STAR ODYSSEY 481

Chapter 481: Changing Hands

When Kuang Wang was finally able to make out the design of the personal spacecraft landing nearby, he was certain that the Sword Sect had arrived. Only they and the Myriad Swords Peak, both of which viewed the sword with the utmost importance, would use spacecraft shaped like swords.

At the base of Pyrolyte Mountain, the emperor butterfly topgrass swayed while it created a star energy vacuum around Pyrolyte Mountain.

Within the range of the grass, a dozen Daynight clan members spread out as they vigilantly stared at the spacecraft landing all around them.

This mass landing consisted of at least twenty spacecraft, and their overall numbers were way smaller than the Daynight clan and the Second Grade Hall's combined forces. However, these people were from the Sword Sect.

There were no pleasantries exchanged between the two groups, and the battle started almost immediately. The Daynight clan acted first, launching their attacks before the spacecrafts' hatches even opened. The Second Grade Hall was not slow either, and their tamed beasts let loose a rallying battle roar.

One personal spacecraft was directly destroyed by the Daynight clan's Limiteers, though a brilliant sword qi welcomed their attacks and tore through the earth.

The Sword Sect and the Daynight clan were both top-notch powers from the Innerverse. The Daynight clan was even able to have a flowzone named after itself, showing its tyrannical nature. On the other hand, the Sword Sect had directly christened the flowzone that they controlled "First Flowzone," which was even more overbearing. The two powers approached each other right away. They had already battled against each other countless times in the past, and they were no strangers to each other.

There were many old Limiteers within the Daynight clan, as some were unable to break through while others had been disallowed from doing so since they were restrained by the Sealed Cage Technique. The breakthroughs of such members depended on the mood of the Nightking clan. One Daynight elder possessed a unique innate gift from birth that specialized in extreme destruction. He was very sensitive towards the ambient energy in the atmosphere, and he was able to leverage the free energy within the surroundings to display his strongest strength.

However, in his youth, this elder had offended the Nightking clan, and thus had not been allowed to break through until now. He had believed that his life was ruined, but he was finally of actual use this day.

The Sword Sect could not stop that Daynight elder, and two of them were instantly taken out.

The Daynight elder's face revealed his malevolence. As long as he achieved some accomplishments on Planet Pyrolyte, he would be allowed to break through and become an Explorer, which would increase his longevity. That would increase his future prospects, and he would not give up such an opportunity.

The spacecraft hatch in front of him opened up, and the elder did not think twice before striking out with a punch. He could feel the pyrolyte in the ambient air, and his punch borrowed the power of the pyrolyte, increasing the strength of his attack while it was still in midair. It landed right in front of the spacecraft.

Inside the spacecraft, a pair of sharp eyes opened with a glare as the person grabbed their sword hilt and sliced out. The Daynight elder's fist was sliced apart by a formless sword qi, causing his eyes to narrow and his scalp to go numb. He immediately retreated since he felt an intense sense of danger, but it was already too late. His body was split in two, and a massive spatial crack spread out from his body in all directions, shocking everyone.

The space on Planet Pyrolyte was very stable, so it was difficult for Limiteers to tear through the void. Only geniuses who had reached a certain strength threshold would be able to tear through it. This attack proved that an absolute genius had just appeared in this area.

This personal spacecraft was not able to withstand the sword qi's force, and it broke apart to reveal a girl: Liu Xiaoyun. She was the person who had attacked just now, and with her attack that imitated the First Sword of the Thirteen Swords at that. It was her gains from the many years she had spent in the trial zone's Tilting Tower. It was also her strongest attack, and that slice had ripped apart the strongest person in this group of Daynight clan members.

In another area around Pyrolyte Mountain, thunder was rumbling, signifying that Yan Hua had also arrived. He was second only to Liu Shaoqiu within the Sword Sect's younger generation experts. His skill with lightning and the sword had even received the Cosmic Sea's experts' recognition, and so, he had naturally become a part of the Sword Sect's main force during this competition on Planet Pyrolyte.

Each Sword Sect expert entered a stance as they suppressed all the Daynight clan members in an instant. One figure was exceptionally eye-grabbing among the group of Sword Sect's experts; there was a little girl who appeared to be around eleven or twelve years old who was wearing a dark purple dress and had an adorable look. She was the Yōu Court's little princess, Yōu Ye'er. She had followed the Sword Sect and come along to participate in the battles on Planet Pyrolyte.

This was Yōu Ye'er's first time in the Outerverse, as well as her first time in the Astral Wilderness. She was extremely curious about everything as she stared wide-eyed at everything taking place about her. Battle and death were normal occurrences for her, so she did not care about those things at all.

Suddenly, an astral beast charged up from underground and snapped at her.

From nearby, Liu Xiaoyun's expression changed, and she slashed out, releasing a sword qi that pierced through the void and tore apart the beast in front of Yōu Ye'er. A spatter of blood scattered onto the little girl's dress.

She looked down and pouted; her clothes had gotten dirty.

"This is a battlefield, so take care of yourself." Liu Xiaoyun's tone was cold. She had not wanted to bring this little princess of the Yōu Court to this place. However, she had no choice in the matter, as those had been the elder's orders; she could only obey the command to keep the little brat safe.

Yōu Ye'er's face revealed a look of disdain, but she docilely acknowledged Liu Xiaoyun's words and acted as if she were extremely obedient.

The battle around Pyrolyte Mountain ended quickly after the Daynight clan suffered a few casualties, prompting the others to escape. The Second Grade Hall had also suffered some casualties, and only Hui Chuan and a select few were left standing as they did their best to protect Pyrolyte Mountain with the strength of Kuang Wang's emperor butterfly topgrass.

Above Planet Pyrolyte, Nightqueen Qiuyu flew into a rage, and she felt an impulse to execute all of those disciples from the Sword Sect.

A row of Sword Sect disciples started approaching Pyrolyte Mountain, but they stopped outside of the emperor butterfly topgrass's range and faced Kuang Wang directly.

"I never thought that you would also come." Kuang Wang reluctantly looked at Liu Xiaoyun and forced out a smile.

Liu Xiaoyun held an indifferent attitude towards most people, including Kuang Wang who had been a fellow student for many years. "Leave Pyrolyte Mountain, and I won't make things difficult for you."

Kuang Wang sighed, and waved his hand as he caused the emperor butterfly topgrass to vanish. He wasn't an idiot, and he was aware that his grass was not enough to stop attacks from experts like Liu Xiaoyun and Yan Hua, who were elites of the Sword Sect. He was not afraid of one-on-one combat, but there were just too many people from the Sword Sect. If everyone attacked him at the same time, he would not be able to resist them even with the weakening effect of the emperor butterfly topgrass. Moreover, Liu Xiaoyun herself was stronger than him.

Kuang Wang left, which indicated that control of Pyrolyte Mountain had shifted from the alliance between the Second Grade Hall and the Daynight clan to the Sword Sect.

At this time, no one dared to claim that they had completely taken control of a specific area. Hence, whatever pyrolyte ore people managed to extract on a given day was sent up to their battleships on that same day. Liu Xiaoyun did not steal Kuang Wang's cosmic ring, and only watched on as he left the mountain.

Although the Sword Sect did not have that many disciples, each and every one of them was an expert, and their overall strength surpassed even the Daynight clan's. The Sword Sect was currently the strongest power on Planet Pyrolyte as they had the support of both Liu Xiaoyun and Yan Hua.

The Daynight clan did not give up, and they stationed many of their experts near Pyrolyte Mountain as they waited for even more Daynight clan experts to arrive.

Not long after, the Daynight clan received its own reinforcements; but instead of more Limiteers, a universally famous young powerhouse appeared on the planet: Moore. He was ranked twelfth on the Top 100 Rankings and was also a Councilor for the Outerverse Youth Council at West San Dios.

Moore's appearance cast a shadow over the hearts of the various powers. He was ranked twelfth, and even though he was unable to participate in the battles on the planet, the situation would change as soon as the Daynight clan discovered a method to send Explorers or even Cruisers down. Just Moore alone was enough to cause a headache for the other organizations.

Moore's appearance also made many powers remember the other parties such as the Dire Barbarian Clan and the Sword Sect. These powers possessed powerhouses who were in the very top of the Top 100 Rankings, and as soon as space-exploring powerhouses were able to enter Planet Pyrolyte, they would reap many benefits. However, such a change was terrifying for the powers without any high-ranked experts. People were very clear on just how powerful those top-ranking experts on the Top 100 Rankings were.

Just as the various great powers were considering their next move, the Graceful Mercenaries arrived. They had been hired by the Ross Empire, as the Ross Empire did not have any Limiteers who were strong enough to compete for Planet Pyrolyte. Naturally, they were not satisfied with just watching the others. Even though they had allied with the Blaze Realm, if they provided no contributions during the contest on Planet Pyrolyte, then they would lose out when the pyrolyte was distributed.

Everyone had placed their hopes on experts at the Explorer realm and above, and the Graceful Mercenaries were employed with that in mind. There was someone special within that group: the person ranked hundredth in the Top 100 Rankings, Sleeping Prince.

The position of hundredth on the rankings was the absolute lowest ranking on the Top 100 Rankings. Many believed that the person holding that rank was not even as powerful as some Limiteers like Mu Rong and the other elites. However, Sleeping Prince was an exception. From the first moment his name entered the Top 100 Rankings, he had always been ranked as a hundredth. No matter how the other rankings changed, he would always maintain the same position.

When Che Han had defeated Qin Chen, Che Han had replaced Qin Chen and had become ranked eighty eighth, and all those behind Qin Chen had been moved down on the rankings by one peg. Sleeping Prince had been reasonably booted off of the list, but he had quickly challenged the person who had just taken over the hundredth position, the expert previously ranked ninety ninth, and then retaken the hundredth position.

The man always seemed to be at the hundredth rank, and many believed that his power far surpassed his ranking, and that he just liked that number.

No one knew what his actual strength was. An almighty expert had once said that Sleeping Prince could possibly challenge experts in the top seventy, which was a rather high appraisal.

The Ross Empire had hired the Graceful Mercenaries, and the other powers did not intend to remain resigned to their fate either. Many of them had successively contacted other known powerhouses of the Human Domain. Even if space-exploring powerhouses could not currently participate in the contest on Planet Pyrolyte, it was better to take precautionary measures than lose out when the time came.

Lu Yin quickly learned that the various powers had hired outside experts, precisely because he himself also received many employment offers to fight on the planet, which he had all rejected.

It was an expected development for outside experts to be brought in considering the current state of affairs on Planet Pyrolyte. This was especially true for the alliances between powers from the smaller flowzones since they were currently being suppressed by the larger organizations. Regardless if one was a Limiteer or an Explorer, they could all be hired as long as they had some bit of reputation.

The contest on Planet Pyrolyte was growing even more intense with each passing day.

Hai Qiqi was beside Lu Yin, and she naturally learned about the contest and that the various organizations were hiring outside experts. She was rather interested in this development. "I wonder if Baobao will head there as well."

Lu Yin cast a sideways glance at her. "'Baobao'?"

"Lan Baobao—haven't you heard of her?" Hai Qiqi rolled her eyes.

Lu Yin thought to himself for a moment before remembering the person ranked twenty fifth on the Top 100 Rankings: the Grayweed Continent's expert, Lan Baobao. Hai Qiqi had previously contacted this woman, and Lu Yin had heard that she had a very nice-sounding voice. "You have a good relationship with her?"

Hai Qiqi nodded, "There's only a few people I'm able to play with since I've always been stuck in the Starfall Sea. Baobao's my best friend."

"What about Lan Yu?" Lu Yin asked.

"I've met him once, so I'm not too familiar with him."

"He also participated in the Sea King's son-in-law selection."

Hai Qiqi rolled her eyes. "I know. Lan Si has asked Father several times, hoping for me to marry his brother, but he was rejected every time."

"You've met Lan Si?" Lu Yin was shocked. Actually, such a thing was nothing to be shocked about since Lan Si was the Grayweed Continent's top expert of the younger generation as well as one of the Ten Arbiters. It was not strange for them to have met.

"Lowly cultivators that toil at the bottom such as yourself will naturally not have met Lan Si, but I'm of a different breed," Hai Qiqi said loftily.

"Then let me ask you something. Who do you think is more powerful: the current me, or Lan Si when he was a Limiteer?" Lu Yin asked Hai Qiqi.

Chapter 482: Soloing Pyrolyte Mountain

After hearing Lu Yin's question, Hai Qiqi gave him a serious look. "Let me ask you a question in return. Who do you think is stronger: Lan Yue or me in a thousand years?"

"How would I know?"

"There's your answer. How the heck would I know if you're stronger than Lan Si when he was a Limiteer or not? You should ask Starsibyl, but I'm not her."

Lu Yin had forgotten about Starsibyl and realized that he indeed should have asked her back when they had spoken.

"Right, did Starsibyl ask you a question?" Hai Qiqi suddenly looked at Lu Yin, interested in a new topic.

Lu Yin muttered to himself for a second, but then looked at her solemnly. "Guess."

Hai Qiqi turned around silently, her brain working at extreme speed. "Just you wait."

Although chatting with Hai Qiqi usually left Lu Yin choking back his words, it was still a relaxing activity, all things considered. He knew that Karthika would not do anything overboard to Zenyu Star so long as Lu Yin did not participate in the contest on Planet Pyrolyte. Karthika's existence on Zenyu Star did not change anything for the planet or the empire; this was the only thought that Lu Yin could use to console himself.

However, this feeling of being stifled could not be completely ignored, and Lu Yin had recently been mulling over the fact that he needed to find an Enlighter backer for the Great Yu Empire somehow. Strangely, Lu Yin was reminded of the symbol that he had seen at Huo Qingshan's family estate, and he felt like he should find some time to chat with Huo Qingshan after this current matter was resolved. With Lu Yin's own hidden trump cards, he was not afraid even if Huo Qingshan had some kind of super powerhouse behind him. Lu Yin could not accept having a foreign organization living right under his nose.

Several days passed, and a large-scale battle broke out on Planet Pyrolyte. No, it could not be classified as a battle, and should instead be considered as the outbreak of a war since nearly one thousand people were involved in the conflict.

Pyrolyte Mountain was once again the site of a major conflict, and war had broken out because the Daynight clan's reinforcements had arrived.

Fresh blood flowed across the dark-red, withered dirt while strange worms occasionally emerged from the ground to gnaw on the corpses, only to be swept away by the constant aftershocks from the ongoing battle. There was smoke and ash everywhere.

One Sword Sect disciple was surrounded by several people. His longsword was shattered, and he fell dead to the ground.

Nearby, a tamed astral beast was hacked to death by sword qi that swept across its body. The attack also affected several nearby Limiteers who did not dodge in time, and they lost their limbs.

On the ground, there was one disciple from the Second Grade Hall who was nearly dead. He frantically fished out some pyrolyte ore and quickly detonated it, causing the area around him to tremble. Unfortunately, the strength of the explosion wasn't enough to kill any of the surrounding Limiteers since the blast wasn't even at a power level of 10,000.

As far as one could see, the entire region of Pyrolyte Mountain had been drenched in the flames of war. The participants were not just limited to just the Sword Sect, Daynight clan, and Second Grade Hall; there were also people from many other powers mixed into the chaos, including Northline Flowzone's Northgate Gang and Ah Fan.

Liu Xiaoyun lifted her longsword as a giant gash opened up across her arm. Fresh blood dripped down the hilt and onto the ground. There was also a bloody wound on her forehead.

Opposite her, Nightqueen Yanqing's four-lined battle force enveloped her body, and her eyes were filled with a purple light; she had even activated the Nightking's Body. "You're not my opponent. On account that we're fellow students, I'll spare your life. Scram!"

Liu Xiaoyun gripped her hilt, but she did not back away.

Some ways away, Yan Hua was in an even more miserable situation than Liu Xiaoyun; he was facing Zhanlong Daynight.

Yan Hua had not been able to leave even a single injury on his opponent.

You Ye'er was being protected by multiple Sword Sect disciples, and she had already been escorted away from the battlefield. This battle was bound to be the Sword Sect's complete and utter defeat, as the Daynight clan's alliance with the Second Grade Hall amounted to a force that just the Sword Sect could not withstand.

Since Kuang Wang felt grateful for Liu Xiaoyun showing mercy during their battle, he did not act at this time. Even so, just Zhanlong Daynight alone was enough to determine the outcome of this battle, not to mention the addition of Nightqueen Yanqing and Zhuo Daynight, who had just stepped onto the battlefield.

Zhuo Daynight had also been recruited, and she was participating in this contest on Planet Pyrolyte. Her red-hilted longsword had already beheaded many opponents, and while within her domain, none of the Sword Sect disciples could hurt her.

The battle soon ended, as the Daynight clan did not want to start a blood feud with the Sword Sect. In addition to some deaths, Liu Xiaoyun, Yan Hua, and Yōu Ye'er had all been spared by Nightqueen Yanqing. She had given Liu Xiaoyun some moderate injuries in order to prevent her from participating in the planet's battles in the near future.

The Daynight clan disciples swept across the battlefield. Nightqueen Yanqing was holding a piece of star essence to restore her energy. She was also looking across the battlefield when her eyes landed on Zhuo Daynight. Nightqueen Yanqing's eyes flashed with a sharp light, as Lu Yin would not have been able to join the Council of Astral Academy if it were not for this woman, and the following series of events would not have occurred either. This woman was from the Daynight clan, but she seemed to support outsiders. Nightqueen Yanqing's hatred for Zhuo Daynight had even surpassed what she felt for Lu Yin.

As she thought about things, Nightqueen Yanqing appeared in front of Zhuo Daynight and slapped at her. Zhuo Daynight's eyes went wide, and she responded with a slash of her sword. A shockwave swept out with a bang, and the ground sank from the powerful collision. Zhuo Daynight was overpowered by Nightqueen Yanqing's enormous strength, and she felt an overwhelming strength oppress her as she spat out a mouthful of blood. Nightqueen Yanqing coldly spat out, "Slut, I'll let you know who's your master."

Then, with the boost of strength she received from activating the Nightking's Body, she unleashed another burst of strength, acting even more ruthlessly than she had against Liu Xiaoyun in the recent battle.

At that moment, a hand seized Nightqueen Yanqing's arm. "Woman, don't go overboard."

It was Zhanlong Daynight.

Nightqueen Yanqing glanced apprehensively at Zhanlong Daynight, snorted, released her hand, and then turned to leave.

Zhuo Daynight collapsed to the ground with one knee, panting heavily. Against Nightqueen Yanqing, she held no hope of victory at all.

Zhanlong Daynight looked at Zhuo Daynight with some interest. "I heard that your relationship with Lu Yin isn't bad."

Zhuo Daynight coldly replied, "We have no relationship."

"Then why did you help him?"

Zhuo Daynight put her sword away and walked off into the distance without looking at Zhanlong Daynight.

He watched her, and his lips curled up. "What an interesting woman. I like her."

Pyrolyte Mountain had exchanged masters once again, and now, it was once again under the control of the Daynight clan with the assistance of the Second Grade Hall.

The various powers all noted that, during the recent battles, all of the top elites were students of the Astral Combat Academy, such as Kuang Wang, Liu Xiaoyun, and Nightqueen Yanqing. Each Astral Combat Academy student that entered the scene was someone who could not be ignored.

During this crucial period in the contest, many powers communicated back to their bases that their disciples should be sent to the Astral Combat Academy. In particular, Astral-10 was the top choice for quite a few. All the students from that particular academy branch were not weak, and even those who had come from the Outerverse were the same, since they had at least attained the average strength of a Astral Combat Academy student. There was no need to even mention Xia Luo and Silver, as they boasted a strength that was at the same level as an Area Master's. And finally, there was Lu Yin, who was the strongest Limiteer in the universe.

The Daynight clan had not taken control of Pyrolyte Mountain for long when the Dire Barbarian Clan's Avery arrived. The Dire Barbarian Clan had allied with the Blaze Realm and the Ross Empire. Each alliance had become clear and defined at this point.

At around the same time, Lu Yin finally returned to Frostwave Weave.

This region of the universe had been the starting point of his cultivation, but it definitely would not be the end.

A wide-eyed Hai Qiqi looked around. "You were born in this place?"

Lu Yin replied, "Frostwave Weave is huge. Don't bother looking around. I haven't been to this area either."

"Hasn't Frostwave Weave been unified by your Great Yu Empire?"

"The Starfall Sea belongs to the Sea King, but has he visited every place there?"

"Of course," Hai Qiqi answered matter-of-factly.

Lu Yin was left speechless once again.

On Planet Pyrolyte, battles kept erupting everywhere. Wherever a pyrolyte mine was discovered, it was sure to become the location of an intense battle soon enough.

Jared was escaping in a pathetic manner while Wen Qian'er and Xi Yue were chasing him.

The tables had turned. Just as how Jared had previously snatched Xi Yue's pyrolyte mine before, she had now brought Wen Qian'er with her for revenge. If Jared had not escaped quickly enough, then he felt that there was a chance he would have been killed.

"You guys just wait! My Blaze Realm will not let this go unanswered!" Jared roared. Every other disciple from the Blaze Realm had been eliminated, and he was all alone.

Some distance behind him, Xi Yue was not to be outdone. "You won't have the chance!"

"Bring it on. I want to taste that Karmic Flame Sword!" Wen Qian'er shouted.

Jared was furious, but he ran away even quicker since he was afraid that the two of them might chase him down.

In another area of Planet Pyrolyte, Northgate Gang and the rest were having an argument. Powers from the smaller flowzones were different from the bigger ones; those like the Daynight clan would at most ally with one or two organizations while the parties from smaller flowzones did not have enough strength with just one or two of them. And so, they were forced to ally with seven, eight, or possibly even more than ten other organizations. As long as there were multiple organizations involved, there would naturally be disagreements.

Northgate Gang wanted to be the dominant voice in his party, but he was pushed aside by others as soon as he spoke. More than ten people were bickering fiercely, as some wanted to snatch Pyrolyte Mountain while others wanted to seize other locations. There was no unity whatsoever in their alliance.

Ah Fan looked on indifferently, as he had been forced to come here. He had originally had no intention of coming to Planet Pyrolyte, and he had only wanted to wait for Lu Yin at East San Dios to challenge him again. He wanted to see if he still was unable to withstand a second attack.

He looked up, staring at the sky as spacecraft after spacecraft shot down from space like shooting stars. This sight had never changed, as none of the forces was willing to abandon the pyrolyte mines.

Suddenly, Ah Fan's eyes trembled, and he looked off into the distance. "Stop arguing. Pyrolyte Mountain is changing hands."

The crowd turned to look in the direction of the mountain since they were not too far away from it. They watched as a single spacecraft crashed towards the mountain.

Someone was astonished. "That's crazy! They're actually landing on Pyrolyte Mountain! That person must have lost control of their spacecraft."

"That person's screwed. Pyrolyte Mountain is where the top elites of the Daynight clan and Divine Grade Hall have gathered. They were even able to defeat the Sword Sect! As soon as that poor bastard leaves the ship, they'll end up doubting their entire life."

"Maybe not. It could be someone from the Daynight clan or the Beast Tamers Flowzone."

"Probably not. Any of their reinforcements would arrive in waves."

Northgate Gang frowned, and he looked at Ah Fan unhappily. "Don't cause such a fuss. It's just a spacecraft going out of control."

Ah Fan's eyes narrowed. Was that really the case? There was indeed a strong possibility of that being the case, but what if that wasn't the case? If someone was about to challenge Pyrolyte Mountain by themselves, who could it be? Lu Yin? It shouldn't be him since he had only recently left the Starfall Sea and did not have the means to arrive so quickly. Mu Rong and Ling Que were the same, and aside from them, there was no one else who would attempt such a thing. Perhaps it truly was a case of the spacecraft losing control!

There were many other people aside from Ah Fan who had noticed the solitary spacecraft headed straight towards Pyrolyte Mountain, and many other groups around Pyrolyte Mountain were all watching it. They had all guessed that this was either a spacecraft that had lost control or contained someone from the Daynight clan or the Beast Tamers Flowzone. Otherwise, no one would be foolish enough to try to fight the forces at Pyrolyte Mountain by themselves.

But the truth was far different from what the crowd's guesses. The spacecraft was destroyed by a powerful gust of visible wind that caused it to explode. The gale originated from the top of Pyrolyte Mountain, as the Daynight clan had launched an ambush attack on the descending spacecraft. In the next moment, there was a gleam from a sword streaking across the land that shook the ground as it swept out across the sky. The blade released an endless sword qi that caused all the onlookers' hearts to tremble. In that moment, everyone felt numb, as if they had come face to face with their innermost fear.

The spatial crack extended into the sky. It looked like an astral beast had opened its ferocious mouth and was attempting to devour Pyrolyte Mountain.

Nightqueen Yanqing's eyes instantly shrank when she saw this sight. "The thirteen Swords! It's Liu Shaoqiu!"

The endless sword qi swept across all of Pyrolyte Mountain. Aside from the places where they were actually extracting pyrolyte from the ground, everyone was overwhelmed by the sword qi attack. This was the Second Sword of the Thirteen Swords that was executed in the form of a domain, each sword rivalling the strength of the First Sword.

The Thirteen Swords had astounded the universe in the past, and now, it had stunned Planet Pyrolyte.

Chapter 483: The Ambition To Challenge The Strongest

Zhanlong Daynight looked incredibly excited as he punched at the sky.

Nightqueen Yanqing unleashed her full strength. Besides her Nightking's Body, she had also released her four-lined battle force to go against the boundless sword qi.

Zhuo Daynight lifted her red sword and struck at the sky.

Kuang Wang looked incredibly grim, and he didn't even dare to release his azure dragon. It was way too large, and it would only end up as target practice if he let it out, which would mean that he would have to receive this attack on his own.

Hui Chuan's monster snake was killed in an instant.

Whether it was the members of the Daynight clan or the Second Grade Hall, everybody was forced to receive Liu Shaoqiu's attack. With just one move, he'd already taken out most of the powerful opponents on Pyrolyte Mountain. This was Liu Shaoqiu. This was the Thirteen Swords.

Pyrolyte Mountain now held a lot more corpses.

Up high in the sky, Liu Shaoqiu calmly looked down. Right now, the only people who had survived his attack were either incredibly lucky ones or powerful in their own right.

Far in the distance, away from Pyrolyte Mountain, Northgate Gang, Ah Fan, and the others were completely stunned by the fact that somebody was actually attempting to take over Pyrolyte Mountain by themselves.

Liu Shaoqiu, a person who'd nearly been forgotten, had just stunned everyone with one move.

During the Astral Combat Tournament, Liu Shaoqiu had been one of the few participants who had been favored to become the champion. He'd managed to defeat Realm Master Kuang Wang with one move. And whenever he attacked, Starsibyl, Han Chong, Nightqueen Yanqing, and all the other Realm Masters had been forced to become serious. However, he'd lost to Lu Yin. Many believed that his defeat was due to Lu Yin's luck since Liu Shaoqiu's sword had broken at a critical moment, causing him to hesitate. That pause had given Lu Yin a chance. Otherwise, nobody would have known who the victor would have been.

At that moment, Liu Shaoqiu's name had spread across the universe. Even though he'd lost, that battle had been likened to the finals of past Astral Combat Tournaments. Liu Shaoqiu wasn't believed to actually be any weaker than Lu Yin.

However, during the Tournament of the Strongest, Liu Shaoqiu had lost to Yun, that woman from the Technocracy, which had caused his popularity to die down. A lot of people had gradually forgotten about him while Lu Yin, Mu Rong, Ling Que, and Ye Xingchen became the four unrivalled Limiteers. Throughout the starry universe, nobody remembered Liu Shaoqiu anymore, the genius from the Sword Sect who had once made a deal with Lu Yin to challenge the Top 100 Rankings together.

At this moment, Liu Shaoqiu had once again demonstrated just how capable he was. Other than those select others, who else could take out the entirety of Pyrolyte Mountain's defenses alone? Only Liu Shaoqiu could.

At the base of the mountain, Kuang Wang panted hard and glanced at his arm as blood flowed down off of it, dripping from his fingers. He could only smile wryly. The difference between him and Liu Shaoqiu was just too vast. He'd thought that the difference in power between them had decreased, but on the contrary, it had only grown larger. He even found it difficult to defend against two blows from Liu Shaoqiu now.

Hui Chuan had nearly died. Although he was still technically alive, he had been grievously injured. He wouldn't be able to fight for a while.

Nightqueen Yanqing's face was pale. She had also defended against quite a few attacks and had nearly succumbed to them. Liu Shaoqiu was much stronger than the past, and his sword was even sharper than before. She had believed that, after training at the Mirror of Clarity within the Lifeseek Realm, she had become much stronger, but evidently, Liu Shaoqiu had made even further strides in his cultivation.

Zhuo Daynight's red sword was cracked, and she tightly clenched onto the hilt as blood from her right leg stained her pants and dripped down into the ground. She swayed a few times before, finally unable to take it anymore, collapsing. She forced herself to take three Shamrock Enterprises pills as she stared up at the sky. This was the Thirteen Swords, and it was incredibly powerful.

Right now, there was only one person on the mountain who had received Liu Shaoqiu's Second Sword without taking damage: Zhanlong Daynight.

High in the sky, Liu Shaoqiu's gaze was fixed on just that one person. Zhanlong Daynight was clearly very powerful.

Zhanlong Daynight grinned. "Nice! I expected nothing less from the Thirteen Swords. You've won, so you can take over the mountain."

Nightqueen Yanqing was enraged. "Don't make such decisions on your own, Zhanlong Daynight!"

Zhanlong Daynight didn't even give her a second look. He leaped away from Nightqueen Yanqing with tightly clenched fists as he punched out. Liu Shaoqiu looked incredibly stern, and the area around Zhanlong Daynight distorted as the spatial crack spread out even further. He quickly unsheathed his sword, and upon seeing that Zhanlong Daynight's fist was closing in on him, he aimed his weapon down. This was the First Sword of the Thirteen Swords. The sword qi in it surpassed what he had released in the Second Sword, and this attack represented all the comprehension he had gathered over the course of his cultivation.

Each of the Thirteen Swords had something unique about them. It wasn't that the Second Sword would always be more powerful than the First, as the largest difference between the First and Second Sword was the area that the attacks covered. In order to truly display one's strength, the First Sword was a better choice.

A sword clashed against a fist, and everyone saw the void tremble slightly in the sky above them. It almost looked like a small winding stream. The initially small ripple soon transformed into a violent wind that contained a terrifyingly powerful pressure that crushed down upon Pyrolyte Mountain and the surrounding area.

Northgate Gang and the others were shocked. Wa- was this still a battle between Limiteers? Impossible! Even a fight between Cruisers wouldn't be this scary!

After coming to such a conclusion, Ah Fan shouted, "Let's go!"

The rest of the group were also in a rush to escape. A strong wind blew across the ground, and even the ground was torn asunder.

Things were even worse at the bottom of Pyrolyte Mountain. Those from the Daynight clan and the Second Grade Hall who had been lucky enough to survive the previous attack were now sent flying along with Zhuo Daynight, Hui Chuan, and the others. Only Kuang Wang and Nightqueen Yanqing were able to remain standing in place despite the strong wind.

With a giant boom, another gigantic spatial crack spread across the sky, and a cultivator from the Second Grade Hall had the bad luck to be swallowed by it. About a third of his body vanished.

A portion of Pyrolyte Mountain collapsed, and the entire geological formation was forced down slightly.

Thankfully, Pyrolyte Mountain itself acted as a dampening device. Otherwise, this vigorous battle very well could have caused all the pyrolyte ore within it to explode. If that happened, then the survival of everyone in the general area would be left up to fate alone.

Liu Shaoqiu and Zhanlong Daynight retreated at the same time. They were completely on par with each other.

Zhanlong Daynight looked excited but relieved at the same time. He had believed himself to be all-powerful, but these incredible geniuses kept popping out one after another. Thankfully, his time while being incarcerated in the Reverent King's estate on the Shenwu Continent had given him the opportunity to break through in the Daynight Restoration Technique, or else he'd have fallen behind these geniuses.

He had been planning on going after Lu Yin and having another duel with him, but to his surprise, Lu Yin had defeated Mu Rong and been crowned as the most powerful Limiteer. While Zhanlong Daynight was confident in himself, he was still likely a bit weaker than Lu Yin. Hence, he had obeyed the orders from his clan and headed to Planet Pyrolyte. He was planning on defeating various powerhouses in this contest for pyrolyte ore, experiencing another breakthrough in the Daynight Restoration Technique, and then challenging Lu Yin again after that.

Zhanlong Daynight was going to claim the title of the strongest Limiteer for himself before becoming an Explorer. Then, he would take his place on the Top 100 Rankings.

Lu Yin was like a huge mountain pressing down upon everyone else within the same realm, making it hard for them to breathe. It wasn't just Zhanlong Daynight; Liu Shaoqiu, Nightqueen Yanqing, Han Chong, Ling Que, Mu Rong, and everyone else was currently stuck beneath him. Every Limiteer wanted to defeat Lu Yin. They were currently on another battlefield, but the winner would still just be someone who was weaker than Lu Yin. The moment that person was decided, they would have to challenge Lu Yin while carrying the weight of everybody's expectations on their shoulders.

Although nobody had actually said this, it was something that everybody instinctively knew. Only the final person to remain standing on this battlefield would have the right to challenge the strongest Limiteer.

While Lu Yin hadn't appeared on Planet Pyrolyte, his existence alone was a part of the reason why these people were fighting. For young people like them, the value of pyrolyte ore wasn't nearly as motivating as the chance to challenge Lu Yin. They were from different generations, and the way they thought was obviously different.

For people like Nightqueen Qiuyu, the pyrolyte ore was the most important thing on this planet. But for the youths fighting on the frontlines, the allure of being crowned as the strongest Limiteer was something beyond imagination.

The sky became the main battlefield, and rampant shockwaves ruthlessly swept across the region. Spatial cracks fell down like little raindrops.

The void on Planet Pyrolyte was quite stable, and it was much stronger than most other places in the universe. But even so, for Zhanlong Daynight and Liu Shaoqiu, this wasn't much different than a battle in the trial zones. Their battle was incredibly alarming, and it came as quite a surprise to the large organizations hovering above Planet Pyrolyte. This was basically a battle between two of the strongest Limiteers.

This was a duel between the strongest youths from the Sword Sect and the Daynight clan, and it represented a battle that would decide who would gain control of Pyrolyte Mountain.

The Daynight clan could not lose. If they did, their reputation would suffer enormously. Liu Shaoqiu had challenged the entirety of the Daynight clan's Limiteers on his own, which was already humiliating. Nightqueen Qiuyu was watching the battle on Planet Pyrolyte very closely.

The Sword Sect could not lose either. As the one in control of First Flowzone, they had been waiting for a chance to undermine the Daynight clan, and this was their moment to strike.

It was a coincidence that both sides had people among the Ten Arbiters. Right now, this was a battle that would decide who had the stronger Limiteer.

A huge explosion caused Northgate Gang and the others to retreat even further as they stared into the distance, terrified. They were afraid that the battle would cause the buried pyrolyte ore to explode, which would be a true disaster.

The duel lasted for more than a dozen exchanges, and Zhanlong Daynight had a delighted expression. Veins popped out from his body, and at some point, he'd received a huge cut from his back to his chest. He'd been injured.

On the other hand, Liu Shaoqiu looked glum. He'd taken one attack from Zhanlong Daynight, and the drip of blood on the corner of his lips was incredibly eye-catching.

The two were evenly matched. Liu Shaoqiu's skills were unrivaled and could hurt Zhanlong Daynight, but the latter's Restoration Technique allowed Zhanlong Daynight to recover at an abnormal rate. It didn't take long for the horrible slash on his body to heal and disappear entirely.

Liu Shaoqiu looked astonished when he saw that; this was his first time fighting such a monster.

Zhanlong Daynight licked his lips. "The Thirteen Swords. Let's keep going."

Liu Shaoqiu sighed. He raised his sword and closed his eyes. At this moment, the sky changed, and everything fell silent. Right after that, sword qi wildly surged forth and covered the entire sky. It was a forcefield. Liu Shaoqiu had unleashed the Fourth Sword. Against a true powerhouse from the Daynight

clan, the experience from countless years had taught the Sword Sect that the Third Sword was useless; only the Fourth Sword would be effective.

Zhanlong Daynight grew serious. A domain, when powerful enough, would condense into a forcefield that could alter the very environment. This particular forcefield had turned the surrounding area into a world of swords. This was the Fourth Sword, and it lived up to its status as one of the Thirteen Swords. This attack gave Zhanlong Daynight a sense of danger, but that only made him more excited.

The Daynight Restoration Technique blazed to life at full power on Zhanlong Daynight's body, causing strange ripples to form on his skin, making it seem as if his body was literally pulsing with life. His insane regeneration rate could almost be seen as his muscles bulged and a strong aura forced the sword qi away from his body. The ground within a thousand meters of him started cracking before being reduced to powder.

Everybody anxiously watched the battle. This should be the final exchange. The two had skipped past the testing phase of the battle and directly entered the actual fight.

Far in the distance, Ah Fan had a grim expression. Although he had already run quite far away, it still didn't feel like he was far enough. A battle between two Limiteer powerhouses could affect a huge region, and if given enough time, they could destroy an entire planet. Even if he ran so far away that he could no longer see these two, he still wouldn't feel safe.

Northgate Gang felt the same, and he kept cursing to himself. The fight between these two bastards was even more ridiculous than the one with Northgate Lie. Northgate Lie was an expert on the Top 100 Rankings and was even an Explorer. However, he wasn't nearly as powerful as these two Limiteers. They were absolute freaks.

It wasn't just the two of them. Even further away, there were quite a few people who could also tell that they were still in danger. Powder continuously fell from the sky as a gigantic fissure snaked across the ground. Far below, it was possible to see boiling hot magma, the heat was intense enough to warp the void. Just the sight alone was frightening.

There was a bang, and two figures crashed into each other like colliding meteorites, sending out the most powerful shockwave yet. It peeled away multiple layers of the ground underneath them. Fortunately, the two were fighting above Pyrolyte Mountain, so the force was spread out and did not directly strike the mountain. Otherwise, the force definitely would have caused the pyrolyte ore within the mountain to explode, resulting in a huge disaster.

Chapter 484: Arrival

Nightqueen Yanqing and Kuang Wang weren't able to block the shockwave this time, and they were forced into a continuous retreat. No one could tell if it was deliberate, but this time, Liu Shaoqiu's attack also affected Nightqueen Yanqing; his attack had managed to land on both Zhanlong Daynight and Nightqueen Yanqing.

Kuang Wang had been slightly off to the side, so he had not been included in the area.

The ground within the battlefield's range kept sinking, and the bodies of the cultivators who had previously died on Pyrolyte Mountain were reduced to dust.

Zhuo Daynight was very smart, and she had not retreated very far. Due to the state of her body, she was incapable of retreating, so instead, she decided to dive deep underground without looking back. The moment she felt the powerful force sweep over her, she had already charged into the magma, hiding deep underground.

She kept going until she could no longer feel any pressure from the battle on the surface.

Violent winds blew about, and the scenery around Pyrolyte Mountain changed once again. The ground had sunk down by dozens of meters for miles around the mountain, making the mountain appear even taller than before. High in the sky, Liu Shaoqiu and Zhanlong Daynight faced each other, each of them huffing and puffing as they eyed the other.

While Zhanlong Daynight showed no external signs of injuries, he was obviously much weaker than before. The luster that had previously covered his body and represented his regenerative abilities had vanished; he'd overdrawn his Daynight Restoration Technique.

This was different from when Lu Yin had defeated him on Shenwu Continent. Lu Yin had been markedly stronger than him, and had defeated Zhanlong Daynight by landing a blow that the Daynight Restoration Technique could not handle. Liu Shaoqiu's Fourth Sword had directly clashed against the Daynight Restoration Technique, so this battle was more about who would fall from exhaustion first.

A victor had yet to be determined, but there was already someone in trouble: Nightqueen Yanqing.

Liu Shaoqiu's Fourth Sword had covered a large area. He had intentionally attacked Nightqueen Yanqing alongside, using her as a sacrifice for his attacks. Her Nightking's Body had been severely damaged, and she had collapsed onto the ground, gravely injured.

Zhanlong Daynight clenched his fists and glared at Liu Shaoqiu. He was confident that he could still win, since even though he had overdrawn the Daynight Restoration Technique, he would return to peak condition very soon. Everything would be fine as long as he managed to recover before Liu Shaoqiu used the Fourth Sword again. That attack definitely was not one that could be easily used, or else Liu Shaoqiu would be invincible.

Liu Shaoqiu clenched the hilt of his sword. The regenerative abilities of his opponent were monstrous, and he was starting to develop a headache because of it. It was unthinkable that the Fourth Sword hadn't defeated this person. Did Liu Shaoqiu have to risk it all and attempt to use the Fifth Sword? He had only vaguely comprehended the Fifth Sword, and he hadn't yet fully mastered it. However, in the worst-case scenario, he would have no choice but to try it out.

All of a sudden, Zhanlong Daynight glared at Nightqueen Yanqing. There was a whole crowd rushing towards her led by the Sword Sect's Yan Hua. They were clearly targeting her.

During the previous battle between the Daynight clan and the Sword Sect, Yan Hua's opponent had been Zhanlong Daynight. The Daynight clan member hadn't gone all out, and Yan Hua had merely suffered light injuries that were much less severe than Liu Xiaoyun's. This was why he was currently still capable of attacking, and he had taken advantage of this to head straight for Nightqueen Yanqing, his bloodlust clear as day.

Zhanlong Daynight's expression changed. He had no idea if Yan Hua and the others would actually kill her, and while he detested the woman, he couldn't let her die right in front of him. Otherwise, the Nightking clan definitely would not let him off the hook. There was no way Zhenwu of the Ten Arbiters would let such a thing slide.

With no other choice, Zhanlong Daynight was forced to give up on his battle with Liu Shaoqiu, fleeing after grabbing Nightqueen Yanqing. When faced with Liu Shaoqiu and the other experts of the Sword Sect, and after the Daynight clan and the Second Grade Hall had suffered grievous casualties, there was nothing that Zhanlong Daynight could do on his own.

Yan Hua and the rest stood on the barren land and watched as Zhanlong Daynight fled with Nightqueen Yanqing.

Liu Shaoqiu slowly descended, looking displeased with the results. He hadn't been able to actually defeat Zhanlong Daynight. That person's regenerative abilities were far too tenacious, and it was impossible to determine who would have been victorious in their battle until the very end.

"Shaoqiu." Yan Hua walked over and looked him up and down. "Are you hurt?"

Liu Shaoqiu shook his head. "How is she doing?"

"Xiaoyun gathered all the pyrolyte ore that we've collected and has returned to space. Her injuries are more serious, so she'll need to stay out of the fight for now and recover," Yan Hua answered.

Not far behind him, an inquisitive pair of eyes looked at Liu Shaoqiu, appearing shocked. It was Yōu Ye'er.

Liu Shaoqiu's eyes swept past the disciples from the Sword Sect and eventually landed on the young girl. His attention on her couldn't be helped. Although the disciples from the Sword Sect were all charismatic, Yōu Ye'er was different.

The Sword Sect had an arranged marriage agreement with the You family, and the couple had been designated to be Liu Shaoqiu and You Ye'er. However, this was the first time the two had met, and Liu Shaoqiu had no idea what his betrothed looked like. Confused, he asked, "Why's there a kid here?"

Yōu Ye'er knitted her brows together, obviously irritated by his question. She tore off her cloak and yelled back, "You're the kid! I'm Yōu Ye'er, you hear me?"

Liu Shaoqiu looked at Yan Hua, his eyes revealing his confusion.

Yan Hua attempted to explain, saying, "Have you forgotten about your arranged marriage with the Yōu family?"

Liu Shaoqiu's eyes lit up as he continued to look at Yōu Ye'er. He remembered now. The moment he had inherited the Thirteen Swords, the Sword Sect had arranged for his wedding with someone. He had heard that he was engaged to the princess of the Yōu family, but... wasn't she rather young?

"Hey, what's with that look! What are you trying to say? Are you looking down on me?" The girl planted her hands on her hips and glared at Liu Shaoqiu in dissatisfaction.

In front of others, Yōu Ye'er would be quite polite. However, she wouldn't be courteous to Liu Shaoqiu. She couldn't help herself as she didn't want to marry him, so she was trying to give him a bad impression so that he would cancel the wedding.

Unfortunately, she'd overthought the entire situation. Aside from the Thirteen Swords and Lu Yin, nothing else occupied Liu Shaoqiu's brain. He didn't even try to talk to her, as he simply turned to face Pyrolyte Mountain. "Let's start mining pyrolyte. From now on, all of this belongs to the Sword Sect."

Yan Hua waved his hand, and the disciples from the Sword Sect immediately took out their devices and started collecting pyrolyte.

Yōu Ye'er gritted her teeth in frustration. She had a tense expression while she wondered what she had to do to get Liu Shaoqiu to cancel the wedding. She really didn't want to be married away to the Sword Sect. The Yōu Secret Art had to stay within the clan and could not be handed to an outsider, so the moment she married Liu Shaoqiu, the Secret Art would be handed over to someone else. She did not want to lose the technique! She still wanted to travel to the Neoverse and try her luck there; she didn't want to become someone's wife and spend the rest of her life raising children.

How many girls were there in the Top 100 Rankings, and how many of the Ten Arbiters were female? That was the level that she was aiming for. She was incredibly eager to fight, and she wanted her name to spread across the universe, just like that woman from the Sword Sect.

The Daynight clan had lost the battle for Pyrolyte Mountain, and Liu Shaoqiu had managed to conquer the mountain on his own. The Thirteen Swords had defeated the combined efforts of the Daynight clan and Second Grade Hall. The results of this battle naturally caused a huge commotion.

The Thirteen Swords had once again proven its power, and many felt a chill crawl down their spines.

Nightqueen Qiuyu was absolutely fuming, but there was nothing that she could do about the situation. She could tell that Zhanlong Daynight hadn't lost the fight with Liu Shaoqiu, but due to Nightqueen Yanqing, he had been forced to give up the mountain. He could not be blamed for his actions. In fact, if anyone could be said to be at fault, it would be Yanqing for being too weak, or rather, too benevolent. If she had killed everyone from the Sword Sect during the previous battle, the situation would have ended very differently.

Above the planet, in the Sword Sect's spacecraft, Liu Xiaoyun looked away and sighed.

Far away from the mountain, Northgate Gang and the rest had no inkling as to the results of the battle for Pyrolyte Mountain, but they didn't even dare to check since it was a battlefield that they had no right to participate in.

The Sword Sect did not bother chasing after Kuang Wang, Zhuo Daynight, and the few other cultivators who had survived. The defeated had been allowed to leave in peace.

Zhuo Daynight had suffered serious injuries, and she should have returned to space to recover, but she hadn't. She knew that, the moment she returned to her clan, she would not receive aid and treatment, but rather reprimands and punishment.

Nightking Yuanjing may look kind, but he was actually extremely ruthless and cared nothing for Zhuo's survival. She would rather treat her injuries in a hidden area of the planet, or... wait to die. Perhaps death was a good option. Unfortunately, that would also mean that she would not be able to undo the Sealed Cage Technique and save them.

While dragging her injured body forward, she left bloodstains everywhere she went. She finally laid down in a cave surrounded only by a desolate and withered landscape. She took out some of Shamrock Enterprises' most potent drugs from her cosmic ring and began treating herself.

Soon enough, she lost consciousness due to blood loss.

Spacecraft kept appearing in the sky, and now, there were dozens descending at a time.

Even though the Sword Sect had gained control of Pyrolyte Mountain, they had suffered a large number of casualties during the previous battle with the Daynight clan, so there were still Limiteers being sent to the planet.

Some days after these events took place, Lu Yin returned to Zenyu Star.

Hai Qiqi had a surprised expression when she saw the three rings surrounding the planet. "I didn't know that a planet like this existed. Aren't you worried that those continents might collapse?"

Lu Yin ignored her and studied his gadget with a serious look. The power level on it kept ticking up until it reached the maximum reading of 200,000. Karthika was not even trying to conceal his strength, and he had managed to take Zenyu Star hostage all on his own.

Hai Qiqi pursed her lips. "There's someone powerful here."

Lu Yin put his gadget down and glanced at Zenyu Star's space station. Right now, there was nobody there. and there were no incoming spacecraft either. Everybody had hidden themselves. Zenyu Star was like a caged bird currently, and there was nobody on the streets. Everybody could sense how much power Karthika held over their lives.

After Karthika arrived, he had sealed off the entire planet. Everyone was only allowed to stay within their homes, and no one was permitted to leave. Any incoming spacecraft was not allowed to approach, and nobody from Zenyu Star was able to leave. He was behaving like an absolute tyrant.

The rules even applied to Huo Qingshan and the others.

Thankfully, Karthika had his own reservations and had not unleashed a massacre, which was a huge relief to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin really wanted to take the Enlighter out, but he had no way to do so. Even with the upgraded Money Bombs, he still wouldn't be able to hurt an Enlighter. Also, his universal armor wouldn't be able to fend off an Enlighter's attacks. When faced with such a powerful person, Lu Yin was just like Huo Qingshan: there was absolutely nothing that he could do.

The moment that Lu Yin's spacecraft entered the space station, an icy glint appeared in Karthika's eyes as he stood at the edge of a cliff that overlooked the ocean. A hint of bloodlust flashed before disappearing, but it was soon replaced by fear. He wanted to take care of what he knew would become a huge problem, but Lu Yin's identity as the Sea King's future son-in-law was something that he had to

take into account. With this identity, even monsters like those from the Divine Grade Hall who had a battle power of several hundreds of thousands would not dare to touch Lu Yin, let alone Karthika.

It wasn't only Karthika who reacted. The moment Lu Yin landed, Huo Qingshan and others all realized that he had arrived. They stood up, tore through the void, and vanished.

After the spacecraft landed, Lu Yin walked out with Hai Qiqi and folded the spacecraft up before placing it into his cosmic ring. Not too far away, Huo Qingshan, Ban Jiu, and quite a few Explorers stood by quietly.

Upon seeing Lu Yin, they bowed in unison and said, "Greetings to the Royal Regent."

Hai Qiqi's eyes were wide as saucers as she looked at them before glancing back at Lu Yin.

The man in question nodded. "Let's head to the imperial palace."

Huo Qingshan and everyone stepped aside, and Lu Yin grabbed Hai Qiqi and used Flash to vanish, only leaving behind a large and expanding spatial tear.

Ban Jiu was shocked. The amount of strength that Lu Yin had just displayed was simply ridiculous. Lu Yin was merely a Limiteer, but Ban Jiu had a feeling that he wouldn't be able to win, even though he was a Cruiser.

Ban Jiu wasn't alone in his shock. The gathered Explorers were stunned to see just how powerful the Royal Regent had become. Even within the entire Great Yu Empire, there were few people who could contend with the regent.

Huo Qingshan was the most shocked, especially because even he could feel a slight sense of danger coming from Lu Yin. This was his combat intuition born from years of experience. Was the Royal Regent really able to threaten him already? That shouldn't be possible!

Chapter 485: Shameless

Lu Yin dragged Hai Qiqi along with him as he moved at the fastest speed he was capable of while being restricted by three grains of Fatesand. It didn't take them long to arrive at the palace, and the trip there had not caused Hai Qiqi any discomfort at all. Upon arriving, she excitedly looked about the palace. "So this is the paradise of the powerful? That's interesting. Oh, what a pretty mural!"

Lu Yin looked at Hai Qiqi and seriously said, "Don't wander about. I have something to take care of right now. I'll come look for you as soon as I'm done."

Hai Qiqi waved a hand. "Go on, go on. Go and do your stuff."

He wondered what the Sea King had told Hai Qiqi, as it truly seemed that she wasn't planning on running away from him.

Lu Yin wasn't worried about the girl since the Sea King must have provided her with some life saving treasures that far exceeded his imagination. There was no one in the Outerverse who was capable of harming her.

Lu Yin gave her a token that would allow Hai Qiqi to go wherever she wished. He then headed to the main hall, where Huo Qingshan, Lord Garope, and the other cabinet ministers had already gathered.

In actuality, Lu Yin wasn't very familiar with the cabinet ministers. Back then, he had appointed the five of them to manage the empire since he had to rush off to San Dios as quickly as possible. However, he had also asked Huo Qingshan, Ban Jiu, and Liuying Zishan to keep him updated on the empire's situation.

Of the five cabinet ministers, the only one that Lu Yin was familiar with was Lord Garope.

If the Great Yu Empire was fully under Lu Yin's control, then he would absolutely change out the cabinet ministers. He might also need to make some changes to the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons, but it was far too early for him to be thinking about making such personnel changes. The Great Yu Empire still belonged to the Yushans, and its true ruler was Wendy Yushan.

"I know everything about the recent happenings in the empire." Lu Yin still sat below the throne, not attempting to overstep his position. His eyes swept over the people who had gathered in the main hall. "I know all about the restrictions placed on our economy, our enemies from the Innerverse, and even about that shameless Enlighter."

Lu Yin's words shocked the people around him, especially the words "that shameless Enlighter." The cabinet ministers were especially stunned, and some of them immediately tried to hush him. "My Lord, please be careful when you speak. We cannot insult an Enlighter!"

"My Lord, Enlighter powerhouses are extremely important to the universe. Please be careful when you speak."

...

More than ten people immediately started defending Karthika, obviously knowing that Karthika had to be listening in nearby. For an Enlighter, even if they didn't have a domain, they could still easily observe everything happening on a planet just through their star energy. No one would be able to detect them in any way.

Only Huo Qingshan and a few others remained calm throughout the commotion.

Lu Yin casually lounged about. "Isn't an Enlighter who uses the lives of billions of people just to threaten a Limiteer like me a shameless person?"

Everyone present was stunned, and some of them almost collapsed out of fear.

"Young one, don't be too rude." A loud voice covered all of Zenyu Star, and it even caused the surrounding rings to tremble.

Everyone felt like they were just a single moment away from death, and a sense of desperation overcame them.

Hai Qiqi had been happily looking at the murals and was shocked when she heard the voice. "Annoying!"

Lu Yin stood up, and his face turned to a steely expression. "Karthika, come out! Do all Enlighters enjoy sneaking around?"

Everyone in the hall was surprised; where did Lu Yin find the confidence to insult an Enlighter?

There was not a single Enlighter in the entirety of Frostwave Weave. Such a person was a true powerhouse!

Even Huo Qingshan and the others were astonished at this moment.

But Lu Yin wasn't scared in the slightest. This person was just an Enlighter, and he had previously negotiated with Northgate Taisui whose power level was greater than 400,000, so he wasn't ruffled by a mere Enlighter. Even if Karthika went crazy and actually tried to kill him, Mister Mu would definitely be able to protect Lu Yin. He would never do or say anything that he wasn't confident about. Besides, Hai Qiqi's presence made him feel even more secure.

To the surprise of everyone present, Karthika did not show himself. Instead, Zenyu Star started shaking even more vigorously. A few ministers begged Lu Yin to apologize, as they were truly afraid of Karthika's wrath.

However, Lu Yin remained calm despite everything.

After a while, Zenyu Star stopped shaking, and everything returned to normal.

Many people collapsed to the ground, feeling like they had just survived through the apocalypse.

Lu Yin smirked; Karthika was quite smart, and he had definitely noticed that Lu Yin's spacecraft was from the Sea King's Dome. Thus, there was no way he would dare to show up since he couldn't attack Lu Yin. Revealing himself would only humiliate himself.

Lu Yin leisurely took a seat, and his stern gaze swept across the hall. He had taken note of the ministers who had asked him to apologize, as well as those who had collapsed in fear. He would replace these people as soon as he found suitable candidates; these people didn't have the right to be in the same room as him.

Garope had been surprisingly brave and had actually remained calm throughout the whole ordeal. He was also the first person to call Lu Yin out on using his gadget during a morning meeting. This old man kept surprising Lu Yin.

"My lord, the empire's economy has been embargoed, and we are unable to support the war effort. Does my lord have any suggestions?" Gavin, the finance minister, respectfully asked Lu Yin.

Lu Yin paused for a moment. "We'll discuss this after that shameless Karthika leaves."

Many of the ministers were stunned, and a few of them nearly collapsed for a second time.

Garope was about to walk forward to say something, but he was stopped by a minister standing behind him. The ministers didn't want Garope to say anything since they were worried that Lu Yin would insult Karthika yet again.

Lu Yin smirked and looked at everyone in front of him. "Fine, you all can leave. We will put the morning meetings on hold for now, only resuming after that shameless Karthika leaves."

The ministers then all fled from the main hall.

Lu Yin asked Huo Qingshan and Ban Jiu to stay behind. Lu Yin ordered Huo Qingshan to keep Zenyu Star stable and also asked the man to order a few ministers to have some people calm the citizens. As for Ban Jiu, Lu Yin had originally intended to ask him to take a look at the advanced blueprints he had obtained from his die's Pilfer, but he didn't want to pass anything over at this moment since he couldn't be certain that Karthika wouldn't suddenly snatch it from Ban Jiu.

Many powerhouses were also experts in research, and if Karthika could understand the blueprint, then it would end up as a huge loss for Lu Yin, though he actually didn't know whether these blueprints were actually worth anything or not.

Ban Jiu stood there waiting for Lu Yin's orders.

Lu Yin coughed awkwardly. "You can leave for now. I'll look for you after I've considered some things."

Ban Jiu was confused, but he left the main hall nonetheless.

After everyone left, the space in front of Lu Yin warped, and Karthika stepped out.

Lu Yin smiled when he saw Karthika. "Old man, you've finally shown yourself."

Karthika coldly glared at Lu Yin. "Young one, don't be too arrogant. The universe is much scarier than what you think it is. Don't believe that you can do whatever you want just because you have the Sea King's protection."

Lu Yin's face turned grim. "You as well, don't think that you can do whatever you want just because you're an Enlighter."

Karthika laughed. "It's been years since a Limiteer has spoken to me in such a brazen manner." He stared straight at Lu Yin. "I will let this matter slide due to the Sea King, but becoming the Sea King's son-in-law is not such an easy feat. If you don't manage to succeed, I will definitely make you regret your actions this day."

Lu Yin shrugged. "I might be young, but I never regret my actions, especially towards a shameless person like you."

Karthika sneered. "If you weren't under the Sea King's protection, I would kill you with a snap of the finger since you've angered me, and no one would blame me for such a thing. This is the power of an Enlighter! Your many titles are worthless in the eyes of an Enlighter, so you better pray that you don't anger me any further. Otherwise, I'll make you regret your entire life."

Lu Yin didn't bother continuing to bicker with the man since he was a little worried that the old man would go crazy and kill everyone on Zenyu Star. "The reason why you're here is very simple, but don't worry. I won't go to Planet Pyrolyte."

"That's good." Karthika moved to leave.

"But even if I don't go, your group still won't be able to get any pyrolyte ore. Don't forget about my peers. I'll just wait for a good show," Lu Yin smugly called out.

Karthika snorted and disappeared. He wasn't planning on speaking to Lu Yin, as he was just a kid who would be easily killed off if it weren't for the fact that he was being protected by the Sea King. However, Lu Yin's words did concern the old man a bit, and he could only hope that none of the other unparalleled Limiteers would show up.

Lu Yin wasn't making a random prediction. It was a fact that Mu Rong and the others all had impressive reputations, and there was no way they hadn't been invited to Planet Pyrolyte. It was possible that they were already headed there.

A few moments after Karthika left the imperial palace in the Great Yu Empre, in the faraway Astral Wilderness, Nightqueen Qiuyu looked at a cultivator from the Daynight clan who was kneeling in front of her. "What did you just say? Repeat yourself!"

The cultivator hesitantly answered, "According to our information, Mu Rong has been invited by the Sword Sect and is on his way to Planet Pyrolyte. Ling Que has similarly been invited by the Wen family and is less than five days away."

Nightqueen Qiuyu's eyes narrowed. These two people were normally just young cultivators whom she wouldn't even bat an eye at. However, ever since the contest on Planet Pyrolyte had broken out, an increasing number of Limiteers had gained incredible reputations, and Mu Rong and Ling Que were the top two in that category. The two of them boasted even greater reputations than Zhanlong Daynight or Liu Shaoqiu.

She had initially believed that the battle between Zhanlong Daynight and Liu Shaoqiu represented the peak battle between Limiteers, but if Mu Rong and Ling Que were headed here, then everything would change. The Wen family would rise up with Ling Que's help, and the Sword Sect would become way too powerful. Mu Rong's participation alone was enough to scare people away from the contest.

Nightqueen Qiuyu clearly knew the consequences of them joining the conflict, and after some hesitation, she moved out of the Astral Wilderness and entered the Northcastle Weave. She then immediately contacted Karthika.

Karthika had just been about to contact Nightqueen Qiuyu to ask her about the situation on Planet Pyrolyte, but Nightqueen Qiuyu had taken the initiative to contact him first.

"How's Planet Pyrolyte?" Karthika asked anxiously.

Nightqueen Qiuyu coldly replied, "Pyrolyte Mountain has been taken over by the Sword Sect."

Karthika raised his brows. "How can that be? There are so many powerhouses from the Daynight clan. How could they all have been defeated by the Sword Sect?"

"We'll talk about this later, Karthika. Has Lu Yin returned to the Great Yu Empire yet?" Nightqueen Qiuyu asked.

He replied, "He's here, and I've already warned him that he shouldn't participate in the situation on Planet Pyrolyte."

"There's been a change in plans. Leave Zenyu Star immediately and let Lu Yin go free. Make it very clear that we are not preventing him from joining the contest on Planet Pyrolyte," Nightqueen Qiuyu said.

Karthika was confused. "Why?"

Nightqueen Qiuyu reluctantly answered, "There's a few unparalleled Limiteers arriving, so we need him here."

Chapter 486: Lu Yin's Decision

Karthika was stumped when he heard Nightqueen Qiuyu's words, but then he recalled what Lu Yin had just said to him. Could it be that coincidental? "Has Mu Rong arrived?"

"How did you know?"

"Lu Yin mentioned that Mu Rong and Ling Que would definitely show up, and that we'd have run out of luck when that happened."

Nightqueen Qiuyu's eyes flashed with a cold light as even some random junior had dared to guess at the actions of an Enlighter. When had a Limiteer kid ever dared to be so brazen? However, it was time for them to make use of him since the Daynight clan had no one else who could help them break out of their current situation. "Just go with what I told you to say and bring him into the conflict."

"But he may not necessarily be on our side. Him participating may not necessarily benefit us," Karthika replied.

Nightqueen Qiuyu grew impatient. "I know, but we have someone who will talk to him. You can just leave."

Karthika thought about it before replying, "Alright, I hope that your decision is the correct one." He then disconnected from the call and looked towards the palace. His expression revealed his reluctance. It had only been a short while, but he, an Enlighter, was already being forced to go back on his word.

However, everything they were doing was for the pyrolyte, so he had to endure it. He condensed his voice into a line of sound that directly entered Lu Yin's ears.

Lu Yin had just returned to King Zishan's residence, intending to rest for a while and also ponder over his dilemma about how he should take care of Hai Qiqi. But then, he heard Karthika's voice. He was initially mildly startled, but then his lips curled up. "It sounds like some incredible brat has arrived at that place. Is it Mu Rong, Ling Que, or perhaps even both? It's interesting, but unfortunately, I'm destined to not participate in this event."

He had long since weighed the pros and cons regarding his participation in this contest for pyrolyte. Even if he managed to seize a bit of pyrolyte ore, it would still ultimately land in someone else's hands. The best outcome for Lu Yin was if it landed in the Sea King's hands, as he could then exchange it for the Sea King's promise to protect the Great Yu Empire. From that point forward, Lu Yin would be labeled as a part of the Sea King's Dome, and he would no longer be allowed to participate in the disputes between the powers of the Innerverse and Outerverse. He would be forever restricted. This was not something that he wanted, and it would also cause him to offend the other powers, like the Daynight clan, Sword Sect, and Wen Family. Thus, the gains did not make up for the losses.

And that was what he considered to be the best outcome, as the worst would be if he obtained nothing at all while still offending the various powers. He would be forced to plead for the Sea King's protection,

which would still lead to him still being branded as someone under the Sea King. Additionally, he would be restricted—possibly for forever—in the Starfall Sea. He would also be forbidden from ever participating in a dispute between the powers of the Innerverse and Outerverse.

No, even that was not the worst outcome. The worst would be if the Sea King also abandoned him, in which case he would be completely alone.

The Great Yu Empire had long been Lu Yin's greatest weakness, as Nightking Yuanjing had threatened the empire in order to slowly extract benefits from Lu Yin bit by bit. Lu Yin would not give anyone else a similar opportunity.

Beep beep beep!

His gadget sounded with a notification, and Lu Yin looked at it only to see that Nightking Yuanjing was actually calling him. He was left speechless. If this old man was contacting him right now, then the Daynight clan was somehow connected to Karthika. It was very likely that the Daynight clan was revealing their intentions with this move. Could they be facing such a bad situation that they would actually ask him to act?

He accepted the call, and Nightking Yuanjing's image appeared on the screen in front of him. The old man looked solemnly at Lu Yin. "Little Yin, why didn't you look for Grandpa to help you with Karthika? Are you treating Grandpa like a stranger?"

Shameless! Lu Yin scolded inwardly.

"Shameless!" the Ghost Monkey said.

"Grandpa Yuanjing, where's this coming from? It was just that Karthika is an almighty Enlighter, so Little Yin did not want to trouble Grandpa." Lu Yin pretended to feel wronged.

Nightking Yuanjing sighed. "Grandpa just caught wind of this matter, and I immediately contacted the Divine Grade Hall to have Karthika move away. I never thought that an almighty Enlighter would personally threaten a junior! It's truly embarrassing."

Lu Yin did not reply, and he only gazed appreciatively at the old man.

Nightking Yuanjing paused, but then looked at Lu Yin again. "Little Yin, just relax. Grandpa promises you that such a thing will not happen again. Grandpa has promised to protect the Frostwave Weave, so I will go the full way. Rest assured, you can do your own things, and Karthika will not dare to come here again."

"Thank you, Grandpa Yuanjing." Lu Yin immediately showed his gratitude.

This was all just a bunch of frivolous nonsense, as Lu Yin was already accustomed to talking in circles with Nightking Yuanjing. In any case, Lu Yin did not want to go to Planet Pyrolyte, and on the other hand, Nightking Yuanjing was more anxious than anyone else to have Lu Yin participate.

Sure enough, it didn't take long before the old man couldn't restrain himself any longer. "Little Yin, do you know what's going on at Planet Pyrolyte?"

Lu Yin nodded. "I've heard."

"Do you want to head there? If you wish, Grandpa can have my clan's spacecraft fetch you."

Lu Yin shook his head and replied with palpable agony in his voice. "Little Yin appreciates Grandpa's goodwill, but Little Yin is tired of fighting, and I do not wish to participate. Senior Sea King has also instructed Little Yin not to participate in this conflict."

When Lu Yin mentioned the Sea King, Nightking Yuanjing's face grew much more serious, as he suddenly recalled that the Sea King's Dome did not seem to participate in disputes that involved the powers of the Innerverse and Outerverse. If the Sea King had told Lu Yin not to participate in the conflicts on Planet Pyrolyte, then did that mean that Lu Yin was close to being officially recognized as the Sea King's son-in-law? Yuanjing did not know if this situation boded well or bad for the Daynight clan, but he knew that it meant that he would no longer have the leverage to threaten this kid from now on.

Since the Sea King had gotten involved, Nightking Yuanjing's prepared speech could no longer be used. From his perspective, Lu Yin definitely would not dare to disobey the Sea King's orders, as who did not wish to become the Sea King's son-in-law? There was no way that this kid was an exception to that desire.

Helpless, Nightking Yuanjing simply spun out a few more lines before disconnecting the call.

The capital of the Great Yu Empire, and even all of Zenyu Star itself, could only keep Hai Qiqi occupied for a few days. After that, she grew bored, and she desperately looked for Lu Yin.

Lu Yin looked at her reluctantly. "Zenyu Star is so big. You've already been everywhere?"

Hai Qiqi rolled her eyes. "I already played everywhere around here. Now I want to go out."

"Where?"

"Planet Pyrolyte! I want to fight! I want to break through! I want to fight! I want to make friends!"

Lu Yin could understand the first three, but he instinctively glanced at Hai Qiqi's mouth when he heard her final comment. Make friends? Hehe, you'll only make enemies!

"Eh, Lu Yin, what are you planning on doing? That shameless old fogey already left, so why aren't you heading towards Planet Pyrolyte?" Hai Qiqi started to argue with him since she was discontent with the current situation.

"I've already told you about the cruelty of the universe multiple times. Even with the protection of the Sea King's Dome, it still might not be safe. Do you want to gamble the countless lives of those in the Great Yu Empire just so that you can go to Planet Pyrolyte?" Lu Yin asked.

"Who says that the Sea King's Dome can't protect this place? I'll contact Second Brother right now and have him use the Sea King's Dome's name to protect the Great Yu Empire. No one will be willing to make things difficult with my Sea King's Dome just for some small empire at the fringe of the Outerverse. Do you think that I'm stupid?" Hai Qiqi was unhappy.

Lu Yin looked at Hai Qiqi seriously. She wasn't stupid, as there was indeed no one who would be willing to offend the Sea King's Dome for the Great Yu Empire. However, he didn't want the Great Yu Empire to be branded under the Sea King's Dome's umbrella, so he had to complete his lie. "Qiqi, do you know who I would end up offending if I go to Planet Pyrolyte?"

Hai Qiqi waved generously. "It doesn't matter. My Sea King's Dome will take care of it."

Lu Yin was speechless. At this moment, he felt that there was a striking similarity between Hai Qiqi and Lulu. In a certain sense, her confidence had reached the absolute limit, and it certainly belonged to an unrivalled level.

"Regardless, I'm not going to Planet Pyrolyte, and you aren't allowed to either."

Hai Qiqi gritted her teeth. "I'm going to tell Father that you have a few mistresses."

"Are you going to help me look for them?" Lu Yin rolled his eyes.

Hai Qiqi was furious, and she started breathing heavily, but then, she sighed. "I really envy you sometimes."

Lu Yin was completely caught off guard.

"You're like a corpse floating through space, without any lofty goals, merely satisfied with the present. In fact, you'll lose even more by acting like that." Hai Qiqi stared at Lu Yin. "Father does not like people who have no motivation. Actually, you had some chance to become his son-in-law, but the more you hold back, the smaller your chance."

Lu Yin shrugged. "Don't worry. I won't hold myself back, but I can't participate in this contest at Planet Pyrolyte."

Hai Qiqi snorted and turned to leave.

"Don't think of running away. I've already sealed the entire planet."

Hai Qiqi was furious. "Drop dead!"

As he watched her leave, Lu Yin's face fell. He actually wanted to participate in this contest more than anyone, but what choice did he have? As soon as he headed to that planet, the Great Yu Empire would be recognized as the Sea King's territory, and any pyrolyte that he managed to obtain would be sent to the Sea King's Dome as a betrothal gift. He would offend numerous other people while obtaining nothing for himself at all. There was simply no point in him heading there.

If he actually wanted to become the Sea King's son-in-law, then he would immediately head there and use the gathered pyrolyte ore to curry favor with the Sea King and Hai Dashao. Then, he would become even more famous throughout the universe and stand a much greater chance at becoming the Sea King's true son-in-law. However, Lu Yin did not want this, which was fine, but he could not just shed this status.

If he did not become the Sea King's son-in-law, then he could not excessively offend strong powers like the Daynight clan. In which case, he might not be able to get his hands on very much pyrolyte even if he did head towards Planet Pyrolyte.

The entire matter was a problem, so Lu Yin decided to simply not participate.

He looked up at the sky. The powers in this region of the universe were clear. The strong grew stronger while the weak could only barely scrape by. This situation would not react well to an abrupt rise in Lu Yin's strength. If the day came where the Innerverse was no longer able to touch the Outerverse, Lu Yin would be able to act as he wished. But unfortunately, this was not the case.

There was no sun on Planet Pyrolyte, so the planet's sole light source was the dark-red soil beneath the surface.

Zhuo Daynight did not know how long she had been unconscious for. She had put on her ring armor before losing consciousness to prevent herself from being torn apart by the subterranean creatures on the planet.

To the Limiteers on Planet Pyrolyte, ring armor was useless since its defenses were worthless against those true geniuses of their generation. No one would put on ring armor during battle, as it essentially offered no defense and only served to limit their mobility.

But its usefulness could not be overstated for injured persons.

When Zhuo Daynight awakened, she saw a green pair of eyes that emitted a savage radiance. Her face turned deathly pale as she tried to get up. She discovered that she had been encircled by strange underground creatures and that there were bite marks on her ring armor. These creatures could actually harm her ring armor, and Zhuo Daynight dared not imagine what would have happened to her if she had not put it on. It was likely that she would have already become their food.

She coughed and clutched at her chest; her injuries had recovered slightly. She took out some star crystals from her cosmic ring and began to absorb the energy, as only by restoring her star energy would she be able to preserve her life.

The creatures surrounding Zhuo Daynight began to flee in all directions as soon as she woke up, and most buried deeper underground.

Zhuo Daynight supported herself against the dry, dark-red wall, and then started walking away from where she had awakened.

The ground occasionally shook, though it was impossible to know if it was due to a battle or an earthquake.

She walked out of a tunnel and looked up. Everything around her was barren, and not a single individual could be seen. Zhuo Daynight raised her hand and activated her gadget, but unfortunately, it had been ruined. Luckily, she still had her pyrolyte detector, so she could look for a nearby pyrolyte mine, which would most likely already have people there.

However, now was not the time to look for pyrolyte. First, she needed to be able to protect herself.

Chapter 487: Disparity

Everyone who had come to Planet Pyrolyte had prepared great quantities of food and water in their cosmic rings. Zhuo Daynight soon returned underground, where she consumed more of the Shamrock Enterprises' special medicines before continuing to rest.

One day passed, and then two more days passed. When Zhuo Daynight awoke once again, she estimated the time that had gone and realized that three days had passed. By now, she had absorbed as much star energy from star crystals as she could to heal herself. Her condition had finally taken a turn for the better, but she still had not returned to her peak state yet. But for now, she would be able to protect herself, and she did not want to hide any longer. She had to find the other Daynight clan members, but she did not know which power was currently in control of Pyrolyte Mountain. The Sword Sect? Or the Daynight clan?

As she emerged from under the ground, she could sense multiple auras approaching her through her domain. Zhuo Daynight quickly hid in the shadows and watched on as some cultivators appeared before gradually vanishing into the distance. They were headed towards Pyrolyte Mountain.

She did not hesitate to immediately follow after them.

Zhuo Daynight had escaped with heavy injuries, so she had not strayed too far away from Pyrolyte Mountain to begin with. When she saw a huge crack in the ground, she knew that Pyrolyte Mountain must be close by since this crevice had most likely been formed during the confrontation between Liu Shaoqiu and Zhanlong Daynight.

The ground trembled once again. This time, the tremors were accompanied by an intense gale. Zhuo Daynight's face changed, as this was an undulation of star energy; another battle had broken out at Pyrolyte Mountain.

At this moment, it should be either the Sword Sect or the Daynight clan attacking Pyrolyte Mountain since no other organizations could possibly stand up to those two . That meant that the Daynight clan should be at the mountain right now.

Zhuo Daynight did not dare to abandon her clan's missions, and she was well aware that all her actions were being monitored. If she did not participate in the battle, then she would face difficult times once she returned to the clan.

At this moment, two figures streaked through the sky, both Limiteers. They noticed Zhuo Daynight and exchanged glances before they both attacked her at the same time.

They were disciples from an organization in the First Flowzone, which meant that they naturally followed the Sword Sect and were moving against the Daynight clan.

Unfortunately, they were too weak. Although their strength was decent within the scope of the younger generation, they were still lacking compared to Zhuo Daynight, who had comprehended a domain. She easily dispatched them, leaving one of the two alive for questioning. "What's the situation at Pyrolyte Mountain like?"

The surviving Limiteer fearfully answered, "The Daynight clan, Wen family, Souldream Tribe, and quite a few other powers from smaller flowzones have started a war at Pyrolyte Mountain. They want to force the Sword Sect to share the mountain's pyrolyte. The battle should have started about two hours ago."

Zhuo Daynight had not expected the battle to be this intense. Apparently, nearly half of the great powers on the planet were participating in the contest for Pyrolyte Mountain. The Sword Sect had Liu

Shaoqiu, and numbers were meaningless against his Second Sword. What did that woman Nightqueen Yanqing have that gave her the confidence to launch another attack? Had reinforcements arrived?

Zhuo Daynight had not guessed wrongly, as the Wen family had invited Ling Que, and he had arrived at Planet Pyrolyte slightly earlier than Mu Rong. Nightqueen Yanqing and the others had been planning this attack for days, and they intended to use this small window of opportunity to seize Pyrolyte Mountain. After that, the various powerful organizations could unite and force the Sword Sect to split the benefits. When Mu Rong arrived, he would not be able to reverse the situation.

The current battle on Pyrolyte Mountain was more intense than any other previous battle on the planet. The site of Liu Shaoqiu and Zhanlong Daynight's battle had moved to the northern side of Pyrolyte Mountain since they were too ferocious and the aftershocks too intense.

Meanwhile, Liu Xiaoyun and Kuang Wang were battling at the base of Pyrolyte Mountain.

Although Nightqueen Yanqing had been severely injured by Liu Shaoqiu, she had received critical care along with the resources of the entire Daynight clan. Thus, she had been able to recover enough to participate in the battle again, just like Liu Xiaoyun.

The Sword Sect was able to withstand Nightqueen Yanqing's assault purely because of one person: Yōu Ye'er.

She only looked to be around eleven or twelve years old, just a petite girl, but when her strength erupted, it caused everyone's brows to shoot up. She had forcibly delayed Nightqueen Yanqing, and even when the latter activated her Nightking's Body and battle force, she still was not able to take Yōu Ye'er down.

Not only was the Daynight clan astounded, but even Liu Shaoqiu was shocked at Yōu Ye'er's strength. The Yōu Court had sent more than just Yōu Ye'er, and there were a few other Yōu Court Limiteers who were older but very strong.

It was this alliance between the Sword Sect and the Yōu Court that allowed them to withstand the combined force of the opposing alliance, which included the Daynight clan, Wen family, and Souldream Tribe.

However, this deadlock would not last for much longer. Nightqueen Yanqing's plans hinged around Ling Que. As soon as he arrived, Pyrolyte Mountain would once again change hands.

But right now, Nightqueen Yanqing could only glare at the little girl blocking her way with a vengeful hatred.

"Old aunty, you can't go on, right? If you can, then bring it on!" Yōu Ye'er was clad in a black mandara dress, giving her an innocent look despite the mischievous grin she was directing towards Yanqing. She smiled, and although the little girl was cute and adorable, her ridiculing expression made Nightqueen Yanqing instinctively desire to tear Ye'er to pieces.

Who would have thought that she would be stopped here by such a little brat.

"You can't hold out much longer, stupid brat. Wait till I catch you! I'll hang you up and beat you senseless!" Nightqueen Yanqing roared, her eyes flickering with a purple radiance. Yōu Ye'er's eyes

gleamed as she immediately retreated away from Nightqueen Yanqing, who charged at her with an impressive speed. However, the surroundings suddenly changed and isolated her from everyone else. A courtyard had appeared on all sides of Yanqing, a strange one that was formed from star energy.

This was the Yōu clan's inherited battle technique—the Encompassing Lockdown Array. Four sides combined to form a single court that could entrap any cultivator, as long as the disparity in strength was not too great. Fortunately, despite Yōu Ye'er's young looks, she was also a Limiteer, and she was not weak either. With her power, the Encompassing Lockdown Array was able to completely contain Nightqueen Yanging.

Although the Encompassing Lockdown Array was not as famous as the Wen family's Literary Prison, Nightqueen Yanqing would never belittle it. This was because the Yōu Court had originally been a part of an absolutely terrifying supreme power, and they had even been one of the Court of Seven Names' core powers. Even if they had betrayed and broken away from that power, they had inherited the strength of that family, and the Encompassing Lockdown Array was something that they had received from that family.

Nightqueen Yanqing's all-out strength was unable to break through the Encompassing Lockdown Array, and she was essentially crippled in this battle.

Liu Xiaoyun's battle against Kuang Wang had not ended yet.

Xi Yue and Wen Qian'er had gained the upper hand in their own battles, and suppressing the disciples of the Sword Sect. Given enough time, they would win a complete victory and would be able to force the Sword Sect to retreat.

The greatest variable in this battle was Liu Shaoqiu, but he was currently preoccupied with Zhanlong Daynight. Although Zhanlong Daynight could not beat the genius swordsman, Liu Shaoqiu could not emerge victorious anytime soon either, since the two were evenly matched. This stalemate gave the others enough time to play key roles in the overall situation.

The odds of victory were starting to lean towards the Daynight clan.

From a distance away, sword qi shot over every once in a while, terrifying many of the combatants and prompting them to move further away. The battle between Liu Shaoqiu and Zhanlong Daynight was still the most terrifying one on the entire battlefield.

Zhuo Daynight arrived right outside of Pyrolyte Mountain, where she saw a chaotic battle involving more than a thousand people. The entire region around Pyrolyte Mountain had been turned into a chaotic battlefield, and fresh blood had long since stained the ground scarlet red.

Yan Hua had already reached his limits, and he was barely able to keep his grip on his sword any longer. In front of him, Tiankong Daynight and Chilian Daynight were attacking him together. With one more barrage, Yan Hua was finally unable to hold out any longer, and he collapsed to the ground. It was unknown if he was dead or alive.

Many disciples from the Sword Sect had already perished, and the Wen family had suffered numerous casualties as well. Even Wen Qian'er was injured. She had joined forces with Xi Yue and was standing with her while panting heavily.

Zhuo Daynight could tell that the Sword Sect was about to be defeated.

In space, above the planet, a satisfied smile broke out across Nightqueen Qiuyu's face. Even if Pyrolyte Mountain did not ultimately end up belonging to the Daynight clan alone, the Sword Sect would have to forget about retaining control. The two parties were on the same level, so neither one of them could think about hogging it all.

At this moment, Nightqueen Qiuyu received some news, and her expression became delighted. The battle was about to end. She looked into the distance where a personal spacecraft was barrelling towards Pyrolyte Mountain. Ling Que had finally arrived.

Nightqueen Qiuyu watched Ling Que's spacecraft streak past her, but then another spacecraft charged towards Planet Pyrolyte. She looked on and suddenly had a strange feeling. What was that?

Trailing right behind Ling Que's spacecraft was the group of professional cheerleaders. There was no place these women wouldn't go to since Ling Que had promised to protect them. The more dangerous the place was, the greater their pay was.

Nightqueen Qiuyu had an ugly expression. She had lived for a long time, but this was the first time she had encountered such a scene. Should she stop them?

While she was hesitating, the two spacecraft crash landed on Planet Pyrolyte. They landed rather close to Pyrolyte Mountain and were seen by many people.

Nightqueen Yanqing was delighted. She recognized Ling Que's spacecraft and knew that this battle was about to reach its finale. Now, they just needed to complete taking over Pyrolyte Mountain before Mu Rong arrived, as well as leave Liu Shaoqiu and the rest severely injured. That way, even if Mu Rong rushed over, he still would not be able to reverse such a grim situation.

To the north of Pyrolyte Mountain, Liu Shaoqiu and Zhanlong Daynight turned around simultaneously. They had a sort of apprehension that could not be easily explained, but it was as if they had met another one of their own kind.

Yōu Ye'er's face changed. "Old aunty, what are you thinking about? Stop dreaming! You still can't beat me no matter what you try."

Nightqueen Yanqing sneered, but she stopped attacking.

Liu Xiaoyun stood still and held onto her sword while Kuang Wang sat on the body of his azure dragon opposite her as he also looked over. "For now, we can't determine which of us is stronger."

Liu Xiaoyun did not bother looking at him. Instead, she wordlessly stared into the distance at where the spacecraft had just landed.

The hatch opened, and Ling Que walked out. The other spacecraft's hatch also opened at the same time, and the cheerleaders frantically roared out. The various great powers in outer space stared at the scene, dumbfounded. Even this was possible?

"Ling Que, Ling Que, I love you! Ling Que, Ling Que, you're the best!"

"Ling Que, Ling Que, I love you! Ling Que, Ling Que, you're the best!"

...

Ling Que let out a sigh of contentment as he looked over at his crazed cheerleaders. What a beautiful sight. Yes, act even more crazy and shout even more. Such things will eventually belong to me. He then sharply turned his gaze towards Pyrolyte Mountain and took a light step forward, but that movement caused his entire body to suddenly vanish.

The cheerleaders excitedly dashed after him.

Before Ling Que even arrived at the mountain, vast amounts of star energy swept out through his Que's Might Slash, the blade's unique sharpness engulfing all of Pyrolyte Mountain. Whether it was Nightqueen Yanqing, Yōu Ye'er, Liu Xiaoyun, Zhuo Daynight, or even the distant Liu Shaoqiu and Zhanlong Daynight, they could all clearly feel that terrifyingly sharp energy.

Everyone looked up at Ling Que, who was towering above them, high in the sky. The entire battlefield froze.

Ling Que's lips curled up, as this was precisely the effect he wanted to have, so he did not find it wasteful to expend such an enormous amount of star energy on this. This was the entrance he deserved. He would treat the events at the Sea King's Dome as a nightmare, something that he did not want to be reminded of for the rest of his life. Especially those two freaks.

"From now on, this place belongs to me." Ling Que's calm voice reverberated across Pyrolyte Mountain, and his eyes slowly scanned across everyone there. He did not care if they belonged to the Sword Sect or the Daynight clan; he had been invited to help the Wen family.

Kuang Wang was the first to grow unhappy; this chap was even more arrogant than himself. "Which noob are you?"

Ling Que looked over at Kuang Wang, and when he saw the majestic azure dragon, an expression of disdain flashed across his mouth. He casually raised a hand, causing his Que's Mighty Slash to flash out. The next moment, everyone stared blankly at Kuang Wang, who slowly fell down. There was now a massive stain where blood was dying his clothes red. Everyone went numb at the sight. Kuang Wang's azure dragon howled in anguish as it vanished in front of the onlookers.

At this moment, the entire region around Pyrolyte Mountain fell silent.

That person was Kuang Wang, a genius child from the Divine Grade Hall, and one of the Astral Combat Academy's Realm Masters. He had been the strongest person on Planet Pyrolyte for a period of time, but he had not been able to withstand that single strike.

Chapter 488: Clean Sweep

Kuang Wang fell to the ground and looked at the dull red surface in disbelief. Was the difference between them really that huge?

Liu Xiaoyun stared at Ling Que in shock. She hadn't even managed to see his attack, as it had torn through the void. It was extremely powerful, and she had a feeling that no Limiteer could possibly

withstand that attack. She had never experienced such a feeling before, not even with Liu Shaoqiu's Thirteen Swords.

Ling Que was arrogant, but he had the right to act in such an overbearing manner. He had created an everlasting innate gift by absorbing ten other innate gifts, and not only could his Que's Mighty Slash pierce through the void, but it also had other mysterious powers as well. He truly represented the peak power that a Limiteer could possess, and he was confident in defeating even those two once he combined his three blades into one, let alone a mere nobody like Kuang Wang.

To Ling Que, Kuang Wang was just a nobody.

Ling Que's attack caused everyone present to despair.

Nightqueen Yanqing looked over at Ling Que. "Brother Ling, do you still remember me?"

Ling Que looked towards Nightqueen Yanqing, and his eyes lit up. The people of the Daynight clan were generally quite good looking, and Nightqueen Yanqing had an extremely alluring appearance. Her fair thighs and dazzling purple eyes made her a rare beauty, but most people were too scared by her strength, so they would never get a chance to take a good look at her. Only true powerhouses like Ling Que would dare to stare at her unabashedly.

Ling Que definitely remembered Nightqueen Yanqing, but just as he was about to courteously reply, he was startled by a loud cheering.

"Ling Que, Ling Que, I love you! Ling Que, Ling Que, you're the best!"

"Ling Que, Ling Que, I love you! Ling Que, Ling Que, you're the best!"

...

The people around Pyrolyte Mountain were shocked by the noise, and many of them turned to look at the cheerleaders. What in the world was going on?

Ling Que coughed and then cheerfully looked at Nightqueen Yanqing. "Oh, it's Miss Yanqing. My apologies for not recognizing you at first."

Nightqueen Yanqing smiled, nodded, and then gently answered, "It's my fault for not saying hi to Brother Ling first. I hope that you won't hold it against me."

"Haha, of course not, Miss Yanqing. By the way..." Ling Que paused for a moment before going on to ask, "Is the Daynight clan planning on fighting for this location? If so, that will cause a problem since I was invited to help the Wen family take control of this place."

Nightqueen Yanqing smiled. "The elders in my clan have already told me about this. Actually, Brother Ling, you only have to drive away the powerhouses of the Sword Sect and Yōu family. This was why the Wen family invited you to this place, and if you need any further reassurance, you can also ask Miss Wen Qian'er."

Nightqueen Yanging looked towards Wen Qian'er as soon as she finished speaking.

Wen Qian'er walked towards Ling Que. "She's right. Once you've driven out the Sword Sect members, we will divide Pyrolyte Mountain equally."

Ling Que shrugged. "That's fine by me. Since this is what the Wen family is requesting, I'll do my best to fulfill it."

The members of the Wen family and the Daynight clan breathed sighs of relief, but the powerhouses from the Second-Grade Hall looked upset. Kuang Wang had been defeated too quickly, but that was also his own fault. He had already been warned that Ling Que would be showing up, but he had still acted so arrogantly.

Suddenly, the space before Ling Que distorted. His eyes went wide, and his Que's Mighty Slash spun about rapidly, clashing with something only a meter away from him. Someone had just tried to attack Ling Que by surprise.

Liu Xiaoyun tightly clenched the hilt of her sword while glaring at Ling Que. She had been the one who had attacked just now, but despite putting her full strength into the attack, she had not injured him in the slightest.

Ling Que looked at Liu Xiaoyun and frowned. "Although I don't like fighting with girls, your sneak attack really annoyed me just now."

His Que's Mighty Slash suddenly vanished while he was still speaking, which caused Liu Xiaoyun to shiver. The image of Kuang Wang's mangled body suddenly flashed through her mind, and she knew that there was no way she would be able to withstand an attack from that blade. She saw the Que's Mighty Slash coming towards her, but she had no way to dodge it. However, the blade suddenly disappeared and returned to Ling Que's side with a loud bang, accompanied by a flash of sparks and an unparalleled sword qi. The blade had been repelled by Liu Shaoqiu's Thirteen Swords.

Out of everyone present, only Liu Shaoqiu was able to fight against Ling Que. Zhanlong Daynight didn't even try to stop him. Instead, he just watched on as Liu Shaoqiu's sword slashed at Ling Que.

Ling Que looked to the north with a grim expression at where Liu Shaoqiu was standing. The swordsman placidly said, "I'm your opponent."

The people around Pyrolyte Mountain all looked at the sky. Liu Shaoqiu, Zhanlong Daynight, and Ling Que were the three people who would determine which factions controlled Pyrolyte Mountain. Once a winner emerged from the three of them, the owner of Pyrolyte Mountain would be decided, and no one would be able to change the outcome after that.

"You, you're Liu Shaoqiu from the Sword Sect, right?" Ling Que asked in a quiet voice.

Liu Shaoqiu lifted his sword. "That's right."

Ling Que's eyes narrowed. "I've seen videos of you in the Astral Combat Tournament. The Thirteen Swords truly has some unique aspects, but you're still not my opponent."

"We'll see about that after we battle." Liu Shaoqiu then attacked Ling Que with the First Sword.

Most people wouldn't be able to withstand the First Sword of the Thirteen Swords, and no matter how much Ling Que looked down upon everyone else, even he couldn't ignore the Thirteen Swords.

His Que's Mighty Slash spun about and blocked Liu Shaoqiu's attack. Although no impact could be discerned, the space between the two Limiteers distorted while powerful shockwaves rippled out, reminding everyone nearby of the previous battle between Liu Shaoqiu and Zhanlong Daynight. People immediately retreated as a battle at this level wasn't something that they could withstand.

After Ling Que blocked Liu Shaoqiu's attack, his Que's Mighty Slash suddenly disappeared before cutting through the sky.

Liu Xiaoyun gasped, "Be careful!"

Liu Shaoqiu had never revealed his top speed during his battles with others since he always relied on the Thirteen Swords. Thus, Liu Xiaoyun wasn't sure whether or not he would be able to hold out against Ling Que's attacks.

Liu Shaoqiu quickly used the Second Sword on the area around him. The flood of sword qi was interrupted by the Que's Mighty Slash tearing through the area, clearly revealing the blade's movements to Liu Shaoqiu.

Liu Xiaoyun was surprised at how Shaoqiu had used the Second Sword to find the traces of Que's Mighty Slash. She hadn't known that the Thirteen Swords could be used in such a fashion.

Que's Mighty Slash was extremely fast, and its tracks were normally completely concealed. However, it wasn't as mysterious if the opponent managed to find a way to track it. Hence, Liu Shaoqiu merely sidestepped once to dodge the attack. However, it turned out that he had still underestimated Que's Mighty Slash, which was formed through a combination of ten innate gifts. Although Liu Shaoqiu had dodged the blade, his arm and clothes were still burnt.

He looked at Ling Que in confusion.

The Que's Mighty Slash returned to Ling Que where it slowly spun in place. Ling Que smiled when he saw Liu Shaoqiu's confused expression. "I already told you that you're not my opponent."

Liu Shaoqiu's expression grew solemn. It had taken quite a bit of time during his battle with Zhanlong Daynight for Liu Shaoqiu to be injured, and yet Ling Que had been able to injure him so easily, not to mention that he still didn't know how he had been hurt. Ling Que was an extremely strong opponent, and it was no wonder he was considered one of the younger generation's unparalleled Limiteers.

All across the battlefield at Pyrolyte Mountain, the cultivators of the Sword Sect and Yōu family were barely holding on. Since Liu Shaoqiu now knew that he wouldn't be able to maintain control of Pyrolyte Mountain, he clearly commanded, "All disciples of the Sword Sect and the Yōu family, leave Pyrolyte Mountain now!"

Nightqueen Yanqing smirked. "Do you really think that you can leave whenever you want? Attack!"

The aim of the Daynight clan was to defeat the powerhouses from the Sword Sect before Mu Rong managed to arrive. If the Sword Sect managed to leave this battlefield while preserving their battle force, then this battle would have just been a waste of time. They had to at least ensure that Liu Xiaoyun and some of the other stronger disciples wouldn't be able to participate in the upcoming conflicts.

Liu Shaoqiu's gaze grew cold, and a huge amount of sword qi rushed up. The Fourth Sword covered a corner of the sky.

Nightqueen Yanqing's brows climbed.

Ling Que was astonished. This sword qi was extremely powerful, and this person was definitely using a forcefield. Ling Que was suddenly reminded of Mu Rong. He hated forcefields.

Liu Shaoqiu glared at Nightqueen Yanqing. "You can try and see if you are able to defeat the disciples from my Sword Sect and pull back again before I unleash the Fourth Sword."

Nightqueen Yanging glanced at Ling Que.

Ling Que remained quiet. That was the Fourth Sword, and it wouldn't be a part of the Thirteen Swords if it could be easily handled. Liu Shaoqiu was clearly demonstrating his ability to implicate everyone present if they didn't allow the members of the Sword Sect to leave. If the Sword Sect was attacked, then he would use the Fourth Sword to affect everyone so that no one could leave in one piece.

Nightqueen Yanqing had been heavily injured by the Fourth Sword before, and she didn't believe that anyone present would be able to withstand that attack aside from Zhanlong Daynight!

Nightqueen Yanqing reluctantly ordered the Daynight clan and the Second Grade Hall to pull back and allow the people of the Sword Sect and Yōu family to leave the battlefield unscathed. Everyone else also retreated far away to avoid being injured by the Fourth Sword.

Liu Shaoqiu didn't plan on defeating Ling Que and Zhanlong Daynight by himself. The most he could do now was allow his fellow disciples to leave safely, but he needed to wait to see if he was successful.

"It's no use even if I allow your people to leave. Since you've lost, they won't be able to survive on this planet," Ling Que said calmly.

Liu Shaoqiu watched everyone leave while Liu Xiaoyun looked at him with a complicated gaze She wasn't worried about his safety since the Daynight clan and Lingling Clan wouldn't want to become Sword Sect's mortal enemies. Thus, they wouldn't kill Liu Shaoqiu. However, if Liu Shaoqiu was the only person left, he probably wouldn't be able to continue participating in the contest for pyrolite ore anymore.

Yōu Ye'er suddenly noticed that Liu Shaoqiu had a rather manly side to him.

"Stupid girl, I'll look for you later!" Nightqueen Yanqing threatened Yōu Ye'er.

You Ye'er pouted, "Old aunty, take care of yourself and make sure not to throw out your back."

Nightqueen Yanqing grew furious, and she glared hatefully at Yōu Ye'er.

Yōu Ye'er paused and took a good look at Nightqueen Yanqing. She suddenly spoke up in a dramatic manner, "Old aunty, you have so many wrinkles!"

She then fled from the scene.

Nightqueen Yanqing was stunned, and she unconsciously touched her face. All women, regardless if they were cultivators, cared about their appearance. No matter how powerful Nightqueen Yanqing was,

You Ye'er's words had successfully rattled her, and she had to resist the urge to pull out a mirror and check her face.

Naturally, her anger towards You Ye'er also reached a new level.

Liu Shaoqiu saw that the members of the Sword Sect were retreating into the distance.

Ling Que looked at Liu Shaoqiu. "To show my respect, I didn't attack you. You can use the Fourth Sword now, if you want. I look forward to seeing it."

"Ling Que, Ling Que, I love you! Ling Que, Ling Que, you're the best!"

"Ling Que, Ling Que, I love you! Ling Que, Ling Que, you're the best!"

...

The sound of the cheerleaders faded into the distance. Although Ling Que was very confident in his abilities, the Thirteen Swords was truly too powerful. Moreover, he was rather nervous about forcefields.

Chapter 489: Even Fiercer

Beneath Pyrolyte Mountain, Zhanlong Daynight appeared and looked at the sky with a serious expression. He wanted to discover what the Fourth Sword could do to Ling Que so that he could compare himself to an unparalleled Limiteer.

He did not have to wait for long as the Fourth Sword was suddenly unleashed.

The moment that it moved, Ling Que's eyes lit up and his body suddenly split into two. Two Que's Mighty Slashes revolved around his bodies, spinning rapidly as he anticipated the arrival of the Fourth Sword.

Before, at the Sea King's Dome, Ling Que had faced off against Mu Rong's full-strength forcefield by taking the extreme action of splitting into three clones. The three Que's Mighty Slashes had then worked in tandem to form a defense that barely managed to block Mu Rong's strike. But now, against the Fourth Sword, Ling Que had only split into two clones, as he was confident that he could block this attack. In other words, the Fourth Sword did not give him the same sense of crisis that Mu Rong's forcefield had.

Boom!

The ground rumbled as an overpowering shockwave swept out in all directions, just like when the Fourth Sword and Zhanlong Daynight had collided in the previous battle. The strength of the aftershock even manifested in a visible, lightning-like pattern that spread out. Not only did it tear through the void, but it also shattered the ground and caused numerous fissures to appear far off in the distance.

Everyone was overwhelmed, and they looked towards Pyrolyte Mountain, as a battle of an abnormal level was now taking place.

As the air cleared, Nightqueen Yanqing and Zhanlong Daynight stared above Pyrolyte Mountain. They first saw Liu Shaoqiu and then an unscathed Ling Que.

As expected, Ling Que had blocked the Fourth Sword.

Others would have described the situation as not a single hair of Ling Que's being harmed, but Ling Que himself knew that it was not that simple. Liu Shaoqiu's attack had not been easy for him to defend against, and he had almost been forced to split into a third clone and summon a third Que's Mighty Slash to protect himself. This was the Fourth Sword, and it was indeed very powerful. Liu Shaoqiu was likely just behind Ling Que and Mu Rong in terms of power, and he possessed a similar strength as that Lan Dao from the Grayweed Continent who had fought against Mu Rong.

However, this was Liu Shaoqiu's current limit. Ling Que raised a hand, and his Que's Mighty Slash shot through the void, suddenly splattering blood through the sky. Liu Shaoqiu fell—his right arm had been impaled, and his longsword was dislodged from his grasp. It plummeted down into the earth.

Liu Shaoqiu had been defeated.

The Fourth Sword had drained too much of his energy, so he had not even been able to defend himself.

Ling Que stood high in the sky, displaying his overbearing style of doing as he pleased as an unequalled Limiteer.

The Sword Sect disciples far in the distance were grieving, as Liu Shaoqiu had been defeated. Not only had he lost in this battle, but he would also be out of commission for quite a while. He would find it difficult to participate in anymore battles on Planet Pyrolyte since that woman, Nightqueen Yanqing, would not let him off easily.

Liu Xiaoyun gripped her fists, but there was nothing she could do either.

You Ye'er sighed, but she was similarly helpless. They were simply too weak. However, what would it be like if she could erupt with all her strength? The little girl was looking forward to it.

Wen Qian'er looked at Ling Que with surprise as he towered over Pyrolyte Mountain. When she had been in the Wen family's holdings, she had even dreamed of challenging Lu Yin, but Ling Que had just shown her how ridiculous her original thoughts had been. Even someone like Ling Que was inferior to Lu Yin, yet this person had already been enough to make everyone feel powerless. It went without saying that Lu Yin, as the strongest, was not on the same level at all.

Xi Yue was stunned, as this had shown her the strength of the universe's top elites. If this person was already this powerful, then how had Lu Yin managed to become number one? She could not even imagine it.

Zhanlong Daynight walked out from the shadow of Pyrolyte Mountain and directly faced Ling Que.

Ling Que turned to face the Daynight clan member, as this person gave off a feeling that he was no weaker than Liu Shaoqiu. Before Ling Que arrived, Liu Shaoqiu had been held back by this person. Ling Que could clearly see that this person was from the Daynight clan. Interesting, is he provoking me?

Nightqueen Yanqing knew that the situation was taking a turn for the worse as soon as she saw Zhanlong Daynight walk out. She rushed over to him and threatened him in a quiet voice, whispering, "If you dare ruin our clan's mission, you will definitely be imprisoned in the ancestral grounds as soon as you return. Consider your next actions carefully."

Zhanlong Daynight was reluctant to back down, but he did not continue to antagonize Ling Que. He really wanted to fight against this person and experience the Soulsplitting Technique and Que's Mighty Slash for himself, so he felt it was a pity that he was being restrained.

Liu Shaoqiu's left hand supported his body while fresh blood dripped down his right arm and off of his fingers. He walked over to his sword that was embedded in the ground. The blade of the sword had rusted long ago, but this blade had continued to follow him for many years. He had not taken the blade out even against Zhanlong Daynight, but he had used it against Ling Que. Despite that, he had still been defeated.

Nightqueen Yanqing's eyes revealed her bloodlust as she stared at Liu Shaoqiu. She walked over. She wanted to give him some injuries and ensure that he would not be able to act again in the near future.

Ling Que frowned. He did not approve of such behavior, but he did not stop her either.

Behind him, the cheerleaders appeared again. "Ling Que, Ling Que, I love you! Ling Que, Ling Que, you're the best!"

"Ling Que, Ling Que, I love you! Ling Que, Ling Que, you're the best!"

...

Liu Shaoqiu felt frustrated when he saw Nightqueen Yanqing approaching him step by step. He had fallen so low, but he was not about to be trampled upon after losing.

At that moment, a fiery red color crashed down from space, aiming straight at Pyrolyte Mountain and the people gathered there.

Ling Que, Nightqueen Yanqing, Zhanlong Daynight, and even the distant Liu Xiaoyun and Wen Qian'er all looked up. Who was about to appear? The various organizations overseeing the proceedings on Planet Pyrolyte were all focused on the region around Pyrolyte Mountain. What kind of self-confidence does one need to land right at Pyrolyte Mountain in this current situation?

Nightqueen Yanqing's heart skipped a beat and her expression changed. Not good, could it be...?

Boom!

Nearby, the blazing red streak crashed into the ground, revealing it as a personal spacecraft that was so blazing hot that it had distorted the void.

Everyone looked over to see the hatch open and a youth calmly walk out while holding a wooden flute.

Mu Rong had arrived.

Nightqueen Yanqing's pupils constricted. Why right now? Shouldn't there still be some time before he arrived?

Zhanlong Daynight was also shocked at the sudden turn of events.

Ling Que's face darkened, and he felt like he had been tricked. No one had told him that Mu Rong would come. If he had known that this brat would also come to Planet Pyrolyte, then Ling Que would not have

made the trip here even if someone beat him. Damn it, why didn't anyone tell me this? Were they just trying to set me up and embarrass me?

In the distance, Wen Qian'er stared at the situation, completely dumbfounded. How had Mu Rong managed to appear so quickly? It must be that the Sword Sect had released fake news and been lying to them. The Wen family was smart, but the Sword Sect was not foolish either. The Sword Sect must have long since expected that their enemies would want to take advantage of the timing discrepancies, and so, they must have deliberately exaggerated the time difference to cause their opponents to relax their guard. Then, their disciples on the ground would just have to hold out until Mu Rong arrived. And now, trouble had finally arrived.

Liu Xiaoyun relaxed, as that person had finally come.

You Ye'er stared with wide eyes, as an even fiercer person had just arrived, so they no longer needed to escape.

Mu Rong's appearance caused the whole area to fall silent as everyone stared at him. He looked around and swept his gaze over everyone before finally stopping on Ling Que. "Who are you helping?"

Ling Que's face contorted, and he turned around to address his cheerleaders, "Hey girls, go back to space in your vessel. Don't stay here. It's too dangerous."

The girls were moved. They wanted to stay, but Ling Que's persistent orders dissuaded them. He was panicking, as he was not confident in being able to beat Mu Rong. It hadn't been very long since they had last fought, and he still had not come up with a method to defeat this person yet. He did not want to be embarrassed in a fight with Mu Rong.

After all of the cheerleaders left, and Ling Que turned to face Mu Rong. "I'm helping the Wen family."

Mu Rong looked at Liu Shaoqiu. "Are you the Sword Sect's Liu Shaoqiu?"

Liu Shaoqiu nodded. "You're Mu Rong?"

Mu Rong calmly replied, "I've received an invitation from the Sword Sect to participate in this contest on Planet Pyrolyte. Is everyone else here the enemy?"

Liu Shaoqiu nodded.

Mu Rong turned to face Zhanlong Daynight and Nightqueen Yanqing. Now, his eyes had a different light to them.

Nightqueen Yanqing felt her scalp go numb, as she never imagined that she would end up directly facing Mu Rong. She wanted to say something, but Zhanlong Daynight moved from beside her to charge straight out towards Mu Rong, letting loose a punch. It was a formidable attack, and his body was covered in a radiant brilliance from the Daynight Restoration Technique.

Just like Liu Shaoqiu had eagerly attacked Ling Que, Zhanlong Daynight was very excited to face Mu Rong.

Nightqueen Yanqing felt anxious, but she no longer had any choice in the matter, and she immediately attacked Liu Shaoqiu. She needed to make sure that this person could not fight in the immediate future.

Mu Rong squinted, and green grass extended out from beneath his feet. He immediately unleashed his forcefield, and everyone saw the image of the shepherd boy and the cow appear before them. In that instance, Zhanlong Daynight, Nightqueen Yanqing, and Ling Que were all suppressed by Mu Rong, and they felt so restrained that they almost coughed up blood.

Against Zhanlong Daynight's punch, Mu Rong merely backed up a bit and spun his wooden flute around before resolving the attack with Floating Stride. Even further away, a shepherd boy appeared above Liu Shaoqiu's head before striking down at Nightqueen Yanqing.

Her entire body felt like it was falling apart, as she was powerless to resist this attack. There was a whoosh as the blade of Que's Mighty Slash appeared and sliced towards the shepherd boy, leaving the void distorted in its wake. There was a bang as Nightqueen Yanqing was sent flying away, and she spat out a mouthful of blood while still in midair; her Nightking's Body had been almost completely destroyed.

If not for Que's Mighty Slash, she would have directly received the attack from Mu Rong's forcefield. Although it had not been an all-out attack, even Ling Que did not dare to be careless against such attacks.

Zhanlong Daynight's punch missed its target, but he quickly followed up with another punch, and this one shook the void. However, all of his attacks were useless against Mu Rong; his Floating Stride was able to even negate Que's Mighty Slash, much less Zhanlong Daynight's attacks. If Mu Rong felt like it, he could dodge Zhanlong Daynight's punches for several days without being hit a single time.

Zhanlong Daynight's advantage was in his abnormal recovery rate, but his attacks were completely useless against Mu Rong.

Mu Rong used his Floating Stride to nullify Zhanlong Daynight's attacks while in another area, his forcefield that manifested as the shepherd boy on the cow attacked Ling Que. Mu Rong intended to face all three of them simultaneously by himself.

Liu Shaoqiu was stunned, as Mu Rong was revealing his true strength; the young man feared no one.

Ling Que fought an urge to curse as he received the attack from Mu Rong's forcefield. The attack launched against Ling Que was on an entirely different level than the attack Nightqueen Yanqing had faced. Mu Rong was using his full strength against Ling Que.

Helpless, Ling Que used the Soulsplitting Technique and divided into three clones. He then used the three Que's Mighty Slashes to defend himself as they clashed directly against the shepherd boy and the cow.

At the same exact time, Mu Rong brushed past Zhanlong Daynight as his wooden flute struck Zhanlong's body.

The two collisions exploded at the same time, causing two visible shockwaves to sweep out in every direction. Space was shredded apart like raindrops as the aftershocks reached far into the distance, leaving many dumbfounded.

Nightqueen Yanging and Liu Shaoqiu were sent flying by the two colliding aftershocks.

In the distance, Wen Qian'er and the other onlookers acted in unison, pooling all of their power together to resist the aftershocks. Despite their best efforts, there were still quite a few cultivators who spat out blood before falling unconscious due to the sheer force of the aftershock. Some people even fell into the cracks that had spread across the ground, possibly dead. Zhuo Daynight was also sent flying by the force, spitting out more blood in the process.

Fortunately, Pyrolyte Mountain was not directly hit by the shockwave.

Throughout the battle, everyone had avoided causing any direct impact to Pyrolyte Mountain.

One strike had suppressed two great experts. This demonstrated Mu Rong's power.

This was also not the end, but rather the beginning. The wooden flute sounded out, and Ling Que simply took off, already certain that he would not be able to withstand Mu Rong's next move. His innate gift was too perverse, and it allowed him to directly control others' bodies. Only those like Lu Yin who possessed a freakish physical strength could break free from Mu Rong's innate gift.

Zhanlong Daynight watched as Ling Que fled, but he was not an idiot either. He knew that he could not resist Mu Rong on his own. He also took off, though he was reluctant to do so. He clearly understood his own strength, and he knew that all of his attacks would be utterly useless against Mu Rong. Thus, he would only end up as a punching bag if he stayed.

Mu Rong alone had gained control of the entire situation.

In the distance, Wen Qian'er and the rest watched on, hesitant to believe that the outcome had already been decided. Things had been resolved at a speed that they found hard to accept.

Chapter 490: Video

Although there were no concrete rankings for Limiteers, which meant that everything was based on merely hearsay, Mu Rong was still one of the three strongest Limiteers of the universe's younger generation. Lu Yin had been able to defeat him without any tricks, leaving Ye Xingchen as the only untested unequaled Limiteer. However, the Ten Arbiters' past words had suggested that Mu Rong's power exceeded Ye Xingchen's.

Against such an opponent, it was not unacceptable to admit defeat.

One person's strength had been enough to reverse the entire situation. This was the strength of a true expert.

The Daynight clan, Wen family, Second Grade Hall, and other various powers retreated, but Mu Rong did not give chase. Liu Xiaoyun and the others did not have enough strength to pursue anyone, so they allowed everyone to leave. At this moment, control of Pyrolyte Mountain had returned to the Sword Sect.

With the unexpected support of Mu Rong, Pyrolyte Mountain would belong to the Sword Sect in the future.

Liu Xiaoyun looked for Liu Shaoqiu and helped him up. "How are your injuries?"

Liu Shaoqiu shook his head. "I'm alright. I only injured my shoulder. I'll be fine with a few days of rest."

Liu Xiaoyun nodded, lent Liu Shaoqiu a shoulder for support, and then looked over at Mu Rong.

The rest of the Sword Sect disciples were also curiously studying Mu Rong, as not everyone had been lucky enough to encounter an absolute powerhouse. To Limiteers, Mu Rong stood at the apex, and he would definitely join the Top 100 Rankings as soon as he broke through to become an Explorer. Most people would not meet such a person throughout their entire lives.

Yōu Ye'er was exceptionally curious about the young man, and she wanted to chat with Mu Rong. However, his face held an indifferent expression as he sat atop Pyrolyte Mountain. He had only come here to fulfill his promise to the Sword Sect, and he was uninterested in everything else, which disappointed Yōu Ye'er.

The battle for Pyrolyte Mountain had ended, and the Sword Sect was finally able to relax in outer space. Fortunately for them, Mu Rong had arrived just in time, leaving Nightqueen Qiuyu and Karthika with a bitter taste in their mouth. However, losing Pyrolyte Mountain was not what angered Nightqueen Qiuyu the most. She was more furious that Ling Que, that slimy brat, had actually run away!

Nightqueen Qiuyu did not know about the matter of the previous battle between Ling Que and Mu Rong, so she thought that the youth had just fled because of Mu Rong's reputation, which infuriated her to the point of trembling from head to toe.

"Have we found a method to allow Explorers to descend to Planet Pyrolyte yet?" she barked, causing the Daynight clan's spacecraft to shudder.

The Daynight clan members were afraid. "Not yet, please forgive us."

"A bunch of trash!" she scolded coldly as she continued to stare at Planet Pyrolyte.

With Mu Rong acting as a guardian, they would be forced to forget about Pyrolyte Mountain. The Wen family had similarly gained Ling Que's support, so even if they found a place that was slightly inferior to Pyrolyte Mountain, the Daynight clan wouldn't be able to do anything to them either.

When had the Daynight clan fallen to a third-rate position? Such a thing was unacceptable to Nightqueen Qiuyu, and she once again thought of Lu Yin. If that person was willing to help them, then the situation would change once again. However, that person's status was sensitive, and he could not be easily threatened, which was annoying.

The various powers in space above Planet Pyrolyte had all watched the battle for Pyrolyte Mountain, and there were naturally some who had recorded videos of parts of the battle. When they left the Astral Wilderness and returned to the Northcastle Weave, they would upload the video clips onto the network.

There was no lack of people in the universe who enjoyed watching such videos. Also, since so many genius Limiteers had gathered in one place with multiple people sharing videos, an intense discussion of the matter was soon sparked. Of course, no one dared to talk about the venue and the reason for the battle, which remained top-secret, but the matter was already known by countless organizations.

On Zenyu Star, after Karthika left, life slowly returned to normal, and the planet became a bustling capital once again. There were at least some places that were able to attract Hai Qiqi's attention, which allowed Lu Yin to temporarily shake her off.

Still, not even two days passed before Hai Qiqi reappeared in front of Lu Yin, giving him a headache. "What now?"

Hai Qiqi urgently said, "Check the network! Someone's uploaded videos of a bunch of Limiteers fighting, and even Mu Rong's there!"

Lu Yin was surprised; Mu Rong fighting against Limiteers? Could it be a video of the battles on Planet Pyrolyte? He immediately turned his gadget on and brought up the most popular video on the display. It was hard to miss even if he didn't want to see them.

Lu Yin opened the topmost video, which was a recording of when Mu Rong had fought against two people by himself, pushing both Ling Que and Zhanlong Daynight back.

Mu Rong possessed such impressive strength, and he had not been caught off guard either. Lu Yin looked at the dark red battlefield in the video. Is that Planet Pyrolyte? Hold on, Zhanlong Daynight?

Lu Yin's expression changed. Why had Zhanlong Daynight appeared on Planet Pyrolyte? Hadn't Lu Yin himself thrown that person into the Reverent King's household?

As he watched the battle on the video, Lu Yin's eyes flickered, and his fist involuntarily clenched. Zhanlong Daynight, Ming Zhaoshu, the Shenwu Continent, the Daynight clan. The fact that Zhanlong Daynight had been able to leave the Shenwu Continent was definitely the work of Ming Zhaoshu, as there was no other way for the Limiteer to escape. The most troubling matter was that Ming Zhaoshu had found someone stronger than Lu Yin to work with: the Daynight clan.

Lu Yin was apprehensive, and he became too preoccupied with his thoughts to properly watch the video. He was too focused on the Shenwu Continent and Ming Yan. If Ming Zhaoshu and the Daynight clan began cooperating, then the Shenwu Continent would soon face huge upheavals, and what would happen to Ming Yan in that case?

Lu Yin did not care if the Daynight clan managed to gain control of the Shenwu Continent, as only Ming Yan mattered to him. For Lu Yin, she was the most precious person on the entire Shenwu Continent. His greatest worry was if Ming Zhaoshu had used Ming Yan as a bargaining chip. If Ming Zhaoshu was able to toy with Lu Yin's heart, then he could also do the same to Zhanlong Daynight.

Having affection for someone often spawned such thoughts, as a person would unreasonably assume that others also liked the same person, and Lu Yin was no exception to this rule. His biggest worry was that Ming Zhaoshu might use Ming Yan as a bargaining chip to gain the Daynight clan's cooperation. Although the possibility of such a thing was low, Ming Yan was too pretty and attractive, so Lu Yin could not help his thoughts from veering in such a direction.

"Hey, what are you thinking of? Keep watching!" Hai Qiqi ordered.

Her words struck Lu Yin out of his reverie; although he desperately wanted to go to the Shenwu Continent and gain a better understanding of what was happening, with his current strength, he might not be able to keep himself safe. This was not the right time to make such a move. Besides, he still didn't

have the means to take Ming Yan away. Currently, the highest priority task was to find Zhanlong Daynight and figure out what had happened.

Lu Yin took a deep breath. There was no benefit to overthinking things, so he needed to calm down and carefully consider his options. He closed his eyes, slowly exhaled, and then continued watching the video.

The second video showed the confrontation between Ling Que and Liu Shaoqiu's Fourth Sword. The video had been edited to not show the entire battle or the conversation between the two, just the battle and the results. This particular video was extremely sensational. Liu Shaoqiu's fame had shot to the stars during the Astral Combat Tournament, but such a person had still lost to Ling Que. This loss triggered countless discussions, and many left comments beneath the video.

'The Thirteen Swords is nothing much. It's losing everywhere—to Lu Yin in the Astral Combat Tournament, to that Technocracy woman during the Tournament of the Strongest, and now to that pretentious person.'

'Don't spout such crap. The Thirteen Swords is very strong. It's just these opponents are even stronger. That Technocracy woman was the representative of an entire domain, and that "pretentious person" is one of the four unequaled Limiteers. It's rumored that Lu Yin was even able to defeat Mu Rong, which means that he's the number one Limiteer in the universe. Liu Shaoqiu's defeats aren't that bad.'

'I heard that there's an inheritor of the Thirteen Swords among the Ten Arbiters. I feel like this Liu Shaoqiu is just a watered-down version of that Arbiter, as they should be the true heir of the Thirteen Swords. That technique shouldn't be defeated that easily.'

'Hold on, commenter above, who said that Mu Rong lost to Lu Yin? That's just a rumor. Although it's been spread everywhere, it's definitely false. In any case, I don't believe it.'

'This old lady doesn't either.'

'Now that you've mentioned it, that pretentious person really deserves a beating. Those cheerleaders behind him are also unequaled.'

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As he read through the numerous comments, Lu Yin loaded the next video. This one was also of Ling Que's battle against Liu Shaoqiu, but this one had been taken from a different angle. There were more than ten videos in a row featuring the confrontation between these two. They showed everything, from start to end, apart from the conversation between the two which had been edited out of every video.

The comments beneath the videos were not kind to Liu Shaoqiu at all since it was indeed true that he had now lost quite a few times.

Even further down the list of videos was one that showed Liu Shaoqiu's battle against Zhanlong Daynight. The Daynight clan's expert had also caused countless people to grow excited.

'The Daynight clan is so powerful. They're awesome!"

'The person above is a Daynight braggart. Evaluation complete.'

'That trendy hair color is enough to boast for a year.'

'It's too bad that the Daynight clan still lost to Mu Rong in the end. People, look at the video above: there's one man putting on a show and the Daynight clan, but they were both scared away by Mu Rong. There's also that Daynight woman that was sent flying by the aftershocks. In any case, that woman's pretty hot. It's a pity that Daynight women won't marry outside of the clan.'

'Stop dreaming! They wouldn't look at you even if they could. They have to at least marry someone at the level of that group of unequaled Limiteers.'

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As he kept watching more videos, Lu Yin frequently saw comments mentioning his name. Many compared him to Ling Que, Mu Rong, and Liu Shaoqiu. Some praised him while others disparaged him. Some predicted that once all these Limiteers stepped into the Explorer realm, Lu Yin would be completely left in the dust by these blessed children. Each one had extensive resources behind them while Lu Yin only had the Great Yu Empire.

Lu Yin muttered to himself, Break through to the Explorer realm? We'll see who's left in the dust when that happens!

However, breaking through was a problem in and of itself. He had a feeling that his next breakthrough would be extremely difficult and that he might even take much longer to break through than the others.

He looked back at the topmost video and opened the comments to see that they were filled with nothing but praise for Mu Rong.

'Damn, this is the entrance style that I've always dreamed of! Able to immediately differentiate between friend and foe and then resolve the problem. Too cool!'

'That's is Mu Rong, the unequaled Limiteer lauded by the Ten Arbiters. That title even includes the older generation, too.'

'Didn't Mu Rong lose to Lu Yin?'

'Probably not. That should just be a rumor. Do the previous commenters really think that Mu Rong could lose to Lu Yin with his strength? Remember, Lu Yin is from the Outerverse. No matter how impressive his innate gift is, just approaching Mu Rong is the best he can hope for. He won't be able to defeat Mu Rong, as he's not fated to join the top ranks of the universe.'

'That's right, those are just rumors.'

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Only people from the most powerful organizations had been able to see a video of Lu Yin's battle with Mu Rong at the Sea King's Dome. Most people had only heard rumors, and they naturally did not believe them, especially when they saw the video of Mu Rong defeating two other absolute powerhouses on his own. Someone with Mu Rong's strength was undoubtedly the strongest in their minds, and it was impossible for anyone to surpass him.

Lu Yin did not refute the comments as he simply scrolled on. These opinions were based on people's common knowledge, and it would be strange if they changed their opinions just based on his word. After all, Mu Rong had received the Ten Arbiters' recognition, whose reputation and vision was treated like the will of heaven in the hearts of the younger generation.

As for the Sea King's Dome, such a place basically did not even appear on the network. There were many names and places, and even among the titles of organizations, that one would be automatically filtered out as most people were not eligible to read such information.

They only knew what the great powers allowed them to know.

Hai Qiqi stared at Lu Yin the entire time he was watching the videos and reading the comments. She fought the urge to interrupt him and ended up staring at him for ten minutes.

Lu Yin glanced at her. "Tell me what you want to say."

"You aren't angry?" Hai Qiqi's eyes widened.

Lu Yin felt strange. "Angry? At what?"

Hai Qiqi pointed at the screen. "Those people don't believe that you defeated Mu Rong."