

Disciples 1021

Chapter 1021: Everything Can Be Discussed

Zhe Bieli had no delusions of grandeur and was aware of his status. It was indeed difficult for him to talk on equal footing with a 12 Chart expert. For this reason, he had gone all out and treated this distinguished guest as luxuriously as possible.

“Senior Lu, I don’t dare hide anything from you. Five days ago, the Alliance Leader received a challenge from a swordsman from beyond the Great Wall. The swordsman was also an expert so the Alliance Leader had no choice but to deal with the matter. I hope Senior Lu can forgive me...”

Shen Xi smiled and said, “Alliance Leader Fan is an expert with 11 Birth Charts. Where did that swordsman from beyond the Great Wall get the courage to challenge him? Is he tired of living?”

After all, the reason Great Yuan was united and formidable was also in part due to Fan Ruoxi’s martial strength.

Zhe Bieli said, “The swordsman from beyond the Great Wall is Yelu Chunan.”

‘Chunan? Doesn’t that mean virgin? There’s also Fan Ruozhi which means retard... A retard and a virgin... Your parents are really good at naming that I wonder if they’re transmigrators as well...’

“Yelu Chunan? Wasn’t he defeated before?” Shen Xi was puzzled. Before he formed the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, he liked listening to the elders speak about Thousand Realms Whirling experts. Among the stories he liked to listen to was the fight between Fan Ruozhi and Yelu Chunan. At that time, Fan Ruozhi was nowhere as strong as he was now, and he was not yet the Alliance Leader of the Dark and Light Alliance. At that time, Fan Ruozhi defeated Yelu Chunan.

Zhe Bieli explained, “Yelu Chunan had been focusing on his cultivation in recent years, and his swordsmanship has improved a lot. No one knows his true strength now. It’s said that he has comprehended the swordsmanship of unity between heaven and earth. Moreover, he has also obtained many rare life hearts beyond the Great Wall. His strength has greatly increased. In the past month itself, he had sent more than ten challenges...”

Following that, Zhe Bieli waved his hand.

A subordinate brought over the letters of challenges and respectfully placed them in front of Lu Zhou.

Indeed. There were more than ten letters of challenges. Moreover, it was clear the handwriting belonged to the same person.

Lu Zhou glanced at the letters briefly and said, “This has nothing to do with me.”

Zhe Bieli nodded and said, “Indeed, it has nothing to do with Senior Lu. I’m only trying to prove that I’m not lying. Although the Alliance Master isn’t here, he gave me full authority in handling the alliance’s affairs.”

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and looked at Zhe Bieli. Regardless if Zhe Bieli was telling the truth or lying, he did not care as long as he obtained justice. Therefore, he raised his hand.

The four cultivators carried the two stretchers in front of everyone. The two injured people who were wrapped like dumplings did not move at all.

"This is..." Zhe Bieli was confused.

Shen Xi explained, "Hundreds of common folks and cultivators died in Great Tang's mountain in the Shanbei Circuit. Don't you think the Dark and Light Alliance owes us an explanation?"

Zhe Bieli frowned and said, "There's such a thing?"

In fact, Zhe Bieli's attitude and his treatment of the guests were rather commendable. However, with this denial, Yu Zhenghai grew angry.

Yu Zhenghai said indignantly, "You're not stupid so it's best for you to speak truthfully. Otherwise, you might die from being slapped in the face."

"..."

Zhe Bieli sighed and said, "There are many members in the alliance. Perhaps, someone gave an order for this. Since Senior Lu is certain this was the alliance's doing, then it must be true. I'll definitely severely punish those involved and give Senior Lu a satisfactory explanation."

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "No, I don't need an explanation. The explanation should be for the family members of the deceased."

Zhe Bieli glanced at the two people on the stretcher. "Senior Lu, you must be joking..."

"Do I look like I'm joking? Were you born a cultivator? Your father, your grandfather, and your ancestor; were they born cultivators as well?" Lu Zhou asked.

Zhe Bieli shook his head in confusion.

Lu Zhou said, "In my eyes, your life is no different from his life..."

"..."

After saying that, Lu Zhou pressed the table lightly and said, "All of you are fragile. Just a palm strike, and you'll die..."

Silence descended on the hall.

The maids standing at the sides lowered their heads, trying to reduce their sense of existence. They did not even dare to refill the wine cup.

The food and wine had long grown cold.

For some reason, at this time, everyone noticed Zhe Bieli's long robes were somewhat similar to Lu Zhou's robes. It was like robes that big shot would wear.

Zhe Bieli remained silent. As time passed, he grew more uncomfortable and ill at ease.

Common folks could not and would not rely on arrogant cultivators to stand up for them. Many times, they died just like ants. Their lives were worthless in the eyes of cultivators.

In fact, this was common in the cultivation world and had become a dark joke.

Meanwhile, the two injured lying on the stretcher teared up and their bodies trembled slightly upon hearing Lu Zhou's words.

Upon seeing this, Yu Zhenghai wanted to give those two injured people a thumbs-up; their performance was very convincing. It was until he saw their tightly clenched fists that his expression grew solemn. He was reminded they were here to seek justice today not to threaten or blackmail.

Zhe Bieli waved his hands hastily and said awkwardly, "Everything can be discussed. What kind of explanation do you want?"

"Shen Xi, how many people died in Shanbei Circuit?" Lu Zhou asked.

"352 people. 120 of them were cultivators, and the others were common folks," Shen Xi replied.

"I'll give you two options. First, you can pay with your life. The Dark and Light Alliance will kill as many members as the people who died in Shanbei Circuit. However, I'm not unreasonable. Dead people can't be resurrected. If you can pacify the families of the deceased, I'll let the matter go," Lu Zhou said.

Zhe Bieli understood Lu Zhou's intention. "What do you think? I'll punish the culprits. Apart from that, for each deceased, I'll compensate their families with 100 gold taels..."

Without waiting for Lu Zhou's reply, Yu Zhenghai said, "I'll give you 10,000 gold taels after I kill 100 of your men. What do you think?"

Zhe Bieli was truly rendered speechless by Yu Zhenghai's words. In the end, he said, "I'll compensate each deceased's family with 1,000 gold taels."

In fact, the amount was rather good for common folks.

However, Yu Zhenghai said again, "Do you think gold is useful to cultivators?"

Zhe Bieli felt the pressure was going stronger and stronger and could only say, "Each cultivator will be compensated with 1,000 top-grade talismans, 100 top-grade healing pills, and 10 catties of top-grade medicinal herbs. Senior Lu, this isn't a small amount. If it's any more, the Dark and Light Alliance won't be able to afford it."

Lu Zhou looked at the two injured people on the stretcher and said, "I don't think both of you are satisfied with this, right?"

The people on the stretcher shook their heads.

Zhe Bieli. "..."

Zhe Bieli had almost forgotten the real main character today was Senior Lu. Why would such a big shot suddenly come to the Dark and Light Alliance? It seemed like blood would have to be shed to appease this big shot. He gritted his teeth and said, "We'll add three fire spirit stones..."

"Three?"

"Fine. Ten."

Yu Zhenghai turned to Shen Xi and asked, "Are fire spirit stones useful? Guardian Shen, what kind of weapons does my master possess?"

"They're not very useful. After all, it can only upgrade weapons to the flood grade," Shen Xi said.

Zhe Bieli felt suffocated. 'Fire spirit stones aren't precious? Isn't this daylight robbery? What justice are they trying to seek?'

Shen Xi said, "Lord Zhe, why don't you choose the first option. There's no need for you to feel so conflicted. Killing 352 of your members will be able to appease the souls of the 352 people who were killed..."

Sometimes words were enough to cause one to lose one's temper; especially when it came from the mouth of an annoying person. Moreover, these words hit Zhe Bieli's sore spot. In the heat of the moment, he could no longer control his emotions. "Shen Xi! You're just a traitor of the BTC! Why are you meddling in this matter?!"

As soon as Zhe Bieli uttered these words, he immediately regretted them.

Shen Xi remained silent.

As the saying went, 'One had to look at the owner when beating a dog'.

Even if he was one of the brilliant Five Tigers of the Dark and Light Alliance, Zhe Bieli did not know how he should smooth things over. After he calmed down, he said, "I'm sorry for the outburst. I didn't mean to disrespect you. The Dark and Light Alliance will give you a portion of obsidian essences. These rare items can be used to upgrade weapons to the fusion grade..."

This time, Shen Xi and Yu Zhenghai no longer spoke up. They waited for Lu Zhou's decision.

Everyone looked at Lu Zhou, waiting for him to speak.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard while thinking. After a while, he looked at Zhe Bieli and asked, "Are you certain you have authority to make decisions regarding all matters?"

"Senior Lu, don't worry. Since I've already made the decision, I'll deliver the compensation immediately," Zhe Bieli said.

"Very good," Lu Zhou said indifferently, "Increased all the compensations you mentioned by tenfold. With this, the matter is settled."

"..."

Chapter 1022: One Move to Show Dominance

"Ten... ten times?" Zhe Bieli was frightened out of his wits; his fingers trembled slightly.

"You can't make the decision for this?" Lu Zhou stroked his beard and looked at Zhe Bieli.

"..." Zhe Bieli's expression was rather unsightly. "They're nobody. Senior Lu, why are you doing this?"

Just that one compensation alone was enough to make Zhe Bieli bleed. Ten times that compensation was equivalent to draining half of his life.

“Nobody?” Luzhou stopped stroking his beard and stared at Zhe Bieli who was sitting across from him indifferently. He placed his palm lightly on the table as he said, “In my eyes, you’re also a nobody.”

Swoosh!

The winecup shot out, flying toward Zhe Bieli.

Zhe Bieli recovered from his shock and hastily erected an energy barrier to block the winecup.

The winecup thrummed as it hovered a meter in front of Zhe Bieli. He said helplessly, “Senior, let’s discuss this. Why must you do this?”

“Why can’t I do this to a nobody?”

“Even if you kill me, they can’t be resurrected...” Zhe Bieli said.

“That’s not important. Killing 352 here is to comfort the dead.”

“...”

Buzz!

A faint blue energy appeared around the winecup at this moment.

Bang!

The winecup exploded. The wine hovered in the air in the form of droplets. Soon enough, the droplets of wine seemed to turn into energy swords that were as fine as a strand of hair. In just an instant, they arrived in front of Zhe Bieli.

Zhe Bieli shuddered. He tried his best to keep the thin energy swords at bay, but he discovered he could not mobilize his Primal Qi. At this time, the energy swords were right in front of his face. If they were half an inch closer, they would pierce his eyes.

‘How’s this possible?’ As soon as this thought appeared in Zhe Bieli’s mind, he realized how redundant it was. It was naturally a piece of cake for a 12 Chart expert to kill someone like him. He held his breath, giving up on resisting. Moreover, when he discovered he no longer had access to Primal Qi earlier, he knew it was futile to resist anyway. He said, “Fine! Ten times it is!”

Splash!

The energy swords reverted to wine that fell to the floor with a splash.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said, “Human lives are all important; there shouldn’t be distinctions based on their statuses. In your opinion, their lives aren’t important. However, in their families’ eyes, which one of them isn’t important?”

Naturally, Zhe Bieli understood this logic. He felt incredibly uncomfortable and did not dare to refute.

Lu Zhou continued to say, “If this were any other time, let alone ten times, even if it was a hundred times, I might not even agree to the compensation.”

Zhe Bieli was afraid Lu Zhou would raise the compensation again so he hurriedly ordered his men, "Hurry up and prepare the compensation!"

"Understood." Upon receiving the order, the two subordinates left in a hurry.

Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction. He looked at the injured people lying on the stretcher and asked, "Are you satisfied with my actions?"

"Yes... yes... We are..."

The two injured men were incredibly moved and excited.

Yu Zhenghai said, "If there's anything you're dissatisfied with, don't be afraid to speak up. My master will seek justice for you..."

The two struggled to cup their fists together at Lu Zhou to show their gratitude.

My master will seek justice for you. If you are not satisfied, you can bring it up."

Zhe Bieli said to the two injured men, "Please don't worry. I'll make sure the culprits are severely punished.

"Apart from that, you should also guarantee that nothing like that will happen again in the future," Lu Zhou added.

"Of course."

Lu Zhou nodded as he stroked his beard and continued to say, "Now that the first matter has been dealt with, let's move on to the second matter..."

Zhe Bieli. "..."

Zhe Bieli felt suffocated; it was really unbearable.

Lu Zhou said, "In the Land of Chaos in the red lotus domain, Ye Liuyun, the master assassin of the Dark and Light Alliance, tried to assassinate me. I'm sure you've heard about that."

"..." In fact, Zhe Bieli had heard more than that. When that idiot died, news of it spread like a wildfire in the Dark and Light Alliance. In the end, he asked, "Senior Lu, since Ye Liuyun is dead, why bother bringing up the dead?"

"So you're saying I should swallow my anger?"

"..." Zhe Bieli's expression grew unsightly. 'It's over! This is the end!'

"Ye Liuyun was quite skilled. I was careless and had to use the Sea Spirit Pearl to protect myself," Lu Zhou said.

"Isn't the Sea Spirit Pearl with the BTC?" Zhe Bieli asked as dread filled his body. He had misspoken again. He cursed his loose tongue.

Shen Xi said, "The Sea Spirit Pearl has long belonged to the Pavilion Master."

Zhe Bieli hardened his heart and said, "The Dark and Light Alliance is willing to compensate Senior Lu by offering another portion of obsidian essences."

Lu Zhou raised his head and stared at Zhe Bieli with his deep and ancient eyes that seemed to have seen the vicissitudes of life. He remained silent and continued stroking his beard. 'Do you think I'm a beggar who could be easily sent away with a few trinkets?'

Zhe Bieli, whose heart had not stopped bleeding since earlier due to the compensation he had to cough up, said, "Senior Lu, the Dark and Light Alliance really doesn't have so many obsidian essences. They're really rare. Even the BTC can't take out more than ten portions."

Lu Zhou maintained his silence and continued to look at Zhe Bieli.

Zhe Bieli's expression was indescribable at this moment. In the end, he said in a trembling voice, "I... T-this... I'm afraid I don't have the authority to make this decision..."

Shen Xi smiled and said, "Then why did you brag earlier that you can make all the decisions while the Alliance Master is away? You should've just invited your Alliance Master here in the first place. If it weren't for the Pavilion Master's even temper, do you think you'd still be alive?"

"..."

Shen Xi had deliberately said this to pay Zhe Bieli back for his earlier words. Seeing the unsightly expression on Zhe Bieli's face, he felt incredibly comfortable. The ancients were right; it felt really good being able to lean on a tall and strong tree.

"Fine!" Zhe Bieli said through gritted teeth as he smacked the table, "Five portions of obsidian essences! The Dark and Light Alliance don't have these many obsidian essences, but I'll find a way to collect them. I hope Senior Lu will give me some time."

Lu Zhou stroked his beard in satisfaction and added, "Don't forget the ten portions you promised earlier as well..."

"... Yes..." Zhe Bieli clenched his hands tightly as he felt his heart bleed.

"Very good." Lu Zhou slowly rose to his feet and said, "I'll give you three days..."

After saying that, Lu Zhou did not wait for Zhe Bieli's response. He waved his sleeves and walked out with his hands on his back.

Shen Xi ordered the men to carry the stretchers before he followed Lu Zhou.

Yu Zhenghai was the last to rise from his seat. He patted Zhe Bieli's shoulder and said before he left, "To be honest, this is the first time I've seen my master being so kind. You should feel lucky..."

"..." What could Zhe Bieli say to that? He could only force an awkward smile on his face.

When Lu Zhou and the others exited the main hall, a figure flew toward them swiftly at a low altitude. Soon after, a loud laughter rang in the air. "I heard that Zhe Bieli, one of the Five Tigers of the Dark and Light Alliance, is a first-rate swordsman? Can he block one sword strike from me, Yelu Chunan?"

As the figure drew closer at lightning speed, everyone could see him holding a sword in his right hand. As he flew, a conical barrier with black energy swirling around it appeared a few meters in front of him.

Shen Xi exclaimed, "It's the Seven Star Sword!"

Yelu Chunan did not stop flying. He only briefly glanced at Lu Zhou who was standing in front of the main hall.

All of a sudden, a voice rang from the main hall. "It's you?! Stop!"

"Do you think I'll stop just because you tell me to? You're dreaming"

All of a sudden, Yelu Chunan held his sword and walked toward Lu Zhou.

Apart from Shen Xi and Yu Zhenghai who remained calm, everyone held their breaths and watched nervously as Yelu Chunan moved toward Lu Zhou.

Swoosh!

In just a flash, Yelu Chunan brought his sword down on Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou raised his hand that was glowing with a blue light. Soon enough, a mini vortex appeared on his palm, churning rapidly.

The tip of the sword touched the mini vortex in Lu Zhou's palm; the sword seemed to freeze.

Yelu Chunan looked up at the person in front of him in surprise.

At this moment, Zhe Bieli rushed out of the hall. "Stop! Stop! Brother Yelu, please stop! I am Zhe Bieli!"

Yelu Chunan smiled. "When did such an expert join the Dark and Light Alliance?"

Lu Zhou frowned; he could feel the supreme mystic power surging out continuously. What would happen if this stalemate continued?

"Impudent."

A thunderous voice rang in the air.

Lu Zhou moved his hand and used his hand to smack the Seven Star Sword aside.

The Seven Star Sword bounced back, catching Yelu Chunan off guard. He did not expect his opponent's strength to suddenly increase several times. Due to the impact, the Seven Star Sword's hilt landed heavily on his chest, sending him flying back. He flipped three and half times in the air before he landed on the ground again.

Clank!

The Seven Star Sword fell on the ground at this time.

Everything ended with one move.

'Hmm? This sword actually managed to withstand the supreme mystic force?' Lu Zhou waved his hand, and the Seven Star Sword buzzed before it flew into his hand.

“ ... ”

Yelu Chunan was still stunned by the palm strike.

Zhe Bieli, one of the Five Tigers of the Dark and Light Alliance, was stunned as well.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou studied the Seven Star Sword for a moment before he passed it over to Yu Zhenghai. Then, he looked at Yelu Chunan and said indifferently, “Zhe Bieli said your cultivation base is almost on par with Fan Ruozhi’s. However, even with the sword, it seemed like you’re far from being on par with him...”

Chapter 1023: It’s Very Fair

How big was the gap between their strength?

Yelu Chunan looked at Lu Zhou in a daze and in disbelief. At this point, he realized he had mistaken Lu Zhou for someone else. He felt rather awkward. However, he was rather unresigned that his swordsmanship was criticized as poor.

After a moment, Yelu Chunan wiped the blood off the corner of his mouth and endured the pain as he forced a smile on his face and asked, “You are?”

Zhe Bieli said sternly, “Yelu Chunan, you bast*rd! Hurry up and kowtow to Senior Lu to apologize for your mistake!”

Yelu Chunan. “? ? ?”

Yelu Chunan was baffled. He just misidentified someone; did it warrant such a big reaction? He even had to kowtow and apologize?

Just as Yelu Chunan was about to lose his temper, Zhe Bieli said, “This is Senior Lu, the Pavilion Master of the Evil Sky Pavilion!”

As he spoke, Zhe Bieli winked at Yelu Chunan at a rate of ten times per second.

Fortunately, Yelu Chunan did not ask Zhe Bieli if something was wrong with his eye like those retarded supporting actors in the movies. Instead, he understood Zhe Bieli’s meaning immediately. He immediately knelt on one knee and said, “Senior Lu, I apologize for the misunderstanding. I thought you were Zhe Bieli. I mistook you for someone else, and that’s my fault.”

Lu Zhou looked at Yelu Chunan and said, “You’re lucky you mistook me for someone else. If it were someone else, wouldn’t they have died because of your mistake?”

“This...” Yelu Chunan continued to say, “I’m willing to apologize.”

“How are you going to apologize?” Lu Zhou asked.

“ ... ”

Zhe Bieli quickly said, “Senior Lu, it’s just a misunderstanding. Although Yelu Chunan was wrong, he doesn’t deserve death.”

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. "I'm not unreasonable. However, he should still be punished. I'll confiscate your Seven Star Sword."

"..."

Yelu Chunan rose to his feet instinctively as his eyes widened in shock. To a swordsman, a sword was his life. How could he be willing to have his sword taken away? His stance, at this moment, seemed like he was going to protest.

Shen Xi stepped forward and glared at Yelu Chunan before he said sternly, "What do you want to do?"

Yelu Chunan's anger vanished immediately. Although he felt aggrieved, he did not dare to protest.

Zhe Bieli moved to Yelu Chunan's side before he turned to Lu Zhou and said, "The Seven Star Sword should be taken away. I'll respectfully send Senior Lu off now..."

"The Seven Star Sword isn't enough," Lu Zhou said indifferently.

"Ah?" Zhe Bieli's heart sank again for the umpteenth time today.

Lu Zhou said, "You said it yourself. Fan Ruozhi, the Alliance Leader of the Dark and Light Alliance received more than ten letters of challenge from Yelu Chunan. For that reason, Alliance Master Fan accepted the challenge and isn't in the alliance. However, Yelu Chunan suddenly made an appearance here... How do you explain this?"

"..." Zhe Bieli's face was ashen.

Shen Xi smiled and added, "You're bold to deceive Senior Lu. It's best if you invite the Alliance Master here..."

Needless to say, since Yelu Chunan was here, Fan Ruozhi was here as well.

Zhe Bieli said, "Senior Lu, please listen to my explanation! The Alliance Leader is really not around! I swear!"

Lu Zhou ignored Zhe Bieli's plea. "You've lost all credibility with me..."

Zhe Bieli dragged Yelu Chunan to his feet.

Yelu Chunan understood Zhe Bieli's intention and hurriedly explained, "Senior, it's true that the Alliance Leader isn't in..."

Lu Zhou said, "Your cultivation is far from that of a sword path expert. What gives you the courage to appear here? Don't be in a hurry to answer. If you continue to lie, even if the Alliance Leader is here, I won't spare you."

In the end, Zhe Bieli could only answer honestly, "Brother Yelu didn't challenge the Alliance Leader. The truth is he had joined the Dark and Light Alliance and became one of the tigers of the alliance. However, he's not in the alliance most of the time and is usually out carrying out missions. He only has six Birth Charts, how would he dare to act presumptuously in front of Senior Lu?" As he spoke, he kept glaring at Yelu Chunan for his untimely appearance. Yelu Chunan was not around most of the time, but he picked such a time to appear! How vexing!

Yelu Chunan felt incredibly aggrieved. He met with such misfortune as soon as he arrived.

Lu Zhou did not say anything. If they were going to lie, they should have made preparations and would not make such a low-level mistake. He asked, "So you're here to challenge Zhe Bieli?"

Yelu Chunan's gaze shifted from Zhe Bieli to Lu Zhou. He nodded and said with a sigh, "It's a spur of the moment thing. I've only met Zhe Bieli once. I didn't expect such a misunderstanding to happen. Please be magnanimous and forgive me, Senior Lu."

Yu Zhenghai smiled and said, "Although your swordsmanship is indeed a little bad, your strength and aura are strong. It's enough to frighten ordinary cultivators out of their wits. However, if you encounter my Second Senior Brother, I'm afraid only death awaits you."

"..."

Upon hearing these words, Yelu Chunan's face flushed red from embarrassment. He said, "I know I'm lacking. I returned to the Dark and Light Alliance because I heard a large number of flying beasts would appear in the evening on the fifteenth of every month..."

"Flying beasts?" Lu Zhou raised his head and looked at the clear sky.

The sky was clear for miles. There was no sign of anything in the western horizon where the sun was about to set.

Zhe Bieli smiled and said, "This is also a common occurrence in the red lotus domain. Every evening, flying beasts would appear and terrorize human cities. Humans use formations to take them down and will sell their life hearts to those who are interested. These things aren't worth much..."

Yu Zhenghai nodded when he heard this. This aligned with his experience when he first arrived in the red lotus domain.

"It's getting late. If Senior Lu isn't in a hurry, why don't you stay a night?" Zhe Bieli said. Despite his words, he was actually reminding Lu Zhou to leave.

After some time, Lu Zhou said tonelessly, "You attempted to assassinate me. However, I'm not an unreasonable person. Give me another five portions of obsidian essences, and we'll call it a day."

Zhe Bieli and Yelu Chunan. "..."

Zhe Bieli and Yelu Chunan thought they managed to avoid trouble. Who knew the old fox was waiting for them to jump into the hole he had dug?

Zhe Bieli said, "Senior Lu, fifteen portions of obsidian essence is already the limit. If you ask for more, I'll have to give away all of the Dark and Light Alliance's assets... This..."

Zhe Bieli suddenly stopped speaking. He really wanted to slap his mouth. Why did he say assets? Was this not admitting that he had these things? He raised his hand in a daze and slapped his face.

"If you think it's unfair, then kill 352 of your members, including Yelu Chunan," Lu Zhou said indifferently.

Zhe Bieli's expression turned unsightly. No, it was beyond unsightly. He struggled and hesitated for a long time.

Finally, Shen Xi looked at the sky and said, "It's getting late, Pavilion Master."

'Let's see who's more anxious...'

Lu Zhou said, "There's no rush. I'm sure the Dark and Light Alliance won't refuse me if I plan to stay a night."

"No... No... Will..." Zhe Bieli was incoherent.

"Then, think about it. Do you want to keep the lives of 352 people or the obsidian essences..." Lu Zhou said.

Yelu Chunan said in a deep voice, "Fine. I agree on behalf of the Alliance Leader..."

Lu Zhou raised an eyebrow. "You can make the decision?"

"Of course."

"Zhe Bieli said the same thing earlier. Although both of you can make the decision, it seems like your opinions differ. I don't know who to believe."

Yelu Chunan said, "Men, bring the obsidian essences from the warehouse."

"Yelu Chunan!" Zhe Bieli said through gritted teeth.

Yelu Chunan was fuming as well. When he thought about his lost Seven Star Sword, he steeled his heart and said, "I'll explain this to the Alliance Leader. Go and get it."

Zhe Bieli stopped protesting. He knew Yelu Chunan's temper was childish. Since Yelu Chunan had lost the Seven Star Sword, he knew Yelu Chunan was giving away the obsidian essences out of anger.

After a while, a few men brought a box over.

The box was made from rosewood. Intricate patterns were carved on it, and it emitted a fragrant smell. It was clear that this thing had been carefully guarded.

Zhe Bieli reluctantly handed it over.

Lu Zhou took it.

"Ding! Obtained obsidian essence x15."

Lu Zhou nodded his head in satisfaction. He looked at Zhe Bieli and said, "You seem unwilling?"

"No, no."

"You don't think it's fair?"

"It's fair, very fair..." Zhe Bieli lowered his head.

"Remember to live well. That's the number one rule in the cultivation world," Lu Zhou said.

What Lu Zhou meant was Zhe Bieli should be thankful enough that he did not kill him.

Zhe Bieli bowed. "Thank you for your advice, senior."

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

At this moment, a few flying beasts appeared in the air above the Dark and Light Alliance.

Everyone looked at the sky.

"Pavilion Master, it's time for us to leave! As for the other things, your subordinate will collect them tomorrow," Shen Xi said.

At this time, a voice rang from a sentry tower in the Dark and Light Alliance.

"Activate the formation."

Many members of the Dark and Light Alliance rose into the sky immediately.

At this time, Zhe Bieli quickly said, "This junior will open a path for Senior Lu. After all, this is a daily task of the Dark and Light Alliance."

Chapter 1024: The Legend of the Great Void Seeds

Zhe Bieli maintained his composure and remained respectful.

Lu Zhou did not look at Zhe Bieli. Instead, he soared into the air.

The others followed closely behind.

Yelu Chunan immediately pulled Zhe Bieli back. He gritted his teeth and asked in a low voice, "What's going on? Who is He?"

"Are you blind!? If I didn't stop you in time, you would've died long ago! He's that mighty figure from the golden lotus domain!" Zhe Bieli scolded, growing even angrier.

"..." Yelu Chunan stumbled back. His anger was completely extinguished by the words 'the mighty figure from the golden lotus domain'.

Before Yelu Chunan recovered from the shock, Zhe Bieli had flown up into the sky. When he regained his senses, he hastily followed suit. It was better if he sent that person off as well.

...

After Lu Zhou and the others left.

In a tall tower on the easternmost side of the Dark and Light Alliance's estate.

The sound of violent coughing rang in the air before someone asked, "Has... H-has he left?"

"Alliance Leader, he has left. However, in order to assuage that person's anger, Lord Zhe was forced to give up fifteen obsidian essences..."

"..."

At this moment, Fan Ruozhi, the Alliance Master of the Dark and Light Alliance, held onto the railing of the tall tower. He looked like he had experienced the vicissitudes of life.

Bang!

Fan Ruozhi suddenly slammed his hand against the wall of the tower, leaving a palm print on the wall.

Upon seeing this, the subordinate asked, "Alliance Leader, should we go after them before they go too far?"

"No need." Fan Ruoxi withdrew his hand. The palm strike was just to vent the anger in his heart. "Make sure that no one knows I'm seriously injured. I believe Zhe Bieli won't do anything to harm the Dark and Light Alliance..."

"Understood."

"Also... Send that fool, Yelu Chunan, to the WTC. Let him think of a way to make up for those 15 obsidian essences."

"Understood." The subordinate left respectfully after receiving his orders.

...

Meanwhile, under Zhe Bieli and Yelu Chunan's lead, the flying beasts and the inscriptions from the formation did not affect Lu Zhou and the others.

The duo only came to halt at the entrance.

Zhe Bieli asked tentatively, "Senior Lu, may I ask where you're going to rest for the night?" He wanted to figure out who else had a close relationship with Lu Zhou. It would be a good chance for him to win whoever it was over.

Shen Xi said, "It doesn't seem to have anything to do with you, right?"

"..."

Yu Zhenghai said, "There's no need to send us off. Just prepare the things accordingly. Guardian Shen will pick them up tomorrow."

"Yes."

Following that, Lu Zhou and the others flew off.

Zhe Bieli and Yelu Chunan finally had time to stew in their regret at this moment.

Yelu Chunan said, "If only you had informed me of this, I wouldn't have shown up at all!"

"I didn't expect him to come! It was a sudden visit!" Zhe Bieli said.

"Where's the Alliance Leader?"

"The Alliance Leader received an important piece of news a month ago and had left the Dark and Light Alliance. When he returned, he was... severely injured," Zhe Bieli said in a grave tone.

“What was so important to the point he was even injured?” Yelu Chunan asked in surprise.

Zhe Bieli said, “The Great Void Seed.”

Upon hearing these four words, Yelu Chunan was furious, he cursed loudly, “It’s the Great Void Seed again! It’s so annoying. I’m so sick of listening to all of you talk about it. Has anyone ever seen the seeds? It’s just a myth. I don’t believe it at all!”

“I don’t believe it either, but why don’t you tell this to the Alliance Leader?”

“...” Yelu Chunan wilted immediately.

Zhe Bieli said, “Legend has it that ten Great Void Seeds will appear in the Unknown Land every 30,000 years. The seeds contained the essence of heaven, the earth, the sun, and the moon. They can help humans to become supreme beings. Let alone the Great Void Seeds, if one were able to obtain just the Great Void energy, one would be able to activate at least eight Birth Charts!”

“More than 300 years ago, the Great Void Seeds appeared. The humans organized the Great Void Expedition. All the forces worked together and sent their men to the Unknown Land to search for the Great Void Seeds. Unfortunately, they overestimated themselves and the fierce beasts guarding the Unknown Land. In the end, those people suffered great casualties,” Zhe Bieli shook his head as he said, “In any case, from the one, the cultivation world was even further convinced of the existence of the Great Void Seeds. Apparently, some survivors from the Great Void Expedition saw the Great Void Seeds.”

Yelu Chunan asked, “So there are people who have seen it?”

“Well, there’s no smoke without fire. In fact, it’s said that the Tower Master of the WTC has the Great Void energy...” Zhe Bieli said.

“Lan Xihe?” Yelu Chunan exclaimed in shock.

“That’s right! Otherwise, why do you think the WTC submits to her completely? Why do you think she doesn’t meet outsiders?” Zhe Bieli said.

“...”

Yelu Chunan was shocked by this revelation. After a while, he said, “But her cultivation base is so profound, it should be easy for her to conceal the Great Void energy...”

“She’s an incredibly cautious person,” Zhe Bieli replied.

“Then why does she only have 12 Birth Charts?”

“Possessing the Great Void energy only guarantees one to be able to activate at least eight Birth Charts. The limit isn’t certain. Moreover, do you really think she only has 12 Birth Charts? No one has ever seen her astrolabe...”

Yelu Chunan asked curiously, “Lan Xihe is so terrifying... Why doesn’t she destroy the BTC?”

“A woman’s mind is impossible to fathom,” Zhe Bieli chuckled and said, “This is only the effect of the Great Void energy, Can you imagine what it’s like to possess the Great Void Seeds?”

Yelu Chunan nodded and exhaled loudly.

The entire cultivation world fought over this. Blood flowed and countless lives were lost. All these things proved the value of the Great Void Seeds.

“Although the Great Void Expedition 300 years ago was considered a failure, it confirmed that the seeds had already entered the human domains. During these 300 years, the conflicts between the forces were not as intense due to the Great Void Seeds. Unfortunately, after all these years, no one has been able to find them. It’s like looking for a needle at the bottom of the ocean...”

“They are indeed difficult to find. Moreover, no one knows how they look like. In the future, perhaps, Five Charts experts will be able to sense the Great Void energy if their sense of smell is heightened. However, it’d still be difficult to find them...” Yelu Chunan sighed.

At this time, Zhe Bieli who had regained his composure said, “Alright, let’s think about how to bear the Alliance Master’s punishment.”

“I have it worse than you, alright? The Seven Star Sword is like my life!”

Following that, the duo flew back into the Dark and Light Alliance’s estate.

...

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou, Shen Xi, Yu Zhenghai, and the others headed north and landed outside a human city.

Shen Xi said, “Pavilion Master, this is the place I mentioned. It’s considered a small town. Every time I finish a mission and feel tired, I’ll rest here. I know the owner of the Cloudy Sky Inn.”

Lu Zhou nodded and surveyed his surroundings.

The small town was quiet and peaceful, and the environment was simple. It lacked the majestic grandeur of a large sect, but it also lacked the viciousness of a cultivator.

“Let’s stay here,” Lu Zhou said. In fact, he could have stayed in the Dark and Light Alliance. However, it would be a bit uncomfortable since he was on opposing sides with the Dark and Light Alliance at this moment.

...

Shen Xi had made all the necessary arrangements at the Cloudy Sky Inn.

At this moment, Shen Xi, who was in Lu Zhou’s room, bowed and said, “Pavilion Master, please rest early. I’ll take my leave now.”

“Wait.”

“Master, your orders?”

“Do you know Yan Zhenluo?” Lu Zhou asked.

“Yes,” Shen Xi said, “He always takes the neutral stance in the BTC and doesn’t care much about anything else. He has a good relationship with Lu Li. However, I’m part of the Black Guards, and they’re just ordinary members in the upper tower so I don’t know them well...”

“Send a message to Jiang Jiuli. Tell him that Yan Zhenluo has to stay alive. No one can touch him,” Lu Zhou said.

The truth was Shen Xi was reluctant to deal with the BTC due to his history with them. However, when he recalled he had the Pavilion Master whom even Xia Zhengrong had to be wary about, he felt much better. Moreover, Jiang Jiuli was also trying to win the Pavilion Master over.

After a moment, Shen Xi asked, “Did Yan Zhenluo offend you?”

“Just do as you’re told.”

“Understood.”

Chapter 1025: The Right to Look Down on Common People

Yu Zhenghai had already left to rest, and Shen Xi had left as well.

Now that everyone had left, Lu Zhou studied the Seven Star Sword in front of him as he stroked his beard.

The sword’s quality was good and could be considered a mid to high flood-grade weapon. If he were to deconstruct it, what would he get? However, it was a flood-grade weapon, after all. It seemed like a waste to just deconstruct it. Moreover, he still had a bunch of weapons that were of lower grades such as the heaven grade and the desolate grade.

“I’ll keep them for now.” When the time was right, he would deconstruct them.

All his disciples possessed weapons suited to them now and did not need anything else. Yu Shangrong who was the most skilled in sword also possessed the Longevity Sword; he had no need for the Seven Star Sword.

Currently, he had 26 obsidian essences. To upgrade the Purple Glazed Ceramic, he needed 100 obsidian essences.

As he put away the Seven Star Sword, he muttered to himself, “I can’t Jiang Aijian see this!”

Following that, he checked his lifespan on the system interface.

Remaining lifespan: 287,225 days (787 years in which 263 years are from Reversal Cards

“Hmm? The 500 years I obtained from activating my fifth Birth Chart just arrived?”

Did this mean the fifth Birth Chart had stabilized and it was now safe to activate his sixth Birth Chart? However, the path before him was long; it was best for him to save the life heart for now.

Out of habit, he indulged in the lucky draws again. As expected, he was thanked many times for his participation.

After he gave up, he began to meditate on the Heavenly Writing.

...

The next day.

In the golden lotus domain.

By the west lake east of Liang Province.

Ye Tianxing sat on Cheng Huang and scanned her surroundings quietly. She searched for a long time but did not see the elegant woman.

"I've been tricked," Ye Tianxin murmured. When she recalled how the elegant woman killed so many experts with just one move, she muttered to herself, "I better report this to master as soon as possible."

As soon as her voice fell, a voice rang from the nearby forest.

"You're here."

"Huh?"

A shadow flashed.

Lan Xihe appeared above the lake, seemingly out of thin air. There was a faint smile on her face as she looked at Ye Tianxin who was riding Cheng Huang.

Ye Tianxin looked at Lan Xihe warily and asked, "Who are you really?"

"Don't worry. I have no ill intentions toward you. Do you think you'll still be alive if I bore ill will?" Lan Xihe said.

"Then why did you approach me?" Ye Tian asked skeptically.

Lan Xihe looked away and sighed softly. "My instinct tells me that you're different."

"I'm different?" Ye Tianxin pointed at herself. This was the first time she was praised by a woman. She looked at her white clothes, white shoes, white skin, white hair, and... Cheng Huang... Indeed, she was quite different.

"You can't be ordinary if Cheng Huang follows you. You must be a fairfolk. I heard that the fairfolks are one of the races that are bestowed with immortality," Lan Xihe said.

"Immortality?"

"It's just something I heard..." Lan Xihe replied.

"You still haven't told me why you approached me..." Ye Tianxin said.

Lan Xihe smiled. She flashed and appeared half a meter away from Ye Tianxin.

Surprisingly, this time Cheng Huang only took a step back and did not show signs of hostility. Instead, it raised its head and looked at Lan Xihe curiously before letting out a low cry.

Lan Xihe asked, "Little sister, do you think I'm beautiful?"

Ye Tianxin was unnerved by Lan Xihe's behavior. "... Yes..."

Indeed. Lan Xihe was very beautiful. Like Ye Tianxin, she seemed untainted by the filth in the world, like a fairy that descended to earth.

Lan Xihe sighed softly. "Alas, no matter how beautiful I am, I'll eventually grow old..."

"Old?" Lan Xihe did not seem like she was at the age where she had to worry about old age. She looked younger than most women.

Lan Xihe looked at Ye Tianxin and smiled. "I'm dying. I have five years to live at most. I've looked for many ways to avoid it, but it's useless... I don't want to die with regrets..."

Ye Tianxin asked, puzzled, "Regrets?"

"If you stand on the peak, you can look down on everyone. You can control their lives and deaths," Lan Xihe said.

Ye Tianxin smiled. "But you only have five years. Even if you give me all your strength, you won't be able to do it..."

Ye Tianxin assumed Lan Xihe thought she was talented and wanted to accept her as a disciple. She assumed Lan Xihe's regrets had something to do with not being able to pass her powers to another person.

Contrary to Ye Tianxin's expectations, Lan Xihe shook her head. "I want you to take my place..."

Lan Xihe flashed again, retreating a few meters.

Ye Tianxin. "..."

"Have you heard of the Great Void?" Lan Xihe's voice seemed to ring from the distance.

"Great Void" Ye Tianxin feigned ignorance. She had spoken to Si Wuya about this a long time ago. She had taken a special medicine to hide the Great Void energy. She had no idea why she had the Great Void energy, but she knew everyone coveted it. Moreover, with Zhao Yue serving as an example, she was even more cautious.

"I have the Great Void energy..." Lan Xihe's expression was gentle and her smile was like the breeze as she said, "If you stay with me, you'll receive the nourishment from the Great Void energy. Your strength will increase greatly. After I die, you'll be able to ascend to a high position."

Ye Tianxin was surprised. "You have the Great Void energy?"

"There's no need to be so surprised..." Lan Xihe said gently, "After all, I was one of the masterminds behind the Great Void Expedition 300 years ago."

"..."

"I've been to the Great Void," A yearning expression appeared on Lan Xihe's face as she said, "I'm also the only one who obtained the Great Void energy..."

The more Ye Tianxin listened, the more alarmed she became. "You... Who are you?"

Lan Xihe ignored Ye Tianxin's question and continued to say, "Do you know I feel conflicted? I want to live forever, but I'm afraid of loneliness... However, since I can't go against heaven's will, I'll just obey it..."

At this moment, Lan Xi flicked her jade-like fingers lightly.

Buzz!

A dazzling astrolabe appeared behind Lan Xihe immediately.

The astrolabe looked nothing like anything Ye Tianxin had seen before. She had seen her master and Shen Xi's astrolabes before. Whether they were gold or black, the astrolabe was completely different. The thirty-six triangles shone brilliantly on the astrolabe. At the same time, a scarlet light appeared between her arms, complementing the astrolabe.

Whoosh!

Lan Xihe's blue hair fluttered in the wind as she withdrew her astrolabe.

"..."

The whole world returned to normal in the span of a breath.

Ye Tianxin did not manage to see how many Birth Charts Lan Xihe had.

Ye Tianxin was in a daze. She could feel the immensity of the power that could not be described with words.

Lan Xihe said with a faint smile, "Are you willing?"

"I..."

If it were anyone else, they would accept it without hesitation.

Lan Xihe also believed that no one in the world could resist this temptation.

However, after a short moment, Ye Tianxin said, "I'm not willing."

Chapter 1026: Another Thousand Realms Whirling Expert from the Evil Sky Pavilion

A hint of surprise flashed in Lan Xihe's eyes. She could not believe Ye Tianxin refused her good intentions. She said, "Little sister, you have to think about this carefully. Many people in this world long for such an opportunity, but they don't have the chance..."

"Thank you for your good intentions." Ye Tianxin shook her head and said, "I already have a master. I once swore that I'd never betray the Evil Sky Pavilion again... This is an oath I will keep until I die."

"You really don't want to?" Lan Xihe's eyes shone with complex emotions.

"I'm sorry." Ye Tianxin shook her head. She dared not forget the oath she had made.

Lan Xihe sighed softly. "I think you're too hasty with your decision. Think about it again."

"There's no need for that," Ye Tianxin said without hesitation, "My master treated me with great kindness. If I turn my back on him again, won't I be worse than a beast? I know that your cultivation base is profound. I don't know what your motive is. However, even if you kill me, I won't change my mind. You can leave now..." After she finished speaking, she looked away. Her expression was one of determination.

"Then I'll fulfill your wish," Lan Xihe said as she slowly raised her hand.

Buzz!

A blazing white light appeared in her palm; it seemed to contain the light from the sun, the moon, and the stars.

Soon enough, a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar that towered past the clouds appeared. Its astrolabe spun above Ye Tianxin's head as beams of light shot out in every direction.

Ye Tianxin frowned as she looked at the astrolabe in the sky. She tried to move but discovered she had been restrained.

"Amorous Hoops!"

Whoosh!

The Amorous Hoops shot out in all directions.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Lan Xi flicked her left hand; the Amorous Hoops flew into her hands.

"Chenghuang! Run!"

Cheng Huang roared when it realized its master was in danger. Instead of fleeing, it stomped its hooves and leaped toward Lan Xihe.

Bang!

Lan Xihe's heart was as still as water as she gently waved her hand. "Your current strength isn't enough to protect your master..."

The wave-like energy swept toward Cheng Huang and sent it flying back. It could not even withstand a single strike from Lan Xihe.

"..."

Lan Xihe's power far exceeded Ye Tianxin's imagination.

The light fell like water.

Ye Tianxin closed her eyes. When the light shone on her, it felt as though she had been transported to a world of whiteness. She did not feel the pain of death at all. She looked around in a daze... After a moment, she saw her avatar. Her lotus seemed to be nourished by the white energy and soon let out a crisp noise. In less than 15 minutes, she had sprouted her tenth leaf.

“...”

There was no pain or discomfort. On the contrary, it felt gentle and natural like a spring breeze.

Swoosh!

The white energy returned to the astrolabe and flowed back like a waterfall.

The light disappeared along with the astrolabe and avatar.

Everything had returned to normal by the west lake.

Lan Xihe smiled. “Consider this a meeting gift.”

“You...” Ye Tianxin was extremely surprised.

Lan Xihe pointed at the distance and said, “You’re lucky. The Birth Chart Beast is here. It’s a mystic bird that’s good at flying. Its life heart is a good life heart for you to activate your first Birth Chart.”

Following that, Lan Xihe raised her fair right hand and pushed it out.

An incandescent beam of white light shot out, accurately piercing the mystic bird in the distance.

Subsequently, a crystal-clear life heart floated out of the mystic bird’s body.

With a wave of her hand, the life heart flew into Lan Xihe’s hand from the distance.

The Birth Chart Beast was killed with just one move...

Lan Xihe moved to stand in front of Ye Tianxin and said with a faint smile, “Take it, and your weapon as well...”

“...” Ye Tianxin really wanted to say that she already had one life heart but held her tongue in the end.

Lan Xihe placed the life hearts and the Amorous Hoops in Ye Tianxin’s hand as she said, “You must respect your master very much. This is a rare quality. It seems like I should meet your master and see what kind of person he is...”

“No!” Ye Tianxin instinctively refused. She was afraid Lan Xihe would attack her master. She had witnessed Lan Xihe’s power after all; she did not want any harm to come to her master.

“Don’t worry. I won’t kill anyone... Besides, your master isn’t weak. Farewell.” Lan Xihe turned around and flashed away, disappearing in just a blink of an eye.

...

At noon.

In a small town in the black lotus domain.

Lu Zhou looked at the sun outside the window when he received a system notification.

“Ding! Mingshi Yin has met the requirements to complete his apprenticeship. Would you like him to complete his apprenticeship?”

“Hmm? What was Old Fourth doing before this?”

Lu Zhou was really surprised by the notification. Previously, when he checked in on Mingshi Yin, Mingshi Yin was sleeping soundly. How did Mingshi Yin suddenly form a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar?

Lu Zhou immediately recited the mantra for the Heavenly Writing Power.

Similar to before, lush greeneries obscured his vision.

Zzz! Zzz! Zzz!

Again, the thunderous sound of Mingshi Yin snoring rang in Lu Zhou’s ears.

“...”

If Yu Zhenghai saw this, he would be incredibly vexed.

When did his fourth disciple sprout the tenth leaf? When did he kill a Birth Chart Beast?

Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

Qiong Qi’s barking jolted Mingshi Yin from his sleep.

He sat up in a daze. “Who is it? Who dares to disturb my sleep?”

All of a sudden, the lush greeneries and the blue wood disappeared.

Lu Zhou finally had a good look at the surroundings.

As it turned out, Mingshi Yin was in a jungle.

Qiong Qi was lying at the side; Mingshi Yin’s miniature avatar was in front of it. It kept barking at the avatar, and its spittle landed on the avatar.

“Hey, Hey, Hey... Damn dog, why are you so close?”

Woof! Woof! Woof!

“Didn’t I tell you to keep watch... Wait! Is this the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar?”

Woof!

“The Thousand Realms Whirling avatar... is so ugly... Why isn’t it as cool as master’s?” Ming Shiyin looked at his newly formed Thousand Realms Whirling avatar with an expression of dissatisfaction.

“Doggy, keep watching. I want to activate my second Birth Chart.”

Lu Zhou. “???”

Sure enough, Ming Shiyin really took out a life heart from the pocket near his chest.

Where did his fourth disciple get so many life hearts? Moreover, that life heart was close to an intermediate life heart. Previously, he only had nine leaves. How difficult was it for a Nine-leaf cultivator to obtain a life heart, let alone one that was almost at the intermediate grade? It was more difficult than ascending to the heavens.

At this time, Ming Shiyin placed the second life heart in his Birth Place. Following that, he yawned before he said, "I'm going to continue to sleep. Alert me if there's anything..."

Woof! Woof! Woof!

Ming Shiyin stroked Qiong Qi's head and said, "Okay, okay, I'll feed you ten delicious beasts later. Damn it, don't come so close! You're so dirty!"

Soon after, Mingshi Yin was sound asleep.

Green vines and trees grew crazily in the surroundings at a speed visible to the naked eye, obscuring Lu Zhou's vision again.

Lu Zhou withdrew the Heavenly Writing Power.

He stroked his beard and muttered to himself, "I've underestimated you... The Bluewood Heart Technique is so miraculous?"

Under normal circumstances, it was not advisable to activate Birth Charts too close to one another unless one was very confident.

Mingshi Yin had sprouted the tenth leaf, activated his Birth Chart, formed his Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, and was activating his second Birth Chart. Most importantly, he seemed to be having a good time and was not in pain at all. This was a rarity.

'Ah, it's really vexing to make comparisons...'

"Complete the apprenticeship."

"Ding! Your disciple, Mingshi Yin, has successfully completed his apprenticeship."

"Ding! You're rewarded with a random card. When you use this card, a rare item will be randomly awarded to you."

"Ding! After Mingshi Yin completed his apprenticeship, he can now establish a sect and accept disciples. Maximum number of disciples: 3."

"Ding! You will no longer receive points for teaching Mingshi Yin."

"Ding! You must confirm this with Mingshi Yin in person. Currently, this only takes effect in the system."

Chapter 1027: Do You Not Understand Human Language?

The notifications were similar to the ones he received when Yu Zhenghai completed his apprenticeship. Similar to Yu Zhenghai, it would be up to Mingshi Yin if he wanted to stay or leave.

Currently, the merit points he was rewarded from cultivation had become limited. Moreover, his disciples' cultivation no longer needed much of his supervision as well.

Lu Zhou took out the random card he just received. "Will you give me a Peak Trial Card?"

He had experienced the power of the enhanced Peak Trial Card. It would be great if he could gather three Peak Trial Cards again. He would hold onto them until he had 12 Birth Charts. Right now, he was

still far from it. His disciples had the Great Void Seeds so they would advance by leaps and bounds even if their cultivation might seem slow now.

“Use.”

“Ding! Obtained the Supreme Mystic Card. You will have unlimited supreme mystic power for 30 seconds when you use this card. It doesn’t conflict with the original supreme mystic power.”

“It’s not a Peak Trial Card...”

He looked at the golden Supreme Mystic Card that looked like a miniature poker card. “Not bad, but the time is too short.”

Nevertheless, he did not think there was anyone who could withstand his explosive power for 30 seconds.

After he put away the Supreme Mystic Card, he activated the Purple Glazed Ceramic.

...

After an hour, Lu Zhou heard a series of hurried footsteps.

Thud! Thud! Thud! Thud! Thud!

It was clear whoever it was, was coming to find him.

Although the person was trying to be quiet, he could escape Lu Zhou’s heightened senses.

Lu Zhou turned and looked out of the door. Through the paper window, another figure appeared in front of the door. He raised his right arm and blocked the other party. “Who dares to break into my master’s room?”

The person who stopped the other party turned out to be Yu Zhenghai.

“I... I just need to hide for a while. Hurry up! Please!” The person sounded anxious.

“You’re a cultivator?”

“Please. Just let me hide for a while...”

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The two of them exchanged blows at the door.

After exchanging a few blows, without using much energy, Yu Zhenghai easily gained the upper hand.

The person’s voice trembled. He seemed shocked as he said, “You’re from the golden lotus domain?”

Yu Zhenghai ignored him.

Just as Yu Zhenghai was about to throw him out, Lu Zhou said, “Let him in...”

“Understood.”

Creak!

Yu Zhenghai entered the room with an effeminate young man dressed in a simple robe.

The young man's body was slender, and his skin was fair.

The young man sat down across from Lu Zhou and poured a cup of water for himself as he said, "We're the same, we're the same?"

Lu Zhou studied the young man. A vague idea appeared in his mind. "We're the same?"

After drinking the cup of water, the young man said, "I'm from the golden lotus domain as well..."

Yu Zhenghai said skeptically, "You're from the golden lotus domain? Show me your avatar then."

"I'm not lying to you; I'm really from the golden lotus domain," the young man said as he raised his hand and manifested his avatar. He was not weak; he had just formed his Thousand Realms Whirling avatar.

How could someone with such a cultivation base be hunted? Even in the black lotus domain, only the Black Tower Council and Great Yuan's royal court had many Thousand Realms Whirling experts. Most people in this small town were common folks and low-level cultivators. Moreover, Lu Zhou had noticed something strange about his avatar; although it was golden, there was a hint of black.

As though he could read Lu Zhou's mind, the young man said, "I'll tell you a secret. When you stay in a place for more than ten years, drinking the local water and eating the local food, over time, you'll become like the local. It's the same for avatars..."

Lu Zhou's eyes lit up. He looked at the young man and asked, "You're saying avatars can change colors?"

"Yes, the premise is that you have to stay in place long enough and integrate with the locals. The lower your cultivation base, the easier it is for the color to change. However, it's impossible for you since you've formed the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar," the young man said with a smile, "What? Are you surprised? Do you find it unbelievable?"

The young man continued to say, "I'm about to turn black... but, but, I was still discovered by someone. That's why I'm being chased. Fortunately, I met my family members here. Let me hide here for a while while I wait for them to leave."

"Who's your family? You're a random person" Yu Zhenghai said disapprovingly.

This young man reminded Lu Zhou of some people on earth. After rising above their station, they tried to wash away their 'embarrassing' past, afraid of bearing the label of a country bumpkin.

The young man drank another cup of water again. "I have no choice..."

"I can save you, but you have to answer my questions honestly."

"No problem," the young man said without any hesitation.

"How did you come here?" Lu Zhou asked.

"I was unlucky," the young man said, "When I was young, I went into a forest and saw a ring of light. I didn't understand it at that time, and my curiosity was piqued. As soon as I walked into the ring of light, I was transported here..."

“What’s your name?” Lu Zhou asked.

“Zhao San,” the young man replied.

Lu Zhou said, “I’ll give you another chance.”

“Zhao San. My name is really Zhao San.”

“I hate liars the most.” Lu Zhou waved his hand. “Throw him out.”

Yu Zhenghai said, “Understood.”

Just as Yu Zhenghai was about to make a move, the young man waved his hand and lowered his head as he said in an aggrieved tone, “My… My name is… Zhao Hongfu…”

Lu Zhou said, “You’re a girl. Why are you pretending to be a man?”

Yu Zhenghai. “???”

Zhao Hongfu said sheepishly, “Old sir, you saw through my disguise…”

Lu Zhou ignored her and waited for her answer.

Zhao Hongfu said, “It’s very dangerous for girls outside. It’s more convenient to pretend to be a man. I’m doing this to avoid those pursuers.”

“Why are you being hunted?”

“They discovered I’m from the golden lotus domain. This is the truth. I’m not lying this time, senior!”
Zhao Hongfu said.

Zhao Hongfu was telling the truth this time. After all, people from the golden lotus domain could not hide from Lu Zhou’s Eye of Truth.

Zhao Hongfu suddenly recalled Yu Zhenghai’s golden energy and asked, “What are you doing here? Aren’t you afraid of being killed?”

Yu Zhenghai said disapprovingly, “Who dares to make a move against my master?”

Zhao Hongfu shook her head and said, “That’s not right… The cultivation bases of the people in the golden lotus realm aren’t that high!”

“You’ve been away for too long,” Yu Zhenghai said.

Zhao Hongfu did not think much and asked, “Are you going back?”

“Yes, but not now,” Lu Zhou said.

Zhao Hongfu hastily said, “I can help you as long as you help me get through this disaster.”

As soon as she finished speaking, figures flashed past outside the inn. There were also a few figures hovering in the sky. The sounds of footsteps rang in the air.

Yu Zhenghai frowned and asked, “Who are you really? Why are so many people chasing you?”

Zhao Hongfu made a shushing noise. She looked to the left and the right before she hid behind the curtains.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

“Open the door! It’s a routine check!”

Lu Zhou signaled Yu Zhenghai to open the door.

Yu Zhenghai opened the door and a few armored guards appeared at the door. Among the armored guards, a handsome man holding a feather fan dressed in a white robe stood out like a sore thumb.

The man looked at Yu Zhenghai and Lu Zhou indifferently and waved his hand. “Search.”

“You want to search my master’s room?” Yu Zhenghai extended his hand.

A powerful golden vitality energy burst out immediately.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Apart from the white-clad man, everyone was sent flying back and crashing into the railings and falling down the stairs.

The white-clad man exclaimed in surprise, “Golden energy?”

Yu Zhenghai was not one who liked twists and turns; he was a direct person. Without wasting words, he attacked. “Get lost.”

The white-clad man frowned as he stood outside the room. He cupped his fists together and said, “I’m Yang Yuchen from the royal court. I hope you won’t stop me from doing my job.”

Yu Zhenghai asked, “Do you not understand human language?”

Chapter 1028: A Talented Runemaster

Yang Yuchen frowned and asked, “Sir, are you really going to stop us?”

Lu Zhou asked, “Who are you looking for?”

When Yang Yuchen saw the old man sitting in the room, he felt perhaps the old man would be easier to talk to. Therefore, he cupped his fists together and said, “Old man, we don’t mean to offend you. You’re from the golden lotus domain, and you’re a guest. Please forgive us for our earlier transgression. We’re looking to catch a criminal of the royal court.”

“Why do you want to catch her?” Lu Zhou asked curiously.

“This person has been hiding in the palace for many years and is privy to many secrets and information,” Yang Yuchen replied.

“Secrets and information?” Lu Zhou raised an eyebrow.

“Forgive me, but I can’t divulge them.”

“This isn’t a place for you to search. You should look elsewhere,” Lu Zhou said.

"This..." Yang Yuchen searched the room with his eyes. Unfortunately, the room was too big, and there were too many places Zhao Hongfu could hide. Although he tried to sense her aura, he found nothing.

"Old sir, I'm just following orders. I'm sorry."

Bang!

Yu Zhenghai's palm landed on Yang Yuchen's shoulder.

Yang Yuchen stepped on the ground and steadily withstood Yu Zhenghai's palm strike. Then, he waved his feathered fan.

Countless energy seals shot out and flew into the room.

"The Great Dark Heaven Palm!"

Boom!

Yang Yuchen immediately felt the pressure increase. All his energy seals were swept out by the huge palm seal. Not only that, but he was sent flying back. Similar to his subordinates, he fell off the railings and tumbled down the stairs.

Yang Yuchen widened his eyes and looked at Yu Zhenghai, who was standing calmly on the top of the stairs, and asked, "Who are you people?"

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

All the armored guards drew their sabers.

Dozens of cultivators in the sky descended and rushed over as well.

Yu Zhenghai clasped his hands on his back and said, "Before I start to kill, it's best that all of you leave..."

At the same time, the Jasper Saber hanging from his waist began to buzz.

Yang Yuchen let out a long sigh. He could tell the person in front of him was not simple. "Sir, do you really intend to oppose the royal court?"

Yu Zhenghai shook his head and said, "You don't know the immensity of Heaven and Earth."

Buzz!

The Jasper Saber suddenly flew out, and countless energy sabers appeared in the air. Following that, the energy sabers formed a windmill and spun downward.

The Dark Heaven Starlight!

Each of the energy sabers perfectly avoided damaging the building as it flew toward the cultivators.

The armored raised their sabers instantly to defend themselves.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The armored guards' sabers were only ordinary sabers; how could they be a match for the Jasper Saber? In just an instant, their sabers were cleaved into two by the Jasper Saber.

The guards, scared out of their wits, crouched down and covered their heads with their hands.

Bang!

Yang Yuchen stomped on the ground and pushed his hand out. A black astrolabe appeared in his hand and deflected the Dark Heaven Starlight.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The energy sabers from the Dark Heaven Starlight shot out in all directions and stabbed into the walls.

Creak! Creak! Creak!

At this time, the inn was on the verge of collapse.

Yu Zhenghai looked at Yang Yuchen in surprise. "Two Birth Charts..."

Yang Yuchen waved his feathered fan again before he crossed his arms.

One after another talismans flew out and formed a circle.

waved his feather fan and crossed his arms.

One after another, talisman seals formed a circle. The black Eight Trigrams Seal appeared in the air soon after; it emitted a mysterious energy.

At the same time, Yang Yuchen shouted, "All together now."

In the sky, dozens of cultivators launched energy seals.

Circles of light appeared in front of them before they flew toward Yang Yuchen.

Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!

The circles began to increase in size. The energy was also much stronger than before.

Yu Zhenghai was surprised. "You even know how to work together."

Yang Yuchen said, "You'll see in a while."

When the surrounding black light circles converged, Yang Yuchen suddenly pushed forward.

The black light circles shockingly shot out black pillars of light toward Yu Zhenghai.

Yu Zhenghai frowned slightly; it seemed like his opponent was not weak. He raised both his hands and used the Great Dark Heaven Palm to block the attacks.

Boom!

'Something's wrong!' Yu Zhenghai discovered the middle of the pillar contained Birth Chart Power.

What a cunning method!

Moreover, the pillars of light seemed stronger than the power of two Birth Charts.

Under the circle of lights, the energy seals seemed to be boosted as well.

Yu Zhenghai immediately retreated.

When Yu Zhenghai was about to retreat into the room, a thunderous voice rang in his ears.

“Break.”

The voice sounded as though all living beings spoke at the same time. It resounded in the sky, breaking the black circles of light immediately.

The sound technique greatly affected the cultivators in the sky.

Even Yu Zhenghai wore an ugly expression on his face as he tried to withstand his master’s sound technique. His ears were ringing, and he felt dizzy.

Meanwhile, Yang Yuchen spat out a mouthful of blood. His face was deathly pale.

Many cultivators also spat out blood as they fell from the sky one after another. They were like flies that had their wings plucked off.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The cultivators landed heavily around and in the inn.

Just one sound technique ended everything.

Yu Zhenghai inhaled deeply. The ringing in his ears gradually faded away, and silence returned to the surroundings. Even an expert like him was in unbearable pain just from the residual effects of his master’s sound technique.

After Yang Yuchen and the others landed, they looked at Yu Zhenghai, who was on the first floor, in shock.

A few cultivators clutched their chests and grimaced in pain.

Yu Zhenghai immediately adjusted his posture. He was the eldest disciple so he could not look too miserable. He reminded himself to stay calm and pretended he was not affected at all. He looked down at Yang Yuchen and said, “Since I’m not going to kill you, why aren’t you leaving?”

At this moment, Zhao Hongfu jumped out and looked at the people below with a surprised expression. “Wow, Old senior, you’re really amazing! If I knew you were so amazing, I wouldn’t have hidden!”

“You... Zhao Hongfu!” Yang Yuchen was planning to leave. However, how could he leave now that the person he was hunting had appeared?

Zhao Hongfu was stunned for a moment. Then, she said, “What? Yang Yuchen, these people and I share the same hometown! Do you understand?!”

Yang Yuchen gritted his teeth and endured the excruciating pain. That sound technique far exceeded his strength. If he were to attack directly, he knew he would not have a chance of winning at all. In the end, he suppressed his anger and asked, “Do you think you can escape?”

“Whether I can escape or not, I’ll think about it later.” Zhao Hongfu raised one foot and placed it on the railing, looking like a thug.

Upon seeing this, Yu Zhenghai felt speechless. Was this person really a female?

Yang Yuchen said, "You learned all the runes in the Runes Academy and destroyed the library in the academy. The highest and most secret rune books of the royal court were hidden there. You have to return to the royal palace with me to write down everything you've learned. Only then you might be able to survive."

A weathered voice rang from the room as soon as Yang Yuchen finished speaking. "Runes?"

Zhao Hongfu turned around and raised her right hand, making a swearing gesture. "I... I only have this little hobby. I swear I didn't intentionally burn down the library. I was just... careless..."

"Careless? You're the most talented student in the Runes Academy. You're the one of first among the younger generations to form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. With all that, you're saying you can't even extinguish the fire?" Yang Yuchen said indignantly.

Chapter 1029: Begging the Old Man to Spare His Life

Zhao Hongfu laughed as she pointed at Yang Yuchen and said, "Yang Yuchen, don't forget that you're also from the golden lotus domain. It's just that you've successfully integrated with the people of the black lotus domain. You're not qualified to lecture me!"

Yang Yuchen said, "Nonsense! Everyone has their own choices. How many have given you chances to integrate with the people here? You don't know how precious the chances are. If it weren't for the academy protecting you, do you think you'd be able to form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar?"

Zhao Hongfu scoffed. "I can't be bothered to explain myself to you. Now that my fellow countrymen are here, I'll follow you back if you can defeat them."

"Who is your fellow countryman?" Yu Zhenghai was speechless. This was his first time seeing a girl who acted like a thug.

Zhao Yue was sensible and polite; Ye Tianxin was quiet and persistent. Even the Evil Sky Pavilion's little ancestor, the mischievous Ci Yuan'er, had never acted like a hooligan.

At this moment, Lu Zhou walked out with his hands on his back. He swept his gaze across everyone before it finally rested on Yang Yuchen. "You were from the golden lotus domain?"

Yang Yuchen wiped the blood off the corner of his mouth, straightened his robes, and rose to his feet before he said, "Old senior, I apologize for offending you earlier. I hope you'll forgive me." He coughed twice before he continued to say, "Don't listen to her nonsense. I'm Yang Yuchen from Great Yuan's royal court. This is a fact."

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "There's no need to emphasize it."

The more one cared about something, the more one would emphasize it.

Then, Lu Zhou looked at Zhao Hongfu and asked, "How can you prove he's from the golden lotus domain?"

"Take me for example. Like I said earlier, as long as I stay here and integrate with the locals, my avatar will change its color. It'd probably take another ten years for my avatar to turn completely black. He integrated early, but I don't wish to do that and they kept forcing me," Zhao Hongfu said.

Yang Yuchen said, "Currently, you're neither black nor gold. Don't you feel uncomfortable?"

Zhao Hongfu said, "I've already formed my Thousand Realms Whirling avatar; it's impossible for it to turn black now. However, I can still return to the golden lotus domain,"

Yang Yuchen. "..."

Lu Zhou asked curiously, "Do you like the golden lotus domain so much?"

Zhao Hongfu placed her foot back on the ground and said seriously, "I'm only here because I accidentally entered a runic passage. I miss my parents and my hometown. The reason I've been studying runes is so that I can go home..."

"Since you have mastered the runes, why didn't you go back earlier?" Lu Zhou asked.

Zhao Hongfu sighed. "We're like prisoners. There are always people watching us. How can I find a chance to escape? Moreover, the runic passage needs to have a corresponding one in the golden lotus domain." Then, she lowered her voice and whispered to Lu Zhou, "They used to kidnap people with high innate talent and brought them back here to turn them black..."

"..." Lu Zhou frowned slightly. This was a big problem. He thought the Black Tower Council was only monopolizing the Birth Chart Beasts; as it turned out, there were forces in the black lotus domain that coveted the people from the golden lotus domain as well. How ruthless!

"Then why did you run from the capital to here?"

After all, the world was so vast and there were many places Zhao Hongfu could run to.

Zhao Hongfu said, "Someone told me... to run this way. I had no choice. I have a special mark on my body that couldn't be removed for the time being. That person told me that the Dark and Light Alliance has people who could help me so I came..."

"..."

Yu Zhenghai turned to stare at Zhao Hongfu intently.

This matter was getting interesting. Lu Zhou asked, "Who?"

Zhao Hongfu shook her head, indicating she did not know.

This matter was too strange. First, the person seemed to know Lu Zhou was in need of a runemaster. Second, the person knew Lu Zhou had visited the Dark and Light Alliance. Lastly, the person was aware of the matters in the royal court's Runes Academy. Who was that person?

It could not be those from the Black Tower Council or the White Tower Council. Since they were trying to pull him to their sides, if they had done this, they would surely make their deeds known to him.

"That person didn't say anything else to you?" Lu Zhou asked.

Zhao Hongfu thought about it before she suddenly realized something. "No, and why am I answering all your questions?"

She instinctively took a few steps back.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said, "I'm the only one who can save you..."

"I don't believe you," Zhao Hongfu said.

"Don't be ungrateful. Moreover, Fan Ruozhi isn't worthy to be compared to me," Lu Zhou said.

"..."

Yang Yuchen was stunned. He hastily said, "Old senior, no matter what you can't take this person away..."

With this, Zhao Hongfu moved one step closer to Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and looked down at Yang Yuchen. He said, "Do you think you can stop me?"

Yang Yuchen's expression turned unsightly. He could not even block a single sound technique from the old man; how could he fight the old man?

Lu Zhou said indifferently, "Listen carefully. I'll be taking this girl away. I'll kill anyone who tries to stop me."

"..."

Yang Yuchen and the others naturally did not dare to protest regardless of how unwilling they were. There was nothing they could do at this moment.

"Lord Yang, someone from the royal court is here..."

Under the blazing sun, a huge black flying chariot could be seen flying over from the northern horizon.

Although the flying chariot was big, its speed was astonishing. From afar, it looked like a mountain was flying toward them. It was a rather majestic sight.

"It's really someone from the royal court!" Zhao Hongfu grabbed Lu Zhou's arm.

Lu Zhou was calm. He had the Supreme Mystic Card after all. No matter who came, he was confident he could defeat them within 30 seconds. He looked at the anxious Zhao Hongfu and said, "If you don't want to return with them, answer my questions."

Zhao Hongfu nodded.

"Who told you to come here?" Lu Zhou asked.

"I really don't know, but the person is from the capital."

"You know how to draw runes?"

Zhao Hongfu nodded. However, her tone was not very confident as she said, "I think so... I haven't had a chance to try drawing them on my own..."

Lu Zhou looked at her again with the Eye of Truth.

Name: Zhao Hongfu

Identity: Great Yan's citizen

Realm: Mystic Realm

There was no doubt Zhao Hongfu was from the golden lotus domain.

At this time, Yang Yuchen looked at the sky and said, "It's the reinforcement from the royal court!"

"Zhao Hongfu, you better come with me. Old senior, you're from the golden lotus domain so it's best if you mind your own business. If this were in the past, you'd instantly be viewed as an enemy."

Lu Zhou looked at the flying chariot in the sky as it came to a stop.

Following that, a voice rang from above.

"Don't be rude to the old senior."

"???" Yang Yuchen frowned.

Three people flew out of the flying chariot.

One person flew in the lead, and the other two seemed to be palace maids.

Coincidentally, the person in the lead was King Chen of Wu who was holding his Hollow Halberd.

At this time, all the people from the royal court bowed in unison.

"Greetings, King Chen of Wu!"

King Chen of Wu did not pay attention to them. He drew level with Lu Zhou before he cupped his fists together and said respectfully, "Greetings, old senior."

The people from the royal court, including Yang Yuchen, were dumbfounded.

Zhao Hongfu looked at Lu Zhou in shock. 'No way! I ran the entire day; don't tell me in the end I ran into the hands of the big boss?!'

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and looked at King Chen of Wu. "You recognize me?"

"How can I forget old senior after our meeting in the Land of Chaos?" King Chen of Wu said.

Lu Zhou said faintly, "I have the people from the Dark and Light Alliance entertaining me. It must be hard on you to come to see me even though you're injured..."

King Chen of Wu. "..."

King Chen of Wu felt he really asked for trouble by coming here this time. He was a person who cared about his pride and dignity as well. In the Land of Chaos, he was injured and Luo Huan died because of Ning Wanqing. However, although Ning Wanqing managed to come out on top in the fight between three of them, Ning Wanqing was injured as well.

In fact, King Chen of Wu had nothing to do with this matter today. However, as soon as he received news that the men from the Runes Academy had encountered someone from the golden lotus domain, he rushed over immediately. He had a sneaking suspicion it was the old man he met in the Land of Chaos.

Zhao Hongfu was completely clueless when she listened to the conversation. However, Yang Yuchen vaguely understood what was going on. With a thud, he fell to his knees immediately. "Please spare my life, old senior!"

Chapter 1030: The Old Senior is Knocking on My Door

Lu Zhou looked at Yang Yuchen indifferently. Then, he looked at King Chen of Wu and asked, "King Chen, what do you think I should do?"

King Chen of Wu said, "I know the old senior's cultivation base is profound. Zhao Hongfu is a student of the Runes Academy who had committed a sin. They were only carrying out their duties to arrest her. They didn't mean to offend you..."

"Are you saying that I deliberately made things difficult for you?"

"Of course not..." King Chen of Wu said, "I'm willing to apologize for what happened today. If possible, I'd like to invite you to the capital for a chat."

"No need. I don't have that much free time," Lu Zhou said as he stroked his beard.

King Chen of Wu thought about it for a moment before he said, "That's fine." Then, he called out, "Yang Yuchen..."

"Your order, my lord?"

"Hurry and kowtow to Senior Lu and apologize for your mistake..."

"Understood."

Yang Yuchen and the other cultivators fell to their knees one after another. It was a spectacular scene.

Lu Zhou said, "There's no need to kowtow..."

"No, no, it's what they should do. It's a small matter after all," King Chen of Wu said.

"No."

Lu Zhou's tone hardened as he said, "If it were someone else in my shoes today, they would have died. Do you still think it's a small matter?"

King Chen of Wu. "..."

Yang Yuchen's face paled immediately.

King Chen of Wu said angrily, "Yang Yuchen, who gave you the right to attack with the intention to kill when carrying out your duties?"

"This lowly one is guilty! This lowly one is guilty!" Yang Yuchen kowtowed and admitted his mistake.

King Chen of Wu bowed to Lu Zhou and said, "Old senior, I'll definitely give you a satisfactory explanation regarding this matter."

"How do you plan to do that?" Lu Zhou asked.

"Heavily punish Yang Yuchen."

"Is that all?"

"If that's not enough, I'll kill him to assuage the old senior's anger," King Chen of Wu said decisively as his eyes shone with killing intent. Despite his words, it was clear his killing intent was targeted at Zhao Hongfu.

Zhao Hongfu shuddered. She was even more determined about not returning to the Runes Academy. There was no doubt she would lose her life if she returned.

"I'm afraid killing him isn't enough..." Lu Zhou said in a dark voice.

King Chen of Wu frowned. "Killing him isn't enough? What do you propose, old senior?"

"The Runes Academy kidnapped many from the golden lotus domain. Yang Yuchen is also from the golden lotus domain. In your Great Yuan, how are human traffickers punished?" Lu Zhou asked.

"..."

King Chen of Wu had only vaguely heard of this matter and was not involved in it. Moreover, kidnapping children from other places was a sensitive matter, and therefore, *ial*. "I... I'm not too sure about the specifics. However, those who commit robbery, theft, forging of treasure notes, rape, arson, and other capital crimes will be handed over to the Department of Punishment."

Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction. "This matter concerns the golden lotus domain. Kidnapping a child is no different from committing murder. The murderer will have to pay with his life. Which one of you wants to die first?"

King Chen of Wu said, "These are just allegations. You can't believe them."

As soon as King Chen of Wu finished speaking, Lu Zhou took out the Golden Taixu Mirror. A golden beam of light shot out of the mirror immediately.

Under the illumination of the Golden Taixu Mirror, Yang Yuchen and several cultivators' avatars appeared. The avatars were brilliant and dazzling.

Lu Zhou had confidently brought the Golden Taixu Mirror out because he had the Eye of Truth and had confirmed his conjecture. With the Golden Taixu Mirror, their past could not be hidden.

Yang Yuchen's eyes widened in shock. His body trembled, and he fell to the ground limply. He looked at the golden avatar in disbelief as he muttered over and over again, "Impossible, impossible, impossible..."

Reality was cruel.

Yang Yuchen had always despised cultivators from the golden lotus domain and the red lotus domain. He thought they were weaklings, like weaklings, not worthy of sympathy. He did not expect he was from the golden lotus domain. How ironic was this?

“This object is called the Golden Taixu Mirror. It can distinguish between the weak and strong. Most importantly, it can reveal the truth...” Lu Zhou said. Following that, he aimed the Golden Taixu Mirror at King Chen of Wu.

King Chen of Wu was shocked and instinctively hid behind one of the palace maids. Unexpectedly, the golden beam of light did not affect the palace maid; it shone through her at King Chen of Wu as though she was transparent. Soon enough, a Five Chart Thousand Realms Whirling avatar appeared.

“...”

Lu Zhou was slightly surprised by this result. During the battle in the Land of Chaos, King Chen of Wu had lost three Birth Charts. To deal with King Chen of Wu now, he did not even need to use the supreme mystic power. He stroked his beard and said, “King Chen, you were an Eight Chart expert. Now that you’ve lost three Birth Charts, you still dare to run around? Is the royal court short of staff?”

King Chen of Wu was, naturally, embarrassed. He could only say, “I have made a fool of myself. Despite my position, I’m unaware of the affairs in the royal court. I didn’t expect the royal court to do such a thing. Forget it. I have nothing to say if you kill them...”

Moreover, these people had already seen that he had lost three Birth Charts. If Lu Zhou killed all these people, it could be considered as silencing the witnesses, and he could still maintain his prestige as King Chen of Wu.

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, “I have two conditions. I won’t kill anyone; I’m not a demon after all. First, I’ll be taking Zhao Hongfu away. Second, I want five obsidian essences...”

Upon hearing this, Yang Yuchen relaxed.

On the contrary, King Chen of Wu thought to himself it would be better if Lu Zhou killed these people.

Before anyone could speak, Lu Zhou added, “Think about it, and choose wisely.”

Yang Yuchen was in a daze. No one knew what he was thinking at this moment.

Meanwhile, the other cultivators shook their heads and sighed. They were unwilling to believe the truth before their eyes.

After a long while, King Chen of Wu finally said, “I heard old senior killed the First Elders of the Black Tower Council and White Tower Council. Is it true?”

At that time, he was injured during his chaotic battle with Ning Wanqing so he did not see Lu Zhou killing the First Elders of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council. He had always been skeptical of that rumor. It seemed somewhat unbelievable that there was a golden lotus cultivator with 12 Birth Charts. He decided that he would agree to Lu Zhou’s request only if Lu Zhou showed him his astrolabe. This was also the order from the higher-ups.

Lu Zhou asked, “Do you doubt my words?”

"I don't dare!" King Chen of Wu said.

"Ten obsidian essences. Deliver it here in three days. Otherwise, only death awaits all of you..."

King Chen of Wu no longer dared to speak unnecessarily. He hastily said, "Alright. We'll deliver ten obsidian essences in three days. Let's go!"

Following that, King Chen of Wu flew to his flying chariot.

At this moment, Yang Yuchen and the others who were on the ground cried out one after another.

"M-my lord, please don't leave me behind!"

King Chen of Wu was already furious, to begin with. He did not even deign to look at them and leaped into the flying chariot as he said, "Scram!"

With that, the flying chariot flew away from the small village.

Yang Yuchen wanted to cry, but he had no tears.

At this moment, Yu Zhenghai said, "Even if the heavens allow you to live with your sins, how can you live with your sins? If it weren't for the fact you're from the golden lotus domain, I would've killed you..."

Yang Yuchen and the cultivators struggled to their feet and ran out of the village. However, they were all troubled; where could they go now?

Lu Zhou looked at Zhao Hongfu and smiled in a gentle and amicable manner. "Don't be afraid."

Zhao Hongfu shrank back. "I... I... I'm very afraid!"

"Where do you think you can go?" Lu Zhou asked. "The black lotus domain will not tolerate your existence. You'll only be safe with me..."

"..."

"If you don't believe me; go out and manifest your avatar... This has always been the way since ancient times..."

How could Zhao Hongfu not understand Lu Zhou's words? When she was in the Runes Academy, she was often discriminated against. She had been so angry at that time.

Lu Zhou tried his best to be gentle as he said, "As long as you join the Evil Sky Pavilion, I definitely won't mistreat you..."

"Really?"

"I've never lied."

Zhao Hongfu said, "I burned down the largest library in the Runes Academy. They'll do everything they can to catch me and make me write down everything I memorized. They won't stop chasing after me. You... Aren't you afraid?"

Lu Zhou said indifferently, "The person who sent you to me understands me. If he wanted to harm you, he wouldn't have sent you to me. I don't think much of the Runes Academy at all..."

Zhao Hongfu seemed to believe most of Lu Zhou's words, but her expression was still skeptical.

When Lu Zhou saw Zhao Hongfu was still hesitating, he thought it was time to bring out the big guns. For the sake of recruiting a talented person, it was worth it. He crushed the Disguise Card that appeared in his hand.

A 1,050-foot golden avatar that towered past the clouds appeared immediately. Twelve distinct patterns shone dazzlingly among the 36 triangles on the Birth Palace.

The astrolabe was dozens of meters in diameter and was as bright as a moon.

Yang Yuchen and the others who were near the entrance of the small village felt the shift in energy and turned out. The sight that greeted their eyes stunned them to their cores.

...

Meanwhile, King Chen of Wu, who had flown a distance away, was furious. His anger did not abate at all. He smashed the tables and chairs in the flying chariots into pieces.

However, when King Chen of Wu saw a golden avatar that was 1,050 feet tall in the distance, he felt as though he had been splashed with a pail of ice water. His flames of fury were instantly extinguished. He staggered back and slumped onto a chair as he muttered to himself, "This... Is this a slap to my face from the old senior? Forget it. I can't afford to offend such a person..."