

Disciples 1141

Chapter 1141: Changing Fate?

Common sense told them it was impossible to cultivate more than one color at the same time. There were only a few factors that could affect that such as witchcraft or someone who had not completely assimilated to a domain. However, the two factors definitely did not apply to the blue astrolabe clearly.

Wei Jingye was a straightforward and brash person. He was completely dumbfounded when he encountered such a situation.

On the other hand, Wei Jiangnan was rational. After seeing the astrolabe, he began to think; confirming a few pieces of information.

First, Qing Moshang from the Qin clan was likely to be injured by the person in front of him. The two sides became enemies after Qin Moshang's Birth Chart was destroyed.

Second, it was true that one should not judge a book by its cover. This applied to the woman. The pair of man and woman's cultivation was not inferior to theirs.

Third, and most importantly, the person in front of them, Senior Lu, was truly mysterious. There was a possibility that he came from the Great Void.

Wei Jiangnan knew the importance of staying calm to avoid making mistakes and to do things well. This knowledge had helped him avoid the gates of hell several times in the past when he came to the Unknown Land. This time was no exception. Finally, he said, "That was truly an eye-opening sight..."

Lan Xihe's feelings now were similar to that time when she was in the Black Tower Council. Just like Xiao Yunhe, they thought they were experts standing at the peak before this. However, that was clearly not the case.

"Have you seen such an astrolabe before?" Lan Xihe asked.

Wei Jiangnan shook his head and said, "I've never seen anything like it."

"Then why aren't you surprised?" Lan Xihe asked with a smile.

"A long time ago, there was a legend spread in Great Qin that said heaven and earth were originally one. However, due to some mysterious force, they were separated, causing humans from both places to be isolated from each other..."

Lan Xihe said, "Are you saying Pavilion Master Lu's astrolabe contains the mysterious force? Then, what do you think about this?"

After she finished speaking, her hair fluttered in the wind as a white astrolabe appeared in her hands. A faint blue light appeared between her fingers, casting a faint light on the astrolabe. However, the faint blue light only lasted for a moment before it disappeared.

"This..." Wei Jiangnan was extremely surprised. He wondered if the man and the woman in front of him both came from the Great Void.

Lu Zhou glanced at Lan Xihe from the corners of his eyes. Her actions and words today were slightly strange; what was she trying to prove? Nevertheless, now was not the time to dwell on this matter.

Wei Jiangnan bowed again and said, "We really failed to recognize Mount Tai and almost offended another expert."

Lu Zhou nodded and said, "It doesn't matter. I'm not a narrow-minded person. How did you come to the Unknown Land?"

Wei Jiangnan answered truthfully: "The two of us accepted a bounty mission. We came to the Unknown Land to look for the mystic life grass in exchange for high-grade cultivation methods, weapons, and pills. The Bounty Union has a runic passage that leads to the Unknown Land; it's thousands of miles away from here..."

'Thousands of miles? That's so far...'

At this moment, Wei Jiangnan recalled Lu Zhou's two requests and hastily said, "Senior Lu, please forgive us two brothers for being unable to help with your requests. When we return through the runic passage, there would be someone there who would search us. Therefore, if we possess any strange talismans or artifacts, they'll definitely be found..."

Wei Jingye chimed in, "If we have a choice, we truly won't risk our lives and come to this place..."

Even in advanced domains, cultivators were still divided between the mighty and the weak.

Lu Zhou nodded and said, "Forget it. Things haven't been easy for both of you. How long have you been in the Unknown Land?"

Wei Jiangnan replied, "Less than half a year."

"Less than half a year?" Lu Zhou was surprised. Indeed, it was not easy to survive in such a harsh environment for half a year, constantly being on guard against fierce beasts. Let alone the Unknown Land, an ordinary person would have gone crazy if they were confined into a backyard for half a year. The duo's situation could be perfectly described by the saying, 'People die for money while birds die for food'. It was not easy for anyone to make a living in the world.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

A flock of flying beasts gathered in the distant sky as the clouds roiled.

Wei Jiangnan looked back and said, "Now that the beast king is dead, a new beast king will take its place. We have to go; it's very dangerous here." Then, he turned to Lu Zhou and said, "Senior Lu, my brother and I will keep an eye on the matters you mentioned earlier. I hope we can meet again in the future."

The duo bowed deeply before they flew to the distance.

"Aren't you going to stop them?" Lan Xihe asked.

"What's the point?" Lu Zhou said indifferently.

"The value of the mystic life grass isn't small," Lan Xihe said.

"The mystic life grass is useless to me. There's no one in this world who's capable of destroying my Birth Charts," Lu Zhou replied.

"..."

Then, the duo looked at the rolling clouds in the distance. A cold wind swept over soon after.

It was unknown whether it was caused by the bone-chilling wind or the over-usage of Primal Qi, Lan Xihe coughed a few times.

Finally, the duo turned around and returned to the runic passage.

After a pillar of light soared into the sky, the duo vanished from sight.

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In the Runic Hall in the White Tower Council.

The runic circle lit up and buzzed before a pillar light shot up.

Two female attendants waited at the side and bowed when Lu Zhou and Lan Xihe appeared in the runic circle.

"Tower Master, Pavilion Master Lu!" the two female attendants greeted the duo respectfully.

When the blue-clad female attendant raised her head and saw Lan Xihe, she exclaimed in surprise, "Tower Master?"

Lu Zhou turned to look at Lan Xihe and frowned slightly.

Lan Xihe's face was as white as a sheet of paper. Nevertheless, she still put on airs and clasped her friends in front of her as she said indifferently, "I'm fine."

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "Your situation isn't optimistic."

Lan Xihe said seriously, "Believe me; I'm fine now."

Lan Xihe was already at this stage, and yet, she was still being stubborn.

Lu Zhou shook his head and walked out of the runic circle with his hands on his back.

Just as Lu Zhou was about to step out of the Runic Hall, Lan Xihe smiled and said, "I have one last request. I hope Pavilion Master Lu will agree to it..."

Lu Zhou stopped and said without looking back, "Speak."

"I want to spar another time with Pavilion Master Lu."

"Hm?"

"Let's spar, fair and square," Lan Xihe said.

Lu Zhou finally turned to look at Lan Xihe. He felt that Lan Xihe was getting weirder and weirder. He saw a hint of a smile, seriousness, and anticipation flashing in her eyes. It was as though she had figured out certain things, and thus, regained her confidence.

Lu Zhou clasped his hands on his back and asked, "Are you confident in defeating me?"

Lan Xihe first shook her head before she caught herself. Then, she nodded and said, "Although I'm not sure how you did it, I'm sure your cultivation base isn't that of a real Twelve or Thirteen Chart expert..."

"Why do you say so?" Lu Zhou remained calm.

"The Unknown Land gave me the answer." Lan Xihe raised her hand, and a blue light flickered on her hand briefly. Then, she said, "The power of heaven and earth?"

Lu Zhou said, "Energy barriers absorb the power of heaven and earth and appear blue as well... But, no, you're wrong"

"Sacred items?" Lan Xihe continued to guess.

Lu Zhou did not bother to respond any longer. After all, Lan Xihe would not be able to guess the answer no matter what.

All experts had excessive confidence. Sometimes, the line between confidence and conceit could get a little blurry. Therefore, it was important to have clear judgment. It was unfortunate that not everyone had sound judgment. Not everyone was like Yu Shangrong who was almost always clear-minded and hardly made mistakes. However, there were also cases where one with clear judgment made them even more conceited. It seemed like Lan Xihe was teetering between confidence and conceit.

Lu Zhou turned around and walked out of the Runic Hall as he said, "Let's skip the sparring. If it's a fair fight, I'm afraid you won't even be able to withstand a move..."

Lan Xihe. "..."

Her fingers trembled slightly.

The blue-clad female attendant hurried to Lan Xihe's side and supported her. "Tower Master, are you... are you alright?"

Boom!

Thunder clapped in the sky.

Lan Xihe sighed as she murmured to herself, "Lan Xihe, it's almost time..."

...

The sky was dark, the clouds covered the sky, the wind was strong, looking as though it was going to rain and storm at any time. The weather was rather bad.

Then, a shadow flashed and appeared in midair.

Buzz!

The hundred-thousand-foot-tall white tower trembled.

Lu Zhou raised his head and looked at the sky.

The clouds that swirled around the tall white tower slowly parted.

These movements attracted the attention of the white-clad cultivators.

The elders rushed over from afar.

Ye Tianxin, Si Wuya, and Little Yuan'er also flew out from the 72nd floor.

"Tower Master Lan, Master?" Little Yuan'er called out curiously.

Lu Zhou's three disciples flew down, bypassing Lan Xihe who was acting strangely, and landed next to Lu Zhou.

Little Yuan'er asked, "Master, what's wrong with her? Her face is even whiter than Sixth Senior Sister's..."

Lu Zhou continued to observe with his hands on his back. He did know what was happening either.

At this time, Ning Wanqing flew down and landed at the side. His ears twitched before he shook his head and said with a sigh, "The Tower Master wants to use the white tower's power and formations to defy the heavens and change her fate. This is the only way left."

Chapter 1142: 30,000 Dao Inscriptions

"Defying the heavens and changing fate?" Si Wuya asked as he looked up.

The white tower looked like a tall layered cake. The part that towered above the clouds was like a chimney.

The main body of the white tower was covered with densely-packed Dao inscriptions. These Dao inscriptions were hidden in the white carvings. As Primal Qi surged, the inscriptions lit up one after another, spreading upward like a glowing spider web.

Lan Xihe continued to fly steadily upward.

Ning Wanqing said, "Tower Master Lan has been making multiple preparations since a long time ago. To defy her fate, she has to break through her cultivation or find a way to increase her lifespan. The latter is useless while she might have a chance attempting the former..."

Ning Wanqing continued to say, "This white tower was originally not this tall. In order to absorb the purest energy in the world, Tower Master Lan ordered people to increase it to a height of 100,000 feet. The Daoist Rite Temple is located on the 80th floor and is the place with the densest Primal Qi. It's the best for cultivation. The white tower is able to stand not just because it's sturdy, but also because of the Dao inscriptions on its wall. The black tower has 3,600 Dao inscriptions protecting it, right? Compared to the white tower, they're nothing. The white tower has at least 30,000 Dao inscriptions."

Lu Zhou and the others continued to stare at Lan Xihe who was still slowly rising in the air.

One could only imagine how many methods Lan Xihe had searched for and attempted in order to survive. She had even snuck into the Unknown Land many times.

Ning Wanqing said again, "30,000 Dao inscriptions not only strengthen the white tower, but it can also gather the Primal Qi in the surroundings. Tower Master Lan can use the Sun, Moon, Star Wheel to mobilize this power." Then, he changed the topic and said, "When Tower Master Lan sparred with

Pavilion Master Lu, she didn't use her full strength. Even when facing Lu Wu, the beast emperor, she didn't use her full strength."

Based on what they had seen of Lan Xihe and Ning Wanqing's behavior, he did not seem to be lying. How could a cultivator who had activated 13 Birth Charts, even if she had made a mistake in her cultivation, not have some secret means? If she did not use her full strength, then what was the extent of her strength?

The Dao inscriptions continued to light up from the first floor until they reached the 30th floor. They continued to light floor by floor.

Little Yuan'er scoffed and said, "Well, my master didn't use his full strength either..."

Ning Wanqing did not dare to refute Little Yuan'er's words and only smiled.

Little Yuan'er made a face at Ning Wanqing before she remembered he could not see her. She asked, "You don't believe me?"

"I believe you. Of course, I believe you." Ning Wanqing smiled slightly. He could see Little Yuan'er was inexperienced and young so he did not want to lower himself and bicker with her.

However, who knew Si Wuya, who was beside Little Yuan'er, would say politely, "Please forgive me, Judge Ning. My Ninth Junior Sister has always been direct with her words. They don't sound very pleasing to the ears, but they're true."

Ning Wanqing simply swallowed the words hanging on the tip of his tongue into his stomach.

The Dao inscriptions increased in speed the higher they went.

When they reached the 80th floor, Lan Xihe came to a stop. The Sun, Moon, and Star Wheel separated into two and flew to her sides.

The surrounding Primal Qi began to surge and the wind began to rage.

"Everyone, pay attention."

The elders flew in all directions to ensure that the chaotic Primal Qi would not spread too far and affect the innocent.

Lan Xihe looked down at Lu Zhou and said, "I know the success rate is very low, but I still want to try."

Lu Zhou did not say anything.

Lan Xihe suddenly flew toward the clouds.

Buzz!

A white avatar appeared near the 100th floor.

At the same time, the Dao inscriptions lit up and rushed to the top of the tower before the light illuminated everything in the surroundings.

The Primal Qi in the sky churned, looking like a tornado.

Boom!

Lightning began to flash, accompanied by claps of thunder.

The Primal Qi in the sky turned into energy seals that collided with each other, creating a louder noise than the thunder.

Ning Wanqing suddenly flew up and stopped in midair. His eyes emitted a faint light, and his ears began to twitch. After a beat, he turned to the north and frowned slightly before he said, "The people of Great Ming are finally here..."

Realization dawned on Si Wuya immediately upon hearing these words. He said, "As it turns out, she wants to try one last time to change her fate but was afraid the people from Great Ming would seize this chance to cause trouble... No wonder she invited master to stay here..."

Lu Zhou stood with his hands on his back. He had already guessed this. He asked indifferently, "Are you sure I'll stand on the White Tower Council's side?"

Ning Wanqing wore an awkward expression on his face when he heard these words.

Ding Ling rushed over from afar and hastily said, "It's not Tower Master Lan's intention to use Pavilion Master Lu!"

At this time, Lan Xihe's voice rang from above.

"Whether I fail or succeed, I will no longer be the Tower Master of the White Tower Council."

Buzz!

The white lotus began to spin as the Sun, Moon, and Star Wheel emitted a dazzling light.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The lightning flashed in the sky at a fast frequency, and the energy seals began to wreak havoc in the air.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

A huge number of energy seals landed on the white tower as the 30,000 Dao inscriptions flashed in sync with the time the white tower was hit.

Boom!

A bolt of dark blue lightning struck down, cutting through the clouds. Its terrifying power traveled down the white tower before reaching Lan Xihe's position in just an instant.

At this time, The Sun, Moon, and Star Wheel flew up and revolved around the tip of the tower.

Buzz!

The sound of energy resonating between the white avatar and the power of heaven and earth rang in the air.

Lu Zhou frowned upon seeing this. He was the only one who did not have a shocked expression on his face. Instead, he shook his head and sighed. As a transmigrator, he felt that even if he was a Twelve

Chart expert, he would still think twice about facing the Heavenly Tribulation Lightning. Although the cultivation world could not be judged by common sense, humans were still made of flesh and blood after all. The power in this instant was enough to reduce a person into ashes. How many cultivators were able to withstand such force? No one knew since no one had the confidence to test it out.

Rumble!

When the energy seals and lightning flashed in unison, they were like a pale imitation of Thunderblast.

At this time, cultivators from all directions rushed over.

Ning Wanqing immediately transmitted his voice to the members of the White Tower Council.

“Outsiders are not allowed to get close. Otherwise, kill without mercy.”

A distant voice said, “I’m Great Ming’s Grand Tutor, Gongsun Yuanxuan. I’m here to visit because I’m worried about Tower Master Lan’s health.”

Bi Shuo, another judge of the White Tower Council, replied, “We’ll say this for the last time; no one is allowed to get close.”

As expected, the surrounding cultivators did not get close. They all stopped in their tracks and looked up at the white avatar that was 1,150 feet tall. Expressions of awe and admiration could be seen on their faces.

Gongsun Yuanxuan transmitted his voice and said, “Heed my advice and stop. Mortals can’t control the power of heaven and earth.”

“There’s no need for Grand Tutor to worry,” Bi Shuo replied.

Boom!

Another bolt of lightning struck and traveled rapidly through the white tower.

At the same time, the 30,000 Dao inscriptions that glowed with a light glowed blue immediately before gathering near the avatar.

An astrolabe flew out at this moment and intercepted the force from the lightning. The power of heaven and earth surged into the astrolabe, causing the 36 triangles to spin rapidly as they grew in size.

Lan Xihe spat out a mouthful of blood immediately.

“Tower Master!”

“Tower Master Lan!”

Upon seeing this, Gongsun Yuanxuan waved his sleeve and said, “Go and have a look!”

All the cultivators in the surroundings approached the white tower immediately.

At this time, a loud voice rang from the top of the 100,000-foot-tall white tower.

“All of you, get lost!”

A beam of faint light shot out of each of Lan Xihe’s eyes, sweeping past all living things.

This caused Gongsun Yuanxuan and the cultivators to stop in their tracks.

“What a powerful force! Stop! Everyone, stop!” Gongsun Yuanxuan said.

With that, no one dared to come any closer.

Boom!

Another bolt of lightning struck the top of the white tower again.

Bang!

Pebbles began to roll down the white tower, causing everyone to cry out in alarm.

Gongsun Yuanxuan wanted to bring his people closer, but seeing the terrifying power, he instantly ordered his men to retreat.

“Retreat!”

The Great Ming’s cultivators retreated 1,000 meters immediately.

Dark clouds covered the entire sky at this moment.

Lan Xihe’s expression grew more and more unsightly as she called out, “Sun, Moon, and Star Wheel.”

The Sun, Moon, Star Wheel spun rapidly at the top of the white tower.

After a beat, she called out again, “Star Wheel.”

With that, the Star Wheel that seemed bigger than the white tower carried Lan Xihe to the top of the white tower.

Chapter 1143: Shaking the Sky

The 30,000 Dao inscriptions reached the highest point of the white tower. The spider web-like Dao inscriptions lit up with white light. Following that, the inscriptions seemed to rise from the tower and attached themselves to the white astrolabe, forming a circle.

This was the highest number of Dao inscriptions the people present on the scene had seen in their lives. The Black Tower Council’s 3,600 Dao inscriptions were already enough to stun the world, let alone the 30,000 Dao inscriptions that were weaving a circular symbol.

Boom!

The sky within a radius of 50,000 meters was covered by dark clouds. Night seemed to have descended during daytime at this time. Thunder rumbled and lightning flashed in the sky, making it look as though there was going to be a huge downpour.

“My lord, should we still approach the white tower?” a cultivator asked Gongsun Yuanxuan.

Gongsun Yuanxuan looked at the white astrolabe in the sky as he replied, “No need.”

“Why? What if she succeeds?” the cultivator asked.

“She’s defying heavens and trying to change her fate. Since ancient times, there weren’t many who succeeded. In the eyes of the heavens, we’re just ants. It doesn’t matter if she has a good relationship with the Evil Sky Pavilion, they can’t determine her success in this matter. I’d like to see if she’ll succeed as well...”

The cultivator nodded and turned back to look at the surging Primal Qi in the sky.

The dark clouds moved in the sky like dark dragons while bolts of lightning flashed accompanied by claps of thunder.

A sizzling noise rang in the air when the power of heaven and earth struck the white astrolabe. A circle of light would ripple out every time it struck the astrolabe.

The 30,000 Dao inscriptions continued to attach themselves to the astrolabe. It did not take long for it to grow thicker and heavier. It shone with an even brighter light than before.

Upon seeing this, Si Wuya said in shock, “The white tower is channeling the power of heaven and earth into the astrolabe. She’s hoping to achieve a breakthrough this way. What a bold move!”

At this moment, Little Yuan’er asked, “Seventh Senior Brother, is the power of heaven and earth the lightning bolts?”

“Something like that,” Si Wuya explained, “Humans can see lightning and hear thunder. They’ve witnessed the force of lightning that can split mountains and rocks. This kind of power is daunting and majestic. In front of such force, humans aren’t worth mentioning at all. Powerful cultivators are able to resist a part of the full force of the lightning, but they can only do it for a short time. Moreover, they can’t defeat it. Humans cultivated vitality; when vitality turns into energy, it contains destructive power. However, this power is different from the lightning that contained the power of heaven and earth. To harness the power of heaven and earth requires great courage...”

Little Yuan’er nodded despite not fully understanding Si Wuya’s words. Then, she asked, “Does this mean Sister Lan is in grave danger?”

“Yes, she’s in very grave danger...”

Boom!

Another thunderous noise rang in the air again, hurting many of the weaker cultivators’ heads and eardrums.

A few ordinary attendants who were not cultivators fell to the ground immediately, bleeding from their seven orifices. After all, this was not an ordinary lightning strike. These lightning strikes that contained the power of heaven and earth were deliberately attracted here by the 30,000 Dao inscriptions.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

At this time, several bolts of lightning flashed and struck the white tower at the same time. Even with the protection of the 30,000 Dao inscriptions, the tower that pierced through the clouds still could not avoid being struck by lightning.

The White Tower Council cultivators in the surroundings erected their protective energy to block the backlash of the strikes.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Several bolts of forked lightning struck again.

The white astrolabe managed to absorb part of the strike while the remaining force of the strike struck the white tower from a strange angle before it rebounded at Lan Xihe.

Lan Xihe, whose hair was fluttering wildly in the air, spat out a mouthful of blood immediately.

Everyone cried out in alarm.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Lightning bolts that were clearly several times stronger than the ones before struck again.

Cracks began to appear on the white tower; the Dao inscriptions' protection did not seem as strong as before as well.

Upon seeing this, several cultivators flew forward, intending to support the astrolabe. Alas, they had just risen into the air when all of them were struck down by the lightning bolts. Their hair was fired, and their faces looked like charcoal as they dropped from the sky.

Shocked by this scene, Gongsun Yuanxuan hurriedly shouted, "Retreat again!"

The Great Ming cultivators retreated another 100 meters; they finally felt a little safer. They looked at Lan Xihe who was struggling in the sky, looking as though she was going to drop from the sky at any moment. However, this was also a testament to her terrifying strength.

With this, they waited quietly and leisurely watched the show.

"I don't think Lan Xihe will be able to survive. She's already gravely injured; it doesn't even matter if we make a move or not. It seems like the heavens on our side," Gongsun Yuanxuan said with bright eyes.

"The Grand Tutor is wise."

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Si Wuya asked in a low voice, "Master, should we help her?"

Lu Zhou looked at the flashing lightning in the sky and said, "We can't help her."

Little Yuan was shocked and asked, "Why?"

"It's too dangerous," Lu Zhou replied, "This power surpasses the known limits of human cultivation. Lan Xihe has been relying on the astrolabe and the defense woven by the 30,000 Dao inscriptions to survive until now."

Ning Wanqing who overheard these words sighed.

Si Wuya nodded and said, "You're right, master."

Boom!

A huge chunk of the white tower fell immediately after being struck by the forked lightning.

The White Tower Council cultivators dodged and shot down the rubble.

At this moment, a purplish-blue lightning bolt that resembled a dragon flashed before striking at the white astrolabe.

“What’s that?!”

Everyone exclaimed in shock.

At this moment, all the cultivators of the White Tower Council closed their eyes; they could not bear to watch this.

Even Little Yuan’er lifted her hands to cover her pretty face.

Gongsun Yuanxuan, who was watching from afar, felt his breathing quicken. His eyes were filled with a strange light as he thought to himself, ‘The invincible Lan Xihe... is finally going to die!’

Great Ming had been waiting for a long time for the White Tower Council’s dominion to come to an end.

Boom!

The long lightning bolt struck the huge white astrolabe.

The astrolabe sizzled before it lit up with a faint blue light.

On the other hand, the powerful strike caused Lan Xihe to fall.

The Sun, Moon, and Star Wheel flew back, shooting out countless energy seals.

As Lan Xihe fell, so did the white tower.

The White Tower Council cultivators could only watch helplessly as the 100,000-foot-tall white tower was gradually destroyed by the power of heaven and earth.

Lan Xihe continued to fall.

Although Ning Wanqing was blind, he could sense Lan Xihe rapidly falling from above. He quickly shouted, “Tower Master Lan, you can’t fall past the 80th floor. If you go beyond the training hall, everything would be for naught!”

It was obvious the Dao inscriptions below the 80th floor were still on the tower and were not attached to the astrolabe.

Lan Xihe instinctively looked at the vast land below her. This was the beautiful world she often admired from the top of the tower. At this time, she suddenly felt insignificant. So what if she had 30,000 Dao inscriptions? Even if she had 300,000 Dao inscriptions, she still would not be able to defy the heavens. In the end, she sighed and revealed a helpless smile on her face.

At this time, Lu Zhou briefly calculated his merit points. Then, he held an Impeccable Card in hand as he flew out like an arrow toward the horizon.

When Ning Wanqing felt the fluctuation, he called out tentatively, "Pavilion Master Lu?"

Meanwhile, Gongsun Yuanxuan who was eagerly awaiting Lan Xihe's death noticed a figure in the sky. He felt as though his breath was caught in his throat. "Is that Pavilion Master Lu?"

The cultivator next to Gongsun Yuanxuan asked, "My lord, what should we do now?"

"Keep watching. I have a feeling all of them might die!" Gongsun Yuanxuan said.

The cultivator nodded. "You're wise, my lord."

If even the Pavilion Master of the Evil Sky Pavilion died, the black lotus domain, the white lotus domain, the golden lotus domain, the red lotus domain, the purple lotus domain, and the yellow lotus domain would have a hard time finding a force that could compete with Great Ming.

Just when Lan Xihe thought that she had failed, a golden palm seal flew up from behind.

When Lu Zhou leaped up, he said reproachfully, "Ignorant and fearless."

Lan Xihe was shocked. She turned and saw Lu Zhou extend his hand toward the sky and struck.

Boom!

The golden palm seal was shattered by the lightning.

Lu Zhou struck again; the golden palm seal was shattered again. He struck again and again, and the golden palm seals shattered again and again. It was futile.

Lan Xihe suddenly smiled and said, "It's useless, it's useless. It's impossible to defy heaven and change one's fate."

Lu Zhou ignored her strange behavior and continued sending palm seals to the sky.

'Supreme mystic power!'

The supreme mystic power burst forth, and a blue palm seal as huge as the sky shot out off Lu Zhou's palm.

The clouds parted and the earth quaked as a thunderous noise rang out.

The palm seal boosted with the supreme mystic power collided with the purple lightning; the force of the collision seemed as though it could cleave the sky into two.

Soon after, the dark clouds dispersed.

"This..." Gongsun Yuanxun was shocked. 'What power is this?'

Chapter 1144: Breakthrough

Gongsun Yuanxuan and the others stared at the sky-shattering blue palm seal with their mouths agape, unable to speak for a moment.

This feat proved that Lu Zhou's palm seal was stronger than the 30,000 Dao inscriptions. Perhaps, it was even stronger than the dragon-like purple lightning. However, was something like that even possible? It was too unbelievable!

Gongsun Yuanxuan did not believe humans could stand above the heavens nor did he believe human cultivators could wield such power. As expected, the clear sky only lasted a few seconds before dark clouds rolled back in.

The sunlight shone on Lu Zhou's body briefly before it disappeared into the horizon.

Lu Zhou frowned. "Are you joking?"

The palm seal had used up almost all of his supreme mystic power. He had thought it would end the lightning tribulation. He did not expect the dark clouds to return again so quickly. It seemed like the only way was for Lan Xihe to run away.

Lu Zhou descended before he came to a stop a few meters above Lan Xihe.

Lan Xihe seemed like she no longer cared about maintaining the air of the Tower Master of the White Tower Council. She said, "I didn't expect Pavilion Master Lu's palm seal to be capable of splitting the sky and the earth..."

Lu Zhou did not respond to her and only looked at her. He really wanted to say she should run away.

However, at this moment, the clouds roiled as the forked lightning struck again. This time, the force of the forked lightning was 100 times stronger than the previous ones. It fell with the might of a tsunami, volcanic eruption, and flood combined.

Lu Zhou flashed and stood above Lan Xihe before he looked at the sky at an inhuman speed.

Lan Xihe's astrolabe was now linked to the Dao inscriptions so she could not leave easily.

Meanwhile, Gongsun Yuanxuan clenched his hands upon seeing this. "Very good!"

The results Gongsun Yuanxun had predicted were about to become a reality.

At the same time, Lu Zhou shattered an Impeccable Card.

Buzz!

The Golden Buddha's Body towered in the sky around Lu Zhou. Shining golden energy seals shot out in all directions.

The forked lightning struck the Golden Buddha's body, causing firework-like sparks to fly everywhere. It was a beautiful and magnificent sight.

The cultivators of the White Tower Council watched the scene in the sky in a daze; all of them were in awe.

On the other hand, Si Wuya, Little Yuan'er, and Ye Tianxian were relatively calmer.

Only Ning Wanqing was left in the dark. He did not know what the result was and grew even more anxious. He could only rely on his senses to feel the fluctuations. Since Lu Zhou had used the supreme

mystic power and the Golden Buddha's Body, he naturally could not sense it. Therefore, he thought something bad had happened. However, he suddenly heard the exclamations in his surroundings.

"To think Pavilion Master Lu has such strength!"

"Our White Tower Council is really fortunate!"

"How profound must his cultivation base be to be able to fight against the heavens?!"

...

The Golden Buddha's Body shone dazzlingly in the sky as bolt after bolts of lightning struck it.

Lan Xihe said in surprise, "You didn't use the power of heaven and earth?"

The Golden Buddha Body was a Buddhist's grand technique.

Lu Zhou ignored Lan Xihe. While he enjoyed the admiration and awe from the crowd, he was worrying inwardly. There was not enough time; what should he do next? He felt a sense of restlessness within his body as though he was about to break through! As soon as ten seconds were up, he was going to have to do something. He could not hold on anymore.

Ten seconds flew by in just a blink of an eye, and the Golden Buddha's Body rapidly shrank before it vanished.

Bolts of forked lightning flashed and struck like rain.

"Hmm?" Lan Xihe was puzzled. "Why aren't you using the Golden Buddha's Body anymore?"

Lu Zhou turned around and looked at the forked lightning that filled the sky. At this time, he felt as though time had slowed down. It was as though he had been submerged underwater.

The White Tower Council cultivators looked up, worried.

'Hmm, I'm fine?' Lu Zhou was puzzled.

"You're fine?" Lu Zhou was puzzled. He originally planned to resist the forked lightning using his Golden Buddha's Body and his Deadly Strike Cards. However, he did not feel anything even after the lightning struck him. He looked at the sky and the forked lightning that kept striking him. At this moment, a hint of blue light swiftly entered his Dantian's sea of Qi.

At the same time, the other forked lightning struck Lan Xihe.

Lu Zhou suddenly felt a buzzing in his mind, and he closed his eyes immediately. He could see a blue humanoid figure in his Dantian's sea of Qi.

'Five Energies Universe avatar?'

It was his second avatar.

He watched as the power of heaven and earth like blue electric arcs struck the Five Energies Universe avatar. However, not only was the avatar undamaged, but it seemed to be greedily absorbing the power.

...

Countless bolts of forked lightning continued to strike at Lu Zhou and Lan Xihe. The duo seemed frozen in the air at this moment.

Lan Xihe closed her eyes. The dark blue energy of the power of heaven and earth continued to strike and injure her.

At this time, Lu Zhou saw Lan Xihe's body flickering strangely.

'What's going on? Everything about Lan Xihe's strange today! I'm blocking most of the strikes. Most of the power of heaven and earth is striking me like a waterfall, and she's only suffering from what can be considered as splashes from the waterfall...'

...

On the ground.

No one knew what was happening, and no one dared to fly up to have a look as well.

Gongsun Yuanxuan sighed. "What a pity."

...

Lu Zhou sensed his Dantian's sea of Qi again.

The blue avatar was still greedily absorbing the power of heaven and earth.

'Who knew something like this was possible?'

The blue avatar was completely unaffected. It was like a fish that was unafraid of the water or a bird that was unafraid of the sky.

The powerful and surging energy continued to pour into the blue avatar.

A crisp sound rang in the Lu Zhou's Dantian's sea of Qi soon after.

He could sense his blue avatar had grown several sizes.

appeared in the sea of energy in Lu Zhou's Dantian.

Lu Zhou felt that the blue avatar had become several times bigger.

'Six Recombinant Trigram Lines avatar?'

The blue avatar continued to grow.

Lu Zhou hurriedly maintained the size of the avatar so it would be contained in his Dantian's sea of Qi.

The blue avatar continued to absorb the power of heaven and earth as the forked lightning continued to strike.

After about a quarter of an hour, the familiar crisp noise rang out again.

'Seven Star Soul avatar!'

Even with the knowledge he possessed, Lu Zhou was still surprised by his blue avatar. The speed at which it was growing had completely overturned his understanding.

...

After another fifteen minutes, the number of forked lightning in the sky decreased rapidly.

At this time, Little Yuan'er said anxiously, "I'm going to save master!"

"Don't go!" Si Wuya grabbed Little Yuan'er. "Not even Thousand Realms Whirling cultivators can deal with the power of heaven and earth."

"But master..."

"Look carefully. Under normal circumstances, if you're hit by the power of heaven and earth, you'll either die or get injured. However, master looks completely fine. In fact, he seems completely unaffected by it..." Si Wuya said.

Little Yuan'er looked at the sky intently and discovered Si Wuya was telling the truth.

...

At this time, Lu Zhou could sense the blue avatar's absorption rate was beginning to slow down. At the same time, he felt a cool energy coming out from the blue avatar. He was taken aback when he discovered his previously depleted supreme mystic power was already filled to the brim.

'Is this one of the blue avatar's abilities?' Lu Zhou discovered not only was the supreme mystic power fully replenished, but it seemed like the total amount of supreme mystic power he possessed at one time had increased as well.

Suddenly, a familiar crisp noise rang out again, pulling Lu Zhou back to his senses.

Primal Qi and the supreme mystic power filled up his Dantian's sea of Qi immediately.

The blue avatar had successfully broken through and became an Eight Methods Connected avatar!

Chapter 1145: Mysterious Identity

Lu Zhou opened his eyes. His mental state was unprecedentedly clear. His Eight Extraordinary Meridians and internal organs seemed to be suffused with the supreme mystic power. He felt as though he had been injected with stimulants.

Through his senses, he discovered his blue Eight Methods Connected avatar was no longer absorbing the power of heaven and earth. He was now certain the source of the supreme mystic power was the blue avatar.

The normal order of cultivation should be to temper the body first. After entering the Mystic Enlightening Realm, one would be able to form an avatar. With an avatar, one would be able to mobilize the vitality energy through one's Dantian's sea of Qi. The amount of vitality energy one could control was proportional to the strength of one's avatar.

However, it seemed like Lu Zhou's system had changed the order of cultivation for him. Initially, he had obtained the extraordinary power and the supreme mystic power from the Heavenly Writing first. Then, he had to rely on his golden avatar to unleash the extraordinary power and the supreme mystic power. It seemed like the system was waiting for him to grow strong enough to control the blue avatar.

The blue avatar possessed all the abilities of the golden avatar, but the blue avatar also possessed the seven Heavenly Writing Powers. Only time would tell if it possessed any other abilities.

At this moment, the forked lightning was getting fewer and fewer. They did not harm Lu Zhou at all; all they did was bind him.

He felt slightly distressed when he thought about how he had wasted an Impeccable Card. However, when he thought about how his avatar had advanced three stages in one go, he thought the loss was acceptable.

Previously, he had used up more than 2,000 years of life just to evolve his avatar to a Five Energies Universe avatar. In the future, how big a loss would he have to suffer to further evolve his avatar? Could he just find a place where lightning struck to evolve his avatar? Why would he waste his lifespan when he could do that? However, after mulling over it for a moment, he thought perhaps this would not have been possible without the White Tower Council's 30,000 Dao inscriptions. Instead of Dao inscriptions, perhaps, he should start looking for sacred items like the Green Cicada Jade.

...

At this time, Gongsun Yuanxuan who was observing from afar could not tell if Lu Zhou and Lan Xihe were alive or dead. All he could see was the blood on the astrolabe and Lan Xihe's body. He could also see Lu Zhou who seemed to be immobilized by the forked lightning.

At this time, Gongsun Yuanxuan suddenly recalled the scene where he was lying on the ground outside the white tower when he had lost a Birth Chart to Lu Zhou. With this, his heart began to race in his chest, his blood churned, and his breathing grew heavy as he thought to himself, 'Is there going to be a better opportunity than now?'

Gongsun Yuanxuan no longer hesitated as he ordered, "Go!"

With just a word, the cultivators rushed toward the white tower.

The wind stirred as energy seals sailed in the air.

Ning Wanqing's ears twitched slightly before he said, "Stop them."

All the elders and members of the White Tower Council spread out and manifested their avatars.

One after another avatars appeared, blocking the white tower.

For a time, the cultivators from both sides engaged in a fierce battle.

Energy seals covered the sky.

Since the White Tower Council was located to the west of Great Ming, there were very few people around since it was far from human cities. For this reason, the cultivators did not hold back as they unleashed their energy seals.

The overall strength of Great Ming cultivators was inferior to the White Tower Council cultivators, but the Great Ming cultivators had numbers on their side.

At this time, about a dozen cultivators slipped past the White Tower Council cultivators and flew up toward the Lan Xihe and Lu Zhou.

Upon seeing this, Ye Tian cried out, "Master!"

Ye Tianxian did not hesitate to fly up as butterfly-like energy seals filled the air.

"Stop her!"

The two white-clad cultivators split up to deal with Ye Tianxin.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The seven or eight Great Ming cultivators wore ecstatic expressions on their faces as they flew up the white tower with their swords in hand. Since they dared to fly up, it meant that the forked lightning had vanished. It also meant that Lu Zhou was no longer restrained.

When the cultivators stabbed their swords forward, Lu Zhou opened his eyes that flashed blue for a fleeting moment. He swept his gaze across the cultivators and said, "How dare you..."

Lu Zhou straightened his back as a blue lotus bloomed under his feet.

The blue lotus was slightly different from before. It was more dazzling, and its color was more vivid.

'To gain the power of muting so that samadhi will manifest in the body and radiate into the surroundings like light yet being unswerving in samadhi'.

With this technique, Lu Zhou sent all the cultivators flying back.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The cultivators vomited blood; all of them had terrified expressions on their faces.

"He's fine?!"

"Run!"

"Run!"

"Old Demon Lu is fine! It's over! It's over!"

"Where's the Grand Tutor?! Where's the Grand Tutor?!"

Upon hearing these words, all the cultivators from Great Ming who were overjoyed just a moment ago began to retreat in a hurry without asking any questions, and Gongsun Yuanxuan was nowhere to be seen.

The elders of the White Tower Council chased after the fleeing cultivators.

On the contrary, Lu Zhou stayed in place, sensing his blue avatar.

Although the blue avatar was powerful, it still could not compare to the Heavenly Writing for now in terms of supplying supreme mystic power. It could only unleash the Heavenly Writing Power once.

‘The Eight Methods Connected avatar is still a far cry from a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar...’

Perhaps, when the blue avatar evolved to a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, he would be able to use the Heavenly Writing Power more than once. Needless to say, it was going to be terrifyingly powerful at that time.

After regaining his senses, Lu Zhou surveyed his surroundings. He was not surprised to see the White Tower Council cultivators chasing after the cultivators from Great Ming. After a moment, he shifted his gaze to Lan Xihe.

‘Hm?’

Lan Xihe’s eyes were still closed. The wounds she had sustained and the bloodstains had disappeared at some point. What was even more strange was that her aura, Qi, and spirit were hundreds of times stronger than before. Her long hair was like a willow tree, and her body was glowing.

The Sun, Moon, and Star Wheel’s appearance seemed to have changed as well. It flew left and right as though it was protecting its master. On the other hand, the white astrolabe had long disappeared.

Lu Zhou was puzzled. Could it be that Lan Xihe had some sort of breakthrough as well? He continued to observe her; he kept feeling like she had changed, but he could not put his fingers on what had changed exactly. Her aura was mysterious and strange; the sense of strangeness was especially strong.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The 30,000 Dao inscriptions vanished from the sky and returned to the wall of the white tower.

All the cultivators of the White Tower Council returned and looked up at the sky silently.

The dark clouds had already vanished as well.

Lu Zhou thought it was not a good idea to keep hovering in the air. Therefore, he launched a palm seal to push Lan Xihe down as well. However, as soon as the palm seal drew near to her, it disappeared.

‘Strange.’

Lu Zhou launched another palm seal; it disappeared again. He repeated this three times, and the results were the same.

At this moment, Lan Xihe suddenly opened her eyes and launched a palm seal that spanned 300 meters toward Lu Zhou.

“Lan Xihe!” Lu Zhou’s voice darkened. A blue light blossomed from his palm immediately.

Bang!

“Tower Master!”

“Master!”

Everyone cried out in surprise, looking up in confusion. They did not know what was happening.

After the white palm seal shot past Lu Zhou harmlessly, he looked down at Lan Xihe.

Lan Xihe did not seem surprised. “You’ve become stronger again.”

Lu Zhou studied Lan Xihe for a moment before he said, “You’re not Lan Xihe.”

Lan Xihe’s figure flashed and drew level with Lu Zhou. Her eyes seemed to shine with the light of the sun, moon, and stars as she calmly said, “Lan Xihe is me, and I’m Lan Xihe. There’s no difference...”

Lu Zhou looked at Lan Xihe and furrowed his brows. “Of course, there’s a difference.”

Lan Xihe raised her head and said, “Maybe. I remember everything. I remember everything now.”

Lan Xihe looked at the white tower, the vast snowy land, the mountains, and the cultivators looking up with worried expressions on their faces. She waved her arm, and the Sun, Moon, and Star Wheel flew in front of her. Everything was strange and familiar at the same time.

Memories seemed to surge out of the Sun, Moon, and Star Wheel like a flood.

“Who are you?” Lu Zhou asked.

Lan Xihe looked at Lu Zhou and said with a sigh, “Humans are still the same. They like to fight among themselves until they bleed.”

This answer that was not an answer was even more confusing.

Lan Xihe said mysteriously, “It’s been thousands of years. I’m tired of it...”

Chapter 1146: The Top Position

Lu Zhou was further confused by Lan Xihe’s answer.

The elders and judges of the White Tower Council were clueless and confused as well. They could see that Lan Xihe’s injuries had disappeared, and she had even grown several times stronger. However, why was she speaking such ambiguous words?

Lu Zhou did not like this indirect manner of speaking, which was completely different from the way he communicated with Lan Xihe. He raised his voice and asked, “I’ll ask you again...”

Lan Xihe shook her head as she interjected, “You have killing intent on you. It’s useless. What you see now is just a projection...”

“A projection?” Lu Zhou frowned. Soon, he realized why Lan Xihe’s aura had seemed so strange in the Unknown Land; it was sometimes strong and sometimes weak.

“You don’t believe me?”

“Why should I believe you?” Lu Zhou’s eyes were bright, and he was very vigilant. He could keenly feel that Lan Xihe was now much stronger than before.

“Look.” Lan Xihe turned to look at the blue-clad female attendant and waved her arm gently.

The blue-clad female attendant bowed before she dissolved into spots of light that floated up and vanished into the sky.

Everyone looked at the empty spot where the blue-clad female attendant was standing just a moment ago in shock. This was beyond their understanding.

Someone asked, “How could this be? H-how’s this possible?”

Si Wuya said, “It’s not impossible.”

Everyone, including Lan Xihe, looked at Si Wuya.

Lan Xihe, in particular, looked at Si Wuya with great interest.

Si Wuya said, “There are two possibilities. First, through witchcraft, one can control a person, turning them into a puppet to execute one’s will. The puppet’s consciousness, actions, and everything else are dictated by the puppeteer. Second, according to the ancient books, there are sacred items that allow one to create a projection that’s very life-like...”

An elder shook his head and said, “Impossible! Absolutely impossible! These two possibilities mean that the Tower Master Lan I respected isn’t flesh and blood. No, no, no, the Tower Master Lan I respected is a living person!”

Puppets were not made of flesh blood and had no consciousness or emotions. The same was true for projections created by sacred items.

Another elder flew up and took the initiative to say, “No matter what, we want to congratulate Tower Master Lan’s return to the peak.”

“Congratulations, Tower Master Lan!” the white-clad cultivators said in unison as they kneeled.

Lan Xihe glanced at them indifferently before she shifted her gaze to Si Wuya and said, “There’s a third possibility. When your cultivation base reaches a certain level, it’s possible to create a projection...”

“...”

Subsequently, Lan Xihe turned around slowly and looked at the white-clad cultivators before she said, “From today onward, I’m no longer your Tower Master.”

As she had said earlier, she was tired of everything.

Upon hearing these words, the members of the White Tower Council looked at each other speechlessly. They knew Lan Xihe would never say words she did not mean. Once she made up her mind, there was no chance of changing it.

Lu Zhou asked, perplexed, “What are you trying to do?”

“Maintain the balance,” Lan Xihe said.

“Balance?”

“The balance between men and fierce beasts; the balance between the land and the Endless Ocean; the balance between the cultivation world and the world of civilians. Everything in this world should be balanced. If the scale tips, the world will collapse,” Lan Xihe said.

“If you’re just a projection left behind in this place, why did you help me?” Lu Zhou asked.

“Humans are still too weak. Humans need more experts among them to maintain the balance between heaven and earth,” Lan Xihe calmly replied.

‘Balance again...’

“Then, you go ahead and maintain the balance yourself...” Lu Zhou said as he turned around with his hands clasped on his back. Following that, he descended from the sky.

At this moment, Lan Xihe suddenly flashed, leaving afterimages in her wake.

At the same time, the white astrolabe shone brightly in the sky.

Lu Zhou turned around and struck with his palm.

Bang!

Lu Zhou’s palm struck the white astrolabe.

Lan Xihe increased her strength and pushed Lu Zhou to the sky above the 100,000-foot-tall white tower.

When she suddenly withdrew the white astrolabe, Lu Zhou’s palm moved forward and passed through Lan Xihe’s body with a swoosh!

Lan Xihe, who was unharmed, said, “Your potential is quite high. There’s a high possibility of you becoming a supreme being. The power of heaven and earth has damaged the projection I left here so I can’t stay any longer; I have to leave...”

“Who are you?” Lu Zhou asked again. He was ready to use the item card to shift the balance at any time.

“There is an existence that maintains balance in every place... Have you been to the Endless Ocean?” Lan Xihe asked; she did not give him a direct answer. Without waiting for his reply, she continued to say, ”

Lan Xihe didn’t answer his question directly, “The Kun in the east of the Endless Ocean is the existence that maintains the balance of the sea. The difference between me and the Kun is that the Kun is a real fierce beast while Lan Xihe is just a projection of me...”

“Then you can continue to use this method to maintain the balance...”

“No.” Lan Xihe shook his head and looked at the sky again. “The Great Void is more complicated than you think.”

“You are from the Great Void?” Lu Zhou frowned. He was inwardly surprised.

At this moment, the Sun, Moon, and Star Wheel began to thrum.

Lan Xihe raised her arm; the Sun, Moon, and Star Wheel split into two and moved to each side.

The Primal Qi in the sky seemed restless before they began to gather in her direction.

At this time, the Sun, Moon, and Star Wheels emitted light that was comparable to the radiance of the sun and moon.

“You’re still very weak... It’s best if you hide your power of heaven and earth.”

Buzz!

An indescribably huge astrolabe appeared in the sky, covering the horizons.

All the cultivators on the ground raised their heads and looked at the dazzling astrolabe reverently. The scene was like a painting where all the stars in the sky were connected by white lines.

Following that, a magical scene appeared.

Outside of the white tower, the snow on the ground began to melt at a speed visible to the naked eye.

The cultivators looked around in awe.

Soon after, grass began to sprout from the ground.

The rubble and debris floated up to the top of the white tower, mending itself. The Dao inscriptions were also mended.

All this only took one breath to complete.

The ground that was illuminated by the white astrolabe was full of vitality after the snow melted.

Buzz!

The Sun, Moon, and Star Wheels flew into the sky and disappeared into the horizon at a speed that was difficult for the naked eye to catch.

Lan Xihe frowned slightly and put away her astrolabe. She felt an even more mysterious force restraining her. Nevertheless, she did not dwell on it. She looked at the undamaged white tower with a satisfied expression on her face before she said, “Ye Tianxin, from now on, you’re the Tower Master of the White Tower Council.”

Following that, her arms, legs, and hair slowly dissolved into spots of light. Before she vanished completely, she said to Lu Zhou, “I hope to see you in the Great Void...”

“The Great Void?”

A strong wind blew against Lu Zhou at this moment. Before he ask where the Great Void was, Lan Xihe had completely vanished.

Meanwhile, everyone looked at the sky in a daze.

After a long time, the White Tower Council cultivators bowed and said in unison, “Farewell, Tower Master.”

Si Wuya shook his head and sighed. Lan Xihe was definitely not a puppet or a projection from a sacred item. She was too life-like...”

Lu Zhou also looked in the direction where the Sun, Moon, and Star Wheel disappeared. This was all that was needed to confirm the existence of the Great Void.

The ground that was lush and green and the white tower that was fully repaired were a small testament to Lan Xihe's strength. It was hard to imagine how powerful the real Lan Xihe was.

Lu Zhou could not speculate much since he had no reference. No one had ever seen a supreme being after all.

After a moment, Lu Zhou descended.

"Master," Ye Tianxin called out.

"Master, are you okay?!" Little Yuan'er rushed over.

Lu Zhou turned to look at the white tower that stood above the clouds.

At this time, many cultivators landed one by one.

Then, the elders, judges, and members of the White Tower Council knelt on one knee and said, "Please take over the position of Tower Master..."

All of them looked at Ye Tianxin with eyes brimming with expectations.

Chapter 1147: Guidance

Ye Tianxin was briefly stunned. She looked at her master as though asking for help. Although she had been the Palace Master of the Derived Moon Palace in the past, the White Tower Council was in a completely different league. Previously, she was still rather confident. However, after witnessing Lan Xihe's strength earlier, she had completely lost her confidence. She hoped her master would help her to decide; whatever her master ordered, she would carry it out without any hesitation.

Lu Zhou did not say anything; he only nodded at her. After all, his disciple was no longer a child. He might be able to protect her for now, but he would not be able to protect her forever. There were some things she had to do on her own.

Ye Tianxin understood her master's thoughts. She inhaled deeply as she swept her gaze across and everyone and said, "Everyone, rise to your feet."

"Thank you, Tower Master Ye."

Everyone rose to their feet.

Elder Ding Ling hurriedly instructed the cultivators next to her, "Clean the white tower. Make sure everything is in place. Also, arrange two female attendants for Tower Master Ye."

"Understood."

The cultivators left to make preparations.

Then, Ding Ling moved to stand in front of Ye Tianxin and said with a bow, "Tower Master, if there's anything else you need, please feel free to look for me."

Ye Tianxin had just taken over the position of the Tower Master of the White Tower Council, after all. She knew it would not be easy for her to command so many experts now so she said, "Everything will proceed as usual. I want to increase my strength as fast as I can..."

Ning Wanqing said with a smile, "Tower Master Ye possesses the Great Void energy and is now a Two Chart Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator. It won't be a problem for you to surpass Tower Master Lan in the future."

Everyone nodded in agreement.

The former Tower Master of the White Tower Council, Lan Xihe, was already thousands of years old when she activated her 13th Birth Chart. Although she also possessed the Great Void energy, it was too late. In comparison, the current Tower Master, Ye Tianxin, had a higher potential and brighter future.

An elder bowed and said, "It's of utmost importance that we keep the matter of Tower Master Ye's possessing the Great Void energy a secret. We're not to let outsiders who learn of this matter go..."

The other elders nodded in agreement; this concerned the future of the White Tower Council, after all.

"What about Great Ming? They sent a lot of people here today. Who knows if they'll send more people in the future?"

"Gongsun Yuanxuan fled at the last minute. After seeing Tower Master Lan's strength and Pavilion Master Lu wielding the power of heaven and earth, he must have gone into hiding and feeling vexed now. He won't dare to come again. There's no need to worry about Great Ming for now. Let's see what they do next," an elder said. After that, he turned to Ye Tianxin and asked, "What do you think, Tower Master?"

Ye Tianxin nodded and said, "We'll do as the elder suggested."

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou's existence served as support and a deterrent to dissenters.

Ye Tianxin listened to the elder's suggestion to build trust. It was easier to win people's hearts using both kindness and intimidation.

Ye Tianxin looked at Lu Zhou and asked, "Master, is it alright to handle matters in this manner?"

Lu Zhou nodded. "Yes. You're now the Tower Master; you can handle these matters on your own..."

"Yes," Ye Tianxin said, "I have a request, master."

"Speak."

"Cheng Huang has been very helpful to me. During my most difficult time, Cheng Huang saved me. I can't do without Cheng Huang," Ye Tianxin said with a bow.

Chenghuang?

The elders and judges exchanged a look of surprise.

Ding Ling asked in disbelief, "Cheng Huang is a mysterious ancient beast that understands humans... Tower Master, you managed to tame Cheng Huang?"

Lu Zhou said, "It's just Chenghuang. There's no need to make a fuss. I'll ask Zhao Hongfu to create a large runic passage..."

Ye Tianxin said gratefully, "Thank you, master."

Ding Ling said from the side, "Cheng Huang should be able to shrink its size slightly. A huge runic passage would take a long time to build. However, it shouldn't be a problem if we all work together. Tower Master, may I ask how big Cheng Huang is?"

Ye Tianxin thought about it for a moment before she replied, "When we first met, it was 1,000 feet long. It shrank by half after we returned to the Evil Sky Pavilion."

Ding Ling, the other elders, and the judges. "..."

An old elder said, "If it didn't hide its true size, based on its length at 1,000 feet, it should have the strength of a beast king. Cheng Huang is a mysterious ancient beast; considering it only reached maturity, it'll definitely be even stronger in the future."

Lu Zhou nodded. "All of you can deal with the White Tower Council's affairs on your own..."

After saying that, Lu Zhou turned and left.

Little Yuan'er said to Ye Tianxin, "Sixth Senior Sister... I'll come and visit you in the future."

"Okay."

Ding Ling bowed to Ye Tianxin, indicating that she would send the other members of the Evil Sky Pavilion off.

After Ye Tianxin nodded, Ding Ling hurriedly led Lu Zhou and the others to the runic passage on the snowy mountain.

While they flew in the air, due to Little Yuan'er's playful nature, she swerved left and right as she flew, causing her to fall behind by quite a bit.

Upon seeing this, Lu Zhou said reproachfully, "This is preposterous. You've cultivated for such a long time, and still, you've yet to enter the Thousand Realms Whirling stage. You shouldn't be so playful all the time..."

Little Yuan'er became obedient as soon as Lu Zhou spoke up. She caught up to Lu Zhou and said, "I promise I'll enter the Thousand Realms Whirling stage this year."

"Are you sure you can do it?" Lu Zhou asked.

"Yes. I promise!" Little Yuan'er raised a hand and confidently said, "I'll enter the Thousand Realms Whirling stage this year, surpass Sixth Senior Sister next year, and surpass Second Senior Brother in five years..."

Ding Ling. "???"

Lu Zhou nodded. "Okay, master believes you."

Ding Ling. "..."

One dared to utter such words while the other dared to believe such words.

...

In the royal palace's Preservation Hall in the red lotus domain.

As soon as Lu Zhou returned to the hall, he used the power of sight to observe Duanmu Sheng. When he saw that it was still pitch-black, he had no choice but to cut off the power of sight.

Then, Lu Zhou studied the changes in his Dantian's sea of Qi and the growth of his blue avatar.

Although the blue avatar had evolved to an Eight Methods Connected avatar, it was still very weak. It did not add much to the supreme mystic power. Before it evolved into a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, he still had to rely on meditating on the Heavenly Writing. Naturally, he would have to continue studying the blue avatar's abilities.

After a while, he recalled Lan Xihe mistaking his supreme mystic power from the Heavenly Writing for the power of heaven and earth. He shook his head as he thought to himself, 'Is there a need for me to lie? If they want to misunderstand, then, I'll let them misunderstand...'

Following that, Lu Zhou called up the system interface to have a look.

"Ding! Second avatar's current status: Eight Methods Connected. Requires 3,500 years of life to advance to the next stage."

'Forget it!' Lu Zhou felt his head ache.

It was expected that advancing would consume more years, especially after his avatar had advanced by three stages. However, the consumption was really too high; his lifespan would not be enough to continue improving his avatar. He thought it was fortunate that he did not recklessly advance his avatar previously. Otherwise, he would have suffered a huge loss.

He looked at his lifespan.

Remaining lifespan: 1,364,899 (3,739 years of which 600 years are from Reversal Cards)

In the end, Lu Zhou chose not to further advance his Eight Methods Connected avatar. Instead, he brought the Green Cicada Jade out.

He sat cross-legged and sensed the change in his body before he mobilized the Primal Qi and began to absorb the remaining years of life in the Green Cicada Jade.

With this, he discovered his absorption speed had doubled.

Wisps of green smoke from the Green Cicada Jade entered Lu Zhou's body.

In less than an hour, he had completely absorbed the years in the Green Cicada Jade. As a result, the jade fell, nothing more than a waste now.

When he looked at his system interface, he saw his life had increased by 5,000 years.

...

At this time, Qin Moshang who was sitting in a tub filled with some bubbling medicinal elixir suddenly opened his eyes.

“My Green Cicada Jade!”

He rose to his feet abruptly with a furious expression on his face.

An elegant man walked in at this moment. He said, “Young Master Qin, didn’t I tell you to endure it previously? How can you forget about it again?”

“My Green Cicada Jade has been destroyed. How can I endure it?!” Qin Moshang said through gritted teeth.

“I know the 10,000-year-old Green Cicada Jade is a rare sacred item. However, if it’s gone, then it’s gone. We’ll look for a new one in the future. However, if you don’t focus on recovering your Birth Chart now, you won’t be able to recover in the future.”

Upon hearing this, Qin Moshang sat down in the tub again.

The elegant and scholarly man said again, “In my opinion, Venerable Master Qin treats you very well. With his support, why are you afraid you won’t be able to seek revenge in the future?”

Qin Moshang’s anger gradually subsided as he asked “Did Venerable Master Qin go out?”

“Yes... The Sacred Hall has sent news that a heaven and earth phenomenon had appeared. A supreme figure has returned to their place in the Great Void,” the scholarly man replied.

“A supreme being?”

“He’s not in Great Qin. He should be from another domain,” the scholarly young man said. Then, after a pause, he continued to say, “The last time you went to another domain, you lost your Birth Chart to someone. What if that person is the supreme being who has returned to the Great Void?”

Swoosh!

Qin Moshang slumped in the tub as soon as he heard these words. His expression was very unsightly as well.

Upon seeing Qin Moshang’s reactions, the scholarly man said sheepishly, “I said ‘if’, and I’m only guessing anyway. Anyway, if it weren’t for this group of Balance Keepers, don’t you think Great Qin would’ve already united all the domains?”

Qin Moshang’s heart was somewhat stifled. He said, “Don’t say anymore. I’ll never forget the appearance of that person who destroyed my Birth Chart. What you said is absolutely impossible!”

The scholarly man nodded and said, “Alright. Please work hard in cultivating. I’ll take my leave; if there’s anything else, you can look for me...”

Even after the scholarly man left, Qin Moshang kept recalling the appearance of Lu Zhou when they were by the Cold Pond. He clenched his hands again as he thought about the loss of his Green Cicada Jade.

...

After Lu Zhou absorbed the years in the Green Cicada Jade, he placed five life hearts in front of him. These five life hearts belonged to the Nether Wolf King, Hu Jiao, Henggong Yu, the Scarlet-eyed Boar Demon, and Dang Hu.

The Nether Wolf King's life heart granted one night vision.

After going to the Unknown Land with Lan Xihe, Lu Zhou thought the night vision ability could be useful as well.

As for Hu Jiao and Henggong Yu, both life hearts granted one the ability to control water.

Lu Zhou did not find the ability useful since he already possessed a similar ability. If he forcefully used them to activate a Birth Chart, not only would it be a waste, but its effect would be greatly reduced as well. Sometimes activating two unsuitable Birth Charts could not even compare to the power of one suitable Birth Chart.

The Scarlet-eyed Boar Demon's life heart increased one's defenses. Defenses were different from life hearts' abilities. Unlike abilities, defenses could be stacked to increase its strength.

Lu Zhou thought it was a good idea to keep it as a backup.

Dang Hu's life heart that granted one fire resistance was also deemed useless by Lu Zhou.

In the end, Lu Zhou only decided to keep two of the five life hearts.

"Who should I give these three life hearts to?" Lu Zhou wondered out loud as each of his disciples' names flashed in his mind.

At this time, a voice rang from outside of the Preservation Hall.

"Yu Shangrong requests to see master."

"Enter."

Yu Shangrong walked in with the Longevity Sword in hand.

Lu Zhou suddenly recalled that Yu Shangrong had fought with one of the Five Tigers of the Dark and Light Alliance in front of the Ninth Temple. Hence, he asked, "Are you injured?"

Yu Shangrong replied with a faint smile, "They're just superficial wounds. I recovered while I was in the Ninth Temple."

Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction before he asked, "Have you absorbed Pu Yi's life heart?"

"Yes, I have. The effect was acceptable. However, it seems like ordinary life hearts have become useless," Yu Shangrong replied.

This was to be expected. The further one advanced, the less effective ordinary life hearts would become.

Moreover, Yu Shangrong's Eleven-leaf cultivation base was not something a single life heart would be able to raise on its own. It was obvious that if he wanted to advance in the future, the quality of the life hearts needed would also become higher and higher.

It was no wonder that after Xiao Yunhe lost five Birth Charts, it was useless for him to absorb the energy from ordinary life hearts to recover his Birth Charts.

Lu Zhou waved his sleeve as he said, "Share these life hearts with your Eldest Senior Brother."

The three life hearts flew out.

Yu Shangrong instinctively raised his scabbard horizontally, and the three life hearts landed neatly in a row on the scabbard. Upon seeing the life hearts, he kneeled on one knee immediately. "Master, you've already given us too many life hearts. These..."

Lu Zhou raised his hand and interjected, "Do you think I'll lack these things?"

Upon hearing this, Yu Shangrong nodded before he said, "Thank you, master. There's another thing..."
"Speak."

Yu Shangrong's expression turned solemn as he said, "During the battle in Jiannan Circuit, I gained some enlightenment about the sword path. I wish to ask for master's guidance..."

Lu Zhou rose to his feet.

Yu Shangrong remained kneeling on one knee. His gaze was lowered.

Lu Zhou moved to stand in front of Yu Shangrong with his hands resting on his back. He suddenly asked, "How many years have you been cultivating with me?"

Yu Shangrong replied, "I joined master five years after Eldest Senior Brother did. Including the time after I returned to the Evil Sky Pavilion, I've been cultivating with master for 275 years."

Lu Zhou nodded. He recalled the scene when Yu Shangrong had just returned to the Evil Sky Pavilion. In a blink of an eye, so many years had passed. He said with a sigh, "Indeed, it's been a long since we last sparred..."

'Sparring?' Yu Shangrong was inwardly shocked.

Lu Zhou waved his sleeve and said, "The sword path is endless. Today, I'll see how much you've improved over the years. Go and make the preparations. I'll be there later."

Yu Shangrong. "..."

'Master, I asked for guidance, not a sparring session...'

...

Zhu Honggong leaned next to the door against the wall as he said, "Second Senior Brother is truly worthy of being the person I admire the most. He actually dared to challenge master! Fourth Senior Brother, aren't you coming to watch?"

“What?! Second Senior Brother challenged master?!”

Creak!

The door swung open.

Mingshi Yin stepped out before he suddenly turned back and said, “Doggy, carry me on your back! Let’s go and have a look!”

Woof! Woof! Woof!

Qiong Qi rushed out and flew toward the Preservation Hall like a gust of wind.

Mingshi Yin. “???”

Zhu Honggong hurriedly stepped forward and patted Mingshi Yin’s back as he said, “Fourth Senior Brother, don’t be angry. Dang Kang, carry Fourth Senior Brother on your back!”

...

Next to the square outside of the Preservation Hall.

Yu Zhenghai walked up to Yu Shangrong and gave Yu Shangrong a thumbs-up as he said, “Second Junior Brother, you win this time!”

Yu Shangrong’s expression remained the same. He looked in the direction of the Preservation Hall and asked, “Eldest Senior Brother, why are you making fun of me?”

“I’m not making fun of you. I’m sincerely praising you,” Yu Zhenghai replied.

“The sword path is long, and so is the saber path. Instead of praising me, why don’t you be brave and follow my example, Eldest Senior Brother?” Yu Shangrong asked with an indifferent smile on his face.

Yu Zhenghai. “...”

“Second Senior Brother!” Little Yuan’er called out.

Yu Shangrong looked up and saw Little Yuan’er, carrying something in her arms, and Conch running over.

Yu Shangrong smiled and said, “Ninth Junior Sister, Little Junior Sister.”

“Here.”

“What’s this?”

“The Cloud Treading Boots. When master hits you, you can run away faster using these...” Little Yuan’er explained as she handed the boots to Yu Shangrong. She scratched her head and said, “It’s a pity that the Cloud Feather Raiment Second Senior Brother gave isn’t suitable for men. Otherwise, I would’ve brought it here as well...”

Yu Shangrong. “...”

'Since you know the Cloud Feather Raiment isn't suitable for men, what makes you think the Cloud Treading Boots are suitable?'

Yu Zhenghai held back his laughter and said with a straight face, "What matters are the effects. There's no need to care about the differences between men and women. Ninth Junior Sister, you're really too kind..."

Yu Shangrong glanced at Yu Zhenghai from the corners of his eyes before he said with a gentle smile on his face, "The Cloud Treading Boots were given to you by Eldest Senior Brother; how can I accept them? In a while, Eldest Senior Brother is planning to ask for guidance from master regarding his saber techniques. Perhaps, the boots will be useful to him..."

Yu Zhenghai. "???"

Just as Yu Zhenghai was about to refute the words, a voice rang from the direction of the Preservation Hall.

"Old First, you want to spar with me using saber techniques?" Lu Zhou walked out of the hall with his hands on his back. "It's really rare for all of you to be so eager to learn. Alright, I'll teach you everything I know."

Yu Zhenghai. "???"

Chapter 1148: Master is a Sadist

'No, no, no, this won't do. Haven't I suffered enough in the past? Isn't Second Junior Brother putting words in my mouth? I have to make things clear.'

Yu Zhenghai strode out of the crowd and continued walking until he arrived in front of the Preservation Hall. He bowed deeply to Lu Zhou and said, "Greetings, master."

Lu Zhou wore an approving expression on his face. He walked down the steps of the Preservation Hall as he said, "The younger generation should be brave enough to challenge their elders so they improve. In this regard, all of you should learn from Old Third. Although Old Third isn't as talented as all of you, he's very hard-working, and he never complains. Although he doesn't have your talent, fortune, or your intelligence, don't be so quick to dismiss him. The world works in mysterious ways; you'll never know who ends up the winner in life..."

Then, Lu Zhou changed the topic and said, clearly filled with expectations for his disciples, "The sun and the moon shine; the river and the sea are overturned. In front of the eastern mountain, everyone's a hero. Old First, don't disappoint me."

Yu Zhenghai. "..."

At this point, did Yu Zhenghai still have a choice? The words hanging from the tip of his tongue were swallowed into his belly before he said, "I will work hard."

...

Meanwhile, the four elders of the Evil Sky Pavilion did not seem surprised.

Ever since they returned from the Star Gathering Formation, they had been cultivating diligently. Their progress was rather fast; there was no doubt they had benefited from the Star Gathering Formation as well. By cultivating in there for a time, they had saved several years. Perhaps, when they were having a good day, they would follow in Yu Shangrong's footsteps to ask for guidance.

At this time, Yan Zhenluo and Lu Li walked over and bowed to the four elders.

Lu Li had been spending a lot of time with the four elders recently, and he felt he had been brainwashed by them. Apart from that, he had spent a lot of time listening to Zhu Honggong brag about the Pavilion Master of the Evil Sky Pavilion while they were in the yellow lotus domain. Therefore, he thought this was a good opportunity for him to see how Lu Zhou taught his disciples.

"Right Envoy Lu, it's good that you came to watch. Perhaps, there's something we can learn. If it weren't for our advanced age, who among us wouldn't want to worship Pavilion Master Lu as master?" Pan Litian said.

Lu Li replied politely, "The ten disciples of the Evil Sky Pavilion are all outstanding; it's only natural that I came to watch. Moreover, I want to have a look at the Pavilion Master's techniques as well..."

"Very good, very good. Make sure you have a good look," Pan Litian said with a smile.

At this time, Yan Zhenluo patted Lu Li's shoulder and asked with a hint of amusement, "General Lu said that Pavilion Master resembles your ancestor. Is it true?"

Lu Li glanced at Yan Zhenluo from the corners of his eyes. If it were another person making fun of his ancestor, he would have beaten him up a long time ago. Nevertheless, since it was Yan Zhenluo, he replied, "I only saw the portrait once when I was young. I only vaguely remember it. Nobody's allowed to enter Uncle's study. However, when Uncle learned that I've joined the Evil Sky Pavilion, he showed me the portrait... Hmmm, I have to say they resemble each other a lot..."

"I was joking with you; don't mind it. Speaking of, wouldn't it be great if Pavilion Master gives us a few pointers?"

At this time, Meng Changdong, who had joined the group at some point, said, "Based on my understanding of the Pavilion Master, he's very generous in regard to cultivation. When it's over, you can ask him for advice..."

"You're right."

Everyone nodded in agreement.

There were the rules of first come, first serve, and there was always a distinction between those who were close and those who were distant. It was not too late to ask pointers after Lu Zhou was done teaching his disciples.

...

The cultivators had a special arena to spar in the royal palace. It was much more spacious and comfortable compared to some sects.

Lu Zhou, who already arrived at the arena, nodded in satisfaction. There was no need to worry about outsiders watching the battle since everyone present was one of his own.

After inhaling deeply, Yu Shangrong moved to stand across from Lu Zhou.

When Lu Zhou saw the slightly nervous Yu Shangrong, he said, "Bring out the confidence you should have..."

Yu Shangrong took a deep breath and stood in front of Lu Zhou.

Yu Shangrong nodded. Perhaps, it was the trauma from his childhood; he had never been nervous when faced with other experts except for his master. He felt a little timid. However, his master's words reminded him that it was not his style to lack confidence.

Lu Zhou said again, "Bring two wooden sticks over."

"Yes."

"..."

Yu Zhenghai could not help but take a step back. This feeling was a little familiar.

Although wooden sticks were not as good as real weapons, the spectators found it interesting.

Meng Changdong found two wooden sticks; one was given to Yu Shangrong and the other to Lu Zhou.

The master and disciple faced each other from afar.

Yu Shangrong glanced at the 'sword' in his hand and recalled that he had used a wooden sword back in the earlier days when he joined the Evil Sky Pavilion. His master only gave him a pass for his swordsmanship when he could keep his wooden sword from breaking. Naturally, that was just the basics. True swordsmanship had to be tempered with fresh blood before one could be considered an expert.

"Master, please." Yu Shangrong tightened his grip around the wooden stick, and his nervousness was quickly dispelled.

Primal Qi began to surge.

Lu Zhou did not move. Instead, he placed one hand on his back.

At this time, Little Yuan'er waved her hand and shouted, "Second Senior Brother, you can do it!"

It was also at this moment that Yu Shangrong rushed out. Energy swirled around the wooden stick before forming a long and narrow energy sword.

Lu Zhou's heart stirred slightly. He had never sparred with Yu Shangrong before since Yu Shangrong sprouted the 11th leaf. Yu Shangrong had also grasped the essence of Calm Disturbance and the swordless path. In terms of sword techniques alone, the current Yu Shangrong was far superior to the Eight-leaf Yu Shangrong of the past.

The energy sword arrived swiftly in front of Lu Zhou.

One sword.

Two swords.

Three swords.

The swords stabbed toward Lu Zhou. They were so fast that the others only saw the afterimages they left in their wake.

Lu Zhou who dodged to the side also left afterimages in his wake.

Since this was a sparring session and not a life-or-death battle, the movements and attacks were exceptionally pleasing to the eyes.

Every time Yu Shangrong brandished his sword, his sword would leave hundreds of afterimages behind.

Everyone was shocked by this sight.

Yu Shangrong calmly released thousands of energy swords.

Lu Zhou did not plan to use the Heavenly Writing Power or the supreme mystic power. Instead, he relied on his own cultivation to better understand Yu Shangrong's cultivation.

At this time, Yu Shangrong suddenly moved in a different direction. The wooden stick in his hand buzzed and flew out. With that, tens of thousands of energy swords swept out horizontally like a wave.

Lu Zhou began to counterattack.

Return and Enter Three Souls.

Yu Shangrong was shocked. He held the wooden stick in front of him as he retreated.

Three figures swiftly turned into six, nine...

Bang!

A force knocked Yu Shangrong away; he felt a pain in his back. Before he landed, a figure struck his arm.

Swoosh!

Soon after, the wooden stick flew out of Yu Shangrong's hand. He flipped in the air, trying to save the situation.

At the same time, a figure appeared above Yu Shangrong before bringing down the wooden stick.

Thump!

The wooden stick hit Yu Shangrong's abdomen.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Yu Shangrong's wrists, shoulders, waist, and legs were all hit by the wooden stick that was swiftly increasing in speed.

Little Yuan'er winced and hurriedly raised her hands to cover her eyes. Then, she peeked from between her fingers. Due to the Supreme Purity Jade she cultivated, she could see the details most clearly among the people present.

Finally, the master and disciple came to a stop. One was on the left and one was on the right, facing each other from afar. It looked as though they did not move from their original positions at all.

Yu Shangrong, who was holding the wooden stick in his right hand, felt his wrist trembling slightly.

On the other hand, just like before, Lu Zhou held the wooden stick with one hand while his other hand rested on his back.

At this time, the energy seals had already dissipated.

Everyone was dumbfounded.

"It's over?"

"I couldn't see clearly... It's really over just like that?"

"Your cultivation is too weak so it's not surprising you didn't see clearly. I didn't expect Mister Second to be able to retreat unscathed. I'm afraid his swordsmanship has almost reached perfection..."

As soon as these words were said...

Thump! Thump! Thump!

The wooden stick in Yu Shangrong's hand broke into pieces and fell to the ground. The cuts were neat, and the pieces were symmetrical.

A rustling noise rang in the air as roughly twenty cuts appeared on the front of Yu Shangrong's robe while about thirty cuts appeared on the back of his robes.

"..."

Everyone was stunned.

'Is this the scholarly and elegant Second Senior Brother? Why does he look more like a beggar now?'

'It's over! It's over! Master is really a sadist! Second Senior Brother cares so much about his image, and yet, master didn't spare him at all! Master is just as ruthless as he was in the past...'

Despite the various thoughts in everyone's minds, no one dared to speak up.

Finally, Lu Zhou said, breaking the silence, "You've made some progress on the sword path. In fact, you've made a lot of progress. You deserve to be commended."

When Lu Zhou lowered his arm, there was a small and hard-to-see cut on the sleeve of his robe near his wrist.

"Thank you for your guidance, master," Yu Shangrong said before he turned to leave. He was in such an embarrassing state, after all.

"Wait," Lu Zhou called out.

Chapter 1149: Altogether

Yu Shangrong came to a halt.

All of Lu Zhou's disciples inhaled deeply, wondering if Yu Shangrong's heart was about to get mercilessly abused.

"Do you know why you lost?" Lu Zhou asked.

Yu Shangrong shook his head, indicating that he did not know.

Lu Zhou walked around as he said, "The Guiyuan Sword Technique is good; it's not wrong to cultivate it. However, it's too conservative and might restrict you..."

Yu Shangrong raised his head, slightly surprised.

Lu Zhou continued to say, "I was the one who taught you the Guiyuan Sword Technique. Therefore, all your movements were within my expectations. If you didn't lose, then who would lose?"

Everyone nodded.

Yu Shangrong understood his master's meaning as well. In fact, anyone else would have found it difficult to defeat him. He knew no one was more familiar with the Guiyuan Sword Technique than his master. Before he even drew his sword, his master had already seen through his intentions. This feeling made him feel slightly uncomfortable. He would rather spar with his Eldest Senior Brother than his master since he understood his Eldest Senior Brother's Great Dark Heaven Memorial. It would be fair since he and his Eldest Senior Brother understood each other.

"Yu Shangrong," Lu Zhou said.

"Yes, master."

"Try and create your own technique with your attainments in the sword path."

"Create my own?" Yu Shangrong seemed enlightened by these words. "Thank you for your guidance, master!"

Lu Zhou's words were like medicine for Yu Shangrong's heart, causing his body to thrum with excitement.

At this moment, Yu Zhenghai walked over, sighing inwardly. He felt that his Second Junior Brother was truly miserable. Not only did his Second Senior Brother get beaten to such a state, but he even had to force a smile on his face.

Yu Zhenghai said, "Second Junior Brother, are you alright? Master is doing for your own good."

Yu Shangrong replied, "Eldest Senior Brother, you worry too much. He who suffers defeat on the sword path has room for improvements. If one is blind to improvements for the sake of so-called dignity and pride, then one is foolish..."

Yu Zhenghai. "..."

After saying that, Yu Shangrong turned around. Then, he swept his gaze across his juniors and asked, "Do all of you understand?"

"Yes, yes, yes!"

All of them nodded repeatedly. How could they not understand?

Yu Shangrong nodded his head in satisfaction and walked to the side.

Lu Zhou continued to hold on to the wooden stick.

Meng Changdong observed Lu Zhou's expression and action before he ran to the outside and prepared a pile of wooden sticks. Then, he respectfully handed one to Yu Zhenghai.

Yu Zhenghai said, "I don't need it. Master, I use my palm as a saber."

Lu Zhou nodded in approval. "Okay."

As soon as Lu Zhou's words fell, Yu Zhenghai rushed over. He launched the Great Dark Heavenly Palm.

When the palm seal appeared, it struck down immediately.

Lu Zhou dodged to the side.

At the same time, energy sabers like the stars shot to the ground.

Earlier, Yu Zhenghai had seen how Yu Shangrong suffered the disadvantage from using a technique his master was familiar with. Therefore, he decided to use a new move from his saber technique.

Alas, as soon as the energy sabers appeared, Lu Zhou leaped and deflected all the energy sabers. Then, he pressed his hand foam.

"Palm technique?" Yu Zhenghai's eyes widened. He thought to himself, 'Master, you're cheating! I thought we agreed to spar using saber techniques?'

The palm seal was incredibly huge.

No matter how spacious the arena was, it would be difficult for it to withstand the palm strike of a Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator.

Many of them wondered if the magnificent palm seal was going to tear down the royal palace.

While Yu Zhenghai was still in a daze, the palm seal suddenly flashed and turned into a sky full of energy sabers. Then, they spun like a windmill and descended.

"Dark Heaven Starlight?" Yu Zhenghai was a little confused.

Yu Zhenghai waved his hand, trying to dispel countless energy sabers raining down on him.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Yu Zhenghai's sparring session with Lu Zhou was much more intense compared to Yu Shangrong's sparring session with Lu Zhou.

Yu Zhenghai was originally open and unrestrained so he did not use intricate moves. He raised his hand before energy sabers shot out in all directions.

Everyone retreated.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Yu Zhenghai's energy sabers and his hand, which he used as his saber, seemed to have successfully blocked the Dark Heaven Starlight, causing the energy sabers to fall. He could not help but rejoice inwardly. 'Since I managed to block master's Dark Heaven Starlight, I'm definitely stronger than Second Junior Brother, right?'

Yu Zhenghai could not stop himself from turning to look at the spectators and smiled triumphantly.

Lu Zhou's voice rang in the air at this moment.

"You're too easily distracted."

The Dark Heaven Starlight that was about to touch the ground suddenly shot toward Yu Zhenghai at this moment.

The entire arena was only filled with energy sabers and their afterimages at this moment.

"Eldest Senior Brother, you can do it!" Little Yuan'er shouted. Despite her words, she immediately raised her hands to cover her eyes and watched the battle from between her fingers.

The two figures fought fiercely.

What a familiar scene...

About 15 minutes later, the energy seals finally dissipated.

The two separated; one on the left and one on the right.

Everyone hurriedly rubbed their eyes and looked at Yu Zhenghai.

There was only one word to describe Yu Zhenghai's current state: miserable.

Yu Zhenghai's long robe resembled a huge piece of torn rag more than it resembled a robe. Even his boots were not spared. The torn pieces of fabric fluttered in the wind pitifully.

"E-elder... Elder Senior Brother... I... I-I'm sorry... I really can't... hold it in... anymore..." Zhu Honggong struggled to say as he held his stomach before he finally burst out laughing.

"Hm?" Yu Zhenghai turned around and shot Zhu Honggong a look.

Zhu Honggong's laughter came to an abrupt stop, and he lowered his head immediately.

Needless to say, Lu Zhou was completely unscathed.

Yu Zhenghai now had a Four Chart cultivation base, which was not as profound as Yu Shangrong. Therefore, Lu Zhou's attack that almost beat him to a pulp seemed more ruthless.

"Although the Great Dark Heaven Memorial is very direct, it's not without details..." Lu Zhou said.

“Thank you for your advice, master.” Yu Zhenghai glanced at Yu Shangrong from the corner of his eye. There was a clear smile on his Second Junior Brother’s face.

“Your attainments in the Great Dark Heaven Memorial are quite profound. It’s almost the same as Old Second. From now on, don’t let the Great Dark Heaven Memorial restrain you,” Lu Zhou said.

Although Yu Zhenghai was thoroughly defeated, he was overjoyed and greatly encouraged by these words. He bowed respectfully. “Understood!”

At this time, Lu Zhou saw the words ‘Eternal Paragon’ and ‘Mentor’ shining on the system panel. This showed that even though Yu Zhenghai had completed his apprenticeship, he could still continue to teach Yu Zhenghai. The only thing was he could no longer earn merit points from Yu Zhenghai.

Lu Zhou’s disciples had just sighed in relief when Lu Zhou said, “Since everyone is here, I’ll be fair and guide all of you. You can attack altogether.”

Zhu Honggong, Mingshi Yin, Little Yuan’er, and Conch. “???”

‘Master! We only came to watch the show!’

“What are you waiting for?” Lu Zhou tossed the wooden stick up.

The wooden stick flew up in the air before millions of energy seals appeared, covering the entire arena.

The Evil Sky Pavilion’s four elders, the Left and Right Envoys, and the Guardians were stunned, rooted to their spots.

Soon after, wails, screams, pleas for mercy rang from the arena; they lasted for an hour.

When it was almost over, Pan Litian said with a smile, “It went much smoother than I expected. Pavilion Master seems to be in a good mood as well. Guardians, Envoys, you must seize this opportunity to ask the Pavilion Master for guidance...”

“Brother Yan, I have something to attend to. Farewell,” Lu Li said before leaving in a hurry.

Yan Zhenluo cupped his fists at Pan Litian and said, “I think I have something to attend to as well. See you later.”

Pan Litian. “...”

When the other three elders turned around, Lu Li and Yan Zhenluo were nowhere to be seen.

When the disciples of the Evil Sky Pavilion left the training arena, all of them returned to their respective rooms with bruises on their faces and bodies.

...

In the evening.

In the Preservation Hall.

After spending time teaching his disciples, Lu Zhou was naturally reminded of his third disciple, Duanmu Sheng. It was inevitable for him to worry since he knew nothing up until now.

Hence, he sat cross-legged as soon as he returned to the hall and silently recited the incantations for the power of sight.

This time, he saw an island in the middle of a vast lake.

Lu Wu was sitting in front of Duanmu Sheng and staring at him. It opened its mouth and spat out a cloud of white mist that shrouded Duanmu Sheng.

Following that, the images were suddenly cut off.

“Huh? What’s going on?”

Lu Zhou opened the system interface to have a look.

A notification kept flashing under Duanmu Sheng’s name: Target’s loyalty is 0%!

There was no hatred, but Duanmu Sheng’s loyalty was 0%!

‘What happened to Old Third?’ Lu Zhou was perplexed.

At this time, Duanmu Sheng’s loyalty suddenly changed.

Loyalty: +5%

Loyalty: -5%

This cycle kept repeating over and over again for a long time.

Chapter 1150: Merge and Rebirth

All Lu Zhou saw was darkness again so he had no choice but to cut off the power of sight. Although it was frustrating not being able to see what was going on, at least, he was able to confirm Duanmu Sheng was still alive.

Moreover, Lu Wu had spent so much effort abducting Duanmu Sheng, it would not kill him so easily. Lu Zhou speculated Duanmu Sheng’s rising and falling loyalty must be caused by the white mist Lu Wu had spat out; it must be one of Lu Wu’s abilities that wreaked havoc with Duanmu Sheng’s consciousness.

“Where’s that place?”

The surface of the water was still so it seemed more like a lake. Duanmu Sheng was definitely not at the Endless Ocean. Although the surroundings were dark, it was not as dark as the Unknown Land.

According to Wei Jiangnan, traces of Lu Wu were seen in the Eastern Abyss in the Unknown Land. At that time, Wei Jiangnan had said he would have to fly continuously for five years without rest and sleep before he would reach the Eastern Abyss.

“It doesn’t look like the Eastern Abyss or the Unknown Land...”

After a moment, he suddenly remembered something. “Ying Zhao.”

How could he have forgotten Ying Zhao came from the Unknown Land. Moreover, it was a beast king that once commanded the fierce beasts as well so it should be familiar with Lu Wu.

Lu Zhou ordered people to summon Ying Zhao and Conch over immediately.

When Conch arrived, she seemed a little reserved. Perhaps, it was due to the beating she had received earlier. When she entered the Preservation Hall, she kneeled and said, "Master."

Lu Zhou would not compromise in regard to cultivation. All of them were his disciples so he could not bias when guiding them.

Ying Zhao actually imitated Conch and kneeled down awkwardly, holding two of its hooves up.

Lu Zhou said, "Rise and speak."

"Thank you, master."

Conch and Ying Zhao stood up.

Lu Zhou looked at Ying Zhao and asked, "Since you know from the Unknown Land, do you know where Lu Wu is right now?"

Ying Zhao made a lot of gurgling noises that sounded as though it was drinking.

Needless to say, Lu Zhou did not understand a single thing.

Conch said, "Master, it said Lu Wu is very unruly. It would often bring fierce beasts to invade human cities. It said Lu Wu should be in the Unknown Land. To be precise, it should be in the easternmost place in the Unknown Land."

"The easternmost place in the Unknown Land?" Lu Zhou was perplexed.

Ying Zhao's IQ had always been that of a child so it was not easy for it to give Lu Zhou a clear description or direction.

"Yes, the easternmost place."

Lu Zhou said, "Forget it. Follow me."

Since Ying Zhao is from the Unknown Land, finding that place should not be too difficult.

Since the White Tower Council's runic passage in the Unknown Land was too far from where Lu Wu was last spotted, it was not a good idea to use it. He could only rely on Ying Zhao. He had to find Duanmu Sheng as soon as possible; if Lu Wu obtained the Great Void Seed, then Duanmu Sheng would be in danger.

Unexpectedly, Ying Zhao shook its head vehemently. It tucked its wings and shrank back at the same time.

Lu Zhou frowned. "Are you afraid?"

Ying Zhao quickly nodded like a chick pecking at grains on the ground.

Conch said, "It said it's very afraid."

Lu Zhou. "..."

‘There’s no need to translate this. This old man isn’t that stupid.’

Lu Zhou rose to his feet and said, “Even if you’re afraid, you’ll have to come with me.”

Plop!

Lu Zhou. “...”

Those who did not know Ying Zhao well would have been shocked by its behavior; it was no different from humans.

Ying Zhao made a few noises again.

Conch said, “Master, it said that Cheng Huang lived close to that place. It’s best to let Cheng Huang lead the way.”

“Cheng Huang?” Lu Zhou was puzzled. “Cheng Huang comes from the depths of the Moonlight Woodland. Are you sure?”

Ying Zhao nodded and gurgled again.

Conch said, “It said it knows the Moonlight Woodland leads to the deepest part of the Unknown Land, but it doesn’t know exactly where. However, due to Lu Wu’s unruly nature, it’s unlikely to go to isolated places. It said we can search the edges of the Unknown Land instead.”

Lu Zhou nodded. If that was true, it was indeed more suitable for Cheng Huang to lead the way.

Let alone the Moonlight Woodlands, many cultivators in Great Yan did not even dare to venture deep into the Misty Forest. Six-leaf cultivators could play around at the periphery of the forest; Eight-leaf cultivators could venture a little deeper into the forest, but they would not be a match for the fierce beasts in there.

After thinking for a moment, Lu Zhou said, “Tell Ye Tianxin to return to the Evil Sky Pavilion.”

“Okay.” Conch left after receiving Lu Zhou’s order.

Then, Lu Zhou looked at Ying Zhao and asked, “Do you want to go to the Moonlight Woodland with me?”

Swoosh!

Not even Ying Zhao’s shadow could be seen in the Preservation Hall.

With that, silence returned to the Preservation Hall.

“If I want to look for Old Third, I have to get stronger.”

Lu Zhou flicked his sleeve and brought out the Nether Wolf King’s life heart.

Buzz!

His lotus appeared in front of him. The stuck feeling in his Dantian’s sea of Qi had completely disappeared. It was easy for him to manifest his lotus now.

Then, he placed the Birth Chart map in front of him to study it.

“The Violet Palatial Mansion...” Lu Zhou finally decided on a position. This position was suitable for all life hearts.

Lu Zhou did not hesitate and placed the life heart into the position he selected.

Click!

Since Lu Zhou was in dire need of lifespan, he decided to keep the life heart for himself.

...

Meanwhile, on a vast unknown island.

Lu Wu looked at Duanmu Sheng who was shrouded in cold air unblinkingly. After a moment, it lowered its head and exhaled. Its breath seemed to warm Duanmu Sheng.

The purple energy on Duanmu Sheng had completely disappeared, and a small purple dragon could be seen on his wrist.

“Young... Master...” Although Lu Wu had spoken softly, to the human ears, it sounded like a speaker from heaven, causing the ground to tremble slightly when it spoke.

At this time, Duanmu Sheng opened his eyes abruptly and smacked the ground with his hand!

The Overlord Spear flew over from nearby into his hand!

Duanmu Sheng retreated hundreds of meters and brandished the Overlord Spear.

“Fierce beast!”

Lu Wu stared at Duanmu Sheng, who was only the size of a thumb in its eyes. Its huge head tilted to the left and the right as it looked at Duanmu Sheng with eyes brimming with curiosity.

Duan Ling Tian gulped before he retreated another few meters.

‘Master has said that if you can’t win, you should run!’

Duanmu Sheng turned around wordlessly and flew up into the sky. When he came to a stop after flying for a while, he was stunned when he saw the boundless gray sky and the vast lake.

In the sky, fierce beasts flapped their huge wings, and schools of fishes could be vaguely seen under the surface of the water.

“W-where am I?”

At this moment, a huge head appeared in the sky in front of Duanmu Sheng.

“Y-you... are... on... an island... in the center... of the lake...” Although Lu Wu spoke very slowly, its words were clear.

Duanmu Sheng was shocked. He had flown for a while, but why did it seem like he did not move at all?

‘Run!’

Duanmu Sheng was about to fly away again when Lu Wu raised its paw and stopped him.

“Young... Master...”

Boom!

Duanmu Sheng fell to the ground; his hair stood on end. He looked at his surroundings, bewildered.

“You’ve got the wrong person!” Duanmu Sheng raised the Overlord Spear and pointed it at Lu Wu. When he thrust the spear out...

Bang!

Lu Wu raised its paw, blocking the Overlord Spear.

“Not... wrong...” Lu Wu said slowly, “30,000 years... Bloodline... Aura... You... You are... his... descendant... Young... Master!”

“Descendant?” Duanmu Sheng stabbed the Overlord Spear into the ground. Lu Wu was too powerful, after all. Most importantly, Lu Wu did not seem to have any intention of hurting him. If Lu Wu wanted to kill him, he would have killed him long ago. There was no need to wait until now.

Lu Wu nodded. “Duanmu... Dian.”

“Duanmu Dian? I’ve never heard of him... Does having the same surname means I’m his descendant?”

Swoosh!

Lu Wu suddenly swiped its claws at Duanmu Sheng.

Duanmu Sheng hurriedly grabbed the Overlord Spear and held it horizontally in front of him.

Bang!

He was sent flying thousands of meters away. When he found his footing, he looked at his hands and arms in shock. He could clearly feel he had become stronger, and it was not just a little bit.

“30,000 years ago... I was defeated... by Venerable... Master Duanmu... Dian... I’d been following... him since... then... I... won’t be... mistaken...” Lu Wu said as it raised its head to the sky. Its huge eyes reflected the gloomy sky as it recalled the past.

“Really?” Duanmu Sheng asked skeptically.

Lu Wu lowered its head to look at Duanmu Sheng, waiting for him to accept this fact.

Although Duanmu Sheng was honest, he was not stupid. Lu Wu had no reason to lie to him. Moreover, he sensed that the Great Void Seed had been exposed, but Lu Wu did not seem to covet it. Finally, he said, “So I’m the descendant of Duanmu Dian from more than 30,000 years ago?”

“Yes.”

Although Lu Wu’s speech was stilted and slow, fortunately, Duanmu Sheng could still understand it.

Duanmu Sheng took another step back. “Alright, I believe you. However, I must return.”

“Re... turn...? Why? Humans... greedy... ignorant... weak... despicable... shameless... and... ***” Lu Wu spat out a derogatory word at the end of its sentence that made Duanmu Sheng turn red.

“I... I’m also human,” Duanmu Sheng said awkwardly.

“You... demon... now...”