

### **Chapter 821: Lu Yin's Secret**

While the news outlet's staff was working hard to create a glorious image for Lu Yin, the door suddenly swung open, and a female charged in with a panicked look. "Sister Ya, it's bad! Look at the network!"

Xiao Ya immediately opened her gadget, and at the same time, countless other people in the Outerverse were also browsing the network, and they all saw a groundbreaking secret be revealed.

On Zenyu Star, Lu Yin arrived at the space station with the intention to head towards Armament Weave, as he wanted to personally supervise the final battle. He was still afraid that Wei Rong had other hidden arrangements, so he wanted to be the first to know about anything.

But at that moment, Gavin, Garope, and the other ministers all rushed over and blocked Lu Yin's path with alarmed expressions on all their faces. "Your Majesty, quickly look at the network."

Lu Yin's heart sank, and he immediately activated his gadget. When he navigated to the network, his expression changed drastically. He had planned for all possibilities, but he had never dreamed that Wei Rong would actually uncover his deepest secret.

His personal history was strewn all over the network, from the time he had participated in Earth's trial to when he had taken part in the Astral Combat Tournament after leaving Earth. These details were even known to the commoners, but these were not the details that Wei Rong had exposed. Instead, the hottest news on the network was the experiences Lu Yin had gone through before arriving on Earth, such as when he had been judged by one of the Ten Arbiters and the paper that listed seventy two people surnamed Lu.

That one paper listing people surnamed Lu had represented seventy two human lives, and it was what Lu Yin cared about the most. That paper was his main source of motivation to cultivate, and now, it had been revealed to the entire Outerverse.

It turned out that he, Lu Yin, was not someone whose primeval surname had a legal status. Rather, he had once been judged by one of the Ten Arbiters along with more than seventy other people. It turned out that he had only lived on Earth for one short year. The most important detail of the exposé was that Lu Yin had once been judged by one of the Ten Arbiters and that his primeval surname actually did not have a legal status.

The universe held an intense prejudice against people with primeval surnames. Anyone who had such a surname without a legal status would be treated like a street rat, scorned by all in the Innaverse. Once such a person was discovered, even though people would not go so far as to kill them outright, they would certainly be shunned.

Big Sis and the rest had left because Lu Yin's surname was not legal, and he had been banished from the Innaverse as a result.

Although the Outerverse's prejudice was not as extreme as the Innaverse's, they still held an intense discrimination against those people with illegal primeval surnames.

More importantly, the Hall of Honor's prejudice was even stronger against such people.

Everyone knew that Lu Yin had the Hall of Honor as his backer, but now that his history had been exposed, would the Hall of Honor continue to protect himself? Was there even any possibility of their relationship continuing?

Even if the Hall of Honor wanted to protect Lu Yin, the entire Outerverse knew about his illegal status now. How could the Hall of Honor continue supporting Lu Yin with so much attention placed on him?

What would those people who were fighting on his behalf in the Outerverse think? What would the various powers of the Great Eastern Alliance think? What would the soldiers of the Allied Forces think? How had someone with an illegal primeval surname become the Alliance Leader? What had they relied on to start the current war?

This was basically the equivalent of a thief trying to be an emperor; how could the royal aristocrats or intellectual scholars ever agree to such a thing?

Lu Yin had never imagined that Wei Rong would actually release such a secret.

Ever since Lu Yin had arrived on Earth, he had never revealed his secret to anyone, though it was not very realistic to expect to hide it forever. After all, people could always investigate it if they wanted to. However, no one had ever dug deep into Lu Yin's history as his status had always appeared to be perfectly normal. Still, Wei Rong had exposed Lu Yin's true personal history at this time.

The war in Armament Weave instantly stopped, and the Neo-Vestige Sect disciples did not make any more moves. They had received orders from their sect leader to remain in place and observe any changes that occurred.

Inside Armament Weave, people from various great powers from the Innerverse started to arrive, and they all joined the Wei family's defenses to face off against the Great Eastern Alliance's Allied Forces.

Some of these cultivators were from the Daynight clan, some from Northline Flowzone, and others from the Xun family and other such powers. Their objective was simple: to repel Lu Yin and maintain the universe's prejudice towards primeval surnames.

The strength of the Innerverse was not something that the powers of the Outerverse could contest. Any random disciple from the Innerverse was decently strong, and so, the deterrence of these gathered Innerverse forces surpassed what the Dark Phoenix family had represented by itself even though the Innerverse forces were not supported by anyone at the level of Sall Phoenix.

Their presence represented the Innerverse's attitude.

Many eyes were focused on Zenyu Star, as they were all waiting for the Hall of Honor's response.

Wei Rong was pleased by this turn of events, as he had investigated and eventually discovered this secret after leaving Sourcepeak Planet. His habit was to learn about everything that could be understood about a given person when dealing with them.

He had not used this information this entire time, and he had never mentioned what he had discovered to anyone, all in anticipation for this moment. He wanted Lu Yin to ascend to the peak only to then fall to his death.

Only by releasing this information at the peak of a monumental war that had captured the attention of the entire Outerverse could Wei Rong guarantee that it would immediately spread throughout the entire Outerverse, which would practically force the Hall of Honor to abandon Lu Yin. If they had chosen someone to unite the Outerverse, then Lu Yin was indeed the most suitable candidate.

Of course, there was also some element of risk involved, as Wei Rong was gambling on how much importance the Hall of Honor placed upon illegal primeval surnames. It was just as Yi Feng had said—they needed to gamble a little.

Madam Nalan looked up at the sky with complex emotions in her eyes. She had long since discovered this secret, but she had never mentioned it. In fact, after so long, she had almost forgotten about it. She could have predicted that Wei Rong would eventually discover this secret, and she should have told Lu Yin about it so that he could prepare. However, it was too late now.

Nobody knew exactly what the problem with having an illegal status and a primeval surname was, but there was one thing that was known by all. The entire universe must repel the primeval surnames, and it was a memory that flowed in their very blood.

The Hall of Honor rejected people with illegal primeval surnames without exception, and this was a setback that Lu Yin could not easily overcome.

Lu Yin calmly observed the information on the network before returning to King Zishan's palace.

Garope, Gavin, and the others all did not speak a single word. Instead, they continued bowing with solemn expressions on their faces.

Such a sudden blow had left them all rather shocked. If it was verified that Lu Yin had an illegal status, then everything connected to him would be doomed. In the worst case, he might even face a trial from the Hall of Honor. Furthermore, there was already an Enlighter from the Hall of Honor on Zenyu Star. Their faces went pale. Could it be that the glory of their Great Yu Empire was destined to be a brief flash in the pan?

Wendy Yushan looked at the information shared on the network, but she did not pay the status of his primeval surname any mind, since Lu Yin's surname of Lu was not anything new to her. Rather, what stood out to her was the experiences that Lu Yin had lived through before. When he had first been taken to Zenyu Star, the Great Yu Empire had investigated Lu Yin's background, but they have not found anything related to this recent bit of news. Wendy had never expected Lu Yin to have been judged by one of the Ten Arbiters in the Innaverse.

Ku Wei read all of this information with great interest. This war had been interesting to watch, as both sides had employed all sorts of tricks. Lu Yin and Wei Rong were not only battling with soldiers on the battlefield, but also with various plots and schemes off of it. This Wei Rong was not bad, as seen by how long he had forced the war drag on for.

Wei Rong had given Lu Yin a classic lesson: war was fought not just on the battlefield, but outside of it as well.

Generally, the information that Wei Rong had just exposed would be more than enough to cause Lu Yin to lose everything. Even if he did not die from it, there would be no possibility of him turning the tables.

However, that was all disregarding the fact that his blood-red bell had been seen by Elder Lohar. Was Lu Yin afraid?

He calmly called Elder Lohar, and before long, the old man's image appeared.

"Elder, Junior is dealing with some trouble," Lu Yin respectfully told the elder.

Elder Lohar stared at Lu Yin with a strange expression. "How is Alliance Leader Lu planning on reacting to the newly released information online?" He was probing the youth because he did not know the exact details of Lu Yin's status. However, what had been revealed on the network had to be false. How could a person with an illegal primeval surname possibly possess the Chief Justice's emblem?

Lu Yin replied, "I implore Elder to help to clear up the legality of Junior's status."

"How?" Elder Lohar asked.

Lu Yin straightened up. "If Elder does not know how to clear it up, then perhaps this can help you." Lu Yin pulled out the blood-red bell.

Elder Lohar's expression changed drastically as soon as he saw the blood-red bell, and he blurted out, "You know what that is, right? You didn't actually lose your memory."

In a gloomy voice, Lu Yin answered, "Junior did lose his memory, and there are certain things that I can't remember. However, I still have some impressions of them, such as-" He then pointed at the blood-red bell.

Elder Lohar hurriedly replied, "Alright, I got it. I'll help Alliance Leader Lu clear things up."

Lu Yin nodded. "Thank you, Elder."

Only then did he put the bell away.

Elder Lohar disconnected from the call.

Lu Yin heaved a sigh of relief. His lies were becoming more and more exaggerated, but if he did not speak up at this time, then he would lose everything that he had gained so far.

The war with Armament Weave had paused with many people changing their attitudes towards Lu Yin. Someone with an illegal primeval surname status had to constantly hide themselves, and the only ones who could help him were those standing at the peak of humanity: the Hall of Honor.

The universe's prejudice against illegal primeval surnames came from the Hall of Honor, and only that organization could help Lu Yin out of this predicament.

Elder Lohar was amazingly efficient, or rather, the Hall of Honor was entirely too influential within the Human Domain. In just one hour, all of the information related to Lu Yin's past had been removed from the network, and at the same time, several influential people appeared and testified on Lu Yin's behalf, seemingly proving that he didn't possess an illegal primeval surname. On top of that, many powers were pressured by something. The winds suddenly started blowing in another direction.

The Hall of Honor would not publicly announce anything on the network. However, with their massive influence, they were able to forcibly avert the disadvantageous situation for Lu Yin.

Wei Rong had originally planned to unite the various powers from the Innerverse to rise against the Great Eastern Alliance after Lu Yin lost his prestige, or at the very least, allow his family to take care of their old enemy, the Six-Fingered Tribe. But these sudden winds of change were something that he had not predicted. After verifying the changes taking place, his heart sank into the abyss. He had made the wrong bet, as Lu Yin had also had a backup plan.

In the present Outerverse, only the Hall of Honor was able to influence all of the powers. Although the Outerverse had been cut off from the Innerverse, and even though the Hall of Honor's power had fallen a great deal, they were still a terrifying force. Wei Rong had never thought that the Hall of Honor would be so steadfast in their support of Lu Yin as to not even care about his status.

Wei Rong was fully confident that he had uncovered the truth, but since the Hall of Honor had decided to side with Lu Yin, it meant that Lu Yin was protected from this scheme.

Wei Rong had the Wei family evacuate the ancestral planet as soon as possible, and he also called another of his contacts and said something. However, he did not sound as confident as he had in the past.

He then lowered his gadget and bitterly said, "I was still a little too anxious. I thought that I had all of my bases covered, but I ended up discovering that the enemy is vastly more powerful than I had imagined. Whether the Wei family can survive now depends completely on the will of the heavens."

The various powers from the Innerverse immediately left Armament Weave after the situation changed once again. They did not even offer any sort of polite comments with their departure, leaving even more blatantly than the Outerverse forces like the Umbral Butterfly Tribe.

The Great Eastern Alliance's Allied Forces spent two days reorganizing themselves before returning to the war efforts. This time, everyone was absolutely certain of the outcome of the war, as it could not be changed yet again. Wei Rong had attempted absolutely everything available to him, and if the outcome could still be changed at this point, then it would not be due to his schemes, but rather fate.

Lu Yin boarded a spacecraft that was headed for Armament Weave. He did not believe that Wei Rong could still have any more backup plans, and he intended to completely wipe out the Wei family, especially Wei Rong.

The Wei family was conducting their last-ditch efforts in space, but they would soon fade away.

The Allied Forces spent three days to breach the Wei family's final defenses. During this time, Yi Feng led a group of Lockbreakers who were loyal to him to join the defense, but they were still eventually routed. The Allied Forces were now extremely close to the Wei family's ancestral planet.

On Millions City, Qiong Xi'er sighed. "So they were still defeated in the end, unable to resist the great trend."

## **Chapter 822: Fate Decided By The Heavens**

There was an ugly expression on Qiong Shanhai's face. "The Wei family has been defeated, and who else in the central region can still unite the weaves? They're all exposed to the Great Eastern Alliance's iron hoof."

Qiong Xi'er calmly replied, "Relax, the powers of the central weaves aren't stupid. The key takeaway from this war is that the Hall of Honor is indeed supporting Lu Yin. Thus, going against Lu Yin doesn't merely mean having to deal with Lu Yin, but also the Hall of Honor. Lu Yin on his own may not be worth their attention, but the Hall of Honor is a completely different story. As soon as Wei Rong dies, the central region will unite, and those weaves will not allow Lu Yin to easily conquer them."

Qiong Shanhai laughed. "Everyone has their own schemes. If they lose Wei Rong, then the central region will have lost its mastermind."

Qiong Xi'er's eyes flickered. "That's not necessarily the case."

Qiong Shanhai looked over at his daughter. "What do you mean?"

As he watched Qiong Xi'er sink into deep thought, he sternly said, "You can't be thinking of intervening. No, our Millions City definitely cannot interfere. Even if Lu Yin unites the Outerverse, he'll still be unable to pose any sort of threat to our Millions City, so don't give him a reason to want to deal with us."

Qiong Xi'er replied, "I know."

Everyone was waiting for the final moment when the Wei family was annihilated.

Wei Rong had ordered the Wei family to evacuate from their ancestral planet, but Wei Baichuan did not leave. He was the Wei family patriarch, and he could not leave.

The Allied Forces quickly approached the ancestral planet.

Wei Baichuan felt grieved. At this point, he was just waiting for death and the end.

Had the Wei family's actions of so many years been wrong? Despite having so many connections and a vast network, they still had not been able to overcome Lu Yin's momentum, and their various allies had all abandoned them without hesitation. This was the result of their diplomacy, and they could only succumb to the trend of the times.

Lu Yin arrived in Armament Weave and headed straight toward the Wei family's ancestral planet at top speed.

Wei Rong was not on the planet, and Lu Yin did not want to execute Wei Baichuan. Instead, he wanted to use Wei Baichuan to lure Wei Rong out. Lu Yin did not actually consider the Wei family worthy of his time, as only Wei Rong was able to catch his attention.

Man proposes, but Heaven disposes.

When Lu Yin finally met up with the Allied Forces and prepared to break through the Wei family's final line of defense, the entire Outerverse was shocked: The Technocracy had invaded!

The Hall of Honor immediately ordered all conflicts to cease as they mobilized all of the Outerverse's resources towards Endless Weave. At this same time, all of the powerhouses in the western region

immediately headed for the border in Endless Weave, and a draft list was quickly published on the network.

This was identical to when Ironblood Weave had been invaded by the Astral Beast Domain in the past. Similarly, everyone was ordered to rush to Endless Weave and arrive within a designated amount of time.

When Lu Yin heard this news, his face turned completely pale. Had the invasion of the Sixth Mainland finally begun?

He immediately called Elder Lohar, who informed Lu Yin that he was unsure of the details. All that could be confirmed was that the Technocracy had initiated a war against Endless Weave's border, but nobody knew if it was related to the Sixth Mainland.

What they needed to do at this time was to prepare for the worst case scenario.

Even though Lu Yin possessed the Chief Justice's emblem, making Elder Lohar act extremely respectfully towards the youth, when faced with a war between domains, even if there was just a single step left before the Great Eastern Alliance took care of the Wei family, they could not make any more moves. This was a conflict between domains, and it affected all of humanity.

Countless people in the Great Eastern Alliance felt that this development was a pity, as it would just take a tiny effort for them to fully occupy Armament Weave.

Floating through space, Wei Rong closed both of his eyes. In the end, his luck had turned out to be pretty good.

He had orchestrated this matter from the start. The Wei family had produced intellectuals since ancient times. The good thing about smart people was that they never assumed that everything was under their control. Instead, they believed that everyone had their own destinies, and the Wei family was no different. Starting in some past generation, the Wei family had introduced an ironclad law that could not be removed, which was that they must always have a family member in Endless Weave at the Human Domain's border with the Technocracy as well as someone in Ironblood Weave near the border with the Astral Beast Domain. The purpose was so that they could incite a war between the two domains at a critical moment.

A war between domains would force any and all conflicts between them humans to stop, and it would therefore introduce a forced armistice.

This time, Wei Rong had used his final option, and he had ordered the people that the Wei family had hidden near Endless Weave's border to take the initiative to attack the Technocracy, thereby inciting a Domain War.

The Technocracy had invaded Endless Weave, which was very far away from Armament Weave. Thus, the conflict might not have necessarily forced the war in Armament Weave to stop. Wei Rong had gambled on his luck again, hoping that the Hall of Honor would attach some importance to the invasion. If possible, he had also wanted to instigate the Astral Beast Domain into invading Ironblood Weave. That way, not only would the conflict in Armament Weave stop, but all of the known powerhouses in the region would be drafted to Ironblood Weave's defense.

Unfortunately, the people that the Wei family had planted in Ironblood Weave had died during the most recent invasion.

At this time, Wei Rong had intended to use luck to save his family, but he had never dreamed that the Hall of Honor would view this invasion with so much importance. In fact, they had practically exaggerated the magnitude of this incident. Not only did they stop all the conflicts throughout the entire Outerverse, but they had also mobilized countless experts and drafted them to Endless Weave, all the while acting as if the Technocracy was about to launch a full-scale invasion.

Wei Rong had a feeling that the border skirmish he had orchestrated was not as simple as he had assumed.

Only a few people in the entire Outerverse were aware of what Lu Yin had told Elder Lohar. When Lu Yin had Possessed Tong Chou, who was someone from the Sixth Mainland, Lu Yin had discovered that the Sixth Mainland might have gained control over a portion of the Technocracy's Master Brain's authority and that they were planning to use the Technocracy's territory as a springboard to invade the Outerverse. The Hall of Honor had been investigating this matter this whole time, and although there had been no signs of invasion in their previous investigations, war had suddenly broken out. Thus, the Hall of Honor naturally viewed it as a serious threat.

Any matter that was linked to the Sixth Mainland was a huge event that could potentially drive the Fifth Mainland's humans to extinction.

Lu Yin felt that it was a pity that he could not completely defeat the Wei family. However, even the entire Wei family was too insignificant compared to the Sixth Mainland.

The border war that Wei Rong had orchestrated had caused both the Hall of Honor and Lu Yin to misunderstand the situation, but it had also saved the Wei family. It could only be said that it wasn't the Wei family's time to die just yet.

Lu Yin ordered the Allied Forces to withdraw back to the Great Eastern Alliance's territory, and the 100,000 disciples from the Neo-Vestige Sect all returned to Mordo Weave. The invasion of Armament Weave could only be put on a temporary hiatus.

Still, it was only a temporary armistice. As soon as the Human Domain's border was confirmed to be safe, the Allied Forces would instantly return.

Lu Yin ordered the experts from the various powers of the Great Eastern Alliance to join the Allied Forces in preparation for their next battle. Of course, these efforts were also made with the possibility of an invasion from the Technocracy in mind, as Lu Yin wanted to be ready.

"Your Highness, it's such a pity. We were just one step away," En Ya said reluctantly.

Lu Yin had already returned to Zenyu Star by now, and he was looking at a star chart, studying the border between Endless Weave and the Technocracy. "If the Outerverse is taken out, then just the Wei family is nothing."

"What did you say, Your Highness?" En Ya was puzzled.



Lu Yin shook his head. "Nothing. Go and tally up our casualties. Then, quickly recruit some experts into the Allied Forces so that we can maintain the Allied Forces at full strength."

"Yes."

The war had stopped, but there was still a pile of matters that needed to be attended to, and all of this administrative work was giving Lu Yin a headache.

When the war against Armament Weave had first started, everyone had been united as if they were facing an outside threat and were working towards a common goal. But now that the war had stopped, the divisions had reappeared.

His gadget rang, and Lu Yin saw that it was a call from Wei Rong.

He opened the screen, and Wei Rong appeared with a very happy smile. "Brother Lu, I'm sorry to disappoint you."

Lu Yin solemnly answered, "This border war concerns our entire domain, so it would be best if you used your smarts to deal with the Technocracy. I'm glad that I didn't kill you."

Wei Rong's expression remained serene. "I admire Brother Lu's righteousness."

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. "During this war, Brother Wei gathered his forces together at every step, and you also schemed three steps further at every turn. I also admire you."

Wei Rong smiled. "But unfortunately, we still ended up losing to Brother Lu in the end. Speaking of which, I have to thank Brother Lu for not hiring Smoker to assassinate me."

Lu Yin's lips curled upwards. "There's no need to thank me so early."

Wei Rong laughed. "Did Brother Lu consider hiring Smoker to assassinate me?"

"What do you think?" Lu Yin retorted.

Wei Rong looked into Lu Yin's eyes and then sighed. "We really are the same type. If I had a way to kill Brother Lu, I also would not have been able to bear letting Brother Lu die so easily. What a pity."

Lu Yin declined to comment.

"Brother Lu, why don't we come to an agreement?" Wei Rong suddenly asked.

Lu Yin was interested. "Speak."

Wei Rong spoke solemnly, "In the future, if Brother Lu can defeat me openly and occupy the central region of the Outerverse, then I'll willingly assist Brother Lu in opening new frontiers. I'll become your lackey and help you overcome all obstacles as we kill our way into the Innerverse."

Lu Yin was amused. "'Kill our way into the Innerverse'? I'm not that ambitious."

“If Brother Lu can truly unite the full Outerverse, then regardless of whether your ambition leans that way or not, the circumstances will force Brother Lu into that direction,” Wei Rong said in a profound manner.

Lu Yin shook his head, as the Innerverse was still on the verge of collapse since it was currently facing the invasion of the Sixth Mainland. It was actually impossible to know how many survivors there were at the moment. “You must be afraid that I’ll hire Smoker to take you out.”

Wei Rong smiled. “Then is Brother Lu willing to accept this proposal?”

Lu Yin stared at Wei Rong for a while. “Sure.”

Employing assassins was a bad move, and doing so would not be too different from how those great powers from the Innerverse used their overbearing strength to push others around. Wei Rong was correct—Lu Yin could not bear to give up on Wei Rong. However, nobody had said that Lu Yin could not use other methods to kill Wei Rong. If the war became heated enough, Lu Yin would not show mercy, as he was no fool either.

Wei Rong wanted to use words to agitate Lu Yin, as he naturally still had a backup plan.

“Alright, since the proper businesses have already been discussed, then there’s another question I would like to have clarified by Brother Lu,” Wei Rong said solemnly.

Lu Yin replied, “What’s the matter?”

Wei Rong’s lips curled upwards. “Every step that Brother Lu has taken, I have investigated everything that can be found. According to my analysis of Brother Lu, you should be the type of person that absolutely has to seek revenge. In that case, is Brother Lu curious about which of the Ten Arbiters issued that judgement back then?”

Lu Yin’s eyes turned cold, and he stared at Wei Rong. “You know?”

Wei Rong shook his head. “No, but Brother Lu’s reaction makes me certain of one thing: Brother Lu, you will definitely end up fighting against that Arbiter in the Innerverse in the future. I’m looking forward to it.”

Lu Yin indifferently responded, “There’s no need for you to make any guesses. No matter who issued that paper with the names of seventy two people surnamed Lu, I will find and chase that Arbiter down as well as all of the people who chased after us. I will find them all.”

Wei Rong nodded. “Then I’ll extend my best wishes for Brother Lu’s success in advance. Right, before you face off against the Ten Arbiters, is there anyone who Brother Lu would like to use as practice? Such as... Yu Mu?”

Lu Yin smiled. “This must be your true goal. You want to move against Shamrock Enterprises?”

Wei Rong answered grudgingly, “There’s no other choice.”

He took out a cosmic ring that he tossed in the air and casually caught as it fell. “Chairman Yu generously gave this to me as compensation for his actions, but he threw it on the ground.”

Wei Rong's eyes were so cold that it felt as though his gaze could pierce straight to the bone. "Since ancient times, our Wei family has always conducted ourselves strategically, and although we've never been extremely powerful, we have never been the ones to be looked down upon. I didn't check what's in this. What about you, Brother Lu?"

Lu Yin took out a similar cosmic ring. "I didn't check it either, but one day, I'll return this to him."

"Hahahaha. Then let us work hard together. Yu Mu is an old monster whose power level approaches 400,000 after all." Wei Rong smiled in a carefree manner as he stored that cosmic ring once again.

Lu Yin similarly put the one in his possession away. "You'd best cherish this next bit of time, as you don't have much of it left."

Wei Rong held his forehead. "If Brother Lu still wants to move against me, then I'd best prepare some more backup plans. Farewell, Brother Lu."

### **Chapter 823: Target Of Suspicion**

Lu Yin disconnected from the call and frowned. Wei Rong's words had dragged out some old memories of past events. Had Wei Rong really been unable to find which of the Ten Arbiters had judged them back then, or had he merely been putting on an act? Lu Yin had no way to investigate this issue, but that didn't mean that Wei Rong was the same.

Right, Amethyst Exchange. Lu Yin suddenly remembered this option. Since his past had already been made public, he might as well use Amethyst Exchange to investigate the details of that incident.

Since he had thought of this possibility, then he would follow through with it. Lu Yin vanished, only to reappear on the top floor of Amethyst Exchange's building on Zenyu Star.

Zi Xianxian was not surprised by Lu Yin's arrival at all. "We don't have much information concerning the Domain War at Endless Weave's border, so there's no need to ask about it."

Lu Yin glanced at the pink sofa, which was extremely eye-catching every time he visited. "I'm not here about that. I wanted to ask something else—how much do you guys know about the details of the Inniverse?"

Zi Xianxian's eyes lit up. "What would you like to ask about?"

Lu Yin replied, "So you do know some."

Zi Xianxian shook her head, though her eyes were still wide open. "I don't know."

Lu Yin stared at her. "How much do you know about the Ten Arbiters?"

Zi Xianxian leaned forward as she stared at Lu Yin. "You want to ask which one of the Ten Arbiters delivered the judgement upon those surnamed Lu, correct?"

Lu Yin nodded.

Zi Xianxian exclaimed, "It's truly baffling how the Hall of Honor treats you. This question of yours is no different from you admitting that what Wei Rong revealed is true. But even so, the Hall of Honor still supports you. How did you do it?"

"I am purchasing information from you, and I have no need to provide you with any intelligence," Lu Yin replied. Although Thousand Eyes' pirates could provide a great deal of information, it was not on the same level as what Amethyst Exchange could supply. Those pirates were able to probe into matters connected to the dark side of the Outerverse, but they were not able to cover the Innerverse, as otherwise, they would not be pirates. In the Outerverse, only colossal organizations could investigate such matters.

Zi Xianxian was helpless. "Sorry, I don't know."

Lu Yin was not disappointed by her response. "Can it be looked into?"

Zi Xianxian shook her head. "Any matter concerning the Ten Arbiters cannot be investigated, as you should know. Even the names of the Ten Arbiters are taboo, let alone the actions that they might have taken."

Lu Yin turned to leave.

"Wait!" Zi Xianxian called out. "There's no need to hurry. Even if it can't be checked, I can conduct an analysis for you."

She then gestured for Lu Yin to sit. "Have a cup of tea."

Lu Yin nodded and took a seat.

Zi Xianxian poured Lu Yin a cup—of some pink drink. Lu Yin stared at it incredulously. Didn't she say tea? Where's the tea?

After taking a sip, Zi Xianxian licked her lips. "The Ten Arbiters have ten completely different personalities, but each one is an unparalleled youth. Of these ten, some are more outspoken while others are more withdrawn. Some like to meddle in others' businesses, while some only have a few passions. Some even have rather strange personalities. It's not too difficult to determine which of these ten would deliver a judgement of their own initiative, and I have several candidates."

Lu Yin stared at her. "You know about the Ten Arbiters?"

"I don't understand them, but my Amethyst Exchange has completed an analysis of their personalities. This is top secret, so—" Zi Xianxian lifted a finger as she paused. "100,000 star essence, no haggling."

Lu Yin was shocked. "That much?"

"Do you want it?" Zi Xianxian felt confident. She would not forget about how she had wanted to spontaneously tell this fellow Deng Pu's location, but he had not cared in the least. Women tended to hold grudges. Since Zi Xianxian had been embarrassed, she would absolutely embarrass Lu Yin as much as she could now.

Lu Yin was indeed disgusted, as to him, money was not just money. It was also a direct way to improve his strength. When he saw Zi Xianxian's gleeful expression, he felt helpless. "Go ahead."

Zi Xianxian felt proud. The truth was that she should not be discussing secrets concerning the Ten Arbiters with an outsider. However, since the Outerverse was isolated from the Innerverse, some

secrets had no value if they remained unspoken. "I can tell you, but let's make something clear: I will not mention any names."

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed.

Zi Xianxian solemnly explained, "These are the rules. Even if the Outerverse is isolated from the Innerverse, allowing us to sell certain secrets, we still have to maintain at least some rules. Otherwise, there will be a great deal of trouble in the future. Back when the Sea King stole that batch of pyrolyte, he had thought that his actions were flawless, but was still discovered by the Starsibyl Sect in the end. The cycle of karma cannot be disregarded."

Lu Yin nodded. "Alright, go on."

Zi Xianxian took another sip of her fruit juice. "The first person to suspect is a scholar. Such people tend to have a lot on their mind, and they must obey various rules. Since ancient times, scholars have delivered many admonishments, so it wouldn't be too surprising for one of them to carry out a judgement."

Lu Yin nodded. He knew who Zi Xianxian was referencing.

"Although this scholar does not seem to have any conflicts with you in the open, their morality may rear its head from time to time. Just like a fanatic, they might condemn whatever displeases them, which is very normal for them. In a certain year, they once handed down judgement over ten times, and all of the cases were completely unrelated to them. According to our analysis, they just found them to be displeasing," Zi Xianxian explained.

Lu Yin frowned.

"The second person to be considered comes from an ancient family whose surname is made up of two words. They are arrogant, disregard all others, and are the type of person who will bite regardless of the circumstances, as long as it concerns them. In their eyes, if you are not obedient and do not fawn over them, then you are disrespecting them. They are more stern and show condescension towards everything. It wouldn't be surprising at all if this person delivered that judgement," Zi Xianxian explained.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed, as he knew who this Arbiter was as well.

"The third person to consider is also from an ancient family. They like the color white and have an obsession with cleanliness. At first glance, they seem like a deity, and their innate gift is also one filled with dignity. This person does not allow the existence of any stains to persist, and illegal primeval surnames are considered stains upon the universe. Thus, it would be normal for this person to deliver judgement upon them."

Lu Yin frowned, as a certain figure from the Daosource Sect's ruins appeared in his mind.

"The fourth suspect is someone who carries out massacres." Upon mentioning this Arbiter, Zi Xianxian's eyes flickered with fear. "This person's personality is rather carefree, and they dislike trouble. They go about and kill people simply when they don't like them. When this person acts, they often destroy entire planets, and just so that they don't see any dead people, they will often reduce everyone to nothingness."

Lu Yin was shocked, as this was an unknown Arbiter.

“This particular Arbiter has a special trait.” Zi Xianxian’s eyes grew serious, and a trace of puzzlement appeared in her eyes. “They cannot be attacked.”

“‘Cannot be attacked’? What does that mean?” Lu Yin was surprised by this phrase.

Zi Xianxian shook her head. “I don’t know the specifics, but basically, this Arbiter cannot be attacked. Any and all attacks directed towards them will be reduced to nothingness. According to our analysis, it should be some sort of innate gift, but as for what it is exactly, nobody can say. This person may seem very happy-go-lucky, but they are actually ruthless. As for why they might have exacted judgement, it’s rumored that one of this person’s ancestors was humiliated by an expert with a primeval surname. Thus, they carry a deep grudge towards all such people.”

Lu Yin fell deep into thought.

Zi Xianxian stood up. “Alright, I’ve told you about the four suspects, and you should have some understanding of the first three. It’s very likely that one of these four are behind the judgement that condemned those with the Lu surname.”

Lu Yin suddenly asked, “Of the Ten Arbiters, is there anyone who has had any involvement with the Cosmic Sea’s Four Pirate Crews?”

Zi Xianxian was puzzled by this question. “Why do you ask? There shouldn’t be any, but I’d need to check to be sure.”

“I’ll wait for you to check.” Lu Yin stood up, paid his bill, and then left.

He could not forget Old Gu De’s words. Big Sis and the others were from Leon’s Armada, so their pursuers had to have been sent by someone from the Cosmic Sea who dared to pursue them and who had some sort of conflict with them. Old Gu De had also mentioned that the person behind the pursuit was someone connected to the Four Pirate Crews. Thus, as long as Lu Yin found out which of the Ten Arbiters had a relationship with the Four Pirate Crews, that Arbiter was very likely to be the person who had delivered the judgement upon those surnamed Lu.

Zi Xianxian looked at the recently vacated chair. “The Cosmic Sea’s Four Pirate Crews?”

In response to the Domain War at Endless Weave’s border, almost every part of the Outerverse’s western region had been plunged into war preparations. The Hall of Honor was being extremely cautious, but nobody knew why.

The Technocracy had invaded the Outerverse frequently in the past, but the Hall of Honor had never exerted such caution ever before.

In the subsequent days, the Outerverse’s network was filled with reports about the Domain War, and the propaganda even encouraged cultivators to join in on Endless Weave’s war efforts.

Reports concerning the war in Armament Weave could no longer be found anywhere.

Lu Yin met with Xiao Ya once during this time, as he had been completely defeated by Wei Rong in the media front of their war. Wei Rong's media maneuvers had been passive, as he did not have the power to directly control the media outlets. However, he had managed to gather support from other forces.

Any news that Wei Rong had exposed had been automatically broadcasted by various media outlets, and it had all rapidly spread. Concerning this detail, Lu Yin had not found any weapons that he could use to curb such rampant propaganda.

He needed to gain influence over the media, and that influence could not just be limited to the Great Eastern Alliance's territory.

Unfortunately, no matter how hard he tried to control the media, he had to first increase his influence. Otherwise, even if he established a local news outlet, it would be useless if it had no support.

If he wanted to expand, then he needed to have the influence of the media, and if he wanted the media that he supported to have any sort of influence, then they needed to expand. This was like the question of which came first: the chicken or the egg? The only way for Lu Yin to proceed was to copy Wei Rong's methods and then borrow the strength of a media company while not completely controlling it.

Only the Hall of Honor was able to completely control the media.

Although Lu Yin had the Chief Justice's emblem, it would be unrealistic for him to rely on it to order the Hall of Honor about, not unless he also had a power level of 300,000 that put him on equal footing with Elder Lohar. In the end, foreign objects were foreign objects, and only personal strength was a constant truth.

"Your Highness, Bei Qing has requested an audience," Kayze reported.

Lu Yin had Bei Qing brought in.

Bei Qing respectfully greeted, "Greetings, Your Highness."

"What's the matter?"

Bei Qing replied, "Your Highness, you originally decided to conduct a high quality auction every three months, but four months have already passed."

Lu Yin suddenly remembered this, as he had indeed forgotten about the auction house. "Right, I forgot about that. Alright, I'll give you some high quality goods to auction."

"Thank you, Your Highness. Actually, your subject came to see you regarding another matter," Bei Qing said as he looked at Lu Yin in a cautious manner. "There are certain items that should not be seen, and I want to ask Your Highness if these can be auctioned off."

"Should not be seen?" Lu Yin felt this was a strange issue. What could be considered taboo compared to pyrolyte?

Bei Qing continued to explain the origin and details about certain items to Lu Yin, who quickly understood. It turned out that it was like that.

Some things blatantly displayed the emblem of specific families or powers. Normally, if people obtained such items, they wouldn't dare to openly sell them out of fear of being discovered. Thus, they wished to take advantage of the Lu's Grand Auction to sell off their contraband. These items were indeed worthy of being categorized as items that were not fit to be seen, as anyone who were selling such things would definitely offend the original owners.

Lu Yin replied, "Buy those items and then sell them back to the original owners at a high price."

Bei Qing was surprised by these orders. "Your Highness, won't that offend them?"

Lu Yin did not care. "It's not like we were the ones who stole these items or plundered their property. We're helping them to recover their lost goods, so don't we need some reciprocity?"

Bei Qing understood: the intent was to buy these items at a low price and then sell them back to the original owners at a high price. If someone of average status had this opportunity, they would naturally not dare to do such a thing as the original owners would simply eliminate them. However, this was the Lu's Grand Auction, and so, those powers could only pinch their noses and give in. In fact, they even needed to show some gratitude.

"We will have to take and save videos of these transactions so that they can't falsely accuse us of anything. Also, if there are any unusually precious items, then just keep them," Lu Yin ordered.

"Rest assured, Your Highness. Your subject knows what to do," Bei Qing reassured the Royal Regent.

"Head back for now and come back again tomorrow at the same time. I'll give you some more good things to sell then," Lu Yin said.

Bei Qing was delighted, and he quickly took his leave.

#### **Chapter 824: Reentering The Daosource Sect**

Lu Yin began to search through his inventory. He had numerous precious items, but there really wasn't much that he could sell.

He flipped through his cosmic ring, but he had already sold all of his natural treasures, and there were not that many interesting items remaining. There was the blood-red bell, but if he dared to sell it, the Hall of Honor would likely stake everything they had to move against him. There was also the hoe, but nobody would be able to use that toy. Right, he still had the arrows from Neo-Vestige Sect and Elder Wu's poison, which he could sell. However, Lu Yin felt uncomfortable at the thought of selling these things, as he would no longer have them afterwards.

As he considered his options, Lu Yin contacted Ban Jiu.

In the past, Lu Yin had asked Ban Jiu to manufacture some equipment, such as guns, arrows, armors, and other miscellaneous items, and to make them with high quality materials.

Ban Jiu had told Lu Yin that it would be pointless for them to make such items, as they would be useless for Lu Yin and any other powerful cultivator. However, Lu Yin did have a use for them, as he could upgrade such equipment.



Before too much time passed, the Technology Department sent over one gun, three arrows, and a set of universal armor.

Lu Yin had also sent Kayze out to buy three formcast models. After collecting all the items, he entered the palace's secret, raised his hand, and caused his die to appear.

Recently, Lu Yin no longer rolled the die as frequently as he had in the past. Thus, with the longer gap between rolls, he was more likely to roll the number that he desired. Lu Yin had thought about this before, and since this die was his innate gift, it made sense that it could resonate with his inner desires.

But hopes were just hopes, and they were not predictions. As a precaution, Lu Yin quickly set his cosmic ring aside, just in case he rolled six pips: Possession.

His cosmic ring contained over a million star essence, and if he rolled six pips: Possession, he did not know where he would be taken. In fact, he might even Possess someone from the Sixth Mainland again, and if that happened, his wealth would be depleted in an instant.

Although six pips: Possession was a method that could improve his strength and allow him to obtain crucial intelligence, it was not the roll that Lu Yin wanted at this time. He would slowly explore that option when he had the time and resources.

He tapped out, and the die spun around before directly landing on three pips: Enhance.

So did this indicate that, the greater his desires or expectations, the higher the odds of rolling what he wanted with the die? Lu Yin considered this possibility.

Two screens of light appeared, and Lu Yin first threw the gun on top. It was actually rather similar to the fake gun that Lu Yin had sent to the Xun family in the past. This gun had been made from high quality materials, and Lu Yin expected to be able to upgrade it to the point where it could fire attacks with a power level of nearly 200,000, which would be able to threaten Enlighters.

He spent over 20,000 star essence to upgrade the gun to the maximum level.

As he held it in his hands, it felt pretty decent.

Although this gun's rune lines could not match up to an Enlighter's, it was still pretty close, and it would be sufficient for the moment. The materials used to make this particular gun meant that it could only be upgraded to this extent.

Next were the three arrows, but no matter how much Lu Yin upgraded them, they would still have no intrinsic special powers or traits, unlike the Arrow of Valiance that had no form and was unstoppable. These three arrows were perfectly ordinary, but if they were used by a Hunter well-versed in bow and used arrow battle techniques, then their power would be boosted to a decent level, and these arrows could theoretically present a threat to Enlighters.

It cost him less star essence to upgrade these arrows than the gun for an overall sum of a bit over 10,000 star essence.

Just upgrading three arrows and one gun had already cost him almost 60,000 star essence. He had never had such a large sum before his trip to Millions City. During that trip, Lu Yin had managed to obtain more

than a million star essence from people like Yuehua Mavis, so his savings at the moment were quite considerable.

There were also those three formcast models still.

It did not cost Lu Yin too much to upgrade them to five-stage models, but it would cost him 8,000 star essence each to upgrade them to six-stage models.

However, Lu Yin did not plan to upgrade them to that level.

A six-stage formcast model required an Enlighter to create. If he brought out such treasures, it would cause a great commotion. Since that was the case, he could only upgrade the formcast models five times before selling them, which would not incite too much excitement.

Still, five-stage formcast models were not simple, and even a power like the Xun family from the Inverse may not necessarily have that many five-stage formcast models, let alone the Outerverse powers. Perhaps only Neo-Vestige Sect, Millions City, the Dark Phoenix family, and the four great conglomerates had such items.

These three upgraded formcast models would be sufficient to support the auction this time. Thus, Lu Yin did not plan to provide any additional treasures to sell. Instead, he intended to start preparing to return to the Daosource Sect.

It had been almost nine months since he had last visited the Daosource Sect's ruins, and the dispute between the Ten Arbiters and the Realmings should have died down significantly. However, he would still need to make the necessary preparations.

The first thing on his list to upgrade was the Arrow of Valiance, which was completely transparent and moved unseen. This meant that it was the best choice to use in an ambush attack. It also had the trait of being unstoppable, but unfortunately, its destructive power was based upon the strength of its user, and Lu Yin's own destructive power could only approach that of a Hunter at most.

He placed the Arrow of Valiance on the upper light screen and began to upgrade it repeatedly.

The rune lines that he saw on the arrow grew more and more exaggerated. They grew from a Hunter's, to an Enlighter's, and then finally, an Enlighter's with a power level of around 250,000. At this point, it should be enough to injure a Realming-level opponent.

Lu Yin did not plan to upgrade the arrow any further, as he would not be able to control it if it became too powerful. This was his limit, and it had cost him nearly 100,000 star essence to reach this point, which was quite a lot. The Arrow of Valiance was so expensive to upgrade precisely because of its special traits, which made it completely different from the normal arrows that he had upgraded earlier. Actually, it was considered as one of the divine arrows.

Next were various medicines and life-preserving items. He retrieved the ancient medicine that he had bought at the Qiong Forest Banquet's auction. This pill was different from Shamrock Enterprises's medications. Instead, it consisted of individual beads. Just a single glance at it was enough to tell that these pills had probably been refined by a cultivating sect.

The overall effect of these pills were already quite impressive before being upgraded. To start, Lu Yin took out one pill and upgraded it multiple times, only stopping once the rune lines were equivalent to an Enlighter's with a power level of 200,000. Nobody would be upset at having life-preserving items that were too powerful, but he would not upgrade the pill any further, as there was no reason to upgrade it excessively. Upgrading it to this point had already cost about 20,000 star essence.

He had only upgraded one pill, though the bottle contained a total of twelve pills. After making some quick calculations, Lu Yin only upgraded three pills, as he only needed that much for his personal use.

Upgrading the Arrow of Valiance and three pills had drained his reserves by nearly 160,000 star essence.

As Lu Yin's personal strength increased, his requirements for his supporting items had also risen. Correspondingly, the amount of money that he had to spend to upgrade those items to that level had also increased. When he eventually became an Enlighter, the external objects he used would have to be at the level of threatening powerhouses with power levels of around 400,000, which would probably require hundreds of thousands of star essence for each upgrade.

He still had around 1,240,000 star essence left, so next on his list was another set of universal armor.

His original set of universal armor had cracked, so if he used it, he might easily suffer injuries in a fight. After leaving Millions City, he had instructed Ban Jiu to manufacture a new set of universal armor and to use the best materials possible in its construction. With a conservative estimate, Lu Yin believed that the new armor could be upgraded to the point where it would be able to defend against attacks with power levels of 300,000.

He quickly upgraded the universal armor sixteen times, pushing it to the point where it could withstand attacks with a power level of almost 260,000 before he stopped. Lu Yin had spent a total of 23,000 star essence on the armor so far, and the universal armor's base materials would not be able to handle another upgrade, as this universal armor's base materials were quite inferior compared to his first one.

The only advantage was that it was much cheaper to upgrade the universal armor compared to the Arrow of Valiance, and the armor cost about the same as the pills. Right, a universal armor was just a piece of defensive equipment whereas the Arrow of Valiance was an offensive weapon.

The next day, Lu Yin passed a gun whose rune lines nearly matched an Enlighter's, three arrows that were the same, and three five-stage formcast models over to Bei Qing.

Bei Qing's face was blank, "Your- Your Highness, this is?"

Lu Yin casually replied, "Sell them."

Bei Qing blinked. "Is this information accurate?"

Lu Yin was irritated by his response. "Do you think that I'd try to deceive you?"

Bei Qing hurriedly apologized, but he still didn't truly believe the information that he had been given. A gun that could threaten an Enlighter? Was that a joke!? Was the Royal Regent taking advantage of the fact that Bei Qing was a native who did not know much about guns? And these three arrows—reportedly, they also had the power to threaten Enlighters, but they were apparently still just arrows

that could not realize their full power on their own!? However, the three formcast models shocked Bei Qing the most. Five-stage formcast models! He had never heard of anyone selling such things in the entire Outerverse. Who wouldn't hoard such treasures as family heirlooms to eventually give them to their own heir? Even if the formcast models couldn't be used by older cultivators, people would absolutely save them to give to their heirs. Just who would sell them?

Lu Yin knew that Bei Qing would not easily believe the truth of these items, so he simply said, "With the Lu's Grand Auction's prestige, feel free to sell these things. There will certainly be people who believe it."

In the past, Lu Yin had used a gun to kill multiple Enlighters, and he had even gained the title "Enlighters' Bane." Thus, everybody was aware of that gun's legend. That gun had been destroyed in Ironblood Weave, and when this one appeared, countless people would invariably remember Lu Yin's old item, which would prompt them into believing that this gun was authentic.

"Then, Your Highness, how do we set the prices?" Bei Qing asked.

Lu Yin thought about it; Enlighters were practically the sky in the Outerverse, and not every weave was able to produce an Enlighter. Thus, anyone who bought such an item would be purchasing a deterrent, so the price could not be too low. Lu Yin had no fear of setting the price too high, as there would always be someone who could afford the price, such as the four great conglomerates, the three great powers of the Outerverse, or those colossal financial organizations.

Lu Yin did not forget about the generosity that Neo-Vestige Sect had shown when buying back those divine arrows.

"The base price for the gun will be 60,000 star essence, while the three arrows' base price will be 20,000 each. As for the formcast models..." Lu Yin thought about it for a moment before replying, "No starting price."

Five-stage formcast models were items that most people would never be able to access due to the universal lack of supply. Lu Yin had once assumed that almost every Enlighter was able to produce such formcast models, but his thinking had been too simple back then. Even if five-stage formcast models didn't require an Envoy to produce, the expert would definitely have to be close to that level. Mammoth organizations like Shamrock Enterprises definitely had such experts, so they would not be short for these sorts of formcast models.

These were two major obstacles to selling these formcast models, as those colossal organizations possessed super experts who could manufacture similar five-stage formcast models, and they would definitely provide them to their own geniuses. On the other hand, any powers without such powerhouses would find it difficult to purchase these formcast models even if they had enough money.

Each manufactured formcast model was related to the expert who produced them, and some people were capable of deducing details about the manufacturer's strength through the unique details of each formcast model. For experts manufacturing formcast models, each model that they produced would increase the odds of their weaknesses being exposed. Thus, high level formcast models would not be released externally unless there was no choice.

Lu Yin had spent just over 300,000 star crystals when he had upgraded his own formcast model from four to five stages, which was very cheap. It was very difficult to buy high level formcast models simply because no one wanted to sell them.

As soon as news spread out that this next auction would feature these five-stage formcast models, Lu Yin felt confident that there would be quite a commotion, and at the very least, the four great conglomerates would not remain aloof. Those companies definitely did not have any experts who could manufacture five-stage formcast models, and it was also practically impossible to buy such things. Additionally, these companies all had a great number of youths who they were raising, and who would not want their heir to be even more outstanding? A five-stage formcast model meant greater future prospects.

Bei Qing left, feeling both excited and nervous.

Were the items that he had been given to sell this time actually reliable? He was not certain, but he also knew that he could not refuse to sell what he had been given. He had no choice in this matter, and he gritted his teeth. Regardless, everything belonged to His Highness, so even if these items were fake, only the Royal Regent's reputation would take a hit. Bei Qing stopped caring about the authenticity of the items and decided to just sell them.

After thinking about it, he quickly contacted Xiao Ya.

After Bei Qing left King Zishan's palace, Lu Yin called Wendy Yushan. He wanted her to wait a moment to enter the Daosource Sect so that he could enter first and investigate the situation. After speaking with her, he returned to the secret room in the palace and held onto the Arrow of Valiance and the Backlash Pearl with an Ultra Flash Tearbomb tied to his waist. He sat on the futon and then entered the Daosource Sect's ruins. He had not visited this place in quite some time, and he was hoping that his luck would not be as terrible as the last time!

As the scenery changed before his eyes, Lu Yin reoriented himself and quickly realized that he was back in a familiar, yet still foreign place—he was back in the futon plaza outside the First Divine Gate.

### **Chapter 825: Champions' Stage Conferring Titles**

This futon plaza was familiar to Lu Yin because he had appeared in this place several times before, and this was also the first place he had ever come to in the Daosource Sect. However, it also felt foreign because the entire futon plaza had changed, as if something had flattened it. The ground had been smoother out by some overwhelming strength, and the terrain had changed on a fundamental level.

Lu Yin stood up and surveyed his surroundings. He then unleashed his domain, allowing it to spread out further and further. But despite letting it expand unabated, he could not find a single soul within his domain's range.

Right, the floating mainland above the mountains and seas had fallen into the seabed. Thus, he wouldn't be able to appear within the mountains and seas at the start anymore, forcing him to return to the futon plaza.

Lu Yin then lifted a leg and stomped on the ground, causing his foot to sink into the ground. His eyes flashed; this was the Daosource Sect's ruins, and the terrain's natural hardness was incomparable to an

ordinary piece of land. However, it had still been pulverized. The culprit had to be one of the Ten Arbiters, one of the Realmings, or perhaps someone even stronger, like Wu Taibai of the Daosource Three Skies.

Lu Yin could not determine how long the battle that had destroyed the land had occurred just based on the markings on the ground. Thus, he could only carefully head in the direction of the First Divine Gate.

He successfully passed through the First Divine Gate without issue, though the path there had also been badly damaged, leaving not many guardians that tried to stop him. Lu Yin occasionally ran into some corpses on the ground, but it seemed as though these people had been dead for some time.

Lu Yin had already unleashed his domain to its fullest extent, but despite that, he still had not found a single trace of any other people.

After passing through the First Divine Gate, he entered the Budding Terrace, but there still was not a single soul to be seen.

Although the Realmings had fought an intense battle against the Ten Arbiters that had resulted in many Sixth Mainland cultivators being too afraid to even enter the Daosource Sect, it should not have been so bad that not a single person was present.

Lu Yin reduced his aura as much as he could and then headed towards the region with the Nine Source Cauldrons. His foremost goal this trip was to comprehend the battle technique within the Nine Cauldrons. If he ran into White Knight or Wen Sansi, he would also be able to gain some more information concerning how the war between the Inniverse and Sixth Mainland was progressing. If he met any of the other Ten Arbiters, he planned to not reveal himself, as it would be too dangerous.

It seemed as though there was not a single other person in the entire Daosource Sect. That was, at least until he arrived in the region of space with the Nine Cauldrons. There, Lu Yin finally sensed some people entering and leaving the region through his domain. This caused him to heave a sigh of relief, as if the entire Daosource Sect had been devoid of people, he would have felt rather panicked.

There were two youths standing in the cauldron where Lu Yin had once been trapped by Blood Looney in the past. These two people seemed to be searching for something.

Lu Yin restrained his aura and approached the two people while concealing his face.

The two people inside the cauldron explored around for a short while before one of them sighed. "Sure enough, there's nothing to be found. Senior, why don't we leave?"

"What do you want to leave? What's the hurry? These are the Fifth Mainland's Daosource Sect's ruins, and it's where all arts, battle techniques, bloodlines and inheritances originate from. If these were ordinary times, would we be able to explore so effortlessly?" The other berated.

"But other people have scoured this place for countless years, and anything that could be easily discovered would have been taken away long ago. See? The others all headed to the battlefield to hunt down the Fifth Mainland's Title Holders. The reward for killing any one of them is high, and the highest reward is being accepted as one of the three Progenitors' disciples!"

“Hmph, hunt? Idiot! The people who went there still think that that bunch from the Fifth Mainland are easy to deal with. However, they’ve all been duped and are being sent into early graves.”

“Why?”

“At first, during the invasion of the Fifth Mainland, our main force was from the Grand Martial Realm, the War Martial Realm, and the Blackblood Realm. If it was possible to hunt down those Fifth Mainlanders, then would those three realms have casually agreed to allow people from the other realms to join the invasion? But now, the Fifth Mainland’s Innerverse has completely changed, and it’s turned into a bloody factory. Whoever goes there, dies.”

“Senior, are the rumors true? Did the Martial Progenitor enter the Fifth Mainland but come out severely injured?” the junior cried out.

Lu Yin’s expression abruptly changed, and he listened carefully.

That senior looked around, and when he confirmed that there was no one around, he softly answered, “I accidentally heard some of our sect seniors talking about it. More than half a year ago, the three realms’ invasion of the Fifth Mainland wasn’t going smoothly, especially because the Fifth Mainland’s Innerverse’s various flowzones were separated by energy barriers, making it difficult to access each one. It was too time-consuming to break them open one by one, so the invasion force invited the Martial Progenitor to directly eliminate the energy barriers between the Innerverse’s flowzones so that they could quickly start invading the Neoverse.

“But when the Martial Progenitor acted, it initiated a disaster.” The senior swallowed his saliva and continued on with some fear in his voice, saying, “A Progenitor from the Fifth Mainland took action.”

“What! The Fifth Mainland still has Progenitors?” the junior cried out.

The senior hurriedly shushed his junior and scanned the area again. “Be quiet!”

That junior also swallowed some saliva as he hurriedly nodded.

The senior checked his surroundings again before saying, “There are no living Progenitors there, but there are Progenitors who once lived. According to some rumors, a remnant spiritual force collided with the Martial Progenitor, and that collision caused the entire Innerverse’s star energy to transform. Now, the Fifth Mainland’s Innerverse’s sky is chaotic and boils continuously. Anyone who uses an attack that surpasses a power level of 200,000 will be melted by that freakish boiling energy. It’s just like having lava float above the heads of commoners—whoever moves, dies.

“It’s precisely because of this event that every powerhouse with a power level over 200,000 has withdrawn from the battlefield, and those whose power level is under 200,000 have become the main force of the invasion. The Fifth Mainland created something called the Champion’s Stage. Anyone whose power level is under 200,000 can make contributions, after which they’ll be given a corresponding title. They are the Title Holders you’ve heard of before. After that, our Sixth Mainland sealed off all of the information about the war so that they can trick everyone with a power level under 200,000 into invading the Fifth Mainland and fighting against those people from the Fifth Mainland. That’s why the rewards have become better, and it’s reached the point where some of them are just ridiculous.”

The junior disciple was terrified. "Ah, it's no wonder why nobody is in the Daosource Sect's ruins! They were all duped into heading to the Fifth Mainland. Right, a power level under 200,000? Then shouldn't the Realmlings be the primary attackers?"

That senior shook his head. "I don't know the details, but no matter who acts on the battlefield in the Fifth Mainland's Inniverse, their attacks can't surpass a power level of 200,000, or else they'll be instantly dissolved. Even Imprinters are no exception, and nobody is able to change this fact. This was a fundamental transformation in that place's laws of the universe created by a battle between two Progenitors."

"Then, Senior, what about the Martial Progenitor?"

"It's reported that they're injured, but the Fifth Mainland's Progenitor's remnant spiritual force also vanished. Thus, many have begged the Secret Progenitor and the Blood Progenitor to move out and reverse the transformation that took place in the Inniverse. However, all of their requests have been rejected. Now, our two mainlands have been locked into a war of attrition where the resources are the cultivators with power levels lower than 200,000. This basically means that our younger generation has become the main force of the invasion."

"The real power in the war has to be the Realmlings and Daosource Three Skies. Although their attacks have also been suppressed since they can't surpass a power level of 200,000, when up against others of the same power level, they are still the strongest, followed by the descendants of those Imprinter families. People like us are just expendable fodder," the junior said helplessly.

"As long as you're aware. The good friends that I was able to contact before have all gone unresponsive. It's one thing for the battlefield to be sealed off, but supposedly, they're all dead." The senior disciple's voice sounded melancholic, and he was clearly terrified of the battlefield.

Lu Yin was astonished, as he did not expect to hear such news. Back when he had Possessed Tong Chou's body, he had heard that the Sixth Mainland had asked their Progenitors to act. However, he had never thought that they would truly take action. But that had just led to an even scarier outcome; a Progenitor had been injured while the other two Progenitors did not dare to reveal themselves at all.

It was no wonder why that Yu family elder had mentioned that the Fifth Mainland was not as simple as they believed. The Sixth Mainland had assumed that the Fifth Mainland was a trapped beast, but they had not thought that they would end up trapped as well.

But it was not very realistic for the Sixth Mainland to withdraw either, as they had expended far too many resources just to give up here. Even their Martial Progenitor had acted, and retreating would be the same as admitting failing in their invasion attempt, which would discredit their Martial Progenitor.

To preserve their own reputation, the Sixth Mainland had been forced to scam all of their cultivators with power levels under 200,000. They had been tricked into heading onto the battlefield and fighting against the Inniverse's forces.

Lu Yin heaved a sigh of relief. Fortunately, he had heard some good news.



The Fifth Mainland could not compare to the Sixth Mainland in terms of cultivators at the top power levels, and it seemed like that remnant spiritual force of a Fifth Mainland Progenitor had also been aware of this. Thus, they had intentionally changed the cosmic conditions to the Fifth Mainland's advantage. Lu Yin wondered which Progenitor's remnant spiritual force had taken action, as he really wanted to witness such a thing.

Also, he had become greatly interested in this Champion's Stage. And Title Holders? If they were all cultivators with power levels under 200,000, then that included the Top 100 Rankings, the Ten Arbiters, and even the top youths from the Cosmic Sea as well as those absolute freaks from the Neoverse's younger generation. They would form the Fifth Mainland's main fighting force. He wondered who could be conferred titles: Mu Rong, Ling Que, Liu Shaoqiu, Zhanlong Daynight, Zhuo Daynight, Long Yun, Zhang Dingtian, and Yōu Ye'er were the most likely ones off the top of his head. How would the people whom he was familiar with fare on this battlefield? At best, they would be able to fight against Hunters, and Lu Yin did not know if that would be enough to be given a title.

Lu Yin stepped forward.

The pair of disciples had never expected someone to be nearby, and they stared at Lu Yin as if he was a ghost.

Lu Yin jumped inside the cauldron and looked at the senior disciple. "Just now, you mentioned something about conferred titles—what conferred titles?"

The youth frowned and then warily asked, "What conferred titles? Bro, you must have heard wrong."

Lu Yin's tone turned cold. "I don't have time to deal with nonsense, so let me ask again: what conferred titles?"

The senior squinted, exchanged glances with his junior, and then acted together. They were both supported by their imprints as they instantly attacked Lu Yin. They acted with murderous intent from the very start, and the two had great cooperation and were both Explorers. The average cultivator would not be able to deal with this joint attack, but the two of them were too far from Lu Yin's level.

Lu Yin raised a hand, directly caught the junior disciple's wrist, and snapped it. He then leaped up and directly crushed the senior's imprint, causing the youth to spit out a mouthful of blood as he crashed fiercely against the side of the cauldron. Finally, Lu Yin waved his hand to fling the junior disciple away as a terrifying suppressive force directly knocked the junior unconscious as he was thrown out of the cauldron.

The entire battle was over in less than a second.

That senior spat out a mouthful of blood and looked at Lu Yin in terror. "Who- who are you? You're so powerful even without using an imprint—you must be the heir of some Imprinter family."

Lu Yin approached the young man step by step. "Speak, what conferred titles?"

"How can you not know with your status? What exactly is it that you want?" The senior disciple sat on the ground, almost paralyzed with fear as he constantly tried to edge back. He clutched at his chest, and his eyes were filled with fear.

Lu Yin frowned, and he raised a hand to press downwards.

A gale blew out that caused the senior disciple's blood to run cold. "I'll talk! I'll talk!"

The palm stopped just a centimeter away from that disciple's skull.

He asked in terror, "Can you let me go after I tell you?"

"You don't have the power to negotiate with me," Lu Yin coldly retorted.

"Many people are able to tell you the information you want! None of this is a secret!" he said fearfully.

Lu Yin pressed one hand against the young man's skull. "Will you tell me or not?"

That senior bitterly answered, "I only overheard it, but the Fifth Mainland's Innaverse's Champion's Stage will bestow these titles upon their youths who have made great contributions: General, Marquis, King, and Arbiter. The titles are differentiated according to each person's achievements, and our Sixth Mainland's fighters will receive rewards that correspond to the level of the Title Holder we kill."

With a thump, Lu Yin's hand struck the senior disciple's head, knocking him unconscious, before he was tossed out of the cauldron. This pair would not awaken before Lu Yin left the cauldron.

Gaining titles of General, Marquis, King, or Arbiter? Lu Yin was excited, as this news made his blood run hot! Unfortunately, he could not participate in the greatest battlefield. Countless people would be watching this fight between two mainlands, and the participating fighters would be conferred titles and gain contributions by killing their enemies. This was a real war, and comparatively, the war that Lu Yin had initiated was just child's play.

### **Chapter 826: Ninesuns Cauldron Transformation**

Lu Yin did not know if he should be happy or not. The battle between Progenitors had not caused any changes in the Astral River's energy, as otherwise, the Innaverse and Outerverse would have been reconnected.

He took a deep breath. Forget it. That war was unrelated to Lu Yin, and for the time being, he needed to take advantage of this time when the Daosource Sect's ruins were practically empty to comprehend the Nine Cauldrons' battle technique.

After processing all this new information, he sat down cross-legged and emptied his mind. After half an hour, he began reciting the Stonewall Scriptures.

The moment he started reciting the Stonewall Scriptures, the cauldron trembled, and Lu Yin was instantly delighted. His attempt was going well, and the Stonewall Scriptures could indeed help him comprehend the Nine Cauldrons' battle technique, which was quite strange.

The legends claimed that the Nine Cauldrons' battle techniques would be invincible when combined into a single technique. Lu Yin was eager to discover just how impressive this technique truly was.

Three-footed cauldron that towers above the skies!

...

Lu Yin recited the Stonewall Scriptures, and he didn't even realize that his consciousness had drifted away. Or more accurately, his awareness was no longer entirely his own. He felt as though he had become a temporal meteor streaking across the ages that had crossed the river of time. He eventually arrived in a world from an unknown era of the past.

He no longer knew who he was. He had no memories, emotions, or consciousness. He had nothing. He was the sky and earth, and the sky and earth were him.

He saw an incomparably enormous tree that towered into the sky, reaching an unknown height. Its branches drooped towards the ground as all sorts of objects hung from the leaves. In fact, there were all sorts of items of every description possible.

A fuzzy figure appeared, dressed in ragged clothing and looking like a savage person. He held a filthy clump of soil in his hand that he was squeezing into some strange shape. After some time passed, he managed to form a strange-looking item from the dirt with an elongated shape and a sunken section on its top. The savage then broke off a twig and placed it in the sunken area. It looked as though he wanted to light the twig on fire, but the dirt object that he had formed easily tipped over.

The savage scratched his head and then split the elongated object into two sections. He once again tried to stabilize it, but it still fell over easily. Finally, the savage person became a bit smarter, and he reformed the elongated item with three legs supporting the section with the slight depression. With three legs, the object no longer tipped over, and the savage was clearly happy. He lit the twig and burned something.

An unknown amount of time passed, but time was meaningless to a temporal meteor.

The mud structure that had been molded out of a clump of dirt by the savage had become an ugly, three-footed vessel containing a burning fire. After passing through unknown experiences, the vessel became harder. It had gained a form that would not tip over, and it also ended up eventually being used as a weapon by the savage. It was able to flatten an area of the universe when it was smashed down.

That three-footed vessel passed through an unknown amount of time, and it eventually gained a name: cauldron.

As time passed by, an indescribably gloomy pair of eyes shrouded the sky. This terrifying pair of eyes could not even be directly looked at. Even if Lu Yin had turned into a streak of time, he still felt instinctively petrified. A giant hand suppressed everything as it crossed over, and the cauldron shattered into nine fragments that then scattered in all directions.

Time changed once again, and the nine fragments of the cauldron were each merged into nine different giant cauldrons. They were placed in one area of a grand sect, and they were given a new name: The Nine Cauldrons.

When the Nine Cauldrons first appeared, nine radiant suns appeared in the sky that illuminated the entire firmament. This light shone upon countless perplexed eyes, as well as Lu Yin.

Lu Yin suddenly opened his eyes. His arms were braced against the ground, and he was panting heavily. His eyes had a confused look as he gradually came back to himself.

What had just happened to him? It felt as though he had shuttled back along the long river of history, and he felt as if he had just seen something. However... He shook his head vigorously, as he could not recall what he had just experienced, not a single bit. The only thing that he could remember were the words "Ninesuns Cauldron Transformation."

Ninesuns Cauldron Transformation, Ninesuns Cauldron Transformation, Lu Yin thought to himself relentlessly. He kept trying to recall what he had seen. Then, his eyes suddenly went wide. He slapped a palm against the ground, and the entire cauldron quivered. A formless object condensed and merged into Lu Yin's palm before merging with his entire body.

Nobody was there to see what that object was, and not even Lu Yin himself had clearly seen what had merged with his hand. However, he knew that he had absorbed something called cauldron energy. He instinctively knew how to absorb it, and he even knew how to use it.

Lu Yin raised his left hand as the star energy within his body converged into his palm and gradually formed a ball. Pure star energy converged within his palm, and this ball was composed of nearly a quarter of Lu Yin's total star energy reserves. It was a quarter of his reserves, but it had already reached the amount of star energy that an ordinary Hunter would have when their power level reached 150,000. The strength of this ball of energy greatly surpassed the limits of an ordinary Explorer, but it still could not match up to the power that Lu Yin's battle techniques normally displayed.

Having a technique that used as much star energy as a Hunter's reserves did not mean that the technique could match a Hunter's strength.

All this time, Lu Yin had felt like the star energy in his body had been utilized too wastefully. Besides being able to resist the suppression from cultivators with higher realms, there were not many ways for him to use such a tremendous amount of star energy, and Lu Yin had never been in a situation where his star energy had been depleted.

However, there was a use for it now.

The Ninesuns Cauldron Transformation required opening nine suns, and each sun was equivalent to one ninth of the complete battle technique. Only by converging all nine suns could the full might of the Ninesuns Cauldron Transformation be displayed. However, even if Lu Yin could not display the complete power of the Ninesuns Cauldron Transformation right now, the singular sun formed by the cauldron energy and his star energy was already capable of unleashing astounding power. The more star energy that the cauldron energy was merged with, the greater the power the technique would be able to unleash.

He absorbed the cauldron energy into his body with his right palm, and it naturally merged into the gathering ball of star energy in his left hand. Suddenly, the rune lines of the orb of star energy rapidly increased, and it rose to rival the power level of a Hunter. Before, Lu Yin would have only been able to manifest this many rune lines through the Skybeast Claw battle technique, but now, he had gained another method of reaching that same power level.

This was only a quarter of Lu Yin's star energy reserves, and once all of the star energy in his body gathered together, the power of the technique might reach a level that could even shock an Enlighter.

Lu Yin was delighted, as he had finally obtained another powerful offensive technique. The key to this technique was that there was no upper limit to its power. Regardless of whether it was the Dream Finger or the Skybeast Claw, neither would increase in power as Lu Yin's own strength rose, but this Ninesuns Cauldron Transformation was different. The more cauldron energy he absorbed and the more star energy that he managed to merge into the technique, the more powerful the technique would become. Also, the star energy did not necessarily have to come from his body.

Absorbing star energy meant that Lu Yin could use more star energy with the technique, which meant that this Ninesuns Cauldron Transformation had no upper limit in terms of power. The more star energy that was gathered, the greater the power that would be unleashed.

Hold on. Lu Yin's face suddenly turned sour. Star energy meant money, and he was already constantly short on money. He needed money for practically everything, and now, there was one more thing to add to his long list of expenses, as this battle technique also required money to cultivate. He had traveled a long way down the path of poverty after all this time.

The Ninesuns Cauldron Transformation required the user to absorb cauldron energy, and the cauldron energy naturally came from these great cauldrons. Lu Yin had forgotten the reason why, but he could vaguely feel that the origin of this battle technique was contained within this cauldron.

This was just one cauldron, and Lu Yin instinctively looked in the other directions. There were nine cauldrons in this place, and this technique was called the Ninesuns Cauldron Transformation. Wasn't that hinting that the cauldron energy from each cauldron could only open one sun? Once he completely absorbed the cauldron energy from all nine cauldrons, all nine suns should be opened with the Ninesuns Cauldron Transformation complete.

It was no wonder why it was rumored that the Nine Cauldrons' battle technique could be merged into one unrivaled technique. They were not nine different battle techniques, but rather one technique that had been split into nine parts. In other words, the technique required all nine cauldrons for it to be completely cultivated.

Lu Yin calmed himself and focused his mind as he sat back down in a cross-legged fashion. He did not know how long it would take for him to completely absorb the cauldron energy in this first cauldron, but regardless of the future, if he wanted to cultivate the complete Ninesuns Cauldron Transformation, he had to absorb the cauldron energy step by step.

As he thought about it, he eliminated all his wandering thoughts and recited the Stonewall Scriptures as he focused on absorbing the cauldron energy from the cauldron.

Time quickly passed by, and Lu Yi was engrossed in cultivating within the cauldron for almost a whole month, during which he was not interrupted at all. Then, the scenery changed before his eyes as he left the Daosource Sect's ruins.

There was something that he felt was strange, which was that he had not stayed in the Daosource Sect for much longer compared to his first visit. Since his first visit, he had absorbed the spiritual force in Liuying Zishan's body, which had greatly increased his spiritual force, but the amount of time he could stay in the Daosource Sect had not increased by much at all. Since his last visit had been extremely

exciting and eventful, he had been eager to leave as soon as possible. However, this time, he had paid careful attention to the amount of time he stayed in the ruins.

Could his time have not changed by much because he did not know how to use spiritual force? Lu Yin was puzzled.

He had spent nearly a month in the Daosource Sect's ruins, and Lu Yin looked at both of his hands. He did not know how much cauldron energy he had absorbed compared to the total amount, as it did not have any rune lines, and in some sense, it felt like it did not even exist. However, when it merged with his star energy, it really did raise his strength by an incredible amount, and there was even a bit of undetectable power to the merged energy. It was very strange.

The universe was too vast, and what people mostly observed were the essential details of cultivation methods. Many planets had their own cultivation methods, but they were all basically different means to the same end. Still, some cultivation methods were unique in their paths, let alone a battle technique stemming from ancient times.

Cauldron energy had no rune lines, and Lu Yin even suspected that this battle technique had been created before the Rune Progenitor's emergence.

"How suffocating! Seventh Bro, I don't have the first clue on what you did in that broken-down cauldron, but you made this monkey foolishly watch on for a month," the Ghost Monkey complained.

"You'll know in the future." Lu Yin was in a pretty good mood.

When he learned that Lu Yin had emerged from isolated training, Bei Qing was the first person to rush over to visit Lu Yin. He immediately told the Royal Regent that the Lu's Grand Auction was scheduled to take place tomorrow. They had advertised the auction for a month and raised a great commotion, which helped them achieve even better results than last time. Many people who held the ability to make decisions on their powers' behalf had rushed over to Zenyu Star.

Lu Yin had missed the first auction, so he decided that he would head over to the auction house and take a look on the day of the auction. His thirst for money had grown even more intense, as no one else needed money the way he did; to him, money was directly correlated to strength.

He rested for a while before activating his gadget and calling Elder Lohar.

Elder Lohar's image appeared, and he smiled at the youth. "Alliance Leader Lu, after having gone into seclusion for a month, your power must have improved by a great deal."

Lu Yin smiled. "Seeing Elder's expression, I take it to mean that the Technocracy's invasion has been handled without incident?"

Elder Lohar's tone was quite laid back. "There should be no problems. The Technocracy's invasion lasted for less than ten days before they called it quits."

Lu Yin's face was serene. "If I were in Elder's shoes, I would not be so relaxed. During this month, Junior went to the Daosource Sect's ruins, and I bumped into an Arbiter."

Elder Lohar's expression changed, and his heart sank as he stared at Lu Yin's grave expression. "How's the Innerverse?"

Lu Yin answered in a low voice, "Elder, rest assured, the Innerverse is fine."

He then repeated the details that he had learned about the Innerverse and the Sixth Mainland's war, including the Champion's Stage.

Elder Lohar was delighted when he heard the news. "That's good news! Why does Alliance Leader Lu still seem to have such a burden on your mind?"

Lu Yin frowned. "According to the information that I received, the Sixth Mainland has nine realms, but currently, only the Grand Martial, War Martial, and Bloodburn Realms have invaded the Innerverse while the Blood Homage, Stone, and East Realms have invaded the Astral Beast Domain. Junior is not sure how the war in the Astral Beast Domain is going, but since the Innerverse's battle has become much more difficult to wage, if Junior were managing the Sixth Mainland, I would definitely change tactics. For example, shifting focus to the Outerverse."

Elder Lohar's expression changed. "Is Alliance Leader Lu sharing a conjecture?"

Lu Yin replied, "That's right."

Elder Lohar fell deep into thought.

"The pros and cons of invading any place have to be weighed, and even the Martial Progenitor of the Sixth Mainland has taken action against the Innerverse. If their invasion fails, or perhaps if the benefits that they receive do not match their expectations, then the Martial Progenitor will lose face. Does Elder think that the Martial Progenitor will agree to such an outcome? Even if the Martial Progenitor doesn't care, the three realms under the Martial Progenitor may not be fine with such an outcome, so they may still go to war. The Sixth Mainland has to obtain compensation that corresponds to the efforts they have expended on this war. If the Innerverse cannot be taken down, then the Outerverse has no place to run to. So please be cautious, Elder," Lu Yin said.

### **Chapter 827: Brightstar Corporation**

Lu Yin was not purposefully trying to stoke any fears or be an alarmist. Although he did not know the complete details of the Innerverse's situation, he had only shared what he believed to be reasonable conjectures, as it was truly humiliating for a Progenitor to act only to return in failure. The Innerverse, Cosmic Sea, and Neoverse had experts who were very powerful despite having power levels below 200,000, and it would not be easy for the Sixth Mainland to defeat them. The upper echelons of the Sixth Mainland were relying on deceptive methods to coerce their cultivators whose power levels were below 200,000 to head into the battlefield, and this alone was ample proof of their concern about the invasion's progress.

As soon as the invasion stalled out, it was highly likely that their strategists would start considering changing the battlefield.

This was a certainty, and although Lu Yin did not believe that he was some military professional or an outstanding strategist, it was not difficult to see this particular eventuality.

Elder Lohar had not been able to see it only because he had just received the news, and also because he did not fully trust Lu Yin.

Lu Yin could only do his best to urge Elder Lohar to make sufficient preparations. The Outerverse could not compare to the Innaverse, and they also did not have a Progenitor's remnant spiritual force to help them. Even though the Outerverse's situation was not the same as the Innaverse, the entire Outerverse did not have many experts whose power levels were below 200,000 who could go up against those Sixth Mainland elites, and Lu Yin had no wish to die just yet.

"According to the news that you obtained, if they invade the Outerverse, which realm would attack us?" Elder Lohar asked solemnly.

Lu Yin considered the question before answering, "The Bloodburn Realm."

Elder Lohar nodded. "I understand. Thank you, Alliance Leader Lu, for pointing this out. Regardless if the Sixth Mainland actually invades the Outerverse, Alliance Leader Lu's contributions towards the Fifth Mainland have already been significant."

The elder then continued with a small bit of polite talk before ending the call.

Lu Yin set his gadget down. If he wanted to know whether or not the Sixth Mainland was planning to invade the Outerverse, then there was no reason to continue waiting. Given the Hall of Honor's current influence, it was not realistic for them to gather the entire Outerverse's strength to defend against the Technocracy unless some truly unrivalled powerhouses with the strength to wipe out everything in an instant acted. That was the only way the entire Outerverse could unite.

And only by having such a powerhouse of their own would the Outerverse be able to investigate deeper into the Technocracy.

Lu Yin held high expectations towards the strength that the Hall of Honor had kept hidden within the Outerverse, and it was possible that such hidden strength was about to be revealed.

In the end, conjectures were just conjectures, and what Lu Yin had said to Elder Lohar had also been partially exaggerated. This was because he really wanted to see what kind of hidden strength the Hall of Honor possessed in the Outerverse.

The next day, massive crowds surrounded the Lu's Grand Auction, filled with media members, scouts from various other powers, and intelligence traders. Today was the day that the Lu's Grand Auction would auction off its premium goods, and they had advertised the goods for this auction for a whole month, and the items for sale this time had caused a commotion throughout the entire Outerverse.

It was mainly because the items up for auction this time were simply too outrageous; there was a gun that could threaten Enlighters and arrows that could similarly harm them. These were still not the most insane items, and nobody would buy them if they didn't believe the advertised information. Also, selling fake items would just embarrass the auction itself.

However, the most important aspect of the auction this time was that there were actually five-stage formcast models listed among the goods for sale, and that had completely changed the situation.



Five-stage formcast models were extremely rare, but they were also something that everybody wanted. Nobody could put a price tag on such a precious item, as those who already had a five-stage formcast model would find them worthless, but they would be absolutely invaluable to those who didn't have one.

In the current climate of the Outerverse, nobody would sell off a five-stage formcast model. However, Lu's Grand Auction had actually taken out three five-stage formcast models to sell. They had to be crazy!

Ever since news of the five-stage formcast models being up for auction had spread, everyone had come to believe that Lu's Grand Auction had gone crazy. No, it was Lu Yin who had gone crazy.

He had so many experts working under him, and there were even quite a few geniuses who were still a part of the younger generation. Rather than selling these formcast models, people thought that it would be better for Lu Yin to give them to his own people. Although he wouldn't be able to make a profit by doing so, it would still benefit his own people, which would increase the value of his assets despite him not receiving any money. Still, Lu Yin had chosen to place such treasures up for auction.

Various great powers that were a part of the Great Eastern Alliance had all tried to contact Lu Yin in order to conduct an insider transaction, but Lu Yin had been in seclusion during that time, and they had not been able to reach him.

Quite a few powers of external weaves had started ridiculing the Great Eastern Alliance. They had said that they had no sense of unity, as they could not even safeguard their joint interests. Others said that Lu Yin was a money-grubber and all sorts of similar insults. Still, all the gossip made the various forces of the Great Eastern Alliance very uncomfortable.

When Lu Yin emerged from seclusion and discovered what had happened, he realized that he had been too inconsiderate towards his allies.

When Hill Auna learned that Lu Yin had emerged, he immediately requested an audience with him. Lu Yin then asked Hill Auna to contact the leaders of the alliance's various great powers and make it clear that Lu Yin would sell them five-stage formcast models, which calmed them all down and settled their complaints.

If Lu Yin had not done so, then the crowds surrounding the Lu's Grand Auction would have been even larger. If they hadn't been promised internal access to five-stage formcast models, then the people from the various powers of the Great Eastern Alliance would have also joined in. The small auction house could not hold everyone who wished to participate in the auction this time.

Lu Yin altered his appearance and reduced his aura before walking out onto the busiest street of the Great Eastern Alliance while looking like nothing more than a commoner. Lu Yin felt touched.

Any business that could set up residence on this street was extremely wealthy and respectable. On the left side of the street was the Mavis Bank, where universal currency occasionally fell from the sky, but nobody who walked on this street picked any of it up. In the distance, Aurora Enterprises' building towered into the sky alongside Shamrock Enterprises' building, Amethyst Exchange's mall, Endless Borders office, and others. These buildings all belonged to financial titans and many other massive financial groups all known throughout the universe. They were able to lease many planets in other parts

of the universe, but on this street, they could only afford an office, though that was already very impressive.

At that moment, Lu Yin saw a familiar name appear on a section of Endless Borders' office building: Brightstar Corp.

This company was not unknown to Lu Yin, as during the events on Savage Ape Planet, he had once saved a girl who had turned out to be a manager of Brightstar Corp. Yue Xianzi had been the one to first mention this company to Lu Yin, which was how he had found out that Brightstar Corp was a financial corporation from the Inniverse that was very wealthy.

Since they were able to survive in the Inniverse and had even expanded their business into the Outerverse, then this company could also be considered a colossal organization. However, Lu Yin hadn't heard anything about their activities this entire time, which indicated that they had been acting rather low profile. However, for him to not hear anything about them at all was a little strange.

The circumstances in the Inniverse were more complicated than the Outerverse's, which Lu Yin understood very well. It could be said that the Inniverse had been portioned out by the eight great flowzones, and anyone who wanted to step out of line would be killed. A corporation that could survive in the Inniverse's complicated environment was definitely not a simple one, and it was fishy for them to be so low-profile in the Outerverse.

As he thought about this, Lu Yin stepped into the office since he still had a bit of time remaining before the auction started.

Endless Borders' operations took up a third of the building, which clearly showed the extravagance of a great corporation.

Lu Yin stepped past the building's primary office and instead headed in towards Brightstar Corporation's office.

This office was much lower profile than Endless Borders', and it only took up about three office spaces. A vast majority of businesses in the Outerverse would be proud to rent this amount of space, but it felt stingy for such an impressive company that spanned across both the Inniverse and Outerverse.

Lu Yin was about to step in when another person stepped out. He simply glanced at Lu Yin before leaving. He was the regional manager of Endless Borders, Di Nuo.

Lu Yin had changed his appearance, so Di Nuo had not recognized him.

Lu Yin continued making his way into the office. Since the amount of space taken up by the three sections of this particular office was not very large, he could see the entire space in a glance. There were only seven to eight people in the office, and it did not seem like they were very busy.

"Sir, how can I help you?" A pretty receptionist walked over to Lu Yin and smiled at him as she bowed with a gentle demeanor.

Lu Yin casually replied, "I would like to meet with your manager."

The receptionist asked, "Does sir have an appointment?"

Lu Yin shook his head. "Isn't your manager called-" He paused to think about it for a moment. "Leng Yan?"

The receptionist was surprised by Lu Yin's familiarity. "So sir knows our manager. Please wait a moment, and I'll inform her."

Lu Yin nodded, and as he sat down, someone immediately served him a beverage.

Lu Yin took a sip and then looked at his cup with a serious expression. The drink that he had just been served was the same one that he had been given in Amethyst Exchange. If he guessed correctly, then this beverage was one that could not be found in the open market, as it was only specially provided to a very select minority.

He looked around the area. Although there were only a few people around, each and every one of them was a cultivator, and they were all very young and full of energy.

Somebody would occasionally speak up, and it was always in a gentle tone and seasoned manner.

Although this Brightstar Corp. had been acting in a very low-profile manner thus far, through the details that he could observe, Lu Yin could tell that this group truly was more than what met the eye. In fact, their potential seemed endless.

Some footsteps sounded out from behind him, and Lu Yin turned around. The receptionist had returned, and she was leading Leng Yan to see Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was surprised, as he had only met this person by coincidence and that he had not forgotten her name. His memory had proven correct, and Leng Yan was indeed Brightstar Corporation's Outerverse's manager. Even if her status could not compare to a chairman that oversaw multiple weaves like Shamrock Enterprises' Hoffman, she was still probably more important than the manager of a single weave like Di Nuo. Thus, Lu Yin had never expected her to be on Zenyu Star.

The receptionist bowed to Lu Yin and then left.

Leng Yan walked over, sized Lu Yin up and down, and then smiled at him. "Sir, do we know each other?"

Lu Yin stood up. "You could say that we're acquaintances."

Leng Yan's eyes flashed, and she gestured to Lu Yin. "Let's head inside for a chat."

Lu Yin nodded. "This drink is good."

He did not stand on ceremony and followed Leng Yan into her office.

The two sat down, and Leng Yan smiled at Lu Yin. "You say we are acquaintances, but you look very unfamiliar. I feel that my memory is pretty decent, so has sir altered his appearance?"

Lu Yin nodded and then changed his appearance back to his original look.

Leng Yan was surprised, but then she hurriedly stood up and bowed respectfully. "So it's Alliance Leader Lu. I was too disrespectful."

Lu Yin motioned for her to sit down and smiled at the woman. “Manager Leng, it’s been quite a long time.”

Leng Yan softly sat back down and adjusted her skirt. She then smiled at Lu Yin. “That’s true. It’s been several years since our encounter on Savage Ape Planet, and Alliance Leader Lu has become far more impressive than before, and you are now famous throughout the universe. That deserves my congratulations.”

Lu Yin looked at the woman. “Why didn’t Manager Leng come to King Zishan’s palace when you arrived on Zenyu Star? After all, we’re old friends.”

Leng Yan put on a helpless expression. “There were simply too many matters demanding my attention, and I never had the time. And when I was able to find the time, Alliance Leader Lu wasn’t around. Thus, we simply missed the opportunity.”

Lu Yin nodded and then looked outside the window.

“Speaking of which, Alliance Leader Lu is my benefactor, and I’ve never had the chance to express my gratitude. I really feel ashamed.”

Lu Yin shook his head. “That was no trouble to me, so there’s no need for it to weigh so heavily on your heart. However, I’m very curious—Brightstar Corp. is a financial titan that spans both the Innerverse and Outerverse, so why do you have such a humble office here?”

Leng Yan sighed. “The Innerverse and Outerverse were separated too suddenly, and we did not make many preparations. Due to that, our cash flow was interrupted, and our business was even snatched away by Endless Borders. We had no choice in the matter, though we were able to persevere, which is already pretty decent.”

Lu Yin did not understand how this had happened. “Since your company spanned both the Innerverse and Outerverse, Endless Borders still should have shown you some face. I just saw Di Nuo leave here as well.”

Leng Yan stared at Lu Yin and smiled bitterly. “It seems that Alliance Leader Lu has some misperceptions concerning the financial corporations of the Innerverse.”

“I’m all ears.”

Leng Yan explained, “Alliance Leader Lu should understand the circumstances of the Innerverse well: there are eight great flowzones, and the great powers of those places are like the heavens as they suppress all others. No matter who it is, if they step out of line, they will be beaten down into place. Financial institutes are no different. We can earn money and reap the rewards, but we definitely cannot stick out, as that will prevent us from being able to recruit powerhouses.”

### **Chapter 828: Meeting An Old Friend Again**

Leng Yan’s words caused Lu Yin’s gaze to tremble, as he quickly understood what she was saying.

“The Outerverse’s four great conglomerates are able to lure in powerhouses as they please simply because they can recruit Enlighters at best. Things are no different for us. So what if we span both the Innerverse and Outerverse? The majority of the money that we earn still has to be given to those

powerful clans, and we don't have many experts who are able to escort our convoys. My Brightstar Corp. may span both the Innerverse and Outerverse and seem wealthy and powerful, but our strength is not as much of a deterrent to the Outerverse's four financial titans. As soon as the Outerverse was isolated, Endless Borders was immediately able to swallow our business," Leng Yan explained.

Lu Yin remained silent.

Leng Yan sighed. "Di Nuo just gave us their last diplomatic offer to purchase our business. If we refuse, we will be suppressed on all sides. Our Brightstar Corp. doesn't even have an Enlighter here in the Outerverse, and we cannot contend against Endless Borders' resources."

Lu Yin understood Leng Yan's words, as those Innerverse powers were truly too overbearing. However, he still did not believe that the Innerverse financial powerhouses would have that bad a time, as many of them actually had some of the great powers backing them.

He could always try to learn the truth about Brightstar Corporation's actual condition through Di Nuo. No matter how powerful Brightstar Corp. was, they could not compare to colossal titans like Shamrock Enterprises. Since Shamrock Enterprises and Mavis Bank still existed, then there was no way they would allow Brightstar Corp. to be acquired uncontested like this.

Lu Yin left after his conversation with Leng Yan. He had merely been curious about Brightstar Corporation's situation. Even if they did have plans for the Outerverse, they would still have to tread carefully unless their strength was on the level of the Neohuman Alliance.

Still, he had asked what he should ask.

Soon after his conversation with Leng Yan, Lu Yin called Di Nuo and asked about the situation concerning Brightstar Corp.

Di Nuo's answer was essentially the same as what Lu Yin had heard from Leng Yan, and it turned out that Brightstar Corp indeed could not survive on its own anymore. Lu Yin obtained some additional information on accident, which was that Brightstar Corp. was not its own individual company. Rather, they were a subsidiary organization that belonged to a giant conglomerate from the Innerverse. That parent company was the truly top-notch Innerverse financial group.

"But even with that financial giant behind Brightstar Corp., you still are willing to move against them?" Lu Yin was puzzled about this.

On the other end of the call, Di Nuo grudgingly replied, "Your Highness, it wasn't me who took action, but rather our headquarters. They need Brightstar Corporation's star charts. As for that massive conglomerate group, their primary businesses are in the Innerverse. Thus, they won't be able to influence us too much even if the Innerverse and Outerverse reconnect."

Lu Yin ended the call. That Innerverse corporate giant? Endless Borders was clearly unafraid of them, and Leng Yan had previously mentioned that the Innerverse's financial groups were not having an easy time in the Outerverse after being cut off from the Innerverse. They were wealthy, but they had no power. Or could it be that Endless Borders' background was too powerful? More to the point, had Endless Borders become stronger?

Lu Yin lowered his gadget and stopped thinking about Brightstar Corp. After all, it was none of his business. Besides, the Inniverse was still suffering from the massive effects of the Sixth Mainland's invasion, and their final outcome was still unknown.

He hoped that Leng Yan had been stating the truth, as that would be a good thing. Those Inniverse companies were basically individual wallets, and so long as nobody protected them, there was bound to be a way to fish out some money.

He did not know if his luck was good or bad on this day. Right after he met an old acquaintance in the form of Leng Yan, another person from his past appeared.

"Gerlaine, my feelings for you are true! Don't go, Gerlaine!" Some distance from Lu Yin, Gerlaine's brows furrowed in an expression of impatience. There was a handsome youth next to her, and he looked quite wealthy as he had four cosmic rings on his hand.

Lu Yin watched the commotion develop with interest.

Gerlaine turned back and snapped at the young man, "Can you stop bothering me!? It's impossible for me to like you, so just give up."

The handsome youth's face turned sour. "Gerlaine, we've known each other since we were young, and we were even childhood sweethearts!"

"Shut up! Who was childhood sweethearts with you? We've only met each other a few times!" Gerlaine was getting angry.

"It's felt like forever," the lad exaggerated.

Gerlaine was rendered speechless. "You want to get with me just to take advantage of my relationship with my brother to get into the Yu Academy. Don't think that I don't know your true motives! And let me tell you that that's impossible. My brother does not do any personal favors."

The man immediately tried to explain himself. "You're mistaken, Gerlaine. My feelings for you are true, and they aren't tainted by any other thoughts. It doesn't matter whether I get into the Yu Academy or not, so just give me a chance, Gerlaine. Alright?"

Gerlaine felt helpless, and her eyes started to dart about. She noticed the Lu's Grand Auction in the distance, and her eyes rolled. "If you can get me into the Lu's Grand Auction, I'll give you a chance."

The youth's expression changed, and he wailed in agony, "Don't make things difficult for me, Gerlaine! There's only a few people in the entire Great Yu Empire who qualify to enter the Lu's Grand Auction. Even my uncle can't get in despite being a court councilor, and I heard that even the Imperial Cabinet members have to verify their assets before they're allowed to enter. This place only looks at one's money and not their status. I- I'm not that rich."

"Then don't say that I didn't give you an opportunity. It's fine if we can't enter." Gerlaine was happy at his response, and she turned to leave.

The handsome man hurried after her. "I can't enter, but there's nobody my age in the entire Great Yu Empire who can enter either. If that's your criteria, then you won't be able to find a boyfriend."

Gerlaine snorted. "This only is relevant to you. It won't be the same if it's someone I actually like."

The man's expression changed, and he ground his teeth as he stared at Gerlaine's silhouette.

"And—" Gerlaine suddenly turned and stared at the youth. "The Royal Regent is younger than you, but he can enter."

He was left speechless. "The auction house actually belongs to the Royal Regent."

Gerlaine snorted and was about to leave, only to be blocked by someone in front of her.

"Do you really want to enter?" Lu Yin pointed at the Lu's Grand Auction as he looked at Gerlaine in amusement.

Gerlaine didn't respond, but the handsome youth became angry. He rushed forward and glared at Lu Yin. "Kid, what are you trying to pull?"

Gerlaine looked at Lu Yin with curiosity, as this person felt familiar to her, especially his slightly thuggish expression.

Lu Yin looked at her and smiled. "Old friends meet each other once again. Do you remember those happy times when we robbed people together?"

The man grew furious. "Kid, I'm talking to you!"

Gerlaine's eyes lit up, and she looked at Lu Yin happily. "You- you're Lu—"

Lu Yin raised a finger and pointed at the Lu's Grand Auction. "Let's go in for a look."

Gerlaine nodded and then suddenly thought of something. "I nearly forgot—can you bring Jeraldine in as well? She wanted to go too."

"Jeraldine's here too? Alright, call her over then," Lu Yin said, as they were all old friends. He remembered Jeraldine in particular, as she had been the first trialtaker he had encountered on Earth, and she had helped to guide him. They had bumped into each other outside his home, and thinking of that moment really took him back. The last time he had seen Jeraldine, it had already been eight years since the trial on Earth.

"Gerlaine, who is this youngster?" The handsome young man glared at Gerlaine.

Gerlaine used her gadget to contact Jeraldine while blatantly ignoring the man.

The man stared at Lu Yin. "Kid, I'm warning you! Stay away from Gerlaine! My uncle is a minister of the empire, so you had best watch out if you want to keep your life!"

Lu Yin looked at the young man. "Got it."

The man was stumped. Was this kid going to give in just like that?

At that moment, Jeraldine ran over from nearby. When she saw Lu Yin, she acted slightly reserved. "I haven't seen you in a while."

"It hasn't been that long." Lu Yin smiled.

Jeraldine suddenly remembered something. Her face flushed red, and she no longer spoke.

“Come on, let’s go!” Gerlaine was very eager to see the inside of the auction house, and she pulled Jeraldine and Lu Yin after her towards the Lu's Grand Auction.

Lu Yin was puzzled. “When did the two of you become so close?”

“We all joined Yu Academy. Didn’t you hear?” Gerlaine rolled her eyes.

Lu Yin instantly understood. Yu Academy was not very big, and furthermore, the two of them had participated in the same trial on Earth. Thus, it was very normal for them to get to know each other.

The handsome young man rushed over. “Gerlaine, where are you guys going?”

Gerlaine shook her head. “To the auction.”

The man was stunned. “The auction? The Lu's Grand Auction? How are you guys getting in?”

Gerlaine laughed, and Jeraldine just smiled. With this old friend of theirs around, not only could they get into the auction house, but there was no place in the empire that they couldn’t enter.

Lu Yin very easily escorted the two girls into the auction.

The man stared on blankly, and then his eyes lit up brilliantly. Could the Lu's Grand Auction not be verifying people’s assets this time? He hurriedly rushed over and tried to enter, but he was instantly stopped. This confirmed that one’s wealth still needed to be verified to gain entry, so who the heck was that kid? He had been able to enter so easily; could he be somebody from the empire? Or was he a foreigner?

Inside the Lu's Grand Auction, Lu Yin had Bei Qing to arrange a random private room for him. Bei Qing did not dare probe into Lu Yin’s relationship with the two girls, but he gave special instructions to take care of Lu Yin’s room before he left.

“Wah, so this is the Lu's Grand Auction! I’ve been very curious about what it looks like in here, as there’s almost no information about it even on the network. At least we get to enjoy a new experience today. It’s quite normal,” Gerlaine said.

Jeraldine also looked down at the main floor out of curiosity. There were many people rising up from beneath the floor to appear in the main hall.

This was also Lu Yin’s first time inside the building.

“Hey, change your looks back. This face is uncomfortable to look at.” Gerlaine looked at Lu Yin, but she did not seem to be in great spirits.

Lu Yin restored his normal appearance. “Where’s your brother?”

“On the first mainland ring. He’s not interested in things like this.” She paused, and her lips twitched before she continued, saying, “He’s also broke.”

“Tell me what catches your eye later,” Lu Yin said.



Gerlaine was delighted upon hearing this offer. "You'll buy it for us?"

Lu Yin seriously answered, "I'll give you a discount."

"Hey! You're already the Great Eastern Alliance's leader, so be more generous!" Gerlaine said grudgingly.

Jeraldine softly said, "Gerlaine, don't talk nonsense."

Lu Yin smiled. "I have got no choice. I'm short on money."

"You're broke? You should be so rich that you can't even spend it all." Gerlaine didn't believe him.

Lu Yin pursed his lips, but he did not explain. His lack of money could not be explained through words, as the amount of money that he needed was beyond what normal people could fathom, especially when considering the Ninesuns Cauldron Transformation. Not even Lu Yin knew how much money it would take to fill up that pit.

Of course, his die was still what consumed the most amount of money. Rolling three pips and six pips were money-sucking pits that he would not be able to fill for the rest of his entire life.

...

"Your Highness, I should return that thing to you," Jeraldine softly mentioned to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was puzzled. "What?"

"Has Your Highness forgotten?" Jeraldine's expression dimmed.

Lu Yin thought about it for a moment. "Oh, you mean that? That's for you. There's no need to give it back."

Jeraldine's expression then became complicated.

Gerlaine bobbed over and stared at Lu Yin. "What did you give Jeraldine? Is it a love token?"

Lu Yin was about to answer, but Jeraldine hurriedly interrupted. "It's about to start! The auction is starting!"

Gerlaine's attention was instantly diverted, and she looked down at the main floor with great interest.

This was the most famous auction in the entire Outerverse, and she did not want to miss a single moment.

Jeraldine heaved a sigh of relief. Rings carried a certain meaning for girls, and while Lu Yin did not care, she could not just ignore it. If that ring was discovered by Gerlaine, then rumors would undoubtedly spread everywhere and cause her a great deal of trouble.

The auction began, and the first item to appear immediately raised the atmosphere to a rowdy climax. It was one of the formcast models, and it was instantly sold without any delay. Everyone had thought that these items would be the grand finale and the Lu's Grand Auction was acting too willfully by auctioning it off first.

## Chapter 829: Yuan Shi

The formcast models had no starting price, which was a decision that Lu Yin had personally made.

The person who started the bidding directly opened with a bid that left many in despair: 30,000 star essence. This was ten times the price that average natural treasure had been sold for in the last auction.

The Lu's Grand Auction used star essence for their bids, and this was a house rule.

Gerlaine was curious. "Star essence? What's the exchange rate of that for star crystals?"

Lu Yin softly answered, "One to 100,000."

Gerlaine was struck speechless. "That much?"

Lu Yin nodded.

Gerlaine remained stunned for quite a while before finally managing to utter, "You've developed your looting into a civilized form. This is true quality."

This time, Lu Yin was the one left speechless.

"Hahaha! Seventh Bro, this brat is right! An auction is basically just looting, but with class," the Ghost Monkey commented with a laugh.

Jeraldine was trying to restrain a smile.

The bidding contest escalated quickly, and those who were bidding were basically all people with private rooms, and only Lu Yin knew who was in each room: Shamrock Enterprises, Mavis Bank, and other such well known powers all had representatives in the auction hall's private rooms. There were also people from the Neo-Vestige Sect, guiding powers of the central Outerverse weaves, and even some people from the Wei family present.

Not unexpectedly, the competition for the first formcast model ended up being mainly contested by the financial behemoths. The first formcast model was snatched by Shamrock Enterprises for an exorbitant price of 150,000 star essence.

Lu Yin was excited. Even though he had already known that the formcast models would sell for steep prices, he had never thought that they would be bought for so much.

However, with Shamrock Enterprises' foundation, they should not be lacking for five-stage formcast models, which was strange.

Within a private room of the auction, Xiao Qin was speaking to Shen Fu. "It's been bought."

"Good."

"I don't understand. You already have a five-stage formcast model, so why did we still buy this one for such a high price?" Xiao Qin was puzzled.

"Chairman Yu behaved quite tyrannically, and he offended the Great Eastern Alliance. Thus, we must now express our goodwill."

“Is this really necessary? With Chairman Yu around, our Shamrock Enterprises doesn’t have to lower our heads to anyone,” Xiao Qin asked.

“Let’s discuss this another time. Besides, this bit of money isn’t much.”

...

Gerlaine was still fiddling with her fingers and trying to understand how much 150,000 star essence was worth. She knew that it was a lot, but she had no concept of exactly how much.

This was a question about one’s level. At her level, she still tended to use universal currency rather than star crystals. One star crystal could be exchanged for one million universal currency, which made Gerlaine’s calculations reach extremely exaggerated heights. It was quite natural that she could not really fathom the amounts being exchanged here.

At Lu Yin’s level, he basically only used star essence anymore, so universal currency was basically trash to him.

This was also why the Mavis Bank hung universal currency from the trees outside their branches and allowed the money to float down for people to simply pick up. When one’s level was different, one’s focus would also be different.

Following the sale of the first item, the auction fell into a more typical pattern, as these next set of items were all goods that had been provided by others, and the auction only took a small commission from the sales.

This included some items with unknown origins or even objects that were better off left hidden, but not a single item was left unsold. Quite a number of wealthy people had gathered to participate in the auction, and for some of them, money was nothing more than mere numbers.

Moreover, the items put up for auction tended to be sold for no more than 1,000 star essence. Many of the attendees felt no motivation to bid on such items, as they had come only for the premium goods being sold by Lu Yin.

Before long, the next featured item appeared, which was an arrow. This was one of three that Lu Yin had upgraded.

Many people could use a weapon like the arrow, and the most famous was naturally Neo-Vestige Sect.

Back when Lu Yin had chosen three divine arrows on Arrow Mountain, he had sold several of them back to Neo-Vestige Sect for 20,000 star essence each. The three arrows that Lu Yin was selling here had all been upgraded to the point where they could pose a threat to Enlighters, which meant that they could also be technically considered divine arrows. 20,000 star essence was not excessive as a base price for such weapons. After all, this was an auction, and there were many wealthy people gathered.

However, an arrow was still just a dead object. The people bidding were not able to see an object’s rune lines, so they could not really judge its quality.

Lu Yin had thought that somebody would question the description put forth for the arrows, but as soon as the first one appeared, someone in a private room instantly bid 25,000 star essence.

Lu Yin knew that the people in that room were from the Neo-Vestige Sect. While others might not be able to determine the quality of those arrows, these people definitely could.

To the Neo-Vestige Sect, good arrows were of similar value as powerful battle techniques or arts.

Most people would not bid on the arrows, but those who did would have an attitude that these arrows were must-have items, especially the Neo-Vestige Sect. Each time they placed a bid they raised the price by 5,000 star essence, until the price reached all the way to 45,000 star essence.

This price was already extremely high. When Lu Yin had sold the divine arrows he had found on Arrow Mountain back to Neo-Vestige Sect, each one had only been sold for 20,000 star essence.

Once the price reached such a high number, nobody else dared to continue competing with Neo-Vestige Sect, and the arrow was finally sold for 45,000 star essence.

Lu Yin smiled. The final price was not bad, and he started considering whether, next time, he should upgrade and sell a whole batch of arrows to Neo-Vestige Sect wholesale, which would make him quite rich. Arrows were, after all, a neglected branch of weaponry for most of the universe.

After another round of items were sold, the second formcast model appeared. This time, the formcast model was sold for a high price of 120,000 star essence, and the successful bidder was Amethyst Exchange. Only organizations at their level would be willing to buy a formcast model for such prices, as they had money but no super powerhouse who was able to produce such formcast models.

Gerlaine stared on in wonder as the auction unfolded, dumbfounded at everything that she witnessed. Every item sold here had been bought for a price that was simply impossible for her to gather herself. If these prices were converted into universal currency, then she wouldn't even be able to move such an amount of money.

Meanwhile, Jeraldine had a complex expression on her face, as this was clearly not the Great Yu Empire of the past. If any one of the people below had appeared in the Great Yu Empire of the past, then they would have been treated as honored guests with His Majesty personally entertaining them, and they would have been able to casually obtain all sorts of privileges. Now, these powerful people could only sit in a crowded room and angrily fight each other for the goods being sold off without even qualifying to enter one of the private rooms up above.

This was the change that Lu Yin had brought about. This person, who had actually been struggling alongside her in life and death challenges more than seven years ago, was currently standing at the top of the universe.

When the gun was introduced with a base price of 60,000, no introduction was even required, as some people in the private rooms had already begun bidding on it.

A powerful gun was practically Lu Yin's calling card. When he had killed Enlighteners in the past, it had been with an abnormally powerful gun, and so, nobody doubted the power of this gun.

There was absolutely no meaning to the base price, as the first bidder instantly bid 100,000 star essence. This person was a complete stranger, and so, Lu Yin had Bei Qing check on the person's background, only to unexpectedly discover that this man was from Millions City.

Lu Yin first thought of the Zhu Family since the Zhu family's ancestor, Zhu Tiezhu, had died during the Neohuman Alliance's attack on Millions City. After this attack, Qiong Shanhai had become suspicious of the Zhu family, resulting in the Zhu family's recent days not being very pleasant. Although they still had their money, they no longer had the strength to protect themselves. Due to the tremendous pressure they must be facing from the Qiong family, the Zhu family would naturally want to buy something to protect themselves with.

Various powers started fighting over the gun, especially those that were more focused on technological research, as they wanted to buy it for its experimental value.

However, in the end, the gun was nonetheless bought by the Zhu family, and it was sold for 220,000 star essence.

This price far exceeded Lu Yin's expectations. He had not imagined that the gun would sell for such an astronomical price, and he could only say that the Zhu family was indeed very nervous.

220,000 star essence was an exorbitant amount to a great portion of Outerverse powers, and everyone started guessing what the background of the person who had just spent such a sum could be.

\*\*\*

Time quickly passed, and at the same time that Lu Yin was watching the auction, Elder Lohar left Ironblood Weave and traveled to a desolate area of the universe. At a glance, this region was filled with chaotic stars, meteorites, fragments of shattered planets, and all sorts of space junk.

This place was like an astral cemetery, and occasionally, strange cosmic phenomena would sweep through and envelop the entire area.

Upon arriving, even Elder Lohar would need to proceed carefully.

"Junior Lohar requests to meet Teacher." His voice reverberated and spread into the depths of the universe.

Before much time passed, an ancient voice called out, "What's the matter?"

This voice sounded somewhat illusory, and it was impossible to determine where it came from, but the moment he heard it, Elder Lohar felt as if his entire body had been exposed to an indescribable terror. Additionally, this entire region of the universe changed the moment the voice sounded out, and the strange cosmic phenomenon also vanished.

As these words were uttered, the entire local space responded to the voice, and nothing dared to create the slightest disturbance.

"Teacher, the Sixth Mainland may pass through the Technocracy to invade the Outerverse. I request that Teacher please investigate," Elder Lohar spoke in a reverent tone as he bowed deeply with an expression of terror on his face.

The entire area of the universe suddenly trembled, and Elder Lohar's heart skipped a beat. The next moment, the feeling of being exposed to extreme terror vanished. His teacher had left.

The Hall of Honor was the strongest power in the entire Human Domain, and it had an immeasurable background. How could the Outerverse be overseen by just Elder Lohar alone?

Elder Lohar was the person operating in the open, while the true hidden powerhouse had been remaining hidden in this place.

On Zenyu Star, the auction ended, and Lu Yin was ecstatic at the results. He even gave Gerlaine and Jeraldine ten star essence each at the end.

Ten star essence was the same as a million star energy crystals, which was an astronomical sum to them. However, to Lu Yin, this tiny bit of money didn't really matter.

During this auction, just the featured items that Lu Yin had put up for sale had sold for 765,000 star essence, and he was rich again. This was not even counting all the commissions that he had made off of the other auctioned items.

His wealth had again risen above two million star essence, and he felt like he could compete with Yuehua Mavis in terms of wealth.

When all of his profits were gathered together, Lu Yin felt his spirits soar, and he felt as though he was standing at the top of the universe.

The only part that left him dissatisfied was the matter concerning the latter two arrows, which had also been picked up by the Neo-Vestige Sect. However, they were only sold for 30,000 star essence each. The rest of the attendees had realized that the Neo-Vestige Sect was determined to obtain all of the arrows, and no one had any intention of competing against such a powerful organization. Thus, the Neo-Vestige Sect had been able to grab the other two arrows for a relatively low price.

Them getting the arrows for cheap meant that Lu Yin was losing out on money, which made him uncomfortable. He decided to not sell any arrows he upgraded in this manner in the future. Rather, he would instead conduct a bulk trade. He planned on upgrading dozens of arrows in one shot and then selling them all to the Neo-Vestige Sect. This would allow him to sell his arrows more efficiently while also making himself look more impressive.

Although the auction had already ended, it had given the rest of the Outerverse a great deal to gossip about, especially about the person who had bought the gun. He had ended up being ambushed in an attempted robbery, but with a single shot from the gun, he had blasted away a Hunter whose power level was actually above 200,000. At least, that was what the rumors said. This astonished many people, and this botched mugging attempt also made many people feel extremely excited, as this had verified the items sold in the Lu's Grand Auction as authentic.

On Zenyu Star, the branch manager of Mavis Bank was quite upset. Every time the Lu's Grand Auction organized an auction with their featured goods, the branch's star essence reserves would be completely depleted. He had already concentrated all of the star essence in all of the Mavis Bank branches in the Great Eastern Alliance's territory into his branch, but it was still not enough to keep up with the rate of depletion.

If the Outerverse were not currently isolated from the Innerverse, then some random, one-off auction of exceptional items would never be able to deplete the bank's reserves. In fact, he wouldn't care even if such an auction was held on a daily basis.

However, the Outerverse only had so much star essence, and even the Mavis Bank's reserves did not have much left. He hurriedly reported to his superiors so that the upper management could think of a way forward. Perhaps they could negotiate with the Lu's Grand Auction and have them allow star crystals to be used in the auctions.

### **Chapter 830: Toppling The Heavens**

Alan was an ordinary cultivator who hailed from a barren but beautiful planet. Originally, his life had been very peaceful, but one day, a group of youths claiming to be trial takers had suddenly descended. From that moment on, his life completely changed.

Out of the billions of people on his planet, only a meager few had emerged to follow those trial takers into the greater universe. Alan had been able to leave his planet because he had managed to awaken an innate gift... of attentive listening. That's right, attentive listening. It was an innate gift that was either very useful or completely useless.

Alan was able to hear the heartbeats of nearby people, and from that, determine their strength.

When those youths had been participating in their trial, he had tried to use his innate gift to take advantage of a low-profile person who had seemed to be in dire straits. However, that person had eventually eliminated all of the other trial takers, becoming the brightest star of the trial. With him, Alan had also successfully stepped into the greater universe.

Unfortunately, reality did not turn out to be as great as Alan had expected. The person who he followed had turned out to be someone from the Dark Phoenix family, and they did not care about Alan at all. Thus, he had been tossed aside in a random place. He had been left stranded at the border between Endless Weave and the Technocracy.

The Technocracy would occasionally attack Endless Weave, and the people defending the border were already accustomed to such attacks. However, Alan knew a secret: this time, the Technocracy's invasion into the border defenses had been instigated by one of the defenders, and on top of that, the instigator had even been someone who Alan recognized. Although he had no idea why that person would attack the Technocracy in a suicidal manner, the battle had still been instigated by that person.

Alan hated war, as he could die at any time during the battles. Fortunately, the fighting had not gone on for too long before ending this time.

Alan was leaning contentedly against a wall as he stared into the dark sky. In the distance, there was a star on the verge of collapsing.

Suddenly, Alan's expression changed drastically. His pupils shrank in an instant, and he reflexively covered his ears. What had he just heard? He had just heard a heartbeat that could shock the universe! He had never heard such an intense heartbeat before in his life. Even the almighty powerhouses he had met before did not have such a powerful heartbeat, and the difference was overwhelming. He did not

know how wide the gap between him and that powerful being was from hearing their heartbeat, but his intuition told him it was an enormous difference.

Alan looked up, but he saw nothing. Still, he was absolutely certain that in the previous moment, someone had passed by, and that person's strength had been so high that they had completely bypassed the defensive forces at the border.

Alan's face went pale; should he report this incident?

In the end, he decided to remain silent since nobody would believe him anyway.

The war between the Technocracy and the Human Domain had lasted from ancient times to the present, and nobody could even recall why the two domains fought. It was similar to the Human Domain's war against the Astral Beast Domain; the war between the domains had already become instinctive.

The majority of people did not have any understanding of the Technocracy's situation. Even the great powers of the Human Domain such as the Daynight Clan were clueless. It was rumored that the Technocracy was controlled by something called the Master Brain, which had the ability to monitor everything within its territory, making it impossible to sneak into the Technocracy's territory.

Humans wanted to know more about the Technocracy, but the only way for them to do so was to periodically send a super powerhouse to explore the domain.

Those who could barge into the Technocracy had to at least be in the Envoy realm. The Technocracy was already accustomed to such trespassers, and they had long since established methods to deal with the humans' powerhouses.

However, this time around, every method that the Technocracy had prepared to deal with any intruding human powerhouses collapsed. Those towering and powerful super weapons that stood at the Technocracy's border directly crumbled into pieces, and all of their monitoring systems were completely ineffective, unable to send back any images.

Elder Lohar's teacher had charged into the Technocracy completely unobstructed, and every step that they took distorted both space and time as they crossed an incalculable distance all at once.

Suddenly, the entire Technocracy trembled, and a pair of eyes opened. "Human super powerhouse. Protect the hub."

Somewhere within the Technocracy's domain, a figure suddenly appeared, and layers of ripples appeared in the void, apparently unable to withstand this figure's pressure.

"Really, it has been a long time since I last visited." An aged voice rang out from Elder Lohar's teacher, who was also known as Yuan Shi.

Yuan Shi looked around, focusing on a few particular directions where he could feel terrifying presences.

The Technocracy had fought against the Human Domain for so many years, and they similarly had many powerhouses whose strength could not be estimated. Despite that, the mysterious Master Brain was still what made Yuan Shi feel the most wary. Even at present, nobody had managed to discover the Master Brain's location or even its full strength.



Yuan Shi's eyes flashed, and he stepped forward once again, suddenly vanishing from the region.

In a corner of the Technocracy, machines were rapidly being assembled to form spacecraft after spacecraft. Nearby, there were other vessels, each of which were carrying humans. They were truly humans and not androids. It would typically be extremely abnormal to encounter any humans within the Technocracy, but these people were different. They were from the Sixth Mainland.

Lu Yin had not guessed wrong. Since one of the Sixth Mainland's Progenitors had moved, the invasion could not be called off until they achieved something of note. The battle in the Innerverse was extremely intense, so the ones in control of the war had naturally shifted their attention towards the Outerverse, which they had already been planning to invade. Their current connection to the Fifth Mainland even bypassed the Astral River, and they were able to invade the Outerverse from the Technocracy.

Countless cultivators from the Sixth Mainland sat inside these vessels as they made their way towards the human's Outerverse.

Within one ship, Huang San swallowed his saliva as he carefully peered out. "This is definitely the Fifth Mainland. The sky seems so dark, but it's not connected. Sure enough, this place was definitely shattered."

"This is just a corner of the Fifth Mainland, as its main part is the Human Domain. The Technocracy's territory should be much smaller than the Human Domain's Outerverse," Yan Xiaojing calmly explained as she appeared behind Huang San.

Huang San turned back to her. "Xiaojing, will we be able to return alive?"

Yan Xiaojing remained silent.

If this was the past, they would have absolutely answered that question affirmatively and without any hesitation. Not only would they have been confident in their survival, but they would have also proclaimed that they would do so while slaughtering the Fifth Mainland's cultivators and destroying their cultivation system. They had maintained this self-confidence in their Mainland for many, many years.

However, after the fighting in the Innerverse, where even their Martial Progenitor had been severely injured, their beliefs had been changed just like how the Innerverse's environment had been drastically altered. The Sixth Mainland's cultivators no longer felt that the Fifth Mainland was such a pushover.

"Relax, this is the weakest region of human territory within the Fifth Mainland. It's called the Outerverse. With the strength of our Bloodburn Realm, we should be able to easily mow over their forces," Yan Xiaojing said.

Huang San's expression grew complex. The Huang family had once been an Imprinter's family, but even though they had fallen, they had still been able to hear some important information. There were reports that the war in the Innerverse was not going smoothly. Apparently, many Sixth Mainland cultivators had died, especially those of their generation's age. Too many youths had died, and the Innerverse was basically a cemetery in their mind. Would the Outerverse become their Bloodburn Realm's cemetery?

Within another vessel, Autumnfrost Qing wore a proud expression that was completely different from Huang San's. He was filled with lofty aspirations, and even though he knew that the war being waged in the Innerverse was bitter, he still maintained his confidence. After all, they were only invading the Human Domain's Outerverse; if their Bloodburn Realm could not even take down that place, then it would be a tragic failure.

He wanted to obtain some achievements in this war and to overcome those of his generation who were hunting down the Title Holders in the Innerverse.

Many people could only dream of going to the Innerverse to kill the Fifth Mainland's Title Holders, and even the Realmking, Di Fa, was one of those people. However, Autumnfrost Qing was not like them, as he enjoyed crushing others. If he was not able to crush the cultivators of the Fifth Mainland's Innerverse, then he would crush the people of the Outerverse.

Not too far from Autumnfrost Qing was another spacecraft, and in it there was a man with cold eyes that contained a trace of excitement. If Lu Yin was nearby, he would definitely recognize this man as Butcher. This was the expert who Lu Yin had seen back in the Daosource Sect's ruins. This was the man who had absorbed the dismemberment bloodline.

The Bloodburn Realm was one of the Sixth Mainland's nine realms, and their strength was unfathomable. At this time, the one who was leading the invasion into the Human Domain's Outerverse was Ancestor Mo Jiang, who was a World Imprinter.

A World Imprinter was someone with a power level that surpassed 800,000. They were all incomparably terrifying powerhouses.

The Sixth Mainland had been under the belief that there were not any powerhouses of this level in the entire Outerverse, or at least until Yuan Shi suddenly appeared.

Ancestor Mo Jiang's eyes suddenly went wide, and the universe in the area trembled. "Not good!"

He then took a step out.

The next moment, quite a number of cultivators from the Sixth Mainland felt an immense pressure descend upon them, especially the cultivators who had received their imprint from Ancestor Mo Jiang. For them, the pressure was even more oppressive.

In the distance, Ancestor Mo Jiang met Yuan Shi.

"Get lost," Yuan Shi ordered, his voice reverberating across space as it tore through the stars. His voice left many of the Sixth Mainland's cultivators overwhelmed, and those who had not reached the Explorer realm all spat out a mouthful of blood at the same time, as they could not endure the force of the voice.

Yan Xiaojing's face went pale as she looked up into outer space. How was this possible? This was the Technocracy, so was the Master Brain about to move against them?

"You'll be destroyed sooner or later, so why struggle? If you surrender, I promise that you will be accepted into my Sixth Mainland's Daosource Sect's elders," Ancestor Mo Jiang offered, his voice also traveling across space.

The two were just having a conversation, but this region of the universe was unable to endure even that from them, and space itself shattered.

"I already said, get lost!" Yuan Shi barked at the man confronting him, causing the void to collapse. Everyone from the Sixth Mainland felt like the sky was collapsing, and the terror that welled up from their innermost being left them all overwhelmed.

"Then fight me!" Ancestor Mo Jiang shouted back.

Following that, many cultivators from the Sixth Mainland witnessed an unforgettable scene. Two palms collided, and space itself quivered. Countless spatial cracks spread out so far into the distance that their ends could not even be seen. The fleet of spacecraft carrying the Sixth Mainland's cultivators was mercilessly torn apart, and many vessels exploded as countless cultivators wailed in agony.

Within one ship, there was an old woman who was another Imprinter. She yelled mournfully and then charged towards the battlefield, but she was instantly reduced to nothing more than a blood puddle.

An Imprinter was someone whose power level had surpassed 500,000, and such powerhouses were known as Envoys within the Fifth Mainland. However, even an expert on that level did not qualify to enter this battlefield.

The universe seemed to change, tearing apart like a thin sheet of paper. Beyond the tear, there was another region that could not be moved. Nobody had seen this part of the universe before, but it somehow felt more real.

All of the cultivators from the Sixth Mainland were knocked unconscious, and so nobody witnessed this scene.

After an unknown amount of time, Huang San woke up, and he saw multiple powerful cultivators discussing something in outer space. He checked his surroundings and saw that Yan Xiaojing was still out cold, so he hurriedly tried to awaken her.

Yan Xiaojing rubbed her temples. "What happened to us?"

Huang San shook his head. "I don't know."

Yan Xiaojing looked around at their region of outer space. She saw multiple senior cultivators, but none of them had good expressions on their faces. In particular, she noticed Ancestor Mo Jiang.

Ancestor Mo Jiang's expression was quite ugly, which indicated that the situation was not very good for them.

Yan Xiaojing's heart sank; the invasion had not even begun yet, but had they already failed?

On another vessel, Autumnfrost Qing rubbed his head, slowly stood up while panting heavily, and wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth. He had clearly been injured even though that powerhouse had only glanced at him. That strength had reached the World Imprinter level, and it turned out that the Fifth Mainland's Outerverse had a powerhouse who could contest them.

But it did not matter. Even if they were more powerful, they still would not be able to stop the Bloodburn Realm. Ancestor Mo Jiang was just one of their World Imprinters, and the Autumnfrost

family's ancestor was also a World Imprinter. The three strongest families of the Bloodburn Realm all had terrifying powerhouses among them, and above them, there was an even more powerful Cosmic Imprinter as well as the fabled Emyrean Imprinter. How could this paltry Outerverse even try to resist such experts? With what?

Outside the border of the Technocracy, a border patrol that was battling against members of the Human Domain suddenly collapsed, and Yuan Shi walked out from the Technocracy's territory. His pale expression from before had already been restored to his original appearance.

During the battle with Ancestor Mo Jiang, he had intentionally hidden his strength, out of fear that Ancestor Mo Jiang would retreat and call for even stronger powerhouses from the Sixth Mainland to join the battle. Yuan Shi had even feigned injury in order to lull the Sixth Mainland into a sense of complacency. At this moment, he needed to buy as much time as he could so that they would be able to assemble the strength of the entire Outerverse to defend against the Sixth Mainland's impending invasion.