

Disciples 1041

Chapter 1041: Forcibly Killing Duan Xihua (2)

The palm seal was just to test the water.

The Black Tower Council's Dao inscriptions' defenses were truly strong. If it could withstand the power of the supreme mystic mystery, then it was all over.

"These Dao inscriptions..." Lu Zhou muttered under his breath.

Swoosh!

The black figure saw the Dao inscriptions were not destroyed so he flashed away quickly using his grand technique.

Lu Zhou was sure the black figure was not Duan Xihua but Duan Xihua's man. It was not worth wasting a Deadly Strike Card on such a person. Then, he sent a voice transmission to Yu Zhenghai and the others, telling them to be careful.

Yu Zhenghai, Shen Xi, and Zhao Hongfu retreated upon receiving Lu Zhou's reminder. They turned around and looked at the red flying chariot. If the White Tower Council attacked at this time as well, they would be in deep trouble.

After the black figure disappeared at the northwestern end, Lu Zhou struck again.

A golden palm seal that was much stronger than before shot out.

Boom!

Similar to before, it only left a ripple that disappeared soon after.

Upon seeing this, Lan Xihe and Xia Zhengrong were puzzled. Old Demon Lu's palm strike looked just like the strength it took to scratch an itch. The difference between the blue palm strike and the golden palm strike was too unbelievable.

Xia Zhengrong continued to hover in the air and observe Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou's palm strikes landed one after another, but they did nothing to the glowing Dao inscriptions. Following that, he flew above the Megrez Tower and struck with his palm again. Then, he nodded slightly.

He silently chanted the mantra for the power of hearing again.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

Lu Zhou expanded the range of his hearing until he heard the voice in the Megrez Tower again.

...

Di Xihua who was seated on a chair banged his fist on the armrest as he said, "That's all? The two elders really died in vain. Isn't he afraid Lan Xihe will stab his back?"

Duan Xihua was crafty and had many backup plans. Even if Lu Zhou managed to destroy the Dao inscriptions, he still had other ways to escape. Nevertheless, he did not think there was no need for him to escape. After all, this was the Black Tower Council's territory. Even Lan Xihe would not step into the Black Tower Council's territory unless it was necessary.

...

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoos!

Lu Zhou heard the sound of Primal Qi surging. It should be from the hidden expert whom Duan Xihua sent out.

He cut off the Heavenly Writing Power and flew toward the red flying chariot.

When Lu Zhou sensed the intense fluctuation from the Primal Qi, he raised his right hand. Unnamed in the form of a bow appeared immediately. He said indifferently, "Vermin!"

Just as Lu Zhou was about to make his move, a blazing white light appeared out of thin air where the Primal Qi was surging. Soon enough, a blooming snow-white lotus appeared and released its energy.

Boom!

Faced with the attack from the snow-white energy, the black figure, who had been hiding, was sent flying.

The snow-white energy churned in the air like a tornado as it shot out energy saber at the black figure. In just an instant, the black figure was reduced to pieces of meat.

After the light vanished, Lan Xihe could be seen hovering in the air. The veil concealed her face, but it could not conceal her slender body and arms.

"Master." The blue-clad woman bowed.

"Lan Xihe?" Xia Zhengrong said, surprised by her action.

Lu Zhou put Unnamed away.

Lan Xihe said, "These people came with me; they're guests of the White Tower Council. The White Tower Council is obligated to ensure their safety..."

In the end, it seemed like the White Tower Council had chosen to ally itself with the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Indeed, it was not wise to offend a woman. She had lost 50 obsidian essences because of the Black Tower Council, and now, she was repaying them in kind.

Xia Zheng Rong frowned and turned around. "Who else is there? Come out!"

No one responded.

Lu Zhou looked at Xia Zhengrong and said, "You know the answer to that."

"Pavilion Master Lu, I've been honest with you today. I can guarantee that Duan Xihua has nothing to do with this," Xia Zhengrong said.

At this moment, Duan Xihua emerged from the Megrez Tower. He coughed, feigning sickness. He looked up and asked, "Who wants to harm me?"

When Lu Zhou saw Duan Xihua walking out of the Megrez Tower, he said icily, "I've been waiting for you..."

An ordinary Deadly Strike Card appeared in Lu Zhou's hand, and he crushed it immediately. A miniature vortex appeared in his palm, churning out a tsunami-like energy before he struck with his palm. He did not want to waste time talking to Duan Xihua and just wanted to kill him as soon as possible.

Buzz!

The same golden palm seal shot out again.

Xia Zhengrong stood in the air and shook his head. "Pavilion Master Lu, why bother?"

The golden palm seal was naturally different from the ones before. It was the Daoist's A Hundred Rivers Return to the Sea.

Coupled with Lu Zhou's palm seal and the Primal Qi's fluctuations, he now had the strength to stir up the wind and clouds. His power was as vast as a tsunami.

Meanwhile, Xia Zhengrong watched carefreely. He did not think Lu Zhou was capable of destroying the Dao inscriptions. Although Lu Zhou's aura was strong, his strength was not that great. Moreover, the 3,600 Dao inscriptions could even withstand the collective attacks from a group of experts.

On the other hand, a disdainful smile appeared on Duan Xihua's face.

Bam!

When the palm seal landed on the Dao inscriptions, Lu Zhou personally smacked his fingers on the glass-like barrier that contained the Dao inscriptions.

Clang!

A palm-shaped hole appeared on the glass-like barrier immediately.

Xia Zhengrong's eyes widened in shock.

A hint of surprise flitted past Lan Xihe's face. "He really broke the Dao inscriptions!"

Duan Xihua looked at the broken barrier with his eyes wide open. When he tried to move, he discovered his legs seemed to be frozen. Even his body seemed to be frozen. Fear began to rise in his heart. He hastily raised his hand and manifested his astrolabe with a diameter of a few meters to shield himself.

Logically speaking, most of the power from the palm seal should have been depleted by the Dao inscriptions. Its remaining power would not be able to do much harm.

At this moment, Lu Zhou passed through the Dao inscriptions and kicked the palm seal toward Duan Xihua.

Bang!

The palm seal accelerated and hit the astrolabe.

Creak!

The astrolabe was instantly dented.

“How?” Duan Xihua had just finished speaking when the huge palm seal continued to advance and landed on his face, pressing him to the ground.

A Thousand Realms Whirling avatar appeared and disappeared into Duan Xihua’s body.

“Ding! Destroyed one Birth Chart. Reward: 6,000 merit points.”

Boom!

After the palm seal dissipated, Lu Zhou stood with his hands on his back and he descended and stepped on Duan Xihua’s back. Naturally, he knew Duan Xihua was not dead; Duan Xihua had only lost one Birth Chart after all.

Lu Zhou exerted more strength as he stepped on Duan Xihua. Then, he glanced at Xia Zhengrong before he said, “I’ll teach you a lesson on behalf of Tower Master Xia.”

Duan Xihua grunted and spat out a mouthful of blood.

At this moment, flames of fury began to rise in Xia Zhengrong’s eyes. “You’re going too far.”

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Cultivators from the other six main towers began to rush over. There were blackguards; the ordinary members; the Third Elder, Feng Kui; the Fourth Elder, Lu Si; the judges, Jiang Jiuli, Luo Huan, and Chen Xiao.

In the end, hundreds of cultivators gathered around Lu Zhou.

Shen Xi said anxiously, “The Pavilion Master is surrounded.”

“Let’s just wait and see,” Yu Zhenghai calmly replied.

“Alright.”

Zhao Hongfu, the newcomer, was naturally worried. “What should we do? The Dao inscriptions have repaired themselves again!”

Lan Xihe rose higher into the sky and looked down.

The blue-clad woman followed suit before she asked, “Master, do you plan to help him?”

“There’s no need for that. Since he’s able to enter, he should be able to come out. In the end, I’ve underestimated him.”

At this moment, Lu Zhou hovered next to Megrez Tower and calmly surveyed his surroundings.

Duan Xihua lay on the ground, trying to suppress his fear. He said, "You killed Wu Guangping, Shi Youran, and so many blackguards, and now, you want to kill me! Brothers, if you don't act now, you will be the next to die!"

Boom!

A blue light appeared under Lu Zhou's feet. He used the supreme mystic power and stomped on Duan Xihua again.

A miserable cry rang in the air.

"Ding! Destroyed one Birth Chart. Reward: 6,000 merit points."

Duan Xihua was firmly entrenched in the ground, unable to move. He grunted and spat out another mouthful of blood again.

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "Duan Xihua, you think you're worthy of going against me?"

The cultivators in the air looked at each other in dismay. There was at least one-third of them who did not sympathize with Duan Xihua at all; these people, especially the Third and the Fourth Elder, were mostly from the conservative faction that had a deep conflict with the radical faction.

On the other hand, the remaining cultivators glared at Lu Zhou with fire in their eyes. How could they stand Lu Zhou trampling on the pride and dignity of the Black Tower Council? Where was the dignity of the Black Tower Council?

At this moment, someone shouted from a corner, "If we don't kill Old Demon Lu today, when will we have the chance again?"

With this, dozens of blackguards swarmed forward.

Chapter 1042: The Collective Demotion of the Black Tower Council

Duan Xihua rose up, seizing the chance to push Lu Zhou away.

Lu Zhou silently recited the mantra from the Heavenly Writing. In just an instant, a blue lotus bloomed under his feet. The blue lotus increased in size until it was even bigger than the Megrez Tower.

The lotus leaves covered the surroundings, and the supreme mystic power swept out violently like a storm.

The 20 blackguards who were charging at Lu Zhou instinctively erected their protective energy. Some of them even manifested their astrolabes to shield themselves.

The indescribably huge blue lotus continued to release irresistible and terrifying energy.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

All the blackguards standing close to the Megrez Tower were sent flying; one of them even died.

Many Thousand Realms Whirling avatars appeared before disappearing again.

"Stay down!" Lu Zhou said as he stepped on Duan Xihua who had just sat up.

At this moment, the top of the Megrez Tower slid to the side before it fell. Just like that, half of the Megrez Tower was gone. That was not all; all the buildings in a radius of 100 meters were also cut off in the middle by the blue lotus' energy.

The Dao inscriptions in the sky were destroyed again. It seemed as easy to break as tofu. However, soon after, the Dao inscriptions mended themselves again.

Xia Zhengrong was forced to retreat swiftly; he only came to a stop when he crashed into one of the buildings. He looked at Lu Zhou in shock; he barely held onto his life earlier. 'How strong is this old man?'

Xia Zhengrong quickly looked down to check his armor, gauntlets, and knee pads. They were all damaged by the energy of the blue lotus! What could be seen on his skin was oozing blood.

Duan Xihua was truly frightened out of his wits now. "S-save... Save... S-save me, T-tower Master Xia. Save me!"

Now that Duan Xihua had lost four Birth Charts, he was only left with five Birth Charts.

Xia Zhengrong surveyed his surroundings.

Suddenly, someone shouted, "Activate the formation of the main tower!"

Xia Zhengrong's expression turned unsightly immediately. He was always very cautious; he cherished his life very much. Who was this person who kept giving instructions in the dark? He roared, "Stop!"

The Fourth Elder, Lu Si, said, "We can't stop! Things have already escalated to this point; we can't stop now! Activate the Tower Formation! Now!"

Buzz!

The seven main towers lit up with a dark light immediately. Even the damaged Megrez Tower was emitting a dark light.

Lu Zhou frowned and shouted, "Xia Zhengrong!" He tapped his foot and soared high into the sky. The cold was biting, and the wind blew against his black hair.

Xia Zhengrong did not know why, but when Lu Zhou called out his name earlier felt fear coursing through his veins even though he was in his territory.

"You really don't know what's good for you!" The Supreme Mystic Card appeared in Lu Zhou's palm before they dissolved into spots of starlight. In just an instant, he was surging with the supreme mystic power.

Lu Zhou's eyes glowed blue as he blocked all seven beams of light.

His hair, his body, his clothes, his palm seals were all shrouded with a blue light at this moment.

The Heavenly Writing Power's power of sight, power of hearing, and power of smell were all activated at the same time.

Like a phantom, Lu Zhou vanished into thin air. He appeared high above the Mizar Tower and released the blue energy. Just like that, the buildings within 1,000 meters were flattened.

Following that, seven huge blue lotuses bloomed above the seven main towers: the Alioth Tower, the Phecda Tower, the Merak Tower, the Megrez Tower, the Mizar Tower, and the Alkaid Tower. The seven huge blue lotuses covered the sky above the Land of Shu.

Everyone raised their heads and looked at the incredibly dazzling and beautiful blue lotuses in awe. Each of the blue lotuses radiated a terrifying strength and killing intent. They bloomed for thousands of miles.

Just like that, the Seven Towers Heptagram Formation was broken by the supreme mystic power.

With the Supreme Mystic Card, Lu Zhou did not hold back and went all out.

Subsequently, he returned to the Megrez Pagoda.

Duan Xihua's shadow was nowhere to be seen; he was long gone.

No one dared to breathe loudly as they watched in trepidation.

"You think you can escape? How naive." Lu Zhou shook his head as his hair that was tinted blue by the energy fluttered in the air. Without any warning, he suddenly launched ten palm seals toward the back of a building that was 100 meters behind him.

The blue palm seals smashed against the building at lightning speed, crashing through the wall.

Bang!

The palm seals hit Duan Xihua's chest one after another.

Duan Xihua's Thousand Realms Whirling avatar appeared and disappeared, repeating the process a few times.

Each palm seal contained the full power of the supreme mystic power. How could Duan Xihua resist? Each of the palm seals destroyed one Birth Chart.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The supreme mystic power lifted Duan Xihua up suddenly.

Duan Xihua's eyes were wide with fear. The continuous strikes from the palm seals had left a bloody wound on his chest and destroyed all his Birth Charts. He was suspended in the air, hanging limply, like a fish on a chopping board.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

When the final palm seal disappeared, nothing remained of Duan Xihua.

"Ding! Killed a target. Reward: 8,000 merit points. Domain bonus: 2,000 merit points."

Lu Zhou turned around. Three of his skills from the Heavenly Writing Power were still activated.

"Pavilion Master Lu, listen to my explanation!"

Lu Zhou flashed into the midst of the cultivators, specifically to where most of the cultivators from the radical faction were gathered.

“Once my anger has subsided, I’ll listen to your explanation.”

Boom!

‘To gain the power of muting so that samadhi will manifest in the body and radiate into the surroundings like light.’

Dozens of blackguards were sent flying in all directions; all of them vomited blood at the same time. Moreover, all of them lost one Birth Chart.

Lu Zhou flashed again.

“Get lost!”

The thunderous sound technique rolled out and swept over the other members of the BTC.

At this moment, even Yu Zhenghai, Shen Xi, Zhao Hongfu, and the others who were waiting outside the BTC’s formation, widened their eyes in shock as they covered their ears.

On the contrary, a frown could be seen on Lan Xihe’s face. No one knew what she was thinking about at this moment.

Meanwhile, Xia Zhengrong flashed around in a frenzy in an attempt to avoid the large-scale attack from the blue lotuses. At this moment, he had lost all the bearing of a Tower Master.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Black lotuses fell like rain and smashed into the ruins.

Lu Zhou turned around and appeared in front of Xia Zhengrong. He said, “It’s your turn now!”

Xia Zhengrong’s expression was incredibly ugly. Earlier, he had already found it difficult to block the residual energy from Lu Zhou’s attack. At this moment, he had no choice but to use his trump card. His Dantian’s sea of Qi exploded with surging power. The power from the 3,600 Dao inscriptions surged with power as well.

Lu Zhou struck, launching ten palm strikes in just one second.

Each of the palm strikes landed on Xia Zhengrong’s arms since he had raised them to protect himself.

Xia Zhengrong screamed in pain. His armor was damaged beyond use, and his arms were exposed. His hair was unkempt, and blood flowed out of his seven orifices. Soon enough, a loud cracking sound rang from his arm before a Thousand Whirling Realms avatar appeared and disappeared again, indicating he had lost one Birth Chart.

Lu Zhou was surprised. He did not expect Xia Zhengrong could block ten strikes that contained the full supreme mystic force with the help of the 3,600 Dao inscriptions. If he did not have the Supreme Mystic Card, he would not have been able to defeat Xia Zhengrong. Let alone the Deadly Strike Card, even the Peak Trial Card might not be enough to defeat Xia Zhengrong. He was certain Xia Zhengrong had more

than 12 Birth Charts. Since he had experienced the peak power of a 12 Chart cultivator, he could gauge Xia Zhengrong's strength.

"I underestimated you," Lu Zhou said indifferently.

Xia Zhengrong roared as an iron weapon shot out from his elbow with powers that could split the mountains and topple the sky.

Boom!

Lu Zhou brought out Unnamed in the form of a shield and channeled his supreme mystic power into it, blocking all of Xia Zhengrong's attack. In the end, he was pushed back 30 meters, and his arms were slightly numb. Apart from that, he was completely unaffected.

'This power...' Lu Zhou was taken aback. He knew this was not the time to be merciful.

Meanwhile, Xia Zhengrong's eyes looked as though they were going to pop out of their sockets when he saw Lu Zhou safe and sound.

Lu Zhou took advantage of the downtime of Xia Zhengrong's attack and flashed in front of Xia Zhengrong again. Just like before, he struck ten times in a row in one second.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Xia Zhengrong endured the pain and retreated quickly. Nevertheless, he still lost another Birth Chart.

Boom!

Xia Zhengrong crashed heavily into the ruins, stirring up a cloud of dust.

"Ding! The time's up for the Supreme Mystic Card."

Lu Zhou thought it was time to call it a day; he did not continue to attack. He looked around, admiring his handiwork.

None of the seven main towers were undamaged.

The entire place was a scene of devastation.

The black lotus cultivators on the ground pressed their hands against their chests as they looked at Lu Zhou who was hovering in the sky majestically with expressions of fear on their faces. Their hearts were beating so fast that it felt as though they would jump out of their chests.

More than half of the members of the BTC had lost one Birth Chart; a few unlucky ones lost two Birth Charts. Only those from the conservation faction suffered the least damage since they were hiding far away from the beginning. Some of them were glad they did not rush into the battle earlier and some of them were in despair that the BTC had been single-handedly destroyed by that big boss.

In the future, this incident would be called the Complete Destruction of the Black Towers as words about it spread in the cultivation world.

Whoosh!

At this moment, someone emerged from the ruins of the Phecda Tower that was 1,000 meters away. He was covered in dust from head to toe. He coughed violently as he patted the dust off his robe. He seemed disoriented as though he did not know where he was. After a moment, he flew to the Megrez Tower.

“Yan Zhenluo?” Lu Zhou finally had a good look at the person’s face. He almost could not recognize him.

Yan Zhenluo surveyed his surroundings, dumbfounded. He shook his head, trying to get rid of the ringing noises in his ears that prevented him from hearing Lu Zhou’s words. He had been imprisoned under the Phecda Tower earlier and was affected by Lu Zhou’s thunderous sound technique. After a beat, he asked in a daze, “Brother... B-brother Lu? What happened?”

“...”

At the ruins 100 meters in front of the Megrez Tower...

Boom!

Xia Zhengrong smashed away the rubble and debris that buried him with one palm.

Lu Zhou turned to look with a slight frown on his face.

Chapter 1043: Either You Compensate or Face Destruction

Lu Zhou’s demonstration had convinced everyone. Although the effect from the Supreme Mystic Card had ended, he was not afraid.

The 3,600 Dao inscriptions in the sky were once again mended.

The formation was really impressive. What made the people terrified of Lu Zhou was the way he damaged the Dao inscriptions over and over again. Who would dare to doubt his ability at this time?

Lu Zhou now understood why Xia Zhengrong did not dare to step out of the formation.

Xia Chengrong coughed violently as he pushed the rubble away and sat up. His face was covered in dust, and his chest was stained with blood. He felt all kinds of emotions when he looked at the ruins in front of him.

Many members of the BTC sat on the ground clutching their chests, looking around in a daze. Some of them shook their heads and sighed and some were sad.

Xia Zhengrong raised his head and looked at Lu Zhou and Yan Zhenluo who were hovering in the air. He coughed violently again. When the coughing subsided, he used his energy to remove the dust from his face and robes, looking better than before. Then, he stood up with great difficulty.

At the same time, Lu Zhou looked at Xia Zhengrong from above. He was not worried at all. After all, since he had used the Supreme Mystic Card, he still had a full supply of supreme mystic power. Moreover, he had Whitzard waiting outside as well so he could replenish his supreme mystic power. Even Lan Xihe probably did not dare to act rashly now, let alone Xia Zhengrong who had lost two Birth Charts.

“I warned you about this...” Lu Zhou said.

Xia Zhengrong shook his head. He began by laughing mournfully before it gradually turned maniacal. "Black Tower... My Black Tower Council..."

Lu Zhou turned around. "Who wanted to explain earlier?"

The members of the BTC retreated instinctively.

Instead, Lu Si, the Fourth Elder of the BTC, flew over from afar with an ugly expression. "I... I..."

"I'm giving you a chance now," Lu Zhou said in a deceptively gentle tone.

"This..." Lu Si sighed heavily, "It's too late to explain now!"

"Too late?" Lu Zhou shook his head, "If you can't give me a perfect explanation... Then, I'll show this isn't the worst thing I can do..."

All the members of the Black Tower Council. "..."

This was a direct threat!

With this threat looming over his head, Lu Si hastily said, "No, no, no, please be merciful. To be honest, Duan Xihua deserves to die. There are many people in the Council of Elder, including the Third Elder and me, who wanted to expel him from the BTC a long time ago. However, Duan Xihua had many despicable means and schemes. Pavilion Master, you're wise; it's unfair to blame all his mistakes on us..."

"So you think you're innocent?" Lu Zhou asked. Then, he looked down and asked, "Don't play tricks with me. Xia Zhengrong, do you think you're innocent?"

Everyone turned to look at Xia Zhengrong.

After Xia Zhengrong calmed down, he sighed and shook his head. "I deserve this, I deserve this!"

After the Third Elder of the BTC saw that the situation seemed to have stabilized somewhat, he flew over from the distance. He sighed and said to Xia Zhengrong, "I've warned you repeatedly that we can't have someone like Duan Xihua in the BTC, but you just won't listen to me. Now that things have come to this, you can't escape from taking responsibility, Tower Master Xia."

The members of the BTC looked at Xia Zhengrong one after another. Many of them knew Duan Xihua's character very well. Why would their Tower Master protect such a person?

Xia Zhengrong sighed. "Since things have come to this, it's useless to say more. Pavilion Master Lu, are you satisfied now?"

Lu Zhou frowned slightly. "It seems like you're still unconvinced. Up until now, you still don't understand what you did wrong. Forget it! There's no need for the BTC to continue to exist in this world."

Lu Zhou raised one hand to the sky. Primal Qi began to converge in his palm. Then, he called out softly, "Whitzard."

Whitzard flew over on auspicious clouds immediately.

"Pavilion Master Lu, please calm down!"

“Pavilion Master Lu, please calm down!”

Many elders from the Upper Tower from the BTC, including the judges, flew over to plead for mercy.

Lu Si turned around and rebuked, “Tower Master Xia!”

The Third Elder, Feng Kui, flew out like an arrow toward Xia Zhengrong and struck him.

Xia Zhengrong was naturally caught off guard. He did not expect an elder from the Elder Council would attack him. He hastily raised his hand to block the attack.

Bang!

Xia Zheng Rong retreated quickly, sending rubble and debris flying up into the sky.

Feng Kui turned around and kneeled on one knee. “Pavilion Master Lu, please show mercy!”

This clearly exposed the serious internal strife in the BTC.

“Tower Master Xia is muddle-headed now and is unsuited to make decisions for the BTC. I suggest the Third Elder take over for now...”

Feng Kui was delighted by these words. He lifted his head and said, “Pavilion Master Lu, Duan Xihua has received the punishment he deserved. Most of the members have lost their Birth Charts. Since Duan Xihua sent someone to hurt your disciple, I’m willing to apologize to you on behalf of the BTC.”

None of the members of the Black Tower Council dared to object. They only sighed in relief when Lu Zhou finally brought his hand down.

At this moment, Xia Zhengrong crawled out of the ruins and spat out a mouthful of blood.

Feng Kui turned around and called out in a low voice, “Tower Master Xia!”

Xia Zhengrong’s body trembled as he glared at the members of the BTC who were staring at him. These were the people whom he had groomed. The blackguards and the people from the Upper Tower; all of them were nurtured by him. At this moment, these people were looking at him in anger and hate.

“Kneel!” Feng Kui barked.

The people of the Black Tower Council followed suit and echoed Feng Kui’s word. “Kneel!”

Their voices were like a flood, drowning Xia Zhengrong.

At this moment, realization dawned on Xia Zhengrong.

Thud!

Xia Zhengrong fell to his knees. “Pavilion Master Lu, please show mercy!”

Xia Zhengrong shouted these words with all the strength he had left.

Upon seeing this, the members of the BTC were visibly relieved.

For the first time in a long time, the members of the BTC were wholly united. It was a pity that they were united against their Tower Master, not the enemies. It seemed like they were not afraid of incurring his wrath and being punished later. At this point, was he still capable of punishing them?

Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction, but he said, "I'm afraid it's not enough."

Everyone's faces paled immediately.

This was within Feng Kui's expectations. He asked, "Pavilion Master Lu, what can we do to satisfy you?"

"Ten obsidian essences and twenty fire spirit stones. As for the rest, I'll leave it up to you."

So it was more compensation.

Ten portions of obsidian essence and twenty portions of Fire Spirit Stones. As for the rest, it's up to you."

At the same time, Lan Xihe, who was hovering in the air, shook his head slightly. Her clear eyes flashed with a hint of pity. She said softly, "Xia Zhengrong must have received some news earlier. That was why he was stubbornly protecting Duan Xihua earlier..."

When the blue-clad woman regained her senses, she bowed and said, "Master, it's dangerous here. I suggest we return to the WTC. It's really too dangerous here."

Lan Xihe shook his head. "Pavilion Master Lu has shown great power. I admit that I'd underestimated him." Then, she sighed and said, "Xiao Lan, do you think I can't win against him?"

"No, no, no, that's not what I mean." The blue-clad woman lowered her head.

Lan Xihe said, "He forcefully killed Duan Xihua, broke the heptagram formation, and the seven main towers... Perhaps, you're right. Let's go..." Following that, she flashed and disappeared from her spot before reappearing in the red flying chariot.

Upon seeing this, Yu Zhenghai flew into the red flying chariot and landed on the deck. "Tower Master Lan, are you leaving? My master isn't done yet. If you leave just like that, it'd be difficult for me to explain this to my master..."

Lan Xihe said, "Please inform Pavilion Master Lu that I won't contact Ye Tianxin again. If you have time, please invite him to the WTC for a chat."

Buzz!

A gentle energy pushed Yu Zhenghai out of the flying chariot. However, he stood firm as though he was welded to the ground. At the same time, Primal Qi surged from his body.

"Hmm?" Lan Xihe looked out at the deck.

Chapter 1044: The Boss from the Great Void

Lan Xihe found it strange that someone who had just formed his Thousand Realms Whirling avatar was capable of standing his ground in front of her. She waved her hand casually, calming the surging Primal Qi, before she asked, "Are you really Pavilion Master Lu's disciple?"

"Of course!" Yu Zhenghai laughed.

"Ye Tianxin is also his disciple?" Lan Xihe asked curiously.

"Of course."

Lan Xihe shook her head slightly. "I'm a little jealous of Pavilion Master Lu. His disciples are all outstanding. The new generation will gradually surpass the older generation. Perhaps, one day I'll be able to see all of you again at the peak..."

At this moment, Shen Xi chimed in, "This isn't that big a deal. The Pavilion Master has ten disciples. Each of them is a prodigy!"

Lan Xihe. "..."

After a short silence, Lan Xihe waved her hand and said, "Let's go."

This time, the white energy that was stronger than before successfully pushed Yu Zhenghai out. He could not withstand it this time.

Shen Xi wanted to chase after the red flying chariot, but Yu Zhenghai raised his hand and said, "Let her go."

"Mister First, why did you try to stop her in the first place?" Shen Xi asked.

"I was just trying to see if she dares to make a move," Yu Zhenghai said with a smile, "I bet she wouldn't dare..."

Shen Xi. "..."

'Is this what a villain looks like when he has a great backing?'

At this moment, Zhao Hongfu suddenly asked, "Then what if she dares to make a move?"

Yu Zhenghai turned to look at her but discovered that he had no reply.

At this time, Feng Kui said in a clear voice, "Everyone, I'll make a decision on behalf of Tower Master Xia today. If you agree, please raise your hand!"

All the members of the Black Tower Council raised their hands. Even Xia Zhengrong raised his hand. However, his eyes were lifeless, and his movements were mechanical.

"Alright." Feng Ku stood up and said to Lu Zhou, "Pavilion Master Lu, the Black Tower Council agrees to your conditions. Ten obsidian essences, twenty fire spirit stones, 10,000 talismans from the Black Tower Council, twenty heaven-grade weapons, and three desolate-grade weapons. What do you think?" Then, as though he was afraid Lu Zhou would ask for more, he hastily said, "This is the Black Tower Council's limit. The members of the Black Tower Council aren't that many, but we have a shortage of weapons. Moreover, we still have to look for a way to find the ten obsidian essences. The gold, silver, jewelry, and other resources belong to the ordinary members of the Black Tower Council."

The Black Tower Council's territory was like a small city. To operate a city, there were indeed all kinds of resources, including food, minerals, cattle, sheep, horses, money, and so on. However, these things held no value to cultivators.

In any case, what Lu Zhou wanted most was obsidian essences. Although he had enough to upgrade the Purple Glazed Ceramic, there were other weapons that needed to be upgraded as well. It was only natural to want more.

Lu Zhou asked, "Are obsidian essences so rare?"

Feng Kui looked at Lu Zhou in confusion. Was this not common knowledge? Naturally, he did not voice out his thoughts. He patiently explained, "The obsidian essence, as the name implied, comes from an ore called obsidian. Obsidians are top-grade minerals. Obsidians in the black lotus domain are incredibly rare. Moreover, it's risky to mine for them. Cultivators with high cultivation bases disdain to do the lowly work of mining while those with low cultivation bases can only use the most primitive method to mine for obsidians. With the cooperation between major forces, there were high-level cultivators who mined for obsidians. Even then, with every 10,000 obsidian, it would only yield very few obsidian essences. The obsidian absorbs the essence of heaven, earth, sun, and moon, and their growth condition is very harsh. Even if we go to the boundary between the black lotus domain and the Unknown Land, we can maybe get twenty obsidian essences."

Lu Zhou asked, "Why does the White Tower Council have so many?"

"In the white lotus domain, there are few trees and many beasts. It's cold and snowy there with many mountain ranges. For the people to survive, they can only work in the mountains, excavating and mining. For generations, they would exchange minerals for other resources..." Feng Kui explained.

Lu Zhou nodded.

At this point, realization finally dawned on Yan Zhenluo. He looked at Lu Zhou in surprise as he said, "Brother Lu, you... you did this..."

"What did you call me?" Lu Zhou raised an eyebrow.

"Uh..." Yan Zhenluo fell to one knee and said, "This subordinate greets the Pavilion Master..."

The members of the Black Tower Council. "???"

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. "Yan Zhenluo, I said that I would come and pick you up personally. How could I go back on my words?"

At this moment, Xia Zhengrong's expression turned a little unsightly.

Yan Zhenluo said, "Thank you, Pavilion Master."

Lu Zhou looked at Feng Kui and said, "Everyone knows that I'm merciful. Today, I will stop at destroying your members' Birth Charts, and I'll spare your lives..."

Feng Kui was overjoyed. "Thank you, Pavilion Master Lu, for showing mercy."

Lu Zhou raised his voice and said, "My disciple has fallen into the abyss, and his whereabouts is unknown. If he dies, I'll bury all of you with him..."

"..."

Lu Zhou continued to say, "Don't try to play tricks with me. If the same thing happens again, all of you won't be so lucky!"

Feng Kui nodded, "It won't happen again!"

Lu Zhou descended.

Meanwhile, Yan Zhenluo was still in a daze as he looked at the devastated Black Tower Council. He could hardly believe his eyes.

Lu Zhou walked to Xia Zhengrong and called out, "Xia Zhengrong..."

Xia Zheng Rong raised his head but remained silent.

Lu Zhou said, "If I can kill Di Xihua, I can kill anyone..."

"..."

This sentence was like knocking on a mountain to scare a tiger. Even the powerful Xia Zheng Rong could not protect them.

Lu Zhou stared at Xia Zhengrong; he could see the regret and helplessness in Xia Zhengrong's eyes.

"I lost," Xia Zheng Rong said, "You're as strong as them."

"Them?"

"You're from the Great Void, right?" Xia Zhengrong asked.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said, "If that's what you think, then that's what it is."

Lu Zhou was too lazy to correct Xia Zhengrong.

The members of the Black Tower Council looked at Lu Zhou in surprise. Realization finally dawned on them.

Xia Zheng Rong chuckled and said, "No wonder. Your surname is also Lu."

"Surname Lu?" Lu Zhou frowned.

Xia Zheng Rong sat down and could not help but laugh.

Lu Zhou shook his head and walked away.

The blackguards standing next to the Dao inscriptions moved to the sides immediately.

Lu Zhou approached the barrier of Dao inscriptions and studied them. At this time, he was completely fearless. He raised his hand and pushed it forward. His palm shone with a terrifying blue light.

Crack!

The Dao inscriptions were destroyed again. A hole could be seen on the barrier.

After Lu Zhou and Yan Zhenluo walked out, the Dao inscriptions mended themselves again.

Lu Zhou and Yan Zhenluo walked out.

Lu Zhou turned around and looked at the Dao inscriptions again. He was impressed by them. If the Evil Sky Pavilion had such Dao inscriptions, they would have nothing to worry about.

At this moment, Yan Zhenluo who was following Lu Zhou said in a low voice, "The Lu person he mentioned is Lu Li's ancestor..."

Lu Zhou asked curiously, "Lu Li is related to the Great Void?"

Chapter 1045: Shocking the Black Lotus Domain

Yan Zhenluo said, "Lu Li's ancestors were said to be incredibly mighty. He used to tell me about them, but I thought he was bragging. However, based on Xia Zhengrong's words, I think it might be true. When he was idle, Lu Li used to brag that his ancestors were the strongest cultivators in the world. He said his ancestors went to the Unknown Land and met with many fortuitous encounters there. Hence, their cultivation bases improved by leaps and bounds. When Lu Li first joined the Black Tower Council, he only had nine leaves. The Black Tower Council only accepted him because of his family background. However, Lu Li didn't disappoint them and helped them come up with the sharing plan that benefited the Black Tower Council greatly. We'll have to ask him more for details..."

Lu Zhou stopped in his tracks. He looked at Yan Zhenluo and asked, "The sharing plan?"

Yan Zhenluo said, "Before the conception of the sharing plan, the Black Tower Council sent people out to various places to look for Birth Chart Beasts and their life hearts. The original intention of the sharing plan was to protect the humans and expel the beasts. In return, they would obtain the life hearts and would give a portion to the locals..."

Lu Zhou said, "I supposed Lu Li didn't expect the sharing plan would evolve into the captive plan, right?"

Yan Zhenluo sighed and nodded. "The Black Tower Council has changed. The captive plan was no longer enough, and the annihilation plan was carried out; it made Lu Li sick for a long time."

"What's wrong with him?"

"..."

Yan Zhenluo said awkwardly, "Many people died in the annihilation plan. Lu Li felt guilty and thought the lost lives were his fault."

Lu Zhou shook his head and said disapprovingly, "He is too young. In a world where the strong prey on the weak, what is the use of feeling sick about something like this if you can't even take care of yourself?"

"You're right, Pavilion Master."

Meanwhile, after Lu Zhou and Yan Zhenluo left the barrier, the members of the Black Tower Council slumped to the ground; fear still lingered in their hearts.

When Lu Zhou and Yan Zhenluo arrived in front of the others, Shen Xi stepped forward and said, "Pavilion Master, Left Envoy Yan, Lan Xihe said she will not look for Miss Sixth again before she left."

Lu Zhou said, "I wanted to have a chat with her. Since she has left, forget it."

Shen Xi said, "I know of a place where we can rest for the time being. Tomorrow we can return to the red lotus domain through the Black Tower Council's runic passage."

"Lead the way."

"Understood."

...

Meanwhile, the collective demotion of the people of the Black Tower Council spread like a wildfire in Great Yuan.

The Dark and Light Alliance and the Great Yuan's royal court were the first to learn of it.

...

King Chen of Wu's residence in Great Yuan's royal palace.

After listening to his subordinate's report, King Chen of Wu slumped against his chair. His eyes were rather lifeless as he muttered, "We've all underestimated Old Demon Lu..."

...

Fan Ruoxi of the Dark and Light Alliance was thoroughly shocked as well when he learned most of the members of the Black Tower Council had lost their Birth Charts to Lu Zhou alone. He was delighted that Zhe Bieli was the one who dealt with Lu Zhou. Not to mention ten obsidian essences, even if he had to give another ten obsidian essences, he would still bite the bullet and look for them.

...

In a lush forest in the red lotus domain.

All the vitality energy in the surroundings gathered toward a cluster of vines and bluewood.

No one knew how long had passed when the sound of barking rang in the air.

Woof! Woof! Woof!

The bluewood parted before a person emerged and soared into the sky.

An energy seal swept out, cutting the vines and trees in the surroundings.

Woof! Woof! Woof!

Qiong Qi flew into the air as well and barked at Mingshi Yin a few times.

Mingshi Yin stretched his limbs as he looked at the miniature avatar in front of him with satisfaction written on his face. "So this is a Two Chart avatar?"

He continued saying, "The process doesn't seem difficult at all. One Birth Chart grants 500 years. With two Birth Charts, I gained 1,000 years. What rubbish! I can't even compare to a 10,000-year-old turtle! I have to work harder!"

Woof! Woof! Woof!

"Doggie, you say, that son of a b*tch doesn't know how to cultivate so how can he live for so long?"

Woof!

"It's useless talking to you. This method is called Stillness. Haven't you noticed those that move don't live long? This is the essence of the Bluewood Heart Technique. Even master is unaware of this..."

Woof! Woof! Woof!

Qiong Qi shook its head as though it was disagreeing with Mingshi Yin.

"It's useless talking to a dog. Let's look for a third life heart!" Mingshi Yin soared high into the sky and looked at the surrounding mountain range. "Doggy, go over there and have a look!"

Woof! Woof! Woof!

"Hey, you're the mount, and I'm the master! Hurry up and do as I say!"

Mingshi Yin raised his hand and manifested his astrolabe before looking at it happily.

...

In the Land of Shu's Xuanzheng in the black lotus domain.

Shen Xi led Lu Zhou and the others to an inn.

Once Lu Zhou entered his room, he checked on Yu Shangrong again.

It was still dark so he had no choice but to cut off his Heavenly Writing Power.

Following that, he brought all the obsidian essences out from the purple cloth bag and placed them in front of him. Including the ones he obtained previously, he had 116 obsidian essences. There were still another ten obsidian essences he would be receiving from the Black Tower Council.

"According to forging principles, we still need other materials..." Lu Zhou thought about the Sky Research Academy.

"Refining Talisman."

He opened the system interface.

Merit points: 1,248,860

Remaining lifespan: 287245 years

Items: Enhanced Deadly Strike Card x1, Impeccable Card x1, Critical Block Card x145(passive), Golden Taixu Mirror, Disguise Card x2, Synthesis Card x2, Deconstruction Card x4, Reversal Card x36

"A million..." Lu Zhou was rather startled when he saw the string of numbers. Was he too cruel earlier?

When he looked at the item cards, as expected the prices had risen.

The Deconstruction Card was sold for 20,000 merit points; the Synthesis Card was sold for 20,000 merit points; the Refining Talisman was sold for 20,000 merit points; the Reversal Card was sold for 500 merit points.

“At least the system has a conscience and did not raise the price of the Reversal Card.”

Following that, Lu Zhou silently bought a refining talisman.

“Use.”

The refining talisman floated in the air before a ball of flame appeared.

After putting the remaining 16 obsidian essences away, he sent the 100 obsidian essences into the ball of flames. Then, he brought the Purple Glazed Ceramic out and tossed it into the flames without any hesitation.

Lu Zhou only glanced at it briefly and no longer paid attention to it.

He wondered out loud, “Where did Ye Zhen obtain the Purple Glazed Ceramic?”

The more he used the Purple Glazed Ceramic, the more he could feel it greatly benefited him.

After that, his thoughts strayed to his current merit points. Although they seemed a lot, it was not enough to purchase 1,500 years’ worth of Reversal Cards.

‘I have to find a way to recover my lifespan. If ordinary life hearts are useless, what else can I do to recover them?’

The life hearts now were suitable for beginners. However, he would need more intermediate and advanced life hearts soon. With so many disciples, the life hearts he possessed were far from enough. Moreover, it took away 1,500 years of life just to reuse a life heart. It was not a solution.

Lu Zhou dismissed his thoughts and looked at the sky before he closed his eyes and meditated on the Heavenly Writing.

...

Meanwhile, deep in the abyss in the golden lotus domain.

It was pitch black and silent; nothing could be seen or heard.

On the calm surface of the black water, coldness permeated the air.

There was no sound from the waves since the surface of the water was frozen as well.

Crack!

A soft sound rang in the air.

“Give up. You can’t possibly break free from the ice. This sea beast king is skilled in ice ability. The cold poison will erode your Eight Extraordinary Meridians and freeze your Dantian’s sea of Qi. It’s not easy for you to hold on until now.” Su Heng’s voice rang in the dark air.

Buzz!

A golden energy sword appeared in front of the duo again, illuminating the pitch-black place.

Su Heng exclaimed in shock, "You managed to condense qi into energy?"

Yu Shangrong ignored Su Heng.

Su Heng only saw a blurry shadow through the layer of ice. However, he could see Yu Shangrong was shrouded with golden light. He cried out, "Avatar? Are you crazy! You're really crazy!"

Chapter 1046: The World's First Eleven-Leaf Cultivator

"What's crazy?" Yu Shangrong asked.

Su Heng said, "You're trying to form a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar and activate a Birth Chart in this environment? You don't even have a Birth Palace! How are you going to form a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar and activate a Birth Chart?!"

Yu Shangrong calmly replied, "There are many untrodden paths in this world. If you don't try, how will you know?"

Su Heng did not think much of Yu Shangrong's words at all. "Preposterous. You're seeking death!"

Yu Shangrong said, "Isn't it good for you if I die?"

"I prefer to kill you with my own hands..." Su Heng really could not accept that he, a Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator, could not kill a Ten-leaf Hundred Tribulations Insight cultivator. To him, this was a great humiliation.

"You thought you missed out on an opportunity, but in fact, you dodged a calamity," Yu Shangrong said indifferently.

Su Heng scoffed. "You're not confident; you're just conceited. Cultivation is the result of many experts' trials and errors in ancient times. Through countless failures, they came to many conclusions. Indeed, there are many cultivation paths in the world, but how can you be sure you'll succeed. I know, I know; you're going to say how will I know if I don't try..."

Su Heng continued to say, "Your understanding of cultivation is too shallow. This ice is capable of creating a natural Birth Trial."

"Birth Trial?" Yu Shangrong was puzzled. He was cultivating a path that no one had ever cultivated before. From the moment he severed his lotus, he was destined to be different from others.

Seeing Yu Shangrong's ignorance, Su Heng's voice took on a tone of superiority as he spoke, "Once one has activated six Birth Charts, one would have to go through a Birth Trial. This is also a test for the six Birth Charts. After passing the Birth Trial, the power of the six Birth Charts will merge and create new abilities. The abilities depend on one's luck. In short, the Birth Trial is actually the process of the six Birth Charts merging and the creation of new abilities."

Su Heng continued to say, "To go through the Birth Trial, one needs to be in incredibly harsh environments such as extremely cold land, hot land, windy land, and so on. The process is incredibly

painful. The best place is naturally the harshest place. Some people even went to the Unknown Land in search of the harshest environment. Unfortunately, they never returned. That's right; the Black Water Mystic Cave is one of the best places to go through a Birth Trial. After the tempering in the harsh environment, one's Dantian's sea of Qi will grow stronger, allowing the Birth Charts to merge. Many cultivators are unable to pass the first Birth Trial and have no choice but to give up. Since you've been to the black lotus domain, you should have noticed that there aren't many who have more than six Birth Charts."

Yu Shangrong said calmly, "No wonder the people of the red lotus domain would rather cross the Endless Ocean than to go through the Black Water Mystic Cave.

"There are many powerful sea beasts in the Black Water Mystic Cave... As long as we keep quiet, we should be able to guarantee our safety. There's no light here so humans are unwilling to come here. What you're doing now is akin to committing suicide. If you form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar at this time, it'll attract the sea beasts, and you'll definitely die. Moreover, you only have ten leaves. If you try to form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar in this harsh environment, you'll definitely freeze your avatar."

When Su Heng saw Yu Shangrong had no intention of heeding his advice, he raised his voice as he said through voice transmission, "Stop! I said stop!"

Due to the lack of Primal Qi, the sound technique was muffled by the ice and did not bother Yu Shangrong.

"Madman! You're a madman!" Su Heng could not understand Yu Shangrong at all.

Meanwhile, Yu Shangrong remained unmoved. Instead, he slowly mobilized the Primal Qi in his Dantian's sea of Qi and channeled it into his avatar after he merged with his avatar. At this time, he looked as though he was plated with a layer of gold.

Buzz!

The sound of energy resonating rang in the air.

Perhaps, Yu Shangrong had absorbed many life hearts, he stored quite a large amount of Primal Qi. He did not even need the Primal Qi from the surroundings.

Yu Shangrong had a strange feeling prior to this. It was as though his avatar had eaten its fill and had reached a bottleneck. He did not know what would happen if he broke through the bottleneck. However, his intuition told him if he kept cultivating like this, he would be able to break through the bottleneck. He wondered if he would be able to form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar after breaking through the bottleneck?

Yu Shangrong did not heed Su Heng's advice; he was determined. He had only one path to take now. As for whether Su Heng lived or died, it had nothing to do with him. In fact, it would be even better if he attracted the sea beasts. He could use them to free himself from this ice block.

Yu Shangrong continued to circulate the Primal Qi in his Dantian's sea of Qi and channeled it into his avatar before he returned it back to his Dantian's sea of Qi through his avatar.

The energies from the seven life hearts Yu Shangrong had absorbed played an important part at this moment. Without the rich Primal Qi and vitality energy, he would not be able to withstand the harsh environment.

...

Time continued to pass.

Neither Yu Shangrong nor Su Heng knew how much time had passed. It felt as though 100 years had passed.

Yu Shangrong was unaware that during this time, his master would use the power of sight to check on him. However, his master only vaguely saw a golden light.

Li Xiaomo, the Guardian of the Evil Sky Pavilion, Ye Tianxin, and the others even went to Heavenly Moat to search for Yu Shangrong for a long time. They even mobilized the cultivators from the golden lotus domain to help with the search. Alas, they did not find anything.

The abyss was too deep. If they were not careful, they would lose their way as well. Everyone searched carefully; no one dared to act recklessly.

Ye Tianxin informed Si Wuya about this matter, and Si Wuya suggested that all the cultivators bring enough talismans. However, they encountered sea beasts and had no choice but to retreat.

Nevertheless, the Evil Sky Pavilion did not stop searching.

Similarly, Yu Shangrong did not stop cultivating.

Su Heng shouted for a long time before he finally gave up. Instead, he slowly mobilized the Primal Qi in his Dantian's sea of Qi to condense them into an energy sphere to break the ice block.

This continued for countless days and nights.

The duo gradually grew physically and mentally exhausted.

At some point...

Buzz!

Su Heng, who had lost all sense of time, heard a noise. When he looked at Yu Shangrong, he saw a golden halo falling from Yu Shangrong's head to his feet. He asked curiously, "You... What are you doing? The halo can't break the ice. It's useless..."

After observing for a moment, Su Heng's eyes widened in realization. "You... You..." He began to laugh, unable to finish his words. After a while, he said, "You... you're using the method to sprout leaves to form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar?"

After saying that, Su Heng laughed again as though he had just seen the funniest joke in the world. As a Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator with five Birth Charts, even he found the cold uncomfortable. His Dantian's sea of Qi felt as though it was filled with ice water.

Yu Shangrong naturally felt the same way, but his degree of discomfort was much higher compared to Su Heng. After all, he only had the Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar. His avatar and Dantian's sea of Qi's resistance to the cold were inferior to Su Heng.

Thousand Realms Whirling cultivators who had activated their Birth Chart would have more or less have resistance to cold and heat. Then there were those like Lu Zhou who was especially resistant to heat due to the special skill he obtained from the life heart of the fierce beast in the Sky Wheel Rift Valley.

Yu Shangrong had absorbed seven life hearts, but none of them could help him resist the cold. It was the will of the heavens, and he could only rely on his willpower to endure it.

Buzz!

Golden halos continued to fall one after another.

In fact, Yu Shangrong had no idea why he was doing this. However, his instincts drove him to do it.

At this moment, Yu Shangrong's black hair and eyebrows were already frosted white. His lips and teeth were frozen as well. Only the streaks of golden energy and his willpower helped him to stay alive.

Su Heng sighed and said, "It's unfortunate I can't kill you with my own hands. Have a peaceful passing..." His instincts as a Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator told him Yu Shangrong was not going to survive. He could sense the weakness of Yu Shangrong's aura, and Yu Shangrong's vitality energy's fluctuation was growing faint as well. In the end, the harsh environment of the freezing Black Water Mystic Cave was not a place a Hundred Tribulations Insight cultivator could endure.

Clack!

A different sound from before rang in the air at this moment.

'Huh?' Su Heng felt his heart thump.

This was the sound of cracks appearing on the ice block.

Su Heng was overjoyed!

"Even the heavens... Even the heavens are helping me!" Su Heng's efforts were rewarded. All his Primal Qi in his Dantian's sea of Qi surged out at this moment, forming an energy saber that pierced the cracks.

Primal Qi from outside began to surge in crazily.

Boom!

Su Heng spread his arms.

A black Thousand Realms Whirling avatar appeared and increased in size, breaking the ice block.

Su Heng hovered above the black water after he freed himself. He looked at Yu Shangrong who seemed like he was on the verge of freezing to death and said, "I'll send you to your death."

Yu Shangrong opened his eyes abruptly. Similarly, the ice shattered as he revealed a faint smile on his face. "You're wrong."

“Huh?”

Buzz!

A golden avatar appeared in front of Su Heng. To be precise, it was a pure golden avatar. A golden halo hung at the back of the avatar, and ten leaves revolved around the halo.

No. Su Heng rubbed his eyes before he counted the leaves carefully and found the number was not right.

“Eleven leaves?!”

Chapter 1047: I Will Walk The Path That No One Walks On

Based on Su Heng’s knowledge, it was impossible to sprout the eleventh leaf, let alone someone who had not even formed the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. Yu Shangrong’s eleventh leaf had completely subverted his knowledge. He could not believe it just like how he did not believe there were 13 months in a year. He rubbed his eyes again and widened his eyes to have a better look.

“Ten leaves...” Su Heng saw the golden halo was indeed surrounded by ten leaves. He sighed in relief. His eyesight must have been bad earlier. Moreover, after being frozen for such a long time, it was normal to hallucinate. Anyway, that was no longer important. He said seriously, “I’m very sorry; I’m just following orders. I must kill you. If you don’t die, I will have to die!”

Subsequently, Su Heng brought out his black astrolabe, shooting out a beam of light toward Yu Shangrong.

The light from the crimson-gold avatar provided Yu Shangrong with sufficient visibility. When the beam of light was about to land, the crimson-gold avatar dodged to the side.

With that, the beam of light missed its mark.

“Huh?” Su Heng was shocked.

At this moment, the crimson-golden avatar rushed out and extended its hand.

Boom!

Su Heng was caught off guard. He raised both of his arms to block the sudden attack. The impact caused him to fall and touch the surface of the black water.

Yu Shangrong lifted his right hand, and the Longevity Sword flew into his hand. He smiled. “You’ll be the first person to die under my sword after I enter the Thousand Realms Whirling stage.”

Yu Shangrong flashed, leaving behind an afterimage. His crimson-golden avatar swooped down as well.

“Thousand Realms Whirling!”

Boom!

The black water surged into the sky, stirring up huge waves.

Yu Heng arrived in front of Su Heng in an instant. In just a breath, dozens of energy swords shot out.

Su Heng's Thousand Realms Whirling avatar released a wave of energy to send Yu Shangrong flying.

"It's too late," Yu Shangrong said indifferently.

At this time, the crimson-gold avatar increased in size rapidly from its initial 200 feet.

300 feet.

400 feet.

500 feet.

500 feet! That was the height of a newly formed Thousand Realms Whirling avatar!

"What kind of cultivation is this?" Su Heng was thoroughly shocked.

"A cultivation path that no one has ever walked on before... Let me show you..." Yu Shangrong said.

The crimson-golden avatar turned around and grabbed the golden halo before using it to slash at Su Heng's Thousand Realms Whirling avatar's chest.

Bang!

Su Heng's Thousand Realms Whirling avatar was injured. He groaned; he felt as though he had been hammered by a thousand gold hammers. He looked up in disbelief as he spat out a mouthful of blood.

Yu Shangrong also brandished his sword to attack at this moment, not giving Su Heng a chance to catch his breath.

The halo in the hands of the crimson-gold avatar was much larger than before. Like before, golden leaves revolved around it.

"Eleven leaves!?" Su Heng's eyes widened as he roared, "Despicable!"

At this moment, Su Heng realized he had been deceived. He hurriedly withdrew his avatar and shot up.

Yu Shangrong chased after him, as fast as the wind.

In the dark, Yu Shangrong's quiet voice rang out. "Too slow..."

Su Heng turned around. The crimson-golden avatar grabbed the golden halo and swept it across his avatar that had five Birth Charts.

Whoosh!

Su Heng was shocked. He had no experience fighting with such an avatar and was forced into a passive position. He could only unleash his grand technique to widen the distance.

Nothing could be seen in the endless dark void.

The golden halo shot out a powerful energy seal, stirring up the black water.

"You're still too slow." Yu Shangrong chased after Su Heng. He could feel the powers of the life hearts he had absorbed were finally at their full potential. They were stable, smoother, and much stronger than before.

Yu Shangrong continued to chase after Su Heng; his speed was no slower than Su Heng who possessed five Birth Charts.

Since Yu Shangrong had just sprouted the eleventh leaf, he was still not very familiar with the new realm and the new avatar. However, as time passed, he grew more and more skilled in using the golden halo, the crimson-golden avatar, and the eleven sharp blades around the golden halo.

The chase lasted for hours.

In the end, Su Heng could no longer endure it. He had been frozen for a long time so he was physically and mentally exhausted. He roared, "You asked for it!"

Su Heng finally came to a stop. He joined his palms together and made a series of hand gestures. In just a moment, many energy seals appeared around him.

Yu Shangrong waved his sword in the air, and the golden light illuminated the dark void.

The black energy from Su Heng's body stirred up the black water in all directions.

The sound of roaring rang in the air.

A low groan rang out from the far distance as though it came from the depths of hell.

Yu Shangrong frowned slightly as he surveyed his surroundings.

At the moment when Yu Shangrong was distracted, Su Heng seized the opening. He held his astrolabe with both hands and charged forward. The five Birth Charts on the astrolabe lit up with a black light and shot out at the same time.

Yu Shangrong could not avoid them. At the same time, his avatar returned and merged with him. He held his Longevity Sword and brought it down. "I'll break your astrolabe!"

At the same time, the crimson-golden avatar held the golden halo with both hands and brought it down in sync with the Longevity Sword.

The sword easily cut through the beams of light. The eleven leaves that were as sharp as blades cut through the beams of light like a hot knife through butter as well.

All of a sudden, the eleven leaves gathered...

Boom!

The astrolabe creaked and dented inward.

Bang!

The impact caused the astrolabe to smash against Su Heng's chest. He threw his head back and spat out blood. His avatar appeared and disappeared.

'He's so strong after sprouting eleven leaves?' Su Heng endured the surging blood qi in his body as he looked at Yu Shangrong in shock. Just this attack alone had destroyed one of his Birth Charts.

Yu Shangrong was confident that he could block the astrolabe or even beat it back, but he was a little surprised he managed to destroy one of Su Heng's Birth Charts.

...

"Ding! Destroyed one Birth Chart. Reward: 6,000 points."

The notification woke Lu Zhou up from his meditative state.

It had been more than half a month; there was still no sign of Yu Shangrong. He was even prepared to go to the Black Water Mystic Cave to look for his second disciple.

During this time, the runic passage between the black lotus domain and the red lotus domain had been opened. It was only a matter of time before the runic passages between the golden lotus domain, red lotus domain, and the black lotus domain were opened. Even if there were no runic passages, with his current status, the other forces would not refuse to lend him their respective runic passages.

Lu Zhou silently recited the mantra for the power of sight.

All he saw was darkness, and he heard the sound of monstrous waves.

All of a sudden, a golden light appeared. In the dark void, it was like a sun that illuminated the surroundings.

An indescribably huge beast emerged from the surface of the black water at this moment. Its bloody mouth was wide open as it leaped up.

Right above the beast's open mouth was Su Heng who was falling rapidly. His previous actions had attracted the attention of the sea beast king! When he looked down, his heart dropped. It was over.

Su Heng manifested his astrolabe that was as big as the sky. He hoped to use it to block the sea beast's bloody mouth.

However, the sea beast king was as fast as the wind and seemed to be able to see through Su Heng's thoughts. It shot out water arrows immediately.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The impact from the sea beast king's attacks sent the astrolabe flying.

Seeing how close the beast was, Su Heng panicked.

Yu Shangrong, who was looking down from above, kept shooting out energy swords to shine on the astrolabe.

Bang!

The huge beast bit the astrolabe, breaking it!

Su Heng cried out in pain. He was severely injured, losing another Birth Chart. Fear, powerlessness, and despair overwhelmed him. All these negative emotions finally prompted him to shout at the top of his voice, "Yu Shangrong, save me!"

Chapter 1048: The Eleven-Leaf Cultivation Path

Yu Shangrong did not move to save him. He withdrew his avatar, restrained aura, and remained silent. He looked at the sea beast quietly.

The sea beast king swallowed Su Heng and his avatar in just a blink of an eye.

Crack!

Fresh blood gushed out from the sea beast king's mouth.

Splash!

The sea beast king fell back into the sea.

Yu Shangrong remained calm. His Seventh Junior Brother had once told him that the Black Water Mystic Cave was far more dangerous than the Endless Ocean. The most powerful beasts were undoubtedly born in the harshest environment. To ensure his safety in the Black Water Mystic Cave, he had to be as silent as possible and restrain his aura. This was especially true for those who possessed the Great Void energy. Those with Great Void energy were like nourishing delicacies for fierce beasts.

Splash!

At this moment, the sea beast king emerged from the surface of the black water again. It leaped 1,000 feet high in an arc before it fell into the water again.

The water surged and waves rose high into the air, splashing water droplets everywhere.

Silence finally returned after a long time. There was no sound and no light.

Yu Shangrong said, "It's a pity. You should've died under my sword."

He looked at the dark void and raised his right hand. The golden halo appeared again. The eleven leaves were like minute needles, pointing at the heart of the halo. It was beautiful.

"Is this halo or hoop my astrolabe?" He wondered out loud.

After all, Yu Shangrong's cultivation method was the first of its kind. Therefore, he had no idea how powerful he was now. However, based on his fight with Su Heng, he could tell his strength was roughly around that of a Five Chart cultivator. In any case, he would only know more after he had a chance to test it out. Su Heng was not very strong among Five Chart cultivators. There were many experts; perhaps, he would have a chance to cross swords with a Six Chart cultivator. No matter what, he had finally broken through the bottleneck.

Yu Shangrong sheathed the Longevity Sword before he took a black talisman out and ignited it.

Si Wuya asked anxiously as soon as he appeared, "Second Senior Brother, where are you now?"

"I'm fine."

"Li Xiaomo said you fell into the abyss. I'm searching you now; don't move around recklessly," Si Wuya said.

"It's just a small problem; don't worry," Yu Shangrong said.

Si Wuya nodded. "That's good. These days master has been very worried about you..."

"Hmm?"

Si Wuya could only hear Yu Shangrong's voice, but he could not see the change in Yu Shangrong's expression. In the end, he said, "Forget it. We'll talk about it when you return."

"Tell master not to worry. When have I ever failed a mission?" Yu Shangrong said indifferently.

After that, the talisman finally burned out.

At this moment, the Longevity Sword flew out.

Yu Shangrong stepped on it and flew up. The runes on the sword lit up faintly and rose in the darkness like a shooting star.

...

Lu Zhou opened his eyes. He muttered to himself in disbelief, "Eleven leaves?"

What kind of cultivation path was this? Let alone him, even cultivators who had long formed Thousands Realm Whirling avatars would not be able to understand this.

Most importantly, Yu Shangrong was safe; he felt much at ease now.

As for the matter with the eleven leaves, he would investigate it later.

He rose to his feet and looked at the blazing flames in the hall. Coincidentally, the fire died down at this time.

"Ding! The Purple Glazed Ceramic has been successfully upgraded to the fusion grade. The recovery speed for the item has been doubled. You have unlocked the ability, Ice Seal."

"Ice Seal is a move where you can release the energy from the Purple Glazed Ceramic all at once. The energy will recover, but it can't be used during its recovery state."

Lu Zhou raised his hand and held the Purple Glazed Ceramic in his hand. When the Purple Glazed Ceramic made contact with his palm, he felt a bone-chilling cold that was different from when it was at the flood grade.

"Isn't this similar to the ability from the Sea Spirit Pearl? This cold energy..."

All his hair stood on end. He had not even released its energy, and yet, the passive energy it emitted was already so fierce. If he released all its energy, how terrifying would it be?

Following that, he tossed the Purple Glazed Ceramic in the air. He walked around it, observing it.

He could see a faint purple gas lingering around the Purple Glazed Ceramic. Its original form could no longer be seen. It looked like a purple ball of light now.

"Fusion grade?"

Lu Zhou brought Unnamed out. It was in its original form: a black oval stone.

“Is Unnamed a fusion-grade weapon?” After a moment, he shook his head. He had a feeling Unnamed was beyond the fusion grade.

There were various grades: black, yellow, earth, heaven, desolate, flood, and fusion. The fusion grade was also known as the universe grade. The universe is like eternity itself.

Lu Zhou shook his head, dismissing his thoughts. He turned his attention to the purple gas lingering around the Purple Glazed Ceramic again.

The Daoist had a saying the purple gas came from the east. It gave people a comfortable feeling unlike the disgusting ones from witchcraft.

“Withdraw.”

After Lu Zhou put away the Purple Glazed Ceramic, he called Shen Xi over to ask about the eleven leaves. Unsurprisingly, Shen Xi did not know anything either. He also used runes to discuss this matter with Si Wuya and the four elders. Similarly, they knew nothing about eleven leaves.

Si Wuya was well-read. If he did not know anything about the eleven leaves, it was unlikely that the others would know unless Lu Zhou spoke to those truly ancient people. Only those who had lived a long life knew more than ordinary people. They had a deeper understanding of the past due to the long lives they had lived. Alas, there was no one like that in the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Following that, he called Yan Zhenluo over to ask about the eleven leaves as well.

Yan Zhenluo said, “Eleven leaves? I don’t know anything about it. However, you can ask Lu Li about it...”

Lu Li looked at Yan Zhenluo and asked, “You’re implying I should bring Lu Li back now?”

“That’s not what I mean. I’ve never heard about anyone with eleven leaves. Perhaps, you can ask the Tower Masters of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council or those old men from Great Yuan’s royal court. It’s a pity that Xiao Yunhe isn’t here.”

Lu Zhou nodded. This matter was of great importance, and he had to treat it seriously. It was not just about Yu Shangrong alone, but the future of the golden lotus domain and all cultivators.

At this time, Yu Zhenghai walked into the room at this time. “Master, there’s news about Second Junior Brother...”

Lu Zhou waved his hand and said, “I know.”

“Uh...”

“I haven’t said anything, but you already know?”

Lu Zhou did not pay attention to Yu Zhenghai’s reaction. Instead, his mind was focused on the eleven leaves and the Great Void.

After a beat, Lu Zhou at Yan Zhenluo and said, "Tell me all about the Great Void Expedition. Back then, the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council cooperated and came up with the Great Void Expedition. What do you know about it?"

Yan Zhenluo nodded and said, "Many people knew about the Great Void Expedition, but very few people knew the details or the truth. There are very few survivors among those who participated in the Great Void Expedition. Tower Master Lan Xihe from the White Tower Council is among the few who survived."

Lu Zhou thought it was, perhaps, necessary for him to visit the White Tower Council to understand the Great Void better.

Lan Xihe had at least 12 Birth Charts so she must have lived a long time. He could also seize the chance and ask about the eleven leaves. He could kill many birds with one stone with the visit.

After a while, Lu Zhou said, "First, return to the red lotus domain and bring Ning Wanqing with you. I want to visit the White Tower Council."

Yu Zheng and Shen Xi bowed in unison. "Understood."

...

At the White Tower Council.

Above the 100,000-feet white tower.

Lan Xihe's long hair cascaded down her back as she looked at the scenery in the distant sky.

At this moment, the blue-clad woman could not help but ask, "Master, is Old Demon Lu really from the Great Void?"

During this period of time, Lan Xihe had been in a daze and was not in a mood to do anything.

Lan Xihe replied, "Perhaps..."

Chapter 1049: The Star Gathering Formation

The blue-clad female attendant was about to speak when an impatient expression appeared on Lan Xihe's face as she said, "You may take your leave. I want to be alone."

"Understood." The female attendant no longer dared to ask any more questions; she could only obediently leave.

After the blue-clad woman descended from the top of the white tower, the elders of the White Tower Council surrounded her one after another.

An elder asked, "The Tower Master doesn't want to see us?"

The blue-clad woman shook her head and said, "I didn't say much before I was asked to leave. All of you are aware of the Tower Master's temper; she's one to keep her words. It's better to wait. We'll speak to her when she's in a better mood..."

“Wait a moment. I don’t care about other things for now. I just want to know if Old Demon Lu from the golden lotus domain is the person who’s responsible for the collective demotion of the members of the Black Tower Council at the same time?” another elder asked.

The blue-clad woman glanced at the elder and said, “I witnessed it with my own eyes.”

“...”

“Alright... We’ll talk when the Tower Master is in a better mood.”

The blue-clad woman looked at the elders’ retreating backs speechlessly. “I thought I’d have a difficult time with them, but it ended just like that?”

...

In the capital of the red lotus domain.

When Li Yunzheng heard Lu Zhou was going to visit the White Tower Council, he went to the Sky Martial Court to invite Si Wuya back to the capital.

“So master is going to the White Tower Council...” Si Wuya did not seem surprised.

“I heard from Guardian Shen that grandmaster displayed his might in the Black Tower Council by collectively destroying the members of the Black Tower Council’s Birth Charts; most of them lost at least one Birth Chart. Not only that, he also destroyed the towers there. Following that, Lan Xihe, the Tower Master of the White Tower Council, fled like a mouse. Is that true?” Li Yunzheng felt that Shen Xi was exaggerating, but he could not be sure. Therefore, he decided to ask Si Wuya.

“It’s true. If this were in the past, I’m afraid master wouldn’t have left them with even one Birth Chart,” Si Wuya said.

“Grandmaster was so... fierce in the past?” Li Yunzheng asked. He had always been curious about Lu Zhou’s past.

Li Yunzheng assumed Si Wuya would brag about Lu Zhou like Shen Xi did, but he did not expect that Si Wuya would sigh and say, “Let’s not talk about the past...”

“Teacher, I want to know...” Li Yunzheng said eagerly.

Si Wuya’s expression stiffened. Then, he said with a frown, “As the ruler of a country, do you have so much free time?”

“Uh...” Li Yunzheng felt as though someone had just poured a bucket of ice water on him. He said listlessly, “I’ll return now to read the memorials...”

After Li Yunzheng left, Si Wuya touched the ancient map on the table that was growing increasingly complete before he left his personal study.

Following that, he tried to contact Mingshi Yin but discovered that Mingshi Yin was uncontactable. He had no choice but to give up.

Si Wuya decided to go to the Sacred Rites Hall. During this time, everyone from the Evil Sky Pavilion had been cultivating in the Sacred Rites Hall. Some of them were having their weapons forged as well.

Si Wuya did not give the nine fire spirit stones to his fellow disciples. Instead, he gave them to the three elders to upgrade their weapons: Zuo Yushu's Coiling Staff Dragon, Pan Litian's Wine Gourd, and Leng Luo's Spotless Dagger. With the help from Wang Dachui and the others, after half a month of forging, their weapons were now all at the desolate grade, and the effects were better than shining stones. Although there were remaining fire spirit stones, there was not enough to upgrade them to the flood grade. Moreover, there was no need to upgrade the weapons to the flood grade for now. Therefore, there were still six fire spirit stones left.

While Yu Shangrong was frozen in the Black Water Mystic Cave, the Black Tower Council had promised to send 20 fire spirit stones among other things to the Sky Martial Court. It was only a matter of time before everyone's weapons were upgraded.

At this moment...

Bang! Bang! Bang!

"Third Senior Brother, you can do it!"

Little Yuan'er and Conch stood at the side, cheering and clapping.

Si Wuya walked over and looked at the field.

Hua Wudao was using the Square Box to suppress Duanmu Sheng. From time to time, he would unleash the Six Compatible Daoist Seal to neutralize Duanmu Sheng's attacks.

"Imperfect Divine Intervention!" Duanmu Sheng flew up to avoid the Square Box's suppression. He flew to the top and stabbed downward.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Si Wuya shook his head. "Again?"

Si Wuya had grown tired and bored from watching the same scene over and over again.

Boom!

The Square Box landed.

At the same time, the Six Compatible Daoist Seal shot out and sent Duanmu Sheng flying. He flipped once and landed steadily on his feet.

Pan Litian said, "Mister Third's foundation is really amazing. It's not easy for him not to fall under the suppression of the Square Box."

"That's true. Once he sprouts the ninth leaf, Elder Hua will no longer be a match for him."

Nevertheless, Duanmu Sheng was very dissatisfied. He shook his head and tightened his grip around the Overlord Spear.

Upon sensing the atmosphere was not right, Si Wuya hurriedly said, "Master will be visiting the White Tower Council. Which one of you wants to accompany master?"

As expected, Little Yuan'er was the first to raise her hand, "Seventh Senior brother, I want to accompany master!"

Following that, Conch chimed in, "Since Ninth Senior Sister is going, I'll go as well..."

Si Wuya nodded. "Alright." Then, he looked at Duanmu Sheng and asked, "Third Senior Brother, what about you?"

Duanmu Sheng shook his head and said, "No, I won't go. I plan to cultivate in seclusion for a period of time."

"Alright."

The four elders felt rather embarrassed to go to the White Tower Council; they knew their cultivation bases were rather weak. If they went, they might end up being a burden. The days when they were powerful and influential were long gone. This, naturally, did not feel good so they could understand Duanmu Sheng's feelings.

At this time, Huang Yu, the formation expert from the Sky Research Court, appeared on the roof. He looked at the four elders and Duanmu Sheng as he said, "The Sky Martial Court has a cultivation ground 30 miles north of this place. If you don't mind, you can cultivate there..."

Duanmu Sheng raised his head. "Really?"

Huang Yu smiled and said, "Of course. This cultivation environment is like the holy land. There's an ancient formation there that has existed for who knows how many years. The Sky Research Court named the formation the Star Gathering Formation. It gathers the essence of heaven and earth and Primal Qi. Therefore, it can increase one's cultivation speed by several times..."

Si Wuya asked, "Since the formation is so good, why don't you cultivate there?"

Huang Yu replied, "Only through suffering can one rise to the top. This formation is indeed a good formation, but it brings a lot of suffering as well. The terrain is sunken, and it's incredibly hot there. Without enough willpower, one would go crazy there. It's not that no one from the Sky Martial Court had gone there before, but many had died there. Those who survived all became experts. The longer you stay there, the more powerful you'll become. Yu Chenshu stayed there for three years. That place was where he got the scar on his face..."

Everyone nodded.

While the four elders were hesitating, Duanmu Sheng said, "Alright, I'll go to that place!"

"..."

"Mister Third, it's best if you think this through," Huang Yu said.

"I've already thought it through," Duanmu Sheng said.

Leng Luo said, "Count me in..." Following that, he took the silver mask off his face. The scars on his face were horrifying; no one dared to meet his gaze at this moment. His meaning was obvious.

Subsequently, Pan Litian said with a smile, "I'm just an old man. I'll join in the fun. I've lived long enough anyway..."

Then, Pan Litian and Leng Luo turned to look at Zuo Yushu and Hua Wudao meaningfully.

Hua Wudao and Zuo Yushu. "???"

'What's this? Why does it feel like peer pressure? Go if you want to go!'

Huang Yu nodded and said with a smile, "I finally understand now why the Evil Sky Pavilion is so powerful. Based on courage and determination alone, others could not compare to the Evil Sky Pavilion at all. In the past, there were many disciples of the Sky Martial Court who would rather be beaten to death than go to that place. They were all cowards who feared death. It's really admirable to see the four elders so willing to go to that place..."

Hua Wudao and Zuo Yushu said in unison, "Wait..."

"There's no need for the two of you to say anything. The Sky Research Court truly feels embarrassed when faced with Mister Third and the four elders' courage. I'll make arrangements as soon as possible."

'Alright! Since these words have been said, can I still back out? If I back out now, won't I be labeled as cowardly?' Zuo Yushu and Hua Wudao shared the same thoughts; both of them sighed inwardly.

Si Wuya cupped his fists together and said, "Thank you for your help."

Huang Yu smiled and said, "It's no big deal."

Then, Si Wuya looked at Meng Changdong, Xia Changqiu, Ji Fengxing, and Wuwu who were all standing nearby before he asked with a smile, "What about all of you?"

Xia Changqiu waved his hand repeatedly as he said, "No, no, we won't go."

Meng Changdong said, "There are matters I still have to attend to so I'll take my leave now..."

"Guardian Meng, Wuwu and I will help you!" Ji Fengxing hastily said.

With this, everyone fled the scene.

Upon seeing this, Little Yuan'er muttered, "A group of cowards."

Si Wuya said, "They made the right choice. Don't look down on the four elders. When they were young, they were all top cultivation geniuses."

Upon hearing these words, the four elders' hearts stirred. That was right; they were once young and top geniuses. Even if Zuo Yushu and Hua Wudao were hesitant, how could they back out now?

With this, Si Wuya left the Sky Martial Academy with Little Yuan'er and Conch.

...

Half a day later.

In the capital.

Si Wuya brought Ning Wanqing, whose cultivation had been sealed, to the Preservation Hall.

“Master, the runic passage to the White Tower Council is ready. Apart from that, Third Senior Brother and the four elders have followed Huang Yu to the Star Gathering Formation to cultivate. They’ll probably be there for a while.”

“Star Gathering Formation?” Lu Zhou searched his memory but could not find any information about it.

At this moment, Ning Wanqing, whose eyes were lifeless, calmly said, “The Star Gathering Formation? It’s an ancient formation. All of you are really brave for daring to go to such a place and risking your lives.”

Chapter 1050: Visiting the White Tower Council

Lu Zhou looked at Ning Wanqing and asked, “You know about this formation?”

Ning Wanqing smiled and said, “Yes. This formation is ancient. It has existed for at least tens of thousands of years. For a formation to last for such a long time, it’s not just because of the Dao inscriptions. It has to do with the geographical conditions and favorable timing as well. There are many ancient formations that vanished with the passage of time. All the ancient formations that survived the ravages of time are strange and dangerous. They’re powerful and extraordinary, but they’re highly dangerous. If you’re not careful, you’ll be trapped in the formations. It’s hard to guarantee one’s life or death...”

Si Wuya said, “I didn’t expect that Judge Ning is knowledgeable about formations as well.”

Ning Wanqing recognized Si Wuya’s voice and said, “I heard that Mister Seven of the Evil Sky Pavilion is well-read and extremely intelligent. Do you also know about this formation?”

Si Wuya said, “Yes. The Star Gathering Formation is used to gather Primal Qi. The place it’s located is extremely hot and is indeed slightly dangerous. However, it’s not as exaggerated as you described. Moreover, the Sky Martial Court used to send their disciples there to train every year. Indeed, there were casualties. However, without danger, how can one improve? The formation will attract fierce beasts. If the fierce beasts come, it’ll be akin to sending us life hearts.”

Ning Wanqing nodded slightly. “Indeed, you’re wise.”

Si Wuya revealed a smile on his face and said, “Actually, I’ve studied this formation with Huang Yu a long time ago and deliberately provoked the four elders into going. In order to ensure their safety, I left a runic passage near the Star Gathering Formation.”

“Judge Ning, tell me, what kind of person can stop my master?” Si Wuya did not use the words ‘Birth Chart Beast’ and used the word ‘person’ instead.

Ning Wanqing’s turned deathly pale immediately. “I’m enlightened...”

Lu Zhou had entrusted Si Wuya with the mission to deal with Ning Wanqing. He was not worried about his seventh disciple as well. Moreover, Ning Wanqing only had five Birth Charts. At this time, he finally said tonelessly, “Let’s go.”

“Understood.”

...

Near a runic passage in the red lotus domain.

Everyone had gathered and was ready.

Lu Zhou looked at Little Yuan ‘er who was riding on Whitzard and flying in the sky before he called out, “Yuan’er.”

“Master, you’re here!”

Little Yuan’er and Whitzard landed instantly near the runic passage.

Lu Zhou studied Little Yuan’er’s aura and found that it was richer than before. Perhaps, she was cultivating the Supreme Purity Jade Slip, her aura was as clear as water and as smooth as clouds. Then, he shifted his attention to Si Wuya and Conch. Si Wuya’s aura was weaker; it was like smoke wafting out from a chimney. On the other hand, Conch’s aura was like that of fire. Everyone’s auras were different.

In Lu Zhou’s opinion, his disciple with the best aura was Little Yuan’er. Even if she did not cultivate diligently, it would be difficult for ordinary people to catch up to her.

“Master, everything is ready. We can set off now.”

Yu Zhenghai took the lead and stepped into the runic passage first.

Lu Zhou followed next as the others followed closely behind him.

Yu Zhenghai clapped his hands together and the circle of light lit up. Following that, a pillar of light shot into the sky, obscuring everyone’s visions.

...

Inside the Black Water Mystic Cave.

After Yu Shangrong broke through the bottleneck, his speed had increased tremendously as well. Moreover, he basically didn’t consume much energy.

Whenever he was tired, he would hover in the air to rest and recover his energy. For this reason, he did not expend too much energy.

After two days of flying on the Longevity Sword with its shining runes, he finally saw a piece of the sky through a familiar semicircular hole.

Yu Shangrong smiled. He accelerated his speed and flew out of the semicircular hole.

Swoosh!

His field of vision widened immediately. However, spots of darkness floated in front of his eyes. This was normal; he had been in total darkness for such a long time after all. It would take time for his eyes to adjust to the light again.

He felt the whole world seem to slow down as he hovered in the sky. After a long time, his vision finally returned to normal.

He surveyed his surroundings and smiled. "I'm back."

Instead of the golden lotus domain, he was in the red lotus domain he was now familiar with. Compared to the first time he came to the red lotus domain, this time he felt like he had come home.

A bird's cry rang from the heavens at this moment.

Yu Shangrong was in a wonderful mood. He followed the bird's call and flew over. He arrived in front of a huge towering tree and looked into the distance. He saw a huge Luan in the sky.

"There are quite a few Luans," Yu Shangrong said in surprise. Previously, the Luan he first saw was so powerful that it took the Flying Star House's Ye Zhen and over 100 disciples to kill it.

Currently, the Luan in front of him was much larger than the first one he saw. Its vitality energy was also very rich. The colors of its feathers were vivid, and its claws that glinted in the light looked deadly.

"A rudimentary Birth Chart Beast?" Yu Shangrong was slightly taken aback.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

At this moment, several energy swords shot toward the Luan, taking off a few of its feathers before landing on the base of a tree.

At the same time, dozens of cultivators rushed over on the ground and engaged in a fierce battle with the Luan.

The Luan flapped its wings, stirring up a violent wind that traveled thousands of meters away.

"Don't retreat! Don't retreat! Continue to advance!"

"Elder Su, hold on!"

"Sect leader! Up There!"

An elder soared into the sky.

The energy sword in the sky formed a circle before they shot toward the Luan.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

At this moment, tens of thousands of energy swords appeared and flew in groups toward the Luan.

The Luan cried out in pain as blood flowed out of its body. It grew agitated, flapping its wings violently.

Bang!

"Sect Leader!"

The elder was hit on the shoulder. He flipped in the air and was pushed back 100 meters. He failed to stabilize himself and fell down. He pressed one hand against his shoulder with an ugly expression on his face.

“Sect Leader, should we retreat?”

“We can’t retreat. Our Heaven Seeking Sect has lost so many Birth Chart Beasts. Now that we’ve found one, we can’t let it escape!”

“But... our people are heavily injured. It’s not a good idea to continue like this. Moreover, the commotion is too big and will attract experts here. Previously, Shan Gao was snatched away as well...”

The morale of the members of the Heaven Seeking Sect plummeted as soon as these words were said.

Meanwhile, Yu Shangrong frowned slightly. The Heaven Seeking Sect? Why did it sound so familiar?

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Another three people were sent flying by the Luan.

This was an authentic Birth Chart Beast. The one that Ye Zhen killed was just a fierce beast with a life heart that could provide years of life.

“Don’t retreat, put in more effort! Fight with all your might” Zeng Yan was not convinced.

At this moment, Yu Shangrong flew over from afar and appeared above the Luan.

When Zeng Yan saw the green-clad Yu Shangrong who was standing on the Longevity Sword, he asked, “Who are you?”

The green-clad swordsman looked very familiar, but he could not remember where he had seen this person before. Zeng Yan wondered if his Birth Chart Beast was going to be stolen again.

“This Birth Chart Beast isn’t one that you can deal with...” Yu Shangrong said.

“...”

Zeng Yan wondered if he was fated to have his Birth Chart Beasts stolen every time.

At this moment, the Luan went berserk. Its body that was scarlet red looked terrifying.

Bang Bang Bang!

Many cultivators were sent flying immediately.

Yu Shangrong glanced in that direction and flew over. “Let me do it.”

Yu Shangrong flashed and arrived in front of the Luan in just a blink of an eye. The Longevity Sword flew into his hand, and he calmly launched an energy sword. His movements were fluid, reaching the peak of perfection.

The Luan that felt an excruciating pain flapped its wings in a frenzy.

At this moment, Yu Shangrong manifested his avatar and stepped on the Luan before he withdrew his avatar again.

Bang!

The Luan lost control of its flight and plummeted from the sky.

Upon seeing this, Zeng Yan exclaimed in surprise, “Ten leaves?”

One of the elders shouted, “Sir, you should run for your lives. This Birth Chart Beast isn’t something a Ten-leaf cultivator can deal with...”

There were some Birth Chart Beasts that Nine-leaf cultivators could deal with, but there were many that even Ten-leaf cultivators could not handle. The Luan was one of them. Not only was it good at flying, but its destructive power was astonishing. Apart from that, it was also very agile. It was much stronger than Shan Gao and Xi Qu.

At this moment...

With Yu Shangrong in the center, hundreds and thousands of energy swords appeared. All of them shot toward the Luan at the same time.

In just a moment, the glow from the energy swords disappeared.

Yu Shangrong flashed and appeared in front of everyone. With his back facing the Luan, he revealed a smile on his face.

The Longevity Sword circled around the Luan before it returned to its sheathe on Yu Shangrong’s back.

With this, the battle ended.