

## Disciples 1291

### Chapter 1291: Putting All of the Cards on the Table

Questions?

Their biggest question was the identity and background of the old man in front of them. However, how could they dare to ask about it? They could only remain silent. Their Venerable Masters had died, the glory of the Tuoba clan and Yannan would soon fade away. Even if they knew the answer to the question now, what was the use?

Moreover, Tuoba Sicheng's death really could not be blamed on anyone else.

Silence reigned over the place.

After a moment, Qin Renyue said, "Elder Tuoba, do you have anything to say?"

Tuoba Hong inhaled deeply before he said, "With Venerable Master Qin presiding over this matter, we naturally have no objections and questions."

"Since that's the case, you should apologize for coming here and causing a ruckus," Qin Renyue said.

Tuoba Hong turned around to face Ye Wei and Yannan's disciples. "There was a misunderstanding earlier. I apologize to Elder Ye and Yannan. I hope everyone can forgive me."

Ye Wei was not in the mood to bicker about this. Ye Zheng's death had taken a toll on him as well.

Qin Renyue said, "What else?"

"This..." Tuoba Hong was confused. He had already apologized; what else was there to do? When he looked up, he saw Qin Renyue shooting him a look. Realization dawned on him immediately, and he hurriedly said to Lu Zhou, "Our Venerable Master was at fault. I hope you won't take offense, old sir."

Lu Zhou remained silent. After all, he had told Qin Renyue to deal with it.

Tuoba Hong did not know what to do when he saw Lu Zhou keeping quiet. He glanced at Qin Renyue and saw Qin Renyue winking at him.

Tuoba Hong. "..."

Usually, it was others who had to figure out Tuoba Hong's meaning. Now that he had to figure out what another person's meant, he was naturally not very good at it.

Tuoba Hong was still thinking about what Qin Renyue meant, Qin Renyue turned around and asked, "Brother Lu, are you satisfied with the way I dealt with this matter?"

"Since I said you should preside over it, I naturally have nothing to say about your decision," Lu Zhou said.

Tuoba Hong was lost in his thoughts. A vague idea formed in his mind as he drew inspiration from the people around him. Then, he quickly said, "Old sir, I have two mystic microstones. The Tuoba clan spent several painstaking years to find them..."

As Tuoba Hong spoke, he waved his hand at the older cultivator and ordered them to retrieve the mystic microstones.

"There's no need for that." Lu Zhou waved his hand. He did not have so much time to wait for them to bring the mystic microstones here. After all, no one would carry treasures like the mystic microstones everywhere they went.

Tuoba Hong was stunned. Logically speaking, he should be happy that Lu Zhou refused his offer. However, sometimes, refusal was not a good thing at this moment. It was either his apology was deemed insincere or he had thoroughly offended the person in front of him that two mystic microstones were not enough to solve the problem. With this thought in mind, he hurriedly brought out a milky-white jade talisman. Then, he came before Lu Zhou and presented it to Lu Zhou as he decisively said, "Please accept this. I hope you won't disdain it."

Everyone looked over.

Zhao Yu said with a smile. "To think you're willing to part with it."

"Collective Jade Talisman?" Yu Zhenghai had a vague impression of it since he had seen Fan Zhong and Yan Zhenluo using it.

Lu Zhou hesitated slightly. He did not lead everyone here to ask for these things. After all, he was not a bandit. Why was it that everything he did seemed to be extortion? However, there was no doubt the Collective Teleportation Jade Talisman was a treasure. Not only could it save one's life, but he could use it to quickly return to help his people. Now that the imbalance had worsened, a disaster might befall the golden lotus domain in the future.

While Lu Zhou was hesitating, Tuoba Hong said again, "Old sir, please don't refuse me. I'm very sincere about this."

Lu Zhou said, "There's a debtor for every debt. How can I blame you for Tuoba Sicheng's mistakes?"

Tuoba Hong was overjoyed upon hearing these words. He immediately pushed the jade talisman over and said, "Thank you, old sir, for being so understanding. Please accept this jade talisman."

"Alright. Old Fourth." Lu Zhou waved his sleeve.

Mingshi Yin nodded and casually waved his hand, bringing the jade talisman to his hand.

Tuoba Hong sighed in relief. He knew it was time to leave. If he stayed on any longer, who knew if the situation would change? Hence, he said, "Sorry for disturbing everyone today. I'll visit another day to apologize to Yannan. I'll take my leave now."

"I won't see you out," Ye Wei said.

Tuoba Hong waved at his clansmen.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Soon enough, the people from the Tuoba clan vanished into the clouds.

...

After flying for 100 miles, Tuoba Hong finally came to a stop. He turned to look in the direction of Yannan.

“Elder Tuoba, did Venerable Master Tuoba die in vain?” a disciple, who still could not accept the reality, asked.

Tuoba Hong said in a deep voice, “There’s no reason for Young Master Zhao to lie. Even Venerable Master Qin believed him. What else can we do?”

Everyone fell silent.

“First Elder, if everything is true, then that old man doesn’t seem like an evil person. There’s no need to offer him the Collective Transportation Jade Talisman, right? How good would it be if he didn’t accept it.”

Now that the Tuoba Clan no longer had a Venerable Master, the clan was likely to decline. With that, there would be no lack of people who would trample on them when they were down. The coming days would only be miserable.

Tuoba Hong sighed. “You’re all still too young.”

The Tuoba clan had no relationship with Lu Zhou at all. Instead, they had gotten on his bad side. If they could solve the problem with words alone, then what was the point of cultivating?

...

After watching the Tuoba clan leave, Qin Renyue nodded. He turned around and asked, “Brother Lu, are you satisfied?”

Lu Zhou shook his head.

Qin Renyue was taken aback. He asked, “Brother Lu, what do you mean?”

Lu Zhou only said three words, “Qin Naihe.”

Qin Renyue frowned upon hearing these three words. “Brother Lu, you know our Qin clan’s Free Man?”

“It’s more than just knowing him.”

“He’s a traitor of the Qin clan. Moshang died a suspicious death so he can’t shirk his responsibility. If Brother Lu is privy to his whereabouts, I hope you can tell me,” Qin Renyue said.

“He’s now one of my men,” Lu Zhou said indifferently.

Qin Renyue. “?”

Several disciples from the Qin clan looked over with shocked expressions on their faces.

Lu Zhou continued to say, "I'm only telling you this because you're smart. If it were anyone else, I wouldn't have bothered."

Qin Renyue suppressed the shock in his heart and asked with a frown, "Brother Lu, what happened?"

Lu Zhou rose from his seat and placed his hands on his back as he walked to the edge of the cloud platform. He looked at the mountains and the land that stretched out before his eyes as he slowly said, "Quite a while ago, I was cultivating in seclusion near the Cold Pond on the peak of a mountain in the red lotus domain. At that time, Qin Moshang ambushed me. I saw that he was young so I only destroyed one of his Birth Charts as punishment."

"..."

Qin Renyue's eyes widened. It felt as though an electric current was traveling through his body, and his hair stood on end. He instinctively took a few steps back.

Lu Zhou did not pay attention to Qin Renyue's reaction and continued to say, "However, I didn't expect that kid to be so stubborn. Not only was he unrepentant, but he even tried to seek revenge."

Qin Renyue's voice trembled as he asked, "Brother Lu, you killed Moshang?"

Lu Zhou turned around. His gaze was profound as he looked at Qin Renyue and asked in return, "Do you think I shouldn't have killed him?"

Qin Renyue did not know how to answer this question.

The people from the Qin clan were speechless.

Despite the gloomy atmosphere, Mingshi Yin scoffed coldly before he said, "Qin Moshang sent one ghost servant first. Later, he brought two ghost servants and Qin Naihe with him. You should know the strength of these people very well..."

Qin Renyue. "..."

Mingshi Yin continued to say, "I heard Qin Moshang was Venerable Master Qin's successor. I don't believe that Venerable Master Qin is unaware of his temperament..."

These words hit the nail on the head... of Qin Renyue.

### **Chapter 1292: You're Not Wrong**

Qin Renyue certainly understood Qin Moshang's temperament very well. Indeed, Qin Moshang was someone who would not let him be at ease. He had to worry about Qin Moshang constantly.

Qin Moshang lost both his parents when he was young so he lacked discipline. Moreover, due to his relationship with Qin Renyue, no one dared to be too strict with him. Over time, he developed a domineering and arrogant personality. He became even worse after he became an adult. Although the Qin clansmen were angry, they naturally did not dare to blame him too much. In fact, the first and second elders tried their best to protect him despite his terrible personality. They covered for him and turned big issues into small issues.

As a Venerable Master, apart from cultivating in seclusion, Qin Renyue had many things to attend to as well. It was impossible for him to find time to educate Qin Moshang. He had once ordered Qin Moshang to stop causing trouble. In the beginning, Qin Moshang was rather obedient. However, as time passed, Qin Moshang returned to his old ways with a vengeance. For this reason, he ordered Qin Naihe, the Free Man of the Qin clan, to stay by Qin Moshang's side. This was so Qin Naihe could stop Qin Moshang from causing trouble or making mistakes. It was unfortunate that in the end, it still had to come to this point.

Qin Renyue sighed heavily before he said, "It's not my intention to doubt Brother Lu's words. However, although Moshang was arrogant and despotic, he would not have dared to ambush a Venerable Master."

Indeed. Qin Moshang was a lot of things, but he was not that stupid. He would be a fool if he had knowingly attacked a Venerable Master. It was no different from seeking death.

Lu Zhou shook his head. "He's no different from you when you first met me."

"..."

Lu Zhou's words rendered Qin Renyue speechless. Indeed. When he had first met Lu Zhou, he did not think there was anything extraordinary about Lu Zhou. If even someone like him made such a mistake, then there was no doubt the inexperienced Qin Moshang had made this mistake as well.

At this moment, a disciple moved to Qin Renyue's side and whispered a few words to him. A frown appeared on his face as he waved his hand.

Two talismans flew out instantly; one above and one below. Then, a projection appeared.

Qin De appeared in front of everyone's eyes.

"Venerable Master Qin, I've discovered the truth. That traitor, Qin Naihe, has joined the Evil Sky Pavilion! The person who killed the Young Master is the Pavilion Master of the Evil..."

All of sudden, no sound came out from the projection as though the person had been muted.

Qin De seemed to have gone mute when his eyes fell on Lu Zhou who was standing next to Qin Renyue. He knew Qin Renyue had gone to Yannan. However, Qin Renyue should have had privacy before contacting him, right? Moreover, the person he had been talking about was right next to Qin Renyue.

Lu Zhou looked at Qin De and said, "Didn't I tell you I'd be at Yannan?"

Qin De was stunned. Indeed, the person in front of him had said such words.

At this moment, Qin Renyue said, "I already know about Moshang."

Qin De exclaimed in surprise, "You know?"

Qin Renyue nodded. "Where's Qin Naihe?"

"The red lotus domain's Sky Martial Academy."

"I want to speak to him," Qin Renyue said.

Upon hearing this, Yan Zhenluo said with a smile, "That can be easily arranged."

Then, Yan Zhenluo brought out talismans as well. Since he used more talismans, the circle of light on the ground was bigger as well.

After briefly speaking to Si Wuya, Si Wuya went to Qin Naihe's room.

With this, Qin Renyue saw the seriously injured Qin Naihe. He called out, "Qin Naihe."

Qin Naihe hastily got off the bed and kneeled on the ground. He said, "It's my fault for failing to protect the Young Master. This matter has nothing to do with the Evil Sky Pavilion. I hope you can restrain your anger, Venerable Master Qin."

Qin Renyue's eyelids twitched upon hearing these words. The Qin clan had raised Qin Naihe for so many years, but he had never seen Qin Naihe behaving in such a manner. Qin Naihe had just joined the Evil Sky Pavilion a few days ago, and yet, he was willing to shoulder all the burden alone.

After a moment, Qin Renyue said, "You're the only one I trusted with Moshang. Back then, I entrusted him to you because I hoped you'd be able to strictly discipline him. I'm greatly disappointed by his death. If you still remember our past relationship, you'll give me a clear explanation."

Lu Zhou's expression remained the same; he did not say anything.

This matter was like a knot in Qin Naihe's heart. Now that he was given an opportunity to explain himself, how could he hold back? He immediately recounted Qin Moshang's death. After he composed himself, he said with reddened eyes, "Everything I said is true. To prove the veracity of my words, I'm willing to destroy three of my Birth Charts! It's also to repay Venerable Master Qin's kindness to me!"

Following that, Qin Naihe did not hesitate and mustered up all his energy to manifest his astrolabe. When the astrolabe appeared, he spat out a mouthful of blood. Clearly, the manifestation of the astrolabe had taken a toll on him due to his heavy injuries.

Just as Qin Naihe was about to ruthlessly destroy his Birth Charts, Si Wu launched a timely palm seal that hit Qin Naihe's arm. He cried out, "Are you crazy?!"

Qin Naihe endured the pain and said, "There's no doubt that the Young Master was in the wrong. However, joining the Evil Sky Pavilion is akin to being disloyal to Venerable Master Qin. This is the least I can do to atone for my sin..."

During this time, Si Wuya had spent a lot of time comforting Qin Naihe. He was quite surprised that this matter had formed a knot in Qin Naihe's heart since Qin Naihe was a smart and rational person.

Si Wuya chuckled. He said in a tone that carried a hint of anger, "Why do you care so much about that f\*cking Venerable Master? If he's appreciative of you, is it possible that he could not even find time to meet you? If he's appreciative of you, why did he not even give you a chance to explain yourself regarding Qin Moshang's matter?"

Qin Renyue. "..."

It was rather strange, but Qin Renyue did not know why he was not angry at all when Si Wuya called him a 'f\*cking Venerable Master'.

Qin Naihe looked at Si Wuya with a helpless expression, not knowing what to say.

Si Wuya continued to say firmly, "You've done your best. If Qin Moshang, Venerable Master Qin, or the Qin clan's elders had listened to you, Qin Moshang wouldn't have died!"

Then, Si Wuya scoffed before he raised his voice and said icily, "You're not wrong; my master's not wrong; the Evil Sky Pavilion's not wrong. Those who are in the wrong are the elders of the Qin clan and Qin Renyue! If the Qin clan doesn't see reason and is stubborn, they can come to the Evil Sky Pavilion to seek revenge! Punishing you for someone else's mistakes is stupid."

"..."

The cloud platform was abnormally quiet.

The room Si Wuya was in was terrifyingly quiet as well.

Lu Zhou's expression was still the same.

Qin Renyue's brows were tightly knitted, but he remained silent. He really could not find any words to refute the young man's words. Putting aside his friendship with Lu Zhou and Lu Zhou's cultivation base, even if he could kill Lu Zhou and avenge Qin Moshang, this matter would still be a stain in his life.

The more Qin Renyue thought about it the more he agreed that Qin Naihe had a clear conscience. Moreover, even if that were not the case, what could he do? Lu Zhou was far better than him. The Evil Sky Pavilion had the ability to disregard the Qin clan, but what could the Qin clan do?

After a moment of silence, Si Wuya turned around and cupped his fists at Lu Zhou and Qin Renyue.

"Greetings, master. Greetings..."

Lu Zhou interjected, "Don't be rude."

"Greetings, Venerable Master Qin," Si Wuya said. His expression clearly contradicted his words.

Qin Renyue closed his eyes and inhaled deeply. When he opened his eyes, he looked at Si Wuya and said with a heavy sigh, "You're right. Qin Moshang was at fault, and I'm at fault. One should pay the price for one's mistake."

Si Wuya was slightly taken aback. He thought that Qin Renyue would be stubborn and refute his words. He did not expect Qin Renyue to admit his mistake so easily. It seemed like Qin Naihe was right; Qin Renyue was a reasonable person.

Qin Naihe was still kneeling on the ground, and he still did not know what to say. He really wished he had the courage to cut off the projection. He only said, "Venerable Master..."

"Qin Naihe, he's right. You're not at fault," Qin Renyue calmly said, "Let's end this matter regarding Moshang.. When you have the time, you can return and visit me at the Qin clan any time."

### **Chapter 1293: The Traitor's Past**

Qin Naihe seemed to have forgotten his pain when he heard these words. Just as he was about to agree, Si Wuya moved to stand in front of him and said, "I have a few words that I'm not sure if I should say..."

Si Wuya's earlier words had made Qin Renyue speechless. However, he could not deny that Si Wuya's words were extraordinary. Since Lu Zhou was standing next to him, he could only say, "Please speak."

“Venerable Master Qin,” Si Wuya said politely. He bowed before he continued to say, “First of all, I disagree with what you said. Qin Moshang’s matter can’t just come to an end just because you said so. If Qin Moshang had only launched a sneak attack on my master, it would have been too big of a deal. After all, it’s just like an ant trying to shake a tree. However, he sent a 14 Chart ghost servant to attack us before he personally led three experts to the 12 Sects of Cloud Mountain and held the people there hostage. Many disciples of Cloud Mountain died and hundreds of people were injured as a result of his actions. How can this matter end here? You’re a high and mighty Venerable Master so you know that the overall strength of the red lotus domain is far weaker than that of the green lotus domain. If Venerable Masters can bully the weak, can’t my master do the same? If my master didn’t arrive in time and Qin Naihe didn’t stop Qin Moshang, I’m afraid the thousands of disciples of the 12 Sects of Cloud Mountain would’ve died. The lives of the strong are precious, but are the lives of the weak worthless?”

Qin Renyue’s expression turned slightly unnatural when he heard these words.

While Si Wuya spoke, he had been paying attention to the changes in his master’s expression. When he saw that his master’s expression remained the same, he continued to say, “Second, Qin Naihe has already joined the Evil Sky Pavilion. Whether he leaves or not is up to master. If he leaves without permission, the Evil Sky Pavilion will regard him as a traitor.”

Qin Naihe was stunned by these words. While Qin Renyue spoke to him, he had forgotten that he had already joined the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Si Wuya continued on his momentum and said, “Finally, your Qin clan’s first and second elders have repeatedly provoked the Evil Sky Pavilion. They destroyed our Sky Martial Academy’s formation, injured the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion, and destroyed Qin Naihe’s Birth Chart. If it weren’t for Qin Naihe, the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion would’ve been killed by Qin De. With all this said, how can Venerable Master Qin just decide to put an end to this matter? You didn’t even ask for my master’s opinion.”

Qin Renyue’s frown deepened. At this moment, he realized the situation was much more serious than he had imagined.

Si Wuya bowed to Qin Renyue and took a step back. Then, he looked at Qin Naihe and said, “Brother Qin, I’ve said everything I can and should.”

Then, Si Wuya retreated to the side as though he had nothing to do with what was going on.

Qin Naihe. “...”

At this moment, there were two people who were the most upset: Qin Renyue and Qin De.

Qin Renyue had always thought this matter was only about Qin Moshang’s death. He had thought things through and had accepted everything. However, it seemed like the matter was far from over. The more he thought about it, the angrier he became. He finally lost his temper and cursed angrily, “Bast\*rd!”

Everyone was taken aback.

“Moshang had really crossed the line!”

Qin De was frightened by these words.



"I thought Moshang was just immature. I assumed that he would change when he matured. I didn't expect him to be such a bast\*rd! I'm willing to apologize to Brother Lu regarding this matter. As for the dead and injured disciples of Cloud Mountain, please tell me how I can make compensation! As long as it's within my capability, I'll definitely fulfill it!" Qin Renyue said in a clear voice.

Everyone present nodded. Their expressions were ones of approval.

As expected of the Venerable Master of the Qin clan, he was righteous and was able to distinguish right from wrong. If it were Tuoba Sicheng, he would likely twist the facts, shirk the responsibility, or even kill to silence people.

Lu Zhou said, "I have a good relationship with Nie Qingyun, the Sect Master of Cloud Mountain. However, I can't make decisions for him regarding this matter. It's best if you discuss this with him."

"Thank you," Qin Renyue said. Then, he turned to look at the projection in the air and called out in a deep voice, "Qin De."

Qin De started. He trembled as he bowed. "V-venerable Master..."

"Destroy one of your Birth Charts and apologize to Pavilion Master Lu," Qin Renyue said decisively.

Qin De. "..."

Initially, Qin De was rather certain that Qin Renyue would only lecture him or ground him so he could reflect on his mistake at most. He did not expect he would have to pay with one of his Birth Charts. What he could not understand the most was the fact that he was dealt such a heavy punishment while Qin Naihe, the traitor of the Qin clan, got away relatively unharmed.

Alas, Qin De was unaware of how furious Qin Renyue was at this moment.

Currently, in Qin Renyue's heart, he completely blamed the first and second elders for Qin Moshang's death and mistakes. Moreover, there were many times when he wanted to meet Qin Naihe and Qin Moshang in the past, but he was fooled by the two elders.

"Qin De, what are you waiting for?" Qin Renyue asked as he raised his voice.

"I..." Qin De's hands trembled. He raised his hand and stared at it for a long time. He could not help but feel indignant.

Lu Zhou felt that Qin Renyue and the Qin clan were rather reasonable people. The more reasonable they were, the higher the chance of them becoming allies. Hence, it was not too good to overdo things. He was about to speak to stop Qin De when a burst of maniacal laughter rang in the air.

Qin De clenched his hand into fist as he laughed. "I've had enough!"

Qin De cursed angrily, "Venerable Master Qin, you've gotten senile! You're an old fool!"

Qin Renyue's expression darkened.

Qin De continued laughing as he said, "You want me to destroy the Birth Chart that I've painstakingly activated? Are the years of contribution to the Qin clan that I made nothing in your eyes?"

Lu Zhou, the people from the Evil Sky Pavilion, and Yannan's disciples did not expect a drama to unfold at this moment.

Meanwhile, Si Wuya reacted quickly. He drew a few lines behind his back with his finger before he ignited a talisman.

At the same time, Yan Zhenluo sent movements from one of the talismans at his waist. While everyone's attention was focused on Qin De, he discreetly read the message that Si Wuya sent: stall Qin De. Following that, he maintained his expression and casually moved to Lu Zhou's side before quietly handing Si Wuya's message to Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou glanced at the message before he destroyed the message in his hand. He naturally could guess Si Wuya's intention. Si Wuya was likely worried that Qin De would go crazy out of desperation and start a massacre.

On the other hand, Qin Renyue did not think about all these things. He could no longer suppress his anger as he roared, "How dare you! I told you time and time again not to make a move without consulting me. What do you take my words for? Do you remember me telling you to discipline Moshang strictly?"

Qin De chuckled, unmoved by these words. "Do you know how to corrupt and destroy someone? The answer isn't to kill them. On the contrary, it's to give them whatever they want, support them unreasonably, and spoil them until they're beyond redemption."

Qin De continued with his shocking revelation. "Everyone by his side was meticulously arranged by me. His food, clothing, accommodation, and everything else were all arranged by me as well. I gave him everything he wanted, and I praised him to the sky. That idiot was very happy with my treatment. Whenever you scolded him, he would come to me. I was his safe haven. Everything was within my grasp until you sent Qin Naihe. Fortunately, it was too late by then."

Qin De continued to laugh like a madman again.

Qin Renyue was so irascible with anger that he instinctively raised his hand and launched a palm seal.

Swoosh!

The palm seal harmless passed through the projection in the air.

Qin De smiled smugly.

At this time, a core disciple of the Qin clan, who could no longer suppress his anger, rebuked loudly, "As the first elder of the Qin clan, how could you do such a thing? The Qin clan has always treated you well!"

Qin De raised his hand.

Buzz!

An astrolabe appeared before everyone's eyes. They were stunned when they saw the astrolabe. Apart from 17 Birth Charts that were flashing brightly, they could see a distinct dim Birth Chart! This meant that Qin De was one a Venerable Master!

Swoosh!

Qin De put away his astrolabe before he asked, "Are you satisfied with this answer?"

Qin Renyue said, "I really didn't expect you to keep this matter in your heart."

Qin De spat on the ground upon hearing Qin Renyue's words. He said resentfully, "If you didn't insist on doing that, I wouldn't have lost a Birth Chart. I would've been the second Venerable Master in the Qin clan!"

"..."

Everyone sighed heavily at this turn of events.

Qin Renyue asked, "And then?"

"So, from now on, I'm no longer a member of the Qin clan. This means there's no reason for me to obey your orders!" Qin De said.

"You dare!" Qin Renyue barked as his expression darkened.

Alas, the duo was too far apart. One was in the green lotus domain, and the other was in the red lotus domain.

Qin De said, "Don't provoke me! Otherwise, I'll bury the entire Evil Sky Pavilion with you!"

Then, Qin De turned to Lu Zhou who had been silent all this time. He cupped his fists together slightly and said, "Pavilion Master Lu, in order to protect myself, I have no choice but to offend you."

Then, Qin De flicked his sleeve and vanished.

The projection was cut off..

### **Chapter 1294: Cleaning House**

"Qin De!" Qin Renyue roared. However, the projection had already disappeared. He was both angry and worried. He was angry that Qin De had degenerated to this extent, and he worried Qin De would act recklessly. After all, with Qin De's strength, it was too easy for Qin De to kill. After a moment, he turned to look at Lu Zhou and discovered that Lu Zhou's expression remained the same as though this had nothing to do with him. He said, "Brother Lu, this..."

"Even if a sick dog could leap over a high wall if it was cornered. A rabbit would also bite when it's desperate," Lu Zhou remarked.

Qin Renyue sighed. "I really didn't expect this of Qin De."

Human hearts were hard to read. Sometimes, even an old couple who had been together for decades could turn on each other and kill each other. It was not surprising that Qin De, who was filled with grievances, turned out this way.

After a moment, Lu Zhou asked curiously, "He once had 18 Birth Charts?"

Qin Renyue calmed down before he shook his head and said, "In the past, Qin De and I addressed each other as brothers. At that time, there had never been a Venerable Master in the Qin clan. Hence, Qin De and I led thousands of disciples to the Unknown Land. It took all the power of our clan to finally take down a beast emperor. Initially, the life heart was supposed to be given to him. However, by then, he had lost one Birth Chart. His situation was dire at that time, and we could not find any mystic profound grass to help him. In the end, the elder council decided to give me the life heart. It took me ten years before I successfully activated 18 Birth Charts, passed the Birth Trial, and became a Venerable Master."

After taking a breath, Qin Renyue continued to say, "At that time, I regarded Qin De as my confidant and my right-hand man. Hence, I helped him become the first elder of the clan. He was only below one person and stood above thousands of people. I didn't expect... didn't expect..."

Qin Renyue sighed as he recalled the past.

Lu Zhou said, "This is something you have to deal with."

Qin Renyue nodded. Then, he turned around and asked Ye Wei, "Elder Ye, can I borrow Yannan's runic passage?"

"Of course," Ye Wei replied.

Qin Renyue said to his people, "I'm going to clean up the sect."

Qin Renyue's people bowed in unison. "We'll wait for Venerable Master's return."

With that, Ye Wei quickly led Qin Renyue to the runic passage.

At this time, Lu Zhou looked at Si Wuya.

Si Wuya asked, puzzled, "Master, why didn't you stall Qin De?"

Lu Zhou asked, "Where's Qin De now?"

"The last time I saw him was yesterday at the Sky Martial Academy. I think he should be nearby. I'm afraid he intends to hold us hostage out of desperation to protect himself," Si Wuya replied with a worried expression on his face.

Lu Zhou said, "Bring some people to the White Tower Council and seal all the passage."

"Zhao Hong Fu and Eighth Junior Brother went to the yellow lotus domain. I'm afraid we won't be able to seal the passages."

"Then destroy them."

"I'll get to it immediately."

With that, the projection cut off as well.

With so many runic passages, they needed to move immediately. No matter how profound their cultivation bases were, it was still a race against time.

...

Si Wuya destroyed all the runic passages in the Sky Martial Academy before he led everyone to the White Tower Council.

...

Two hours later.

As expected, Qin De appeared above the Sky Martial Academy. He scoffed coldly as he looked at the empty and slightly desolate-looking place.

“They ran really fast...”

Qin De turned and looked in the direction of Cloud Mountain. Initially, he had planned on acting against Cloud Mountain. However, he recalled that Qin Moshang had died there and the runic passage that was connected to the green lotus domain was located near Cloud Mountain. This meant that there was a high possibility that Qin Renyue would arrive at the runic passage. Hence, he could only dismiss this idea.

After a moment, he muttered to himself, “The golden lotus domain’s Evil Sky Pavilion?”

However, he was not sure if there were runic passages here. If there were none, it meant that he could only go to the golden lotus domain by flying over the Endless Ocean or travel through the Black Water Mystic Cave. This would take too much time.

At this moment, a group of people appeared in the Sky Martial Academy.

Qin De immediately waved his hand.

Countless energy seals flew out, catching them.

These people were just ordinary cultivators. Faced with Qin De, they were no different from ants.

Qin De asked, “Where did Qin Naihe go?”

“I... I don’t know...”

“My patience is limited. Where are the runic passages?” Qin De asked again.

“Mr. Seventh destroyed all the runic passages,” the cultivator said, terrified.

“Destroyed?” Qin De frowned as Si Wuya’s figure appeared in his mind. ‘What a cunning young man.’

“Where did they go?” Qin De asked.

“W-white... White Tower Council...” the cultivator said in a trembling voice.

Swoosh!

Qin De loosened his grip, letting the cultivator fall. “Consider yourself lucky that I know of a runic passage to the white lotus domain.”

Qin De flew away, leaving ripples in his wake.

...

An hour later.

Qin De appeared in a quiet forest. He waved his sleeve lightly before a wave of energy swept away the dried leaves on the ground. With that, a circular runic passage appeared before his eyes.

He wasted no time and stepped into the circle and activated the runic passage.

...

15 minutes later.

Qin De found himself standing in a snowy land. The weather was rather gloomy; dark clouds hid the sky as flying beasts occupied the sky.

After surveying his surroundings, he turned around and launched a palm seal at the runic passage.

Boom!

The runic passage dimmed immediately.

In order to prevent it from being repaired, Qin De struck at it another few more times, completely destroying it, before he left.

...

Another hour passed.

Qin De saw a group of white lotus cultivators surrounding a beast king that was charging around.

The cultivators' bodies were all riddled with wounds.

With that, Qin De manifested his astrolabe. The astrolabe shot out a beam of energy that swiftly and accurately pierced the beast king.

The beast king could not withstand this blow and fell to the ground immediately.

Upon seeing this, the white lotus cultivators who had just survived a disaster greeted Qin De as though they had seen their savior. "Thank you for saving us, Senior!"

Qin De said with a smile, "There's no need to thank me. Fierce beasts are enemies of humans, after all. It's only right for me to help my fellow humans."

The cultivators were greatly moved by these words.

Qin De asked, "May I know where's the White Tower Council?"

"The White Tower Council? May I ask why Senior is going to the White Tower Council?" one of the white lotus cultivators asked.

How could Qin De be foiled by this group of cultivators? He had long thought of an excuse. He replied with a smile, "The imbalance is getting more and more serious so I just want to do my part and help out."

“I see,” one of the cultivators said, “I admire Senior’s sense of duty! The White Tower Council is located 3,000 miles east of this place. It’s located in a remote area where many fierce beasts roam.”

“Thank you,” Qin De said before he vanished in just a blink of an eye.

The cultivators’ eyes were brimming with admiration as they watched Qin De leave.

...

Meanwhile, Qin De flew at top speed. With 17 Birth Charts, it took him half a day to arrive at the White Tower Council.

The white tower that towered past the dark clouds was extremely eye-catching. It stood in the midst of this snowy land, looking like it was holding up the sky.

Qin De smiled. “White Tower Council... Let’s see where else you can hide...”

### **Chapter 1295: A Powerful Enemy’s Attack**

Everyone knew the White Tower Council was in Great Ming.

When Lan Xihe was still the Tower Master, the White Tower Council was the backbone of Great Ming. The White Tower Council kept chaos and even the black lotus domain at bay, and it kept the Black Tower Council in check. It was a famous force in the cultivation world.

Qin De was not in a hurry to act as he looked at the white tower. He had already thought about the next step for him to survive: guerilla warfare. Apart from that, he was not worried he would not be able to find a place to settle down. The world was so vast, after all. Although Venerable Masters were powerful, as long as he avoided them, there would be no problem at all.

“Since Pavilion Master Lu’s disciples came to take refuge here, there should be a runic passage somewhere. I’ll have to be careful...” Qin De muttered to himself. As long as he did run into Qin Renyue and Lu Zhou, there would be no problem at all. Naturally, he knew he had to be on guard against hidden experts as well.

Qin De flew forward before he came to a stop a few hundred meters away from the white tower. He looked at the dark sky. The fact that the white tower stood strong despite the imbalance showed how extraordinary the tower was.

The imbalance started a long time ago, but there were no signs of the Equalizers at all. It seemed like those people wanted to shake things up between humans and fierce beasts.

“I should be cautious and secretly investigate the situation first,” Qin De said to himself before he vanished from sight again.

...

At this time, Qin Renyue appeared near Cloud Mountain in the red lotus domain. He had come here using the Qin clan’s runic passage that connected to the snowy mountain near Cloud Mountain.

Qin Renyue's expression was exceptionally grim as he looked at the twelve peaks around him. After a moment, he flew forward. The imbalance here was quite serious.

The oppressive dark clouds loomed over everything as flying beasts flew in the sky.

Qin Renyue no longer cared about anything. He used all his strength as he flew. In just a blink of an eye, he appeared near a peak that was overrun by fierce beasts. When he approached the peak, he saw a cultivator moving around. In just a flash, he appeared in front of that cultivator.

The cultivator was shocked by Qin Renyue's sudden appearance. "Y-you... Y-you... W-who are you?!"

Qin Renyue asked, "How do I get to the Sky Martial Academy?"

Having been in a high position for a long time, it was difficult for Qin Renyu to change his manner of speech and attitude. It was easy to arouse people's ire.

The young cultivator who did not want to offend anyone pointed at the 12 peaks and said, "It's about 190 miles north of the Twelve Sects of Cloud Mountain..."

"That's the Twelve Sects of Cloud Mountain?" Qin Renyue was slightly surprised.

Upon hearing these words, the cultivator grew wary. Although Cloud Mountain was not a top force, it was still rather famous in the red lotus domain. How could the person in front of him not know that? Hence, he said, "I have to go now..."

"Why are you in a rush?" Qin Renyue asked.

"The imbalance is really serious. I have to continue patrolling to make sure fierce beasts don't invade the Twelve Sects of Cloud Mountain," the cultivator replied.

"You're a cultivator from the Twelve Sects of Cloud Mountain?"

"Uh..." The cultivator finally realized he had misspoken, giving away more information than he had intended to. He no longer dared to say anything and hurriedly turned to leave.

The cultivator only six leaves. In front of Qin Renyue, he was even weaker than an ant.

Qin Renyue flashed and appeared in front of the cultivator, who could not catch Qin Renyue's movements at all. Since he was pressed for time, he did not explain anything to the cultivator. He grabbed the cultivator and said, "Let's go."

When the cultivator regained his senses, he saw trees, mountains, and rivers, speeding past him in a blur. He felt incredibly dizzy and disoriented.

This continued for 15 minutes before Qin Renyue came to a stop above the twelve peaks. He looked at the cultivator and asked, "This is Cloud Mountain?"

"..."

"I'm asking you a question..."

The cultivator was very dizzy, and he felt very nauseous.



Qin Renyue saw many flying beasts attacking Cloud Mountain at this moment. The disciples were trying to attack and defend against the flying beasts. A few of them were at the Thousand Realms Whirling stage. Near the highest peak, he saw 1,000 cultivators with two Birth Charts flying around. He shifted his gaze and saw the land underneath the cloud platform was charred as though there had been a great fire before.

Upon seeing the people of Cloud Mountain struggling, he sighed and said in a deep voice, "I'll help you."

The cultivator fell into a daze when he saw a green astrolabe appearing in front of Qin Renyue.

Qin Renyue pushed his astrolabe toward the top of Cloud Mountain. It grew and grew until it covered the sky, spanning thousands of meters.

The disciples of Cloud Mountain raised their heads and watched this scene in shock and disbelief.

Following that, beams of light from Qin Renyue's Birth Chart Power shot down.

The astrolabe spun as it shot out of beams of light that killed the flying beasts and fierce beasts in Cloud Mountain.

In just a few moments, silence returned to Cloud Mountain.

"Which expert helped our Cloud Mountain?"

The elders hovered in the sky. The size of the astrolabe had exceeded their imaginations.

"Such a huge astrolabe!"

"Where is the Sect Master?"

"Sect Master went to the foot of the mountain to kill a beast king!"

"Quickly! Go and get the Sect Master!"

At this moment, the astrolabe in the sky shrank rapidly before flying back to Qin Renyue's hand.

The elders led the disciples over to greet Qin Renyue.

"Thank you for your help, Senior."

"There's no need for that," Qin Renyue said.

"May I ask for your name, Senior?" an elder asked.

At this time, Qin Renyue brought a piece of jade and tossed it over as he said, "If you're in danger, crush this jade." Then, he thought about it for a moment. These people definitely did not know who he was. Hence, he said, "I'm a friend of Pavilion Master Lu of the Evil Sky Pavilion."

Upon hearing these words, the cultivator whom Qin Renyue brought here sighed in relief. He patted his chest and said, "As it turns out, you're Pavilion Master Lu's friend. You almost scared me to death!"

Qin Renyue thought to himself, 'As expected, Brother Lu's reputation in the red lotus domain is much better than mine in the red lotus domain.'

Qin Renyue thought that while he was here, it was best for him to use Lu Zhou's name. Then, he said, "I have matters to attend to so I'll visit another day. Farewell."

Seeing Qin Renyue's anxious expression, the elders of Cloud Mountain did not dare to stop and only bowed.

In just a flash, Qin Renyue vanished into the cloud, leaving the dumbfounded elders behind.

...

At the same time.

In the White Tower Council's training hall.

"Sixth Senior Sister, I'll have to trouble you," Si Wuya said after recounting what happened to Ye Tianxian.

"There's no need for these words between us. The Evil Sky Pavilion's affairs are naturally mine as well," Ye Tianxin said, "I've already ordered the members to guard the Runic Hall at all times and to pay attention to even the slightest changes."

"Master was at the Unknown Land for half a year, and now, he's in the green lotus domain. He won't be back so soon. We must deal with Qin De cautiously," Si Wuya said.

Ye Tianxin was puzzled. "Then, why are you the only one here? Moreover, Qin De won't be able to get here from the red lotus domain so quickly."

Si Wuya shook his head. "There's a runic passage that connects to the green lotus domain at the peak of the snowy mountain near Cloud Mountain. Hence, there's a possibility they have a runic passage here as well. As for the others, I sealed their auras and told them to hide in the underground prison in Sky Martial Academy. Qin De is definitely worried about running into Venerable Master Qin and master so he won't stay in the red lotus domain longer than necessary."

Si Wuya paused briefly before he said, "I'll need to trouble the White Tower Council to cooperate with me."

"Did you tell everyone to gather at the Runic Hall so we can leave at a moment's notice?"

Si Wuya nodded and said, "We have two options. First, we can go to the Unknown Land from here and seek Lu Wu's help. Second, we can return to the Sky Martial Academy. After all, Qin De has no idea how many runic passages I have in the Sky Martial Court."

"..."

Was this not like playing hide-and-seek?

There were so many runic passages in the Sky Martial Academy that it would take Qin De more than half a day at least to search for all of them.

**Chapter 1296: Halcyon Divine Bird**

Almost as soon as Si Wuya finished speaking, a thunderous voice rang from outside.

“Hand Qin Naihe over, and I’ll spare your lives!”

Ye Tianxin and Si Wuya rose to their feet simultaneously and looked outside the white tower.

“So fast! He really has a runic passage leading to the white lotus domain,” Si Wuya said, “Let’s go.”

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The duo rushed out of the white tower immediately.

...

At the same time.

Qin De searched the white tower for a long time, but he did not find anyone. He felt as though he had been tricked. He needed to find Qin Naihe and Si Wuya as soon as possible.

After he had spoken, no one responded to him.

All of a sudden, he sensed a strange surge of vitality energy. He flashed and locked onto the location of the energy surge.

Soon enough, Qin De appeared near Si Wuya and Ye Tianxin. He did not waste time and struck with his palm as soon as he arrived. “Let’s see where you can run now!”

The palm seal was like a mountain as it flew out.

Si Wuya tossed his Peacock Plume out, and it fanned out in the air. Then, a pair of golden wings that spanned 100 feet unfurled on his back.

Since the palm seal was not aimed at Ye Tianxin, she had no trouble avoiding it. Moreover, her cultivation base was higher than Si Wuya’s. When she landed, she looked up immediately. Then, she cast the Butterfly Love Flower to pull Si Wuya down.

Boom!

The palm seal landed on the white tower.

However, Si Wuya did not panic at all. Instead, a smile could be seen on his face as he said, “Elder Qin, you’ve been tricked.”

Qin De was taken aback. “Tricked?”

“I’ve sent Qin Naihe back to the green lotus domain a long time ago!”

“...”

Annoyance surged in Qin De’s heart upon hearing these words. He found the cunning young man in front of him detestable. He barked, “How dare you toy with me!”

Swoosh!

Qin De left afterimages in his wake as he flew out. He said angrily, “It’s the same if I capture you!”

His goal was to hold someone hostage. It did not matter who his hostage was as long as his hostage could deter Lu Zhou or Qin Renyue. The more he thought about it, the more he thought the young man in front of him would make a better hostage. After all, Qin Naihe was seriously injured. This meant if he had captured Qin Naihe, he would have to treat Qin Naihe's injuries as well. If Qin Naihe died, he would lose his bargaining chip.

With 17 Birth Charts, Qin De's speed was incredibly fast. It was almost impossible to catch his movements.

Si Wuya did not expect Qin De to really dare to target him. He hurriedly said, "Let's go!"

The Runic Hall was located at the bottom of the white tower.

"Don't even think about leaving!" Qin De smacked his palm on the ground as he landed.

Boom!

The ground trembled.

...

In the Runic Hall.

All the members of the White Tower Council were present in the hall.

The judges, Ning Wanqing and Bi Shuo, could sense something was wrong with the runic passage immediately.

"He's familiar with runic passages! Hurry up and activate it!" Ning Wanqing cried out as he slammed his hand down.

Bang!

The runic passage lit up briefly before the light was extinguished.

"This is bad! We can't channel energy into the runic passage!"

...

So Wuya frowned.

"Why aren't you running anymore?" Qin De sneered.

Si Wuya raised an eyebrow as he placed his hands on his back and said, "Are you sure you want to make an enemy out of the Evil Sky Pavilion?"

"I have no choice. If it weren't for your master, I wouldn't have ended up like this. Don't worry, I won't kill you," Qin De said.

"I bet that not only do you not dare to kill me, but you don't even dare to touch me..." Si Wuya turned slightly to look at the people in the hall, indicating that they were not allowed to make a move.

Then, Si Wuya inhaled deeply. His expression was calm, and his eyes shone with a strange light. Then, he looked inside the Runic Hall again. Due to the dark sky, it was difficult to see inside.

On the other hand, Qin De was taken aback when he heard Si Wuya's words.

At this time, Si Wuya began to walk toward the entrance of the Runic Hall. His speed was moderate and leisurely.

At this moment, silence permeated the white tower.

Ye Tianxin called out, perplexed, "Seventh Junior Brother?"

"Don't worry." Si Wuya seemed unreasonably confident.

Ye Tianxin naturally knew how meticulous Si Wuya was when dealing with matters. However, at this time, no matter how thorough or clever his plans were, they were useless when faced with absolute strength. The other party was a highly-experienced Seventeen Chart cultivator.

Qin De said with a sneer, "Young man, you weren't even born yet when I was playing tricks..."

Qin De mobilized Primal Qi with his right hand.

Si Wuya continued to stride forward. When he was ten meters away from the entrance of the hall, the snowy-white ground was reflected on his lower body.

Qin De was about to make a move when he saw a flash of red in Si Wuya's eyes.

"Hm?"

The flash of red light did not look ordinary. It was like the burning sun or the molten iron in a forging furnace.

Strangely, Qin De hesitated when he saw the flash of red light. At the same time, an ominous feeling rose in his heart.

At this time, the Peacock Plume landed on Si Wuya's back again.

Swoosh!

The wings that spanned 100 feet unfurled in all their glory, coincidentally blocking the main entrance of the hall.

Si Wuya's expression was indifferent, and his voice was confident as he asked, "Do you dare?"

Si Wuya's confidence actually made Qin De take a step back. Then, his eyes widened before he said skeptically, "Impossible! He died a long time ago!"

Then, Qin De steeled himself. He shook his head, and his expression returned to normal. He was determined to see this through. He said angrily, "Putting on an act? I'm going to catch you anyway!"

Swoosh!

A shadow flashed and arrived in front of the main hall.

Si Wuya flapped his wings, shooting out thousands of golden needles.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The golden needles landed on Qin De's body harmlessly.

As soon as Qin De landed, Ye Tianxin, Ning Wanqing, and Bi Shuo launched a palm seal at the same time.

Bang!

The white tower shook slightly.

Qin De remained unmoved.

The trio retreated as their blood and Qi surged in their bodies.

The cultivation bases of the members of the White Tower Council were higher than Qin De had expected. Their palm strikes showed him that he had underestimated his opponents.

Qin De glanced at Si Wuya to determine Si Wuya was unharmed from the backlash. After all, he did not want to kill Si Wuya, he only wanted to take Si Wuya hostage. He said with a smile, "If you don't leave with me, I'll kill them."

Si Wuya frowned.

Buzz!

At this moment, the 30,000 Dao inscriptions on the White Tower Council suddenly lit up one after another in ascending order.

Qin De instinctively looked up. With that, he saw a blue-clad woman slowly descending from the sky.

"Another person who's courting death..."

Qin De pushed his hand up and launched a huge palm seal. Even if the woman did not die from this palm seal, she would still be heavily injured.

The palm seal continued to grow as it shot up the sky.

Screechhh!

An ear-piercing cry resounded in the sky at this moment. The soundwave rolled out and destroyed the palm seal immediately.

Qin De was shocked. When he looked up, he saw a crimson fierce beast flying toward him. Its body was that of a chicken, and it was emitting a mysterious energy.

Qin De hurriedly raised his hand.

Boom!

Qin De was sent flying back before he spat out a mouthful of blood. He slid back on the snowy ground for a long time before he finally came to a stop.

Red dots could be seen on the snow-white ground.

At this time, the crimson bird landed on the ground. Then, the blue-clad woman landed on the crimson bird's back.

“Master’s orders state that anyone who trespasses the white tower will be killed without mercy.”

Everyone in the Runic Hall was briefly stunned. After a while, they finally realized reinforcements had arrived. Then, they rushed out one after another.

Ye Tianxin and Si Wuya looked at the crimson fierce beast. Compared to the fierce beasts they had seen, it was not very big. It was about the size of a human, and its feathers were slender and glowing with light.

Apart from Si Wuya, the members of the White Tower Council recognized the crimson fierce beasts as well.

“Halcyon Divine Bird!”

“What a strong Great Void energy!”

### **Chapter 1297: Perdition**

The people present did not have a clear concept or understanding of divine beasts. They only relied on their limited knowledge and instincts to make judgments.

The Halcyon Divine Bird stood proudly with its head held high and its chest puffed out as it stared unblinkingly at Qin De, who had been severely injured with just one of its strikes.

The overall strength of the White Tower Council was not weak. There were judges with eight Birth Charts and elders with nine and ten Birth Charts. However, compared to Qin De’s 17 Birth Charts, they were rather pitiful. However, even a Seventeen Chart expert could not withstand a strike from the bird. He did not even have a chance to retaliate. There were no magnificent fights, ostentatious displays of power, or overwhelming shows of strength. He simply dropped straight to the ground.

Everyone was dumbfounded. Was this the fighting style of a bigshot? Was it all about simple and clean attacks?

Ning Wanqing could not see, but with his superb hearing, he could guess the situation. Everyone’s heartbeats seemed much relaxed now, and their breathing was smoother as well. He could hear the fluctuation of Primal Qi as well as the Halcyon Divine Bird’s Great Void energy as well.

The blue-clad woman standing on the Halcyon Divine Bird looked plain. She jumped down from the bird’s back and glanced at the crowd. “Is everyone okay?”

Ye Tianxin asked, “Did Tower Master Lan send you here?”

The blue-clad female attendant nodded with a smile. “After returning to the Great Void, she told me to keep an eye on the White Tower Council.”

“...”

No one knew if they should feel happy or worried. They were happy that such a powerful figure was watching over them, but at the same time, it was rather discomfiting knowing that someone was secretly watching their every move.

The blue-clad female attendant walked over to Qin De and asked, "Who are you?"

Qin De lay on the ground as he launched into a coughing fit. He tried to raise his head to see who or what had injured him. When he finally had a clear look, he cried out, "H-Halcyon Divine Bird?!"

The Halcyon Divine Bird cried out as though it was responding to Qin De. It was quite intelligent, after all. It enjoyed the fear and reverence it inspired in humans.

At this time, Ye Tianxin took the initiative to say, "He's Qin De, the first elder of the Qin clan in the green lotus domain."

"He has 17 Birth Charts. Stay away from him in case he suddenly acts," Bi Shuo reminded the others.

Everyone retreated immediately.

The blue-clad female attendant glanced at the Halcyon Divine Bird and said, "He's yours."

Upon hearing these words, the Halcyon Divine Bird ran over happily.

Qin De's eyes widened and he kept muttering, "No, no, no..."

Qin De's survival instinct kicked in at this moment. Despite being severely injured, he launched dozens of palm seals at the bird.

The Halcyon Divine Bird was completely unharmed. The attacks did not even ruffle its feathers. It continued to run forward. When it arrived at Qin De's side, it pecked its long and sharp beaks at him.

Qin De hurriedly manifested his astrolabe to resist the bird.

Bang!

Qin De let out a heart-wrenching scream.

The Halcyon Divine Bird's beaks were curved like a hook and as sharp as a blade. Almost without any suspense, it pierced through Qin De's astrolabe. It pushed downward, piercing his chest and into his heart. Then, it lifted its head, gouging out Qin De's heart.

Gulp!

The Halcyon Divine Bird swallowed the heart into its stomach as though it was swallowing dates.

Following that, a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar appeared before disappearing again, indicating that Qin De had lost a Birth Chart.

When a human cultivator reached a certain realm, they would not die immediately even if they lost their hearts. If one knew the right method, one could still survive. For example, there were secret techniques such as the Heart Resurrection Technique, blood sacrifice rituals, and parasitic techniques that could keep one alive. There were also some special species such as the Void Chest tribesmen who were not reliant on their hearts to live.

Blood from Qin De's heart splashed on his face before it disappeared down the Halcyon Divine Bird's throat. His eyes shone with fear as he cried out, "Get lost!"



Subsequently, at the juncture between life and death, Qin De released all the power of his 16 Birth Charts.

A violent and surging energy swept out, forcing the others to bring out their astrolabes to withstand it.

Swoosh!

Strangely, they discovered that they were unaffected by the wave of energy. Puzzled, they raised their heads to have a look. They saw the crimson wings of the Halcyon Divine Bird spread out like an impenetrable city wall, blocking the wave of energy like Mount Tai.

The Halcyon Divine Bird's crimson feathers glinted dazzlingly when the white snow was reflected on them. They looked like shining rubies.

Swoosh!

The Halcyon Divine Bird folded its wings.

If they had sensed its Great Void Energy, did not see it attack, or see its majestic posture when it unfurled its wings, they would not have been able to guess the fierce beast in front of them was a divine beast. However, all its actions indicated that it was truly a divine beast.

The blue-clad female attendant said with a smile, "It's inconvenient for master to come here so she especially ordered me to ride the divine beast here. Don't be afraid. It's very obedient to master."

Everyone nodded.

Bi Shuo murmured, "Truly unbelievable. It's so small..."

"You're wrong," the blue-clad female attendant said, "Divine beasts can change their sizes at will. However, there are rules in the Great Void that restrict them."

Si Wuya asked curiously, "Where's the Great Void?"

The blue-clad female attendant knew Si Wuya was difficult to deal with so she had already prepared an excuse beforehand. She said, "Right now, the Great Void is still far from your reach. The less you know, the safer it is for you..."

"I don't understand. Tower Master Lan is from the Great Void, but why did she become the Tower Master of the White Tower Council?" Si Wuya pressed on.

"I'm just an attendant so there are many things I'm not privy to," the blue-clad female attendant said.

Si Wuya shook his head helplessly. He knew it was impossible to dig out any information from the blue-clad female attendant.

At the same time, Qin De had been completely subdued by the Halcyon Divine Bird's strength. He could not move at all. Even though he had exploded with the power of his 16 Birth Charts, he was unable to shake the bird off.

At this time, the Halcyon Divine Bird's beaks suddenly elongated and ruthlessly pierced Qin De's chest again. It was as though, in its eyes, Qin De was just a reptile on the ground. It was like a machine; it obeyed its order with utmost precision and attacked ruthlessly.

One by one, Qin De's Birth Charts were destroyed.

The Primal Qi storm that was about to brew was also sucked down the Halcyon Divine Bird's throat into its stomach.

Qin De finally gave up resisting. He began to laugh. His laughter was a mixture of sorrow and madness. "Great Void! How great it is!"

The blue-clad female attendant frowned. "What are you laughing about?"

"I worked hard to cultivate and survive, removing all the obstacles that stood in my path," Qin De said as blood gushed out of his chest, "However, in front of you, I'm not better than reptiles. Isn't it laughable?"

The blue-clad female attendant shook her head. "You're on the brink of death, but you're still unrepentant."

Qin De continued to laugh in between throwing up blood. "You're all hypocrites! How ridiculous!"

A man's words might not be kind when he was on the verge of death.

As though possessed, Qin De continued to ramble on. "All of you think you're the masters of heaven and earth! You constructed a forbidden cultivation land and imposed restraints on others, but you sit alone on a high throne, treating the battles between humans and fierce beasts as entertainment! All of you are too arrogant!"

### **Chapter 1299: Completing the Apprenticeship Again**

In fact, Lu Zhou had been observing Si Wuya and the others the entire time. He was surprised at how powerful the Halcyon Divine Bird was, and he was also surprised by Si Wuya's boldness.

"I know you've always been confident. However, your opponent was Qin De. Weren't you afraid that he would kill you?"

Si Wuya naturally did not know Lu Zhou had been watching him so he assumed this was just his master's speculation. He said, "Qin De wants a life-saving card so he definitely won't kill me."

"Aren't you afraid that he might snap? Nothing is absolute, after all."

"Even if he acted out of my expectations, I still have a backup plan." Si Wuya replied. Then, he brought out a figurine. It was not big and seemed to be made from clay; it did not seem to be very well-made.

Lu Zhou recognized the thing immediately. "Puppet?"

Lu Zhou did not expect Si Wuya to keep such a thing.

Si Wuya began to explain, "This is different from the puppets we know. Puppets were usually carved on or embedded in one's body. However, there's no need for that with this puppet. We only need to carry it with us. It's equivalent to having an extra life. Qin De was knowledgeable and definitely knew about

puppets. However, he definitely didn't know about this new variation. This puppet has three other uses: one, it could emit a light bright enough to blind people; two, it..."

Lu Zhou interjected and waved his hand, "Alright, that's enough..."

Lu Zhou felt his head ache when he listened to Si Wuya's long speech. 'In the future, I won't care about you anymore since you want to act cool...'

Lu Zhou changed the topic and asked, "Who killed Qin De?"

"The Halcyon Divine Bird. It's Tower Master Lan's mount," Si Wuya replied honestly.

"The Halcyon Divine Bird?"

"It should be a divine beast. It has a very rich Great Void energy. Qin De wasn't its match at all," Si Wuya said.

Si Wuya continued to say, "Based on this, it's obvious that Tower Master Lan has been keeping a close watch on the White Tower Council. I plan to bring everyone back to the Evil Sky Pavilion."

It was uncomfortable to be watched at all times, after all.

Lu Zhou nodded. "I'll leave it to you to decide. How's everyone's cultivation bases coming along?"

Si Wuya smiled and said, "The four elders are improving at an astonishing speed. A month ago, they sprouted their eleventh leaf. Due to the imbalance, fierce beasts are everywhere. Hence, the Evil Sky Pavilion doesn't lack life hearts. I believe it won't be long before they progress again."

"Guardian Meng has also reached the Thousand Realms Whirling stage. However, he's not as talented as the four elders so there's a gap between them."

"Guardian Shen and Guardian Li have activated a Birth Chart each recently. It's a pity their Birth Palaces aren't big so there's a limit to the number of Birth Charts they can activate. In the future, their progress will likely be limited."

"Zhou Jifeng and Pan Zhong are quite talented and have sprouted the eighth leaf."

"Fifth Senior Sister should be attempting to sprout the eleventh leaf. I'm not sure if she has succeeded or not."

"As for Eighth Junior Brother, I sent him to the yellow lotus domain. Before he left, he still had eleven leaves. Based on time, he should've arrived at the yellow lotus domain."

Since they did not have a runic passage at the yellow lotus domain, Zhu Honggong and Zhao Hongfu could only fly there. It would take them at least three to five months before they arrived. Fortunately, Zhao Hongfu went along. She could construct a runic passage there, and their return would be much faster.

Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction before he asked, "What about you?"

Si Wuya said a little awkwardly, "I'll try to break through to the Thousand Realms Whirling stage within a month..."

Lu Zhou silently studied Si Wuya for a moment before he finally asked, "Old Seventh, are you hiding something from me?"

"?" Si Wuya was startled. He hurriedly fell to one knee and said, "Master, I'm loyal and devoted to you and the Evil Sky Pavilion. I don't dare hide anything from you at all."

Si Wuya had learned from his past mistakes. He knew his master placed a lot of importance on loyalty. Moreover, as the saying went, 'Even a master for a day is like a father for life'. Apart from that, everything Lu Zhou had done was worthy of the respect of everyone from the Evil Sky Pavilion.

"You're still unwilling to tell the truth?" Lu Zhou asked.

Si Wuya was confused. He kowtowed and said, "Master, I have a clear conscience."

"Forget it," Lu Zhou said. After all, he could not say that he found Si Wuya's behavior strange. Since Si Wuya was unwilling to speak, he did not want to force Si Wuya too much as well. Everyone was entitled to their privacy. As long as they did not harm the Evil Sky Pavilion, everyone could do whatever they wanted.

Upon hearing this, Si Wuya solemnly said, "Thank you, master."

Lu Zhou said, "I have a Collective Teleportation Jade Talisman. I need the runic inscriptions for a fixed runic passage to be carved onto the jade talisman. Send the runic inscriptions over later."

"Collective Teleportation Jade Talisman?" Si Wuya's eyes lit up, filled with the urge to study this thing he had never heard of before.

Lu Zhou said, "This thing is very precious. It's like having a portable runic passage. It's made from a special jade that holds a unique energy."

Upon hearing these words, a slightly regretful expression appeared on Si Wuya's face before he said, "I understand. I'll speak to Zhao Hongfu and ask her to prepare the runic inscriptions as soon as she can."

Lu Zhou nodded.

After Lu Zhou cut off the connection, he wiped the sweat off his face before he left the hall. After bidding farewell to Ye Tianxin, he returned to the Sky Martial Academy through a runic passage.

...

In the underground prison in the Sky Martial Academy.

Xiao Yunhe said with a smile, "Don't worry. Si Wuya is very capable. You'll be surprised by the things he's capable of."

Qin Naihe leaned against the wall as he said, "Qin De isn't easy to deal with. He's very good at scheming. He deceived Venerable Master Qin for so many years, and Venerable Master Qin didn't even notice it."

"You're still too young..." Xiao Yunhe said with a sigh, "How long has Venerable Master Qin lived, and how long have you lived? His experience and knowledge are far above yours. Do you really think he's unaware of it?"

Qin Naihe widened his eyes in disbelief. “Y-you mean to say he knew about Qin De?”

Xiao Yunhe glanced at Qin Naihe and nodded. “I think you know this in the depths of your heart as well.”

As a Venerable Master, Qin Renyue had lived for nearly 30,000 years. He had suffered losses in the past and had seen the world. He naturally could see through what was hidden. However, why did he allow Qin De to become the first elder of the Qin clan if he was aware of Qin De’s deception? Why did he not discipline Qin Moshang if he knew Qin Moshang was unruly, arrogant, and domineering? Why did he let the elders hunt Qin Naihe when Qin Naihe had made great contributions to the Qin clan? The answer could be summed up in three words: they weren’t important. To him, none of them were important. What need was there for him to care about the matter if they were not important? When the Qin clan finally hung on a precarious balance, which would affect him as well, when it was important, he had shown up.

Qin Naihe shook his head. “Selfishness has always been inherent in humans...”

Creak!

The door opened and Si Wuya walked in.

Everyone rose to their feet immediately.

“Mr. Seventh, are you okay?”

“I’m fine. Qin De is dead,” Si Wuya said.

“What?” Qin Naihe struggled to stand up. As soon as he stood up, he staggered and almost lost his balance.

“Qin De is dead. Venerable Master Qin took his corpse away. Apart from that, Venerable Master Qin told me to give this to you...” Si Wuya said as he brought the mystic life grass out.

“Mystic life grass?” Qin Naihe looked at it. He did not reach out to take it.

“You don’t want it?” Si Wuya asked, confused by Qin Naihe’s behavior.

“I’m still young and in the spring of life. To think I’ll be like this now...”

“Do you want it or not?” Si Wuya asked before tossing the mystic life grass over.

“...”

After catching the mystic life grass, Qin Naihe said, “I’m just sad. I didn’t expect I’d need the mystic life grass one day...”

Si Wuya said, “My master said you can visit Venerable Master Qin.”

“No need,” Qin Naihe said, “From now on, I’m part of the Evil Sky Pavilion. I won’t leave!”

Xiao Yunhe laughed heartily upon hearing this. “That’s right!”

...

At the same time.

In Yannan's quiet training hall.

Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction when he saw the scene in the underground prison in the Sky Martial Academy. "At least, you know your place."

Lu Zhou looked outside and thought it was time for him to leave Yannan. Since Ye Zheng's death was related to him, it was weird to stay here.

As soon as Lu Zhou rose to his feet...

"Ding! Your disciple, Zhao Yue, has successfully sprouted her eleventh leaf and comprehended the dagger technique, Acacia. She has met the requirements to complete her apprenticeship."

"Ding! Zhao Yue has met the requirements to complete her apprenticeship.. Will you let her complete her apprenticeship?"

### **Chapter 1300: New Item Card**

"Zhao Yue?"

Before this, Duanmu Sheng, Zhao Yue, Si Wuya, Zhu Honggong, Little Yuan, and Conch were the only disciples who had yet to complete their apprenticeships. Little Yuan'er and Conch had met the requirements to complete their apprenticeships, but Lu Zhou rejected them.

Lu Zhou always thought Duanmu Sheng would be his next disciple to complete his apprenticeship. Although Duanmu Sheng was slow, he had fused the Great Void Seed, Lu Wu's Qi essence, and the Lilis' corrosive energy. His improvement over this short duration had been tremendous as well. He had absorbed five or six life hearts recently and was just a step away from sprouting his eleventh leaf. He did not expect Zhao Yue to beat Duanmu Sheng to it.

"Yu Shangrong did not meet the requirements to complete his apprenticeship when he sprouted his eleventh leaf. He only met the requirements after he comprehended a new sword path. Does the system have different standards for all of them?"

It was obvious that Yu Shangrong's requirements were higher. However, he had mastered Calm Disturbance when he only had ten leaves.

From the looks of it, two conditions had to be met for his disciples to complete their apprenticeships: first, their strength had to be at the Thousand Realms Whirling Stage; second, they had to comprehend a unique cultivation method. The first one was easy to measure, but the second one was rather vague.

"Complete apprenticeship."

"Ding! Your disciple, Zhao Yue, has successfully completed her apprenticeship."

"Ding! Disciples will provide more rewards for their master after leaving their master and entering the world."

"Ding! You're rewarded with a random card. When you use this card, a rare item will be randomly awarded to you."

“Ding! After Zhao Yue completes her apprenticeship, she can establish a sect and accept disciples. Maximum number of disciples: 3.”

“Ding! You will no longer receive merit points for teaching Zhao Yue.”

Lu Zhou waved his hand. A translucent card appeared in his hand. He chose to skip his routine and said, “Use.”

“Ding! Used the random card. Obtained: advanced enhanced Reversal Card x10, Duplication Card x1.”

Lu Zhou was familiar with the enhanced Reversal Card. The advanced and enhanced version should be even more powerful. He had many years of life now so he did not have much need for Reversal Cards. Nevertheless, they were better than nothing.

After putting away the Reversal Cards, he looked at the Duplication Card.

“Ding! Duplication Card: Can duplicate any item card. The effect of the duplicated card is 100% of the original. There’s a probability of doubling the effect.”

Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction. The card was very useful. If he duplicated the Impeccable Card and triggered the doubled effect, did it not mean he would be invincible for an hour with the five-layered Golden Buddha’s Body? There was also the advanced enhanced Reduction Card. What would it be like if the effect was doubled?

Items: Critical Block Card x120(passive), Golden Taixu Mirror, Deconstruction Card x3, Concealment Card x3

Remaining merit points: 282,760

Lu Zhou did not find a suitable item card to duplicate. He knew the further he progressed, the more he could not rely on item cards.

The price of a Reduction Card was 22,000 merit points now. Every time he bought one, it would increase by 1,000 merit points. Nine cards would cost him 234,000 merit points. Four Synthesis Cards cost 80,000 merit points. It would cost him 314,000 merit points to synthesize an advanced enhanced Reduction Card.

“...”

It was ridiculously expensive.

Lu Zhou wanted to synthesize this card because needed to obtain a life heart that was suitable for him. Although he now had 13 Birth Charts, he was still far from becoming a Venerable Master.

At this moment, Duanmu Sheng’s voice rang from outside.

“Master, Venerable Master Qin has returned.”

“Alright.”

After gathering his thoughts, Lu Zhou left the hall that Ye Wei had prepared for him.

...

When Lu Zhou arrived near the cloud platform, Qin Renyue tossed Qin De's corpse to the ground before he cupped his fists together and said, "Brother Lu, fortunately, Qin De did not do anything irreversible. It's unfortunate that he's dead so I can't make him apologize to you."

Lu Zhou said, "It's best that nothing like this happens again."

"Brother Lu, don't worry," Qin Renyue assured him.

Lu Zhou flew toward the flying chariot, and the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion followed suit.

At this time, Qin Renyue asked, "Brother Lu, why don't you come to my clan for a visit?"

"What's the matter?" Lu Zhou asked, puzzled. He did not want to waste time on meaningless pleasantries.

Qin Renyue replied, "The imbalance has worsened. The green lotus domain seems peaceful, but I'm still worried. This is the fifth imbalance in nearly 1,000 years. This time's imbalance is the most serious. In the past, the Equalizers would interfere. However, this time, the Equalizers didn't appear at all."

Lu Zhou thought of Lan Xihe. When Lan Xihe let the Halcyon Divine Bird kill Qin De, was she not interceding for the White Tower Council? Naturally, he could not ask this question. He asked, "Are you afraid of the Equalizers?"

"I'm not afraid. However, it's hard to resist the Equalizers. 30,000 years ago, there was a brilliant Venerable Master from another domain. In the end, he was taken away but an Equalizer," Qin Renyue replied.

"A brilliant Venerable Master?" Lu Zhou raised an eyebrow.

"That's right. Alas, I've never met him; I've only heard of him. Coincidentally, his surname is Lu as well," Qin Renyue explained.

Lu Li's eyes lit up like the sun immediately. If it were not for Lu Zhou's previous order, he really wanted to tell Qin Renyue that the brilliant Venerable Master was right in front of him. Nevertheless, he could not help but nod and say, "You're right. He's truly brilliant."

"You know him?" Qin Renyue asked.

Yan Zhenluo smiled as he said, "Venerable Master Lu is his ancestor."

"Ancestor?" Qin Renyue was shocked. The Evil Sky Pavilion was truly filled with hidden experts! First, there was the mysterious expert who killed Qin De, and now, there was a descendant of the brilliant Venerable Master Lu! Venerable Master Lu was someone capable of defeating another Venerable Master, Lord Zhennan, and Tian Wu! One could only imagine how heaven-defying Venerable Master Lu was. The more he heard about the Evil Sky Pavilion, the more he felt ignorant.

"That's all in the past. A hero doesn't mention past glories," Lu Li said with unconcealable pride.

"It's an honor to meet you," Qin Renyue said.

At this time, Lu Zhou interjected, "Are there many Equalizers?"



“Their numbers aren’t small and aren’t big. There’s at least one Equalizer in each domain. They come from the Great Void and maintain the balance. If an existence that tips the balance appears, their duty is to get rid of it,” Qin Renyue said.

“Where’s the Great Void?” Mingshi Yin asked.

Qin Renyue shook his head and said, “I don’t know either. The only thing I’m sure of is that the Great Void exists.”

Lu Zhou nodded before he said, “I have something to attend to today. Let’s talk another day.”

A regretful expression appeared on Qin Renyue’s face as he said, “Alright. Let’s talk another day.”

At this time, Ye Wei and the other elders walked over and cupped their fists together to send Lu Zhou off.

Lu Zhou glanced at Ye Wei and called out, “Ye Wei.”

“Please speak, old sir.”

“Do you know Ye Zhen?” Lu Zhou asked.

“Ye Zhen?” Ye Wei shook her head. “I’ve never heard of him.”

It seemed like Lu Zhou would not be able to find out about the origins of the Purple Glazed Ceramic and Ye Zhen even in Yannan.

“Take care of yourself,” Lu Zhou said before he turned around and entered the flying chariot.

After the flying chariot flew to the distance, Ye Wei and the other three elders sighed in relief and sat down one after another.

At this moment, Qin Renyue glanced at Ye Wei and the others before he said, “Although I don’t get along with Yannan, Ye Zheng’s dead. From now on, there’ll be no conflict between my Qin clan and Yannan.”

Ye Wei, the three elders, and Yannan disciples were silent. This was considered very good and rare that they were not kicked when they were down.

Qin Renyue left Yannan after that, carrying Qin De’s corpse with him.

...

The flying carriage traveled at a constant speed in the sky.

“Old sir, although Yannan’s matters have been dealt with, don’t be in a hurry to return to the Unknown Land. Why don’t you come to my house as a guest?” Zhao Yu asked.

“Your house? Xiangyang?” Lu Zhou asked curiously.

Zhao Yu said, “Uh... My house isn’t in the capital. However, if you want to go to Xiangyang, we can go to Xiangyang. I have a mansion there.”

As soon as Zhao Yu’s voice fell, a notification rang in Lu Zhou’s mind.

“Ding! Worshipped by 105,050 people.. Reward: 105,050 merit points.”