

Disciples 1301

Chapter 1301: I'll Let You Have a Taste of My Power

Lu Zhou did not expect to receive so many merit points. This should be the most merit points he received from his disciples at once. With these merit points, he could synthesize an advanced enhanced Reduction Card.

Lu Zhou's thoughts began to wander. Ten seeds were born from ten Pillars of Destruction. Coincidentally, he obtained all ten seeds.

The Pillar of Destruction in Yu Zhong had recognized Mingshi Yin. His cultivation would surely increase by leaps and bounds.

Lu Zhou thought he should bring his disciples to the remaining nine Pillars of Destruction to seek the pillars' recognition. However, he could not count on being lucky like he was in Yu Zhong. He was not afraid of Venerable Masters, but the likes of Lord Zhennan would be troublesome to deal with.

After Lord Zhennan uprooted himself, even Tuoba Sicheng who had 20 Birth Charts was no match for him. It was best for him to learn more and obtain more information before doing anything.

Finally, Lu Zhou said, "Alright, let's go to the capital."

Zhao Yu was overjoyed. "Thank you for your favor, old sir!"

Mingshi Yin frowned. "You don't have any ulterior motive, do you?"

Zhao Yu said sheepishly, "I do have a presumptuous request."

"You really can't trust this guy! If he's being nice, he's either scheming or stealing. Master, we can't trust him. Why don't I kill him for you?" Mingshi Yin said.

Lu Zhou found Mingshi Yin's seemingly unreasonable hostility toward Zhao Yu strange. Mingshi Yin had never been rash, the complete opposite of Duanmu Sheng. In the end, he said, "Stop messing around."

Mingshi Yin could only glare at Zhao Yu unhappily.

Zhao Yu said, "Brother Mingshi, don't be mad. To tell you the truth, my mother has been afflicted with a strange illness and is bedridden all year round. Over the years, the illness has gotten worse. The doctors said that we need the fire lotus, snow lotus, and blood ginseng from the Unknown Land to treat me. These three things are very precious. I'm afraid some rats will covet them. If old sir visits my humble abode, I'm sure my mother's illness will be cured."

"Really?" Mingshi Yin looked at Zhao Yu skeptically.

"If I lie, I'll die without a burial ground and my son would have not butth*le!"

"Okay! Your oath is ruthless enough. I believe you," Mingshi Yin said.

The flying chariot adjusted its course and slowly flew toward Xiangyang, the capital of Great Qin, crossing lofty mountains and a sea of clouds.

Lu Zhou asked, "You're from the royal family. Why would you be afraid of those rats?"

"I'm not afraid of making a joke out myself in front of you, old sir. The royal family is like this. The more loyal you are, the less likely people will believe you," Zhao Yu said with a sigh.

"I have an informant. His name is Jiang Aijian. You're somewhat like him..."

"Jiang Aijian?"

"His real name is Liu Chen. He's the third prince of Great Yan. He's the only survivor of a massacre of more than 1,000 people that happened due to internal strife. He's really annoying..." Mingshi Yin said.

It was fine if no one brought up Jiang Aijian, however, now that Jiang Aijian was mentioned, Mingshi Yin felt that he quite missed Jiang Aijian. At least, Jiang Aijian was more likable than Zhao Yu. When he returned, he decided to have a drink with Jiang Aijian.

Lu Zhou no longer joined in the conversation. Instead, he busied himself with synthesizing an item card. With 100,000 merit points, he could synthesize an advanced enhanced Reduction Card.

Merit points: 387,810

In the end, he bought nine Reduction Cards and four Synthesis Cards.

After all that, he was only left with 73,810 merit points left.

Lu Zhou felt a hint of anticipation before he duplicated the card. If the effect was not good, he would just save the merit points and buy the beast essence to upgrade Whitzard.

Lu Zhou brought out the Duplication Card and placed it with the card he had just synthesized.

"Duplicate."

"Ding! Duplication successful."

Lu Zhou watched as the exquisite translucent item card in his hand shimmered before it transformed into the advanced enhanced Reduction Card. It was exactly the same as the original. There was a huge hand in the middle of the card that looked as though it was about to dig out a life heart. Even the patterns on the back were the same.

"Ding! Duplicated advanced Reduction Card. New effect obtained after duplication: there's a chance of destroying two of the target's best life hearts. Note: This only applies to those who are weaker than Saints."

'Weaker than Saints?' Lu Zhou raised an eyebrow. Prior to this, there was no limit to the card.

According to the law of conservation, all energies had a source. Then, where did his energy come from?

'Could it be that a supreme being is secretly helping me?'

When he was in the golden lotus domain, the opponents he faced had fewer than eight leaves. At that time, with his cultivation base, he would not even be able to withstand a sneeze from a Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator. Moreover, the Deadly Strike Card back then could not even compare to a palm strike from a Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator.

'A hidden supreme being?' Lu Zhou looked around as he activated his power of sight, power of hearing, and power of smell at the same time.

With the flying chariot in the center, a unique energy rippled out in all directions, covering 10,000 meters. With this, he could see, hear, and smell everything.

Apart from a few birds flapping their wings in the sky, there were no abnormal movements. Everything seemed normal.

Lu Zhou cut off the Heavenly Writing Power. He shook his head and felt that he was overthinking.

If his power and the system came from a supreme being, then, how powerful was a supreme being?

When Lu Zhou thought of this, he was reminded of the Kun in the Endless Ocean. Now that his system had been upgraded twice, he wondered if he would be able to deal with the Kun. Perhaps, he should attempt it in the future. If he obtained the Kun's life heart, it would definitely boost his cultivation beyond imagination.

After a while, Lu Zhou silently recited the mantra for the power of sight to observe Zhu Honggong.

The first thing Lu Zhou saw was Zhu Honggong sitting lazily on a golden throne.

Zai Hong, the emperor of Great Qing, sat next to him on equal footing.

Civil and military officials in the hall stood respectfully at the sides.

Zai Hong said as he grabbed Zhu Honggong's hand, "Younger brother, I really missed you to death. The moment you returned, you solved Great Qing's crisis immediately! You're really Great Qing's lucky star!"

Zhu Honggong chuckled. A satisfied expression could be seen on his face as he said, "It's a piece of cake to solve the crisis. After I left, I've missed this place as well. I felt as though I'd returned home when I returned to this place. It's truly comfortable here..."

Zai Hong said, "Now that you've returned, you mustn't leave again."

"I won't leave again," Zhu Honggong said.

"That's great! I've already ordered people to build a palace for you. From now on, we'll sit on equal footing and treat each other as brothers. What do you think?"

"Isn't that inappropriate?"

Zai Hong said, "How's it inappropriate? Who dares to defy my decree? Moreover, you're the Divine Lord. How many contributions have you made to Great Qing and its people? You're respected by millions of people!"

Zai Hong was just short of giving up the throne.

"After you left, my sister lost her appetite for days, and she couldn't sleep. Now that you're back, why don't I arrange for both of you to be married? What do you think?"

Zhu Honggong laughed until his eyes could not be seen. He was just about to agree when...

“Mr. Eighth, come back to your senses. We still have business to attend to.”

The voice rang from among the civil and military officials. The person who had spoken was none other than Zhao Hongfu who came to the yellow lotus domain with Zhu Honggong.

“Who’s this?” Zai Hong asked in confusion.

“Miss Zhao is one of my subordinates,” Zhu Honggong said.

Zai Hong frowned. ‘How can a mere subordinate speak to the Divine Lord in such a manner?’

Zhao Hongfu was displeased by Zhu Honggong’s words. She said, “Mr. Eighth, this isn’t what you said before we came.”

Zhu Honggong waved his hand and said, “Lock her up for now. There’s something wrong with my subordinate’s brains.”

“Understood.”

Zhao Hongfu. “...”

Zhao Hongfu was truly amazed by Zhu Honggong’s face-changing tactics after experiencing it. She protested, “Brother Zhu, aren’t we brothers? How can you treat me like this?”

“Why are you standing there? Bring her away. She can’t even differentiate between men and women; her brain is getting more and more muddled,” Zhu Honggong said as he waved his sleeve.

“...”

Several guards entered the main hall. However, these guards were ultimately weaklings. They might be experts in the yellow lotus domain, but in front of Zhao Hongfu, they were nothing.

Zhao Hongfu spun around and kicked them away easily.

Upon seeing this, Zai Hong frowned. He looked at Zhu Honggong, asking for his help.

Zhu Honggong pointed at Zhao Hongfu and said, “Zhao Hongfu, do you think I’m a pushover just because I don’t show my might?”

Zhu Honggong removed his outer robe and walked down the stairs.

Zhao Hongfu retreated. “I’m warning you! If you hit me, I’ll complain to Mr. Seventh!”

“Go ahead and complain. I’m not going to stoop to his level. If I really hit him, he won’t be able to withstand it,” Zhu Honggong said as he continued to move forward.

The main doors of the main hall closed with a creak, and the civil and military officials moved to the sides.

Zhu Honggong said with a smile, “Why don’t you let me enjoy a few days of bliss? Anyway, we’re so far away, they won’t know.”

Zhao Hongfu said, “The imbalance is very serious. There are many fierce beasts in this place. What if...”

Zhu Honggong cracked his knuckles threateningly.

The guards watched intently.

“There’s no need to fear or worry. If the sky falls, my master will take care of it! If you don’t listen to me, I’ll let you have a taste of my power!” Zhu Honggong said before he stepped forward and threw his fist out.

Thud!

Zhu Honggong suddenly fell to his knees and slid forward in that position on the smooth floor.

Zhao Hongfu. “???”

Zai Hong and the others.. “???”

Chapter 1302: A Dilapidated Mansion

The hall was completely silent.

The guards, civil and military officials, and Emperor Zai Hong were all stunned. They thought they were seeing things so they quickly rubbed their eyes before they looked again. However, they found that their eyes did not deceive them. The Divine Lord they respected was truly kneeling on the ground. For a moment, they did not know how to react.

Zhu Honggong’s smile froze on his face as soon as he fell to his knees. He looked in the direction of the entrance.

‘Hallucination? Auditory hallucination?’

Zhu Honggong ruthlessly pinched himself and determined he was indeed hallucinating. It must be due to the psychological trauma from the past. With this, he moved to stand. Alas, before he could rise to his feet, a deep and sonorous voice rang in his ears.

“Kneel.”

Zhu Honggong’s eyes widened, and he began to tremble. Then, he said loudly, “M-master... I’m just joking around! I promise to complete my mission!”

Zhu Honggong no longer cared about his dignity as the Divine Lord. He lost the air of someone who was on equal footing with the emperor.

“...”

Zai Hong was the ruler of Great Qing. Upon seeing Zhu Honggong disregarding his image, he felt slightly embarrassed. Nevertheless, he did not dare to have any opinion nor did he dare to voice them out.

Zhao Hongfu scratched her head in confusion as she said, “Mr. Eighth, you’re really funny. I thought you were going to arrest me, but it turns out to be a joke.”

Zhu Honggong smiled and said, "I was afraid that Miss Zhao isn't used to this new place so I decided to lighten the mood..."

Upon hearing this, Zhao Hongfu was greatly moved. She said, "As it turns out, Brother Zhu is still the nicest to me. Mr. Seventh is always so serious. He's always studying or giving me missions. It's too tiring. I've been to Ms. Sixth's place once. However, she's so cold so it wasn't fun at all. Ms. Fifth is even scarier. She's just like the emperor. Oh, wait, perhaps, it's inappropriate for me to say these things..."

Zhu Honggong. "..."

Zhao Hongfu continued to say, "Anyway, this place is quite good. I didn't expect you to have such great prestige here, Brother Zhu! Even then, you didn't forget about me!"

'Brother Zhu? You're a lady. Is it appropriate for you to refer to us as brothers all the time?'

Zhu Honggong was speechless.

Zhao Hongfu said, "Alright, it's settled then. Hurry up and give me an official post so I can enjoy a comfortable life!"

Upon seeing this, Zai Hong said, "I see! So you're doing to cheer Ms. Zhao up! Your magnanimity really knows no bounds! Although we're on equal footing, you're so broadminded. I really can't compare to you! It's truly Great Qing's blessing to have someone like you!"

Then, Zai Hong said, "Lady Zhao, I'll issue a decree to..."

Zhu Honggong hurriedly rose to his feet and grabbed Zhao Hongfu before he interjected, "A joke is just a joke. You can't take it seriously. We still have important matters to attend to."

"Huh?"

"What do you mean by 'huh'? We must complete the runic passage in half a month!" Zhu Honggong said vehemently.

Zhao Hongfu. "..."

Zai Hong was speechless as well. 'Brother, you keep changing all the time. I really can't keep up with you!'

...

Lu Zhou cut off the power of sight.

His eighth disciple was not very reliable. Without Lu Li supervising his eighth disciple, he would grow lazy. It was best to continue letting his seventh disciple keep an eye on his eighth disciple.

Following that, Lu Zhou regulated his breathing and began to cultivate.

...

On the deck.

Zhao Yu pointed to Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai who were standing side by side before asking curiously, "Are your Eldest Senior Brother and Second Senior Brother always like this?"

"You'll get used to it," Mingshi Yin replied lazily.

Zhao Yu said with a smile, "There are many sword experts in Great Qin. In fact, there's one in the capital. He's from a remote place in the green lotus domain. He learned the sword from Master Qiu, and later, he became a famous general of Great Qin."

"May I ask what his sword skills are like?" Yu Shangrong asked.

"If we don't consider cultivation, in terms of sword skill, he's definitely the best in Great Qin!" Zhao Yu said confidently.

Yu Shangrong smiled and said, "If there's a chance, I hope I'll be able to meet him."

Zhao Yu assumed it would not be easy to get close to the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion. He did not expect Yu Shangrong to be so polite and gentle.

Zhao Yu felt his level was about that of Mingshi Yin so he lowered his head slightly and said, "Second Senior Brother is really eloquent..."

Mingshi Yin immediately said, "You're really just spewing whatever nonsense that comes to your mind..."

"..."

At this moment, Yu Zhenghai asked, "Are there any saber experts?"

Zhao Yu thought for a moment before he said, "General Xi is quite skilled..."

"Quite skilled? Forget it. Quite skilled means he's mediocre. He's a far cry from being an expert," Yu Zhenghai said.

Zhao Yu said, somewhat embarrassed, "Although General Xi's saber skills may not be the best in the world, he's definitely not mediocre. He once carried a saber and crossed the northern desert, killing tens of thousands of rebels in Zhongzhou. His saber skills are honed through bloodshed and war. He dislikes ostentatious techniques and thinks that they're just flashy trash."

"I agree." Yu Zhenghai nodded. "If there's a chance, I'd like to spar with him."

"I'm afraid that's impossible," Zhao Yu said, "He doesn't like sparring; he practices by killing."

Yu Zhenghai shook his head. "What a pity. I can't kill him just to prove my saber skills. Forget it."

"..."

At this moment, Zhao Yu's subordinate who was manning the helm pointed up ahead and said, "Young Master Zhao, we're here!"

Zhao Yu nodded before turning to face the others, "Everyone, we've arrived at Xiangyang."

Everyone moved to the sides of the deck and looked down.

Little Yuan'er and Conch were clearly excited.

...

In the evening.

That's a pity. I can't kill him just to prove my saber skills. Forget it."Yu Zhenghai shook his head.

"..."

At this moment, the subordinate in charge pointed to the clouds ahead and said, "Young Master Zhao, we're here."

Zhao Yu nodded. "Everyone, we have arrived at Xianyang."

Everyone came to the deck.

They looked down.

Little Yuan'er and the conch also ran out and looked down excitedly.

The flying carriage lowered its altitude, attracting the commoners and cultivators on the street to look up. The flying carriage flew over and landed in a villa in the south of the city.

..

In the evening.

Zhao Yu had arranged for the accommodations of the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Lu Zhou continued to cultivate in the room that had been arranged for him. He wanted to stabilize his 13th Birth Chart.

He did not use the Pillar of Impermanence since they were now in the capital of Great Qin, and it would affect ordinary people.

...

At the same time.

A figure flashed out of the residence into the street. It moved erratically at a speed that was difficult to capture with the naked eye. After walking down the long street, it left the bustling area and arrived at a quiet area in the north. Finally, it came to a halt in front of a dilapidated mansion that was overgrown with weed and vines.

The figure stood at the entrance of the mansion for a long time, looking at the broken plaque that hung on the entrance. There was only one word on the plaque, which was vaguely visible: Meng.

Following that, the figure leaped over the wall at the side and landed with movements as light as a swallow.

The garden was overrun with weeds that were taller than a person, but a small path was faintly discernible.

“Someone’s here?”

The figure moved stealthily along the small path and arrived at the rundown main hall. The doors and the windows were gone; a large hole could be seen on the roof.

At this moment, the sound of snoring from inside the hall.

The figure moved to the entrance and peeked inside. He shook his head and said in a barely audible voice, “It’s just a beggar.”

However, the beggar’s hearing was rather keen. He suddenly raised his head and called out, “Who’s there?”

“I’m just passing by, wanting to find a place to rest.”

“You can find a place to sleep, but don’t disturb me,” the beggar said before he turned around and continued to sleep.

The figure did not enter the main hall. Instead, he asked, “How long have you lived in this place?”

Chapter 1303: Legendary Figure

The beggar shifted and squinted as he looked at the figure standing at the entrance. He said fearlessly, “If you want to come in, then come in. Stop hovering around and disturbing my sleep.”

The figure hesitated for a moment before walking into the hall.

It was dark, and the smell of something old and rotten permeated the air. There were rats scurrying around as well.

The figure saw a plank at the side and took a seat before he called out, “Mister?”

“Young man, I know the conditions aren’t ideal, but make do for the night. It’s not safe out there so don’t run around outside during the night,” the beggar muttered.

“I asked you a question,” the figure asked.

“What question?” The beggar sat up, somewhat impatient. He shivered from the cold and hurriedly took a flint out from the side, igniting a small flame in an old brazier. When it was finally a little warmer, he raised his head to look at the person in front of him. Due to the lack of light, he could not see the other person’s appearance clearly.

“I remember the family who used to live here bore the surname Meng,” the figure said.

The old beggar’s interest was piqued. The night was long, and he had slept enough. It was not a bad idea to chat with a junior to kill the boredom and loneliness that cold nights tended to bring.

The old beggar moved closer to the fire. It illuminated the stone-like surface of his mottled skin. He said, “Indeed. The family who used to stay here bore the surname Meng. They’re from the ancient Baili clan.”

The figure asked curiously, “Then, where did everyone go?”

“They all died,” the old beggar said as he casually pointed at the hall, “In the days of old, this place was like a treasure land.”

“How did they die?” the figure asked again.

The old beggar looked away and said, “I don’t know.”

“About 200 years ago, there was a chaotic war in Zhongzhou. At that time, Great Qin wanted to unify the lands. At that time, Meng Mingshi appeared out of nowhere and became Great Qin’s general. He led the army and defeated the powerful Great Jin and slaughtered millions of enemies on Mount Xiao. After that, Great Qin came into power.”

The figure said with a hint of disapproval, “Wasn’t he a defeated general?”

“Indeed. It’s true that he lost many battles. However, the battle with Great Jin was too memorable. Sometimes, one battle is superior to 100 battles. Meng Mingshi was too cautious and cowardly; it’s normal that he was defeated.”

“He only got lucky...” the figure sneered.

The old beggar shook his head, indicating that he disagreed. “Not entirely. He was tenacious and very tolerant. He was very hard to kill due to how cautious he was. He knew how to wait for the right chance to strike, and he knew to strike at the vital point. The battle on Mount Xiao proved his ability. He could be considered a legend.”

“Hard to kill? Didn’t he die in the end?”

“Well, you’d have to consider his opponent. How could he possibly defeat the emperor of Great Qin?”

“You’re saying the emperor killed him?”

The old beggar sighed and lay down before he slowly said, “It’s just a rumor. Don’t take it so seriously.”

“Old beggar, you really aren’t simple,” the figure said as he rose to his feet. Then, without any warning, he attacked. His hand glowed as he grabbed the old beggar’s neck.

The old beggar was startled as he was lifted off the ground by his neck. His eyes were wide with fear, and his entire body trembled when he saw a pair of eyes that surged with killing intent.

Upon seeing this, the figure loosened his grip.

The old beggar fell to the ground, clutching his chest as he coughed violently.

“You’re not a cultivator? I apologize,” the figure said. Following that, he vanished into thin air.

The old beggar was speechless. “What bad luck...”

Following that, vines suddenly grew wildly in all directions. At the same time, the tree within a radius of 1,000 meters grew, blocking the cold wind and hiding the dilapidated mansion from sight.

...

The next morning.

At the Zhao residence.

Crash!

Zhao Yu smashed the table into pieces with his hand as he roared, "What? You lost the blood ginseng and the fire lotus?"

The attendant trembled all over and said with his head lowered, "General Xi said he met with a thief who's an expert. It's hard for ordinary people to defend against that person. However, General Xi has left to look for the treasures again. Please give him some time."

Zhao Yu sat down, panting. He had worked hard and risked his life to obtain those treasures. How could it be gone just like that? After a moment, he said angrily, "Give him time? Do I have time?"

The attendant remained silent.

Everyone in the Zhao residence knew Zhao Yu's mother was critically ill and needed the natural treasures urgently.

Zhao Yu lowered his head, remaining silent for a long time. He had tried his best, but it was not enough.

The attendant said tentatively, "General Xi has said that if he can't find the snow lotus and blood ginseng, he won't know how to face you..."

"Get lost!"

After dismissing the attendant, Zhao Yu rose to his feet expressionlessly and walked out. He walked through a corridor that led to another building.

When he arrived in front of the building where Lu Zhou was staying, he did not hesitate as he fell to his knees outside the door. "Zhao Yu is here to pay respect to the old sir."

With this, Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong flashed over, landing on the roof.

"Zhao Yu?" Yu Zhenghai raised an eyebrow.

Zhao Yu said anxiously, "I have something important to ask of the old sir. I hope that both of you will help me."

"When my master cultivates, no one's allowed to disturb him," Yu Zhenghai said.

Bam!

Zhao Yu kowtowed heavily without mobilizing his vitality energy. He said, clearly agitated, "I lost the snow lotus and blood ginseng. I have to save my mother. I have no other choice but to come to the old sir for help again."

Yu Zhenghai said, "You know how important those things were, and yet, you dare to entrust it to another person? What should be given to you has already been given to you. It's impossible for us to give you more. If everyone's like you, no matter if the Evil Sky Pavilion has a lot of blood ginseng and snow lotus, it still won't be enough. The Evil Sky Pavilion isn't a charity hall. You should leave."

"..."

Bam! Bam!

Zhao Yu kowtowed twice again with all his might.

Yu Zhenghai frowned upon seeing this. Zhao Yu was a member of the royal family. To think, he was so ruthless with himself.

At this moment, a figure appeared behind Zhao Yu and asked, "How did you lose it?"

Zhao Yu turned around and saw Mingshi Yin. He quickly recounted what had happened.

"That person with the surname Xi is really good at acting," Mingshi Yin casually said after listening to Zhao Yu.

Zhao Yu looked confused. He ignored the pain on his forehead and asked, "General Xi? Acting?"

"Are you stupid or are you pretending to be stupid?" Mingshi Yin asked. He continued to say, "Xi Qishu has passed two Birth Trials at least. How powerful is the thief to be able to steal something from him? If the thief is so powerful, is there a need for him to be a thief?"

Zhao Yu exclaimed in shock, "Impossible! General Xi has always been very good to me. It's impossible for him to do something like this!"

"How naive," Mingshi Yin said with a hint of scorn, "If you summon him here now, do you think he'll show up?"

Upon hearing this, Zhao Yu turned around on his knees and began to kowtow to Mingshi Yin. "Brother Mingshi, please help me. I'm begging you."

Mingshi Yin remained unmoved. "You shouldn't simply kneel. If you do this, it'd only make me disdain you."

"I..." A conflicted expression appeared on Zhao Yu's face before he finally rose to his feet. "I have no choice."

Mingshi Yin said, "Don't say I didn't help you. Summon Xi Qishu over."

Zhao Yu shook his head. "General Xi went to look for blood ginseng and snow lotus again. He won't be back so soon."

Mingshi Yin stepped forward and grabbed Zhao Yu's collar before he said slowly, "I'm warning you. You better listen to me. Otherwise, no one will be able to help you."

"..." Zhao Yu was frightened by Ming Shiyin's gaze. From the first time they met, Ming Shiyin had been hostile toward him. He had asked Mingshi Yin about it, but he did not obtain an answer. He always felt it was just a misunderstanding. However, at this moment, he was truly afraid of Mingshi Yin.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong exchanged a look. They were very familiar with Mingshi Yin's temper. Mingshi Yin did not get angry easily and was very good at dealing with his emotions. Moreover, Mingshi Yin always had a sense of propriety when dealing with things. However, at this moment, Mingshi Yin seemed to have turned into a different person.

At this moment...

“Don’t be impudent.”

Upon hearing Lu Zhou’s voice, Mingshi Yin finally realized he had lost control. He loosened his grip on Zhao Yu.

Zhao Yu fell limply to the ground immediately.

Creak!

Lu Zhou emerged from the room with his hands on his back.

Chapter 1304: Is He Better Than Tuoba Sicheng?

Mingshi Yin bowed and said, “Please forgive me, master. I lost my composure for a moment.”

Lu Zhou glanced at Mingshi Yin before he shifted his gaze to Zhao Yu’s bloody forehead. He said, “The blood ginseng and the snow lotus are so precious, but you actually entrusted them to another person.”

Zhao Yu said, annoyed at himself, “If I knew this would happen, even if you beat me to death, I wouldn’t have given it to him. The more I hope that something like this doesn’t happen, the more likely it’ll happen. It was like this previously as well!”

“Previously?”

As the saying went, ‘Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me’.

Mingshi Yin felt speechless. He turned around; he could not be bothered to look at Zhao Yu.

“They were also natural treasures... Medicinal herbs,” Zhao Yu said in a small voice.

Lu Zhou nodded slightly. “Two things: one, summon that person with the surname Xi to see me; two, bring me to your mother.”

Zhao Yu was overjoyed upon hearing these words. Without saying another word...

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Zhao Yu kowtowed thrice before he rose to his feet. He ignored the pain on his forehead and hurriedly said, “This way, please.”

Subsequently, Zhao Yu led everyone to a quiet courtyard.

Lu Zhou stopped at the arched entrance and sniffed the air. “There’s a very strong scent of medicinal herbs here...”

“My mother needs medicinal herbs all year round. Her condition has worsened over the years so we grew many herbs here as well,” Zhao Yu explained.

Mingshi Yin rolled his eyes. “How filial.”

When they walked inside, they saw several female attendants walking in and out of the building.

Zhao Yu ordered someone to send a message to Xi Qishu before he led Lu Zhou into the building.

...

When Xi Qishu received Zhao Yu's message, he did not pay attention to it at all. He took a swig from the wine cup before he said cheerfully, "The things I took from that brat are really amazing. After eating them, I can feel my energy surging, and it hasn't shown any sign of slowing down at all. Moreover, I can feel my cultivation improving as well."

The person seated next to Xi Qishu was Xian Gao, someone whom Xi Qishu treated like a brother. He said, "Elder Brother, you deserve those things. Anyway, what are you going to do now that the brat wants to see you?"

Xi Qishu said dismissively, "Just because he wants to see, do I have to see him?"

The duo laughed heartily.

"Elder Brother, why don't I see him? I heard he still has a fire lotus in his possession," Xian Gao said.

Previously, Zhao Yu had obtained the fire lotus first. The snow lotus and blood ginseng that he obtained later were given to Xi Qishu for safekeeping.

Xi Qishu nodded. "Go. However, he's still a Duke whose title was personally conferred by the emperor of Great Qin. Don't go too far."

"Don't worry."

With that, Xiqi Shu nodded and said, "Go. However, he is still a Duke personally conferred by the Qin emperor. Don't go too far."

"Don't worry."

With that, Xian Gao flashed and headed to the Zhao Residence.

...

At the Zhao Residence.

Lu Zhou looked at the unconscious woman before he checked her pulse with two fingers.

A vague idea appeared in Lu Zhou's mind after his divine power coursed through the woman's Eight Extraordinary Meridians. After he withdrew his hand, he looked at Zhao Yu, who wore an expectant expression on his face, and asked, "Are you sure those medicinal herbs are used to treat people?"

Zhao Yu nodded. Then, he asked anxiously, "Old sir, is there something wrong with the medicinal herbs?"

Lu Zhou did not say anything. Instead, he brought the Golden Taixu Mirror out and secretly used the Concealment Card before shining the mirror on the woman on the bed.

When the light shone on his mother, Zhao Yu saw black gas emerging from his mother's body. His eyes widened in shock. "H-how's this possible?"

Lu Zhou turned around and shone the mirror on the herbs on the table.

Similarly, the medicinal herbs were emitting black gas as well.

“How’s this possible? This was prescribed by Doctor Zhong. The attendants follow my orders strictly,” Zhao Yu said as he continued shaking his head.

Lu Zhou said, “This mirror can distinguish the truth, but it can’t reveal people’s hearts.”

Zhao Yu felt his mind go blank. If he could not understand the implications of Lu Zhou’s words, then he would be really stupid beyond saving. It was not that he had never doubted the people around him. He had changed the attendants in the residence many times and even personally recruited them.

Lu Zhou put the Golden Taixu Mirror away before he said, “You don’t need the blood ginseng, snow lotus, or fire lotus to treat her.”

Zhao Yu regained his senses and asked, “Truly? When Venerable Master Fan came to have a look at my mother, even he said she needed blood ginseng and the other herbs.”

“Venerable Master Fan?”

“It’s not only Venerable Master Fan, but General Xi, General Bai, and the imperial physicians in the palace said the same thing. They told me I need those three things to treat my mother,” Zhao Yu said. He still found it hard to believe Lu Zhou’s words.

“You don’t believe me?” Lu Zhou asked.

Zhao Yu hurriedly waved his hand. “No, no, no, I definitely believe you, old sir!”

Lu Zhou turned around and raised his hand. A golden lotus bloomed above his palm before floating toward the woman.

Zhao Yu stared at his mother and the golden lotus, too nervous to breathe.

Following that, the golden lotus spun above the woman, bursting with vitality energy. It quickly dispersed the black gas.

Suddenly, the sound of fighting rang from outside.

...

Outside the building, two figures exchanged palm strikes.

“Who are you? I want to see Young Master Zhao,” Xian Gao said as he looked at Mingshi Yin.

Mingshi Yin looked at the person in front of him for a moment before he said, “You’re Xi Qishu’s man?”

“How dare you address my brother by his name! Get lost!” Xian Gao said before launching a palm seal.

Mingshi Yin held up his astrolabe and blocked the green palm seal. He said, “Xi Qishu should come here himself.”

“If it weren’t for Young Master Zhao, do you think you’d still be alive?” Xian Gao asked.

At this time, Zhao Yu ran out, waving his hand as he said, "It's a misunderstanding! A misunderstanding! Stop fighting!"

Xian Gao said, "Young Master Zhao, Elder Brother sent me here after receiving your message. I didn't expect that you have guests here. I apologize for my disrespect."

Zhao Yu said, "He's a friend. Why isn't General Xi here?"

"General Xi asked me to deliver a message. He has found clues. However, he needs the fire lotus to lure the thief out. So..." Xian Gao trailed off meaningfully.

Zhao Yu frowned. "The fire lotus?"

"Young Master Zhao, don't worry. We're just using it as bait. With Elder Brother and I making a move, we'll definitely catch the thief," Xian Gao said.

"How do you know I have the fire lotus?"

"..."

This was a rhetorical question.

Xian Gao quickly recovered before he said with a smile, "Young Master Zhao went to the Unknown Land to look for three things. It's impossible for you to return if you only obtained two things."

Mingshi Yin shook his head and said with a sigh, "What a terrible acting skill and shoddy excuse."

Xian Gao said, slightly angry, "Young Master Zhao, believe it or not, the blood ginseng and the snow lotus are almost within General Xi's grasp."

Zhao Yu's expression turned solemn as he said, "Tell General Xi to come and see me."

"Are you joking, Young Master Zhao?" Xian Gao was slightly taken aback.

"Xian Gao, I'll say it one more time. Tell General Xi to come and see me," Zhao Yu said.

Xian Gao cursed in his heart. Outwardly, he said, "Understood. I'll return and convey Young Master Zhao's message."

Before Xian Gao turned to leave, he glanced at Mingshi Yin and smiled coldly. Just as he was about to turn, he heard a thunderous voice.

"Stop."

"Huh?" Xian Gao felt chills running his spine. When he turned to look, he saw a Fiend Monk's Hand seal that was dozens of feet tall shooting toward him at lightning speed.

Bam!

The Fiend Monk's Hand Seal landed on Xian Gao. He was shocked. He felt as though all the power in his body was being suppressed.

Bam!

The Fiend Monk's Hand Seal continued pressing Xian Gao down.

Xian Gao said through gritted teeth, "You dare to..."

Before Xian Gao could finish his words, the Fiend Monk's Hand Seal closed around him.

Crack! Crack! Crack!

"Ding! Destroyed one Birth Chart. Reward: 1,500 merit points."

"Ding! Destroyed one Birth Chart. Reward: 1,500 merit points."

"Ding! Destroyed one Birth Chart. Reward: 1,500 merit points."

"Ding! Destroyed one Birth Chart. Reward: 1,500 merit points."

"Ding! Destroyed one Birth Chart. Reward: 1,500 merit points."

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"Ding! Destroyed one Birth Chart. Reward: 1,500 merit points."

"Ding! Destroyed one Birth Chart. Reward: 1,500 merit points."

With these, Xian Gao went from having nine Birth Charts to zero Birth Charts. He looked up as fear gripped his heart tightly. When he tilted his head slightly, he saw Lu Zhou standing calmly in the courtyard.

"..."

Zhao Yu was also shocked by this scene. He asked, "Old sir, y-y-you... W-why... Y-you... He's General Xi's man; you can't kill him."

Lu Zhou waved his hand expressionlessly.

Bam!

The Fiend Monk's Hand Seal tightened one last time around Xian Gao.

At the same time, Lu Zhou asked, "Is he better than Tuoba Sicheng?"

Lu Zhou's meaning was clear: he could even kill Tuoba Sicheng, a Venerable Master; was there a need for him to spare someone like Xian Gao for someone like Xi Qishu?

Crack!

"Ding! Killed one target. Reward: 2,000 merit points.. Domain bonus: 1,000 merit points."

Chapter 1305: Mr. Ri's Explosive Power

Someone like Xian Gao was definitely no match for Lu Zhou. He did not even need to use his divine energy. Apart from that, he also did not want to reduce this place to rubble. As it was, even without the divine power, the Fiend Monk's Hand Seal had left a huge hand-shaped hole in the courtyard.

When Xian Gao was about to die, he finally realized that Zhao Yu had found an expert to help him. Unfortunately, it was too late.

Lu Zhou waved his hand, and something flew out of Xian Gao's pocket.

It hovered in the air in front of everyone's eyes. That thing was the blood ginseng. To be precise, it was only one-third of the blood ginseng.

"..."

Zhao Yu's eyes widened in shock before an unsightly expression appeared on his face. "Xian Gao is General Xi's right-hand man. This... There must be a mistake! This can't be true! There must be a misunderstanding somewhere..."

Mingshi Yin turned around and slapped Zhao Yu.

Zhao Yu stumbled back in fear. He did not expect Mingshi Yin to have already predicted his reaction and moved forward to kick him. He held his cheek in a daze.

Lu Zhou did not expect Mingshi Yin's sudden move as well. Moreover, Mingshi Yin had taken action in front of him. Indeed, Mingshi Yin's behavior was growing more and more abnormal.

Mingshi Yin cursed, "Not only did Xi Qishu steal your blood ginseng and snow lotus, but he even harmed your mother. My master killed that fellow to avenge you. It's fine if you're not grateful, but why are you still whining?"

"..."

Mingshi Yin said coldly, "You're nothing but a fool."

"..."

Zhao Yu held his cheek and stepped back. He did not want to admit it, but Mingshi Yin really did slap some sense into him. "T-they're all lying to me?"

"Why are you stating the obvious?"

"B-but... Why?"

"You'll have to ask that Xi person," Mingshi Yin said.

At this time, Lu Zhou called out, "Old Fourth."

Mingshi Yin's heart skipped a beat. He hastily said, "Master, I know I'm wrong."

"I'm not saying you're in the wrong," Lu Zhou said. Similar to Si Wuya, he was too lazy to ask more than necessary. His disciples were not children who needed to be controlled, and they had their own thoughts. As long as they did not cross the line, they could do whatever they wanted.

Lu Zhou turned around and walked away. He planned to return to his cultivation.

Mingshi Yin scratched his head, at a loss.

After Zhao Yu calmed down, he asked, "Brother Mingshi, what should I do now?"

"Do you trust me?"

"Uh... I have no other choice but to trust you."

Mingshi Yin's eyes flashed coldly as he said, "Send his head to Xi Qishu."

"..."

"I help you send it." Mingshi Yin brought out his Separation Hook and easily decapitated Xian Gao. Following that, he grabbed Zhao Yu's robe, cut a piece off it, and wrapped Xian Gao's head with it.

"..."

"I almost forgot. Where does he live?" Mingshi Yin asked.

Zhao Yu replied, still in a daze, "His home... Oh, ten miles south of the city."

With that, Mingshi Yin flashed away and vanished into the distance.

...

At the same time.

Outside the Zhao Residence.

A green-clad swordsman looked at Mingshi Yin who was flying away and murmured to himself, "Old Fourth, you're too rash..."

Following that, he tilted his head slightly and transmitted his voice. "Eldest Senior Brother, I'll leave this place to you. I'm going to go check on Old Fourth."

Not long after, a voice rang in his ears. "Alright."

...

At night.

The nights in the green lotus domain were not very peaceful. The bitterly cold wind swept through the city and into the periphery of the city where fierce beasts roamed.

In Xi Qishu's residence.

The lights were brightly lit at this moment.

Xi Qishu sat cross-legged behind a screen to cultivate.

Bang!

At this moment, a human head smashed through the window.

Xi Qishu opened his eyes and raised his hand, blocking the human head with energy seals. With that, the human head fell to the ground and rolled to a stop near his feet.

Upon seeing the head, Xi Qishu's eyes gleamed with killing intent. "Xian Gao?"

At this moment, a voice rang from outside the window.

"You're next!"

Swoosh!

Xi Qishu flew out the window, following the direction of the voice. In just a blink of an eye, he had flown out of the residence. He saw a figure flying at a low altitude and said in a low voice, "Rat, let's see where you can run!"

Xi Qishu flew at top speed, chasing after the figure. After a moment, he suddenly came to a stop.

"You're trying to lure me into a trap? You're too inexperienced."

The person he was chasing turned around and cursed, "Coward."

Xi Qishu frowned as he crushed a talisman. Then, he retorted, "Hm? Have you ever seen a coward chasing after someone?"

"Aren't I looking at you now?"

"..."

Xi Qishu had fought on the battlefield for many years; how could he be angered by just a few words? He asked, "Who are you?"

"Someone who wants to kill you."

"Just you alone?"

"You'll die here!" The figure landed before slapping his hand on the ground.

Bang!

Vines grew rapidly.

Xi Qishu exclaimed in surprise, "A technique that accelerates growth? Who are you?"

The figure did not respond to Xi Qishu.

The figure landed on the ground and slapped his palm on the ground. He controlled the vines and used them to lash at Xi Qishu.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Xi Qishu dodged back and forth, shuttling between the vines. At this moment, a cold light flashed as he brought out his astrolabe.

Bang!

The astrolabe expanded 1,000 times, cutting off the vines.

“Young man, you’re too inexperienced!” Xi Qishu said before suddenly tossing the astrolabe out.

Twelve Birth Charts flashed on the astrolabe as it flew out. It continued to expand, covering a radius of 100 meters before it fell down. At the same time, the power of the 12 Birth Charts shot out.

Boom!

Xi Qishu landed on the ground

When the astrolabe vanished, a shallow pit could be seen on the ground.

Contrary to Xi Qishu’s expectations, he did not see a corpse. He frowned as he walked forward. With every step he took, he would sense his surroundings for changes. When he was one-third of the distance away from the pit...

Bang!

A figure shot out of the ground. Something glinted coldly in his hand as he struck at Xi Qishu’s vital points.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The figure unleashed a flurry of attacks. The speed, the method, and the timing could be considered perfect.

“Get lost!” Xi Qishu released a burst of energy, trying his best to push his opponent away.

The figure flipped back in the air and landed on the ground, holding a weapon that looked like a hook.

Xi Qishu said with a dark expression, “I have no enmity with you. Why are you targeting me and my man?”

“No enmity?” The figure chuckled.

Although it was just a chuckle, Xi Qishu could clearly sense the disdain and hostility contained in it. He frowned as he said, “Tell me your name.”

“My surname is Ri.”

“Ri?”

“That’s right, you b*stard! I’m your grandfather! Ah, no, how can a dumbas* like you be my grandson!”

Flames of fury surged in Xi Qishu’s heart. With his current status, when had he ever been repeatedly insulted like this?

Swoosh!

Xi Qishu charged toward Mingshi Yin.

Mingshi Yin flipped back in the air. With just a wave of his hand, tens of thousands of trees grew, forming a small forest.

Xi Qishu brought out his astrolabe again and expanded it by 10,000 times. He was about to use the same tactic as before when Mingshi Yin shot toward him, targeting the Birth Charts on his astrolabe.

At this moment, Mingshi Yin emitted a terrifying killing intent.

Xi Qishu scoffed. "You're sending yourself to me? Die!"

The astrolabe suddenly shot out a beam of light and sent Mingshi Yin flying.

Bang!

Mingshi Yin held the Separation Hook in front of him. He let out a muffled groan as his arms grew numb. He quickly disappeared into the forest.

Xi Qishu put away his astrolabe and landed on the ground, sensing the changes in the surroundings. As he moved forward, he said mockingly, "You want to kill me with such a low cultivation base? I've killed more people than you've eaten rice."

The forest was eerily silent.

The moonlight cast its silvery light on the forest.

Xi Qishu raised his hand and grabbed the Bluewood. His vitality energy surged forming an energy saber that swiftly destroyed the Bluewood in his hand.

A light flashed.

Xi Qishu scoffed. "Just an ant trying to shake a tree!"

Xi Qishu launched a palm seal.

However, this time, Mingshi Yin's explosive power reached an unprecedented level. His Separation Hook slashed at the palm seal in a frenzy.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

In just a blink of an eye, Mingshi Yin had made hundreds of slashes.

Xi Qishu did not expect Mingshi Yin's attack to be so fierce. The palm seal pushed against him, causing him to glide backward as Mingshi Yin continued attacking.

At this time, Mingshi Yin released a conical golden energy.

When Xi Qishu saw Mingshi Yin's face that was illuminated by the golden light, his eyes widened in surprise.. "Golden energy seal? It's you?"

Chapter 1306: Put the Saber in Your Hand Down

Mingshi Yin increased the speed of his attack, brandishing the Separation Hook in a frenzy. Due to his incredible speed, it seemed as though he left afterimages in his wake when he moved.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

At this time, the green palm seal looked as though it was about to shatter.

Xi Qishu was in shock. His eyes were filled with disbelief when he saw Mingshi Yin. The powerful force continued to push him back, leaving two shallow ditches on the ground. He glided back for 1,00 meters.

During this time, Mingshi Yin had lost count of the number of times he had attacked. At this time, he suddenly manifested his astrolabe, unleashing the full power of his Birth Charts. At the same time, his hand wielding the Separation Hook did not stop moving at all.

Boom!

The explosive attacks shattered the green palm seal. The shockwave from the attack hit Xi Qishu's chest. He flew back in the air like a kite with a broken string. When he landed, he continued to slide back on the ground. When he slid 100 meters back, he grunted and spat out a mouthful of blood.

"You!" Xi Qishu glared at Mingshi Yin and pointed at him. He laughed angrily before he said, "I remember now! I remember now!"

Mingshi Yin put away the Separation Hook and his astrolabe and asked, "What do you remember?"

"I didn't expect a bast*rd like you is still alive!" Xi Qishu wiped the blood from the corner of his lips as he rose to his feet.

Mingshi Yin did not think much of Xi Qishu's words.

Xi Qishu raised his head to look at the dark sky and the stars as his eyes burst with killing intent. "Little bast*rd, I really didn't expect that Meng Mingshi didn't kill you!"

Mingshi Yin asked expressionlessly, "Did you kill him?"

Xi Qishu laughed wildly. "You want to know? You can ask him after I send you to hell!"

Bang!

Xi Qishu shot out, leaving an afterimage in his wake. He arrived in front of Mingshi Yin in just a blink of an eye.

"Samsara Slash!"

Energy sabers burst forth from Xi Qishu's palms.

Mingshi Yin flashed to the side.

Bang!

The energy sabers hit Mingshi Yin's energy barrier, shattering it like glass. Consequently, he was sent flying in the air.

Xi Qishu suddenly stopped moving and said, "I was just toying with you earlier. Let me show you my specialty."

When a crimson saber appeared in Xi Qishu's hand, he licked the edge of the saber with a bloodthirsty expression on his face. He took advantage of the time Mingshi Yin was flying backward and shot out at blinding speed.

When Mingshi Yin landed on the ground, he smacked his hands on the ground. The Bluewood in the surroundings grew bigger and bigger at a crazy rate, shielding him.

Boom!

Xi Qishu collided with the mass of Bluewood. When they did not yield, he crashed against them over and over again until they were smashed into pieces. However, at this time, Mingshi Yin had already disappeared.

Xi Qishu landed and sensed his surroundings again.

"Little bast*rd, you're a coward just like your grandfather! Come out!" Xi Qishu's deep voice reverberated in the air as he said, "Meng Mingshi was a coward all his life and suffered a lifetime of defeats. During the battle on Mount Xiao, Bai Yi and I helped him win the battle! A general's victory is built upon ten thousand bones. After he succeeded, he wanted to kill me and Bai Yi. I slept among the dead, how can I die so easily? Why was he hailed as the god of war while I was despised by others for generations?"

After a pause, Xi Qishu roared, "Come out!"

At this time, there were movements under Xi Qishu's feet.

"Hm?"

Mingshi Yin shot out from the ground behind Xi Qishu. The Separation Hook burst forth with thousands of energy hooks.

Xi Qishu spun around and launched his energy sabers.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Once again, Xi Qishu was pushed back by Mingshi Yin. However, he had learned from his mistakes; he would not make the same mistake twice. He stomped his feet fiercely and manifested his avatar.

The avatar expanded swiftly until it was more than 1,000 feet tall.

"I was waiting for you to manifest your avatar!" Mingshi Yin said before he manifested his avatar as well.

Buzz!

Xi Qishu's expression darkened as he spat out, "Only six Birth Charts?"

"Who told you that the height of the avatar determines the number of Birth Charts?" Mingshi Yin said before his avatar swept out horizontally.

Bang!

Xi Qishu's avatar was sent flying back.

The battle between two avatars was like the fiercest and most primitive of battles.

“Seven Birth Charts? No. Ten?” Xi Qishu said through gritted teeth.

Bang!

Xi Qishu looked surprised when he was sent flying by an explosive energy. ‘Such speed! Such explosive power! Is he an assassin?’

Assassin never fought head-on. Experienced assassins were patient and were often able to challenge those with a higher cultivation base.

Xi Qishu’s blood and qi surged violently in his body. He hurriedly withdrew his avatar before he fell to the ground.

Mingshi Yin said, “Didn’t I say that you’ll die here today?” After a pause, he added, “Meng Mingshi’s death doesn’t concern me. I just think you should die.”

Xi Qishu who lay motionless on the ground inhaled deeply. He closed his eyes. When he opened his eyes again, he suddenly stood up like a zombie. Then, he quickly tapped a few acupoints on his body before he laughed and said, “Little bast*rd! You actually hurt me with your ten Birth Charts!”

“Hm?” Mingshi Yin frowned. The explosive energy should have severely injured Xi Qishu. Xi Qishu’s tenacity had exceeded his expectations.

“I always thought Meng Mingshi would throw a bast*rd like you out to feed the dogs. I didn’t expect you to end up in the golden lotus domain. After all these years, are these all you’ve learned? How disappointing!” Xi Qishu said darkly. Then, he added confidently, “Didn’t anyone tell you there’s an insurmountable gap between the first Birth Trial and the second Birth Trial?”

Xi Qishu’s astrolabe appeared again. Energy sabers spun on its surface rapidly.

Not only did Xi Qishu have 12 Birth Charts, but he had also passed the second Birth Trial. This meant that no matter how strong one was, if one had yet to pass the second Birth Trial, it would be extremely difficult to kill someone who had passed the second Birth Trial.

Xi Qishu cast his second Birth Trial ability at this moment.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The energy sabers on the astrolabe shot out. The destructive force of the energy sabers destroyed the Bluewood in the surroundings like a hot knife through butter. It looked as though nothing would be able to stop them.

At the same time, as the energy sabers shot out, the astrolabe unleashed the full power of the Birth Charts.

Mingshi Yin was shocked. He retreated in the air, dodging the energy sabers and Birth Chart power. At this moment, it was no longer possible for him to escape into the ground. It would only confine him, making him no better than a lamb waiting to be slaughtered. All he could now was to widen the distance

and stay away from the area where the energy sabers were the most powerful. He tried with all his might to evade the attacks, flashing back and forth, trying to find a way out.

The difference between passing one Birth Trial and passing two Birth Trials was too big.

At this moment, one of the energy sabers that was imbued with Xi Qishu's full power arrived in front of Mingshi Yin.

Mingshi Yin's eyes widened. 'It's over!'

There was no way for Mingshi Yin to dodge this.

Buzz!

Mingshi Yin manifested his astrolabe. When the energy saber landed on the astrolabe, the astrolabe caved in immediately.

Bang!

The astrolabe only managed to hold on for a moment before it broke. With that, Mingshi Yin felt an overwhelming force landing on his chest. He spat out blood and dropped to the ground immediately.

When the energy saber vanished, Xi Qishu waved his right hand, and the crimson saber fell into his hand again. When Mingshi Yin's broken astrolabe vanished, he exclaimed in surprise, "The astrolabe broke, but you didn't lose your Birth Chart? Little bast*rd, looks like I underestimated you. Nevertheless, it won't change the outcome."

Xi Qishu continued to advance as the night wind blew and the moon shone down. It was a night suitable for killing. He advanced and stared at Mingshi Yin like a starving wolf eyeing its prey that was lying on the ground, unable to move. His arrogant demeanor was that of a victor. He came to a stop 30 meters away from Mingshi Yin and raised his head. Backlit by the moonlight, he saw a person dressed in a green robe.

He held a long sword in his right hand with the tip pointing down. Blood, which seemed to be glowing strangely, flowed down the sword, dripping on the ground.

At this time, the green-clad swordsman said, "It's best you put the saber in your hand down.. This way, you won't feel pain when my sword passes through your head."

Chapter 1307: The Ultimate Sword

When Xi Qishu saw the blood on the Longevity Sword, his eyelids twitched. He said in a deep voice, "So you brought help..."

Xi Qishu clapped his hands. The sound reverberated loudly in the silent night. He realized now that the blood on the sword belonged to the reinforcements he had called for earlier. His eyes surged with killing intent as he asked, "You killed them?"

"If it weren't for these circumstances, I wouldn't even look at them. They should feel honored to die under my sword," Yu Shangrong said, as calm as ever.

Xi Qishu glanced at Mingshi Yin who was lying on the ground before he said, “You overestimate yourself.”

Then, Xi Qishu stomped his feet and flew out like an arrow. He wielded his saber with both hands, and an incredibly large energy saber shot out horizontally. His entire body shone with a green light.

Yu Shangrong shook his head slightly. “How stubborn...”

Just as Xi Qishu arrived in front of Yu Shangrong, he brandished his sword. He seemed to turn incorporeal as he moved.

Xi Qishu attacked one, two, three, four times, but his attacks passed through Yu Shangrong. He did not cause any damage at all. He was puzzled. He quickly spun around and brandished his saber again, unleashing 10,000 energy sabers.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Yu Shangrong accurately deflected the energy sabers. He thrust, stab, lift, strike, and block, perfectly displaying the basic sword movements. He was so fast that it looked as though they were multiple people brandishing swords at the same time.

The storm-like attacks shocked Xi Qishu. ‘His sword technique isn’t inferior to Bai Yi!’

Yu Shangrong pressed Xi Qishu back. The fierce sword technique left him with no breathing room. He felt as though Yu Shangrong had blocked off all his paths of retreat.

Meanwhile, Yu Shangrong’s expression was as usual. He did not seem to be struggling at all.

Xi Qishu did not give up. He refused to believe he would be bested by the person in front of him. He activated his protective energy, and when he could, he would use his energy sabers to block the attacks as well.

If Yu Shangrong’s attack was like the violent wind earlier, it was now like a tsunami.

Xi Qishu’s technique was crude to begin with. How could he deal with such an exquisite and extreme sword path? When he could no longer hold on, he roared, “Enough!”

Boom!

A ring of light appeared around Xi Qishu immediately.

Yu Shangrong leaped into the air and flipped a few times before he rushed out again.

Xi Qishu felt chills running up his spine. What kind of opponent was this? Was his fighting style so monstrous?

“You want to exhaust my vitality energy?” Xi Qishu joined his palms together. The saber in his hand flew out and spun around him.

Everything was meaningless in the face of absolute power. Xi Qishu wanted to end this quickly so he manifested his avatar again. This time, he cast his first Birth Trial ability.

The green avatar expanded swiftly. At the same time, the green lotus spun and increased in size as well.

The lotus was a cultivator's strongest defense. If used properly, its offensive power would be just as strong.

When the green lotus expanded until it was about to reach Yu Shangrong, he leaped up onto Xi Qishu's lotus seat.

Upon seeing this, Xi Qishu laughed loudly. "I was waiting for you to do this."

This method had been tried and tested. Every time Xi Qishu used his first Birth Trial ability, his opponent would instinctively jump onto his lotus seat. Now that Yu Shangrong had done as he had expected, he tossed his crimson saber out.

As the crimson saber spun around the lotus, Yu Shangrong noticed that 12 Birth Charts were lighting up successively. He was slightly surprised. It seemed like not only astrolabes could release the Birth Chart power, but the lotus seat was also capable of releasing the Birth Chart power. However, after thinking about it, he thought this was as it should be. The Birth Charts on the astrolabes and the Birth Palaces were the same, after all.

Just as Yu Shangrong expected, pillars of light shot up to the sky from the lotus seat. He tossed his sword out and dodged the pillars of light, weaving in and out of the gaps between the pillars. However, unlike Mingshi Yin, he was not just dodging.

The Longevity Sword was like a swimming dragon as it shuttled between the pillars of light before it arrived in front of Xi Qishu.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The Longevity Sword kept attacking Xi Qishu.

Xi Qishu's movement technique was slightly inferior. After taking a few consecutive strikes, he had no choice but to fly backward. He unleashed his grand technique and flashed 1,000 meters away, bringing his lotus with him.

The pillars of light continued shooting up into the sky after losing their target.

Yu Shangrong hovered in the air and joined his palms together, controlling the Longevity Sword from an incredibly long distance.

...

The Longevity Sword followed closely behind Xi Qishu.

Upon seeing this, Xi Qishu's expression turned grim. "Sword control technique?"

Although Bai Yi's technique was brilliant, it still fell short of the person in front of him.

Xi Qishu was left with no choice but to fight. He drew his saber and slashed wildly.

The Longevity Sword was so fast that it seemed like it was everywhere at the same time.

When Xi Qishu was about to lose ground again, he suddenly pricked his finger and drew blood. Then, he smeared it on his saber. The saber glowed even redder than before as an incredibly huge energy saber shot out.

...

Yu Shangrong withdrew the Longevity Sword, avoiding the energy saber.

Upon seeing this, Xi Qishu said, "Too late."

At some point, Xi Qishu had appeared beneath Yu Shangrong's feet. At the same time, his green avatar, which was over 1,000 feet tall, rose from the ground. Following that, he flew into the avatar and hovered near its heart. He wielded the saber with both hands and flew out along with his avatar that was pushing both its hands out.

Yu Shangrong was slightly surprised. "You're stronger than I thought."

Yu Shangrong held the Longevity Sword in front of him as the sword released countless energy swords that formed a wall in front of him.

Bang!

The energy swords and energy sabers collided and struggled against each other with a might that seemed capable of leveling mountains and overturning the rivers.

Both of them had life hearts that were related to flying, defenses, and strength so for a time it was difficult to tell who was stronger.

At this moment, Xi Qishu smiled coldly as he stared at Yu Shangrong. He laughed as he said, "It's ready. It's time to send you to hell!"

Xi Yishu's maniacal laughter rang thunderously, sending chills up people's spines.

The sword and saber struggled against each other as the golden energy and the green energy clashed.

Through the energies, Yu Shangrong saw Xi Qishu's eyes turn abnormally red as blood oozed out of his arms, and his hair grew longer.

Creak!

The Longevity Sword began to bend.

Yu Shangrong's sword was his life; he was the sword, and the sword was him. Hence, he hurriedly withdrew the Longevity Sword and allowed the energy sabers to land on him.

At this time, a Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar suddenly appeared above Xi Qishu. It wielded a sword with both hands and brought it down with all its might.

Bang!

An overwhelming force bore down on Xi Qishu and his green avatar.

At the same time, the energy sabers that were shooting at Yu Shangrong dropped down and slashed at his waist. His belt was cut into two, causing his green robes to flutter noisily in the wind.

Xi Qishu spun around and glared at the golden avatar. "A Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar?"

The Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar held a golden leaf in its hands and stabbed it downward like a sword.

Bang!

The shockwave rippled out in the sky.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The golden avatar continued stabbing down without stopping.

Xi Qishu gritted his teeth. His eyes glowed red as he cried out, "Break!"

Xi Qishu, along with his avatar, spun 180 degrees before he released a thousand-foot-long energy saber into the sky.

Yu Shangrong flashed and flew into his avatar. He did not dodge Xi Qishu's attack. Instead, he joined his palms together.

Boom!

Yu Shangrong caught the huge energy saber between his palms.

However, Xi Qishu laughed. "Let's see how you'll dodge this!"

The energy saber grew again. At the same time, the fresh blood oozing from Xi Qishu's arms shot out like spiderwebs, weaving an inescapable net.

"Great Birth Chart?" Yu Shangrong withdrew his avatar.

The inescapable net emitted a strange energy.

At this time, Xi Qishu seemed as though he had lost his mind. He roared, "Strangle him to death!"

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Yu Shangrong looked around. He could keenly sense the danger from the inescapable net.

"Golden halo!" Yu Shangrong reached out and held the golden halo in his hand.

The golden halo suddenly expanded by 100 times, resisting the net.

"Eleven Leaf Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar?" Xi Qishu was stunned. Then, he laughed maniacally again. "No wonder you're able to fight me for so long! It's a pity that you don't have Birth Charts. You won't be able to win!"

Xi Qishu seemed to be showing off as he manifested his astrolabe and aimed it at Yu Shangrong who was surrounded by the net.

“Why would the Sword Devil need Birth Charts?” Yu Shangrong said as his avatar appeared in front of him. At the same time, the Longevity Sword flew into the avatar’s hand as an energy saber appeared around it and began to grow until it was 1,000 feet long.

The avatar brought the sword down on Xi Qishu.

Bang!

Xi Qishu was shocked. He could only lift his astrolabe to block the strike.

Following that, the golden Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar vanished, and the Longevity Sword flew back to Yu Shangrong’s hand.

Xi Qishu had learned from his mistake and maintained a distance from Yu Shangrong. He lifted his astrolabe, shooting out a few pillars of light at Yu Shangrong.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

The golden halo in Yu Shangrong’s hand grew several sizes again. As it grew, the strange red net strained, looking as though it was going to break soon.

At the same time, Yu Shangrong controlled the Longevity Swords to hover in front of him before launching millions of energy swords to form a wall in front of him to block the pillars of light.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

When the last pillar of light vanished, the Longevity Sword flew back into Yu Shangrong’s hand.

However, Xi Qishu was nowhere to be seen at this moment.

Yu Shangrong held the golden halo and flew forward. At this time, cold laughter rang from behind him before he heard one word.

“Farewell.”

Chapter 1308: The Sword Devil’s Killing Move

Yu Shangrong forcefully turned his body and saw Xi Qishu rushing at him with a huge saber and energy saber in his hand.

No matter how one looked at it, this was clearly Xi Qishu’s strongest killing move. Blood essence, trump cards, Great Birth Chart power, techniques, and even possibly forbidden pills were all used in this move.

Yu Shangrong held the golden halo up and faced the huge saber.

Bang!

When the energy saber landed on the golden halo, it burst with a golden-green energy that rippled out into the surroundings.

“Hm?” Xi Qishu was surprised when he saw that the golden halo managed to withstand his energy saber. He grew even more furious. All his Primal Qi in his Dantian’s sea of Qi surged down his arms into

his hands, enlarging the energy saber before he continued to press it down on Yu Shangrong's golden halo. He was determined to use the rebound force to cleave the golden halo into two.

Xi Qishu's strength had exceeded Yu Shangrong's expectations. A question popped up in his mind at this time: was it really impossible to defeat this person who had passed two Birth Trials? He shook his head. He believed that there was no opponent in this world who could not be defeated.

Over the years, Yu Shangrong had tested the strength and abilities of his eleven leaves countless times. When he first sprouted the eleventh leaf, he had killed Su Heng, one of Duan Xihua's men. At that time, his strength was comparable to five Birth Charts. After he stabilized his cultivation base, he continued to absorb life hearts, but the height of his avatar was that of someone with six Birth Charts.

Every time a cultivator activated a Birth Chart, the height of his avatar would increase. Fortunately, Yu Shangrong was not too obsessed with these changes. As long as his strength increased, he thought his Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar was pretty good. He continued to absorb life hearts. Up until now, he had absorbed nearly 15 life hearts, including their abilities. With that, his cultivation had increased tremendously. Moreover, after traveling to the Unknown Land, with the help of the Pillar of Impermanence, it continued to improve by leaps and bounds.

At this moment, Yu Shangrong sensed the threatening aura from the energy saber pressing down him. He murmured as he lowered his altitude, "There's that feeling again..."

Upon hearing these words, Xi Qishu sneered. "Is it the feeling of dying? Does it feel good?"

"No." Yu Shangrong raised his head to look at the sky.

"Hmm?" Xi Qishu frowned.

Yu Shangrong smiled slightly before he pushed the golden halo out.

"Avatar."

Buzz!

A 650-foot Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar appeared and swiftly increased in height.

700 feet.

800 feet.

900 feet.

Crack!

A crisp sound rang from the golden halo at this time. With that, the twelfth golden leaf sprouted from the golden halo.

Bang!

The crimson net broke, and the green energy saber was bounced back.

Yu Shangrong's golden halo burst with an energy that sent Xi Qishu flying to the horizon.

At this moment when the Sword Devil sprouted the twelfth leaf, he felt as though his Dantian's sea of Qi had broken free of some shackles. His Eight Extraordinary Meridians, energy, essence, and spirit were energized in just an instant. It was as though the suppressive force, which was like an incomparably hard glass, that had been bearing down on him finally shattered after he had continuously beaten it. Suddenly, he felt that Xi Qishu had become weaker.

Yu Shangrong pushed the golden halo out again.

The twelve leaves spun at the same time.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The golden leaves hit the energy saber, destroying it before they moved onto the crimson saber. They broke the crimson saber easily as though it was a twig.

Following that, the golden halo landed on Xi Qishu's chest.

Xi Qishu's eyes widened as he cried out in a trembling voice, "T-twelve leaves!"

"Longevity Sword," Yu Shangrong called out calmly. The Longevity Sword flew into his hand. With that, he started a new round of demonstration of his sword path.

Left, right, up, down, front, and back. It seemed like Yu Shangrong was everywhere at the same time. More than ten figures flashed around, some holding golden leaves and some holding the Longevity Swords. All of them attacked Xi Qishu at the same time.

Before the green avatar could move, the Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar had already appeared above the green avatar. Then, it stomped its feet fiercely on the green avatar.

Bang!

The green avatar shook violently along with heaven and earth as clouds rolled in.

Yu Shangrong unleashed his unbeatable and oppressive sword path. Under his assault, Xi Qishu's protective energy lasted only a few breaths before it was shattered by his energy swords. With that, the remaining energy swords landed one after another on Xi Qishu's body.

The green avatar suddenly vanished, indicating Xi Qishu had lost a Birth Chart.

Anger and hatred had completely taken over Xi Qishu at this moment. He said decisively, "Don't even think about leaving!"

Boom!

The explosion of a Great Birth Chart was like fireworks blooming in the night sky.

Xi Qishu laughed. Although he was certain that he had succeeded, his laughter contained a hint of despair. However, when the explosion died down, he was stunned.

Xi Qishu saw the Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar kneeling with its back toward him and its hands were holding Yu Shangrong. The golden halo with twelve leaves spun on the avatar's back. Most importantly, the avatar was bathed in flames!

When Yu Shangrong sprouted his twelfth leaf, he had awakened the karmic fire as well!

A smile could be seen on Yu Shangrong's face at this time. He raised his Longevity Sword, and the avatar gradually vanished. Then, he turned to face Xi Qishu and said indifferently, "Die, Xi Qishu."

With that, countless energy swords shot out of the Longevity Sword looking like a long dragon and pierced through Xi Qishu's chest.

At this moment, Xi Qishu finally revealed a frightened expression on his face as he fell. He looked at the sky filled with energy swords that looked like dragons pouncing at him, and despair overwhelmed him and devoured his will to resist.

Boom!

Xi Qishu fell to the ground.

The battle ended.

The energy swords and the green energy dissipated, and the broken crimson saber lay quietly on the ground.

Xi Qishu's eyes widened as he looked at Yu Shangrong who was hovering in the air. It seemed like he was trying to speak, but only the sound of blood gurgling in his throat could be heard. After a while, he grinned like a madman as he finally succeeded in saying, "The emperor... of Great Qin... won't let you off... for this..."

At this moment, a figure pounced on Xi Qishu like a mad wolf. A cold light glinted in his hand as he repeatedly stabbed Xi Qishu's body. It was not until Xi Qishu's body became a bloody mess that he slowed down. At this point, he had lost count of how many times he had stabbed Xi Qishu. At the same time, he cursed, "You're the bast*rd! You're the bast*rd! All your family members are bast*rds!"

At this moment, a voice rang from above.

"Old Fourth, that's enough."

Mingshi Yin did not stop. He did not care about the blood or his injuries. He kept stabbing with his Separation Hook.

Yu Shangrong said again, "That's enough!"

The soundwave was gentle and just enough to push Mingshi Yin back.

Mingshi Yin sat back and looked at the bloody Separation Hook. The moonlight hit the book, refracting the light on his face. He looked at Xi Qishu.

Xi Qishu's head was tilted to the side and staring back at Mingshi Yin lifelessly. A smile could still be seen on his face. He was no longer breathing..

Chapter 1309: Let Me See How Much You've Improved

Mingshi Yin did not have Duanmu Sheng's boldness and rashness so he seemed weak and timid in many battles. However, this did not mean he was really afraid of the enemy. Nevertheless, he was slightly frightened when he saw what he had done to Xi Qishu. Under the moonlight, Xi Qishu's corpse looked even more ghastly.

Mingshi Yin did not know how to feel at this moment. He had killed many people, from high-ranking officials and dignitaries to peddlers at the roadside. However, none of them made him feel nervous like Xi Qishu did. It was not because Xi Qishu was strong nor was it because he was afraid of Xi Qishu. It was because of an inexplicable feeling that was a mix of anger, hatred, sorrow, and joy.

After sitting for a long time in a daze, Mingshi Yin finally returned to his senses. He inhaled deeply and wiped the blood off his face as he cursed, "What a filthy man!"

A burst of golden energy appeared around Mingshi Yin and seeped into his pores before coursing through his Eight Extraordinary Meridians into his Dantian's sea of Qi. The golden energy vaporized the blood on his body, but there was nothing he could do about his stained clothes. Then, he used his sleeve to clean his Separation Hook over and over again.

At this moment, Yu Shangrong asked, "Do you have anything to say?"

"Uh..." Mingshi Yin scratched his head. "I lost my composure earlier. Fortunately, Second Senior Brother appeared in time. Otherwise, I would've been done for."

Yu Shangrong frowned at Mingshi Yin making light of the situation. However, he was not one to force others to do things they did not like; this was especially true in regard to his fellow disciples. He was the Sword Devil that everyone respected; a gentleman who treated others with courtesy.

"..."

Mingshi Yin sighed before he said awkwardly, "I'm actually from the green lotus domain."

Yu Shangrong nodded and landed next to Mingshi Yin. He raised his head to look at the bright and beautiful moon that hung in the night sky.

"Second Senior Brother, you're not surprised?"

"I suspected as much..." Yu Shangrong replied, as calm as ever.

"There's a corpse lying next to us while we talked and admired the moonlight. It's quite creepy. Let me deal with it," Mingshi Yin said before he used an energy seal to bury the corpse.

...

Under the full moon.

At the periphery of the city.

Mingshi Yin sighed. "I had a brother. He was... innocent, foolishly so. He couldn't speak. Every time he wanted to communicate with others, he would gesture with his hands and feet. He couldn't hear, but he liked listening to others as though he could hear them..."

"Deaf-mute?" Yu Shangrong asked.

“Yes, deaf-mute...” Mingshi Yin nodded. He did not want to use this word to describe his brother. “Perhaps, the heavens felt that the world’s too dirty so they removed noises from his life...”

Mingshi Yin, who was sitting on the ground, clenched a fistful of grass, reducing them to dust as he said, “He was like a piece of white paper, untainted. He liked to laugh. Even if you hit, he’d smile at you.”

Yu Shangrong was puzzled. “Is he not sound of mind?”

Mingshi Yin shook his head. “No. He suffered beatings for me, stole food for me to eat, and did all sorts of dirty work for me... He was just naive...”

“He’s a righteous man,” Yu Shangrong said with a faint smile before he asked, “Where’s he now?”

“Dead,” Mingshi Yin said without any difficulties. It was as easy as crushing a bug in his hand, leaving a residue behind that annoyed him. He added, “He was beaten to death by Xi Qishu. At that time, he was only eight years old; a year younger than me.”

“No one cared?” Yu Shangrong frowned.

“How could Meng Mingshi, the most cowardly person in Great Qin, dare to care?” Mingshi Yin cursed, “Trash will always be trash. It’s impossible for him to change just because he got lucky and became known as a God of War!”

When Yu Shangrong saw that his Fourth Junior Brother’s emotions were under control, he asked with a faint smile, “Who is he to you?”

Mingshi Yin replied, “An enemy.”

Yu Shangrong did not say anything in response. He only stood next to Mingshi Yin as he held the Longevity Sword and looked into the distance.

After a moment, Mingshi Yin continued to say, “We lived in the Meng Residence since we were young. However, I can’t remember the things that happened before I was five. My memories from that time are vague and dream-like. Since there’s a hierarchy in the world, sometimes I wonder why a noble place like the Meng Residence allowed my brother and me to exist.”

Yu Shangrong asked, “How did you get to the golden lotus domain?”

Mingshi Yin shook his head. “I can’t remember. I only remember that I boarded a flying chariot with many other children. Later, the flying chariot crashed, and everyone fell to their deaths. I was the only one who survived. I have to say, my life is really f*cking great.”

“It is quite great,” Yu Shangrong solemnly said.

“When I woke up, I saw master,” Mingshi Yin said. Then, he looked to the left and right before he said in a low voice, “Second Senior Brother, don’t you think I was really unlucky? I get beaten up every day when I was in the green lotus domain, and I was still beaten up every day after joining the Evil Sky Pavilion.”

“...” Yu Shangrong really wanted to say something. He wanted to say the other disciples experienced the same thing as well. However, out of consideration for his fellow disciples, he remained silent.

It finally made sense to Yu Shangrong now why Mingshi Yin seemed so against the green lotus domain and was so hostile to Zhao Yu. The past was too unbearable, after all.

“It’s getting late. Let’s go back,” Yu Shangrong said as he gently tapped the ground and flew into the air.

Mingshi Yi rose to his feet and patted the dust off his robes. He bowed at Yu Shangrong once before he flew after Yu Shangrong.

...

At this time, Lu Zhou cut off his power of sight.

In fact, ever since he obtained a steady stream of merit points, he had been briefly observing his disciples before he finally locked onto Mingshi Yin and Yu Shangrong.

“Meng Residence...” Lu Zhou muttered to himself. He racked his brain to see if he knew anything about it. However, after a while, he still did not find anything.

Lu Zhou was very confused. Was it a coincidence that Ji Tiandao accepted these people as his disciples?

‘The bright moon shines over the sea; from far away, we share this moment together’.

Lu Zhou sighed softly, closed his eyes, and continued to cultivate.

...

The next morning.

The news of Xi Qishu, a general of Great Qin, spread throughout Xiangyang, causing a stir.

Some officials, including the sword expert Bai Yi, who had a close relationship with Xi Qishu hastily gathered.

In the hall of an unknown residence.

The atmosphere was gloomy.

“More than a dozen of General Xi’s capable men were killed by a sword expert. All of them were killed with just a strike. The Birth Charts were taken away in one go! If I weren’t drinking with General Bai last night, I would’ve suspected him.”

A man with a beard and a bun on his head who was dressed in a simple white Daoist robe, holding a sword in one hand, asked, “Sword expert?”

“Xi Qishu’s corpse has been found. The wounds are very strange. There are wounds that were caused by hook and sword. Moreover, based on the condition of his corpse, the culprit is very vicious and ruthless.”

Everyone’s expressions were grim.

“This means there’s more than one culprit. Moreover, the culprits’ cultivation bases are very high...”

“Since they dare to attack General Xi near the capital, they must be strong. However, what’s their purpose?”

At this time, an older official said, "I heard that the Meng Residence was covered by trees and vines overnight. They're lush and verdant as well. Is it possible that Meng Mingshi returned to seek revenge?"

As soon as these words fell, everyone exchanged a glance. They felt chills running up their spines, and their hair stood on end.

"There are no ghosts in this world. Don't scare yourself. Meng Mingshi died a long time ago. I've already ordered people to investigate this matter. Xi Qishu's man, Xian Gao, went to the Zhao Residence yesterday before he died. Young Master Zhao has something to do with this..."

Bai Yi frowned in confusion. "Zhao Yu?"

"Recently, many things have happened. Venerable Master Tuoba and Venerable Master Ye have died one after another. Venerable Master Fan is cultivating in seclusion, and Venerable Master Qin is as elusive as ever. I have a feeling that... that the imbalance is affecting much more than we imagined..."

Bai Yi said, "Let's report this matter to His Majesty first, and let His Majesty decide."

Everyone nodded in agreement.

...

Afternoon.

At the Zhao Residence.

"Pavilion Master, Mr. Seventh has sent the inscriptions for the jade talisman over," Yan Zhenluo said and handed a talisman filled with inscriptions over.

Lu Zhou nodded as he took the talisman. Then, he brought the Collective Teleportation Jade Talisman out before lighting up the talisman. In the next moment, the talisman disintegrated into spots of light before shooting into the jade talisman. Subsequently, the jade talisman glowed and gradually grew hotter before it returned to normal.

Lu Li said, "With this jade talisman, we'll be able to reach the Evil Sky Pavilion in 15 minutes."

Not only would the jade talisman provide support when needed, but it also gave them a means of self-protection.

Lu Zhou put the jade talisman away and looked at Mingshi Yin.

Mingshi Yin had tidied up and changed his clothes, looking as though nothing happened.

Lu Zhou called out, "Old Fourth."

Mingshi Yin shuddered before he stepped forward and bowed. "Master."

"You just received the recognition from the Pillar of Destruction not too long ago, and your cultivation has increased by leaps and bounds. Let me see how much you've improved," Lu Zhou said before he pushed his hand out.

A palm seal shot toward Mingshi Yin immediately.

Chapter 1310: The Emperor's Gemini

Ming Shiyin was shocked. He did not expect his master would suddenly make a move, and he had never thought of putting up a defense against his master. Moreover, even if he did, it would be useless. At a loss, he crossed his arms in front of him and withstood the palm seal.

Bang!

Needless to say, Mingshi Yin was no match for the palm seal at all. He was pushed back more than ten steps and almost fell. After he managed to stabilize his footing with great difficulty, he coughed violently. When he recovered, he suppressed the panic threatening to overwhelm his heart and forced a smile on his face. "Master, your strength is unrivaled. How can your disciple be a match for you?"

Everyone averted their eyes, feeling awkward. They could sense the strength of the palm seal. Its speed was not particularly fast as well. Even if Mingshi Yin were caught off guard, he would not have been pushed back and coughed so violently. Clearly, he was acting.

'His acting skills are very good.'

'He has grasped the essence of Old Eighth's skills.'

Since Yu Shangrong was aware of Mingshi Yin's situation, he hastily added, "Master's palm seal contained a mysterious aura. It's indeed unpredictable and powerful."

Everyone. "..."

Everyone in the Evil Sky Pavilion was very familiar with Yu Shangrong's character. Unlike Zhu Honggong, the Sword Devil would never flatter others.

Lu Zhou looked at Mingshi Yin's slightly disheveled appearance and did not expose his deeds. Instead, he only said tonelessly, "Remember one thing: the Evil Sky Pavilion is your backer."

Everyone's hearts jolted. It seemed to them that Lu Zhou was trying to educate Mingshi Yin and reminding him not to embark on the path of betrayal.

On the contrary, Mingshi Yin understood the meaning behind his master's words. His heart moved. He bowed and said, "I'll remember your words, master."

At this moment, an attendant walked in and said respectfully, "Old sir, someone from the palace is here to investigate General Xi's murder. Young Master Zhao would like to invite you over."

Lu Zhou rose to his feet before he calmly said, "No."

Then, Lu Zhou returned to his room to cultivate.

"..."

The attendant was speechless.

Mingshi Yin glared at the attendant and said, "Is my master someone you can meet just because you wish to meet him?"

“...”

The people of the Evil Sky Pavilion came to the green lotus domain to understand the general situation and to rest after staying in the dark and harsh Unknown Land for such a long time. If they had to meet everyone who wanted to meet them, would they not be exhausted to death?

The attendant said nervously, “B-but... this is an urgent matter.”

“I’ll go with you and have a look,” Mingshi Yin said.

Yu Zhenghai walked out as well. “Let’s go together.”

...

In the end, everyone from the Evil Sky Pavilion, except for Little Yuan’er, Conch, Kong Wen, and his brother, followed the attendant to the Zhao Residence’s reception hall.

When they arrived outside the hall, they saw many cultivators and soldiers stationed at the courtyard. There were more than 100 people in total.

Mingshi Yin sneered. “The crowd isn’t small.”

They did not stop for long and walked directly into the hall. Upon entering the hall, they saw two unfamiliar people. One was fat, and one was thin. Their hair was braided, and they wore armor. There was a black flower painted on their faces, and the corners of their eyes looked as though they had been drawn with eyeliner. They looked very... conspicuous.

Mingshi Yin was really shocked by their appearance.

On the contrary, Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai looked as though they were used to seeing something like that.

Zhao Yu hurriedly rose to his feet to greet them before he asked, “Where’s the old sir?”

Mingshi Yin said, “My master doesn’t have time to care about your affairs. Tell me, what is it?”

Zhao Yu said awkwardly, “Uh... Allow me to make the introductions. This is Lord Zhi Wuzi and Lord Zhi Wenzhi from the palace.”

A civil and a military official had come.

Mingshi Yin only nodded coldly. The two people’s high and mighty attitude had already disgusted him from the get-go. Then, he said, “If there’s nothing else, I’m leaving.”

“Wait,” Zhi Wenzhi called out.

Mingshi Yin said impatiently, “If you have something to say, say it quickly. I’m busy.”

Zhi Wenzhi said, “We’re under the orders of the emperor of Great Qin to investigate the murder of General Xi. General Xi’s right-hand man, Xian Gao, died here. Is this true?”

Zhi Wenzhi was very direct.

Mingshi Yin glanced at Zhao Yu. He did not know what Zhao Yu had said earlier. After all, Zhao Yu was present when his master killed Xian Gao. In the end, he feigned surprise. "He's dead?! Who killed him?!"

"?"

Zhi Wenzhi frowned.

Zhao Yu smiled as he said, "I've already told you earlier. Xian Gao's death has nothing to do with us."

Zhi Wenzhi stared at Mingshi Yin and continued to ask, "Where were you last night?"

"What a load of rubbish. Do I have to report each of my movements to you? I was taking a bath in Zhao Residence. I even answered the call of nature before I took a bath. Satisfied?" Mingshi Yin said.

Zhi Wenzhi said, "At the time of Xian Gao's visit, someone heard the sound of fighting. I've sent people to have a look at the courtyard in the south where the sound of fighting came from. My men found that the blue tiles have just been freshly replaced, and there are traces of a fight. How do you explain this?"

Zhao Yu was about to speak when Zhi Wenzhi said, "I'm asking him a question, not you, Young Master Zhao. Please have a sense of propriety."

The way Zhi Wenzhi had interjected was clearly very rude.

Mingshi Yin raised an eyebrow. "Why don't you just accuse me of killing Xian Gao. Is there a need to beat around the bush?"

Zhi Wenzhi nodded before he waved his hand. "I have enough reasons to suspect you."

The cultivators outside swarmed into the hall immediately, and those who remained outside quickly surrounded the building. Some of them even flew up into the air.

At this moment, Zhao Yu roared, "Enough!"

"Young Master Zhao?"

"I've always respected the two lords, but what do you take me for? I'll say this one more time: this matter has nothing to do with my friends. Now, get lost!" Zhao Yu said.

Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzi were shocked by Zhao Yu's attitude. When did the weak Young Master Zhao become so fierce?

"Are you going to defy His Majesty's orders?" Zhi Wenzhi frowned.

"His Majesty asked you to investigate the murder, not to slander others without evidence. I'll speak to His Majesty about your conduct today!" Zhao Yu said angrily.

Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzi stood up and bowed to Zhao Yu.

Zhi Wenzhi said, "Young Master Zhao, please don't be angry. We admit to being rude today. We'll take our leave first. Farewell."

Following that, Zhi Wenzhi waved his hand and led everyone away. He had acted very straightforwardly.

Silence returned to the hall.

Mingshi Yin rolled his eyes and said, "It seems like anyone can just trample on you and flaunt their power..."

Zhao Yu's flushed red before he sighed. "Those two aren't simple. They're the right-hand men of the emperor of Great Qin. They handle many affairs on the emperor's behalf. Seeing them can be considered seeing the emperor himself."

Mingshi Yin said sarcastically, "Wow, you're a hero today then for standing up to them.."

Zhao Yu sighed. "These two were experts from the old nation of Great Jin. After Great Jin fell, they followed the emperor of Great Qin and became known as the Emperor's Gemini. Their cultivation bases and skills are profound."

Mingshi Yin asked, "Do you still believe those people?"

Upon hearing this, Zhao Yu took a seat. A disappointed expression could be seen on his face as he said, "You're right. I'm a fool. The fool of Zhao Residence."

Although it was hard to accept, the cruelty of reality forced Zhao Yu to sober up.

Yu Shangrong looked outside the hall and asked tonelessly, "What are the cultivation bases of the Emperor's Gemini?"

"I don't know. I think they should be stronger than Xi Qishu," Zhao Yu replied.

...

After Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzi left the Zhao Residence with their men, Zhi Wuzi asked, "Elder brother, are you sure?"

Zhi Wenzhi nodded. "Yes. That young man killed Xian Gao and Xi Qishu, and the young man holding the sword is the accomplice."

"Then, why didn't you capture them?" Zhi Wuzi asked, puzzled.

"There's a new discovery," Zhi Wenzhi said as he turned to look in the direction of the Zhao Residence, "They're stained with the smell of Xi Qishu. No matter how hard they try, they can't get rid of it. Moreover, they reek of blood as well. This isn't something you can sense with cultivation..."

"I, naturally, trust Elder Brother in this regard," Zhi Wuzi said.

Zhi Wenzhi continued to say expressionlessly, "About the new discovery I mentioned... I smelled a unique scent on that young man."

"What is it?"

"Meng Mingshi..."