

## Disciples 1081

### Chapter 1081: The Value of a Blue Crystal

Si Wuya did not use the proper honorific when he spoke. He said again, just as confident as before, "You definitely have one..."

In fact, there was no evidence supporting Si Wuya's words. Lu Qianshan was not sure if Mu Ertie really did possess a blue crystal, but he thought the chances were high. Earlier, he thought this was another chance for him to tie the Lu clan and Lu Zhou together. He knew Lu Zhou was looking for the blue crystal so even if Si Wuya did not bring this matter up, he would have somehow or other found a way to mention this matter. After all, he was involved in a life-or-death struggle earlier; he had to find a way to ensure his and the Lu clan's safety.

Lu Zhou was puzzled. He had six Birth Charts now; his senses were extraordinary. He did not sense the Great Void energy on Mu Ertie at all; he wondered why his seventh disciple was so certain that Mu Ertie possessed a blue crystal.

Finally, Mu Ertie asked, "You are?"

"The seventh disciple of the Evil Sky Pavilion," Si Wuya replied. Then, he continued to say, "There are a few reasons why I'm certain Your Majesty possesses a blue crystal. First, Your Majesty has seen the portrait of the Lu clan's ancestor. This means that someone brought the painting to Your Majesty or Your Majesty personally went to Lu Qianshan's study. It's impossible for the person you sent to bring the painting back without alerting Lu Qianshan nor is it likely for the person to be able to copy the painting accurately on the spot. After taking these into consideration, I'm certain Your Majesty personally went to the Lu clan's estate..."

The atmosphere in the hall turned awkward.

Mu Ertie's expression changed slightly due to this revelation. After all, it was really unbecoming of a ruler to sneak into his subject's residence. After a moment, he said stiffly, "However, that doesn't mean I possess a blue crystal."

Si Wuya continued to say, unfazed, "Second, when my master asked about the blue crystals, Your Majesty mentioned the blue crystals contained Great Void energy. How did Your Majesty know the blue crystals contained Great Void energy?" To prevent Mu Ertie from coming up with more excuses, he added, "Did Your Majesty learn about this from Lan Xihe, the Grand Tutor of Great Ming, or Xiao Yunhe? Coincidentally, my master knows all of them so we can easily verify the matter..."

Mu Ertie. "..."

"Third, when my master visited Tower Master Lan, she had said that the blue crystals were original soil from where the Great Void Seeds grew. After the soil was brought out of the Unknown Land, it crystallized into the blue crystals. One would only know their secrets if one had personally seen them..."

Si Wuya's deduction was quite amazing.

When Lu Qianshan looked at Mu Ertie's gloomy expression, he felt incredibly comfortable.

Even Lu Zhou was impressed by Si Wuya's deduction. In the future, he thought he should bring Si Wuya with him when going out. As for his fourth disciple, that cunning fellow, he was more suited to carrying out missions outside.

Mu Ertie defended himself. "That's not true. An Se's master had participated in the Great Void Expedition; that's how I learned about them. Moreover, there were many others who also participated in that expedition. It's inevitable that information and rumors would circulate about the blue crystals..."

Si Wuya had already expected Mu Ertie to say such words. He said, "The fourth and most important point is that I've been cultivating under my master's tutelage since I was young. I'm deeply familiar with a unique technique called the Qi Observing technique. With this technique, I can accurately discern one's cultivation and aura. When observing Your Majesty, I've confirmed that Your Majesty possesses the Great Void energy..."

Murte was shocked. He instinctively raised his arm and sniffed himself. "Is that so?"

"..."

"..."

It would have been less awkward if Mu Ertie did not react in such a manner.

Si Wuya was not done; he continued to say, "Your Majesty smells of eclipta prostrata, otherwise known as false daisies. There's also the slight smell of the fire lotus..."

Si Wuya took a step forward and sniffed the air before he said again, "There's also the smell of the heart of a flower from a flaming silver tree..."

Mu Ertie's expression grew more and more shocked as he listened to Si Wuya's words.

Lu Zhou wanted to use his Heavenly Writing Power to have a look but decided against it in the end.

Si Wuya said, "These are all the ingredients used to conceal the Great Void energy. I'm surprised Your Majesty managed to obtain the fire lotus; after all, the fire lotus is a unique plant that only grows in the red lotus domain..."

"..."

Mu Ertie was rendered speechless by Si Wuya's words. In the end, he sighed and said, "I really admire you... You're right; I do have one blue crystal."

Si Wuya smiled and remained silent.

Mu Ertie said to Si Wuya, "The red lotus domain was under the control of the Black Tower Council; it's not surprising that I had the fire lotus. Moreover, Duke Cui An of Fu in Great Tang is one of my men."

Lu Zhou said bluntly, "Alright. The blue crystal is useless to you. You can exchange it for something with me."

"This..."

Lu Zhou said, "You've already absorbed what you can of the Great Void energy from the blue crystal. You should exchange it for something more valuable. Think about your answer carefully; don't disappoint me."

Mu Ertie frowned. "This... Pavilion Master Lu, I respect you and hope to cooperate with you, but..."

Lu Zhou interjected, "Even Lan Xihe, a 13 Chart expert, made the right decision..."

"..."

Mu Ertie felt his eyelids twitch. After taking a deep breath, he said, "Since Pavilion Master Lu has spoken, I can only acquiesce..." Following that, he rose to his feet and left the hall.

After some time, Mu Ertie finally returned to the hall with a brocade box in his hand and handed it over to Lu Zhou.

Clack!

Lu Zhou opened the box and saw a crystal that was as blue as the sky lying quietly inside. He asked, "Where did you find this?"

Out of the nine blue crystals Lu Zhou had to find, the whereabouts of three blue crystals were incredibly mysterious. Mu Ertie must have obtained extraordinary information to obtain the crystal.

"The purple lotus domain," Mu Ertie replied.

Realization dawned on Si Wuya.

The Black Tower Council and Great Yuan's royal court had implemented the captivity plan in the purple lotus domain. It was not surprising then that Mu Ertie managed to obtain the blue crystal from there.

The red lotus domain and the purple lotus domain were similar; both were monopolized and under the control of the black lotus domain's Black Tower Council.

Si Wuya asked, "Where is it?"

"It's 100,000 miles to the west of the Endless Ocean if one travels on the Sky Shuttle," Mu Ertie replied.

"Is there a runic passage to that place?" Si Wuya asked.

"Of course."

Si Wuya bowed to Lu Zhou and said, "Master, I'm willing to head to the purple lotus domain to search for the remaining blue crystals."

Lu Zhou said, "We'll discuss this later."

"Understood."

Lu Zhou put away the blue crystal.

"Ding! Second Avatar: Collecting blue crystals (3/9)."

If Lu Zhou counted the blue crystal he was supposed to receive from Gongsun Yuansuan, the Grand Tutor of Great Ming, he had four blue crystals now. Another three blue crystals were with Xiao Yunhe, and the whereabouts of the remaining two were unknown.

Following that, Lu Zhou casually flicked his sleeve. A bronze ring appeared in his hand immediately. He said, "This is the Hades Ring. It's at the desolate grade at least. You're an emperor so this suits you. Consider this a reward for the blue crystal."

"Ding! The Hades Ring(grade unknown): greatly increases one's combat strength."

"..." Mu Ertie's expression stiffened. "This... This used to belong to Judge Nangong Yutian from the White Tower Council?"

"You've heard of it?"

"This ring can increase one's combat strength by two times for a period. Pavilion Master Lu, you... you're really willing to give this to me?" Mu Ertie asked.

Lu Zhou said, "That's great. It seems like you like the ring; I thought you would dislike it. Alright, this belongs to you from now on."

Mu Ertie's eyelids twitched again. Nevertheless, he still forced a smile on his face and said, "Thank you, Pavilion Master Lu."

Now that Lu Zhou had obtained the blue crystal, he did not intend to stay any longer.

Before Lu Zhou left, Mu Ertie said with a smile, "Pavilion Master Lu, now that the Evil Sky Pavilion and Great Yuan's royal court are acquainted, I hope we can help each other in the future..."

"Alright," Lu Zhou said indifferently, "I admire people who know their place. You're worthy of being the Emperor of Great Yuan."

"..."

Lu Zhou turned around and walked out of the hall after he finished speaking.

After Lu Qianshan bowed at Mu Ertie perfunctorily, he followed Lu Zhou out.

Mu Ertie hurriedly said, "Send the Pavilion Master off..."

"No need..." Lu Zhou's voice rang from outside of the hall.

Following that, Lu Zhou, Si Wuya, and Lu Qianshan flew out of the royal palace.

After Lu Zhou and the others finally left, the smile on Mu Ertie's face finally vanished without a trace. He was so angry that he could not speak and his body began to tremble.

"Your Majesty, please calm down."

Mu Ertie, the Black Emperor, felt his heart ache. "The blue crystal I spent so much effort searching for is gone just like that!"

Eunuch Zhang sighed before he said, "Your Majesty, there's no point dwelling on this. Moreover, Pavilion Master Lu was right; the blue crystal is useless to you. It can be considered a gain to exchange it for the Hades Ring."

"The Hades Ring?" Mu Ertie lifted his left hand, and the bronze Hades Ring appeared on his palm. Then, he lifted his right hand where he wore a dark green ring. The dark green ring flashed as he moved it to touch the bronze Hades Ring.

Bang!

The bronze Hades Ring shattered immediately.

Eunuch Zhang. "..."

Mu Ertie dropped the shattered pieces of the bronze ring carelessly as he said, "The real Hades Ring is with me!"

### **Chapter 1082: Birth Trial**

Eunuch Zhang shuddered as he looked at the shattered pieces on the ground. "A fake?"

Eunuch Zhang hurriedly bent down to clear up the shattered pieces on the ground. Although his cultivation base was not as high as Mu Ertie's, he was still quite knowledgeable. The bronze Hades Ring did not look like a fake no matter how he studied it. The inscriptions on the ring were a little crude, but it contained energy. Based on its quality, it should be quite the treasure. Then, he furtively glanced at the ring on Mu Ertie's finger before realization dawned on him. He said indignantly, "Your Majesty, the Evil Sky Pavilion is too much of a bully! They actually used a fake ring to exchange for the blue crystal! How shameless!"

Mu Ertie said angrily, "You dog slave, why weren't you brave enough to say such words when they were here? Now that they've left, you're shouting so passionately?"

Eunuch Zhang chuckled sheepishly before he said, "I'm sorry, Your Majesty. I just can't help but feel angry on Your Majesty's behalf."

Mu Ertie sighed. "In any case, there was nothing I could do."

Mu Ertie's judgment was naturally good; after all, he managed to sit in his throne so firmly for such a long time. He was ruthless and decisive when the situation called for it and knew to retreat at the appropriate time. The burden he carried on his shoulders as ruler was not something others could bear.

Mu Ertie could choose to kill Lu Qianshan or to lower his head and build a good relationship with the Evil Sky Pavilion. Lu Zhou had collectively reduced the Birth Charts of the people in the Black Tower Council, defeated the White Tower Council's Lan Xihe, and intimidated the cowardly Leader of the Dark and Light Alliance. It was clear to him what his decision should be after considering these factors. It would be very unwise for him to make an enemy out of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

...

While Lu Zhou flew in the air, he turned back to look at Si Wuya and said, "I don't remember teaching you the Qi Observing technique..."

Si Wuya smiled and said, "That was a lie I made up to intimidate the Black Emperor..."

Lu Zhou and Lu Qianshan. "..."

The duo had to give it to Si Wuya; the Black Emperor fell for his lie after all.

Lu Qianshan asked curiously, "Although it's a lie, the ingredients to conceal the energy can't be made up, right?"

Si Wuya nodded. "It's a coincidence really. I've refined pills to conceal my aura before based on the ancient books."

It was with these pills that Si Wuya helped his fellow disciples to conceal their Great Void energies.

Lu Qianshan said to Lu Zhou, "Pavilion Master Lu, please don't take offense for my actions earlier. I only said you're my ancestor to lure the emperor into giving up the blue crystal..."

"Make sure it doesn't happen again," Lu Zhou said tonelessly.

Lu Qianshan prayed inwardly, 'Please protect me, old ancestor!'

...

In the Lu clan's estate.

Madam Lu was waiting in the main hall all this time. When she heard that Lu Qianshan and the others had returned, she, along with the old butler, came out to welcome them. A few other clan members came as well.

"Master, are you okay?" Madam Lu asked anxiously. After all, she was aware of the Lu clan's situation. She was worried that Lu Qianshan would go into the palace, never to return.

Lu Qianshan smiled as he replied, "I'm fine. From now on, nothing will happen to the Lu clan."

"But... We don't know if the royal court will decide to deal with us in the future..." Madam Lu said worriedly. They all lived on the emperor's whim after all; who could tell what the future held?

Si Wuya said with a smile, "Your worries are unnecessary. The Black Emperor promised my master not to make things difficult for the Lu clan. With this, not only would he not look for trouble with the Lu clan, but he would have to ensure the safety of the Lu clan as well..."

Madam Lu and the others were baffled when they heard these words.

Lu Qianshan had no intention of explaining the matter. He only said, "He's right. Hurry up, don't just stand around. Prepare the best feast for tonight. I want to entertain Pavilion Master Lu!"

Lu Zhou, who did not like liveliness, shook his head and said, "There's no need for that..."

Lu Qianshan understood immediately so he ordered his men to clean up an independent courtyard for Lu Zhou. He also prohibited others from entering the independent courtyard in the estate.

...

In the evening.

Madam Lu grabbed Lu Qianshan's arm and asked, "Master, what's that young man's background? Based on Old Jiang's words, is he from a major sect?"

Lu Qianshan, who was in a good mood, said, "Indeed, you can say he comes from a major sect..."

Emboldened by this answer, Madam Lu said with a meaningful smile, "Master, look at our Yu'er; she's no longer young..."

As soon as Lu Qianshan heard these words, he frowned immediately. Then, he said sternly, "I'm warning you now; you better now repeat these words again."

"I... I understand..." Madam Lu hurriedly agreed.

"When cultivators reach a certain level, they can no longer be judged by their appearances. Pavilion Master Lu may look young, but in fact, he's thousands of years older than you..." Lu Qianshan said.

Madam Lu. "..."

...

In an independent courtyard in the Lu clan's estate.

Si Wuya bowed and said, "Master, I have a question, but I'm not sure if I should..."

Lu Zhou interjected, "Speak."

"The blue crystals are without Great Void Energies and have lost their value; why is master collecting them?" Si Wuya asked.

Lu Zhou said, "Everyone isn't aware of one thing: there are actually nine blue crystals, not six. If you can collect all nine blue crystals, you'll be able to obtain the Great Void energy."

Realization dawned on Si Wuya. After a beat, he fell to one knee and solemnly said, "Master, I'm willing to give my Great Void energy to you if you need it."

Lu Zhou looked at Si Wuya and said, "I understand your good intention, but there's no need for that. At this point, I have nothing to hide from you; your fellow disciples' and your Great Void energies were given by me."

Si Wuya instinctively lifted his head in shock. In fact, he had found it strange when he discovered all of his master's disciples possessed the Great Void Energies. He was always curious as to why and had vaguely guessed it had something to do with his master. However, since his master did not mention it, he did not dare to bring it up as well. Now that his suspicion was confirmed, how could he not feel shocked?

After a while, Si Wuya asked, "Did our Great Void energies come from the blue crystals?"

Lu Zhou shook his head.

Si Wuya. "..."

Lu Zhou placed his hands on his back and said, "The blue crystals were the soil from where the Great Void Seeds grew, and it only absorbed a little of the seeds' energy. Do you remember the medicinal pill I gave you when you first joined the Evil Sky Pavilion?"

Si Wuya was thoroughly shocked. He asked incredulously, "The Great Void Seeds?"

"That's right." Lu Zhou nodded. "To be honest, apart from Yuan'er and Conch, all of your talents were only average. It was even worse for Old Third and Old Eighth. After bringing the Great Void Seeds back from the Unknown Land, I gave them to all of you, defying the heavens and changing all your fates..."

"..."

The eloquent Si Wuya was speechless. To think the precious Great Void Seeds that everyone in the cultivation world was searching for and went crazy over were the 'pills' their master had given them when they joined the Evil Sky Pavilion!

Lu Zhou continued to say, "As for how I brought the Great Void Seeds out, there's no need for you to ask. You're the smartest in the Evil Sky Pavilion so you should know the secret of the Great Void shouldn't be revealed."

"I understand," Si Wuya replied as he bowed respectfully. "Although I've made the pills to conceal my fellow disciples' auras, I'm afraid they'll arouse the suspicions of others sooner or later. After all, their cultivation talents are just too heaven-defying. I think it's best to ask my fellow disciples to restrain themselves and conceal their cultivation bases..."

Lu Zhou nodded. "I'll leave this matter to you. You may take your leave now."

"Understood."

The moon hung high up in the starry sky; it was already very late.

As Si Wuya walked away, he could not help but pause at the entrance and look at the moon. He recalled his time after acknowledging his master. He could vividly remember many of the hardships he had gone through, but the greatest pain he had endured at that time, which he would never forget, was when he ate the pill. After eating the pill, he was in pain for an entire month. At that time, he, along with his fellow disciples, assumed that their master was deliberately torturing them. With these thoughts in mind, he turned and bowed respectfully in his master's direction before he returned to his room.

...

Lu Zhou sat cross-legged before he brought the giant turtle's life heart out and placed it in front of him.

According to the theory of activating Birth Charts, if he embedded the seventh life heart and activated his seventh Birth Chart, he would go through a pain worse than death. The predecessors created the Birth Trial to help with this indescribable pain and to strengthen one's Birth Palace. If one could not pass the Birth Trial, there was a possibility of damaging one's Birth Palace, causing a drop in one's cultivation base, when activating the seventh Birth Chart. The predecessors discovered that when they were strengthening the Birth Palace by going through the Birth Trial, there was a possibility of obtaining new abilities after passing the Birth Trial. Over time, the Birth Trials became an essential step in cultivation.



“To start the Birth Trial, I have to find a place with incredibly harsh environments...” Lu Zhou muttered to himself. These harsh places were usually extremely cold or extremely hot places. The pressure from these places would temper a cultivator and provide good training.

“Although the Cold Pond is a suitable place to pass the Birth Trial, it won’t be effective for me since I have Pu Yi’s life heart. Most cold places will only provide me with small improvements... In that case, I can only go to extremely hot places...” Lu Zhou muttered to himself. Soon enough, the river of magma in the Sky Wheel Mountain Range appeared in his mind.

### **Chapter 1083: Someone from the Qin Clan**

The Sky Wheel Mountain Range was where Lu Zhou killed Yu Chenshu, the Court Master of the Sky Martial Court. It was also at that place that he first met Lu Li, and his first time seeing a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. At that time, the temperature was so high that he had used up a lot of Critical Block Cards. However, based on his current cultivation base, it should not be a problem at all for him to withstand the heat. After all, at that time, Lu Li who possessed five Birth Charts had safely emerged from the magma.

“Alright. It’s decided then.” After Lu Zhou decided to go to the valley in the Sky Wheel Mountain Range, he studied the method to pass the Birth Trial. When he was done, he called up the system interface.

Merit points: 672,610

Remaining lifespan: 291,970 days (800 years in which 663 years are from Reversal Cards)

Items: Enhanced Deadly Strike Card x1, Impeccable Card x1, Critical Block Card(passive) x133, Golden Taixu Mirror, Disguise Card x2, Deconstruction Card x4

Mounts: Whizard, Bi An, Ji Liang, Qiong Qi, Dang Kang, Di Jiang, Ying Zhao

Weapons: Unnamed(unknown), Jade Horsetail Whisk(heaven-grade), Purple Glazed Ceramic (fusion-grade), Cold Wind Trident(desolate-grade), Confinement Seal(flood-grade), Dragon Eagle’s Fury(desolate-grade), Flash Hook(desolate-grade), Seven Star Sword, Green Cicada Jade

Lu Zhou had over 600,000 merit points left. The cost of an advanced enhanced Reduction Card was very high, much higher than an enhanced Deadly Strike Card. However, the rewards it yielded were very high as well.

Currently, it would not be efficient for him to show off using the Deadly Strike Card. It was more suited to be used as a trump card or a killing move.

Lu Zhou could obtain merit points through other methods instead of relying on the Deadly Strike Card. What was difficult was obtaining advanced life hearts. Just to obtain Ying Zhao’s life heart, he had to face so many experts. He could only imagine how difficult it would get to obtain higher quality life hearts. He could only use high-quality life hearts to ensure his improvement was maximized when activating Birth Charts.

After mulling over it for a moment, Lu Zhou spent 80,000 merit points to buy four Synthesis Cards and another 126,000 merit points to buy nine Reduction Cards.

The price of the Reduction Card would rise with every three cards that he bought. Lu Zhou found it acceptable; at least, the system seemed to have a little conscience.

He could not save these merit points. He had to synthesize the cards into advanced enhanced Reduction Cards. Now that he was left with 460,000 merit points left, he had to spend them sparingly.

Following that, Lu Zhou decided to draw ten consecutive lucky draws. He was thanked for his participation all ten times.

With that, he stopped and activated the Purple Glazed Ceramic to meditate on the Heavenly Writing.

...

North of Cloud Mountain.

The moon shone like a lamp, illuminating the peak of the snowy mountain.

From the twelve peaks of Cloud Mountain, one could hardly see anything at the peak of the snowy mountain except for the vast expanse of the snow.

Buzz!

A buzzing noise rang in the air before a pillar of light shot into the sky. After a few breaths, the pillar of light vanished without a trace.

Upon seeing this strange phenomenon, the Cloud Mountain disciples reported it to Nie Qingyun.

Nie Qingyun hurriedly left his room. He flew into the sky to observe the peak of the snowy mountain. Unfortunately, he was too far away and could not see clearly. With his cultivation base, it was not wise for him to fly up to the snowy mountain. Therefore, he said, "Pass this news to the Evil Sky Pavilion!"

...

Meanwhile, at the peak of the snowy mountain.

A hunchbacked old man dressed in a gray robe stood in a runic circle motionlessly. His eyes darted to the left and the right as his nose twitched, clearly cautious. If he detected even the smallest danger, he would immediately activate the runic passage and leave.

After determining there was no danger in his surroundings, the hunchbacked old man walked out of the runic circle. He slowly walked on the snow. After walking less than 50 meters, he suddenly came to a halt. He raised his head; his nose was twitching. After sniffing the air, he looked at the night sky and said in a hoarse voice, "The smell of blood..."

The hunchbacked old man waved his sleeve lightly, stirring up the snow around him. Soon enough, a frozen corpse floated in front of him. He sighed. "You were a slave no matter what. If you couldn't even keep an eye on your master, then you deserved this fate..."

Thud!

The corpse fell back to the snow-covered ground.

He continued walking forward until he was at the edge of the pond that reflected the moon perfectly. The pond was as still as a painting; not even a ripple could be seen.

“This must be the Cold Pond that Young Master mentioned.” His expression was solemn, and his eyes gleamed like that of a venomous snake as he looked at the mirror-like pond. After a moment, he waved his hand.

Primal Qi surged into the pond, creating a vortex.

The vortex churned violently, stirring up the water from the pond high up in the sky.

Whoosh!

The hunchbacked old man withdrew his hand. With that, the vortex disappeared immediately, and the pond’s surface gradually grew still again.

He turned around and looked in the direction of Cloud Mountain as he muttered under his breath, “Young Master, rest assured. Your servant will definitely find that person and retrieve the Green Cicada Jade.”

...

The next morning.

Great Yuan’s capital was shrouded in a dense fog, giving the city a mysterious air.

Lu Zhou opened his eyes. His meditation had gone rather smoothly; he had recovered most, if not all, of his supreme mystic power.

After checking the Purple Glazed Ceramic, he discovered it had already recovered more than half of its energy.

All he needed to do next was leave for the Sky Wheel Mountain Range to undergo the Birth Trial. However, he was still worried about his disciples’ cultivation.

Lu Zhou recited the mantra for the power of sight and observed Yu Shangrong first.

He saw Yu Shangrong traveling leisurely through a forest on Ji Liang’s back. Yu Shangrong was clearly not in a rush; he looked as though he was enjoying the scenery. Since Yu Shangrong had sprouted the eleventh leaf, he thought Pu Yi’s life heart would be suitable for Yu Shangrong. He felt slightly puzzled that he still did not receive a system notification about releasing Yu Shangrong from his apprenticeship even though Yu Shangrong was strong enough to kill a Five Chart. He wondered if the system could not detect his second disciple’s strength due to the lack of a lotus and a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar.

Following that, he observed Ye Tianxin and Zhao Yue who were cultivating in the Evil Sky Pavilion. They did not seem to have any trouble with their cultivation. Zhao Yue had severed her lotus and was absorbing life hearts according to Yu Shangrong’s instructions while Ye Tianxin had successfully formed the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar.

“What about Old Third?” Lu Zhou knew better than anyone else that his third disciple was incredibly hard working. It was unfortunate that even with the Great Void Seed, his third disciple’s aptitude for

cultivation was lacking compared to his other disciples. Needless to say, compared to other cultivators, his third disciple was undoubtedly peerless. At this time, he saw his third disciple cultivating in the red lotus domain's Star Gathering Formation along with the four elders. Things seemed to be going smoothly as well for his third disciple, and it seemed like his third disciple would not be returning so soon.

Finally, Lu Zhou decided it was time to check on his eighth disciple.

Lu Zhou saw Lu Li pointing at a life heart on a table as he said, "This is the life heart of a sea beast king. This is the last one; don't give up! You've absorbed eight life hearts; this is the ninth one!"

Zhu Honggong shook his head and said, "Old Lu, my good impression of you has disappeared. When we return, I will tell my master you bullied me. Your treatment of me is really inhumane and unbearable. I'd rather eat sh\*t!"

"..."

Lu Zhou found this strange. Yu Shangrong had absorbed seven life hearts before he sprouted the eleventh leaf. Why was it that his eighth disciple had yet to sprout the eleventh leaf even after absorbing eight life hearts? Did this mean sprouting the eleventh leaf did not depend on the number of life hearts but the quality of the life hearts? Regardless if a life heart was good or bad, when one embedded it in the Birth Palace, a Birth Chart would be activated. Naturally, if the life heart was weak, one's power would not improve much. On the other hand, when absorbing life hearts, the essences of the life hearts would merge after being absorbed. Similarly, weak life hearts would affect the overall quality of the fused essences of the life hearts.

Lu Li said, "You! How long have we been in the yellow lotus domain? Do you still not understand my intention?"

Zhu Honggong scratched his head. "I really don't understand."

Lu Li sighed helplessly before he said, "This will be the last one; it'll definitely work. After you absorb it, you'll definitely enter the Thousand Realms Whirling stage..."

"Really?"

"Really."

"You're certain?"

"I'm certain."

Lu Li shook his head. Who would have thought he would also have a day where he had to coax another person.

Zhu Honggong picked up the life heart and said, "Alright, I'll trust you one more time!"

Lu Li shook his head and said, "I'll explain everything to your master when I see him."

The duo had been together for a long time, and they had many conversations together about the golden lotus domain. Therefore, Lu Li's understanding of the golden lotus domain had deepened. He said, "Back

then, the Eight-leaf stage was the highest in the golden lotus domain. Like the yellow lotus domain, the golden lotus domain can only be raised in captivity by stronger forces. You should be happy you have the guidance of a Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator like me. When you return, imagine what your master will think once he sees you've entered the Thousand Realms Whirling stage?"

Zhu Hong's eyes lit up. "You're right!"

"Your master will definitely feel grateful to me as well!" Lu Li said in high spirits.

#### **Chapter 1084: A Game of Cat and Mouse**

Zhu Honggong nodded. "My master isn't unreasonable. When we return, perhaps, he'll accept you and give you a position in the Evil Sky Pavilion."

Lu Li smiled and said, "Do you think I'm such a greedy person with ulterior motives? If that's the case, it's better for me to stay in the yellow lotus domain and live like a king."

Zhu Honggong laughed. "You're right. In fact, I think it's not a bad idea. It agrees as well." After he finished speaking, he pointed at Dang Kang that was lying under the table.

Dang Kang grunted twice before it fell back asleep. It lived a luxurious and enviable life ever since it came to the yellow lotus domain. It grew bigger than when it first arrived, and its fur shone lustrously.

Zhu Honggong asked, "Why do you have to return?"

Lu Li replied, "I'm different from you. The Lu clan isn't the same as before. As long as I stay in the Black Tower Council, the Lu clan will be safe..."

"If that's the case, why did you work so hard and go to the Endless Ocean?" Zhu Honggong asked.

"It wasn't my choice. The internal strife in the Black Tower Council is too severe. Those who maintain a neutral stance are vulnerable and without protection. For this reason, the dangerous task at the Endless Ocean fell on my lap."

"How Pitiful," Zhu Honggong said.

Lu Li replied with a straight face, "No, you should pity yourself. The ancestor of the Lu clan was really amazing. The clan wasn't one that cultivators could get close to. Even the current Black Tower Council wouldn't be worthy of our clan..."

"..."

"I know you don't believe me. However, 30,000 years ago, the ancestor of the Lu clan was a prominent figure. Even your Evil Sky Pavilion would not be able to compare to it!"

Zhu Honggong felt his head ache when he heard these words. He hastily picked the life heart up and thought to himself as he left, 'If you have the guts, you can say this in front of my master when you meet!'

...

At this time, Lu Zhou finally cut off the power of sight.

From the looks of it, his eighth disciple should be sprouting the eleventh leaf soon. It was relatively safe in the yellow lotus domain now. With Lu Li and Zhu Honggong's arrival in the yellow lotus domain, resulting in the introduction of severing one's lotus and the arrival of fierce beasts, it was only a matter of time before the yellow lotus domain grew stronger.

Lu Zhou did not observe Yu Zhenghai, Ming Shiyin, Ci Yuan'er, and Conch.

Yu Zhenghai had already entered the Thousand Realms Whirling stage. It would not take long for him to activate his second Birth Chart.

As for Mingshi Yin, Lu Zhou did not think there was a need to worry at all. It was best to let his fourth disciple be. So far, no one was aware that his fourth disciple had entered the Thousand Realms Whirling stage.

As for Little Yuan'er and Conch, they were talented and diligent so there was no need to worry about them as well.

Lu Zhou sighed and muttered to himself, "This is the reason why everyone fought and die for the Great Void Seed. Look at how talented my disciples are..."

At this moment, a voice rang from outside the door.

"Master, there's news."

"Speak."

"A pillar of light has appeared on the peak of the snowy mountain in Cloud Mountain. It's probably from a runic passage," Si Wuya said.

Lu Zhou rose to his feet and left the room with his hands on his back. When he saw Si Wuya standing respectfully outside of the room, he said, "Let's return to the red lotus domain."

"Understood."

When Lu Qianshan learned that Lu Zhou was leaving, he sent Lu Zhou off respectfully.

Lu Zhou left through Great Yuan's royal court's runic passage.

...

At this time, in the royal palace's Indestructible Hall in the capital.

Mu Ertie paced back and forth.

Soon after, a eunuch walked in and timidly said, "Your Majesty, the Pavilion Master of the Evil Sky Pavilion had already left the Lu clan and returned to the red lotus domain via our runic passage."

Mu Ertie stopped in his tracks and said with a serious expression, "Pass down my decree. Lu Qianshan will be conferred the title of Protector of the Country. The clan's wealth and fertile lands will be exempted from taxes..."

"Understood." The eunuch left respectfully.

Soon after, another two eunuchs entered, carrying a stretcher between them.

The warrior, An Se, the strongest expert in Great Yuan's royal palace, lay on the stretcher.

A sympathetic expression appeared on Mu Ertie's face as he asked, "Are... Are you alright?"

Anse coughed a few times before he replied confidently, "I... I'm fine. Don't worry, Your Majesty. I'll definitely return to the peak!"

"Your master is no longer around; will the Dark Soul Sect be willing to help you?"

It was almost impossible to recover after losing ten Birth Charts. Even if it were possible, it would take a long time. Therefore, Mu Ertie did not place much hope in this matter. However, if An Se had the help from the Dark Soul Sect, Mu Ertie thought An Se's chances were good.

An Se said, "Your Majesty, don't worry. I will definitely return to the peak."

"Alright," Mu Ertie said solemnly, "I promise you that I'll avenge you in two years' time."

An Se was rather moved when he heard these words. "T-thank you, Your Majesty."

"Bring Warrior An Se away so he can rest."

"Understood."

...

It was close to noon when Lu Zhou and Si Wuya arrived at the peak of the snowy mountain.

Si Wuya silently followed his master here. He did not ask about his master's purpose of coming to this place.

Lu Zhou's gaze swept over the Cold Pond. He silently observed his surroundings as he sniffed the air.

He could smell the faint smell of blood eroded by time, the snow, and the wind. He knew it was from Qin Moshang's subordinate whom he killed. Apart from that, he could smell two distinct remnants of vitality energies. He could tell one belonged to Qin Moshang, but he was unfamiliar with the other vitality energy that seemed vicious and fierce.

Lu Zhou walked forward and came to a stop next to the runic passage.

When Si Wuya saw the runic passage, he exclaimed in surprise, "There's a runic passage here? Does it lead to the black lotus domain?"

"It leads to the green lotus domain..." Lu Zhou said casually.

Si Wuya. "..."

"Do you have a way to completely destroy a runic passage?" Lu Zhou asked.

Si Wuya shook his head. "There's no way to completely destroy it. It can recover from damages. The best way is to seal it so the other side can't access the vitality energy here..."

“Alright. There’s no rush.” Once this runic passage was sealed, it would be akin to telling the other side that something had happened to the newcomer they sent here. The best choice was to leave the runic passage alone for now while he searched for the intruder.

Based on what Lu Zhou remembered of Qin Moshang and his servant’s conversation, it seemed like they were rules in regard to leaving the green lotus domain, and it was not easy to do so.

Si Wuya nodded before he asked, “Master, you plan to find the rat first before sealing the runic passage?”

Lu Zhou nodded. “Yes.” After a while, he said, “Let’s return.”

The pair of master and disciple flew down the snowy mountain.

Lu Zhou shrouded Si Wuya with his energy to make it easier for Si Wuya to descend the snowy mountain just as he did when they ascended the mountain.

The duo did not stay in Cloud Mountain and returned to the capital immediately.

...

In the evening.

In the Preservation Hall.

Lu Zhou recited the mantra for the power of smell and recalled the unfamiliar vitality energy at the peak of the mountain. He slowly expanded the range of his sense of smell; the range grew from a radius of 100 meters to a radius of 1,000 meters and a radius of 10,000 meters, but Lu Zhou did not smell that vitality energy. Even after he increased the range to cover the entire royal palace, he still did not catch the scent of the vitality energy. This was the current limit of the power of smell.

Lu Zhou cut off the power.

“Rat!” Lu Zhou muttered indignantly. He knew as long as he could not find the rat, he would not be able to start his Birth Trial.

...

At the peak of the snowy mountain, north of Cloud Mountain.

The hunchbacked old man descended from the sky. His nose twitched as he sniffed the air. However, he did not seem to smell anything out of the ordinary.

Following that, he brought a jade disk out of the pocket near his chest. After he channeled his Primal Qi into the jade disk, the jade disk began to glow with a weak light. Then, he held the jade disk in his hand as he flew toward the Cold Pond. As soon as he arrived by the pond, the light from the jade disk vanished.

“The Green Cicada Jade...”

The jade disk could sense the location of the Green Cicada Jade, but its aura was too weak now for the jade disk to accurately pinpoint its location.



When the hunchbacked old man turned around, the jade disk lit up weakly again before it was extinguished.

After putting away the jade disk, he looked in the direction of the capital, "I really like a game of cat and mouse..."

Then, he shifted his gaze to the runic passage as he thought to himself, 'That person took the Green Cicada Jade but didn't destroy the runic passage?'

After a few more breaths, the hunchbacked old man left the peak of the snowy mountain. As he flew high in the sky, he suddenly sensed a slight movement from the jade disk. He brought it out immediately. As expected, it was glowing with a faint light.

He muttered to himself, "You can't resist using it, can you?"

The Green Cicada Jade was a sacred object that contained abundant vitality energy. Was there anyone who could resist absorbing the vitality energy in it?

### **Chapter 1085: The Green Cicada Jade with 10,000 Years of Life**

The hunchbacked old man hovered in the air and sensed the fluctuations from the jade disk. As expected, the jade disk's movements were stronger than before.

"I'll make you spit out all of the vitality energy you've absorbed."

With that, the hunchbacked old man flew in the direction of the capital. His speed was like that of a shooting star as he streaked across the sky.

...

In the royal palace's Preservation Hall.

Lu Zhou continued to absorb the vitality energy in the Green Cicada Jade.

The Green Cicada Jade glowed with a faint yellow and green light.

Wisps of green energy entered Lu Zhou's nostrils, surging into his Eight Extraordinary Meridians and his Dantian's sea of Qi and filling his body.

"Just how many years of vitality energy is in the Green Cicada Jade?" Lu Zhou wondered out loud. After absorbing it for such a long time, the vitality energy in the Green Cicada Jade showed no sign of depletion.

From his system interface, he saw he had gained more than 2,000 years.

"This Green Cicada Jade is worthy of being a sacred object. It has the same ability as the life heart, which can increase one's lifespan..."

Lu Zhou began to absorb the vitality energy faster than before. At the same time, he activated the Purple Glazed Ceramic as well.

With the help from the Purple Glazed Ceramic, the circulation speed in his Eight Extraordinary Meridians was also much faster than usual; the vitality energy coursed through his meridians at top speed.

The green energy that entered his nostrils grew richer as well.

+300

+500

+600

This was beyond Lu Zhou's expectations.

"With this, won't the Reversal Cards be useless?"

If he could search for vitality energy and store them in the Green Cicada Jade like Qin Moshang did, after the vitality energy was boosted by the jade, he would be able to absorb it. This was perfect!

Lu Zhou continued absorbing the vitality energy for another two hours.

He stopped when he felt his Dantian's sea of Qi was about to expand again. He looked at his system interface.

Remaining lifespan: 1861,500 days (5,100 years in which 600 years are from Reversal Cards)

"5,000 years..." He really did not expect this little Green Cicada Jade to have so much vitality energy. "There's no doubt Qin Moshang has an extraordinary background."

He sighed regretfully. At that time, he should have decisively tossed the item card out to prevent Qin Moshang from returning. That kid was extraordinarily talented and had a powerful background. If that kid was allowed to grow, he would become future trouble. Killing Qin Moshang in the cradle was the best and correct choice.

Thud!

All of a sudden, the Green Cicada Jade that hovered in front of Lu Zhou fell to the ground. It stopped glowing as well.

"Hmm?" Lu Zhou noticed there was a chip on the Green Cicada Jade; the chipped piece had blackened as well.

"Is it a one-time-use item?" Lu Zhou picked up the Green Cicada Jade and carefully gauged the remaining vitality energy. There was only half of its original vitality energy left. As expected, it could not be used infinitely. Otherwise, it would be too heaven-defying. Even so, this little Green Cicada Jade could provide almost 10,000 years' worth of vitality energy. Coupled with his Reversal Cards, he was close to being an immortal.

At this moment, Yu Shangrong's voice rang from outside of the hall.

"Disciple greets master."

Lu Zhou put away the Green Cicada Jade and said tonelessly, "Come in."

Yu Shangrong slowly walked into the Preservation Hall, looking calm and confident as always. However, his calm was shattered when he saw the person in front of him. He looked to the left and the right before he asked with a frown, "Who are you?"

Lu Zhou. “???”

When Yu Shangrong was outside, he was sure he heard his master’s voice. How did it become another person?

In the Evil Sky Pavilion, only Zuo Yushu had seen Ji Tiandao’s appearance from 500 years ago. Even Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong had seen Ji Tiandao’s appearance from 300 years ago. At that time, Ji Tiandao was already a middle-aged man; he did not look anything like the dignified young man in front of Yu Shangrong at all.

“Impudent,” Lu Zhou said as he raised his voice slightly.

Yu Shangrong immediately recognized that tone and voice. He fell on one knee and called out tentatively, “Master?”

Lu Zhou shook his head helplessly. He was too engrossed in thinking about the Green Cicada Jade that he forgot about the change in his appearance and allowed Yu Shangrong to see him. He wondered how he should explain this to his disciple. He wondered if he should say it was a cultivation method.

After a moment, his eyes landed on the blackened chipped part of the Green Cicada Jade. Then, he said, “I obtained a sacred object called the Green Cicada Jade. It provides a large amount of vitality energy.”

Yu Shangrong was not the overly-curious kind. Moreover, the person who had spoken was his master. Hence, he did not doubt his master’s words at all. Apart from that, the matter of appearance was not important at all. He said, “I see. Back then, master traveled all over the world in search of a way to extend one’s lifespan. In the end, master finally found it.”

Yu Shangrong was still speaking when he curiously picked up the chipped piece of the Green Cicada Jade and studied it. Indeed, he could feel a faint vitality energy from it.

Lu Zhou said, “As a Nobleman, your lifespan is originally short...”

Yu Shangrong hurriedly interjected, “I daren’t covet master’s possession. I’ve made a breakthrough in my cultivation, and my lifespan has increased greatly. Moreover, with Ji Liang’s help, I’m safe...”

Lu Zhou nodded. He rose to his feet and walked down from the steps as he said, “Very good. Show me your avatar.”

Yu Shangrong did not dare to hide anything and immediately manifested a miniature version of his avatar.

Buzz!

It still looked like a Hundred Tribulation Insight avatar. Apart from the eleventh leaf and its body that was completely golden now, the biggest difference was the golden halo at the back of the avatar, which the eleven leaves that gleamed sharply were neatly surrounding.

Lu Zhou nodded and said, “Keep up the good work.”

Yu Shangrong was a little puzzled and said, “Master, you’re not surprised?”

Lu Zhou almost exposed himself again. However, there was no change in his expression as he said, "If nothing unexpected happens, you'll be able to sprout the twelfth leaf. Your improvement will be slower if you continue to absorb low-level life hearts. High-level life hearts will help you sprout the next leaf faster..."

Yu Shangrong bowed. "Thank you for your guidance, master."

Previously, Yu Shangrong was uncertain if it was possible to sprout the twelfth leaf. However, after listening to his master's words, his confidence was greatly boosted. As expected of his master who was experienced and knowledgeable. It was no wonder his master was not surprised.

Subsequently, Lu Zhou brought out Pu Yi's life heart and tossed it over to Yu Shangrong. "This is Pu Yi's life heart. It has the ability to control water. Take it and use it."

"I dare not."

"I've already used the life heart. There's no need for you to feel burdened about accepting it," Lu Zhou said.

Upon hearing this, Yu Shangrong could only accept it. "I understand."

Lu Zhou planned to give Yu Zhenghai a good life heart as well, but currently, Yu Zhenghai had not even activated his second Birth Chart yet, hence, Yu Zhenghai did not need such a good life heart for now.

"Alright. You may take your leave. Don't let anyone come into the hall after this." Lu Zhou wanted time alone to stabilize the effects of the Green Cicada Jade.

"I'll take my leave then." Yu Shangrong put away his avatar and turned to leave. When he was outside of the Preservation Hall, he ran into Conch.

"Second Senior Brother!?"

"Hello, Little Junior Sister," Yu Shangrong said gently.

"Ninth Senior Sister just spoke about Second Senior Brother yesterday. She was worried about you. I didn't expect to see you today," Conch said happily.

"Thank you for both of your concerns. It's just a small matter; it's not worth worrying over," Yu Shangrong replied.

"Where's master?"

"Little Junior Sister, master is in closed-door cultivation," Yu Shangrong said.

"Oh..." Conch said, slightly disappointed.

When he saw Conch peering behind him to look at the Preservation Hall, Yu Shangrong suddenly handed the chipped piece of the Green Cicada Jade to her. "Take this."

"Thank you for the gift, Second Senior Brother!"

"It's not a gift. Please throw this away," Yu Shangrong said.

“...”

Conch pouted before she stomped her foot and left in a huff.

Yu Shangrong shook his head slightly as a faint smile appeared on his face. ‘Did she get influenced by Little Yuan’er’s temper?’

...

At the same time, the hunchbacked old man hovered in the air above the capital. As he looked at the gradually dimming jade disk, a smile appeared on his face.

Earlier, the jade disk had shone brightly before it dimmed again. Now it was shining with a faint light.

The hunchbacked old man raised his head and glanced in the direction of the royal palace.

“Found you.”

Following that, he flew toward the royal palace, leaving afterimages in his wake.

The people on the streets only felt a gust of cold wind blowing past them, unable to see anything at all.

In less than 15 minutes, the hunchbacked old man arrived on the palace wall, overlooking the entire palace.

“A pitiful person must feel resentful, and a resentful person must feel miserable. No matter what it is, being weak is the greatest pity.”

He jumped down from the palace wall and rushed into the royal palace.

### **Chapter 1086: Obviously Weak But Terrifyingly Strong**

The hunchbacked old man was not foolish. On the contrary, Qin Moshang had sent him to seek revenge precisely because he was cautious. Everyone in the Qin clan referred to him as the hunchbacked old man, and he was known for his strange ideas and actions.

The hunchbacked old man flew past the Supreme Hall and the Political Announcement Hall. Along the way, there were many eunuchs and palace maids coming and going, conversing among themselves. Nevertheless, no one detected the presence of this mysterious expert.

“With so many members of the Evil Sky Pavilion guarding the royal palace, there’s no doubt it’s the safest place in the world.”

The hunchbacked old man flashed to the top of a roof and looked down at a group of eunuchs.

“I heard that Lan Xihe, the Tower Master of the White Tower Council, an expert with 13 Birth Charts, could hardly survive one move from Pavilion Master Lu. She only released half of her original attack before she fell to the ground.”

The hunchbacked old man frowned upon hearing these words. His breathing quickened as well as he thought to himself, ‘There’s such an expert here?!’

"I heard Pavilion Master Lu defeated hundreds of Thousand Realms Whirling experts, including Xia Zhengrong who has 12 Birth Charts. With just a move, he scared away the Tower Master of the Black Tower Council. Apparently, the scene was so shocking at that time; it was as though the entire world was turned upside down. Yin and Yang were... Yin and Yang were..."

"Yin and Yang were out of balance. If you don't know it, you shouldn't try to show off..."

"Well, in any case, Pavilion Master Lu is unimaginably powerful."

The hunchbacked old man's expression was solemn. His eyes shone with a strange green light at this moment as he carefully sensed the wind and the movement of the grass around him.

"Is there really such an expert?" The hunchbacked old man found it hard to believe. He brought the jade disk out again. The jade disk trembled slightly.

The aura of the Green Cicada Jade was weak here. The movements of the jade disk would grow stronger as he drew closer to the Green Cicada Jade.

After he put the jade disk away, he moved like the wind toward the Palace of Tranquility. He paused for a moment when he saw a green-robed swordsman walking along the high walls of the palace.

'A swordsman?'

This was the royal palace. If the green-robed swordsman was a palace expert, he would not be dressed in such a manner. However, he did not look like a wandering or sectless cultivator at all.

The hunchbacked old man gently sensed the green-robed swordsman's aura to avoid detection. The green light in his eyes brightened as a smile appeared on his face. "Only ten leaves..."

In his eyes, a Ten-leaf cultivator was no different from an ant. Normally, he would not pay attention to or kill someone like that; it would only be a waste of his energy. He had stopped because the swordsman's bearing was rather extraordinary. His intuition there was something not quite right with the swordsman that he could not put his finger on, hence, his interest was piqued. He felt the ant in front of him was rather special and was filled with an urge to kill this unique little ant. Moreover, seeing a mere Ten-leaf cultivator walking so arrogantly irritated him. In his opinion, that ant-like existence should walk with his tail tucked between his legs.

The hunchbacked old man held the jade disk with one hand. Then, wisps of green smoke drifted out from the jade disk.

The green smoke drifted toward Yu Shangrong like a venomous snake before it brushed across Yu Shangrong's well-defined face like a breeze.

Yu Shangrong suddenly stopped in his tracks. He looked to the left and the right. When he did not see anything out of the ordinary, he continued walking.

The hunchbacked old man frowned. 'He's not dead? Impossible! This doesn't make sense!'

The green smoke was a strange and tricky killing witchcraft technique from the jade disk. It was almost impossible to detect. Once the green smoke made contact with the target, the target's skin would begin to decay before being reduced to a skeleton.

The hunchbacked old man had taken into consideration that there might be experts in the royal palace so he had planned to use this kind of invisible killing technique. For sneak attacks, witchcraft techniques were undoubtedly the best.

Unresigned, the hunchbacked old man restrained all his aura, making him no different from an inanimate object, before he released the green smoke again.

This time, the green smoke was richer, and the breeze it turned into was stronger than before.

Just like earlier, it blew past Yu Shangrong harmlessly.

'How is this possible?' The hunchbacked old man was in shock and disbelief. His eyes were like that of a venomous snake as he looked at the green-robbed swordsman.

The hunchbacked old man was just about to attack again when his eyes suddenly widened in shock and disbelief.

"I'm sorry; there won't be a third time."

Yu Shangrong flashed and flew toward the roof of a hall and arrived in front of the hunchbacked old man at lightning speed. He brandished his sword, shooting out energy swords that looked like a fireworks display.

Whoosh!

The hunchbacked old man turned into a gust of wind and fled into the distance. He could not afford to expose himself now.

Yu Shangrong rose high into the sky until the entire royal palace was in his sight. When he sensed the energy in the distance, he murmured, "An expert."

Yu Shangrong did not chase after the intruder. He planned to hand this matter over to Si Wuya.

At this moment, the hunchbacked old man stopped and turned to have a look. When he realized Yu Shangrong did not chase after him, he could not help but frown. His intention was to lure Yu Shangrong over so he could silently kill Yu Shangrong to hide his presence. He did not expect Yu Shangrong would not give chase at all.

'There's no reason for him to not die from the green smoke... Why? He's obviously a ridiculously weak Ten-leaf cultivator. However, his sword technique earlier was really formidable...'

Nevertheless, the hunchbacked old man was not intimidated. Once again, he turned into a gust of wind and flew back to where he had come from. Alas, Yu Shangrong was nowhere to be seen.

With this, the hunchbacked old man could only bring out the jade disk again before he rushed to the back of the royal palace at top speed. Soon after, he arrived above a palace.

He looked at the vibrating jade disk. "There's no doubt the Green Cicada Jade is here..."

At this moment, he saw an elegant woman sitting gracefully in the backyard of the palace. An exquisite zither was placed in front of the woman. Every time the woman moved the jade disk would vibrate as well.

“So the Green Cicada Jade is with you...”

The hunchbacked old man discreetly sensed the woman’s aura. The result was the same as when he sensed the green-robed swordsman’s aura; her aura was weak! It was extremely weak! She was so weak that he felt his fighting spirit was dampened.

Nevertheless, the hunchbacked old man was still very cautious. After all, how could someone who was capable of destroying one of Qin Moshang’s nine Birth Charts be a weakling? In any case, his mission this time was to seek revenge for his Young Master; he had to kill the culprit.

The jade disk began to spin at this moment.

Green smoke billowed in the air looking like a giant venomous snake as it drifted toward its target.

Swoosh!

A gust of wind blew past the woman harmlessly. Not only was she alive, but she looked rather happy as well, judging by the faint smile on her face.

The hunchbacked old man. “???”

He felt as though he had seen a ghost. It was one thing for the green-robed swordsman to survive the green smoke, but even the young woman in front of him was fine! Was this not akin to a slap? Should the young woman not cooperate with him and fall dead? He felt as though his worldview had collapsed at this moment.

After a while, the hunchbacked finally concluded that the problem lay with the witchcraft technique not these ants.

“Being weak is a sin.”

The hunchbacked old man moved his hand.

A faint green seal appeared in the blue sky. Due to how faint it was, it was hardly noticeable. This was one of its advantages.

At this moment, the woman’s ten fingers descended on the zither, plucking its strings.

The melodious sound swept out in a huge soundwave like a tsunami.

‘An expert?!’ The hunchbacked old man shuddered and dispelled the green seal before he fled and hid behind one of the buildings. Then, he collected his thoughts. ‘There’s no rush; let’s wait a little longer. How can someone who withstand witchcraft techniques, even if the technique is faulty, be a weakling?’

Naturally, the hunchbacked old man no longer planned to use that witchcraft technique. He would wait for the perfect moment to deal a fatal blow.

He continued to hide. He was slightly impressed; he did not expect the tiny red lotus domain to be a place filled with crouching tigers and hidden dragons. Nonetheless, they were still rather weak. Fortunately, he was cautious. He thought to himself that his Young Master did not lose one Birth Chart in vain.



...

Meanwhile, out of caution, Yu Shangrong had passed on the information to Si Wuya. His Seventh Junior Brother was smart so he was confident his Seventh Junior Brother would be able to deal with the matter.

One of the reasons Yu Shangrong had survived until now was due to his accurate judgment. His instinct told him the expert must be powerful to confidently infiltrate the royal palace. Moreover, based on what he could sense from that gust of wind, he could sense the intruder was stronger than he was. Therefore, he did not understand why the intruder fled without attacking at all. Since he could tell the intruder was very powerful, he would not be so foolish as to give chase.

...

After Si Wuya learned about the matter from Yu Shangrong, he went to look for Lu Zhou in the Preservation Hall immediately. He took the matter seriously after listening to Yu Shangrong.

He bowed in front of the hall before he said without beating around the bush, "Master, there's an intruder in the royal palace. Please be careful."

Lu Zhou was sitting cross-legged and cultivating with his eyes closed opened his eyes at this moment. Perhaps, he had been used to being old, his mannerism and speech were still that of an old man. However, this did not diminish his prestige at all.

"Alright."

Lu Zhou stopped cultivating and looked at the Green Cicada Jade in front of him and thought about the runic passage at the peak of the snowy mountain.

The supreme mystic power flowed around his nose before the scents from all directions assaulted his nose.

Lu Zhou expanded the range of his sense of smell, searching for the vitality energy he had sensed from the peak of the snowy mountain that day.

He did not find anything within a radius of 100 meters; he did not find anything within a radius of 1,000 meters as well.

He continued to expand the range of his sense of smell, covering the Political Announcement Hall and the back palaces. Still, there was nothing.

'Where could he be hiding?' Lu Zhou wondered as he continued to search. Since the other party dared to come to the royal palace, his cultivation base had to be higher than Qin Moshang's.

While he used the power of smell from the Heavenly Writing, he had to make sure to retain enough supreme mystic power to deal with the intruder as well.

Just as his power swept past one of the palace's walls, he smelled a familiar scent. This scent was precisely the scent of the other vitality energy at the peak of the snowy mountain.

"Found you."

Lu Zhou flashed out of the Preservation Hall immediately. His speed was so fast that the doors to the hall seemed to open and to close by themselves with a loud bang.

Even Si Wuya who was standing outside of the hall failed to capture Lu Zhou's movement. He rubbed his eyes. "Master? Am I seeing things?"

Needless to say, it did not take long for Si Wuya to realize that was not the case. He quickly chased after his master.

...

At this moment, the hunchbacked old man was still hiding behind one of the buildings in the royal palace. After using the jade disk, he concluded the Green Cicada Jade was with the young woman who was playing the zither.

Being a cautious person, he sensed his surroundings again. He did not sense anyone approaching nor did he sense any powerful aura.

With that, his eyes began to glow green again. At the same time, killing intent rose from his body.

"No matter who you are, you have to die today. No one can save you!"

As soon as his voice fell, the sky suddenly flowed red. It was a wave of red energy so vast that it covered the sky. Following that, it swept out toward him.

The hunchbacked old man was slightly startled. "Girl, you managed to discover my presence?"

Conch's senses were rather good. After a series of abnormalities, she had already discovered the presence of the enemy. She leaped into the air and spun as the Nine String Zither exploded with a storm-like melody.

The rhythm of the melody was like the raging waves, stirring up the wind and the clouds.

The hunchbacked old man charged out and extended his hand that glowed with a green light. "Little girl, you dare to trick me?"

Although the hunchbacked old man's cultivation base was quite high, he decided to kill Conch with one move after seeing the force of her sound technique that exceeded that of a Ten-leaf cultivator.

Conch flew backward.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The red soundwave energy converged, looking like a curved blade, before it shot toward the hunchbacked old man.

Conch frowned slightly. She could feel how strong her opponent was; he could easily crush her with his strength.

'How can he be so strong?' Conch realized her red energy only managed to slow her opponent down slightly. Since she did not know her opponent's cultivation base, she did not know it was impressive enough that she was able to slow him down at all.

The hunchbacked old man arrived in front of Conch at lightning speed. His palm was like the mountain as he moved to strike her.

Conch quickly held the Nine String Zither up and plucked at the zither's strings.

The melody was cacophonous and ear-piercing, distracting the hunchbacked old man for a moment.

This was one of the advantages of sound techniques. Even if a cultivator's physique was strong and had a profound cultivation base, most of them were not deaf. Therefore, those with weak minds and will would still be distracted by factors in their environments regardless of how high their cultivation bases were.

The wave-like sound technique from the flood-grade Nine String Zither swept toward the hunchbacked old man.

The more the old man listened to the melody, the angrier he became. In the end, he decided to attack with all his strength.

Boom!

With just a palm strike, he destroyed the sound waves. The gap between their strengths was too big after all.

"This..." Conch fell to the ground from the impact. She saw the green palm seal shooting toward her and turned away instinctively even though she was not afraid.

Just as the palm seal was about to crush Conch into meaty pulp...

Bang!

The hunchbacked old man was sent flying by a blue light. He spun like a windmill for 100 meters before he suddenly vanished into thin air.

Conch opened her eyes. She blinked, in a daze, as she muttered, "I... I didn't die?" She touched her face, her arms, and her legs. Everything was fine.

When Conch finally looked up, she saw a figure standing in front of her. Although she could only see the person's back, the feeling it brought her was like that of Mount Tai; tall and unmoving. The person in front of her stood with his hands on his back, his gaze trained up ahead.

Conch was incredibly curious. She tilted her head slightly to the side to take a look. As it turned out, it was a young man. Then, she said politely, "Thank you for saving me, young sir."

Lu Zhou ignored Conch and stared at the place where the hunchbacked old man had disappeared. Nevertheless, he thought to himself that it was fine to address him as mister, but was there a need to add the word 'young' in front?

Seeing that the person in front of her did not respond, Conch opened her mouth, ready to thank him again.

However, at this moment, a figure flew over from the roof nearby and said, "Junior sister, don't be rude..."

“Second Senior Brother?”

“Why aren’t you paying respect to master?” Yu Shangrong asked.

Conch was baffled.

Lu Zhou naturally did not have time to explain to Conch. With a light tap of his toes, he flew into the air.

Conch stammered, “S-second Senior Brother, are you joking?”

Yu Shangrong smiled and said, “Do I look like someone who likes to joke?”

“T-that’s not what I meant... That... T-that’s really master?” Conch asked as she pointed into the distance.

Yu Shangrong nodded before he flew to stand next to Conch. “That’s right. Master found a sacred item that provided him with a lot of vitality energy.”

An expression of shock and disbelief appeared on Conch’s face. She found this hard to accept.

Meanwhile, Si Wuya had also arrived at this time and landed in front of his two fellow disciples. “Where’s master?”

Yu Shangrong pointed at the sky in the northern part of the royal palace.

Si Wuya turned around and glanced at the Conch. “I only knew the intruder had made a move when I heard the sound of the Nine String Zither.”

Conch asked, “Seventh Senior Brother, have you seen master’s appearance?”

Si Wuya said, “I don’t have time to explain to you now. Master’s identity is very special. Don’t tell anyone about this; it’s enough for us fellow disciples to know about it.”

Before the incident with the Lu clan, there was no real need to hide Lu Zhou’s youthful appearance. However, it seemed like not hiding it now would attract unnecessary trouble.

“Okay.” Conch nodded.

Following that, Si Wuya rushed into the distance as well.

Yu Shangrong did not make a move. Instead, he said tonelessly, “Little Junior Sister, you don’t look too happy.”

“Master seems to... dislike me slightly...” Conch muttered.

Yu Shangrong smiled slightly and said, “Don’t think too much. You entered the sect last so, among all of us, you understand master the least. This is how master treats everyone.”

“Is that so?”

“Even master’s favorite, Ninth Junior Sister, would get scolded sometimes. You just haven’t seen it yet...” Yu Shangrong said.

Bang!

A red dragon flew over at this moment.

Little Yuan'er flew over on the Nirvana Sash. After she landed on a rock, she said, "There's no such thing! Second Senior Brother is spreading rumors again! Where's master?"

Yu Shangrong. "???"

Yu Shangrong thought Conch would still be said. However, she seemed to have met a long-lost friend. She flew into the air and rushed over to Little Yuan'er and said in a conspiratorial tone, "Ninth Senior Sister, let me tell you a secret! Master has become younger! No, he has become young!"

Little Yuan'er scratched her head, unable to understand these words.

Yu Shangrong gently shook his head and said, "Both of you, be careful."

Following that, Yu Shangrong flew into the air with movements as light as a swallow in search of the intruder.

...

After Lu Zhou rose high into the sky at the northernmost part of the royal palace, he observed his surroundings and sniffed the air. He followed the scent, flying to the left and sometimes to the right before he suddenly came to a halt.

The surroundings were quiet.

Lu Zhou was certain the rat was in the vicinity and could not have run far. The direction of the Political Announcement Hall was littered with experts while the Dao inscriptions on the palace walls had been activated. Most importantly, he knew the scent of the energy was the most intense here thanks to the power of smell from the Heavenly Writing.

Lu Zhou said in a low voice, "Do you think you can escape from me?"

### **Chapter 1087: The World of the Strong**

Lu Zhou knew the 'rat' could hear him. He was not in a rush. He hovered in the air and recited the mantra for the power of hearing.

Lu Zhou could smell the intruder's aura clearly. He could even smell changes in the density of the aura that was slight as a strand of hair. The cold aura lingered in all four directions. Nevertheless, he knew it would be rather difficult to find this rat that was rather good at hiding even if he knew the general area where the rat was hiding just by relying on the power of smell alone.

The sound of the wind and grass in the surroundings entered Lu Zhou's ears as he searched for the sound of breathing and heartbeat.

Only a true expert could suppress his breathing and heartbeat, appearing dead, in this kind of situation.

Back then, Meng Changdong was unaware that no matter how good his escape technique was, he could never hide from an expert like Lu Zhou. Only if he was able to become one with nature or suppress his breathing and heartbeat to appear dead would he have a chance of escaping.

Lu Zhou increased the range of his hearing, covering a radius of 100 meters. All of a sudden, he faced north and raised his hand.

Bang!

A shining golden palm seal struck the tiles on the ground, shattering them.

The hunchbacked old man was shocked. He retreated from his hiding place to avoid the palm seal and was forced to reveal himself. Following that, he appeared in front of Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou raised his hand to stroke his non-existent beard again as he said tonelessly, "Rat."

The hunchbacked old man stared at Lu Zhou with a hint of surprise and said, "You're quite skilled."

Lu Zhou said, "I wasn't worried I won't be able to find you. What a pity! You refused the path to heaven and barged through the doors of hell instead..."

The hunchbacked old man brought the jade disk out. He saw that the jade disk vibrated slightly; its movements were rather slight. After putting it away, he asked, "Is the Green Cicada Jade with you?"

Lu Zhou was not in a hurry to make a move. It was best to familiarize himself with the enemy. As the saying went, 'One could ensure victory if one knew oneself and one's enemy'. His opponent was from the green lotus domain; it was best if he could nip this problem in the bud to prevent future troubles.

Lu Zhou did not reply to the question. Instead, he asked, "Is that young man your master?"

The hunchbacked old man sneered as he said, "It wouldn't be so bad if you'd just snatched the Young Master's Green Cicada Jade, but it's unforgivable that you destroy one of his Birth Charts. How can I allow your vicious act to go unpunished?"

The hunchbacked old man was lost in his thoughts. Earlier, when he was attacking Conch, his attack had collided with the palm strike of the person in front of him. Based on that, he could tell his opponent had a profound cultivation base. However, it was really strange; his opponent's aura was rather weak and was not like the aura of a super expert. It was strange that his opponent could catch up to him and even pinpoint his location. With such amazing perception, he knew his opponent was not weak. For all these reasons, he was incredibly cautious dealing with his opponent.

At this time, Yu Shangrong, who had rushed over like the wind from afar, heard the hunchbacked old man's words. He said, "How hypocritical. You're allowed to kill others, but it's wrong when someone else does it? What kind of twisted logic is this?"

The hunchbacked old man looked at Yu Shangrong and recalled the previous incident. He said, "You better not interfere."

Yu Shangrong shook his head. Then, he bowed at Lu Zhou and said. "Master, such an obstinate person isn't worthy of you personally making a move. Let me deal with him; I'll behead him on your behalf."

The hunchbacked old man's expression stiffened upon hearing these words.

Lu Zhou waved his hand. "Stand back and watch."

"Understood." Yu Shangrong retreated respectfully to the side.

“Is he your disciple?” the hunchbacked old man asked.

Before he finished speaking, another person with golden wings that span dozens of meters rushed over from afar.

“Master, ” Si Wuya came to a stop nearby and said, “Little Junior Sister is fine.”

The hunchbacked old man sensed Si Wuya’s strength and discovered Si Wuya was only on the verge of sprouting the tenth leaf. These people were only Hundred Tribulations Insight cultivators. After a beat, his eyes gleamed as he asked, “That girl is also your disciple?”

Was this a coincidence? How could he run into so many disciples of that person in front of him in the vast royal palace? With this, the hunchbacked old man grew even warier of Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou said, “The person you tried to kill is my disciple.”

The hunchbacked old man chuckled. “I underestimated you.”

Lu Zhou said, “You’re dead the moment you made a move. I destroyed one of your Young Master’s Birth Charts to teach him a lesson instead of killing him. I didn’t expect he would not repent.”

The hunchbacked old man shook his head and said, “The one who should repent is you, not my Young Master. It’s only right and proper that I avenge my Young Master today.”

Lu Zhou shook his head. “You really don’t know what’s good for you.”

Subsequently, Lu Zhou brought the Golden Taixu Mirror out.

The light from the mirror shone on the hunchbacked old man, and he instinctively tried to avoid it. However, how could he be faster than the speed of light?

Lu Zhou rose into the air, holding onto the Golden Taixu, which was shining on the hunchbacked old man, with his right hand.

At this moment, Si Wuya reminded Yu Shangrong, “Senior brother, step back.”

Si Wuya was worried the old thing in front of them would seize the chance and take them hostage to threaten their master. That would put their master in a disadvantageous position.

Yu Shangrong nodded and flew back. He and Si Wuya flew toward Yu Zhenghai and the other disciples along with the Guardian of the Evil Sky Pavilion who had just arrived.

Si Wuya had no time to explain their master’s youthful appearance. He only told them the young man was the Pavilion Master of the Evil Sky Pavilion and that they were not to breathe a word of this matter to anyone else.

Needless to say, Lu Zhou’s youthful appearance shocked everyone.

Yu Zhenghai and Little Yuan’er’s hearts were filled with questions. Was the young man really their master? However, when they saw the blue palm seals flying in the air, they no longer doubted the young man’s identity.

When the golden light shone on the hunchbacked old man, nothing could be seen. His reflection mirrored his current appearance. He sneered and said, "You're not strong enough to probe my cultivation..."

Lu Zhou said faintly, "It's too early to say."

Following that, Lu Zhou's hand glowed with a faint blue light. With this, the golden beam of light from the Golden Taixu Mirror turned blue as it shone on the hunchbacked old man.

A puppet could be seen behind the old man, and standing behind the puppet was the old man's avatar.

Wisps of ribbon-like green smoke snaked around the hunchbacked old man's avatar and astrolabe. Green light shone faintly from the Birth Disk that contained the 36 triangles. When Lu Zhou looked down at the lotus at the avatar's feet, he saw 13 Birth Charts flashing distinctly in the Birth Palace.

However, unlike Lan Xihe, the hunchbacked old man had eleven leaves on top of the 13 Birth Charts.

Lan Xihe had once said that there was a mistake in her cultivation; she did not sprout the eleventh leaf before she activated her thirteenth Birth Chart.

Clearly, the hunchbacked old man did not make such a mistake and successfully sprouted the eleventh leaf before activating his thirteenth Birth Chart.

"Blue light? You're capable of spying on my avatar?!" The hunchbacked old man's expression was unsightly; he was both angry and surprised.

'One leaf for every 12 Birth Charts?' A vague idea formed in Lu Zhou's mind. At the same time, he withdrew the supreme mystic power, causing the blue light to turn golden. In fact, he was also surprised by his opponent's puppet and 13 Birth Charts. This was his first time facing such an opponent.

Lu Zhou still did not put the Golden Taixu Mirror away; it was still shining on the hunchbacked old man.

The hunchbacked old man was angry. This was no different from someone shining a torchlight at one's face at night! He casually waved his hand; the jade disk spun out in the air. Spiral-shaped energy seals shot out in all directions in just a blink of an eye as he moved out of the range of the light.

After putting away the Golden Taixu Mirror, Lu Zhou said condescendingly, "I thought you're an expert. To think a mere Thirteen Chart cultivator dares to act so arrogantly."

"You're really good at bragging. Are you the expert who defeated that Thirteen Chart cultivator from the white lotus domain?" the hunchbacked man asked.

"Oh, has my name spread to the green lotus domain?" Lu Zhou asked.

The hunchbacked old man really could not endure Lu Zhou's high-handed way of speaking any longer. His figure flickered before he appeared in front of Lu Zhou in just a blink of an eye.

Meanwhile, the cultivators watching in the distance revealed excited expressions on their faces.

"Let's see how Pavilion Master Lu defeats his opponent!"

"It's still the same style as before. The result will be the same."



Xia Changqiu wore a smile on his face as he watched the scene in front of him. In his mind, he had already prepared 10,000 words of flattery.

At this moment...

Boom!

When the hunchbacked old man suddenly pushed his hand that glowed with a green light out, green ribbons of smoke from the jade disk shot out violently.

Lu Zhou raised his hands to block the attack, but the ribbons of smoke bypassed his hands and landed on his protective energy, causing him to fly back.

Critical Block Card -1!

Lu Zhou was caught off guard by the hunchbacked old man, whose speed was faster than Lan Xihe's. He berated himself for being sloppy. After he quickly stabilized his body, he looked at his opponent.

The hunchbacked old man's confidence rose seeing that his strike managed to push Lu Zhou back. He said, "Stop posturing. You don't have the appearance of an expert at all..."

Lu Zhou asked, "What kind of Birth Chart Power is that?"

The hunchbacked old man replied, "Is there a need for me to use my Birth Chart Power on you?"

Meanwhile, even the eunuchs and palace maids had gathered in the near distance, attracted by the huge commotion.

The hunchbacked old man was annoyed by this and roared, "Scram!"

The sound waves rolled out, causing everyone to retreat in a hurry.

Lu Zhou had to determine his opponent's Birth Chart Power to see if it was worth it to use his Reduction Card. It would be a waste to use it rashly. Moreover, his opponent also had a puppet to protect him, making his opponent difficult to deal with.

Needless to say, although the hunchbacked old man had 13 Birth Charts like Lan Xihe, with the addition of the eleventh leaf, his strength was much superior to Lan Xihe's.

At this time, in the distance...

"Don't worry. Pavilion Master is just warming up... Look, isn't he just fine?" Xia Changqiu said confidently.

"It'd be fine if you didn't mention this. Now that you mentioned it, I can't help but feel slightly worried," Yan Zhenluo said, clearly anxious, "The opponent is very strong. It's fine you're worried, but how can you say such senseless words?"

"Uh... there aren't senseless words. I was just voicing the worries in my heart."

"Left Envoy Yan, you don't understand my words. Didn't the Pavilion Master bring you away from the Black Tower Council back then? Didn't you witness the collective demotion of the Black Tower Council?"

Upon hearing these words, a contrite expression appeared on Yan Zhenluo's face. "I apologize."

"It's okay. You just watch carefully. What you're seeing now is the world of the strong. No one knows the Pavilion Master's true strength. From the moment the Pavilion Master killed Ye Zhen, I knew he has a habit of acting like a pig to devour the tiger!"

"..."

When the hunchbacked old man glanced at those who were not repelled by his sound technique and were watching the battle, he grew suspicious when he saw that they did not look worried at all. To be safe, he said, "Hand over the Green Cicada Jade, spit out all the vitality energy you absorbed, and destroy three of your Birth Charts. If you do that, this matter will be written off..."

Lu Zhou asked, "Do you think you're capable of forcing me to do that?"

"It seems like you need to be taught another lesson!" The hunchbacked old man tossed the jade disk out again.

Lu Zhou's figure flashed and he cast his grand technique three times in a row to move backward. Then, he came to a stop above the palace wall.

However, the jade disk appeared above Lu Zhou and descended like a huge flying saucer. It was so fast that he did not have time to use any item card.

Golden Buddha's Body!

Boom!

The Dao inscriptions on the palace walls were immediately destroyed, and a huge pit appeared on the ground.

When Lu Zhou turned back, he discovered the old man was nowhere to be seen.

Boom!

A green lotus appeared on the jade disk before green energy rained down from the sky.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The Golden Buddha's Body continued to fall from the sky until it could no longer be seen. Based on this, one could only imagine the weight of the jade disk.

In the distance...

Xia Changqiu. "..."

Yan Zhenluo frowned and said, "Something's not right. Everyone, listen up: spread out quickly. This is the Seven Star formation flag. Catch it." He brought the Seven Star formation flag out in a hurry.

Si Wuya shook his head. "It's useless. The opponent's cultivation base is incredibly high. Zhao Hongfu."

"Your orders?" Zhao Hongfu's expression was solemn; her usual carefree self was nowhere to be seen.

"Bring the runic cloth out."

“What do you want to do?” Yu Zhenghai asked.

“Transport everyone away.”

“All of you go, I’ll stay.” Yu Zhenghai flew forward a few meters.

“How can I leave?” Yu Shangrong moved to Yu Zhenghai’s side.

A cold killing intent permeated the surroundings.

Although Lu Zhou’s two eldest disciples often did not see eye-to-eye, the duo was rather similar. It was especially true in regard to their stubbornness.

At the same time, the hunchbacked old man laughed uproariously before he said, “This is the supposed expert who defeated a Thirteen Chart cultivator with just a move? Ridiculous. You can only blame yourself for being blind and offending my Young Master...”

At this moment, a low voice rang from the ground.

“Rise.”

“Huh?” The hunchbacked old man was taken aback.

Crack!

A huge palm seal caught the jade disk and pushed it up.

Lu Zhou knew the reason the hunchbacked old man possessed strength that seemed to surpass that of a Thirteen Chart cultivator was the jade disk. He used the supreme mystic power to push the jade disk up. This scene was rather similar to when he held Penglai Island up.

### **Chapter 1088: Evenly Matched?**

The members of the Evil Sky Pavilion who were prepared to fight were taken aback. They were stunned by the sight of a huge blue palm seal, which covered the sky, shot up in the air.

Xia Changqiu instinctively grabbed and tugged at Yan Zhenluo’s hand.

Yan Zhenluo pushed Xia Changqiu’s hand away as he watched the blue palm seal shooting up into the air in awe.

...

Meanwhile, just as Lu Zhou had expected, the hunchbacked old man tried to control the jade disk. When he found that the jade disk seemed to be stuck, he was shocked. Then, he stomped heavily on the jade disk.

Boom!

The jade disk only dropped a few meters before it began to rise again.

“Is that all you have?”

Swoosh!

The hunchbacked old man disappeared from the top of the jade disk and drew level with Lu Zhou.

“I’ve been waiting for you!” Lu Zhou flicked his sleeve and tossed a Thunderblast Card out. At the same time, the blue palm seal disappeared.

Just as Lu Zhou predicted, the hunchbacked old man did not even bother to look at his attack. Instead, the hunchbacked old man focused on retrieving the jade disk.

Thunder rumbled in the sky as a bolt of purple lightning struck!

The script for the word ‘Lightning’ flashed at the same time.

While the hunchbacked old man held the jade disk...

Boom!

The hunchbacked old man felt his arms go numb. Following that, the lightning bolt traveled through the jade disk and entered his body. He looked at Lu Zhou in shock; he felt as though his heart was going to jump out of his chest. At this moment, he discovered that Lu Zhou was looking at him as though he was a monkey.

The power of the lightning bolt was too great, causing the hunchbacked old man’s blood to surge and destroying his Eight Extraordinary Meridians! Under the pressure of the strange and powerful force, he had no choice but to fly away.

A heart-wrenching cry escaped from the hunchbacked old man’s mouth as he endured the excruciating pain from the grievous injuries he suffered.

Boom!

The hunchbacked old man, whose meridians were destroyed, could not control his vitality energy and fell to the ground with a boom, shattering the tiles in the royal palace.

Silence returned.

Lu Zhou looked at the old man lying in the deep human-shaped pit suspiciously. How could this be the end?

At the same time, the members of the Evil Sky Pavilion felt the same way as well. Although they all looked forward to Lu Zhou’s victory, this victory felt a little too... easy.

‘How can he be defeated with just one Thunderblast Card?’ Lu Zhou frowned.

The palace experts flew in from all directions and began to stab at the hunchbacked old man with their weapons.

The hunchbacked old man’s curled-up body that was drenched in blood was a nauseating sight.

Lu Zhou ordered the palace experts, “Retreat.” He knew that the old man was definitely alive. With the puppet’s protection and 13 Birth Charts, the old man could easily avoid death. In fact, even if the old man triggered the 1% killing chance, it would only destroy one of his Birth Charts or his puppet.

All the experts retreated.

Another Thunderblast Card along with a Deadly Strike Card appeared in Lu Zhou's hand at this moment. Now was not the time to calculate his gains and losses. Moreover, the price of the Thunderblast Card was still acceptable for now.

At this moment, the jade disk shone with a dazzling light and the hunchbacked old man suddenly opened his eyes. He had lost all the air of a Thirteen Chart cultivator as he let out an ear-piercing cry. He stood up and released his energy in all directions.

The palace experts in the surroundings were sent flying immediately. It was a spectacular sight.

One of the triangles on the old man's astrolabe shone before a streak of light shot into the old man's body. Just like that, his injuries were healed.

Swoosh!

The hunchbacked old man flew back up into the sky. "You're no match for me. This is my strongest Birth Chart Power!"

'Healing?' Lu Zhou thought it was a useless ability; he had the healing power from the blue lotus after all. However, while he was distracted, he lost sight of his target again.

'Sh\*t!'

This was Lu Zhou's first time fighting a proper Thirteen Chart expert. He had no experience prior to this.

At this time, a wave of energy exploded as the jade disk suddenly appeared under Lu Zhou's feet before it shot up.

100 meters.

200 meters.

300 meters.

The jade disk continued to rise up in the sky, passing through the clouds.

...

In the distance...

"This is the first time I've seen an expert whose strength is evenly matched with the Pavilion Master! This hunchbacked old man isn't simple!"

"It's very difficult to catch his movements with our cultivation bases."

Yan Zhenluo turned to look at Xia Changqiu who was standing next to him and solemnly said, "It's impossible to stay invincible forever. There'll always be someone better than you. It seems like the Pavilion Master has met his match..."

"He's only warming up now..." Xia Changqiu said.

Everyone looked at the sky. The clouds blocked their vision so they could no longer see the jade disk. Only the continuous sounds of explosions rang in their ears.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

All of a sudden, Little Yuan'er pointed at the sky and exclaimed, "Look! It's there!"

"Where?" Si Wuya knew Little Yuan'er cultivated the Supreme Purity Jade Slip so her eyes were keener than others so he did not doubt her words. He waited for a moment.

Sure enough, everyone saw the jade disk falling down at this moment.

...

Lu Zhou used the supreme mystic power and unleashed three palm strikes in a row to smash the jade disk down.

The dazzling blue light from the palm strikes shocked the hunchbacked elder. Nevertheless, he was not intimidated. "You're far from being able to deal with me!"

At this time, Lu Zhou gauged his supreme mystic power; he only had half left. Following that, he said in a deep voice, "It's time to end this..."

"Huh?" The hunchbacked old man was confused; where did his opponent's confidence come from?

At this time, Unnamed appeared in Lu Zhou's left hand while the Purple Glazed Ceramic appeared in his right hand. Following that, he mobilized his supreme mystic power.

When the Purple Glazed Ceramic trembled slightly...

Swoosh!

Within a radius of 100 meters, everything froze. The air and the Primal Qi were no exception.

The hunchbacked old man tried to pull the jade disk back, but it was too late. Frozen and unable to mobilize his Primal Qi, he fell from the sky.

Lu Zhou wielded Unnamed with both hands at this moment. He channeled the supreme mystic power into it and stabbed it downward.

Bang!

Unnamed broke through the layer of ice on top of the jade disk before it pierced through the jade disk.

Crack!

The hunchbacked old man widened his eyes when he saw Unnamed that was glowing with a blue light above him. His eyes were bloodshot, and his lips were trembling.

"Release!" The force of more than ten Birth Charts exploded in all directions, breaking the restraints on him. Then, the hunchbacked old man endured the pain before he grabbed the jade disk and struck upward. "You dare to destroy my jade disk? I'll kill you!"

Lu Zhou said expressionlessly, "Thunderblast!"

A huge palm seal with the script for the 'Lightning' appeared and collided with the hunchbacked old man's attack.

Boom!

The sky turned clear for a moment before lightning bolts began to flash in the sky again.

Boom!

The hunchbacked old man's body went numb; he felt his heart and soul tremble. "Do you only have this one move?"

"This one move is enough."

The hunchbacked old man smashed to the ground of the royal palace again, creating another human-shaped pit.

After learning from his mistake, Lu Zhou calmly said, "Let's see if my hands are faster or if your healing ability is faster!"

"Thunderblast!"

Bolts of lightning flashed in the sky again.

The hunchbacked old man had just raised his head when the lightning bolt accurately struck him. The area around him was as black as charcoal and his hair stood up like a broom.

"Ding! Killed the puppet. Reward: 6,000 merit points."

...

Everyone was stunned when they saw the hunchbacked old man was still alive.

"His power is healing... This can't go on..."

...

Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction; the 1% killing chance was finally triggered.

At this moment, the damaged jade disk spun upward, blocking the lightning. Soon enough, his Birth Chart shone again, and his injuries were healed in just two breaths.

...

"This is too ridiculous! With such an ability, who can beat him?"

"It's indeed very troublesome. However, there are limitations as well. Naturally, it won't be as effective against opponents with the same cultivation base or stronger. However, not many people have his cultivation base..."

...

At this time, the hunchbacked old man seemed to have changed into a different person. He stomped on the ground fiercely; his body remained in a 90-degree position as he shot up into the sky like a shooting star.

The astrolabe revolved around the hunchbacked old man.

“Thousand Realms Whirling.”

A Thousand Realms Whirling avatar that towered high above the clouds like a jade tower appeared.

This was the first time the hunchbacked old man manifested his avatar since the fight started.

Needless to say, its height was taller than Yu Shangrong who also sprouted the eleventh leaf. Yu Shangrong’s avatar had increased by 100 feet after the sprouting of his eleventh leaf.

The hunchbacked old man stood on his avatar and flew toward Lu Zhou before he came to a stop half a meter away from Lu Zhou in just a blink of an eye.

The green astrolabe continued to spin in the air. Its momentum was like that of the changing stars and sun.

Lu Zhou looked like a tiny leaf floating in the air.

Just as the green astrolabe flew forward, Lu Zhou tossed the enhanced Deadly Strike Card out.

“Abandon Wisdom.”

A golden palm seal fell from the sky, almost touching the hunchbacked old man’s face.

“You’re finally willing to use a different move,” the hunchbacked old man said in a low voice. At the same time, he moved his green astrolabe.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The green astrolabe moved to meet the golden palm seal. Alas, the palm seal was immovable. The astrolabe was sent flying in just a blink of an eye.

Boom!

The Abandon Wisdom that spanned dozens of meters long landed on the crown of the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar.

Crack!

The crown shattered.

The hunchbacked old man spat out blood.

“What palm seal is this?”

“The palm seal that will kill you.”

“It’s futile; I can heal my injuries!”

Swoosh!

The enormous Abandon Wisdom suddenly split into five before moving to the north, south, east, west positions. The last Abandon Wisdom flew above the hunchbacked old man. With this, he was trapped within the five golden walls.

Boom!



A thunderous explosion that shook the heavens rang in the air.

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

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

Following that, another three similar system notifications rang in Lu Zhou’s ears.

A miserable cry rang in the air, causing chills to run up the spines of the members of the Evil Sky Pavilion Shudder.

“How are they evenly matched? Isn’t this a one-sided beating?” Shen Xi said.

Yan Zhenluo scratched his head. “It... It... It does look like a one-sided beating. This is...” He pinched himself in disbelief; based on the sharp pain, he was not dreaming.

Xia Changqiu nudged Yan Zhenluo with his elbow. “Left Envoy Yan, didn’t I tell you the Pavilion Master is really fierce?”

“...”

...

Lu Zhou did not let his guard down. Even after the hunchbacked old man lost five Birth Charts, the hunchbacked old man still had 8 Birth Charts and the Eleven-leaf avatar. He could not be careless. Nevertheless, he was confident as usual.

While his opponent had yet to react, Lu Zhou flashed forward, erupting with supreme mystic power. He had used the remaining supreme mystic power he had left.

Boom!

After Lu Zhou knocked the hunchbacked old man down again, he called out, “Whitzard.”

### **Chapter 1089: Four Great Ghost Servants**

Although Whitzard did not possess Bi An’s strong defensive and offensive skills or Di Jiang’s exaggerated speed, Lu Zhou really liked its ability to replenish his supreme mystic power. This ability was something his other mounts could not compare to.

Whitzard flew over at lightning speed, surrounded by auspicious clouds. It seemed to understand Lu Zhou’s intention and cast its ability immediately.

Under the effect of the auspicious clouds, the supreme mystic power was swiftly restored. In just a while, it was completely recovered!

Meanwhile, the hunchbacked old man who had been knocked down by the remaining of Lu Zhou’s supreme mystic power and lost five Birth Charts was in excruciating pain. He could barely move at all.

...

In the distance...

When Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong, who had stepped forward earlier, saw their master beating the hunchbacked old man, they exchanged a look.

“It seems that master doesn’t need us,” Yu Zhenghai said.

Yu Shangrong glanced at the old man lying on the ground, motionless and covered in blood, before he said, “This person is so seriously injured; even if he still has 8 Birth Charts, both of us should be able to defeat him with our strength...”

Yu Shangrong who had sprouted the eleventh leaf and fought off Su Heng, Duan Xihua’s subordinate, was very confident.

Yu Zhenghai thought about this for a moment before he said with a straight face, “I won’t refute your words...”

At this moment, vitality energy surged from the ground like a storm.

Yan Zhenluo reminded everyone, “Everyone, step back...”

Ji Fengxing, who was cowering at the back, asked, “This old thing... Don’t tell me he still has a trump card?”

Yan Zhenluo explained, “This is called a vitality storm. When an expert activates a certain number of Birth Charts, their Dantians’ seas of Qi become incredibly vast. According to the number of Birth Charts that are destroyed, the corresponding amount of vitality energy would surge out from the person’s Dantian’s sea of Qi and return to the world. The stronger a cultivator and the higher the number of Birth Charts lost, the stronger the vitality storm would be. Based on this vitality storm, that old man must have lost at least four Birth Charts. Naturally, we can only be sure once we see his avatar.”

Everyone nodded.

Shen Xi added, “Sometimes, there might not be a vitality storm. Some experts would do anything to protect their Birth Charts; after all, one Birth Chart is equivalent to one extra life. After losing their Birth Charts, some experts have a way to retain some of their vitality energy. For example, Xia Zhengrong, the Tower Master of the Black Tower Council, when he lost a Birth Chart to the Pavilion Master.”

At the same time, the vitality storm grew more and more violent. Even with the protective Dao inscriptions, the tiles and bricks were still damaged.

After Bai Ze released the auspicious rain, it flew toward the members of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Little Yuan’er waved at it before she leaped on its back. Then, she turned and said, “Junior sister, come with me!”

“Okay!” Conch leaped on Whizard’s back as well.

Everyone continued to look at the sky.

...

Bang!

A loud explosion sounded in the air when the vitality storm suddenly stopped.

The hunchbacked old man suddenly leaped up from the ground. His body was drenched in blood as he flew toward Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou naturally did not let his guard down; the hunchbacked old man was still an Eight Chart cultivator after all. He pushed his hand out, launching a palm seal that contained the supreme mystic power.

Bang!

The hunchbacked old man was not afraid and met the palm seal directly.

Crack!

The sound of the hunchbacked old man's ribs breaking rang in the air, but he did not seem to feel the pain at all. His body fell for dozens of meters, and he spat out a mouthful of blood before he flew up again.

Lu Zhou struck with his palm again, and the result was the same as before.

After a moment, the hunchbacked old man suddenly said, "Why are you holding back your strength?"

"Hmm?"

"Are you trying to torture me?" In the hunchbacked old man's opinion, he was no match for Lu Zhou even when he had 13 Birth Charts. Now that he only had 8 Birth Charts, it should be easy for Lu Zhou to kill him. For this reason, he assumed Lu Zhou was intentionally torturing him instead of granting him a quick death.

"Don't worry. If you want to die, I will surely grant you your wish!" Lu Zhou struck with his palm again.

Bang!

Just like before, the hunchbacked old man would charge upward again after being struck down. After five consecutive palm strikes, he looked up and said, "You're sick in the head..."

"Even when death is close at hand, you're still so stubborn," Lu Zhou said, "Speak. What's your master's background?"

The hunchbacked old man laughed loudly. His laughter resounded in the royal palace, causing the debris and rubble on the ground to quake slightly.

"You finally realized you're in trouble? You've offended the Qin clan; this enmity can never be erased until you die," the hunchbacked old man said.

Lu Zhou shook his head. "So what?"

"So what? So the Qin clan will definitely flay you alive and crush your bones to avenge me!" The hunchbacked old man's eyes emitted a green light at this moment.

At this moment, Si Wuya transmitted his voice from the distance and said, "You're thinking too much."

The hunchbacked old man snarled. "You don't have the right to interrupt!"

“You’ve been defeated, but you’re still so arrogant,” Si Wuya said, undeterred, “You don’t believe me when I say you’re thinking too much? Based on your attire, words, and actions, you should just be a lowly slave in the Qin clan. What makes you think the Qin clan will seek revenge for a mad dog that randomly bites people?”

The hunchbacked old man, triggered by Si Wuya’s words, said, “I’m one of the Four Great Ghost Servants of the Qin clan. My Young Master has lost a Birth Chart and you dare to kill; the old enmity hasn’t been resolved, and a new one has already been formed. I’m not afraid of death. The other three Great Ghosts are my brothers-in-arms; even if the Qin clan doesn’t avenge me, my three brothers will definitely avenge me. It’s worth it if I can exchange my life for all of your lives!” Then, he laughed maniacally.

Si Wuya shook his head. “Let me correct a few of your misconceptions. First, no matter if you’re a ghost servant or a human servant, a servant is still a servant. You’re no different from a dog in your master’s eyes. There’s no point denying this. Think about it; your cultivation base is high, and you have 13 Birth Charts, but how many times have your esteemed Young Master scolded you?” After a beat, he continued to say, “Second, although it’s true that one should look at the owner before beating a dog, a dog is still a dog. If a dog makes a mistake, without waiting for outsiders to make a move, the owner would make a move to punish the dog first.”

Si Wuya did not give the hunchbacked old man a chance to speak and continued to say, “Finally, the biggest and gravest misconception that I have to correct is that your Qin clan offended my master, not the other way around. Believe me, the people who will suffer a disaster are those from the Qin clan. Imagine a dog like you bringing disaster to the Qin clan; if you are alive when my master deals with the Qin clan, I bet you they’ll kill you with their own hands after making you kneel and apologize to my master!”

It was as silent as a graveyard after Si Wuya finished speaking. Every word of his was brilliant and piercing. It made people feel like applauding him.

In fact, Xia Changqiu could not hold back his urge and began to clap.

The sound of the applause was not loud, but it was abrupt and was thus, very conspicuous.

At this moment, the green light in the hunchbacked old man’s eyes intensified. “Very well! In that case, let’s perish together!”

Swoosh!

Green light shot into the sky as the hunchbacked old man shot toward Lu Zhou like an arrow. At the same time, green gas began to rise as well.

Lu Zhou flicked his sleeves and shook his head as he said, “I’m impervious to all poisons.”

Lu Zhou struck with his palm. This time, he increased the size of the palm seal that was filled with the supreme mystic power.

The palm seal was like a mountain as it advanced toward the hunchbacked old man who was flying over.

The hunchbacked old man was shocked when he saw the palm seal. He hurriedly brought out his broken jade disk and astrolabe.

“You’re too slow.” Lu Zhou flashed over with Unnamed in his hand and stabbed it out.

‘He changed his move?’ The hunchbacked old man was shocked. He had grown complacent and assumed Lu Zhou would use the same move to deal with him. Lu Zhou’s sudden change caught him completely off guard.

Unnamed that was in the form of a sword began to glow with the supreme mystic power. In just a moment, an energy sword that was 1,000 feet long appeared and slashed at the jade disk.

Bang!

A crack appeared on the jade disk.

“Fusion grade?” The hunchbacked old man looked at the sword in surprise. He knew when everything was frozen earlier; it was caused by a fusion-grade item. However, he did not expect his opponent to have another fusion-grade weapon!

“You have two fusion-grade items?”

Fusion-grade weapons came with special abilities like the Purple Glazed Ceramic’s Ice Seal. Apart from that, their forces were unimaginably strong.

The hunchbacked old man thought that it was no wonder the sword managed to break his jade disk.

At this time, Unnamed that brimmed with the supreme mystic power continued to press against the jade disk; it was unstoppable.

Swoosh!

All of a sudden, golden flames surged around Unnamed.

“Karmic fire?!” The hunchbacked old man looked at Lu Zhou with a complex expression. He suddenly felt that his opponents had more tricks up his sleeve. At this moment, he suddenly dodged.

Lu Zhou had expected this. He exerted Di Jiang’s ability and brought the sword down.

Contrary to expectations, the old man suddenly bared his teeth. “You’re too slow. You shouldn’t be slow if you have more than 12 Birth Charts!” Then, he aimed his palm at Lu Zhou’s shoulder.

Bang!

The sword in Lu Zhou suddenly grew longer and pierced the old man’s arm.

Meanwhile, when the hunchbacked old man’s palm was about to land, he could sense the blue protective energy on his opponent’s body repelling the force from his palm.

Lu Zhou took advantage of the situation and flew over; he could not give his opponent a chance. With six Birth Charts, the supreme mystic power, and his fusion-grade weapon, he should be able to deal with an injured Eight Chart cultivator. If they were not enough, then he’ll deal with it later.

Following that, Lu Zhou turned around to look at the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion and said in a deep voice, "Watch carefully."

Everyone's eyes shone with expectation and anticipation.

Lu Zhou divided the supreme mystic power into smaller parts before he circulated them like a stream in his Eight Extraordinary Meridians. Then, he began to wave Unnamed in the air.

"It's the Guiyuan Sword Technique! It's Second Senior Brother's Guiyuan Sword Technique!"

One sword, two swords, three swords...

The speed was getting faster and faster.

Yu Shangrong's eyes lit up when he saw this. He was reminded of the time when his master demonstrated his swordsmanship on Golden Court Mountain. At that time, his master had only used a wooden sword. Without using Primal Qi, his master managed to hit every snowflake that fell. As expected of his master, no matter how many years had passed, his master's swordsmanship was as superb as ever.

Lu Zhou's sword seemed like it could cut through everything, but the sword intent was traceless.

At this moment...

"Return and Enter Three Souls!"

When Yu Shangrong executed the Return and Enter Three Souls, he could manifest three figures in different directions. The figures were powerful and could confuse the opponent. On the other hand, his master manifested 12 figures altogether. There are three figures in each of the four directions. It was an incredibly dazzling sight.

The ghost servant's eyes were bloodshot and filled with unwillingness. His opponent clearly did not seem very strong, but why was his opponent able to thwart him every single time? He saw the figures that occupied his surroundings suddenly merge before energy swords fell like rain. He roared, exploding with countless palm seals that filled the sky like stars, in retaliation.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The energy swords struck at the palm seals accurately.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

"The Sword of Creation: the Swordless Path. Using all creations as swords..."

Millions of energy swords covered the sky, but only a small number of them were blue. The blue energy swords stabbed toward the ghost servants with terrifying precision.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

He roared in pain. He was already heavily injured; how could he withstand such high-intensity and concentrated attacks from the energy swords? Nevertheless, he tried to resist with all his might. He tried to repel the energy swords with what was left of his energy.

The ghost servant was trapped in the eyes of the hurricane of impenetrable energy swords.

At this time, Lu Zhou's figure came to a stop. He had half of the supreme mystic power left.

At this time, the ghost servant finally broke out of the hurricane of energy swords. However, he did not stop waving his hand as though he could not stop himself. He was screaming like a madman; his body was riddled with sword wounds and drenched in blood. When he finally realized he was free of the energy swords, he finally stopped. At the same time, he fell several meters from the sky.

Suddenly, three energy swords shot straight down from the sky and pierced through the ghost servant's body.

Lu Zhou had been waiting for this moment. These three energy swords were formed by the supreme mystic power.

"???" The hunchbacked ghost servant's blood spurted out like a fountain as his body trembled.

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

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "You're already at the end of your rope, but I've only just begun..."

"You..."

Lu Zhou ignored the ghost servant and turned to look at Yu Shangrong before he asked, "Do you understand?"

Yu Shangrong bowed and said, "Thank you for your guidance, master."

"Ding! Received 500 merit points for guiding Yu Shangrong."

With the effect of the Eternal Paragon, it was easier for Yu Shangrong to understand his master's movements. His master's 12 figures kept flashing in his mind.

At this time, Lu Zhou turned back to look at the ghost servant and said, "Now, the real game begins..."

Previously, he had used his item cards. Now, he used all his supreme mystic power to manifest more energy swords.

Up, down, left, right; Lu Zhou's energy swords were everywhere. All of a sudden, the energy swords merged into one before it slashed down from the sky.

The hunchbacked old man used the last of his strength and decided to sacrifice his lotus.

A lotus appeared and flew out along with 11 leaves.

He grunted and spat out a large amount of blood as he controlled the flying leaves.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Lu Zhou swung Unnamed, accurately hitting one leaf. Following that, using Unnamed and the supreme mystic power, he cleaved all eleven leaves into two.

Lu Zhou retreated dozens of meters; his arms were slightly numb. He did not expect the eleven leaves to be so powerful. If he did not use Unnamed and used the Seven Star sword instead, the sword might not even be able to block the eleven leaves, let alone destroy them.

The hunchbacked old man narrowed his eyes and shook his head. He lowered his arms. This move was undoubtedly a self-damaging move. He finally gave up on resisting. "You win."

Lu Zhou tossed Unnamed out with his remaining supreme mystic power.

With that, the ghost servant lost all seven Birth Charts. He did not feel much pain; he had used witchcraft techniques to numb the pain. However, he could feel the contractions from his Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. Now that he had lost all his Birth Charts, all he had left was one life. "Wait."

Lu Zhou said, "Before you die, do you have any last words?"

Time passed so quickly. It was finally Lu Zhou's turn to say these words.

"Before I die, can I see your true avatar?" The ghost servant only had Lu Zhou in his eyes that shone with a hint of anticipation.

"Perhaps, in the next life..." Lu Zhou said before he moved Unnamed.

The ghost servant coughed violently as his chest bled profusely. He seemed to have a moment of clarity now that he was on the brink of death. "I... I-I seem to remember... now..." He coughed again before he continued to say with great difficulty, "I... I seem to have come from the golden lotus..."

The ghost servant's voice came to an abrupt stop as his head fell limply to the side.

"Ding! Killed one target. Reward: 15,000 merit points. Domain bonus: 5,000 merit points."

### **Chapter 1090: Discussion**

'From the golden lotus domain?' Lu Zhou's heart skipped a beat. This made him think about Zhao Hongfu.

According to Zhao Hongfu, those from the black lotus domain had kidnapped children from the golden lotus domain to raise them and assimilate them. However, what was the reason for that? Was it not better to cultivate their own people? Why did they need children from the golden lotus domain? The cultivators in the golden lotus domain were not strong; there was no reason for these people to be interested in the people of the golden lotus domain.

Lu Zhou did not doubt the words of the ghost servant; there was no need for a dying person to tell such a lie.

...

In the distance, the members of the Evil Sky Pavilion looked at the deep pit on the ground in a daze. They did not return to their senses for a long time.

The last set of sword techniques flowed like the clouds and the water; they had reached the peak of perfection.



Although they could not capture the movement of the ghost servant who possessed a puppet and 13 Birth Charts, when they could see, he was already thoroughly defeated.

Yu Shangrong looked at the ghost servant's corpse, deep in thought. It was as though he had been enlightened. as if he had comprehended something.

In order to unleash a final powerful attack with the eleven leaves, the ghost servant had to sacrifice his lotus.

Yu Shangrong wondered if he could use that move without any consequences since he no longer possessed a lotus. Apart from that, he was also greatly inspired and had greatly benefitted from watching his master executing the Return and Enter Three Souls. There was really no end to learning. He murmured to himself, "It seems like I still have a long way ahead of me on the sword path..."

"Second Junior Brother, don't be discouraged. There'll always be someone better than you in the world. If it were saber techniques, there wouldn't be so much emphasis on speed, precision, and technique. The saber alone is enough," Yu Zhenghai said as he looked at his master whose appearance had changed completely. He was surprised to say the least.

"Speed has always been important, and so are precision and techniques. If the saber is so great, why doesn't master use the saber but choose the sword instead?" Yu Shangrong asked.

"That's because master only has a sword, not a saber," Yu Zhenghai replied.

After all, based on their knowledge, Lu Zhou did not own a saber. The saber he had previously owned had been given to Pan Zhong from the Evil Sky Pavilion.

"Even if master has a saber, he still wouldn't choose..."

'Here it comes again...' The other members of the Evil Sky Pavilion thought to themselves. Nevertheless, they had gotten used to the duo's antics so they only shook their heads.

Xia Changqiu poked Yan Zhenluo who was standing next to him and said, "Don't worry. It'll be fine once you get used to it..."

The people from the Devil Sky Pavilion seemed to be used to it and shook their heads.

Yan Zhenluo asked curiously, "You're an outsider. How come you seem to know more than Shen Xi and the others?"

"Oh, Left Envoy Yan isn't aware of this. It's a long story. Let's start with the Thousand Willow Monastery..."

"It's fine. Just start with the Evil Sky Pavilion..."

"Uh..."

Si Wuya smiled when he heard this exchange. Then, he flew down and checked the ghost servant's body. After he stood up, he cupped his fists at his master and said, "Master, he's dead."

Lu Zhou nodded and said, "Clean it up."

“Understood.”

As soon as these words fell, the experts nearby flew over to clean up the mess.

Meanwhile, Little Yuan'er and Conch flew on Whizard's back toward Lu Zhou.

Although Conch was mentally prepared, she still felt awkward and embarrassed when faced with Lu Zhou.

On the other hand, Little Yuan'er was so shocked that she could not even close her mouth. “Master...”  
Was this really their master?!

If Si Wuya did not give them a warning beforehand, they would not have believed it. However, it was undeniable that no one apart from their master could use blue palm seals and blue energy.

When Little Yuan'er regained her senses, she hurried to Lu Zhou's side and asked curiously, “Master! You... How did you become like this?”

The others did not dare to get close and could only watch from afar. They were different from the little ancestor of the Evil Sky Pavilion after all.

“Doesn't your master look good like this?” Lu Zhou asked.

Little Yuan'er's voice was as soft as a mosquito as she replied, “Yes...”

Conch nodded as well.

Lu Zhou nodded and looked at Conch. “Are you hurt?”

Conch shook her head. “I'm sorry, master. I didn't recognize you at that time...”

“It's alright,” Lu Zhou said.

“Thank you, master,” Conch said.

“Have you been practicing the Pilgrim Song all this time?” Lu Zhou asked.

Conch nodded and said, “Master, I've practiced the Pilgrim Song diligently. Master, when you have the time, will you listen to me play it?”

“No, I still have many things to attend to. If there's a need, you can ask your senior brothers and sisters to guide you...” Lu Zhou said with a straight face.

“Okay.” Conch was about to turn around when a gust of wind blew past her.

Swoosh!

Si Wuya and Lu Zhou turned and saw a streak of red fleeing into the distance before vanishing from their sight.

Lu Zhou asked, puzzled, “Why did Yuan'er run away?”

As a cultivator, one should not be anxious.

Si Wuya smiled but did not say anything.

Conch revealed an aggrieved expression as she said, "I better look for the other seniors to listen to me play then..."

Upon hearing these words, Si Wuya hurriedly bowed and said, "Master, this disciple suggests we search for information regarding the golden lotus domain that the ghost servant from the Qin clan mentioned. Apart from that, there are new changes on the ancient goatskin map."

"Is that so?"

"Master, this way please. I'll tell you everything in detail..."

Lu Zhou nodded and casually waved his hand.

The jade disk lying among the pile of rubble flew into Lu Zhou's palm.

Following that, Lu Zhou and Si Wuya left for the Preservation Hall.

Conch. "???"

Then, Conch turned to look at the other members of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

When Yu Zhenghai met Conch's gaze, he turned to look at Yu Shangrong instantly and said, "Second Junior Brother, I recently mastered a new saber technique. Why don't you spar with me?"

"I have the same thought. I'm only afraid you'll lose..."

"We'll see."

With that, the duo rushed out of the royal palace.

At this time, a vague realization dawned on Conch. She said, "The Pilgrim Song is actually very nice to listen to..."

"..."

Everyone suddenly became very busy.

People like Shen Xi and Xia Changqiu, who had long gotten used to the rules of the Evil Sky Pavilion, decided to busy themselves with cleaning up the mess; one went to clean up the corpse while the other went to repair the Dao inscriptions.

When Yan Zhenluo regained his senses, he realized he was the only one left with Conch.

"It seems like Left Envoy Yan is the only one who has an appreciation for music. Let's go," Conch said with a smile.

"Go? Where do you want to go? What do you want to do?" Yan Zhenluo was overwhelmed by a feeling that something was very, very wrong.

"Listen to the Pilgrim Song."

“Listen to the Pilgrim Song?” Yan Zhenluo furrowed his brows, unable to figure out what was wrong. In his opinion, listening to music was a good way to relax.

At this moment, Yan Zhenluo saw Shen Xi and the others gesturing wildly at him at Conch’s back. He thought he understood their meaning. Therefore, he nodded at everyone as he said, “Thank you, everyone, for cleaning up the mess and letting me enjoy the music instead.”

Yan Zhenluo cupped his fists at the others before he followed Conch away.

Shen Xi was dumbfounded; Xia Changqiu was even more dumbfounded.

“What’s wrong with Left Envoy Yan? I clearly signaled to him not to go; why did he still go?”

Shen Xi scratched his head. “Perhaps, Left Envoy Yan has a high appreciation for music...”

“You have a point.”

As soon as Xia Changqiu’s voice fell, the sound of a barking dog rang from the distant palace wall.

Everyone was shocked when they saw the gigantic dog that was twice the height of an adult.

“Doggy, don’t scare people!”

Ming Shiyin followed behind Qiong Qi, looking as though he had just woken up. He stretched his limbs before he looked at the traces of a fierce battle around him and sensed the chaotic energy in the air. He asked curiously, “What happened here?”

“Mister Fourth, how did you sleep through such a huge commotion?” Xia Changqiu asked in shock.

“I’ve been really sleepy recently.” Ming Shiyin yawned again.

Xia Changqiu walked over with a smile and said, “I see. Mister Fourth, it’s a pity you weren’t here to witness the wonderful battle earlier. The Pavilion Master killed a Thirteen Chart assassin from the green lotus domain. Mister Seventh has gone with the Pavilion Master to the Preservation Hall to investigate this matter...”

Ming Shiyin’s eyes widened as he said excitedly, “What? Such a huge thing happened? Master was able to defeat an assassin with 13 Birth Charts?”

Xia Changqiu said, “Yes. Mister Fourth, allow me to explain in detail. The exciting battle was soul-stirring and filled with suspense. It was spectacular...”

Shen Xi. “...”

Woof! Woof! Woof!

Qiong Qi barked a few times as a female attendant rushed over.

“Mister Fourth, Pavilion Master Lu summoned you to the Preservation Hall. He said he has something to discuss with you...”

“Master wants to speak to me?” Mingshi Yin was slightly unhappy; he glared at Qiong Qi. Qiong Qi’s loud barking must have been heard by his master. He turned to look at Xia Changqiu and said, “Tell me about it next time.”

“Of course, of course...”

After Ming Shiyin and Qiong Qi left, Xia Changqiu turned to look at Shen Xi and said, “We can only see the superficial details of the battle, but we can’t see the inner details. What a pity! Oh, that’s right. The matter of regaining one’s youth is only possible for mighty figures. Although Mister Seventh didn’t say much, how can someone who can reverse time be weak? Hmm, Guardian Shen, you seem rather confused. Let’s not talk about youth anymore so as to avoid others from overhearing us. Let’s talk about the battle...”

Shen Xi: o(∩\_∩)o

...

Preservation Hall.

Mingshi Yin walked respectfully into the hall along with Qiong Qi. As soon as they stepped foot in the hall, Qiong Qi wagged its tail and rushed into the hall.

Ming Shiyin looked at Qiong Qi with a face filled with black lines. ‘This darn dog! I worked so hard to raise you, cleaning your feces and urine, and you turned on me just like that?! Unbelievable!’