

Chapter 661: Former Arrangements

Had Lu Yin cleaned up the last vestiges of the Neohuman Alliance on Shenwu Continent? He didn't know, and that was not good enough for him. He had to check the entire continent again.

He then spent another ten days meticulously combing through all the corners of Shenwu Continent, even the most isolated islands out in the sea. During this time, he obliterated three more Neohuman Alliance bases. Finally, he returned to Shanghai City and had a long discussion with Ming Zhaoshu. After that, he left Shenwu Continent.

He had done all that he could, and Shenwu Continent should have been purged of all traces of the Neohuman Alliance. Even so, he had left instructions with Ming Zhaoshu to rearrange Ming Yan's meals and daily schedule, just to prevent anything unexpected from occurring.

Before leaving, Lu Yin did not see Ming Yan again. Her eyes currently held a firm determination that had never existed there before. This was a good thing, and Lu Yin did not want to disrupt it.

He would return to the continent again in about half a year after Ming Zhaoshu died.

It had already been nearly twenty days since he had left the Daosource Sect's ruins, and he should be able to enter that place once again. Lu Yin had not decided if he should return there yet as it was impossible to know if the battle was still raging. The ruins had become a battlefield where the Ten Arbiters fought against the Realmings, and it was not a battlefield that Lu Yin could participate in. In the end, he decided to wait a bit longer.

He returned to King Zishan's palace, and once he was there, Kayze reported to him, saying, "Someone named Ding Xing has been waiting for Your Highness for a few days. Does Your Highness wish to meet with him?"

Ding Xing? Lu Yin thought about the name. Right, he's from Northcastle Weave's Greatsword Dynasty, and he requested help to chase away the people of the Beast Tamers Flowzone and restore the Greatsword Dynasty to power. He even promised to reward the Empire with the treasures of the Greatsword Dynasty.

Northcastle Weave lay close to the Astral Wilderness, and there were still quite a few powers who were continuing to search for pyrolyte and had also continued to meddle in the political affairs of Northcastle Weave without much consideration for the locals. This had naturally made those powers feel apprehensive, and even Lu Yin could end up harmed by the repercussions. More importantly, he needed to first firmly establish the Great Eastern Alliance. Before that happened, Lu Yin did not want any accidents to occur.

"Have him leave for now. I will naturally help him when the timing is right."

"Yes, Your Highness."

It had been extremely exhausting for Lu Yin during the past few days, and he rested in King Zishan's palace for a day before he felt refreshed. He then took out the cosmic ring that the Xun family had given to Huo Qingshan and found that there were 10,000 star essence within it. The Xun family could be

considered sincere, and it appeared that they had wanted to use this amount to settle the grudge between them and Lu Yin, which had been too naive a thought.

But that wily fox Xun Qianye had managed to slip away in the end, and Lu Yin could only hope that Mafioso Planet and the Daynight clan would be able to find him; otherwise, it would become a troubling matter.

The Xun family's objective had always been the gun that Lu Yin had bought at the auction, and because of that, Xun Qianye had used all sorts of methods to get rid of Lu Yin. From the very beginning, the man had not felt any pity as he had exposed the Vastdearth Sect's Cheng Yan so that the Xun family could prevent any possibility of the Vastdearth Sect joining the Great Eastern Alliance from coming to pass.

If the Xun family's methods had been successful, then Lu Yin would have been punished by the Hall of Honor, and the Great Eastern Alliance would have led to nothing. Unfortunately for them, the Xun family's efforts had failed, and they had even suffered casualties so severe that no one from the Xun family could be found in the current Outerverse.

Now, the most worried faction at the moment was the Vastdearth Sect.

Without Cheng Yan to maintain contact with the Great Yu Empire, the Vastdearth Sect simply did not know what the Great Yu Empire was planning.

"I propose that we take the initiative to contact the Great Yu Empire," Elder Angio suggested as he looked at Meng Tianlong.

The other elders agreed with him, as they were all afraid that Lu Yin would personally visit them. That youth was an overbearing young master that not even the Daynight clan dared to provoke. In other words, the Innerverses powers could intimidate the Outerverse, but not him.

Many felt that Lu Yin was even scarier than many of the Innerverses's great powers.

Meng Tianlong muttered to himself for a while and then finally said, "If we want to contact the Great Yu Empire, then we must consider carefully whether or not we should join the Great Eastern Alliance."

The crowd of elders fell silent at his words.

At this moment, someone came to make a report. "There's a visitor from Darkstar Gorge."

Meng Tianlong and the others were stunned by this news, but they quickly became delighted. They had constantly been sending people to other organizations to enquire about the Great Eastern Alliance, and now, they had finally received a reply.

If Lu Yin saw this visitor from Darkstar Gorge, then he would instantly recognize him. It was one of the five Hunters who had attempted to assassinate him on his way to the Six-Fingered Tribe.

"My Darkstar Gorge will definitely not join this so-called Great Eastern Alliance. It's called an alliance, but in reality, it's only purpose is to gather resources for the Great Yu Empire and help the empire unify the eastern weaves." That Hunter from Darkstar Gorge, called Zha Pu, spoke with determination.

Meng Tianlong replied, "Unify the eastern weaves? Is Lu Yin truly that ambitious?"

Zha Pu sneered. "Of course. He is so bold that he even dare to kill Enlighteners, so what would he not dare to do? If he succeeds in establishing this alliance, then we will be reduced to nothing more than his subordinates. Sect Leader Meng would not wish to have someone above you ordering your every move, correct?"

This conversation made Meng Tianlong quickly feel sullen. As the Vastdearth Sect's leader, he controlled an entire weave, and his authority was unsurpassed. He could decide the fates of countless individuals with a single order, easily allowing someone to soar into the heavens or fall into a bottomless abyss. This authority was something that could not be understood by those who had never enjoyed it, and those who had wielded such power would become addicted to it.

To inexplicably have someone rise above them and ordering them about was simply unacceptable.

"What are Darkstar Gorge's plans?" Meng Tianlong asked.

Zha Pu smiled. "We have contacted powers such as the Evenground Palace and the Tri-Banner Federation. If the Great Yu Empire wishes to act against any of us and force us to join its Great Eastern Alliance, then we will respond by establishing a counter-Great Eastern Alliance. There won't be any contract as there's only one condition: unite and resist the Great Yu Empire. We don't believe that Lu Yin can kill us off one by one if so many of us unite, and even if he can wipe us all out, the Hall of Honor will not simply stand by and watch him."

Meng Tianlong's eyes lit up. "You've really made contact already?"

"Naturally. In a few more days, we will have an opportunity to meet and discuss the methods that we should employ to deal with the Great Yu Empire. Does Sect Leader Meng wish to join us?" Zha Pu asked.

Meng Tianlong immediately agreed.

Zha Pu left Meng Tianlong full of expectations. The more powers that united, the greater their influence would be, and this so-called Great Eastern Alliance would definitely not be established. The Great Yu Empire would also be rejected. So what if Lu Yin grew even more powerful? Just as Zha Pu had said, Lu Yin could only kill so many powerhouses.

Even though the universe was ruled by the law of the jungle, humans were creatures that had a bottom line. One person could not mercilessly kill too many others. If Lu Yin attempted to act this ruthlessly, then the Hall of Honor would not possibly allow it. Humans were humans because they had a bottom line, and this line was determined by a great number of people.

Lu Yin quickly learned of this matter far away in the Great Yu Empire, and his expression became unpleasant.

En Ya was also troubled by this development. "If so many powers truly unite against us, then there's no possibility that the Great Eastern Alliance can be established. We cannot use the iron fist to suppress everyone. Even if we manage to temporarily establish the alliance, it will be very difficult to gather all of the resources in the future. This is not in line with our original intentions."

“We hope that the various powers will still willingly join the alliance and pool their resources on their own initiative and not by force,” Huan Sha said.

Lu Yin rapped his fingers against the table. “You two tell me: are these Outerverse powers wolves or sheep?”

En Ya and Huan Sha exchanged doubtful glances. “What does Your Highness mean?”

Lu Yin’s lips curled upwards. “Against the Daynight clan, Innerverse powers like the Xun family might easily give in. Without Darkstar Gorge forming the connections, these powers will similarly give in to me, because they are fundamentally merely sheep.”

“But they have already united,” En Ya objected.

“But I would like to find out how sturdy this ‘alliance’ of theirs really is,” Lu Yin said with a smile.

“What does Your Highness intend to do?” En Ya asked.

Lu Yin stood up and walked out of the building to look at the sky. “Darkstar Gorge is actually a sheep as well, but their hatred for me runs too deeply, and I’m the one that forced them to become a wolf. Right now, it’s one wolf leading a flock of sheep to resist me. So, we’ll slaughter that lone wolf.”

“Your Highness wishes to take care of Darkstar Gorge?” En Ya was astonished by this decision.

Lu Yin indifferently responded, “We must make an example of someone, or else the Outerverse powers will truly think that I, Lu Yin, am actually a benevolent person who doesn’t dare to act against them.”

“Your Highness, at this moment, the various great powers have already united. If we rashly act against Darkstar Gorge, then the other powers might take action in the name of self-preservation,” Huan Sha reminded him.

Lu Yin smiled. “I won’t be taking action just because they’re uniting to resist me. I will be acting on behalf of the Hall of Honor’s orders.”

En Ya and Huan Sha could not comprehend such a thing. As long as someone did not betray the Human Domain or do some intolerable offence, how would the Hall of Honor act against a specific power?

He dismissed both En Ya and Huan Sha and activated his gadget. Before long, Elder Lohar’s face appeared on his screen.

“Junior greets Elder.” Lu Yin bowed respectfully.

Elder Lohar saw that Lu Yin was in a pretty good mood. “Little brat, if you’re suddenly contacting me, you must have something with which you wish to ask for my help.”

Lu Yin smiled. “How did Elder know?”

Elder Lohar laughed. “Although the Innerverse and Outerverse have been separated, my Hall of Honor is not blind. Little brat, let me tell you something—I don’t care if you wish to establish your Great Eastern

Alliance. Even if you occasionally borrow the Hall of Honor's name, I still won't care. But it is impossible for you to request for the Hall of Honor to help you."

Lu Yin rubbed his nose. "Junior has never underestimated the Hall of Honor's strength, and I understand Elder's warning. However, Junior contacted Elder this time not to ask for the Hall of Honor's help, but rather to make a report."

"A report?" Elder Lohar was puzzled. "A report on whom?"

"Junior must report that Darkstar Gorge has been colluding with the Neohuman Alliance," Lu Yin spoke solemnly.

Elder Lohar was taken aback. "You claim that Darkstar Gorge has colluded with the Neohuman Alliance? Little brat, I'm warning you—even with your special status, you cannot trespass upon the Hall of Honor's bottom line. To recklessly frame someone else and use the Hall of Honor to eradicate opposing powers is a very serious crime. If you are guilty, I may very well take away your futon."

Lu Yin serenely responded, "Junior has not framed the Darkstar Gorge. In the Outerverse Youth Council, there is someone from the Neohuman Alliance who works alongside Councilor Puyu. In the past, Arbiter Wen went to Darkstar Gorge to investigate this matter, but he informed Junior not to release news of this matter. He ascertained that Darkstar Gorge is indeed colluding with the Neohuman Alliance, but he did not act as he wanted to further investigate who else the Neohuman Alliance may be colluding with. Elder can send someone to investigate."

Elder Lohar's face grew extremely solemn. "Alright, if this is actually true, you'll have made a great contribution."

"Elder, Puyu is at the Outerverse Youth Council's headquarters of East San Dios. This junior is coincidentally already headed there, so please allow this junior to look for the Neohuman Alliance's Corpse King. Then, the Hall of Honor can verify this matter."

Elder Lohar thought about the request. "Very well, but I'll warn you again: do not even think of planting false evidence. Our Hall of Honor naturally has its own ways to determine the truth. If you attempt to make personal use of the Hall of Honor, then I will take your futon away myself. I will also deduct all your Honor Points and imprison you."

"Junior understands," Lu Yin replied respectfully.

The screen went blank, and Lu Yin sighed. He had finally been forced to use the chess piece that was Vulture. In the past, Wen Sansi had not taken any action, but the Hall of Honor definitely would not let off anyone who had a connection to the Neohuman Alliance.

It was a pity that Lu Yin had to do this now as he had wanted to implicate Liu Shaoge along with Puyu, but it seemed that that would no longer be possible. If that was the case, then he would just take care of them both at the same time!

Chapter 662: Taking Action

At this moment, San Dios no longer enjoyed the respect that it had in the past. Back then, the Ten Arbiters had supported the Outerverse Youth Council, and due to that backing, the council had been

able to conduct trials, deliver rulings, and adjust the educational organizations related to the younger generation of the various weaves. They had even been able to influence the decisions of certain powers. But ever since the Outerverse had been cut off from the Innerverse, far fewer people were concerned about the opinions of the Outerverse Youth Council. Just as Lu Yin had predicted, San Dios's influence became a shadow of its former glory.

Soon after the regions of the Human Domain were separated, Puyu had lured Wendy Yushan to San Dios in an attempt to seize her secret technique while also dealing with Lu Yin. Puyu's bait for Wendy had been the various problems that San Dios had encountered. However, it had been impossible to resolve those issues back then, and the same was true for the present.

"I heard that your Darkstar Gorge has connected with some other forces to deal with the Great Yu Empire. That's a pretty large scale." Liu Shaoge's voice sounded out from behind Puyu while he was sitting atop the tower and staring at the scenery below, looking to be deep in thought.

Puyu did not turn around and merely gave an apathetic reply. "All of our methods are done out in the open, and there's also no opportunity for you to inform Lu Yin of any secrets."

Liu Shaoge did not mind Puyu's mocking, and he moved over to stand beside the councilor. "How do you think Lu Yin will deal with you?"

Puyu frowned. "Networking with other organizations is not a part of my responsibilities. Rather, it's a strategic decision that Darkstar Gorge's headquarters makes. I don't have any authority to make such a decision, so why would he deal with me?"

"I don't know, just call it a premonition." Liu Shaoge shrugged.

Puyu looked at him. "You're completely detestable."

Liu Shaoge blinked. "Is that so? But there are people who say that I'm very nice and kind."

Puyu's eyes narrowed, and his expression turned cold. "If it weren't for my fear of the Daynight clan, I would have killed you long ago. You had best stop prancing about in front of me, or else I might not be able to hold myself back in the future."

At that moment, Vulture approached and respectfully informed Puyu, "My Lord, we can set off now."

Liu Shaoge was stunned. "You're leaving?"

Puyu did not even reply and simply turned to leave.

"Leaving is the right decision. According to my understanding of Lu Yin, you might become the breach that he uses to target Darkstar Gorge, so it's best to keep your distance from him," Liu Shaoge advised.

Puyu turned back to stare at Liu Shaoge. "Are you trying to convince me to stay?"

"No, I'm truly encouraging you to leave," Liu Shaoge said with a serious face.

Puyu's eyes flashed, but he did not reply and quickly left.

Liu Shaoge watched Puyu's departing figure, and his eyes flickered. He appeared to have fallen deep into thought.

Puyu's spacecraft ascended into space, and Liu Shaoge relaxed. This was good. If Puyu stayed alive, then Liu Shaoge would also be fine. But as soon as Puyu died, Liu Shaoge believed that he would also be out of luck based on his understanding of Lu Yin. Lu Yin would not deliver San Dios to a single person, and so, in his mind, it would be best to eradicate the two youths together. As long as Puyu remained alive, he would continue to be useful to Liu Shaoge.

However, in the very next moment, Liu Shaoge saw a figure appear in the sky that caused him to sigh in dismay. It was already too late.

Puyu and Vulture were just about to leave in their vessel that had already risen into the sky, but then, a figure suddenly appeared in their path and blocked their spacecraft.

As he stared at Lu Yin, who was towering before them, Puyu shouted, "Keep going!"

He stepped out of the vessel to confront Lu Yin. "Lu Yin, scram!"

The spacecraft rumbled and continued to fly away from San Dios, but a smile appeared on Lu Yin's face. "Councilor Puyu, where are you headed to in such a hurry?"

"That's none of your business, so get out of the way," Puyu responded coldly as he blocked Lu Yin from approaching the spacecraft.

The vessel changed directions to fly away from the mainland, and at that moment, Lu Yin suddenly moved.

Puyu became furious. "Lu Yin, you're going too far!" His body turned completely metallic as his seven lined battle force appeared. He had absolutely no hesitation in his attack as he lashed out at Lu Yin. But Lu Yin just casually waved a hand, redirecting Puyu's strike towards his own spacecraft and shattering half of it.

The people inside all fell out, and Lu Yin darted around Puyu to grab Vulture.

Puyu bellowed in rage and charged at Lu Yin at his top speed. His arm formed a metal blade that he then used to slash at Lu Yin. Lu Yin raised his right hand, and his Fatesand manifested as a strange clump of dirt that completely blocked Puyu's attack. The resulting shockwave blasted out in all directions with a torrent of wind that swept towards the Prairie Flame Continent.

At this moment, Lu Yin's left hand grabbed a hold of Vulture's arm. "It's been a long time."

Vulture did not try to resist, and he only shouted, "Lord Puyu, save me!"

Puyu snarled, and his seven lined battle force gradually gained a reddish-purple tinge. His battle force had improved, and once it became eight lined battle force, he might be able to rival the top ten of the Top 100 Rankings.

Unfortunately, in the end he still failed, as he was lacking just the smallest amount to reach eight lines.

Lu Yin's eyes flickered, and his left palm slammed into Vulture's chest, causing the youth to slam into the ground of San Dios. Lu Yin's right hand collected his Fatesand and then seven lined battle force also shrouded his fist as he slammed it forward.

Puyu similarly threw out a punch.

Boom!

The intense explosion from the impact caused the sky to tremble, and all of San Dios swayed from the force.

Yue Xianzi, An Shaohua, Ah Fan, and all the other youths who had remained at San Dios appeared, all of them staring at the sky in shock. This sudden battle had startled them, and they had just discovered that Lu Yin was actually in the middle of an intense battle with Puyu.

The two youths were evenly matched in this exchange. Lu Yin possessed a terrifying physical strength, but Puyu had his innate gift of metal. They exchanged multiple blows, but neither one could gain the upper hand.

“Lu Yin, you’re insane! I’m a Outerverse Youth Councilor who was personally appointed by the Ten Arbiters. If you dare to move against me, you will receive the punishment of the Ten Arbiters in the future!” Puyu bellowed. He had discovered that he could not suppress Lu Yin and that this person was able to match up to him even without any external items boosting his strength. Puyu found this hard to believe, as he was an expert who ranked thirteenth on the Top 100 Rankings, and even Wendy Yushan had been forced to rely on her secret technique to fight against him. How could Lu Yin’s cultivation progress be so fast?

Lu Yin did not react to the provocation, and he merely struck out with another fist. Puyu’s arm solidified into metal and formed a sharp hook that he then swung at Lu Yin. Everyone watched on with bated breath as the fist and hook drew closer and closer to each other.

Just as the two were about to collide, Lu Yin waved his left hand. Puyu’s hook missed the fist and slashed nothing more than air, though an enormous black crack had appeared in the void, and to the audience, it looked as if the sky had been torn apart. Puyu’s eyes narrowed. Not good, it’s that secret technique!

He instinctively wanted to move, but he then felt an intense pain from his chest as an overwhelming feeling of being stifled overtook him. He tasted something sweet in his throat and suddenly spat out a mouthful of blood. After that, his limp body crashed down into San Dios, leaving a massive crater at the impact zone.

Yue Xianzi and the others stared at the miserable Puyu at the bottom of the crater in horror, and then they looked back up at Lu Yin, who was standing tall high in the sky with an indifferent expression on his face.

Atop a tower, Liu Shaoge sighed as the fight had already ended. He did not know what excuse Lu Yin was planning to use to explain his actions, but given his personality, he would absolutely have some way to defend himself. Since Lu Yin had taken action, it meant that he had completed all of his preparations. Puyu was done for.

Lu Yin slowly descended to land beside the crater and then coldly looked down at Puyu.

Plop!

Puyu spat out another mouthful of blood as he glared at Lu Yin in fury. "Why are you doing this to me? Lu Yin, you're seeking death! The Ten Arbiters won't let you off! Darkstar Gorge, Vastdearth Sect, and the other forces in the anti-Great Eastern Weave Alliance will not let you off! Your Great Eastern Weave Alliance is just a joke!"

Lu Yin glanced around to check his surroundings, and he quickly noticed Yue Xianzi. Her face went pale, and she dropped her head. He then looked at An Shaohua, who nodded respectfully towards him. Lu Yin next looked over at Ah Fan, who actually bowed. He saw many different people, and after scanning through all of them, he finally looked at the top of the tower and exchanged glances with Liu Shaoge.

Liu Shaoge pulled out a glass of red wine from somewhere and offered Lu Yin a toast from the distance.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed, and an icy glint flashed through them. He then finally shifted his focus onto Vulture.

"It's already been a few years since our last meeting, but that battle is still fresh in my memory," Lu Yin commented indifferently.

Vulture looked at the ground and remained silent.

Puyu frowned. "Lu Yin, what is it that you want?"

Step by step, Lu Yin drew closer to Vulture. Once he was right in front of the youth, he grabbed Vulture's hair. "Don't you know? The person who's been beside you all this time is from the Neohuman Alliance."

At his words, everyone gasped in shock, and they all stared at Vulture.

Puyu barked, "Lu Yin, stop spouting nonsense! You're just trying to ruin my reputation."

"No, see for yourself." Lu Yin grabbed Vulture and forced his head up. A pair of emotionless eyes entered everyone's vision. They were eyes that were completely devoid of blood, and they radiated a gloominess that caused everyone to feel chilled to the bone.

Puyu stared at Vulture in disbelief, as he had never seen these eyes in his companion before. He was very familiar with this trusted aide, but this gaze made him feel like a complete stranger.

"So, back then, you didn't kill me... all to wait... for this day?" Vulture spoke slowly in a voice that sounded completely different from when he conversed with Puyu.

He had been no different from any other normal person when he spoke with Puyu, and his tone had been filled with humility and respect. But at this moment, his voice sounded unsteady and also a bit hoarse. He sounded like he had just learned how to use his voice.

He was a Corpse King from the Neohuman Alliance, and the current Vulture's eyes had transformed into scarlet eyes with vertical pupils.

A terrible chill ran along his arm, and a black ice completely froze Lu Yin.

With a boom, Vulture whirled around to kick the frozen Lu Yin aside as his scarlet pupils scanned over everyone present. Finally, he looked at Puyu. "Too bad... you... pawn."

Puyu's eyes constricted. "A Corpse King?"

There was a thump, and the sturdy ice shattered. Lu Yin lunged towards Vulture once again, and this time, Vulture's clothes tore apart to reveal firm muscles. He then turned around to throw a punch at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin had never underestimated Vulture. Back when they had fought for the Giant Emperor's third eye, Vulture had used nothing more than his physical body to fight against Lu Yin. He had a very powerful body, but Corpse Kings also had the special characteristic of being able to consume energy crystals to create and then further bolster their innate gifts. This person's black sturdy ice was strong enough that even Lu Yin had to fear its cold.

With a thump, the wild wind swept across all of San Dios, and Vulture was blown a hundred meters away by Lu Yin's punch despite both of his legs being deeply embedded into the ground. Lu Yin's hand also started to freeze over.

With a whoosh, Vulture charged forward again, this time with both hands raised. A cold, black stream of ice covered the sky, and it looked as if Vulture was trying to seal off all of San Dios in his ice. The sky above San Dios turned black.

Lu Yin frowned and completely unsealed all three grains of Fatesand. His eyes widened as his figure suddenly vanished. He then suddenly appeared in front of Vulture after moving at his quickest speed and slammed a powerful punch straight into Vulture's abdomen. The blow pierced straight through Vulture's body, and a second, follow-up punch struck off Vulture's head.

The flow of black ice disappeared, but the crowd was still trembling from the scene that they had just witnessed. Vulture had completely died, as not even a Corpse King could possibly survive being decapitated.

Lu Yin clenched his fist. Vulture had not been too strong, and if not for his innate gift of black ice, it would have been even easier to deal with him, especially since Lu Yin could even deal with Transformed Corpse Kings.

Of the Neohuman Alliance experts that Lu Yin had encountered so far, those who could not perform a Corpse King Transformation were not able to stand up to Lu Yin at all. Even though the Top 100 Rankings did not include any individuals from the Three Dark Hands, Lu Yin felt certain that, with his current strength, he could be considered as a top-tier talent even if those hidden forces were included. This was despite the fact that he was still just an Explorer.

Puyu's face went as pale as possible. Vulture was actually from the Neohuman Alliance, and he had followed Puyu for very long. There was no way to dispute this fact. Puyu's entire body trembled at this moment, precisely because he understood how the Hall of Honor handled such situations.

Chapter 663: Puyu's Death

Lu Yin walked over to the crater where Puyu lay and calmly said, "What explanation do you have for yourself? I already told Arbiter Wen about this matter before, and he asked me not to spread the news. He's already confirmed that Darkstar Gorge is colluding with the Neohuman Alliance."

Puyu shouted, "This is slander! It's my own fault that I didn't realize that Vulture was from the Neohuman Alliance, but this is in no way related to Darkstar Gorge! If Arbiter Wen had truly discovered

any evidence that Darkstar Gorge was colluding with the Neohuman Alliance, he would have already taken action.”

“Why do you think Arbiter Wen didn’t take action himself? He was seeking out more secrets related to Darkstar Gorge. Puyu, stop trying to defend yourself,” Lu Yin coldly reprimanded. It didn’t matter whether or not Wen Sansi had managed to uncover any evidence of Darkstar Gorge colluding with the Neohuman Alliance since the Outerverse was still cut off from the Innerverse. Nobody would be able to prove whether or not Lu Yin’s words were true, and furthermore, Vulture had already been proven to be a Corpse King, and this fact alone was sufficient to verify everything that Lu Yin was claiming.

Puyu grew furious. “Lu Yin, don’t try to deal with Darkstar Gorge by pinning the crime of colluding with the Neohuman Alliance onto us!” His battle force burst forth, and it even started turning into a reddish-purple color. Under everyone’s surprised gaze, it stabilized, showing that Puyu had achieved eight lined battle force at this moment.

After achieving eight lined battle force, Puyu suddenly appeared in front of Lu Yin.

“Die!” He punched at Lu Yin, and his attack was enough to cause space itself to distort, as this was an attack with eight lined battle force.

Lu Yin’s eyes flashed, and he dodged the attack with the Secret Sidestep Technique. Before anything else could happen, the sky split apart, and a middle aged man walked out. He seized Puyu’s arm, and his terrifying amount of star energy caused Puyu to collapse and even his battle force disintegrated. This person was an Enlighter realm powerhouse.

Nobody had expected an Enlighter to suddenly appear.

Only Lu Yin had known that this person was coming, as he was the expert who the Hall of Honor had sent over as a witness. Elder Lohar had told Lu Yin that he would send someone over, and he had arrived during Lu Yin’s fight against Puyu. There was no way to hide this man’s rune lines when they were this many.

The Enlighter easily defeated and restrained Puyu, leaving the youth unable to retaliate in any way. This was due to the difference between their realms, and this was also the reason why Lu Yin’s record was so impressive, as he had actually killed an Enlighter.

Enlighters were cultivators who could influence the entire Outerverse. Even the top ten in the Top 100 Rankings weren’t able to defeat an Enlighter, let alone someone like Puyu. Out of the entire younger generation, it was likely that only the Ten Arbiters were capable of defeating an Enlighter.

Lu Yin’s reputation had been built by his victories over Enlighters, and this was precisely why he was despised by so many Enlighters.

After the Enlighter captured Puyu, Lu Yin casually waved his hand and caused the eight lined battle force attack that Puyu had unleashed against Lu Yin to disappear and land on the incapacitated councilor instead. He was being restrained by the Enlighter, and his battle force had dissipated, and so his body was completely unable to withstand his own attack. His organs shattered, and he spat out a mouthful of blood along with some of his innards. His body went limp except for a sporadic convulsion.

Even the Enlighter powerhouse wasn't able to respond to Lu Yin's sudden attack against Puyu due to the secret technique that Lu Yin had used.

It was difficult for even Enlighter powerhouses to dodge attacks that were employed through secret techniques, and this was how Lu Yin had remained certain that he could threaten an Enlighter.

The middle aged man released his hand, and Puyu continued convulsing even after crumpling to the floor. Even Lu Yin wouldn't want to try defending against an attack with eight lined battle force without any support, let alone a person with a weaker physique such as Puyu.

After watching Puyu suffer for a moment, the middle aged Enlighter slowly turned around to look at Lu Yin. "He had already been restrained. There was no need for you to attack him."

Lu Yin respectfully answered, "That was my fault. His attack threatened my life, and so, I retaliated reflexively. I'm sorry, Senior."

The middle aged man looked closely at Lu Yin. If Puyu died, he would become an accomplice as well. Puyu wouldn't have been forced into his current state and would have been able to defend against the attack if the Enlighter hadn't dispersed his eight lined battle force. "You are truly aggressive and ruthless, just like the rumors."

Lu Yin could detect the man's dissatisfaction and helplessly said, "Senior, when I was still a Sentinel, this person humiliated me and even encouraged someone to steal my fiancée away from me. If I hadn't taken prompt action, my reputation would have been destroyed back then. This person has moved against me countless times. You can verify that to be true, Senior."

After listening to Lu Yin's words, the middle aged man was shocked. "No wonder."

His gaze then softened. "In that case, don't worry about it and leave him be. He's nothing more than a traitor who's worked with the Neohuman Alliance. You've done a good job, as anyone who cooperates with the Neohuman Alliance must be removed."

"I understand. Don't worry, Senior, I will definitely help with the investigation of Darkstar Gorge," Lu Yin said respectfully.

The middle aged man's gaze suddenly turned cold. "Investigation? There's no need for you to do such a thing. The Hall of Honor has its own methods." And with that, he disappeared into the sky.

Lu Yin heaved a sigh of relief. Darkstar Gorge was doomed now. Previously, when Elder Lohar had learned that the people from the Shenwu Empire had been working with the Neohuman Alliance, his initial reaction had been to destroy the entire Shenwu Continent. Lu Yin knew quite clearly how the Hall of Honor would act and that Darkstar Gorge wouldn't be given a chance to defend themselves, which was precisely why he wasn't worried.

Lu Yin walked over to Puyu and bent down to look at him.

Puyu's eyes were filled with blood, and he was convulsing on the ground. There was blood flowing out from the corner of his mouth, and everything about him looked pitiful.

"Bazeer humiliated me on your order back at Zenyu Star. I've already dealt with him, so now, it's your turn," Lu Yin coldly told him.

Puyu spat out a mouthful of blood and looked at Lu Yin with a vengeful expression. “Yo- you- you already knew that he was a Corpse King! You’ve slandered me! You’ll die a horrible death! You’ll die a horrible death!”

“Back then, you were so much more powerful than me that all it took was a single order from you to cause Bazeer to humiliate me and make my life miserable. Why didn’t you think about what would eventually happen to you back then? It’s your own fault that you ended up like this.” Lu Yin then continued, saying, “Besides, Darkstar Gorge doesn’t have to exist anymore since they wanted to oppose me. They want to stop the formation of the Great Eastern Alliance? What a joke.”

Puyu screamed desperately. He then spat out a mouthful of black blood and died.

Lu Yin stood up, and his expression became complicated. Puyu had been one of his greatest enemies throughout his cultivation journey. When Bazeer had shown up on Zenyu Star, it had already been set in stone that only one of them could survive in the end. Six years had passed since then, but the matter was finally over.

Actually, Puyu wasn’t even Lu Yin’s greatest enemy. His true greatest enemy was one of the Ten Arbiters, or possibly even a few of them. His enemy was the person who had given the order that had led to the loss of seventy two lives just because of their surname. Beyond that, Lu Yin also had also Nightking Qingyu, who had triggered the apocalypse on Earth and caused the planet to fall into a dire situation. There was also Old Gu De who had delayed their passage when they had tried to cross the Astral River. Then there was the Xun family from the Inverse and many more. Lu Yin would collect his debts from every single person who had ever wronged him.

Puyu’s death meant that East San Dios now had a huge problem as there were only two councilors left in this half of the Outerverse Youth Council: namely, Liu Shaoge and Wendy Yushan. Since Wendy Yushan stayed at the Great Yu Empire most of the time, Liu Shaoge was essentially the only person left in a position of authority.

Barley approached Lu Yin and respectfully said, “Representative Lu, Bazeer has committed suicide.”

Lu Yin nodded his head, but he didn’t ask any questions. “What has Liu Shaoge been up to lately?”

“Nothing special. San Dios doesn’t have much influence over the Outerverse powers anymore, so he really hasn’t been doing much of anything,” Barley answered in a respectful tone.

Lu Yin glanced at the tower and locked eyes with Liu Shaoge. Lu Yin’s body then flashed as he disappeared.

Yue Xianzi and the others stared at Puyu’s corpse, which was still on the ground. He had been ranked thirteenth on the Top 100 Rankings, but he had still died such a tragic death. Lu Yin was a truly scary person.

Inside the tower, Liu Shaoge retrieved a bottle of wine from his cosmic ring and poured out two glasses.

Lu Yin soon appeared in front of him.

“Brother Lu, congratulations on eliminating your enemy.” Liu Shaoge passed one of the glasses of wine to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin took the offered glass. “I’ve tried this once before on Earth. It’s quite good.”

“We’re both from Earth, so we should help each other out, no?” Liu Shaoge took a sip with a smile.

Lu Yin laughed. “We are on two different paths. I don’t care about where you come from—I only care about who my enemy is.”

“Brother Lu, do you believe that I’m your enemy or your friend?” Liu Shaoge set his glass down as he questioned Lu Yin.

Lu Yin set his glass down as well. “What do you think?”

“It feels as though Brother Lu is unfriendly towards me,” Liu Shaoge replied.

Lu Yin glanced at Liu Shaoge. “You’re a smart person, so do you have any last words? I can help you deliver your words to Earth. Oh, right. I can also make sure that you’re buried on Earth.”

Liu Shaoge laughed and stared off into the distance. He then raised a hand with his palm facing downwards, moving as if his hand could grasp the entire world. “Do you remember that I once asked you a question when you first arrived at San Dios? I want to ask you that same question once again: what do you see, Brother Lu?”

Lu Yin frowned. “I don’t have time for this.”

Liu Shaoge sighed. “It would seem that Brother Lu’s heart is still not big enough to forgive people.”

“Well, it depends on the person. There’s no point in forgiving someone who betrayed Earth as well as his own people,” Lu Yin retorted.

“What if I can help you with more matters? For example, the Daynight clan.” Liu Shaoge turned to look at Lu Yin with a heated gaze.

Lu Yin was intrigued by this offer. “What do you mean?”

Liu Shaoge smirked. “Brother Lu, don’t you think that it would be good if you had a spy inside of the Daynight clan? The Inniverse and Outerverse will not remain separated for long, and what you have done in the Outerverse definitely won’t be accepted by the Inniverse’s major forces. You have already interfered with their profits, especially with the formation of the Great Eastern Alliance. You’re trying to help the Outerverse overcome the suppression of the Inniverse, but you’re playing a dangerous game.”

“I just want to unite the Outerverse so that it can defend itself against enemies.”

“Your enemy is the Inniverse.”

“No, it’s the Astral Beast Domain.”

Liu Shaoge smiled. “For now, maybe. But what about in the future? A united Outerverse is not something that the Inniverse will tolerate. Brother Lu, you will inevitably end up opposing the

Innervers, and as long as I am the representative of the Daynight clan within the Outervers Youth Council, Arbiter Zhenwu will trust me. Don't you think that I can help you with many different matters?"

"For example?" Lu Yin looked at him.

Liu Shaoge didn't answer and merely smiled. He was too careful and would never say certain things aloud.

Lu Yin stared at Liu Shaoge. "It's possible that you'll be able to help me in the future, but it's also certain that you'll cause me a great deal of trouble. You're like a venomous snake, capable of hurting both me and my enemies."

"Brother Lu, you could try to tame me," Liu Shaoge replied.

Lu Yin shook his head. "What you've said so far has already proven that you're not confident in being able to escape. Now that the Outervers is cut off from the Innervers, you no longer have Arbiter Zhenwu's support, which means that you're nothing more than an ant to me. I can just send you back to Earth, where I'll find a good place to bury you."

Chapter 664: Liu Shaoge's Ability

Liu Shaoge helplessly leaned against the wall as he looked down at Puyu's corpse below the tower. "Too late by a single step. As soon as the so-called anti-Great Eastern Alliance appeared, I should have urged Puyu to leave. If he hadn't died, I wouldn't have had to die either."

Lu Yin slowly raised a hand. "You are very astute."

"I'm more than that." Liu Shaoge's lips curled upwards as he raised his gadget. "Brother Lu, take a look at this."

Lu Yin glanced over, and his expression instantly changed. "Six Honor Points? How did you get them?" He was truly astonished, as his Honor Points had not come easily. He had obtained his first point from his contributions to the battle at Erudite Flowzone's border warfront and the second one from winning the Tournament of the Strongest. Four more had been earned during the life and death battles of Ironblood Weave, and his final five had been given due to his qualification to enter the Daosource Sect. Elder Lohar had made an exception to give Lu Yin so many points, but each and every single one of his Honor Points had come to him after great effort. What had Liu Shaoge done to gain six?

"I didn't want to expose this at first, but Brother Lu has revealed his killing intent, and it wouldn't do for me not to reveal them." Liu Shaoge obviously felt that it was a pity to reveal his points.

Lu Yin stared at Liu Shaoge. "Even if you have six Honor Points, I will still kill you without question."

"Why? Isn't Brother Lu afraid of the Hall of Honor?" Liu Shaoge challenged.

Lu Yin was about to speak when his heart suddenly trembled. "The Hall of Honor is the supreme master of the Human Domain, and it maintains the balance within the Human Domain. It will not interfere in the struggles between the various powers and will only act to safeguard the lives of those who have at least eleven Honor Points. Six points is not enough for the Hall of Honor to take action."

Liu Shaoge smiled. "The circumstances are currently different. Since the Innerverse and Outerverse are separated, to the Hall of Honor, anybody who has Honor Points should be protected. Brother Lu, you can't be considering opposing the Hall of Honor, right?"

Lu Yin solemnly said, "I have great respect for the Hall of Honor."

"Hahaha, Brother Lu, you are very smart," Liu Shaoge laughed. Beside him, a figure stepped out of the void. It was the Enlighter who had left earlier.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. "Greetings, Senior."

The middle-aged man grunted as he looked at Lu Yin. "Liu Shaoge is right. The current circumstances of the Outerverse have become different. Six Honor Points are enough to show that he has made contributions to the Human Domain. Little brother, let him go on behalf of my Hall of Honor."

Lu Yin replied, "Since Senior has spoken, this junior will naturally comply."

The middle-aged man smiled and nodded. He then looked at Liu Shaoge and his expression turned cold. "The Hall of Honor is not something for you to make use of. As punishment, one of your Honor Points will be deducted."

Liu Shaoge replied immediately and respectfully, "Yes, this junior will accept Senior's punishment."

The middle-aged man glanced at the two of them once more before leaving.

After his departure, Lu Yin and Liu Shaoge stared at one another for a moment, and then they laughed together.

Lu Yin was amused by Liu Shaoge's intelligence, as well as his quick reactions. Liu Shaoge's words had been aimed to provoke Lu Yin into saying something critical of the Hall of Honor, which would cause the hall to become dissatisfied with him. Fortunately, Lu Yin had reacted just as fast; when he saw the majestic rune lines appear, he had immediately changed tact and used words filled with respect for the Hall of Honor. Otherwise, even if that Enlighter had no authority to punish Lu Yin, such behavior definitely would have sowed seeds of dissatisfaction in his heart.

Liu Shaoge was very intelligent, as he had used the Honor Points to both protect himself and also plot against Lu Yin at the same time.

This was also why that Enlighter had punished Liu Shaoge.

Liu Shaoge kept smiling at how he had managed to preserve his life. "Brother Lu, you must be disappointed."

Lu Yin indifferently replied, "There'll be more opportunities in the future. We can consider this time a draw."

Liu Shaoge marvelled at his companion. "Brother Lu's truly smart. I will have to be exceptionally careful when dealing with Brother Lu in the future."

"Then you'll have to pay attention. Next time, it won't be so easy for you to escape death." Lu Yin waved a hand and turned to leave the tower.

"Brother Lu, my words are still valid, so think about it. You will definitely require some helpers if you intend to become enemies with the Innerverse." Liu Shaoge laughed.

Lu Yin's eyes glinted. Enemies with the Innerverse? Right now, the Innerverse is probably fighting against the Sixth Mainland's invasion. By the time the Innerverse and Outerverse reconnect, who knows which of those Innerverse organizations will still exist.

Lu Yin had experienced Liu Shaoge's methods several times, and so, he did not find it too surprising that the man had managed to escape death this time. Lu Yin had actually thought that Liu Shaoge would escape or something similar, but he never imagined that the other Earthling would have also received the Hall of Honor's protection, or that he would try to drag Lu Yin down with him.

Liu Shaoge had captured Arbiter Zhenwu's attention with his status as an Earthling, and he had even been chosen to represent the Daynight clan as a Outerverse Youth Councilor, which was something that even the descendants of various great powers from the Innerverse could not achieve, and yet, Liu Shaoge had managed to do it. This made Lu Yin even more cautious of the man.

Despite being unable to kill Liu Shaoge this time, Lu Yin publicly announced that East San Dios would be sealed off with his status as a substitute councilor, which temporarily stopped the exchanges between the Outerverse Youth Council and the various weaves of the Outerverse.

The moment the Innerverse and Outerverse became separated, East San Dios had lost almost all of its importance. Still, Lu Yin's decision affected quite a few of the Outerverse powers.

Liu Shaoge did not show much of a reaction to the announcement, and nobody knew what he was actually thinking.

Those like Yue Xianzi sought out Lu Yin.

"Brother Lu, if you seal off East San Dios, what's going to happen to us?" Yue Xianzi asked.

Lu Yin smiled at her. "Come back with me to the Great Yu Empire."

Yue Xianzi's gaze flashed. "You want us to become your underlings?"

Lu Yin laughed. "You can treat the Great Yu Empire as the Outerverse Youth Council. Just act like I'm still a representative and like you guys are all my subordinates."

"I'll go." An Shaohua was the first to agree. He had already committed himself to casting his lot in with Lu Yin back in Ironblood Weave, though he had not been able to meet with Lu Yin due to various mishaps. Thus, this time, he wanted to cling to Lu Yin's thighs.

Ah Fan naturally agreed as well, as Lu Yin had been the one who had sent him to East San Dios in the first place.

Barley also agreed, but Lu Yin did not take him away. "If you also leave, who's going to take care of San Dios?"

Barley was puzzled. "Isn't San Dios sealed?"

Lu Yin looked at the tower. "I have the authority to seal San Dios, but Liu Shaoge is an actual councilor, and he has the authority to reopen San Dios whenever he wishes. I need you to remain here and keep an eye on him."

"Understood," Barley replied.

Yue Xianzi looked at Lu Yin. "If we go back to the Great Yu Empire with you, what sort of positions will you arrange for us?"

Lu Yin had not considered this question, as sealing San Dios had been an unplanned decision.

He looked at Yue Xianzi, An Shaohua, and the others, and as he did so, he discovered that they had all become Explorers. Of special note were Yue Xianzi and An Shaohua, as he could see an enormous number of rune lines from them that surpassed what he saw on most Cruisers. It was clear to him that they were both Realmbreaker Explorers. One was the young sect leader of the Frostmoon Sect while the other was the young master of Watermoon Villa, so their personal talent and capabilities were certainly not simple.

"Come back with me to the Great Yu Empire and join the First Squadron. I'm the captain."

Yue Xianzi and An Shaohua exchanged glances, and they both quickly agreed without much further consideration, as staying behind in San Dios was not of much use to either of them.

"There's still me! There's still me!" Zhao Ran frantically ran over from nearby, and she stared at Lu Yin emotionally, but then, she suddenly fell down with a thump. When she stood up, she seemed confused. "Where am I?"

Lu Yin was speechless, and he now recalled that this girl who kept losing her memory was here as well. He had sympathized with her due to her affliction and taken her to San Dios.

Lu Yin walked in front of Zhao Ran and crouched down to look at her in amusement.

Zhao Ran also looked back at Lu Yin, and her large eyes blinked at him in a cute manner.

Lu Yin pointed at the pendant hanging from her necklace on her chest. Wendy Yushan had mentioned this to him before. Zhao Ran had saved some of her memories inside of the pendant's chip that hung on her necklace. There was also a piece of paper inside the pendant where she had written down some of her memories.

Zhao Ran glanced at the paper. "Ah! I remember now—you're a good person!"

Lu Yin helped her stand up. "What were you just trying to say?"

Zhao Ran was completely lost. "What?"

Lu Yin was stumped. "Never mind. How about I take you with me to my home?"

"Good person, wherever you go, I'll follow. I'm just Rotten Trash, and I often lose my memory." Zhao Ran spoke in embarrassment.

This girl was completely pitiful, much like an abandoned cat. Lu Yin decided to either settle her down in King Zishan's palace or send her over to the Princess's residence.

He headed out from San Dios, this time traveling with a bit of luggage.

When Lu Yin arrived at Zenyu Star, Elder Lohar sent him a message saying that he had not been able to find any evidence of Darkstar Gorge colluding with the Neohuman Alliance. Then, he reprimanded Lu Yin for being too heavy-handed. He also mentioned that Lu Yin should have captured Puyu for interrogation.

Lu Yin lowered his gadget. Captured for interrogating? That was impossible, as everyone could see that Darkstar Gorge most likely had not colluded with the Neohuman Alliance, as Puyu would not have been foolish enough to keep a Corpse King like Vulture next to him if that were the case. This was also one of the reasons why Wen Sansi had not acted before, but the Hall of Honor was different. To them, anyone who had even a trace of a connection with the Neohuman Alliance—even the slightest of traces—would have to be completely eradicated, unless the person was someone truly important.

Shenwu Continent had been seen in this way, and Darkstar Gorge was no different. Elder Lohar was just reprimanding Lu Yin for being too quick to act, but it was nothing more than that.

As for Darkstar Gorge, it no longer existed.

The moment Vulture had revealed his true identity, Darkstar Gorge had already been sentenced to death.

The Hall of Honor's methods were so harsh that people would tremble just at the thought of them. Lu Yin stared at the night sky and contemplated his situation. He currently held value to the Hall of Honor, and so, they would protect and be partial towards him. If, one day, his value to them disappeared, then considering the Hall of Honor's methods, they would not even hesitate for a moment to erase him. They would not even stop there, as they would include the Great Yu Empire and everyone who could be implicated in any way to him as well.

The Hall of Honor's methods of accomplishing their goals were a hundred times more ruthless than anything that Lu Yin would ever consider. They were the undisputed master of the Human Domain, and while they did not usually act, as soon as they made a move, that was the end.

In the eyes of the Hall of Honor, Darkstar Gorge was not even worth considering, and neither was the Great Yu Empire.

The Neohuman Alliance represented darkness while the Hall of Honor represented light. However, in Lu Yin's eyes, both organizations were fundamentally the same, as they both had the power to seize and kill.

Lu Yin suddenly felt a hint of urgency that came from both the Sixth Mainland as well as the Hall of Honor.

In the main hall of the Vastdearth Sect, many elders were holding an intent discussion. Sect Leader Meng Tianlong was not present, as he had returned to visit the sealed area within the sect, though he

still had not received any reply from the Elder. The sect elders did not hold much hope towards their ancestor.

When Meng Tianlong returned to the sect headquarters, the crowd of elders had already gone silent, and none of them were speaking.

“It seems that the elders gathered here have made a decision. Tell me,” Meng Tianlong spoke solemnly as he glanced around the hall at all of the elders before his eyes finally settled on Elder Angio.

Elder Angio coughed once and then sighed. “Leader, we elders have unanimously agreed that we should join the Great Eastern Alliance.”

Meng Tianlong did not find this decision unexpected. News of Darkstar Gorge being destroyed had spread to the sect the day before yesterday; the strongest power of Adonis Weave had been extinguished that easily. Lu Yin had even personally killed the youth ranked thirteenth on the Top 100 Rankings: Councilor Puyu of the Outerverse Youth Council.

Everyone had heard of Lu Yin’s reputation, and his battle record was the fundamental reason behind the Vastdearth Sect’s hesitation. As for his personal strength, they had no concept of it whatsoever before, but now, they were starting to understand him better.

Chapter 665: Initial Establishment Of The Alliance

Darkstar Gorge had recently organized some of the other Outerverse powers to resist the formation of the Great Eastern Alliance, but the great power itself had been plucked off just like that. Although its destruction was carried out by the Hall of Honor, it had still been a result of Lu Yin’s actions. Darkstar Gorge had been an enormous power that had existed for countless years, but one youth’s actions had exterminated like a lightning strike from the blue. This sudden change had completely terrified the Vastdearth Sect’s elders, and it wasn’t just them who were intimidated. In fact, all of the allied forces that had been led by Darkstar Gorge were scared.

Nobody knew who Lu Yin’s next target might be. Since the Inniverse and Outerverse were currently separated, the Outerverse was responsible for its own order and governing. At this moment, Lu Yin was the person who was determining the overall order of things.

“Since the gathered elders have all agreed, I as the sect master will not oppose this decision. As such, our Vastdearth Sect will confirm our participation in the Great Eastern Alliance,” Meng Tianlong said.

The various elders revealed ugly expressions. Some looked bitter while others appeared helpless.

Bard Weave was rather close to Darkmist Weave, and it also bordered the Astral River. Additionally, it had 103 filaments and was not too far away from Frostwave Weave.

Evenground Palace was the strongest power within Bard Weave. Back when Lu Yin had first returned to the Great Yu Empire after participating in the Outerverse’s trial, the Great Yu Empire had faced the Ross Empire’s aggression. At that time, Lu Yin had used the promise that he had received from Evenground Palace’s Young Mistress Doro to have Evenground Palace speak out in defense of the Great Yu Empire, which had allowed the empire to resist the Ross Empire’s attack. Also, that had not been the only instance where Evenground Palace had had contact with the Great Yu Empire.

Young Mistress Doro had also reached out to Lu Yin once before.

At first, when the Great Yu Empire had expressed its desire to establish the Great Eastern Alliance, Evenground Palace had not agreed to join the alliance. What's more, it had even conveniently followed along under the leadership of Darkstar Gorge to oppose the creation of the Great Eastern Alliance. Nobody had expected that Darkstar Gorge would be extinguished in the blink of an eye, and the members of Evenground Palace were now all acting frantic.

"Mistress, please make a final decision as soon as possible." More than ten women were seated in the main hall of Evenground Palace. Evenground Palace had some similarities to the Inniverse's Frostmoon Sect, but there was a key difference: the Frostmoon Sect exclusively accepted women whereas Evenground Palace merely had an overwhelming majority of females, though there were also a few men present. Still, both the sect's leader and heir were female.

Evenground Palace Mistress Mu Nichang was beautiful, and her expression remained calm and cool even in these difficult circumstances, giving off the impression that she considered herself to be above the common populace. "Send Doro in."

The more than ten elders present exchanged glances.

"Mistress, Doro may be the Young Mistress, but she is not yet qualified to participate in such discussions," one elder said.

Mu Nichang replied, "Doro has been in touch with Lu Yin before."

The other elders no longer opposed her request.

Soon after, Doro stepped into the hall. Lu Yin had met this girl once before, but she had not left a deep impression on him. They had met back at the Tower of Resonating Light, but too many trial takers had been trapped there, and although she was indeed one of the people who Lu Yin had saved, she had merely been one of the crowd, and her appearance was not one that had stood out.

"Doro, tell us your impressions of Lu Yin," Mu Nichang said calmly.

All of the elders looked over at Doro.

Doro respectfully answered, "Your disciple has been in contact with Lu Yin only once, but just that gave me a deep impression of him. To describe him in one sentence..." She paused for a moment to consider her answer before continuing. "He is someone who will act only for his own benefits."

"What do you mean?" one elder asked.

Doro explained her thoughts, saying, "This person places his personal gains above all else. Back at the Tower of Resonating Light, an entire group of trial takers was trapped, but Lu Yin made everyone sign promissory notes before he agreed to rescue us. Your disciple believes that if the group back then had been unwilling to sign those notes, he definitely would not have saved us."

"Any other thoughts?" Mu Nichang asked.

Doro thought for another moment and then replied, "He acts ruthlessly, and while he is extraordinarily talented, he is a bit lawless."

The crowd of elders fell silent, as this description matched up with their understanding of Lu Yin. If not for his extraordinarily high talent, then how could he have become the strongest Limiteer in the universe who could completely crush all his peers in both the Inniverse and the Outerverse. If not for his ruthless behavior, then how would he dare to kill Enlighters? If he was not lawless and out of control, then why would he try to establish the Great Eastern Alliance?

From their perspectives, Lu Yin was someone who possessed extraordinary talent, but at the same time, was a mad junior who had ruthless methods. It just so happened that this insane person possessed an ability that resonated with his ambition, which was most distressing.

“Alright, you may leave,” Mu Nichang said.

Doro respectfully withdrew from the hall.

“Elders, any thoughts?” Mu Nichang asked.

The person to the sect master’s immediate left was an elder called Meiya. “Mistress, Darkstar Gorge has been destroyed, and I do not wish for our Evenground Palace to follow in their footsteps.”

“Elder Meiya, that’s a bit exaggerated. Darkstar Gorge was destroyed because Puyu cooperated with the Neohuman Alliance. Our Evenground Palace does not have any such associations with the Neohuman Alliance,” an elder countered.

Elder Meiya sneered. “Puyu cooperated with the Neohuman Alliance? Let me ask everyone here: who seriously believes that?”

The crowd of elders exchanged glances, and everyone helplessly shook their heads. Nobody believed such a thing, and the Hall of Honor also had not found any evidence to support the allegations that Darkstar Gorge had colluded with the Neohuman Alliance. Even still, Darkstar Gorge had been completely eliminated.

“From what I know, Lu Yin made contact with that Corpse King called Vulture in the past, and that was even a few years ago. Everyone, Lu Yin already knew that Vulture was a Corpse King many years ago, but he never exposed him. This person’s schemes are deep beyond measure, and he was able to use just Vulture to destroy all of Darkstar Gorge. Nobody knows if he has similar chess pieces planted in other organizations that will allow him to topple an entire force,” Elder Meiya said.

After they heard these words, the rest of the crowd felt a chill run down their spines.

Mu Nichang’s eyes flashed. “Does that mean that Elder Meiya favors joining the Great Eastern Alliance?”

“Yes, I agree,” Elder Meiya said gloomily.

Mu Nichang turned to the others. “What about the other elders?”

The other elders looked at each other and then also replied helplessly, “Agreed,”

“Agreed...”

Nobody opposed the suggestion, as the more they came to understand Lu Yin, the more afraid they became of him. This person could not be measured by the standards they normally used for other juniors, as he was a genius who transcended time.

“Very well, since all of the elders have agreed that we should join the alliance, then as the Sect Mistress, I hereby formally announce that Evenground Palace will join the Great Eastern Alliance. Send someone to immediately contact the Great Yu Empire,” Mu Nichang declared.

In Flaxen Weave, the strongest power there was the Tri-Banner Federation. The weave bordered the Lars Weave and was situated to its west.

When the news of Darkstar Gorge being destroyed spread to the Flaxen Weave, the former chairman of the Tri-Banner Federation, Gibu, gathered a group of people and approached the area where the people from Northline Flowzone were staying. They then requested to have an audience with the person in charge of Northline Flowzone’s matters in the weave. However, as soon as they arrived, they were informed that everyone from Northline Flowzone had left and that they had also taken the Tri-Banner Federation’s star crystals, star essence, and many other resources with them.

Many members of the Tri-Banner Federation angrily condemned the people of the Northline Flowzone, but they also did not dare to give chase. Despite everything, Northline Flowzone was an Inverse power, and they also had Granny Chan with them, who was an Enlightener. The people of the Tri-Banner Federation would not dare to make enemies with such a group even if they borrowed courage from someone else.

“Chairman Gibu, since Northline Flowzone’s people have all left, our Tri-Banner Federation hopes that you will reassume the position of chairman and negotiate with the Great Yu Empire.”

“That’s right, Lord Gibu, please start negotiations with the Great Yu Empire.”

...

Gibu looked at the crowd with satisfaction and smiled. “Everyone, the Northline Flowzone’s people have all left, and our Tri-Banner Federation has now regained its freedom, which means that everything is once again democratic. Since everyone wishes for me, Gibu, to negotiate with the Great Yu Empire, then we will first need to vote on our federation’s position. Are we going to join the Great Eastern Alliance or not?”

The gathered members did not hesitate at all. “Yes, we will definitely join them.”

“Definitely.”

“We will join.”

Compared to the other powers such as Evenground Palace or the Vastdearth Sect, the Tri-Banner Federation was much more relaxed, and the members did not really place much importance on concepts like honor or shame. After all, they all came from different places and had only gathered together, so their sense of belonging to the federation was not as strong as what sect members would feel. Surviving was more important than anything else to these people.

Darkstar Gorge had been wiped out, and these people did not want to follow in their footsteps.

Gibu acknowledged their words, which made things too easy for him. He had long since made contact with the Great Yu Empire's people as his own secrets were held by the Great Yu Empire. Although it was a cooperation born from intimidation, as long as he was able to convince the Tri-Banner Federation to join the alliance, the position of the Tri-Banner Federation Chairman would continue to belong to him. This had been personally promised by the Great Yu Empire's Royal Regent, and Gibu could already see himself sitting back in the seat of the chairman and the associated scene.

On the Great Yu Empire's Zenyu Star, within King Zishan's palace, En Ya urgently sought an audience with Lu Yin.

Lu Yin had been in the middle of a discussion with Yue Xianzi. He had originally intended to have this woman teach lessons to the empire's elites at the Yu Academy, but she was completely unwilling, as she looked down on the Great Yu Empire's "elites."

This was not the first time such a matter had occurred, as even Wendy Yushan looked down upon the youths in the Yu Academy. It was very normal for the heirs of the Innaverse's organizations to have such attitudes, but it still left Lu Yin unhappy. From his perspective, this woman still had not fixed her attitude.

"Have you forgotten that the Innaverse and Outerverse are separated and that you can only stay in the Great Yu Empire for now?" Lu Yin said solemnly.

Yue Xianzi snorted, still as arrogant as a peacock. "When my sect ordered me to go to San Dios and look for you, it was only done to maintain relations between us. Don't think that I am actually forced to rely on you."

"Your sect is gone, gone forever. You're just another independent cultivator now." Lu Yin was not in a good mood.

Yue Xianzi raised her head high. "Our Frostmoon Sect has roots in the Outerverse. I'm no independent cultivator."

Lu Yin's head ached.

Kayze saw that En Ya had arrived, and he was about to speak when he suddenly heard Lu Yin's words in his ear. He gestured for En Ya to enter the palace.

En Ya hurriedly entered King Zishan's palace and spoke to Lu Yin. "Your Highness, good news! The Vastdearth Sect, Evenground Palace, Tri-Banner Federation, and other various powers, both great and small, have all contacted the empire at the same time. They have each indicated their willingness to join the Great Eastern Alliance."

Lu Yin was delighted. "Really? That's great!"

En Ya smiled. “Your Highness indeed has his ways. You were right—these powers are just sheep. Once we took care of the wolf leading them, the rest fell into line to be slaughtered.”

Lu Yin shook his head. “Not anymore. Now, we are the wolves, and we won’t slaughter them, haha!”

“Your Highness is right.” En Ya smiled, and her emotions turned a bit complicated as she looked at Lu Yin at this moment. She could see Shui Chuanxiao’s shadow on Lu Yin.

“Did they all contact the Empire at the same time?” Lu Yin changed topics.

En Ya nodded. “Yes, almost at the exact same time.”

“Could that actually be a coincidence?” Lu Yin muttered.

“These powers must have contacted each other first, which led to this timing,” En Ya replied.

Lu Yin frowned. “That won’t do. Think of a way to break them apart. I do not wish to have an alliance within our alliance.”

“Yes, Your Highness,” En Ya acknowledged his orders.

“Also, since they’ve joined the Great Eastern Alliance, get them to send a list of all the resources that are within their weaves. Send a copy of the list to Ban Jiu to find out what can be used. Of course, our Frostwave Weave’s list of resources must be sent to the other parties as well,” Lu Yin said.

Yue Xianzi rolled her eyes. These two had just mentioned they would not slaughter the other powers, but they were already discussing breaking them apart and getting lists of their resources. If this was not slaughtering them, then was there really a need for such urgency?

“Yes. May I ask, Your Highness, when will the Alliance Conference begin?” En Ya asked.

Lu Yin muttered, “What do you think?”

En Ya hesitated as she looked over at Yue Xianzi.

Lu Yin casually replied, “Don’t mind her, she’s just an independent cultivator.”

“I’m not an independent cultivator!” Yue Xianzi retorted.

Chapter 666: Geniuses From Earth

En Ya said to Lu Yin, “Your Highness, although we can immediately establish the alliance, most of the current parties were forced to join, and they currently treat you more like an enemy than as an ally. They will definitely try to suppress Your Highness through their power or possibly even their economy, resources, and talent as well.

“Given Your Highness’s personal power, they can only see you as invincible. Thus, they will try to render you unable to interfere with things, most likely by pressuring the Great Yu Empire with other methods. Once the empire faces enough outside pressure, we will be forced into a lower position within the alliance, and that will also lead to your authority being challenged.”

Lu Yin frowned. Their current situation was very similar to the anti-Great Eastern Alliance’s, where a suppressed party was trying to lead all the other forces. These situations were very difficult to handle,

and despite how strong Lu Yin had become, it still wasn't realistic for him to try to control the entire alliance all on his own.

Furthermore, he couldn't continue to perpetually monitor the alliance as the whole purpose behind creating the alliance was for it to serve him.

"You're saying that the empire has to be prepared first," Lu Yin said.

En Ya nodded. "We won't have to worry about most of the oncoming pressure towards the empire. For example, the Nalan family will support our economy, and we are already comparable to the other weaves in other aspects as well. Currently, the most serious problem facing us is that some of the forces might collude in certain aspects to suppress the empire. Although this won't be enough to stop Your Highness from becoming the leader of the alliance, such a thing will still end up giving them an advantage in the future."

Lu Yin thought for a moment before replying, "I understand. You can head out for now, and I'll think about this."

En Ya agreed and left.

"It seems that you've already encountered some problems. It's hard to form an alliance, and it's even harder to deal with the problems that will arise after forming one," Yue Xianzi commented arrogantly.

Lu Yin became annoyed with her. "Let's go."

"Where to?" Yue Xianzi asked.

Lu Yin raised his head. "We'll go and take a look at how pathetic the Empire's youths must be since you aren't even willing to look at them."

On the first continental ring that circled Zenyu Star, there was a group of people who had gathered outside the formcast pool and were cheering excitedly.

Lu Yin approached them in disguise and stood near the crowd with Yue Xianzi. They saw that there were two cultivators currently fighting in the center of the crowd.

"Go! Punch him!"

"Don't be a coward! Aim for his thigh."

"Spit and drown him!"

...

Lu Yin watched the scene with a smile. Competitions like this one were held within the Yu Academy from time to time. They started whenever a Hall Master led their disciples to challenge another hall's disciples, and Lu Yin and Yue Xianzi had coincidentally arrived at the right time to encounter a battle between two halls.

Yue Xianzi's expression revealed her obvious and complete disdain for these people, and there was even a trace of sympathy. She turned to Lu Yi. "Are these the elites of the Great Yu Empire? They can't even

crystallize their star energy and are forced to rely on energy crystals and other materials to use their battle techniques! Is this some kind of joke?"

Lu Yin smiled. "This is the current situation of the Outerverse, and it's a problem that not only the Great Yu Empire faces, but rather all of the weaves throughout the Outerverse. The cultivation methods and knowledge that the Outerverse possesses can't compare to the Innaverse's. Why else do you think the Innaverse is able to completely overpower the Outerverse? This is also the reason why just the name of the Daynight clan is enough to affect all the eastern weaves.

"But this is way too pathetic! Any student from the Astral Combat Academy would be able to trounce everyone here. It's a good thing that I didn't agree to help you train these "elites," as otherwise, the reputation of the Frostmoon Sect would be destroyed," Yue Xianzi complained.

Lu Yin didn't answer; were these students really that bad? He saw a number of rune lines that was quite high for a Melder from someone who was hidden within the crowd. However, that person hadn't shown their strength yet.

"Those two aren't bad. Oh! That person is quite strong too. He was actually able to detect my domain." Yue Xianzi looked into the distance in shock. Someone was staring at her with piercing eyes from that direction. It was Schutz.

Yue Xianzi had enveloped the entire formcast pool within her domain, and even the Explorers guarding the formcast pool hadn't detected it. However, Schutz had.

Despite that, Schutz turned his attention back to the fight after merely glancing at the two of them. He had noticed Lu Yin, and although Lu Yin had altered his appearance, Schutz was still able to recognize him since they were quite familiar with each other.

"He is Schutz, a Hall Master of the Yu Academy. He actually entered the Astral Combat Academy at the same time as me. If not for his duty of taking care of the Yu Academy, he would have become an Explorer a long time ago," Lu Yin spoke apologetically, as he had been the one who had asked Schutz to return to the Great Yu Empire. Although he had given the other youth some compensation, it would never be enough. Lu Yin would always feel apologetic towards Schutz.

"No wonder, so he's from the Astral Combat Academy. That's why he's on a different level than all the others. That other Limiteer is pretty strong too. I can feel that he's suppressing his power," Yue Xianzi responded.

"His name is Ruky Mathers, and he's a Hall Master as well. He has been in the Outerverse his entire life," Lu Yin explained. He had selected Ruky Mathers to become a Hall Master when he had coincidentally met him in the bar. Ruky had received a battle technique during Astral-10's entrance exam, and it had allowed him to become quite powerful despite his weak foundations.

Yue Xianzi had just taken a quick glance at the students, so she had only discovered that Schutz and Ruky Mathers were more powerful compared to the others. As an Explorer who possessed an innate gift, had comprehended a domain, and had even inherited the techniques of the Frostmoon Sect, these people couldn't compare to her in any aspect.

“If all five Hall Masters of the Yu Academy are this powerful, then the Vastdearth Sect wouldn’t be able to defeat the Great Yu Empire even if they did ally with other parties. It’s not easy for Melders from the Outerverse to reach this level unless they’ve received outside help,” Yue Xianzi commented.

Lu Yin shook his head helplessly. “The other three Hall Masters can’t compare to these two.”

“That’s too bad,” Yue Xianzi replied.

The next few battles were nothing special, and Yue Xianzi started to glance about distractedly.

Another person was defeated. Ruky Mathers waved his hand, and Fu Xiaoshu walked forward. Their hall had lost the last few battles, and they had to take back their pride now.

Another person in the crowd gritted his teeth as soon as they saw Fu Xiaoshu. “Come on, I want to see how good people from Earth are.”

Most people in the Great Yu Empire were aware of Earth as many historians were interested in Lu Yin’s life. Many reporters also fought for the chance to report on Lu Yin, but since they didn’t dare expose too much of Lu Yin’s private life, they normally resorted to reporting on the situation on Earth.

Initially, most people didn’t hold much hope for the cultivators from Earth. However, ever since the cultivators from Earth had arrived at Yu Academy, all of Frostwave Weave had been stunned, as one solitary planet had produced five cultivators with innate gifts.

It was very rare for a cultivator to have an innate gift, and those who did were able to immediately join the Outerverse Youth Council, which showed just how important such a thing was. It was extremely shocking that one planet had been able to produce five cultivators with innate gifts, and this had led to Fu Xiaoshu and the others being closely scrutinized. They would have become celebrities if not for the rule that no outsiders were allowed to watch any of the training sessions that took place inside the Yu Academy.

Although they hadn’t become celebrities in the Frostwave Weave quite yet, the reputation of Fu Xiaoshu and the others were still comparable to that of the Hall Masters solely due to their innate gifts.

There were even rumors circulating that claimed that Fu Xiaoshu and the others were Melders who were comparable to Huo Zhong, Gerbach, and Logan.

“Let’s go,” Fu Xiaoshu said casually as he faced the man opposite him.

His opponent snorted and shattered the blue crystals in his hand. Water swirled around his arm in layers, and when he punched at Fu Xiaoshu, all of the water rushed forward in a powerful attack.

Lu Yin’s eyes lit up, as this was a strong attack. Ever since Schutz had returned to the Great Yu Empire from the Astral Combat Academy, the overall standards of the Yu Academy had increased. Back when Lu Yin had first joined the Yu Academy, there hadn’t been many Melders in the entire academy, but now, most of the students were able to easily become Melders.

Fu Xiaoshu stood in place and faced the water torrent that was crashing down towards him. The water smashed against the ground and formed a deep crater while making the entire ground tremble.

Yue Xianzi was confused. "Why did that person just attack an empty place?"

Lu Yin's lip curled up. "Because to his eyes, that's where his enemy was standing."

Yue Xianzi was shocked. "An illusion? A battle technique? No, there's no fluctuation of star energy... Is this an innate gift?"

Lu Yin nodded.

Yue Xianzi suddenly turned serious as she watched Fu Xiaoshu. This Melder had an innate gift, which was something that made him stand out from all the other students. All cultivators with innate gifts had bright futures and were much stronger than average cultivators.

Fu Xiaoshu's innate gift could only encompass a certain area, and he wasn't able to make it spread to Lu Yin and Yue Xianzi. However, even if he could cover them, his illusion wasn't strong enough to fool the two of them, Schutz, or even Ruky Mathers.

The people watching the battle from inside Yu Academy started cheering excitedly. In their eyes, the attack had struck Fu Xiaoshu.

The man gloatingly said, "Fu Xiaoshu, you're too arrogant! I haven't used this attack on other people yet, as I've been saving it just for you."

"Really? It's quite powerful," a voice rang out from behind the man. He whirled around in shock to see a smirk on Fu Xiaoshu's face.

The man's eyes narrowed. "How, how could you-"

Fu Xiaoshu didn't give him a chance to finish speaking before he placed a finger on the man's head. "You've lost."

The man couldn't accept the outcome and dejectedly replied, "That's your innate gift, right? I wasn't able to defeat it."

Fu Xiaoshu glanced around proudly. This was his innate gift, and he couldn't feel any sense of challenge from fighting the other Yu Academy students. He wanted to challenge a Hall Master, as that was the only way to be noticed by the Royal Regent. To people from Earth, Lu Yin was essentially a god. Fu Xiaoshu wanted to get close to a god and follow him.

"Song Shi, it's your turn," Schutz said in a quiet voice.

A man with an icy expression walked out to face Fu Xiaoshu.

Fu Xiaoshu slowly turned around and looked at Song Shi. "I knew that it'd be you."

The students from the Yu Academy surrounding the two youths were anticipating this next battle.

Song Shi was also from Earth, and he had an innate gift as well. Both Earthlings were at the same level of strength, which meant that, apart from the Hall Masters, only Song Shi was able to hold his own against Fu Xiaoshu.

"Your illusions are very powerful," Song Shi said emotionlessly.

“Who are you talking to?” Fu Xiaoshu’s voice rang out from another direction.

The Fu Xiaoshu in front of Song Shi suddenly disappeared. Song Shi wasn’t surprised, and he simply removed his bracer and other equipment. “If these tricks are all you have, you won’t be my opponent.”

Fu Xiaoshu pouted. “You’re still so cold. Fine, I’ll show you how powerful I’ve become! I’ll be the first one of us to be noticed by the Royal Regent!”

This sentence enraged Song Shi as his idol was also Lu Yin. He had to be the first person to receive Lu Yin’s notice, and he wouldn’t allow anyone else to take that from him. “You really have changed—a beggar from Jinlin is now bragging.”

Chapter 667: Fabricating History

Fu Xiaoshu’s brows creased together as he flew into a rage. It was indeed true that he had once been a beggar, and this was a stain on his past. “You’ll pay for what you just said!”

As he spoke, an invisible ripple enveloped the surroundings. It was something that the Yu Academy students could not perceive, and even a Hall Master like Ruky Mathers was oblivious to it. However, these ripples shocked Schutz; this was a domain.

Lu Yin was shocked to see that Fu Xiaoshu had astonishingly comprehended a domain.

Yue Xianzi was absolutely shaken. For someone from the Outerverse, comprehending a domain was a rare accomplishment. Most people could barely materialize their star energy, let alone a domain. With this individual’s limited understanding of star energy, how could he have managed to comprehend a domain?

With the added support of a domain, Fu Xiaoshu’s control over his illusions underwent a fundamental change. Song Shi’s previous expression of indifference suddenly became one of exceptional seriousness. He could not see where Fu Xiaoshu had gone. The scenery surrounding him had changed, and he seemed to have found himself back on Earth, surrounded by all of the people, activities, and items he had once been familiar with.

Fu Xiaoshu had always remembered something that Lu Yin had once told him: “The final stage of cultivating illusions is not to produce a fantasy, but rather to cause your opponents to experience their own downfall. Even if they know that they are in a land of fantasy, they will still be immersed and be unable to escape.” Fu Xiaoshu had since been working in this direction.

Song Shi attacked, but he was not able to land a single hit on Fu Xiaoshu. He attacked in a wild manner from where he stood, and everyone around him gradually pulled back. He looked forlorn, as he knew that he had already fallen under the spell of Fu Xiaoshu’s illusions.

Schutz frowned, as he had not expected that anyone from Yu Academy would gain control of a domain. It was preposterous to even consider. Back during his time in the Astral Combat Academy, he had spent so much time arduously cultivating before he gained any knowledge of domains or battle force. And yet, Fu Xiaoshu, who had always remained at Yu Academy, was already capable of wielding a domain. This was a terrifying talent.

Even Lu Yin was stunned to the point of gaping. He had also cultivated long and hard before comprehending a domain. How was it that Fu Xiaoshu had been able to do it so easily?

“You people from the Great Yu Empire really do have some surprises. Someone out of these students actually comprehended a domain,” Yue Xianzi praised the youth. “A domain coupled with an innate gift of illusions. His opponent is bound to lose.”

Lu Yin’s eyes narrowed. “That might not necessarily be the case.” As far as he could tell, the rune lines on Song Shi exceeded those of Fu Xiaoshu.

Yue Xianzi was taken aback. “Does the other person have more tricks up his sleeves as well? Are you going to tell me that he’s also comprehended a domain?”

Lu Yin shrugged his shoulders, as he did not know the answer to her question.

“It’s over, Song Shi!” Fu Xiaoshu released a low growl.

Trapped within his illusion, Song Shi still had not stopped fighting. He had resisted for more than ten minutes now, and he was almost completely drained of all energy. It was about time for Fu Xiaoshu to deal the final blow. As Fu Xiaoshu considered this, he raised his palm, and his star energy burst out, turning into waves that shot straight at Song Shi.

With a loud thud, Song Shi was struck in the back. He spat out blood as he crumpled to the ground.

Fu Xiaoshu then appeared. He removed his illusion and looked down at Song Shi from a towering height. “I told you that I would be the first to reach the Royal Regent’s eyes.”

Song Shi raised his head, and there was a resolute light in his eyes. “How long can you maintain your illusions for?”

A slight look of panic flickered through Fu Xiaoshu’s eyes. He could only use his innate gift a set number of times. While Song Shi was trapped in a daze inside the illusion, the consumption of Fu Xiaoshu’s energy had also been steep.

When Song Shi saw the look of panic pass through Fu Xiaoshu’s eyes, he immediately climbed to his feet and charged straight at Fu Xiaoshu. Fu Xiaoshu quickly unleashed his domain again, which prevented Song Shi from closing in on him. Song Shi let out a growl as colorless streams distorted the air around his body. He managed to force his way into the domain and grab a hold of Fu Xiaoshu’s collar before proceeding to throw Fu Xiaoshu against the ground with enough force to cause the young man to faint upon impact.

Everyone watching was stunned into silence. Fu Xiaoshu had unexpectedly been defeated.

Yue Xianzi was astonished. “Battle force! The other one knows how to control battle force!”

Beside her, Lu Yin was similarly shocked. The colorless streams that had wrapped around Song Shi’s body was indeed battle force, and it was completely unexpected to discover that the youth had managed to grasp battle force. In all honesty, it was more than a little strange. Even though Lu Yin had comprehended battle force during his experience in Astral-10’s Sand Ocean, he was absolutely amazed that Song Shi had also been able to comprehend it. As a relatively ordinary cultivator from the Outerverse, the possession of such talent was extraordinary.

Even if it occasionally happened due to pure luck or an amazing natural talent, it was still a miraculously rare occurrence in the end. However, the combination of Fu Xiaoshu's domain and Song Shi's battle force reminded Lu Yin that things were not that simple.

On Earth, it was not uncommon for cultivators to possess innate gifts. Since so many cultivators were able to improve at a rapid pace or had astounding comprehension, there had to be something hidden on that planet. Huo Qingshan had once said that when great cultivators appeared on Earth, it heralded the destruction of the planet's civilization. It was for this reason that the Hidden Earth Society had continued to hide in Jupiter, afraid to reveal themselves.

It was necessary to understand what sort of secrets had been hidden on Earth. Such secrets definitely had something to do with the primeval surnames.

"Brother Lu, this person actually knows how to use battle force! Your group here at the Yu Academy has some hidden talents that outsiders aren't aware of. Is there another place like the Astral Combat Academy that can help people comprehend domains or battle force?" Yue Xianzi asked.

Lu Yin kept a calm look on his face. "No."

"No?" Yue Xianzi did not believe him, but she was not able to glean anything else from his expression.

Beside the formcast pool, Fu Xiaoshu had been defeated. There were no subordinates of Ruky Mathers who could compare to Song Shi. Ruky looked at Schutz with a helpless manner. "We lost this battle."

Schutz replied gravely. "It's alright, you can try again next time."

Ruky Mathers nodded his head and left with the others from his hall. Fu Xiaoshu was carried away by the other students.

Blood dripped down from the corner of Song Shi's mouth as he stared at Fu Xiaoshu. This had been a tough battle to win, and if Fu Xiaoshu had managed to maintain his illusions for much longer, then Song Shi might have been the one to lose.

"Did you watch the Astral Combat Tournament and the Tournament of the Strongest?" Schutz moved over next to Song Shi as he asked a question.

Song Shi nodded his head.

"It is important to take note of where a battle takes place. The venue may restrict one from performing at their peak. In an evenly matched battle, the key to victory requires thought, not brute force," Schutz said.

Song Shi replied, "I understand, Hall Master."

Schutz then dismissed everyone who was still gathered before looking over at Lu Yin. He was surprised to discover that Lu Yin and Yue Xianzi had already left.

"What do you think? The Yu Academy isn't too bad, is it?" Lu Yin asked as he stood on the surface of a sea by the mainland. He had his eyes glued to his personal gadget as he spoke, not watching where he was going.

Yue Xianzi shot him a glance. "It was an adequate performance."

"You can train them if you have the time. They'll all be considered your disciples after all," Lu Yin offered as he stared at his personal gadget, a solemn look on his face.

Yue Xianzi knitted her brows. "It's incredibly rude of you to talk like that."

Lu Yin adjusted his focus and lowered his arm. "I'm sorry, I was reading the news."

Yue Xianzi looked around at her surroundings. "The landscape on this first mainland isn't bad. It's certainly worth visiting once in a while."

Lu Yin laughed.

After Yue Xianzi left him, Lu Yin immediately headed to the library of Zenyu Star to seek out the Chief Librarian.

"Welcome, Your Highness." The Chief Librarian hurriedly greeted Lu Yin the moment he arrived.

"Why is the recorded history of Earth now different from what I read before?" Lu Yin asked sternly as he stared at the Chief Librarian.

The Chief Librarian started trembling with fear and tried to stammer out a response. "Your Highness, this... this..."

"Tell me!" Lu Yin shouted in a deep voice.

The Chief Librarian was terrified, and he immediately knelt on the floor. "Forgive me, Your Highness! The history of Earth has always been fake."

Lu Yin's gaze turned solemn. "What do you mean by that?"

The Chief Librarian shakily replied, "There are many planets throughout the universe that do not have any recorded history. In the previous era, the Great Yu Empire did not have thirteen filaments, nor was Earth within its boundaries. It was not until after His Majesty, Undying Yushan, ascended to the throne and expanded the empire that Earth fell under the scope of the empire's surveillance. At that time, the civilizations on Earth had recently been destroyed. Since the empire did not pay much attention to Earth, what we recorded down as the planet's recorded history was guesses based on the observations at those times. It is certain that Earth went through several calamities, but only the tragedies that took place in the past ten thousand years were able to be determined. As for the reasons behind those calamities, the empire did not give the matter any serious thought.

"There are an exorbitant number of planets throughout the universe that are similar to Earth, and there could be any number of reasons that could lead to a civilization's extinction, and it's very common. As such, Earth's recorded history was written down purely from the observations of the empire at that time. Some of the history might have even been fabricated."

"Fabricated?" Lu Yin knitted his brows.

The Chief Librarian replied in a voice that was still trembling, "Yes, fabricated. There are too many planets within the empire's territory, and it is virtually impossible to keep detailed accounts of each planet. This means that the historical records that the empire keeps may be less accurate than the planet's own records."

"Has the history of Earth been altered recently?" Lu Yin asked.

The Chief Librarian replied meekly, "Yes, Your Highness. Since Your Highness holds a special status and was born on Earth, that planet has drawn the attention of many people in recent times. We had no choice but to integrate the empire's records of Earth's history with Earth's own records. Furthermore, we also added in some fictional information of our own to satisfy the media's morbid curiosity and to shut them up."

Lu Yin exhaled loudly. He was shocked to discover that such a thing could happen, that history could be fabricated.

"I want to study the data from the observations that were made when Earth was first discovered," Lu Yin requested.

The Chief Librarian's face blanched, and he could not stop trembling.

"Where is that data? Give it to me!" Lu Yin bellowed.

The Chief Librarian trembled. "I am sorry, Your Highness. The library from back then was burned down, and all the data was destroyed in the fire."

Lu Yin's eyes grew wide, and a terrifying presence swept across all of Zenyu Star. It caused high tides and struck fear into the hearts of many cultivators.

It was a good thing that it lasted for just a moment. "Not a shred of that data remains?"

"I am sorry, Your Highness." The Chief Librarian seemed like he was about to faint from the fear.

When Lu Yin noticed the sorry state of the Chief Librarian, Lu Yin's anger dissipated slightly. Feeling rather helpless, he walked out of the library as his gaze turned towards the direction of the Huo family's home. He wanted to have a chat with Huo Qingshan again, but then he remembered that Huo Qingshan had been the one who told him to check on the data of the past, so it would be pointless to meet with him again. At this moment, the place with the most knowledge of Earth's history was most possibly Jupiter. However, it was a shame that the people there would not let Lu Yin in.

He pushed this thought aside and decided to wait until the defenses of Jupiter collapsed before pursuing this matter any further. He was very interested in discovering what sort of history Earth had experienced

On Zenyu Star, the courtyard of the Auna family was cold. As an old, established family of the Great Yu Empire, the Auna family had always enjoyed great influence throughout the empire. However, their influence had waned in the days following Lu Yin's rise to power.

Even though Lu Yin had not actively sought to undermine the Auna family and had even allowed their patriarch to join the Lu Ministry of Defense as an important decision maker, his actions could not hide

the fact that he had been passively sidelining the Auna family. Whether it was the establishment of the Great Eastern Alliance or the empire's cooperation with the Nalan family, no one from the Auna family had participated in any of these matters. To an old-school, established organization like the Auna family, this was a matter of the empire's ruler showing their family no respect.

On the surface, the Auna family still enjoyed considerable influence even at the present moment, and their family still controlled the Ninth Imperial Squadron. However, such authority could be taken away with a casual word from Lu Yin. In fact, he could utterly destroy the entire Auna family without so much as batting his eye.

Over this period of time, the Auna family had been trying to get close to certain people. They had tried their luck with Gavin, Huan Sha, and even En Ya, but all to no avail.

Xueshan Auna sat in his study in silence, and his number two, Rocky Auna, looked at the family patriarch and said, "I thought that the Huo family was weak. It was obvious that His Highness was once concerned with Huo Qingshan in the past, but I never would have imagined that Huo Qinshan would suddenly take part in matters such as organizing the Great Eastern Alliance. Now, we of the Auna family are not even invited to participate in anything to do with this matter. Leader, should we seek out His Majesty for a discussion?"

Xueshan Auna knitted his brows, lost deep in thought.

Chapter 668: Awakening

Rocky Auna could not help himself from continuing to speak further. "If things continue on like this, our Auna family's foundation that's been built up over so many years will be washed away. It's clear to everyone that our Auna family is being gradually sidelined. In the past, there were visitors here every single day, but now, no one comes. They're all afraid to have any dealings with our Auna family. Patriarch, why has this happened?"

Xueshan Auna's eyes flickered. Why? Of course he knew why. Before the Royal Regent had taken his current position of power, the Auna family's attitude towards him had flip-flopped multiple times. Although they had never completely turned on Lu Yin, they had not been decisive enough when dealing with the matter regarding Jenny Auna. Although the matter had been resolved and they had given their all to support Lu Yin when he rose to power, the scars of the past were difficult to forget.

The Auna family had managed to survive so far, and Xueshan Auna had even joined the Lu Ministry of Defense since their family had managed to adjust their attitude towards Lu Yin fast enough. Otherwise, the family might have even ceased to exist.

Still, to the Royal Regent, the Auna family was no longer considered reliable.

"Is it all related to Jenny?" Rocky Auna suddenly said.

Xueshan Auna glared at him sharply. "Jenny's matter has been completely concluded, and she isn't even allowed to exit our front door. What more do you want?"

Rocky Auna silently hung his head.

Before the Royal Regent assumed power, nobody had cared much about Jenny Auna's behavior. However, after he assumed control of the Great Yu Empire, and especially when his influence began to spread throughout the Outerverse, dissent towards Jenny Auna had risen among the members of the Auna family. Many people had secretly mentioned that if she had married the Royal Regent when they were first engaged, the Auna family would presently be the most influential family in the entire Great Eastern Alliance and that they would be enjoying even greater authority than what they had ever wielded in the Great Yu Empire.

These discussions had grown more frequent until they had eventually reached Xueshan Auna's ears, which made him furious. He had immediately executed several people, and no one in the Auna family had dared to discuss the matter any further.

Now that Rocky Auna brought the matter up again, Xueshan Auna subconsciously recalled all those rumors, and his mood immediately became very poor.

"Where's Millie?" Xueshan Auna suddenly asked.

Rocky Auna's face grew unnatural. "She went out to play."

Xueshan Auna snorted and stared into Rocky Auna's eyes. "Haven't I told you to have Millie stay at home as much as possible? The family will arrange for her to meet with the Royal Regent and hope that she catches his eye. However, you still allowed her to go out and play? What if something happens to her?!"

Rocky Auna was in agony, but he could only nod helplessly. Millie was his daughter, and she was still rather young.

"I will request an audience with the Royal Regent within the next few days, and will attempt to change our Auna family's current plight. Maintain control of our family during this time, and do not allow anyone to cause trouble," Xueshan Auna ordered.

Rocky Auna nodded. "I understand, Patriarch."

"Head on out then," Xueshan Auna said lethargically.

Rocky Auna stood up, but suddenly, the chair that he had just been sitting on shattered as a shockwave burst forth from underground, shooting towards the sky. The energy from the shockwave froze the shattered chair.

Rocky Auna was astonished. "Patriarch!"

Xueshan Auna instantly rose to his feet to stare at the ground. "Not good! That person has awakened!"

He then pressed both of his hands to the floor, causing solid ice to spread out as he attempted to seal the raging energy away. However, the underground cold seeping out could not be suppressed by Xueshan Auna's ice seal, and the chill started to spread through his ice, and it even caused Xueshan Auna's hands to become rigid and start to pale.

Xueshan Auna was stunned at this turn of events, and he loudly shouted, "Get the family out of here! Hurry!"

Rocky Auna raced to send all of the Auna family members out.

The ground froze rapidly, and Xueshan Auna's sturdy ice shattered within mere moments before white frost rushed through the cracks in his seal. These white crystals were cold enough to even cause the void to freeze.

Lu Yin was in King Zishan's palace when he felt the temperature suddenly plummet. He stepped out of the palace and looked in the direction of the Auna family. He then quickly moved forward and disappeared.

At this same time, many experts from all across Zenyu Star started to congregate towards the Auna family's estate.

With a crack, the ground beneath the Auna family home completely shattered. Xueshan Auna's face was solemn, as both his arms had been frozen through.

A few members of the Auna family were frozen in place, and they looked on in despair as the chilliness continued to spread across their bodies and completely envelop them.

In a room within the mansion, Jenny Auna stared out of her window with a calm demeanor even as the frost spread beneath her feet and started to climb upwards.

Xueshan Auna's eyes went wide, as he could not stop this frost. Not even his power was able to penetrate this frost, and once it covered the rest of his family, they would all die without question. The Auna family would be finished.

At this moment, Lu Yin arrived in the sky above the Auna family's property, and he looked down to see that the Auna family's large holding was being enveloped by an icy energy that formed a wreath of five interlocking plum blossoms. His eyes flashed, and he quickly recalled that when Firesmelt Planet had been annihilated in the past, someone called Yan Yan had survived the planet's destruction by sealing himself within ice. This person had been someone from the Royal Frost Continent.

Because this person had an extremely dense ice energy, it had been arranged for his body to be kept by the Auna family. Still, nobody had ever expected the man to bring such disaster upon the family.

Suddenly, Lu Yin exchanged glances with someone from the Auna family. Those eyes were just as numb and dead as ever, and they looked like they belonged to a corpse. It was Jenny Auna.

When he saw her gaze, Lu Yin suddenly felt her suffering, as well as a certain sense that she would be better off dead than alive. Even the frost that was about to envelop her was not enough to affect her expression of despair.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed, and he stopped hesitating. He quickly put on his universal armor and charged downwards to crash into the ground, where the chilliness that he encountered was severe enough to leave even him trembling. What's more, his armor began to freeze over, and it seemed that he was going to be sealed in ice.

Lu Yin released a shout as his seven lined battle force burst forth and shattered the creeping ice. He then raised a hand, and his Fatesand rushed in front of him as he charged underground. It took almost no time for Yan Yan's body to appear before Lu Yin, and Yan Yan was still sealed within a layer of ice.

However, the ice was nearly depleted, and the moment Lu Yin appeared in front of Yan Yan, the man's eyes snapped open as the icy energy in the air instantly formed into a spear in his hand that he hurled at Lu Yin.

At that moment, Lu Yin could feel a terrifyingly intense cold that even froze the void, and it caused his limbs to go numb. Everything within his vision had turned into five rings of snowflakes.

Lu Yin did not hesitate to tap out with a finger, and his eyes glazed over as his Dream Finger froze the void before transcending space to approach the ice spear and shatter it. Lu Yin's finger continued moving on past that, aimed at Yan Yan's forehead. Lu Yin held nothing back in this finger, as he had unleashed it with killing intent.

Yan Yan's eyes narrowed, and his expression suddenly changed to become much more solemn, almost as if he had suddenly become someone else entirely. He raised a hand. "Iceburst Flames." A dense blue ice that was enveloped by a red fire flickered as it charged forth and collided with Lu Yin's Dream Finger.

The Dream Finger struck the Iceburst Flames, and in the blink of an eye, a terrifying pressure wave burst forth that caused the void to distort. Lu Yin realized the level of crisis that he had suddenly encountered, and he subconsciously waved his left hand to activate the Yu Secret Art. The secret technique redirected the force from the collision of the two battle techniques into the sky, aimed at a gap between the three continental rings that circled Zenyu Star. The energy then tore through the void and traveled some distance into outer space before exploding. Countless spatial cracks radiated outwards from the explosion, and an unbelievable inferno of frost and flame accompanied the explosion.

Although Lu Yin's Dream Finger had collided against the Iceburst Flames, the power that had converged onto that solitary finger had not been completely dispersed yet, and it heavily injured Yan Yan. However, due to the man's Iceburst Flames, he had managed to divert the finger away from his forehead, and Lu Yin had only succeeded in injuring the man's shoulder.

An intense pain exploded out from Lu Yin's finger, and he curled his index finger as he stared at Yan Yan.

Half of Yan Yan's body was now covered with blood, and he was lying on the ground as he looked at Lu Yin in a daze. It appeared as though he was not entirely sure of what had just happened.

Xueshan Auna charged into the underground area at this moment, and he rushed over when he saw Lu Yin. "Your Highness! Are you alright?"

Lu Yin waved a hand as he stared at Yan Yan. "What's your name?"

Yan Yan looked at Lu Yin, confused and still dazed. He didn't possess even a single trace of the imposing might he had radiated when he unleashed those terrifying Iceburst Flames. It should be known that Lu Yin had subconsciously felt like he had encountered a crisis, even after he had donned his universal armor. According to the rune lines that he had observed, that attack had been able to rival one from an ordinary Enlightener, but Yan Yan was merely a Cruiser. How had he been able to unleash such power? Lu Yin could not understand this matter.

"Can't you speak?" Lu Yin asked another question.

Yan Yan held his injured shoulder as he glanced around the underground space. "Where am I?"

Xueshan Aun growled, "This is the Great Yu Empire."

Yan Yan looked like he was in a daze as he stared at Lu Yin. "Great Yu Empire? Where's that?"

Xueshan Auna snorted. "You don't know where the Great Yu Empire is located? Don't try to tell me that you lost your memory."

Yan Yan's head dropped, and he looked like he was in pain. He glanced at his shoulder and removed his hand as he looked at the blood covering his hand. "How did I get injured?"

He then grabbed his forehead and groaned in agony as Xueshan Auna stepped in front of Lu Yin with a cautious attitude.

Lu Yin stared at Yan Yan in amazement, as the amount of rune lines that he saw on this person were constantly fluctuating. At times, there would be so few that it was only comparable to an Explorer's, but the next moment, the amount would explode and reach an astonishing amount that could rival an Enlighter's. It was truly bizarre.

"Your Highness, to prevent any unexpected events, your subject will just kill him," Xueshan Auna suggested.

Lu Yin waved a hand. "Let's wait and see how things play out."

After a while, Yan Yan's agony started to fade, and his rune lines stabilized at approximately the level of a Cruiser, but they were very close to the level of a Hunter.

"What about Firesmelt Planet? Where's Firesmelt Planet?" Yan Yan looked up at Xueshan Auna.

Xueshan Auna frowned. "The Firesmelt Planet has been destroyed by the Great Yu Empire. You are now a captive of our Great Yu Empire."

Yan Yan bent over and thought for a while. After a moment, he started to breathe heavily. "I remember now, Firesmelt Planet was destroyed by Yan Wujiu. He destroyed it to temporarily boost his own power. But then why am I still alive?"

Lu Yin pushed Xueshan Auna aside and moved in front of Yan Yan. "We saved you."

Yan Yan was confused by this. "Why did you save me?"

"You can treat it as a coincidence, or maybe as fate. Now that Firesmelt Planet has been destroyed, I'll give you a choice: stay here in the Great Yu Empire and work for me. How about it?" Lu Yin asked.

Xueshan Auna's eyes flashed as he watched Yan Yan.

Yan Yan was still a bit dazed. "I'm from Firesmelt Planet, but you'd still trust me?"

Lu Yin laughed. "Firesmelt Planet is already gone. Even if you were loyal to Yan Wujiu, he's also dead."

Yan Yan smiled bitterly. "That's right, he's already dead."

"Stay here and join the Seventh Imperial Squadron as a temporary captain. That'll be your role."

“What if I refuse?” Yan Yan asked.

Lu Yin’s expression instantly turned to ice. “Then you can either remain as a prisoner or just die.”

Yan Yan nodded silently. He endured the throbbing pain in his shoulder and bowed to Lu Yin. “Yan Yan wishes to follow you.”

At the present moment, the Great Yu Empire was far too lacking in talented powerhouses, as not even the positions of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons’ captains had been filled out. Once Yan Yan’s power was completely released, he would be no weaker than Aden. He was a powerhouse, and now that Firesmelt Planet was completely gone, Lu Yin had no fear of being betrayed by this man.

And even if he did betray them, so what? There was no place in the Outerverse where Yan Yan could hide from the empire. Lu Yin was absolutely confident about that.

In reality, deep in Lu Yin’s heart, he felt that the greatest value that Yan Yan held was not as a potential captain of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons, but rather his connection to the Royal Frost Continent. This person had been severely injured, and his memories clearly had some holes in them. Lu Yin would find a way to cure the man and then use him to further his understanding of the Royal Frost Continent. The Innaverse and Outerverse would eventually be rejoined, and so long as the Innaverse was not conquered by the Sixth Mainland by then, Lu Yin would eventually have to face the suppression of various forces from the Innaverse, so it would be wise for him to start making preparations as soon as possible.

Chapter 669: Traces Of A Foe

After sending Yan Yan to get treated, Xueshan Auna moved to stand behind Lu Yin, at which he then voiced his concerns. “Your Highness, do you feel comfortable making this person a captain?”

“What is there to feel uncomfortable about? He has nothing to gain by betraying me,” Lu Yin softly replied.

Xueshan Auna hesitated before responding. “This person was able to unleash an attack that was simultaneously both ice and fire, which is very strange. He came from the Royal Frost Continent but joined Firesmelt Planet. This all seems to be related to his innate gift.”

Lu Yin looked at Xueshan Auna. “Yan Yan caused your Auna family to suffer terrible losses just now, so I will compensate your family for this matter.”

Xueshan Auna hurriedly replied, “Your Highness is exaggerating. The entire Great Yu Empire belongs to you, and the Auna family has vowed to follow Your Highness to our deaths.”

Lu Yin nodded. “That’s good.”

After that, he left.

Xueshan Auna continued to stare at his family’s mansion that had been completely frozen over, his brows tightly knitted together. More and more experts were joining the Great Yu Empire; where there had once been only him, Huo Qingshan, and the Blind Monk as the Hunter realm captains of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons, there was now also Yan Yan and that temporary captain of the Second

Squadron. There were more experts in the empire, and the more people the Royal Regent was able to use, the further Xueshan Auna's value would drop in Lu Yin's eyes.

He had to think of a way to help his Auna family reenter the Royal Regent's good graces.

When he returned to King Zishan's palace, Lu Yin quickly contacted Elder Lohar.

Elder Lohar's image appeared on the screen of Lu Yin's gadget, and he gave Lu Yin a warm smile. "Kid, what are you looking for me?"

Lu Yin respectfully replied, "Elder, ever since I started working to establish the Great Great Eastern Alliance, many have come to see this junior as an eyesore. When I went to the Lars Weave, there was an assassination attempt on my life where five Hunters were sent after me. This has caused me to become very uneasy."

Elder Lohar laughed. "Kid, you've entered a battlefield with Enlighters before, but you're still afraid of some puny Hunters?"

"Junior's power vessels were used up and destroyed back in Ironblood Weave. Elder should know that, without them, this junior can still be captured even if I am able to withstand the attacks of Hunters."

Elder Lohar muttered, "So what is it that you want?"

"This junior hopes that Elder can send some experts to protect me," Lu Yin answered expectantly.

Elder Lohar looked at Lu Yin with a smiling expression. "Who's caught your eye? Could it be an Enlighter?"

"That's naturally not the case, as the safety of Ironblood Weave is much more important than my own—how could this junior neglect the big picture?" He paused a moment before continuing, saying, "When mentioning the need for protection, this junior feels that Aden is more suitable."

Elder Lohar instantly understood. "So you want Aden back."

Lu Yin answered, "If another battle had broken out in Ironblood Weave, this junior definitely would not have submitted such a request. It's just that, now that the war in Ironblood Weave has ended, there's not much of a reason for Aden to stay at the stronghold. On top of that, Frostwave Weave isn't far from Ironblood Weave, which is why this junior dares to make such a request. I hope that Elder can understand."

Elder Lohar smiled. "Aden was originally brought here by you, so it's not a problem to return him to you. Very well, I will talk to him."

"Thank you, Elder," Lu Yin was delighted.

After Aden returned to the Great Yu Empire, Lu Yin would gain yet another captain for the Imperial Squadrons, not to mention the strongest captain since Aden was able to withstand an Enlighter's assault.

Lu Yin planned to have Aden be the temporary captain of the Fourth Squadron, which would mean that only the Fifth and Tenth Squadrons would not have captains. Even if Lu Yin filled the positions of all thirteen captains, there were still many more positions to fill.

Humans had no understanding of the current universe. The Outerverse was extensive, and the entire Human Domain was enormous, but no one knew exactly where this vast territory was positioned in respect to the greater universe, as no one knew where the end of the universe was, or if there was even an end to the universe.

The Astral Wilderness was the generic term that humanity used for all the unexplored areas of the universe as those regions had no mapped routes, network signal, or technology that could help humans. Risks had to be taken to explore the unknown, and nobody knew what could appear at any given moment when exploring the Astral Wilderness.

There was a contradiction to exploring the Astral Wilderness. To maximize safety, the scope of an exploration expedition had to be huge, but once an expedition grew to that extent, it would easily attract unknown dangers. Past scholars had once concluded that powerful civilizations existed in the Astral Wilderness, some of which could possibly rival human societies or even surpass them. If humans ever came into contact with these civilizations, there could only be a disastrous outcome.

Although the Astral Wilderness was very dangerous, countless cultivators from the Human Domain would dauntlessly venture forth every year to explore that place. Some people went for the thrill of adventure while others searched for resources and wealth. Many were specifically employed to explore the Astral Wilderness, where the goal of those efforts was to no longer remain ignorant of what lay outside the realms of human society. Humans were the most afraid of the unknown, and each explorer was like a flicking candle thrust into the darkness to illuminate a little bit more of it. Those lights might burn out, but humanity would never stop sending more out.

The funds used to employ people to explore the Astral Wilderness were supplied by the combined powers of the entire Human Domain powers, just like how Ironblood Weave's resources were supplied by the various weaves of the Outerverse. This was an order from the Hall of Honor.

On one particular day, a mid-sized spacecraft was leisurely cruising through the Astral Wilderness. Its hull was marred with countless battle scars and traces of conflicts that the vessel had survived in the past. A moment later, the spacecraft moved in the direction of a dark-yellow planet.

"Captain, it's no good. This dark-yellow planet's atmosphere is filled with poisonous gas, so we can't descend." A desperate voice was heard within the spacecraft.

"Don't panic. Just hurry up, get control of the ship, and change course. Quickly!"

"Captain, the vessel is not functioning properly!"

"Captain, you escape! You're an Explorer, so you can escape."

"Captain..."

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The spacecraft descended through the atmosphere, and the moment it was about to touch the planet's surface, a figure appeared directly beneath the spacecraft. The person released a shout as he supported the spacecraft with his body and forcefully tried to return to outer space. However, the man had clearly been heavily injured, and the wounds on his body soon reopened as fresh blood scattered into the sky. The dark yellow poisonous gas gathered around the injuries and started seeping into the man's body. He howled in agony and suddenly tossed the spacecraft out of the planet's atmosphere. The man himself seemed to lose all strength, and he fell back down and soon disappeared from sight.

The people inside the spacecraft desperately watched on as the man vanished. He had succeeded in flinging the spacecraft back into the vacuum of outer space.

Even if the people on the ship had managed to avoid the hopeless situation of succumbing to the poisonous gas, the spacecraft was still out of control, and it looked like this group was trapped in outer space.

"Look over there! What's that?" Someone in the spacecraft shouted, causing the others to look back at the dark yellow planet that they had just escaped in shock.

A colossal being emerged from the planet and swept the poisonous gas aside. The figure was then gradually exposed to the crowd's eyes.

They saw a giant metal machine with an enormous metal claw sweep forward and seized a hold of the spacecraft. The entire thing then slowly retreated from outer space as the region returned to normalcy.

Not much later, another spacecraft appeared, though this one charged towards the dark yellow planet without any sign of hesitation.

The enormous claw reached straight out for the spacecraft again, but this time, a figure emerged from inside the vessel and confronted the mountain-like metal claws and waved a hand. His star energy formed a strange configuration that pushed the metal claw to the side. "It's me."

The metal claw would not budge, and a solid voice was heard in response. "You should not be here."

The figure's expression turned ugly. "I was left with no choice. I was being chased, and this was the only place I could run to."

"There is someone in the Human Domain who is able to kill you?" The solid voice sounded doubtful.

The figure snorted. "The Human Domain only seeks benefits. Even if the Innerverses and Outerverses are currently separated, anything related to the Innerverses that has been left in the Outerverses is no longer very useful."

"What about the Daynight clan?"

"I said that things aren't useful, and the Daynight clan is actually helping to chase me down, and there are even killers from hidden powers trying to track me down. This was the only place I could escape to."

"It looks like you are in dire straits. How can I help you?" The robust voice asked.

The figure gritted his teeth and furiously replied, "I need you guys to help me deal with the person who's chasing me."

“Who is it?”

“Lu Yin.”

“Lu Yin? I seem to have heard of this name before.”

“He was the Human Domain’s peerless Limiteer, and he even killed a few Enlighters,” the figure reminded the individual behind the voice.

“I recall now: a rare genius. While only a Limiteer from the Human Domain, he was able to enter our list of individuals requiring observation. He became the champion of the Tournament of the Strongest. This is the person you want us to kill?”

“It’s unacceptable for us to not kill him. That namelist landed in his hands,” the figure helplessly explained.

The solid voice fell silent for a moment and then asked, “You guys were never able to obtain that list?”

The figure hesitated, but then nodded.

“All this time, we’ve continued to overestimate you people. We never thought that you would prove to be so useless,” the solid voice commented quietly.

The figure quickly spoke up, “That’s not related to us. That name list was taken to the Sea King’s Dome, and there was no way that we could have acted against Lu Yin in that place. Shortly after that, the Inniverse and Outerverse were split apart, and the traces of power that our family had left in the Outerverse were too lacking. That’s why we are here, requesting for help.”

“It doesn’t matter anymore. Since the Inniverse and Outerverse are currently separated, that name list has lost its value.”

“Then what about Lu Yin? You guys won’t act?” the human figure asked urgently, sounding as if he harbored some deep-seated hatred for Lu Yin.

“We will have to ask for orders from above. You will wait here.”

The figure was left with no choice and could only enter the planet by himself.

Within the Great Yu Empire, Lu Yin ended a court meeting and returned to King Zishan's palace where he met a very pleased-looking person: Hai Qiqi.

Ever since the Outerverse had been cut off from the Inniverse, this girl’s entire demeanor had changed, and she no longer stayed with Lu Yin within the Great Yu Empire. Instead, she was usually at the border of the Astral River, spending all of her time searching for a way to return to the Inniverse. Lu Yin contacted her at regular intervals, but he had not expected her to suddenly return.

“You didn’t mention that you were coming back,” Lu Yin said.

“I didn’t want to, but I was chased away.” Hai Qiqi looked like she was exhausted, and she spoke softly as she answered him.

Lu Yin was stunned. “Chased? By who?”

Hai Qiqi’s rune lines had increased rather drastically, and she had also broken through to the Explorer realm. With the life-saving items that she had been given by the Sea King, chasing and killing her was not something easy, and she must have been pursued by someone who was at least a Hunter.

“Some horrible uncle called Old Gu De or something. He absolutely insists on marrying me off to his son. Help me take care of him—I want to keep looking for a way to get back to the Innderverse,” Hai Qiqi said with a seething expression.

Lu Yin paused, and his expression dropped. “Who did you say? Old Gu De?”

Hai Qiqi grunted in acknowledgement and then looked at Lu Yin more carefully. “You know him?”

Lu Yin smiled, but it was a rather creepy smile. “Tell me where he is.”

Hai Qiqi sent Lu Yin some coordinates. “Deal with him quickly. I don’t know why that old bat took a fancy to me, but he insists on marrying me off to his kid. Crazy asshole.”

“Relax. I’ll be sure to let him experience despair.” Lu Yin’s eyes flashed.

He checked the location of the coordinates in a star chart. Old Gu De was someone who Lu Yin had never forgotten. If not for the old man intentionally delaying the Astral River Ark’s departure time back then, they would not have been pursued.

That paper with the seventy two names that all had the surname of Lu had been masterminded by one of the Ten Arbiters, but Old Gu De had also been an accomplice to those events.

Chapter 670: Comprehensive Collaboration

Lu Yin had sent people to search for Old Gu De after the Outerverse and Innderverse were separated, but nobody had managed to find him. The Astral River had always separated the Innderverse from the Outerverse, and the cultivators who worked on the ark had insulted many Outerverse cultivators over the years. Thus, these people had instantly become the public enemy of the entire Outerverse after they were cut off from the Innderverse.

There were a lot of people who wanted to find the Astral River Ark’s crew, but Old Gu De was a Hunter, and besides that, it wasn’t easy to find people after they had hidden themselves. But despite that, Hai Qiqi had managed to run into them.

Lu Yin wouldn’t let Old Gu De die easily; the man had to first feel despair.

“How are things at the Astral River?” Lu Yin asked.

Hai Qiqi rolled her eyes. “Bullshit.”

Lu Yin choked, as that response sounded very familiar to him. It seemed like Hai Qiqi was feeling much better, as she had somewhat returned to her old, sarcastic self. It had been almost a year and a half since the universe had changed, so it was normal that she was slowly recovering.

Hai Qiqi didn't bother chatting with Lu Yin any longer and moved to leave immediately after urging Lu Yin to deal with Old Gu De.

"Hold up. Have you heard of imprints?" Lu Yin asked.

Hai Qiqi shook her head in confusion. "No, why are you asking me?"

Lu Yin casually answered, "Nothing much. Go and take a break."

Hai Qiqi left.

Lu Yin thought about this matter some more and he eventually came to the conclusion that nobody in this universe knew about imprints. The Sea King was an Envoy whose power level exceeded 500,000, which was equivalent to one of the Sixth Mainland's Imprinters. If the Sea King's Dome didn't cultivate with imprints, then that indicated that the Fifth Mainland had most likely lost this cultivation method.

Lu Yin also recalled the conversation that he had overheard between White Knight and Blood Looney concerning their opinions on each other's cultivation methods: one had believed that imprints, bloodlines, and the martial prints were better while the other thought that the Sixth Mainland's cultivation methods were too rigid.

Lu Yin didn't actually know which side was correct, but the Sixth Mainland had won the ancient war. Despite that, Lu Yin still felt that White Knight was correct. If a cultivation method was too rigid, then it would cause a person to miss out on many opportunities.

Moreover, if one used an imprint to rely on an Imprinter's power, then would the Imprinter know all of the cultivator's strengths and weaknesses? If that was the case, then one would never be able to battle against their Imprinter.

This cultivation method was basically a technique that allowed powerful people to control those who were less powerful than them by selling the cultivation method as a way to drastically increase one's power level. That had to be it—they must be controlling people through this cultivation method.

Lu Yin stood up abruptly and left the manor. He headed over to Wendy Yushan's home as he wanted to have a chat with her and see what she thought of his theory.

However, when he arrived, he was told that Wendy Yushan had secluded herself for a few days.

Lu Yin was surprised at this news and unleashed his domain, but he still didn't manage to find Wendy Yushan. Oh no, she must have gone to the ruins of the Daosource Sect!

The Daosource Sect's ruins had already turned into a battlefield, and any small mistake could cost Wendy her life. Lu Yin had already warned her about the current situation, but she had still gone back there.

Lu Yin suddenly regretted giving her the futon.

"Inform me as soon as the Princess returns," Lu Yin ordered. He then left Wendy Yushan's home as the only thing he could do at the moment was wait and hope that her identity wouldn't be exposed.

Lu Yin appeared in the clouds high above the sky and looked down at Zenyu Star. He could see far into the distance, and the view from such a height was amazing.

He lifted a hand as some clouds floated past, feeling waves of coldness roll over his hand.

“Seventh Bro, it’s time for you to write a journal,” the Ghost Monkey suddenly suggested.

Lu Yin asked, “Why?”

“With what you’ve experienced in your life so far, it wouldn’t be out of place for you to write an autobiography, and it would definitely be extremely popular. However, most powerhouses don’t release their journals, and the books just end up being buried with them when they die,” the monkey said.

Lu Yin frowned. “Just shut up!”

“All you humans are like this! You don’t like the truth and only want to hear something pleasant.”

“I’m not dead yet, and I don’t plan on dying anytime soon.”

“How long do you want to live for?”

“You’ll also be dead if I die. Whatever, I don’t want to talk with you about this. I’ll just screen you off if you spout off such crap again,” Lu Yin huffed. He didn’t like people talking about his death despite its inevitability.

The monkey didn’t answer.

Lu Yin was just about to move on when something in the corner of his eye caught his attention. He looked back at the city below him. What had he just seen?

At that moment, a breeze blew the clouds aside, and Lu Yin looked up and saw a transport vehicle with the Nalan family’s symbol on it.

Right, the Nalan family. Lu Yin looked back down at the city and saw that the malls, streets, public facilities, shops, and even some government buildings were all covered with the symbol of the Nalan family. The whole city looked like it belonged more to the Nalan family than the Great Yu Empire.

Lu Yin’s expression turned cold, and he suddenly disappeared. He next appeared inside the transport vehicle that had just passed him.

“How much longer?”

“Not long. We just have to register at the space station. There are three other transports in front of us waiting that belong to the Great Yu Empire’s military.”

“Just ask them to let us go first.”

“That, that wouldn’t be nice. They’re a part of the Great Yu Empire’s military.”

“What’s the matter with that? We provide the military with their rations, pay, uniforms, spacecraft, and everything else. Why shouldn’t we get to enjoy some perks? Go on, ask them to let us go first. Besides, they can go and look for their Royal Regent if they have any complaints.”

“Fine.”

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Lu Yin leaned against a window in a corner of the transporter, and his eyes flashed.

That very night, Lu Yin met with Gavin.

“Greetings Your Highness.”

Lu Yin nodded at Gavin. “Take a seat.”

Gavin didn’t know why Lu Yin had asked him to come over at such a late hour, but his intuition told him that there was something wrong, which made him very nervous.

“How are our collaborations with the Nalan family going?” Lu Yin asked casually as he fiddled with his gadget.

Gavin carefully answered, “The Nalan family has initiated comprehensive collaboration efforts with the empire, and we project that our economy will recover soon.”

“We still owe them money, right?” Lu Yin asked.

Gavin replied, “Yes, we owe them quite a large debt.”

“Where are all the places we are collaborating with them? I was the one who encouraged the collaboration, but I still don’t really know about the details,” Lu Yin said.

Gavin cleared his throat. “Our collaboration encompasses many different fields, and I can send the proposed plan to Your Highness if you wish to review it.”

“No, I don’t have the time to read it. Just give me a brief summary,” Lu Yin said.

Gavin nodded. As they discussed, Zhao Ran came in and served them two cups of tea. Lu Yin had brought her back to Zenyu Star, and although he had originally intended to have her stay with Wendy Yushan, Zhao Ran wanted to stay close to Lu Yin. Thus, he had arranged for her to work as a servant in King Zishan’s palace.

Gavin took a sip of tea to calm himself down. “Our collaboration encompasses various fields. from technological resources and battle techniques to clothing, food, and alcohol. The family has many businesses, and so, the Great Yu Empire is working together with them in all of these fields.”

Gavin drank quite a bit of tea while talking, and Zhao Ran even had to serve him a second cup.

“In this case, all of the businesses that are teaming up with the Nalan family are making a profit, right?” Lu Yin asked.

Gavin nodded. “The businesses are all connected to the empire, and some of their profits have already been deposited into the treasury.”

Lu Yin tapped his finger on the table. “Technological resources, food, clothing, and even battle techniques. So, they are basically taking care of the needs of the commoners, military, and our cultivators. Minister Gavin, have you considered the fact that this means that the empire’s economy is now completely controlled by the Nalan family?”

Gavin grew flustered, and he sprang to his feet. “Your Highness-”

Lu Yin interrupted the minister of finance before the man could finish his sentence. “I’m not blaming you. Besides, I was the one who initially agreed to this collaboration with the Nalan family. However, I didn’t expect that the Nalan family’s businesses would cover so many different aspects, so this is my own mistake and no fault of yours.”

Gavin exhaled in relief. “Your Highness, I have also been thinking about this. Since the Nalan family holds no malicious intentions towards the empire at the moment and our economy is still in the process of recovering, we must continue with the current arrangement for the time being. However, as soon as our economy is restored, I will cancel these collaborations.”

“It won’t be that easy, will it?” Lu Yin glared at Gavin.

Gavin’s face went pale.

“If you cancel the collaborations, then the empire’s businesses won’t be able to earn a profit anymore. You said that these businesses are all tied to the empire, and since they were able to gain the rights to work with the Nalan family, then they must be supported by powerful people from the empire. In that case, if you try to stop the collaborations, then you’ll end up facing immense pressure from all sides to prevent this. Am I right?” Lu Yin said.

Gavin bowed. “Please look into this, Your Highness.”

Lu Yin hesitated, as the collaborations with the Nalan family had stimulated the Great Yu Empire’s economy. Despite the economic boost, there were disadvantages to this venture as well. A lot of people in the empire were currently making money from the collaborations, but those people would start raising trouble if the joint venture was abruptly ended. Many people were willing to die for money, and thus, these people might cause chaos and negatively affect the empire’s recovering economy.

If Lu Yin asked the Nalan family to cancel the collaboration, then he would be asking them to offend many people in the empire, which would cause troubles for the family’s future business prospects.

This matter was quite troublesome.

Who would have thought that the Nalan family had their fingers in such a wide range of businesses? Lu Yin had been enjoying the benefits of this joint venture, but he hadn’t realized that the empire’s entire economy was slowly being taken over by another party.

The Nalan family might not have any malicious intentions, but it still wasn’t nice to find out that someone else was in control of the empire’s economy.

Gavin was still bowing as sweat dripped down from his forehead.

A few moments later, Lu Yin told Gavin, “Send me a list of the businesses that are currently supported by powerful political figures.”

Gavin paled, and he could tell that some people would be in trouble. However, he didn't dare go against Lu Yin's orders, and he immediately gave the Royal Regent the list.

Gavin left King Zishan's palace soon after, and another person quickly took his place in Lu Yin's sitting room: Xueshan Auna.

Xueshan Auna didn't expect that Lu Yin would call for him at such a late hour. He was very excited, as the Royal Regent would only send for him at such a time if Xueshan Auna was in trouble, or if Lu Yin trusted Xueshan Auna. The Auna family hadn't done anything recently that would land them in any sort of trouble, which meant that this summons must be because Lu Yin was going to give the Auna family a new task.

Xueshan Auna grew excited as soon as his thoughts reached that point.

"Xueshan Auna greets the Royal Regent."

Lu Yin smiled. "Please sit down, Patriarch Xueshan."

Xueshan Auna took a seat, and Zhao Ran served him some tea. She was quite curious since there had been a lot of visitors tonight.

Lu Yin was very friendly and chatted with Xueshan Auna for more than half an hour, and he became even friendlier as time passed.

Xueshan Auna had been very excited at the beginning of their conversation, but as the conversation continued, he gradually got a feeling that something was wrong. He had a good understanding of Lu Yin, and the friendlier this youth behaved, the more trouble the other party was in. Of course, Lu Yin wasn't going to create trouble for the Auna family, but he would definitely send trouble their way.

Xueshan Auna started to panic.