image of a giant, phantom mountain had appeared beneath her palm. This was the full strength that she had used to defeat Liu Shaoqiu, and she had concentrated it all onto her palm. She was going to crush this worm that dared to humiliate her.

The moment the mountain appeared, a knot formed in Lu Yin's heart, giving him a palpable sense of oppression and wrath. He reflexively used a stronger attack this time. "Twenty Stacks, Twenty-fivefold Shockwave Palm."

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

Countless explosions shook the void as everything within the arena shattered. The mentors' barrier nearly vanished, and four figures suddenly appeared from the sky as four Hunter realm mentors worked together to reseal the battlefield.

In the next instant, the violent shockwave was sealed by the mentors' strength and redirected upwards instead.

The terrifying wall of air erupted in the sky and released an indescribably majestic power that then descended upon the audience. Many students were severely injured and were left with no choice but to flee from the Lifeseek Realm.

Sometimes, even observing a battle required one to have sufficient strength.

Crack!

The collision of Lu Yin and Yun's palms caused a giant spatial crack to appear between them. The two of them poured more strength into their palms at the same time, both attempting to shake their opponent off. Due to their increased effort, the giant spatial crack transformed into a black current that streaked past them before gradually vanishing.

Everyone fell silent when they bore witness to this scene. That palm collision had been too sudden and too powerful.

No one had expected Lu Yin to be able to withstand Yun's palm, as this was the same palm that had caused Liu Shaoqiu's Fourth Sword to crumble, and yet, the power levels of these two were nearly identical.

Starsibyl's gaze trembled, as the situation was developing in a certain direction she had divinated.

Grandini Mavis's mouth fell open. Had Lu Yin always been this dominating?

Han Chong was astonished as well; Lu Yin's progress was just too fast.

On the south side, Tian Hou took several steps forward. The number of qualified opponents had increased again; this person was much tougher than what he had previously estimated.

Inside the battlefield, Yun raised her head and revised her assessment of Lu Yin. He was stronger than any opponent she had faced so far as he was able to completely resist her palm attack. This went beyond all her expectations, and she knew that she would have to fight seriously to win this battle.

Lu Yin shook his hands; this woman's strength was incredibly ferocious. However, he also felt something strange, as if there was another oppressive force within her attacks that was very revolting.

However, thanks to Yun's attacks, the pain on his body had almost completely dissipated, and his physical strength had now been greatly boosted since the strengthening fruit's effect had been fully absorbed.

No one had thought that Lu Yin would actually be able to receive Yun's attack, so the impact of this development earth-shattering. Those in the Outerverse were all staring at their screens, completely dumbfounded.

Zenyu Star was cheering, and so was all of Earth.

"What's your name?" Yun asked Lu Yin.

"Figure it out yourself." For some unknown reason, Lu Yin loathed Yun. He used Flash to appear beside her and kicked out at her.

Yun's eyes turned cold, and she simply replied, "Maggot." At the same time, the image of the illusory giant mountain appeared. It floated in midair, and when her entire body passed through it, she seemed to absorb something, and her entire demeanor seemed to change. She became as steady as a stone.

Lu Yin's kick missed, and Yun appeared behind him and kicked out in a similar manner. The entire battlefield trembled along with the void. This kick was even stronger than Yun's previous palm attack and was absolutely horrifying.

Lu Yin did not know how Yun was able to unleash such terrifying attacks so frequently. Could it be related to the image of that illusory mountain? However, this was not time to stop and think about his opponent's abilities, so he simply responded with his own kick that was powered by Twenty Stacks, Thirtyfold strength, shattering the void as well.

Boom boom boom...

Lu Yin and Yun were like beasts destroying the void as they continuously collided with each other. Each attack was enough to terrify the spectating students, making them feel like they had stumbled upon the apocalypse.

Lu Yin was secretly delighted that he had managed to upgrade his physical body yet again. Otherwise, he definitely would not have been able to withstand the backlash from repeatedly using Twenty Stacks like this.

"Where did this perverse woman come from? She's too damned strong!" the Ghost Monkey's voice sounded out within Lu Yin's mind.

Lu Yin's thoughts were the same; Yun was just too disgustingly strong.

Yun's astonishment was similar to Lu Yin's, and perhaps even greater than his. The strength that she was so proud of and confident in was proving to be ineffective in her attempts to vanquish this man. This strength had ripped apart Liu Shaoqiu's Fourth Sword, which approached the power of her techniques, and yet, she gained no results when using the same attack against this person. In fact, this was what shocked Yun the most.

Bang!

Countless spatial cracks spread out across the battlefield after a powerful shockwave exploded, like ebony fragments distorting the void. The two right palms were tightly bound together, as neither could push the other back.

Yun barked, "I remember now—you're Lu Yin."

Lu Yin sneered. "That's right."

"What kind of human are you? How are you impervious to my strength?" Yun growled softly, intentionally lowering her voice.

Lu Yin's heart stirred. What did this question mean? Did this woman have a unique background?

"Same as you," Lu Yin quickly answered.

Yun's pupils shrank. "Bullshit! The basic nature of our strengths are different, but you actually have the cheek to lie to me!" A crimson red flashed within both of her pupils as two swift strikes flew at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin cocked his head back and casually dodged the attack. With the support of his domain, none of Yun's actions could be concealed from Lu Yin. He had forgotten that this woman was from the technological star realm and that her entire body was made of machinery. Wait a moment—since she was basically a machine, how was she using all these terrifying battle techniques?

Sizzle~

The two collided with another bang, and as knee clashed against knee, Lu Yin suddenly erupted with five-lined battle force. The dark-gold radiance glittered around his body as he clenched his left fist tightly. "Twenty Stacks Thirtyfold Shockwave Palm." His fist then opened to become a palm attack that landed squarely on Yun's abdomen. At the same time, Yun's body once again released the image of the illusory mountain that collided against Lu Yin's palm. The dark-gold battle force released countless spatial cracks that shot outwards like scattered raindrops, stunning everyone watching.

Many who saw this scene felt that the battle was too intense.

Suddenly, Yun's skin began to split. Lu Yin had used battle force along with his overlaying stacks technique to finally overwhelm her defensive limits. After all, since her body was made of machines, there was definitely an upper bound to her sturdiness.

### **Chapter 327: The Final Round**

"Maggot, I refuse to accept this result! You are the first person to defeat me! Watch out, I will make you regret this in the future!" Yun screamed shrilly, and with that, the phantom image of the giant mountain crumbled away. Lu Yin's palm, which was pressed against Yun's abdomen, caused her entire body to

shatter into a million pieces. Fragments of metal scattered everywhere, but there was no blood. All that remained were shattered bits of machinery.

Everyone was stunned; it was finally over.

The participants from the Technocracy were all stunned.

“The first match of the third round. Victor: Lu Yin.”

Every match in the Tournament of the Strongest was mind-blowing; however, Lu Yin’s match against Yun was by far the most shocking one so far. The main reason for this was the sheer level of destruction and oppression that the battle had reached. The violent shockwaves from their battle were so extreme that even the Astral Academy mentors had been forced to step in to stabilize the barrier.

Compared to Starsibyl or Tian Hou’s battles, although they were terrifying in their own right, they were not as tangibly oppressive. This most recent battle had shown countless people the true disparity between them and these peak Limiteers.

This battle also solidified Lu Yin’s position. His actual power level was still above Yun’s, and he had proven his right to be called a true Ten Arbiters’ candidate,

On the east side, Starsibyl’s eyes lit up, as reality was getting closer to matching the results of her divination.

Grandini was shocked; Lu Yin was becoming more and more powerful with every passing day, and he was well on his way to becoming an unbeatable cultivator.

In a distant location, Nightqueen Yanqing gripped her fist tightly. This bastard was still growing stronger. Even though she had grown stronger as well, the disparity between them was still enormous. In the Daynight clan, there was already no Limiteer who could match up to her, and in fact, even many Explorers would find it hard to defeat her.

Everyone in Astral-10 was elated by the result.

Wu Da mumbled to himself incessantly as he stared at Lu Yin in excitement; this person was a great source for his news articles.

In the Outerverse, many powers watched their screens in stunned silence as well.

At Soulseal Flowzone’s Watermoon Villa, An Shaohua had his head bowed down and did not dare to breathe.

“Is this the Lu Yin who compelled you?”

“Yes, Father.”

“With his abilities, even if your powers were multiplied tenfold, you would still not be a match for him. I shall not punish you for what happened back then.”

An Shaohua heaved a sigh of relief. “Thank you, Father.”

“Keep in touch with this man.”

An Shaohua was troubled by this order. "Father, the promissory note has already been used."

"Use your heart to try to win his favor. This is about building a binding relationship, and there are no explicit benefits to it. This man is worth your effort."

"Yes, Father.

...

Deeper in the universe, within the First Flowzone, at the Sword Sect, someone ordered, "Send out an invitation: the Sword Sect would like to invite the kid to join us. We will treat him as a young master."

Many of the disciples within the Sword Sect echoed similar sentiments; this battle had made them truly realize the disparity in power between them and Lu Yin. He was just too strong, as his abilities had already surpassed the Fourth Sword.

...

At the Daynight clan's Ancestral Grounds, Nightking Yuanjing looked away from the screen to glance behind himself to ask, "Have you completed the mission?"

Zhuo Daynight stood behind Nightking Yuanjing, and she looked away from the screen to respond, quelling the shock she felt in her heart. She respectfully answered, "Yes."

"Very well then, you can go ahead and do whatever you wish now. No one in the Daynight clan will stop you," Nightking Yuanjing sad in a gentle voice.

Zhuo Daynight bowed and slowly took her leave.

...

The Astral Combat Academy's Astral Combat Tournament had not been enough to strike fear into that many powers, precisely because it had merely been a competition between the academy's students, so it was not an accurate representation of what the cream of the crop of the entire universe's younger generation's capabilities were. However, the Tournament of the Strongest was different as it represented something else entirely.

Even though this tournament seemed to be just a competition among the younger generation of the universe, it was actually a ploy for the three domains to negotiate. However, many people saw the competitors as candidates who would one day take over for the Ten Arbiters. The true Ten Arbiters' candidates represented something different entirely, especially for anomalies with no background such as Lu Yin. He would belong to anyone who managed to successfully recruit him into their clan. Lu Yin was now a true Ten Arbiters' candidate who existed outside the controlling influence of the various powers. He held a huge attraction to many powers.

Perhaps the only places that honestly wished Lu Yin well were Zenyu Star and a few places back on Earth.

Within the Lifeseek Realm of the Astral Combat Academy's trial zones, Lu Yin walked out of the battlefield.

“Brother Lu, congratulations,” Han Chong said.

Lu Yin let out a pained smile. “It was a difficult fight. That woman is very strong.”

“That goes without saying,” Grandini said, rolling her eyes.

Lu Yin felt like this girl was becoming more and more like Lulu. Was everyone from the Mavis clan this plucky? But if that was true, then who was overseeing the economy?

The next battle was between Starsibyl and Tian Hou. At that moment, Tian Hou had already appeared within the battlefield.

Starsibyl was in no hurry to enter. Instead, she walked over to Lu Yin and whispered something into his ear before entering the arena.

Lu Yin turned around and stared at Starsibyl’s back in shock. Starsibyl had shockingly offered to let him use the Mirror of Clarity within the Lifeseek Realm. The Mirror of Clarity was just like the Heavenly Drum, Tilting Tower, Sky Platform, and the other top training grounds within their respective realms. It was the best training ground in the Lifeseek Realm, and whoever controlled the Mirror of Clarity was the Realm Master of the Lifeseek Realm.

Ever since Starsibyl had taken control of the Mirror of Clarity, she had only ever allowed Nightqueen Yanqing to use it. And now, at such a crucial moment in the Tournament of the Strongest, she had shockingly agreed to let Lu Yin use it. What did this mean? Lu Yin could not understand why she would voluntarily make such an offer to him.

On the battlefield, Starsibyl smirked. Since the results of her divination were becoming more and more clear, there was no harm if she pushed matters in the direction that the divination indicated.

The battlefield had already been restored, and this was the umpteenth time that this had happened. Whether it was the battles during the Astral Combat Tournament or the Tournament of the Strongest, this battlefield would always end up being destroyed over and over again.

Limiteers had powerful destructive abilities to the extent where, given enough time, they could even bring about the destruction of planets, much less a small piece of land.

“Starsibyl of the human race, your reputation precedes you. Even those at the Spiritual Academy have heard of you,” Tian Hou said from where he stood on the battlefield. He was usually a reticent individual.

Starsibyl laughed, unamused. “You have quite a storied reputation yourself since a long time ago, Cosmic Hou.”

“I hope that this battle will not disappoint me,” Tian Hou indifferently responded.

Starsibyl gave him a brief glance. “I guess that I will have to let you down then. My attacking capabilities cannot surpass the upper limits of what you are able to withstand.”

“But the Starsibyl clan has never relied on their attacking capabilities.” After he finished speaking, Tian Hou’s body merged into the void. When he reappeared, he was already at Starsibyl’s side. He stretched out a hand, attempting to banish her into the void, but his attempt was thwarted. His arm exited from a



black vortex only to pass through Starsibyl's image. She had already moved. It could even be said that she had never been there to begin with.

"Astral Banishment!" A voice cried out from above Tian Hou's head. He lifted his head slightly, but he did not try to evade the attack. He allowed Starsibyl to reach out and tap him, and at the same time, Tian Hou stretched out a hand to grab Starsibyl. Both of them touched the other at the same time.

Everyone watched on intently. Although this battle was not as intense as the previous one between Lu Yin and Yun, it was still just as dangerous. A slight mistake from either one would result in their instant defeat.

The entire audience fell silent as both competitors had successfully landed attacks on the other. Then, Tian Hou's black robe was visibly torn apart, revealing that strange black vortex that everyone recognized as his body now. On the other side, Starsibyl was engulfed by the void that had opened up behind her.

Countless spectators felt their heart skip a beat; had Starsibyl been defeated?

Lu Yin narrowed his eyes. He refused to believe that Starsibyl would be defeated this easily.

With a swoosh, Tian Hou suddenly released his hand and whirled around. Starsibyl, who had been engulfed by the void, slowly vanished, leaving nothing but a white coat behind.

Many people heaved sighs of relief; Starsibyl was fine.

"Your attacks are useless against me," Tian Hou said. He was unimpressed and spoke as though he was stating the obvious.

In front of him, Starsibyl helplessly replied, "Yes, but you are unable to defeat me as well."

"That remains to be seen." Tian Hou arrogantly raised his head into the air as a new layer of the black vortex spread out beneath him. "This battleground is limiting you. If this was a battle to the death, then perhaps there would be no winner. However, in this restricted area, your defense is useless even if you can divine my attacks. My attacks will engulf the entire area, and given your defenses, you won't be able to withstand them." After he finished speaking, the vortex started expanding at an even more rapid pace. It was as if a black hole had appeared above the ground.

As the audience watched the vortex expand, some of the students' pupils spasmed, and then afterwards, they collapsed to the ground. They merely lost consciousness and were not dead.

"Everyone! Do not look at the vortex!" The booming voice of a mentor came from high above. He could no longer stay silent at this moment.

Everyone was horrified; this was too terrifying a scene. The students of Astral-7 suddenly thought back to the student who had strangely collapsed when the competitors from the Astral Beast Domain had first arrived. They looked at Tian Hou with terrified looks on their faces; this creature's attacks were capable of reaping lives in such a swift fashion that it was scary to even think about.

Starsibyl took to the sky, but as she looked at the vortex that was slowly swallowing the entire arena, a helpless look flashed through her eyes. “Stop the battle. I admit defeat.”

As soon as she said this, Tian Hou lifted his head, and the vortex beneath his feet started to disappear. “You made a wise choice.”

Many students had concerned looks on their faces; Starsibyl had been defeated! Even though Starsibyl was not known as an unbeatable individual, she still wielded the power of divination and could predict the future. Now that she had been defeated by a member of the Astral Beast Domain, it was a bitter pill for many to swallow.

What Tian Hou had said was correct; this battleground limited Starsibyl’s abilities. Unless Tian Hou could swallow the entire universe, he definitely would not be able to defeat Starsibyl in the wild. This had been an unfair battle.

“This was not what I wanted to do. I hope that we can do battle in space next time,” Tian Hou grumbled loudly.

Starsibyl gave a faint smile before leaving the Lifeseek Realm.

“The third match of the third round. Victor: Tian Hou.”

At the same time that the voice declared Tian Hou’s victory, he turned around to look at Lu Yin.

Everyone who was outside the battleground also looked at Lu Yin. The final battle in the Tournament of the Strongest would be between these two individuals. Who would be victorious? Who was stronger?

One wielded unbelievable destructive capabilities while the other had unfathomable defensive abilities. One was an unstoppable spear while the other was an impenetrable shield. They couldn’t wait for the tournament finals to start!

The screens were completely filled with images of Lu Yin and Tian Hou, and the figures of the two appeared all over the universe.

The Tournament of the Strongest was being held to bring the Human and the Astral Beast Domains closer together. As fate would have it, a representative from each side had managed to make it to the finals.

In the Zephyr Flowzone, Shui Chuanxiao’s eyes lit up as he watched Lu Yin on his screen. His time had passed, but this young man’s journey had only just begun.

In the Innerverses, atop a cliff, there was a long, white sword. A woman with long black hair stared at the screen as an indescribable flash of brilliance passed through her eyes.

At this moment, many people’s attention was now focused on Lu Yin. He was not just representing himself—he also represented the entire Human Domain now.

“Seventh Bro, you must be under a lot of pressure,” the monkey suddenly said.

Lu Yin stopped staring at Tian Hou and looked in the other direction. That was where the Mirror of Clarity was located.

“The final match will take place in one day.” A booming voice echoed out through the Lifeseek Realm.

Tian Hou immediately left the Lifeseek Realm, and the others also left in quick succession.

Han Chong took one look at Lu Yin before he left as well.

No one bothered Lu Yin, and no one knew what the outcome of the last match would be. However, many people were not optimistic about Lu Yin’s chances.

Lu Yin flew into the sky and disappeared with a flash. He was headed to the Mirror of Clarity. Even though he did not believe that Starsibyl could truly divine the future, he had decided to go and check out her training zone since she had offered it to him.

“Monkey, the final battle is very important, so tell me everything you know about this Cosmic Hou,” Lu Yin ordered in a grave tone.

### **Chapter 328: Lu Yin’s Ability**

The Ghost Monkey felt powerless. “Seventh Bro, I’ve already told you everything that I know. Basically, this guy’s very hard to deal with, and from what I know, no one in history has ever defeated a Cosmic Hou while in the same realm as one. When they killed that first Cosmic Hou, it was because they launched a group attack, just like when the Astral Beast Domain assassinated the Daynight clan’s Technique of Immunity years ago.”

Lu Yin was puzzled. “Not even those almighty human powerhouses who far surpass Tian Hou can kill it?”

“Do you think that a Cosmic Hou is bred? They are the Astral Beast Domain’s treasures, and every single one of them is protected by other powerhouses. Historically, every time a Cosmic Hou has made an appearance, they have all ended up dying after suffering from the weird plots you humans come up with. They’ve all died strangely.”

Lu Yin felt that something was odd. “If that’s the case, then the Astral Beast Domain must be very bold to send this Cosmic Hou here.”

The Ghost Monkey agreed. “It really is strange! It’s as if the powers in the Astral Beast Domain are completely certain that the humans won’t act against Tian Hou. Could this have been predicted by Skymender? It’s too crafty.”

Not long after, Lu Yin arrived at the Lifeseek Realm’s Mirror of Clarity, and he looked around. There was nothing too mysterious about this place; it was just a glossy mountain wall that looked just like an unblemished mirror that could perfectly reflect one’s appearance. However, this same place had been contested over by countless experts. Whoever controlled this wall was the Lifeseek Realm’s Realm Master.

It was rumored that the Mirror of Clarity could simulate a cultivator’s battle techniques to the next level and help perfect them, but it was unknown if this rumor was true.

Even if it was true, Lu Yin could only spend a single day here, so he did not expect to improve by much.

It would be great if he could bring this wall into his Time Stop Space. Then, he could endlessly simulate his techniques. It was a pity that his die could not appear in the trial zones.

He walked in front of the Mirror of Clarity and saw his reflection appear. The next moment, the image changed, seemingly becoming real, and then it attacked.

It felt as if Lu Yin had entered the Mirror of Clarity and was now battling against his reflected self. The Cosmic Art, Overlaying Stacks Technique, Multiple Shockwave Palm, Flash Step, and even the Skybeast Claw technique, Daynight Punch... He witnessed all of the techniques that he had learned before.

He was able to observe his own battle techniques from the perspective of his opponent, allowing him to better understand his own techniques. It was a very bizarre feeling.

Two hours later, Lu Yin's body jolted as he unconsciously stepped out of the Mirror of Clarity. He looked at his own palm. While observing his battle techniques from an external viewpoint, he had realized that there were a few incorrect timings when he used Flash Step, and his utilization of the Overlaying Stacks was too wasteful, and...

"Seventh Bro, what happened? You've been lost in thought for two hours. Have you gone crazy?" the monkey shouted.

Lu Yin frowned. How annoying. He did not even spare a thought before immediately screening the monkey off. Then, he took another look at the Mirror of Clarity, only to reenter it and fight with his reflection once again.

Just as he had predicted, if he could train in the Mirror of Clarity for an extended period of time, his power would definitely improve drastically. It was a pity that he could only stay here for one day; this short time span was not enough to allow him to qualitatively metamorphose. When Lu Yin stepped out of the Mirror of Clarity for the third time, this issue was foremost in his mind.

There were less than fifteen hours until the final competition began, and he also needed to spend a few hours resting as well. He had less than ten more hours to spend here, which was insufficient.

Could his attacks overcome Tian Hou's defenses? Lu Yin did not know, and neither did anyone else, mostly because no one knew how much Tian Hou could withstand.

Wait a second. Lu Yin's eyes brightened just when he felt like he had run into a dead end. Why did his offense need to surpass the upper limits of that Cosmic Hou's defenses? Was there no way to counter the creature's absurd defenses and directly strike at his body? His body is a vortex, vortex, vortex... Lu Yin fell deep into thought and involuntarily looked at the Mirror of Clarity. He saw the Cosmic Art revolving around his body and was reminded of that scene from long ago of nine stars being swallowed by a vortex. His own Cosmic Art held infinite possibilities.

Over ten hours later, the screen that isolated the tournament's battlefield vanished. At that moment, everyone from the Astral Beast Domain, Technocracy, and the people from the Innerverse and Outerverse, focused on the battlefield. The finals of the Tournament of the Strongest were about to begin.

Tian Hou was already standing in the battlefield when Lu Yin's figure appeared. He also stepped onto the battlefield, just a hundred meters away from Tian Hou.

Everyone's breath halted as they looked at the two of them. Many were nervous.

“Lu Yin is strong, but even Starsibyl lost to Tian Hou. Can he win?”

“Here’s how I see it, and I even asked an elder from my clan to specially go and check on the legend of this Cosmic Hou. In single combat, it’s practically impossible to beat that creature.”

“That’s right, we’ve looked into it too.”

Tian Hou had defeated Starsibyl, and the legends about his species’ abilities and powers had gradually spread. The Cosmic Hous were originally considered to be top secret information, but Tian Hou’s reputation had spread due to the Tournament of the Strongest. Anyone who had heard about these creatures’ history did not hold any hope for Lu Yin, partially because the legends were too exaggerated. One sentence was enough to describe a Cosmic Hou: unrivalled in single combat. This was because no powerhouse in the same realm as a Cosmic Hou had ever broken through a Cosmic Hou’s defense.

One girl lost her patience. “You guys are all such downers. Lu Yin’s been predicted to ‘definitely lose’ every one of his battles, but he’s always won.”

The people around her were about to retort, but then they suddenly realized that they could not refute the girl’s comment. Her words were actually true.

“It’s different this time. His opponent is a legend.” Kuang Wang had suddenly appeared in the crowd.

Even Astral-5’s student leader had said the same thing, causing all the students to grow even more worried. But no matter what their thoughts were, it would not affect the two already in the arena.

“Seventh Bro, are you feeling confident? Speaking of which, why do you block me off every time you upgrade your power? Is the process that shameful?” the monkey shrieked.

Lu Yin’s brows wrinkled. “Shut up.”

“Hehe, if you have the ability, then block me now! Seal off your right arm! Haha!” the Ghost Monkey laughed in an odd tone.

Lu Yin took a deep breath and moved forward, exchanging glances with Tian Hou.

Tian Hou did not bother spouting nonsense, and he directly merged with the void before appearing right before Lu Yin. Tian Hou felt no need to evade Lu Yin’s attacks, as he was confident that no one could break through his defenses. He directly tried to grab Lu Yin, just like what he had done with Starsibyl.

Lu Yin’s eyes widened; his ability to deal with Tian Hou depended entirely upon whether or not his theory was correct. With a flash, he appeared behind Tian Hou and stretched out his own hand, perfectly mimicking the way Tian Hou had just reached out towards himself, and then grabbed at Tian Hou’s body.

Everyone felt strange when they saw this scene. What is this, a mutual grappling match?

Tian Hou’s eyes also revealed a trace of puzzlement, but he did not feel any vibrations. Had this human not attacked? An instant later, Tian Hou’s eyes changed, and the black vortex that made up his body suddenly stopped rotating. Lu Yin’s lips curled up, and he raised his left hand, only to slam it down atop his own right hand. “Twenty Stacks Thirtyfold Shockwave Palm.” Bang! A shockwave erupted forth and tore through the earth and the void, twisting everything apart in an instant.

Tian Hou's black robes were shredded, and his entire body was sent flying before he crashed into a nearby mountain. Twenty stacks had exploded consecutively, causing the ground to be blasted into smithereens, the void to warp, and countless spatial cracks to shoot outwards in all directions.

Stunned, countless viewers stared at the battlefield in disbelief.

On the Astral Beast Domain's side, Feng Jiu's eyes nearly popped out of their sockets.

During the Tournament of the Strongest, Tian Hou had faced several opponents, including Starsibyl, but he had not been injured in the slightest in any of his battles. And yet, he had been sent flying the moment today's battle began; what a joke!

It wasn't only those from the Astral Beast Domain who had trouble wrapping their heads around what they had just seen, but everyone in the audience. How had Lu Yin managed to do such a thing?

Starsibyl's eyes brightened, as the results of her divination seemed to be drawing closer and closer to fruition.

Nightqueen Yanqing, Kuang Wang and the rest all stared closely at the battle, but they could not understand what was happening.

In the sky above the battlefield, the Astral Combat Academy mentors vaguely appeared, and Lilac Snow's figure also appeared even further away as she looked at Lu Yin in astonishment. This human actually injured Tian Hou. Is he the variable that Teacher talked about?

Smoke filled the sky, and Tian Hou was forced below ground.

Lu Yin looked into the distance and then down at his hand. He had guessed correctly, but he was taken aback by the actual results. He had assumed that Tian Hou's body itself was a vortex, so he had used the revolution of the stars in his Cosmic Art to forcefully restrain that vortex's revolution to directly attack Tian Hou. The results had been successful, but it seemed that the Cosmic Hou was not just a vortex; the essence of their strength was actually devouring.

Also, there was only a slight moment where Tian Hou could actually be damaged. Lu Yin could not afford to let anyone see him using the Cosmic Art, so he could only place his hand within Tian Hou's body and use his body to block anyone from seeing the nine stars. However, this also meant that, when Lu Yin attacked, his hand would come out of Tian Hou's body and that he would no longer be able to restrain the vortex. At that moment, his own right hand would be completely exposed, and he would not be able to use the Cosmic Art to restrain the vortex anymore. Hence, even though he had attacked with the strength from Twenty Stacks exploding, only the first stack had actually caused any damage. The rest had all been wasted.

Devouring through a vortex; these two aspects were both parts of Tian Hou's strengths, and it was indeed very difficult to break through the creature's defenses even after Lu Yin pushed his strength to the absolute limit. With his current strength, it was still impossible for him to overcome the Cosmic Hou's defenses, so Lu Yin could only use this method to slowly break down his opponent step by step and damage Tian Hou's body while the vortex was disrupted.

Luckily, Lu Yin's previous strike had been rather heavy, and Tian Hou should not be able to deal with this method that easily.

A gale swept around, dispersing the smoke and revealing Tian Hou's vortex body underground. He stared at Lu Yin in shock, but then an intense excitement overtook him.

Before his arrival, his master, Skymender, had mentioned that aside from Starsibyl, no one else would be able to force out his true strength. And yet, during yesterday's battle, Starsibyl had turned out to be disappointing. As such, he could only wait for the supposed variable to appear. This man before him now was that variable and was also the opponent that Tian Hou had been waiting for.

"You are the variable that Master mentioned!" Tian Hou exclaimed in an excited manner.

Lu Yin was puzzled. "Variable?"

Tian Hou stared at Lu Yin. "You being able to damage me means that you are the variable. I look forward to experiencing your strength!" He then merged with the void and appeared behind Lu Yin again. This time, however, he did not carelessly attempt to grab Lu Yin as he had before; instead, he attacked with a battle technique. It was not that Tian Hou did not know any battle techniques, but rather that no one had ever been able to force him to use any, and that included even Starsibyl.

Tian Hou's battle techniques were from the Spiritual Academy, and his black arms took on a phantasmal appearance as shadows of multiple palms were seen, the scene sending out a chilling fluctuation.

"Phantom Soul Strike! Seventh Bro, be careful! This technique is like your Shockwave Palm and can be endlessly strengthened," the monkey warned in Lu Yin's mind.

Lu Yin did not dare to be careless and immediately retreated. The void where he had been standing suddenly ruptured, and the images of countless palms spread out and enveloped a wide area. Lu Yin was trapped within the palms, but even though endless palm shadows descended upon him, he did not retreat. Instead, he flung both arms out and slammed his left hand forward. "Thirtyfold Shockwave Palm." With a fierce shout, Lu Yin's left hand clashed against Tian Hou's palm images. However, there was no shocking collision, as Lu Yin's attack silently vanished into nothingness. His attack had been swallowed.

The next moment, an excruciating pain erupted in Lu Yin's chest, and he was sent flying. Tian Hou's Phantom Soul Strike had squarely struck Lu Yin, sending him flying underground.

Many felt their hearts jump, as Lu Yin had lost this exchange. He had clearly dealt Tian Hou a solid blow before, but he had been overwhelmed just now.

Boom!

The earth rumbled as Tian Hou did not hesitate to rain down endless palms upon the ground, viciously striking at Lu Yin.

### **Chapter 329: Struggle To The Death**

Lu Yin leapt up, enduring the barrage of phantom palms. He then used Flash to charge towards Tian Hou and unleashed attacks from both of his hands this time. Tian Hou shivered. Rather than counterattack

with his Phantom Soul Strike, he instead evaded the attack. Lu Yin's hands missed, and they ended up tearing the void apart.

Many were dazed as they could not understand this battle at all. No one understood if Lu Yin could or could not effectively attack Tian Hou.

Lu Yin panted heavily as a palm imprint gradually faded from his chest. He looked at Tian Hou with a grave expression, as this fellow was very difficult to deal with—it was way too challenging to even hit him.

Tian Hou also looked solemnly at Lu Yin. "If this is your limit, then this is a great disappointment."

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed, and he suddenly felt very sullen. If not for the live broadcast, he would have been able to use the Cosmic Art without restraint. If that were the case, then no matter what Tian Hou did, he would be attacked as soon as he approached Lu Yin, and he would be able to easily defeat this Cosmic Hou.

"It looks like you've already reached your limits. Still, for you to reach this step and strike me once can already be considered pretty good," Tian Hou said in a quiet voice before once again merging with the void and attacking Lu Yin with another Phantom Soul Strike. Lu Yin used both hands in an attempt to counterattack, but Tian Hou easily avoided it. Although the creature could not use extreme speed, nothing could beat its ability to merge with the void.

There was a bang as Lu Yin's hands landed on nothing. Once again, his entire body was launched underground by Tian Hou, and this time, a trace of blood appeared on Lu Yin's back.

Tian Hou's attacks were all very powerful, and he lived up to his reputation of being one of the finalists in the Tournament of the Strongest. If he were from the Human Domain, he would be a Ten Arbiters' candidate without a question. It was not easy to withstand his attacks once, twice, thrice...

Under the watchful gazes of many observers, Lu Yin fell to a complete disadvantage. As soon as Tian Hou started fighting seriously and using his battle techniques, many experts from the Astral Beast Domain believed that the match was already over.

Lu Yin was already doing pretty good, after all. Tian Hou had not displayed his battle techniques against anyone else in this competition, and nor had he taken the initiative to evade anyone else's attacks, not even Starsibyl's. Lu Yin was the only who had been able to force him to this extent, but it seemed to end there.

Lu Yin hit the ground with a bang and spat out a mouthful of blood. He had endured more than ten strikes from Tian Hou, and even if his physical body was tough, he still found it extremely difficult to tolerate such physical abuse as he lay there, flat on the ground.

Many sighed. In the end, Lu Yin had still been defeated. In all the legends throughout history, no one had managed to defeat a Cosmic Hou of the same realm in single combat. A Cosmic Hou could not be defeated by a single person.

On Zenyu Star, Huo Qingshan and the others felt powerless. It was time to close their screens, as watching on would be disrespectful to the Royal Regent's image.



On Earth, Zhou Shan and the rest felt sorrowful. Earth was too small, and they could not help Lu Yin at all. After stepping onto the universe's biggest stage, he could only count on himself.

Some sighed, while others were secretly elated, but no one revealed such emotions. In spite of all the possible grudges out there, Lu Yin represented the Human Domain right now.

Starsibyl's gaze flickered. Did her divinated result actually show a different path? She was not confident, as Tian Hou was just too difficult to deal with.

There was an intense shout as Lu Yin spat out another mouthful of blood. However, he endured the intense pain and charged up from underground, only to pant heavily as he looked at Tian Hou.

Tian Hou's gaze regained its indifference. "Your physical body is powerful, and among all the Limiteers in the same generation as you within the Astral Beast Domain, even when including those famously tough beasts, few can rival you. But even if that's the case, if we drag things out, you will only end up being more embarrassed."

Lu Yin spat out more blood and heaved a few breaths. "Actually, I've been wondering. Is this all your attacks are capable of?"

Tian Hou's eyes widened, and all who heard Lu Yin's reply felt caught off guard as well. What did this mean? Was Lu Yin taunting his opponent?

"What do you mean?" Tian Hou grew serious.

Lu Yin licked his lips. The bloodstains were unsightly, so he wiped them clean. He looked at his own blood and then grinned. "If your attacks have only reached this level of strength, then the outcome of this fight is still unknown. Let's put it all on the line and see whose luck is better!" With that, Lu Yin stretched out both hands, only to suddenly clasp them together and interlock his ten fingers. His star energy even formed a chain that twisted around his hands as he firmly tied both hands together. "This way, I can't separate them even if I wanted to."

Tian Hou was bewildered, and the many people who were watching were also confused.

No one could understand Lu Yin's actions. How would tying his hands together help him deal with Tian Hou?

"Seventh Bro, are you crazy? Don't be discouraged! No one will blame you if you can't beat Tian Hou. There's really no one who can win against him," the Ghost Monkey cried out desperately.

Lu Yin softly but firmly replied, "You're wrong. I believe that, if the Ten Arbiters were in the Astral Combat Academy right now, they would definitely be able to defeat Tian Hou."

The Ghost Monkey wanted to retort, but it could not find out the words to do so. The Ten Arbiters were ten freaks who represented the changes in the universe. Since ancient times, no one of the younger generation had ever been as terrifying as those ten. Their power was incomprehensible to most people, and they would likely have been able to triumph over Tian Hou in single combat even as Limiteers. The monkey did not believe others could do the same, but he was forced to accept that the Ten Arbiters were capable of this feat. Although it was said that those on the Astral Beast Domain's Skymender List

could rival the Ten Arbiters, the Ghost Monkey knew that that was just a saying and that it was likely not true.

This saying originated from Yao Gu's battle against the Ten Arbiters' Undying Phoenix, where they had been evenly matched. This had caused news to spread that the beasts on the Skymender List could match up against the Ten Arbiters. However, at the border warfront, the Ghost Monkey had seen that Yao Gu had been at a disadvantage against Wen Sansi and that he had not been able to match up to the Ten Arbiters' Scholar. No one could prove how the outcome of the battle would have turned out if Yao Gu fought against another Arbiter.

Lu Yin was certain that the Ten Arbiters would have been capable of winning because of the Rainmaster's remark that the Ten Arbiters' Divine Fist had been able to use Thirty Stacks of the Overlaying Stacks Path. What sort of level was that? Even with Lu Yin's current physical strength, it would be difficult for him to reach that degree of strength. That was the true terror of the Ten Arbiters.

"Even if the Ten Arbiters could defeat Tian Hou back then, what do you want to do now? Do you think tying both your hands together will let you catch up to them?" The monkey felt that something was strange.

Lu Yin did not bother explaining. He readied his bound hands; one used Cosmic Palm while the other used Shockwave Palm. His reasoning was that, if his hands were separated, it would be easier for Tian Hou to disrupt a weaker attack and disperse the energy. By binding his hands, although Lu Yin's movements would be a beat slower, there would be a greater strength behind his attacks. He intended to burn all bridges and use his body to forcibly endure Tian Hou's attack in exchange for an opportunity to strike back on his own. He was staking everything on this method, and gambling on a bit of luck as well.

"Come on, Tian Hou!" Lu Yin growled as he charged towards the Cosmic Hou with Flash.

Tian Hou's eyes lit up, and the phantom palm images that filled the skies descended. Lu Yin did not dodge the attack and instead used his bound hands to slam a heavy attack at Tian Hou. He tried to dodge, and Lu Yin immediately evaded the moment he saw that. The Phantom Soul Strike missed, and Lu Yin's attack missed as well.

Tian Hou was shocked; this person wanted to force them both down in mutual destruction!

Lu Yin's plan had been exposed, and if Tian Hou could figure it out, then many others would as well. But the situation was still a bit strange, as Tian Hou seemed afraid of Lu Yin's combined attack. Did Lu Yin really have the ability to cause the Cosmic Hou to be afraid? Many thought back to Lu Yin's strike at the beginning of the battle.

"Again!" Lu Yin barked excitedly, feeling as if he had found a path to victory.

Tian Hou gritted his teeth. "If you want to struggle, then so be it. A disciple of Skymender is not afraid of anyone!" The Phantom Soul Strike reappeared, and he slammed his attack towards Lu Yin. This time, Tian Hou did not dodge and neither did Lu Yin. His bound hands crashed heavily into Tian Hou, and the Cosmic Palm restrained the rotation of the vortex as the Shockwave Palm violently struck out. Tian Hou was sent flying by Lu Yin's strike, though Lu Yin was also struck by the endless Phantom Soul Strike and thrown back underground.

The two simultaneously exchanged blows, causing many in the audience to feel petrified with shock.

“Effective! Lu Yin’s attack is actually working!” a student excitedly shouted.

Many others became thrilled as well to see that Lu Yin had begun counterattacking after enduring more than ten strikes from the opponent. This determination stirred many.

On Zenyu Star, Huo Qingshan, who had been just about to shut off the screen, released a pent up breath. Was this Lu Yin’s counterattack?

Wendy Yushan’s eyes gleamed in a hidden corner of the universe, and a trace of happiness flashed across her face.

In both the Inniverse and the Outerverse, many powers were moved. “Such a strong battle awareness! If he had not tied his hands together, then his movements would have been less focused, and Tian Hou would have been able to evade him. This kid is not bad,” the Sword Sect leader praised in appreciation.

At this point, the battle had just begun.

Lu Yin’s new battle style forced Tian Hou to struggle against him blow for blow, and their fight became a bitter struggle as both used their own bodies to forcefully endure their opponent’s attacks.

After ten minutes, even an extraordinary being such as the Cosmic Hou found it difficult to endure such powerful blows, and Tian Hou’s attack rhythm noticeably slowed.

Lu Yin’s body was drenched in blood, and wounds covered his entire body.

“How interesting, that you actually forced me to such a point,” Tian Hou gasped in surprise.

Lu Yin frowned, but he did not show any signs of weakness either. “I’m amazed that you can injure me as well.”

“Hahaha, Master was right! You’re indeed a variable.” Tian Hou seemed elated.

Outside the battlefield, Yun still had an expression that was filled with contempt, though all her hatred seemed to be directed towards Lu Yin. However, no one noticed her since they were all watching the final battle.

“Seventh Bro, I must worship you! You’re too awesome!” The Ghost Monkey was electrified by what he was witnessing. “That’s Tian Hou! You’re the only one in the same realm who has ever forced him to such a stage. You’re too amazing!”

“Shut up, he hasn’t even used his true strength,” Lu Yin barked back.

“Impossible! That beast has shown an unnatural level of strength, but you’re telling me that he hasn’t even used his actual strength?” the monkey shrieked.

Lu Yin stared at Tian Hou’s eyes and had a premonition that the legends about the Cosmic Hou’s abilities extended beyond what Tian Hou had revealed so far. There were so many extraordinary innate gifts in the universe, some that could even form a blackhole, but even that was not enough to allow their

wielders to become legends. So what did the Cosmic Hou race rely on? What Lu Yin had already seen so far had not reached that level, so Tian Hou must still be hiding something.

“I’m very satisfied with this battle, but unfortunately, it must come to an end sometime,” Tian Hou said as he sighed and stared at Lu Yin. “You are now also someone who has experienced a legend.” Then, his body merged into the void only to reappear above Lu Yin. He struck out with both palms with no intention of evading.

Lu Yin subconsciously attacked with his bound hands, and with a loud boom, a shockwave burst out behind Tian Hou’s back to distort the void. Tian Hou gripped Lu Yin’s shoulders with both hands. “You can be frightened now.”

Lu Yin’s pupils shrank, and he felt an indescribable chill crawl up his spine as he tried to attack Tian Hou in order to force him back. However, Tian Hou forcibly endured Lu Yin’s attack. Their eyes met, and an ineffable feeling seeped into Lu Yin.

Terror and fear suddenly manifested in Lu Yin’s eyes as he stared at Tian Hou. He trembled. He wanted to slink down and cower at the feet of this being.

Why? They were clearly evenly matched, but Lu Yin now felt a deep sense of fear and the overwhelming sensation that he could not match up to Tian Hou. This feeling was like confronting the boundless universe, when humans felt so minuscule and overwhelmed where they did not even have the courage to raise their heads and look at the skies.

Tian Hou continued to stare into Lu Yin’s eyes. This was his ability: devouring. Not only could he devour physical attacks, but he could also devour his opponent’s emotions. Courage was an emotion, and this man had just lost all of his courage.

### **Chapter 330: Battling A Legend**

Cosmic Hous were a legend, and one that could not be hidden. No one in the same realm had ever defeated one, not a single person.

Countless people stared in amazement as Lu Yin faced Tian Hou. His knees began to bend, and it seemed as if he was about to kneel down.

If he knelt at this moment, Lu Yin would be finished for the rest of his life. The entire Human Domain would reject him because he represented all of them at this moment. To have humanity kneel at the feet of an astral beast was unacceptable.

On Zenyu Star, the expressions of Huo Qingshan and the rest changed, and their faces drained of all color.

Wendy Yushan clenched her hilt tightly, and she suddenly stood up, her eyes blazing.

In the Innerverse, the face of the black-haired lady with the white sword went cold.

In the Daynight Ancestral Area, Zhuo Daynight nervously watched on.

At this point, countless hearts seized as people stared on in a daze. Would Lu Yin kneel?

Tian Hou's eyes flashed with pity. He knew that this person would be finished if he was forced to completely kneel. But for the sake of victory, this was necessary. This was the price, and it was heavier than even death.

Lu Yin's eyes filled with horror as his knees gradually bent and approached the ground.

Countless watched on with bated breath.

In the sky above the battlefield, the Astral Combat Academy mentors were about to stop the match, but Lilac Snow appeared at the first sign of movement.

Outside the battlefield, the contempt in Yun's eyes grew even more intense.

Starsibyl watched on gravely; her divination had revealed no such scene.

The Astral-10 students clenched their fists, and Xia Luo's face dropped.

Nightqueen Yanqing gleefully sneered.

Right when Lu Yin's knees were about to drop, a sound suddenly reverberated in his mind. It was the Stonewall Scriptures.

At the same time, Tian Hou howled in misery and retreated in a sorry manner. In that instant, he had been sent flying backwards by an indescribably majestic pressure. Lu Yin realized the circumstances that he was in and flew into a rage. He lashed out with his bound hands and sent Tian Hou flying again.

Countless people let out their held-in breaths. Lu Yin had withstood the critical juncture and not kneeled.

Lu Yin's back was drenched in sweat as he tore away, panting heavily. He still felt fearful, as everything would have been ruined if he had knelt down—his future would have been reduced to nothing if that had happened.

"Seventh Bro! Seventh Bro, can you hear me? Seventh Bro!" the monkey screamed without end.

Lu Yin panted heavily. "Yes, I hear you."

"What just happened? You wouldn't respond no matter how hard I called for you." The Ghost Monkey was panicking.

Lu Yin exhaled. "I don't know, but at that moment, my fear was amplified endlessly."

The monkey did not understand what had happened either. In the end, a legend was merely a legend and there were no precise records about them. No one knew exactly what abilities Tian Hou possessed.

Lu Yin watched Tian Hou crash into the ground and grit his teeth. He still held some residual anger, as the worst result of this battle was not death, but rather being forced to kneel down to his opponent. This had angered him beyond all reason, and he charged out with Flash and ruthlessly pounded down at Tian Hou.

When Tian Hou's body was forced underground, his dazed brain finally seemed to awaken a bit. He saw Lu Yin's strikes descend upon him, and he raised a hand. "Let's struggle to the death!"

There was a tremendous boom, and the ground was once again smashed to powder. This shocked many students' hearts, as Lu Yin was now being held up by Tian Hou once again.

Tian Hou grit his teeth and stared at Lu Yin; he wanted to devour his opponent's emotions once more. No one would obstruct him this time! He wanted to understand the attack that had sent him flying just moments ago; after all, he should be matchless!

Terror reappeared in Lu Yin's eyes, but this time he could hear the Ghost Monkey. "Seventh Bro, you are terrified again. Damn, this is such an evil ability! Seventh Bro, your wife is being snatched! Your Ming Yan from the Shenwu Continent is being snatched away by the Daynight clan!"

Lu Yin's eyes abruptly changed as he heard the monkey's words and the image of Ming Yan's dazzling beauty appeared in his mind. His fury spiked to new heights, and he mercilessly sent Tian Hou crashing underground again.

Tian Hou was taken aback. Why is it not working? Impossible, no one is immune to my ability!

Lu Yin did not pursue Tian Hou and instead retreated a hundred meters back, from where he cautiously watched Tian Hou. The lingering fear once again arose within his eyes. What sort of ability was this? It had actually caused him to freeze in place.

"Seventh Bro, this is very bothersome. Tian Hou's ability can mess with your emotions. Even if there's no terror in your heart, you still have love or affection. Choosing any one of them will cause you to be unable to withstand his attacks. If Ming Yan is dead and Zhuo Daynight is slaughtered by Nightqueen Yanqing, what will you do?" the Ghost Monkey seriously asked.

Lu Yin's heart sank, and he watched Tian Hou's bloodlust increase. It was no wonder why this creature had become a legend; he truly was overpowering.

"What do you suggest?" Lu Yin asked quietly.

The monkey was at a loss. "I don't know. I've already said that no one can face a Cosmic Hou alone, as they're pretty much invincible."

Lu Yin did not believe in invincibility, as no one was truly undefeatable, not even the Ten Arbiters.

Across from Lu Yin, Tian Hou stood up. He was in a sorry state as he had been heavily injured. He looked at Lu Yin with a strange sense of apprehension. This person had not only found a way to attack him, but he could also resist having his emotions being devoured. This made Lu Yin Tian Hou's natural nemesis. His Master had mentioned that a variable might appear but that Tian Hou would definitely still win this battle. At most, he would drag out the battle. After all, his opponent's injuries were far worse than his own.

The battlefield fell silent, and neither competitor attacked their opponent. They only watched each other fearfully.

At this point, the countless observers relaxed, as there was finally a temporary break in the battle. No wonder this was the final battle; it was a display of both wits and courage.

"Seventh Bro, I feel like you should stop struggling against him. At most, go for a draw," the monkey suddenly said.

“You don’t think that I can win?”

“That’s for sure. Tian Hou believes that you can ignore his ability to swallow your emotions, so he’s scared and hasn’t acted for now. But if you continue to struggle against him, and he randomly swallows your emotions again, then my reminders might not work then. If the fight progresses, you’ll lose beyond a shadow of a doubt.”

Lu Yin was confident in the toughness of his body, but this confidence had to be reevaluated in the context of facing Tian Hou.

“What a pity. If you had managed to learn the Daynight Technique of Immunity, you could have confronted him and made him doubt life itself. He might even suspect if you’re the same species as him!”

Lu Yin frowned. “It’s not going to be easy to force a draw.”

“Try your best. It would already be awesome for you to get a draw. Throughout history, no one within the same realm has ever drawn against a Cosmic Hou, which means that you’ll have made history.”

“Since I’m making history, I might as well make a bigger story and beat him.”

“Wake up...”

“Since it can swallow emotions, then I’ll fight it without any,” Lu Yin spoke coldly as a faint red aura covered his body. It was the color of blood, and the willpower of iron blood pervaded him until he was filled with bloodlust.

The Ghost Monkey was stunned. “The bloodlust of the battlefield... Right, this is the harvest you gained from the Heavenly Drum. You’ve turned yourself into a soldier.”

On the battlefield, the brave would prevail. No matter how timid one was, one had to forget themselves upon entering the battlefield and immerse themselves within the constant massacre. It was as if Lu Yin had become a seasoned soldier on the battlefield—the bloodlust pervaded his mindset, and he held no fear. He forcefully suppressed all of his emotions and was filled with nothing aside from bloodlust.

Tian Hou was stunned, and a bad premonition surfaced in his heart as he watched the faint redness around Lu Yin spread.

Lu Yin suddenly appeared before Tian Hou with a shout as his bound hands heavily pounded down. Tian Hou tried to dodge while retaliating with his Phantom Soul Strike and trying to devour Lu Yin’s emotions. Even if this person could disregard his emotions, the mental effect could still delay his attack and create a favorable opportunity for Tian Hou. However, Lu Yin had shrunk his domain’s area and was now the same as a veteran on the battlefield. This time, he resolutely blocked Tian Hou’s devouring ability.

Tian Hou was thrown underground by Lu Yin while Lu Yin was simultaneously hit by the Phantom Soul Strike. However, as Tian Hou’s condition became more and more severe, his attacks weakened, and he was no longer able to cause as much harm to Lu Yin as he had earlier in their battle.

“Impossible! Even a veteran who has participated at the border warfront can’t resist having their emotions devoured. Why are you able to do so?” Tian Hou was incredulous. A seasoned soldier did not fear death, but they would still have emotions. Just merging the bloodlust of the battlefield into one’s domain would not stop his devouring ability. If it were that simple, the Cosmic Hou would never have become a legend.

Of course Lu Yin was not relying solely on the bloodlust, as he also had the Stonewall Scriptures. When his domain spread out, he had begun reciting the scriptures in his mind. The Stonewall Scriptures complemented his domain that had absorbed the battlefield’s bloodlust. Combined with the monkey’s nagging, he had constructed a formidable defense against Tian Hou’s emotion-devouring ability. All of these pieces were his own ability, and he had patiently cultivated them to this day. He had met all of these puzzle pieces by fate, and they now came together to allow him to defeat Tian Hou.

Inequality existed between living beings, and an existence like a Cosmic Hou represented invincibility from birth. Lu Yin had no chance of even challenging one if not for his fateful destiny.

Right now, Lu Yin’s destiny had given him the ability to challenge Tian Hou. Lu Yin did not want to squander this opportunity, and he wanted to win. He wanted to be unrivalled.

Thump thump thump...

The void shattered as countless spatial fractures radiated out, leaving the audience members dumbfounded.

Tian Hou was enraged; he had already used everything at his disposal as well as his full strength, but the battle had seemed to have reset to how they started, with the two of them each struggling to consume the other. He could not understand how a human had forced him to such dire straits, as this person was clearly nothing more than a mere human.

Throughout the universe, many people watched on nervously. This deserved to be the final battle, as the intensity of it surpassed even Lu Yin’s battle against Yun. It also had an atmosphere overflowing with a mystifying sense of fantasy.

With a loud explosion, the two separated at the same time, only to collide once more. It felt like heaven and earth were continuously crashing against each other, and Lu Yin spat out a mouthful of blood. He felt light-headed, as he had almost reached his limit for reciting the Stonewall Scriptures. If he recited any further, then he would faint.

Opposite him, the vortex of Tian Hou’s body had slowed down, and he was also about to reach his limits. It was not that obvious, but Lu Yin could sense it.

Neither dared to speak, for fear that it would affect their final confrontation.

Everyone knew that this battle was finally about to end and that the outcome was about to be made clear.

Outside the battlefield, Starsibyl, Han Chong, Grandini Mavis, Feng Jiu, Yun, and all the rest of the competitors watched on nervously. This was the final battle of the Tournament of the Strongest, and it could also be considered to be a battle between the two peak Limiteers of the Human Domain and the Astral Beast Domain.



On the Firesmelt Planet, within the Frostwave Weave, Jenny Auna was in a daze as she stared at the screen. At her level, she simply could not understand this battle. However, when she watched Lu Yin's all-out struggle, she felt as if she were gasping for air, as if she had cast aside something that had once belonged to her. She did not like Lu Yin, but the more brilliant his life was, the more difficult it was for her to bear it.

As the end of the battle finally came in sight, countless viewers in the universe were entranced by the battle and remained focused.

Pop!

Lu Yin spat out another mouthful of blood and growled. He then forcibly turned his body around and used Flash to tear through the void. He appeared right above Tian Hou and struck downwards with his bound hands. Tian Hou's black vortex of a body was smashed into the ground, and Lu Yin suddenly unbound his hands. He slammed downwards again, and when his right hand came into contact with Tian Hou's back, he pressed his left hand down on top. "Twenty Stacks Fortyfold Shockwave Palm."

Boom boom boom...