

## **Disciples 1221**

### **Chapter 1221: Making a Move**

Flames exploded like a volcano eruption and engulfed the green barrier formed from the power of the Birth Charts. The heatwave covered a radius of 10,000 meters, drying up the black fog.

The flying beasts in the sky flew away; the plants on the ground withered; the soil darkened and hardened immediately.

The cultivators strengthened the barrier and resisted the high heat.

Lu Zhou had an extremely high tolerance for heat. Apart from the fire resistance ability he obtained from a life heart, he had also spent half a year in the depths of the lava in Sky Wheel Mountain Range for his first Birth Trial. Therefore, the Fire Phoenix's flames did not affect him much.

Lu Zhou erected a protective barrier around Whizard to keep the heat at bay.

The spectators had retreated quite a distance away so they were not too affected as well.

On the contrary, the 49 Swordsmen and the 36 Confucian scholars felt extremely uncomfortable. Under the intense heat of the flames, some of them were on the verge of collapsing, looking as though they were going to drop from the sky at any given moment.

The Fire Phoenix showed no sign of stopping. It continued to spew streams of flames that were thousands of feet long and wider than its body.

At this moment, a creaking noise rang from the barrier.

One of the 49 Swordsmen gritted his teeth and said, "Hold on!"

If the barrier collapsed, all of the 85 cultivators would drown in the sea of fire. The consequences would be unimaginable. It did not matter how many Birth Charts they had or how high their cultivation bases were. Once they were burned by the Fire Phoenix's powerful flames, they would continue to burn until nothing was left.

Qin Renyue and Ye Zheng surveyed the situation, not daring to act rashly.

Based on this, it could be seen that beast emperors were not inferior to Venerable Masters at all.

Ye Zheng furrowed his brows. "This beast... Isn't he supposed to be the weakest now that it's about to be reborn? How can it still be so powerful?"

Qin Renyue retorted, "If you don't know, what makes you think I have the answer?"

Ye Zheng glanced at Qin Renyue from the corners of his eyes and said, "It's best we work together. Ultimately, the power of the Dao is limited..."

Qin Renyue ignored Ye Zheng.

The duo had their own plans. If they were not careful, they would end up being taken advantage of by the other party.

At this moment, one of the 36 Confucian scholars suddenly vomited. With that, one of the astrolabes disappeared, leaving a gap in the green barrier.

Boom!

The flames that had found an opening struck immediately.

Ye Zheng's expression changed slightly before he flashed to the front of the flames and manifested his astrolabe.

Ye Zheng's astrolabe was astonishingly large, easily blocking the flames.

Alas, it was not enough. The injured Confucian scholar fell and was instantly engulfed by the flames.

A heart-wrenching cry rang in the air, accompanied by the appearance and disappearance of a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. No matter how many Birth Charts he had, it was reduced to zero soon after. In the end, all that was left was a corpse that was burned to crisps.

Ye Zheng turned around and shouted, "Qin Renyue!"

Qin Renyue jumped up and manifested his dazzling astrolabe. It looked like a super-sized moon. Soon enough, 18 Birth Charts flashed on the astrolabe.

At this time, Lu Zhou looked at the huge astrolabe and murmured to himself, "18 Birth Charts... 3 Birth Trials..."

In comparison, the number of Lu Zhou's Birth Charts was really too pitiful.

Lu Li said in a voice filled with awe, "I heard that passing the third Birth Trial is like contending with heaven and earth. I wonder how he passed it..."

"Contending with heaven and earth?" Lu Zhou raised an eyebrow.

Lu Li nodded. "I've only heard about it in passing. It may not be accurate. As the ancient people say, 'Lightning strikes the wicked'. In fact, most people are unaware that lightning strikes are one of the ways to pass Birth Trials..."

"..."

'Does this mean I have to be electrocuted to pass the third Birth Trial?' Lu Zhou furrowed his brow slightly. If he was in the modern world, he would not have to worry about not being able to find a suitable place to pass the Birth Trials.

At this moment, Yan Zhenluo chimed in, "Lu Li is right. Apart from that, those who have a strong Birth Palace are likely to pass the Birth Trials. However, the stronger the Birth Palace, the more strict the conditions to pass the Birth Trials will be. During the third Birth Trials, those who are on the cusp of mastering the power of the Dao have a difficult time looking for a suitable place since most harsh environments don't affect them at all..."

...

Back in the sky, Qin Renyue held his astrolabe with 18 Birth Charts horizontally. It shone dazzlingly as 18 beams of green light shot out.

The Fire Phoenix continued flapping its wings, fanning the flames, as it retreated in the air. At this time, a blazing white light burst forth from its chest, intensifying the light from the flames.

Ye Zheng put his astrolabe away and flashed around the Fire Phoenix, leaving afterimages in his wake. When the afterimages formed a line, the special time-stopping power appeared again.

The Fire Phoenix was frozen in the center.

With that, Qin Renyue's 18 beams of light easily landed on the Fire Phoenix.

Boom!

The Fire Phoenix dropped from the sky toward the mountain crevice. Its flames were extinguished immediately. With that, darkness descended on the entire place again.

Qin Renyue looked down from the sky.

Ye Zheng laughed before he swooped down.

Qin Renyue frowned. "What are you doing?"

"The Fire Phoenix is severely injured now. Naturally, I'm going to take it down," Ye Zheng replied.

"If anyone's going to take it down, it should be me," Qin Renyue said indignantly. With a wave of his hand, the 49 Swordsmen got into a formation and surrounded the mountain crevice.

Energy swords soared into the sky.

Ye Zheng said coldly, "You old thing, I knew you wouldn't follow the agreement..."

Ye Zheng waved his hand as well.

The now 35 Confucian scholars swiftly descended on the ground and brought formation flags before stabbing them into the ground.

Qin Renyue frowned. "The 36 Big Dipper Flag Formation?"

"That's right. After all, if I don't make sufficient preparations, how can I go against your 49 Swordsmen?" Ye Zheng said.

"But you're missing one person."

"Wrong." With that, Ye Zheng brought out a formation flag. "The 36 Big Dipper Flag Formation is something the ancestors left behind. They believed heaven is formed from the Big Dipper's stars. Each star represents a power so there are 36 powers. Qin Renyue, I'm determined to obtain the Fire Phoenix."

"You!" Qin Renyue did not expect Ye Zheng would use the 36 Big Dipper Flag Formation here. He looked at the formation flags fluttering in the wind before he suppressed his anger and said, "Fine, the Fire Phoenix is yours. Let's go!"

Lu Zhou thought to himself that if Qin Renyue really left, they would not be able to put on the 'Three Kingdoms' act. Hence, he called out, "Hold on."

The spectators in the distance were shocked. There was actually someone who dared to interrupt the Venerable Masters? Everyone's attention shifted to Lu Zhou immediately.

Before this, Lu Zhou had already studied his item cards carefully, especially after his system had been upgraded. With the upgrade, his item cards had also been upgraded.

"Who's that?"

The two Venerable Masters looked at Lu Zhou in unison. The duo could sense that Lu Zhou's Voice Transmission was extraordinary.

Lu Zhou leaped lightly, rising up into the air. He looked like a celestial being with his white hair, causing people to take him seriously.

At this time, one of the 49 Swordsmen cried out, "Venerable Master Qin, he's the old man who killed Zhu Yan!"

The person who had spoken was Yuan Lang.

Qin Renyue raised an eyebrow. "I see."

Ye Zheng asked in confusion. "Who are you?"

At this time, the spectators began to recognize Lu Zhou.

"Hey, isn't he the strongest cultivator in Great Yan, Old Demon Ji... No, I mean, Senior Ji?"

"What Senior Ji? He's Senior Lu who caused the collective demotion of the Black Tower Council members. He's also Pavilion Master Lu of the Evil Sky Pavilion!"

Some of the red lotus cultivators were rather knowledgeable. They knew Lu Zhou was from the golden lotus domain. It did not matter to them if his surname was Ji or Lu. They were only certain he was the Pavilion Master of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

"He's also the one who defeated Lan Xihe, the strongest person in the White Tower Council!"

Upon hearing the discussions in the surroundings, the green lotus cultivators who were watching the battle raised their heads curiously.

Then, one of the green lotus cultivators said, "He's still too weak. So what if he has made some small achievements or if he's the strongest person in those places?"

## **Chapter 1222: God's Palm**

"Silence." One of the Confucian scholars released a wave of energy, causing everyone to fall silent.

Lu Zhou looked at Ye Zheng and Qin Renyue and asked, "According to the rules of the Unknown Land, it's first come, first served, right?"

Ye Zheng did not reply.

Qin Renyue, on the other hand, nodded and said, "That's right."

Lu Zhou nodded. "Alright. I found the Fire Phoenix first and was the first to arrive on the scene. According to the rules, the Fire Phoenix belongs to me."

How could Ye Zheng not understand what was going on at this moment? He said with a smile, "You really know how to pick the perfect time to appear. Where were you when Venerable Master Qin and I fought the Fire Phoenix for so long before we injured it? Moreover, how can you prove you were here first or if you found the Fire Phoenix first?"

Lu Zhou said indifferently, "To the south, you can find traces of the Fire Phoenix in the canyon."

Ye Zheng shook his head. "You may not know this, but my men have been here since half a month ago. Moreover, if anything, Venerable Master Qin deserved the Fire Phoenix more than you since we both played a part in injuring it."

Lu Zhou turned to look at Qin Renyue.

At this time, the trio was trying to probe each other.

Qin Renyue and Ye Zheng's energies only reached a few meters away from Lu Zhou before they suddenly vanished. They could not figure out the depths of his cultivation.

The unknown was usually a good deterrent.

Qin Renyue cursed Ye Zheng 18 times in his heart before he said, "That's true..."

Then, Ye Zheng added, "Brother Qin has already agreed to give the Fire Phoenix to me, good sir."

"Alright, if what he said is true, you can leave," Lu Zhou said to Qin Renyue as he ignored Ye Zheng. His tone was like that of an elder sending a child away.

"..."

At this time, Lu Zhou finally looked at Ye Zheng and said, "As for the Fire Phoenix, I'm determined to obtain it."

'Qin Renyue has already acquiesced to giving it to me, but now, this old man wants to snatch it from me!'

Ye Zheng frowned and cursed Qin Renyue 18 times in his heart. Should they not join forces at this time?

After a moment, Ye Zheng said, "About 150 kilometers north of this place, there's the beast emperor, Lu Wu."

Qin Renyue glanced at Ye Zheng. "So you knew all along?"

Ye Zheng ignored Qin Renyue and said, "That beast is on par with the Fire Phoenix so I hope you'll give up on the Fire Phoenix and go for Lu Wu..."

The spectators erupted in an uproar when they heard this.

"So that beast emperor north of this place is Lu Wu?"

“Lu Wu? The Lu Wu that killed everyone from the monster hunting squad with just one move?”

“I heard it speaks the human language. It’s highly intelligent so it’s difficult to deal with...”

“It had an owner once so it’s not easy to tame it again. The Fire Phoenix is weaker now in comparison to Lu Wu since it’s going to be reborn soon. Moreover, its value is higher. For all these reasons, who would choose Lu Wu over the Fire Phoenix?”

Everyone nodded repeatedly.

At this time, Lu Zhou stroked his beard and placed his other hand on his back before he said, “You seem to have misunderstood something...”

“Hmm?”

“Lu Wu is my subordinate. Why do I need you to give him to me?”

Ye Zheng. “...”

Qin Renyue. “...”

Lu Zhou’s words were like a stone that stirred up 1,000 waves.

The cultivators erupted into another uproar. Most of them were filled with disbelief.

After all, Ye Zheng and Qin Renyue were not even confident about subduing Lu Wu, and yet, the old man from the weak golden lotus domain claimed that Lu Wu was his subordinate. They felt as though the old man was insulting their intelligence and thought the old man was really f\*cking good at boasting.

Lu Zhou shrugged inwardly, feeling helpless. No one believed him even when he was telling the truth.

Ye Zheng did not respond to Lu Zhou’s shocking statement. Instead, he calmly asked, “So you really don’t intend on giving up on the Fire Phoenix?”

Lu Zhou continued to look at Ye Zheng.

At this moment, Qin Renyue shot Yuan Lang a look. When Yuan Lang moved to his side, he asked in a low voice, “Are you certain this is that person from before?”

Yuan Lang replied in an equally low voice, “I’m very sure. There’s no doubt he’s the one who easily killed Zhu Yan...”

Qin Renyue waved his hand, dismissing Yuan Lang. After Yuan Lang flew back to his position, he called out, “Ye Zheng.”

Ye Zheng said, “Have you thought it through?”

“I have thought it through. I think what this old gentleman said makes sense...” Qin Renyue said.

Ye Zheng turned to Qin Renyue. “Qin Renyue!”

This time, it was finally Qin Renyue’s turn to smile. ‘Oh, you’re allowed to trick me earlier, but I’m not allowed to do so? Let’s see what happens to you after this. It’s not a bad idea to watch two tigers fight. Perhaps, I might even gain something from it...’

Ye Zheng looked at the dark mountain crevice before he asked in a low voice, "We have no enmity so why must you be so stubborn and hostile?"

"No enmity?" Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "Ye Wusheng colluded with the monster hunting squad to ambush my beast emperor, Lu Wu. How should we settle this score?"

"..."

Everyone was speechless when they heard these words. It was fine to brag once, but this old man was really addicted to bragging! This was really too much.

Lu Zhou did not mention Qin Moshang for now. He planned to deal with them one by one. These two Venerable Masters were strong; it would be foolish to fight both of them at once.

Unlike the spectators, Ye Zheng's expression turned grave upon hearing Lu Zhou's words. He recalled the things Ye Wusheng had recounted to him previously. He frowned. "It's you?"

"It's me." Lu Zhou nodded.

Upon seeing this exchange, Qin Renyue could infer that the two knew each other and seemed to be enemies. He hurriedly signaled to the 49 Swordsmen and retreated 100 meters.

Upon seeing Qin Renyue's actions, Ye Zheng cursed that sly old fox in his heart again. Then, he said, "Prepare to activate the flag formation."

At this time, the 35 Confucian scholars moved into their positions by their respective formation flags.

At this time, Ye Zheng had already regarded Lu Zhou as an expert on par with him. He flashed and threw the formation flag in his hand down like javelin.

Swoosh!

The formation flag stabbed into the ground accurately.

Ye Zheng flashed again, and in just a blink of an eye, he appeared in front of Lu Zhou. Then, he joined his palms together, and the image of the majestic Big Dipper appeared.

Lu Zhou could sense that special time-stopping ability, which could be the power of the Dao, again. He was not affected and could move freely. However, he could keenly sense the danger from Ye Zheng far surpassed that of Qin Naihe, who had 16 Birth Charts, and the ghost servant, who had 15 Birth Charts. The difference between one or two Birth Charts was like heaven and earth, after all.

With this, Lu Zhou did not hesitate to forgo using the divine power and crush the Deadly Strike Card in his hand. The vortex that appeared in his palm swiftly formed a palm seal before he slapped his hand out.

Ye Zheng's first move was, in fact, just to probe Lu Zhou's strength. When he saw the power of the dao did not affect Lu Zhou, he had thought Lu Zhou was a Venerable Master as well. When he was standing in front of Lu Zhou, he did not feel any dangerous aura from Lu Zhou at all. However, this time, he could feel a power that was strong enough to threaten his life shooting toward him. What kind of power was this?

The palm seal was strange.

Everyone could not figure it out. It was a little like the Confucian's Expansive Heavenly Energy palm seal, a little like the Buddhist's Great Vajra Wheel Hand Sign, and a little like the Taoist's palm seals.

At this time, Ye Zheng launched a palm seal to meet Lu Zhou's palm seal.

Boom!

The collision caused a wave of vertical energy to sweep out for 10,000 meters. It felt as though the sky was falling and the earth was splitting. The force from the collision cut a long and deep trench that seemed to have no end in sight on the ground.

Following that, Lu Zhou's palm seal continued to shoot toward Ye Zheng.

Everyone inhaled sharply when they saw Lu Zhou's palm seal manage to repel a Venerable Master's palm seal.

However, that was not the end. The palm seal that seemed like a mixture of the Confucian, Buddhist, and Taoist schools suddenly grew 100 times in size, and its power increased explosively.

Ye Zheng was startled and dropped his arms. He was prepared to retreat.

However, as though it could read Ye Zheng's mind, the palm seal slapped forward at the perfect moment.

Boom!

The palm seal shook heaven and earth, waking the celestials and the demons. This... This was the palm of God Himself!

“...”

Ye Zheng dropped from the sky immediately.

The 35 Confucian scholars cried out in surprise, “Venerable Master Ye!”

Lu Zhou, however, frowned...

### **Chapter 1223: Divine Rebirth**

After passing three Birth Trials, it was incredibly difficult for Venerable Masters to activate Birth Charts. Life hearts of most fierce beasts were useless, and it was a daunting task to obtain life hearts that would be useful to them since they belonged to powerful fierce beasts.

In fact, after activating the 18th Birth Chart and passing the third Birth Trial, one would be in a very awkward phase. After all, one would have difficulty activating more Birth Charts, and if one's Birth Charts were destroyed, it would be an incredibly devastating blow. Therefore, Venerable Masters usually would often do everything they could to protect their Birth Charts.

As a Venerable Master, Ye Zheng had experienced countless things and lived a long life. How could he be without means to protect himself?



Lu Zhou did not receive a notification for destroying a Birth Chart. Instead, he received a different kind of notification.

“Ding! Triggered the fatal effect twice from the Deadly Strike Card.”

“Ding! Killed a target. Reward: 12,000 merit points.”

“A puppet?”

Lu Zhou was perplexed. Since the effect was triggered twice, one had destroyed the puppet, then, the second trigger should have destroyed a Birth Chart. However, he did not receive any notification about destroying Ye Zheng’s Birth Chart.

After thinking about it for a moment, Lu Zhou thought that it did not matter if the opponent was a ghost or a demon. He brought out the Golden Taixu Mirror immediately.

A pillar of golden light shone from the Golden Taixu Mirror, chasing away the darkness.

The golden pillar light shone like the blazing sun on the 35 Confucian scholars. Soon enough, their avatars and their cultivation bases were displayed before everyone’s eyes.

“This is...” Kong Wen was taken aback.

“The Golden Taixu Mirror. It’s a treasure that can reveal everything...” Yu Shangrong said.

“The old sir really hid his strength deeply,” Kong Wen muttered under his breath, “The more I understand, the more ignorant I feel...”

Although Kong Wen was very respectful toward Lu Zhou, he had placed Lu Zhou slightly below Venerable Masters and somewhere along the level of a Free Man. However, he felt as though he had been slapped in the face as he witnessed the old man defeat Ye Zheng, one of the four Venerable Masters of the green lotus domain, with just a palm strike. He felt like he was dreaming. With this kind of strength, should one not cling tightly to such a backer? Why did Sun Mu and his brothers leave the Evil Sky Pavilion?

Meanwhile, Qin Renyue, who was standing at the side, was shocked. How could he not be shocked when his rival who almost always fought to a draw with him was sent flying by the old man with just a palm strike?

Back in the sky, Lu Zhou discovered the Confucian scholars were blocking the light from the Golden Taixu Mirror from reaching Ye Zheng. He raised his voice and said, “Scram!”

Lu Zhou’s thunderous voice shook the earth and shocked the Confucian scholars. However, despite how frightened they were, they could not move away. Even if they died, they could not move away. All of them resolutely blocked Ye Zheng in unison.

Lu Zhou said in a deep voice, “If you don’t move aside for me, don’t blame me for starting a massacre...”

Qin Renyue. “...”

Qin Renyue who was just about to mediate swallowed the words on the tip of his tongue when he saw Lu Zhou’s domineering attitude. It was best not to say anything. Moreover, it might not be a bad thing if

Ye Zheng really died. He also did not mind giving up on the Fire Phoenix; he would just go look for Lu Wu instead.

Even Qin Renyue maintained his silence so how could the others make any noise at this moment? No one dared to make a sound.

When Lu Zhou saw the 35 Confucian scholars still did not move even under the threat of death, he felt like something was amiss. He brought out another item card before he said, "Alright, I'll fulfill your death wish."

Just as Lu Zhou was about to make a move, a voice rang from under the 35 Confucian scholars.

"Activate the formation."

"Understood."

Following that, the 35 Confucian scholars quickly scattered. However, not even Ye Zheng's shadow could be seen.

Lu Zhou knew the 36 Big Dipper Flag Formation needed exactly 36 people. Hence, Ye Zheng would not leave. He held the mirror up and shone it at everyone.

Buzz!

The sound of energy resonance already began to reverberate in the air.

At this time, Lu Zhou saw a human figure weaving in and out of the formation flags, but the Golden Taixu Mirror was unable to capture it.

Then, the strange energy appeared again.

"The power of the Dao?"

An ominous feeling rose in Lu Zhou's heart.

At this time, the 35 Confucian scholars were already in positions. The one who played the crucial role to complete the 36 Big Dipper Flag Formation now was Ye Zheng.

At this moment, Ye Zheng said in a deep voice, "I don't wish to be enemies, but since you forced me, don't blame me for being merciless."

In fact, as Ye Zheng had said earlier, he had come to Unknown Land fully prepared this time. Not only did he bring the 36 Confucian scholars here, but he had also prepared the 36 Big Dipper Flag Formation. After all, this was a great opportunity. Who knew if such an opportunity would present itself in the future?

Qin Renyu, who had retreated into the distance, exclaimed with a hint of admiration, "No wonder the 36 Big Dipper Flag Formation is so powerful. As it turns out, when the flags and people are in their positions, they form an astrolabe."

Lu Zhou took a closer look. Indeed, it resembled the pattern on an astrolabe.

The formation flags began to shine with increasing intensity.

Lu Zhou rose higher into the sky before he pressed his hand down.

A palm seal that seemed to contain the force of the universe fell from the sky.

Ye Zheng flashed and dodged the palm seal. He said calmly, "You're much slower than before."

The light from the 36 Big Dipper Formation Flag fell on Ye Zheng at this time.

"Is that so?" Lu Zhou shattered a Thunderblast Card.

The black script for the word 'Thunder' merged with the darkness of the Unknown Land as it shot toward Ye Zheng, making it difficult for one to avoid. Its speed was incredibly fast before it landed on Ye Zheng.

Boom!

Thunder rang in the air as Ye Zheng felt his body go numb. Then, he fell down again.

Lu Zhou sighed inwardly. It was unfortunate both the death and heavy injury effects were not triggered.

Nevertheless, the shocking effect of the Thunderblast Card was pretty good. It had stunned all the spectators. Since when did Venerable Masters become so weak?

At this time, the light from the Big Dipper Flag Formation shone on Ye Zheng. With that, it healed his injuries swiftly.

After Ye Zheng recovered, he looked at Lu Zhou in disbelief and asked in a deep voice, "Who are you?"

Lu Zhou checked his merit points and discovered he had more than 170,000 merit points. Then, he said, "I want to see how many palm strikes you'll be able to withstand."

The killing intent Lu Zhou emitted at this time was indescribable. Ye Zheng had never felt this way before: uneasy and threatened.

Boom!

Suddenly, from the mountain crevice surrounded by the formation flags, a streak of red flames rushed out again.

The Fire Phoenix had been reborn from the flames!

The mountains collapsed and the earth trembled and cracked as flames spread everywhere.

The Fire Phoenix flapped its wings, sending flames that killed indiscriminately flying in all directions.

In the dark Unknown Land, everyone watched as what looked like the sun with a pair of wings slowly rose.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The 35 Confucian scholars struggled to hold for a few seconds before they were sent flying; all of them vomited blood.

The Fire Phoenix had grown stronger!

“It has been reborn into a divine beast!”

“It’s over! The Fire Phoenix has become a divine beast!”

“Run!”

The spectators no longer dared to stay and fled in a panic.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong turned around and asked, “Where’s Old Fourth?”

“Don’t worry about him. Whitzard, run!”

The duo flanked Whitzard as they flew away.

Yan Zhenluo and Lu Li had a perfect understanding. They exchanged a look and said in unison, “What are you waiting for? Run?”

When Kong Wen and his brothers regained their senses, they fled in a hurry as well.

At this time, the Fire Phoenix did not pay attention to the others. Its attention was focused on the two experts. It screeched as it rushed up into the sky.

Now that a divine beast had appeared, the Venerable Masters had to retreat. Qin Renyue and Ye Zheng could sense intense danger from the Fire Phoenix at this moment.

The Fire Phoenix opened its beak again and spat out a stream of flames, setting the land on fire. Then, it spun in the air, burning the formation flags to crisps.

The Confucian scholars closest to it instinctively activated their avatars to protect themselves. Even if they had sacrificed their Birth Charts, it was better than losing their lives. The flames quickly engulfed them.

Upon seeing this, Ye Zheng used the power of the Dao before he flashed up. He did not care about other matters at this moment and could only focus on retreating.

At this time, Qin Renyue hurriedly said, “Go!”

The 49 Swordsmen hurriedly gathered and retreated.

#### **Chapter 1224: Invincible and Indestructible**

Whenever the Fire Phoenix flapped its wings, it would leave a sea of fire in its wake.

Forests of ancient trees, plants, and rocks were drowned by the sea of fire.

Lu Zhou was not worried about himself, but he was worried about his disciples. He instinctively turned to look and discovered his disciples had already retreated far away.

The Fire Phoenix continued to spit fire, mercilessly slaughtering the 35 Confucian scholars. As Lu Zhou watched the fire burn their astrolabe and destroy their Birth Charts, he could tell the fire was not ordinary.

The power of a divine beast was beyond everyone’s imagination.

Ye Zheng wanted to retreat, but when he saw his disciples being burned into crisps one after another, he roared, "Fine, I'll fight it out with you!"

Ye Zheng turned around and swooped down before he joined his palms together. At this time, he displayed the strength of a Venerable Master. Figures appeared one after another until they numbered in the thousands before they launched thousands of palm seals toward the Fire Phoenix.

Upon seeing Ye Zheng flying toward the sea of flames, Qin Renyue could not help but sigh even if they were enemies.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The palm seals landed on the Fire Phoenix's body. However, the flames seemed to have protected it, leaving it uninjured. Then, it flapped its wings again and let out a cry that shook the heavens and earth.

The 'sun' seemed to explode at this moment.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Regardless whether it was a living thing or an inanimate object, everything was sent flying.

The mountain crevice no longer existed as the flames burned the ground down, forming a huge crater. Rubble and rocks flew up into the air.

It was as though the end of the world had arrived.

Flames engulfed everything.

After the Fire Phoenix unleashed its ultimate move, it hovered in the air like a statue, seemingly preparing for its next attack.

None of the cultivators had witnessed the strength of a divine beast before. At this moment, the immensity of its strength finally dawned on them. Its ultimate move directly destroyed everyone's Birth Charts.

Thousand Realms Whirling avatars appeared and disappeared in the sky repeatedly.

The injured cultivators on the ground wailed in grief.

Only Lu Zhou, Ye Zheng, and Qin Renyue's avatars did not appear.

Lu Zhou glanced at the system panel. As expected, he had one less Critical Block Card.

At this time, Ye Zheng and Qin Renyue finally realized they had been manipulated by the Fire Phoenix. It was a highly intelligent beast to begin with. It was noble so it disdained to learn the human language; it did not mean it was stupid. How could it not be aware that it would be at its weakest when it was so close to being reborn? Why would it reckless cause such a big commotion as though to announce its location? The answer was obvious: it had deliberately done so. Why? It wanted to use the power of Venerable Masters to complete its rebirth.

Apart from the 35 Confucian scholars, the 49 Swordsmen also collectively lose a Birth Chart each. They hovered in the air, on the verge of collapse.

Ye Zheng looked down at his disciples with grief and anger. He wanted to leave but found that he could not move. The high temperature had his body stiff.

Lu Zhou wondered if he should continue chasing after Fire Phoenix as he silently chanted the incantation for the Heavenly Writing Power to remove the stiffness caused by the heat. The divine power shrouded him, and he swiftly regained mobility.

At this time, Qin Renyue roared, "Break!"

The strange power shrouded the 49 Swordsmen in the sky, returning their mobility to them.

Qin Renyue pushed the 49 Swordsmen away from the sea of flames and shouted, "Go!"

Following that, Qin Renyue turned to look at Ye Zheng and said, "You brought this upon yourself!"

Ye Zheng looked at the disciples in the sea of fire with a hint of despair. Then, he quickly rushed down to try and save a few of them.

At the same time, Qin Renyue looked at Lu Zhou and said, "Sir, come with me."

"You?" Lu Zhou cocked an eyebrow.

"If you don't leave now, it'll be too late," Qin Renyue said, "To tell you the truth, I have a special ability that can protect us..."

Lu Zhou looked at the sea of fire. Then, he no longer hesitated and flew north.

Ye Zheng carried a few people with him before flying north as well. Lu Wu was there. Perhaps, if the two beasts fought, it would buy them some time to escape.

Swoosh!

The Fire Phoenix flew out like a bullet as it held its wings close to its body, chasing after everyone. As it flew, it spat out flames, leaving a new line of flames in its wake,

Qin Renyue frowned, sensing the strangeness of Lu Zhou's speed. He said hurriedly, "Let's go!"

Lu Zhou turned to have a look.

The Fire Phoenix's speed was astonishing! In just a blink of an eye, it had closed 10,000 meters between them. It spread its wings again and swooped down, setting the land ablaze. Everything its wings touched turned to crisps.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Lu Zhou raised his hand and imbued it with the divine power.

Qin Renyue flashed away, but the energy stirred up by the Fire Phoenix's wings were too great and sent him crashing to the ground.

Ye Zheng was no exception and was sent crashing down as well.

Only Lu Zhou maintained his flight in the air and faced the flaming wings with his hand.

The divine power and the Fire Phoenix were locked in a stalemate!

Although the divine power was very powerful, it was not inexhaustible. With this level of consumption, Lu Zhou knew it would not take long for the divine power to be completely exhausted.

Lu Zhou sighed inwardly. Perhaps, he had been too greedy. In the end, he had fallen into a disadvantageous position. At this time, his divine power was almost exhausted. He thought about summoning Whizard but thought it was probably too late.

In the end, Lu Zhou had no choice but to use the only trump card he had left for now: the enhanced Impeccable Card! It was necessary to use this card. First, the Fire Phoenix was known as the Immortal Bird; it would not die easily. Second, the divine beast's strength was too domineering. With just a move, he had lost a Critical Block Card. Therefore, the best choice was to use the five Golden Buddha's Body.

Buzz!

The first Golden Buddha's Body was 30 meters tall; it lifted the wings of the Fire Phoenix.

The order seemed to be different from the last time.

Meanwhile, Ye Zheng and Qin Renyue watched in shock.

Buzz!

The second Golden Buddha's Body appeared; it was 200 meters tall. It lifted the Fire Phoenix's wings again.

The Fire Phoenix was incredibly intelligent. When it noticed something was amiss, it began to flap its wings again.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Nevertheless, Lu Zhou was as immovable as Mount Tai.

The third and fourth Golden Buddha's Body appeared almost simultaneously before the fifth and final Golden Buddha's Body appeared and suddenly grew to 1,000 feet tall.

Following that, all five Golden Buddhas' Bodies moved in unison and sent the Fire Phoenix flying with their hands.

Boom!

"..."

The two Venerable Masters were dumbfounded. The seemingly invincible Fire Phoenix was sent flying just like that by the Golden Buddhas' Bodies?

Lu Zhou hovered in the middle of the five-layer Golden Buddha's Body and looked at the Fire Phoenix, which he had sent flying, coldly. He had ten minutes; no matter what, he had to give a thorough beating at least. "You vile creature! Let me show you why humans are apex predators!"

'This is the price you have to pay for stealing my limelight!'

Lu Zhou rushed over with the five-layer Golden Buddha's Body.

At this time, the Fire Phoenix had fallen to the ground. It felt that its dignity and pride had been trampled on and was greatly humiliated. Then, it grew agitated and began to flap its wings in a frenzy.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

As the Fire Phoenix flapped its wings at an astonishing speed, it began to spin, forming a flaming storm.

However, although the five-layer Golden Buddha's Body was caught in the fiery storm, it was not damaged at all.

No matter how the Fire Phoenix attacked, the five-layer Golden Buddha's Body seemed indestructible.

Flames spread in all directions, burning another crater into the ground.

### **Chapter 1225: The Second Avatar**

The Fire Phoenix seemed to have gone berserk. It would soar to the sky and then, it would swoop down repeatedly. It would circle the air as it spewed flames from its mouth as well.

Under the protection of the five Golden Buddhas' Bodies, Lu Zhou was completely unharmed. However, he was still slightly surprised by the Fire Phoenix's terrifying combat strength.

In just a blink of an eye, Lu Zhou and the Fire Phoenix's battle had moved about 100 kilometers away.

Swoosh!

After a while, the Fire Phoenix flapped its wings again. It erupted with even more powerful flames that shot in all directions.

...

From a distance, everything looked like they had been drowned in flames.

The Fire Phoenix's attacks destroyed heaven and earth. All living things that were affected were instantly killed. Even the flying beasts that flew in the sky were killed without exception, dropping from the sky one after another. The smell of burning permeated the Unknown Land.

At this time, the dark Unknown Land was incomparably bright. The area within a radius of 50 kilometers was brightly lit.

The cultivators who had retreated from the affected area felt their hearts surged with emotions as they hovered in the air and watched this scene that they would likely not be able to see again in their lives. It was truly an unforgettable sight. They were so stunned as they watched that it seemed as though they had forgotten they were still in the incredibly dangerous Unknown Land.

Yu Zhenghai, Yu Shangrong, and the others who had also left the affected area were also watching in disbelief.

At this time, Little Yuan'er pointed at the sea of fire and said worriedly, "That's master's Golden Buddha's Body!"



Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong remained silent.

The Fire Phoenix that was reborn was now a divine beast. If they said they were not worried at all, they would be lying.

Their master's cultivation base had always been a mystery to them. They could make guesses among themselves and would be proven wrong every single time.

Lu Li said with a reassuring smile, "Don't worry. The Pavilion Master's cultivation base isn't any weaker than the two Venerable Masters. Even if he can't defeat the Fire Phoenix, it won't be a problem for him to escape."

Yan Zhenluo said, "Hey, do you really still think the Pavilion Master is your ancestor?"

"Facts speak louder than words..."

"Hey, how can you call lying through your teeth facts?" Yan Zhenluo retorted.

Lu Li said, "I'm too lazy to argue with you..."

Little Yuan'er looked at the sea of flames intently as she asked, "Senior brothers, do you think you can catch and tame this bird?"

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong. "..."

How should they answer this question? The Fire Phoenix was a divine beast; how could they subdue and tame it? Even Venerable Masters were no match for it, let alone them.

"Of course, that's possible," Kong Wen chimed in at this moment.

"..."

Everyone looked at Kong Wen.

Kong Wen said solemnly, "Divine beasts are honorable. Indeed, it's very difficult to subdue them. Moreover, the fact that they live in the heart of the Unknown Land makes it even more difficult to find them and subdue them. However, it's very difficult but it's not impossible. The Fire Phoenix is most vulnerable when it's about to be reborn. If it's defeated at this time, its strength would weaken. It's known as the Immortal Bird because it can rise from the ashes. However, its rebirth ability isn't without limitations..."

"What limitations?"

Kong Wen shook his head and said, "Even the two Venerable Masters don't know, let alone someone like me. Otherwise, how could it successfully be reborn into a divine beast today?"

"In the end, there's still no way to subdue it," Little Yuan'er said.

Kong Wen smiled and said, "In fact, fierce beasts are similar to humans. They also revere the strong. One can subdue it with absolute strength or wait for when it's weak to subdue it. Needless to say, the first method is the way of the king, but the second method would not garner its loyalty even after it's

subdued. Hence, it's best to subdue it with absolute strength. Alas, the Venerable Masters aren't strong enough to do so..."

Everyone sighed upon hearing these words.

...

The Golden Buddhas' Bodies that looked 1,000 feet tall collectively charged out.

After unleashing its heaven-defying attack, it stayed still in the air again as it spread its wings. It looked majestic, beautiful, and soul-stirring despite its destructive strength. At this time, its flames seemed to dim slightly.

Lu Zhou studied the Fire Phoenix at a close distance. Flames shrouded it; every feather looked as though it was made from flames.

"Expansive Heavenly Energy palm seal..." Lu Zhou flew high up before he launched dozens of palm strikes.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

All the palm seals landed on the Fire Phoenix's body, causing flames to fly out in all directions.

Alas, no matter how many times Lu Zhou attacked, it was futile. Even a Venerable Master could not harm it, let alone Lu Zhou who only had nine Birth Charts. At this time, he only had very little divine power left, and Whizard was not around.

'Should I use another Deadly Strike Card? However, it'll be reborn again...'

At this time, the Fire Phoenix flapped its wings again and soared into the sky. It circled back and attacked in an even more frenzied state. It struck at Lu Zhou recklessly.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The sky was completely occupied by Lu Zhou's five-layer Golden Buddha's Body and the Fire Phoenix.

The mountains and forests were drowned by the flames. They were burned down, turning the ground flat. Countless lives were lost or in dire straits.

Qin Renyue hovered in the air as he protected the 49 Swordsmen with great difficulty. All of them watched the battle in the distance wordlessly.

On the other hand, Ye Zheng, who was in a terrible state, wore an unsightly expression on his face. Although Venerable Masters were powerful, they were far from being able to contend with a divine beast like the Fire Phoenix.

"The Fire Phoenix has just been reborn into a divine beast so it's unable to breach the Golden Buddha's Body's defenses. However, the old gentleman seems unable to harm the Fire Phoenix as well..." Yuan Lang said at this moment, "He must specialize in defense. He seems to be stronger than a Venerable Master but weaker than a Saint..."

...

The Fire Phoenix did not hold back and attacked Lu Zhou's five-layer Golden Buddha's Body with all its might.

After five to six minutes, the trees, mountains, and beasts in the vicinity had been burned down.

After the Fire Phoenix attacked with all its might, even if it was an Immortal Bird, it seemed a little helpless and exhausted.

At this time, Lu Zhou knew time was running out. He would not be able to contend with the Fire Phoenix anymore once the five-layer Golden Buddha's Body vanished. He could still buy a Deadly Strike Card, but it would be a waste.

"Bast\*rd, do you really think I can't do anything to you?"

The Fire Phoenix raised its head and let out a long screech that shook the earth. It stared at Lu Zhou and made strange noises as though it was trying to communicate with Lu Zhou. Then, it flapped its wings and flew away.

Just when Lu Zhou turned to fly away, the Fire Phoenix suddenly screeched and made a sharp turn back to Lu Zhou and spat flames out.

Lu Zhou reacted quickly and used all the remaining divine power to counter the attack and manifested his blue avatar.

The palm seal imbued with Lu Zhou's divine power was like a mountain as it shot past the Fire Phoenix's flames and landed on its chest.

Boom!

The Fire Phoenix was sent flying back.

Similarly, Lu Zhou, with his five Golden Buddhas' Bodies, was pushed back 100 meters.

Then, two opponents faced each other from afar.

At this time, the cultivators in the distance could not see much; all they saw was the golden light and the sea of flames. Since Lu Zhou's second avatar was too small, they could not see it at all.

Meanwhile, when the Fire Phoenix saw Lu Zhou's blue avatar, its wings seemed to stiffen slightly before the fire in its eyes dimmed. Then, it made gurgling noises that somewhat sounded like that of a turkey or a pigeon.

"Hmm?" Lu Zhou was baffled.

At this time, the Fire Phoenix folded its wings, and the flames on its body died down.

The world darkened and fell silent again.

In the sky, the black fog surged violently as though something was disturbing it.

Lu Zhou frowned when he sensed the strange energy in the fog. "An even stronger fierce beast?"

## **Chapter 1226: The Beast Emperor Arrives**

The black fog suddenly parted, and one could clearly sense a huge thing rushing out from the fog.

‘Is this the reason why the Fire Phoenix put away its arrogance and distinguished its flames?’

Lu Zhou looked at his five-layer Golden Buddha’s Body. It was really too dazzling. He really wanted to cancel the effect of the Impeccable Card now; he was too obvious of a target. However, the Fire Phoenix was still hovering in front of him. If he canceled the effect, he would have a hard time defending himself against it.

‘Flee?’ Lu Zhou thought about it for a moment but felt like fleeing did not fit his style. ‘If I don’t kill this turkey, what’s going to happen to my reputation?’

At the same time, the Fire Phoenix was looking at the rolling black fog in the sky as well. It was clear its intelligence was not inferior to that of humans. All of a sudden, it squeaked and quickly descended to the ground in a crouching posture.

“What’s this?” Lu Zhou was really baffled.

Then, a strange noise rang in the air.

Lu Zhou looked down and saw the Fire Phoenix unfurling its wings before it slowly rose up. On the ground, there was a flaming red phoenix egg.

“...”

The Fire Phoenix seemed to have lost all its fighting spirit at this moment. It babbled and made a string of incomprehensible noises at Lu Zhou before it spread its wings and swiftly flew south.

Lu Zhou was further baffled. He almost wanted to call out, ‘Don’t leave! You forgot your child!’

Alas, the Fire Phoenix’s speed was too fast.

At this time, Lu Zhou could no longer care about the Fire Phoenix. After all, there seemed to be a fierce beast that was even more powerful than the Fire Phoenix in the black fog. If that was the case, he was doomed.

In the end, Lu Zhou thought it was best to leave for now. Under such circumstances, he could no longer care about his image. He looked at the egg. After a brief moment, he swooped over and quickly wrapped the phoenix egg up in his sleeve before flying away.

Lu Zhou canceled the effect of the Impeccable Card as he flew away. After flying to the distance, he turned around to have a look.

Everything had calmed down.

The black fog in the sky had stopped surging and looked normal as well.

“The Equalizer?”

If it was a fierce beast, it would have entered the battle earlier. Could it be that the Fire Phoenix’s strength as a divine beast had further disrupted the balance? Was that why an Equalizer came?

Lan Xihe had once said she was one of the Equalizers. Equalizers might not be invincible, but they had to possess a certain amount of strength. The Kun in the Endless Ocean was a natural Equalizer. It was far more powerful than any known fierce beasts or humans. Even the systems had indicated that it would have to exhaust all its power just to kill the Kun. Moreover, it might not even be able to kill the Kun. The Kun had lived for a long time in the Endless Ocean, how could it be without means to survive?

Lu Zhou's thoughts wandered to Ye Zheng. Ye Zheng was not without means at all to survive a life-or-death situation. Although the death effect was triggered, Ye Zheng was still alive. Could it be that Ye Zheng had three puppets? It would explain how Ye Zheng survived the double trigger from the Deadly Strike Card and the collective demotion from the Fire Phoenix.

Following that, Lu Zhou began to fly again. He followed the burnt trail to find his way back. After 15 minutes, he saw Qin Renyue and the 49 Swordsmen in the sky. He saw Ye Zhen, who resembled a piece of charcoal at this moment, sitting cross-legged in the sky as well. He thought that if a confrontation broke out now, he would have no choice but to use up his remaining merit points. Nevertheless, there was no change in his expression as he flew over.

Meanwhile, Qin Renyue's smile grew wider and wider when he saw Lu Zhou. "Congratulations, old sir, for defeating the Fire Phoenix."

The 49 Swordsmen bowed in unison at Lu Zhou. All of them looked terrible after losing a Birth Chart each. They had lost their imposing air and looked meek.

At this time, Ye Zheng suddenly opened his eyes. He looked at Lu Zhou who was hovering at a lower altitude. Although he was wary of Lu Zhou's terrifying strength, he could hardly conceal the hatred in his eyes. Out of the 36 Confucian scholars, only three to five of them were left in just a blink of an eye. He had used all his strength to save these few people. Alas, even if their lives were saved, it would be difficult for them to return to peak condition. With all these thoughts running in his mind, his gaze grew fierce and the frown on his face deepened.

One of the Confucian scholars at the side, who was charred black, grabbed Ye Zheng and said in a low voice, "V-venerable Master Ye... Endure... You must endure..."

With that, the hatred in Ye Zheng's eyes gradually faded away and was replaced by calmness. It had been a long time since he had felt such emotional fluctuations like today. Seeing the Confucian scholars die before his eyes had undoubtedly dealt him a heavy blow.

At this moment...

"Sorry for being late..."

A deep and powerful voice that contained a hint of playfulness rang out.

Everyone turned in the direction of the voice and saw a flying chariot that looked like a ghost ship sailing over.

Qin Renyue frowned. "Tuoba Sicheng?"

Lu Zhou looked over as well. The situation had just gotten more complicated.

Ye Zheng did not show his emotions, but his eyes flashed before he said, "Brother Tuoba, how have you been?"

"Venerable Master Ye is here as well? It seems like I missed an exciting show..." Tuoba Sicheng said in a leisurely tone.

Qin Renyue said, "You're indeed late, but it's a good thing that you're late..."

"What do you mean?"

"The Fire Phoenix was reborn into a divine beast and destroyed the 36 Big Dipper Flag Formation. Venerable Master Ye is only left with three to five of his men now," Qin Renyue said. His words were filled with hidden thorns; not only did he use his words to intimidate the other party, but he also did not forget to rub salt in Ye Zheng's wound.

Ye Zheng's heart burned with anger, but his expression remained the same.

Tuoba Sicheng exclaimed in surprise, "It reborn into a divine beast? You really dodged a disaster. Two Venerable Masters, please visit my humble abode for a gathering when you're free. I'll take my leave now..."

Qin Renyue bluntly asked, "You want to take down Lu Wu?"

Tuoba Sicheng smiled. "Venerable Master Qin, do you plan to fight for it?"

Tuoba Sicheng was certain that fighting the Fire Phoenix had exhausted all their power. He thought he had come at the right time.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The sound of something monstrously huge stomping on the ground rang in the air suddenly, causing the earth to tremble.

A huge head emerged from the darkness at this moment before a voice rang in the air. "You want... to... take me down?"

"Lu Wu?!"

"Retreat! Retreat!"

Qin Renyue and the 49 Swordsmen retreated swiftly.

Ye Zheng also hastily gathered his few men and retreated.

Tuoba Sicheng, who was in the black flying chariot, was surprised. He did not expect Lu Wu would come here. He retreated as well.

Everyone looked as though they were facing a formidable enemy.

Only one person stood unmoving in the air: Lu Zhou. He stroked his beard calmly as he looked at everyone scrambling away.

Qin Renyue looked at Lu Zhou meaningfully and gestured for Lu Zhou to hurry over as he said, "Old sir."

Qin Renyue did not want any harm to come to Lu Zhou. Just the fact that Lu Zhou was able to escape unscathed when faced with the Fire Phoenix was enough for him to be friendly toward Lu Zhou.

At this moment, Duanmu Sheng, who was holding the Overlord Spear, appeared above Lu Wu's head. He bowed and said, "Greetings, master."

"There's no need for formalities," Lu Zhou said.

Following that, Lu Wu lowered its height and said, "Greetings, Pavilion Master."

Since Lu Wu had joined the Evil Sky Pavilion, it had to abide by the rules of the pavilions like the humans. There was no exception.

Everyone. "..."

A heavy silence descended immediately. The whooshing sound of the wind rang in everyone's ears and blew against them like cold knives.

Lu Wu's words stunned the three Venerable Masters.

'The old man wasn't lying! Lu Wu, the beast emperor, is really his subordinate!'

Everyone had thought Lu Zhou was bragging, but as it turned out, he was just stating facts!

### **Chapter 1227: Demotion (1)**

Humans looked down on the weak even if they were covered with silver and gold. As for the strong, no matter how poorly they were dressed, they would still be respected. Absolute strength was everything.

Lu Zhou noticed the changes in Qin Renyue and Ye Zheng's expressions. Ye Zheng's expression was particularly unsightly.

Tuoba Sicheng, who was still in the flying chariot, was briefly stunned. Then, he walked out to the deck of the flying chariot and stood against the darkness. He asked curiously, "You are?"

Qin Renyue said with a smile, "Venerable Master Tuoba, this is the person who defeated the Fire Phoenix..."

At this moment, Qin Renyue realized he did not know Lu Zhou's name, and an awkward expression appeared on his face.

Lu Zhou looked at the person in the flying chariot and asked, "You want my beast emperor?"

Tuoba Sicheng thought to himself, 'This old man doesn't look simple. He's too calm. Although he doesn't feel powerful, his bearing, words, and actions spoke of his strength. They aren't something that can be cultivated overnight. Moreover, Qin Renyue isn't a fool. For Qin Renyue to be so friendly to him, he's definitely not a weakling... There are many experts in the Unknown Land, but I'm sure he's not from the green lotus domain. In that case, where did he come from?'

Tuoba Sicheng did not ask about Lu Zhou's origin. After all, he could send his men to investigate it later. Instead, he said politely, "Friend, don't misunderstand. I wasn't aware that Lu Wu has a master. After all, Lu Wu is a rare beast emperor. Is there anyone who doesn't covet it?"

Qin Renyue sneered inwardly. 'This old thing really knows how to act according to the situation...'

The three Venerable Masters had lived for a long time, after all. How could they not know when to advance and when to retreat?

Initially, Ye Zheng thought Tuoba Sicheng's arrival would bring a much-needed change to the situation. Moreover, Lu Zhou had fought the Fire Phoenix for so long; logically, they should have a chance to seek revenge. However, Lu Wu's appearance and Tuoba Sicheng's sudden change in attitude had completely destroyed his initial thoughts. He endured it and said, "As it turns out, the old sir was telling the truth. Forgive me for my earlier transgression..."

Lu Zhou glanced at Ye Zheng. He thought Ye Zheng's skills in enduring were quite terrifying.

No one would expect a Venerable Master could be in such a sorry state; his hair was disheveled and he was in a mess.

Tuoba Sicheng laughed and said, "I remember Lu Wu's former master, Venerable Master Duan. You're really amazing to make Lu Wu submit to you..."

Lu Wu was rather unhappy that it was being ignored. It growled. "What... do you... know..."

Tuoba Sicheng. "..."

Qin Renyue. "..."

At this time, another figure flew over.

Everyone was instantly on high alert. They thought the fourth Venerable Master had arrived.

At this time, the figure arrived, waving his hand. He said with a smile on his face, "Sorry, please continue... Doggy, come over here!"

Mingshi Yin grabbed Qiong Qi and turned it around. Then, he called out sheepishly, "Master."

Lu Zhou looked at Mingshi Yin, perplexed.

Mingshi Yin explained, "I went to look for Lu Wu. Third Senior Brother can verify this! I just didn't expect Lu Wu to be so fast..."

Indeed. Mingshi Yin had taken advantage of the chaos and flew north to look for Lu Wu. He knew Lu Wu would not hurt him with Duanmu Sheng around.

Mingshi Yin scratched his head and asked, "Uh... Where's that turkey?"

Everyone. "..."

When the three Venerable Masters discovered that Mingshi Yin was Lu Zhou's disciples, they cupped their fists together at him.

It had to be said that Mingshi Yin did a good job.

Lu Wu's appearance was truly timely.



Ye Zheng had been attacked three times with deadly forces and lost most of his men, Qin Renyue seemed inclined toward Lu Zhou, Tuoba Sicheng stayed neutral, and Lu Zhou and Lu Wu were in a solid alliance. With this, one could clearly see where the power lay.

At this time, Tuoba Sicheng said, "It seems like I came for nothing today. I'll take my leave now. Farewell."

Naturally, no one would stop a Venerable Master.

The flying chariot turned around after Tuoba Sicheng returned to it and swiftly vanished into the distance.

Ye Zheng could feel the strangeness in the atmosphere immediately. He instantly said, "What happened today was all a misunderstanding. Farewell."

However...

"Wait," Lu Wu called out in a deep voice.

"Hmm?" Ye Zheng frowned.

Lu Wu stared at Ye Zheng.

Everyone knew Lu Wu's intelligence was not inferior to that of humans. However, they did not know it was petty and would not forget a grudge. It disdained humans even if it mastered human language. It was not bound by human principles, morals, or rationality. Hence...

Boom!

Without warning, Lu Wu stomped on the ground and leaped up. When it was 100 meters up in the air, it opened its maw and spat out a cloud of mist at Ye Zheng.

Creak!

The sound of freezing rang in the air as the temperature dropped swiftly. The entire place was permeated with freezing air.

Ye Zheng raised his hand and manifested his astrolabe before him.

It could be seen that regardless of cultivation bases, most cultivators would not simply manifest their avatars. After all, it was of utmost importance that they protect their Birth Charts. Hence, astrolabes usually played the main role in replacing the avatars.

The air froze.

Ye Zheng was calm as he used the power of the Dao.

Bang!

Ye Zheng flew higher into the sky with his astrolabe.

The freezing energy continued to spread out.

Lu Wu had not used its full strength yet. After all, this scene could not compare to when it used its ultimate move on the monster hunting squad.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou did not expect Lu Wu to make a move as well. However, he could not deny that he was not very willing to let Ye Zheng leave as well. Alas, Ye Zheng was a Venerable Master so he had to be careful with his decisions. If Qin Renyue or Tuoba Sicheng intervened, it would be troublesome.

Lu Zhou turned to look at Qin Renyue, and instantly, felt like he had been overthinking things when he saw Qin Renyue smiling as he looked at Ye Zheng and muttering, "Ha, you'd also have such a day..."

"..."

The freezing energy froze the five Confucian scholars into ice sculptures.

Ye Zheng's expression was fearsome as he flew away from the range of the Ice Seal skill.

"Ding! Destroyed a Birth Chart. Reward: 3,000 merit points."

"Ding! Destroyed a Birth Chart. Reward: 3,000 merit points."

"Ding! Destroyed a Birth Chart. Reward: 3,000 merit points."

"Ding! Destroyed a Birth Chart. Reward: 3,000 merit points."

"Ding! Destroyed a Birth Chart. Reward: 3,000 merit points."

"Ding! Killed a target. Reward: 3,500 merit points. Domain bonus: 1,500 merit points."

"Ding! Killed a target. Reward: 3,500 merit points. Domain bonus: 1,500 merit points."

"Ding! Killed a target. Reward: 3,500 merit points. Domain bonus: 1,500 merit points."

"Ding! Killed a target. Reward: 3,500 merit points. Domain bonus: 1,500 merit points."

"Ding! Killed a target. Reward: 3,500 merit points. Domain bonus: 1,500 merit points."

Lu Zhou was surprised by this series of notifications. The fact that he was being rewarded for Lu Wu's kills meant that Lu Wu had truly acknowledged Duanmu Sheng as its master.

Meanwhile, Lu Wu seemed to have expected Ye Zheng would escape its Ice Seal skill. It leaped up and roared.

A powerful soundwave rolled out as Lu Wu landed on the ground and leaped forward. It covered 1,000 meters with just this leap alone. Its fangs were bared at Ye Zheng's astrolabe.

Ye Zheng said in a deep voice, "You're not enough to kill me."

The green astrolabe grew and covered the sky. 18 Birth Charts lit up one after another.

With Ye Zheng in the center, the light from the astrolabe shone on him. The pillars of light shone down and formed a round cage.

Lu Wu was not afraid at all. "Ye Zheng, accept your death!"

Duanmu Sheng, who had landed on the ground, looked at Lu Wu unblinkingly.

Upon seeing the worried expression on Duanmu Sheng's face, Mingshi Yin said, "Don't worry. This Venerable Master is strong, but I don't think he'd be able to hold out for long."

Lu Wu's fur stood on end. Its body was suffused with faint light, and its fangs and claws glinted coldly.

Ye Zheng opened his hand up before the power of the astrolabe shot out.

It looked like glowing green bricks with strange symbols carved on them.

Lu Wu roared angrily and unleashed its power without restraint.

Boom!

Everyone was briefly blinded by the sudden explosion of light, and their ears rang. They could not see what was going on, but they knew Lu Wu and Ye Zheng had used their strongest moves.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou used the Confinement Seal to shield him.

When everything subsided, Qin Renyue and the 49 Swordsmen looked shocked.

Lu Wu, the beast emperor, was truly powerful.

As far as the eyes could see, the land was frozen.

At this time, a cracking sound rang in the air before the green astrolabe with 18 Birth Charts shot into the sky.

Ye Zheng was also flying up into the sky at this moment.

Bang!

An abnormally huge ice arrow followed suit and hit the astrolabe accurately.

"Ding! Destroyed one Birth Chart. Reward: 5,000 merit points for destroying a Venerable Master's Birth Chart."

"..."

At this moment, everyone looked as though they had been struck by lightning.

## **Chapter 1228: Demotion (2)**

A strange light flashed in Qin Renyue's eyes as he looked at Ye Zheng.

The 49 Swordsmen watched in shock as the astrolabe swiftly shrank to more than twice its original size.

Someone cried out in shock, "He lost a Birth Chart! He was demoted!"

"Even a Venerable Master lost Birth Chart to Lu Wu! Lu Wu is really too powerful..."

Lu Zhou looked at the Primal Qi that was beginning to stir in the sky as he thought to himself, 'Hey, if it weren't for my Deadly Strike Card's two death triggers and the Fire Phoenix's ultimate skill, Lu Wu wouldn't have been able to take away one of his Birth Chart.'

This meant that Ye Zheng could block fatal strikes to his Birth Chart thrice.

When Qin Renyue heard the conversation in his surroundings, he said, "Not necessarily..."

Lu Zhou turned and asked, perplexed, "You have so much confidence in him?"

Qin Renyue said, "I've fought Ye Zheng for nearly 5,000 years, and we often discussed the Dao on Clear Sky Mountain. Perhaps, there's no one in this world who's more familiar with him than I am. His cultivation is very high. In the early days after he passed his third Birth Trials, he had searched for ways to protect his Birth Charts. Heh, even Venerable Masters are afraid of losing Birth Charts, after all."

Qin Renyue continued to say, "Ye Zheng has been searching for his 19th life heart. At this stage, although a beast emperor's life heart could be used, there's a high chance of failure. It'd be better to use a divine beast's life heart. All these years, he's been searching for divine beasts. He's bolder than others in actions. Hence, he certainly has the means to protect his Birth Charts, and he would do anything to protect them..."

Lu Zhou asked, "What kind of means?"

Qin Renyue shrugged, indicating that he did not know. This was a private matter, after all. How could Ye Zheng easily reveal such information?

Lu Zhou thought it was no wonder the 36 Confucian scholars stubbornly blocked Ye Zheng even under the threat of death when he brought out the Golden Taixu Mirror earlier.

Boom!

Lu Wu landed. It looked at the sky triumphantly.

Under the astrolabe, an unprecedentedly violent Primal Qi storm began to rage. The energy was like knives cutting through the ice.

At this time, Ye Zheng's hair was even more disheveled than before. His eyes were brimming with hatred and anger.

Yuan Lang, one of the 49 Swordsmen, said with a sigh, "From today onward, Ye Zheng would no longer be a Venerable Master, and there would no longer be four Venerable Masters in the green lotus domain..."

"No." Qin Renyue shook his head. "Even if he lost a Birth Chart, he can use his lifespan to recover it within three days and return to being a Venerable Master."

"..."

If Qin Renyue did not mention this matter to the 49 Swordsmen, Lu Zhou would have been unaware of it.

Venerable Masters were truly powerful. With 18 Birth Charts, their lives were long so they had more than enough to protect themselves.

“Let me see what kind of monster he is...” Lu Zhou brought the Golden Taixu Mirror out. He imbued whatever little divine power he had left into the Golden Taixu Mirror. At this time, the blue avatar in his Dantian’s sea of Qi that was filled with energy was instantly drained of divine power and it disappeared.

A beam of golden light shone down on Ye Zheng.

A small avatar was revealed under the golden light. It was shaped like a chicken with three heads that possessed six eyes, six legs, and three pairs of wings. However, where the three heads used to be, there were only three stumps.

With this, Lu Zhou was reminded of Ye Zhen.

Qin Renyue exclaimed in surprise, “No wonder! It’s Shang Fu the three-headed bird!”

Mingshi Yin shook his head. “I don’t understand what these people are thinking. They don’t want to walk on the right path and cultivate unorthodox methods instead...”

Qin Renyue said with a smile, “This is why I hate Ye Zheng... He’s clearly from an orthodox Confucian sect. However, in order to further his cultivation, he has forgotten his heart. He acts like a gentleman all day long, but to think he had secretly refined Shang Fu to replace his avatar...”

Lu Zhou asked, “Do you know Ye Zhen?”

“Ye Zhen?” Qin Renyue shook his head.

Mingshi Yin said, “Ye Zhen’s avatar is even more exaggerated than his. It was a nine-headed monster. It seems like many people used this method to save themselves... The people from other domains are really unscrupulous... How did he do it exactly?”

Qin Renyue said, “It’s an ancient taboo technique from the ancient books. I really didn’t expect him to resort to using this method. No wonder he always requested that we refrain from using our avatars during our sparring sessions...”

“Of course. Then, he would have exposed himself. How could he have dared to use it during a sparring session...” Mingshi Yin said, “By the way, you really have never heard of Ye Zhen?”

“No.” Qin Renyue shook his head. For Lu Zhou’s sake, he was rather patient.

“Ye Zheng, Ye Zhen... Not only do their names sound alike, but they’re both Confucian scholars as well. They’re even dressed alike...” Mingshi Yin said.

Qin Renyue shrugged. “Perhaps, only those from Yunnan’s Blessed Land have the answers...”

...

After a while, the Primal Qi storm began to slowly die down.

At this time, the astrolabe had already vanished.

Lu Wu looked at the sky and said disdainfully, “Did you think you would be able to kill me?”

Ye Zheng panted heavily and looked at his arms in disbelief. He touched his cheeks as though he was trying to determine if he was dreaming.

Suddenly, Lu Wu stomped on the ground again. It had sworn to kill those who wronged him!

Mingshi Yin said happily, "I really like its temper! Third Senior Brother, shall we exchange our pets? I'll give you Doggy instead..."

Duanmu Sheng did not respond. Instead, he maintained a smile on his face as he moved his Overlord Spear from his right hand into his left hand before he exhaled on the dragon carving on the shaft and pulled up his sleeve to wipe it.

"..."

Woof! Woof! Woof!

Qiong Qi raised its head and barked a few times.

At this time, when it looked like Lu Wu was going to take away another one of Ye Zhen's Birth Chart with one move again, a black figure flashed over from afar.

"Please let Venerable Master Qin off for my sake!"

A palm seal that seemed capable of toppling mountains and stirring up a tsunami flew over.

Not only did Lu Wu not retreat, but it roared, shattering the palm seal.

"Beast, know your place!"

An astrolabe spun out in the sky.

A strange energy that was clearly different from that of Qin Renyue and Ye Zheng appeared.

Lu Zhou noticed that Lu Wu seemed to be a beat slower than before. He knew something was amiss. He leaped up immediately and casually crushed a Reduction Card. Then, he said in a deep voice, "I want to see precisely who it is that doesn't know his place."

After the Reduction Card was shattered, a green light shot out and landed on the black figure at a speed that was too fast to capture.

A Venerable Master was said to be born from the heavens. He could use the power of the Dao and the power of heaven and earth.

However, when the green light landed on the black figure. It seemed to separate him from the heavens, draining him of his Primal Qi.

When the black figure sensed his Birth Chart being ruthlessly dug out like a pair of hands digging into his heart, he trembled. "Impossible!"

Venerable Masters were most afraid of losing Birth Charts. What they wanted to protect the most were their 18 Birth Charts.

The black figure looked at Lu Zhou fearfully. He gave up on attacking Lu Wu and quickly turned around. Before he fled, he tossed out a black ribbon that wrapped around Ye Zheng and brought Ye Zheng away.

Lu Wu said angrily, "How dare... you leave?!"

“Let them go,” Lu Zhou said. After today, his understanding of Venerable Masters had deepened. The duration of the Reduction Card was short, and Ye Zheng had a helper who was a Venerable Master. Lu Wu might just die if it chased after them.

Lu Wu listened to Lu Zhou and gave up chasing after Ye Zheng. It raised its head proudly and said, “Next time... I’ll definitely take... away... that dog’s life!”

Woof! Woof! Woof!

Qiong Qi protested.

“I wasn’t talking about you! Move aside!” Lu Wu said before it blew Qiong Qi and Mingshi Yin aside.

Meanwhile, Qin Renyue and the 49 Swordsmen watched in stunned silence.

### **Chapter 1229: The Natural Enemy of Venerable Masters**

After blowing Mingshi Yin and Qiong Qi aside, Lu Wu suddenly realized its transgression. It hurriedly lifted its paw to protect Mingshi Yin and Qiong Qi. Then, it said, “I’m... sorry...”

Qin Renyue and the 49 Swordsmen. “...”

‘The majestic and arrogant beast emperor, Lu Wu, actually lowered its head and apologized to its junior?’

Qin Renyue was a Venerable Master, after all. After so many years, not only was he powerful, but he was knowledgeable and experienced as well. Based on his understanding of beast emperors, they had a strong sense of superiority. Even if they were wrong, they would never admit it. Hence, he could not help but look at Mingshi Yin riding on Qiong Qi’s back, whom Lu Wu had apologized to, curiously. He sensed the Mingshi Yin’s aura was balanced and stable. Indeed, the person in front of him was a great talent and would have no problem passing two Birth Trials. However, he knew that Lu Zhou was the one Lu Wu was afraid of.

Qin Renyue was also surprised by the sudden appearance of the black figure who displayed the power of the Dao; clearly, he was also a Venerable Master. However, as soon as that green light landed on the black figure, the black figure had left in a hurry. He found the entire thing baffling.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou had as many thoughts as Qin Renyue. He had fought for such a long time; he could not believe he had forgotten about the Reduction Card! Was the Reduction Card not the natural enemy of Venerable Masters? Venerable Masters were most afraid of losing Birth Charts, and the Reduction Card could directly remove a Birth Chart from an astrolabe! It was a super weapon!

Lu Zhou took a look at the system interface and checked the price of the Reduction Card. It was priced at 20,000 merit points. This meant that the price had increased after he had bought one earlier. The normal effect of the card was good enough, but if he synthesized an enhanced version, it would be a Venerable Master’s nightmare.

The enhanced Reduction Card could permanently remove one of the target’s Birth Charts. An advanced enhanced Reduction Card could permanently remove five of the target’s Birth Charts; moreover, there was a chance it would remove the Birth Chart with the most powerful life heart.

Then, Lu Zhou noticed a note below the Reduction Card that read: To use against Saints or those who are stronger, you'll need to upgrade the system.

Lu Zhou did not pay much attention to this; it could be left for the future. Then, he checked his merit points.

Merit points: 198,760.

Lu Zhou did not hesitate and decisively bought three Reduction Cards and one Synthesis Card. They cost him more than 80,000 merit points, and he found the cost acceptable. After all, the card was like the natural enemy of Venerable Masters.

...

At the same time, the black figure carried Ye Zheng and flew into the flying chariot. His expression was very unsightly at this moment. He tore off the black cloth covering his face and looked at the distant sky before he looked at his hands. They were trembling and wet from sweat.

Earlier, for 20 seconds, he felt like he had fallen to hell. It was as though a pair of invisible hands were digging into his heart. He truly felt like he had just escaped a huge disaster.

He stood on the deck and stared at the dark sky for a long time, breathing deeply and slowly regaining his composure.

"You've recovered?" He turned around with his hands on his back to look at Ye Zheng who was sitting on the deck. "To think a dignified Venerable Master fell to such a state..."

Ye Zheng's eyes were lifeless as he stared ahead as though he was lost in his thoughts. After a moment, he recollected his thoughts and tidied up his hair and clothes. Then, he rose to his feet and moved to stand by the black figure's side. "Thank you."

"I've long said that Yannan's Blessed Land isn't a match for Qin Renyue," the black figure said.

"I've calculated everything, but I didn't consider the possibility that he had found a helper..." Ye Zheng replied.

"Who's that person?"

Ye Zheng recalled Ye Wusheng's words and everything that happened earlier before he said, "He's an expert from the golden lotus domain."

"Golden lotus domain? Did the Free Men of the Ye clan report to the clan?"

"There aren't many of them left. Back then, the Ye clan sent quite a few Free Men to the other domains. After 1,000 years, only a few of them are left. In the end, I ended the Free Men's mission," Ye Zheng replied.

The black figure said with a solemn expression, "That person is able to tame Lu Wu and defeat you. He's definitely stronger than a Venerable Master..."

"You're saying he has 19 or 20 Birth Charts?" Ye Zheng asked.



"It's just speculation for now. We have too little information now. It's possible he just has many treasures on him. Moreover, perhaps, you wouldn't have lost to him if it weren't for the Fire Phoenix."

Ye Zheng's expression turned gloomy immediately when the Fire Phoenix was mentioned. The 36 Confucian scholars were dead and the Big Dipper Flag Formation was destroyed; how was he going to explain this to the Saints when he returned? He sighed inwardly.

"You're a Venerable Master so I won't say much. I'll send you back to Yannan within three days," the black figure said.

Ye Zheng no longer spoke.

...

After synthesizing an enhanced Reduction Card, Lu Zhou was brimming with confidence. He surveyed the area affected by the Fire Phoenix.

Everything was silent. Even the fierce beasts did not dare to approach this area. Now that the disaster was over, the black fog continued to swirl in the air, accompanied by the sound of wind whistling in the air.

Finally, Lu Zhou asked, "Do you know who saved Ye Zheng?"

Qin Renyue shook his head. "He concealed his aura so I couldn't tell..."

"There are only four Venerable Masters in the green lotus domain. Apart from you and Ye Zheng, there's Tuoba Sicheng and Fan Zhong. Is there anyone else?" Mingshi Yin asked.

Qin Renyue replied, "Of course. However, that person's movement technique is strange and unusual. His power of the Dao seemed to be some slowing technique so it shouldn't be Tuoba Sicheng or Fan Zhong."

Lu Zhou raised an eyebrow, "So there's a fifth Venerable Master?"

"It could be a Venerable Master who lives in seclusion in the green lotus domain or the Unknown Land. However, his astrolabe seemed as dark as the sky. It's similar to those in the green lotus domain but different as well..."

Mingshi Yin asked, "What exactly is the power of the Dao?"

Qin Renyue looked at Mingshi Yin and said, "Young man, don't aim too high for now. Work hard. The power of the Dao is still far from your reach..."

Mingshi Yin was about to speak, but Lu Wu interjected in a low voice, "It's best... you... answer him..."

Qin Renyue was briefly stunned. Then, he glanced at Lu Zhou from the corners of his eyes and saw Lu Zhou looking at him. Hence, he said seriously, "The Dao nurtures all things; the Dao makes the sun and moon orbit; the Dao changes the seasons; the Dao is the foundation of heaven and earth. It's omnipresent. Humans are defying the heavens when they cultivate, constantly breaking the heaven and earth shackles..."

"For example, this sword..." Qin Renyue raised two fingers. The sword in Yuan Lang's flew out and hovered next to him. "If I ignore it, it'll fall to the ground. It has to abide by the rule of the Dao."

Swoosh!

The sword fell and stabbed into the ground.

“When I control it with energy, it defies the original rules...”

Qin Renyue controlled the sword with two fingers.

Swoosh!

The sword dislodged itself and flew up into the air again.

“Cultivators who aren’t Venerable Masters are constantly breaking the shackles. On the other hand, Venerable Masters can make use of the shackles. When the Dao is at its peak, the power it generates is the power of the Dao,” Qin Renyue said.

Mingshi Yin cupped his fists together. “Thank you for your explanation. May I ask how many kinds of powers of the Dao are there?”

Qin Renyue replied, “There are many. You can consider the Dao to be the law. The ancient Saints believe that the most powerful law is time itself...”

### **Chapter 1230: Laws**

“Cultivators who aren’t Venerable Masters increase their lifespans through cultivation. This can also be considered as breaking the law of time,” Qin Renyue said.

Mingshi Yin scratched his head. “I see. Are you saying that Venerable Masters can reverse time?”

Qin Renyue shook his head. “It’s impossible to reverse time; we can only slow it down. Time is a Dao. Even a Saint wouldn’t say they can reverse time.”

After Qin Renyue finished speaking, he looked at Lu Zhou and said, “If my words are wrong, I hope that old sir will correct me...”

‘After all, this young man is your disciple. If I’m wrong about some things, isn’t it like misleading your disciple?’

Lu Zhou nodded. “You’re right. However, there are thousands of laws in the world, and time isn’t the only strong one...”

Qin Renyue was stunned. He cupped his fists together at Lu Zhou and said, “I’d like to hear the explanation.”

The 49 Swordsmen’s ears perked up immediately, eager to be enlightened by the great expert’s words. No matter what, the insight of an expert would be helpful and beneficial. Hence, all of them humbly waited to be enlightened.

Lu Zhou said, “Time brings great changes to the world. Time ages people and brings death. It’s indeed powerful. Then, there’s the universe; that’s the law of space. There are other profound laws such as the law of conservation and the law of balance as well. Where there’s life, these laws will always exist...”

Qin Renyue nodded. Then, he said with a smile, "I agree. Mankind has always been bound by the laws. Like you said, they're bound by the law of conservation, the law of the jungle, and the law of balance. Only the truly almighty can break these laws..."

Everyone revealed enlightened expressions on their faces.

When one could disregard laws that bound others only would one be worthy of being called powerful.

With this, Venerable Masters seemed a bit lacking.

Lu Zhou continued to stroke his beard. He thought to himself, 'Thankfully I remember some of the philosophies from earth. Philosophies are vague so no matter what I say, it won't be wrong.'

"May I know your name, sir?" Qin Renyue asked, trying to get to know Lu Zhou. He had to get Lu Zhou on his side. Although Ye Zheng had lost a Birth Chart, Ye Zheng should be able to recover it. Most importantly, he had completely offended Ye Zheng today. Moreover, Ye Zheng also had a mysterious helper.

"My surname is Lu," Lu Zhou replied.

"Greetings, Venerable Master Lu," Qin Renyue and the 49 Swordsmen said in unison.

"..."

'Forget it, let them misunderstand.'

Lu Zhou was just not used to being addressed as a Venerable Master. Although his strength was not inferior to Venerable Masters, his true cultivation base was nowhere near that high yet. However, even if he explained it to them, they would not understand and would not believe it. Moreover, they had seen his battle with the Fire Phoenix where he fought to a draw; who would believe it if he said he was not a Venerable Master?

Qin Renyue turned to look at the 49 Swordsmen, checking their conditions. Then, he said, "I wonder if everyone would like to gather at my place?"

Lu Zhou said, "I still have matters to attend to.."

"Alright. Then, let's meet again another day," Qin Renyue said before tossing a talisman out.

Mingshi Yin caught it in his hand.

"If there's a need

his head to look at the situation of the forty-nine swords and immediately said, "If it's possible, I wonder if everyone can gather at my place?"

Lu Zhou said, "I still have things to do."

"In that case, let's meet again another day." Qin Renyue took out a talisman paper and threw it out.

Ming Shiyin stopped him halfway.

Qin Renyue said, "If there's a need, please don't hesitate to reach out..."

“Very well...” Lu Zhou said.

Following that, Qin Renyue brought the 49 Swordsmen away and vanished into the distance in just a blink of an eye.

“Venerable Masters are really strong...” Mingshi Yin said enviously. It was a pity he did not see Lu Zhou fighting the Fire Phoenix.

Lu Zhou said, “Contact your senior brothers.”

“Yes.”

...

After Mingshi Yin contacted Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong using a talisman, the others flew over.

As they flew over, they looked at the charred land in disbelief.

Yan Zhenluo, Lu Li, Kong Wen, and his three brothers exclaimed in shock as they flew.

“Wait!” Kong Wen called out.

“What is it?”

“That... That looks like a beast emperor!” Kong Wen pointed at the gargantuan Lu Wu.

“It is a beast emperor!” Kong Wu’s eyes widened in shock.

Yu Shangrong revealed a smile on his face and said, “Don’t worry. Lu Wu is my master’s subordinate.”

“...”

Before long, everyone returned to Lu Zhou’s side.

Little Yuan’er jumped down from Whizard and ran over. “Master, are you alright?”

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, “The Fire Phoenix’s power is beyond my imagination. I only managed to force it back...”

‘It’s amazing enough that he survived, what does he mean by he forced it back?’

Kong Wen looked at the bored Lu Wu and gulped. He rubbed his eyes again to confirm it was indeed Lu Wu.

At this time, Lu Zhou tossed the wrapped phoenix egg over to Mingshi Yin. “Keep this well.”

“What’s this?”

“It’s a secret,” Lu Zhou said.

“Oh.” Mingshi Yin really wanted to unwrap it to have a look, but seeing his master’s solemn expression and the people in the surroundings, he obediently put it away.

“Third Senior Brother!” Little Yuan’er and Conch called out.

Duanmu Sheng put away the Overlord Spear. "Junior sisters, it's been a while!"

"Third Senior Brother, you've become stronger than before!" Little Yuan'er said.

Duanmu Sheng shook his head. "I still can't compare to senior brothers."

Yu Shangrong smiled. "You've always been hard working. With Lu Wu's help, you'll surpass me and your Eldest Senior Brother in time..."

"Thank you for your praise, Second Senior Brother!" Duanmu Sheng was in an exceptionally good mood.

Lu Zhou looked at the distant sky. They still needed to find a place to rest.

Lu Wu originally wanted to bring them to a hidden place in a mountain range hundreds of miles away, but the environment there was too bad, and it was not suitable for humans to live in.

Fortunately, Kong Wen was very experienced so he suggested going east. There was a huge ancient forest there close to the mountains and rivers so it was quite suitable.

At the same time, they confirmed that very few humans were willing to go deep into the ancient forest in the east. It was extremely quiet. After the imbalance, it was rather empty. In addition to the vastness of the Unknown Land, it seemed like no one would come to this place even if they stayed for three to five years.

...

Just like before, the sky was still dark; there were no stars or moon.

Lu Wu looked at the forest and said, "Humans are really... too fussy..."

"You're a fierce beast so you can sleep anywhere. Humans can't do that," Duanmu Sheng said.

"Let me tell you, in the past, my master, Venerable Master Duanmu, used the earth as his bed and the sky as his quilt! He could even sleep in the water!" Lu Wu's speech suddenly grew smooth again.

"..."

Kong Wen was speechless. He moved to Mingshi Yin's side and asked in a hushed tone, "Is it really a beast emperor? Why is it so... childish?"

"What do you think?" Mingshi Yin asked in return.

At this time, Lu Zhou raised his voice and said, "We'll stay here for a while. Cultivate separately, but don't go too far away."

"Understood."

Everyone bowed.

Following that, Lu Zhou found a hidden ancient tree and sat cross-legged against it. Then, he activated the Purple Glazed Ceramic to recover his divine power.

At the same time, he brought his lotus seat out and studied his Birth Palace. After cultivating in the Unknown Land for a time, his cultivation had stabilized. Hence, he decisively inserted Zhu Yan's life heart into his Birth Palace.

Even if he failed, it did not matter. Considering the uniqueness of the ancient forest and the vastness of the Unknown Land, he decided to activate a Birth Chart in this place.

Currently, the number of his Birth Charts were far from that of a Venerable Master.

Activating Birth Charts in the human region of the Birth Palace was not difficult, but activating Birth Charts in the heaven region was a long and painful process. Hence, he decided to put the life heart in the human region.

Click!

The life heart sank into its position.

With this, Lu Zhou began to activate his tenth Birth Chart.