

Disciples 1101

Chapter 1101: The Annihilation Plan; The Flaming Golden Lotus

In the Birth Palace, half of the 36 triangles flashed distinctly. Lu Zhou's six Birth Charts overlapped with each other. He could separate them with just a thought, but he could not seamlessly merge them. They would only seamlessly merge after he completed his Birth Trial.

There were two ways to hide one's Birth Charts. First, one could use the 36 triangles in the Birth Palace to form a barrier just like Lan Xihe did. It was a rather cool technique. Second, one could just let one's Birth Charts overlap. For example, he let his six Birth Charts overlap, although the borders could faintly be seen, it was still difficult to count the number of Birth Charts.

Boom!

A huge rock fell due to the violent tremors.

Lu Zhou frowned and raised one hand.

A palm seal shot out and pushed the rock out of the way.

The rock fell into the lava with a huge splash.

Lu Zhou raised his head and looked at the mouth of the gourd-shaped cave.

If the lava that fell like a fiery waterfall overflowed, he would have to run. Otherwise, there would be no more Old Demon Ji or Old Demon Lu in the future; he would be called the Charred Demon.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The frequency of the rocks falling increased as time passed.

"Golden Buddha's Body."

The Golden Buddha's Body appeared, keeping the falling rocks at bay.

"What's happening outside? Fierce beasts?"

Lu Zhou recalled the three scavenging cultivators he met when he first arrived at this place. The trio had said a special Birth Chart Beast had appeared in the vicinity. Was it possible that someone was now fighting that fierce beast?

The timing was really bad.

Lu Zhou silently recited the mantra for the Heavenly Writing's power of hearing.

The range of his hearing expanded to 1,000 meters. He could hear the rustling of the wind and the bubbling lava. Alas, apart from that, there was nothing out of the ordinary.

It was better for him to focus on his Birth Charts.

...

Near the Sky Wheel Rift Valley.

Many cultivators could be seen flying back and forth.

All kinds of fierce beasts flew in from all directions, engaging in fierce battles with humans.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

There were flying beasts in the sky and beasts on the ground. There were the known beasts such as Shan Gao, and there were other yet-to-be-identified fierce beasts that resembled rhinoceros, pythons, tigers, leopards, and other predators.

“We can’t hold on any longer. These fierce beasts suddenly appeared, and there are so many of them as well. It’s not just here. There are many fierce beasts that have appeared in the Jiannan Circuit’s Land of Shu and the Shanbei Circuit. Let’s retreat to the city and wait for the experts to arrive...”

Human corpses were strewn everywhere near the Sky Wheel Mountain Range.

Some flying beasts perched on the corpses, pecking on their flesh and drinking their blood. The scene was incredibly gory.

Most of the surviving cultivators were panting for breath with blood staining their faces.

“The Shanbei Circuit has the Ninth Temple guarding it; the Jiannan Circuit has the Twelve Sects of Cloud Mountain and the Heavenly Fire Sect guarding it. These two places should be fine. The problem is the Sky Wheel Mountain Range.”

“Let’s give up on the Sky Wheel Mountain Range and retreat. Perhaps, the experts in the capital in the Guannei Circuit will come...”

“The capital? Guannei Circuit? Isn’t that where the Evil Sky Pavilion is based? I guess we can only depend on them.”

Over a hundred cultivators flew east in unison.

The number of flying beasts in the sky continued to increase at the same time.

Whoosh!

Boom!

A huge figure rushed over from the distant north, causing the earth to tremble. It was a huge wolf-like beast.

“This is bad! Hurry up and hide!”

“It’s a beast king!”

The beast king howled.

“It’s over! It’s a Nether Wolf King!”

The cultivators who recognized this Birth Chart Beast were terrified.

Ordinary wolves traveled in packs, never alone. It was the same for this wolf-like fierce beast. After all, fierce beasts retained many of the characteristics of the beasts they resembled.

As expected, a pack of Nether Wolves appeared in the wake of the Nether Wolf King.

The Nether Wolf King was 400 to 500 feet tall. With one leap, it could reach the clouds. Based on its size and body, there was no doubt it was a beast king. It was equivalent to a Five or Six Chart cultivator.

A voice of reason rang in the air. "Stay calm. Don't worry about the other fierce beasts for now. Think of a way to stop the Nether Wolf King."

Heroes would rise during troubled times, after all.

Under the lead of their king, the pack of Nether Wolves raised their heads to the sky and howled.

Fortunately, there were many towering trees that slowed their speed slightly.

"How strange! These wolves are so bold as to trespass into a human city. Aren't they afraid of being killed by human cultivators?" a cultivator said, puzzled.

"It's not that simple. Think about it. So many fierce beasts appeared at the same time at various places in the red lotus domain. It's obvious it's premeditated by the beasts."

"Are the beasts so smart?"

"Have you forgotten about the Land of Chaos' Ying Zhao? There's also Pu Yi. I heard the two intelligent beasts, Ying Zhao and Pu Yi, led hordes of beasts to slaughter the humans before they were killed by a mighty figure..."

Boom"

The Nether Wolf King leaped down, looking as big as Mount Tai. Its four legs were like huge pillars, and its head towered in front of everyone. Its dark eyes shone viciously.

"Attack!"

An order rang in the air.

In just an instant, over 100 cultivators launched energy sabers, energy swords, formation seals, and various attacks in the air. Everyone displayed their own abilities at this moment.

Red energy swirled in the sky. With the momentum of a hurricane, it struck toward the Nether Wolf King's head.

Boom!

A thunderous explosion rang in the air.

The Nether Wolf King took a few steps back before it raised its two front legs and howled.

The other Nether Wolves howled as well, shaking the heavens, before they pounced out. Their bodies were much smaller than the Nether Wolf King, but their speed was greater. They pounced into the crowd and began to attack in a frenzy, snapping their jaws ferociously.

The human cultivators and the Nether Wolves engaged in a fierce battle. Bits of flesh and blood flew in the air. Sometimes the human cultivators fell; sometimes the Nether Wolves fell.

Meanwhile, the Nether Wolf King sat at the side. Its eyes glowed sinisterly as it watched from afar.

...

At the same time, many fierce beasts appeared all over Great Tang.

Li Yunzheng led the civil and military officials and rushed to the Sky Martial Court.

As soon as Li Yunzheng saw Si Wuya, he fell to his knees. "Teacher, Great Tang is in danger. I beg you to think of a way. Only you can save us from this situation!"

Si Wuya frowned and said, "I've already heard about what happened. Li Yunzheng, you're the ruler of the country. You can't act so disgracefully."

Li Yunzheng did not have problems dealing with daily national affairs. However, the problem this time concerned the survival of Great Tang, therefore, he could not help but feel overly anxious. After he rose to his feet, he asked, "Teacher, where's grandmaster?"

"Your grandmaster is still cultivating in seclusion. They're just fierce beasts; they're nothing. The real problem is more terrifying than you can imagine," Si Wuya said as he turned around.

"Teacher, what do you mean?" Li Yunzheng asked as a foreboding feeling rose in his heart.

"I've spoken to Ying Zhao. The fierce beasts in the Unknown Land are colluding with the humans to take down Great Tang. I'm waiting for those humans to show themselves..." Si Wuya said.

"Humans?" Li Yunzheng was dumbfounded.

"If I'm not mistaken, the culprit should be Great Yuan's royal court," Si Wuya said.

"The black lotus domain?" Li Yunzheng was in disbelief. "Aren't they afraid of grandmaster?"

"This is a war. How could one person, invincible or not, stop a war? Out of Great Tang's ten circuits, four have been besieged by fierce beasts. If a beast king shows up, we'll be in big trouble," Si Wuya said in a grave tone.

There were not many Thousand Realms Whirling cultivators in the red lotus domain, after all. Since the end of the Black Tower Council's monopoly, there were a few who broke through and became Thousand Realms Whirling cultivators, but the red lotus domain's overall strength was still a far cry from the black lotus domain's overall strength. If a war broke out between both sides, the consequences would be unimaginable.

At this moment, Wang Dachui rushed over from outside and said, "Mister Seventh, a beast king, the Nether Wolf King, has appeared at the Sky Wheel Mountain Range. The cultivation sects in that area have suffered heavy casualties. There are currently more than 100 people trapped in the Sky Wheel Rift Valley, and the others have retreated to Cloud Mountain."

Si Wuya shook his head and sighed. "What should have come, has come in the end. How are things in the Shanbei Circuit?"

“The Shanbei Circuit is guarded by the Ninth Temple. They’re still able to hold the beasts back for now. They’re only worried a beast king will show up. The Jiangdong Circuit is close to the sea, and there have been some strange movements. I suspect the sea beasts will show up...”

Li Yunzheng. “...”

“Shannan Circuit seems to be okay at the moment. Perhaps, it’s because Pavilion Master Lu had previously massacred the fierce beasts there, they’re traumatized and left that place alone,” Wang Dachui continued to say, “I also have another piece of news. Runic passages from the black lotus domain have been found in the Shannan Circuit and the Jiangdong Circuit...”

Li Yunzheng exclaimed in shock, “It’s just as you said, Teacher! The black lotus domain is stirring up trouble from behind the scenes...”

This was a double disaster.

Si Wuya said, “If I’m not mistaken, Great Yuan’s royal court must have been planning this for a long time.” He walked to the table next to him and pointed at the ancient goatskin map before he continued to say, “The places where they appeared are Jiannan Circuit, Shanbei Circuit, Jiangdong Circuit, and Jiangbei Circuit. These places are all close to the borders of Great Tang. It would be difficult for a large number of beasts to travel through the runic passages so they can only attack from the outside. The black lotus domain’s runic passages will certainly appear in all these places as well to form a siege with the fierce beasts...”

After a beat, Si Wuya said grimly, “Three land beasts and one sea beast from the east. If nothing unexpected happens, I foresee there will be four beast kings...”

Li Yunzheng said, “Teacher, how can you be so sure?” With Si Wuya’s accurate predictions, sometimes he felt like Si Wuya was like a spy.

Si Wuya said expressionlessly, “You don’t need to know that. The most important thing now is to send experts to these places. In order to confuse the opponent, send experts from ten sects. These experts must be carefully selected, and their names must be kept a secret. All you need to do is deal with this task.”

Li Yunzheng said, “But... But Great Tang’s cultivators aren’t strong enough...”

“Just do as I say,” Si Wuya said.

“Understood. I’ll listen to you.” Following that, Li Yunzheng no longer wasted time and left to complete his task.

Wang Dachui moved next to Si Wuya and asked, “Mister Seventh, do you plan to use the Evil Sky Pavilion’s strength?”

Si Wuya smiled slightly. “Perhaps, that’s not necessary.”

...

The Sky Wheel Mountain Range.

The Nether Wolf King and the Nether Wolves forced more than 100 cultivators back.

Almost all the cultivators who were still alive were bleeding, injured in one way or another.

“Retreat into the valley. This is our only way out.” Someone pointed at the Sky Wheel Rift Valley.

“There’s lava in the valley. If we go in, we’ll die from the heat!”

“It’s better to die from the heat than being mauled to death! Let’s go!”

Only half of the original number of cultivators was left at this moment. They flew toward the Sky Wheel Rift Valley. As they flew, they saw corpses of both humans and fierce beasts alike strewn everywhere.

The ancient sages one said the conflict between humans and beasts could never be reconciled. However, the ancient sages did not give an explanation for those words.

At this moment, the Nether Wolf King leaped up to one of the mountains in the Sky Wheel Mountain Range. It caught several cultivators off guard; they did not have time to manifest their avatars and were sent flying.

Compared to the Nether Wolf King, humans were really too small.

It was not only at the Sky Wheel Mountain Range, similar scenes were playing out in four of Great Tang’s circuits. However, it had to be said that the cultivators in the Sky Wheel Mountain Range were the most miserable.

The group of cultivators flew desperately toward the valley.

The pack of Nether Wolves gave chase, climbing up the mountains. Along the way, they would maul the stragglers.

Energy sabers and energy swords filled the air as the cultivators tried to fend the wolves off. The cultivators fought and retreated to the valley.

“Wait. It should be safe here. Don’t go into the cave first. It’s hot and dangerous inside. Let’s hide here for now.”

As soon as these words were spoken, the sound of howling rang in the air as the pack of Nether Wolves appeared at the entrance of the valley. Their heads were raised up high as they howled as though they were declaring their victory.

The cultivators were so frightened that they retreated into the cave at the same time.

“Don’t be afraid! There’s a river of lava here, and the entrance is too small for the Nether Wolf King to enter. All we have to do is kill those Nether Wolves...”

Just like before, as soon as these words were spoken...

Boom!

Rocks began to roll down.

Everyone looked up with horrified expressions on their faces.

“The Nether Wolf King is up there!”

“These wolves are more cunning than we imagined.”

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The Nether Wolf King kept slamming the ground above the cave, causing huge rocks to tumble down.

Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!

Everyone hurriedly activated their protective energies to keep the falling rocks at bay. Nevertheless, there were still many who got injured. Some could not withstand the weight of the rocks and almost fell into the lava. Although they were only near the entrance of the cave, the heat was still unbearable.

“We can’t continue like this. We have to think of a way to ask for help,” one of the cultivators said. He took out a talisman and lit it up. Following that, he waved his hand, forming a ring of energy.

Alas, nothing happened.

Upon seeing this, that person shook his head and said, “I guess we can only depend on ourselves now...”

At this moment, a cultivator who seemed to be the leader of the group said, “Those at the Thousand Realms Whirling stage, step forward!”

Only one person stepped forward.

This person was from a large sect in the Southern Mountain City in the Shannan Circuit. He was from the Heavenly Ministers Sect, a sect that had risen in recent years. It was unfortunate that he had only recently formed the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar; he was a rookie. This was not surprising since the Black Tower Council had only stopped monopolizing the Birth Chart Beasts not too long ago.

The Heavenly Ministers Sect seized the opportunity when the Black Tower Council’s relinquished their monopoly of the red lotus domain and gathered their sect’s Nine-leaf and Ten-leaf cultivators to gather life hearts in hopes to cultivate their members into Thousand Realms Whirling cultivators. When they received news that fierce beasts had appeared in the Sky Wheel Mountain Range, they did not hesitate to send people over. Alas, they did not expect such a thing would happen.

“Block the small wolves.”

As soon as the leader of the group finished speaking, more than ten Nether Wolves charged into the cave, baring their fangs and brandishing their claws as they pounced toward the cultivators.

The Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator used his energy swords to push the wolves back one after another.

After pushing back the first wave of wolves, they continued guarding near the entrance of the cave.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The Nether Wolf King seemed agitated. It pounded with four legs with much more force than before.

Accordingly, the rocks fell at a faster speed in the cave.

A male cultivator and a female cultivator could no longer withstand the pressure and began to cry.

Upon seeing this, the leader of the group cursed, "Trash! What are you crying for?"

Crying not only would not solve the problem, but it would bring down everyone's morale as well. In the eyes of the wolves, perhaps, weak and crying prey was more delicious.

The two cultivators stopped crying immediately.

Rumble!

Huge rocks continued to fall from above.

At this time...

Boom!

As though a lid had been opened, the Nether Wolf King punched a hole through the top of the cave.

"Sh*t! We need to go deeper in..." the leader said before he led the others deeper into the cave.

At this time, no one cared about the high temperature anymore.

The Nether Wolf King stuck its head into the hole and bared its fangs.

The two cowardly cultivators who had cried earlier did not react in time. Before they could even cry out, they were already between the fangs of the Nether Wolf King.

The others flew deeper into the cave in the valley.

The Nether Wolf King let out another howl.

The pack of Nether Wolves instantly swarmed into the cave.

The Nether Wolf King had absolute control over its pack. With its command, regardless of how dangerous it was, the wolves in the pack would charge in fearlessly and would not hesitate to give up their lives. It was as though their king's command overrode their survival instincts.

These wolves were extremely ferocious. When they entered the magma cave, due to their speed, several of them fell into the lava. They were instantly swallowed by the lava.

The remaining wolves gathered at the edge of the trench as they stared at the human cultivators hungrily.

"Look. It seems like they don't dare to come in because of the high temperature."

"The problem is we can't hold on for long in here. If this drags on, we'll definitely die from the heat..."

"Just hold on. As long as we don't die, there'll always be hope."

No matter if it was a time of peace or war, there would always be optimists and pessimists.

"Gather around, everyone. You, the one at the Thousand Realms Whirling stage, stand in front of the group. Everyone, activate your energies!"

Buzz!

Everyone hurriedly activated their energies to resist the heat.

Boom!

A rumbling noise rang from above again.

This time, luck was not on their side.

It only took a moment for the Nether Wolf King to create another opening at the top.

“Damn it! It’s really trying to push us to our deaths! I’ll fight it out with you!” the Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator said angrily. He stomped his feet and flew up through the newly-created opening.

Over 10,000 energy swords shot toward the eye of the Nether Wolf King in just an instant.

The Nether Wolf King swung its head around.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The Nether Wolf King easily sent all energy swords flying.

The Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator was no match for the Nether Wolf King. He fell from the sky; below him was the lava.

“Save him!”

“It’s too late!”

The cultivators could only watch helplessly as the cultivator fell toward the lava.

All of a sudden, a streak of fire flew out of the lava like a fiery meteor.

“What’s that?”

Soon enough, the cultivators saw a handsome shirtless young man with a fiery lotus under his feet. He easily pushed the man away, saving the man from falling into the lava. He did not stop moving and shot up to the opening at the top.

Upon seeing this, the man who had just been saved cried out to his savior, “Don’t be rash!”

Everyone shook their heads.

They watched as an energy sword that 1,000 feet long appeared in the handsome young man’s hand before he rushed up.

Bang!

The energy sword pierced the Nether Wolf King’s jaw from below.

The Nether Wolf King let out a miserable cry as drops of blood fell from the top.

The drops of blood had yet to fall to the ground when they were vaporized by the heat in midair.

Everyone was shocked by this scene. Who was this young man who was capable of injuring the Nether Wolf King with just one sword strike?

They watched with their mouths agape as the young man roared, "Vile creature! How dare you disturb my cultivation? I won't forgive you!"

The young man lifted his hand with his palm facing upward before countless golden palm seals flew out.

"The Daoists' Nine Cuts Hand Seals?! Golden palm seals? He's a golden lotus expert? B-but... but he has a fire lotus!?"

Fire lotuses were commonly seen in the red lotus domain and were considered to be attributes unique to red lotus cultivators, due to the fiery-red flames. However, if the purity of the fire was high, the color would turn golden, and if the purity of the fire was even higher, it would be blue.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The Nine Cuts Hand Seals pushed the Nether Wolf King away. It no longer dared to stand guard above. Nevertheless, it did not forget to order the pack of wolves to attack.

Upon seeing this, the Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator cried out, "Watch out!"

Lu Zhou did not even look at the Nether Wolves. He stomped his feet before a dazzling scene appeared in front of everyone's eyes.

The flaming lotus under Lu Zhou's feet began to spin as palm-sized fiery lotuses flew out one after another in the air.

All the Netherworld Wolves that came in contact with the fiery lotuses were instantly killed.

Following that, the flaming lotus under Lu Zhou's feet flew toward the entrance of the cave, destroying everything in its path and killing the Nether Wolves that stood guard at the entrance.

Following that, the flaming lotus rose up into the air before it released small fiery lotuses again. Soon enough, dazzling fire lotuses filled the entire Sky Wheel Rift Valley, easily reaping the lives of the fierce beasts.

At this moment, Lu Zhou turned back and asked, "What are you standing there for?"

"Yes, yes, yes... Hurry up and get out!"

Everyone followed Lu Zhou and flew through the opening on top of the cave. When they exited, they saw the fire lotuses spinning and killing all the Nether Wolves.

"T-this... This... What kind of f*cking move is this?!"

With their limited knowledge, how could they know what move it was?

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou did not have time to pay attention to the cultivators. He decided to test his first Birth Trial's ability, which he had named the Flaming Golden Lotus, on the pack of wolves. The Flaming Golden Lotus allowed his lotus to release small golden lotuses that burned with karmic fire; they were incredibly powerful.

Lu Zhou's figure flashed and appeared on top of the original flaming lotus.

"Avatar."

A 650-foot-tall golden avatar appeared above the flaming lotus.

Everyone raised their heads and cried out in surprise when they saw the towering golden avatar. Its dazzling light illuminated the entire Sky Wheel Mountain Range.

At this moment, the man whom Lu Zhou saved suddenly fell to his knees in the air. "As it turns out, it's Old Senior! Please forgive us for not recognizing Mount Tai."

Following that, everyone bowed in unison.

Upon hearing these words, Lu Zhou, who had not manifested his avatar for a long time, turned to look at his avatar.

The avatar's appearance was that of an old man with the air of a celestial. Although its expression was indifferent, its aura was imposing and fearsome.

Lu Zhou's avatar had his appearance when he was old. He shrugged; this was acceptable.

Meanwhile, the flaming lotus under Lu Zhou's feet began to pick up speed again as it spun.

Small fire lotuses covered the sky as they flew in all directions.

Even the flying beasts in the sky were not spared. Their lives were all reaped by the small fire lotuses.

The pack of Nether Wolves could not escape death. Those that were not reduced to ashes were dismembered by the fire lotuses.

Upon seeing this, the Nether Wolf King grew scared. It howled at the sky before it turned tail and fled.

When Lu Zhou saw the fleeing Nether Wolf King, he said, "All of you stay and extinguish the fire. I'll be back soon."

"Old Senior, be careful!"

Lu Zhou, who only had the Nether Wolf King in his eyes at this moment, said in a deep voice, "Livestock! Let's see what you're capable of!"

Following that, he withdrew his avatar and flew away on his flaming avatar like a shooting star toward the Nether Wolf King.

Chapter 1102: Killing the Nether Wolf King

The Flaming Golden Lotus was very powerful, but it also consumed a lot of energy. Its fire spread very quickly, and if it were not put out in time, the entire red lotus domain could easily burn in a sea of fire. Moreover, the vegetation in the cultivation world was very lush. There were forests and towering trees everywhere, serving as tinder to the fire. Every year, Great Tang would appoint dedicated cultivators to guard the forest to prevent such forest fires.

The cultivators watched as Lu Zhou stepped on the big flaming lotus and vanished from sight. Following that, they rushed toward the fire one after another.

“We can’t kill fierce beasts, but we can put out the fire! Let’s move!”

The cultivators dove and began to put out the fire.

At this moment, someone asked in confusion, “Hey, who’s the old senior? Do you know him?”

“No... I’ve never seen him before. However, his avatar’s appearance is old. Most importantly, it’s golden. It’s likely he’s an expert from the golden lotus domain.”

“An expert from the golden lotus domain? Is he from the Evil Sky Pavilion?”

“That’s possible. Yu Chenshu was defeated by Pavilion Master Lu here back then. Although that person’s appearance is young, he might be old. Anyway, he might be a disciple of the Evil Sky Pavilion.”

Everyone nodded in agreement.

...

Lu Zhou flew swiftly on the big flaming lotus.

The fierce beasts on the ground scampered away in fear.

As Lu Zhou flew, he would kill the flying beasts in the air as well. It was unfortunate that they were too weak and killing them did not earn him any merit points. To earn merit points, he had to kill Birth Chart Beasts.

The sound of howling rang in the air at this moment.

The Nether Wolf King continued to flee at top speed. Its huge body leaped above the clouds, and when it landed, the earth shook from its weight.

“The speed of this fierce beast...” Lu Zhou was slightly surprised by the Nether Wolf King’s speed. It was not easy to catch up with it. It only needed one leap to cross dangerous terrains and wide chasms.

“I’ve used up half of my Primal Qi,” Lu Zhou muttered to himself. His flaming lotus was indeed gorgeous and powerful, but it consumed a lot of Primal Qi as well. As expected of an ability gained from the Birth Trial.

With six Birth Charts, Lu Zhou could unleash the Birth Charts’ power 24 times. However, he could only release the Birth Trial ability twice.

Boom!

The Nether Wolf King stomped on the ground before it leaped up into the clouds again. All of a sudden, it changed direction. Its eyes that were gleaming coldly swept past the towering trees in its surroundings before it suddenly came to a halt.

Lu Zhou cast his grand technique thrice and appeared in front of the Nether Wolf King. He had to look up at it as though he was looking up a mountain before he said, “Livestock, you’re not fleeing anymore?”

Lu Zhou shifted his gaze to the Nether Wolf King's back. The Endless Ocean was behind it; it had no other way to retreat.

The Nether Wolf King lowered its head and crouched down, looking as though it was ready to pounce. At the same time, it growled and bared its fangs as it looked at Lu Zhou with a fierce gaze.

When the Nether Wolf King fled earlier, it naturally caused a huge commotion, attracting many cultivators' attention. Those who were more courageous flew toward the treetops in the distance and watched. Needless to say, even if they were courageous, they did not dare to go any closer.

"It's the Nether Wolf King."

"Who's that young man? Isn't he too daring?"

"Great Tang's four circuits have been besieged by fierce beasts... Only a handful of red lotus cultivators dare to challenge a beast king..."

The Nether Wolf King howled. It could no longer hold back and pounced toward Lu Zhou. In its eyes, Lu Zhou could not even fill the gaps between its teeth. However, it did not underestimate human cultivators. When it pounced, it did not hold back and attacked with a force that seemed capable of destroying the world.

"Avatar."

Buzz!

A 650-foot golden avatar rose up. An astrolabe appeared in front of the Nether Wolf King, blocking it.

Boom!

The Nether Wolf King crashed into the astrolabe.

A wave of fan-like energy from the collision swept out.

The cultivators in the distance had no choice but to erect their protective energy.

Someone exclaimed excitedly, "Golden avatar?! Is he an expert from the golden lotus domain?!"

Lu Zhou leaped to the top of his avatar. As soon as Unnamed appeared in his hand, he swung it.

Energy swords, which were 1,000 feet long, shot out in all directions, dazzling the onlookers' eyes.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Each of the energy swords stabbed at the Nether Wolf King's head.

The Nether Wolf King shrunk back in pain. After just a few breaths, blood began streaming down its face.

"He should be a Six Chart expert at least. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to breach the Nether Wolf King's defenses so easily."

"Six Chart expert? The golden lotus domain has grown so strong?"

“Hey, Pavilion Master Lu already has 12 Birth Charts at least. What’s so surprising about a Six Chart cultivator?”

“The golden lotus domain’s cultivation is so heavily restricted for such a long time, but they’ve surpassed the red lotus domain in such a short time? Isn’t it too abnormal?”

While the crowd was engaged in fervent discussions, Lu Zhou flew up with his avatar. At the same time, he sent a piercing energy sword toward the Nether Wolf King.

The golden energy sword moved to the left, the right, up, and down as it stabbed at the Nether Wolf King, further injuring it.

After a few breaths, the Nether Wolf King could no longer endure it. It let out a long earth-shaking howl before it stomped its paws on the ground.

Boom!

The tremors caused rocks to tumble down the mountains in the surroundings. The trees swayed and looked like they were going to fall.

One of the cultivators gulped before he said, “If I’m not mistaken, this sword expert must be the second disciple of the Evil Sky Pavilion, Yu Shangrong.”

“The second disciple of the Evil Sky Pavilion, Yu Shangrong?”

“There are very few people in the world who have reached this kind of level on the sword path. It’s likely he’s Yu Shangrong.”

At this time, the Nether Wolf King let out a series of howls. However, the howls were different from before; the vibrations from the sound caused everyone’s eardrums to hurt.

“It’s gone berserk!”

“Should we help! ?”

“Do you have a death wish!”

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Nevertheless, the situation on the battlefield was still as one-sided as before.

Lu Zhou continued to control his energy sword to attack the Nether Wolf King that had gone berserk.

Its hackles were raised; it was like a violent and destructive hedgehog at this moment.

Lu Zhou took advantage of his small size to move around as he swung his sword after putting his avatar away. Like a bee, he flew around the Nether Wolf King. He moved in all directions, leaving afterimages in his wake.

The Nether Wolf King swatted with its paw but it only hit the air.

“What a stubborn beast!” Lu Zhou muttered. All of his sword strikes hit their target. At the very least, he had six Birth Charts and had passed his Birth Trial, and yet, he still had not killed the beast.

Lu Zhou refused to accept this. "I'm going to kill you with one sword strike!"

He flew up into the air. Unnamed hovered in front of him as he joined his palms together.

In just a blink of an eye, millions of energy swords covered the sun and the sky in an orderly manner.

The Nether Wolf King shuddered as it looked at the energy swords around him. It could keenly sense the threat from the energy swords. Without a moment's hesitation, it turned around to flee, leaping into the sea without any hesitation.

Lu Zhou brought the millions of energy swords with him as he rushed toward the Endless Ocean.

All the cultivators' eyes followed his figure. They watched in a daze.

Boom!

Splash!

The Nether Wolf King stirred up fierce waves when it leaped into the sea. The waves were tinted red with its blood as they rushed to the shore. The seawater rose, turning the area 1,000 meters away into a swamp.

With Unnamed at the lead, millions of energy swords followed its lead as it shot toward the Nether Wolf King in the sea. They looked like swimming dragons at this moment.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Unnamed was the first to strike the Nether Wolf King, breaking its bones and wounding. In just an instant, the sea was dyed red by its blood.

Following that, millions of energy swords landed on the Nether Wolf King one after another, piercing it.

The Nether Wolf howled for a long time before it began to whimper. As it sank into the sea, it made a low muffled sound.

Splash! Splash Splash!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The Nether Wolf King thrashed wildly in the sea. Its body twisted crazily, stirring up bigger waves and causing the seawater to churn. This was its death struggle; a final struggle before its death.

Lu Zhou hovered in the air and looked at the surging sea with an indifferent gaze.

After roughly 15 minutes, the sea gradually calmed down as the Nether Wolf King stopped moving.

"Ding! Killed the Nether Wolf King. Reward: 10,000 merit points."

The cultivators watching from the distance felt their hearts racing in their chests. Their mouths were dry. One after another, they gulped.

Lu Zhou raised his hand.

Unnamed that was still in the sea thrummed, stirring up the sea again. Soon enough, the Nether Wolf King's corpse was brought up to the surface of the sea.

Lu Zhou had to extract the Nether Wolf King's life heart before its corpse sank to the bottom of the sea.

He waved his hands around, controlling Unnamed. It took him some effort to extract the life heart.

Swoosh!

At this moment, Unnamed flew back to Lu Zhou's hand.

Subsequently, a crystal clear life heart the size of a fist floated to the top and broke the sea's surface before it slowly rose in the air.

Chapter 1103: Zhu Honggong Displays His Might

When the life heart was in midair, the sunlight refracted off it. The refracted light that was the color of a rainbow fell on the sea, forming a sharp contrast with the dark red seawater.

The cultivators who were watching could not help but sigh in admiration and awe.

Lu Zhou received a notification as soon as the life heart flew into his hand.

"Ding! Obtained the Nether Wolf King's life heart. Ability: night vision; endurance."

"Not bad."

When Lu Zhou wanted to put the life heart into his pocket, he finally realized he was shirtless. His robes had long been destroyed during his time in the valley. He shook his head helplessly.

One should never reveal one's wealth. If he held the life heart so openly, it would definitely stir up ill intentions in some people. He could not afford to unleash his strength all the time.

At this moment, from a treetop thousands of meters away, a cultivator transmitted his voice over.

"Senior, be careful!"

Lu Zhou had already sensed the strange movements in the sea. He looked down and saw the huge waves. Clearly, something was rushing over in the sea.

At this time, several cultivators rushed over and came to a stop dozens of meters away from Lu Zhou. They looked down at the sea and saw shadows under the surface of the sea.

Lu Zhou raised an eyebrow. "How did you know the sea beasts were coming?"

"Currently, many places in Great Tang are experiencing beast tides. Most cultivators are gathered in various cities to defend them."

"Why did so many fierce beasts attack for no reason?" Lu Zhou was puzzled.

Those cultivators shook their heads.

"All of you retreat and defend the cities," Lu Zhou said calmly.

"Understood."

The cultivators bowed. They were about to leave when the sound of fighting further out at sea entered their ears. When they looked in the direction of the commotion, they saw a golden avatar flying above the sea in the distance, sending the countless leaping sea beasts flying. The avatar's strength was astonishing.

"Another golden avatar?"

The cultivators looked at the approaching golden avatar in shock.

Lu Zhou was puzzled as well; when did such an expert appear in the golden lotus domain? Only a few people dared to come to the red lotus domain or go to the Endless Ocean, let alone fight with fierce sea beasts.

Splash!

The waves surged to the sky.

The avatar flew higher up into the sky as well, revealing a golden halo at its back that illuminated the sky.

When Lu Zhou saw the golden halo, he first thought it was Yu Shangrong. However, he soon discovered something while the golden halo spun and the eleven leaves shot out in all directions, killing the sea beasts leaping out of the sea.

Lu Zhou saw a figure waving his fists around, knocking down sea beasts.

As the figure drew closer, the sound of laughter rang clearly in the air followed by the figure saying, "If you're still too green to eat someone like me!"

"Old Eighth?"

...

Lu Li stood on Dang Kang's back as Dang Kang dove from the sky. He said loudly, "Old Zhu, behind you!"

"Don't worry! I will beat the shit out of it!"

The golden avatar turned around and punched a giant sea beast away. It exploded immediately.

Zhu Honggong laughed again. "What do you think? I'm ridiculously strong! When I return to the Evil Sky Pavilion, Eldest Senior Brother and Second Senior Brother won't be able to bully me anymore!"

For the most part, Zhu Honggong and Lu Li's journey back was rather smooth. It was only over the last few days that the sea beasts began to appear. With that, they fought all the way back to the red lotus domain.

"Don't get ahead of yourself. You only killed those ordinary sea beasts. Have you forgotten what a difficult time we had avoiding the sea beast king? The beasts you killed can be easily dealt with by a Ten-leaf cultivator! The terrifying ones are Birth Chart Beasts and beast kings!"

Zhu Honggong smiled sheepishly before he said, "It doesn't matter. The shore is just up ahead..."

“Something’s wrong; I can sense it. There’s something happening in the direction where we’re heading. I suspect it’s the members of the Black Tower Council moving together in a group,” Lu Li said.

Zhu Honggong asked, “Did they come to welcome us? Old Lu, I didn’t know you have such a high status in the Black Tower Council!”

Lu Li shook his head and said, “It’s not high; I’m just an ordinary member. However, the surging energy is strange. It might not even be the Black Tower Council...”

“What are you afraid of? I’m here to protect you.”

As soon as Zhu Honggong’s voice fell, the sea beasts in his surroundings rushed toward the shore.

Zhu Honggong was shocked. He withdrew his avatar and flew higher up. He looked down at the sea and asked, “What’s happening? These past few days have been strange!”

“As expected, it’s a beast tide. The sea beast king is headed that way as well,” Lu Li said.

“Perhaps, that’s the reason the members of the Black Tower Council are in a group? They’re probably here to stop the sea beasts, right? Zhu Honggong asked. Since Lu Li had taken on such a mission before, he thought his theory was right.

Lu Li shook his head and said, “Impossible. At this point, it’s too late to stop the sea beasts. Moreover, there are many experts in the Black Tower Council. If they really want to deal with this, sending one or two judges is enough. There’s no reason to send a group of people here...”

“What’s the point of thinking so much now? Let’s head to the shore first! I’m exhausted,” Zhu Honggong said as he leaped onto Dang Kang’s back.

...

The cultivators behind Lu Zhou stared at Zhu Honggong and Lu Li in a daze; they were at a loss for words. They felt they had learned a lot today.

...

At this time, the duo was only 1,000 meters away from the shore.

“There are people up ahead.” Zhu Honggong saw the cultivators hovering in the sky.

“They must be here to stop the sea beasts...” Lu Li speculated. Based on their postures, it seems like they were here to stop the sea beasts.

Zhu Honggong said as he controlled Dang Kang to fly over, “Who cares? Look at that bare-chested guy! It’s obvious he’s just a low-level cultivator!”

All of a sudden, Dang Kang’s speed doubled without any warning. It was clearly very excited.

Zhu Honggong said in confusion, “Slow down, slow down!”

Dang Kang snorted. Its body seemed to be thrumming with energy at this moment.

At this time, they were only 500 meters away from the shore. Zhu Honggong tried to rein Dang Kang in. He sighed before he scolded, "Can you consider my pride and dignity? We're already close to the shore..."

With these words, Dang Kang really slowed down.

The two parties looked at each other from afar.

Lu Zhou looked at Lu Li and Zhu Honggong carefully.

Time passed really quickly. Zhu Honggong seemed to have grown even fatter than before while Lu Li seemed much calmer than when they first met.

At the same time, the duo was also looking at Lu Zhou, scanning him from head to toe.

Lu Li had always been observant. He had seen the seawater that had been dyed red and the corpse floating in the sea. He exclaimed in surprise, "The Nether Wolf King?"

Lu Li looked at the shirtless young man again; the young man looked very familiar, but he could not remember where he had seen the young man before. No matter how he racked his brains, he could not figure out who the young man was. Nevertheless, he was certain he must have met the young man before.

Zhu Honggong said loudly, "Hey, the sea beasts are coming! If you want to live, you better run. I don't have the time to save you."

Lu Zhou said, "Wicked disciple, get down here!"

'Wicked disciple? Get down? What's this high-handed manner of speaking? However, this voice is rather familiar...'

Zhu Honggong said, slightly speechless at being called a wicked disciple, "I don't have the time to argue with you. Hey, you're standing here without a shirt; do you think you're the god of the sea?"

"Impudent!" Lu Zhou's soundwave rolled out.

Shocked, Dang Kang threw Lu Li and Zhu Honggong off its back before it made a turn and dashed forward. Then, it grunted before it came to a stop in front of Lu Zhou. It lowered its head before it prostrated itself while its tail wagged incessantly. It was clearly submitting itself to Lu Zhou.

Zhu Honggong. "???"

Lu Zhou nodded and patted Dang Kang's head. Then, he turned to look at the surging sea. After a moment, he turned around and landed on the shore.

Dang Kang obediently followed Lu Zhou and sat at his side.

Lu Li looked at this scene in confusion. "Old Zhu, did your pig just... betray you?"

Meanwhile, Zhu Honggong had been frozen by that single word, 'impudent'. That one word alone dragged up many unbearable memories from the past. He gulped. 'No way...'

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou was calmly waiting for his eighth disciple to come down.

Zhu Honggong's reaction was rather slow. After all, Lu Zhou's sudden change in appearance was rather hard for people to accept.

Chapter 1104: The Real Master

The sea breeze blew over, bringing with them a cooling and refreshing sensation. It was completely different from the lava cave in the valley. After being roasted at such a high temperature for such a long time, Lu Zhou found the sea breeze very pleasing.

Zhu Honggong rubbed his eyes before he looked at Dang Kang and stiffly called out, "Dang Kang."

Dang Kang showed no signs of going over to Zhu Honggong at all.

"Heh... I raised you so well despite the difficulties, but you turned out to be a traitor! Is it because I'm not as handsome as him?" Zhu Honggong was so angry that he rushed toward Dang Kang.

When Zhu Honggong was thirty meters away and still in the air, Lu Zhou raised his hand.

"Fiend Monk's Hand Seal."

The palm seal that spanned dozens of feet appeared in front of Zhu Honggong.

Zhu Honggong shuddered, but he hardened his nerves and said, "Look at my avatar!"

Buzz!

As soon as the lotus-less Eleven-leaf golden avatar appeared, the Fiend Monk's Hand Seal suddenly flashed with a blue light.

Swoosh!

The palm seal moved and grabbed the chubby avatar with its five fingers and smacked it down.

Boom!

The avatar fell to the ground.

Following that, the Fiend Monk's Hand Seal grabbed Zhu Honggong as well. He struggled and screamed miserably, "Let me go! Let me go!"

Alas, no matter how hard Zhu Honggong struggled, he could break free from the shackles of the Fiend Monk's Hand Seal. With the realization that there was nothing he could do, he cried out desperately, "Old Lu, what are you waiting for? Save me!"

Lu Li dove from the sky and pushed his palm down.

Lu Zhou calmly raised his right hand, palm facing upward.

Boom!

When the two palms met, a huge force rippled out, leaving a trench on the ground.

Lu Zhou increased his vitality energy slightly.

Lu Li suddenly felt a surge of energy in his palm. He hurriedly flew back hundreds of meters, sensing something was amiss. Then, he looked at Lu Zhou in horror.

Zhu Honggong. "..."

Lu Zhou turned around and looked at Zhu Honggong. "Is that all you can do?"

'This voice, this tone... All the unbearable memories they bring with them!' Zhu Honggong was very irritated. He said indignantly, "I hate it the most when people imitate my master! Take this punch!"

Zhu Honggong stomped on the ground and shot out like an arrow. Then, he launched his energy fists at Lu Zhou.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Lu Zhou advanced at a leisurely pace and kept sending out palm seals to deflect Zhu Honggong's energy fists.

After several hundred consecutive attacks, Zhu Honggong suddenly retreated 100 meters along the shore. Then, he raised his head and said with a smile, "Look behind you!"

Lu Zhou did not look behind him; his eyes were trained on Zhu Honggong.

At this time, eleven leaves shot toward Lu Zhou's back.

"Golden Buddha's Body."

The Golden Buddha's Body was the same height as Lu Zhou's avatar.

The eleven leaves were easily blocked by the Golden Buddha's Body.

Lu Li frowned as he looked at the Golden Buddha's Body. "He's a Buddhist Master. Let's go!"

The 11-leaf golden hoop was blocked by the golden body.

"Okay!" Zhu Honggong hurriedly withdrew his eleven leaves and turned to flee.

Lu Zhou pushed his left hand out.

Bang!

The Great Seal of Fearlessness landed on Zhu Honggong's back, sending him falling to the ground.

Lu Zhou put away his Golden Buddha's Body before he looked at Zhu Honggong and said, "Just because you've sprouted eleven leaves, you've grown arrogant. Impudent!"

Zhu Honggong felt the impostor in front of him was really good. If he did not look at the impostor and just listened to the impostor's voice, he would not be able to tell the difference.

At this time, Lu Li rushed down and helped Zhu Honggong up. He knew they were no match for the young man in front of them. Seeing the other party did not strike with the intention to kill, he tried to reason with the young man. "We have no enmity with you. Why are you making things difficult for us?"

Lu Zhou sized Lu Li up before he said, "Your cultivation base hasn't recovered..."

Lu Li was shocked. 'How could he tell?'

At this moment, the cultivators who were watching in the air rushed over to Lu Zhou. After they landed, they said respectfully and pointed into the distance, "Senior, let's go! The black lotus cultivators are here!"

"Black lotus cultivators?" Lu Li turned around and looked into the distance. Following the direction that person was pointing at, he saw about 50 black-clad cultivators rushing over with long halberd and formation flags in their hands. At first glance, they looked like the Grim Reaper; it was a chilling sight. He said in surprise, "The Black Tower Council?"

Zhu Honggong raised his eyebrows and cried out excitedly, "Great, we're on the same side!"

Lu Li said, "No, something's strange. Why would the Black Tower Council come here?"

While the duo was talking, the nearly 50 black-clad cultivators landed and surrounded Lu Zhou, Zhu Honggong, Lu Li, and the other red lotus cultivators.

The black-clad cultivator standing at the lead looked at the trio and said, "The Black Tower Council is here. All cultivators at the Thousand Realms Whirling stage, come with us."

Lu Zhou raised his head and glanced at the people from the Black Tower Council. At least half of them were blackguards, and there were two judges. Even the Fourth Elder, Lu Si, was here.

Lu Li said in a clear voice, "I'm Lu Li, a member of the Black Tower Council. We're on the same side."

The Fourth Elder, Lu Si, replied, "Lu Li, you traitor. After so many years, you dare to show yourself? Take him down!"

Six blackguards rushed out as fast as lightning, restraining Lu Li and Lu Zhou.

Lu Li frowned and said, "I ran into some things and couldn't come back. I didn't betray the Black Tower Council. I hope you can understand, Elder Lu."

"You can explain yourself when we return," Lu Si said.

Zhu Honggong muttered to himself, "It's over, it's over, it's over..."

Lu Si turned to Lu Zhou and said, "You, come along."

Lu Zhou raised his head and swept his gaze across the crowd before he said, "It seems like the lesson I taught you previously isn't enough..."

"Huh? War is dawning on us. I have no choice. Please forgive me, sir," Lu Si said dismissively before he waved his hand and ordered, "Take them away!"

Two black-clad cultivators flew toward Lu Zhou. As soon as they arrived in front of him, he struck with two hands at lightning speed.

Bang! Bang!

The two black-clad cultivators felt their arms go numb as they were sent flying back.

The black-clad

“The era of war has already begun. I have no other choice. Please forgive me, sir.” Lu Si waved his hand.
“Take them all.”

Lu Si frowned. The bare-chested cultivator was quite strong. He said, “Young man, it’s best to keep a low profile when doing things...” He waved his hand again.

This time, ten blackguards swooped down, forming a semi-circle around Lu Zhou.

At the same time, Lu Zhou silently chanted the mantra for the Heavenly Writing Power.

To gain the power of speech recognition, even about the unspeakable truths, and understand the words spoken by the tongues of the beings in the different worlds

“Scram.”

With Lu Zhou in the center, the thunderous soundwave rippled out in all directions and pierced the heavens.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Lu Li, Zhu Honggong, and Dang Kang were sent flying without exception.

Zhu Honggong’s head buzzed, and his eardrums hurt. He thought it was over for him. How could the impostor even imitate his master’s ultimate move?

With Lu Zhou as the center, the thunderous sound waves of the nine heavens radiated in all directions.

Needless to say, the blackguards were all sent flying as well.

After passing the Birth Trial, the power of speech recognition that was boosted with the supreme mystic power was much stronger than before.

The blackguards that took the brunt of the attack felt their blood and Qi surged. Five or six of them who were weaker even threw up blood as they flew back.

Lu Si, the Fourth Elder of the Black Tower Council, and the others erected a barrier to block the soundwave.

Thud! Thud! Thud!

One by one, all of them fell to the ground as well.

Only Lu Si and a few others remained standing, but they were no better than the others since they were on the verge of collapsing as well.

‘Just one move is so powerful?’

Zhu Honggong and Lu Li looked at the shirtless young man in shock.

At the same time, the young man’s hair turned white at a speed visible to naked eyes. At the same time, his smooth skins were carved with lines by the passage of time. His long white hair fluttered in the air;

his beard and eyebrows were white as well; his eyes were deep and knowing as he looked at everyone. Soon enough, Lu Zhou's wizened face and sage-like appearance appeared before everyone's eyes.

Lu Zhou had no choice but to use a Disguise Card; there were too many idiots around him.

Zhu Honggong was dumbfounded.

The people from the Black Tower were even more dumbfounded. When they regained their senses, the scene where the members of the Black Tower Council lost their Birth Charts at the same time flashed in their minds.

Lu Si hurriedly ordered his men, "Descend!"

The members of the Black Tower Council descended in unison.

Lu Si held his robes up before he rushed over in a panic; he did not dare to use his Primal Qi at all and only ran like a non-cultivator. When he arrived in front of Lu Zhou, he knelt on one knee and cupped his hands together. "Lu Si greets Pavilion Master Lu!"

Following that, the members of the Black Tower Council knelt in unison and shouted, "Greeting, Pavilion Master Lu!"

"..."

'What's this? Pavilion Master Lu?' Lu Li frowned, confused. He turned around to check on Zhu Honggong.

At this moment, Zhu Honggong silently stood up, straightened his robes, joined his palms together, and knelt down again. Then, he prostrated himself and said in a clear voice, "Disciple greets master!"

Lu Li was shocked again when he saw Zhu Honggong prostrating. Humans were strange creatures with a herd mentality. When he looked around him, he saw everyone kneeling on the ground, he instinctively knelt on the ground as well. Herd mentality aside, even Lu Si who was stronger than him was kneeling, how could he remain standing?

Needless to say, even the red lotus cultivators had long fallen to their knees as well.

Chapter 1105: Master, You're Wise and Mighty

All of the members of the Black Tower Council did not dare to breathe loudly at all; they did not even dare to look at each other.

Lu Si's face was drenched in sweat, and his hand trembled from nervousness.

Lu Zhou did not pay attention to the others. Instead, he turned around and called out tonelessly, "Old Eighth."

Zhu Honggong shivered. He hurriedly said, "As it turns out, master decided to grace us with his presence. Master, your disguise earlier is flawless! It's impossible to see through; that's how perfect it is! M-master... master, I know my mistakes!" He kowtowed again.

Lu Zhou said indifferently, "You're really amazing; you have no regard for me at all..."

“No, no, no, there’s no such thing! Master, your disguise is perfect beyond words. My cultivation is shallow so it’s impossible for me to see through your disguise. Even if I’m boosted with all the courage in the world, I still don’t dare to disregard master!”

Lu Zhou said ambiguously, “Do you think I don’t know that you’re making arrangements behind my back?”

Zhu Honggong was stunned. When he regained his senses, he hurriedly said, “There’s no such thing! Master, my respect and admiration for you is unchanging like the sun and the moon.” Then, he pointed at Lu Li before he continued to say, “There are no lies in my words. Old Lu can attest to this. In fact, every time Old Lu speaks ill of you, I will chastise him immediately!”

Lu Li. “...”

Lu Zhou looked at Lu Li and asked, “Lu Li, do you still remember me?”

When Lu Li met Lu Zhou, Lu Zhou’s appearance was not so old. Therefore, although he found Lu Zhou familiar, he did relate him to the person he met back then.

“I met you for the first time at the Sky Wheel Mountain Range, and you gave me the Birth Chart map,” Lu Zhou said.

Realization dawned on Lu Li. “It’s you?! That Ten-leaf cultivator?”

At this moment, Zhu Honggong interjected, “Master, Old Lu says he has many things to say to you!”

Lu Zhou looked at Lu Li as he stroked his beard, “Is that so?”

Lu Li shook his head and said with a straight face, “Don’t listen to your nonsense. I, Lu Li, am a straightforward person. If I have something to say, I’ll say it. We’ve only met once before this, why would I have anything to say to you?”

“Hey, hey, Old Lu, this isn’t how you talked when we were in Great Qing.”

“That’s enough,” Lu Zhou interjected. Then, he looked at Lu Li and said, “I know what you want to say to me...”

Lu Li was confused.

Lu Zhou said, “You want to join my Evil Sky Pavilion, right?”

“Uh...” Lu Li was stunned; he did not understand what was going on.

Lu Zhou continued to say with a straight face, “Since you want to join the Evil Sky Pavilion, I’ll allow you to be the Right Envoy of the Evil Sky Pavilion; we already have a Left Envoy. Are you willing?”

Zhu Honggong was stunned. Then, he said in a low voice, “M-master... T-this... Lu Li is from the Black Tower Council... He’s a... a... Thousand Realms...”

Lu Zhou did not wait for Zhu Honggong to finish speaking before he said, “Slap yourself.”

Slap!

Zhu Honggong did not hesitate to slap his mouth. Then, he said ingratiatingly, "I shouldn't have interrupted you, master..."

Lu Zhou turned around and called out, "Lu Si."

Lu Si was the Fourth Elder of the Black Tower Council; he was one of the core members of the Upper Tower.

"Pavilion Master Lu, h-how may I help you?" Lu Si asked in a trembling voice.

Lu Zhou said, "Lu Li wants to join my Evil Sky Pavilion. Do you have any objections?"

Lu Si shook his head vehemently and said, "Of course not! It... It's Lu Li's fortune to be able to join the Evil Sky Pavilion!"

Lu Li. "???"

Lu Li was thoroughly confused with Lu Si and the other Black Tower Council members' subservient attitude. He could not figure out what was wrong with them.

Lu Zhou asked again, "What about Xia Zhengrong?"

"I will report this to Tower Master Xia. Pavilion Master Lu, don't worry. No one will dare to object to Lu Li joining the Evil Sky Pavilion."

In fact, Lu Zhou only asked these questions so Lu Li could hear Lu Si's replies. He wanted Lu Li to know even if they were given all the courage in the world, the Black Tower Council would not dare to oppose him.

"Good." Lu Zhou nodded. Then, he turned to Lu Li and said, "On account of how you've taken care of Old Eighth, I'll show you mercy and allow you to join the Evil Sky Pavilion. You should know that everyone in the world wants to join the Evil Sky Pavilion but doesn't have the chance. You should be grateful that I'm giving you this chance..."

Lu Li. "..."

"Needless to say, once you join the Evil Sky Pavilion, you'll have to abide by the rules of the Evil Sky Pavilion," Lu Zhou said.

Lu Li was still confused. All these words did not make sense to him; he did not know what was going on.

Lu Zhou did not wait for Lu Li's reply and said to the others, "Rise."

Everyone from the Black Tower Council rose to their feet.

The red lotus cultivators rose to their feet as well, feeling as though they were dreaming.

On the contrary, Zhu Honggong kowtowed and said, "I won't get up. Master, I haven't seen you for a long time; now that I'm able to see you again, I'm in an indescribably good mood. Therefore, I'd like to continue kneeling to express my gratitude and happiness..."

"..."

‘Your words are really pretty...’

Lu Li turned to look at Zhu Honggong speechlessly.

At this moment, Lu Zhou said, “Lu Li, I’m still waiting for your reply...”

“This... this...” Lu Li had never been more confused in life.

Lu Si hurriedly interjected, “Lu Li, hurry up and greet Pavilion Master Lu. It’s your good fortune that Pavilion Master Lu has taken a fancy to you!”

Lu Li was shocked. What the hell was this? Where was the authority, dignity, and integrity of the Black Tower Council? At this time, he discovered all the members of the Black Tower Council were looking at him meaningfully, making his hair stand on end.

Lu Zhou looked at Lu Li as he stroked his beard.

Lu Li, still in a daze and still confused, bowed and said, “Lu Li greets Pavilion Master Lu.”

“Ding! You’ve been rewarded with 1,000 merit points for recruiting a subordinate.”

“Very good.” Lu Zhou nodded. Then, he turned and walked toward Lu Si and the others.

Zhu Honggong raised his head slightly. When he saw his master walking away, he patted the sand off his forehead and moved to Lu Li’s side. “Old Lu, you really have a discerning eye. Welcome!”

“Screw you...” Lu Li felt like a country bumpkin who had come to the city for the first time and could not keep up with the times.

“Old Lu, my master is grateful to you that’s why he let you join the Evil Sky Pavilion,” Zhu Honggong said.

At this moment, Lu Zhou turned around and asked, “What are you talking about?”

“N-nothing. I’m just saying you’re really wise and capable. You can even get Old Lu to willingly join the Evil Sky Pavilion...” Zhu Honggong said.

Lu Zhou looked at Lu Li and said, “Lu Li, does that mean you’re unwilling?”

Lu Li shook his head and said, “Since I agreed to join the Evil Sky Pavilion, how can I be unwilling?”

With that Lu Zhou ignored the others and stroked his beard as he asked Lu Si, “Why didn’t the Black Tower Council stay in the black lotus domain? Why are you here?”

Lu Si replied, “We received news that Great Yuan’s royal court and the Dark and Light Alliance might invade the red lotus domain. Since the Black Tower Council... Since the Black Tower Council’s towers collapsed, we’re not as strong as before. W-we know that the red lotus domain has many fierce beasts so we hoped to obtain life hearts. Earlier... earlier... I saw that you have a... a life heart...” He trailed off before he hurriedly said, “Please forgive me, Pavilion Master Lu!”

Lu Li and Zhu Honggong looked at the life heart in Lu Zhou’s hand.

“This is...” Lu Li could not tell what was so special about the life heart.

Lu Zhou channeled his energy into the life heart. In just a blink of an eye, the muddied crystal from before shone dazzlingly. Earlier, he had used his Primal Qi to suppress the life heart's energy to make it look ordinary.

"A beast king's life heart?!" Lu Li exclaimed in shock.

Lu Zhou said, "This is the Nether Wolf King's life heart."

Everyone was in an uproar.

Lu Li and Zhu Honggong instinctively turned to look at the seawater that was dyed red.

Lu Zhou continued to ask, "There's no need to send so many people, right? Why didn't Xia Zhengrong Come?"

"We only want life hearts; we don't want any conflicts with the royal court. The beast tide this time is rather strange. We suspect the intelligent beasts are behind this, hence, we sent more people out to prevent any mishap," Lu Si replied.

"Is that so?"

"If there's a single lie in my words, you can behead me and I won't complain, Pavilion Master Lu," Lu Si said. After a beat, he added, "I suspect Great Yuan's royal court is behind this. They're carrying out the annihilation plan here..."

Lu Zhou frowned and asked, "Isn't the annihilation plan the Black Tower Council's plan?"

Lu Si answered honestly, "No, it's not exclusive to the Black Tower Council. It's a plan that's common among forces in the black lotus domain. The core purpose of the plan is to remove obstacles that interfere with one's interests so one can completely control one's target. Every once in a while, the beasts of the Endless Ocean will disturb the humans. It's very likely that Great Yuan's royal court wants to use the fierce beasts to destroy the red lotus domain..."

"They're quite daring..." Lu Zhou said.

Upon hearing this, Lu Si said tentatively, "Pavilion Master Lu comes from the golden lotus domain; I don't think they dare to act against the golden lotus domain."

"Didn't anyone tell you that the red lotus domain is my territory as well?" Lu Zhou asked indifferently.

"..."

Lu Si's forehead was drenched in sweat, and his mouth was dry. He hurriedly nodded and said, "The Black Tower Council has no intention of making an enemy out of the Evil Sky Pavilion. I hope Pavilion Master Lu can forgive us."

"When you return, tell Xia Zhengrong that if the collective demotion of the Black Tower Council can happen once, it can happen a second time..."

Lu Si shivered as he bowed. "I understand."

Chapter 1106: The Confused Lu Li

Lu Si took two steps back respectfully. Then, he waved to the people of the Black Tower Council.

The people of the Black Tower Council stepped back respectfully in unison.

Lu Si looked at the seawater that only had a tinge of red now and shook his head. He sighed before he bowed again and left.

The people of the Black Tower Council followed Lu Si and left as well.

After confirming that Lu Zhou could not see them, Lu Si raised his hand and said, "Stop."

"Elder Lu, are we really going to leave like this?"

"There are surely high-level fierce beasts and beast kings in beast tides... Since Pavilion Master Lu killed the Nether Wolf King, nothing can be done about that. However, we don't have to return to the Black Tower Council just yet; we can go to the Jiannan Circuit. The terrain there is low. If we're lucky, we might encounter high-level fierce beasts," Lu Si said.

"What if we meet someone from the royal court?"

"We'll avoid them."

The Black Tower Council cultivators nodded.

Based on the current situation, it was safest for the Black Tower Council to stay out of Great Yuan's plan and to just reap the benefits from the side. The fiercer the battle was for the others, the more advantageous it would be for the Black Tower Council.

As the Black Tower Council members flew neatly in a row toward Jiannan Circuit; they looked like a black dragon from afar.

...

On the shore of the Endless Ocean in the red lotus domain.

Up until now, Lu Li was still confused. Based on what he had seen, Zhu Honggong's master should only have six, or at most eight, Birth Charts. That was the strength of a judge in the Black Tower Council. Why were Lu Si and the Black Tower Council so scared and respectful toward him? It did not make sense at all. In the end, he bowed and asked, puzzled, "What do you mean by the collective demotion of the Black Tower Council?"

Lu Zhou looked back at Lu Li and said, "It means what it means literally."

"..."

The red lotus cultivators walked up to Lu Zhou at this moment. After they bowed, they kneeled and said, "We didn't expect to meet Pavilion Master Lu here. Please accept our greetings..."

Lu Li. "..."

'Isn't this too exaggerated? Why is everyone so humble in front of him?'

Lu Zhou said, "Rise."

"Thank you, Pavilion Master Lu."

The three red lotus cultivators rose to their feet and looked at Lu Zhou with eyes shining with respect and admiration.

One of the cultivators said, "Fortunately, Pavilion Master Lu showed up in time to kill the Nether Wolf King. Otherwise, the cities around the Sky Wheel Mountain Range would've fallen."

It is fortunate that master Lu showed up in time to kill the Netherworld Wolf King. Otherwise, all the cities around the Tianlun Mountains would be in trouble. Thank God!"

Lu Li and Zhu Hong had just returned so they did not understand much of what was going on.

Lu Zhou recalled the scavengers he met when he first entered the valley half a year ago. He asked, "Why did the Nether Wolf King appear at the Sky Wheel Mountain Range?"

"Maybe someone is controlling it. Maybe it's an order from an intelligent beast. We are nobodies so there's no way we know these things."

That made sense.

In any case, Lu Zhou would find out about everything once he returned and spoke to Si Wuya and the others. Finally, he said, "Alright, it's dangerous out here. You may leave."

"Yes." The trio turned around respectfully and left.

Lu Zhou looked back at Zhu Honggong who was still lying prostrate on the ground and asked, "Why aren't you getting up?"

"Master... Master..." Zhu Honggong finally got up with an ingratiating expression on his face.

Lu Zhou said, "You just sprouted the eleventh leaf; you shouldn't let it get to your head."

"Yes, master."

Lu Li was further confused. "Pavilion Master Lu, you're not surprised by the eleventh leaf?"

Before Lu Zhou could reply, Zhu Honggong immediately nudged Lu Li and said, "Of course. My master is very knowledgeable; you just don't know it yet."

Lu Li: o(—^—+)o

"Let's go back to Guannei Circuit first," Lu Zhou said.

"Understood."

...

Half a day later.

When Lu Zhou and the others traveled back to the capital, fierce beasts could be seen everywhere. It seemed as though there was an infestation of fierce beasts in the red lotus domain.

When they arrived at the royal palace, many cultivators from the palace rushed out to meet Lu Zhou. Since he had used the Disguise Card, all of them recognized him and welcomed him back respectfully.

Soon after, Yu Zhenghai, Yu Shangrong, Little Yuan 'er, Conch, and the people from the Evil Sky Pavilion rushed over as well. When they saw Lu Zhou's appearance, they were dumbfounded again.

Little Yuan'er pointed at Lu Zhou's beard and said, "Master... Master, why do you look like that again?"

"Don't be rude," Yu Zhenghai said.

"Oh."

It was inappropriate to point at their master, after all.

Based on their reactions, Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong's ability to accept things was much better than before.

Lu Zhou swept his gaze across the crowd and asked, "Where's Old Seventh?"

"Seventh Junior Brother is in the Sky Martial Court."

"Summon him. I want to see him."

"Understood."

After saying that, Lu Zhou rushed toward the Preservation Hall. He was still shirtless, after all. There was no need to explain since everyone should know image was the most important thing!

The Disguise Card's effect would last for five days. Lu Zhou did not think there was a need to dispel the effect for now. Considering the many troubles that came with his youthful appearance, it was not a bad idea to go with the flow.

After Lu Zhou left, Zhu Honggong stepped forward and greeted his seniors. "Greetings, Eldest Senior Brother, Second Senior Brother..."

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong both went forward and patted Zhu Honggong's shoulders, nodding their heads.

"There will definitely be good fortune after surviving a great disaster. That day when I heard you jumped into the Endless Ocean, it made me look at you in a new light." Yu Zhenghai was very surprised when he heard about that matter from Si Wuya.

"It's a small matter..."

Yu Shangrong was also not stingy with his praise. "Once you really experience life and death, you'll definitely gain something. I saw your energy is steady and strong. I think Eighth Junior Brother must have had some fortuitous encounters?"

Zhu Hong said confidently, "Senior brother, you praise me too much. My cultivation base has only improved slightly. However, if there's a chance, I'd like to exchange a few moves with you."

Everyone. "..."

'Old Eighth must have gone crazy!'

An expression of approval appeared on Yu Shangrong's face immediately. "You have the courage to challenge me now. Old Eighth, you've changed a lot. Victory and defeat aside, your courage alone is worthy of praise!"

'Just wait. I'll defeat you in a while. Let's see who dares to look down on me from now on.' Despite his thoughts, Zhu Honggong remained modest outwardly.

Following that, Zhu Honggong called out to Little Yuan'er, "Little Junior Sister..."

Little Yuan'er placed her hands on her hips and said, "Eighth Senior Brother, you're mistaken. She's our Little Junior Sister..."

"Uh..." Zhu Honggong looked at Conch.

Little Yuan'er briefly recounted what had happened.

When Zhu Honggong recovered from the shock, he said, "Master has good taste!"

Conch bowed and greeted Zhu Honggong. "Greetings, Eighth Senior Brother."

It was not easy for Zhu Honggong to gain another junior; how could he not seize the chance to act like a senior brother? He cleared his throat and solemnly said, "No need to be so formal..."

At this time, Yan Zhenluo, Shen Xi, Xia Changqiu, and the others finally arrived.

Yan Zhenluo had sharp eyes; he saw Lu Li as soon as he arrived. At first, he was stunned. He thought his eyes were playing tricks on him. He rubbed his eyes before he looked again. It was really Lu Li! He called out, "Brother Lu!"

"Brother Yan?"

The duo's reunion was even more exaggerated than that of a lover's reunion. First, they asked about each other's well-being. After ensuring they were both fine, they laughed burst into laughter.

Yan Zhenluo asked, "Where have you been all this time?"

"I was injured when I was on the mission and somehow got stranded in the yellow lotus domain. Thanks to Old Zhu's sacrifice, I survived..." Lu Li pointed at Zhu Honggong. He was never one to discredit another person.

Yan Zhenluo nodded and said, "If it weren't for the life stone, I would've gone to look for you. Many things have happened in the Black Tower Council since you left. If it weren't for you, I wouldn't be alive today."

"It's all in the past now. How has the Black Tower Council changed? Anyway, something's strange. I personally witnessed Fourth Elder Lu Si kneeling to Pavilion Master Lu. What's going on? By the way, what are you doing here? Shouldn't you be in the Black Tower Council?" Lu Li asked, growing confused again. At this point, one wondered if he could be any more confused.

"It's a long story... I haven't asked you yet; how did you end up returning with Pavilion Master Lu?" Yan Zhenluo asked.

Lu Li then told Yan Zhenluo what had happened to him.

Yan Zhenluo was amazed. After he seemed to have understood what had happened, he smiled and asked, "Do you know about the collective demotion of the Black Tower Council?"

Lu Li had heard these words earlier. An uneasy feeling rose in his heart as he asked, "What do you mean by collective demotion?"

"In order to save me, Pavilion Master Lu single-handedly broke through the 3,600 Dao inscriptions formation. Why it's called a collective demotion is because almost every member of the Black Tower Council lost one Birth Chart at least. Tower Master Xia lost two Birth Charts! Lan Xihe, the Tower Master of the White Tower Council, was there at that time as well. News of this has spread throughout the entire cultivation world. People refer to it as the Collective Demotion of the Black Tower Council," Yan Zhenluo said.

Lu Li's eyes were as wide as saucers. The word 'shock' could not even describe his feelings at this moment.. He gulped before he said disbelievingly, "How's that possible? At most, he has six Birth Charts. When I first met him, he only had ten leaves!"

Chapter 1107: This is Reasonable

Lu Li's thoughts were written all over his face. 'Are you trying to trick me?'

Yan Zhenluo said, "That was then. When you saw Pavilion Master Lu earlier, didn't you find anything strange?"

Lu Li recalled the events earlier. There were indeed many strange things. For example, if Lu Zhou was truly a Ten-leaf cultivator back then, how did he suddenly become a Five Chart cultivator in such a short time? At that time, he was in a hurry to carry out the mission. He did not think too much and gave Lu Zhou the Birth Chart map at that time since he knew his chances of survival were almost zero. Finally, he nodded and said, "Brother Yan, you're right. Times have changed... Moreover, Pavilion Master Lu must have hidden his cultivation base at that time."

"You've just joined the Evil Sky Pavilion; it's natural that there are many things you don't understand. If you want to learn more about, I can introduce you to someone," Yan Zhenluo said helpfully.

"Who is it?"

"Monastery Master Xia." Yan Zhenluo waved to Xia Changqiu who was standing in the distance.

Xia Changqiu walked over with a smile. When he arrived, he bowed at Lu Li.

Lu Li, being the polite person he was, returned the bow as well.

Yan Zhenluo said, "My brother has just joined the Evil Sky Pavilion so he doesn't know much about it. I wonder if you have time..."

Xia Changqiu interjected as he looked at the sun and said, "Sure, sure. I have a lot of time. I can do it whenever..."

Lu Li asked, "How about tomorrow?"

"It's better to do it today. Trust me. The sooner you know, the better." Xia Changqiu said with a smile.

"Um... Okay."

With that, Xia Changqiu grabbed Lu Li's wrist and walked to the stairs nearby. He said, "When you join the Evil Sky Pavilion, remember one thing: you can not judge anything by common sense. We'll talk about the rest slowly. Let's start with the ten disciples of the Evil Sky Pavilion..."

"..." Lu Li had heard Zhu Honggong bragging about the Evil Sky Pavilion over the years; it seemed like he would have to hear it all over again.

...

Meanwhile, Si Wuya and Zhao Hongfu rushed from the Sky Martial Court to the royal palace as soon as they received news of Lu Zhou's return.

When they arrived at the Preservation Hall, there were not many people around. They saw Li Yunzheng who was pacing back and forth in front of the hall.

"Teacher." Li Yunzheng bowed and greeted Si Wuya.

Si Wuya asked, "Why are you here?"

"I heard that grandmaster is back so I came to visit."

"Have you carried out the task I gave you?" Si Wuya asked

"Yes, but the pressure is very great. The fierce beasts are getting stronger. There are strange movements in the sea near Jiangdong Circuit. It's probably the same as Shannan Circuit. If more Birth Chart Beasts appear, I'm afraid we'll be facing an unprecedented disaster," Li Yunzheng said.

"I know you are a little anxious, which is very normal. However, this matter can't be rushed. Return first. If there's anything, I'll send you a message," Si Wuya said.

"Then, I'll have to trouble you, Teacher." Li Yunzheng bowed before he left.

Si Wuya looked around and saw Ji Fengxing and Wuwu sitting on the nearby steps. He asked, "Where's my Eight Junior Brother?"

When they were on the Endless Ocean, Zhu Honggong had sacrificed himself to save the others. He had been plagued with guilt for a period of time. Now that Zhu Honggong had returned, he had to personally confirm that Zhu Honggong was fine before he could feel completely at ease.

Ji Fengxing said, "Mister Eighth and Mister Second went to spar at the front hall..."

"Spar?" Si Wuya was a little taken aback. Since he joined the Evil Sky Pavilion, he had never seen Zhu Honggong act even a little unruly in front of their Eldest and Second Senior Brother; Zhu Honggong had

always been timid. In the end, he decided not to dwell on this matter for now and to attend to the business at hand first.

When Si Wuya entered the Preservation Hall, before he bowed, he was taken aback by his master's change in appearance again. "Master, you..."

"Disguising technique." Lu Zhou indicated that there was no need for him to make a fuss. "There's no need for formalities. What happened during the half a year I was gone?"

Si Wuya said, "Great Yuan's royal court is going to go to war with the red lotus domain."

"War?" Lu Zhou frowned slightly.

"I've spoken to Ying Zhao. The fierce beasts in the Unknown Land have long been restless and want to invade human territories. There should be someone in Great Yuan's royal court who's skilled in the tongue of beasts because I'm certain they're colluding with the fierce beasts. The sea beasts in the Endless Ocean and the land beasts seem to be abnormally in sync. They're all gathering near the sea in the red lotus domain. With this, it's a great chance for Great Yuan to invade the red lotus domain," Si Wuya said.

"Mu Ertie is quite bold."

"Murtie is very shrewd. The last time he saw you, he was clearly enduring and putting on an act. With the Black Tower Council busy recovering and Great Yuan's existing cooperation with the Dark and Light Alliance, it's normal that Mu Ertie would have such an ambition. Although he was putting on an act of subservience previously, this change is still too sudden and abnormal. There's something fishy about this. Mu Ertie shouldn't be so stupid..."

"Is he in the palace?"

"He's afraid you'll come looking for him so he hasn't been in the palace for a long time now," Si Wuya replied.

Lu Zhou nodded slightly and looked at Si Wuya. "Do you have any countermeasures?"

Si Wuya bowed and said, "Yes. When you weren't here, I secretly sent a letter to Lan Xihe, the Tower Master of the White Tower Council. Joining forces with the White Tower Council is the best way to deal with Mu Ertie and the fierce beasts..."

Lu Zhou fell silent, lost in his thoughts. His real strength was that of a Six Chart cultivator. Even if he had the Peak Trial Card or the Supreme Mystic Card, it was impossible for him to deal with the fierce beasts and the beast kings in so many different places at the same time. Moreover, there were Great Yuan and the Dark and Light Alliance waiting to attack.

"Master, please forgive me. I didn't want to do this, but... this is war..." Si Wuya fell on one knee when he saw Lu Zhou's prolonged silence.

"Don't be nervous. You didn't do anything wrong," Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said.

Si Wuya explained, "I thought about using the Black Tower Council or Great Ming's royal court, but Xia Zhengrong and Gongsun Yuanxuan are too cunning and unreliable."

"Is Lan Xihe reliable then?" Lu Zhou wanted to hear Si Wuya's judgment.

"She only has five years to live. With her ability, she must have tried everything to change her fate and failed. People who're facing imminent death are no longer driven by benefits. Moreover, it'll only benefit the White Tower Council if they work with us..." Si Wuya explained.

Indeed. The Black Tower Council would have loved to cooperate, but they were not given the chance.

Lu Zhou said, "We'll only cooperate with Lan Xihe as a last resort. It's best to rely on ourselves no matter what..."

"Master is right... We should send Eldest Senior Brother to Jiannan Circuit. His progress is very fast, and he has already activated his fourth Birth Chart during this half a year. I've already asked the Sky Research Court to upgrade the Jasper Saber to the flood grade. It should be easy for him to deal with ordinary Birth Chart Beasts..." Si Wuya said, "Then, we should send Second Senior Brother to Shanbei Circuit. His eleven leaves are comparable to a Five Chart cultivator so it won't be a problem for him at all."

Apart from Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong, the others were more difficult to arrange.

Lu Zhou said, "Send Lu Li and Yan Zhenluo to Jiangbei Circuit; let Old Eighth guard Jiangdong Circuit..."

"Eighth Junior Brother?"

"Old Eighth has already sprouted his eleventh leaf. His cultivation base is similar to your Second Senior Brother," Lu Zhou said lightly.

Si Wuya was slightly stunned. It seemed like his Eighth Junior Brother's sacrifice at that time turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

Coincidentally, at this moment, Zhu Honggong's voice rang from outside the hall. "Disciple greets master."

"Come in."

Zhu Honggong along with Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong walked into the hall.

Si Wuya turned around and was about to greet Zhu Honggong when he exclaimed in shock, "Old Eighth, why are you bruised and swollen?"

Zhu Honggong touched his bruised cheeks and panda eyes. He flinched from the pain and said, "It's just superficial injuries; they're not a big deal. I was in such a good mood seeing everyone that I fell in my excitement..."

"Fell?" Si Wuya asked skeptically. No matter Zhu Honggong had fallen, he should not have been bruised to this extent, right?

At this moment, Yu Shangrong said with a straight face, "Eighth Junior Brother's cultivation base has improved a lot. Congratulations. However, his flying technique is still a little weak. These injuries were indeed caused by a fall. Falling is an essential lesson for cultivators to grow. Seventh Junior Brother, there's no need for you to worry..."

“... Second Senior Brother is right...”

Si Wuya stepped forward and patted Zhu Honggong’s shoulder heavily as he said, “It’s good that you’re fine...”

“Ouch!” Zhu Honggong fell on his butt immediately.

Si Wuya. “???”

Zhu Honggong held his butt and explained, “It’s nothing. Didn’t I say I fell? It’s inevitable to bruise your face, butt, arms, and legs when you fall. Doesn’t this sound reasonable?”

Lu Zhou stroked his beard indifferently and interjected, “Alright, now. Old Seventh, make the arrangements.”

“Understood.”

Chapter 1108: War

Si Wuya told Yu Zhenghai, Yu Shangrong, and Zhu Honggong of his plan.

When Zhu Honggong heard that he was going to be sent to Jiangdong Circuit, he said, aggrieved, “Master, I think I should stay by your side considering my weak strength...”

Lu Zhou said, “Your cultivation isn’t weak; it only needs to be tempered. Staying in the royal palace would only be a waste of time...” Seeing that Zhu Honggong still wore a wronged expression on his face, he added, “I left a pair of gloves with Monastery Master Xia. You can bring them with you to Jiangdong Circuit.”

Zhu Honggong no longer dared to object. He could only nod and say before he left, “Yes, master.”

After that, Lu Zhou looked at Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai and said, “Both of you can take your leave as well. Take care of yourself.”

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong bowed and left the Preservation Hall as well.

...

When Zhu Honggong found Xia Changqiu, Xia Changqiu was still talking to Lu Li about the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Lu Li was stunned and... still confused. When he was young, he had heard stories about powerful warriors from his elders. That was all. However, Xia Changqiu’s story-telling ability was... out of this world.

When Xia Changqiu learned about Zhu Honggong, he did not waste time and brought Zhu Honggong to the Thousand Willow Monastery.

After Lu Li watched the duo leave, he looked at Yan Zhenluo and asked, “Brother Yan, is what Monastery Master Xia said true? Why does it sound so exaggerated?”

Yan Zhenluo said, “That’s what I thought as well in the beginning. However, I found later he spoke the truth. It was true that Pavilion Master Lu defeated Lan Xihe with three moves and defeated Gongsun

Yuanxuan with one move. I was imprisoned in the Lower Tower of the Black Tower Council so I didn't witness the collective demotion of the Black Tower Council members. However, Shen Xi was there. Shen Xi's words were even more exaggerated compared to Monastery Master Xia..."

"Shen Xi?"

"Shen Xi joined the Evil Sky Pavilion a long time ago..." Yan Zhenluo explained.

Lu Li was taken back. He asked, "What happened all these years?"

Yan Zhenluo said, "What happened? Brother Lu, everything has changed."

...

In the Thousand Willow Monastery.

Xia Changqiu led Zhu Honggong to the room where Lu Zhou used to stay. He said, "Before Senior Lu left, he left this here. Mister Eighth, this is it..." Then, he handed a box over to Zhu Honggong.

Zhu Honggong looked at the box. It looked similar to his box that doubled as a boxing glove.

Swoosh!

When Zhu Honggong opened the box, it suddenly split into two as expected.

"Interesting."

He brought out his own gloves as well. When the two pairs of boxing gloves appeared, they suddenly merged and became one pair of boxing gloves. Each of the gloves was bigger than before now that they had merged.

Following that, he placed one of the gloves on his hand. When it closed around his hand, his eyes widened. "I was wondering why my gloves feel so uncomfortable. As it turns out, they aren't complete! Master is so stingy!"

Xia Changqiu. "..."

Clack!

The glove continued to close around Zhu Honggong's hand. The gaps on it were so fine that they looked like a strand of hair. At the same time, faint light flashed from the gaps, making the glove gleam coldly in the light.

Upon seeing this, Xia Changqiu said in surprise, "It's a desolate-grade weapon!"

"Desolate grade?" Zhu Honggong asked.

"Only desolate-grade items will emit this kind of faint light. Heaven-grade weapons won't shine with this light. Desolate-grade weapons are very powerful, and their energy seals are shocking as well..."

Zhu Honggong laughed, clearly delighted. "My master is the most generous person in the world!"

Xia Changqiu. "..."

Zhu Honggong put on the other side of the glove. The discomfort he felt previously when he wore the gloves was no longer there. He punched his fist out.

Boom!

An energy fist shot out of the room.

“With these gloves, I’m like a tiger with wings! Monastery Master Xia, do you want to spar?”

Xia Changqiu hastily waved his hand and said, “No, no, no! With my cultivation base, I’m no match for you.”

Zhu Honggong punched his fists as he swaggered out of the room happily. He called out, “Dang Kang!”

Dang Kang rushed over immediately.

“Look at how I blow those fierce beasts’ heads in Jiangdong Circuit!”

...

“Ding! Activated Tearstain Box. Grade: desolate. Reward: 1,000 merit points.”

Lu Zhou nodded.

Initially, when he gave the gloves to Zhu Honggong, there was no grade. As it turned out, it was not complete. Although it was not completed, in the past, the Jasper Saber, the Longevity Sword, and the weapons could not even leave a mark on it.

At this time, Si Wuya said, “Master, there’s another thing I’m worried about...”

“Speak.”

“Mu Ertie knows you have a profound and unfathomable cultivation base, and yet, he still dares to carry out the annihilation plan. He must have a trump card to be so confident. After investigating the matter, like I said earlier, I discovered he’s no longer in the palace... I feel we should keep an eye on the golden lotus domain...” Si Wuya said.

Lu Zhou nodded.

Mu Ertie colluded with the fierce beasts and attacked the red lotus domain. For him to do such a thing, he definitely had the support of a mighty figure. Whether it was a fierce beast or a human, they’re equally troublesome. No matter what, Lu Zhou was just one person. He did not have three heads and six arms nor did he know of a cloning technique. It was indeed to deal with Mu Ertie’s scattered attacks.

“To take a group down, you must first take down its leader. Leave Mu Ertie and the person behind him to me. I’ll leave the rest to you,” Lu Zhou said.

Si Wuya nodded. “Understood.” Then, he continued to say, “It’s easy to deal with Great Yuan and the Dark and Light Alliance. The problem is the fierce beasts. No one knows the full extent of their strength and their origins. During this time, I’ve studied books about fierce beasts and found them lacking compared to what I learned from Ying Zhao. There are so many more powerful fierce beasts in the Unknown Land. I’ve also spoken to Sixth Senior Sister for confirmation since she stayed in the Moonlight

Woodland with Cheng Huang for a period of time and sprouted her eighth leaf there. According to her words, the fierce beasts there are even stronger and more terrifying than we imagined...

Lu Zhou said, "There's no need to worry. The higher the level of a ferocious beast, the more restriction it would have. Otherwise, humans would've perished long ago. Nevertheless, we should still be prepared to deal with them..."

Si Wuya said, "Master is right."

"How's Yingzhao's performance during this time?" Lu Zhou asked.

"It's very cooperative, especially during this time when fierce beasts invaded human cities. It's also very worried," Si Wuya replied.

Lu Zhou nodded before he said as he tossed a life heart to Si Wuya, "Return its life heart..."

Si Wuya asked skeptically, "Master, Ying Zhao's intelligence isn't low. Aren't you afraid it'll run away?"

"It has already left the Unknown Land. Although the world is vast, there's nowhere for it to go. It knows that it's the safest by my side..."

High-level fierce beasts in the Unknown Land were hunting for the traitor, Ying Zhao, while humans everywhere coveted its life heart. Indeed, there was nowhere for it to go.

"I understand." Soon after, Si Wuya left with Ying Zhao's life heart in hand.

When Lu Zhou was the only one left in the Preservation Hall, he brought out the life hearts of the gigantic turtle, Ju Ao, and the Nether Wolf King. He looked at them and wondered out loud, "Which one should I use first?"

Based on what he knew, after passing the Birth Trial, the Birth Palace's endurance would be greatly enhanced. Therefore, embedding the seventh to the ninth life hearts would be relatively easier. Naturally, the process would grow more and more difficult leading up to the second Birth Trial and so on.

Lu Zhou was in a good condition now. Not only had he comprehended the fiery golden lotus, but his cultivation realm also became stable.

"Ju Ao."

"Ding! Ju Ao's life heart. Ability: gravity."

Lu Zhou decided to use Ju Ao's life heart because the Nether Wolf King's ability, night vision, was not very useful compared to Ju Ao's ability. Moreover, since he obtained Ju Ao's life heart from An Se, Great Yuan's warrior, it meant that it only had one use left.

Lu Zhou waved his hand. His lotus appeared in front of him immediately. He did not waste time and placed Ju Ao's on it.

Clack!

Now that Ju Ao's life heart had fallen into position, he would only need to wait for now.

...

In the afternoon.

Ju Ao's life heart was successfully embedded into Lu Zhou's Birth Palace.

Lu Zhou was rather surprised by its speed.

Similar to before, a vortex appeared, indicating the life heart had been successfully embedded.

Now, Lu Zhou only had to wait for the vortex to absorb enough vitality energy.

...

After two days.

At night.

Clack!

Lu Zhou opened his eyes and looked at his Birth Palace when he heard a crisp noise.

The position in his Birth Palace had been filled up; the activation of his seventh Birth Chart was a success.

He was rather satisfied; he did not feel any pain this time around, and it was so comfortable, he even felt like sleeping.

The seven Birth Chart zones flashed successively. Following that, power surged into his Dantian's sea of Qi.

During the entire process, Lu Zhou remained calm.

All of a sudden...

"Pavilion Master Lu, can you come out for a chat?"

A faint voice rang in Lu Zhou's ears. The voice was so faint that it sounded like it came from a very far place.

Chapter 1109: Both of Us Might Die

Lu Zhou rose to his feet and left the Preservation Hall at the speed of light.

The night was pleasant. Other than the occasional birds in the sky, the royal palace was very quiet.

There was no one around; obviously, the voice was transmitted to him from another place.

Lu Zhou followed the direction of the voice transmission. When he arrived on top of a palace wall, he looked at the palace guards before he said faintly, "Come out."

Lan Xihe, who was dressed in a simple but elegant long robe, appeared in the air across from the palace wall.

Lu Zhou looked at her. Her complexion was much better compared to their last meeting, but it was still obvious she had not fully recovered.

"It's only half a year since we last met, but Pavilion Master Lu has become old again," Lan Xihe said with a faint smile, clearly feeling rather satisfied by Lu Zhou's change in appearance.

"I'm sorry to disappoint you. It's just a disguise," Lu Zhou, who could see through her thoughts, bluntly said.

Lan Xihe was slightly taken aback. After a beat, she said with a sigh, "Many people pursue youth but fail in their attempts. However, Pavilion Master Lu is completely different..."

Lu Zhou did not respond to those words. Instead, he asked without beating around the bush, "Why did you come looking for me in the middle of the night, Tower Master Lan? You even traveled all the way here from the White Tower Council."

"This war isn't like a battle between cultivators. Are you mentally prepared, Pavilion Master Lu?" Lan Xihe asked in return.

"Is there a difference?"

"Of course." Lan Xihe smiled as she looked up at the moon and said, "Both of us might die..."

Lu Zhou's expression remained the same; he was unmoved. He stroked his beard and swept his gaze across the royal palace.

Lan Xihe continued to say, "Your disciple sent me a message. I wonder if that was Pavilion Master Lu's idea?"

Lu Zhou replied, "Si Wuya represents me..."

Lan Xihe's smile was as dazzling as the moon as she said, "I didn't expect Pavilion Master would have a day when he has to ask for help..."

'Ask for help? What kind of nonsense did Old Seventh write in the letter?' Lu Zhou frowned slightly. Nevertheless, he did not say anything. Since he did not know the exact content of the letter, it was best to remain silent for now. Moreover, he trusted his disciple so he was not in a rush to disabuse Lan Xihe of her notions.

Lan Xihe's smile vanished as she continued to say, "Mu Ertie and the Dark and Light Alliance have been waiting for this chance for a long time. They want to unify the black, white, and red lotus domain. Every once in a while, the sea beasts from the Endless Ocean would swarm toward the east of the red lotus domain. They will definitely take advantage of the sea beast tide this time..."

She paused for a moment before she said, "The Leader of the Dark and Light Alliance, Fan Ruoxi, has eleven Birth Charts; Mu Ertie has 12 Birth Charts. Based on the number of beast tides, there'll be at least one beast emperor and four beast kings. We can easily deal with the others, but a beast emperor isn't something you and I can deal with..."

"Beast emperor?" Lu Zhou raised an eyebrow.

Lan Xihe looked at him with a complex gaze before she slowly explained, "Think of it this way. An ordinary beast is like an ordinary human; a fierce beast is like a cultivator. A giant fierce beast possesses a life heart. Fierce beasts with life hearts that provide more than 1,500 years of life are considered Birth Chart Beasts; Beast kings are those whose life hearts provide more than 2,000 years of life. Beast emperors... Beast emperors' life hearts provide more than 5,000 years of life since their lifespans spanned from 8,000 years to 10,000 years...'

After Lan Xihe finished speaking, she looked at Lu Zhou as though she was trying to glean something off his expression. Alas, his expression was the same; it was impossible to tell if he was happy or sad.

"So you think you'll die?" Lu Zhou did not count himself in.

Lan Xihe said, "My life is coming to an end anyway, and I've long seen through life and death. Pavilion Master Lu, you have such strong vitality energy. Aren't you afraid?"

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said, "Lan Xihe, from the time we first met until now, you're still the same. You're too condescending for your own good; you think too highly of yourself and look down too much on others..."

If it were not for the fact that she was the female Tower Master of the White Tower Council, Lu Zhou would have said that she was not qualified to look down on others.

Lan Xihe frowned slightly and asked, "Pavilion Master Lu, are you confident about killing a beast emperor?"

Lu Zhou did not reply to her question. He was reminded of the Kun in the Endless Ocean. A Deadly Strike Card could deal with the Kun, but it would exhaust his energy completely. The price was too high, and it reflected the Kun's strength. If the beast emperors were like this as well, he would have to think twice.

Finally, Lu Zhou asked, "You can't deal with a beast emperor?"

Lan Xihe shook her head and said, "I can't kill it, but it can't do anything to me either... During the Great Void Expedition, the participants ran into beast emperors... four beast emperors..."

"..."

Based on Lan Xihe's words, a beast emperor's strength should be higher than a Thirteen Chart cultivator but not by much.

Judging from this comparison, the Beast Kings' strength should be above thirteen fate points, but it shouldn't be much higher.

Lu Zhou asked, "If the beast emperor comes, are you planning to sit and wait for your death?"

Lan Xihe said, "Yes." She paused for a moment before she said, "This is the red lotus domain's matter; it has nothing to do with the White Tower Council. To be honest, there's another reason I came today."

"Speak."

"Don't be angry, Pavilion Master Lu. However, I advise you not to interfere in this matter. I admire you and don't wish to see you lose your life because of this matter. Let Mu Ertie have the red lotus domain

for now. When the beast tides recede, it'll be easy for you to snatch the red lotus domain back with your cultivation base..." Lan Xihe calmly said.

It had to be said that no one had thought of waiting until the beast tides receded before making a move. It was a rather good idea, but there were also many things that could go wrong.

Lu Zhou asked, "What if I insist on interfering?"

Lan Xihe sighed heavily and said, "This is what I expect you to do..."

"Since you know this, what's the point of your advice?"

"There's no harm in trying." Lan Xihe shrugged. After a brief pause, she said, "The White Tower Council can help the Evil Sky Pavilion, but I have one condition. Pavilion Master Lu, I ask that you listen to me first before you decide..."

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said, "Speak."

Lan Xihe said, "I'd like Pavilion Master to take over the position of the Tower Master of the White Tower Council."

The night wind blew and the moonlight shone brightly.

When the moonlight fell on Lan Xihe's face, for a fleeting moment, Lu Zhou seemed to see signs of aging in Lan Xihe; there were wrinkles at the corners of her eyes and strands of white hair.

Lu Zhou did not refuse Lan Xihe immediately. Instead, he asked, "Don't you have another five years to live?"

Lan Xihe shook her head and softly said, "Three years, perhaps... I want to find a new Tower Master before I die. Only with this, Great Ming, the White Tower Council, the Black Tower Council, and Great Yuan will be able to be at peace..."

"You seem to hate war."

"I hate it... very much," Lan Xihe said, "I don't like killing people as well, but there are many things that I don't have a say in..."

"It's a good idea..."

"Pavilion Master Lu, you agree?" A hint of joy could be heard in Lan Xihe's voice.

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "I'm afraid I'm not qualified to be the Tower Master of the White Tower Council."

Lan Xihe was disappointed when she heard these words. She looked at the moonlit palace wall. Who knew what was going through her mind at this time?

Lu Zhou added, "However... There's one person who's qualified to be the Tower Master of the White Tower Council..."

"Who?" Lan Xihe asked.

“Ye Tianxin,” Lu Zhou said.

“Her?” Lan Xihe recalled the first time she saw the woman in white robes with equally white hair. “If it were before, I would’ve agreed with you...”

Lu Zhou said, “There’s no need to worry about her strength or cultivation base. She’s my disciple; who would dare to touch her?”

Lan Xihe was stunned.

Lu Zhou continued to say, “In any case, there’s no point talking about that now. Whether it’s possible or not will have to depend on the White Tower Council’s performance...”

Chapter 1110: How Powerful Are Beast Emperors?

Lan Xihe could not help but laugh. She asked, “If the White Tower Council doesn’t join forces with Pavilion Master Lu, what does Pavilion Master Lu plan to do?”

“I’ve never been one to force others. The choice lies with you,” Lu Zhou replied.

Lan Xihe nodded slightly and said, “We might die. Have you about what you’ll do if... if we die. Do you plan to make arrangements for the Evil Sky Pavilion?” Her words showed she was not confident at all. Perhaps, it was because Lu Zhou had defeated her with three moves and Great Ming watching her every move intently that her confidence collapsed.

“There are no ifs,” Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said. Then, he asked, “Are beast emperors so strong?”

In Lu Zhou’s opinion, no matter what kind of beast it was, it was just a matter of using his item cards to deal with it. Moreover, he thought there was likely no need for him to even use the enhanced Deadly Strike Card.

Lan Xihe chuckled softly. “It seems like I was right. Pavilion Lu’s understanding of beasts is indeed limited.”

Lu Zhou did not deny those words.

Lan Xihe continued to say, “Like beast kings, but to a much greater extent, beast emperors are called beast emperors due to their ability to summon and control beasts. The beasts they control will mindlessly throw their lives away for a beast emperor. Unlike humans, there’s no greed, fear, or cowardice in these controlled beasts... Most importantly, they have four life hearts...” She spoke in a relaxed tone as she continued watching the moon.

Lu Zhou was surprised. “Four life hearts?”

Lan Xihe lightly leaped into the air before she said, “That’s right, and that’s just the beast emperors. Moreover, there are fierce beasts more powerful than beast emperors. Both of us have 12 or 13 Birth Charts. Above us, there are supreme beings. There are fierce beasts that even supreme beings can’t deal with. Can you imagine how strong are the fierce beasts that even supreme beings can’t deal with?”

‘This... is indeed very powerful... However, why would I be afraid?’

Lu Zhou asked, puzzled, “Why don’t the supreme beings protect humans?”

Lan Xihe shook her head gently. “It’s hard to imagine these words came from Pavilion Master Lu. Put aside the supreme beings, let me ask you: do you think the emperor of Great Tang can completely stop common people from killing each other?”

The answer was obvious; it was almost impossible to do such a thing.

People died every day. Even if there were laws that prohibited killing, stealing, and trespassing, there were always people who would break the law.

Perhaps, in the eyes of supreme beings, cultivators, even Thirteen Chart cultivators, were no different from ants.

Lu Zhou lifted his head and gazed into Lan Xihe’s limpid eyes; he could not tell what she was thinking at this moment. He asked, “You only have three years left? Is there no solution?”

Lan Xihe shook her head.

Lu Zhou continued to say, “I have a piece of 10,000-year-old Green Cicada Jade with 5,000 years of life in it. I can lend you some of the years in it.”

“Human cultivation is a heaven-defying act anyway. Have you ever thought about breaking into the Myriad Supreme Realm?”

“It’s too far away,” Lan Xihe said, “Perhaps, only cultivators from Unknown Lands have mastered the path to enter the Myriad Supreme Realm.”

Lu Zhou remained silent.

The night was getting dark; it was getting late.

Lan Xihe flew higher up into the sky before she said, “It’s late, Pavilion Master Lu. Please allow me to consider the matter of the beast emperor and Great Yuan. Farewell.”

Lu Zhou did not stop her. He watched as she flashed toward the horizon and vanished from sight; who knew where she went? The White Tower Council had quite a few runic passages in the red lotus domain after all. Nevertheless, the number still could not compare to the black lotus domain’s runic passages. With this thought in mind, he wondered when the cultivators from Great Yuan would enter the battlefield.

...

After Lu Zhou returned to the Preservation Hall, he sat cross-legged and began to cultivate again.

When the sky was slightly bright, he opened his eyes slightly and looked at the faint light outside of the window as he muttered to himself, “A beast emperor has four life hearts. This is actually a good thing...”

Although the difficulty of killing beast emperors was higher than he had imagined, it provided four life hearts. Usually, one needed to be incredibly lucky to obtain four advanced life hearts.

One Birth Chart or one life heart represented one life. In other words, to kill a beast emperor, he would need at least four Deadly Strike Cards.

Currently, one Deadly Strike Card cost 40,000 merit points. Without considering further increment of the price, killing a beast emperor would cost at least 160,000 merit points.

“This seems to be the easiest and most cost-effective method at the moment...”

In the end, he felt he still relied on the item cards too much. The rate of his strength improving was too slow, after all.

Seeing that it was still early, he closed his eyes again and continued to cultivate. Currently, he was only at the Seven-chart stage. In order to advance to the Eight-chart stage, he needed to stabilize his realm first.

...

When the sky was bright, Lu Zhou silently recited the mantra for the Heavenly Writing’s power of sight. He planned to check in on Zhu Honggong who was in Jiangdong Circuit first.

His eyes glowed blue, and he soon saw Zhu Honggong dressed in heavy armor.

Zhu Honggong stood on a high wall and shouted, “Release the arrows! They’re just trash birds! What are you afraid of?”

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Giant crossbows on the city wall released bolts into the sky, killing all the low-level flying beasts in the sky.

Outside of the city wall, the carcasses of fierce beasts piled up like mountains.

At this time, many cultivators standing behind Zhu Honggong were shaking their heads helplessly when they saw the number of bolts that had been used.

A city guard mustered up his courage and bowed before he said, “Mister... Mister Eighth, if we keep fighting like this, the bolts will run out. At that time, it’ll be even more troublesome. Our people had gone to the Endless Ocean to investigate; the sea beasts will definitely arrive in five days. It’s best to save these weapons...”

“Why didn’t you say so earlier? Come here! You should take command then.” Zhu Honggong took off his helmet. It was so hot that he was drenched in sweat. He leaned against the wall before he continued to say as he put on a sage-like appearance, “I’ve been here a while, but none of you said anything so I could only blindly give commands...”

It seemed like Zhu Honggong still had a little bit of awareness.

The city guard smiled and said, “You’re a high-ranking official in the capital who’s appointed by His Majesty, and you’re also a powerful cultivator. How could we dare to overstep the boundary? The common people of Jiangdong Circuit can only rely on you to protect them...”

Zhu Honggong waved his hand and said, "There's no need to be so courteous. I don't understand palace etiquettes anyway. I'll leave the commanding to you. Keeping the fierce beasts away is everyone's responsibility, not mine alone..."

The city guard said sincerely, "I didn't expect Mister Eighth to be so magnanimous. It seems like we've overthought things..."

"It's a small matter."

Seeing that Zhu Honggong was so easy to talk to, a cultivator standing at the back boldly asked, "The people in the palace have all said that the members of the Evil Sky Pavilion are brave and powerful. Mister Eighth, can you give a demonstration to widen our horizons?"

"Widen your horizons?" Zhu Honggong took off his armor and said, "Fine! I'll widen your horizons!"

He straightened his back and raised his hand. "Open your eyes and have a good look!"

All of the cultivators present on the scene looked at Zhu Honggong intently.

Buzz!

A Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar rose from the ground and towered over the clouds.

Zhu Honggong's expression was one of pride as he said, "Brothers, this is my true strength. Are you afraid?"

He closed his eyes, enjoying everyone's surprise and admiration. Perhaps, if he had opened his eyes to have a look, he would see that the surprise and disdain were actually doubt and disdain.

Since it was not easy and energy-consuming to maintain an avatar, Zhu Honggong withdrew his avatar after a while.

When the avatar vanished, the cultivators looked at each other with their brows furrowed and exchanged a look before they began to whisper among themselves.

"Did you have a good look?"

One of the cultivators shook his head.

"Isn't it a Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar?"

That person nodded.

"However, it's very tall."

"It is very tall, but I didn't see a golden lotus..."

"Is it possible that he's not a member of the Evil Sky Pavilion but a palace expert instead?"

Someone made a shushing noise. "Hey, aren't afraid of being beheaded for saying these words in front of him?"

Everyone fell silent immediately, frightened.

Height was indeed an important criterion to measure an avatar's strength. However, the Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar limited the cultivators' imagination. Moreover, the golden halo and the eleven leaves hung high up at the back of the avatar so none of the cultivators saw them.

At this moment, the city guard said loudly, "Mister Eighth's cultivation base is so high; it's really admirable! The people of Jiangdong Circuit are saved!"

"Yes, yes, they're saved!"

Everyone agreed perfunctorily.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The city guard glanced at the flying beasts in the distance and said, "A new wave of fierce beasts is coming. Everyone, get ready. Is it really okay for me to command the others, Mister Eighth?"

"Go ahead." Zhu Honggong nodded in satisfaction. However, after a while, he felt there was something strange with the city guard's tone.

Under the command of the city guard, the new wave of fierce beasts was quickly taken down by two sharpshooters. They even had extra time to leap off the city wall to collect the carcasses. All the carcasses that were of value were brought into the city.

At this time, the city guard asked with a smile, "Mister Eighth, are you satisfied with my performance?"

"Not bad. Keep up the good work!" Zhu Honggong said and patted the city guard's shoulder.

With this, the cultivators in the surroundings laughed.