

Disciples 1011

Chapter 1011: Fifth Birth Chart

So far, the process of activating the fifth Birth Chart was rather smooth.

Lu Zhou wondered what kind of ability he would gain after embedding this life heart.

While he waited for the process to be completed, Lu Zhou picked up the map and carefully read the description for the Besieging Master position. Due to the size of the map, there were not too many words. There was only one sentence: The head of the country sits on his throne and guards the destiny of the nation while the ministers rejoice and celebrate. This should describe the ability to control or rule. There were the words 'head of the country' and 'control', he wondered if the ability was some bast*rd aura that could control or rule over others?

Lu Zhou was not interested in ruling over or controlling humans. However, it was a different story if he could control fierce beasts.

At this moment, he recalled the scene where Pu Yi was controlling the fierce beasts during the beast tide. Pu Yi should have the control ability as well even if it was not as strong as Ying Zhao's control ability.

With this ability, it would be easier to tame fierce beasts and make them his mounts. Moreover, he has many mounts.

Click!

Lu Zhou heard the sound that signified his Birth Chart was ready to be activated.

A distinct and angular pattern that flashed brilliantly could now be seen in his Birth Palace. He quickly took the life heart out before he confirmed his remaining lifespan again.

Remaining lifespan: 652,370 days (1787 years in which 263 years are from Reversal Cards)

He would need to give up 1,500 years, leaving him with almost 300 years. If he added the 500 years he would gain after successfully activating the Birth Chart, he would have nearly 800 years of life. 800 years were acceptable.

Following that, he would have to wait for the Birth zone to absorb his lifespan. He wondered how much pain it would bring this time. When he activated the fourth Birth Chart, he could still bear the pain. However, the pain would definitely increase with the fifth Birth Chart. The difficulty would only increase as time went on; it would not get any easier.

"Only through suffering can one rise above others."

Lu Zhou looked at the vortex above the Birth zone in the Birth Palace. It was churning at increasing speed now. Then, he saw his lifespan dwindling on the system interface.

-100 years

-200 years

-300 years

He did not want to waste time so he began to meditate on the Heavenly Writing. Meditating on the Heavenly Writing was different from cultivating. Cultivating required the use of one's avatar, Dantian's sea of Qi, Eight Extraordinary Meridians, and breathing exercises. However, all these things were not needed when meditating on the Heavenly Writing.

He looked at the latest Heavenly Writing scroll he obtained. He had only comprehended part of the power of smell previously, and he was not skilled enough yet. However, he needed to recover his supreme mystic power to check on his eighth disciple as well.

He did not summon Whizard over since its ability was reserved for emergencies.

After activating the Purple Glazed Ceramic, Lu Zhou closed his eyes and entered his meditative state, allowing the scripts from the Heavenly Writing to appear in his mind.

...

The next morning.

Lu Zhou opened his eyes and gauged his supreme mystic power. He had recovered a small part of it; the speed was not too bad.

Lu Zhou looked at the vortex that was churning in his Birth Palace, absorbing his life. After checking the system interface, he found that it had absorbed 1,000 years of his life; there were 500 more years to go.

Perhaps, he was in his meditative state, he did not feel the pain from activating his Birth Chart this time. His speculation was confirmed soon after he emerged from his meditative state and the pain began to assault him. He could feel a burning sensation as though his Dantian's sea of Qi was being set ablaze. Overall, the pain was still bearable.

...

Meanwhile, after receiving news of their master's return, Si Wuya informed Mingshi Yin, who had rushed ahead first, about it before he led the others back to the Imperial City.

When Mingshi Yin, who was still running around in Southern Mountain City, heard the news, he shook his head and said, "I knew nothing would happen. Second Senior Brother might seem stubborn, but in fact, he knows his limit. He won't die so easily!"

Woof! Woof! Woof!

Qiong Qi that had shrunk back to its original size raised its head to the sky and barked a few times.

Mingshi Yin patted it and said, "Doggy, find a good place where people can't find me. I want to quickly form a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar."

Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

Following that, a man and a dog rushed toward the mountains near the Southern Mountain City

...

The Imperial city in the red lotus domain.

Red Lotus Capital Imperial City.

Xiao Yunhe's interest was piqued when he heard the people from the Evil Sky Pavilion had returned. Currently, he was thoroughly convinced that Lu Zhou was a super big shot and viewed Lu Zhou as a very reliable person to cling to. Needless to say, the super big shot's disciples were extraordinary as well! Therefore, he searched for Shen Xi to probe him for information.

Shen Xi could see through Xiao Yunhe's thoughts; he had once been in the same position after all. He smiled and said, "Tower Master Xiao, you really came to the right person!"

"What do you mean?" Xiao Yunhe asked in confusion.

"Just remember this: The Evil Sky Pavilion can't be judged using common sense. This was what Brother Pan, one of the most senior members of the Evil Sky Pavilion, told me. The Evil Sky Pavilion originally had four elders and ten disciples..." Shen Xi slowly began his introduction of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

After Shen Xi finished speaking, Xiao Yunhe revealed a curious and baffled expression, "There are no Thousand Realms Whirling experts?"

"This is probably due to the heaven and earth shackles in the golden lotus domain that are worse than the heaven and earth shackles in the red lotus domain. Perhaps, as compensation from the heavens, their strength isn't to be underestimated even if they're not Thousand Realms Whirling experts. When we were in the Land of Chaos, you witnessed Mister Second's strength and swordsmanship for yourself..."

Recalling the scene where Yu Shangrong slew Xu Chen with his sword, Xiao Yunhe nodded. "Indeed... How strange..."

"Tower Master Xiao, do you plan to join the Evil Sky Pavilion?"

"This..."

"With Tower Master Xiao's qualifications, if you join the Evil Sky Pavilion, the Pavilion Master definitely won't mistreat you," Shen Xi said.

Xiao Yunhe sighed and shook his head. "I still have many things to do. If I join the Evil Sky Pavilion, there'll inevitably be restrictions on the things I'm able to do. It's enough that I got to know Brother Lu..."

Everyone had their own aspirations, therefore, Shen Xi did not continue to persuade Xiao Yunhe. Moreover, Xiao Yunhe was a prominent figure in the past; he was the former Tower Master of the Black Tower Council. It was to be expected that Xiao Yunhe carried a lot of burden on his shoulders.

...

In the Preservation Hall.

Lu Zhou had not entered the critical period. He saw the years that had been absorbed were almost reaching 1,500 years.

- 100 days.
- 200 days.
- 300 days.

At the same time, the Birth zone continued to flash.

The system interface showed he only had 287 years left. Fortunately, he still had the years from the Birth Charts so his appearance would not be affected much.

At this time, the burning pain Lu Zhou felt grew stronger. At the same time, it felt as though someone was stabbing his Dantian's sea of Qi with a knife. Nevertheless, there was no change in his expression at all.

Click!

The Besieging Master position was completely formed. As soon as it was formed, a ray of light lit up the line that connected all the Birth Charts. With this, Lu Zhou had successfully activated his fifth Birth Chart.

He manifested his avatar. It seemed like it had grown darker. Moreover, his avatar had grown a crown as well. He recalled the first time he met Lu Li; it seemed like Lu Li's avatar had a crown as well. In other words, one's avatar would probably gain a crown after activating the fifth Birth Chart.

Lu Zhou nodded, satisfied. If it were not for the map, he truly would not know where to embed his life hearts.

Following that, he withdrew his avatar. This time, he did not plan to test his newfound strength in the Preservation Hall. Moreover, he did not what his control ability was like.

Earlier, he had noticed his Birth Palace seemed to have increased in size. It was obvious that his limit was not just five Birth Charts.

Apart from that, he could clearly feel the Primal Qi in his Dantian's sea of Qi was several times richer than before.

"Just one Birth Chart, but there's so much improvement?" Lu Zhou muttered to himself. This was just his fifth Birth Chart; he wondered how much bigger the improvement would be after he activated his sixth Birth Chart and passed the Birth Trial.

Following that, Lu Zhou put Ying Zhao's heart away. He would return Ying Zhao its life heart. If it did not show up, he would give it to his disciples to use.

Then, he studied Pu Yi's life heart. After thinking about it for a moment, he decided to stabilize his cultivation base before he activated another Birth Chart.

Based on what he had read, the shorter the interval between the activations of Birth Charts, the higher the chances of failure. Conversely, the longer one waited, the greater the success rate. Apart from that was the pain. Continuously activating Birth Charts was like operating on unhealed wounds. Therefore, it was not wrong to liken activating Birth Charts to conducting surgeries; one needed to find the optimal time to conduct a surgery.

Subsequently, Lu Zhou checked on Dang Kang's status and found it was still resting. What happened to his eighth disciple?

He silently recited the mantra for the power of sight.

Lu Zhou saw Zhu Honggong gasping for air as he said, "It's... It's already the fourth one. It's useless; I don't feel anything. Old Lu, I don't think I have fate with the Thousand Realms Whirling..."

"Impossible! You have the Great Void energy; that alone is enough for you to activate at least eight Birth Charts. Since you managed to survive without your golden lotus, you'll definitely find a way to form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. Don't be discouraged. With your cultivation base, it won't be a problem for you to deal with low-level Birth Chart Beasts. Rest for now. After that, let Dang Kang lead the way and enter the depths of the forest again..."

Zhu Hong Gong shook his head vehemently. "I won't go even if you beat me to death. It's better if you change to another request..."

"It's fine if you don't want to go. I'll teach you how to inscribe talismans. Once you master that, I won't care even if you sleep every day."

Zhu Honggong felt like crying. "Uh... Let's go to the depths of the forest..." He sighed as he continued to say, "I was clearly living like an emperor before this, and yet, I'm tormented by you to this extent. I must have accumulated bad luck from eight lifetimes to have met you..."

"Then, should I leave?"

"No, no, no! I was just joking!" Zhu Honggong hurriedly said with a chuckle.

Managing the Flood Sect was not just about strength and cultivation base. Moreover, both of them had also extended their influence to the entire yellow lotus domain. For this reason, they had met many people with all kinds of schemes despite their inferior strength. If it were not for the knowledgeable and wise Lu Li helping him, Zhu Honggong knew he would not have been able to deal with those people.

Zhu Honggong sighed. There would be temptations in life and at least one of them would be deadly.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard in satisfaction after he cut off the power of sight.

"Is anyone there?"

A palace maid entered the hall. "Senior, your orders?"

"Summon my seventh disciple here."

"Understood."

It did not take too long before Si Wuya along with Xiao Yunhe walked into the hall.

Lu Zhou noticed that Si Wuya had brought the ancient goatskin map with him. He said, "There's no need for formalities. Is there any change to the map?"

Si Wuya nodded and placed the map in front of his master before he said, "Please have a look, master."

Lu Zhou looked at the ancient map. As expected, there were more changes compared to last time.

Chapter 1012: Origin

Xiao Yunhe asked curiously, "Can I have a look?"

Lu Zhou just waved his hand, indicating that Xiao Yunhe could have a look.

Xiao Yunhe stepped forward. Since he had no context, it was not surprising he was confused by the map.

On the ancient goatskin map, initially, there were the golden lotus domain and the red lotus domain that mirrored each other. The Black Water Mystic Cave was connected to the deep abyss of the Heavenly Moat. The places overlapped in the north and separated once they reached the Endless Ocean. If one took continental drift into consideration, it was indeed in line with the compression of tectonic plates.

Lu Zhou was slightly surprised by the new changes on the ancient goatskin map.

Apart from the golden lotus domain and the red lotus domain, there were now the black, white, and yellow domains even if they were just vague outlines for now. Naturally, the colors of the domains were not shown.

The outlines of the five domains were roughly similar, but they were all obscured by the vague outlines of the Unknown Land.

Apart from these five domains, the other areas were still hidden.

"This is the black lotus domain..." Xiao Yunhe pointed at an area. "And this should be the white lotus... Am I right?" He was rather surprised by the map.

Si Wuya said, "That's right. However, the displayed areas on the map are from my guess..."

"Your guess?" Lu Zhou asked curiously.

"My guess is that these territories were originally one body. Now, there are four known territories... Only this one isn't too clear." Si Wuya pointed at a territory not far from the golden lotus domain.

Lu Zhou said, "That's the yellow lotus domain."

"The yellow lotus domain?" Si Wuya was shocked.

Lu Zhou said without changing his expression, "When I traveled the Four Seas in my early years, I went there..."

"..."

Xiao Yunhe nodded and said, "Brother Lu's cultivation base is profound; it's not surprising you know about this place. I really didn't expect there's another domain there..."

Si Wuya looked at Xiao Yunhe speechlessly. Xiao Yunhe seemed even more familiar with his master than he did. After a while, he said, "If it's the yellow lotus domain, things will become even more interesting. Master, I plan to stay in the Sky Research Court for a period of time to study this with everyone. I think... I think I have a brilliant idea."

"Are you confident?" Lu Zhou asked. In fact, he wanted to find out the origin of the domains more than anyone else. He was even more curious after looking at the ancient goatskin map. He had a feeling Si Wuya was going to be the first person to discover the secrets of the heaven and earth shackles. If they managed to discover the secrets, how significant would the contributions be to human cultivators?

Si Wuya smiled without saying a word. He only bowed slightly.

Lu Zhou nodded and said, "I believe in you so I'll leave this matter to you. Also, I have fire spirit stones here. Take them and see who needs to upgrade their weapons. You can distribute them as you see fit."

Xiao Yunhe. '... What a familiar bag...'

"Understood," Si Wuya said.

Lu Zhou tossed the bag over as he said, "Also, I handed quite a lot of life hearts to your Eldest Senior Brother; you can discuss how to use them. Remember to strictly follow the blueprint when activating your Birth Charts..."

"Yes, master." Si Wuya put away the sheepskin ancient map and retreated to the side.

Xiao Yunhe cupped his hands and said, "I didn't expect Brother Lu to have such a capable disciple... I'm so envious."

Lu Zhou looked at Xiao Yunhe and asked, "Did you come to see me to say this?"

"No, no, no..." Xiao Yunhe waved his hand and said, "I came here today to bid Brother Lu farewell."

"Farewell?"

"I still have many matters to attend to. It's my honor getting to know Brother Lu in the Southern Kingdom," Xiao Yunhe said.

Lu Zhou bluntly said, "I know you really want Ying Zhao's heart, but it's extremely precious. Even if I give it to you, there's no guarantee that it can recover your Birth Charts. However, I'm not an unreasonable person. If people respect me, I'll definitely return the favor. Manifest your avatar."

Xiao Yunhe was slightly skeptical. However, he believed Lu Zhou would not scheme against him. Therefore, he manifested his avatar.

Buzz!

A miniature Thousand Realms Whirling avatar appeared in front of Xiao Yunhe.

Upon seeing it, Si Wuya was shocked. 'Seven Birth Charts! No, wait, the Birth Palace is damaged! He was a super 12 Chart expert!'

Lu Zhou slowly rose to his feet and walked to the avatar. After studying it for a moment, he said, "I'm not sure how much I can help you..."

"Brother Lu, do you have an idea on how to repair it?" Xiao Yunhe said with a smile, "In any case, I'm happy enough that Brother Lu has such intentions. For 2,000 years, I've searched and met brilliant healers, but none of them can heal it. Although they're highly skilled, there was nothing they could do

for the damaged Birth Palace... Later on, I began to research on my own. There were so many leads that led to nowhere...”

Si Wuya said from the side, “The cultivation world may seem cruel, but it’s actually fair. If it’s so easy to recover, wouldn’t high-level cultivators forever remain in a high position? Since ancient times, the principle has been that the strong prey on the weak. However, the heavens will find a balance as well. This... Senior Xiao, please forgive me if I’ve misspoken...”

Xiao Yunhe shook his head and said, “This child is worth teaching. Brother Lu, I’m really more and more envious of you...”

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said, “Hold your breath and concentrate. Focus on your Dantian.”

Lu Zhou lifted his hand; a blue lotus appeared above his palm.

Xiao Yunhe looked at the blue lotus in a daze. When the blue lotus landed on his body, it began to bloom.

When the blue lotus appeared, Lu Zhou noticed that it resembled his Thousand Realms Whirling avatar’s lotus. There were also five vague zones that flickered with faint blue light. This meant that his healing skill had increased along with his cultivation base.

Lu Zhou said in a deep voice, using all the power of the Heavenly Writing Power at once, “Disperse.”

...

With the Preservation Hall in the center, huge waves of vitality began to converge from all directions.

Flowers, trees, and plants in the vicinity of the Preservation Hall grew at a speed visible to the naked eyes.

The energy that surged like the ocean quickly swept across a radius of 1,000 meters of the Preservation Hall.

The experts in the royal palace flew into the sky and enjoyed the vitality energy.

Some of the nearby soldiers were healed of their old injuries and glowed with life.

All of them immediately prostrated themselves respectfully.

Even the people from the Evil Sky Pavilion who were used to such occurrences were surprised by the powerful vitality energy.

...

Back in the Preservation Hall.

Needless to say, Xiao Yunhe was also shocked by such powerful vitality energy that seemed as vast as the ocean. He looked at his Birth Palace and found that the damaged area showed signs of recovering. Although it was not much, he was so excited that he could barely calm down. For 2,000 years, he had been searching for ways to repair the damage to his Birth Palace. Finally, with the help of the old man in front of him, he finally saw a ray of hope!

“Focus,” Lu Zhou reminded Xiao Yunhe.

Fortunately, Xiao Yun was not an ordinary person. He knew he could not be distracted in this kind of situation. He immediately sat cross-legged and concentrated on absorbing the vitality energy.

Lu Zhou stopped and said, “If the same method is used again, the effect will be greatly reduced. Cherish this opportunity.”

After Lu Zhou finished speaking, he looked away. The rest would have to depend on Xiao Yunhe.

Chapter 1013: Ye Tianxin’s Great Fortune

The blue lotus was now in full bloom.

Eunuchs, palace maids, royal guards, cultivators; everyone had gathered outside of the Preservation Hall.

Similarly, the people from the Evil Sky Pavilion also appeared near the Preservation Hall.

Hua Wudao looked at the surroundings of the hall. He looked at the place that had once been barren now teeming with life as he said in awe, “Heavens, the vitality energy came so suddenly... Look at how the plants are flourishing!”

Zuo Yushu said, “This is the first time elder brother has come up with such a trick.”

Pan Litian drank a little wine and said, “It’s not the first or second time the Pavilion Master has come up with a new trick. Just get used to it.”

Leng Luo deeply agreed but remained silent.

...

After two hours, the vitality energy gradually dissipated.

Xiao Yunhe had also absorbed all the vitality energy he could and used it to repair his Birth Palace. He exhaled to calm down before he looked at his Birth Palace.

Two distinct zones had been restored, and the lines of his Birth Charts could vaguely be seen. This meant that he had regained at least two Birth Charts.

Lu Zhou and Si Wuya did not know how Xiao Yunhe felt at the moment. However, they could see his eyes were so bright that it seemed as though they were burning with flames. Then, they saw his arms were trembling, and he was also clenching and unclenching his hands. Following that, his eyes returned to normal before he laughed twice. However, his laughter sounded strange; it was as though he was choking back his tears. When they looked at his face, they saw his eyes had reddened.

Xiao Yunhe laughed again and again as he said repeatedly, “It worked!”

After Xiao Yunhe repeated those words more than ten times, he finally regained his composure. He suppressed his excitement before he rose to his feet and bowed deeply at Lu Zhou. “I’m sorry I lost my composure.”

"It's understandable. Losing a life matrix is like losing a life. It's normal for you to be happy. However, your two Birth Charts still need time to stabilize. Therefore, your strength at this moment isn't that of a 9 Chart cultivator," Lu Zhou said.

"Thank you for your reminder, Brother Lu." Xiao Yunhe bowed again. "Brother Lu, please don't hesitate to look for me if you need something from me in the future."

Lu Zhou thought about it for a moment before he turned to look at Si Wuya and asked, "What do you say? Tower Master Xiao is the former Tower Master of the Black Tower Council."

Si Wuya said, "Tower Master Xiao, I have a request."

"Even if it's ten requests, it's not a problem."

"Do you have the talismans for runic passages?" Si Wuya asked.

"..." Xiao Yunhe said, "This is truly a difficult request. Fortunately, it's me you're talking to. Only a rune master can create a runic passage. However, I can get you some blueprints."

"Thank you," Si Wuya said.

Xiao Yunhe turned to look at Lu Zhou and said, "Brother Lu, I still have something that I don't know if I should say."

"Go ahead."

"Brother Lu's battle with the two First Elders of the Black Tower Council and the Black Tower Council is truly breathtaking. After the battle, the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council will no longer dare to look down on Brother Lu and would probably steer clear of you in the future if it were possible. However, I think Brother Lu seems to have forgotten about the First Elders' weapons..."

"Weapons?" Lu Zhou had indeed forgotten about them.

King Chen of Wu had the Hollow Halberd, and Ye Liuyun had his dagger. Then, what were Xu Chen and Shi Youran's weapons? Lu Zhou's strength was far superior to theirs so he did not pay attention at all. He had been unleashing his ultimate moves all the time; where would he have the time to care about other things?

Xiao Yunhe said awkwardly, "Of course it's only natural that Brother Lu doesn't care about those things. After all, Brother Lu has much more precious treasures..."

'... I care very much about those things!'

"Someone picked up their weapons?" Lu Zhou asked.

"Generally, cultivators will be extra careful to protect items above the flood grade. When they're defeated, they'll throw them into a hidden corner so their own people would be able to retrieve them.

"..." Lu Zhou had been careless. At the same time, he also exposed his lack of experience during the battle between the Thousand Realms Whirling experts.

"It's getting late. I should take my leave. Brother Lu, we'll meet again," Xiao Yunhe said.

"I'll give you a piece of advice: do everything within your means."

Xiao Yunhe nodded.

At this moment, Wu Chao and a few guards entered the hall.

As soon as Wu Chao appeared, Lu Zhou noticed that Wu Chao was slightly injured. For someone to be able to injure a Thousand Realms Whirling expert like Wu Chao, Wu Chao must have encountered a serious problem.

Wu Chao knelt on one knee and said, "I have completed His Majesty's mission and expelled the people from the Dark and Light Alliance."

Lu Zhou asked, puzzled, "The Dark and Light Alliance?"

"The people from the Dark and Light Appearance appeared in Nanbei Circuit. When I arrived, they were attacking the local cultivators. Fortunately, there was only one Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator; the others were in the Nascent Divinity Tribulation Realm."

Xiao Yunhe sighed. "The Dark and Light Alliance is really ambitious. I'm afraid King Chen of Wu and the matter with Ye Liuyun has something to do with this. The Dark and Light Alliance are probably venting their anger on innocent people because of what happened."

Lu Zhou said, "Aren't the Dark and Light Alliance afraid of being condemned by the people of the world?"

"Some people decided to travel down the dark path and don't care about what the secular world thinks. Roughly 1,500 years ago, something like that happened in the Dark and Light Alliance as well. At that time, a high-ranking member of the Dark and Light Alliance was killed during a mission. As a result, the Dark and Light Alliance sent people to slaughter over 10,000 people just to show their might. At that time, many forces in the black lotus domain joined forces to denounce the Dark and Light Alliance. However, the conflict between the forces was too deep so they only cursed at the Dark and Light Alliance and did not do much."

This reminded Lu Zhou of the appeasement policy during the second world war on earth. With these people, the more indulgent one was, the more arrogant they would become. After a moment, he said, "I'll deal with the Dark and Light Alliance."

Xiao Yunhe and Wu Chao cupped their fists together and left the Preservation Hall.

After the duo left, Si Wuya asked, "Master, Xiao Yunhe is the former Tower Master of the Black Tower Council and is talented; why didn't you ask him to join the Evil Sky Pavilion?"

"He has too many burdens, and the hatred in his heart is too great. Don't be deceived by his appearance. Such a person isn't suitable to stay in the Evil Sky Pavilion for the time being," Lu Zhou said, "In any case, he's very smart. Therefore, he won't be stupid enough to oppose me."

"However, with his current cultivation base, he's still no match for the current Tower Master of the Black Tower Council." Si Wuya was perplexed; if he were Xiao Yunhe, he would have joined the Evil Sky Pavilion.

“There’s no way he would go and look for Xia Zhengrong. He possesses a hexagonal weapon that’s called the Six Edges; it’s not weaker than a flood-grade weapon, but it’s only at the desolate grade now. Among the fire spirit stones I gave you, six came from him,” Lu Zhou said.

“...” Si Wuya said awkwardly, “No wonder he looked so strange when you gave the fire spirit stones to me. It seems like they were meant to upgrade his weapon.”

Nevertheless, since Lu Zhou managed to recover two of Xiao Yunhe’s Birth Charts, Xiao Yunhe was definitely firmly standing on Lu Zhou’s side. He would not do anything to jeopardize his relationship with Lu Zhou.

After Si Wuya left, Lu Zhou entered his meditative state again to recover his supreme mystic power.

...

In the Evil Sky Pavilion’s Golden Court Mountain in the golden lotus domain.

Zhao Yue tossed a life heart to Ye Tianxin and said, “Sixth Junior Sister, I don’t have a lotus so you should have this life heart.”

“This is yours. I can’t accept it.”

“Take it. You’re protecting the golden lotus domain now; it’s important to raise your cultivation base.”

“Alright. Thank you, Fifth Senior Sister.” Ye Tianxin put away the heart of the life matrix. Then, she nimbly leaped onto Cheng Huang’s back and said, “There seems to be some movement in Liang Province again. Cheng Huang and I will go and have a look.”

“Alright. Be careful.”

Ye Tianxin rode on Cheng Huang and sped west.

Cheng Huang’s speed was astonishing. With each leap, it passed through seas of cloud like the wind.

...

After an hour, Cheng Huang landed next to a huge lake before it let out a low groan.

“What’s wrong?” Ye Tianxin patted Cheng Huang’s back.

Cheng Huang shook its head.

“Is someone there?”

Cheng Huang nodded.

“Is there danger?”

Cheng Huang nodded again.

Ye Tianxin thought for a moment and said, “Are you afraid?”

Cheng Huang hesitated. It nodded first before it changed its mind and shook its head.

Ye Tianxin jumped down gracefully from its back and landed on the clear surface of the snake. Her robes that were as white as snow and her hair which was as white as frost fluttered in the air as she surveyed her surroundings. If she sensed danger, she would leave with Cheng Huang immediately.

At this moment, a crisp and gentle voice rang from the shore. "What's your name?"

Ye Tianxin spun around, shocked, as she looked at the source of the voice.

Cheng Huang grunted and retreated, clearly hostile.

Ye Tianxin trusted Cheng Huang unconditionally, therefore, she leaped onto its back before she looked at the speaker again.

She saw an elegant woman with an extraordinary bearing. Her waist and body were slender, and her facial features were exquisite. Her smile made people feel as though they were bathing in the spring breeze. Most importantly, she had eye-catching hair that was as blue as the sky.

At this moment, the elegant woman asked again, "What's your name?"

Chapter 1014: The Woman of Light

Ye Tianxin looked at the woman warily as she patted Cheng Huang's back gently.

Cheng Huang lowered itself.

The elegant woman smiled faintly and said, "You don't have to be afraid... If I wanted to kill you, I wouldn't have asked for your name." Then, she shifted her gaze to Cheng Huang. "A ten thousand-year-old Cheng Huang is indeed a rare mount. Legend has it that those who ride on Cheng Huang can live for 2,000 years. Girl, you're very lucky."

"Girl?" Appearance-wise, the woman did not look any older than Ye Tianxin. Moreover, she did not think the unfamiliar woman was jealous of her beauty that was untainted by smoke or fire. Based on the woman's bearing alone, it could be seen she was someone of high standing.

The woman said, "I'm older than you." Her voice turned gentle as she asked again, "What's your name?"

To be safe, Ye Tianxin did not answer the question. At this time, her name and her appearance had long spread in the golden lotus domain. If this woman did not know her, it only meant that the woman was not from here. In the end, she only said, "I still have matters to attend to. Farewell..."

The woman said, "Cheng Huang is a rare Birth Chart Beasts. If it walks around like this, it'll be easily discovered. It's also smart; it's able to sense danger. Unfortunately, it seems like it can't bear to leave you in danger..."

Ye Tianxin was stunned. Everyone had a few weaknesses; one of hers was Cheng Huang. She hesitated for a moment before she asked, "Who are you?"

"My surname is Lan..." She raised one of her slender hands and placed it on her shoulder.

Ye Tianxin said, "You're a foreigner."

"All the humans in the world are one."

“What I mean is that you’re not from here,” Ye Tianxin said.

“You’re right.”

“What are you doing here?”

“Relaxing...”

Ye Tianxin frowned slightly. It was hard to believe. “Just relaxing?”

“Yes.” The woman’s answer was strangely simple and direct.

“Are you planning to capture me?” Ye Tianxin took the initiative to ask.

Lan Xihe smiled and shook her head.

“You want to catch Cheng Huang?” Ye Tianxin asked again.

Lan Xihe still shook her head again.

Ye Tianxin said, “Alright then... I still have matters to attend to. Farewell.”

Lan Xihe quietly watched Cheng Huan rise to its feet before making its way to the white-clad woman.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

In the forest on the other side of the lake, black figures appeared one after another.

“This is bad.” Ye Tianxin frowned and patted Chenghuang’s back. “Cheng Huang, let’s go.”

Cheng Huang stomped on the ground with his four hooves.

Boom!

It soared into the sky.

Several black figures appeared in the sky as well. One after another, black avatars surrounded Cheng Huang and Ye Tianxin.

Ye Tianxin knew with her current cultivation base it would be impossible for her to escape; she could only rely on Cheng Huang now. She patted Cheng Huang’s back again and asked, “Are you confident?”

Cheng Huang let out a cry, seemingly confident.

Ye Tianxin nodded and threw the Amorous Hoops out in all directions.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The Amorous Hoops collided with the avatars, creating ripples in the sky, before returning to Ye Tianxin.

Alas, Ye Tianxin did not manage to breach their defenses at all.

The weakest among her opponents had ten leaves and there were two or three Thousand Realms Whirling experts.

How could Ye Tianxin possibly win?

"I didn't expect to meet a Birth Chart Beast here. How lucky!"

"The Alliance's information is not wrong... The Black Tower Council has stopped extending their reaches here for now..."

"The Black Tower Council can't take care of itself now; it doesn't have time to control the golden lotus domain."

Ye Tianxin ordered, "Let's go."

Cheng Huang leaped into the air and pounced toward the weakest avatar.

The two Thousand Realms Whirling avatar appeared in the sky immediately. They brought their astrolabes to the front and began to press them down.

Ye Tianxin hurriedly used the Blue Waves Technique to defend herself, but it was futile against the astrolabes.

Boom!

Cheng Huang's huge body made it a big target; the astrolabe landed on its body. It grunted in pain and fell down.

Boom!

After Cheng Huang landed on its feet, it looked around before it swept its tail out, causing hundreds of towering trees to fall.

"Girl, Cheng Huang doesn't belong to you. Scram!" The two Thousand Realms Whirling avatar blocked Ye Tianxin's path.

How could Ye Tianxing give up on Cheng Huang? She said, "If you dare touch it, I'll make sure you die without a burial ground."

"With your strength?"

"No, because I'm a member of the Evil Sky Pavilion," Ye Tianxin said.

"Evil Sky Pavilion?!" The two cultivators looked at each other in dismay as their flashing Thousand Realms Whirling avatars stood next to them

"The higher-ups said not to provoke the Evil Sky Pavilion for the time being."

"It's indeed difficult... but it's not impossible..."

"What do you mean?"

The stronger cultivator made a gesture of slitting the neck.

The stronger cultivator said, "Kill all of them!"

Following that, dozens of cultivators swamped forward. Clearly, they intended to kill them to silence them and destroy the evidence.

Cheng Huang roared; its hair stood on end.

At this moment...

"That's enough..."

Lan Xihe's voice was soft, but everyone clearly heard her words.

When the cultivators surrounding Cheng Huang turned to look, they saw a graceful woman with exquisite features walking in the air. Her hair was an eye-catching blue.

Lan Xihe moved to Ye Tianxin's side with a smile on her face.

"Who are you?" The Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator asked with a frown.

Lan Xihe's face remained expressionless as she continued to walk on air. She did not answer the cultivator.

"Fine. Since you're seeking death, you have no one to blame."

Cultivators swarmed forward immediately.

Lan Xihe ignored them and stood in front of Cheng Huang.

As the cultivators lunged at her, she gently raised her hand. A light so dazzling that it could rival the sun, the moon, and the stars appeared in her hand.

All of a sudden the air froze and Prima Qi stagnated. It was as though everything was frozen by a mysterious and terrifying energy.

"You!"

Dozens of cultivators were horrified, but it was too late. They felt the air rapidly shrink.

After a moment, the stillness shattered like glass. Along with that, the cultivators with broken bodies fell into the lake one after another.

The originally clear lake was now stained with blood.

"..." Ye Tianxin looked at the woman in shock. She had never seen such power before.

"You're from the Evil Sky Pavilion?"

"Yes..." Ye Tianxin grew even warier.

"They're from the Dark and Light Alliance?"

"The Dark and Light Alliance?" A confused expression appeared on Ye Tianxin's face.

Lan Xihe shook her head and smiled faintly as she said, "I saved your life; aren't you going to thank me?"

"Thank you. But who are you?" Ye Tianxin asked, puzzled.

"That's not important." Lan Xihe chuckled. "Since we have fate, you can call me sister if you don't mind."

“...”

Cheng Huang shook its head vehemently as it let out a cry.

Ye Tianxin said helplessly, “You saw it too...”

Lan Xihe was not angry. Instead, she was patient and her tone was gentle as she said, “Cheng Huang, can you help your master form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar? Can you protect your master forever? Do you think you can stay in human cities forever?”

Cheng Huang was dumbfounded by the onslaught of questions. Indeed, these were its concerns.

In fact, Cheng Huang’s intelligence was not inferior to Ying Zhao.

When Lan Xihe saw Chenghuang, she toyed with the idea of taking its life heart, but she had changed her mind now.

Cheng Huang, naturally, could not answer the questions despite its intelligence.

Lan Xihe said, “Time will prove everything...”

‘What?’ Ye Xin was confused. She could feel the woman’s vast power; it was as though the woman controlled life and death with a single move. Why would such a person want to befriend her? There was no such thing as free lunch in this world.

Lan Xihe said curtly, “Fate.”

“Fate?” Ye Xin grew even more confused.

“You like white; I like white. Isn’t this reason enough?” Lan Xihe said.

‘What kind of reason is this?’

Before Ye Tianxin could speak, Lan Xihe said again in a tone that brooked no argument, “Every month, on the first and fifteenth day, you’ll come to the West Lake to look for me.”

Subsequently, Lan Xihe vanished into thin air; leaving an afterimage behind.

Ye Tianxin looked around in a daze, feeling as though she was dreaming. However, the blood swirling in the lake told her she was not dreaming.

Chapter 1015: Left Envoy

Two days later, Lu Zhou emerged from his meditative state.

The first thing he did was to manifest his avatar to look at his fifth Birth Chart.

In the Birth Palace on the lotus seat, all five Birth Charts were lit up.

Apart from an increase in his strength, speed, and Birth Chart Power, the fifth Birth Chart granted him the power to control as well.

“It’s a pity that it won’t be easy to collect another three life hearts to rise to the peak...”

Lu Zhou felt a little traumatized from the ‘Thank you for your participation’ from the lucky draws.

Currently, he had over 500,000 merit points.

"It's a pity that I can't buy the Peak Trial Card. As such, I can only focus on increasing my strength."

Now, he had to wait to see if Ying Zhao was willing to submit to him. Otherwise, he would give it to one of his disciples.

Based on ancient records, there were cultivators who gave up 1,500 years of life to save the life heart before using it again. With that, there would be no need to look for another life heart. The disadvantage was they would not gain a new power. Apart from that, the Birth Chart that was activated following that would be inferior if it was used again by the same person. Therefore, there were rarely people who embedded two of the same life hearts.

"If I plan to save the life heart when activating my sixth Birth Chart, I'll need 1,500 years of life; I only have 300 years now..."

Unless he had no intention of letting his disciples reuse Pu Yi's life heart, he would have enough years to activate his Birth Chart.

"I need more Reversal Cards..."

Lu Zhou looked at the system interface; he had 35 Reversal Cards left. Based on his calculation, he needed more than 900 cards to have 1,500 years.

"..."

It cost 500 merit points per card

"Hmm? What's that?" Lu Zhou saw a reminder.

"Note: This item is recommended for purchase."

"Purchase?" Lu Zhou frowned slightly. After drawing ten times, he obtained a Reversal Card.

"The probability of winning is about the same and the price is the same as buying it."

At first, the chance of winning was very high. However, the longer he drew, his chances of obtaining something had dropped. His luck points reached 999 before he even gained anything.

Naturally, the system's comment was only a suggestion.

However, if he was fortunate with the lucky draws, it would be more worth it than buying it.

Of course, the system's suggestion was only for reference. If he was lucky and won the lottery, it might be more cost-effective than buying it.

However, the Reversal Card's price would definitely rise. The Reversal Cards did not grant one with extra years of life; what it did was that it reversed the time. When he transmigrated, he had 1,000 years of life. Therefore, the limit to the Reversal Card was only 1,000 years. If he reversed any further, he would not be surprised to return to his mother's womb.

"1,000 Reversal Cards caused 500,000 merit points..." Who knew one of the cheapest item cards would cause trouble to him at this moment.

In the end, he dismissed the idea of buying the Reversal Cards.

Swoosh!

At this moment, there was movement from the talisman.

Lu Zhou closed the system interface and brought out the black talismans before igniting it.

As soon as Yan Zhen Luo's image appeared, he scratched his head and said sheepishly, "Brother Lu, you really hid deeply..."

"Hmm?"

"In the black lotus domain and the white lotus domain, there's no one who's unaware of s a golden lotus expert who has 12 Birth Charts. Brother Lu, you're really good at hiding your strength..." Yan Zhen Luo said.

"I've always been honest and never hide anything," Lu Zhou said with a straight face.

"..."

'Fine, you're a big shot; everything you say is right. It's pointless to argue with you.'

Yan Zhenluo's attitude that had been respectful grew even more respectful than before as he said, "I don't know about the White Tower Council, but the Black Tower Council is in an uproar. The Black Tower Council's annihilation plan has been rejected by Tower Master Xia. There are many forces now that are afraid of Brother Lu..."

This was also within Lu Zhou's expectations. With 12 life Birth Charts, it was only natural those people were more restrained than before.

"What about the Dark and Light Alliance?" Lu Zhou asked.

"This is what I wanted to speak to you about today. Ye Liuyun is dead; the Dark and Light Alliance has always been one to seek revenge for the smallest grievances. If they didn't dare to confront you, they'll definitely think of another way to seek revenge. I heard from a friend that the Dark and Light Alliance has sent their men to the red lotus domain and the golden lotus domain. However, I don't know if it's true or not," Yan Zhenluo said.

"Golden lotus domain?" Lu Zhou frowned.

"King Chen of Wu of the Great Yuan's royal court was seriously injured. However, they usually follow the rules and aren't that despicable. The White Tower Council has sent an envoy to negotiate with the Black Tower Council. There won't be any conflicts between them in the future...." Yan Zhenluo said.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. "Yan Zhenluo."

"Yes?" Yan Zhenluo could feel the sudden change in Lu Zhou.

"It's no longer suitable for you to stay in the Black Tower Council. I'm going to give you a chance..." Lu Zhou said indifferently.

"This..." How could Yan Zhenluo not understand Lu Zhou's words? If he joined the Evil Sky Pavilion, it was tantamount to betraying the Black Tower Council. The consequences would be unimaginable.

"The former Tower Master of the Black Tower Council, Xiao Yunhe, was not given this chance. It's best if you think this over carefully," Lu Zhou said in a low voice.

Yan Zhenluo was taken aback when he heard Xiao Yunhe's name. How could he not understand the weight of these words? He yearned for freedom and loathed the struggles between humans. He had long been tired of the Black Tower Council. After a while, he said, "Ever since the last mission, the Black Tower Council has increased its supervision of the members. It's now difficult to leave the Black Tower Council..."

"You don't have to worry about that. I'll make a trip to the Black Tower Council sooner or later."

"..."

Since Lu Zhou had said so much, Yan Zhenluo said decisively, "Brother Lu, you're being so straightforward. If I refuse you, then it means I don't appreciate your kindness. I, Yan Zhenluo, am willing to follow your lead..."

"Ding! Obtained a subordinate. Reward: 1,000 merit points."

"Very good. I'll grant you the position of the Left Envoy of the Evil Sky Pavilion. From now on, you'll only listen to my orders."

Yan Zhenluo's heart stirred slightly upon hearing these words. With his cultivation base, he could be considered a relatively senior member of the Black Tower Council. However, he was not even given the position of an elder. How could he not feel moved or excited being given the position of Left Envoy after joining the Evil Sky Pavilion?

"Thank you, Pavilion Master."

"I'll have to trouble you to stay in the Black Tower Council for this period of time," Lu Zhou said.

"Alright."

Following that, the projection was cut off.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. The overall strength of the Evil Sky Pavilion had increased a little, but it was still far from enough.

The cultivation bases of the four elders and the guardian, Meng Changdong, had yet to catch up to the others. It would be difficult for them to challenge even the weakest Thousand Realms Whirling cultivators in the Black Tower Council and White Tower Council.

"Men."

Instead of the palace maids, Little Yuan'er and Conch entered the hall.

Little Yuan'er imitated the palace maid and said respectfully, "Master, what are your orders?"

Lu Zhou frowned. "Little girl, have you been slacking in your cultivation recently?"

Little Yuan 'er giggled and ran to Lu Zhou's side. She said, "How can I slack in my cultivation? I'm about to sprout the tenth leaf!"

"That's good. Go and summon your Second Senior Brother here," Lu Zhou said.

"What's the point of summoning Second Senior Brother? Conch and I are capable of handling whatever task you have for him! It's too suffocating for us to say within the confines of the royal palace every day," Little Yuan'er said, aggrieved.

"Return to the Evil Sky Pavilion... Can you do it?" Lu Zhou said.

"I will summon Second Senior Brother immediately," Little Yuan'er said without any hesitation.

In fact, it was not a bad idea to let Little Yuan'er and Conch return to the golden lotus domain, but it was too dangerous for them to cross the Endless Ocean, and they could not control the runic passage.

Among Lu Zhou's ten disciples, only Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong were capable of controlling the runic passage.

Based on the short fight between Yu Shangrong and Xu Chen, it could be seen that Yu Shangrong had the strength of a Two Chart expert at least even if he looked like a Ten-leaf cultivator with a Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar.

Soon after, Little Yuan'er brought Yu Shangrong over.

Yu Shangrong bowed. "Master."

"I summoned you here because I want you to bring a few life hearts back to the Evil Sky Pavilion. The Dark and Light Alliance are out of revenge. We only have Guardian Li Xiao Mo who has three Birth Charts, I'm slightly worried..."

"I'm willing to go to the Evil Sky Pavilion," Yu Shangrong said.

"As expected of Second Senior Brother!" Little Yuan'er said with a smile.

Yu Shangrong smiled faintly and said, "Recently, I feel that my cultivation base has had a breakthrough, and I've met with a bottleneck. If I stay in the palace, I might not be able to get past the bottleneck."

All of a sudden, Lu Zhou suddenly struck with his hand.

A golden palm seal shot toward Yu Shangrong at lightning speed.

Yu Shangrong's combat experience was incredibly high. Before his master's palm seal even reached him, he had drawn his sword horizontally and controlled his energy.

Bang!

Yu Shangrong blocked the golden palm seal and slid back a few meters before he came to a stop steadily.

"Since you're able to block this move without any harm, it means you've forged a new path on the lotus-severing path..."

Chapter 1016: The Dark and Light Alliance is Seeking Death

"It's all due to luck; it's not worth mentioning," Yu Shangrong was aware the path of cultivation was still long.

Lu Zhou nodded and said, "You can take the runic passage to return to the Evil Sky Pavilion this time. You can look for Ning Wanqing for this matter."

Ning Wanqing had appeared in the golden lotus domain previously so there must be a runic passage there.

Before the Evil Sky Pavilion created their own runic passage, they could only borrow from others.

"Ning Wanqing is from the White Tower Council. I'm afraid he'll be unwilling..." Yu Shangrong said.

"Ning Wanqing is smart. Just look for him," Lu Zhou said.

"Understood." Yu Shangrong left the hall after he accepted his mission.

Following that, Lu Zhou asked Little Yuan'er, "Where's your Fourth Senior Brother?"

Little Yuan'er shook her head and said, "Fourth Senior Brother has been running around all the time. I don't know either."

'Don't know?' Lu Zhou stroked his beard as he mulled over his thoughts.

After dismissing Little Yuan'er and Conch, he silently recited the incantation for the power of sight from the Heavenly Writing.

Lu Zhou felt strange when he saw the scene that appeared in front of him.

There were lush trees intertwined with vines.

They blocked his vision, and he could not see anything at all.

"..."

Lu Zhou was puzzled. What was his fourth disciple doing?

After some time had passed, there still no changes; his vision was still obscured by the vines and trees.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard as he pondered. After he dismissed Little Yuan'er and the conch, he silently recited the heavenly book in his heart.

The scene in front of him made Lu Zhou feel a little strange —

Lush trees and vines piled up like mountains.

They blocked his vision and blocked his surroundings. He couldn't see anything.

Soon after, he heard the sound of snoring and barking.

Lu Zhou frowned. 'Is he sleeping while everyone's busy? Bast*rd!'

Lu Zhou shook his head and cut off the power.

Lu Zhou shook his head. He felt like he had been too lax. He did not discipline Mingshi Yin for a day, Mingshi Yin had grown audacious.

...

Meanwhile, Mingshi Yin suddenly sat up in a daze and muttered to himself groggily, "Master? Was it an auditory hallucination?"

He stretched his limbs as he surveyed his surroundings. He created an opening on the vines and said, "Doggy, don't be noisy. I'm going to continue sleeping..."

Following that, he slumped down and continued to snooze.

Meanwhile, the mountain had completely been taken over by the blue wood, vines, and trees. At the same time, a faint vitality energy was converging at the heart of the blue wood.

...

Two days later.

In the Preservation Hall.

Lu Zhou's fifth Birth Chart had stabilized. With the help of the Purple Glazed Ceramic, he should be able to embed the sixth life heart and activate his sixth Birth Chart in another month.

"Pu Yi's life heart..."

Lu Zhou could not afford to be hasty; it was better to take things slow. After all, he had sufficient resources and means.

Generally speaking, at this stage, it was very difficult to find suitable life hearts. Rudimentary and intermediate life hearts were useless now.

All of a sudden, Lu Zhou smelled the strong metallic stench of blood.

"Who is sneaking around outside the hall?" Lu Zhou frowned.

"Granddisciple wishes to meet grandmaster," Li Yunzheng said.

"Come in."

Li Yunzheng, along with the two Guardians of the Evil Sky Pavilion, entered the hall. Apart from that, two people were also being carried in on stretchers into the hall.

Li Yunzheng bowed and said, "Master, there's an incident in a city in the northern part of Shanbei Circuit. A group of black lotus cultivators has appeared, and they've been killing the innocent indiscriminately. Hundreds of people have died so far. These two were lucky to survive and were saved by local cultivators."

Meng Changdong knelt next to the patients and checked their wounds. "Pavilion Master, their wounds are consistent..."

Shen Xi said, "That's right. There's no doubt this is the work of the Dark and Light Alliance."

“Do you have any evidence?” Lu Zhou asked.

“It’s not the first time the Dark and Light Alliance has done this. I dare say they’ll return even fiercer next time. They would kill to silence before destroying the evidence. 1,500 years ago, they relied on this method to gain a foothold. They took advantage of the conflicts between the major forces and were certain they wouldn’t be targeted by the major forces. After tasting the sweetness, they became even more rampant.”

The two people were so badly mutilated and could not even speak clearly.

Lu Zhou waved his sleeves and Li Yunzheng ordered his men to carry the seriously injured people out.

He stroked his beard, lost in his thoughts. He was not a saint. However, this matter was caused by him. It was not without benefits for him to use this chance to strike at the Dark and Light Alliance.

What’s most urgent is to increase the overall strength of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

“Grandmaster?”

“Speak,” Lu Zhou said.

“The Dark and Light Alliance has gone too far this time. Previously, with Wu Chao’s help, we managed to force them to retreat. This time, they’re even more vicious. Grandmaster, please help me,” Li Yunzheng said.

Li Yunzheng was different from Lu Zhou after all. He was the ruler of a country. If anything happened to the red lotus domain, the responsibility would fall on him.

Lu Zhou did not answer immediately.

At this moment, Shen Xi moved to Lu Zhou’s side and said in a low voice, “Pavilion Master, with your strength and status, you can use this opportunity to attack the Dark and Light Alliance. Make them pay for what they had done and squeeze a few benefits from them.”

Lu Zhou remained silent. Inwardly, he thought, ‘I have the same idea as well! The problem is I really don’t have 12 Birth Charts!’

“Master, please help me!” Li Yunzheng fell to his knees.

Shen Xi added, “Moreover, this can improve the image of the Evil Sky Pavilion.”

‘Killing three birds with one stone! However... I don’t have 12 Birth Charts!’

After a moment, Lu Zhou asked, “Who’s backing the Dark and Light Alliance?”

Shen Xi replied, “Pavilion Master, the Leader of the Dark and Light Alliance is Fan Ruozhi... He has 11 Birth Charts. The reason the Dark and Light Alliance could stand on almost even ground with the Black Tower Council and Great Yuan’s royal court is due to their high number of members. They had gathered many sectless cultivators... Ye Liuyun was one of them...”

“Why didn’t Xia Zhengrong seize the chance to take down this 11 Chart Fan Ruozhi?” Lu Zhou was puzzled.

“Great Yuan’s royal court wants to keep the balance. If the Black Tower Council acts against the Dark and Light Alliance, the royal court will join forces with the Dark and Light Alliance against the Black Tower Council...”

‘So the three forces are keeping each other in check...’

“Rise,” Lu Zhou looked at Li Yunzheng and said, “I’ll think of a way. You may leave now.”

“Thank you, master.” Li Yunzheng bowed and left respectfully.

Then, Lu Zhou said, “Guardian Meng, go to the Sky Research Academy and tell my seventh disciple to create the runic passage as soon as possible.”

Meng Changdong said, “This shouldn’t be a problem. Tower Master Xiao sent someone to deliver the blueprint yesterday.”

Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction.

“After the runic passage is done, I’ll go to the black lotus domain.”

“Understood.”

Meng Changdong and Shen Xi respectfully left the Preservation Hall after that.

When Lu Zhou was alone again, he thought about how to deal with the Dark and Light Alliance.

He now had 500,000 merit points, one enhanced Deadly Strike Card, Impeccable Cards, and many Critical Block Cards. He was not afraid of the Dark and Light Alliance’s Fan Ruozhi. Moreover, the Dark and Light Alliance is more afraid of Lu Zhou than the Black Tower Council.

However, if he intended to visit, he naturally would have to be more than absolutely certain of his victory.

Lu Zhou thought for a moment and bought an ordinary Deadly Strike Card.

“Disguise Card?”

He looked at the Disguise Card on the system interface and wondered what would happen if he synthesized it. Although it did not have much use, it was effective in intimidating others.

Moreover, his current strength was not inferior to a true 12 Chart expert.

Lu Zhou decisively bought two Disguise Cards. With the one in his possession, he had three cards. Following that, he brought out the Synthesis Card. After stacking the four cards together, he muttered under his breath, “Synthesize.”

“Ding! Synthesization is a success. Obtained: Enhanced Disguise Card.”

Apart from that system notification, there was no other information.

“What effect would this enhanced Disguise Card have? 36 Birth Charts?”

If that was the case, he would go to the Dark and Light Alliance and extort... no, seek justice from them!

Chapter 1017: Attention Must Be Paid to the Gifts

The Disguise Card could only be used to intimidate.

If the three forces worked together to attack the Evil Sky Pavilion, it would be disastrous. However, since the three forces had not resorted to working together. Otherwise, they would have made a move a long time ago. This was also due to the huge conflict between the three forces, and it was difficult for them to come to an agreement. This could be seen during the time in the Southern Kingdom's Land of Chaos.

Following that, Lu Zhou decided to try the lucky draws. Who knew he might be able to draw some amazing cards?

"Lucky draw."

"Ding! Spent 50 merit points. Thank you for your participation. Luck point +1."

"Lucky draw."

"Ding! Spent 50 merit points. Obtained: Decomposition Card x5."

'Deconstruction Card? There was the Synthesis Card previously, and now, there's a Deconstruction Card?'

Lu Zhou read the information of the item card: Deconstruction Card can be used to deconstruct items.

Lu Zhou thought it sounded like nonsense. He decided to give it a try first.

There were no item cards he was willing to deconstruct therefore he could only choose from his weapons.

Weapon: Unnamed(unknown), Jade Horsetail Whisk(heaven-grade), Magistrate Brush(super heaven-grade), Purple Glazed Ceramic (flood-grade), Cold Wind Trident(basic desolate-grade), Confinement Seal(intermediate flood-grade), Dragon Eagle's Fury(intermediate desolate-grade), Flash Hook(intermediate desolate-grade), Sea Spirit Pearl (no energy)

"Unnamed can be deconstructed as well?" Lu Zhou was puzzled. Unnamed was his top weapon; it would be a loss to deconstruct it.

"Well... since the Sea Spirit Soul no longer has energy..."

Lu Zhou took out the Sea Spirit Pearl. The pearl in his palm was dim and even had some cracks.

He could not help but feel regretful. The Sea Spirit Pearl's ability was extraordinary. Absolute Zero could be used at the most unexpected time. He did not expect its energy would deplete. Well, since things had come to this point, there was no point dwelling on it. There was no point in keeping it anyway.

"Deconstruct."

"Ding! Deconstruct the Sea Spirit Pearl. Obtained: Obsidian essence x10."

"Obsidian essence: a rare material to upgrade weapons to fusion grade. Each upgrade requires 100 obsidian essence."

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. Finally, he had the material to upgrade items to the fusion grade. He would start with the Purple Glazed Ceramic. Alas, 10 obsidian essence was too little.

He looked at the other weapons. Indeed, many of them were not much use to him. However, to the others from the Evil Sky Pavilion, they were pretty useful. After a while, he decided not to deconstruct them for now.

At this moment, Shen Xu walked into the hall and bowed. "Pavilion Master, an envoy from the Black Tower Council requests an audience with you. He's currently waiting in the Political Announcement Hall..."

"An envoy from the Black Tower Council?"

Shen Xi said with a smile, "From the looks of it, he's here to seek peace."

"Bring them here."

"Understood."

Soon after, Shen Xu led several black-clad cultivators from the Political Announcement Hall to the Preservation Hall.

There were more than ten black-clad cultivators, and they entered the hall respectfully.

"Jiang Jiuli greets the old senior."

One of the judges of the Black Tower, Jiang Jiuli, was clearly the envoy sent by the Black Tower Council to meet Lu Zhou.

"It's you?" Lu Zhou was slightly surprised.

Jiang Jiuli smiled awkwardly and said, "Senior Lu has left an unforgettable impression on him ever since our meeting in the Southern Kingdom. I was shocked and in awe when I heard about Senior Lu's strength during the battle in the Southern Kingdom. Moreover, I heard Senior Lu also displayed his might by dealing with the beast tide in the Southern Mountain City. For that reason, I came to visit you today."

At this time, Yu Zhenghai and four elders walked into the Preservation Hall one after another.

Lu Zhou waved his sleeve, indicating there was no need for them to bow. He looked at Jiang Jiuli and said, "Didn't you come with hidden motives? Did you really come with good intentions?"

Jiang Jiuli quickly waved his hand. "No, no, no. It was all a misunderstanding before. I came this time to resolve the previous misunderstanding and to make friends with Senior Lu as well."

Lu Zhou said airily, "Can the Black Tower Council really overlook the fact that I killed Wu Guangping, a judge of the Black Tower Council, Shi Youran, the First Elder of the Black Tower Council, and numerous blackguards?"

Jiang Jiuli answered without any hesitation, "Of course! They were blind for offending Senior Lu; they deserved to be punished. To apologize, I brought something for Senior Lu." Then, he waved his hand.

The boxes were opened one by one.

This scene was reminiscent of the time when Great Tang's royal family sent gifts to Lu Zhou in Cloud Mountain.

The boxes contained black talismans, forging materials, various top-tier elixirs, and so on.

"I hope Senior Lu will accept it."

Lu Zhou glanced at the boxes and asked, "And then?"

"The Black Tower Council only wants to forge a friendly relationship with Senior Lu. With our alliance, the Black Tower Council is willing to fully support the Evil Sky Pavilion. It doesn't matter if it's in the golden lotus domain, red lotus domain, or the black lotus domain. The Black Tower Council is really sincere," Jiang Jiuli said.

Lu Zhou knew there was no sincerity in this world; the Black Tower Council only wanted to win him over. However, he had to admit their gifts were sincere enough.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said, "Then Shen Xi..."

"This is a small matter. Shen Shi was wronged in the Black Tower Council. It's our loss now that he has chosen another master. Everyone has their own aspiration. The Black Tower Council has no intention of pursuing this matter..." Jiang Jiuli said.

Lu Zhou had to admit Xia Zhengrong seemed very sincere. Not only did Xia Zhengrong overlook the deaths of his First Elder and a judge, but he even endured his subordinate being poached.

At this moment, Meng Changdong hurried into the hall. He bowed and said, "Pavilion Master, the White Tower Council has sent an envoy here and requests an audience with the Pavilion Master."

"The White Tower Council?" Yu Zhenghai frowned and said, "It's really lively today."

"Bring them here."

"Understood."

Meanwhile, Jiang Jiuli frowned as soon as he heard Meng Changdong's words. Inwardly, he was cursing the White Tower Council.

As soon as Meng Changdong led more than ten white-clad cultivators into the hall, Jiang Jiuli's expression turned unsightly. "It's you, Bi Shuo?"

The white-clad cultivator in the lead, Bi Shuo, walked into the hall with a smile on his face. He ignored Jiang Jiuli and cupped his fists at Lu Zhou. "The White Tower Council's judge, Bi Shuo, greets Senior Lu."

Lu Zhou felt Bi Shuo's name sounded funny.

Bi Shuo continued to say, "The White Tower Council has some misunderstanding with Senior Lu previously so we came to clarify the matters. Nangong Yutian and Xu Chen offended Senior Lu first so they deserve to die. This junior brought some gifts in hopes to appease Senior Lu."

'Why are their lines almost the same? Was this planned?'

Jiang Jiuli chuckled before he said, "Bi Shuo, you're really shameless? Is the White Tower Council so unoriginal that you have to copy me?"

"Copy you?" Bi Shuo said indifferently, "Jiang Jiulu, this isn't a place where you can behave as you please. I came today to make friends with Senior Lu, and I have no intention to stoop to your level..."

Jiang Jiuli turned to Lu Zhou and said, "Senior Lu, I believe you can feel the Black Tower Council's sincerity. I hope you'll consider this carefully."

Bi Shuo ignored Jiang Jiuli. Instead, he ordered his men to open the box.

The box contained talismans, pills that were beneficial to cultivators, and a few materials.

"To show our sincerity, our White Tower Council is also willing to offer ten fire spirit stones, one obsidian essence, and ten Heaven Cleansing Flower Pills!" Bi Shuo's tone grew prouder at the end of his words. He continued to say, "The Heaven Cleansing Flower Pill is unique to the White Tower Council. They can increase the power of a Birth Chart."

At this time, Jiang Jiuli's expression had turned stiff. The White Tower Council was really ruthless to themselves; those three times were equivalent to ten ordinary Birth Chart Hearts!

Bi Shuo glanced at Jiang Jiuli smugly before he bowed and said to Lu Zhou, "Please accept these things, Senior Lu!"

Chapter 1018: Seeking Justice

As Bi Shuo spoke, he looked at the boxes that the Black Tower Council brought with a hint of disdain. Everything in the world was about profit. How could the Black Tower Council have the nerve to bring out such trash? Naturally, he did not voice his thoughts out; he only cursed silently in his heart.

Indeed. Lu Zhou felt the items that Black Tower Council brought were rather ordinary and did not carry much value. On the other hand, the White Tower Council's gifts were very valuable. They had given him ten fire spirit stones. If he had ten desolate-grade weapons, that was equivalent to giving him three flood-grade weapons. Most importantly was the obsidian essence that was even rarer.

'Hold on. Why am I being swayed by these small things?'

Jiang Jiuli was not an idiot. When he saw the items the other party brought, he bowed and said, "Senior Lu, I forgot. Tower Master Xia told me before I left that if Senior Lu needs them, we're willing to provide fire spirit stones and obsidian essences."

Bi Shui chimed in, "It's obvious he's not sincere and has ulterior motives. It's obvious he just came up with these items on the spot..."

"If I'm not sincere, are you sincere? Is there anyone who doesn't know the White Tower Council has a lot of obsidian essences? However, you only gave one. Is this what you call sincere?" Jiang Jiulu retorted. Then, he bowed and said, "The black lotus domain and the white lotus domain face each other from across the sea. Both sides have the same geographical terrain, but the difference in resources is very big. Their side naturally produces obsidian essences..."

"Since time immemorial there are always the rich and the poor. How can you blame others for being poor?" Bi Shuo retorted.

"You only gifted a tiny bit of your wealth. However, despite being poor, I gave everything I could give. Let Senior Lu judge which of us is more sincere!!"

"..."

Yu Zhenghai, the Guardians, and the four elders were dumbfounded.

Why did it seem like they were competing for favor?

"That's enough." Lu Zhou said.

The Preservation Hall fell silent.

Jiang Jiuli and Bi Shuo stopped arguing and bowed respectfully. After all, this was Lu Zhou's territory. It was indeed beneath the status of a judge to argue like children, in public no less.

Lu Zhou stood up. He walked down the stairs with his hands on his back as his eyes swept across the two envoys.

"I've seen your sincerity... I'll accept the gifts. As for being friends, I'll have to consider it. You can leave first."

Bi Shuo was stunned. When he regained his senses, he said, "Senior Lu, if it's possible I'd like to invite you to the White Tower Council as a guest. Also, Ning Wanqing..."

Jiang Jiuli interjected, "The Black Tower Council also wants to invite Senior Lu as a guest... At that time, Tower Master Xia and the elders will personally receive Senior Lu. I wonder if Tower Master Lan will do the same?"

Bi Shuo. "..."

These words actually aroused Lu Zhou's curiosity. "Jiang Jiulu, if you have something to say, say it. Don't beat around the bush."

Jiang Jiuli said, "I heard that Lan Xihe, the Tower Master of the White Tower Council, doesn't meet outsiders. She only manages the upper tower. The members of the lower tower had never even seen her before. Even when the Black Tower Council went to visit in the early years, they didn't meet her..."

"Even Tower Master Xia hasn't seen her?" Lu Zhou asked.

"No."

Jiang Jiuli said, "Tower Master Lan is high and mighty; how can ordinary people meet her? Even when she goes out, she's hidden in her flying chariot. She can kill enemies with just a wave of her hand; who would dare to provoke her?"

Bi Shuo scoffed. "Jiang Jiuli, you're just an outsider. What right do you have to judge the White Tower Council? Senior Lu, it's true that Tower Master Lan doesn't meet outsiders. However, it's not due to arrogance, but it's just that she doesn't like sunlight. Tower Master Lan went to the Unknown Land and

suffered from ice-cold internal injuries. After she recovered, she grew to hate the sunlight. I hope Senior Lu understands...”

Jiang Jiuli chuckled and said, “Who would believe your words? Aren’t guests entertained in the hall? Where’s the sunlight in the hall?”

“...”

Bi Shuo was annoyed by being picked on.

Even Lu Zhou felt speechless. Jiang Jiuli was the equivalent of Internet trolls on earth. Regardless, Jiang Jiuli had a point.

Bi Shuo said, vexed, “It’s not like that. If Senior Lu visits, Tower Master Lan will definitely receive you...”

Jiang Jiuli was speechless.

At this point, both sides were on equal ground. The decision was in Lu Zhou’s hands.

Lu Zhou thought for a moment and said, “I appreciate your sincerity... Both of you may take your leave...”

It was clear to Jiang Jiuli and Bi Shuo that Lu Zhou implied that he would consider the matter and that he would not let Ning Wanqing go.

Since Lu Zhou had spoken, how would they dare to stay any longer?

“Please,” Meng Changdong said.

“Farewell.”

The duo had just turned around when Lu Zhou said to Jiang Jiuli, “The obsidian essence you mentioned earlier...”

Jiang Jiuli nodded and said, “Uh... Senior Lu, don’t worry. In less than three days, it will be delivered to your door.”

After saying that, the two judges of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council left the Preservation Hall with their subordinates.

Lu Zhou walked to the box and brought the obsidian essence and the Heaven Cleansing Flower Pill. Unfortunately, there were not many of them.

Jiang Jiuli had said there were many obsidian essences in the White Tower Council. He only had 11 now; it would be difficult to accumulate 100. The Black Tower Council could give him one set at most.

After a while, he said, “Send these things to the Sky Research Court.”

“Understood.”

After Shen Xi took the boxes away, Yu Zhenghai asked, “Master, the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council are trying to pull us to their sides. Are you planning to choose a side?”

“No,” Lu Zhou said.

Pan Litian smiled and said, "Pavilion Master is wise... Since they're fighting, we'll just wait to reap the benefits. As long as they're in conflict, they'll have to be wary of the Evil Sky Pavilion."

Zuo Yushu added, "The conflict between the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council is quite deep. Before this, both sides could keep each other in check. Now that they know that elder brother has 12 Birth Charts, they're worried the balance would be broken..."

Lu Zhou spoke, "But there will always be people who are foolish and blind..."

"Elder brother is talking about the Dark and Light Alliance?" Zuo Yushu asked.

Pan Litian said, "Who else could it be?" Following that, he bowed and said loudly, "This old man is willing to follow the Pavilion Master to the Dark and Light Alliance to seek justice..."

Hua Wudao chimed in, "The Dark and Light Alliance massacred hundreds of innocent people. They're no better than beasts. I'm also willing to follow the Pavilion Master to the Dark and Light Alliance!"

Just as the remaining two elders were about to make a stance, Lu Zhou said, "There'll be Ten-leaf cultivators and Thousand Realms Whirling cultivators there... Now that the Black Tower Council is no longer monopolizing the Birth Chart Beasts, it's time for all of you to raise your cultivation base..."

In other words, they would just be a burden if they followed him there.

The four elders originally wanted to broaden their horizons, but when they were reminded about their cultivation bases, they could only give up.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou was deep in his thoughts. The runic passages were the fastest way to travel. It seemed like it was important for him to recruit a runemaster. However, due to the rarity of runemasters, their statuses were very high; it would not be easy to recruit one.

Although Si Wuya was smart and good at studying, he was more suited to other things. It seemed a waste to let him study the runic passage.

Soon after, Meng Changdong returned to the hall. He bowed and said, "Pavilion Master, Mister Seven is here to report that the runic passage has been completed..."

Chapter 1019: Traveling to the Black Lotus Domain

Lu Zhou nodded slightly. He had just thought about it, and his wish had been granted. If only the lucky draws were like that, he would have long become the number one supreme expert in the world.

Hua Wudao smiled and said, "I didn't expect Mister Seven to be skilled in this as well..."

Lu Zhou shook his head. "With Xiao Yunhe's blueprint, it's not difficult. However, it's a bit difficult to be like a runemaster and set it up everywhere."

"A runemaster's control over every detail of the formation is incredibly precise. At the same time, they also need a high cultivation base. I think Elder Zuo has the potential for this..." Pan Litian said.

In the golden lotus domain, Zuo Yushu was the genius of the Confucian school. If she did not leave, she would have become the number one runemaster of the Confucian school. Even the heaven-grade Coiling Dragon Staff in her hand was frightening. Unfortunately, that was in the past. She was well aware

of her strength so she hastily waved her hand and said, "Forget about me. If it weren't for elder brother taking me in, I would've died of old age in the deep mountain. I wouldn't have a chance to experience this world..."

In fact, the four elders shared similar thoughts. They were once powerful figures and their cultivation bases were not that bad now. However, they were still far from being powerful in current times. It was inevitable that it had become a mental stumbling block to them.

Lu Zhou said, "Don't be discouraged. The Evil Sky Pavilion still needs the four elders. You were all top geniuses after all. What you lack isn't opportunity or resources; what you lack is time..."

The four elders nodded. They had broken through the Eight-leaf limit, and their lifespan had also increased. In terms of strength, apart from the ten disciples, their strength was not too bad.

Finally, Hua Wudao said, "I will do my best and form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar as soon as possible!"

Since the BTC was no longer monopolizing all the Birth Chart Beasts in the red lotus domain, it would be much easier to obtain life hearts. As more and more people sprouted the tenth leaf, Birth Chart Beasts would appear as well. It was only a matter of time for cultivators to grow stronger and stronger.

"Brother, who do you plan to bring to the black lotus domain?" Zuo Yushu asked.

Indeed. Lu Zhou was stumped by this matter as well. The members of the Evil Sky Pavilion had to at least form their Thousand Realms Whirling avatars first before they could be of use in a fight. They did not need to reach the level of a judge, but they had to at least be at the level of a blackguard so they would have the ability to go on missions alone.

After thinking for a while, Lu Zhou said, "Shen Xi and Yu Zhenghai."

"Aren't you going to bring a few more people to intimidate them?" Zuo Yushu asked.

The Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council had always done a good job putting on an ostentatious show. It did not make sense for the Evil Sky Pavilion not to do so.

However, on second thought, the BTC and the WTC had many experiences with this. For the Evil Sky Pavilion, having too many people might prove to be a hindrance instead.

"Two of them is enough..." Lu Zhou said.

Pan Litian said, "That's right. Since Pavilion Master is there, what's the need for more people? It'd be too pitiful for the others if the Pavilion Master brings other experts as well..."

"Pavilion Master is wise," Hua Wudao bowed and said.

"Tell Si Wuya to make the necessary preparations. I'll leave for the black lotus domain in two days."

"Understood."

...

Silence returned to the Preservation Hall after everyone left.

Lu Zhou continued to study the Deconstruction Card. After checking the system interface, he saw the Deconstruction Card was sold for 20,000 merit points.

He nodded; the price was still acceptable. The materials obtained from the deconstruction were very precious so the price was reasonable. It seemed like he had to collect more weapons in the future to deconstruct them.

Following that, Lu Zhou looked at his lifespan. He had nearly 300 years left. Previously, he tried to use a life heart to recover some years, but it did not work. In other words, before activating the Birth Chart, life hearts could be used to increase lifespan. However, once a Birth Chart had been activated, one could only depend on the Birth Chart. Needless to say, the higher the number of Birth Charts one activated, the more redundant the low-level life hearts would be. No wonder not many people would reuse life hearts and waste 1,500 years of life.

...

Two days later.

In the red lotus domain's Sky Martial Court.

In front of the Sacred Rites Hall.

Si Wuya, Huang Yu, Wang Dachui, and the others were all present, looking at their masterpiece with satisfaction.

"Mister Seven, you're truly a rare genius. I've never met anyone like you before. Possibly the last person whom I thought that way about was Luo Xuan. Why don't you become the Dean of the Sky Research Court? I'll raise both hands in agreement!"

"That's right! I'm not one who easily acknowledges a person, but I'm convinced by your abilities."

"The Sky Research Court needs a dean. No one is more suited for that position than you..."

Faced with everyone's praise, Si Wuya shook his head and said, "I only managed to do this because of the blueprint Tower Master Xiao gave us. It's nothing. Others can probably complete it as well if they have the blueprint. It's nothing to be proud of... In any case, this is just the beginning."

Everyone nodded.

No matter what, the creation of a runic passage here signified a new era between the gold, red, black, and white domains. Messenger birds and flying chariots would slowly become a thing of the past.

At this moment, a voice rang from the direction of the semicircular pool.

"Senior Lu has arrived..."

Everyone turned around and looked over.

Lu Zhou, Yu Zhenghai, Shen Xi, and four soldiers carried two stretchers appeared before everyone's eyes.

"Greetings, master, Eldest Senior Brother." Si Wuya bowed.

“Greetings, Senior Lu, Mister First.” The people of the Sky Research Court bowed.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. He asked, “Is the runic passage ready?”

“It’s ready, but the positioning is not that accurate. The Sky Research Academy has already mastered the basic inscription method and the principles. The Research Heavenly Academy had already mastered the basic carving method and principle. In the golden lotus domain, the Big Dipper Academy and the Sky Conduct Academy are also working on the runic passage. I believe it won’t be long before everything will be completed,” Si Wuya said.

Everyone sighed emotionally. Previously, they were studying the Sea Shuttle, the Sky Shuttle, and the Void Carriage. Who knew with the emergence of the runic passage, all those things would be rendered obsolete.

“Very good.”

“Master, are you only bringing Eldest Senior Brother and Guardian Shen with you?” Si Wuya asked curiously.

Yu Zhenghai stepped forward and patted Si Wuya’s shoulder heavily. He said with a smile, “Younger brother, are you worried about me?”

There was no need to worry when their master was present. However, Si Wuya had to admit he disliked his Eldest Senior Brother’s unrestrained strength. In the end, he said, “Uh... That’s not what I mean. With Elder Senior Brother’s cultivation base, there’s no need to worry...”

“Mm, as expected of my good junior brother.” Yu Zhenghai patted Si Wuya on the shoulder again.

Si Wuya felt as though he was going to fall apart.

Meanwhile, Shen Xi recalled Yu Shangrong cutting down Xu Chen in the Land of Chaos and nodded inwardly. If the second disciple was so terrifying, how could the first disciple be weak?

With these thoughts in mind, Shen Xi took the initiative and bowed and said apologetically, “I’m sorry for being a burden...”

“I... That’s not what I mean...” Si Wuya said awkwardly. However, the more explained, the worse it became.

Lu Zhou said, “There’s no need to explain. Since it’s ready, let’s go.” Then, he called out, “Whitzard.”

Ever since Lu Zhou left previously, Whitzard had been staying at the mountain at the back of the Sacred Rites Hall. This was a good chance to bring it along. If necessary, it could help him replenish his supreme mystic power.

Since they were traveling through the runic passage, there was no need for Di Jiang.

As though he could read his master’s mind, Si Wuya’s eyes brightened as he asked, “Master, where’s Di Jiang?”

“Di Jiang is in the pass. Take care of him when you have time,” Lu Zhou said.

“Understood.” Si Wuya could not ask for more.

Lu Zhou stood in front of the runic passage and studied the patterns on the ground and the energy stones in the surroundings. Compared to the black lotus domain’s inscriptions, they were a little more rough and obvious. It would be easily discovered in the wild.

After a moment, Lu Zhou confidently walked in.

Shen Xi, Whizard, Yu Zhenghai, and the four cultivators carrying the stretchers followed suit and entered the runic passage.

Following that, Shen Xi brought out a talisman and smacked it on the ground.

With that, the runic passage lit up before a beam of light shot up into the sky.

When the light disappeared, Lu Zhou and the others could no longer be seen.

Chapter 1020: What a Coincidence

Under Shen Xi’s control, everyone entered the runic passage. Light flashed around them, obscuring their vision. They could only feel the surging and vast power.

Lu Zhou sometimes thought that the runic passage perhaps drew its mysterious power from heaven and earth. He wondered if one day in the future, humans could also learn to teleport with their own abilities.

Shen Xi placed his palm on the ground within the circle of light.

In just an instant, even more power surged out.

Yu Zhenghai asked, “What’s wrong?”

“Nothing. It’s just that the runic inscription is slightly rough and requires stronger Primal Qi to maintain it.”

After controlling it for a period of time, Shen Xi appeared to be out of breath.

Upon seeing this, Yu Zhenghai said, “Let me do it...”

“Uh...”

Yu Zhenghai stepped forward and slammed his palm on the runic light ring.

With that, surging power continued to be transmitted into the runic light ring.

An even more dazzling light illuminated the surroundings, and the visibility was not as bad as before. Apart from that, the speed had also increased considerably.

Shen Xi exclaimed in surprise, “Mister First, have you controlled a runic passage before?”

“No,” Yu Zhenghai replied honestly.

“This... This... Why are you more familiar with it than I am?” Shen Xi’s expression was one of incredulity.

Yu Zhenghai. “...”

The longer Shen Xi watched Yu Zhenghai, the more confused he became.

In the end, Yu Zhenghai said, "It all boils down to talent..."

Shen Xi said, "Mister First's talent is truly astonishing. I admire you!"

About 15 minutes later, the light finally disappeared.

They were in a forest. There were some stone steles in the surroundings as well. The passage on the ground seemed old, but the lines were clear.

Shen Xi said, "Pavilion Master, we've arrived at the black lotus domain."

"So this is the black lotus domain?" Lu Zhou sighed emotionally. In his imagination, the black lotus domain was a barren land with not a blade of grass in sight. It seemed like he had been overthinking it. The vitality energy here was much richer than he had imagined.

"This should be the southern plains of Great Yuan; that's why the forest is verdant, and the scenery is pleasant. Pavilion Master, do you want to have a look around?" Shen Xi asked.

"No need."

Let alone the beautiful scenery in the golden lotus domain, just the Lilac Mountain and the Radiant Cloud Forest were beautiful enough. Unless a place was very special, it would be difficult to attract his attention.

"This place is about 50 kilometers from the headquarters of the Dark and Light Alliance. It's not very far. Pavilion Master, do you want to visit the Black Tower Council first?" Shen Xi asked again.

"Directly go to the Dark and Light Alliance."

"Understood."

The group flew into the sky above the forest and mountain toward the Dark and Light Alliance's headquarters.

On the way, Shen Xi said, "Great Yuan is different from Great Tang's ten circuits. Instead, they have provinces here. From the southernmost Anhai Province to the northernmost Anyang Province.

The great circle is different from the great Tang's ten paths. They operate under the province system. From the southernmost Anhai Province to the northernmost Anyang Province. There are ten provinces in total and many other allied foreign tribes. All of them are under the jurisdiction of Great Yuan's royal court in the capital."

Yu Zhenghai asked curiously, "The Black Tower Council and the Dark and Light Alliance are so powerful. Why didn't they conquer the provinces?"

"The Black Tower Council, the Dark and Light Alliance, and Great Yuan's royal court balance each other. There have been many battles throughout history, and the three powers would keep each other in check. The Black Tower Council has always only accepted experts even if it's only members of the lower tower. Whereas the Dark and Light Alliance is a place where major sects gather. The two had tacitly acknowledged Great Yuan's royal court."

...

Three strokes in the morning.

Shen Xi pointed at a towering building in front of them. "That's the Dark and Light Alliance's headquarters. It's located in the southern part of the mountain and housed a large number of people. They have members all over the world. On the other hand, the Black Tower Council is located in the land of Shu's Xuanzheng. Although their number is small, they're the strongest. As for the royal court, needless to say, they govern the country's affairs."

Lu Zhou nodded.

Shen Xi's introduction was short and powerful.

Perhaps, due to the runic passage, Lu Zhou did not know which direction he was traveling. Unlike the Endless Ocean that took him five days and five nights to cross on Di Jiang's back, the runic passage only took them 15 minutes before they arrived.

Shen Xi said again, "Pavilion Master, please wait for a moment. I will go speak to them."

"Go."

Shen Xi dove and flew toward the huge archway that was dozens of feet tall. He hovered in the air as he said, "The Pavilion Master of the Evil Sky Pavilion has arrived."

The two guards looked at each other in shock. One of them put down his long halberd and cupped his fists together before he said, "Are you Pavilion Master of the Evil Sky Pavilion?"

"No. My Pavilion Master is nearby."

"Brother, it's not that we don't trust you, but you have to show us evidence. If it's really the Pavilion Master, we'll report it immediately."

The people from the Dark and Light Alliance were not unfamiliar with Lu Zhou. Ye Liuyun's death had spread in the entire alliance.

Shen Xi extended his hand. An ink-color astrolabe appeared in his palm. It was only a few meters in diameter before it rapidly expanded to hundreds and thousands of times bigger. In just a blink of an eye, it vanished into thin air.

The guard was shocked. Just a random errand boy was a Four Chart expert. No matter if it was truly the Evil Sky Pavilion or not, this matter had to be reported.

"Please wait a moment." With that, the guard disappeared in a flash.

Soon after, dozens of cultivators flew out from the lower part of the building.

The leader, a burly man, wielded two hammers in his hands.

"Shen Xi?" The leader seemed to recognize Shen Xi.

Shen Xi smiled and said, "As it turns out it's Master Zhe."

At this moment, Lu Zhou and Yu Zhenghai flew over slowly.

Shen Xi bowed and said, "Pavilion Master, this is one of the Five Tigers of the Dark and Light Alliance, Master Zhe Bieli."

Lu Zhou nodded and stroked his beard as he looked at Zhe Bieli.

Apart from his burly figure, Zhe Bieli did not look like someone who had gone through countless battles. His silver armor was rather eye-catching.

Zhe Bieli cupped his fists together and said, "I'm Zhe Bieli. I've long heard of the great reputation of the Pavilion Master of the Evil Sky Pavilion... Please follow me."

Lu Zhou said, "Aren't you afraid that I'm an imposter?"

Zhe Bieli laughed loudly. "An imposter wouldn't have the guts to come to the Dark and Light Alliance. Moreover, I'm familiar with Shen Xi!"

Although Zhe Bieli looked like a typical burly person who was all brawn and no brains, it seemed like that was not the case.

Lu Zhou nodded. "Lead the way."

Zhe Bieli said, "Since Senior Lu decided to grace us with his presence, I will personally welcome you..."

With Zhe Bieli flying at the lead, everyone flew at a leisurely speed.

The internal buildings were built close together. It roughly resembled Sikong Beichen's Ninth Temple. However, the land the Dark and Light Alliance occupied was much bigger.

As they flew, they attracted the attention of the cultivators on the ground.

In the headquarters of the Dark and Light Alliance, apart from special cultivators, the enforcers, and high-ranking members, the others were prohibited from flying.

Soon after, Zhe Bieli came to a halt in front of a large hall.

Rows and rows of pillars that were dozens of meters tall lined the sides of the hall. The building itself was majestic and magnificent.

"Please take a seat," Zhe Bieli said after leading them into the hall.

Lu Zhou, Yu Zhenghai, and the others did not stand on ceremony and took a seat immediately. Only the two injured lay on the stretchers.

Zhe Bieli immediately ordered his men to prepare the most luxurious banquet. There were even rules to follow in regard to the dishes, the wine, the arrangement of the utensils, the manner in which the servants carried the dishes, and the placement of the dishes. It was all very detailed.

...

When noon arrived, the banquet was almost ready.

"I apologize for our lacking hospitality... Please forgive us..."

Shen Xi said, "These are all trivial matters."

During this time, the host and the guests only exchanged polite conversations.

Lu Zhou rarely responded. It was mostly Shen Xi and Zhe Bieli who were talking.

Based on their conversation, Lu Zhou learned about the Five Tigers of the Dark and Light Alliance. 300 years ago, one of them participated in the Great Void Expedition and died. Ye Liuyun was also one of the tigers. Now that he had died, there were only three tigers left. The Five Tigers of the Dark and Light Alliance generally had around eighth Birth Charts. Apart from that, he learned there were tens of thousands of members at the Body Tempering stage to those in the Nascent Divinity Tribulation Realm. The higher-ups were mostly in the Nascent Divinity Tribulation Realm and the Thousand Realms Whirling stage. Their strength could not be underestimated.

Finally, Zhe Bieli asked Lu Zhou, "Senior Lu, I wonder what's the purpose of your visit?"

Lu Zhou put down his wine cup and said, "Tell Fan Ruoxi to come out and speak to me..."

Lu Zhou's words shocked everyone into silence.

After a long time, Zhe Bieli smiled sheepishly and said, "Senior Lu, I'll be frank with you. The Alliance Leader had just gone out recently..."

"Oh, what a coincidence."