

## Disciples 1311

### Chapter 1311: Attracting the World's Attention

Zhi Wuzi was taken aback. "Meng Mingshi? The great general who defeated Great Jin on Mount Xiao?"

"They smell the same. There's no mistake," Zhi Weizi said confidently.

"Elder Brother, if you'd told me this earlier, I would've captured all of them," Zhi Wuzi said, frustrated.

Zhi Wuzi shook his head. "If it was possible, I would've given the order myself. That person holding the sword is too composed; the person carrying a saber at his waist has a strong aura. They're definitely not ordinary people. Most importantly..." He paused for a moment before he continued to say, "The sword user, saber user, and that young man seem to share a common energy fluctuation in their bodies. That young man's energy is very turbulent while the sword user and the saber user's energies are calmer. Despite the similarities, there are obvious differences as well."

"How strange..." Zhi Wuzi frowned.

"I suspect they're Meng Mingshi's men who survived..." Zhi Wuzi said, "If my speculation is right, then their motive in killing Xi Qishu and Xian Gao is clear. Xi Qishu had manipulated Zhao Yu for a long time. If Zhao Yu is privy to that now, it makes sense that he's standing firmly on those people's side."

Zhi Wuzi nodded. "Elder Brother, your analysis makes sense."

"In order to be safe, I'll think of a way to set a trap and take them down in one fell swoop," Zhi Wuzi said.

"If you want to play it safe, why don't we ask one of the Venerable Masters for help?" Zhi Wuzi asked.

"With the imbalance, the world's not peaceful so the Venerable Masters won't easily leave their homes. Tuoba Sicheng and Ye Zheng are dead so Qin Renyue and Fan Zhong are even more cautious now," Zhi Wuzi said.

At the mention of Tuoba Sicheng, Zhi Wuzi sighed. "I admired Venerable Master Tuoba a lot. I didn't expect him to die..."

"With Lord Zhennan and Tian Wu guarding Yu Zhong, not to mention Tuoba Sicheng who was alone, even if the other Venerable Masters joined forces, they would still have to think twice about going against Lord Zhennan and Tian Wu..."

After a moment, Zhi Wuzi said tentatively, "Elder Brother, I have a question that I don't dare to ask... I don't know if I should ask..."

"We're brothers. You can speak freely to me," Zhi Wuzi said.

After thinking about it for a moment, Zhi Wuzi asked in a low voice, "The cultivation base of the emperor of Great Qin..."

Zhi Wuzi raised his hand immediately and interjected, "The walls have ears. Let's return to the manor."

"Alright."

...

At night.

Zhao Residence.

Compared to the Unknown Land, this place was extremely quiet.

Lu Zhou muttered to himself, "I still need some time before activating my 14th Birth Chart."

With the Pillar of Impermanence and the Divine Soul Bead, his speed of improvement was too fast. It was almost like he was pulling on a seedling to help it grow. He would need some time to stabilize his cultivation first before he continued.

He had activated two Great Birth Charts. Even a Venerable Master might not have two Birth Charts. His next few Birth Charts could be placed in the 'human' and 'earth' regions. In other words, he needed beast kings or beast emperors' life hearts. It would be best if they had special abilities like Yong He. In any case, now was not the time for him to collect life hearts.

Lu Zhou glanced at the night sky outside the window before he called up the system's interface.

Merit points: 141,310

Yu Shangrong and Mingshi Yin had brought him more than 50,000 merit points for killing Xi Qishu and more than ten of his men. The reward was not bad.

It had been a long time since he drew the lottery so he decided to try his luck.

"Lucky draw."

"Ding! Used 50 merit points. Thank you for your participation. Luck point +1."

"Lucky draw."

"Ding! Used 50 merit points. Obtained: mystic microstone x1."

Lu Zhou paused. 'Mystic microstones can be obtained through lucky draws?'

Currently, he had ten mystic microstones. This was the result after searching all over the Unknown Land. If it were not for Kong Wen and his brothers' tracking talisman, he probably would not even be able to find one.

Mystic microstones were the main items needed to upgrade weapons to the infinite grade. In light of their importance, he had carried them around.

"Ten should be enough."

Mystic microstones were different from obsidian essences. As long as there was an ore, it would not be difficult to obtain obsidian essences. On the other hand, mystic microstones were very mysterious. They seemed to contain the subtle essence of heaven and earth and were very small. They were rare and scattered in the world with no rhyme or reason, which meant that it was even more difficult to find them.

When Lu Zhou brought out all the mystic microstones and arranged them in a circle in front of him...

“Ding! Mystic microstone: used to upgrade fusion-grade items to infinite-grade items.”

Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction. Then, he looked at his weapons.

Weapons: Unnamed, Jade Horsetail Whisk(heaven grade), Purple Glazed Ceramic(fusion grade), Confinement Seal(fusion grade), Seven Stars Sword, Saint Staff, Wind Spirit Bow, Pillar of Impermanence(infinite grade; 20% spirituality), Asura Scimitar

Unnamed seemed to grow stronger along with his cultivation base so there was no need to care about it.

Among all the weapons, the Purple Glazed Ceramic was of the greatest help to him. The others were just waiting to be deconstructed.

Lu Zhou bought a refining talisman and placed the Purple Glazed Ceramic in the center of the mystic microstones.

The ten mystic microstones glowed with a red light instantly and connected with each other before it burst into flames, looking like a bonfire, while the Purple Glazed Ceramic began to glow brilliantly.

With that, all he needed to do was wait.

Following that, Lu Zhou deconstructed the Saint Staff, Asura Scimitar, Seven Stars Sword, and the Jade Horsetail Whisk.

He obtained a mystic microstone from deconstructing the Asura Scimitar, and three obsidian essences each from the Saint Staff and the Seven Stars Sword. As for the Jade Horsetail Whisk, he obtained what looked like... a pinch of dust.

“...”

Lu Zhou kept the mystic microstone for himself and left the rest for the others.

He did not deconstruct the flood-grade Wind Spirit Bow. After all, there was only one Godly Archer in the Evil Sky Pavilion. It was best to give it to Hua Yuexing.

When Lu Zhou saw the Pillar of Impermanence’s spirituality was at 20%, he knew it meant that he could only use one-fifth of its power. The higher the spirituality, he would naturally be able to access more power as well. However, the increase would be slow.

Lu Zhou looked at the burning mystic microstones. The Purple Glazed Ceramic was glowing red at this time.

After he shifted his gaze away, he brought the Pillar of Impermanence out.

“It’s time to upgrade my blue avatar.”

The blue avatar was now a Two Leaf Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar. Sprouting one leaf required 10,000 years.

Lu Zhou raised his hand. 10 advanced enhanced Reversal Card appeared in his hands. He did not hesitate and crushed them immediately.

...

Vitality energy surged and converged swiftly in the sky above the Zhao Residence, forming a vortex.

The low-level cultivators patrolling the grounds of the Zhao Residence stopped moving and looked at the sky in surprise.

For the ordinary maidservants and attendants, they merely felt a gust of strong wind. Nothing was out of the ordinary for them.

On the other hand, the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion were not surprised and went about their business as usual.

Only Kong Wen looked at the sky in confusion and asked, "Left Envoy Yan, what's the Pavilion Master doing?"

"It's a healing-type grand technique! Just don't go near the Pavilion Master, and you'll be fine," Yan Zhenluo said.

Kong Wen nodded and no longer paid attention to the sky.

At this moment, Kong Wen ran over in a panic. "What happened?!"

Kong Wen explained, "There's no need to panic. The Pavilion Master is cultivating a healing-type grand technique."

"Grand technique?" Zhao Yu looked at the sky churning with vitality energy that kept converging from all directions in shock. Then, he recalled his mother's complexion and health that were getting better after being treated by Lu Zhou and exclaimed, "No wonder!"

...

At the same time.

In the white palace.

The blue-clad female attendant rushed over and bowed. "Master, the Sacred Hall has detected an anomaly. They said there is something other than the imbalance at play."

Lan Xihe opened her eyes and frowned in confusion. "Continue.."

### **Chapter 1312: Preparation**

The blue-clad female attendant said, "The Scales of Justice has detected a huge amount of vitality energy moving westward. It should be heading toward the green lotus domain. They've already sent an Equalizer to investigate."

“Green lotus domain?” Lan Xihe slowly rose to her feet. Her long robes trailed on the ground as she flashed toward the blue-clad female attendant.

“Yes. Mr. Ouyang said it himself,” the blue-clad female attendant said.

“To be able to move the Scales of Justice, the amount of vitality energy must be huge...” Lan Xihe said, puzzled.

“Mr. Ouyang said this is likely a brief phenomenon. There’s a possibility that someone in the green lotus domain is about to become a Venerable Master or a Saint.”

Lan Xihe nodded. “You and the Halcyon Divine Bird had left once. If you leave again, it’ll attract attention. During this period of imbalance, you’re not to make decisions without consulting me.”

“Understood.”

...

After the vitality energy converged, Lu Zhou looked at his lifespan.

Remaining life: 5,096,862 days(13,964 years)

His lifespan had exceeded 10,000 years. The 10 advanced enhanced Reversal Cards had given him 5,000 years of life.

He found it strange that when so much vitality energy was being absorbed in Transient City, it did not create such a huge commotion like the Reversal Cards. Why did the Reversal Cards always cause such a commotion? It was too conspicuous.

In the green lotus domain where experts were as numerous as clouds, it was easy to attract unwanted attention.

...

It was just as Lu Zhou expected.

There were many cultivators watching the Zhao Residence’s movements at this moment. When they saw the converging vitality energy, they were shocked.

“Should we go have a look?”

“Lord Zhi said not to act rashly before we understand the situation of the Zhao Residence.”

“Lord Zhi also said that we should act according to the circumstances and find the right time to test the Zhao Residence. This is a great opportunity. To be able to draw such a massive amount of vitality energy, it’s most likely a divine artifact.”

These words swayed the other cultivators. Who could resist the temptation of a divine artifact?

There were also other cultivators who were afraid of Zhao Yu’s status and only curiously watched from afar.

There was no lack of people who liked watching shows.

A few figures appeared in the sky above the Zhao Residence. They greedily breathed in the remaining vitality energy in the air before they looked down at the Zhao Residence.

"This is Young Master Zhao's manor... Let's go!"

The tactful cultivators quickly left.

The cultivators who wanted to use this opportunity to investigate the situation began to entice the others.

"If we don't have a look, don't you think it'd be a waste?"

"We're not stealing or robbing. Let's go closer and have a look before we leave."

Many cultivators were enticed and flew forward. When they drew close, a voice rang from below.

"I advise everyone to leave quickly."

In just a flash, the green-clad Yu Shangrong appeared in the sky. He looked at the cultivators silently.

"May I ask your name? We're all cultivators. Can we..."

Yu Shangrong interjected with an indifferent smile on his face, "No."

"I haven't finished speaking."

Yu Shangrong said, "I only interrupted you because no matter what your request is, I'll definitely reject it."

"..."

"Where's Young Master Zhao? We want to visit him. Can you convey our intention to him?"

As soon as the cultivator finished speaking, Yu Shangrong said as he flashed forward, "Sorry for the offense."

Clank!

Yu Shangrong unsheathed the Longevity Sword. It shot out like a streak of red light. With the red runes, it glowed dazzlingly.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

With a speed that could not be seen with the naked eye, the Longevity Sword shot toward the cultivators. They did not have time to react at all when the sword flew past them. It shuttled back and forth among them for a few breaths like a dragon before it flew in a semicircle and returned to its scabbard.

The night was quiet, and the scenery was pleasant.

All the cultivators saw was a red light streaking past them harmlessly with a whooshing sound before silence returned. Nothing had happened apart from that.

Everyone looked at Yu Shangrong, who was hovering at low altitude, in confusion. They did not understand what was going on. What was the offense? Was he just trying to frighten them?

After a brief moment...

Crack! Crack! Crack!

All of the cultivators' weapons broke one after another. Those without weapons had their belts slashed.

"My saber!"

When some of them saw the straight and neat cut on their weapons, they shuddered and gulped.

"What an amazing sword skill!"

"Sorry, we didn't mean to bother you. We're leaving now!"

Swoosh!

When the several cultivators took the lead and flew away, the others no longer hesitated and followed suit.

With that, peace returned to the sky above the Zhao Residence.

At this time, Yu Zhenghai flashed and appeared next to Yu Shangrong. "Second Junior Brother, your sword skills have improved."

"It's just luck. I believe Eldest Senior Brother is very close to the second Birth Trial," Yu Shangrong said.

Yu Zhenghai shook his head. "I'm still far from reaching the second Birth Trial. It's too difficult cultivating with the golden lotus. If I want to break through, I'll need some luck."

"Cultivating after severing the lotus is the most difficult cultivation path. Just the act of severing the lotus requires one to be unafraid of death," Yu Shangrong said.

"There's no need for that now. With the life-saving pills, it's much easier to sever the lotus now," Yu Zhenghai said.

Yu Shangrong said, "There was no life-saving pill at the beginning of the lotus-severing era."

At this time, a sigh sounded from below the duo. Little Yuan'er was rendered speechless by the duo's ridiculous behavior. She shook her head and muttered under her breath, "Here it comes again."

"Ninth Junior Sister, in your opinion, is it easier to sever the lotus or cultivate with the golden lotus?" Yu Shangrong asked before he said, "You just have to answer truthfully. Don't let the fact that you cultivate with a golden lotus affect your answer."

"I don't know! Don't ask me," Little Yuan'er said before she turned and ran away.

The little Fire Phoenix hurriedly flew after her.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong:"..."

After Little Yuan'er left, no one else could be seen as well.

Only when Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong returned to their rooms to rest did everyone come out to get some fresh air.

...

At the same time, a few cultivators who had just left the Zhao Residence landed at a quiet corner of the city.

"How did the investigation go?" Zhi Wenzhi asked. He placed his hands on his back as he looked at everyone.

"Indeed, there's an expert in the Zhao Residence. If I'm not mistaken, that person should have about 12 Birth Charts."

"Why do you say that?" Zhi Wenzhi naturally would take these words at face value.

The cultivator replied, "He's highly skilled with the sword. He cut down everyone's weapons with just one move. Based on his aura, his control, and his skills when he attacked, his Birth Charts are definitely no fewer than 12."

"Only 12?" Zhi Wenzhi was puzzled. If the other party only had 12 Birth Charts, it did not seem possible for the other party to kill Xi Qishu. "This is the Qi orb. If you imbue a little energy into it, when you get close to an expert, it'll emit a strong and weak flash of green light. Go to the Zhao Residence again with the Qi orb."

"Ah?"

"The Qi orb can only be used for a short period of time. Now go and return quickly! Don't make any mistakes."

"Yes!" The cultivator hurriedly left with the Qi orb.

Following that, Zhi Wuzi appeared next to Zhi Wenzhi and said, "Elder Brother, isn't it too much of a waste to use the precious Qi orb?"

"Knowing yourself and your enemy will allow you to win the battle," Zhi Wenzhi replied.

### **Chapter 1313: The Weak Should Have the Awareness of the Weak**

After a short interlude, the Zhao Residence returned to silence. However, there were still a few cultivators hovering in the distance, wanting to watch the show. Moreover, due to the commotion around Xi Qishu's death, there were rumors going around that his death had something to do with Zhao Yu.

Over the years, the stability of Great Qin depended a lot on the four Venerable Masters and the emperor of Great Qin. With Tuoba Sicheng and Ye Zheng's deaths, even without the imbalance, there would still be chaos on both sides of the Red Line.

Those who wanted peace prayed fervently for the imbalance to be over; most of these people were ordinary folks. However, there were also those who liked excitement and even hoped for the end of the



world to come. They wanted to see the frail balance between humans and fierce beasts break so they could watch an epic battle. There had never been a lack of people who liked watching shows in this world, after all.

...

In a room at the Zhao Residence.

Lu Zhou was unaware that his actions had attracted the attention of the world and the people from the Great Void.

He looked at the increase in his lifespan and nodded in satisfaction. The advanced enhanced Reversal Cards he had obtained from the lucky draw were very useful.

Now that he had 13,000 years of life, he could sprout one leaf. However, he did not intend to use his lifespan to sprout the leaf. Instead, he brought the Pillar of Impermanence out and placed it on the ground in front of him. Then, he manifested his Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar, which was still under the effect of the Concealment Card. Since the last upgrade of his system, the effect of the Concealment Card had increased to ten days.

“Upgrade.”

The Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar began to spin on the spot. It absorbed the vitality energy from the Pillar of Impermanence without any difficulty.

At the same time, Lu Zhou could feel the vitality energy in the Pillar of Impermanence slowly decreasing as well. Fortunately, he had enough vitality energy in the pillar to sprout the leaf. Otherwise, he would have a hard time satisfying the vampire-like blue avatar.

]The Hundred Calamity Cave started to spin on the spot. With the experience gained several times, the life-span of the spell body in the life-suppressing stake was being absorbed smoothly.

He could feel that the life-span in the life-suppressing stake was slowly decreasing. Fortunately, the life-span stored in the life-suppressing stake was enough. Otherwise, it would not be enough to satisfy the vampire-like blue spell body.

“The golden avatar would absorb one’s lifespan first before increasing it after a breakthrough; the blue avatar would only absorb one’s lifespan without giving anything back.”

If he did not have the golden avatar or Reversal Cards, even if he had the Heavenly Writing, he would only be able to use his extraordinary power.

Then, when his mind wandered to the astronomical amount of lifespan would he need to upgrade his Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, he felt his head ache.

“After the blue avatar becomes a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, will I need to activate Birth Charts like the golden avatar as well?”

Since he seemed to be the only person with a blue avatar, he had no reference or experience to draw from.

Lu Zhou sighed and continued to cultivate.

...

After receiving Zhi Wenzhi's order, the cultivator mustered up his courage and approached the Zhao Residence again. Seeing that there were still a few cultivators lingering around, he flew over to them.

When he arrived, someone said to him, "You're too late. The show is over."

The cultivator really wanted to say he was a returning audience, but in the end, he held back. Instead, he asked, "Aren't any of you going closer to take a look?"

"Take a look, my as\*! That swordsman is incredibly skilled. He broke everyone's weapons with just one move. He's likely Young Master Zhao's guest."

In Great Qin, many dukes and wealthy young masters like to invite experts to their homes as guests. These people gave the experts fame, status, and power while the experts worked for them.

"It's been a long time since there has been any movement. I don't think there'll be any more shows to watch. Let's go."

With that, the people began to leave one after another.

On the other hand, the cultivator remained in his spot and surveyed his surroundings. When he confirmed there was no one around, he hurriedly snuck into the Zhao Residence like a thief. After he landed in the backyard, he crawled on all fours like a Tibetan Mastiff; his entire person seemed to have changed at this moment. When he arrived near a building, he uncovered the black cloth that was wrapped around the Qi orb and waited silently.

When the Qi orb lit up, he put it away before he crawled forward again.

The Zhao Residence was very quiet, making him even tenser. He restrained his aura and controlled his breathing and heart rate.

'Fortunately, I have a high-grade life heart from a dog-like beast,' he thought to himself as he approached the next building. He lowered his head and looked at the Qi orb. The brightness was only average. With this, he speculated that whoever the orb sensed was someone who had just broken through to the Thousand Realms Whirling stage not too long ago.

At this moment, his nose twitched.

'What's that smell?'

He lowered his head and sniffed as he made his way to the base of the wall. After a moment...

'F\*ck! What kind of bad luck is this!'

There was the smell of urine at the base of the wall.

'What kind of place is the Zhao Residence? Why are there people urinating in this kind of place?'

Following that, he quickly made his way to the other side of the building and brought the Qi orb again. When he saw the Qi orb lit up, he muttered, "Around five Birth Charts..."

He knew someone like that was definitely not the target of the Emperor's Gemini.

He continued to move forward, traveling along the wall and observing the Qi orb.

At this time, the Qi orb suddenly lit up. Since he came in, this is the first time the orb had shone so brightly.

'Two Birth Trials?' He was shocked and hurriedly put the Qi orb away with trembling hands. Just as he was about to move...

"Doggy, don't mess around."

'Doggy?' He shuddered. 'Have I been discovered?'

He hurriedly moved to the last building, which seemed to be the grandest in the Zhao Residence, when the Qi orb shone even brighter than before.

'Two Birth Trials and 13 Birth Charts?'

He covered the Qi orb and lay on the ground, waiting, when the orb suddenly dimmed.

'Huh? Hundred Tribulations Insight?' He scratched his head with a confused expression on his face.

No matter who one disguised one's cultivation base, one would not be able to escape from the Qi orb since it could sense one's breathing, vitality, Eight Extraordinary Meridians, and other things before making a judgment of one's cultivation base.

The cultivator did not understand how the Qi orb that had shone so brightly a moment ago would suddenly dim. He looked at the orb with a dumbfounded expression. How could a person go from having 13 Birth Chart to only being at the Hundred Tribulations Insight stage? This change was too exaggerated!

He shook his head, unable to figure this out, when the Qi orb shone brightly again. This time it seemed to indicate the other person had 14 Birth Charts.

"???"

Then, in the next moment, the Qi orb dimmed again.

The cultivator was even more baffled. He really did not know what to think.

The Qi orb continued to shine and dim. However, the intensity of its brightness remained quite consistent. It did not go past the brightness of a Fourteen Chart expert.

The cultivator knew the person in the building must be cultivating at this moment and was not paying to his surroundings. He decided to leave now. Otherwise, he would be easily discovered. Fortunately, thanks to his life heart ability, his breathing, heartbeat, temperature, aura, and so on were like that of a dog; if not, he would have been discovered long ago.

He withdrew his vitality energy from the orb and turned to ashes immediately. Then, he looked to the left and right before he returned the way he came.

When he arrived at the building near the place he had landed earlier, his nose twitched again.

‘What’s that smell?’

He smelled another strange smell and could not help but turn to have a look. After a moment, he shook his head. It was said that wealthy families were noble, but it seemed like that was not the case.

He had only raised his body slightly when he heard a low growl. His body stiffened as an ominous feeling rose in his heart. He slowly turned around. Not far from the base of the wall he had sniffed at earlier, he saw a pair of eyes shining with a dim light staring at him.

“...”

He did not dare to move. He knew very well that if he moved, the beast hidden in the darkness would definitely alarm the others. He thought to himself decisively, ‘If the enemy doesn’t move, then I won’t move.’

Subsequently, he restrained his aura, trying to be as inconspicuous as possible, and tried to stay calm.

It did not take long before he saw a dog-like beast emerge from the darkness. Under the moonlight, its fur was sparkling and looked almost translucent. Its wings were folded, its body was muscular, and its eyes were much brighter up close.

The cultivator’s eyes widened in shock. ‘Q-qiong... Qiong Qi...’

He did not dare to move at all.

Qiong Qi no longer growled. Instead, it walked over. Its speed was not fast; it walked at a leisurely pace with its head lifted proudly, looking elegant and noble. It finally came to a stop three meters away from the cultivator. Then, it began to sniff.

Qiong Qi smelled a special and familiar scent when it sniffed the cultivator. It barked once before it stuck its tongue out with saliva dripping down.

“???”

When Qiong Qi finally arrived next to the cultivator, it raised its paw and grabbed the cultivator’s body before it moved its nose closer and began to sniff.

The cultivator’s expression at this time was very interesting. One could see fear, humiliation, anger, embarrassment, and all kinds of emotions on his face. Just as he was about to explode...

“Doggy, if you run around again, I’m going to stew you!”

Qiong Qi retracted its tongue and closed its mouth before it quickly ran back in the direction of the voice.

The cultivator did not waste time. He immediately rose to his feet and tapped his toes lightly on the ground before he flew into the night sky and darted into the forest at lightning speed. This was the fastest he had ever moved in his life.

After flying for several thousand meters, he finally landed on the ground before he vomited.

“I’ll become a laughingstock if anyone knows about this!”

After calming down, he flew away again. It did not take long before he arrived where the Emperor's Gemini was waiting for him.

The cultivator hurriedly ran to Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzi and fell to one knee before he said, "Lord Zhi, I've already investigated the Zhao Residence."

"What's the result?"

"I've repeatedly confirmed that the strongest person there doesn't have more than 14 Birth Charts," he replied.

"Is there anything strange about the Qi orb's reaction? Don't miss any details."

"In the beginning, the Qi orb reacted as it should. However, when it was near one person, the orb turned strange. It kept flashing as though it could not make up its mind if the person was someone with 13 Birth Charts or someone at the Hundred Tribulations Insight stage."

"Huh?"

Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzi looked at each other, equally confused.

"The difference is too exaggerated. Elder Brother, do you think it's some secret technique?" Zhi Wuzi asked.

"Impossible. Generally, there are two ways to determine someone's cultivation base. The first is through perception. It's difficult for weaker cultivators to hide from those stronger than, after all. However, this method is not very accurate since it'd be useless if one wants to determine the cultivation base of someone stronger. The second way to determine someone's cultivation base is through special items, techniques, or formations. For example, there are mirrors that can reveal the truth, but they're rare. As for formations, they're quite troublesome since they have to be set up in advance, and one has to get the target in the range of the formation. The Qi orb is one of said special items. It's very accurate. One of the reasons Thousand Realms Whirling cultivators are powerful is due to their accumulations of vitality energy. One cultivates with vitality energy to increase one's lifespan, defying the heavens. The orb can accurately sense the vitality energy. Not only that, but it senses other things as well."

Zhi Wuzi nodded before he said, "It's truly a waste to use the Qi orb on them. Elder Brother, now that we've confirmed they killed General Xi, what are we waiting for? Let's catch all of them now!"

Zhi Wenzhi shook his head. "We're not bandits. Let's wait a little longer."

"Wait a little longer?" Zhi Wuzi was confused.

"Three days, at most," Zhi Wenzhi said, "Great Qin's hunting party should be returning soon."

Upon hearing this, Zhi Wuzi's eyes lit up as he exclaimed, "Elder Brother, you're truly wise!"

"The weak should have the awareness of the weak, and the strong will make the judgment," Zhi Wenzhi said, "Even if we're confident, we should still see what the Venerable Masters' thoughts are. During these three days, we'll have to see what their stances are. Nevertheless, I'm confident the Venerable Masters won't care about these trivial matters. Moreover, the emperor doesn't have much interaction with them as well..."

“You’re right, Elder Brother. I’ll send people to visit the Venerable Masters.”

“Go.”

...

The next day.

When dawn arrived, Lu Zhou was still immersed in meditating on the Heavenly Writing. He only stopped when the scripts in his mind began to jumble up.

When Lu Zhou saw his blue avatar, he was shocked.

“This... Stop!”

Then, he looked at the lotus and began to count out loud, “One, two, three, four... five!”

The blue avatar had two leaves before, and he wanted to sprout the third leaf. However, after a night, it had sprouted five leaves!

He waved his hand and the Pillar of Impermanence flew back into his hand. He sensed the vitality energy in it and found that he was missing one-third of the vitality energy originally in the pillar.

“...”

‘It’s really a vampire! The system didn’t even alert me, let alone ask for my opinion!’

Lu Zhou looked at the Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar.

“Ding! Five Leave Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar. You’ll require 10,000 years to advance to the next level.”

Lu Zhou thought it was lucky that he had used the Pillar of Impermanence. If he had let it absorb his lifespan, he would have died by the end of the night.

Lu Zhou looked at the Pillar of Impermanence again and noticed that the golden light on the pillar seemed to have dimmed a little. Clearly, the loss of so much vitality energy had greatly reduced its power.

In the end, Lu Zhou was not really bothered about it. After all, to him, the value of the Pillar of Impermanence was its ability to help his blue avatar evolve, which in turn would make him stronger.

Lu Zhou raised his hand.

The Five Leaf Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar flew forward and hovered above his palm.

“Apart from being able to provide me with a little extra divine energy, what else can it do? Is it like the golden avatar?”

With just a thought, he managed to move the blue avatar’s arm.

“Hm?”

Lu Zhou tried. He willed the blue avatar to move its other arm.

“I can control it with my mind?”

Usually, avatars lacked mobility; they were like statues. When one severed the lotus, it was akin to severing the avatar’s restraints. By removing the lotus, the avatar could be moved to a certain extent.

Lu Zhou did not expect the blue avatar, which still had its lotus, could be controlled with his mind. He was a little annoyed with himself. He should have noticed this long ago. Previously, he thought it was quite weak so he did not bother testing its power and uses. However, it seemed to him now that the blue avatar was much more powerful and exaggerated than he had imagined.

“Let’s try something else.”

He raised his right hand and spread his fingers.

As expected, the avatar mirrored his movement. However, its movement was a little stiff. Nevertheless, after a few tries, it seemed to have gotten familiar with moving and quickly lost the stiffness.

Lu Zhou put three fingers down. This movement was?more subtle.

“Energy sword.”

An energy sword appeared in Lu Zhou’s hand immediately.

Similarly, an energy sword appeared in the blue avatar’s hand as well. However, it only appeared for a brief moment before it disappeared.

Lu Zhou’s eyes lit up upon seeing this.

All in all, after this round of practice, he felt that his second avatar was not that easy to control. His mind was like a remote control. He was not very skilled with subtle movements, but he had no problem with bigger movements.

Lu Zhou waved his hand again, sending the blue avatar ten meters away.

With that, it returned to its immobile state, looking like a statue again.

Based on this, he found out that he could not be too far from his avatar if he wanted to control its movements.

Lu Zhou shook his head. “It’s still too weak.. Let’s have a look at the lotus now...”

### **Chapter 1314: The Legendary Troop**

Lu Zhou continued to control his blue avatar.

The blue avatar with five leaves was not comparable to the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, but its power should not be underestimated.

Under his control, the blue lotus under the avatar began to speak along with the five blue leaves.

“Stop.”

The lotus stopped spinning.

“Jump.”

The blue avatar jumped; its feet left the lotus seat. When it was up in the air, it seemed to become slightly translucent. It seemed like it did not have enough energy. When it landed and its feet touched the lotus seat, it returned to normal.

“Golden avatar.”

Lu Zhou manifested his golden Thousand Realms Whirling avatar with 13 Birth Charts.

The two avatars stood side by side in front of him.

Lu Zhou tried to make the golden avatar move just like he did with the blue avatar, but the golden avatar's feet seemed welded to the lotus seat. It looked no different from a golden statue. Even if it moved, it would just flip its entire body around or something like it.

Lu Zhou withdrew the golden Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. Then, he made the blue avatar jump up again.

This time, it jumped higher. It could be seen that the further it was from the lotus, the more translucent it would become.

After Lu Zhou withdrew the avatar, he reached out and brought the lotus in front of him. It was like an exquisite piece of art, tempting people to touch it. When he touched it, the five leaves suddenly detached from the lotus.

“Huh?”

Lu Zhou was surprised that he could separate the leaves from the lotus. Usually, the leaves were inseparable from the lotus.

When the lotus-severing method became known, many golden lotus cultivators severed their lotuses. Later on, many cultivators from the other domains learned about this method, but none of them dared to try it. After all, they did not need to rely on such a method to raise their cultivation bases like the golden lotus cultivators did.

For those who severed their lotuses, they would gain halos that were surrounded by lotus leaves as though they grew around the halo. In this case, the leaves could be separated from the halo as proven by Yu Shangrong

Lu Zhou made the lotus grow bigger. The leaves grew accordingly as well. Following that, he tried to control the leaves, and as expected, they flew out into the air.

“Unnamed.”

Unnamed hovered in the air as the five lotus leaves flew over to it.

‘Hmmm, this is somewhat reminiscent of Old Second's move.’

Lu Zhuo was rather happy that the leaves could be separated from the lotus. This meant that the blue avatar possessed the abilities of avatars with and without lotuses.



After he put Unnamed away, he returned the five leaves to the lotus

Lu Zhou was secretly delighted. This meant that the Blue Dharma body contained all the abilities of the other dharma bodies.

Putting away the nameless sword and dispersing his thoughts, the five blue leaves flew back to the lotus seat.

He no longer tested the abilities of the blue avatar. There would be time for that in the future. Nevertheless, he was filled with anticipation for the blue avatar's future.

He decided to make more of an effort to upgrade the blue avatar. Once it became a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, the divine energy it would provide him would be considerable as well.

After gathering his thoughts, he looked at the mystic microstones and the Purple Glazed Ceramic that was shrouded in fire. The fire from the mystic microstone emitted a faint light that entered the Purple Glazed Ceramic. With that, the Purple Glazed Ceramic continued to grow brighter.

Based on the current speed, it would take another two days before the upgrade would be completed.

"Let's continue to stabilize my cultivation base..."

The improvement he gained from the Divine Soul Pearl was a little too much so he had to stabilize his cultivation base. It would take away before he could attempt another breakthrough.

Nevertheless, he could still look for his 14th life heart while he stabilized his cultivation base. He could not activate another Great Birth Chart for now; in that case, he could look for a beast king's life heart and place it in the earth region of the Birth Palace.

After a moment, Lu Zhou recalled he still had Yong He's life heart. Hence, he summoned Lu Li and told him to bring Yong He's life heart to Yu Zhenghai.

Yu Shangrong had just sprouted his twelfth leaf. For the time being, Yong He's life heart was not suitable for him. Moreover, according to his calculation that one leaf was equivalent to 6 Birth Charts, Yu Zhenghai was lagging behind Yu Shangrong.

...

After two days...

When the sunlight streamed into the room through the window, Lu Zhou heard a system notification.

"Ding! The Purple Glazed Ceramic is successfully upgraded to the infinite grade. Its speed has increased greatly. Its ability has been upgraded to Freeze."

"Ding! Freeze: releases all the power of the Purple Glazed Ceramic and freeze all targets within its range for a few seconds."

"Freeze?" This reminded Lu Zhou of Tian Wu's ability. It was like the power of the Dao that could control time and space.

Since Lu Zhou could not use the power of the Dao yet, the Purple Glazed Ceramic was definitely a huge trump card. Moreover, with his divine power, he was also immune to the power of the Dao. At the very least, the power of the Dao did not have any visible effect on him.

‘Unfortunately, mystic microstones are so rare... Up until now, I only found ten...’

Lu Zhou rose to his feet and left his room, stretching his limbs and muscles by practicing Tai Chi.

After he stopped, feeling refreshed, he sat on the stone bench. He surveyed his surroundings and felt that something was amiss.

‘Where’s everyone? Why isn’t anyone in this place?’

...

At this time, a flying chariot hovered in the air in front of the Zhao Residence. More than 30 cultivators guarded the flying chariot.

There were also over a hundred cavalymen riding on warhorses hovering in front of the Zhao Residence entrance.

At the same time, the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion stood in the main courtyard of the Zhao Residence, looking at the cultivators, warhorses, and the flying chariot.

“They’re here again?” Mingshi Yin sneered.

Zhao Yu’s expression looked rather stiff as he said, “I’m afraid things have gotten complicated.”

“You called us here so early in the morning just to tell us this?” Yu Zhenghai asked.

“...”

Zhao Yu said, “The Emperor’s Gemini has always been cautious in doing things. However, I really didn’t expect them to ask for Zou Ping’s help.”

“Who the hell is Zou Ping?” Mingshi Yin asked.

“Zou Ping is one of the emperor’s secret weapons. During the war that destroyed 20 kingdoms, the team made up of the emperor’s secret weapons swept through ten kingdoms in ten days. Their average strength is above that of a One Trial cultivator. Zou Ping himself is close to being a Venerable Master. Their mounts came from the northern desert of the green lotus domain. They’re the fiercest and best flying warhorses,” Zhao Yu explained.

Mingshi Yin looked at the warhorses. If it were not for Zhao Yu’s explanation, it would be difficult to see that the warhorses that were dressed in silver armor had wings.

Mingshi Yin stroked his chin and said, “Indeed, they look rather awe-inspiring...”

Yu Shangrong said disapprovingly, “In comparison, Ji Liang’s like the clouds while they’re just like mud.”

“...”

Zhao Yu continued to say, "Zou Ping's hundred of cavalymen are like the army of Great Qin. They can travel ten thousand miles in a day. A while ago, I heard they went to the Pillar of Destruction in Ping Dan. Without using a runic passage, they flew to Ren Ding. Apart from obtaining many precious resources, they also flew back to the green lotus domains and dealt with the feudal lords... They're truly a legendary troop!"

Kong Wen nodded. "What Young Master Zhao said is true. I've heard a lot of their stories in the past. At that time, my brothers and I idolized them. After all, who wouldn't idolize such a legendary troop?"

Upon hearing this, Kong Wu chimed in, "Elder Brother is right. I dreamed about joining them for a period of time. Later, I learned that it was almost impossible to join them."

Kong Wen frowned. "I thought you dreamed about joining the monster hunting squad? When did it change?"

"Uh... It's just for a short time. It's not just them. In fact, I dreamed about joining many squads and troops..." Kong Wu trailed off. He cleared his throat before he continued to say, "Of course, all of them are inferior compared to the Evil Sky Pavilion. In front of the Evil Sky Pavilion, this so-called legendary troop is nothing but a bunch of brats, shrimps, and crabs. Am I right, Miss Ninth?"

Little Yuan'er merely grunted in response. She carried the little Fire Phoenix and walked to the side to take a seat before she played with the little Fire Phoenix. She was not interested in such a scene.

It did not take long before a cultivator flew out of the flying chariot and looked at the crowd on the ground. He said, "Lord Zhi has ordered for the capture of a murderer so he can be brought to justice. I hope Young Master Zhao will cooperate with us."

Zhao Yu replied in a clear voice, "Tell Lord Zhi..."

At this time, Mingshi Yin suddenly interjected, "Wait." Then, he moved to stand in front of Zhao Yu and said to the person in the sky, "Tell that person with the surname Zhi to come out and speak to us himself."

The cultivator was at a loss for words, shocked by Mingshi Yin.

Mingshi Yin continued to say, "Zhao Yu is a duke personally conferred by the emperor of Great Qin. Who are you to make a commotion here?"

"..."

The cultivator was frightened into flying back to the flying chariot.

Mingshi Yin turned around and patted Zhao Yu's shoulder as he said, "You're a duke after all. You must show your imposing air!"

Zhao Yu nodded, feeling moved. He could feel Mingshi Yin was not very hostile toward him anymore.

Zhao Yu thought that sometimes, life was not only cruel, but it was laughable as well. He once thought that in this world, apart from his mother, the people who treated him well were his father, the emperor of Great Qin, Xi Qishu, and the members of the Zhao family. In the end, everything turned out to be an illusion. Moreover, the people who helped him see through the illusion were a group of 'strangers'.

Shortly afterward, Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzi flew out of the flying chariot and came to a stop at the ten-meter mark.

Zhi Wenzhi said, "Young Master Zhao, we meet again."

Zhao Yu was unlike his usual kind and timid self as he said, "Lord Zhi, it seems like you really have no regard for me at all."

Zhi Wenzhi said, "I dare not."

"What are you trying to prove by bringing so many people here? Are you going to raid the Zhao Residence?"

"Young Master, you're exaggerating this matter. I'm only here because of General Xi's murder. I've already discovered the truth and found the murderer. Young Master Zhao, don't misunderstand me. I'm not here to cause trouble at the Zhao Residence; I'm only here to arrest the murderer," Zhi Wenzhi replied.

Zhao Yu frowned. "Murderer?"

Zhi Wenzhi pointed at Mingshi Yin in the crowd and said, "Young man, you should take responsibility for what you've done. You have an extraordinary bearing, and your cultivation base isn't weak. I'm sure you're smart as well."

Everyone turned to look at Mingshi Yin at the same time.

Yu Shangrong did not expect Zhi Wenzhi would be able to link Xi Qishu's death to Mingshi Yin. He was there that night so he was aware of the situation. None of Xi Qishu's men survived and no traces were left behind. So how did Zhi Wenzhi find out? Nevertheless, he remained calm as always.

Mingshi Yin pointed at Zhi Wenzhi and said, "Hey, hey, hey, you look so dignified and noble so how can you spew garbage from your mouth?"

Zhi Wenzhi frowned slightly.

Mingshi Yin said, "I didn't kill anyone."

Upon hearing this, Zhi Wuzi smirked. "As expected. There aren't any murderers in this world who'll own up to their crime."

"That's right. Is that why you're not admitting to killing him?" Mingshi Yin retorted.

Upon hearing this, Zhi Wuzi, who was a straightforward person, said angrily, "Don't slander me! General Xi is someone I respect! Why would I kill him?"

"Is there a murderer in this world who'll own up to his crime?" Mingshi Yin said, returning Zhi Wuzi's words to him.

"..."

Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzi suddenly felt that Mingshi Yin was incredibly annoying.

Zhao Yu said, "Lord Zhiwu, you have to present your evidence. How can you just arrest people without evidence? Aren't you making a fool of yourself by doing such a thing?"

At this moment, Zou Ping laughed before he said from the direction of the cavalymen and warhorses, "Young Master Zhao is right. You have to have evidence. As officials, we have to follow the law."

Zhi Wuzi said, "My brother's words are evidence!"

Mingshi Yin almost spat upon hearing these words. He said mockingly, "In that case, my dog's words are also evidence."

Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

However, what happened next caught everyone off guard..

### **Chapter 1315: No One Dared to Move**

Qiong Qi suddenly launched itself at the flying chariot, sailing across the sky like a released arrow.

Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzi were taken aback.

At this time, Qiong Qi hovered high in the sky and barked at the flying chariot a few times. All of a sudden, it lifted its hind leg and peed in the air.

"..."

Qiong Qi was not an ordinary beast. Moreover, after being nourished by the Great Void Seed, its growth was tremendous, and its intelligence was not low. It knew the flying chariot was dangerous so after it peed, it turned and flew back.

Everyone was caught off guard and confused. They did not understand Qiong Qi's behavior.

Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

Upon hearing this, Conch conveyed Qiong Qi's meaning. "Qiong Qi said that person belongs to it..."

Zhi Wenzhi. "..."

Realization dawned on Mingshi Yin immediately. He pointed at the cultivator in the flying chariot and said, "No wonder Doggy was running around a few days ago. As it turns out, you seduced my dog!"

The cultivator's face flushed red in embarrassment, and his expression was incredibly unsightly. Nevertheless, he waved his hand and denied vehemently, "No, no, no, I was just passing by. When did I seduce it?"

"..."

A heated discussion broke out in the Zhao Residence for a moment.

Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzi frowned, thinking that their subordinate was really a good-for-nothing.

Zhao Yu seized the chance and asked, "Lord Zhi, this is irrefutable evidence. How do you plan to explain this?"

Zhi Wenzhi said, "It's true that he came to Zhao Residence. However, there was an abnormal surge of vitality energy above the Zhao Residence that day. Hence, I ordered my man to have a look. He was not the only one around that day. Many cultivators were attracted by the commotion as well. If you don't believe me, you can ask any cultivator in Xiangyang. That aside..." He trailed off before he continued to say with a smile, "That young man wasn't in the Zhao Residence the night General Xi died."

Mingshi Yin said, "You have a glib tongue. It's a pity my Seventh Junior Brother isn't here. Otherwise, you'd have to stand back..."

Zhi Wenzhi maintained the smile on his face as he said, "You want evidence? I'll show you the evidence. Bring it up."

Then, two cultivators carried a stretcher out of the flying chariot and landed in the Zhao Residence main courtyard. Then, they removed the white cloth covering the stretcher, revealing Xi Qishu's corpse.

Little Yuan'er only glanced at it and was startled. She bent over and made a vomiting gesture before she pulled Conch to the side and said, "So disgusting! These people are really annoying! Let's go look for master!"

"Alright."

The two young women hurriedly made their way to the back of Zhao Residence.

The others did not pay attention to the two young women and looked at the corpse instead.

Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai lived their lives on the edge of a knife all year round and had seen many corpses in their lives. Hence, they were unfazed by Xi Qishu's corpse.

When Yu Shangrong looked at the miserable state of Xi Qishu's corpse, he was reminded of how his Fourth Junior Brother had gone crazy that night.

On the other hand, Zhao Yu frowned. He had a good relationship with Xi Qishu and had addressed each other as brothers in the past. Who knew the next time they met, Xi Qishu had already died? Nevertheless, he was not saddened by Xi Qishu's death. On the contrary, he was angry.

Not only did Xi Qishu manipulate him with the help of everyone in the Zhao Residence, but due to Xi Qishu's manipulations, he had chased away many innocent attendants and servants. Apart from that Zhao Yu was also angered by the Emperor's Gemini lack of respect. Their action of bringing the corpse into his residence without asking for his opinion was an insult.

"Zhi Wenzhi, what do you mean by this?" Zhao Yu's expression was incredibly grave as he addressed Zhi Wenzhi by his name. At this time, he no longer cared about etiquette. Since they did not respect, why should he show them respect?

Zhi Wenzhi only said one word, "Evidence."

"If you don't explain this clearly..." Zhao Yu choked on his words. He really did not know how to deal with Zhi Wuzi. What could he threaten Zhi Wuzi with? Zhi Wuzi had the support of the emperor of Great Qin, but whose support did he have?

Yu Shangrong glanced at Zhao Yu before he turned to look at Zhi Wuzi with a smile and said, "Regardless of if Zhi Wuzi explains himself or not, it's irrefutable that he has humiliated and disrespected you. Those who humiliate others should be humiliated as well. Those who offend their superiors should be punished as well..."

Zhi Wuzi. "..."

Zhi Wuzi was enraged by these words. He said fiercely, "How dare you speak when you played a part in the murder as well!"

Yu Shangrong did not seem flustered by the accusations. Instead, he smiled and asked, "So? Do you want to kill me?"

"Isn't it easy to do so?" Zhi Wuzi retorted.

"Alright then." Yu Shangrong smiled faintly as he tapped his toes lightly on the ground.

"Second Senior Brother!"

"Mr. Second!"

No one expected Yu Shangrong would make a move. His movements were nimble as he flew into the air. Before he came to a stop, the Longevity Sword unsheathed itself and flew into his hand.

Zhi Wuzi had always been direct and fond of battles. When he saw Yu Shangrong making a move, not only was he unafraid, but he was very excited as well. He rushed forward without any hesitation to meet Yu Shangrong.

Yu Shangrong lifted his hand and used Return and Enter Three Souls. Three figures attacked from the left, right, and center.

Zhi Wuzi's eyes flashed as he shouted, "Petty tricks! Get lost!"

Zhi Wuzi unleashed energy seals that shot out in all directions.

However, when the energy seal struck Yu Shangrong, they passed through his body harmlessly. There was no effect at all.

"Huh?"

Yu Shangrong's three figures merged into one before he flashed toward Zhi Wuzi, brandishing his sword. His momentum was like that of a mountain, and the speed of his movements was reminiscent of lightning.

Zhi Wuzi was taken back and instinctively dodged. However, he soon discovered that his opponent's speed was increasing as though his opponent had been injected with some speed serum.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Energy swords struck at Zhi Wuzi while Yu Shangrong brought the Longevity Sword down on Zhi Wuzi.

Zhi Wuzi who had just caught his breath raised his hand, trying to catch the Longevity Sword.

Meanwhile, when Zhi Wuzi noticed the ten golden lights that seemed as sharp as knives following closely behind the Longevity Sword, he shouted, "Dodge!"

Swoosh!

Zhi Wuzi reacted quickly and launched an energy seal to pull Zhi Wuzi back.

A loud tearing noise rang in the air.

Alas, they had underestimated the length of the energy swords. A huge tear that spanned from the top to the bottom appeared on Zhi Wuzi's robe.

Zhi Wuzi, who had retreated a few meters, looked down at his chest. He saw a thin line of blood. After a few breaths, drops of blood seeped out of the thin line and slid down. He pressed his hand against the wound, quickly healing it.

Swoosh!

The Longevity Sword returned to its scabbard at this moment.

Yu Shangrong smiled as he looked at Zhi Wuzi and said, "Your skills are rather mediocre..."

"..."

With Zhi Wuzi's temper, he naturally could not tolerate these provocative words. However, he forcefully suppressed his anger when he remembered that he had promised his brother that he would not act rashly before they came to this place. Moreover, with the emperor's legendary troops at their backs, there was no need for him to act today.

At this moment, Zhi Wuzi said frostily, "So, you're from the golden lotus domain."

"You're from the golden lotus domain; how dare you behave atrociously in the green lotus domain?"

In the cultivation world, it was no secret that the overall strength of the red lotus domain and the golden lotus domain was very weak. There were even cultivators from the green lotus domain, who were below the stage of a Venerable Master, who boldly snuck to the other domains. However, they did not dare show their avatars or use their energies. After all, if they were discovered by the Equalizers, they would undoubtedly die. There were many such cases in the long course of history.

The Red Line prohibited them from acting rashly. However, there were also people like the Free Men who underwent rigorous training and disregarded life and death, living life on the edge. Although they had the freedom to travel between the domains, they were also constantly in danger.

At this time, a slightly surprised expression appeared on Zou Ping's face. However, it was quickly replaced with a smile. "They're friends from the golden lotus domain, don't be in a hurry to make a move. Did they really kill General Xi?"



Zhi Wenzi turned to look at Zou Ping. Based on Zou Ping's expression, he could tell Zou Ping was not going to act rashly without a good reason. Hence, he said, "This is the evidence."

Zhi Wenzi waved his hand, sending out a powder-like substance toward Xi Qishu's corpse.

When the powder-like substance made contact with Xi Qishu's corpse, it turned into specks of light. The specks of light were dazzling; they were a stark contrast against the corpse.

The others watched curiously. They did not know what Zhi Wenzi was planning to do.

The specks of light flew up before they flew toward Mingshi Yin and Yu Shangrong.

Mingshi Yin waved his hand, easily getting rid of the specks of light.

On the other hand, Yu Shangrong's protective energy easily repelled the specks of light.

Despite their different methods, the outcome was the same; they were untouched by the specks of light.

Mingshi Yin and Yu Shangrong felt slightly displeased. After all, the specks of light that had touched the corpse were filthy.

Perhaps, Zhi Wenzi had been used to being in a high position, he had expected that as long as he used some tricks, others would accept it without any objections. After he saw the reaction from the specks of light, he laughed. Then, he pointed at Xi Qishu's corpse and said, "What do you think?"

"Qi orb's powder?" Zou Ping frowned. He was surprised at Zhi Wenzi's willingness to use such a precious item. That thing was not cheap, after all.

"Indeed, it's the Qi orb's powder. I'm sure General Zou is aware of its uses. It is able to accurately capture residual energy. As long as someone touched General Xi, their residual energies will definitely be captured by the Qi orb's powder," Zhi Wenzi said.

Upon hearing these, the cavalrymen sitting atop the warhorses were raring to go, filled with the urge to swoop down.

However...

Mingshi Yin said disapprovingly, "Nonsense. Zhao Yu has also touched him; you've also touched him. Why didn't it capture the residual energies then?"

"You don't understand the Qi orb's powder. The facts are clear. There's no need for you to quibble," Zhi Wenzi said. He knew now that the person in front of him was a scoundrel. It was useless to use logic to reason with a scoundrel.

At this moment, Zhao Yu said loudly, "Alright. I want to see who dares to make a move!"

Following that, Zhao Yu held up a dazzling golden token in his hand.

Zou Ping, Zhi Wenzi, and Zhi Wuzi frowned immediately.

"The emperor's golden token?"

Upon seeing the golden token, no one dared to move.

Zhao Yu continued to say loudly, "You have a discerning eye. I order all of you to get lost!"

### **Chapter 1316: A Junior Who Doesn't Know How to Respect His Elders**

Most of the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion did not know what the dazzling golden token was, but based on Zhi Wenzhi's reaction, they knew it was definitely not a simple thing.

Kong Wen who seemed to know what the golden token was explained in a low voice, "I heard that the emperor of Great Qin gave four golden tokens to four different people. Rumor has it that one of them was given to Madam Qi."

"Madam Qi?" Mingshi Yin was puzzled.

"Young Master Zhao's mother," Kong Wen replied.

"Is that thing very powerful?"

Kong Wen continued to explain in a low voice, "There's a rumor in the cultivation world that the golden token is like the emperor of Great Qin. With the golden token, you freely enter and exit the palace. You can even avoid death sentences with it."

Everyone was surprised by this explanation. To think such a small token held so much power. Then, they shifted their eyes to Zhi Wenzhi and the others. They thought Zhi Wenzhi and the others would have to leave now.

After recovering from his surprise, Zhi Wenzhi said with a smile, "I didn't expect Young Master Zhao to be in possession of the golden token."

Zhao Yu did not waste words with Zhi Wenzhi. He only said, "Get lost."

Zhi Wenzhi continued to say, "Unfortunately, His Majesty has ordered for the golden token to be returned!"

Then, Zhi Wenzhi waved his hand.

The cultivators in the flying chariot flew out to the sky above the Zhao Residence, ready to attack.

Zhao Yu did not expect this turn of events. He shouted, "You dare?!"

Zhi Wenzhi cupped his fists together as he said, "Young Master, I'll personally apologize to His Majesty later. If you have anything to say, you can say it in front of His Majesty." Then, he turned to Zou Ping and said, "General Zou, the facts are clear now."

Zou Ping sighed and nodded. "I'll obey His Majesty's orders."

Zou Ping lifted his hand.

The winged cavalry moved at the same time.

The majestic sight caused the blood of the cultivators watching from afar to boil in excitement.

Each and every one of the warhorses and their riders was awe-inspiring. They looked like a battle machine as they hovered above the Zhao Residence. It was as though the sky above the Zhao Residence was their personal battlefield. The killing intent surging from their bodies felt as dangerous as the threats from the Unknown Land.

The atmosphere was heavy and gloomy.

Zhao Yu was furious. "You!"

The golden token was Zhao Yu's ultimate move. If it was useless, then there was nothing else he could do. It also proved one thing to him: the emperor of Great Qin had never taken him seriously.

Zhao Yu found it laughable and slightly sad. Since the emperor of Great Qin did not care, why not end his relationship with them, mother and son? What was the point of leading them on before letting his lackeys toy with them?

At this time, three cavalymen flew forward and surrounded Mingshi Yin, who was standing near Xi Qishu's corpse, from three directions. Their speed was astonishing.

Mingshi Yin did not expect the other party to attack so quickly. He brought out his Separation Hook, ready to resist.

At the moment the three cavalymen were about to attack, a green figure flitted past the three cavalymen at even more exaggerated and extreme speed.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The speed was beyond everyone's understanding.

At the same time, a streak of red light shot out behind a golden halo.

The three cavalymen stopped moving immediately, hovering at a low altitude.

"?"

Most people could not capture the movements and were unaware of what had happened. Only a few people with high cultivation bases wore surprised expressions on their faces when they saw this scene.

The one who had flitted past the three cavalymen was none other than Sword Devil Yu Shangrong, the second disciple of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Yu Shangrong appeared to the left of the three cavalymen, holding his Longevity Sword. His back was facing them; a skilled swordsman did not need to look to know the outcome as soon as he made a move. He smiled faintly as he loosened his grip around the Longevity Sword. As though it had consciousness, it returned to its scabbard.

Meanwhile, the three cavalymen wore horrified expressions on their faces.

Crack! Crack! Crack! Crack! Crack!

The armor cracked before blood spurted out from the cracks. With that, the three cavalymen fell from their warhorses.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

The warhorses grew restless and began to neigh in panic. Their panicked neighing seemed to affect the remaining 97 warhorses. With that, all the warhorses panicked and neighed; someone even rose on their two hind legs. Just like that, their neat formation was broken.

Thud! Thud! Thud!

The three awe-inspiring cavalymen fell to the ground, heavily injured.

“Zhi Wenzhi!” Zou Ping said angrily.

“I’ll save them!” Zhi Wenzhi hurriedly said.

It was not scary to lose a Birth Chart. However, if the serious injuries were not treated, they might lose all their Birth Charts and die.

Zhi Wenzhi launched three energy seals toward the three injured cavalymen.

Woof! Woof! Woof!

At this time, Qiong Qi suddenly grew several times bigger before flying toward the three cavalymen on the ground. Then, it bared its fangs before it tore into them in a frenzy.

“...”

Everyone was shocked by this sight.

Although Zhi Wenzhi’s healing energy seals had landed on three cavalymen, the speed of their healing could not keep up with Qiong Qi’s speed of destruction.

Qiong Qi bit one of the cavalymen’s necks before swinging him back and forth.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Qiong Qi loosened his bite, tossing the bloody cavalymen away.

The other two cavalymen suffered a similar fate.

Woof!

Qiong Qi pawed the ground. Its eyes glinted coldly as it bared its bloody fangs.

Zou Ping roared, “Wretched beast! How dare you attack my people?”

Zou Ping leaped off his warhorse and dove from the sky. His entire body was shrouded by green energy. In just a blink of an eye, he appeared in front of Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzi. He quickly joined his palms together. Following that, a green dagger shot toward Qiong Qi at lightning speed.

Mingshi Yin tossed the Separation Hook, which was glowing with a golden light, to block the green dagger.

Zou Ping seemed to have expected this. He flashed forward, moving at a speed that was faster than the green dagger. He struck as soon as he arrived in front of Mingshi Yin.

Bang!

Mingshi Yin flew back, coughing up blood.

“You didn’t lose your Birth Chart? Very well. I’m going to destroy one now!” Zou Ping moved again.

Everyone thought Zou Ping was going to attack Mingshi Yin again when he suddenly switched directions and arrived next to Qiong Qi in just a blink of an eye. He launched several energy seals, sending Qiong Qi flying.

Qiong Qi rolled several times on the ground.

Everyone retreated, looking at Zou Ping as though they were facing a great enemy.

Zou Ping turned to look at Yu Shangrong who was hovering in the sky and said, “You better come down now.”

Swoosh!

A huge golden saber flew over from the side.

Zou Ping dodged the saber.

As though the saber had already predicted this, it suddenly flipped and shot out horizontally.

Bang!

Zou Ping exploded with energy seals. He used his arms to block the saber and was pushed several steps back.

Everyone turned to look at the owner of the saber, Yu Zhenghai.

Yu Zhenghai waved his hand, and the Jasper Saber flew back to him. Following that, he said with a smile, “You’re quite strong.”

Zou Ping sized Yu Zhenghai up before he scoffed. “Since you’re all accomplices, no one’s allowed to leave today!”

Zou Ping raised his hand.

The remaining 97 cavalymen rushed down toward the Zhao Residence immediately. They landed in a neat row next to the three warhorses. Following that, their silver armor lit up one after another.

Swoosh!

Zou Ping ignored Yu Zhenghai and charged toward Mingshi Yin.

Mingshi Yin hurriedly smacked his hand on the ground.

Boom!

Bluewood formed a tall wall in front of Mingshi Yin.

Zou Ping charged through the wall of Bluewood, reducing them to pieces of wood. However, he could not find Mingshi Yin.

At this moment, Little Yuan'er's indignant voice rang in the air.

"Master, it's them!"

Everyone turned in the direction of the crisp and clear voice. They saw Lu Zhou, who was dressed in a long robe, walking over with his hands on his back. His extraordinary bearing could hardly be concealed.

Little Yuan'er and Conch walked next to Lu Zhou.

Everyone from the Evil Sky Pavilion bowed.

"Greetings, master."

"Greetings, Pavilion Master."

Bang!

Mingshi Yin emerged from the ground nearby. A mischievous smile could be seen on his face as he asked, "Master, why are you here?"

Lu Zhou did not know much about the current situation. His knowledge was limited to what Little Yuan'er had told him. All she had said was something about some people bringing Xi Qishu's corpse here to look for trouble.

Lu Zhou glanced at Mingshi Yin. When he saw the traces of blood at the corner of Mingshi Yin's lip, he shook his head.

Upon seeing Lu Zhou's gaze, Mingshi Yin scratched his head and said sheepishly, "I didn't practice hard enough. I'm sorry for disappointing you, master."

Lu Zhou continued to advance. He saw four corpses on the ground: they belonged to Xi Qishu and the three cavalymen. Their armor was cracked, and they were drenched in blood. The state of their corpses was rather miserable. Then, he saw Qiong Qi lying on the ground in the distance, licking its body.

Qiong Qi whimpered as though it was crying and complaining.

Zhao Yu hurriedly stepped forward and bowed. "Old sir, why are you here?"

Lu Zhou ignored Zhao Yu. Based on the scene, it looked like the Evil Sky Pavilion had the upper hand, but it was clearly not the case. He shook his head before he pointed at Zou Ping, who was clearly the most arrogant person among the enemy's party, and asked, "What's your name?"

Zou Ping had never been pointed at in such a manner before. Even when he was with the emperor of Great Qin, the emperor would call him 'his esteemed general'. Even the Venerable Masters were polite to him. Hence, how could he reply to Lu Zhou's question?

Lu Zhou continued to ask, "Were you the one who injured my disciple?"

Zou Ping pointed at Mingshi Yin and finally spoke. "Is he your disciple?"

"As a junior, you have no respect for your elders," Lu Zhou only said this before he pushed his hand out.

Abandoned Wisdom that had been imbued with divine power shot out of Lu Zhou's hand that shone with a golden light like a golden dragon. It seemed to carry the weight of Mount Tai.

Zou Ping's expression changed immediately when he felt the pressure from the palm seal. He hurriedly raised his hand to stop the palm seal.

Boom!

### **Chapter 1317: You're Not Very Capable, But You Have Quite the Temper**

Perhaps, Lu Zhou had gotten used to being old after such a long time, or perhaps, it was for some other reason, but he thought people like Zou Ping were young and green. They were like frogs at the bottom of a well, unable to see the whole sky and unaware of how immense the world was.

The size of the palm seal was not even big enough to cover the Zhao Residence's main courtyard, therefore, Zou Ping thought the best way to deal with it was by launching his own palm seal. Alas, he was unaware that this was the worst way to deal with the palm seal.

When Zuo Ping's green palm seal collided with the golden palm seal, he expected the golden palm seal to weaken at least. Contrary to his expectations, not only did it not weaken, but it seemed to have grown bigger and stronger after the collision!

The scripts for Abandoned Wisdom were linked together like a golden dragon as it continued to advance.

'Something's wrong!' Zuo Ping's calmness was replaced by nervousness and shock when he saw his green palm seal vanishing. He hurriedly lifted his hands and launched two green palm seals that merged into one after they shot out.

Boom!

The energy from the golden palm seal and green palm seal's collision rippled out horizontally.

Bang!

The people in the surroundings had to lower themselves to avoid the force of the collision.

Crack!

The solid red wooden pillar was neatly cut into two, causing the building it supported to be lopsided.

The 100 warhorses neighed and kept retreating.

The green palm seal dissipated again.

Boom!

This time, the golden palm seal landed heavily on Zou Ping.

Just like that, the battle ended.

Zhi Wenzi and Zhi Wuzi instinctively retreated at this time. The biggest reason they were so bold as to come to Zhao Residence today was most due to Zou Ping and his legendary troop.

In Great Qin, there were many cultivators who were close to being Venerable Masters. However, they were mostly stuck at the stage because they could not pass the third Birth Trial or they could not activate a Great Birth Chart due to a lack of suitable life hearts.

Zou Ping was one of these people.

Similar to Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai, Zou Ping had many experiences on the battlefield and had encountered many life-or-death situations. However, such a person, the leader of the legendary troop, was defeated just like that.

Moreover, Zou Ping was defeated with a simple palm seal without the power of the Dao, divine objects, special formation, fancy display of Primal Qi, energy swords, or energy sabers.

How could the Zhi brothers not panic?

“Brother, was there something wrong with the Qi orb?” Zhi Wuzi’s expression was rather unsightly at this moment.

“I don’t know,” Zhi Wenzhi replied in a low voice. He did not dare to speak loudly.

“Didn’t you say it’s impossible for the Qi orb to be wrong? Zou Ping has 17 Birth Charts, but he’s defeated with one move! I don’t believe that person has only passed two Birth Trials!”

“I don’t believe it either! Now’s not the time to argue. Let’s wait for the Venerable Master’s arrival.”

Zhi Wenzhi did not know which part of his plan had gone wrong. At this moment, he had no choice but to act according to the situation.

“The Venerable Master will come?” Zhi Wuzi was astonished.

“I’m not sure.”

After the energy dissipated, everyone saw Zou Ping sprawling in a pit on the ground.

The people of the Evil Sky Pavilion shook their heads. The disciples were already used to this scene; there were too many of such scenes, after all. It was as though their master liked smacking his opponents into the ground. It worked every single time. This move was very effective, and it was the best way to destroy arrogance.

Zou Ping faced the sky and exhaled slowly. He shifted his gaze slightly and saw Lu Zhou looking down at him, standing with one hand on his back. His body trembled slightly. Realization finally dawned on him; his opponent was a... super expert who far surpassed him. What should he do now?

At this moment, Zhao Yu recalled that thrilling and magnificent scene at the Pillar of Destruction. In comparison, this was just child’s play.

Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzi gulped and fell to their knees at the same time. They kept saying, “Misunderstanding, misunderstanding. It’s all a misunderstanding...”

Needless to say, the men standing behind the duo fell to their knees as well.

The table turned so quickly that everyone was shocked.



Lu Zhou did not pay attention to Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzi. Instead, he looked at Zou Ping who was still lying in the pit before he said, "How dare you block my palm seal and survive?"

"..."

Zhao Yu hurriedly stepped forward and said with an ingratiating smile, "Old sir, this is Great Qin's Supreme General Zou." Feeling like the introduction was not enough, he added the information about the legendary troop and recounted the tale of them wiping out the ten kingdoms.

It was fine if Zhao Yu did not recount all these things. Zou Ping felt his blood surge and vomited a mouthful of blood upon hearing Zhao Yu's words. After all, the praises now sounded like insults.

Lu Zhou nodded. "Legendary troop?"

Zou Ping was livid. He raised his head to look at Lu Zhou. He took a long time articulating his thoughts before he finally said, "I... Under His Majesty's order, I came to apprehend the murderer."

Lu Zhou looked at the crowd before he looked at Zou Ping, perplexed. "What murderer?"

At this time, Kong Wen who had left without anyone's notice at some point returned with a chair. He placed the chair behind Lu Zhou and wiped it with his sleeve before he said, "Pavilion Master, please take a seat."

Lu Zhou nodded and sat down.

Zhao Yu said, "Let me explain to the Pavilion Master." Then, he turned to Zou Ping and said, "General Zou, if you feel that my explanations are wrong, please feel free to correct me."

With that, Zhao Yu began to recount what had happened.

In fact, Lu Zhou already had a vague idea of what was happening after briefly observing using the power of sight. However, he thought it was fine to let Zhao Yu talk since he had plenty of time.

Zhao Yu took about 15 minutes to tell the story, including as many details as possible. He even expressed his doubts about Xi Qishu's death.

While Zhao Yu was talking, Zou Ping sat up. He held his chest and coughed a few times before he wiped the blood off the corner of his lips and patted the dust off himself. Then, he climbed out of the pit before he sat at the edge of the pit.

After Zhao Yu finished speaking, he looked at Zou Ping and asked, "General Zou, am I fair with my explanation?"

Zou Ping nodded. He turned slightly and looked at the sky before he shouted angrily, "A bunch of good-for-nothings! Come down now!"

If it were not for the crowd, Zou Ping would have cursed.

Their leader had already been beaten until he vomited blood, and yet, they were still sitting atop the warhorses, trying to show off! They were really brainless!

The remaining 97 cavalrymen landed one after another.

Fortunately, the Zhao Residence's main courtyard could accommodate over 1,000 people.

After the cavalymen landed, they made sure their warhorses stayed in place before they ran over toward Zou Ping and stood respectfully near him. Two of them quickly went forward to help Zou Ping up.

Zou Ping pushed them away with a wave of his hand as he cursed, "Get lost!"

"..."

Everyone was speechless.

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "You're not very capable, but you have quite the temper."

Zou Ping. "..."

Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzhi had already landed. How could they dare to remain in the sky at this time?

Lu Zhou said, "I have an understanding of the matter now. In short, you're here to apprehend Xi Qishu's murderer, correct?"

"Yes," Zhi Wenzhi replied curtly. He would risk making mistakes if he spoke too many words, after all. Facing such a person, the fewer words he said, the better it would be.

"You used the Qi orb's powder and confirmed the murderer is my disciple, correct?"

"Yes."

Lu Zhou nodded before he looked at the three corpses on the ground. Then, he asked, "Those three are killed by Yu Shangrong, correct?"

Upon hearing this, Yu Shangrong bowed and said, "Master, I did kill them."

Lu Zhou looked at the cracks on the armor and said, "The sword strikes could only destroy three Birth Charts so they couldn't be fatal..."

"Old sir, you're right. The rest was done by Qiong Qi."

Woof! Woof! Woof!

Qiong Qi barked and ran over. It crouched by Lu Zhou's side and bared its fangs at the crowd.

Mingshi Yin. "..."

Mingshi Yin thought that it was true that dogs relied on their owner for power. The ancients truly did not deceive him.

"Old Fourth."

"Yes, master."

"Did you kill Xi Qishu? You're not allowed to lie. I want to hear the truth," Lu Zhou said solemnly.

Mingshi Yi moved to stand next to Qiong Qi before he said, "I did."

“...”

Woof! Woof! Woof!

### **Chapter 1318: The Venerable Masters' Attitude**

Mingshi Yin's reply was like a stone that stirred up a thousand waves.

The crowd began to whisper in hushed noises.

Previously, Mingshi Yi had denied his involvement in Xi Qishu's death and came up with all kinds of excuses. By admitting to his crime now, was he not slapping his own face, Zhao Yu's face, and the faces of everyone in the Zhao Residence?

At this time, the person who was most angered by Mingshi Yin's admission was Zou Ping. He had lost three subordinates because of this matter. If he did not demand an explanation for his men's wrongful deaths, how was he going to face his men in the future? How would he continue to lead the legendary troop?

"Silence," Kong Wen said in a firm voice.

Everyone fell silent immediately.

Lu Zhou looked at Ming Shiyin. "Why?"

"Xi Qishu deserves to die!" Mingshi Yin replied.

Lu Zhou did not continue to ask Mingshi Yin questions. Instead, he looked at Mingshi Yin, waiting for Mingshi Yin to explain. After all, just the words 'he deserved to die' were not reason enough.

Mingshi Yin naturally knew his master was waiting for him to explain himself. He made up his mind before he said through gritted teeth, "Because he killed my brother, Meng Sheng!"

Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzi. "..."

The others were puzzled.

Although Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzi had never heard of the name Meng Sheng, they knew what the surname 'Meng' meant. This confirmed their previous speculation: the young man in front of them was a surviving member of the Meng family.

"Your brother, Meng Sheng?" Lu Zhou was perplexed.

"Meng Sheng and I grew up in the Meng Mansion. When I was eight years old, Xi Qishu killed Meng Sheng," Mingshi Yin said.

Everyone from the Evil Sky Pavilion, except for Yu Shangrong, was surprised as well.

Mingshi Yin said with a smile, "I've never liked complaining, and I'm too lazy to talk about the past."

Who would be willing to remember such an unbearable past? As for whether people believed him or not, Mingshi Yin did not care. Xi Qishu was dead, and this was the greatest consolation for Meng Sheng's soul in heaven.

Mingshi Yin had only said all this because he did not want to deceive his master. He did not care about what happened next. Even if his master punished him, he still felt that it was worth it.

"A life for a life. That's very reasonable," Lu Zhou said as he nodded.

Everyone was stunned by these words.

"?" Mingshi Yin was even more stunned. His master did not even doubt him. How did his master know he was not making this up?

Zou Ping and Zhi Wenzi wondered if Mingshi Yin made this up as well.

Zhi Wenzi asked, "Little brother, which Meng Mansion are you talking about?"

Kong Wen interjected, "If I may, I'd like to make a few corrections. One, he's not little. Two, he's not your brother."

Zhi Wenzi said awkwardly, "I apologize."

Mingshi Yin replied honestly, "Meng Mingshi's mansion. Meng Mingshi, the God of War and the hero of Mount Xiao."

Zhi Wenzi's heart skipped a beat upon hearing this even if he had already known this. After a moment, he said, "So you're referring to that Meng Mansion. However, it's been a long time since anyone has lived in that place. We don't even know if there was a person called Meng Sheng. You said General Xi killed Meng Sheng, then you should at least produce evidence, right? I can tell that the old sir is wise and is able to distinguish right from wrong..."

"My words are evidence enough," Lu Zhou said.

Zhi Wenzi. "..."

Zhi Wenzi felt as though he had been slapped.

Lu Zhou looked at Zhi Wenzi and said, "When I first accepted him as my disciple, he was only ten years old. He carried a piece of jade with him. The word 'Ming' was carved on the jade. Hence, I named him Mingshi Yin. Everything in the world has a cause and effect. His name, based on ancient scripts, means to be carefree and to have a clear mind and heart so that one would not stray onto the path of filth and darkness."

Mingshi Yin had always thought his name was just a nickname. He did not put much importance on his name. It was fine as long as it did not sound terrible. He even switched his surname to Ri occasionally. The traditional idea that men should honor their surname always sounded like nonsense to him. He was not bound by such traditions.

Since ancient times, it was the responsibility of parents to name their children. They would meticulously choose a name for their children since it would accompany their children for the rest of their lives.

However, to Mingshi Yin, having parents was a luxury itself so he did not expect anything from them. Hence, how could he not be moved by his master's words?

Zhi Wenzhi said with a troubled expression, "Old sir, how can I trust your words?"

As soon as Zhi Wenzhi's voice fell, Lu Zhou raised his hand.

A golden palm seal was launched in Zhi Wenzhi's direction. It was the same palm seal that hit Zou Ping earlier.

The words Abandoned Wisdom could be seen on the palm seal, strung together like a dragon.

Zhi Wenzhi was shocked and retreated immediately.

"Brother!" Zhi Wuzi cried out and rushed to Zhi Wenzhi's side.

The two brothers worked together and released four palm seals.

Boom!

The golden palm seal advanced unhindered and arrived in front of the two brothers.

Boom!

The two brothers flew back and spat out blood before landing on the ground at the same time. They felt their qi and blood surging; the pain was unbearable. When they finally struggled to their feet, they vomited blood again. The force of the palm seal was really too domineering.

"Lord Zhi!" one of the brothers' men finally cried out.

"I... I'm fine," Zhi Wenzhi said as he raised his hand. How could he not know why Lu Zhou made a move? His earlier words were no different from courting death. After all, there was no need for someone who could defeat Zou Ping to reason with him. In his opinion, the old man in front of him was very likely a Venerable Master.

Finally, Zhi Wenzhi endured the pain and cupped his fists together as he said, "Thank you for sparing my life, old sir."

Lu Zhou said calmly, "To me, whether I kill all of you or reason with you, the result will be the same."

Everyone retreated in unison.

The cavalrymen's expressions changed drastically.

Zhi Wenzhi did not dare to say anything.

At this time, a voice rang from the distance.

"Venerable Master Fan is here!"

Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzi were overjoyed.

Zou Ping hurriedly waved his hand. Two cavalrymen stepped forward to help him up with great difficulty.

Zhi Wenzhi did not expect Fan Zhong to really show up. He and his brother turned around and cupped their fists together, waiting for Fan Zhong's arrival.

Zou Ping was the same.

Needless to say, the Zhi brother and Zou Ping's men were even more reverent.

"Tell him to wait outside."

"..."

Lu Zhou's words were akin to pouring a bucket of ice water on them. His words were said in an ordinary tone, but there was something about it that made them feel strange.

Zhao Yu, who had seen Lu Zhou in action, hurriedly volunteered himself. "I'll go!"

It did not take long before Zhao Yu returned. He bowed and said, "Venerable Master Fan said he's willing to wait for you. He's also said that he'll come in when you want to see him."

Zhi Wenzhi. "..."

Zhi Wuzi nudged Zhi Wenzhi with his elbow. He really wanted to ask if there was a mistake somewhere?

Zhi Wenzhi, on the other hand, was perplexed. A strange and ominous feeling rose in his heart. He was about to open his mouth to protest when a voice rang from outside.

"The 49 Swordsmen are here."

This time, without waiting for Lu Zhou to speak, Zhao Yu said impatiently, "Tell them to wait."

"Understood."

Soon enough, the messenger returned and said, "The 49 Swordsmen's Yuan Lang said Venerable Master Qin has ordered for the gift to be personally delivered to the old sir. He said the gift is very important."

"Let him come in alone," Lu Zhou said.

"Understood."

Shortly afterward, Yuan Lang walked in respectfully with a brocade box in hand. He was surprised to see so many people inside. He was puzzled when he saw Zhi Wenzhi, Zhi Wuzi, and Zou Ping. Nevertheless, he did not pay attention to them since his mission had nothing to do with them.

Yuan Lang walked up to Lu Zhou and say, "The 49 Swordsmen's Yuan Lang pays respect to the old sir."

### **Chapter 1319: The Mysterious Book**

Zhi Wenzhi, Zhi Wuzi, and Zou Ping's expressions were stiff and strange as they looked at Yuan Lang, one of the 49 Swordsmen. Venerable Master Fan was waiting outside while Venerable Master sent gifts. Just who was the old man in front of them?

Zhi Wenzhi wanted to seize the opportunity to build a good relationship with Qin Renyue so he asked Yuan Lang in a low voice, "I wonder how's Venerable Master Qin?"

Yuan Lang did not even look at Zhi Wenzhi. He held the brocade box in his hand and thought to himself, 'What right do you have to speak at this time?'

Yuan Lang's sole purpose of coming here was to visit Lu Zhou. Zhi Wenzhi's interruption really displeased him.

Zhi Wenzhi. "..."

Lu Zhou only glanced at Yuan Lang; he was not in a hurry to reply to Yuan Lang. Instead, he pointed at Zhi Wenzhi and asked, "Did the emperor of Great Qin send you here?"

"Yes," Zhi Wenzhi replied in a low voice.

"So, you think I don't dare to do anything to you because you have the emperor's support, am I right?" Lu Zhou asked. He had met so many people like Zhi Wenzhi that he had already grown numb. In other words, these people did not know who they were dealing with at all.

Upon hearing Lu Zhou's words, Zhi Wenzhi hurriedly bowed. "It's not like that. I'm just following orders."

"Give me the golden token," Lu Zhou said.

Zhao Yu respectfully handed the golden token over.

Lu Zhou held the golden token in his hand. It was rather light and was not made of pure gold. After a moment, he asked, "Why don't you kneel when you see this golden token?"

"..."

Thud!

Zhi Wenzhi, Zhi Wuzi, and the other cultivators fell to their knees in unison.

Zou Ping and the cavalymen fell to their knees as well.

"Seeing this golden token is like seeing the emperor himself. Zhao Yu brought this token out and asked all of you to leave the Zhao Residence, but all of you disobeyed the order. Who gave you the courage to act that way?" Lu Zhou asked.

Although Zhao Yu's had said words like these as well, when it was said by Lu Zhou, the effect was different.

These words rendered Zhi Wenzhi speechless and made his face turn red.

Lu Zhou finally shifted his gaze away from Zhi Wenzhi to Yuan Lang and asked, "Why did Qin Renyue send you here?"

"Venerable Master Qin went to the ancient ruins in Ping Dan in the Unknown Land and found this there. He said it's very important and that I have to hand it over to you," Yuan Lang replied.

Lu Zhou looked at the brocade box.

It was brown, and there were exquisite decorative patterns around it. However, it was clearly old; dirt could be seen in the edges of the box.

“Open it,” Lu Zhou said.

“Yes.” Yuan Lang did not hesitate and opened the brocade box.

Clack!

An old musty smell wafted out of the box as Yuan Lang presented it to Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou did not think there would be anything precious in the brocade box. After all, how could Qin Renyue give away a treasure? Even if Qin Renyue knew how to distinguish right from wrong and was rather sensible, there was no reason for him to give a treasure away. However, he frowned as soon as he saw what was in the box.

Upon seeing the frown on Lu Zhou’s face, the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion were surprised. After all, it was rare for him to show his emotions on his face. All of them wondered what was in the brocade box that could put a frown on his face.

Little Yuan’er and Conch even tiptoed to try to catch a glimpse of what lay in the box.

An old and yellowed book lay in the box. Although it was old, it was protected from decay by the runes that were carved on it.

The title only consisted of four huge words: The Scripture of Sermons.

There was nothing special about these four words. The interesting thing was actually located below the title. A box that was drawn with a brush could be seen below the title, and there were 26 alphabets written above the box.

“...”

It was not an exaggeration to say that in this world, apart from Lu Zhou, it was very difficult to find another person who could recognize these 26 alphabets.

Apart from that, the three words ‘Evil Sky Pavilion’ were written on the cover as well.

Lu Zhou picked up the book in disbelief. “The Scripture of Sermons?”

Yuan Lang said respectfully, “When Venerable Master Qin found this in Ping Dan, he thought it was interesting. When he saw the words ‘Evil Sky Pavilion’, he thought this book must belong to you. Perhaps, you lost it when you went to Ping Dan, old sir. In any case, it has now returned to its rightful owner.”

After Yuan Lang finished speaking, he closed the empty brocade box and retreated to the side. He felt much more relaxed and had time to focus on other matters now that he had completed his task. He glanced at Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzi and shook his head as he thought to himself, ‘So many blind men...’

Lu Zhou looked at the book as 100 different emotions surged in his heart.



No matter how long he had stayed in this place, everything he had learned on earth was still deeply ingrained in him. It did not matter how high his cultivation base was or how strong he was here.

“Venerable Master Qin said that this book is protected by mysterious runes. If one uses force to open it, it’s likely that the book will be destroyed. Venerable Master Qin had looked for many rune masters, but none of them could figure out the secrets of the runes,” Yuan Lang said.

Little Yuan’er looked at the three words on the cover and asked with a smile, “It really says ‘Evil Sky Pavilion’! Master, when did you go to that whatever Ping place?”

Yuan Lang’s expression grew slightly unnatural as he tried to say in the most humble tone, “It’s Ping Dan.”

“Ping Dan?”

Yuan Lan explained, “There are twelve places in the Unknown Land, and they were named after each of the 12 hours in the ancient time. They are Ye Ban, Ji Ming, Ping Dan, Ri Chu, Shi Shi, Yu Zhong, Ri Zhong, Ri Die, Wan Shi, Ri Ru, Huang Hun, and Ren Ding. After the Unknown Land became what it is today, there were frequent mountain movements and changes in the land and sea. In just two days, most of the places could undergo drastic changes. In order to better determine the location, the ancient Saints used the Red Line as the axis and divided the Unknown Land into twelve areas according to the ancient hours.”

Everyone nodded.

Little Yuan’er asked curiously, “Then what about the Great Desolate Land?” Then, she added, “I think the Great Desolate Land sounds better than Yu Zhong.”

Yuan Lang said with a smile, “The Great Desolate Land is the former name of Yu Zhong. It corresponds with one of the 12 Earthly Branches of the ancient system. Just like how Ren Ding corresponds with the Great Offering Abyss; Ye Ban corresponds with the Quandary Land; Ping Dan corresponds with...”

“Wait a minute...” Little Yuan’er said as she scratched her head, “I can’t remember everything. It’s better for you to tell these things to my Seventh Senior Brother if you see him in the future...”

Little Yuan’er did not care about the names of the places or their origins.

Yuan Lang nodded and no longer continued explaining. Instead, he said, “Humans used to live in the Unknown Land. Naturally, at that time, it wasn’t called the Unknown Land. The Great Desolate Land, the Great Offering Abyss, the Quandary Land; these were all old names...”

“Then, do you know where the Great Void is?” Little Yuan’er asked.

Yuan Lang shook his head. “Let alone me, even Venerable Master Qin doesn’t know where it is...”

“Oh,” Little Yuan’er said perfunctorily before she turned to look at her master. She saw he was still studying the 26 letters.

Upon seeing this, Yuan Lang said, “It’s not surprising if you can’t decipher them. Venerable Master Qin once brought this book everywhere as he searched for experts to decipher them. No one could decipher

them. Moreover, they don't look like ordinary runes. However, since the words 'Evil Sky Pavilion' are written on it, I'm sure you'll be able to open it sooner or later..."

Swoosh!

Lu Zhou opened the book. It was as though he was back on earth, sitting in a library and flipping through a dusty old book.

Yuan Lang. "..."

Lu Zhou did not pay attention to Yuan Lang. When he saw the letters in the books, the nonsensical scripts he had previously comprehended suddenly began to appear in his mind like glittering golden letters one after another.

Lu Zhou was taken aback. He could sense the power was similar to the Heavenly Writing's energy so he hurriedly closed it..

### **Chapter 1320: Punishment**

As soon as Lu Zhou closed the book, the scripts from the Heavenly Writing vanished. The blue lotus avatar in his body slowly calmed down as well. He did not expect the book to resonate so greatly with the Heavenly Writing. At the same time, a word rose in his mind: why?

What surprised him even more was the 26 letters on the cover. Apart from that, the password to open the book was related to 'The bright moon shines over the sea; from far away we share this moment together'.

In the end, he was still left with a lot of questions and no answers.

Although he had experienced many things here, he still knew nothing.

Yuan Lang had said Qin Renyue had found the book in Ping Dan. Based on this, it was clear that not only did Ji Tiandao go to Yu Zhong, but he had gone to Ping Dan as well. Not only did Ji Tiandao obtain ten Great Void Seeds, but he had also obtained various cultivation methods and treasures. No wonder the Evil Sky Pavilion became the target of all cultivators.

An innocent man would still be found guilty of possessing treasures. No matter what method Ji Tiandao had used to obtain all these things, they were not something an Eight-leaf cultivator could protect.

In a way, Jiang Wenxu was right. If the golden lotus cultivators had stayed at the eight-leaf stage forever, the black lotus domain, the red lotus domain, or the green lotus domain would not have much interest in the golden lotus domain at all.

In order to maintain the balance, the Equalizers had to maintain the situation in the golden lotus domain at all times. After all, the Free Men did not dare to act rashly.

Lu Zhou thought about the recent upheavals in the golden lotus domain and wondered if the Equalizers were already getting rid of unknown variables.

Yuan Lang's expression was one of surprise as he bowed and said, "Congratulations, old sir, on unlocking the book!"

Lu Zhou looked at Yuan Lang and said, "I indeed lost this book. Return and tell Qin Renyue that I acknowledge this favor."

Yuan Lang said, "We only returned this book to its original owner."

Lu Zhou nodded and praised Yuan Lang. "Very good."

Yuan Lang retreated to the side respectfully again. He was relaxed once again. This meant that the conflict between the Qin clan and the Evil Sky Pavilion had been resolved.

After Lu Zhou put away the book in his hand, he looked at Zhi Wenzhi and asked, "How do you plan to deal with today's matter?"

Zhi Wenzhi replied, "We acted rashly today. I'm willing to apologize and make amends for today's matter."

Mingshi Yin muttered, "If it's useful to apologize, what's the use of having prisons?"

"..."

Zhi Wenzhi asked, "Old sir, can I speak a few words from the bottom of my heart?"

"Speak."

"As a subject, I obey my ruler and do my duties. If His Majesty wants my death, then I can't live. If His Majesty wants me to go east, then I definitely don't dare to go west..." He paused for a moment before he continued to say, "In regard to today's matter, it's no longer important who's right or wrong. If it's possible, I'd like to invite you to meet His Majesty. Everything will be left to the emperor's judgment."

Zhi Wenzhi's last sentence was said loudly and confidently.

Mingshi Yin rolled his eyes and said, "I need to correct you. You're a subject, but we're not. Who are you trying to scare by repeatedly mentioning the emperor? Apart from that, who's your emperor? Do you think any person is worthy of meeting my master?"

"..."

Mingshi Yin added, "If he wants to meet my master, then he should come to my master."

Indeed. No matter how high the status of the emperor of Great Qin was, it had nothing to do with the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Zhi Wenzhi was rendered speechless by these words.

At this time, Lu Zhou asked, "Are you saying that all of these were the emperor's idea?"

Zhi Wenzhi remained silently. It was clearly a tacit agreement.

Lu Zhou patted the armrest of the chair lightly before he rose to his feet. "I won't say anything about the matter with the Zhao Residence. However, you injured my disciple. I won't let that slide."

“This...” Zhi Wenzi was frightened by Lu Zhou’s sudden change of topic.

Lu Zhou flicked his sleeves and placed his hands on his back before he said, “Destroy his Birth Chart as punishment.”

“...”

Zhi Wenzi and Zhi Wuzi retreated as soon as Lu Zhou’s voice fell.

Several cultivators moved to stand in front of the two brothers, looking as though they were facing a great enemy.

Zou Ping was supported by two of his men and retreated as well.

Yuan Lang, one of the 49 Swordsmen, shook his head and said, “Why bother? You’re just like an ant trying to stop a chariot from moving.”

Yuan Lang thought that if he were in Zhi Wenzi’s shoes, he would gladly accept the loss of one Birth Chart. If the matter escalated, the punishment would be worse than the loss of one Birth Chart.

Zou Ping, whose injuries had recovered slightly, cupped his fists together and asked, “Old sir, must you be so aggressive?”

Lu Zhou pushed his hand out.

A Fiend Monk’s Hand Seal, which contained the divine energy, flew toward Zou Ping immediately.

Everyone turned pale with fright.

The Fiend Monk’s Hand Seal easily sent the weaker cavalymen flying.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The Fiend Monk’s Hand Seal grabbed Zou Ping at lightning speed before tightening its grip around him.

Crack!

Boom!

Zou Ping released energy seals to resist the Fiend Monk’s Hand Seal.

The sound of collision from the energy seals was thunderous.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The force of the collision rippled out into the surroundings.

Zou Ping’s 97 subordinates who had just taken a few steps back were swept away by the energy.

Meanwhile, Zou Ping continued to struggle.

At this time, Zhi Wenzi cried out, “Go!”

He grabbed Zhi Wuzi and soared into the sky along with the other cultivators he had brought with him, leaving the courtyard.

The cavalrymen flew into the sky as well.

Without waiting for Lu Zhou to speak, Yuan Lang shouted, "Stop them!"

48 green energy swords appeared in the sky above the Zhao Residence, quickly weaving into a formation and covering the sky.

Soon enough, an even more powerful person appeared in the sky.

Zhi Wenzhi cried out in surprise, "Venerable Master Fan?"

Fan Zhong looked around and saw Zou Ping, the commander of the legendary troop, who was still struggling, and Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzi who wore unsightly expressions on their faces. He frowned in confusion. "Zhi Wenzhi?"

Zhi Wenzhi looked down at Lu Zhou and said, "Old sir, this isn't my original intention. Goodbye!"

Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzi suddenly spun before shooting out a beam of light respectively into the sky.

Upon seeing this, Fan Zhong exclaimed, "As expected of the Emperor's Gemini! Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzi are connected like Yin and Yang."

Bang!

The two beams of light broke through the net of energy swords and flew toward the horizon.

"Fan Zhong," Lu Zhou called out.

Fan Zhong was briefly stunned. When he recovered, he said, "I heard Brother Lu is here so I came to visit."

"Stop Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzi," Lu Zhou said bluntly.

"This..." Fan Zhong hesitated. If it was possible, he did not want to offend anyone.

Fan Zhong had always tried to maintain a neutral stance, resulting in his indecisiveness. Back then, Tuoba Sicheng had advised him to work together to suppress the enemy, and he had hesitated. Now that Lu Zhou asked him to stop the Emperor's Gemini, he hesitated again. After all, Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzi were the subordinates of the emperor of Great Qin. They were not as simple as they looked.

Lu Zhou grabbed Zou Ping as he asked, "You're unwilling?"

Fan Zhong thought about it for a moment before he said, "Please wait a moment, Brother Lu."

Swoosh!

When Fan Zhong moved, the void rippled. In just a blink of an eye, he appeared above Zhi Wenzhi and Zhi Wuzi.

When Fan Zhong's shadow fell on the duo, they raised their heads in unison.

"Venerable Master Fan, why are you doing this?"

"You've offended my friend, and you still want to flee? Come back here immediately."

At the same time, countless palm seals fell from the sky and hit the two brothers. The special energy caused the two brothers to be frozen.

Boom!

Soon enough, the two brothers dropped heavily from the sky and spat out blood.

At this time, the Longevity Sword flew out.

Yu Shangrong did not move at all and only controlled the Longevity Sword from a great distance.

The Longevity Sword looked like a red meteor as it sailed across the sky and pierced the two brothers' protective energies when they fell.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!