

## Disciples 1261

### Chapter 1261: Humans Die for Wealth, and Birds Die for Food

It was not strange to meet other cultivators near the Pillar of Destruction. Before coming to this place, Lu Zhou had already prepared himself. He knew it was a little risky coming here. Naturally, he had considered running into human cultivators, fierce beasts, and those Deformed tribesmen. He could still deal with Venerable Masters, but it would be troublesome if he encountered a divine beast.

This was the place where the Pillar of Destruction was located. It was a place nourished by the Great Void energy. The fertile land was conducive to the growth of Great Void Seeds. Divine beasts were smart; would they give up on such a huge treasure ground?

Humans would die for wealth and birds would die for food.

It was likely they would encounter a divine beast here.

Yu Shangrong flew over at the speed of light.

The Longevity Sword flew at an even faster speed behind the green-clad cultivators. In just a blink of an eye, it transformed into tens of thousands of energy swords that blocked their path.

"Please wait for a moment," Yu Shangrong called out.

The green-clad cultivators had no choice but to turn around. They sized Yu Shangrong up; their wariness apparent on their faces. When they saw his green robes and his gentle and courteous demeanor, they relaxed slightly.

At the same time, to ensure there would be no mistakes, Lu Zhou first used the Concealment Card to hide his blue avatar. Then, he brought the Golden Taixu Mirror out. Since he still looked handsome and manly, he did not use the Disguise Card.

He imbued the Golden Taixu Mirror with his divine power before he shone it at the green-clad cultivators. More than ten of them had not even passed the first Birth Trial. Perhaps, in the cultivation world, their cultivation bases were not too bad. However, in Yu Zhong, one of the most dangerous places in the Unknown Land, their strength was not enough.

After putting away the Golden Taixu Mirror, Lu Zhou asked, "Where are you from?"

One of them raised his head and saw Lu Wu. Fear struck his heart immediately. Beads of sweat appeared on his forehead as he stammered, "S-senior... S-senior, we... we come from... from Great Qin's royal palace..."

"Great Qin's royal palace?" Kong Wen asked, "Did the four Venerable Masters agree to this?"

The person continued to say in a trembling voice, "I-imbalance... The Venerable... Masters are too busy to care about anything else... now... We... W-we are only here to try our... I-luck... S-senior, p-please spare us..."

Yan Zhenluo shook his head and said, “Humans die for wealth, and birds die for food. With your strength, you dare to come near the Pillar of Destruction?”

The person said in a soft voice, “I-if we didn’t come, w-we’d have to face the death penalty. W-we don’t dare to disobey our superiors...”

“There are ten Pillars of Destruction. Why did you come here specifically?” Kong Wen asked.

Yu Zhong was located very far from the green lotus domain, after all.

“W-we’re t-trying to avoid the Venerable Masters...” the person said as he wiped his sweat off his forehead.

Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

Mingshi Yin flew over on Qiong Qi’s back and said, “Idiots! No matter what, you shouldn’t have come anywhere close to the Pillars of Destruction!”

“Yes, yes, yes.” The person did not dare to refute Mingshi Yin’s words.

Mingshi Yin asked, “Who’s your leader?”

“Y-young Master Zhao.”

“Young Master Zhao? He’s as stupid as all of you. Where’s he now? Rather than dying in this place, it’s better for me to kill all of you..” Mingshi Yin raised his hand, and the Separation Hook appeared, glinting with cold light.

The green-clad cultivators sensed Mingshi Yin’s killing intent and retreated as a group, begging for mercy.

Mingshi Yin chuckled. “Since you have the guts to come here, how can you be afraid?”

“Old Fourth,” Lu Zhou called out.

Mingshi Yin stopped laughing and no longer dared to joke around.

Lu Zhou flew off Lu Wu’s back and said, “Lead the way.”

“L-lead... L-lead the way?”

“Yes. Lead us to your Young Master Zhao,” Mingshi Yin said.

“Yes, yes, yes.”

Following that, the green-clad cultivators led the people of the evil Sky Pavilion into the forest.

Little Yuan’er flew forward. Then, she giggled before she asked, “Fourth Senior Brother, why are you so fierce?”

Mingshi Yin replied with a smile, “You have to be fierce when dealing with this group of people...”

“Oh.” Little Yuan’er nodded despite feeling that Mingshi Yin’s words did not make sense.

Soon after, the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion arrived before a cliff. The terrain was high, it had the cover of the forest, and their field of vision was wide as well. At this place, they could clearly see the pillar of destruction.

At this moment, a man dressed in a stately robe looked ahead.

“Young Master, our men have returned.”

The man dressed in a stately robe turned around and looked at the people who were slowly emerging from the forest. He frowned slightly. It was not just his men who had returned, but they had returned with strangers as well. Moreover, these strangers did not look like ordinary people.

The green-clad cultivators who had just returned fell to their knees immediately. “Young Master Zhao.”

The man dressed in a stately robe ignored his men and sized up the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Lu Zhou spoke first. “What’s your name?”

The man dressed in stately robes did not look afraid. Instead, he smiled and cupped his fists at Lu Zhou and the others as he said, “I’m Zhao Yu, a member of Great Qin’s royal family.”

Zhao Yu’s instincts told him that this was the only way to quickly get out of danger. It was common for people to kill over treasures in Yu Zhong. Without a status, one would die even faster.

Whoosh!

Zhao Yu did not expect the cold streak of light that flew toward his neck. He leaped back in shock before manifesting his astrolabe to block the attack. At the same time, he erected his protective energy.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Zhao Yu deflected all the attacks.

Everyone was shocked and puzzled by the sudden turn of events.

Silence descended on the cliff.

Zhao Yu did not expect his opponent to attack just like that.

Lu Zhou frowned. He did not have any intention to attack as well. He said in a low voice, “Come out.”

Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

Qiong Qi carried Mingshi Yin forward. He leaped off Qiong Qi’s back and kneeled on the ground before he said, “Master, there’s no need to speak nonsense with these people. Just kill them.”

The people from the Evil Sky Pavilion were even more puzzled. They all knew Mingshi Yin’s way of doing things. Although he was by no mean benevolent, he was not as murderous as he was today.

Lu Zhou’s expression changed slightly. He looked at Mingshi Yin and asked, “Do you know him?”

Mingshi Yin glanced at Zhao Yu before he replied, “No.”

Zhao Yu frowned. He did not recognize Mingshi Yin as well.

Lu Zhou said, "Since you don't know him, don't act recklessly."

Mingshi Yin bowed and said, "Yes. I know my mistakes."

"Leave."

Mingshi Yin obediently retreated to the side.

Everyone looked at Ming Shiyin one after another before they quickly averted their eyes.

Yu Shangrong smiled faintly and said to Zhao Yu, "My junior brother has always been mischievous. I hope you'll forgive him if he has offended you."

Zhao Yu glanced at Lu Wu that was standing at the back. How could he dare to have any objections? He said, "It's fine. It's just a misunderstanding."

Lu Zhou's expression returned to normal as he looked at Zhao Yu and said, "You don't have to worry. I'm from the golden lotus domain and have no dealings with Great Qin's royal family. I won't make things difficult for you."

Upon hearing this, Zhao Yu sighed in relief inwardly as though a heavy burden had been lifted off him. He cupped his fists together at Lu Zhou and the others again and said, "So you're from the golden lotus domains. Greetings."

Everyone returned the greeting perfunctorily.

Lu Zhou stood with his hands on his back as he looked into the distance and asked, "Apart from Great Qin's royal family, who else has come to the Pillar of Destruction?"

Zhao Yu answered truthfully, "The four Venerable Masters shouldn't be coming. As for the other forces, I'm not sure..."

This was, after all, one of the most dangerous places in the Unknown Land.

Lu Zhou asked, puzzled, "The four Venerable Masters won't be coming?"

"Old sir, are you familiar with the four Venerable Masters?" Zhao Yu asked curiously.

"Maybe." Lu Zhou shrugged. If he wanted to dig out information from the other party, he could not exert too much pressure. It was best to exchange information amicably.

"Venerable Master Fan went to Jiantan. It's said that the 49 Swordsmen suffered a collective demotion so Venerable Master Qin is likely occupied with that matter. Venerable Master Ye is also injured, and Venerable Master Tuoba has gone to cultivate in seclusion. It's said that he's about to break through," Zhao Yu replied honestly.

"What a pity," Lu Zhou said.

"A pity?" Zhao Yu was confused. Then, he turned and glanced at Lu Wu before he boldly asked, "Old sir, why don't we work together?"

**Chapter 1262: Tian Wu**

Lu Zhou sized Zhao Yu up. "Work together?"

Zhao Yu nodded. "Yes. I've been nothing but honest since I met you, Old Sir." He pointed to a dense forest on the left before he continued to say, "Look over there. There is a lot of mystic life grass there. There are at least five stalks of mystic life grass there."

Then, Zhao Yu pointed to the right and said, "Thirty miles up ahead, there are many fierce beasts, including beast kings, there. At that place, my men have found many blood ginseng, fire lotuses, and snow lotuses."

"100 miles further is where the Pillar of Destruction is located; it's not a place we dare to approach. Old Sir, I have a feeling you didn't come for these natural treasures. My request is simple. I only ask for one stalk of mystic life grass, one blood ginseng, one fire lotus, and one snow lotus. What do you think, Old Sir?"

Everyone was shocked by these words. They did not expect there to be so many natural treasures near the Pillar of Destruction. Many people would fight for these things.

Lu Zhou asked, "Aren't you afraid that I'll kill you? Those things would still fall into my hands..."

Zhao Yu smiled. "Everyone came here hoping to benefit from this place. I have a way to get to the core. It only depends on whether you're willing or not, Old Sir. Naturally, you can capture me and torture me to get me to confess..." Then, he put his hands up and made a gesture of surrender.

Lu Zhou glanced at Zhao Yu and said, "You're rather smart and tactful. I agree with your request. However... If you dare to play tricks, I'll kill you."

Zhao Yu looked at everyone before he gestured with his hand and said, "Please."

Upon hearing Zhao Yu's words, the green-clad cultivators took the initiative to lead the way.

Mingshi Yin glanced at them and muttered something under his breath before he followed them on Qiong Qi's back.

They passed through mountains, rivers, and forests of ancient trees before arriving at the periphery of a forest.

Lu Wu followed behind the group, and it would occasionally look at the Pillar of Destruction.

"We're here," Zhao Yu said, "There are five stalks of mystic life grass here."

Lu Zhou waved his hand. "Kong Wen."

"Understood." Kong Wen brought out dozens of talismans before tossing them in the air.

The talismans fluttered out like glowing butterflies into darkness. After circling the area once, they flew back to Kong Wen.

After grabbing the talismans, Kong Wen counted them and said, "Some of the talismans are missing. Indeed, there are stalks of mystic life grass in there."

Lu Zhou silently recited the incantation for the Heavenly Writing's power of hearing. Soon enough, the sound of rustling rang from the forest. It sounded as though something was moving back and forth in there.

Zhao Yu said, "Yu Zhong used to be called the Great Desolate Land. It has been more than 300 years since the last batch of Great Void Seeds matured. This is a time of peace. It's rumored that there are divine beasts guarding the Pillar of Destruction so my men don't dare to act recklessly."

"Divine beasts?"

Everyone's hearts jolted slightly.

Lu Wu raised its head before lowering it again. Then, it said, "I can't sense anything... I'm not sure..."

Zhao Yu instinctively retreated a few steps, frightened and shocked as he looked at Lu Wu.

Zhao Yu's men were trembling as well as they looked at Lu Wu.

How could they not be frightened or shocked when they heard Lu Wu speaking human language?

Little Yuan'er giggled softly.

Zhao Yu gulped, trying to calm down, before he said, "I'm not sure either..."

Whoosh!

All of a sudden, Lu Wu leaped up into the sky and made a sharp turn. Its fur stood on end as a biting chill began to permeate the place.

The wind blew, and the clouds darkened in just an instant.

Boom!

When Lu Wu landed, the area within 100 meters was frozen. The trees, flowers, birds, and beasts were turned into ice sculptures. Only a little force was needed to shatter them into pieces.

Lu Wu walked back to its original position like a graceful cat, emitting a majestic aura.

"..."

Achoo!

Someone sneezed.

When Zhao Yu regained his senses, he asked, "You... Aren't you afraid of alerting a divine beast?"

Lu Wu looked at Zhao Yu disapprovingly and said, "When I roamed the lands... and dominated it..."

Little Yuan'er interjected, finishing Lu Wu's words, "... you're still in your mother's womb!" Then, she turned to Lu Wu and said, "Lu Wu, can you find something new to say?"

Lu Wu. "..."

The members of the Evil Sky Pavilion laughed.

Zhao Yu looked at Lu Wu and the others from the Evil Sky Pavilion with a complicated expression. He was rather surprised as well. Since ancient times, humans and fierce beasts could not co-exist peacefully. It was truly a rare sight to see humans and a fierce beast, a majestic beast emperor, no less, get along so well.

Crack! Crack! Crack!

While everyone was distracted, Kong Wen flew into the darkness, shattering the ice. In less than 15 minutes, he and his brother were holding five stalks of mystic profound grass and a life heart in their hands.

“Pavilion Master, we found a Snake King that was over 100 meters long coiled around the stalks of mystic life grass. However, it had already been frozen to death. Apart from its life heart and the mystic life grass, I harvested its gall as well. Snake galls can help detoxify the body and remove heat.”

“...”

Ming Shiyin stepped forward. After putting away the life heart and the mystic life grass, he said, “You can keep the snake gall.”

Kong Wen smiled. “You really don’t want it? Thank you. Thank you, Pavilion Master.”

Although the snake gall was not big, Kong Wen divided it before offering it to the members of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

“I don’t want it!” Little Yuan’er said as she covered her eyes with her hands, disgusted.

“I don’t want it either,” Conch said before she hurriedly looked away.

Meanwhile, the others acted as though they did not see it.

Kong Wen smiled. “Then, we, brothers, won’t stand on ceremony. Thank you for the snake gall.”

Kong Wen and his brother had lived in the Unknown Land for many years and had eaten many types of things in the name of survival. They did not waste time and divided the snake gall among themselves before consuming it and refining it with their energy.

Zhao Yu, who was watching from the side, asked, “Aren’t you afraid of being poisoned?”

“The four of us have ingested all kinds of poisons in the past and have more or less become immune to them...” Kong Wen replied with a smile.

Lu Zhou did not want to waste time so he said, “Continue leading the way...”

Zhao Yu inhaled deeply as he looked in the direction of the Pillar of Destruction. Then, he flew into the air.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Everyone followed suit.

After flying for a while, Zhao Yu finally landed. Then, he pointed at a herd of beasts and said, “The blood ginseng, fire lotuses, and snow lotuses are there...”

At this time, Lu Wu lowered its head and said, "Leave it to me."

However, just as Lu Wu was about to make a move, a cloud of black fog rolled over.

The fierce beasts were so frightened that they began to flee.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The ground began to shake.

"Cultivators!"

At this time, several cultivators could be seen in front of the black fog. It was as though they were being chased by the black fog.

It did not take long before shrill screams rang in the air.

Thump!

None of the cultivators managed to escape; all of them dropped lifelessly to the ground.

Upon seeing this scene, Mingshi Yin asked, "Master, should we retreat?"

Duanmu Sheng appeared above Lu Wu's head. The purple dragons were faintly discernible on his arms as he crossed them and said, "Fourth Junior Brother, since we're already here, how can we retreat?"

"..."

Lu Wu lowered its head and exhaled a gust of energy out.

Whoosh!

A strong gust of wind blew the black fog away and silence returned to the place again.

"What's that?"

"I didn't have a good look..."

Zhao Yu shook his head and solemnly said, "That's Tian Wu."

"Tian Wu?"

"It seems like this is Tian Wu's territory... Old Sir, the deal between us is canceled. I don't want those things anymore. Let's part ways here," Zhao Yu said as he waved his hand.

Zhao Yu's men quickly gathered under his command.

### **Chapter 1263: Breaking the Formation**

Zhao Yu spoke very quickly, almost as though he did it without thinking. He was clearly afraid of the black fog. Even as he spoke, he kept glancing back warily.



Lu Wu sat at the back, staring in the direction where the black fog had appeared earlier. When the black fog was no longer in sight, it placed a huge paw in front of Zhao Yu, blocking his path.

Zhao Yu. "..."

The atmosphere turned awkward immediately.

Zhao Yu put his hands together and pleaded, "Let's talk things out. Don't act rashly."

No one doubted Lu Wu's strength.

Lu Wu lowered its head and said, "Young people nowadays are really bad at keeping their words. After breaking your promise, you want to leave?"

Zhao Yu felt incredibly embarrassed. He forced a smile on his face as he looked for movements from the corners of his eyes. He placed one hand on the belt on his waist and said, "It's just a misunderstanding."

Lu Zhou said, "If you want to leave, tell me everything you know."

Zhao Yu asked, "You mean Tian Wu?"

Whoosh!

Mingshi Yin wielded the Separation Hook and imitated Duanmu Sheng's actions. He sighed as he wiped the hook with his sleeve. His eyes that were reflected on the hook glinted coldly as he said, "Master, look at him feigning ignorance. How about I kill him with just a strike?"

Zhao Yu sighed before he said, "It's useless even if you kill me. Tian Wu is a famous divine beast. According to the ancient books, the people from the Valley of the Rising Sun called Tian Wu Shui Bo. Apparently, it's a human with eight heads, eight legs, and eight tails. It's green and yellow in colors."

"Human?"

How could humans be described as having eight heads, eight legs, and eight tails?

"That's what was said in the books. I've never seen it before. I only heard the elders referring to it as human despite clearly being a fierce beast," Zhao Yu explained.

"A hybrid?" Mingshi Yin cocked an eyebrow.

Zhao Yu was confused by Mingshi Yin's hostility toward him. Nevertheless, he replied, "Who knows? What's important is that Tian Wu is a true divine beast from ancient times. Later on, it became enemies with the Great Desolate Land's Lord Zhennan. It's said that the two fought for tens of thousands of years. Some people said that Lord Zhennan won, and Tian Wu died; there are also those who said that Tian Wu won, and Lord Zhennan died."

"Then, how did you know the black fog was Tian Wu?" Mingshi Yin asked.

"I saw a flash of eight tails..." Zhao Yu said. His left hand was still holding on firmly to the belt on his waist.

The lush forest and the lingering darkness made the atmosphere even more gloomy at this moment.

“What do you know about the situation at the Pillar of Destruction?” Lu Zhou asked.

“I know a little. I read about it in the royal library. It’s said that there are multiple formations guarding the pillar. I’ve read about the ways to undo the formations, but... it’s impossible now...” Zhao Yu said. He pointed in the direction where the black fog had appeared earlier and continued to say, “If it’s really the divine beast, Tian Wu, there’s nothing we can do. It’s not something we can deal with...”

Everyone fell silent. They had all witnessed with their eyes the strength of the divine beast, the Fire Phoenix. A single move instantly demoted Qin Renyue’s 49 Swordsmen and Ye Zheng’s 36 disciples. With Tian Wu in Yu Zhong, it was indeed difficult for them to get close to the Pillar of Destruction.

Lu Zhou was lost in his thoughts as he looked ahead. Indeed, this was rather troublesome. The biggest problem was they knew nothing about Tian Wu. With the unknown, there were many uncertainties and things that could go wrong.

Woof! Woof! Woof!

Qiong Qi barked in the direction of the forest.

“Doggy, be good!” Mingshi Yin patted Qiong Qi’s head.

Qiong Qi crouched and lowered its head before it bared its fangs. Its eyes shone with a terrifying light as it growled. It was clearly in an offensive posture.

Mingshi Yin looked at the forest.

Zhao Yu looked at Qiong Qi. “Is that Qiong Qi?”

Mingshi Yin turned back and rolled his eyes at Zhao Yu. His tone was not very friendly as he said, “Oh, it seems like you’re slightly knowledgeable.”

Zhao Yu did not take offense. He only said, “Qiong Qi is fierce and tenacious. It...” He paused briefly before continuing to say, “It likes eating evil things. The more it eats, the stronger it gets...”

Mingshi Yin did not say anything. He patted Qiong Qi’s head, trying to calm it down.

Qiong Qi continued to growl as though it could see something the others could not see.

Lu Zhou rose into the air and brought the Golden Taixu Mirror out. The divine power, which was now golden thanks to the Concealment Card, complemented the light from the Golden Taixu Mirror as it shone down like the sun. In the dark Unknown Land, the light was even more dazzling.

Under the light from the Golden Taixu Mirror, they saw a wave of energy that resembled waves of water swaying in the wind in the sky about 100 meters ahead. Apart from that, under the largest ancient tree, a red light could be seen.

“It’s a formation. The red light should be the fire lotus,” Kong Wen said.

Lu Zhou put the Golden Taixu Mirror away and continued surveying the surroundings in the air.

Zhao Yu said sheepishly, “I thought it was Tian Wu. As it turns out, it’s a formation...”

Lu Li said, “It should be some kind of illusory formation...”

Then, Lu Li brought out a few talismans and tossed them into the air. After they landed on the ground, circles of light began to light up on the ground. He frowned and said, "Multiple Eye Formation."

"Stay here," Lu Zhou said before rushing forward. When he was in the air, it felt as though he was submerged in the ocean. Fortunately, he had the Purple Glaze Ceramic and his underwater ability. With that, the suffocating sensation soon faded.

Lu Zhou raised his hand and brought Unnamed in the form of a bow out.

Buzz!

A 300-feet-long energy arrow was nocked on the bow.

Everyone looked up in surprise.

The darkness was now the backdrop for Lu Zhou and Unnamed.

Lu Zhou pulled the bowstring back and turned slightly before he released the arrow.

The huge arrow spun as it shot out.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The energy arrow shot through the illusory body of water in the air and hit all the eyes of the formation.

The eyes that resembled opened eyes in the darkness closed one after another after being pierced by the arrow.

The original silent place suddenly turned noisy. The Primal Qi in the area surged out.

Lu Zhou's excellent hearing allowed him to hear the angry roars in the midst of the surging Primal Qi. He could imagine fierce beasts baring their fangs and brandishing their claws as they roared. However, as the Primal Qi calmed down, the noises vanished as well.

When everything returned to normal again, everyone was shocked by what they saw.

The ground ahead was littered with corpses and bones of both humans and fierce beasts.

"The formation is broken?" Zhao Yu asked in disbelief.

Lu Li said, "Pavilion Master is truly skilled. The only one who could break this formation today is you. The eyes of the formation have to be hit precisely at the right time."

When Zhao Yu regained his senses, he saw Qiong Qi charging toward the tall ancient tree.

Qiong Qi leaped up and bit the biggest vine as soon as it arrived.

Crack!

Mingshi Yin was shocked. It had never seen Qiong Qi so aggressive before.

Qiong Qi bit the vine and pulled it back before mauling it.

Shockingly, the vine began to bleed.

“Ignorant creature... and delicious human... die!”

The ancient tree suddenly opened its eyes. Then, vines began to shoot toward Mingshi Yin and Qiong Qi.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Qiong Qi’s fur stood on end as it leaped up and bit two vines.

Mingshi Yin brought his Separation Hook out and began to hack into the vines.

“Help! Don’t get too close. You might be killed in just an instant!”

Yu Zhenghai, Yu Shangrong, Yan Zhenluo, and Lu Li quickly supported Mingshi Yin and Qiong Qi from a distance.

Countless energy sabers and energy swords shot toward the vines.

Kong Wen clapped his hands, sending energy seals toward the living ancient tree.

“A living tree? I’ve lived so long, but I have a hard time believing this!”

“That... That isn’t a tree. That’s the Great Desolate Land’s Lord Zhennan.”

“Lord Zhennan?”

“Tian Wu’s sworn enemy. Remember what I said before? Tian Wu and Lord Zhennan fought for 10,000 years before vanishing. No one knew what happened. Since Lord Zhennan is here, Tian Wu should be nearby...” Zhao Yu said nervously as he began to retreat.

“What?! So is Lord Zhennan a human, a ghost, or a tree?”

“I don’t know. I’ll explain it later. In any case, he’s no longer human!”

Black fog rose from the ground at this moment as the vines began to burn with strange flames.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The numerous vines repelled the members of the Evil Sky Pavilion in just an instant. Fortunately, they were quite a distance away. Otherwise, they would have suffered a great loss.

Even Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong had no choice but to dodge in the air.

Boom!

At this moment, Lu Wu finally made a move.

## **Chapter 1264: Lord Zhennan**

Everyone looked up as Lu Wu pounced at the towering ancient tree.

At the same time, countless flaming vines shot out.

“Freeze.”

A biting chill spread out, freezing the ancient tree. Following that, green vines broke out from the ground and wrapped around the ancient tree.

Mingshi Yin flashed forward and tossed the Separation Hook that was glinting coldly out.

Swoosh!

The Separation Hook slashed the lower trunk of the ancient tree.

The face on the upper tree trunk sneered disdainfully before it said, "Die."

The vines shot out again. Most of them were aimed at Lu Wu while a small number was aimed at Mingshi Yin.

"Damn it! What kind of monster is this?" Mingshi Yin quickly dodge. His movements were nimble and swift.

Meanwhile, while Lu Zhou watched this scene, he was reminded of Liu Ge, the former emperor of Great Yan, who had sought immortality. No matter what kind of sorcery they used, their essence still remained the same.

Bang!

Mingshi Yin was unable to avoid one of the vines and was sent flying back.

At this time, a huge number of vines wrapped around Lu Wu.

"A mere beast emperor dares to attack me?!" the ancient tree roared as the vines tightened around Lu Wu.

Lu Wu was furious. "You're not.. a divine beast."

Lu Wu twisted and arched its body before it clawed at the ancient tree viciously.

Blood flowed out of the tree immediately.

When Lu Zhou saw the ancient tree seemed to be a match for Lu Wu, he waved his hand.

The Pillar of Impermanence!

The pillar expanded swiftly as it stabbed into the ground. Its diameter had grown to several meters at this time.

Boom!

"Lu Wu," Lu Zhou called out.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Lu Wu stomped its legs on the ground, breaking free of the vines before leaping out of the vines' range.

"Do you really think there's nothing I can do?" the ancient tree said.

Lu Zhou flew next to the Pillar of Impermanence and looked at the ancient tree quietly. The vines were like tentacles as they attacked him.

Lu Zhou silently recited the incantations for the Heavenly Writing. Just like that, the vines were severed by some invisible energy and fell to the ground.

The ancient tree cried out in pain, but it did not take long before new vines began to grow again. It roared, "I'll kill you!"

The vines were longer and much fiercer than before.

The water-like energy in the air began to surge and spread as well.

Lu Zhou stomped on the Pillar of Impermanence.

Boom!

The Pillar of Impermanence sank deeper into the ground as Lu Zhou launched himself into the sky. He pushed his hand out, manifesting his astrolabe in front of him.

Upon seeing this, the members of the Evil Sky Pavilion flew up and manifested their astrolabes as well.

Although they were a beat slower, Zhao Yu and his men followed suit. They flew into the air and manifested their astrolabes as well.

No one dared to hold back and mobilize the full power of their Birth Charts.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

It looked as though there was a meteor shower as pillars of light shot out toward the ancient tree.

Lu Zhou controlled his astrolabe as he retreated, leaving the range of the ancient tree.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The bombardment of Birth Chart powers lasted for about 15 minutes.

Lu Zhou put away his astrolabe as he continued to observe the unmoving ancient tree.

All of a sudden...

Swoosh!

The tree bark suddenly peeled off before green fog rose from the ground, swiftly healing the tree.

Upon seeing this, Mingshi Yin cursed, "Damn it! You're cheating!"

The ancient tree stood in its spot and looked at Lu Zhou and the others as it said, "It's been a long time since humans came to the Great Desolate Land and delivered themselves for me to eat!"

"..."

Mingshi Yin did not dare to act recklessly. He dragged Qiong Qi with him as he retreated. "Doggy, don't mess around! We really can't afford to mess with this, but... we can hide!"

Woof! Woof! Woof!

The ancient tree laughed. "I'm the lord here. Who dares to defy me?"

Countless vines shot again toward the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Lu Zhou looked at the ancient tree and tonelessly said, "You're too arrogant."

Then, Lu Zhou pushed his hand out.

The Pillar of Impermanence spun rapidly, causing the ground to quake.

"Hmm?" The ancient tree began to feel like something was amiss.

Lu Zhou limited the range of the Pillar of Impermanence to a radius of a few dozen meters, covering the area where the ancient tree took root. The pillar's effect quickly became obvious to all.

The weeds on the ground grew; small trees grew taller.

The ancient tree exclaimed in shock, "The Pillar of Impermanence?!"

"You recognize the pillar?"

"This pillar is an evil thing that heaven and earth can't tolerate! How did you subdue it?" the ancient tree asked.

Lu Zhou said indifferently, "You're borrowing the tree to extend your life, trying to break the shackles of life. With the Pillar of Impermanence, your vitality energy will be completely absorbed sooner or later."

The ancient tree stopped moving, closing its eyes and mouth. With that, the vines stopped moving as well. At this time, it looked no different from an ordinary ancient tree.

"I'll let you have a feel of the Pillar of Impermanence," Lu Zhou said as he waved his hand, mobilizing his divine power. This was the first time he had imbued the Pillar of Impermanence with his divine power.

The absorption speed of the Pillar of Impermanence increased swiftly from 20 times to 100 times. It showed no sign of stopping.

Vitality energy began to converge at the Pillar of Impermanence, forming a vortex.

The people of the Evil Sky Pavilion had experienced the power of the pillar so they knew how terrifying it was.

At this time, the absorption speed had increased from 100 times to 200 times. Accordingly, the consumption of Lu Zhou's divine power had increased as well.

At this time, it would depend on who surrendered first.

"Since you want to die, I'll grant you your wish!"

Lu Zhou smacked his hand on the ground, unleashing his divine power. He did not consider using the divine power to kill the ancient tree earlier since he was not sure if that was possible. It was undoubtedly the best choice to use the Pillar of Impermanence. If it did not work, he would just find another way.

After the divine power exploded, the absorption speed of the Pillar of Impermanence increased even more rapidly than before.

200 times.

500 times.

1,000 times.

2,000 times.

5,000 times.

At this point, Lu Zhou finally felt like he had reached his limit so he withdrew his hand.

The Pillar of Impermanence's range now covered a radius of nearly 100 meters as its absorption speed increased to 5,000 times its original speed. This meant that a day outside of its range was equivalent to 5,000 days inside its range. This kind of absorption speed naturally could not be used for cultivation. Even if one had many years to waste, it still would not be conducive to cultivation since it would be difficult for one to stabilize one's cultivation base after breaking through.

Upon seeing this, Zhao Yu could not help but clap his hands. "I didn't expect the Old Sir to have such means!"

Mingshi Yin asked, "Why would a human borrow a tree to live?"

Zhao Yu shrugged. "I don't know either. We'll have to ask him..."

The ancient tree remained where it was and ignored the others.

Lu Li looked at the ground before he said, "Be careful that it doesn't suddenly run away."

"The tree can move?!"

"Before this, did you think that trees can talk?" Lu Li asked.

"..." Mingshi Yin was rendered speechless.

Indeed. If that tree could talk, it was likely it could move as well. From the looks of it, it really did not seem like it could move freely like humans and fierce beasts. Otherwise, it would have escaped long ago. However, there was no way to be certain so it was best to be cautious.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou looked at the ancient tree and said, "Let's see how long you'll be able to hold out."

## **Chapter 1265: Lifelong Enemies**

Lu Zhou sat cross-legged in the air with his hands folded in front of his Dantian's sea of Qi. Then, he activated the Purple Glazed Ceramic to recover his divine power. He did not use Whizard's ability, planning to use it during the critical moment.

Upon seeing this, Yu Zhenghai said, "Don't wander away. This place is very strange."

Everyone nodded and rested on the spot.



Lu Wu looked at the towering ancient tree fiercely. The urge to rush over was overwhelming, but it seemed to realize the opponent was too powerful so it did not dare to act recklessly. It lay on the ground before it began to clean its fur. Previously, the vine had injured it slightly. Fortunately, its recovery speed was amazing so it did not pay attention to the injuries.

At this time, Mingshi Yin turned to Zhao Yu and asked, "How did you know the tree is Lord Zhennan?"

"It's recorded in the ancient books," Zhao Yu replied.

"What a coincidence!" Mingshi Yin was clearly skeptical.

Zhao Yu explained patiently, "Since I decided to come here, I, naturally, made preparations. I studied this place a lot before coming here. The history, the fierce beasts, the formations, ways to approach the Pillar of Destruction, I've studied them all..."

Although Lu Zhou was meditating on the Heavenly Writing, he still heard Zhao Yu's words. He did not expect Zhao Yu to be so thorough.

"You haven't told us about Lord Zhennan," Mingshi Yin said.

"We'll have to start with Tian Wu. Tian Wu, also known as Great Yu, was worshipped by the ancient people of Wu. In ancient times, the Unknown Land didn't look like this. Everyone lived together harmoniously, and there was peace in the world. Perhaps, it was heavens' way of punishing humans by destroying this place. Anyway, Tian Wu had control over water so the people thought of it as a water god. As such, Tian Wu hated fire," Zhao Yu said, "On the other hand, Lord Zhennan, whose name was Si Huo, was regarded as a fire god. Needless to say, these two gods with conflicting elements were at odds with each other. Like I said earlier, the duo fought for 10,000 years, and no one knew who won or who lost. Rumors flew about Tian Wu's death and Lord Zhennan's defeat and vice versa. In any case, Lord Zhennan was worshipped at a man-made tomb. Three years ago, a powerful cultivator came to Yu Zhong and set the Pillar of Destruction on fire. It was said that Tian Wu put it out with water. Somehow, Tian Wu came across that tree and fought with it."

Zhao Yu sighed. "They're really life-long enemies..."

"That doesn't prove the tree is Lord Zhennan. Everything is just hearsay..." Mingshi Yin said.

"Apart from Lord Zhennan, no one is capable of fighting Tian Wu for so long. Moreover, you heard what he said earlier..."

Little Yuan'er scratched her head. "I didn't expect the tree to have such a past. Is it very powerful?"

Zhao Yu replied, "It's said that Lord Zhennan relied on some secret arts to live by borrowing a tree's vitality. With this, it's likely his strength has been greatly reduced. The tree doesn't have a Dantian's sea of Qi so even moving is difficult."

With these words, everyone realized how terrifying Lord Zhennan must have been in the past. Without a Dantian's sea of Qi, he had no Primal Qi, which meant that he could not form energy seals, activate Birth Charts, and so on. Nevertheless, just by relying on the secret arts alone, his strength was still so terrifying. One could only imagine how powerful he was during his peak.

"What about Tian Wu?"

“Tian Wu should be guarding the Pillar of Destruction. There’s a spring near the pillar. My guess is Tian Wu is in the spring,” Zhao Yu replied. Then, he instinctively looked in the direction of the Pillar of Destruction as though he was afraid Tian Wu would suddenly appear.

It dawned on everyone again how powerful Tian Wu and Lord Zhennan were.

Little Yuan’er asked curiously, “You said all these happened in the ancient times. When exactly did those things happen?”

Zhao Yu glanced at Little Yuan’er before he replied, “The time before the world was divided...”

“Oh.”

Zhao Yu who had long noticed the little Fire Phoenix perched on Little Yuan’er shoulder, flapping its wings, asked, “May I ask what kind of fierce beast is this, Miss?”

Mingshi Yin smiled mockingly. “Since you know so much about fierce beasts, you should know it’s a Fire Phoenix, right?”

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The little Fire Phoenix flapped its wings and slowly rose into the air. Then, it opened its beaks and spat out a wave of heat. There was no flame.

Thud!

Following that, the Little Fire Phoenix fell to the ground.

“...”

Zhao Yu shook his head. “Fire birds resemble Fire Phoenixes so it’s hard to tell. Fire Phoenixes control fire and disdain to interact with humans. They’re arrogant because of their nobility.”

Little Yuan’er understood the implications behind Zhao Yu’s words. She stomped her foot and said, “It’s a Fire Phoenix!”

Zhao Yu shook his head and sighed. Then, he went to the side and sat down cross-legged to rest.

...

The next day...

Northwest of Yu Zhong.

“Venerable Master, we’ve arrived at Yu Zhong.”

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Many cultivators flew out of a flying chariot at this moment.

The cultivators on one side were dressed in gray robes while the cultivators on the other side were dressed in white robes.

Tuoba Sicheng stood on the deck as he looked at the dark sky up ahead and the Pillar of Destruction that towered past the clouds. Then, he said, "Venerable Master Ye, please."

Ye Zheng walked out with his hands on his back. He looked at the Pillar of Destruction and said, "It'll be good if we have a fortuitous encounter in this place..."

"To be honest, even if those people didn't come, I still would've come to this place." Tuoba Sicheng said.

Ye Zheng nodded. "Brother Tuoba, do you know their current location?"

Although they knew those people were in Yu Zhong, Yu Zhong was very vast after all.

Tuoba Sicheng shrugged. "No matter where they are, they must be close to the Pillar of Destruction. We'll just wait for them to show themselves..."

"Aren't you afraid of angering the guardian of the Pillar of Destruction?" Ye Zheng asked.

"Why? I'm just passing by..."

The flying chariot continued to fly forward, flanked by cultivators. When it flew past a few dozen misty mountains, the duo could clearly feel a ripple in the space.

Tuoba Sicheng smiled knowingly. Then, he flashed toward the helm and pressed his hand down.

Buzz!

In just a blink of an eye, Primal Qi shrouded the flying chariot. It buzzed as the flying chariot vanished into thin air and reappeared about a kilometer away.

...

Two days later...

Lu Zhou heard the sound of movements from underground.

At the same time, Kong Wen said, "Pavilion Master, I can no longer endure it..."

Lu Zhou opened his eyes and gauged his divine power. With the Purple Glazed Ceramic, he had recovered almost all of his divine power in three days.

Lu Wu rose to its feet as well.

Everyone tacitly turned to look at the ancient tree.

Under the effects of the Pillar of Impermanence, the ancient tree had lost 15,000 days, which was about 41 years, of its life. Compared to the vitality energy and the years contained in the pillar, these numbers were nothing. However, to Lord Zhennan, the years he lost were not nothing. He really could not accept this.

Swoosh!

Vine grew in a frenzy before they began to dig the ground, looking for the Pillar of Impermanence. Alas, it was in vain.

"Give me back my life!" Lord Zhennan roared. His voice reverberated through heaven and earth.

...

At the same time, the two Venerable Masters in the flying chariot looked at the Pillar of Destruction with great interest, unaware of the movement at a corner of this place.

...

Lord Zhenna grew swiftly. The trees, flowers, and plants around it grew swiftly as well.

At this time, all the ancient trees in the area seemed to be responding to Lord Zhennan.

"You really don't know what's good for you," Lu Zhou said indifferently.

Boom!

Lu Zhou smacked his hand on the ground again.

A huge golden circle rippled out, causing all the trees that were growing swiftly to stop growing.

At the same time, the Pillar of Impermanence was growing rapidly as its absorption increased again. It increased from 5,000 times to 8,000 times.

The air began to distort and rippled as a vortex began to form again, swiftly absorbing the vitality energy in its range.

After sensing the changes in the Pillar of Impermanence, Lu Zhou exerted his will over it.

With that, the pillar spun even faster than before, and the vortex grew bigger.

"So this is how it's used..."

Apart from the pillar, he could control the vortex as well. Naturally, this required strong control and consumed a lot of vitality energy.

The flowers, plants, and trees on the ground withered.

Everyone was astonished.

"Enough," Lord Zhennan said.

The vines quickly gathered together and withdrew.

Lu Zhou raised one hand as the other rested on his back. "Are you convinced now?"

"Yes."

"Very good." Lu Zhou looked at the Pillar of Destruction before he asked, "Did you set up all the formations here?"

"I don't have the time for that. It's that old witch, Tian Wu. She wants to trap me!" Lord Zhennan said indignantly.

"Old witch? Tian Wu?" Lu Zhou furrowed his brows slightly.

At this time, the vines tossed out blood ginseng, fire lotuses, and snow lotuses on the ground.

Lu Zhou waved his hand casually, collecting them and handing them to Mingshi Yin.

Zhao Yu was almost drooling as he looked at those things.

Lord Zhennan said, "These things are to compensate you. If you help me kill that old witch, I'll definitely reward you greatly!"

"Do you really hate Tian Wu so much?"

"She's my lifelong enemy! I'll fight her forever, even in my next life!"

"..."

What kind of resentment and hatred was this?

At this time, Lord Zhennan said, "Put away your Pillar of Impermanence."

### **Chapter 1266: Gates of Destruction**

Lord Zhennan's vines moved again.

Lu Zhou shook his head. "The Pillar of Impermanence stays... However, I'll adjust its absorption speed.

"Hey, I'm a man of my word. How can you..."

Lu Zhou interjected, "This is the way I do things. Would you prefer it if I let it suck you dry? I have enough patience and time..."

"..."

Lord Zhennan knew Lu Zhou had the upper hand now. It was imperative for him to remain calm. Then, he said sullenly, "Fine."

The vines continued to shrink until they shrank into the ancient tree. With this, one could not tell at all the tree was being used by a powerful cultivator to survive.

"Let's go."

Lu Zhou placed his hands on his back and walked toward the ancient tree.

Yu Zhenghai, Yu Shangrong, and the others followed closely behind.

When they arrived under the tree, Zhao Yu gulped and looked at the tree nervously, afraid that the branches would kill him.

Lord Zhennan said, "Let me warn you. The forest ahead is shrouded by killing intent. That old witch had set up a troublesome killing formation. It won't be easy to deal with that formation."

Although the Pillar of Impermanence's absorption speed had slowed down, if anything were to happen to Lu Zhou, it would mean that he would have to raise that life-sucking pillar for the rest of his life. Hence, he definitely did not want any harm to come to Lu Zhou. As for the others, he did not care if all of

them died. In fact, he could kill them with one strike if he wanted to. Naturally, he did not dare to do so since he could sense Lu Zhou's profound and mysterious aura. He was not confident he would be able to kill Lu Zhou. Rather than facing his opponent head-on, was it not better to use his opponent to his advantage?

Lu Zhou walked toward the strange forest up ahead as everyone followed behind him.

Lu Wu leaped over, covering 150 kilometers with just a leap.

Zhao Yu said, "That's the strange forest that Lord Zhennan mentioned. As he had said, there's a formation in there..."

The place looked similar to where Lord Zhennan had taken root. Black fog swirled in the surroundings. The difference was the sensation of being submerged in water was stronger.

Similar to before, Lu Zhou brought out the Golden Taixu Mirror and shone it on his surroundings. However, he did not find anything out of the ordinary.

Kong Wen used his tracking talismans but failed to find the eye of the formation.

"Why don't we retreat, Old Sir? We're lucky that Lord Zhennan can't move, but Tian Wu is different," Zhao Yu said nervously.

"If Tian Wu can move, why didn't it fly over and kill Lord Zhennan?"

"There must be restrictions of some sort despite the small distance between them," Lu Li speculated, "Moreover, it's possible that Tian Wu just couldn't kill him. After all, not everyone possesses the Pillar of Impermanence."

It was only natural that Lord Zhennan was the strongest in its territory.

"Let me look around..." Yu Zhenghai said before rushing out. He tossed the Jasper Saber out and flew around to scout the place. After determining there was no unusual movement, he returned.

Boom!

While Yu Zhenghai was flying back to the others, a wave of water-like energy sent him flying back.

Yu Zhenghai frowned. "Again!"

Yu Zhenghai tried about ten times, but without fail, he was sent flying back each time.

Upon seeing this, Yu Shangrong smiled faintly. "Interesting."

Then, Yu Shangrong flew over. Although he was faster and more agile compared to Yu Zhenghai, his outcome was the same as Yu Zhenghai. He had only flown out ten meters before he was pushed back.

It was rather strange. Soon after, the entire forest seemed to be filled with energy that felt like raging waves and water.

Yan Zhenluo, Lu Li, Kong Wen, and his brothers were soon sent flying as well.

Little Yuan'er and Conch who were not in the range of energy could keenly feel the repelling force as well.

Zhao Yu and his men were even more vulnerable.

"This place is really strange!"

"Master, what should we do?"

Zhao Yu hurriedly interjected, "I think we should retreat."

Lu Zhou looked at Zhao Yu. "Didn't you say you have a way to go to that place?"

"Uh..."

"Speak." Lu Zhou stared at Zhao Yu unblinkingly.

Zhao Yu smiled awkwardly. "Old Sir, I... I was just joking at that time. Please don't take it seriously."

Lu Zhou said in a lowered and threatening tone, "My patience is limited. Don't test me."

Zhao Yu was the one who took proposed working together, and it was also Zhao Yu who decided to break the agreement. In Lu Zhou's eyes, this person had no integrity at all. If Zhao Yu refused to obey when he was being tolerant, then Zhao Yu could not blame him if he used force.

Zhao Yu sighed. "The thing is I'm not sure the method will work. According to the legend, the ten Pillars of Destruction are the Gates of Destruction. In order to utilize their power to change the world, one must obtain the acknowledgment of the Pillars of Destruction." After a pause, he continued to say, "Perhaps, humans are wicked and fierce beasts are too strong, the heavens divided the world and turned the Unknown Land to what it is now as a punishment. In any case, to change the world, we must obtain the pillars' acknowledgment and recognition."

Little Yuan'er asked curiously, "How do we get the pillars to acknowledge us?"

Zhao Yu smiled wryly. "By being virtuous. However, humans are rarely virtuous; they're born ugly with no moral character to speak of. It's just that they're restrained by conventions. I don't believe there's anyone virtuous in this world..."

Lu Li shook his head. "I think it's the other way around. When humans are born, they're like a blank sheet of paper. Evil isn't inherent. It's just that as they grow, they become tainted by the world..."

Zhao Yu did not respond to those words. Instead, he said, "In any case, the Forest of Horrors is the hardest and most important part. However, once you get past it, you'll arrive at the Pillar of Destruction."

"If it's like you said, how did those who participated in the Great Void Expedition get close to the pillar? They obviously came to steal something; that's hardly considered virtuous..." Yan Zhenluo asked, puzzled.

"When the Great Void Seeds mature, the Pillars of Destruction will disappear," Zhao Yu said.

Everyone fell silent.

Lu Zhou's expression remained the same as he surveyed the strange forest. After thinking about it for a moment, he flew out.

Buzz!

Soon enough, he felt a mysterious energy pushing him back.

Zhao Yu shook his head helplessly.

Lu Zhou mobilized the divine power and imbued his body with it before he flew out again. At this moment, his body shone dazzlingly with a golden light. In just a second, he flew in without any obstruction.

Everyone instinctively turned to look at Zhao Yu; their shock visible on their faces.

Zhao Yu was similarly shocked. "How did he do it?"

As soon as Lu Zhou entered the strange forest, black fog began to roll over. He used his divine power and manifested his flaming golden lotus. The golden lotus burning with karmic fire successfully dispersed the black fog.

At this time, an angry voice rang from the depths of the forest.

"Fire... Fire... It's actually fire..."

Zhao Yu, who was standing out of the range of the forest, shook his head. "It's over. Tian Wu hates fire the most."

A wave of black water swept out at this moment, covering the sky.

Everyone was pushed back 1,000 meters. The force was beyond their imagination. Even the beast emperor, Lu Wu, was pushed back.

Silence descended on the strange forest again.

Everyone looked ahead warily.

In the forest, Lu Zhou's body was still emitting golden light as he hovered in the air.

Apart from Lu Zhou, there was someone else standing, safe and sound, with a baffled expression on his face. He was none other than the fourth disciple of the Evil Sky Pavilion, Mingshi Yin.

"???"

"Don't look at me like that. I'm confused as well. Hey, hey, if you don't believe me, let me show you..." Mingshi Yin said.

Then, Mingshi Yin flew forward. Nothing happened. He flew forward again. Still, nothing happened.

At this time, Lu Zhou was looking at Mingshi Yin flickering back and forth in the strange forest, clearly unaffected.

After a while, Mingshi Yin said, "Is the formation broken? What kind of stupid formation is this?"



“ ... ”

## Chapter 1267: Exposed

Anyone with a clear understanding of the Evil Sky Pavilion knew that Mingshi Yin was not the strongest among the disciples. However, he had easily withstood the force that pushed even Lu Wu back. How did he do it? He was completely unaffected.

Lu Zhou looked at Mingshi Yin suspiciously. Something was not right.

Everyone's attention was focused on Mingshi Yin at this moment as though they were watching a monkey's performance.

Mingshi Yin spread his hands. "I don't know what's going on as well!"

“ ... ”

Yan Zhenluo turned to look at Zhao Yu and asked, "Young Master Zhao, since you know so much about this place, do you know what's going on?"

After Zhao Yu calmed down, he said, "There are three possibilities: first, he's the master of the formation; second, he has certain qualities that the pillar acknowledges; third, he's a Saint..."

Mingshi Yin rolled his eyes. "You can just say that I have excellent qualities. Is there a need to beat around the bush?"

Everyone. "..."

The possibility of the first and the third was zero to none. However, was the second possibility not a little too unbelievable?

"Excellent qualities?"

The people of the Evil Sky Pavilion frowned one after another as they stared at Mingshi Yin intently. Some of them shook their heads; some of them sighed; some of them looked at him in confusion.

"Hey, hey, I can tell what you're thinking by the look in your eyes! Master, you have to help me," Mingshi Yin said as he turned around and knelt on one knee. The accusatory look was too much to bear.

Lu Zhou looked at Zhao Yu and asked, "Is there any evidence to support what you said about being able to enter easily as long as one possesses the necessary qualities?"

"This..." Zhao Yu revealed a troubled expression on his face. "To be honest, there's no evidence. I only read this from the ancient books."

"Can you give a more satisfactory answer? Everything you learn is from the ancient books. Are your family's ancient books so great? Does it know why I go to the toilet as well?" Mingshi Yin said indignantly.

Zhao Yu waved his hand. "It's up to you to believe it or not."

Lu Zhou said, "The Evil Sky Pavilion has many talents, and each of them has their own strength. However, in terms of morality, Old Fourth definitely isn't the best..."

"..."

'Master, how can you speak like that?'

Zhao Yu sighed. "I really don't know, but I'm telling the truth. I'm not lying at all."

Lu Zhou said, "Old First, Old Second, try again."

"Understood."

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong rushed toward the strange forest again; one on the left and one on the right. The place that had just calmed down surged with the water-like energy again, pushing the duo out.

"..."

Based on this, it seemed like cultivation base and strength were not the qualities needed to bypass the formation.

"I want to try as well!" Little Yuan'er flew out. As expected, she was repelled as soon as she entered the formation's range; she had barely flown half a meter in.

Conch hurriedly stepped forward to steady Little Yuan'er.

"There's no need to try," Lu Zhou said.

"Then, how are we going to pass through the formation?" Kong Wen asked, puzzled.

At this moment, Zhao Yu pointed at Mingshi Yin and said, "He's the key to the Pillar of Destruction."

"Me?" Mingshi Yin pointed at himself.

Zhao Yu nodded. "Only you can find the eye of the formation."

Mingshi Yin waved his hand. "I have to say you overestimated me this time. Perhaps, you'd be right if Seventh Junior Brother were here..."

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Mingshi Yin flew around the strange forest. He searched a radius of 100 meters before expanding it to a radius of 1,000 meters and a few kilometers. Then, he circled the area three times. Finally, he stopped in front of everyone, panting as he said, "This stupid formation! I can't find the eye of the formation at all!"

"Ding! Your disciple, Mingshi Yin, has removed the formation in the Forest of Horrors. Reward: 10,000 merit points."

"???"

In the depths of the Forest of Horror, a halo slowly expanded. Like a stone being dropped into a calm lake, it slowly rippled outward.

This caught everyone's attention immediately.

"..."

After a moment, Little Yuan'er clapped her hand and said cheerily, "Congratulations, Fourth Senior Brother, on gaining the Pillar of Destruction's recognition!"

"Congratulations, Mr. Fourth!"

"Fourth Junior Brother, you've performed excellently this time!" Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong said.

Mingshi Yin, who still did not know what it was exactly that he did to break the formation. "..."

Yan Zhenluo said with a smile, "Mr. Fourth, you might be unaware of it, but it seems like you have some rare hidden qualities."

"I really am unaware..." Mingshi Yin was truly speechless and confused.

Everyone smiled and no longer commented on the matter.

Zhao Yu was the first to walk over. He was not sent flying this time. "The formation in the Forest of Horrors has been broken..."

Lu Zhou landed on the ground and advanced with the group.

...

After an hour, a rich medicinal fragrance wafted into everyone's noses.

"Herbs!"

"Blood ginseng!"

"Mystic life grass!"

"..."

As they walked through the Forest of Horror, they could see all kinds of treasures growing in every corner even without the tracking talismans.

Zhao Yu, Kong Wen, and his three brothers were in a daze.

"Paradise! This is paradise!"

The forest was tranquil and the vitality energy was calm. It was as though this place was not affected by the imbalance at all.

"What are you waiting for? Hurry up and gather these treasures!" Mingshi Yin said as he hurriedly harvested the mystic life grass near him.

Every 100 meters also, there was a stalk of mystic life grass.

Kong Wen shook his head in disbelief. He and his brother stayed in the Unknown Land and wandered the land all year round. There were times where they could not even find a stalk of mystic life grass after a few years. However, so many mystic life grass grew here.

Mingshi Yin no longer bothered with the others. All he saw at this moment were the blood ginseng, the fire lotuses, the snow lotuses, and the stalks of mystic life grass. He efficiently harvested them and kept them in his bag. His speed was so fast that he soon arrived at the bank of a round lake.

"There's a lake here..." Mingshi Yin muttered to himself.

Splash!

Something leaped out of the lake and pounced at Mingshi Yin.

Swoosh!

Mingshi Yin dodged at lightning speed and retreated.

The figure that jumped out of the lake possessed eight heads, eight legs, and eight tails. Its body was that of a tiger, and it was green and yellow in colors. It hovered above the surface of the lake and exhaled a cloud of mist.

The others who were also shocked by this hastily retreated. They looked at the newcomer as though they were facing a great enemy.

Lu Wu sat on its haunches and said, "Tian Wu."

The creature rapidly expanded, causing the water to rise, until it was as big as Lu Wu.

At this moment, Lu Zhou discovered that Tian Wu seemed to be made from water. If so, how was he going to kill Tian Wu?

The atmosphere grew oppressive immediately.

Zhao Yu gulped.

After a moment of silence, the creature formed from water said, "You actually managed to break the Forest of Horror's formation?"

Little Yuan'er turned to the side and said, "Fourth Senior Brother, it's talking to you."

Mingshi Yin looked to the right and the left in confusion. "Who? Who broke the Forest of Horrors' formation?"

Everyone. "..."

To everyone's surprise, the water creature did not seem to have any intention of attacking. The body of water churned before it took on the silhouette of a woman. Then, the water churned again, and it returned to its original form. It sighed deeply and said, "Since you didn't break the formation, then leave the things you harvested here and leave. These things are meant for the fated person..."

Fated person?

Mingshi Yin's eyes darted around before he flew forward and stopped in front of the group. Then, he said with a smile, "I'm the one who broke the formation."

“You broke the formation?” The body of water churned again. Then, a wave of water swept out, attacking Mingshi Yin.

Bang!

Everyone instinctively closed their eyes, certain Mingshi Yin was going to be severely injured.

Contrary to their expectations, a golden astrolabe appeared in front of Mingshi Yin, shielding him.

Lu Zhou said tonelessly, “You’re an elder. Is there a need to act like that toward a junior? Is it because he easily broke your formation?”

“Who are you?”

Mingshi Yin replied, “He’s my master!”

Tian Wu shifted again into its human form before withdrawing her attack. She glanced at Lu Zhou before looking at Mingshi Yin again and said, “There’s only one kind of person who can break my formation...”

Everyone’s ears perked up as soon as they heard these words.

“Someone with outstanding qualities... However, he’s clearly not worthy...”

A huge wave of water swept toward Mingshi Yin again.

“Hey, just because I don’t show my might, do you think I’m a pushover?” Mingshi Yin said indignantly.

Bang!

The Separation Hook spun and cut through the wave.

The wave receded swiftly.

The water creature said in a trembling voice, “Seed...”

The others who were not in the know. ‘What seed?’

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong shook their head silently. In the end, they were still exposed.

Mingshi Yin lowered his head. He saw the water droplets on his body gradually evaporating into white fog. Then, rich Great Void energy surged out in all directions. At the same time, his body glowed with a faint blue light.

Zhao Yu was shocked.

“So this is why...” Tian Wu said in a low voice.

‘It’s really not like that. If the Great Void Seeds can break the formation, then all of my disciples would have been able to break it!’

The lake water began to churn as Tian Wu grew bigger and bigger.

“Thank you very much for bringing the Great Void Seed back. This way, I don’t have to wait another 30,000 years.”

Zhao Yu frowned.. “Tian Wu intends to snatch the Great Void Seed away.”

### **Chapter 1268: Killing Tian Wu?**

The body of water suddenly turned into 100 water men. They swooped down and wasted no time in attacking the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion. Each of them wielded a frozen weapon in their hands.

Lu Wu rose to its feet and roared thunderously, “You’ll have to get past me!”

Lu Wu exhaled the wintry energy, freezing the water men along with Tian Wu.

Ice Seal was undoubtedly one of the best ways to deal with those with water ability.

Everyone retreated and sighed in relief.

Alas, the frozen water men scattered all over the ground like ice sculptures did not stay frozen for long. The ice melted quickly, and they regained their mobility.

“Be careful!”

Tian Wu’s control over water was at its peak.

The water men and the people from the Evil Sky Pavilion began to fight.

Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai took the lead and flew high into the sky. The energy sabers and energy swords worked together as they slashed and stabbed at the water men. Alas, they could not inflict any damage to the water men.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

“This can’t continue on...”

Yan Zhenluo, Lu Li, Kong Wen, and his brother soon felt the pressure. They had no choice but to manifest their astrolabes to defend with all their might.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The people of the Evil Sky Pavilion were losing ground.

Little Yuan’er patted the little Fire Phoenix and asked, “Can you spit fire?”

Surprisingly, the little Fire Phoenix flapped its wings with all its might and flew up. Unfortunately, it did not rise very high up when it was hit by a wave of energy. Frightened, it hurriedly flew back to Little Yuan’er’s shoulder.

“...”

Conch brought out the Nine String Zither. As she strummed the strings of the zither, red fog began to swirl as the melody rang in the air, attacking the water men. Her cultivation base was even lower than Little Yuan’er so in the end, the two girls were forced to retreat.

At this moment, Zhao Yu shouted, “Old Sir, this is your last chance to escape!”

At the same time, after pushing the others back, the water men no longer paid any attention to them. Instead, all of their attention was focused on Mingshi Yin. They chased him, intentionally or unintentionally, toward the lake.

Mingshi Yin flashed back and forth, constantly dodging the enemies' attacks.

Boom!

At this time, Lu Zhou stomped on the ground and flew up into the air. Then, he brought the Golden Taixu Mirror out and shone it at the lake.

Buzz!

The light shone through the water men and landed on the lake, revealing a dazzling disc-like object at the bottom of the lake.

"That must be the reason why it can control water..."

Lu Zhou flew forward. "Golden Flaming Lotus."

Lu Zhou cast his first Birth Trial ability. A golden lotus appeared under his feet, burning with karmic fire. It spun rapidly, releasing small flaming golden lotuses.

"Karmic fire?!"

Karmic fire was not like ordinary fire. Water could not stand up to karmic fire at all.

In just a moment, the water men evaporated.

Lu Zhou continued to advance until he was above the lake.

Tian Wu rose up and attacked immediately. "How dare you!"

It shot out like an icicle toward Lu Zhou's face.

Lu Zhou raised his hand. Unnamed in the form of a sword appeared and launched a long spinning energy sword.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The sword energy pierced the icicle and shattered it.

Lu Zhou continued to advance. Then, he pushed his hand out.

Abandon Wisdom!

The Abandon Wisdom that had been imbued with half of Lu Zhou's divine power fell.

Boom!

The lake water splashed up into the sky.

Everyone activated their protective energy to keep the water at bay.

On the ground, every droplet of water immediately formed into water men again.

“...”

“This is the terrifying aspect of Tian Wu’s power,” Zhao Yu said as he continued to retreat. He could no longer endure this. His body was trembling, and his legs felt so weak that he found it difficult to walk.

Tian Wu’s ability was exactly like what was recorded in the ancient books. Moreover, this water apparition was just a manifestation. How much more terrifying if its true body appeared?

Needless to say, Lu Zhou was already aware that the water apparition was just a manifestation. He knew he had to end this battle quickly.

“Go!” Lu Zhou’s energy sword shot into the bottom of the lake.

Bang!

The earth trembled.

The disc’s light dimmed immediately.

“You destroyed my formation?! I want you to pay with your life!”

Every droplet of water, puddle of water on the ground, and the lake water rose and turned into icicles, shooting toward Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou turned around, sensing the danger.

Buzz!

Fortunately, Lu Zhou was blessed by the Golden Buddha’s Body so he was invulnerable.

“Help master!”

Yu Zhenghai launched a barrage of energy sabers and cast Water Dragon Song, consuming some of the water source.

Yu Shangrong used the

Lu Zhou turned around and sensed danger.

It was unassailable!

Buzz.

The Buddha’s golden body blessed him.

The golden light protected his body and blocked all the attacks outside.

“Help!”

Yu Zhenghai erupted with blade energy, and the Water Dragon’s roar consumed a part of the water source.

Yu Shangrong used the Swordless Path and created swords out of the water source.

Little Yuan’er flew up and tossed Nirvana Sash out. Flowing that, it burst into flames.



“Karmic fire again?!” Zhao Yu stumbled back and fell to the ground. He felt like he was dreaming. Was it possible to encounter so many rare geniuses in one day?

Conch flew to Little Yuan’er’s side. The red lotus that bloomed under her feet burned with karmic fire as well.

Since time immemorial, water and fire had always opposed each other. Water was the nemesis of fire, and fire was the nemesis of water.

“Impossible! Karmic fire!” Zhao Yu gulped.

Kong Wen’s heart was in turmoil as well. He knew Lu Zhou was very strong, and he knew that there were many talents in the Evil Sky Pavilion. However, witnessing the disciples’ strength was truly very refreshing.

“In the green lotus domain, not even one out of 10,000 people possesses karmic fire. However, there are so many in the golden lotus domain and the red lotus domain?” Zhao Yu was perplexed.

“Maybe this is the balance...” Lu Li murmured as he watched the disciples of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

“The Balance?”

Heavens had bestowed the green lotus domain with a powerful cultivation path, but due to the balance, Venerable Masters could not simply cross the Red Line. It was not wrong to say the green lotus domain was superior. The golden lotus domain, the red lotus domain, the black lotus domain, and the white lotus domain could not compare to it.

However, at this moment, Zhao Yu was overwhelmed with a sense of inferiority as he looked at these golden and red lotus cultivators.

At this time, Yu Zhenghai laughed heartily. Then, he said, “Watch me!”

Buzz!

An avatar burning with golden flames appeared. Then, it began to expand, showing no signs of stopping until...

Boom!

The water evaporated in just an instant.

“This is Eldest Senior Brother’s first Birth Trial ability!”

“The Explosive Avatar.”

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction as he watched his disciples. The few water men still surrounded him, but they quickly evaporated due to the high heat.

At this moment, a vague shadow appeared behind the water men.

Upon seeing this, Lu Wu exhaled its freezing energy again.

“You can’t freeze me!” Tian Wu roared.

A blurry figure rushed out from the back of the water men at this moment and slammed its hands against Lu Zhou's Golden Buddha's Body.

Bang!

Everyone watched with their mouths agape as the figure with eight heads, eight legs, and eight tails was sent flying back 1,000 meters after charging into Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou frowned as he looked at the creature with eight heads. "So, you're Tian Wu?"

The real Tian Wu had finally appeared.

Its appearance caused everyone's hair to stand on end.

"Who are you?" Tian Wu was shocked that its attack was ineffective.

"Someone you can't afford to offend," Lu Zhou said tonelessly as he casually pushed his hand out.

The ordinary Deadly Strike Card vanished and turned into a vortex.

Then, the Great Vajra Wheel Hand Sign shot out like a ball of sunlight.

Bang!

It hit Tian Wu's chest at close range, causing it to roar in anger.

Then, the Great Vajra Wheel Hand Sign flew back a little before it hit Tian Wu's face.

"..."

Zhao Yu was dumbfounded. Was this not the powerful Tian Wu? Why was it different from what he had imagined?

Tian Wu tried dodging to the left and the right. It felt an unprecedented threat from the palm seal. At this moment, it was pushed to the Pillar of Destruction.

Boom!

The sound of an explosion that shook the world rang in the air.

At the same time, two flying chariots flanked by many cultivators suddenly appeared next to the Pillar of Destruction.

"It's better to arrive at the right time than to arrive early."

### **Chapter 1269: Chaotic War**

The people of the Evil Sky Pavilion regained their senses when they saw the two flying chariots.

The huge flying chariot on the left was long and narrow. It was flanked by many cultivators. Their robes were neat and tidy, indicating their journey here was very smooth.

The flying chariot on the right was slightly smaller, and there were not as many cultivators flanking it compared to the other flying chariot.

When they arrived near the Pillar of Destruction, they had sensed a commotion and rushed over immediately. They did not expect to see such a good show as soon as they arrived.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou hovered in the air calmly, wondering which Venerable Master had arrived.

Before Lu Zhou could figure it out, Zhao Yu exclaimed, "Venerable Master Tuoba and Venerable Master Fan!"

Zhao Yu felt his heart hurt. He had done a lot of research before he chose the most unlikely place for Venerable Masters to appear. Currently, not only one, but two Venerable Masters had appeared. His research was just a joke at this moment.

The other end of the Red Line, which was near the green lotus domain, was a place where Venerable Masters frequented. He did not expect to see two of them here.

One of the reasons the green lotus domain was so powerful was due to them taking all the resources near the Pillar of Destruction.

Zhao Yu had overlooked a problem. He had forgotten to consider the imbalance. With the imbalance, Venerable Masters were no longer restricted by the Red Line. Moreover, the Equalizer had yet to appear. It was only obvious the Venerable Masters would choose to come to a place that they had never been before. After all, when the black and white lotus cultivators came to this place, they did not manage to take many resources away due to how dangerous it was for them. As time passed, the resources here had accumulated. How could the Venerable Masters not come here now that there were no restrictions?

At this time...

"Venerable Master Fan, long time no see." A voice rang from the black flying chariot.

"Venerable Master Tuoba, since you invited me here, how could I not come? Where's Venerable Master Ye?"

"He'll arrive in a moment..."

"Who are these people?" Fan Zhong asked.

The smaller flying chariot turned around slightly, making a creaking noise like the sound of a wooden door that had fallen to disrepair.

Before anyone could say anything, Lu Zhou said, "Tuoba Sicheng?"

Tuoba Sicheng smiled. "You remember me?"

"I see. So you're the one who saved Ye Zheng previously..." Lu Zhou said without beating around the bush. It was clear Tuoba Sicheng came with ill intentions. The scent was similar to the scent from before.

Tuoba Sicheng said, "I don't understand what you mean."

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "If you help Ye Zheng, then you're against me."

An enhanced Reduction Card and an advanced enhanced Deadly Strike Card had already appeared in his hand. If any one of them made a move, they would surely die. He could deal with one Venerable Master while Lu Wu dealt with the other; it was not a big problem.

“No, no, no, you misunderstand me. I only saved Ye Zheng to return a favor,” Tuoba Sicheng said, no longer denying Lu Zhou’s words.

Mingshi Yin rolled his eyes. “Is there a difference?”

Lu Wu stepped forward. “It’s been a long time since I fought with a Venerable Master...”

“Lu Wu.”

Tuoba Sicheng and Fan Zhong sensed Lu Wu’s beast emperor’s aura immediately.

Duanmu Sheng patted Lu Wu’s back and asked, “Are you sure you can do it?”

Lu Wu wore a dissatisfied expression on its face and asked, “Young Master, are you looking down on me?”

Duanmu Sheng, who did not want Lu Wu to be too arrogant, said, “I only remember that you couldn’t even defeat Tower Master Lan...”

Lu Wu said dismissively, “I did that on purpose. Moreover, I was injured before...”

Applause rang out from the black flying chariot.

“Beast Emperor Lu Wu is indeed strong. Back when Venerable Master Duanmu was still around, everyone knew of your name. Unfortunately, things are different now...”

“Hm?”

“You’ll see...” Tuoba Sicheng was clearly not worried at all.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou looked at the Pillar of Destruction. An ordinary Deadly Strike Card should have reaped one of Tian Wu’s lives, but he had yet to receive a notification. It did not make sense.

As expected, stone fragments rolled down the pillar at this moment.

“Ding! Killed one target. Reward: 5,000 merit points.”

Tian Wu was definitely not any weaker than Lu Wu. An ordinary Deadly Strike Card definitely would not kill it for good, but it was good enough to serve as a deterrent.

Black fog rolled out at this moment.

The two Venerable Masters, Tuoba Sicheng and Fan Zhong, turned around after sensing the movement.

Tian Wu with its eight faces was shrouded in black fog as it dislodged itself from the crack in the stone. Its voice sounded like it came from hell as it said, “It’s been a long time since it was this lively...”

“Tian Wu?” Tuoba Sicheng and Fan Zhong were only slightly surprised.

Everyone watched as seven shadows flashed before merging into one. Following that, the lake water rose and shot toward the black fog.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The black fog churned as the sound of water splashing rang from within the fog.

No one knew what was happening inside.

Soon after, eight shadows appeared in the fog.

Lu Zhou frowned. This meant that Tian Wu had regained the life it just lost. An idea formed in his mind; he wondered if he could farm merit points without limit using Tian Wu.

Tian Wu cackled at this moment. "Do you think you're powerful and can't do as you please just because the Equalizer hasn't shown up?"

Tuoba Sicheng looked at Tian Wu and said, "Tian Wu, you've been fighting with Lord Zhennan until now. Both sides are injured as a result. If it were 30,000 years ago, we naturally wouldn't dare to approach the Pillar of Destruction, but now..."

The implication was clear: Tian Wu's strength was not at its peak.

It was not surprising. Tian Wu fought with Lord Zhennan to the point where Lord Zhennan had to borrow a tree to survive. How could Tian Wu escape unscathed?

Tian Wu cackled again.

Tuoba Sicheng waved his hand.

Dozens of cultivators flew toward the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Fan Zhong did not move. Instead, he said, "I'm waiting for Ye Zheng to arrive."

Lu Zhou's expression remained the same. Fan Zhong's words indicated that Fan Zhong had yet to come to a complete agreement with Tuoba Sicheng whereas Tuo Sicheng and Ye Zheng must be allies now.

This meant there were four sides now: the Evil Sky Pavilion, Tuoba Sicheng, Fan Zhong, and Tian Wu.

Lu Zhou turned slightly and called out, "Lu Wu."

Lu Wu lowered its body.

Lu Zhou solemnly said, "I hope you can ensure their safety."

Lu Wu's gaze swept across the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion before it said in a low voice, "Alright."

Although it was just a word, it was brimming with confidence and vigor.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong hovered in the air on opposing sides; their nerves were tense. A war was about to break out.

The four parties looked at each other

Tian Wu stopped cackling at this moment. Soon after, a head poked out from the black fog. Its face was pale, and its eyes were terrifying as it looked at Lu Zhou and said, "Let's start with you..."

Lu Zhou remained expressionless. "Are you sure?"

Tuoba Sicheng spread his hands and said in a self-righteous tone, "I agree with Tian Wu."

Tian Wu said, "Since you hurt me, I'll take your life first."

Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

Unexpectedly, Qiong Qi began to bark at this moment.

Everyone looked over immediately. They only saw Mingshi Yin who was glowing with a faint blue light.

Mingshi Yin was thoroughly annoyed. He wanted to hide the aura, but Tian Wu's method was too powerful. His fellow disciples were all fine, only he alone was exposed.

"Great Void Seed?" Tuoba Sicheng's voice trembled slightly.

Realization dawned on Fan Zhong. "Great Void Seed? No wonder you and Ye Zheng insisted on coming here."

At this time, Tian Wu suddenly rushed out of the black fog as the lake water surged into the sky. It did not pay attention to anyone else and shot toward Mingshi Yin.

"You're mine!"

Mingshi Yin. "..."

'Uh... What should I do now?'

At this time, an astrolabe flew out from the flying chariot on the right. Time seemed to stop for a moment.

Bang!

"Who dares to stop me?!"

The cultivators flanking both flying chariots sprang into action and rushed toward Tian Wu.

"Stop him!"

Energy swords, astrolabes, and energy seals sailed chaotically in the air.

Mingshi Yin and his Great Void Seed had broken the precarious balance.

"Scram," Tian Wu roared before it exploded with unprecedented power that rippled out in all directions.

Boom!

**Chapter 1270: The Divine Soul Pearl and the Second Birth Trial**

An indescribable power swept over the entire place like a tsunami.

“Fourth Senior Brother!”

“Old Fourth!”

Lu Zhou originally wanted to make a move, but seeing that Mingshi Yin was safe and sound, he relaxed and focused on staying alive.

Tian Wu’s overwhelming power sent the cultivators flying.

Lu Wu leaped over and stood in front of the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion like a mountain that blocked the wave of a tsunami.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Wave after wave of energy swept out.

Crack!

Tuoba Sicheng’s flying chariot could not withstand the powerful force and immediately broke.

Fan Zhong’s flying chariot had long broken into pieces and fell to the ground.

Tuoba Sicheng manifested his astrolabe and moved it in front of him. His green astrolabe seemed to be able to cover the sky and the sun.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou held Unnamed in the form of a shield to block the wave of energy. It was a little difficult to defend himself with his 11 Birth Charts. He had no choice but to mobilize his divine power and stabilize himself. The divine power was still sufficient for now. With Whizard around, he was not too worried about the usage of his divine power.

Tian Wu’s crazy attack lasted for fifteen minutes.

When the last wave of attack dispersed, everyone put away their astrolabes.

Tuoba Sicheng and Fan Zhong had lost more than ten people from this attack alone. Their men’s bodies were pierced by icicles before they even had a chance to react. As for the surviving cultivators, they barely managed to regroup, looking as though they had just survived a disaster.

Lu Wu’s red fur stood on end as he successfully blocked the attack.

Everyone was shaken and shocked. To think Tian Wu was not at its peak. If it was at its peak, its strength was likely comparable to a divine beast or a Saint!

When everyone turned to look at Tian Wu, they saw it had turned into black fog again, swiftly shrouding Mingshi Yin.

Mingshi Yin struck with his palm. Following that, vines from the Bluewood Heart Technique began growing wildly on the ground before wrapping themselves around him.

“It’s useless!” Tian Wu’s black fog easily repelled the vines.

“Tian Wu, you guarded this place for so long because you want the Great Void Seed?” Tuoba Sicheng asked at this moment.

Tian Wu ignored him.

Tuoba Sicheng scoffed before he leaped into the sky. His astrolabe appeared in his hand.

The astrolabe was thousands of meters in diameter, covering the sky.

Everyone raised their heads.

36 triangles flashed briefly before Tuoba Sicheng’s Birth Charts shone brightly on his astrolabe. He had deliberately revealed the number of his Birth Charts.

“20 Birth Charts?”

Fan Zhong frowned upon seeing Tuoba Sicheng’s Birth Charts. He waved his hand, ordering his men to return to his side.

Lu Zhou was surprised as well. At the same time, he felt lucky. If he had recklessly used the Reduction Card, he would have suffered a great loss. Tuoba Sicheng had 20 Birth Charts. With the Reduction Card, he would lose one Birth Chart, which still left him with 19 Birth Chart!

“Today, I’m the master of this place!”

Buzz!

The astrolabe released all its power at Tian Wu at once.

The lake water surged up high in the sky as the black fog rose from Tian Wu’s eight sides.

Boom!

Lu Zhou brought out Unnamed in the form of a shield to block the shockwave from the collision between the two.

“Stay with me! I’ll keep you alive!” Lu Wu was still as steady as Mount Tai, and its expression was solemn as it blocked the attack for everyone. Then, it turned around and looked at Duanmu Sheng.

“Young Master.”

“Lu Wu?”

“Be careful. Conceal your aura... This goes for all of you as well,” Lu Wu said, shifting his gaze from Duanmu Sheng to Lu Zhou’s other disciples.

“Okay.” Duanmu Sheng nodded obediently. He knew this situation was not something he could handle.

Lu Zhou’s other disciples were very careful as well.

Meanwhile, Zhao Yu and Kong Wen were dumbfounded when they heard Lu Wu’s words. Was it useful to conceal their auras? Would it protect them? It was useless!

At this time, Tuoba Sicheng swooped down. He held a black scimitar in his hand.



Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Four distinct noises rang out.

Lu Zhou could clearly sense Tuoba Sicheng's power of the Dao.

Meanwhile, Tuoba Sicheng hovered in the air and asked with a smile, "Fan Zhong, what are you waiting for?"

Fan Zhong said, "Brother Tuoba, you already have 20 Birth Charts. What do you need me for?"

"You're either my enemy or my ally. Choose now," Tuoba Sicheng bluntly said.

Fan Zhong's expression turned unsightly.

In fact, Fan Zhong and Tuoba Sicheng's relationship had never been good. Naturally, they did not shed all pretenses of cordiality and only competed in the dark.

When they both had 18 Birth Charts, Fan Zhong could do as he pleased. However, 20 Birth Charts made things a little difficult.

Not too long ago, Ye Zheng had been lobbying for the three of them to work together. He had tried to persuade Fan Zhong to join them. They would take the resources at the Pillar of Destruction and help Ye Zheng seek revenge.

Lu Zhou said, "Fan Zhong, if you dare to move, I'll be the first to take your life."

It was imperative that the two Venerable Masters did not form an alliance at this time. Lu Zhou's card could only deal with one Venerable Master, and Tuoba Sicheng was destined to be his enemy. Since Fan Zhong's stance was not firm, he could still be restrained by Lu Wu. Finally, there was Ye Zheng who was hiding in the dark. Once he dealt with Tuoba Sicheng, he could easily deal with Ye Zheng.

Lu Wu turned around and said, "You have no business here. Get lost."

Tian Wu continued to cackle. Then, it suddenly turned into a woman. She, Tian Wu, held Mingshi Yin tightly. Her expression was a mixture of anger and sadness as she let out a low laugh that sounded as though she was laughing and crying at the same time.

"Fierce beasts can really... transform into humans..."

Zhao Yu said, "This is still a mystery. In ancient times, there were many experts that were both human and beast..."

"..."

Tian Wu opened her mouth and spat out a black orb. The black orb hovered above her palm, emitting a strange light. It was more beautiful than a black pearl and more dazzling than the moon.

"The Divine Soul Pearl!" Tuoba Sicheng inhaled sharply.

"The Divine Soul Pearl?"

Zhao Yu, who was like a fountain of knowledge recently, explained, "Cultivation in ancient times wasn't as detailed and systematic as it is now; it was very complicated. Some people, after activating a number of Birth Charts, would fuse their Birth Charts into one to protect them. After merging into one, you have the Divine Soul Pearl. It's like the life hearts of fierce beasts. If you obtain it, you can directly activate a Great Birth Chart and pass a Birth Trial!"

"Really?" Kong Wen's eyes widened in awe. He had never heard of such a precious treasure.

"You'll know if I'm lying or not once you see Venerable Master Tuoba and Venerable Master Fan's reactions..." Zhao Yu said.

All of them turned to look at the two Venerable Masters.

Tuoba Sicheng laughed. "I can't believe this! There's the Great Void Seed and the Divine Soul Pearl! My trip here isn't in vain! Everyone, listen up!"

"Yes, Venerable Master Tuoba!"

Dozens of disciples gathered in a neat formation immediately.

"Set up the formation. Don't let a single one of them go!"

"Understood!"

Tuoba Sicheng's smile gradually turned cold. He glanced at Fan Zhong from the corners of his eyes and asked, "Have you thought it through?"

Fan Zhong hesitated and looked at Lu Wu who was staring at him.

At this moment, Tian Wu flew up with the Divine Soul Pearl in hand. "Who gave you the courage?!"

Swoosh!

Everything froze. This was true stillness unlike the power of the Dao that was previously demonstrated.

There were many laws that Venerable Masters could control. There was the law of space and the law of time, among others. Venerable Masters could slow time or speed it up, but they could reverse time. Only a Saint could stop time.

In other words, Tian Wu's strength was that of a Saint.

Lu Zhou could clearly feel the change in time. He silently chanted the mantra for the Heavenly Writing to free himself from the shackle of time. He saw Tian Wu had already arrived in front of Tuoba Sicheng and the Divine Soul Pearl in its hand had already hit Tuoba Sicheng's chest.

An unprecedentedly powerful energy pierced Tuoba Sicheng's chest, carving a piece of flesh out.

"..."

In the eyes of Tuoba Sicheng and the others, it looked as though Tian Wu had teleported to Tuoba Sicheng before striking him.

"How's this possible?!" Tuoba Sicheng flew back.

Tian Wu did not stop. She turned around to look at Lu Zhou and used the power of the Dao again.

Similar to before, everything froze.

Lu Zhou saw Tian Wu flying over and knew he could not stay still. He cast his grand technique along with his divine power, flashing away.

Swoosh!

“Huh?”

Tian Wu’s attack missed. She was shocked.. She thought her attack would definitely land and did not expect Lu Zhou to be able to move after she froze time.