

Disciples 1031

Chapter 1031: Sowing Discord

The flying chariot flew to the north, creaking as it flew. Perhaps, the person who manned the helm was shocked by the avatar, the flying chariot shook violently.

“Idiot! Be steady!” King Chen of Wu gulped as he looked at the astrolabe. He recalled when Lu Zhou shone the Golden Taixu Mirror on him and was frightened again. If Lu Zhou had attacked at that time, the consequences would have been unimaginable. With these thoughts in mind, his palms grew sweaty, and his legs began to tremble.

At this time, a cultivator moved next to King Chen of Wu and said in a low voice, “Ten obsidian essences are too much. Why don’t we proceed according to the original plan and lure him into the trap?”

King Chen of Wu raised his head and glanced at that cultivator. “I did have such thoughts before, but now... No. I have to seek an audience with His Majesty the Black Emperor. Now isn’t the time for us to care about the obsidian essences...”

The cultivator nodded and said, “Our spies in the Dark and Light Alliance reported that the old senior extorted ten obsidian essences from them as well. Moreover, the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council are trying to rope him to their sides so they had offered up 15 obsidian essences to him. Based on this, it can be seen that he lacks these things...”

King Chen of Wu said, “The obsidian essences are rare items used to upgrade weapons to the fusion grade. Who doesn’t need them? I want them as well...”

...

In the small village.

The commoners and low-level cultivators walked out one after another. All of them looked at the towering Thousand Realms Whirling avatar in awe.

Lu Zhou looked at the effect of the Disguise Card in satisfaction.

Zhao Hongfu was stunned.

The golden lotus was shrouded with golden karmic flames that shone dazzlingly.

“Ding! Worshipped by 350 people. Reward: 350 merit points.”

At this moment, many people were kneeling on the ground and kowtowing reverently.

After ten seconds, the avatar vanished into thin air, and everything returned to normal.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard as he looked at Zhao Hongfu and said, “As long as you have enough power, you can erase injustice and earn the respect of others...”

Zhao Hongfu nodded like a chick pecking on grains of rice.

With such an avatar, who would dare to talk about whether it was gold or black? Discrimination had always existed since time immemorial. However, the weak did not have the right to discriminate.

"You... You're so powerful?" Zhao Hongfu said.

Lu Zhou stood with his hands on his back and said, "I'll give you one last chance... If you are still unwilling, you can leave. After that, your life and death have nothing to do with me."

After Lu Zhou finished speaking, he looked away.

Yu Zhenghai said, "There many who wish to join the Evil Sky Pavilion but don't have the chance. I don't think you're suited to join the Evil Sky Pavilion seeing as you're hesitating. My master is merciful, but you don't know how to appreciate it. I suggest you leave now. Be careful you don't get hacked to death after you leave..."

"..."

Most humans had a very bad habit; when they were asked to stay, they would be unwilling. However, when they were asked to leave, they would change their minds.

"No, no, no! I'm willing! I didn't say I'm unwilling!" Zhao Hongfu immediately fell to her knees. "Old senior, I beg you to take me in!"

Lu Zhou nodded and said to Yu Zhenghai, "Tell her about the Evil Sky Pavilion's rules."

"Understood." Following that, Yu Zhenghai solemnly explained the rules to Zhao Hongfu.

After listening to him, Zhao Hongfu said, "I can abide by all the rules, but there is one thing..."

Before she could finish, Yu Zhenghai frowned and asked, "You're trying to negotiate with the Evil Sky Pavilion?"

"I don't mean that. The reason why I don't want to turn black is so I could return to the golden lotus domain one day to find my family," Zhao Hongfu said pleadingly.

Lu Zhou looked at Zhao Hongfu and said, "I sympathize with you so I'll make an exception for you."

Zhao Hongfu was overjoyed. "Thank you, Mister..."

Yu Zhenghai said, "After you enter the Evil Sky Pavilion, you'll refer to my master as the Pavilion Master."

"Yes, yes, yes," Zhao Hongfu said three times in a row with a smile on her face, "Pavilion Master."

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

"Get up." When Lu Zhou received the notification, he saw her loyalty was at 40%. It was neither high nor low; it was reasonable. It was much higher than Leng Luo when Leng Luo first joined the Evil Sky Pavilion back then.

"Follow me." Lu Zhou turned around and walked inside.

The crowd outside the inn gradually dispersed.

The inn owner hurriedly ordered people to clean up the place. At the same time, he ordered his men to prepare good wine and dishes. With such a prominent figure staying in his inn, he was naturally delighted.

...

In the room.

Lu Zhou asked, "Are you a student of the Runes Academy?"

Zhao Hongfu nodded. "Yes... I've been learning runes since I was young. However, I'm the only one who learns runes. Most of them focus on cultivations and go out for missions. Sometimes, they even have to kill people."

"You're the only one learning runes?"

"What I mean is I'm the only one learning runes among that group of people. I don't know why it's like this either. The instructor said I'm smart and talented. Well, I am indeed smart..." Zhao Hongfu said. She had been learning runes for so many years, but she did not have anyone to compare herself to. Without others to compare herself to, she really did not know how skilled she was.

"Yang Yuchen said that you burned down their library. What's going on?"

"They wanted me to turn into a black lotus cultivator. However, I refuse to do it. They knew it'd be too late once I form my Thousand Realms Whirling avatar so they were planning to force. Therefore, I set fire to the library and escaped," Zhao Hongfu replied.

"Since they value you so much, you shouldn't have been able to escape so easily..."

"It seems like that person is helping me in the dark..."

"Who is that person?" Lu Zhou asked. He did not know many people in the black lotus domain. There was no reason for someone to be so kind as to send a runemaster to him.

"I only know his surname is Lu. I really don't know anything else."

"Lu?" Lu Zhou was slightly surprised. The first person he thought of was Lu Li.

"Well, that's what it said in the letter," Zhao Hongfu said.

Lu Zhou nodded. "You may take your leave and rest. Don't run around unnecessarily."

"Alright." Zhao Hongfu stood up and walked out of the room. When she saw Yu Zhenghai standing outside the room, she nudged him with her elbow and asked, "Hey, what's wrong?"

"..." Yu Zhenghai looked at her from the corners of his eyes and asked, "Are you really a girl?"

"No, I'm a man!" Zhao Hongfu replied confidently with a straight face.

Yu Zhenghai shook his head and said, "You have no manners."

Zhao Hongfu cleared her throat and said seriously, "Senior, please take care of me in the future..."

"That's more like it. After you arrive at Evil Sky Pavilion, someone will show you the ropes. Go rest," Yu Zhenghai said before he left.

"Got it!"

At this moment, Shen Xi flew into the inn. His expression was not too good.

Zhao Hongfu shrank back. "No way! Are you here to catch me as well?"

Shen Xi staggered forward before he fell to the ground. He supported himself with a hand as he spat out a mouthful of blood.

Zhao Hongfu sized Shen Xi up for a moment before she asked cautiously, "You... Who are you? Are you okay?"

Creak!

At this moment, Yu Zhenghai rushed out of his room into the hallway. He asked with a frown, "Guardian Shen, you're injured?"

Shen Xi endured the pain and said, "I... I'm fine..."

Zhao Hongfu exclaimed in surprise, "Guardian Shen? You're from the Evil Sky Pavilion as well?"

"He's Shen Xi, one of the Guardians of the Evil Sky Pavilion. He went out on a mission yesterday," Yu Zhenghai said.

Without saying another word, Zhao Hongfu took a brush out and quickly drew various symbols on the ground. Her brushstrokes were like dragons and snakes. After she was done, she clapped her jade-like hands. The symbols lit up with black and golden light, forming a circular formation.

Yu Zhenghai asked, slightly surprised, "You know this as well?"

"This is the Buddhist's Bright Mirror. It's used for healing. This is within the capabilities of a runemaster."

"Runemaster?" Shen Xi raised his head and looked at Zhao Hongfu in surprise. "Mister First, this is..."

"Zhao Hongfu, the first runemaster of the Evil Sky Pavilion."

Shen Xi stood up and said to Zhao Hongfu, "So we're fellow members."

At this moment, Lu Zhou opened his room door. "What happened?"

Shen Xi kneeled on one knee and said, "I failed my mission. I couldn't bring Yan Zhenluo out."

"Jiang Jiuli didn't help you?"

"Jiang Jiuli is just a judge. The internal strife in the Black Tower Council is too serious. There are members who didn't want to be allied with the Evil Sky Pavilion," Shen Xi explained, "After I sent a message to Jiang Jiuli, he agreed to bring Yan Zhenluo out. When I went to the agreed location to wait, Yan Zhenluo was nowhere to be seen. Instead, Duan Xihua's men were there. I wasn't a match for them and was injured as a result. However, they're afraid of the Pavilion Master so they didn't dare to kill me. That's the only reason I survived."

Lu Zhou shook his head slightly. "They're deliberately trying to sow discord between me and the Black Tower Council."

Chapter 1032: You're Very Strong, But You're Not Strong Enough

Shen Xi nodded. "That's true. The Black Tower Council is extremely divided now. It's almost impossible for them to reach an agreement. Some are so malicious that they would rather destroy the Black Tower Council than let others achieve their goals. Please punish me for my incompetence, Pavilion Master."

"This isn't your fault. Rise to your feet," Lu Zhou said.

Shen Xi was moved.

Ever since Lu Zhou killed the First Elders of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council in the Southern Kingdom, the nickname Old Demon Lu had spread far and wide. The instigator of this matter was rather bold.

With the Buddhist's Bright Mirror, Shen Xi's injuries were mostly healed.

Lu Zhou asked, "Who's Duan Xihua?"

"Duan Xihua is the second-in-command in the Council of Elders and a representative of the radical faction. Just like Wu Guangping, he supports the annihilation plan. In front of the Tower Master, he usually restrains himself. Prior to this, the Black Tower Council monopolized the Birth Chart Beasts in the red lotus domain, greatly benefiting the Black Tower Council. With the large supply of Birth Chart Hearts, the Black Tower Council's strength is far greater than other forces. For that reason, the radical faction did not have any objections. However, now that the Black Tower Council no longer has a monopoly over the red lotus domain, the First Elder is dead, and they also have to give up five obsidian essences, the radical faction naturally can no longer sit still..." Shen Xi said.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said, "Alright. Return to your room and recuperate. I'll personally meet Xia Zhenrong."

Shen Xi said, "Pavilion Master..."

"Speak."

"The Black Tower Council has many experts. Moreover, they have 3,600 Dao formations to defend the tower. We can't underestimate them..."

"Alright. I know my limits. Go rest."

"Understood."

Lu Zhou turned around and looked at Zhao Hongfu. "You can also heal?"

Zhao Hongfu said, "A formation master might not know runes, but a runemaster definitely knows formations."

Lu Zhou looked at the brush in her hand and asked, "You used the brush to inscribe the formation?"

"The brush forms the characters, and the characters form seals," Zhao Hongfu replied with a smile.

Lu Zhou noticed the brush was just ordinary. Nevertheless, he was not in a hurry to give her a better brush. He planned to observe her for a period of time.

“Old First.”

“Your orders, master?”

“Arrange for her to communicate with Old Seventh about the runic passage. We should have our own runic passage between the black lotus domain and the red lotus domain...”

“Understood.”

...

Swoosh!

As soon as Lu Zhou returned to his room, a hidden weapon flew in from the window toward him.

Lu Zhou’s reaction was lightning-fast, and he easily caught the weapon with two fingers. When he took a closer look, he discovered it was actually a piece of paper.

The paper read: Remember not to go to the Black Tower Council.

With just a flick of his fingers, he turned the paper to dust.

He inhaled slightly and caught the lingering energy in the air. Following that, he flew out of the window and looked down at the entire village. After a moment, he flew out of the village.

At the same time, he used the speed he gained from Di Jiang and followed the scent.

After a while, he saw a figure flying at the end of a small road. He transmitted his voice. “If you run, I’ll kill you with an arrow!”

He raised his hand; Unnamed in the form of a bow appeared in his hand immediately.

The figure stopped dead in his tracks upon hearing Lu Zhou’s words. He looked up at Lu Zhou nervously and pleaded, “I’m just a messenger. I have nothing to do with this! Please spare my life, senior!”

“Who ordered you to do this?”

“I only know that he’s in the capital. I don’t know anything else... Senior, if he wants to conceal his identity, how’s it possible for me to know who he is?”

The messenger had a point. The other party’s method was not ordinary. A mere messenger like him would not know anything important.

After Lu Zhou put Unnamed away, he said, “When you return, tell him I’ll find him.”

“I’m afraid that’s impossible. He didn’t leave me with a way to contact him after he instructed me on what to do...”

Lu Zhou stroked his beard, deep in his thoughts.

The man asked tentatively, “I... I... Can I go now?”

Lu Zhou waved his sleeve.

The man left at once.

Lu Zhou muttered to himself, perplexed, "His surname is Lu... Could it be Lu Li?"

Lu Zhou recited the mantra for the power of sight from the Heavenly Writing. His eyes shone with the supreme mystic power immediately.

He saw Zhu Honggong sitting cross-legged with a pained expression.

Lu Li, who was standing nearby, said, "This is only the fourth life heart; it's far from enough. The last one will be the life heart of the sea beast king. If that's still not enough, you can borrow Dang Kang's life heart. It seems attached to you so I don't think it'll refuse you. Hm? Where did Dang Kang go?"

Lu Li searched his surroundings but could not find Dang Kang at all.

At this time, Zhu Honggong cried out miserably, "I've absorbed so many life hearts and energy, can you let me rest? Old Lu, you're going to torture me to death!"

Lu Li said, "You have it rather easy. Many people who formed their Thousand Realms Whirling avatars lost half their lives. Hang in there. You can do it!"

"I don't believe you. You're an evil man!" Zhu Honggong really felt like crying. "You're even more ruthless than my master! Luckily I didn't accept you as my master!"

Lu Li. "..."

Lu Zhou cut off the Heavenly Writing Power.

His eighth disciple and Lu Li spent most of their time and energies trying to form his eighth disciple's Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. If it were not for his disciple's lack of lotus, his eighth disciple would have already become a Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator.

"Lu Li is still in the yellow lotus domain so he can't be the one who sent that letter. Who is it then?"

Lu Zhou brought a black talisman and tried to contact Yan Zhenluo. Unfortunately, even after the talisman burned to ashes, Yan Zhenluo did not appear.

There was no doubt Yan Zhenluo was probably heavily guarded now. Who knew if he was being tortured as well?

No matter what, it seemed like he had to go to the Black Tower Council. However, the mysterious person warned him not to go.

Lu Zhou looked into the distance and murmured, "The Black Tower Council is strong?"

At this moment, a voice rang from a towering tree. "You're very strong, but you're not strong enough."

Lu Zhou was not too surprised. After all, he had used the Disguise Card to manifest a 12 Charts avatar. It was only normal for mysterious experts to come and have a look.

Lu Zhou turned to face the tree and asked, "Who are you?"

The voice that sounded like the clear water of a lake said, "Why don't we make a bet?"

Lu Zhou shook his head. "I don't make bets with people of unknown origins."

"Oh, I think it'll interest you though."

Lu Zhou silently recited the mantra for the power of smell. The smell of a cold fragrance and a faintly familiar energy wafted into his nose. The energy smelled somewhat similar to his disciples' auras. His heart stirred slightly as realization dawned on him. 'Great Void energy?'

After Lu Zhou cut off the power of smell, he said calmly, "Speak."

"I'll make a bet with you. I bet you can't win against Xia Zhengrong. If I win, I want Ye Tianxin," the person said bluntly.

Lu Zhou grew even more suspicious when he heard these words. Did this person steal Ye Tianxin's Great Void energy? He stroked his beard and continued to look at the towering tree as he fell deep into his thoughts. After a while, he said, "What reason do I have to bet with you?"

A gambler would gamble until he lost everything.

After he finished speaking, Lu Zhou turned around, intending to leave.

At this time, the person said in a speed that was neither fast nor slow, "If you win, I'll give you 60 obsidian essences..."

"..."

Lu Zhou stopped moving.

Chapter 1033: A Gambler

In a fair gamble, one would definitely lose one's capital at some point if one gambled for too long a time, not to mention there were few truly fair gambles in the world.

However, Lu Zhou was really in need of obsidian essences at this time. It seemed like the owner of the voice was aware of this as well. He turned to face the towering tree and said, "Since you want to bet with me, you should at least come out and meet me..."

"I don't like sunlight." The voice was like water.

An answer appeared in Lu Zhou's mind. "Lan Xihe, the Tower Master of the White Tower Council?"

"Not only are you not weak, but you're not stupid as well..." After a brief pause, Lan Xihe asked again, "Are you willing to bet with me?"

The wind blew as Lu Zhou replied, "Ye Tianxin is my disciple; do you think I'd used her for a bet?"

Lan Xihe said, "There's no need to think too much; the bet is just a form of amusement. I know you've been looking for obsidian essences everywhere. They're incredibly rare, but I have some in the White Tower Council. If it makes you feel better, I can give you the obsidian essences directly in exchange for Ye Tianxin; there's no need to bet. Since you're her master, I thought it's best to ask for your permission..."

Lu Zhou was not in a rush to give an answer. Instead, he asked curiously, "What do you want from Ye Tianxin?"

Based on the power of smell, Lan Xihe already possessed the Great Void energy. Then, what was her purpose for wanting Ye Tianxin? Perhaps, Lan Xihe knew about the Great Void Seed and was no longer satisfied with just the Great Void energy?

"I admire her a lot. She has all the qualities of a talent," Lan Xihe replied.

Lu Zhou could not figure out her purpose. He said, "You didn't answer my question..."

"Don't worry. I harbor no malicious intent toward her," Lan Xihe said faintly

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "I will judge whether you harbor malicious intent or not. Since she's my disciple, I naturally have to figure out your purpose..."

Lan Xihe replied patiently and seriously, "If I harbor malicious intent, is there a need for me to come to you?"

Lu Zhou nodded. With Lan Xihe's cultivation, she could easily take Ye Tianxin away. With this, he reminded himself to be careful of wicked people such as those from the Black Tower Council who tried to sow discord. On the surface, they did not dare to attack him, but it did not mean they would not dare to act in the dark. Finally, he said faintly, "80 obsidian essences..."

Silence descended on the forest.

Even the White Tower Council had to carefully consider giving away 80 obsidian essences; even Lan Xihe would hesitate.

After a short silence, Lan Xihe said, "Greed is one of humans' characteristics. Ye Tianxin is worth this price. I agree to give you 80 obsidian essences then..."

Lu Zhou wanted 80 obsidian essences because he already had 26 in his possessions, of which 10 were still with King Chen of Wu. It would be difficult for him to come across a chance to obtain 100 obsidian essences.

Lan Xihe said, "The bet has been set; I'll see you in five days."

"Hold on..." Lu Zhou called out.

"I don't like people going back on their words the most," Lan Xihe said.

Lu Zhou said, "I'll give you a piece of advice."

"Please speak."

"From my many years of experience, those who are certain of winning a gamble usually don't end up very well. Some even ended up losing their families..." Lu Zhou said.

Lan Xihe laughed. Her laughter was melodious and pleasant to the ears like that of a forest elf. After a moment, she said, "Didn't you fall into the trap?"

After that, there were no more replies from Lan Xihe.

Lu Zhou sensed a faint Primal Qi fluctuation; his interest was piqued. He flashed forward and arrived under the towering tree. All that was left on a tree trunk was a faint lingering Primal Qi.

He silently chanted the mantra for the power of smell. Then, he followed the energy and moved toward the mountains. After unleashing the grand technique a few times, he still could not catch up to Lan Xihe. In the end, he landed on the top of a mountain and surveyed the land before him. He stood unmoving like a statue as he looked around. The scent had abruptly disappeared at this place.

Lu Zhou was puzzled. What method did Lan Xihe use to conceal her scent and avoid the power of the Heavenly Writing Power? Following that, he recited the incantation for the power of hearing. He expanded his hearing range to cover a radius of ten miles. Except for the sounds from the birds, beasts, waterfalls, and rivers in the forest, he did not hear Lan Xihe at all.

He frowned slightly. "Did she disappear into thin air?"

Either Lan Xihe was very cautious and hid her scent or she really disappeared into thin air.

After a brief moment, Lu Zhou flew up into the sky with the vast land beneath his feet. There was no trace left of him except for some faint lingering scent from him.

He did not continue to search for Lan Xihe and returned to the small village instead.

...

In the inn in the small village.

When Lu Zhou returned, Yu Zhenghai, Shen Xi, and Zhao Hongfu were waiting for him respectfully.

Zhao Hongfu said, "To create a runic passage, we must carve the inscription in the destination. Right now, we can only open a passage to the red lotus domain. We'll have to get someone to carve the inscriptions in the golden lotus domain before we can open a passage there..."

Yu Zhenghai said, "I'm afraid that's impossible. No one in the golden lotus domain can carve the inscriptions for a runic passage; only you can do it..."

"No one knows how to do it?" Zhao Hongfu asked in confusion.

"That's right. Currently, you're the only runemaster in the red lotus domain and the golden lotus domain," Yu Zhenghai said.

"Just... Just me?" Zhao Hongfu sounded slightly unconfident. She spent most of her time in the Runes Academy; it was only natural the people she interacted with were proficient in runes. Whether it was a teacher or a student, they all knew runes. How could she be used to being the only runemaster in two domains?

"Be more confident. Everyone in the Evil Sky Pavilion has their own strengths," Shen Xi said with a smile.

"Alright, I guess I'm rather rare in both domains. If that's the case, I can only cross the Endless Ocean and fly back to the golden lotus domain," Zhao Hongfu said.

"That's not necessary," Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "We can borrow the runic passage from the Black Tower Council first."

“...” Zhao Hongfu.

Shen Xi and Yu Zhenghai nodded.

“You may all take your leave.”

“Understood.”

After the trio left, Lu Zhou used the power of sight to observe Ye Tianxin. After seeing she was safe and sound, focused on her cultivation, he directed the power to observe Yu Shangrong.

Yu Shangrong had already returned to the Evil Sky Pavilion and was safe as well.

Following that, he cut off the power of sight and activated the Purple Glazed Ceramic to cultivate.

...

Meanwhile, in a secluded place in the Land of Shu’s Xuanzheng where the Black Tower Council was located.

“Lord Duan, we’ve injured Shen Xi. We’ve also placed spies masquerading as common folks in the small village. Based on Old Demon Lu’s temper, he should be coming to the Black Tower Council to look for trouble soon...”

Duan Xihua asked, “Are you so certain Old Demon Lu will come?”

“This...” The person hesitated for a moment before he said slightly confidently, “It’s highly likely he’ll come. Our people had investigated him. When he was in the red lotus domain, he never failed to seek revenge from those who offended him. He’s narrow-minded and has a bad temper. There are many people in the red lotus domain who called him Old Demon Lu as well. His reputation in the red lotus domain is even more exaggerated compared to the golden lotus domain. The people in the golden lotus domain call him Old Demon Ji instead. However, in recent times, his reputation has improved tremendously. It’s rather strange; the contrast between the past and the present is too huge.”

Chapter 1034: Obsidian Essence

“Strange?” Duan Xihua asked, puzzled.

The subordinate then proceeded to describe the huge change in the golden lotus domain’s Old Demon Ji.

Indeed, there were many changes. Even if Lu Zhou seemed to be on the side of justice now, in Duan Xihua’s eyes, it did not mean Lu Zhou was not still a wicked person. For example, Lu Zhou occupied the Divine Capital and put his disciple in charge. No matter from which angle he looked at it, it seemed like Lu Zhou was only trying to maintain his power and control.

“There’s a problem...” The more Duan Xihua thought about it, the more he felt something was amiss.

“My lord, what do you mean?”

“The golden lotus domain’s shackle is eight leaves. How did he form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar and activate 12 Birth Charts in just a few years? This is impossible,” Duan Xihua said.

“Indeed.”

Duan Xihui continued to say, “Therefore, it’s likely that Old Demon Lu has always had at least 10 or 12 Birth Charts. He was hiding his strength in the golden lotus domain to fool the weak. Now that he’s tired of playing with the weaklings, he has come for the strong...”

“You’re wise, my lord.”

“It’s not enough to only injure Shen Xi. You have to be more ruthless. If Old Demon Lu doesn’t come tomorrow, go to the golden lotus domain to look for his disciples. It’s easy to dodge an open knife, but it’s impossible to guard against a hidden knife all the time no matter how powerful he is. I won’t fight him head-on,” Duan Xihua said.

“Understood.”

...

The next morning. The sun shining through the morning mist signified the arrival of a new day.

Lu Zhou opened his eyes and gauged his supreme mystic power; he was rather satisfied with it.

“The effect of the Purple Glazed Ceramic is very good; I wonder how amazing it would be once it’s upgraded to the fusion grade?” Lu Zhou could not wait to upgrade his Purple Glazed Ceramic, but he knew he could be anxious. He still needed quite a lot of obsidian essence. As long as he won his bet with Lan Xihe and obtained 80 obsidian essences, he would have enough.

“Master, the royal court has sent 10 obsidian essences.”

“Come in.”

Yu Zhenghai pushed the door open and entered before he respectfully presented the obsidian essences.

Lu Zhou nodded. “Very good. King Chen of Wu kept his word.”

“How could he dare to go back on his words?” Yu Zhenghai said with a smile.

“Where is Shen Xi?”

“He went to the Dark and Light Alliance to get the rest of the things. There should be no problem,” Yu Zhenghai replied.

“Understood.”

Lu Zhou said, “Also, Zhao Hongfu has just formed the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar; her combat experience is very weak. Keep an eye on her.”

“Understood,” Yu Zhenghai said before he left.

...

Another day passed.

Lu Zhou continued staying in the small village, showing no signs of leaving.

The Dark and Light Alliance gave the promised items to Shen Xi.

Everything went without a hitch.

...

At the Evil Sky Pavilion in the golden lotus domain.

It was nighttime; the moon was bright, and the stars were few.

"Second Senior Brother, you just returned to Evil Sky Pavilion. Why are you here alone?" Zhao Yue came to the back of the mountain and found Yu Shangrong standing at the back of the mountain, overlooking the foot of Golden Court Mountain.

Yu Shangrong faced the moonlight and said with a faint smile on his face, "I'm just a little sad about the passing of spring and autumn."

Zhaoyue also sighed and stood next to him. "I agree..."

"Fifth Junior Sister, I remember you severed your lotus as well, right?" Yu Shangrong asked.

"It's all because I was moved by Fourth Senior Brother's nine leaves. In fact, it doesn't bother me that much if my cultivation improves or not. Therefore, Second Senior Brother, you should keep the life hearts for yourself..." Zhao Yue replied with a smile.

Yu Shangrong shook his head and said, "Including the life hearts I'd absorbed in the black lotus domain, I've already absorbed seven. If I use them again, I'm afraid it would be a waste. Although both of us have no Birth Palaces, we can still obtain the power of the life hearts. You just need to strictly follow my instructions."

Zhaoyue nodded and said, "I'll give it a try."

Whoosh!

At this moment, a violent surge of energy appeared in the distant mountain range.

Yu Shangrong and Zhao Yue turned to look in unison.

Soon enough, a person appeared outside of the Evil Sky Pavilion's barrier. It was none other than the new Guardian, Li Xiaomo.

Li Xiaomo said, "Mister Second, Miss Fifth, I'll go and have a look. It's likely a Birth Chart Beast."

"Be careful," Yu Shangrong said.

About 15 minutes later, the top of a mountain slid to the side. Lights from energy seals bloomed in the sky.

Soon enough, an eye-catching black astrolabe appeared in the sky.

Zhao Yue said anxiously, "It seems serious..."

"Fifth Junior Sister, I'm going to take a look," Yu Shangrong said.

“But... You only have ten leaves...”

Yu Shangrong turned to look at her and smiled faintly. With a tap of his foot, he shot up into the sky and flew toward the battle.

...

Yu Shangrong maintained a low altitude. When he was almost nearing the battle, he saw the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar illuminated by the bright moon.

Boom!

A black astrolabe blocked the beam of black light.

“Guardian Li,” Yu Shangrong called out.

“Mister Second, run!”

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Energy seals collided as Li Xiaomo withdrew his avatar and flew to Yu Shangrong’s side. He grunted and spat out a mouthful of blood. He said with great difficulty, “The opponent is very strong; he has five Birth Charts...”

Yu Shangrong flashed and moved to stand in front of Li Xiaomo. He looked ahead and said indifferently, “Tell me your name. I won’t kill someone without knowing their names...”

Li Xiaomo. “...”

How could a Ten-leaf cultivator be so pretentious? This would have been Li Xiaomo’s thought if he had not been warned by Shen Xi and Pan Zhong.

A voice rang in the darkness. “I’m only here to kill Old Demon Lu’s disciple. Mind your own business, Li Xiaomo.”

Li Xiaomo was taken aback. “You know my name?”

The cultivator in the dark knew he had misspoken and immediately said, “Get lost!”

Li Xiaomo said, “Mister Second, don’t bother with him.” Then, he said to the cultivator, “If you have the guts, come to the Evil Sky Pavilion. The Evil Sky Pavilion already has a runic passage. The Pavilion Master can come whenever he wants. Do you dare?”

Yu Shangrong and Li Xiaomo could vaguely see the black shadow retreating slightly. This meant that Li Xiaomo’s bluff had worked.

Yu Shangrong smiled indifferently. “A mere Five Chart cultivator isn’t worthy of my master making a move...”

“...”

Yu Shangrong rushed over.

The cultivator said clearly, "You thought I'd fall for your trick? Old Demon Lu is now in the black lotus domain. I'm afraid he doesn't have time to return to protect you..."

Swoosh!

Yu Shangrong unsheathed the Longevity Sword. He held his sword and advanced in the air.

The cultivator did not attack. Instead, it suddenly turned around and ran.

"Mister Second, don't chase after him!" Li Xiaomo cried out.

Nevertheless, Yu Shangrong did not heed Li Xiaomo's advice. His gaze was locked on the black figure, not letting external factors affect him.

The two opponents were incredibly fast. They shot past mountains, cities, and rivers.

Yu Shangrong could absorb life hearts, but he did not have the power of the Birth Charts. Every time he drew close to his opponent, his opponent would use the power of the Birth Charts to widen the distance between them. It was clear his opponent possessed the power of a speed-type Birth Chart.

...

The bright moon hung in the sky, shining down on the Heavenly Moat's mountain range.

Buzz!

The black figure finally came to a stop above the Heavenly Moat. He turned around to look at Yu Shangrong who was chasing him in shock. "Is this still the Hundred Tribulations Insight's speed?"

Seeing that his opponent had stopped moving, Yu Shangrong came to a stop thirty meters away.

"Why aren't you running?"

"I've arrived at my destination..." the black figure said.

"I know that you deliberately lured me to the Heavenly Moat. Well, I have to say this place is a good burial ground for you," Yu Shangrong said.

The black figure. "..."

'Weirdo! The master is strange, the disciple is strange as well!'

The black figure said, "I don't know where you get your confidence from. Today I'll show you the difference between the Hundred Tribulations Insight and the Thousand Realms Whirling..."

Chapter 1035: Can't Make Up For The Difference

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation **Editor:** EndlessFantasy Translation

The black figure controlled the black astrolabe.

The astrolabe was the biggest difference between a Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar and a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar.

The Birth Chart disk on the astrolabe shone brilliantly like the afterglow of the moon. The beam of light from the Birth Chart power shot toward Yu Shangrong.

Swoosh!

Yu Shangrong flashed and advanced. He cast Return and Enter Three Soul, dodging the beam of light and manifesting energy swords. His expression remained calm as he brandished the Longevity Sword gracefully.

The Longevity Sword moved like the wind in Yu Shangrong's hands.

The black figure suddenly felt that his opponent was not as simple as he had imagined. The fact that his opponent managed to catch up to him was more than enough to show his opponent was not as simple as a Ten-leaf cultivator. He had already been cautious, but he still could not help but feel shocked when he saw the energy swords and

Yu Shangrong's speed.

Thrust, slash, raise, block, strike; the moves were completed in one second.

The black figure had no choice but to hold the astrolabe the other way around to defend himself.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Every time the sword fell on the astrolabe like a violent storm, a thunderous noise would ring in the air.

The best defense was to attack. This was the philosophy that Yu Shangrong had always adhered to since he cultivated the sword path.

The residual energy from the sword attacks hit the mountain, causing rocks to tumble down.

'How's he so fast?' The black figure grew even more surprised.

Stab, point, slash, advance, attack.

Yu Shangrong's speed increased again. This was his first time facing a Thousand Realms Whirling expert alone so he was serious and cautious when attacking with his sword techniques.

The speed of Yu Shangrong was so fast that it caused his sword to hum.

The black figure was forced to retreat once again. He rushed toward the north of the moat.

Golden sworn energies descended on the moat immediately. The light was as dazzling as the sun.

When the cultivators in the golden lotus domain's Liang Province sensed the surge of energies, they rose up into the sky to have a look.

The snow that fell all year round did not melt as the golden light continued to shine.

Slash, strike, swipe, stab, strike.

The speed of Yu Shangrong's sword could no longer be seen with the naked eye. The black cultivator could only rely on his instincts and experience to dodge. The longer he defended himself, the more frightened he grew.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Creak!

The black astrolabe began to dent.

To be able to dent an astrolabe showed that Yu Shangrong's offensive strength was incredibly strong.

The astrolabe continued to creak.

The black figure was shocked to his core. He flashed backward rapidly and said through gritted teeth, "I don't believe you can keep up with me..."

The black figure flashed three times in a row before he came to a halt.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

It was out of the black figure's expectations that Yu Shangrong would also flash three times in a row, maintaining the same speed as him. Moreover, the speed of Yu Shangrong's sword was even faster than before.

"Guiyuan Sword Technique."

Energy swords appeared in all directions. Hundreds of thousands of energy swords that looked like golden spikes hovered in the air.

Upon seeing this, the black figure finally could not hold back anymore. He shouted, "What an old-fashioned fighting method. You don't understand the Thousand Realms Whirling at all! It's useless if you only have speed and strength!"

Boom!

With the black figure in the center, the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar rose into the sky. Its vast and earth-shattering power sent Yu Shangrong flying.

A slightly shocked expression appeared on Yu Shangrong's face. He stopped brandishing his sword and placed it horizontally in front of his body. He flipped several times in the sky before he stabilized his footing. The energy swords he had manifested in the sky were all destroyed by the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar.

The snow continued to fall down the Heavenly Moat.

Now that the black figure managed to break free from the suppression of Yu Shangrong's sword technique, he charged over. "It's my turn!"

One after another, fist energies shot out.

Yu Shangrong smiled indifferently. "If this is the extent of your power, I'm afraid it's insufficient..."

Bang!

After the energy fist hit Yu Shangrong's sword, both opponents were immediately pushed thousands of meters back.

The Longevity Sword thrummed; the sound reverberating in the Heavenly Moat.

The Thousand Realms Whirling avatar stood behind the black figure like a demon. It emitted a dim light that boosted its strength and defenses.

Despite the numbness in his arm, Yu Shangrong said indifferently, "I've already said it's not enough."

At this moment, a golden Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar suddenly appeared behind the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, releasing tens of thousands of energy swords. Each energy sword was thousands of meters long as it shot toward the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar's body.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The black figure was shocked. "What's this?"

The black figure had never seen an avatar that had mobility before.

With golden leaves, the powerful energy swords, and the moving avatar, the black figure statue-like avatar was nothing but a huge target. Regardless of how tough it was, it was still uncomfortable having to endure the onslaught of attacks.

The astrolabe creaked, and its power was like the mystic river in the void...

The black figure cried out wretchedly under the attacks of the energy swords. His air was unkempt, and his eyes were bloodshot. He endured the pain from the attacks his avatar suffered as he channeled the Birth Chart Power to his fist.

Boom!

The power of his fists was like a meteorite, leaving ripples in the sky. A thunderous noise rang in the air immediately, echoing in the nine heavens.

Meanwhile, the cultivators who were watching the battle did not dare to move closer despite being curious after they felt the violent and vast energies.

"Who is fighting in the Heavenly Moat?!"

"It's so powerful. Look at the golden light. It has to be some expert from the golden lotus domain."

"It's been a long time since we've seen such strength. Is it really a Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar?"

Almost no one believed that a Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar could release such terrifying energy swords.

Since the other opponent was a black lotus cultivator, under the night sky, it was difficult to see his black avatar clearly. Only if they drew close enough would they be able to see the black lotus.

Bang!

The Longevity Sword trembled and bounced back, hitting Yu Shangrong's chest. He let out a muffled groan and fell toward the Heavenly Moat. Since his golden avatar was too far away from him, it disappeared into thin air.

Upon seeing this, the black figure laughed maniacally. "No matter how strong you are, you can't make up for the difference between the Hundred Tribulations Insight and the Thousand Realms Whirling..."

The black figure flew back to the center of his avatar, and his astrolabe returned to its position as well. At this moment, the black lotus began to spin; the 36 triangles on the Birth Palace shone at the same time. With this, energy fists began to light up again.

Yu Shangrong, who was still falling, frowned slightly. Was it really impossible for a Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar to defeat the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar? His surging blood qi annoyed him. The once-mighty Sword Devil was at disadvantage just because of a difference in realms.

At this time, the black figure looked down at the bottomless abyss and said, "That's the entrance to the Black Water Mystic Cave? It seems like that'll be where you die! You don't have a Birth Chart; how are you going to defend against my fatal fist?"

Swoosh!

The black figure swooped down; his two energy fists shooting toward Yu Shangrong who was now standing near the Heavenly Moat.

The two fists shot down like bullets, leaving black energy in its wake.

Yu Shangrong's expression was solemn as he muttered to himself, "You can't even defeat a Five Chart cultivator?"

Yu Shangrong stood unmoving as he looked at the sky with a determined expression on his face. "Avatar."

Yu Shangrong merged with his golden Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar.

Upon seeing this, the black figure sneered. "Great. I'll send you and your avatar to your graves..."

Yu Shangrong lifted his hands to the sky; his avatar mirrored his actions. At the same time, ten golden leaves as bright as the sun flew to the top, revolving around his hands.

"Let's see if the Hundred Tribulation Insight avatar can defeat the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar," the black figure said disdainfully as his fists landed.

A horizontal wave of energy rippled out violently when the two forces collided, cleaving a mountain into two.

Boom!

The golden avatar with ten leaves blocked the two fists.

The two opponents fell into the abyss.

Yu Shangrong was rather familiar with the abyss. The first time he had descended into the abyss was to save Yu Zhenghai. Now, it was to save himself.

"Die!" The black figure's fists kept pressing the golden avatar down into the abyss.

Yu Shangrong kept falling and falling...

Chapter 1036: He's Destine To Be Extraordinary

Under the suppression of the Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator, Yu Shangrong and his opponent fell for a long time in the dark abyss like meteors.

The stalemate in strength made both of them unable to let their guard down in the slightest. They did not stop struggling and attacking.

"You actually blocked my Heavenly Luo Fists!?" Shocked flashed in the black figure's eyes. His Thousand Realms Whirling avatar was behind him, pushing down on Yu Shangrong who was holding up the sky with his hands.

Yu Shangrong said, "You have no other moves left."

"Isn't it the same for you?"

"No." Yu Shangrong's eyes flashed confidently.

As they continued to fall, they began to feel a suction force from below.

At this moment, Yu Shangrong suddenly broke away from the suppression of the Heavenly Luo Fists!

"Trying to escape? It's futile!"

The black figure and the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar dove. The Heavenly Luo Fists seemed to grow in intensity as he followed closely behind Yu Shangrong.

At this time, Yu Shangrong withdrew his avatar and accelerated the speed of his fall. The sound of wind howling rang in his ears, and he could not see anything below. He did not know how long the fall lasted. When the suction force was at its strongest, he suddenly came to a stop and looked up. Then, he raised the Longevity Sword with both hands.

"This sword is at the flood grade and has completely bonded with me. If you want to die, I'll grant your wish!" With that, Yu Shangrong raised his Longevity Sword and aimed it at the black figure that was diving down at top speed. His expression was calm as though daring the black cultivator to clash with him head-on.

The diving force was too great. If they collided, both of them will likely suffer heavy injuries.

The black figure stared at Yu Shangrong resentfully. Just as he was about to hit the sword, he turned his body to the side. The difference of a millimeter was like thousands of miles.

This side fell from Yu Shangrong's side.

"The brave will win when they meet on a narrow path. You're not worthy..." Yu Shangrong seized the chance when the black figure fell to the side and swung his sword with all his might.

Bang!

An energy sword shot out and hit the body of the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar.

Bang!

A wave of energy rippled out immediately.

The black figure grunted. However, it was only at this moment that he discovered the violent suction force from below him. He hastily turned around and manifested his astrolabe and Birth Chart Power.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Both opponents brought each other down.

Swoosh!

A fierce wind began to stir and suddenly, the space opened up.

Both parties were brought down by the power of the other party.

Under the light of the golden avatar, the two opponents could see the surging black water below them.

"We're already in the Black Water Mystic Cave!" The black figure was shocked.

Yu Shangrong advanced and brandished his sword.

The two opponents once again engaged in a fierce battle.

Energy seals collided in the sky; one side was clearly more dominant than the other.

Yu Shangrong's performance had long subverted the black figure's understanding of cultivation. It was impossible for a Ten-leaf cultivator to even endure a blow from a Thousand Realms Whirling expert? How did his opponent do it?

"Calm Disturbance." Yu Shangrong's move calmed the violent wind immediately, and he turned the black water into his swords. The water surged toward the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar like a tsunami.

The black lotus cultivator spun around and quickly withdrew his avatar. His astrolabe appeared in his hand to block the attacks from all directions, sending the energy swords flying.

"Return and Enter Three Souls." Yu Shangrong seemed like he did not know exhaustion as he continued to advance and attack.

The black figure had almost used up all his Birth Chart Power at this point. He could also feel it was getting more and more difficult to deal with Yu Shangrong. Yu Shangrong's moves were deadly and precise.

"Fine, let's see who's stronger!" The black figure finally decided to give up on defending. He no longer retreated and rushed out to meet Yu Shangrong.

Bang!

The Longevity Sword stabbed at the black figure's protective energy, and at the same time, black fists arrived in front of Yu Shangrong.

Boom!

The Longevity Sword breached his opponent's protective energy.

At the same time, the black figure spun around and swung his fists with all his might at Yu Shangrong.

Yu Shangrong's Longevity Sword managed to injure the black figure's body. However, he was also injured by his opponent.

Splash!

The two opponents' visions disappeared immediately when they fell into the black water.

The black figure knew he could not continue like this. If he lost his way in the water, only death awaited him. Even if he was a mighty Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator, the lack of vision and loss of direction could still be deadly.

Boom!

Yu Shangrong created a monstrous wave and emerged from the surface of the water.

At the same time, the black lotus cultivator flew out from the water as well.

The two opponents faced each other from afar.

The black lotus cultivator panted heavily and said through gritted teeth, "You're injured..."

Yu Shangrong smiled indifferently. "It's not a big deal to me. Aren't you afraid that the black water is poisonous?"

"You!"

At this point, Yu Shangrong was no longer anxious. He said, "Tell me, who sent you to kill me?"

"You want to know? Why don't you go to hell and ask the king of hell?" the black figure said coldly.

Yu Shangrong shook his head. "Even now, you still think that you can kill me?"

"Of course," the black lotus cultivator said, "The most important thing for a cultivator is confidence..."

Yu Shangrong agreed with the black figure's words. "I admire your confidence. Unfortunately, it's misplaced..."

"You're not a Ten-leaf cultivator," the black lotus cultivator finally gave voice to his suspicion.

"I am," Yu Shangrong replied honestly, "If I were a Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator, you'd have died long ago..."

"..." The black lotus cultivator's eyes widened as he gulped. He knew Yu Shangrong was telling the truth. Avatars were among the few things that were difficult to conceal and disguise. His opponent's avatar was truly a Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar. He found it difficult to accept; how could a Hundred Tribulations Insight cultivator fight with him, a Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator?

"What's your name?" Yu Shangrong asked before he said, "I don't kill those without a name..."

"Su Heng..." the black figure replied, "I don't kill those without a name either. What's your name?"

Yu Shangrong replied, "Yu Shangrong..."

Su Heng chuckled and nodded. "So it's really you! Good! Very good!"

"Since you know me, you still dare to be arrogant?" Yu Shangrong did not bother to conceal the derision in his tone.

"There aren't many people I admire. Apart from Tower Master Xia, Tower Master Lan, and the Black Emperor, there isn't a fourth person until now..." Su Heng said.

Yu Shangrong smiled and said, "It's an honor."

Su Heng exhaled deeply before he raised his right hand. His Thousand Realms Whirling avatar appeared again. "It's time to end this!"

"Indeed!" Yu Shangrong's Longevity Sword hovered in front of him. One turned into two, two turned into four, four turned into eight...

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Energy swords appeared one after another in the air. There were nearly 300,000 energy swords in the air.

Yu Shangrong did not hold back at all.

Similarly, Su Heng gave it his all as well. All the Birth Chart Power from the Thousand Realms Whirling stage was concentrated in his fists.

The two opponents charged at each other from 1,000 meters away. One was like an avalanche while the other was like a tsunami.

Just as the two opponents were about to collide...

Splash!

The black water surged high up into the sky, separating the two opponents. Faced with the towering wave, the two opponents were like the size of a fly.

Both of them wore shocked expressions on their faces.

At this time, a low groan rang in the air before the black water parted and an indescribably huge sea beast shot up above them.

Everything was frozen in an instant.

As the sea beast flew up, the droplets of water easily repelled the energy swords.

Under the light from the remaining energy swords, Yu Shangrong and Su Heng saw the sea beast's underbelly. It was black, and one of its scales that reflected golden light was several meters long. They could not see the beast's full appearance at all.

When the energy swords and Thousand Realms Whirling avatar vanished, darkness descended again.

Both of them were frozen in the black water.

A radius of ten miles around the sea beast was completely frozen.

When several small sea beasts that were lucky enough to escape being frozen saw the two humans encased in ice, they rushed over immediately.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

No matter how hard they tried, they failed to break the ice.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Many other sea beasts joined in.

The two opponents were just like ice sculptures, unable to move.

In the end, the small sea beasts gave up, resentfully returning to the water.

At this moment, it was as silent as a graveyard.

Chapter 1037: An Invitation to Senior Lu

The ice was 10,000 feet deep, and the freezing wind blew for tens of thousands of miles.

There was no light and no sound.

In this frozen world, the coldness would seep into one's bones and marrow.

Even cultivators like Yu Shangrong and Su Heng were unable to endure the endless cold.

With his body temperature, Su Heng managed to melt a hairline crack on the ice, but as soon as the water droplets fell, they were frozen into ice again. He released his energy to protect himself; if this situation continued, he would be crushed into mincemeat by the ice. He found he could mobilize very slight Primal Qi and could still use Voice Transmission. Most of the Primal Qi had been blocked by the ice that encased him; it was as though he had been cut off from the outside world. However, he was a Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator; he could survive for a long time on his internal breath.

At this time, Su Heng sent a voice transmission to Yu Shangrong. "You won't live for long..."

Similar to Su Heng, Yu Shangrong was completely encased in ice. He had lost all mobility; he could not even smile. He had tried to break the extremely thick layer of ice but failed. In order to do so, he needed enough Primal Qi. It was unfortunate he was cut off from most of the Primal Qi in the block of ice.

Yu Shangrong replied through voice transmission, "You should feel lucky. If the sea beast didn't freeze us, you would've died under my sword."

Su Heng replied, "You're still so stubborn in this situation. The ability to freeze is very rare. If I'm not mistaken, that sea beast earlier is a beast king. The Black Water Mystic Cave has been a dangerous place since ancient times. There are all kinds of fierce beasts in here. Once you encounter a fierce beast strong enough to break through the ice, you're doomed to be food in its stomach..." He continued to say, "Thousand Realms Whirling cultivators aren't afraid of being frozen. It won't be long before I break the ice. As for you, you won't be able to break the ice. You can stay encased in the block of ice and... Y-you... How did you do that?!"

Buzz!

A weak golden sword energy hovered in front of the duo.

Buzz!

Su Heng did not finish his words; he was dumbstruck.

In the endless darkness, there was no doubt the light gave them hope.

“Y-you... H-how did you do this?!” Su Heng kept asking.

Yu Shangrong ignored Su Heng. Instead, he continued to try and mobilize the Primal Qi in his surroundings.

Su Heng asked again, “How did you manage this?”

This was the experience and insight Yu Shangrong had gained from the swordless path. Without relying on objects, he learned to turn everything into swords with his Primal Qi and was learning to turn nothing to swords as well.

Swoosh!

The energy sword disappeared, and darkness returned again.

It was impossible to manifest a stronger energy sword under these circumstances, let alone break the ice.

Yu Shangrong ignored Su Heng. He closed his eyes, resisted the bone-chilling cold, and began to cultivate. Only by cultivating could he live longer. Soon enough, a faint warmth radiated from his Dantian’s sea of Qi to resist the cold.

At this time, Su Heng sent another voice transmission. “It seems like I’ve overestimated you. You won’t be able to live if you continue like this...”

Yu Shangrong continued to ignore Su Heng.

Following that, Su Heng also closed his eyes and began to mobilize the remaining Primal Qi he had left in his Dantian’s sea of Qi to cultivate.

...

In a small village north of the Dark and Light Alliance in the black lotus domain.

Shen Xi bowed and called out, “Pavilion Master. The BTC has sent people to the Evil Sky Pavilion. Li Xiaomo fought with the other party for a while and got injured. However, Mister Second arrived in time and fought with the other party above the Heavenly Moat before they fell into the abyss...”

Lu Zhou opened his eyes and frowned slightly. “Do you know who’s the culprit?”

“It must be Duan Xihua’s men! When I went to get Yan Zhenluo, I saw Su Heng. Li Xiaomo fought with him before, and from his description, I’m sure it’s Su Heng!” Shen Xi said.

Lu Zhou closed his eyes and silently chanted the mantra for the power of sight.

Lu Zhou only saw darkness. The surroundings were quiet as well.

‘Where’s this? The Black Water Mystic Cave?’

Since he could use the power of sight on Yu Shangrong, it meant that Yu Shangrong was not dead.

Based on his understanding of his second disciple, he knew although his second disciple seemed stubborn and arrogant, in fact, his second disciple knew his limits and could make very accurate judgments in the shortest time. This kind of innate talent had helped his second disciple to walk out of the Melilot Graveyard and pass through tens of thousands of miles of dangerous land when his cultivation base was damaged. He knew his second disciple did not live until today because of luck.

Lu Zhou opened his eyes. Then, he looked at Shen Xi and said, “Tell me about Duan Xihua...”

Shen Xi nodded and said, “Duan Xihua has been in the BTC for at least 3,000 years now. When he first joined the BTC, he only had three Birth Charts. From being a blackguard, he climbed his way up until he became the Second Elder of the BTC. He currently has no less than eight Birth Charts. Now that Shi Youran, the First Elder is dead, Duan Xihua has become the leader of the other elders...”

Lu Zhou asked, “What are the stances of the conservative and the liberal factions?”

“Needless to say, they don’t get along at all. The Tower Master is more of a conservative. He prefers to keep to the captive plan. However, with the loss of the BTC’s monopoly of the red lotus domain and the recent controversy with the WTC, many people have switched to supporting the radical faction... It really depends on the Tower Master’s attitude, but the Tower Master rarely makes his stance clear,” Shen Xi explained.

“Who else in the BTC is a match for Duan Xihua?” Lu Zhou asked.

“The Third Elder and two judges, with Jiang Jiuli being one of them. Jiang Jiuli has always been very diplomatic. Although he’s weaker than Duan Xihua, his ability to survive isn’t to be underestimated. The Tower Master also thinks highly of him,” Shen Xi said.

“Are there no outstanding people among the ordinary members in the Upper Tower of the BTC who can break the balance?” Lu Zhou asked.

“No. If there’s an outstanding talent, they would be immediately recruited by the high-ranking officials. Yan Zhenluo, whom you want me to bring out of the BTC, is one of those who take a neutral stance. However, being neutral isn’t exactly good. On the contrary, it made him the target of everyone’s bullying,” Shen Xi said.

There was a reason why people would look for support or congregate in groups. Without support, one would definitely be bullied.

“Although Duan Xihua from the radical faction, he never confronts his opponents head-on. He prefers to scheme and sow discord. In other words, he’s a two-faced person,” Shen Xi said indignantly.

“Xia Zhengrong actually kept someone like that in the BTC?” Lu Zhou asked.

Shen Xi sighed. “There are advantages and disadvantages to that. Duan Xihua is highly capable. As long as he doesn’t threaten the Tower Master’s position, the Tower Master will turn a blind eye to the things he does.”

Lu Zhou nodded. With Shen Xi's description, he had a vague understanding of Duan Xihua. "In that case, I'll kick him out of the BTC..."

...

Five days passed in just a blink of an eye.

During these five days, Lu Zhou would check in on Yu Shangrong and observe his condition. However, it was all dark.

Lu Zhou finally stopped cultivating in the morning. He leaned against the window to look at the rising sun.

At this moment, Shen Xi rushed over and fell to one knee before he said, "Pavilion Master, a red flying chariot has been spotted in the northeast..."

Upon hearing the commotion, Yu Zhenghai and Zhao Hongfu rushed over.

"Master."

"Pavilion Master."

Shen Xi continued to say, "If I'm not mistaken, that red flying chariot belongs to the WTC's Lan Xihe. Since she dares to ride on that ostentatious flying chariot, I'm afraid she came prepared..."

Zhao Hongfu said, "The WTC's Lan Xihe. I think I've heard of this name before; it seems like she's quite powerful?"

"It's more than that. Up until now, no one has defeated her..." Shen Xi said.

Lu Zhou said, "This Lan Xihe truly does have some abilities..."

Shen Xi was speechless. His meaning was to leave and avoid the WTC. Let the WTC and the BTC fight while the Evil Sky Pavilion reaped the benefits.

Shen Xi was about to speak up when a blue-clad woman flew over and said, "My master invites Senior Lu onto the flying chariot..."

Chapter 1038: Fulfilling the Bet

Shen Xi and Yu Zhenghai. "..."

The duo was dumbfounded while Zhao Hongfu looked around blankly.

The duo wondered when Lu Zhou got acquainted with Lan Xihe.

Lu Zhou answered as he flicked his sleeves, "Lead the way."

Whitzard flew from the backyard to Lu Zhou and brought Lu Zhou away.

Yu Zhenghai, Shen Xi, and Zhao Hongfu watched, dumbstruck. It took a while for them to regain their senses.

Shen Xi said, "M-mister First... P-Pavilion Master, isn't Pavilion Master too reckless? Is he planning to fight head-on?"

Yu Zhenghai said, "Why are you worried? I remember you were there when Wu Guangping died. Do you still not understand my master?"

"Uh... I t-think I do..." Shen Xi said. Following that, a list of names appeared in his mind: the Black Tower Council's judge, Wu Guangping, dead; the White Tower Council's judge, Ning Wanning, imprisoned; the White Tower Council's judge, Nangong Yutian, dead; the White Tower Council's First Elder, Xu Chen, dead; the Black Tower Council's First Elder, Shi Youran, dead; the Dark and Light Alliance's master assassin, Ye Liuyun, dead; one of the five tigers of the Dark and Light Alliance, Yelu Chunan, defeated with one move.

Shen Xi shuddered. He slapped his thigh and said in self-reproach, "How could I forget Brother Pan's words!"

...

The trio followed Lu Zhou and drew level with the red flying chariot.

A graceful young woman could be seen manning the helm of the flying chariot.

The blue-clad woman bowed and said, "Senior Lu, this way please!"

Lu Zhou and Whitzard flew onto the huge red flying chariot.

Shen Xi. "..."

'Is it right that they're so courteous? What's going on?'

Shen Xi's imagination and the reality were vastly different, and it took him a long time to recover from his shock.

Yu Zhenghai and Zhao Hongfu were about to follow into the flying chariot when the blue-clad woman raised a hand and said, "I'm sorry. The White Tower Council only welcomes Senior Lu."

Lu Zhou, who had landed on the deck, turned around and asked, "Lan Xihe, is this how you treat your guests?"

A voice as calm as water rang from within. "Let them all come up."

"Understood." The blue-clad woman lowered her hand, no longer barring their way.

The black lotus domain's endless mountain range, the small village shrouded in mist, the verdant forest, and the rapid river were all insight from the flying chariot. They made for an incredibly beautiful sight.

The trio from the Evil Sky Pavilion walked to the side and enjoyed the scenery.

At this time, some maids brought a few chairs out onto the deck.

Lu Zhou did not stand on ceremony and took a seat immediately.

The red flying chariot flew southwest at a neither fast nor slow speed.

At this moment, Lan Xihe said, "I hate the sunlight. You know that..."

Yu Zhenghai and Shen Xi. 'You know that?'

There were too many meanings behind those words. It was too much for the duo to wrap their minds around.

Lu Zhou said, "Let's not beat around the bush. Did you bring the agreed-upon stakes?"

The blue-clad woman detached a purple cloth bag from her waist and opened it in front of everyone.

Obsidian essences appeared in front of everyone's eyes. The obsidian essences were shaped like long and narrow leaves. It emitted a dark light. It looked vaguely like a small boat. Although it was not big, its value was immeasurable. It was acknowledged as a rare material in the cultivation world and was necessary to upgrade items and weapons.

"So many obsidian essences?" Shen Xi gulped.

Zhao Hongfu said, "Obsidian essences. A rare material used to upgrade weapons. If the quality is good, it will set the foundation for the 'permanent grade'..."

"Permanent grade?" Yu Zhenghai turned to look at Zhao Hongfu, puzzled.

"It's something I made up. I don't think there's any permanent grade item in existence so far," Zhao Hongfu said.

Lan Xihe said, "Not bad, young lady. You're quite knowledgeable."

Zhao Hongfu laughed and said, "Of course. I'm the most outstanding student in the Runes Academy."

At this moment, Lu Zhou raised his hand and interjected, "Very good. I hope you won't go back on your words."

Lan Xihe said, "Although the obsidian essences are precious, it's not worth me going back on my words."

Lu Zhou looked into the distance.

A cool breeze blew past.

"Are you so sure I can't win against Xia Zhengrong?"

"Because Xia Zhengrong isn't one who admits defeat," Lan Xihe said.

"So even if he loses, he won't admit defeat?"

"If I say too much now, I'm afraid you'll regret our bet," Lan Xihe said in her voice that was as calm as water.

Lu Zhou rose to his feet and moved to the side of the deck. He looked at the mountains and forests as he asked, "I killed Xu Chen and captured Ning Wanqing. Aren't you angry?"

"It's the punishment they deserve."

Lu Zhou continued to ask, "Do you agree to the captivity plan?"

"The weak are prey to the strong. Even if there is no White Tower Council, there'll be the Black Tower Council or even the Red Tower Council."

"The Black Tower Council monopolized the red lotus domain. Where does the White Tower Council monopolize?" Lu Zhou asked bluntly.

Lan Xihe did not reply for a long time; it was obvious she did not want to answer this question.

This was within Lu Zhou's expectation. He asked another question, "Who will win between you and Xia Zhengrong?"

Lan Xihe did not hesitate at all as she said, "Me."

"So confident?"

"This is the confidence a cultivator should have."

"Then why didn't you kill Xia Zhengrong? Wouldn't the White Tower Council rule over everything then?" Lu Zhou asked.

"Keeping them around makes things more interesting..." Lan Xihe said.

"..."

Upon hearing this, Shen Xi and Yu Zhenghai really wanted to retort that Lan Xihe was too pretentious and too confident for her own good. However, it was to be expected; she was the Tower Master of the White Tower Council after all. As the Tower Master, her strength must be extraordinary.

At this moment, Lan Xihe asked, "I'm very curious. How did you break the heaven and earth shackles in the golden lotus domain? The limit was only eight leaves..."

"By severing the lotus," Lu Zhou replied. It was not completely false.

Lan Xihe fell silent for a moment before she said, "It's unexpected that you can think of this method." Following that, she swiftly changed the topic. "Have you been to the Unknown Land?"

This time, it was Lu Zhou's turn to remain silent. He was not in a rush to answer her. Instead, he was pondering her purpose in asking this question. It was impossible for him to activate 12 Birth Charts in such a short time; it was not surprising that Lan Xihe suspected that he had gone to the Unknown Land. If he said he had not been there, she probably would not believe him. Therefore, he replied, "I have."

"No wonder." Lan Xihe was not surprised by his answer.

"Have you been there before?" Lu Zhou asked in return.

"..."

Shen Xi held his breath. The conversation between the big bosses was truly direct, exciting, and informative.

Lan Xihe did not deny it. "I've been there."

"You've obtained the Great Void energy," Lu Zhou said.

“So have you.” Although Lan Xihe did not sense the Great Void energy on Lu Zhou, she was certain he had the Great Void energy since he was able to activate 12 Birth Charts in such a short time.

Lu Zhou did not correct Lan Xihe.

Lan Xihe continued to say, “Many people participated in the Great Void Expedition back then. However, there was no participant from the golden lotus domain.”

Lu Zhou. “...”

‘What a cunning woman. She deliberately set a trap...’

Lu Zhou replied unhurriedly, “Who said one must participate in the Great Void Expedition in order to go to the Unknown Land?”

Lu Zhou gave himself full marks for his reply.

Lan Xihe could not find any flaws in his reply. She changed the topic again and said, “Perhaps, I’ve underestimated you. After all, you’ve obtained Whizard’s approval.”

“It’s just Whizard; it’s not worth mentioning,” Lu Zhou replied.

At this moment, the blue-clad woman walked over and bowed. “Master, Senior Lu, we’ll be arriving in the Land of Shu in 15 minutes.”

Lan Xihe said, “Alright.”

Chapter 1039: The Dispute Between the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council

Inside the red flying chariot.

Lan Xihe turned and looked at the three people standing at the side. It was just a quick glance so she did not have a good look at their appearances. However, she could sense Yu Zhenghai, Shen Xi, and Zhao Hongfu’s locations. She nodded slightly and asked, “Are they your subordinates?”

Without waiting for Lu Zhou’s introduction, Shen Xi said very politely, “This is the Pavilion Master’s eldest disciple. I’m a Guardian of the Evil Sky Pavilion, and this is the new runemaster of the Evil Sky Pavilion.”

Lan Xihe said softly, “The guardian has four Birth Charts...”

Shen Xi. “...”

Shen Xi felt he was being despised. However, he could not take offense; after all, Lan Xihe had the strength to look down on him. With four Birth Charts, no matter if it was the Black Tower Council or the White Tower Council, he definitely was far from being qualified to be a guardian.

Lu Zhou said, “Ability doesn’t depend on strength and cultivation base alone. Guardian Shen has made many contributions to the Evil Sky Pavilion and is one of my capable subordinates...”

Shen Xi’s loyalty instantly soared by 20%.

Lu Zhou had only spoken the truth; he did not expect Shen Xi to be moved.

During Shen Xi's time in the Black Tower Council, no one had ever acknowledged him. Otherwise, he would not have saved his life and left the Black Tower Council. In his opinion, the Black Tower Council that treated people from the Lower Tower like tools were not worthy of him sacrificing his life for them.

Sometimes all one needed to win someone over was to acknowledge their efforts.

Lan Xihe said, "You have a point. Your runemaster seems very young..."

Zhao Hongfu laughed. She looked no different from a man now as she said, "Being young is an advantage. The people from the Runes Academy all said that I'm highly talented. I believe them!"

Lan Xihe said, "I heard that the Runes Academy found a group of children to learn runes hundreds of years ago. However, most of them perished or were disqualified. Only one person managed to learn the runes. You're the person, right?"

Zhao Hongfu smiled awkwardly. "Uh... Can we not talk about this?"

Lan Xihe smiled gently. "You're indeed very talented, but you integrated too late. It's very surprising that the Great Yuan's royal court didn't kill you."

"They dare? I have the Pavilion Master's support now. If they try to kill me, the Pavilion Master will kill them," Zhao Hongfu said ingratiatingly as she snuck a glance at Lu Zhou.

Lan Xihe stopped talking.

At this time, the blue-clad woman bowed and said, "We're now in the Land of Shu. Fifty miles southwest will be the territory of the Black Tower Council."

"Alright," Lan Xihe said.

Shen Xi knew Lu Zhou had never been to the Black Tower Council so he took the initiative and said, "The Black Tower Council covers an area of 10,000 hectares and is in the shape of a heptagram. There are 36,000 Dao inscriptions inside and outside of it. There are seven main towers that control seven different grand formations respectively."

"Grand formations?" Lu Zhou raised an eyebrow. He had personally witnessed the power of a few grand formations. For example, Great Yan's Ten Absolute Formation and the grand formations in the red lotus domain. Since the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council could easily use the Eight Desolate and Six Harmony Flags, how could the formations in their nests be weak?

Lu Zhou wondered if Lan Xihe had lured him into a trap. He shook his head; even if Lan Xihe did not make a bet with him, he would still come to the Black Tower Council.

...

Soon enough, the red flying chariot flew into the Black Tower Council's territory.

One could immediately see seven towers that pierced through the clouds. They were so tall that the tops could not be seen. Clouds swirled around the middle of the towers.

All the buildings on the ground were arranged in the shape of a heptagram as well.

Finally, the red flying chariot came to a stop near the Dubhe Tower.

At the same time, several people flew over at a low altitude before coming to a stop 100 meters away from the flying chariot.

The blue-clad woman took the initiative to say in a clear voice, "Please inform Tower Master Xia that my master wants to see him."

The few black-clad cultivators did not waste time and flew back into a black tower.

Soon after, an old man flew over. He hovered in the air and said, "Lu Si pays respect to Tower Master Lan. Please follow me, Tower Master Lan."

Lan Xihe said, "I'm here because of a certain matter. There's no need for me to go in..."

The old man looked puzzled. "Tower Master Lan, it's rare that you visit us... If we don't give you the right treatment, I'm afraid Tower Master Xia will blame us..."

Lan Xihe said, "I came here because of something important..."

Upon hearing this, Lu Si did not dare to delay any longer. He said before disappearing without a trace, "Tower Master Lan, please wait a moment."

Lu Zhou looked down at Black Tower Council's land and said, "Even you don't dare to enter. What's so special about the tower?"

"I'm not afraid. I just don't think it's necessary," Lan Xihe replied.

"I'll believe you for now," Lu Zhou put his hands on his back and said, "If he doesn't show up, who wins the bet?"

"Since he avoided the fight, it'll be counted as you winning the fight," Lan Xihe replied.

"At least you're a fair person," Lu Zhou said.

At this moment, Yu Zhenghai said, "Master, the Black Tower Council's internal strife is bad and so are their conflicts outside. I'm afraid he won't show up."

"He'll show up," Lan Xihe calmly said.

"You're so confident?" Said Lu Zhou.

The blue-clad woman said with a smile, "There's no one my master can't meet. The Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council have been fighting for so many years, but the only person Xia Zhengrong doesn't dare to provoke is my master..."

"..."

As soon as the blue-clad woman's voice fell, three people appeared above the Dubhe Tower. They did not leave. Instead, they transmitted their voices from afar.

A deep voice rang in the air. "As it turns out it's Tower Master Lan who decided to grace us with her presence..."

Lan Xihe said bluntly without beating around the bush, "I'm here today because I have a favor to ask of you."

"Tower Master Lan, please speak."

"I made a bet with the Pavilion Master of the Evil Sky Pavilion... I bet that you can beat him," Lan Xihe said.

The tall shadow hovering in the distance was none other than Xia Zhengrong, the Tower Master of the Black Tower Council.

"The Pavilion Master of the Evil Sky Pavilion?"

At this moment, Lu Zhou flew out of the red flying chariot. He looked at the shadow and said, "It's me."

Xia Zhengrong's voice was calm as he replied, "You're far more impressive than the rumors said..."

Lu Zhou said bluntly, "You heard what Lan Xihe said. I must win the bet..."

The blue-clad woman felt a little uncomfortable that Lu Zhou used Lan Xihe's full name. However, since her master did not say anything, she could not say anything about it.

Xia Zhengrong ignored Lu Zhou and looked at the red flying chariot. "Is that why Tower Master Lan came?"

If Lan Xihe did not come, Xia Zhengrong would not have come out even if the sky collapsed. He did not expect Lan Xihe had come because of a bet. Moreover, what did the bet have to do with him? Why was he dragged into the bet?

Lan Xihe said, "If Tower Master Xia can win against Pavilion Master Lu, the White Tower Council will only focus on the white lotus domain for the next 1,000 years."

Lu Zhou was slightly surprised. Regardless of whether Xia Zhengrong won or lost, Lan Xihe would have to pay a huge price either way. Did Lan Xihe like Ye Tianxin so much?

Xia Zhengrong was tempted by Lan Xihe's offer. The Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council's conflict was getting old. 1,000 years of peace was a huge concession on her part as well. At the same time, he wondered what was at stake for Lan Xihe to make such an offer. In the end, he raised his voice slightly and said, "Alright."

The Black Tower Council did not look like it had many people. However, the seven main towers, the heptagram formation, the Land of Shu with Dao inscriptions everywhere showed that the Black Tower Council was not simple at all.

However, Lu Zhou had many trump cards in his possession. If he did not care about saving, it would be even easier for him to take down Xia Zhengrong. The only thing that concerned him was how much he could save and finding the most cost-saving method to achieve the best results!

Lu Zhou said, "Xia Zhengrong, I have a piece of advice for you."

"Please speak, Pavilion Master Lu."

"If you fight me, you'll lose without a doubt. If you directly choose to admit defeat, it'll save you a lot of pain," Lu Zhou said.

Xia Zhengrong raised his head and shifted his gaze from Lu Zhou to the red flying chariot. Then, as though he had long made up his mind, he said without any hesitation, "I admit defeat."

Lan Xihe, Shen Xi, Yu Zhenghai, and everyone in the red flying chariot. "..."

Chapter 1040: Forcibly Killing Duan Xihua (1)

Xia Zhengrong's decision surprised everyone.

The most surprised person was Lan Xihe who had been fighting Xia Zhengrong for many years. As the saying went, 'The one who knows oneself best is one's enemy.' She was well aware of his temper and character. She had been sure he would step forward and fight Lu Zhou.

Similarly, Xia Zhengrong knew Lan Xihe very well. He knew Lan Xihe was not one to go back on her words, and yet, he still chose to admit defeat.

Meanwhile, Shen Xi who was witnessing the scene between the three big bosses was indescribably excited. He had to clench his hands tightly to calm down.

At this moment, Lan Xihe, who was still sitting in the red flying chariot, finally frowned, marring her usually expressionless face. After thinking about it for a moment, she thought Xia Zhengrong's decision was reasonable. The conflict between the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council ran deep after all. The Black Tower Council could not wait to see the White Tower Council fall. Sooner or later, they would fight to death for their respective interests. There was no need to offend the powerful Evil Sky Pavilion just for a promise.

Lu Zhou hovered in the air and nodded in satisfaction. "Very good." He turned around and looked at the red flying chariot before he said, "Lan Xihe, this bet ends here. The winner has been decided."

The blue-clad woman was unresigned. She bowed at the red flying chariot and said, "Tower Master Xia, Xia Zhengrong is doing this on purpose!"

Lan Xihe's expression eased; her face returned to its expressionless state as she said, "Give that thing to Pavilion Master Lu."

"Understood." Even if the blue-clad woman was unresigned, she could only obey the order. She took the purple cloth bag that contained the eighty obsidian essences out.

Yu Zhenghai said, "You can just pass the bag to me..."

After taking the bag, Yu Zhenghai carefully counted the obsidian essences before he put it away. Then, he looked ahead happily.

Xia Zhengrong naturally saw the exchange, but he did not know what was in the bag. However, this had nothing to do with him so he said, "If you don't mind, you can come in for a visit..."

Lan Xihe said, "No. Let's return."

"Understood."

Xia Zheng Rong cupped his fists together and said, "Then I won't send you off. Tower Master Xia, have a safe journey..." Then, he cupped his fists at Lu Zhou and said, "Farewell, Pavilion Master Lu."

From the beginning to the end, Xia Zheng Rong did not leave the heptagram formation and stayed near the black tower.

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "Wait."

"Pavilion Master, what is it?"

"I came here for two reasons," Lu Zhou said.

"Please speak, Pavilion Master Lu," Xia Zhengrong said.

At this moment, the red flying chariot that had turned around suddenly came to a halt.

Lan Xihe was curious and decided to watch the show.

Lu Zhou said, "First, your man injured my man. Second, the Black Tower Council sent people to knock my disciple down to the abyss that leads to the Black Water Mystic Cave. We still don't know if my disciple is dead or alive."

Upon hearing this, Xia Zhengrong frowned. "Is this true?"

"You know now it's true," Lu Zhou said.

Xia Zhengrong asked in a deep voice, "Who's so bold as to attack Pavilion Master Lu's people?"

Shen Xi who was standing in the distance hurriedly replied, "Who else could it be? Of course, it's Duan Xihua."

Xia Zhengrong fell silent for a moment before he said, "Pavilion Master, in the Land of Chaos, many forces fought for Ying Zhao. The Black Tower Council lost its First Elder, You Shiran, and many blackguards? Why don't we call it even?"

Before Lu Zhou could say anything, Yu Zheng Hai said indignantly, "What a joke! Can the lives of those low-lives compare to my Second Junior Brother's life?"

"..."

Xia Zhengrong's voice turned solemn as he said, "Pavilion Master, I'm trying my best not to make an enemy out of you. Why are you being so aggressive?"

"I'm not forcing you, but Duan Xihua, who is trying to sow discord. If you kill Duan Xihua in front of me, I will let bygones be bygones," Lu Zhou said.

The atmosphere grew tense instantly.

Meanwhile, Lan Xihe silently watched from the red flying chariot. She even waved her hand to part the curtains wider. She looked at Lu Zhou hovering in the air before she shifted her gaze to Xia Zhengrong and the two figures who were hovering in front of the Dubhe Tower.

Xia Zhengrong said, "If you can spare others, then spare them. Why do you have to kill all of them?"

At this moment, Lan Xihe, who was sitting in the red flying chariot, finally broke her silence. "Tower Master Xia, it's not a wise move for you to protect the villain."

Xia Zhengrong fell silent for a moment. Then, he said to the figure on the left, "Summon Duan Xihua here."

"Understood." The black figure flew into the black tower.

In less than ten minutes, the figure returned. He bowed and said, "Elder Duan isn't feeling well; he's resting in the Megrez Tower. He gave this to me." Then, he handed a note to Xia Zhengrong.

After reading the note, Xia Zheng Rong silently closed his hand around it. When he opened it again, the note was already reduced to ashes. Following that, he said, "Pavilion Master Lu, I'm sorry. Elder Duan isn't feeling well. How about this? The Black Tower Council is willing to give you another ten obsidian essences..."

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "It seems like you're determined to protect him?"

Xia Zheng Rong said, "I have no choice."

Lu Zhou said indifferently, "Well, if you insist on doing it the hard way..."

Swoosh!

Lu Zhou flew up in the sky.

Upon seeing this, Lan Xihe's eyes flashed in surprise.

At the same time, Xia Zhengrong flew up to the sky and arrived at the top of the black tower. He manifested his astrolabe and said, "Pavilion Master Lu, please return!"

Lu Zhou glanced at Xia Zhengrong; Xia Zhengrong was still in the range of the heptagram that covered the seven main towers.

The black astrolabe was as big as the sky, blocking Lu Zhou's path. He did not retreat. He turned around and said, "Lan Xihe, do you think I'll be able to kill Duan Xihua?"

Lan Xihe did not answer.

Lu Zhou raised his right hand as he advanced. Blue light shone from his hand as the scripts for Abandon Wisdom appeared.

Lan Xihe murmured, "It's blue..."

Boom!

Lu Zhou flashed forward and smacked his palm against the black astrolabe.

The sky seemed to shake, and the Dao inscriptions on the black tower rippled.

Creak!

The astrolabe was slightly dented.

Xia Zhengrong put away the astrolabe. He looked up in surprise as he asked, "Pavilion Master Lu, why must you insist on this matter?"

As soon as the black astrolabe was withdrawn, the residual energy from Lu Zhou's palm strike hit the air.

At this moment, Lan Xihe reminded, "Pavilion Master Lu, it's best not to go in."

Lu Zhou glanced at the formation with densely packed Dao inscriptions. It was like a layer of glass, separating the inside from the outside. Even Lan Xihe was wary of the Dao inscription formation. Nevertheless, he followed the Dao inscriptions and flew toward the Megrez Tower.

Xia Zhengrong followed suit and flew to the Megrez Tower as well before he looked up at the sky.

Lu Zhou looked around before he chanted the incantation for the power of hearing. He heard the sounds of discussions from all directions, shocked voices, and... a disdainful voice...

"Don't panic. He can't break the Dao inscriptions. Even Lan Xihe is wary of the Dao inscriptions. Moreover, Tower Master Xia is there."

"Old Demon Lu isn't weak. It's best to be cautious. This Lan Xihe is too despicable; she's trying to sow discord. Tower Master Xia didn't fall for her trick, but Old Demon Lu did!"

Then, Lu Zhou heard a low voice from another corner of the Megrez Tower.

"You want to kill me, Duan Xihua? You're too naive. I'm afraid you can't even pass Xia Zheng Rong's test."

After a moment, the same person said, "Take advantage of the fact he's causing a commotion here and kill his disciples and subordinates."

"Understood."

Lu Zhou cut off the power of hearing and looked in the direction where the voice came from. He said, "Xia Zhengrong, I'm going to ask you one last time. Do you really intend to protect Duan Xihua with your life?"

"If you can spare someone, you should spare them," Xia Zhengrong said, "Pavilion Master Lu, please don't fall for Lan Xihe's trap."

Swoosh!

A figure charged into the Megrez Tower.

Lu Zhou's golden palm seal landed on the Dao inscription, but it only caused a ripple.