

Disciples 1341

Chapter 1341: Truth and Killing

The four guards who were on the brink of death and the four elders of Mount Li looked at Zhao Yu and Madam Qi. If it were someone else who uttered these preposterous words, they would have scoffed in disbelief. However, these words came from Madam Qi who once shared a bed with the emperor of Great Qin.

For many years, the people of Xiangyang City had speculated the reasons why the emperor would suddenly throw Madam Qi into the Cold Palace. Moreover, he had also grown distant from his son, Zhao Yu. After so many years, the answer had finally been found.

They looked at the person whom they had been unquestioningly loyal to, the high and mighty emperor of Great Qin, hoping for an explanation.

Unfortunately, the emperor only shook his head silently with a smile on his face. His cheek was pressed against the ground, and he made no move to raise his head.

Zhao Yu helped Madam Qi to come forward. He inhaled sharply when he saw the ruins that used to be the Mystic Tranquility Hall.

Before this, Zhao Yu had been pestering Madam Qi to tell him the truth. When he finally learned of the truth, he was shocked for a long time.

After considering his relationship with Lu Zhou and Mingshi Yin, Zhao Yu and Madam Qi rushed over.

Madam Qi was discomfited by the smell of blood that permeated the air. After a moment, she looked at the haggard emperor of Great Qin who was lying on the ground and asked, "General Meng, am I right?"

"I..."

Madam Qi interjected, "At this point, do you still want to hide the truth? Is there a point? Are you afraid you'd be cursed for killing the emperor after you die?"

The emperor finally made a move to sit up. He placed his hands on the ground and struggled for a long time to sit up, but no one came forward to help him. Then, he slowly moved back. It took him a long time just to cover the distance of three to four meters. When he finally leaned against the steps, his sunken eyes met Madam Qi. "Madam Qi, you're very smart."

"I've slept next to the emperor for so many years. How could I not know his habits? He didn't like sandalwood, he disliked sleeping on his side, and he didn't like washing his face with hot water. He liked to sleep on his back and wash his face with cold water..." Madam Qi said, remembering the past.

In fact, there were many things that could not stand the weight of scrutiny. Unfortunately, no one dared to voice their doubts at that time.

"Although General Meng tried very hard to learn and imitate His Majesty, General Meng's habits are imprinted in his bones and can't be changed," Madam Qi said.

The Qin emperor chuckled. "This is a kingdom I conquered. Why should I give it to him?"

Madam Qi remained silent.

The emperor's words were tantamount to his admission.

Mingshi Yin looked at the old emperor with a complex expression and took three steps back.

"Before attacking Great Jin, I, Xi Qishu, and Bai Yi attacked the cities and conquered the land. We fought valiantly to kill the enemy and drove the barbarians away! We should've been given territories, but do you know what he did?"

Madam Qi said angrily, "No matter what His Majesty did, there's no changing the fact that you're disloyal!"

The emperor was unaffected by Madam Qi's words. He had been ruminating over loyalty and betrayal for many years now. In the initial years, his heart, mind, and soul were tortured every day. However, he slowly grew numb and developed a heart of stone.

The emperor, or more accurately, Meng Mingshi said, agitated, "He was afraid my achievements would overshadow him. He was afraid the men in my troops would rebel. During the battle on Mount Xiao, countless of our men were injured and killed. He refused to send reinforcements and delayed it until both sides suffered heavy losses..." His eyes widened, and he grew even more agitated as he said, "If you had seen your men being slain, you'd understand that he deserves it!"

Everyone was shocked. They did not expect there to be such a secret behind the battle on Mount Xiao.

Meng Mingshi coughed a few times. His voice grew weaker and weaker as he said, "I, Meng Mingshi, have dominated the world for many years. Everyone thought I was weak; no one knew my true strength. Let alone the emperor, I'm not even afraid of Venerable Masters. If the emperor wants me to die, I have no choice but to die? However, if I want to kill the emperor, who can stop me?"

The last sentence was said through gritted teeth. At this point, Meng Mingshi still carried such great resentment and determination. His tenacity and aura caused people to shudder. His mind was clear, and he had completely shed all pretenses as the emperor of Great Qin.

Lu Zhou calmly asked, "Do you regret it?"

"I've never regretted it. Since ancient times, loyalty and complete obedience are expected to be given to the emperor. He was unfair and unrighteous to me so there's no need for me to be loyal to him!" Meng Mingshi said with a chuckle that turned into a cough. It took a long time for him to recover from his coughing fit, and when he did, he said, "I killed everyone during the battle at Mount Xiao! There were no survivors! I'm the only survivor! I became the ruler of a country and ushered in an era of peace. In Great Qin, the people live and work in peace. They sing and they dance. Even the cultivation world is peaceful... Everyone should be grateful to me. I should be immortalized for this!"

Lu Zhou shook his head. "What will be immortalized is the name of the emperor of Great Qin, not Meng Mingshi. You, Meng Mingshi, bear the crime of mutiny and regicide!"

"..."

“Before you die, you still continue to spout meaningless lies? Is there a point?” Madam Qi shook her head.

Meng Mingshi said firmly, “I’m not lying. This is the truth! What a pity, what a pity! Just a step more, and I would’ve made it...”

It was hard to imagine the emperor of Great Qin whom everyone respected was someone who would do anything just to achieve his goals.

“For the sake of the throne, you chose to destroy the Meng clan?” Lu Zhou asked.

These words were like pouring salt on Meng Mingshi’s wounds. His eyes widened, and he choked. His expression was hard to read; it was complex. He alternated between laughing and crying as he said, “I had no choice with the Meng clan... and Great Qin...”

How could two Meng Mingshi exist?

With this, the truth was revealed.

Mingshi Yin darted out and grabbed Meng Mingshi’s collar. “Even a tiger doesn’t eat its cub. You... Y-you’re worse than an animal! I’ll kill you!”

Mingshi Yin raised his hand, forming an energy seal from the Primal Qi.

Meng Mingshi stared at Mingshi Yin with his sunken eyes. He struggled to keep his eyes open, and his mouth opened and closed a few times before he said, “If you can get rid of the hatred in your heart with this, then make your move...”

“You think I won’t?”

Swoosh!

When the energy seal was half an inch from Meng Mingshi’s neck, it stopped.

Meng Mingshi did not dodge. He still had more than ten Birth Charts. Although he was on the brink of death, if his Birth Charts were to explode, it would send Mingshi Yin flying. However, he did not do so.

Meng Mingshi laughed and cried as he kept muttering, “I’ve let down the ancestors of the Meng clan!”

Then, he raised his wizened hand and held onto Mingshi Yin’s arm with a burst of strength. “Kill me! Kill me!”

Everyone sighed.

No one helped Ming Shiyin or gave him any advice. Every family had its own difficulties. It was difficult for outsiders to intervene in family affairs. Since this was his family affair, he should be the one to resolve it.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh.

Countless cultivators, royal guards, and soldiers flew over.

“Those who trespass into the royal palace will be killed without mercy!”

Meng Mingshi said, “Do you see how loyal my soldiers are? Can you see their hearts? If he were even one-tenth of the man I am, would I need to walk down this path? Do it! Kill me!”

“Those who trespass into the royal palace will be killed without mercy!”

Everyone ignored the cultivators, royal guards, and soldiers who had just arrived.

Lu Zhou looked around before his eyes landed on the Mystic Tranquility Hall. Then, he said, “You said the formation is unbreakable?”

“Hm?”

“I’ll show you.”

Whoosh!

Lu Zhou tapped his toes on the ground and flew up into the sky.. Then, he raised his hand before Unnamed in the form of a sword appeared.

Chapter 1342: Returning to the Great Void

Everyone looked at the sky.

The soldiers, royal guards, and cultivators looked up at the person in confusion, not knowing what he was trying to do.

Unnamed began to multiply from one to two, to four, to eight, to sixteen... It kept multiplying, forming a circle around Lu Zhou. A golden lotus bloomed under his feet, and the dazzling swords pointed out like crystals.

In just a few breaths, over a million energy swords appeared in the sky.

“...”

Lu Zhou did not stop forming energy swords. After a few more breaths, the million of energy swords multiplied a few more times again. The force from the millions of energy swords was overwhelming.

Whoosh!

Lu Zhou held Unnamed and pushed it forward.

With that, the millions of energy swords flew toward the cultivators and soldiers who surrounded them from all directions like a meteor shower.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

The energy swords were like swimming dragons in the sky. They whizzed past everyone’s sides, ears, arms, and between their legs. They passed through the horizon, the corridors of the imperial royal palace, and the glazed tiles shooting past the palace walls into the streets of Xiangyang City.

Lu Zhou controlled Unnamed that had been imbued with the divine power and rose higher into the sky.

Qin Renyue could not help but applaud. "In this world, the only person who has this kind of mastery of the sword path and reached the path of the sword of creation is Brother Lu..."

Yu Shangrong, who was skilled in the sword path as well, looked at the sky filled with energy swords with a shocked expression on his face.

Little Yuan'er looked at Yu Zhenghai on the left and Yu Shangrong on the right before she asked in a low voice, "Eldest Senior Brother, Second Senior Brother, you can also do this too, right?"

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong shook their heads. They were far from being capable of this feat.

"This is... amazing..." Yuan Lang said.

The other 48 swordsmen nodded in agreement.

The 49 swordsmen cultivated the sword path. They were skilled with the sword, formations, and many kinds of flashy moves. However, Lu Zhou's energy swords truly demonstrated the word 'magnificent' to the extreme. They could not help but feel inferior.

"I sense the power of the Dao," Qin Renyue said.

The 49 swordsmen nodded.

It was very basic for a Venerable Master to mobilize the power of the Dao. However, this was Qin Renyue's first time seeing someone using the power of the Dao to multiply energy swords.

In fact, Lu Zhou had long known about the existence of the power of the Dao when he used the power of infinite deduction to find the Ultimate Formation's weakness. Previously, with so many interferences, it was not so easy to crack it. However, with no one stopping him now, he could focus on destroying the Ultimate Formation.

The Ultimate Formation was a rare ancient formation; it was far superior to the Ten Grand Formation. Its weakness was not the circle of light above the Mystic Tranquility Hall. It was built with Xiang City in the center. The structure of the city was its framework, and the land was its foundation.

Meng Mingshi was not lying when he said no one could destroy the formation. Even he himself, who knew of its weakness, could not destroy it unless he had enough cultivators to cover all directions.

However, it was different for Lu Zhou who used his powerful control and released millions of energy swords to do the work.

Meng Mingshi was stunned. He stubbornly kept his eyes open. His body and his lips trembled as he stumbled back, escaping from Mingshi Yin's grip before falling on the steps. How terrifying was ignorance? He had thought the other party was but a frog at the bottom of the well until he realized he was the frog.

Swoosh!

When the energy swords landed on the ground, the earth shook.

The ordinary soldiers fell to the ground while the cultivators and royal guards stood rooted to the ground, too afraid to move.

Then, energy swords from within a radius of 100 miles rose from the ground.

With that, the brilliance of the Mystic Tranquility Hall dimmed by a third.

All the energy swords flew back in the same order and whizzed past everyone's body, ears, and even grazed past their vital points. They flew back toward Unnamed, and when all of them converged, they fused into one again.

"Break."

Following that, Lu Zhou pressed his hand down, and Unnamed flew toward the formation circle at the Mystic Tranquility Hall.

"Don't!" Meng Mingshi burst with a final spurt of strength at this moment. He tried to fly up but was caught by Mingshi Yin and pressed to the ground.

Boom!

Unnamed pierced the core of the formation, causing the radiance of the Mystic Tranquility Hall to dim immediately.

The energy from the formation evaporated, and the inscriptions on the ground and the wall dimmed as well. The energy that originated from the Great Void was returned to the Great Void.

Meng Mingshi's body turned limp. His spirit, will, and tenacity were destroyed along with the formation.

"Retreat!"

The palace reinforcement retreated like a tide. In just a blink of an eye, none of them could be seen.

"..."

Lu Zhou looked down at Meng Mingshi. "Is this the loyalty you spoke of earlier?"

Meng Mingshi shook his head.

Lu Zhou asked, "Do you have anything else to say?"

Meng Mingshi had nothing else to say to Lu Zhou. At this moment, he discovered the world had turned dark just like the formation. He could no longer see anything. He could not hear the others as well; all he heard was a ringing noise in his ears. Then, he felt his Dantian's sea of Qi shrinking rapidly. With this, he leaped toward Mingshi Yin and cried out, "Hurry up! Kill me! Kill me!"

No matter how much Mingshi Yin hated Meng Mingshi, he could not bring himself to kill Meng Mingshi. He gritted his teeth and took a step back.

At this time, Meng Mingshi exploded with energy seals and firmly held onto Mingshi Yin.

Mingshi Yin spun around and unleashed his energy seals as well.

Boom!

Meng Mingshi did not avoid the energy seals.

Mingshi Yin brandished the Separation Hook and slashed it at Meng Mingshi's chest, but Meng Mingshi did not let go.

Meng Mingshi was reminded of the battle on Mount Xiao when he fought with the enemy. He fought so hard at that time that he could not feel the pain that burned his body. His fighting spirit and hatred dispelled his fears and brought hope and peace to the battlefield in the end. Alas, all these would be gone soon.

Swoosh!

Meng Mingshi restrained Mingshi Yin and flew toward the Mystic Tranquility Hall.

"Fourth Senior Brother!"

"Old Fourth!"

Meng Mingshi now fought with no regard for his life, disregarding his previous fighting style. This made it difficult for Mingshi Yin to struggle free in a short time.

Swoosh!

Unnamed tore through the sky and pierced Meng Mingshi's chest!

Bang!

Meng Mingshi did not avoid it!

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

Meng Mingshi ignored Lu Zhou. He continued to restrain Mingshi Yin with all his strength and smacked Mingshi Yin's back.

Mingshi Yin's Birth Palace appeared immediately.

Mingshi Yin said through gritted teeth, "Old fart, you still haven't given up on killing me?"

Meng Mingshi shook his head. "If I wanted you dead, you would've died a long time ago."

"Fourth Senior Brother is in danger!"

Destroying the Birth Palace could directly destroy all of one's Birth Charts.

At this moment, a bright and shimmering pearl appeared above the Mystic Tranquility Hall.

"Why aren't you giving up?" Lu Zhou's voice drifted over.

Meng Mingshi brought out his Birth Palace and did not attack Mingshi Yin's Birth Palace. He knew as soon as he did, the orb in the sky would destroy him.

"Alright..." Meng Mingshi raised his wizened hand and dug into his Birth Palace.

"Madman!" Qin Renyue exclaimed.

"What's he doing?!"

“Digging out his life heart!”

The Purple Glazed Ceramic spun, pulling Meng Mingshi’s Birth Palace to it.

At this time, Meng Mingshi released his hold on his Birth Palace after digging out a life heart. Then, he spun around and smacked the life heart into Mingshi Yin’s Birth Palace.

Click!

Mingshi Yin was assaulted by a wave of pain immediately.

Meng Mingshi laughed crazily after he placed his life heart into Mingshi Yin’s Birth Palace. Then, he pushed Mingshi Yin away.

Mingshi Yin grunted. His eyes were red with anger as he stared at Meng Mingshi who was smiling creepily.

As soon as Meng Mingshi’s Birth Chart power exploded, the Purple Glazed Ceramic exploded with energy as well.

Mingshi Yin endure the pain as he slapped at the new life heart in his Birth Palace. “I hate you! I don’t want it! It’s filthy!”

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

“Very good! I want you to hate me for the rest of your life! Help me... live... live... for the Meng clan...”

As soon as Meng Mingshi’s voice fell, he turned into an ice sculpture.

Chapter 1343: The Secret of the Golden Tokens

No matter what, Lu Zhou had to use his infinity-grade weapon to take down Meng Mingshi.

Meng Mingshi was twisted, extreme, and insane. He was capable of any act as long as his goal was achieved.

Although the others had no idea about what had happened in the Meng Residence, based on Mingshi Yin’s attitude, even if they did not know the details, they had a vague idea of how bad it must have been. After all, Mingshi Yin and Meng Mingshi were related. One could only imagine what kind of acts Meng Mingshi had committed to make Mingshi Yin hate him so much.

Mingshi Yin was still smacking his Birth Palace, trying to force Meng Mingshi’s life heart out. He was terrified and helpless. He did not possess Meng Mingshi’s ruthlessness when Meng Mingshi was about to die; he could not gouge the life heart out. He sat down limply, feeling nauseous.

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

The notification rang ten times consecutively.

“Ding! Killed a target. Reward: 2,000 merit points. Domain bonus: 1,000 merit points.”

The four elders of Mount Li who were drenched in blood watched as the ice sculpture crashed to the ground. They looked at 'the emperor of Great Qin', not knowing what to think.

Finally, Cui Mingguang, who had sat up with great difficulty, lamented, "Why is it Meng Mingshi? Why?"

The four elders of Mount Li had lost all will to fight. The person they had been loyal to for the longest time turned out to be an impostor. He was not the emperor of Great Qin, but Meng Mingshi, who killed the real emperor of Great Qin! Was there anything more disgusting than this? They found it difficult to accept this fact. All of them stared at the air with lifeless eyes.

Madam Qi turned to look at the four elders of Mount Li and said, "The emperor of Great Qin has long passed away. Your loyalty toward him is commendable. Unfortunately, you were loyal to the wrong person..."

"Madam Qi, you... you clearly know the truth! Why didn't you speak up earlier?" Cui Mingguang asked.

"The country can't be without a ruler for even a day. After the battle on Mount Xiao, the world was in turmoil and was in urgent need of stability. Moreover, even if I had spoken up, would anyone believe me?" Madam Qi said helplessly, "He could even dispose of everyone in the Meng clan to keep his secret..."

"Then, why didn't he kill you?" Cui Mingguang asked.

Madam Qi gazed into the distance with a pained expression on her face. "That's because I'm the only one who knows the secret of the golden tokens. The first day he returned from the battle on Mount Xiao, I already knew he was an impostor. However, I could only endure it." She sighed before she continued to say, "On one hand, he wanted to kill me to silence me. On the other hand, he wanted to know the secret of the golden tokens. He tried various means to threaten me into telling him the secret of the golden tokens. He sent someone to poison me until I was bedridden..."

Fear rose in Zhao Yu's heart as he listened to his mothers' words. After all, he had rebuked Meng Mingshi several times in the past. After all, as the emperor's son, he was afforded the privilege to be a little unrestrained. Now that he thought about it, there were countless chances for Meng Mingshi to kill him.

"What's the secret of the golden tokens?" Lu Zhou asked as he turned to look at Madam Qi.

Madam Qi said, "They hide a treasure map..."

"Where are the other three golden tokens?" Lu Zhou asked.

Madam Qi pointed at the Mystic Tranquility Hall and said, "Apart from this palace, I really can't think of anywhere else he might have kept them..."

Lu Zhou nodded and waved his hand.

Kong Wen and his two brothers flew out and began to search the hall. There were three areas inside and outside the hall, but they did not miss searching a single corner.

Meanwhile, Qin Renyue walked forward and surveyed the scene of destruction. He shook his head and sighed. "Back then, General Meng was considered a top talent of his generation. Why did he choose to tread on this path?"

"The human heart is difficult to understand or predict," Lu Zhou said.

"That's true. No matter how the dynasty changes, no matter how much time passes, since time immemorial, human hearts are the hardest to grasp," Qin Renyue said with a sigh.

At this moment, a voice rang from the sky.

"Are both of you okay?"

Everyone looked up and saw Fan Zhong flying over. He hurriedly landed in front of Lu Zhou and Qin Renyue and greeted them. "Brother Qin, Brother Lu..."

Qin Renyue furrowed his brows. "You really came at the right time..."

Fan Zhong revealed an embarrassed expression as he said, "To be honest, I arrived earlier. However, I couldn't enter because of the Ultimate Formation. I apologize for that. If I may ask, what happened?"

Lu Zhou glanced at Fan Zhong and said, "There's nothing for you here. You can leave now."

Fan Zhong was not here when needed and only came when everything was over. Lu Zhou would not befriend this kind of person.

Fan Zhong said, "Brother Lu, I..."

Yu Shangrong turned around and interjected with a smile, "There's no need to say anything else. My master has already spoken. Please."

"..."

Fan Zhong felt extremely embarrassed. After thinking about it for a moment, he cupped his fists at Lu Zhou and the others before he sighed and turned to leave.

As Qin Renyue looked at Fan Zhong's retreating back, he said, "From now on, the Qin clan will have nothing to do with the Fan clan."

The 49 swordsmen bowed and said in unison, "Understood."

...

Meanwhile, Fan Zhong was filled with regret. Alas, it was too late. He could only leave, embarrassed. From today onward, the Fan clan could only be suppressed by the Qin clan in every manner.

...

At this time, Little Yuan'er rushed to Lu Zhou's side and asked anxiously, "Master, what about Fourth Senior Brother?"

Lu Zhou looked over and saw Mingshi Yin was still smacking his Birth Palace. He called out, "Old Fourth..."

As though he did not hear Lu Zhou, Mingshi Yin continued smacking his Birth Palace in frustration. He wanted to gouge the life heart but lacked the ruthlessness to do so. He raised his hand and hesitated a few times; he did not have the courage to dig the life heart out. He was so frustrated that he began to pound his chest and stomp his feet.

Lu Zhou raised his voice. "Mingshi Yin."

Ming Shiyin was shocked and stopped what he was doing immediately. He looked at Lu Zhou. "Master?"

Lu Zhou looked at Mingshi Yin's Birth Palace and the place where the life heart was embedded as he asked, "Do you really loathe this life heart?"

Mingshi Yin nodded.

"I can remove it for a price..."

Mingshi Yin hesitated when he heard there was a price.

Qin Renyue chimed in, "In my opinion, you should keep the life heart. Consider it as compensation from Meng Mingshi. Think about it. The more you act like this, the happier he'd be. You're the only one left from the Meng clan. I believe your other family members would like to see you live well..."

After Qin Renyue finished speaking, he glanced at Meng Mingshi's corpse. He wanted to say something but decided against it in the end.

Right and wrong were no longer important. At this moment, the feelings of the person involved should take priority.

Moreover, Qin Renyue was not a member of the Meng clan. He did not think he had the right to judge other people's family affairs. It was enough to advise others to be magnanimous without interfering in their affairs.

Yu Zhenghai moved to stand next to Mingshi Yin and patted Mingshi Yin's shoulder as he said, "You can be a little more shameless in this instance..."

Mingshi Yin looked at his hands and his Birth Palace before he said, "The problem is... I haven't sprouted my eleventh leaf yet!"

Qin Renyue said with a smile, "Since the life heart was forcefully embedded, it won't be activated so soon. You still have time to take it out or sprout your leaf..."

Lu Zhou now had three of Meng Mingshi's life hearts. This time, the second super Reduction Card did not trigger the double life heart effect. He really felt like throwing up when he thought about this minor loss. After a moment, he no longer dwelled on it. He could not let his emotions control him.

Yu Shangrong said, "Think about it first. Once you've made up your mind, you can speak to master."

After listening to his Eldest Senior Brother and Second Senior Brother, Mingshi Yin gradually calmed down. His anger and hatred gradually subsided.

Many things had faded away with time. If it were not necessary, he would not have come to the green lotus domain again. He had no wish to return to the Meng Residence as well. Whether it was Meng Mingshi or the emperor of Great Qin, they had nothing to do with him.

When Lu Zhou saw Mingshi Yin in a daze, he said, "Bring him away."

"Yes."

Yu Zhenghai supported Mingshi Yin.

From afar, Whizard spat out a white light orb that shot into Mingshi Yin. It healed all of Mingshi Yin's injuries immediately.

Qin Renyue was skilled in healing. Among the four Venerable Masters, he was the best at healing. Even then, he could not help but exclaim in admiration when he saw Whizard's power.

At this moment, Kong Wen ran out of the Mystic Tranquility Hall, shouting, "Pavilion Master, I found them!"

Chapter 1344: A Million Merit Points

Kong Wen and his brothers ran out of the Mystic Tranquility Hall with their faces smudged with his dirt. They had dug the ground and searched every corner before they found the golden tokens. They held the opened brocade box; three golden tokens lay in the box quietly.

When Madam Qi saw them, she said, "They're indeed the emperor's golden token."

Yu Zhenghai took a look and asked, puzzled, "So what's the secret?"

Madam Qi replied, "The treasure map leads to an ancient tomb."

"The location of an ancient tomb? Whose?" Little Yuan'er asked curiously. However, a hint of fear could be seen in her eyes.

Upon seeing the fear in Little Yuan'er's eyes, Madam Qi smiled and said, "The late Emperor Emeritus."

"..."

Zhao Yu said, "Whether it's real or not, we'll know once we get there."

Then, Zhao Yu picked a sword up from the ground after he laid the three golden tokens on the ground and began to hack at them.

Clank! Clank! Clank! Clank! Clank!

The golden tokens each had a hollow area in them that held a piece of cloth.

After removing the three pieces of cloth, Zhao Yu presented them to Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou placed the first piece of the map he obtained on the ground. Then, he started to piece the map together. It was not difficult to piece them together at all. With just two or three moves, the map was complete.

It was a simple map with two words written on it: Mount Li.

Madam Qi said, "As expected, it's the mausoleum on Mount Li."

The four elders of Mount Li's eyes widened before Cui Mingguang coughed violently.

Lu Zhou looked at them and asked, "Is the mausoleum of Mount Li near your place?"

The four elders remained silent.

"Who are you loyal to?" Lu Zhou asked.

"Of course, it's Great Qin and the people of Great Qin!" Cui Mingguang said.

"Aren't you embarrassed you were fooled by Meng Mingshi?" Kong Wen asked with a smile.

Indeed, the four elders of Mount Li were embarrassed.

Ji Shi sighed. "If we had known he was Meng Mingshi, we wouldn't have obeyed his orders even if it meant losing our lives!"

"You can say whatever you want now that it's over. You're sinners and traitors of Great Qin," Kong Wen said mockingly.

"..."

The four elders' expressions were rather unsightly at this moment. They were speechless. The winner had the final say; this was the way of the world.

"If you want to live, lead the way," Lu Zhou said.

The four elders of Mount Li took a step back. They looked at Lu Zhou with widened eyes.

After a moment, Cui Mingguang shook his head and said, "That's the mausoleum of the late Emperor Emeritus. We were ordered to guard it. No one's allowed to go near it."

"Enough! If the late Emperor Emeritus were to learn of what you've done, he would have leaped up from his grave!" Zhao Yu said.

"..."

Since Zhao Yu had spoken, the four elders of Mount Li had nothing to say.

Zhao Yu rode on the momentum and continued to say, "The late Emperor Emeritus left these four golden tokens behind so it was definitely not his intention to seal the tomb. I order you to lead the old senior there. Otherwise... I'll definitely order for your deaths and make sure you won't be able to reincarnate!"

The four elders of Mount Li were stunned. When Zhao Yu rebuked them, they seemed to have seen the late Emperor Emeritus' imposing manner and appearance in him. They fell to their knees and prostrated themselves.

"We'll obey the royal decree!"

Zhao Yu nodded before he turned to Madam Qi and asked, "Mother, do you agree with me?"

Madam Qi smiled warmly and nodded.

Lu Zhou nodded as well before he said, "We'll rest for the night in the palace today. We'll leave for Mount Li tomorrow."

"Understood!"

...

Energy swords whizzed in the air above the city as news of the turmoil in the royal family spread in the city. Some said the emperor of Great Qin had passed away and a new emperor was about to ascend the throne. Some said the Equalizer had come to get rid of the imbalance. There were even some who said sword immortals had descended from the heavens to mete out punishment. All in all, there were all kinds of rumors spreading around.

However, in Xiangyang City, one thing was known to be true: Fan Zhong had come and gone without doing anything. With that, Fan Zhong's reputation dropped greatly in the cultivation world while Qin Renyue and the Qin family's reputation were at their peak.

No one knew what happened, but the royal family had summoned all the civil and military officials that night.

Lu Zhou was not interested in the changes in the royal family. It was time for the new generation to fight for the throne. As for who would ascend the throne, he did not care.

...

At night.

In a hall.

Lu Zhou looked at the merit points on the interface and shook his head.

Remaining merit points: 1,391,730

If the 100 death warriors, guards, and the others were counted, he would have more than a million merit points. It would be around 2 million. Moreover, Qin Renyue and the 49 swordsmen helped a lot as well. Nevertheless, he was quite satisfied with his merit points that exceeded one million. Naturally, one of the biggest contributors was Zhu Honggong from whom he obtained more than 500,000 merit points.

All in all, the trip to the royal palace had yielded a great harvest.

Lu Zhou looked at Whitzard that was lying on the ground next to him and said with a faint smile, "I'll reward you with a beast essence."

Lu Zhou spent 100,000 merit points and bought a beast essence. Then, he tossed it to Whitzard.

Whitzard was incredibly excited. It caught the beast essence with its mouth and swallowed it whole before letting out a cry.

"..."

Lu Zhou shook his head. "Although it's good, you can't be greedy."

Whizard's appetite was not satiated. Nevertheless, it shook its head up and down as though agreeing with Lu Zhou. Following that, a heatwave swept out from its abdomen flowing through its Eight Extraordinary Meridians. Its fur grew, and it shone brighter. Its body was growing as well. Upon sensing the changes in its body, it moved to the side and silently absorbed the beast essence.

Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction.

Although a million merit points was a lot, he could not spend recklessly. Currently, put the price hike aside, an advanced Deadly Strikely Card cost about 400,000 to 500,000 merit points. Moreover, he could only synthesize two super Deadly Strike Cards.

Lu Zhou was not in a rush to spend his merit points. He planned to focus on increasing his strength.

Lu Zhou now possessed the life hearts of the beast emperor, He Luoyu, and Moon Whale. They were both considered great life hearts. Right now, he could not activate them in the heaven region. Even if he could, he had just activated a Birth Chart and was still in the early stage where his realm was stabilizing.

He would activate Birth Charts in the human and earth regions first to pave the way for the great life hearts. If he left these two life hearts at the 178th position, their effect would be maximized.

After weighing the pros and cons, Lu Zhou brought the Pillar of Impermanence out and increased the speed to 1,000 times faster before he closed his eyes to cultivate.

With his lifespan now, it was not a problem to increase the speed to 1,000 times faster.

...

In the white palace in the Great Void.

The blue-clad attendant hurried into the palace and bowed. "Master, there's news from the Sacred Hall saying that the imbalance has worsened. They've sent people to investigate."

Lan Xihe opened her eyes. She flashed and arrived in front of the blue-clad attendant before she asked, puzzled, "Didn't the Sacred Hall say they wouldn't interfere with the domains and let the imbalance run its course?"

"Mr. Ouyang said there's something strange. First, there were strange movements at the Pillar of Destruction in Yu Zhong. Moreover, there were also the consecutive deaths of the Venerable Masters in the green lotus domain. The Sacred Hall suspects someone from the Great Void is acting in the dark," the blue-clad female attendant explained.

"Someone from the Great Void is acting in the dark?" Lan Xihe frowned.

"The Equalizers are registered and have been investigated. There are people in the Great Void other than the Equalizers after all," the blue-clad female attendant said. Then, she looked around before she said in a hushed voice, "A Great Void Seed has appeared."

Lan Xihe frowned slightly. This made her think of Ye Tianxin. Ye Tianxin was in the White Tower Council, cultivating in the training hall, so there was no way for her to be exposed.

Ten Great Void Seeds were lost back then.

After a moment, Lan Xihe asked, “Did the Sacred Hall reveal where they went? Is it the Black Tower Council or the White Tower Council?”

“Neither. They went to the green lotus domain.”

Upon hearing this, Lan Xihe relaxed slightly. Then, she said, “Apart from the White Tower Council, you don’t need to care about anything else.”

The blue-clad female attendant asked skeptically, “Master, do you really think Tower Master Ye is worthy of her position?”

Lan Xihe glanced at the blue-clad female attendant and said, “No one in this world is more qualified than her.”

...

The next day.

A huge flying chariot of Great Qin’s royal family flew toward Mount Li.

Chapter 1345: Crisis Averted

Zhao Yu had been asked to help deal with Great Qin’s affairs, but he had no interest in them so he requested to go to Mount Li with Lu Zhou and the others.

The four elders of Mount Li were restrained on the deck to lead Yu Zhenghai to the mausoleum.

The 49 swordsmen guarded the flying chariot as it flew.

When it flew above Xiangyang City, many people looked up and sighed in admiration.

At this time, Lu Zhou sat in the cabin of the flying chariot and recited the mantra for the power of sight to observe the situation in the golden lotus domain and the yellow lotus domain.

...

After Duanmu Sheng received his master’s orders, he returned to the Unknown Land through a runic passage in the green lotus domain. After flying for three days, he finally found Lu Wu. After that, he did not hesitate and used the Collective Teleportation Jade Talisman.

Under the protection of Qin Naihe; the Free Man, Shen Xi and Li Xiamo; the guardians of the Evil Sky Pavilion, everyone in the Evil Sky Pavilion evacuated safely. Hence, when Duanmu Sheng and Lu Wu returned to the Evil Sky Pavilion, they found it was deserted. With that, the duo made their way to the Divine Capital.

When the duo arrived at the Divine Capital, it was on the verge of collapse under Bai Yi’s attack.

The four protectors of the Nether Sect were now the Guardians of Great Yan. They fought back with all their might. The Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council sent reinforcements as well. Apart from that, the Ten Grand Formation had been activated as well.

With this, the stalemate lasted for three days.

In a camp outside of the city.

Bai Yi gripped the sword tightly as he looked in the direction of Great Yan's Divine Capital.

"General Bai, today is the third day of our siege. Our side has lost 40 men and the other side has lost more than 200 men."

"General Bai, the barrier won't last for long. We should seize the chance and break the formation now. If reinforcement from the Evil Sky Pavilion comes, it'll be bad."

Bai Yi said icily, "Then, let's end this battle quickly. We'll attack the city with all we have this afternoon."

"Understood."

...

When noon arrived, under Bai Yi's lead, the cultivators surrounded the Divine Capital. Hundreds of capital hovered in the air.

In the city, cultivators from the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council rose up as well, ready to face the enemies.

Bai Yi said as he amplified his voice, "This is a decree from the heavens. I've been sent here on a sacred mission to cleanse the sins of the golden lotus domain. All of you should surrender."

Bai Yi's voice reverberated through the entire Divine Capital.

The common folks and the weak cultivators ran and hid.

At this moment, from the sky in the capital, another voice rang out loudly.

"General Bai, you're really shameless. A mighty general is bullying the weak and talks about washing the city with blood. However, up until now, I've not seen you make any progress."

Bai Yi scoffed. "Qin Naihe, you traitor! What right do you have to talk to me? If you have the guts, come out and face me instead of hiding in the dark and shooting arrows at my back."

During this time, the Divine Capital had not been conquered, and the enemy had only gained a small advantage. Much of this was all thanks to Qin Naihe.

Qin Naihe said with a smile, "Is there something wrong with your brain? If I can hide in the dark and shoot arrows at you, why would I come out? I'm sorry, but your provocation is useless. Also, are you able to protect all your men? If they're alone, I'll definitely kill them."

"..."

Bai Yi said, furious, "Do you really think I can't do anything?"

Bai Yi waved his hand.

About ten people gathered into a square formation and flew toward the Divine Capital.

The cultivators from the White Tower Council and the Black Tower Council unleashed their energy swords and energy sabers at the sky from within the barrier.

The cultivators in the square formation manifested their astrolabes at the same time and used them to block the attacks like shields.

"If you want to get close to the core of the formation, you'll have to see if I agree to it or not," Qin Naihe said as he rushed out with his gigantic avatar and unleashed energy seals.

Bai Yi leaped up and flew past the cultivators in the square formation on his sword toward Qin Naihe. "Your opponent is me!"

Before the two had a chance to exchange blows, arrows flew out in a line from the direction of the Imperial palace, hitting the enemies' astrolabes with a loud bang. They only managed to stop the enemies for a moment before the enemies continued to advance.

At this time, Qin Naihe withdrew his avatar and flew back in the air. Then, he looked at Bai Yi and said with a smile, "Bai Yi, if you have the ability, then follow me!"

Bai Yi did not fall for the trap; he did not chase after Qin Naihe. Instead, he flew toward the cultivators in the square formation and pointed his sword at the city wall. "Continue!"

"General, there are sharpshooters ahead."

"Ignore them. They've only just entered the Thousand Realms Whirling stage," Bai Yi said.

"Yes!"

Bai Yi and the others flew in the sky, looking down at the capital. It did not take long before they arrived above the Imperial palace.

Bai Yi ordered, "Attack with all your might!"

The dozen or so cultivators aimed their astrolabes at the barrier. Almost simultaneously, they unleashed the powers of their Birth Charts.

The attacks were extremely fierce. When they collided with the barrier, a loud explosion sounded, and the earth, mountains, and rivers shook in unison.

With that, the barrier of the Divine Capital shattered.

The cultivators on the ground retreated one after another while the members of the White Tower Council and the Black Tower Council flew to the sides.

Once the barrier was broken, enemies entered from all directions in a single file.

At this time, Qin Naihe turned back and launched countless energy fists.

Bai Yi shouted, "I've been waiting for you!"

The two of them immediately began to fight fiercely.

Light flashed above the Divine Capital as gusts of energy stirred up the clouds.

The cultivators in the square formation quickly surrounded Qin Naihe and began to chant a Buddhist mantra, sounding like the buzzing of mosquitoes. The sound affected the others immediately.

When Qin Naihe was distracted, Bai Yi charged out and thrust his sword.

Qin Naihe dodged and retreated.

The cultivators around Qin Naihe attacked him at the same time.

Boom!

Energy seals collided.

Qin Naihe flew back in the air. His arms were numb, and he felt as though his avatar was on the verge of appearing. He had only recovered his Birth Charts so his realm was not stable yet. It was indeed somewhat difficult to defeat Bai Yi and so many others by himself.

"I'll kill you, you traitor, on behalf of the Venerable Master!" Bai Yi flew over with his sword again.

Qin Naihe continued to fly back, looking for a chance to counterattack. However, Bai Yi's combat experience was very rich. It was hard to find an opportunity to strike.

At the critical moment, a golden light streaked across the sky...

Bang!

The golden light landed on Bai Yi's sword before it landed on the ground with another loud boom.

"A spear?"

Everyone looked at the sky behind Qin Naihe in confusion. Due to the dark sky from the abnormally gloomy weather, they could not see clearly. However, when the clouds parted, they saw a humongous head in the sky.

A muscular man stood on the head, looking at everyone with an icy gaze.

At this time, the huge head suddenly asked, "Are these puny weaklings worthy of me personally making a move?"

"..."

"L-Lu... Lu Wu?!" Bai Yu exclaimed as his mind went blank.

Swoosh!

Lu Wu opened its mouth as a cold air swept out.

The cultivators in the square formation were frozen in less than the time it took for one to blink one's eyes. One by one, they dropped from the sky.

Qin Naihe. "..."

Bai Yi was about to break free from Ice Seal when Lu Wu's humongous paw descended from the sky.

Boom!

The paw slammed Bai Yi down the ground.

That was not the end...

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Lu Wu kept smacking its paw at Bai Yi, smashing him into the ground until he was unable to move and blood was splattered everywhere.

Lu Wu shook its head. "Young Master, don't you think this is a waste of my power?"

Qin Naihe and Duanmu Sheng. "..."

...

Once Lu Zhou saw Lu Wu's arrival, he stopped observing the golden lotus domain. Then, he checked in on Zhu Honggong.

At this moment, Zhu Honggong was lying in bed, wrapped up like a dumpling.

Chapter 1346: The Mausoleum of Mount Li

Zhao Hongfu held a bowl of decoction and fed it to Zhu Honggong spoonful by spoonful. She said, "Your injuries are very serious. Don't move recklessly."

Zhu Honggong chuckled and said, "This is a small problem. With my master's healing technique, I'll be able to jump around in seconds."

"The runic passage is already half completed. We'll be able to return soon," Zhao Hongfu said.

"No, we can wait a little longer," Zhu Honggong said, "In any case, we still have a little profound microstones left..."

Zhao Hongfu asked, "Why do your words change every day? You're the one who said we should leave soon, and now, you're saying we can wait. Oh, I understand now! Is it because you discovered you have many beautiful fans now after becoming famous?"

"What beautiful fans? They don't exist in my heart. My heart only has my master and his mission. I don't dare to forget this," Zhu Honggong said.

"Words are just words! Actions speak louder than words!" Zhao Hongfu said before she thumped his chest lightly.

"Ouch!" Zhu Honggong cried out.

Shocked, Zhao Hongfu hastily asked, "Are you okay?"

"I almost died! Do you think I'm okay?" Zhu Honggong asked.

“Forget it. It really wasn’t easy killing an Eight Chart cultivator,” Zhao Hongfu said with a sigh.

“That’s right.”

The duo sighed in unison.

Zhao Hongfu blinked as she said, “You’re the guardian of the yellow lotus domain. Even the emperor has to show respect to you.”

“Of course, look at me,” Zhu Honggong said proudly.

“Hey, you can’t be too complacent. If the green lotus cultivators could come once, they could come again. If I’m not mistaken, the yellow lotus domain has long been exposed. It’s impossible for you to be a local tyrant here,” Zhao Hongfu said.

Zhu Honggong said, “You have a point. Then, hurry up and complete the runic passage.”

The duo nodded in unison.

...

At this moment, just as Lu Zhou was about to cut off the power of sight, a voice rang from outside.

“Pavilion Master, we’ve arrived at the mausoleum of Mount Li.”

Lu Zhou cut off the power of sight. Now that the crisis in the golden lotus domain and yellow lotus domain had been resolved, there was no need to worry too much.

Lu Zhou flashed and arrived on the deck. He surveyed his surroundings and saw a mountain range that stretched for miles in front of him. This scene gave him a sense of déjà vu. It reminded him of the Heavenly Moat in the golden lotus domain.

“The mausoleum of Mount Li is over there. The royal family would come here every once in a while to perform sacrificial ceremonies,” Qin Renyue said.

Lu Zhou brought the map, which he had pieced together, out and looked at it before passing it to Zhao Yu.

Zhao Yu took a look and pointed to the front left. “Over there.”

Zhao Yu had been here before so he was rather familiar with this place.

Under his lead, the flying chariot arrived at the foot of Mount Li.

“The entrance to the mausoleum is about three miles ahead,” Zhao Yu said.

Everyone nodded and disembarked from the flying chariot before they flew over. Soon after, they arrived at the entrance of the mausoleum.

The construction of the mausoleum was brilliant. There were all kinds of stone pillars and towers everywhere. All kinds of formations were carved on them to protect the mausoleum.

“Let’s go.”

Everyone walked forward to the huge stone doors of the mausoleum. A life-like stone dragon hung above the stone door. Similar to the pillars, runes, inscriptions, and formations were etched on the doors.

Zhao Yu said, "Old Sir, in the past, the royal family didn't pay their respect here so I don't know what's inside..."

Mingshi Yin came to Zhao Yu's side and said, "It's okay. There's no need to say more. I understand. It doesn't make sense to bring people to excavate their ancestral grave."

"Uh... It's not what you think. I really haven't been in there before..." Zhao Yu said.

"Alright, alright, I believe you." Mingshi Yin said with a smile as he nodded.

Zhao Yu scratched his head, speechless. He had seen Mingshi Yin look as though he was on the brink of death yesterday, but after a night, Mingshi Yin had been completely revived?

Meanwhile, Qin Ren Yue stepped forward and studied the formation on the doors. He said, "The formation is strange and exquisite. It won't be easy to deactivate the formation. However, we can try to force our way in."

Zhao Yu. "..."

'All you big shots, can you spare me some dignity? We're here to unlock the secret of the golden tokens, not excavate my ancestral grave!'

The four elders of Mount Li did not say a word during their journey here apart from giving directions.

At this moment, Mingshi Yin kicked Cui Mingguang.

"You kicked me?!" Cui Mingguang roared.

"Not only did I kick you, but I also want to beat you up," Mingshi Yin said before he threw a punch out.

"..."

"Tell me, how do we go in?"

"The four of us guard this place all year round. However, we only know that those with the royal bloodline can enter," Ji Shi said.

"The royal bloodline?"

Everyone turned to look at Zhao Yu in unison.

Zhao Yu took a step back. When he saw Mingshi Yin approaching him with a strange smile, he asked nervously, "What do you want?"

"Borrow me your blood!" Mingshi Yin moved at lightning speed. A cold light glinted in his hand before he pricked Zhao Yu's finger.

Splat!

After a drop of blood landed on the doors, the doors still remained motionless.

“Why isn’t it working?” Mingshi Yin looked at Ji Shi.

Ji Shi turned slightly and pointed at the dragon head with his hands still restrained, “Try there.”

Mingshi Yin nodded.

“Borrow me some more blood.” Mingshi Yin moved very quickly. Before Zhao Yu could react, his finger was pricked again, and another drop of blood landed on the dragon’s head.

Zhao Yu. “...”

Still, there was no movement from the stone doors.

Zhao Yu was furious. He looked at Ji Shi and said, “Can you finish your sentence in one go!?”

Mingshi Yin nudged Zhao Yu with his elbow and said, “I don’t think there’s anything wrong with what he said. Perhaps, there’s a problem with you...”

Zhao Yu refuted vehemently, “Impossible! My mother isn’t that kind of person!”

“...”

Mingshi Yin coughed before he said, “Uh... That’s not what I mean. However, the stone doors are really not moving...”

Zhao Yu walked forward and looked at the dragon’s head. Then, he forcefully pressed his bleeding finger on the dragon’s head.

At this moment, the dragon’s head lit up, and the stone doors lit up as well.

Zhao Yu turned to Ming Shiyin and said with a smug smile. “I told you it wasn’t like that.”

“Fortunately, it wasn’t like that... Otherwise, I won’t acknowledge you,” Ming Shiyin said.

“What?”

“Nothing.”

Creak!

The stone doors opened.

A pitch-black passage appeared in front of everyone.

Lu Zhou had night vision so he could see clearly. He took the lead and walked in with his hands on his back as everyone followed behind him.

With Lu Zhou and Qin Renyue at the lead, everyone was not only not worried, but they were brimming with confidence as well. Soon enough, they saw a descending staircase. They did not hesitate and flew down.

Zhao Yu looked at the map in his hand and said, “We have entered the underground area of the mausoleum.”

At this moment, Ji Shi said, “There’s something that guards the late Emperor Emeritus’s tomb.”

“What is it?” Lu Zhou asked.

“Ying Gou,” Ji Shi replied.

“Ying Gou?” Kong Wen was shocked.

Ji Shi continued to say, “In ancient times, humans and fierce beasts used all kinds of methods to obtain eternal life. In that era, many strange secret techniques, formations, and witchcraft spells could be found. There were hundreds of schools of thought that the schools of Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism weren’t worth mentioning at all at that time. Unfortunately, no matter how humans cultivated, they were unable to obtain eternal life. Therefore, some humans and fierce beasts did the opposite, seeking death first before seeking eternal life...”

“They lived as zombies. This method crossed the line, causing heavens to mete out punishment to those who cultivated it. They were cursed to be soulless and without will, cursed to be controlled like puppets.”

“However, there were naturally exceptions. Ying Gou was one of the ten great zombies. He was once the subordinate of a supreme being. Later on, he lost during a war and was punished by the supreme being to guard the underworld. Outwardly, he seemed to have acquiesced to his punishment, but inwardly, he was extremely dissatisfied. Later on, he was bewitched by the Hou and consumed the Hou’s poison. With that, his body underwent a huge change. His Dantian’s sea of Qi vanished, and he gained an undead or immortal body. He caused harm to humans everywhere he went, but at some point, he disappeared, whereabouts unknown.”

Kong Wen asked curiously, “Then, how did it appear in the mausoleum of Great Qin’s royal family?”

Ji Shi shook his head and said, “I heard that the late Emperor Emeritus found it near one of the Pillars of Destruction.” Then, he continued to say, “Apart from Ying Gou, there are also all kinds of strange formations. It’s very difficult to get close to the late Emperor Emeritus’ tomb. It took 30,000 cultivators to build this mausoleum and the tomb. All of them died in here.”

“...”

Little Yuan’er subconsciously hugged the little Fire Phoenix closer as she looked to the left and right. “Senior brother, why don’t we go out?”

It was dark and chilly in here.

Yu Shangrong patted Little Yuan’er’s head gently and said, “Since you’re already here, you should try and relax. If there’s anything strange, senior brother will protect you.”

At this moment, Lu Zhou said, “Follow me.”

He placed his hands on his back and flew toward a round platform up ahead. Before he landed, the runes and inscriptions on the platform lit up, illuminating the surroundings and revealing the appearance of the platform.

Then, several chains that glowed with a black light shot out from the platform in all directions.

At the same time, a majestic voice rang in the air.

“Who dares to trespass into the forbidden area of the mausoleum?”

Chapter 1347: Seeking Eternal Life

The voice sounded like it came from the depths of hell, causing chills to run up people’s spines.

If the inscriptions on the round platform did not emit light, it would be even more difficult for ordinary people to stay calm after hearing the voice in such a creepy and dark environment.

The people of the Evil Sky Pavilion, Qin Renyue, and the 49 swordsmen hovered in the air looking in the direction of the voice.

Lu Zhou, needless to say, stood in front of everyone. With a million merit points in reserve, he was not afraid he would not be able to deal with the other party. However, if it was one of the zombie kings, how was he going to deal with it? Zombies were not alive, not in the true sense of the word. How could one kill something that was not alive? Would the Deadly Strike Card be effective against such an entity?

The scenes from the past in the golden lotus domain were still vivid in Lu Zhou’s mind. There were scenes of the witchcraft cultivator controlling the Sect Leader of the Righteous Sect, Zhang Yuanshan. Then, there was the grand shaman, Ba Ma, and his junior sister, Mo Li.

Lu Zhou found the entire idea of animating corpses disgusting. However, it was not a bad thing if the zombie kings were similar to the witchcraft cultivators’ puppets from the corpse-animating techniques. At the very least, these things were afraid of the Great Void Seed and the Heavenly Writing’s powers.

At this time, a figure suddenly rushed up and landed on the round platform. The person was bald and dressed in a kasaya. One of his hands was raised in front of his chest as the other hand held a string of Buddhist beads. His eyebrows were white and long, and his face was filled with wrinkles. His expression was very fierce as he glared at everyone. He said, “Amitabha. Outsiders are prohibited from trespassing into the forbidden ground. Please leave.”

“He’s a monk?!”

“Why is it a monk?!”

Everyone was surprised.

Mingshi Yin and everyone turned to look at Zhao Yu in unison, waiting for an explanation. If even a member of the royal family had no idea what was going on, then the others had no hope of figuring this out.

Seeing all the eyes on him, Zhao Yu shook his head and said, “I... I don’t know anything either...”

Qin Renyue had lived a long time so he was knowledgeable and experienced. He said speculatively, “Back then, the late Emperor Emeritus was hellbent on attaining immortality. He recruited many extraordinary figures. All of them were skilled in different areas such as pill refinement, formations, secret techniques, and so on. This monk should be someone he had recruited.”

The monk's gaze was fiery as swept his eyes across everyone present. With a slight wave of his hand, another two figures flew over.

The two figures were not monks. They were two cultivators dressed in Hessian robes. Their faces were haggard, and their eyes were lifeless.

Lu Zhou frowned slightly. "Wei Jiangnan? Wei Jingye?"

These two were cultivators whom Lu Zhou met during his first trip to the Unknown Land using the White Tower Council's runic passage. At that time, the two were looking for mystic life grass.

Kong Wen and his brothers looked at Lu Zhou before Kong Wen asked, "Pavilion Master Lu, you recognize them?"

"I've met them once," Lu Zhou replied.

"They're independent cultivators who worked for various forces. Just like us brothers, they risked their lives all year long just to make a living. I didn't expect them to end up like this," Kong Wen said with a sigh. He could empathize with Wei Jiangnan and Wei Jingye since they were similar in the past.

Ji Shi, one of the four elders of Mount Li, said, "Not too long ago, the mausoleum was being repaired and maintained. It was ordered by the emperor. How is it..."

Clearly, Ji Shi did not expect to see others here. However, when he thought about it, he thought it was not that surprising. After all, there was the tradition of burying living people in mausoleums and tombs of royal families. These people were considered guards of the emperors' tombs.

Qin Renyue asked, "There aren't any Buddhist sects in Great Qin. Where did this monk come from?"

The four elders of Mount Li looked at each other before they shrugged, indicating they did not know.

The monk said, "I'm from the red lotus domain. My Buddhist name is Jian Zhen. I've already said what I should say. If you don't leave now, you'll have to bear the consequences."

"As it turns out you're Jian Zhen, the abbot of Thousand Blade Temple," Lu Zhou said.

Jian Zhen was slightly taken aback. "You know me?"

"I heard from Fa Hua, the abbot of the Blood Sun Temple, that in the early days you were one of the few Ten-leaf experts in the red lotus domain. Later on, you disappeared," Lu Zhou said.

Jian Zhen asked, "Who are you?"

"It doesn't matter who I am. I'm here to look for something," Lu Zhou said.

Jian Zhen said expressionlessly, "Amitabha. The dead are to be respected. This is the mausoleum and tomb of the late Emperor Emeritus. How can you be so disrespectful?"

Zhao Yu retorted, "I don't even have any objections so why are you making such a huge fuss?"

Jian Zhen glanced at Zhao Yu and said, "Please leave."

Then, Jian Zhen waved his hand.

Two square Buddhist seals appeared in front of Wei Jingye and Wei Jiangnan before the duo rushed out.

Qin Renyue said, "They're already dead, nothing more than zombies. It seems like this monk isn't pure of mind."

Then, Qin Renyue launched two palm seals out, which were subsequently stopped by Lu Zhou.

Qin Renyue was puzzled.

Lu Zhou explained, "I've met these two once, and they'd helped me then. Humans are the same despite their ranks. These two should be afforded kindness even in death..."

Qin Renyue nodded. "You're right."

When Kong Wen and his brothers heard Lu Zhou's words, their hearts moved slightly. After people, people were born into the world with the distinction between superiority and inferiority. How many cared for those they deemed inferior?

With this, Kong Wen and his brothers' loyalty went up by 10 points each, reaching almost 70 points.

Lu Zhou launched a seal, restraining Wei Jiangnan and Wei Jingye on the round platform. Then, he flashed and appeared in front of Jian Zhen.

Jian Zhen's eyes widened as he said, "I'm just a tomb keeper. Why are you doing this?"

Lu Zhou raised his hand and launched a palm seal, and Jian Zhen dodged immediately, leaving afterimages on the round platform.

"As expected, you've already broken through the Ten-leaf stage," Lu Zhou said.

Jian Zhen's voice reverberated in the surroundings.

"1,000 years ago, I risked my life and came to the green lotus domain. I spent ten years assimilating in the green lotus domain. Buddha was merciful and led me to the late Emperor Emeritus. After his death, I guarded his tomb. He was so kind to me so how can I allow people to desecrate his tomb?"

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Buddhist palm seals filled the air and shot toward Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou recited the mantra for the Heavenly Writing and imbued his body with the divine power.

"Golden Buddha's Body."

When the huge golden Buddha appeared on the round platform, Jian Zhen was momentarily stunned.

Buzz!

The Golden Buddha's Body thrummed, bursting forth with energy.

All the Buddhist palm seals were destroyed in just a second.

Jian Zhen hurriedly leaped up into the air.

Lu Zhou moved the Golden Buddha's Body hand and grabbed Jian Zhen with fingers that looked like dragon's claws.

"You!" Jian Zhen's eyes widened. He was truly surprised by the Golden Buddha's Body.

"Do you still plan to stand in my way?" Lu Zhou asked.

"I'm trying to save all your lives. The deeper part of the mausoleum is guarded by Ying Gou."

"Save our lives?"

"Ying Gou is undying. Even Venerable Masters can't do anything to it. There were many tomb raiders in the past, and I'd always warn them to leave. Unfortunately, there were always those who refused to heed my warning," Jian Zhen said.

"You hypocritical monk, spouting lies about benevolence, justice, and morality."

Bang!

A palm seal sent Jian Zhen flying.

Then, Lu Zhou used his palm seal to grab Jian Zhen again before he asked, "Why are Wei Jiangnan and Wei Jingye here?"

At this moment, Jian Zhen spat out black blood, staining his kasaya.

Upon seeing the ink-colored blood, Ji Shi shook his head and said, "He's already been poisoned by Ying Gou. I'm afraid he'll soon become a zombie like Ying Gou."

"What can I do? Only with this way will I be able to live forever!" Jian Zhen said.

"Live forever?" Lu Zhou sighed. "Since ancient times, countless cultivators have defied the heavens and changed their fate. However, has there ever been one person who has truly gained eternal life?"

Jian Zhen tried his best to raise his hand, chanting Sanskrit scripture. Then, the soundwave turned into a blood-red halo that shot toward Lu Zhou.

"Brother Lu, watch out!" Qin Renyue cried out.

Lu Zhou shook his head. "Ignorant."

When the blood-red halo drew close to Lu Zhou, the divine power surged out, devouring the blood-red halo and leaving no trace of it behind.

Jian Zhen. "..."

Bang!

Jian Zhen flew out horizontally.

Lu Zhou flashed and appeared above Jian Zhen. Then, he stomped his feet down.

Whoosh!

Jian Zhen's kasaya was torn into pieces.. The Buddhist beads flew up in the air, looking like red stars shining in the sky.

Chapter 1348: Ying Gou, the Zombie King

"The red light is a secret technique, and it's extremely poisonous. Let me deal with it," Qin Renyue said as he leisurely walked forward. He raised his hand and pushed it out. His astrolabe appeared, glowing with a green light that kept the red light at bay.

Soon after, the red light vanished.

Lu Zhou swooped down. When he was about land, he saw Jian Zhen getting up and sitting in a cross-legged position. Then, he joined his palms together and began to chant Sanskrit scriptures.

Seals began to appear in the air. The soil on the ground loosened as hands broke out of the surface.

"I didn't know Buddhists had such a disgusting technique," Mingshi Yin said.

Yu Zhenghai could no longer endure it. He hated this kind of technique the most. He launched energy sabers at the ground.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

"Senior brother, I still think it's better to leave," Little Yuan'er said, rubbing her arms that had erupted with goosebumps.

Yu Shangrong chuckled. "Don't worry. They're all dead. Junior sister, you have to remember that sometimes the living are even more terrifying than the dead."

"Oh." Little Yuan'er seemed to understand and not understand Yu Shangrong's words.

Yu Zhenghai laughed and said, "Second Junior Brother, you have a point. However, I still hate them."

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou looked at Jian Zhen and shook his head expressionlessly. Then, he raised his hand before bringing it down.

The Expansive Heavenly Energy seal fell on Jian Zhen. With just one move, he lost two Birth Charts and his physical body.

The sounds of the chanting stopped abruptly, and the movements in the ground ceased.

Lu Zhou returned to stand in front of everyone.

"Pavilion Master, what should we do with the two of them?" Kong Wen asked.

Wei Jiangnan and Wei Jingye's faces were as pale as a sheet of paper. Their bodies' were also emitting a faint stench.

Lu Zhou sighed as he shook his head. "Using this method to obtain eternal life is the greatest insult to the living..."

Then, Lu Zhou waved his hand.

A ball of flames shot out, engulfing Wei Jiangnan and Wei Jingye. Soon enough, the duo was reduced to ashes that scattered in the mausoleum.

Everyone sighed.

"I think if they were alive, they would be very grateful to Pavilion Master," Kong Wen said, "I would rather be reduced to ashes than be controlled by others."

Mingshi Yin said, "You seem quite affected by them."

Kong Wen smiled bitterly. "My brothers and I were born into lowly lives. We worked for people who enjoy a luxurious life and have high status, respect, and power that can shake the sky. It's said that people are born equal, but the truth is no one is equal."

Seeing Wei Jiangnan and Wei Jingye, Kong Wen and his brothers felt like they were looking into a mirror.

Mingshi Yin patted Kong Wen's shoulder. "Don't be sad. Isn't everything fine now?"

"Thank you for your words, Mr. Fourth," Kong Wen said.

Kong Wen and his brothers' loyalty increased by another 10 points each.

The loyalty won from sincerity and kindness was better than the obedience obtained from force and power.

When ashes scattered completely, Lu Zhou said, "Follow me."

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Everyone flew toward the depths of the mausoleum.

Zhao Yu turned his head and looked at the ground. It took him a long time to recover before he hurriedly chased after the others. He thought that the most ruthless was truly the royal family. If he ascended the throne, he wondered if he would one day become as ruthless as them.

...

After crossing a long passage, they finally landed next to an abyss. There was a wooden bridge on the abyss that was covered in spiderwebs.

The surroundings were dim, and the moat looked like a bottomless abyss.

"The stone door on the other side of the moat lies the tomb of the later Emperor Emeritus. If we forcefully break it down, we'll all be buried here. To open it, we need the White Tiger Coiling Dragon Jade," Ji Shi said.

"White Tiger Coiling Dragon Jade?"

"One was with Meng Mingshi, and the other one is with Ying Gou," Ji Shi said.

"Where's Ying Gou?" Mingshi Yin looked around. "Where's the zombie king?"

Ji Shi pointed at the abyss.

“...” Mingshi Yin shrank back.

At this time, Yan Zhenluo brought a talisman out and ignited it.

The talisman was like a lantern as it fell down, illuminated the abyss under the wooden bridge.

When the talisman was about 100 meters down, everyone saw a horrifying sight.

A bald man with a fierce and twisted expression was suspended in midair by four hooked chains on each of his limbs. His fangs were long, and his face that was white looked like the bark of a tree. He wore clothes that were made from metal.

“...”

Little Yuan'er said, “Fourth Senior Brother, stop retreating. If you retreat anymore, you're going to step on me.”

“Uh... Junior sister, don't be afraid. I'll protect you,” Mingshi Yin said.

Conch covered her mouth and laughed silently.

Qin Renyue shook his head. “I didn't expect to see one of the ten zombie kings...”

Qin Renyue's knowledge had increased a lot, but the knowledge was too frightening.

When the talisman burned out, Yan Zhenluo ignited another talisman. Sometimes light did not just drive the darkness away, but it could also drive away the fear in one's heart.

Lu Zhou turned to look at the four elders of Mount Li and asked, “The White Tiger Coiling Dragon Jade is with him?”

“That's right,” Cui Mingguang said.

Mingshi Yin flashed and appeared before the four elders. He held the Separation Hook that glinted coldly in his hand before he said with a threatening smile, “You better not play tricks. Are you trying to use Ying Gou to deal with us?”

The four elders of Mount Li were stunned. Then, Ji Shi said, “If I really wanted to do so, wouldn't it be better if I didn't mention Ying Gou and let all of you fall into a trap?”

Mingshi Yin nodded. “You have a point. Then, how do we get the White Tiger Coiling Dragon Jade?”

“With your hands,” Ji Shi replied.

“Hey, hey, are you joking with me?” Mingshi Yin said with a frown.

Zhou Chongshu said, “There are two ways: one, defeat Ying Gou; two, find a way to get it from him. However, the difficulty of both methods is high. Once he completely wakes up, even Venerable Masters might not be a match for him.”

Lu Zhou clasped his hands on his back and pondered on the matter. This was indeed a difficult problem to solve.

Put Ying Gou's strength aside, just a slight misstep in here could cause everyone to die.

No one dared to speak their minds carelessly at this moment.

Even the experienced and knowledgeable Qin Renyue only shook his head. He did not have a solution either.

At this moment, Ji Shi said, "I've said it before. The mausoleum of the late Emperor Emeritus is extraordinary. Not everyone can enter his tomb."

Lu Zhou thought about it for a moment longer before he said, "I'll go down and have a look. If there are any strange movements, leave immediately."

"Alright." Qin Renyue nodded.

"Be careful, master," Little Yuan'er said.

Lu Zhou stepped forward and descended down the abyss. His movements were as light as a swallow and silent.

When he drew close to the chains, he could clearly sense the death aura from Ying Gou.

Ying Gou was clearly different from the corpses animated through witchcraft.

The death aura eroded the surrounding Primal Qi, distracting those who drew close and making it difficult for them to mobilize their Primal Qi.

Ying Gou's eyes were tightly shut, and he was as still as a statue.

Then, Lu Zhou saw the White Tiger Coiling Dragon Jade hanging on Ying Gou's metal clothes. He unleashed a palm seal, grabbing the White Tiger Coiling Dragon Jade.

The White Tiger Coiling Dragon Jade had barely moved when Ying Gou suddenly opened his eyes.

Chapter 1349: The Invincible Old Man

Ying Gou's eyes shone with a dark red light. When he saw Lu Zhou hovering nearby, it bared its fangs before spitting out, "Human!"

The four thick chains began to shake as Ying Gou pounced at Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou released a dazzling and huge palm seal.

Boom!

The palm seal collided with Ying Gou like fireworks.

The dazzling palm seal attracted everyone's attention from above. They looked at it with eyes brimming with admiration.

Lu Zhou began to ascend as the chains on both sides snaked toward him. The palm seal was just a test. He did not expect to kill Ying Gou with just a move. After flying out of the chains' range, he looked down at Ying Gou. As expected, Ying Gou was not injured at all. Ying Gou's armor seemed to be forged from special metal and seemed even more indestructible than the chains.

“Ying Gou, hand over the White Tiger Coiling Dragon Jade, and I won’t make things difficult for you,” Lu Zhou said.

Qin Renyue. “...”

‘Brother, this is Ying Gou; he’s not a human. Is there a need for this?’

Meanwhile, the members of the Evil Sky Pavilion remained unfazed. They had weathered many storms with Lu Zhou so they had somewhat gotten used to it.

Ying Gou glared at Lu Zhou with his dark red eyes and snarled, “Let me go! Let me go!”

Upon seeing this, Mingshi Yin asked skeptically, “Hey, didn’t you say the living dead are without souls and will?”

Ji Shi said, slightly uncertain, “This should just be instinctual words. He shouldn’t be capable of complicated thought processes or have the ability to discern. This makes him even more dangerous. I advise all of you to stop. Let the late Emperor Emeritus rest in peace. Ying Gou has been restrained for the time being so we still have a chance to leave.”

Tang Zibing shook his head and sighed. “He’s undead; he can’t be killed...”

It was a very displeasing matter for someone to undermine one’s team by raising the enemy’s prestige.

Mingshi Yin said mockingly, “Since there is an old immortal monster guarding the tomb, what’s the need for the few of you?”

“...”

The four elders looked embarrassed.

“Every year, the royal family will come to pay their respects to the ancestors. In many people’s eyes, Ying Gou is just a myth. Hence, they would appoint guards to protect the tomb and accompany the ancestors,” Tang Zibing finally said.

“Foolish beyond belief,” Lu Zhou said. If this were to happen on modern-day earth, it would definitely start trending on the Internet. It would be labeled as superstition.

“That’s right! Fools!” Little Yuan’er echoed her master’s sentiments.

The four elders of Mount Li were speechless. Naturally, they also knew the tradition was foolish. The dead were gone; what need was there for the living to accompany the dead?

“What I didn’t expect is that the monk, Jian Zhen, was also roped into it,” Qin Renyue said as he shook his head.

Clank!

The chains shook again.

Ying Gou roared like a ferocious beast. His roar resounded through the sky and land.

Yan Zhenluo tried to maintain the light, but due to nervousness, he accidentally extinguished the light.

Upon seeing this, Yu Shangrong volunteered, "I'll do it."

Swoosh!

The Longevity Sword unsheathed itself and flew toward the wooden bridge.

Bang!

The Longevity Sword stabbed into the wooden bridge before it exploded with a light that was much brighter than the talismans'. The red inscriptions played a huge part in the brightness of the light. Moreover, the sword had also stored up a lot of energy.

With Yu Shangrong's perfect control, as long as it was not too far, he would be able to maintain the light at all times.

Clank! Clank! Clank!

Ying Gou rushed up, but before he could reach the top, he firmly pulled back by the four chains.

Lu Zhou moved to stand in front of Ying Gou. He looked at the White Tiger Dragon Jade that was firmly affixed on Ying Gou's armor. Then, he brought out Unnamed in the form of a sword and controlled it with two fingers.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Unnamed circled Ying Gou before landing three consecutive strikes. Sparks flew everywhere.

Lu Zhou was slightly surprised when he saw the armor was intact.

"The armor is truly extraordinary," Qin Renyue said with a hint of admiration.

After being struck thrice, Ying Gou was enraged. Alas, he could free himself from the chains.

At this time, Qin Renyue called out, "49 swordsmen!"

"Understood!"

The 49 swordsmen flew up and formed a seven-point formation in the air. Then, energy swords fell like torrential rain on Ying Gou.

Ying Gou could not fight back and could only be a target.

Mingshi Yin smiled. "This method is a little shameless, but I like it."

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The storm-like energy swords continued to fall on Ying Gou. However, they were all blocked by Ying Gou's armor. In fact, even without the armor, Ying Gou's body was indestructible.

After the first wave of attack, the 49 swordsmen stopped and waited for further instructions from Qin Renyue.

Qin Renyue and Lu Zhou continued to observe Ying Gou.

This wave of attacks further enraged Ying Gou. He let out a long cry, and when he stopped, a strange sound rang from the bottom of the abyss.

Ying Gou glared at Lu Zhou, the members of the Evil Sky Pavilion, and the 49 swordsmen with an expression that clearly showed he wanted nothing more than to rip all of them into shreds.

“Monsters! The monsters are approaching!”

“What are those things?”

Under the illumination of the Longevity Sword, everyone saw countless skinny creatures that resembled monkeys climbing up from the abyss.

“They look like monkeys...”

“I don’t recognize them. Be careful, everyone.”

When the monsters reached a certain height, they all leaped up toward the crowd.

Qin Renyue pushed his hand out.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Dozens of monsters were killed in just a blink of an eye.

“They’re not very strong...”

The 49 swordsmen flew to both sides, switching targets. They brought out their swords and started slaying the monsters.

Meanwhile, the four elders of Mount Lu felt a mounting sense of unease.

Cui Mingguang hurriedly said, “Please stop! If you provoke the late Emperor Emeritus and the dead, you’ll be punished by the heavens!”

The energy swords rained down unceasingly on the monsters. However, the monsters kept coming as though there was no end to them.

After a short while, Lu Zhou discovered the monsters would be resurrected after getting cut down.

“Stop,” Lu Zhou called out.

Everyone stopped.

Lu Zhou brought an ordinary Deadly Strike Card to test the water. As expected...

“Ding! Ineffective against the target.”

After putting away the ordinary Deadly Strike Card, Lu Zhou said, “The monsters can resurrect themselves. Energy swords won’t be able to kill them.”

Everyone observed carefully and found that it was true. They could not help but inhale sharply. No matter how many monsters they killed, the monsters would always get back up.

“What kind of monster is this?”

"We can't kill it? How strange..."

Ying Gou roared thunderously again.

More and more monsters climbed up.

"Karmic fire. Karmic fire might be able to kill them," Qin Renyue said.

Lu Zhou launched a palm seal. When it shot out, it began to burn with fire.

The karmic fire swiftly engulfed the monsters, burning them.

"Those who possess karmic fire have high innate talent and aptitude. Their achievements in the future will definitely be extraordinary," Qin Renyue said with a hint of envy.

Lu Zhou flew up into the air before a golden lotus bloomed under his feet, casting the Flaming Golden Lotus, his first Birth Trial ability.

Small flaming lotuses shot out, filling the air in just an instant. They mercilessly burned the monsters down.

Heart-wrenching cries rang from the sea of fire.

"Karmic fire..."

The four elders of Mount Li wore complex expressions on their faces.

At this moment, Little Yuan'er raised her hand. When a small flame appeared in her hand, she said, "I have karmic fire as well!"

Little Yuan'er spun around and tossed the flame at the monster nearby. When she saw the karmic fire burning the monster, she clapped happily as she asked, "Did you see that?"

Qin Renyue and the 49 swordsmen. "..."

"Those who possess karmic fire are very rare. Only one in 10,000 green lotus cultivators possesses the karmic fire. I didn't expect..." Qin Renyue trailed off.

At this moment, a monster pounced on Yu Zhenghai, and he brandished his saber before summoning his karmic fire around the saber.

Qin Renyue. "..."

Qin Renyue rubbed his eyes, wondering if his eyes were playing tricks on him. After all, the golden lotus could be easily mistaken to be burning. However, even he knew how flimsy that excuse was. After all, as a Venerable Master, his judgment was accurate and his senses were keen. There was no doubt it was karmic fire.

With the karmic fire burning rampantly, the mausoleum was as bright as day.

Ying Gou was further infuriated.

The number of monsters was extremely terrifying. Even with Lu Zhou's first Birth Trial ability, their number did not seem to decrease at all.

At this moment, Yu Shangrong unsheathed his Longevity Sword before unleashing countless energy swords in the air. Each of the energy swords burned with karmic fire. They shot down, reaping the monsters' lives.

Qin Renyue. "..."

'Karmic fire? Is there justice in this world? What happened to the law of balance?'

Ji Shi, one of the four elders of Mount Li, said, "I didn't expect so many people to possess the karmic fire..."

"Is karmic fire very rare?" Little Yuan'er asked curiously.

"Of course, it's rare. Didn't you hear Venerable Master Qin say it's rare?" Ji Shi said.

"Oh, I thought everyone had it," Little Yuan'er replied.

"..."

Ji Shi felt as though he had been dealt a critical blow and lost the mood to speak.

At this time, Zhou Chongshu said, "This isn't enough. The monsters keep coming. We need to get to the source of it..."

Zhou Chongshu was about to suggest karmic fire and sound technique when Conch's fingers began plucking the Nine String Zither.

The Pilgrim Song was like the surging waves of the sea, sweeping out in all directions along with karmic fire.

The sky that was burning with fire was very beautiful.

Lu Zhou no longer attacked. These monsters were not difficult to deal with. Since his disciples had made a move, he would conserve his strength.

Unbeknownst to Lu Zhou, Conch's attack had rendered Qin Renyue speechless again. He felt like retracting his statement about one in 10,000 green lotus cultivators possessing karmic fire, but considering his status as a Venerable Master, he swallowed his explanation down his throat. He was also wondering when did karmic fire become so easily obtainable.

The advantage of sound technique was that it had a wide reach.

Conch's Pilgrim Song contained the Confucian school's might Expansive Heavenly Energy. Not only did the song kill the enemies, but it also drove away the fear in the hearts of allies who heard it. Moreover, it also roused one's fighting spirit.

After Zhao Yu recovered from his shock, he turned around, intending to comfort Mingshi Yin due to his lack of karmic fire.

However, Zhao Yu saw Mingshi Yin putting away the Separation Hook that was burning with karmic fire and said, "Since my junior sisters have made a move, I'll just stand aside..."

"..."

...

About 15 minutes later, the monsters were finally reduced to ashes.

The commotion from the battle finally died down.

Ying Gou continued to struggle against the chains angrily.

Lu Zhou looked at Ying Gou who was suspended midair before he brought Unnamed in the form of a sword out again. This time, he imbued it with the divine power before stabbing at Ying Gou.

Bang!

With this strike, Ying Gou stopped roaring, and his expression froze. Then, he rose to the top, pulling the chains up until the chains were taut.

Lu Zhou hovered nearby, observing Ying Gou.

It was as silent as a graveyard at this moment.

A stifling pressure began to spread at this moment.

"Prepare to retreat," Qin Renyue said.

"Everyone, retreat," Yu Zhenghai ordered.

The 49 swordsmen and the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion retreated.

A great battle was about to break out.

Everyone knew from the beginning that the chains would not be able to restrain Ying Gou for long. It was best to seize the chance to retreat while Ying Gou was gathering his strength.

The four elders of Mount Li shook their heads.

Ji Shi said, "I told you so..."

No one paid any attention to the four elders of Mount Li.

Yinggou's eyes were fixed on Lu Zhou. He was like a statue, unmoving.

Lu Zhou studied the four chains. They would not last as long as he thought they would. If he fought Ying Gou, he could not use the Deadly Strike Card. What should he do? Thunderblast Card? At the critical moment, he could only rely on his luck. Perhaps, he would be able to trigger the 'Kill' effect.

Meanwhile, Qin Renyue and the others had retreated to the distance. He was not worried about Lu Zhou. He would observe the situation and lend a hand when necessary.

Lu Zhou's imposing manner did not decrease the slightest despite the thoughts in his mind. He said in a majestic tone, "Hand over the White Tiger Dragon Jade, and I'll spare your life..."

Qin Renyue could tell things were not looking good so he turned back and said, "Retreat again!"

Everyone flew back. Their eyes were focused on Ying Gou who seemed to be on the brink of exploding with power. Then, they watched as Ying Gou made a move that was completely out of her expectations.

Ying Gou's eyes suddenly widened, and his head shrank back. Then, he hastily yanked the White Tiger Dragon Jade off his armor and tossed it over. Following that, he sank back down into the abyss, as deep as the chains allowed him to.

"..."

Everyone was dumbfounded.

In fact, Lu Zhou was also dumbfounded.

The four elders of Mount Li. "..."

Lu Zhou looked at the White Tiger Coiling Dragon Jade in his hand with a frown. He could not figure out what happened.

Yan Zhenluo scratched his head and broke the silence first. He asked, "What's going on?"

"Ying Gou seems frightened?" Lu Li could not believe his eyes.

Nobody could believe it.

"I don't understand. Ying Gou is scared?" Ji Shi's eyelids kept twitching. He felt a burning pain on his cheek as if someone had given him a hard slap.

Everyone flew over. Since Ying Gou did not resist and even tossed the White Tiger Dragon Jade to Lu Zhou, it should be safe now.

"Without a soul, how could he be frightened? How's that possible?" Ji Shi kept muttering to himself.

Lu Zhou tossed the White Tiger Dragon Jade.

Qin Renyue tacitly caught it in his hands.

Then, he descended into the abyss again to confirm the thoughts in his mind. When he drew close, Ying Gou trembled and shrank back with all his might.

The chains clanked loudly as Ying Gou trembled.

After a moment, Ying Gou timidly raised his head and looked up at Lu Zhou who was hovering in the air with the sky as his background. In his eyes, Lu Zhou looked like the Unholy One, a supreme demon.

Lu Zhou mobilized the blue avatar in his Dantian's sea of Qi and imbued his body with a little divine power.

As soon as Lu Zhou's body began to glow with a golden light, Ying Gou's eyes widened in fear.

Clank! Clank! Clank!

Ying Gou struggled, trying to retreat but was unfortunately restrained by the chains. In front of the Unholy One, he felt very small, like a grain of sand in the vast universe. It let out a cry of fear as it struggled to run away.

Ying Gou's fear and desire to escape baffled everyone.

Chapter 1350: Old Things in the Sarcophagi

Ying Gou struggled to retreat, but fear seemed to cause his strength to seep away. His body was half-curved up in a fetal position, and his fangs had long been retracted. The chains clanked and smashed against the wall of the abyss, causing sparks to fly.

Ying Gou was one of the ten zombie kings. His body was immortal. Even Qin Renyue, a Venerable Master, did not dare to appear in his range movements like Lu Zhou was doing.

At this time, Qin Renyue demonstrated his extraordinary mental state as a Venerable Master. He raised his index finger to his lips and signaled everyone to be quiet. Noise and sudden movements could easily break a person's psychological defense and cause them to lose control. Silence was the best environment to organize one's thoughts.

"We've obtained the White Tiger Dragon Jade, Brother Lu," Qin Renyue said. He was subtly trying to persuade Lu Zhou to leave.

However, Qin Renyue did not expect Lu Zhou to not only stay in the range of Ying Gou's movements, but Lu Zhou made an even more daring move.

Lu Zhou moved closer to Ying Gou before he came to a stop about 3 meters away.

Ying Gou began pulling at the chains again, causing them to ring with an ear-piercing noise. He trembled violently, growing more and more frightened.

Lu Zhou withdrew some of his divine power, causing the light on his body to dim slightly.

As expected, Ying Gou gradually calmed down, and half of his fear seemed to have dissipated.

'So it's the divine power?'

The divine power came from the Heavenly Writing, and the Heavenly Writing came from the system. Hence, it should be a foreign power. However, even if it was a foreign power, it should not have caused Ying Guo to be so frightened. Moreover, Tuoba Sicheng, Tian Wu, and Lord Zhennan should have keener senses than Ying Gou so why did they not sense anything.

"Do you know me?" Lu Zhou suddenly asked.

Ying Gou did not dare to speak nor did he dare to look at Lu Zhou. He shrank back even more.

"Who tied you here?" Lu Zhou asked again.

Ying Gou opened and closed his mouth, but no words came out for a long time. Finally, he said two words, "S-supreme... being..."

With Lu Zhou and Qin Renyue's current cultivation base, let alone a supreme being, they did not even have a way to measure how strong Saints were.

"It's actually a supreme being?" Qin Renyue said solemnly.

The rumor outside had always been that the late Emperor Emeritus trapped Ying Gou here to guard his tomb. However, it was clearly not the case.

Lu Zhou looked at Ying Gou and asked, "Do you want to be free?"

When they heard this question, the four elders of Mount Li shook their heads vehemently while Qin Renyue and the 49 swordsmen were shocked.

When Qin Renyue regained his senses, he hastily said, "Brother Lu, you mustn't do that! If you free him, I'm afraid he'll bring disaster to the world."

Before Lu Zhou could reply, Ying Gou shook his head repeatedly, confusing everyone.

Following that, Lu Zhou flew back up to the wooden bridge to everyone's relief.

The four chains stopped clanking as well. The sense of relief that came from the abyss was almost palpable.

Finally, everyone shifted their eyes to the stone door on the other side of the wooden bridge. It was time to see what was behind the door.

Qin Renyue looked at the White Tiger Coiling Dragon Jade in his hand and said, "This jade is comparable to a sacred relic. It's extraordinary."

"There's a special formation etched on the stone door. Ever since the late Emperor Emeritus was entombed, no one has ever entered the tomb. All the guardians like Jian Zhen can only wander outside the tomb," Ji Shi said.

Qin Renyue flew over to the stone door, followed by the 49 swordsmen and the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

At this time, the sound of clanking chains rang in the air again.

When they looked down the abyss, they saw Ying Gou closed his eyes, and his hands were placed on his body, looking as though he was in a deep sleep.

"Let's stop looking. It's too scary," Little Yuan'er said.

Ji Shi glanced at Ying Gou before looking at Lu Zhou who was standing nearby. When he recalled Lu Zhou's fight with Meng Mingshi, he suddenly felt Ying Gou was not that frightening anymore. What was frightening was the person standing next to them wearing human skin.

Lu Zhou looked at the stone door and said, "Open the stone door."

"Alright." Qin Renyue casually tossed the White Tiger Dragon Jade out.

Thump!

It turned into a streak of light and struck the stone door.

On the stone door, the white tiger carving on the left lit up as the coiling dragon carving on the right lit up. Then, the stone door parted, sliding to both sides.

Creak!

The opened door revealed an eerie scene. The stone room was dark and spacious. With the illumination from the energy seals, they could not see an end to the room at all.

Lu Zhou flicked his fingers, sending out an orb of light that illuminated the room.

The dark stone room was filled with all kinds of human figurines.

“Sacrificial warriors...”

The four elders of Mount Li’s expressions were solemn.

“Sacrificial warriors?”

“In fact, even at the moment of the late Emperor Emeritus’ death, he was unwilling to give up his throne and wanted to continue conquering the world. In order to appease him and honor his final wish, the royal family selected over ten thousand living people to be made into terracotta warriors so that in death they would continue to follow the late Emperor Emeritus.”

“...”

It was difficult for them to understand this kind of sick mentality. However, it was not surprising to them. After all, when cultivators reached a certain realm, they would do everything they could to achieve immortality. It was not surprising that living people were buried to accompany emperors.

“He was dying at that time, and yet, he was still so stubborn,” Yan Zhenluo said with a sigh.

The four elders of Mount Li remained silent.

Lu Li turned to look at the four elders of Mount Li and asked, “Why are you so loyal to him?”

“The late Emperor Emeritus did us a favor,” Cui Mingguang replied.

Upon hearing this, they thought it was no wonder the four elders of Mount Li were deceived by Meng Mingshi.

They looked into the tomb again.

“Will these sacrificial warriors come to life?” Little Yuan’er asked, shrinking back.

“Who knows? It’s not surprising if there are monsters in here so it wouldn’t surprise me if they come to live. It’s better to be careful,” Qin Renyue said.

Lu Zhou flew forward and cast the power of sight, power of hearing, and power of smell to survey the area. Then, he brought the Golden Taixu Mirror out and imbued it with the divine power before he shone it into the tomb. It revealed all the formations and traps easily.

“Let’s go,” Lu Zhou said as he held the Golden Taixu Mirror and flew forward.

Upon seeing this, everyone followed closely behind.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

They flew above the heads of tens and thousands of sacrificial warriors.

Soon after, they arrived in the center of the tomb. There was a square platform with two black sarcophagi on it. A ray of light fell on the platform like a spotlight on a stage.

After everyone descended, Qin Renyue said, "Brother Lu's treasure is really amazing. If it weren't for the mirror, I'm afraid we would've triggered the traps."

Lu Zou did not pay attention to Qin Renyue's flattery. Instead, he pointed to the top and said, "The tomb is located underground, but look at the ray of light. It means the inside of Mount Li is hollow."

"That's right. The royal family really spent a lot on the mausoleum."

Lu Zhou said, "There should be a trap up there. It's probably difficult to exit once you go in."

Everyone nodded.

Yu Zhenghai walked to the two sarcophagi. He looked to the left and right as he asked, "Why are there two sarcophagi?"

Ji Shi shook his head. "We know nothing about this. After all, we didn't come in at that time. Those who came in weren't allowed to leave."

Zhao Yu said, "No matter how many there are, one of them definitely belongs to the late Emperor Emeritus. The other one likely belongs to His Majesty's favorite concubine or something like that."

"That's impossible." Ji Shi shook his head. "This isn't in accordance with etiquette and tradition. Concubines don't have the right to be buried next to emperors. Only the Empress has the right. After the concubines die, they'll be buried together in the outer chamber."

"Who cares? We'll know once we open it," Mingshi Yin said.

Everyone nodded. This was the purpose of their visit, after all.

Lu Zhou pointed at the sarcophagus on the left and said, "Open it."

Yu Zhenghai pushed the lid open with one hand. It moved more easily than expected.

Everyone looked over.

Yan Zhenluo ignited a talisman again and lit up the surroundings.

After taking a glance, Yu Zhenghai exclaimed, "It's empty?!"

No one expected this.

The four elders of Mount Li did not believe this and rushed over to have a look. Indeed, it was empty inside. There were only some funerary items, jewelry, personal belongings, and clothes.

"Impossible!"

The four elders of Mount Li were still in disbelief.

"I saw the late Emperor Emeritus being brought into the tomb with my own eyes... T-this..." Tang Zibing said, confused.

According to etiquette, an emperor's sarcophagus was always placed on the left. Hence, the sarcophagus on the right could not have belonged to the late Emperor Emeritus.

In any case, since the left side was empty, they had to take a look at the right side.

Ji Shi was still unwilling to believe this. He went to the right sarcophagus and decisively pushed the lid off with one hand

Everyone looked over.

As expected, it was also empty.

"..."

Everyone was baffled; they looked at each other in confusion.

"Empty?"

After spending so much effort, the tomb was empty. Was this not a waste of time?

At this moment, Yan Zhenluo speculated out loud, "Is it possible that the late Emperor Emeritus didn't die?"

The four elders of Mount Li's eyes widened slightly.

Qin emperor didn't die?"Yan Zhenluo deduced.

Ji Shi said, "Back then, before the late Emperor Emeritus died, the four of us were by his side. When he died, there were many people present. His death couldn't be faked. Moreover, when he was alive, he searched everywhere for ways to live forever. He even found Ying Gou! If he were alive, why didn't he show himself?"

Although the later Emperor Emeritus did not imprison Ying Gou here, it was a fact that he had searched for and found Ying Gou.

Everyone was puzzled. Indeed, even if the late Emperor Emeritus managed to find a way to live forever after being entombed, with his personality, he would have returned to Great Qin to take the throne.

Lu Zhou did not care about this matter so he did not dwell on it. Instead, he walked over and studied the old things in the sarcophagi. With a wave of his hand, a pile of funerary objects was uncovered.

Cultivators were not too interested in worldly possessions.

No one knew what Lu Zhou was looking for so they only silently watched.

After a moment, Mingshi Yin could not help but say, "Master, we don't lack these things."

The items of the dead were somewhat unlucky. Besides, they were not grave robbers.

Zhao Yu's expression was a little unnatural upon hearing these words.

Lu Zhou continued to look through the things.

Swoosh!

“Ding! Completed the mission, Secret of the Golden Tokens. Reward: 10,000 merit points.”

“Ding! Found the Heavenly Mark Brocade Box.”

‘The Heavenly Mark Brocade Box?’

Lu Zhou saw a brown brocade box, but there did not seem to be anything special about it.

Perhaps, it was because there was no corpse in the sarcophagus, there was not even a speck of dust on the brocade box.

Lu Zhou waved his hand, and the brocade box flew into his hand.

“Ding! The Heavenly Mark Brocade Box is an artifact. It can only be opened after reaching a certain realm.”

“???”

Upon seeing the brocade box, Ji Shi exclaimed, “I remember now! This is something His Majesty obtained at the Pillar of Destruction!”

“He couldn’t open the brocade box?” Lu Zhou asked.

Ji Shi shook his head and said, “This thing is very strange. It’s impossible to open with external force. The late Emperor Emeritus tried various ways but couldn’t open it. In the end, he forgot about it.”

“The things found at the Pillars of Destruction are all treasures. I’m sure the box is no exception,” Tan Zibing said.

Bang!

Lu Zhou waved his hands.

A barrage of energy seals fell on the brocade box, but there was not even one scratch on it.

Qin Renyue stepped forward and took a closer look. When he saw the fine and exquisite patterns carved on the box, he said, “It’s an extremely powerful sealing technique.”

“A sealing technique?”

“I’ve been to the Pillar of Destruction in Heaven Enlightenment in Ping Dan. I’ve seen similar patterns there,” Qin Renyue said.

Lu Zhou recalled the interior of the Pillar of Destruction in Yu Zhong. Indeed, there seemed to be similar patterns on the wall there. Although the patterns on the brocade box were not exactly the same as the ones in the Pillar of Destruction, the style was the same.

Lu Zhou no longer tried to open it with force. He did not think there was a point. After all, the system had already notified him that it would open once he reached a certain realm. All he needed to do was focus on cultivating and raising his cultivation base, and it would open sooner or later.

“Master,” Yu Shangrong called out at this moment as he pointed to the sarcophagus on the right.

Everyone looked over.

Yu Shangrong had called out to his master because he had seen something familiar. It was none other than the Scroll of the Heavenly Writing.

Lu Zhou furrowed his brows. "My thing is here?"

Lu Zhou waved his hand, bringing the Scroll of the Heavenly Writing over.

The others were baffled.

'How can it be your thing?'

Qin Renyue was filled with the urge to say something but hesitated. In the end, after thinking about it, he forcefully swallowed the words hanging at the tip of his tongue. He came here today not to obtain any benefits. His goal was to forge a closer relationship with the Evil Sky Pavilion. At the same time, he wanted to satisfy his curiosity and broaden his horizons.

"Ding! Obtained the complete Open Heavenly Writing Scroll. Note: It's not recommended to use the scroll with your current cultivation base."

At the same time, Lu Zhou saw a new tab appear on the system panel: Main Mission.

Following that, he received a notification about the mission.

"Ding! Main mission: find the Great Void. Note: it's recommended to increase your strength as soon as possible."

Lu Zhou looked at the interface for the Heavenly Writing on the system. A new column had appeared, but it was dark and could not be viewed. Then, he put the scroll away with very smooth and natural movements.

"This thing..."

"You want it?" Lu Zhou asked.

"No, no, no..." Qin Renyue said with a smile, "This thing contains a special power. It's extraordinary."

The Empress Dowager of Great Yan had once put one of the scrolls under her pillow and had benefited from it.

Although Lu Zhou did not know why the Heavenly Writing Scrolls were scattered everywhere, he was sure that the power contained in just one of them was enough to kill for.

'Can my things be ordinary? Of course, not.'

"Master, there's nothing else here apart from what we've seen," Yu Zhenghai said helplessly. Originally, he thought they would be able to find many treasures here and could split them among themselves. Now, it seemed like he thought too much.

"Congratulations, Brother Lu." Qin Renyue was a smart man. He naturally knew Lu Zhou was the biggest beneficiary of this trip to the mausoleum.

Zhao Yu looked at the two sarcophagi and shook his head helplessly. Then, he said, "Although there's no one, it is still the tomb of the late Emperor Emeritus. Old Sir, can you please put the lid on."

Lu Zhou waved his hand.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong waved their hands at the same time, closing the sarcophagi on the right and left respectively.

Zhao Yu bowed and said, "Thank you."

The four elders of Mount Li sighed.

Just as they were about to leave, a cold wind blew down from above.

Cultivators were not afraid of the cold, but this gust of cold wind was extremely strange. It was as if it had penetrated their protective barrier, causing them to shiver. It was as if they were being chased away.

Lu Zhou did not want to stay here any longer either so he said, "Let's go."

At this moment...

Thud!

The four elders of Mount Li fell to their knees at the same time..