

## Disciples 1351

### Chapter 1351: The Equalizer

Everyone exchanged a look of confusion. What are the four elders of Mount Li trying to do now?

“The four of us are not leaving,” Cui Mingguang said.

During the journey here, the four of them had been making faces at each other and winking, clearly not in agreement with each other’s actions. It was rare to see them agree on one thing.

Lu Zhou looked at the four of them and said, “A mausoleum isn’t a place for the living.”

The four elders kowtowed at the same time.

“The late Emperor Emeritus had been kind to the four of us. If it weren’t for His Majesty, there would be no four elders of Mount Li. I hope senior will acquiesce to our wishes,” Cui Mingguang said.

In fact, Lu Zhou did not hold a grudge against the four elders of Mount Li. They were just on different sides. Moreover, they were manipulated by Meng Mingshi and had already been punished accordingly; they had lost many Birth Charts.

Ji Shi said, “We kept our words and led you to the mausoleum. I hope you’ll keep your word as well.”

A hint of disapproval flashed in Qin Renyue’s eyes as he said, “What right do you have to say that? Even without the four of you, we could still find our way here with Young Master Zhao’s help. Moreover, Brother Lu is so powerful that even Ying Gou is afraid of him. Do you think you’d be able to stop Brother Lu from coming to this shabby tomb even if you didn’t help?” Inwardly, he added, ‘Moreover, Brother Lu has a group of disciples with karmic fire and Great Void Seeds who will become supreme beings in the future...’

A hint of sorrow could be seen flashing in the eyes of the four elders of Mount Li.

Lu Zhou said, “I’ve always kept my words. Since you want to stay, then stay.”

Upon hearing this, Qin Renyue said, “Brother Lu, this is the royal mausoleum. Ying Gou is still here. If they somehow managed to use Ying Gou...”

As a Venerable Master, Qin Renyue was naturally not naively optimistic. Human hearts were unpredictable, and it was necessary to guard against them sometimes.

Ji Shi hastily said, “Venerable Master, you’re over-worrying. First of all, once the stone door closes, we won’t be able to open them again. Even if we can leave, we don’t dare to go near Ying Gou at all. Second, Ying Gou is frightened of the old senior. If we do try anything funny with him, aren’t we just shooting our own feet? Finally, we’re staying here because we don’t intend to live anymore. With that, is there a point in us playing tricks?”

Qin Renyue nodded and said, “You have a point. However, I really don’t understand. The late Emperor Emeritus’ body isn’t even here. What’s the point of guarding an empty tomb?”

Cui Mingguang sighed and said, "Even if we leave this place, what can we do now?"

Cui Mingguang's words stopped Qin Renyue from questioning them any further. He could no longer be bothered with them. He turned around and said, "Let's go."

The 49 swordsmen replied in unison, "Yes!"

Swoosh!

Qin Renyue and the 49 swordsmen flew out of the tomb.

Lu Zhou looked at the light shining down from above and the two sarcophagi as a question arose in his mind: Have I been here before?

"Master?"

Little Yuan'er's voice pulled Lu Zhou back to his senses. He tapped his toes lightly and flew out of the tomb.

The people of the Evil Sky Pavilion followed closely behind him.

After landing outside of the stone door, Lu Zhou waved his sleeve.

The White Tiger Dragon Jade flew off the stone door and crumbled into pieces as it fell.

Buzz!

As the door slid close, everyone looked at the four elders of Mount Li through the crack in the door. They remained kneeling on the ground, facing the sarcophagi and kowtowing at the same time.

After the stone door finally closed, everyone peeked at Ying Gou. He was in the same position.

Subsequently, Lu Zhou and Qin Renyue led the others out of the mausoleum.

...

Not long after Lu Zhou and the others left.

The four elders of Mount Li heard a noise in the tomb.

Then, they watched as the tens of thousands of sacrificial warriors came to life, thrusting their halberds out in unison as pieces of clay began to fall off them.

Following that, a mournful cry rang in the air.

"The Unholy One has come! The world is coming to an end!"

The four elders of Mount Li rose to their feet in shock and hurriedly gathered back-to-back, looking at the sacrificial warriors as though they were facing a great enemy.

These were soldiers who once followed the late Emperor Emeritus to conquer the land. They were brave, fearless, and skilled in fighting. However, all of them wore terrified expressions on their faces at this moment, and their bodies were trembling.

Following that, they began to crumble like the clay that had encased them in life and in death. In just a moment, tens of thousands of sacrificial warriors were reduced to a pile of rubble.

...

With Lu Zhou and Qin Renyue in the lead, everyone exited the mausoleum safely.

Everyone greedily inhaled the fresh air as soon as they stepped out of the mausoleum, enjoying the brightness of the sun. It felt as though they had been reborn and that their time in the mausoleum was a different lifetime.

"It's so nice outside!" Little Yuan'er said with a smile.

"I agree!" Conch chimed in.

Qin Renyue felt really envious when he looked at Lu Zhou's disciples who possessed karmic fire. If he also had a few disciples with karmic fire, he would not have to worry about the Qin clan. Prodigies with their domineering talent were really hard to come by. With these thoughts in his mind, he was reminded of Qin Moshang, causing him to sigh.

Qin Renyue looked at the sky for a moment before he asked, "Brother Lu, why don't you visit my training hall?"

Lu Zhou did not respond immediately. He looked up at the sky and thought to himself, 'There were no clouds in the sky when we came, but now there are so many clouds gathering... The weather is quite strange...'

A cool breeze blew past at this moment.

"The weather is really fickle! Master, let's hurry up and leave this place," Little Yuan'er said after running over to Lu Zhou's side. Then, she waved Whitzard over.

Whitzard obediently flew over.

Lu Zhou nodded. "That's my intention as well."

Whoosh!

Another cool breeze blew past.

Mingshi Yin shivered. "What's wrong with the d\*mn weather?"

Everyone could clearly feel that something was amiss. They were all cultivators; they should be impervious to the cold. However, after surveying the surroundings, they discovered no abnormality. In the end, they left and went to the Qin clan.

...

At the same time, in the sky thousands of miles away.

A white-clad cultivator wielding a long halberd flew through the clouds like a meteor. When the white-clad cultivator finally came to a stop, he swept his bright eyes across the land.

When the white-clad cultivator looked at Mount Li, a frown appeared on his face. He brought out a talisman and ignited it before he said, "The imbalance in the green lotus domain has worsened. I'm afraid it'll bring about the destruction of the world. Please instruct me on what I should do next."

After a moment, the fire burning the talisman burned brighter as a voice rang in the air.

"Check the ten Pillars of Destruction. If you find abnormalities, report back immediately."

With that, the white-clad cultivator extinguished the fire and swooped down. In just a few breaths, he landed on Mount Li and entered the royal mausoleum. After looking around for a moment, he sensed something, and his eyes widened slightly. "A zombie king?" His expression grew solemn as he muttered to himself, "I didn't expect to find a zombie king here..."

He flashed a few times, and in just a moment, he arrived above the wooden bridge. When he looked down and saw Ying Gou who was restrained by four chains, he exclaimed, "Ying Gou!"

At this moment, Ying Gou's eyes snapped open. He glared at the white-clad cultivator and bared his fangs as he roared, "Human!"

"Do you know your sins?"

Ying Gou shot up like an arrow, baring its teeth and brandishing its claws. Alas, it was firmly restrained by the four chains and did not go far.

The white-clad cultivator said in a low voice, "So it's restrained..."

Ying Gou was enraged after being woken from his slumber again. He snarled and struggled against the chains, trying to charge at the white-clad cultivator.

The white-clad cultivator did not expect Ying Gou to be so aggressive. In any case, he had gotten over his curiosity and no longer bothered with Ying Gou. Instead, he flew forward, intending to enter the tomb.

Bang!

The white tiger and coiling dragon carving on the stone door lit up, preventing him from entering.

The white tiger and dragon lines on the stone door lit up and blocked it.

The white-clad cultivator frowned. "An isolated space formation?"

Despite trying various methods, he could not enter. After flying back and forth a few times, he had no choice but to give up. When he looked down, he saw the fragments of the White Tiger Dragon Jade on the ground. At this time, he finally noticed the charred corpses of the monsters as well. These traces were new; clearly, someone had just come and left.

The white-clad cultivator flashed toward Ying Gou again. "Let me ask you..."

Clank! Clank! Clank!

Ying Gou roared and rushed out.

He lifted his halberd to block the attack. "You don't know what's good for you!"

He brandished his halberd, releasing countless energy seals that fell on Ying Gou like torrential rain.

After a few waves of attacks, not only was Ying Gou unharmed, but it grew even more agitated.

He frowned and reported the matter to the Sacred Hall. After he received the reply from the Sacred Hall telling him to put the matter of Ying Gou aside and check on the Pillars of Destruction first, he scoffed.

"If it weren't for the Sacred Hall's order, I would've killed you!"

At this moment, Ying Gou suddenly spat out two words, "Supreme... being..."

"There's no point trying to scare me with your master!"

Then, Ying Gou spat out another two words, "Unholy... One..."

"Nonsense! Ying Gou, your duty is to guard the tomb, not to confuse people with your words. If you dare spout nonsense again, I'll ask the Sacred Hall to refine your body!" the white-clad cultivator said angrily.

Ying Gou was not frightened at all. He grew even more enraged. He flew up all the way to the top, pulling the chains taut.

The white-clad cultivator. "..."

If he were to fight now, he really had no way to kill Ying Gou. After a moment, he scoffed and flashed away with great fanfare.

...

In the evening.

In the Qin clan's training hall.

Qin Renyue raised his wine cup and said to Lu Zou, "It's a rare occasion for Brother Lu to visit. I apologize for our previous misunderstandings. Please.."

After saying that, Qin Renyue finished the wine in his cup in one go.

When cultivators reached the stage of a Venerable Master, they no longer had the desire for worldly things like wine and such. However, some traditions were so deeply ingrained that they were hard to dismiss.

Lu Zhou took a perfunctory sip from the cup. Then, he asked without beating around the bush, "Humans have been cultivating and fighting fierce beasts for so long. Doesn't anyone know where the Great Void is?"

Qin Renyue was slightly startled by the abrupt change of subject. When he regained his composure, he said, "No. However, there's no doubt it exists. There are people who have seen the Equalizers with their own eyes. It's said that Venerable Master Duanmu from the purple lotus domain was taken away to the Great Void, but that was 30,000 years ago. Rumor has it that the Great Void is located somewhere in the Unknown Land."

Lu Zhou nodded. Up until now, his activities were limited to the periphery of the Unknown Land. The closest he had been to the heart of the Unknown Land was when he went to Yu Zhong.

According to the map, the Unknown Land was divided into three major regions: the outer region, the middle region, and the core region. There were three Pillars of Destruction in each of the regions with the tenth one being located directly in the heart of the Unknown Land.

“Have you been to the core region?” Lu Zhou asked.

Qin Renyue nodded. “I’ve been there, but I didn’t stay for long. In the core regions, there are divine beasts with keen senses. Moreover, there are also divine beasts comparable to supreme beings there. The zombie kings and sacred relics from the Great Void can also be found in the core region. In any case, there’s only death waiting for those who go there.”

Yu Zhenghai asked curiously, “So far, as far as we know, in all the domains, Venerable Masters are the strongest. Isn’t the difference in strength between humans and fierce beasts too vast? Where’s the balance?”

Qin Renyue chuckled. “That’s what you think. Humans reign in the Great Void. Human beings are strange creatures. We talk about balance and whatnot, but we’re ultimately biased toward our species. If I were a supreme being, I definitely wouldn’t allow fierce beasts to attack humans indiscriminately. What do you think?”

According to the rumors in the cultivation world, once a cultivator reached a certain realm, he or she would be taken away by the Equalizer. If humans suffered a catastrophe, did it not mean that there would be no more new blood in the Great Void?

Yu Zhenghai nodded and said, “You have a point.”

At this moment, Lu Zhou suddenly asked, “Do you know Lu Tiantong?”

Lu Li, who was sitting at the side, felt speechless. ‘Ancestor, what are you doing? Are you trying to trick others again?’

Outwardly, Lu Li looked calm and dignified as usual. Inwardly, many strange thoughts were racing in his mind. He picked up his wine cup and took a sip, enjoying the fragrance of the wine spreading on his taste buds.

‘If the ancestor wants to put on a show, I should just enjoy the show.’

Qin Renyue was slightly surprised. “Venerable Master Lu? The one from the black lotus domain 30,000 years ago.”

“That’s right.”

“I’ve heard of him. Perhaps, if it weren’t for the Red Line, I’d be friends with him. I heard he dominated the black lotus domain, garnered everyone’s respect, and shocked the future generations. He’s a legend in the cultivation world. It’s a pity I don’t know much about him. I hope Brother Lu won’t disdain me for my ignorance.”

Lu Li gave Qin Renyue a thumbs-up. As expected of a Venerable Master, even his flattery skills were worthy of being an example for the younger generation.

Qin Renyu looked at Lu Li's thumbs-up in confusion. However, since Lu Li was a guest, he just smiled in response.

Lu Li nodded and smiled before he continued to drink.

Qin Renyue also nodded and smiled.

Lu Li thought to himself, 'Indeed, smart people speak differently, and their words are pleasant to the ears.'

At this moment, Lu Zhou said, "Lu Tiantong is indeed a rare legend. When I was in the black lotus domain, I often heard about his heroic deeds. When I was in his Nine Twists Illusory Formation, I read his notes and gained an understanding of the power of the Dao."

"Is that so? For Brother Lu to be able to benefit from that formation, Venerable Master Lu's cultivation base must be very close to a Saint," Qin Renyue said.

Once again, Lu Li raised his hand and gave Qin Renyue a thumbs-up.

Qin Renyue. "?"

Nevertheless, Qin Renyue remained polite and smiled at Lu Li in response.

Luzhou said, "This man is indeed close to becoming a Saint. Based on his notes, he was only a step away from becoming a Saint."

"What a pity. I'm afraid he was likely targeted by the people from the Great Void," Qin Renyue said with a sigh.

Yu Zhenghai did not have a good impression of the Great Void. He asked, "Does this mean that no one from any of the domains is allowed to become a Saint?"

"Not really," Qin Renyue said, "In the twin lotus domain, there's a Saint. The only Saint in all the domains."

Lu Zhou's heart moved upon hearing this. "Is what you said true?"

"Yes." Qin Renyue smiled. "Not many people know about this.. As it happens, I'm one of the few who knows about this."

## **Chapter 1352: The Sky Hook Ropeway**

Everyone was curious. They stopped drinking, setting their cups down on the table as they looked at Qin Renyue.

Qin Renyue felt slightly embarrassed by all the attention. Then, he smiled and said, "However, it's not a big secret now. The rumors have been swirling for a while now."

Seeing that people from the Evil Sky Pavilion were eager to know more, he paused dramatically before he said, "This Saint lives in a parallel green lotus domain. To travel there, without using a runic passage, it takes two months for a Venerable Master to fly across to the Endless Ocean to reach that place. The two domains were never one to begin with despite sharing the same roots. However, they were relatively close to each other. Later, due to some unknown force, they got closer and closer before they overlapped, forming a mountain and linking the roots together again. That's why people refer to them as the twin green lotus domain."

"Think about this: originally, humans and fierce beasts had no intersection but were pulled together because of some unknown force. With that, what do you think will happen?"

Everyone grew even more curious after listening to these words.

At this time, Lu Li said, "War."

Qin Renyue looked at Lu Li and nodded. He said, "That's right. There'll be war. The two green lotus domains were at war for nearly 10,000 years. The people struggled to survive, but the forces in the cultivation world were only pursuing their own interests. The two domains were in a state of disunity, and there were endless fighting."

After saying this, Qin Renyue sighed.

Lu Zhou asked, "No one went there?"

Qin Renyue replied, "No one was willing to go there at that time. Moreover, the war that lasted 10,000 years was a long time ago; it was very long ago from the present day. At that time, the cultivation world was not as mature as it was now. In ancient times, humans lived in the Unknown Land and were originally one. Gradually, chaos descended on the Unknown Land, and humans spread out to the nine domains. The Unknown Land changed greatly, becoming less and less suitable for humans to live in. Due to huge migration of humans from the Unknown Land, the domains were formed."

"The reason the 10,000-year war ended for the green lotus domains was due to this Saint. Similar to Venerable Master Lu of the black lotus domain, he appeared out of nowhere and dominated the land. All the forces submitted to him and the two domains called a truce. After that, the Saint no longer cared about worldly affairs and retreated into seclusion."

Lu Zhou said, "Saints are much stronger than Venerable Masters. If that Saint were ambitious, wouldn't the world fall into danger?"

"You're right, Brother Lu. However, this Saint isn't ambitious. Saints are Saints because they've long seen through the nature of the world. Power, status, possessions are just fleeting clouds in the eyes of Saints. Saints pursued the Great Dao. However, even if he were ambitious and wanted to conquer the nine domains, he would still have to deal with the Great Void. The Great Void maintains the balance, after all."

"For a Saint to be able to conquer the nine domains is already a threat to the balance. Even Venerable Masters are regarded as unstable variables, and some of them have even been removed by the Great Void. So why wasn't anything done about the Saint?" Yan Zhenluo asked curiously.

"That's a good question. This is called the 'saint privilege'," Qin Renyue said.

“The saint privilege?”

“Regardless if it were powerful cultivators or fierce beasts, the Great Void is very cautious. Saints have relatively high chances of breaking through and becoming supreme beings. With the addition of each supreme being, the strength of humans increases collectively. In other words, if you’re strong enough, the rules will change. This is what’s called the saint privilege,” Qin Renyue explained.

Everyone nodded. They all understood this logic.

For example, Li Yunzheng, the emperor of the red lotus domain. He had to address Lu Zhou as grandmaster. A ruler of a country did not necessarily have the highest status. The rules in the secular world and even in the cultivation world did not apply to very strong cultivators.

“After talking for such a long time, you’ve still yet to tell me his name,” Lu Zhou said.

Qin Renyue smacked his forehead lightly and said slightly sheepishly, “His surname is Chen, and his name is Fu.”

“Chen Fu...” Lu Zhou was not familiar with this name at all.

“He follows the school of Confucianism. He’s righteous and was raised between heaven and earth. It’s almost impossible for ordinary cultivators to reach his realm.”

“Do you think he knows the location of the Great Void?” Lu Zhou asked.

Qin Renyue nodded. “I think he should know. He had dealings with the Equalizers from the Great Void, after all. Brother Lu, do you plan to look for him?”

“Why?”

“I’m afraid he might have already reached his limit and left the world...” Qin Renyue sighed.

Everyone was slightly surprised by these words.

“Even a Saint couldn’t break free of the heaven and earth shackles?” Yan Zhenluo found this hard to believe.

“After passing three Birth Trials, every additional Birth Chart will grant one 10,000 years of life. Venerable Masters will gain 30,000 years of life. Even without counting other factors, six Birth Charts can already grant one 60,000 years of life. This means Saints have 90,000 years of life. It has been 100,000 years since the battle of the twin lotus domains. If he has made another breakthrough, perhaps...” Qin Renyue trailed off, sighing as he shook his head.

Since a Venerable Master had said so, what else can the others say?

Lu Zhou said, “You have a point. However, since Chen Fu passed the fourth Birth Trial and had contact with the Great Void, the possibility of him breaking through is very high. Moreover, it shouldn’t be a pipe dream for a cultivator to walk to the end of the 36 Birth Chart path.”

Qin Renyue nodded. “You’re right, Brothers Lu. I’m too short-sighted...”

In all the domains, there were the weak and the strong. The strong looked down on the weak as though the weak were frogs living at the bottom of the well. Similarly, the Great Void looked down on the green lotus domain as well. After all, they had not reached the point where their collective strength was that of Saints.

Following that, everyone chatted about other things and no longer spoke about Saints.

After a while, Qin Renyue said, "Brother Lu, I've carefully observed your disciples. All of them are extraordinarily talented, especially this one..."

Qin Renyue pointed at Mingshi Yin who was sitting on the left, enjoying himself and eating fruits at the moment.

Everyone looked at Mingshi Yin in unison.

Mingshi Yin restrained himself and maintained a low profile. He coughed and said with a hint of embarrassment, "Venerable Master Qin, you overpraised me. Compared to my fellow disciples, I'm still lacking."

Qin Renyue said, "You're too modest. You have... an extraordinary quality."

Qin Renyue had wanted to say Great Void Seed instead of extraordinary quality. However, he felt that would be too direct. It was not too polite to keep focusing on the Great Void Seed even if rumors had spread all over about a Great Void Seed appearing in the green lotus domain. It was best to not carelessly mention it. There were many innocent people who had gotten into trouble just for possessing treasures. Who could guarantee there was no one who harbored ill intention and secretly coveted the Great Void Seed?

"I'm not being modest; I'm speaking the truth," Mingshi Yin said.

Qin Renyue only smiled. All he knew was Mingshi Yin was a future supreme being; Mingshi Yin's future was limitless. Based on the Great Void Seed alone, how could he not seize this chance to forge a good relationship with Mingshi Yin?

"I'd like to help you," Qin Renyue said.

Upon hearing these words, the 49 swordsmen, the disciples of the Qin clan, and those from the Evil Sky Pavilion felt a trace of envy. After all, obtaining the help of a Venerable Master was not something cultivators even dared to dream about.

Mingshi Yin smiled and said, "Venerable Master Qin is too generous. However, I prefer to depend on myself."

"Listen to me first before you make a decision," Qin Renyue said.

Lu Zhou raised his hand, stopping Mingshi Yin from speaking before gesturing for Qin Renyue to continue speaking.

Lu Zhou turned to Qin Renyue and said, "If I'm not mistaken, your disciples are close to having to pass their second Birth Trials or just recently passed their second Birth Trials. There's nothing I can do about the first and second Birth Trials, but I can help with their third Birth Trials."

Upon hearing these, the eyes of the members of the Evil Sky Pavilion lit up.

Passing Birth Trials required very harsh and extreme environments. It was not so difficult with the first and second Birth Trials, but with each passing Birth Trial, the requirement would become even stricter. This issue did not only concern Mingshi Yin but all the ten disciples of the Evil Sky Pavilion. In fact, it also concerned Lu Zhou.

However, in Qin Renyue's eyes, Lu Zhou was even stronger than a Venerable Master so he did not think he would be able to help Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou asked, "You know of places suitable to pass the third Birth Trials?"

Qin Renyue nodded. "The Soaring Peak's Sky Hook Ropeway is the best place to pass the third Birth Trial.. However, in Brother Lu's eyes, this place is likely nothing."

### **Chapter 1353: As Expected of a Master**

"I have many disciples so it's not too bad to have an extra option. Moreover, my method is harsh and may not be suitable for them," Lu Zhou said.

Qin Renyue, who understood the implication behind Lu Zhou's words, was overjoyed. He said, "That's great. I'm honored to be able to help Brother Lu."

As Qin Renyue spoke, he looked at Mingshi Yin. He thought to himself that one day in the future, he would be able to brag to others that he had once helped Supreme Being Mingshi.

Mingshi Yin's flesh erupted with goosebumps when he saw the fire of enthusiasm burning in Qin Renyue's eyes. He said, "Forget about me. I'm still far from having to face my third Birth Trial. I'll leave this good opportunity to my two senior brothers."

Qin Renyue looked at Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong before he looked at Little Yuan'er and Conch. He also thought highly of Lu Zhou's other disciples. After all, they all possessed the karmic fire. However, the karmic fire was far from being comparable to the Great Void Seed. Naturally, he thought the highest of the disciple who possessed the Great Void Seed. In the end, he said with a smile, "There's no rush. I can afford to wait."

'With the Great Void Seed, can your growth be slow?'

At this moment, Lu Zhou asked, "Tell me more about the Sky Hook Ropeway."

Qin Renyue nodded before he said, "The Sky Hook Ropeway is located at the Soaring Peaks in the southeastern direction. The ropeway is between the two peaks. The environment there isn't inferior to the locations of the Pillars of Destruction. The Sky Hook Ropeway was left behind by the great Saints from ancient times. It's said to be used to maintain the balance and is someone like the Pillars of Destruction. After many expeditions there, it eventually became the ultimate place for cultivators to face their third and fourth Birth Trials."

"You can pass both the third and fourth Birth Trials there?" Lu Zhou asked.

“Yes,” Qin Renyue said, “The essence of passing Birth Trials is the same, after all. As long as the requirements are met, there shouldn’t be a problem. In fact, there are various ways to face the Birth Trials. For example, Fan Zhong used the lightning tribulation to pass his third Birth Trial. However, that method is really dangerous. He almost lost his Birth Charts at that time.”

“It may be dangerous, but it’s a good method,” Lu Zhou said. He thought the lightning tribulation was more suitable for him. After all, at the critical moment, he could even use the lightning bolts to increase the level of his blue avatar. With the blue avatar, he would not suffer much damage from the lightning tribulation at all. Not only that, but it would be easier for him to pass his Birth Trial as well.

“Indeed, it’s a good method. However, apart from the difficulty, there are also other factors to consider. After all, one would need to depend on the weather and heaven’s cooperation to summon a lightning tribulation. The only other way to summon a lightning tribulation is through powerful formations or sacred relics. With this, you can see how difficult it is to create an environment where you can summon a lightning tribulation. Fan Zhong was able to use the lightning tribulation to pass his Birth Trial only because he was lucky. I don’t really recommend the lightning tribulation method to pass the third Birth Trial. Perhaps, it’s more suitable to be used to pass the fourth Birth Trials,” Qin Renyue said. He clearly did not think the lightning tribulation was the best method to pass the third Birth Trial.

Lu Zhou agreed with Qin Renyue. He had once experienced the lightning tribulation when he was at the White Tower Council. It was only due to the 30,000 inscriptions that the lightning tribulation was summoned. He knew it was difficult to summon a lightning tribulation. In any case, he could think about his fourth Birth Trial later. After all, he still had to pass his third Birth Trial.

“How do we endure the environment of the Sky Hook Ropeway?” Lu Zhou asked.

Upon hearing this question, Qin Renyue’s admiration for Lu Zhou grew. A good master would help his disciples to resolve their doubts and problems, on top of educating them. With Lu Zhou’s status, it was rather embarrassing to ask this question so directly, but Lu Zhou acted shamelessly for the sake of his disciples.

Qin Renyue said, “The Soaring Peaks are very tall so the vitality energy there is thin. When you’re up there, you can only use about one-third of your cultivation base. All sorts of formations are carved on the ropeway. These formations respond differently to different individuals. For example, the formations respond to your fears.”

At this moment, Yuan Lang, one of the 49 swordsmen, chimed in, “We, the 49 swordsmen, have gone to that place before. For me, I’m incredibly afraid of the cold. So when I was there, the formation manipulated the environment and made it freezing cold.”

Everyone’s interest was piqued upon hearing this.

“So you’re saying the formations on the Sky Hook Ropeway can see into people’s hearts?” Mingshi Yin asked.

“Yes,” Qin Renyue said confidently, “Although it sounds unbelievable, when you experience it, you’ll have no choice but to believe it.”

“The 49 swordsmen haven’t even passed their second Birth Trials yet, but they went to a place that’s used for passing third Birth Trials?” Mingshi Yin asked, curiously.

Yuan Lang laughed before he replied, “We only went there for training. Passing the third Birth Trials requires one to walk from one end of the ropeway to the other. We only went a quarter of the way. As long as you don’t pass that point, there’s no real danger.”

Indeed, the Sky Hook Ropeway sounded like an ideal training place. Although its environment was harsh, one was able to control the danger within reason through the distance one traveled. Hence, it was safe enough not to threaten one’s life, but it was dangerous enough to help one improve one’s strength. It was like the Nine Twists Illusory Formation that Lu Tiantong left behind.

“To travel the entire length of the ropeway, one must possess a rare and valuable quality. It’s similar to how the Pillars of Destruction acknowledge individuals with certain criteria. Based on my own experience there, that specific quality is what will help one the most to overcome one’s inner demons when on the ropeway,” Qin Renyue said.

Yu Zhenghai asked, “I want to try... Is it very dangerous?”

Qin Renyue looked at Yu Zhenghai and replied, “You’ve only passed your first Birth Trial so it’ll be even more dangerous for you.”

“Nothing can be obtained without risks,” Yu Zhenghai said.

“You’re very courageous! If you can really pass your second Birth Trial using the Sky Hook Ropeway, passing the third Birth Trials would be easy. However, the risk is really great. I advise you not to do this...” Then, he pointed at Mingshi Yin and said, “However, he should do it...”

“Him?” Yu Zhenghai was puzzled.

Mingshi Yin. “?”

‘Eldest Senior Brother, what’s with the skeptical expression on your face? There are so many people here. Can you please spare me some of my dignity?’

Qin Renyue only smiled and did not say anything else. Some words should not be said; after all, they could hurt some people’s self-esteem. He could not say that Mingshi Yin was different since Mingshi Yin had the Great Void Seed, after all.

At this moment, Lu Zhou said, “Your meaning is that Old Fourth has the Great Void Seed and has been acknowledged by the Pillar of Destruction in Yu Zhong so he can easily pass the Sky Hook Ropeway, right?”

Qin Renyue chuckled. “Brother Lu, you really know me well...”

Lu Zhou nodded as he continued to say, “Although Old Fourth is quite good, compared to his two senior brothers, he lacks courage and spirit. I’ll have to trouble you to help my two oldest disciples pass their third Birth Trials in the future...”

Mingshi Yin: ( ͡° ͜ʖ ͡° )

Qin Renyue felt a little confused, but he maintained the smile on his face and said, "Of course, of course."

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong cupped their fists together at Qin Renyue at the same time and said, "Thank you."

Upon seeing the strange expression on Mingshi Yin's face, Yu Zhenghai asked, "Old Fourth, do you have any objections?"

Mingshi Yin hastily waved his hand and said, "No, no, no. Elder Senior Brother and Second Senior Brother's talents far surpass mine. In front of both of you, I'm not worth mentioning."

Qin Renyue. "..."

'This future supreme being is really too modest...'

Qin Renyue sighed inwardly as he thought to himself that if Qin Moshang was even half as modest, Qin Moshang would not have had such a tragic outcome.

Lu Zhou said, "Old Fourth, if you want, you can have a try as well. After all, you've been acknowledged by the Pillar of Destruction, and this will help your cultivation to increase by leaps and bounds."

Mingshi Yin was overjoyed when he heard these words. "Yes, master!"

Qin Renyue said with a smile, "I believe Junior Nephew Mingshi will be the first to cross the Sky Hook Ropeway."

The Great Void Seed aside, Qin Renyue did not forget Mingshi Yin had a life heart in his Birth Palace that was just waiting to be activated. Mingshi Yin only needed to sprout the eleventh leaf and pass his Birth Trial. Mingshi Yin's talent and speed in cultivation were evident.

Mingshi Yin coughed upon hearing these words before he solemnly said, "Venerable Master Qin, you're overpraising me. My Eldest Senior Brother and Second Senior Brother will definitely do better than me."

At this moment, Little Yuan'er suddenly said, "Master, I want to go to!"

Lu Zhou shook his head. "Although your innate talent and aptitude are the best, you're still far from facing your third Birth Trials. When the time is right, you'll have your chance."

Little Yuan'er lifted her hand and counted her fingers as she said, "I already have three Birth Charts... At this rate, I'll be able to surpass Eldest Senior Brother and Second Senior Brother in ten years..."

"Didn't you say you'll surpass them in five years previously?" Lu Zhou asked.

Little Yuan'er said sheepishly, "I forgot to consider that my senior brothers will keep improving as well. Master, this time, I'm sure! 10 years! I'll surpass them in 10 years!"

Qin Renyue. "..."

'Is this how they calculate the speed of their cultivation? Why does it sound like it's easier than buying vegetables from the market? Brother Lu is really friendly. He can even joke around with his disciples...'

## **Chapter 1354: Battle of Swords and Sabers**

Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction. "I'm not worried about your talent, I'm only worried you'll slack off."

Little Yuan'er said earnestly, "I will work hard!"

Conch chimed in, "I'll work hard too."

Yu Zhenghai laughed heartily before he said, "Alright, I'll wait for Ninth Junior Sister to surpass me!"

Yu Shangrong added with a smile, "Ninth Junior Sister and Little Junior Sister are highly talented. This is as it should be..."

Qin Renyue was really baffled by the members of the Evil Sky Pavilion's behavior. They did not praise the one with the Great Void Seed but those without the Great Void Seed. After thinking about it for a moment, he thought perhaps, Lu Zhou did not want Mingshi Yin to grow too arrogant. He was again filled with admiration; for the sake of his disciples, Lu Zhou really expended a lot of effort and thoughts.

"Since that's the case, why don't Brother Lu stay in our Qin clan for the time being?" Qin Renyue asked with a smile.

With the loss of two Venerable Masters, the imbalance will definitely worsen. It would be best if a mighty figure like Lu Zhou could stay in the Qin clan.

Lu Zhou said, "I've left the Evil Sky Pavilion for a long time, and I've been away for too long. It's time for me to return."

No matter how vast the green lotus domain or the Unknown Land was, it was not still Lu Zhou's territory after all.

The others from the Evil Sky Pavilion nodded. They wanted to return as well.

Qin Renyue said, "Brother Lu, if I may speak..."

Lu Zhou nodded, indicating for Qin Renyue to continue.

Qin Renyue said, "I can understand everyone's desire to return home. Since ancient times, the best place to be is in one's territory. This is especially true among the domains. After all, inhabitants of different domains are generally hostile toward outsiders. However, currently, the imbalance is really bad. The cultivation environment in the golden lotus domain, the red lotus domain, and the black lotus domain isn't very good. It's difficult to find a better cultivation environment or resources than the ones in the Qin clan's training hall." After a quick pause, he continued to say, "Moreover, you can return to the golden lotus domain from the green lotus domain any time. I'll prepare a Collective Teleportation Jade Talisman for you and order our clan's runemaster to construct a runic passage as well. What do you think?"

The people from the Evil Sky Pavilion remained silent, but they had to admit Qin Renyue had a point. It was not just the cultivation environment and the resources, but there was also the Sky Hook Ropeway. It was definitely superior to the golden lotus domain. However, they knew the decision lay with Lu Zhou.

After a moment of silence, Lu Zhou said, "Humans are never kind unless they have ulterior motives..."

Qin Renyue waved his hand and said, "Brother Lu, you're thinking too much. I'm being sincere and treat you as a friend. If Brother Lu feels uncomfortable, Brother Lu can't leave at any time."

With these words, who would leave?

Lu Zhou said, "I've never liked owing others favors. If you have a request, you can bring it up."

Qin Renyue said with a smile, "I really don't have a request. I have two..."

"..."

Everyone from the Evil Sky Pavilion was speechless. As expected of a sly old fox; there was no such thing as free lunch in this world. Even those who lived for a long time would not easily suffer losses even if they wanted to forge a good relationship.

"Speak," Lu Zhou said tonelessly.

"All these years, I've been painstakingly cultivating the Dao and comprehending the power of the Dao. However, no matter how hard I work, it's difficult for me to advance any further. Hence, I'd like to ask Brother Lu to guide me..."

"..."

Lu Zhou's expression did not change, but inwardly, he thought to himself, 'I haven't even comprehended the true power of the Dao. I've been relying on the Purple Glazed Ceramic and the Heavenly Writing so far. How am I going to guide you?'

"This kind of thing depends on one's comprehension skills, innate talent, and aptitude," Mingshi Yin said.

Under normal circumstances, a cultivator would only impart core techniques to their disciples. Moreover, the comprehension of the power of the Dao was quite taboo since most people would not speak about it freely. This was also one of the reasons why Qin Renyue was willing to expend so much effort on the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Qin Renyue smiled. "Of course. Moreover, Brother Lu and I are not master and disciple. The guidance I asked for is only pointers. If I still can't comprehend it, then I only have myself to blame. I'm not someone who can't distinguish right from wrong, after all."

One had to admit that Qin Renyue was very tactful.

Lu Zhou nodded. "What's your second request?"

"Now that two of the four Venerable Masters in the green lotus domain are gone, based on the law of balance, it's highly likely that a beast emperor will appear in the green lotus domain soon. It'll either stay at the periphery of the Unknown Land bordering the green lotus domain, or it'll invade the green lotus domain. I don't trust Fan Zhong. Hence, I hope Brother Lu will lend me a hand," Qin Renyue said.

Mingshi Yin asked doubtfully, "The law of balance is supposed to balance both sides of the Red Line. If my master kills them, won't the imbalance worsen and attract even more fierce beasts? With this, there'll be no end to it."

It seemed like there was a huge flaw with this request.

“Beast emperors don’t appear so easily. After killing the one that invades, it’s unlikely for another to show up so soon. There are many powerful fierce beasts in the core region, and they’ve yet to invade. The Great Void won’t allow the powerful fierce beasts to act over the line as well. Moreover, instead of killing them, we can also drive them away so it won’t affect the balance any further,” Qin Renyue explained.

Everyone nodded.

Lu Zhou said, “Alright.”

Qin Renyue was overjoyed. He immediately waved his hand and ordered, “Quickly tidy up and clear out the southern training hall. All members of the clan are not to approach without permission.”

“Understood.”

The 49 swordsmen left together, flying toward the Qin clan’s southern training hall.

...

At this moment, various disciples could be seen practicing with their swords on the cloud platform near the southern training hall.

Yuan Lang said loudly, “Venerable Master Qin has ordered everyone to evacuate the southern training hall. No one’s allowed to approach the hall without permission or disturb our honorable guests.”

Upon hearing this, the disciples discussed animated among themselves.

“What’s going on? Which honorable guests came that we have to evacuate the southern training hall?”

“Even the other Venerable Masters won’t be given such a grand treatment even if they visited, right?”

At this moment, a disciple flew in front of Yuan Lang and asked, “Brother Lang, is this really Venerable Master’s order?”

Yuan Lang frowned. “Are you saying I’m falsifying Venerable Master Qin’s order?”

“No, no, no. I’m just curious about the honorable guests who are given such a grand treatment...” the disciple said, extremely curious.

“Don’t ask so many questions; just carry out Venerable Master Qin’s orders. I can only tell you that the guests can only be respected, not provoked,” Yuan Lang said.

Everyone gasped. It would have been better if Yuan Lang did not say these words. After listening to these words, they grew even more curious.

Under Yuan Lang’s supervision, the disciples in the southern training hall quickly tidied the place, packed up, and left. They left behind a group of attendants to guard the cloud platform.

...

An hour later.

Lu Zhou and the others were led over by a disciple of the Qin clan.

Upon seeing this, Yuan Lang said to the other disciples, "Tell everyone to hurry. The rest of you, follow me."

"Understood!"

Then, they hovered in the air and bowed. "Welcome, Senior Lu."

Lu Zhou looked at the Qin clan's southern training hall. It was quiet and secluded, surrounded by mountains, rivers, and forests. It was indeed a training hall in an excellent location.

Yuan Lang said, "Old Mister, this southern training hall is specially arranged for you by Venerable Master Qin."

"Okay."

"I've left some attendants here. If there's anything else you need, please let me know," Yuan Lang said.

"There's no need. You can bring all the attendants away as well." Lu Zhou planned to use the Pillar of Impermanence here. The effect was not something ordinary people could bear.

"Understood," Yuan Lang replied.

At this moment, the sounds of fighting rang from the distance.

Tens of thousands of energy swords and energy sabers fought fiercely, moving in the southern training hall's direction.

Yuan Lang was taken aback upon seeing this. He immediately rebuked, "Little Zhou, Little Wei, stop messing around!"

The two young cultivators who were called Little Zhou and Little Wei respectively were stunned.

After a moment, Little Zhou cried out, "Senior Brother Yuan Lang, don't interfere! We'll be able to decide the victor in a moment!"

Little Wu said, "Your 10,000 energy sabers aren't enough!"

With that, the duo started fighting again.

Yuan Lang was so angry that he almost ground his teeth into dust. He was about to lose his temper when Lu Zhou waved his hand and said, "It's alright. Let's go."

"Yes."

Yuan Lang and the other swordsmen led the people from the Evil Sky Pavilion toward the southern training hall.

Meanwhile, the longer Little Zhou and Little Wu fought, the more intense their battle became.

Lu Zhou knew the purposes of training halls, after all. Seeing that the duo's cultivation was not bad and was in the midst of sparring, he did not think there was a need to force them to stop. After all, the duo was brought up in the noble Qin clan so he was certain they would not do anything that crossed the line.

Just as they were about to land on the cloud platform, Little Zhou and Little Yu's energy swords and energy sabers swept over.

Yuan Lang turned pale with fright upon seeing this. If they offended the old man next to him, he would be in big trouble.

Lu Zhou slowly turned around and looked at the sky filled with energy swords and energy sabers curiously. He said, "Interesting."

Yuan Lang. "?"

'How's this interesting?'

Lu Zhou turned to look at Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong as he said, "They're somewhat like both of you when you were younger."

An awkward and embarrassed expression appeared on Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong's faces immediately.

At this time, Little Yuan'er poked her head out to look at the two young disciples from the Qin clan who were fiercely sparring before she asked, "Eldest Senior Brother and Second Senior Brother fought each so much when they were younger?"

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong. "..."

Lu Zhou sighed, feeling a hint of nostalgia. When he looked back, he was reminded the past was only memories now. After a moment, he said, "Your Eldest Senior Brother and Second Senior Brother's attainments in the sword and saber respectively are unmatched. Since before, they always competed with each other. In fact, in comparison, these two aren't that bad."

Yu Zhenghai said, "I'm sorry for making master worry."

Yu Shangrong did not say anything, but he quietly bowed.

Yuan Lang sighed in relief. As it turned out, the old man saw the shadows of his own disciples in Little Zhou and Little Wu.

At this time, tens of thousands of energy swords and energy sabers flew above the heads of the people from the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Little Zhou said happily, "Senior Brother Yuan Lang, look! I can already control tens of thousands of energy sabers!"

Not to be outdone, Little Wu said, "What's so great about that? I can also control tens of thousands of energy swords!"

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The energy swords and energy sabers collide above their heads.

At this time, Little Yuan'er asked curiously, "Senior brothers, how many can you control?"

A proud expression appeared on Yu Zhenghai's face as he said, "It's not worth mentioning. My limit is 5 million."

On the other hand, Yu Shangrong smiled faintly and replied, "I dare not say too much when comparing myself to Eldest Senior Brother. About 6 million energy swords are still manageable for me..."

Yu Zhenghai. "..."

At the same time, Yu Zhenghai looked at Yu Shangrong with an expression that clearly said, "Very well, keep bragging."

Upon hearing Yu Shangrong's words, Yuan Lang and the swordsmen clicked their tongues in amazement. They cultivated the sword path as well so they naturally understood what being able to manifest and control 6 million energy swords meant. All of them looked at him with hints of shock and disbelief on their faces.

Yuan Lang said, "As it turns out, both of you have such a high attainment in both swords and sabers respectively."

"You're overpraising us," Yu Shangrong replied.

"Even with the cultivation base of a Venerable Master, Venerable Master Qin could only barely control such a number of energy swords," Yuan Lang said.

Then, the scenes in Xiangyang City appeared in Yuan Lang's mind before he continued to say, "Old sir, during the battle in Xiangyang City, you easily controlled so many swords. Moreover, you even controlled them from such a great distance. Your control... far surpassed Venerable Master Qin's."

After saying these words, Yuan Lang inwardly apologized to Qin Renyue. 'Don't be angry, Venerable Master Qin.'

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The collision of the energy swords and energy sabers in the air grew even more intense.

Yu Zhenghai looked at the scene in the sky and said, "You, the one who uses the saber, retreat 30 meters. You should concern yourself too much with the details. When using the saber, you must be explosive and break through 10,000 techniques with just one move!"

Upon hearing this, Little Zhou nodded and hurriedly retreated 30 meters. Then, the dragon-like energy sabers fused into a huge energy saber before slashing forward.

Bang!

The energy saber broke through the energy swords.

Little Wu retreated hastily; his expression was grim.

At this time, Yu Shangrong said, "The sword isn't a saber. Why use your own weakness to confront his strength? Since he wants you to retreat, you mustn't retreat."

“Oh.” Little Wu flashed forward and moved close to Little Zhou. He used his energy swords to attack again.

The duo fought against each other, and this Little Zhou was at a disadvantage.

Yu Zhenghai called out, “If he sticks close to you, retreat.”

“Oh,”

“If he retreats, move close to him again,” Yu Shangrong added.

Little Zhou and Little Wu kept moving according to the instructions.

Yu Zhenghai said seriously, “If he uses his energy swords to attack again, move up half a foot and stab your energy sabers at him. There’s no need to meet him head-on.”

“...”

Everyone was speechless.

Even Lu Zhou was speechless. This scene reminded him of the scene on earth where two old men played chess in the park while being instructed by two experts.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong continued to instruct the two young cultivators as the smell of gunpowder grew stronger.

Little Yuan’er covered her face as she muttered, “They’re at it again.”

Little Zhou and Little Wu grew confused by the commands. The battle grew even more chaotic with their commands. After all, their comprehension of the sword and the saber was not as profound compared to Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai. It was only natural they could achieve the effect that Lu Zhou’s two disciples intended.

The two disciples from the Qin clan had been rather angry when they started sparring. It was fine in the beginning, but as time passed, they grew tired of sparring. In the end, the duo tacitly came to a stop and hovered in the air.

Nevertheless, Little Zhou still said as he panted, “If you’re capable, you can attack again!”

Little Wu raised his hand, gesturing for Little Zhou to make a move as well.

Indeed, it was reasonable. If anyone of the duo was capable, then they should continue to attack.

At this moment, Yuan Lang said reproachfully, “Stop this nonsense.”

The two young disciples lowered their heads.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong’s competitive spirit had been aroused at this moment. How could they care if the two young disciples were rude or not at this moment?

Lu Zhou’s two eldest disciples looked at each other for a moment before Yu Zhenghai said, “Second Junior Brother, please.”

Yu Shangrong nodded. “Eldest Senior Brother, please.”

With that, the duo flashed and arrived above Little Zhou and Little Five.

A faint worried expression appeared on Yuan Lang's face as he asked, "Old sir, you... are you going to stop them?"

Lu Zhou looked at the sky for a moment before he said, "Lead the way."

The training hall was originally a place for cultivation and sparring. As long as they were sparring and not killing each other, there was no reason to stop them.

"Alright," Yuan Lang said before he led Lu Zhou and the others toward the southern training hall.

Meanwhile, the disciples who were evacuated from the southern training hall looked at the strangers curiously.

Similarly, Little Wu and Little Zhou landed on the cloud platform and looked at the unfamiliar guests as well.

At this time, Yu Zhenghai raised his hand. The Jasper Saber flew out immediately.

As energy sabers appeared in the sky, millions of energy swords began to fill the sky.

Then, the energy sabers and the energy swords clashed with each other.

Upon seeing this, Little Zhou and Little Wu were stunned. Their mouths were agape as their feet seemed rooted to the ground.

Similarly, the Qin clan disciples were stunned by the energy sabers and energy swords that filled the sky as well.

On the contrary, the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion who were already used to this had already grown bored.

Before entering the southern training hall, Yuan Lang pointed at the flying beasts in the distance and said, "Old sir, I apologize for the flying beasts. Before the imbalance, there were no flying beasts in this place."

Lu Zhou glanced at the distant sky and said, "It's fine."

The flying beasts' cries were agitated and strange.

After a moment, Kong Wen leaned over and said, "I think there should be a decent life heart among them. I want to go over to have a look."

After looking at the flying beast, Lu Zhou said, "Go. Make sure you don't wander too far away."

"Understood."

Meanwhile, many disciples of the Qin clan were attracted to Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong's battle.. On the other hand, those who were not paying attention to the battle, saw the people from the Evil Sky Pavilion entering the southern training hall.

**Chapter 1355: The Number of Birth Charts**

Although the disciples of the Qin clan were curious, they did not dare to ask questions. After Lu Zhou and the others disappeared into the southern training hall, their attention was now all focused on the energy sabers and energy swords that were clashing fiercely in the sky.

Meanwhile, Little Zhou and Little Wu had yet to recover from their shock. They only watched the collision in the sky speechlessly.

After a moment, when Little Zhou saw a brilliant move, he exclaimed, "No way! It can be used in this way as well? Why doesn't the energy sabers attack the formation?"

Little Wu shook his head. "It's better for him to defend than attack. If it were me, I would've chosen to... Huh? He's attacking? How fast!"

"The control of the energy swords is really flawless!"

The duo continued to chat, completely engrossed in Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong's energy sabers and energy swords.

The other disciples from the Qin family were the same. They had never seen such a majestic display of sabers and swords. Even if Qin Renyue was capable of this, this was not his main skill.

When the battle was at its most intense, sparks flew from the collision of the energy sabers and the energy swords.

Yu Shangrong held a slight advantage as he used his sword to push Yu Zhenghai.

The duo had been flying and circling the sky above the southern training hall the entire time.

For an hour, Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai continued to clash using their energy swords and energy sabers. Their movements and techniques remained the same; it was as though they were in the midst of a long tug-of-war. In the end, their speed began to slow down.

"The sword is superior. Didn't I tell you that before?" Little Wu said to Little Zhou.

"Nonsense! The sword isn't superior to the saber. It's clear that the cultivation base of the senior who wields the saber is slightly lower than the sword user. In a fight between experts, a slight difference is a huge difference," Little Zhou retorted.

Little Wu shook his head. "No, the senior who uses the sword didn't use his full strength. If he were to use all his strength, it'd be easy for him to suppress all his opponents."

"No, no, no, this is just a sparring match. If they fight with their lives on the line, the saber user will definitely have the advantage!"

"You're really funny! If one can't even win a sparring match, how's one going to win a life-or-death match?"

As the two young disciples from the Qin clan continued to argue, the energy sabers and energy swords in the sky swept out in all directions. Their lights were brilliant, illuminating the sky.

At the same time, Lu Zhou's two disciples flew back at the same time and faced each other from a distance. The sparring match was finally over.

"Your cultivation in the sword path has improved tremendously," Yu Zhenghai said.

Yu Shangrong replied, "It's the same for Elder Senior Brother's saber skills."

"Each of your twelve leaves is a formidable weapon," Yu Zhenghai said.

"Elder Senior Brother is overpraising me. No matter how strong twelve leaves are, they can't compare to Birth Charts. If we really fight with our lives on the line, it'll be easy to decide the victor and the loser..."

Then, the duo no longer spoke and only cupped their fists at each other.

Meanwhile, the others who were looking at the duo were dumbfounded. Just a moment ago, the duo had fought so fiercely, but now they were suddenly subtly bragging and praising. What kind of show was this?

In fact, the duo was very familiar with each other's strengths.

Yu Shangrong benefited a lot from severing his lotus. In terms of cultivation base, he was slightly ahead of Yu Zhenghai. After Yu Zhenghai had yet to pass his second Birth Trial. However, those who severed their lotuses did not have life hearts. It was akin to having only one Birth Chart.

On the other hand, Yu Zhenghai who was still in possession of his lotus path walked a clear path. Breaking through was just a matter of activating his Birth Charts. All he had to do in exchange was give up some of the years of his life, which would eventually be returned to him.

"Both of you... In the end, who won?" Little Zhou and Little Wu were curious. They did not care about Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong's identities, they only cared about the results.

After Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong descended, they looked at the two young disciples from the Qin clan.

"What are your names?"

"I'm Qin Xiaozhou."

"I'm Qin Xiaowu; I'm the fifth in the family."

The duo from the Qin clan answered honestly.

At this moment, a disciple hurried over and said to the duo in a hushed voice, "Little Zhou, Little Wu, these two are distinguished guests of the Qin clan. Senior Brother Yuan Lang has ordered us not to act recklessly."

Upon hearing this, Little Zhou and Little Wu bowed at Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong in unison.

The disciple of the Qin clan turned to Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong and said, "Please forgive us for making fools out of ourselves. Little Zhou and Little Wu are young so they don't know the immensity of the world. They usually spar and cultivate in the southern training hall."

Yu Zhenghai laughed, clearly not offended. Just like Lu Zhou said, he saw shadows of the past in Little Zhou and Little Wu so he had a good impression of them. After a moment, he asked, "How long have both of you cultivated and what are your cultivation bases?"

Little Zhou replied, "65 years. I've just broken through to the Thousand Realms Whirling stage this year."

Little Wu replied as well, "I've also cultivated for 65 years and broke through to the Thousand Realms Whirling stage this year."

They were considered novices in the Thousand Realms Whirling stage. With their cultivation bases, it was indeed quite a feat for them to be able to control tens of thousands of energy swords and energy sabers. Hence, Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong nodded inwardly, thinking the talents of the two disciples from the Qin clan were not bad.

Naturally, if they were compared to Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong, they were still lacking. Moreover, for years, the golden lotus domain's cultivation limit was stuck at the Eight-leaf stage. 65 years in the green lotus domain and 300 years in the golden lotus domain were completely different.

After the limit was broken in the golden lotus domain, Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong's cultivation bases had improved by leaps and bounds. They went from eight leaves to almost close to facing the second Birth Trial. This was not only due to their Great Void Seeds but the results of their hard work as well.

"Not bad. Continue to work hard," Yu Zhenghai said encouragingly.

Just as Yu Zhenghai was about to leave, Little Zhou stammered, "C-can I look for you for guidance with the saber in the future?"

Yu Zhenghai was slightly startled by the fire of determination and the passion to learn in Little Zhou's eyes.

Meanwhile, Little Wu definitely would not fall behind Little Zhou. He said, "I'd also like to ask for guidance regarding the sword!"

Upon hearing these words, the elder of the Qin clan softly rebuked them, "Don't mess around. Don't talk about such things again. Honorable guests, please."

One should only ask for guidance from one's master. It was considered rude to ask another person for guidance so rashly.

Nevertheless, Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong were not offended. Moreover, they knew how bumpy the paths of the sabers and the swords were. The difficulties they had encountered were not something ordinary people could imagine.

Yu Zhenghai laughed loudly before he said, "You can look for me any time."

Little Zhou was overjoyed. He bowed and said, "Thank you! Thank you very much!"

At the same time, Yu Shangrong pointed at Little Wu and said, "You can come over with him."

Little Wu was extremely excited and kept bowing to express his gratitude.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong only smiled before they flew toward the southern training hall.

...

In the evening.

Lu Zhou brought out the Pillar of Impermanence and sent it into the ground of the southern training hall before increasing the speed by 100 times. Following that, he brought out the Celestial Mark Brocade Box and placed it in front of him. He tried a few times but failed to open it like before.

Lu Zhou wondered out loud, "Can it only be opened by a Venerable Master?"

If that was the case, then he had to increase his strength as quickly as possible.

"With 14 Birth Charts, I need another four Birth Charts to become a Venerable Master."

Lu Zhou brought out the life hearts of He Luoyu and the Moon Whale. He had obtained these to beast emperors' life hearts from Meng Mingsh through the super Reduction Card.. As he looked at the two life hearts, he muttered to himself, "I still need another two life hearts."

### **Chapter 1356: Time**

The remaining two did not need beast emperors' life hearts, beast kings' life hearts would suffice.

Currently, the region for the Great Birth Chart had yet to open. It was useless even if Lu Zhou had beast emperors' life hearts.

During the time in the Unknown Land, Lu Zhou had obtained many beast kings' life hearts. When he needed them, he could just take two from Mingshi Yin.

What Lu Zhou needed now was time.

Instead of cultivating, Lu Zhou decided to observe his disciples. Naturally, he did not need to observe his disciples in the southern training hall.

Zhu Honggong was still bedridden, recuperating from his injuries.

Ye Tianxin was still quietly cultivating in the White Tower Council. When she was not cultivating, she would go for a stroll with Cheng Huang.

Duanmu Sheng was in the Evil Sky Pavilion and spent most of his time sparring with Lu Wu. He was improving rapidly.

The four elders lived a carefree life. They discussed the Dao every day before they cultivated. The speed of their improvement could not compare to his disciples who had Great Void Seeds, but that was to be expected.

Pan Zhong, Zhou Jifeng, and the guardians' speed of improvement were a little slow as well.

Finally, Lu Zhou discovered Si Wuya had been behaving strangely so he had been observing Si Wuya for three days in a row.

At this moment, in the Sky Martial Academy, Si Wuya who had just put away the ancient sheepskin map shook his head.

"Mr. Seventh, my sword..." a voice rang from outside.

Si Wuya interjected, "You can look for Wang Dachui. There's no need to bother me with this."

"Mr. Seventh, this is all your fault. You told me to look for you directly."

A figure jumped in through the windowsill.

Si Wuya asked, "Did you find anything regarding that matter I asked you to investigate?"

"Of course! Do you know who I am? I'm Jiang Aijian. With my sword, I'm invincible!" Jiang Aijian said as he flipped his hair.

"Speaking of which, you've been staying in Penglai Island all this time. Did you go to Great Yan to have a look?" Si Wuya asked.

Jiang Aijian scratched his head. "Who says I've only been staying in Penglai?"

"So is there any movement in Penglai?" Si Wuya asked with a smile.

"Is this what you wanted me to investigate or did you want to come here and personally deliver this letter to you? Is this enough?" Jiang Aijian said as he tossed a letter out after leaning against the table. Then, he continued to say, "The Penglai Island is quite stable. With the imbalance, the water level rose quite a bit. Anyway, about 30,000 miles to the east, there's Mount Halcyon just as you said. I almost got lost in the Endless Ocean because of you. You have to make it up to me."

"Thank you," Si Wuya said as he nodded in satisfaction, "I'll give you a fire spirit stone to upgrade Dragonsong."

Jiang Aijian's eyes lit up immediately. "Good, good, very good!"

Jiang Aijian then changed the topic, tentatively asking, "How do you know Mount Halcyon is located 30,000 east of here?"

Si Wuya said, "I can't explain it."

"Well, try to explain it," Jiang Aijian said.

"My knowledge is far greater than yours. You won't understand even if I explain it," Si Wuya said.

"..."

Jiang Aijian said with a frown, "I investigated the mountain on my own initiative as well. It used to be the habitat of Halcyon Birds. No one knew why the Halcyon Birds left."

Si Wuya raised an eyebrow, looking slightly surprised. "Indeed."

"If you know that, why are you investigating it?"

"I'm curious," Si Wuya replied expressionlessly.

“How boring.” Seeing Si Wuya did not intend to say more, Jiang Aijian could only leave and look for Wang Dachui.

...

After cutting off the power of sight, Lu Zhou recalled the scene when the Halcyon Divine Bird appeared at the White Tower Council.

“Does Si Wuya have something to do with the Halcyon Bird?” Lu Zhou muttered to himself when he recalled Si Wuya’s strange behavior. However, due to his trust in Si Wuya, this matter did not bother him.

He decided to focus on his cultivation instead. It was imperative that he become a Venerable Master as soon as possible.

Although the imbalance had worsened, fortunately, there were not many conflicts in the domains. Due to the delicate balance between humans and fierce beasts, a delicate balance had also formed between foes.

With the Purple Glazed Ceramic and the effect of the Pillar of Impermanence, Lu Zhou immersed himself in his cultivation.

...

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong would spend most of their time cultivating under the effect of the Pillar of Impermanence as well. When Little Zhou and Little Wu came to look for them, they would leave the range of the Pillar of Impermanence.

Little Yuan’er and Conch had also been seriously cultivating.

Day after day, their routines remained the same.

As the host, Qin Renyue would visit Lu Zhou every once in a while to discuss the power of the Dao. However, Lu Zhou was in closed-door cultivation so he could only exchange insight with Mingshi Yin to guide Mingshi Yin. There were many talents in the Evil Sky Pavilion, but his attitude was the best toward Mingshi Yin. It was so obvious that it was not a secret at all.

...

Winter left, and spring arrived; spring left, and autumn arrived before autumn left and made way for winter again. This cycle went on for five years in just a blink of an eye.

...

In a quiet room in the southern training hall.

Click!

Lu Zhou heard a crisp noise from his Dantian’s sea of Qi. This indicated that he was about to break through.

He opened his eyes and swallowed, discovering that his mouth and throat were dry.

The sunlight streamed into the room from the windowsill.

The breeze stirred up the yellow leaves outside, a sign that autumn was arriving.

When Lu Zhou stopped cultivating, he felt like he had woken up from a long sleep. When he looked at the ground, he saw a thin layer of dust. Apart from that, the room was free from spiderwebs, rot, and strange smells.

Lu Zhou waved his hand as a gentle wave of energy swept out, clearing the dust in just a blink of an eye.

“Ten days to half a month should’ve passed...”

Lu Zhou called up the system face and looked at his remaining lifespan.

Remaining lifespan: 6,188,731(16,460 years)

“I lost 500 years?!” Lu Zhou was stunned. According to the years he lost and increased speed by 100 times, it meant that five years had passed.

“Five years...” This was beyond Lu Zhou’s expectations. He did not expect so much time would pass during his closed-door cultivation.

“Old Fourth...” Lu Zhou called out softly.

...

On a mountain peak 300 meters away from the southern training hall.

A shocked expression appeared on Mingshi Yin’s face before he said, “Venerable Master Qin, let’s talk another day. I think my master has just come out from his closed-door cultivation.”

Qin Renyue was delighted by this. “Brother Lu has come out from his closed-door cultivation? That’s great. I’ll come with you.”

With that, the two of them flashed and arrived in front of Lu Zhou’s room.

“Greetings, master.”

“Brother Lu, it’s been a long time.”

Lu Zhou said in an even tone, “Come in.”

The two of them entered the training hall.

Qin Renyue looked around and sensed the traces left behind by the Pillar of Impermanence. “No wonder their cultivation speed is so swift! As it turns out, it’s due to the Pillar of Impermanence. The pillar has both advantages and disadvantages. Brother Lu is truly bold to dare to cultivate near the pillar.”

After all, cultivating with the Pillar of Impermanence was like exchanging one’s life for cultivation.

“It’s just 500 years of life... That’s nothing. Those years will pass with just a snap of a finger,” Lu Zhou said.

Qin Renyue said, “I’m enlightened.”

“Master, why did you call me here? What are your orders?” Mingshi Yin asked.

Lu Zhou shifted his gaze to Mingshi Yin. He could clearly feel that Mingshi Yin’s aura had changed. It was reserved and filled with vigor. Clearly, his fourth disciple had improved greatly over the past five years.. On the contrary, he had spent the last five years stabilizing his realm.

### **Chapter 1357: Why Is This Happening?**

Lu Zhou’s original intention was to spend a few months stabilizing his realm; who knew he would take five years? Five years were with the Pillar of Impermanence’s help. Although it was five years in the outside world, 500 years had passed within the range of the pillar. The time he took was unreasonable and unprecedented. Even the system and Heavenly Writing’s upgrade took a few months at most. Moreover, he did not even have the Pillar of Impermanence at that time. He found it really problematic that it essentially took him 500 years to stabilize his realm.

At this moment, Qin Renyue said, “Brother Lu, it’s really not easy for me to see you. You’ve been in closed-door cultivation all this time. I really missed you so much!”

“...”

Mingshi Yin scratched his head. He felt goosebumps erupting on his flesh when he heard these mushy words.

Lu Zhou asked, “Is there something you need?”

“Have you forgotten, Brother Lu?” Qin Renyue asked.

Lu Zhou nodded. “I remember. Originally, I planned to enter closed-door cultivation for just a while. I didn’t expect five years to pass by in just a blink of an eye. This wasn’t part of my plan.”

Qin Renyue nodded. He did not doubt Lu Zhou’s words. Moreover, if one paid a little more attention, one could tell based on the fluctuations in the southern training hall and the trees and grass around it that Lu Zhou was telling the truth.

Qin Renyue said with a smile, “Congratulations, Brother Lu, It seems like you entered a state of epiphany.”

“What’s a state of epiphany?” Mingshi Yin asked.

“When one has an epiphany, one becomes so immersed in cultivation that one forgets the time. Many people yearn to have an epiphany, but it’s not easy. After entering that immersive state, one’s cultivation would improve by leaps and bounds,” Qin Renyue explained. Then, he sighed before he continued to say, “If I’m able to enter a state of epiphany like Brother Lu, activating my 19th Birth Chart wouldn’t be a problem at all.”

Mingshi Yin asked, “Is it very difficult to advance beyond the stage of a Venerable Master?”

Qin Renyue nodded. “Of course. After activating the 18th Birth Chart, progressing no longer relies on only cultivation but the power of the Dao, the comprehension of heaven and earth, and control over the

rules. Moreover, suitable life hearts would become increasingly rare as well. Apart from that, in regard to the first 18 Birth Charts, If one forsake quality for quantity, not only would it hinder one's cultivation in the future, but it would also make it difficult for one to comprehend the more profound power of the Dao in the future."

Mingshi Yin nodded. "Then, why do you think I'll surely become a supreme being?"

Over the past five years, Qin Renyue had visited very often to look for Lu Zhou. However, since Lu Zhou was unavailable, he would spend a lot of time chatting with Mingshi Yin. Hence, the two of them could be considered quite familiar with each other. There was no politeness between a host and his guest when they spoke.

Qin Renyue said with a smile, "What can I say? This is why everyone covets the Great Void Seed."

"..."

Mingshi Yin really wanted to say all his fellow disciples had the Great Void Seeds as well, but he endured and suppressed the urge. It was not good to expose such things. Moreover, it was not a bad feeling to be flattered and praised.

Lu Zhou rose to his feet and said, "Entering the state of epiphany is just pure luck.."

Qin Renyue said, "Regardless, I still have to congratulate you. Brother Lu, your consciousness will be chaotic after emerging from the state of epiphany so I won't bother you anymore. I'll visit again another day."

Seeing that Lu Zhou had something to say to his disciple, Qin Renyue tactfully found an excuse and left.

After Qin Renyue left, Mingshi Yin said with a smile, "He's really very tactful."

"How's everyone doing over the years?" Lu Zhou asked.

Mingshi Yi reported the general situation of the Evil Sky Pavilion to Lu Zhou. Apart from the disciples' significant improvement, everything was normal.

Then, Mingshi Yin sighed when he spoke about the imbalance and the nine domains. "After the imbalance phenomena appeared, the situations in the nine domains were still rather stable. However, over the past two years, things have changed. Some green lotus cultivators had gone to the red lotus domain and the black lotus domain to plunder resources. Two years ago, a beast emperor appeared in the green lotus domain. However, strangely, it left. At that time, Venerable Master Qin and I waited for you for two days and two nights."

Lu Zhou nodded. "Are there any more unusual movements?"

"Someone said that a divine beast appeared in the Endless Ocean near the golden lotus domain. That's about it. Oh, Ninth Junior Sister's improvement is really unusual! How can she improve so quickly?"

"What's her cultivation base now?" Lu Zhou asked. He remembered that when they first came here, Little Yuan'er only had two Birth Charts.

Mingshi Yin said, "I've never seen Ninth Junior Sister so serious before. Anyway, I'm guessing she's about to face her first Birth Trial soon."

This meant that Little Yuan'er had about six Birth Charts now. It was almost equivalent to activating a Birth Chart once a year with the help of the Pillar of Impermanence. Her speed was passable.

"Eldest Senior Brother is also preparing to face his second Birth Trial, but..." Mingshi Yin trailed off.

"Speak your mind," Lu Zhou said.

"We're running out of life hearts," Mingshi Yin said.

This was within Lu Zhou's expectations. With so many people activating their Birth Charts, this was not surprising.

Lu Zhou nodded. "I'll allow all of you to leave the southern training hall to hunt fierce beasts. When you're strong enough, you can go to the Pillars of Destruction.

"Yes!"

Over the past few years, Mingshi Yin had felt really suffocated.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong felt even more uncomfortable. They had stayed in the southern training hall for so long, and it was too peaceful. It did not fit their habits. As a result, Little Zhou and Little Wu were tormented by the duo until they did not look like humans.

"Bring the remaining life hearts over."

Mingshi Yin left the room, and it did not take long before he returned with the remaining life hearts.

Lu Zhou glanced at the life hearts and found there six or seven left. Most of them were rudimentary life hearts and were speed and healing life hearts. The speed-type life hearts were still not bad, but the healing-type life hearts were completely useless.

After selecting two speed-type life hearts, Lu Zhou said, "You can have the rest of the life hearts."

"Ah? Master, the ones you selected are the Ling Hou's life hearts. Master, I have no use for these remaining life hearts."

"If you have no use for them, you can give them away," Lu Zhou said.

"..."

"Aren't you leaving?" Lu Zhou asked.

"Yes."

Lu Zhou sighed inwardly, lamenting his lack of foresight. He had obtained quite a lot of life hearts in the Unknown Land, but there were only so few left now.

After Mingshi Yin left, Lu Zhou sighed and studied the two Ling Hous' life hearts. "They should be at the level of a beast king's life heart. They're most suitable to be used to lay the foundation for the Great Birth Chart."

Lu Zhou manifested his lotus and looked at his Birth Palace. He was briefly stunned when he saw that his Birth Palace had expanded slightly. It did not just expand by a region, but it had expanded by two or three regions. This meant he had broken the limit.

“What’s going on?” Lu Zhou was puzzled. He only stabilized his realm over the past five years so why did his Birth Palace expand? Did entering the state of epiphany increase his limit?

Tuoba Sicheng activated the 19th Birth Chart after entering the state of epiphany. He activated his 20th Birth Chart after consuming the Great Void Pills given by Ye Zheng. Perhaps, the state of epiphany was much more mysterious and complex than he had thought.

The surface of his Birth Palace was very smooth, indicating the cultivation base was very stable.

No matter what, the state of epiphany was a good thing. Based on Qin Renyue’s reaction, it seemed that this kind of opportunity was hard to come by as well. No wonder, five years went by like a dream.

Since his cultivation base was stable now, he could activate his Birth Chart now.

Lu Zhou looked at positions on the Birth Palace.

The Great Birth Chart could be activated using the Gracious Moon Forms the Beam position. This was because it could help stabilize a Great Birth Chart.

However, after activating this Birth Chart, it would open another four Birth Charts.

“Open another four Birth Charts?” Lu Zhou did not quite understand the Gracious Moon Forms the Beam.

A few more positions appeared in his mind.

“The Meeting of the Four Stars, the Fortunes Are In Harmony, and the Three Wonders?”

With these three positions, including the Gracious Moon Forms the Beam, Lu Zhou selected four positions. However, they were not very suitable.

“There’s the Extreme Yin, another Great Birth Chart position that fits the criteria...” Lu Zhou muttered to himself.

In the end, there was only one position that seemed suitable now. He chose to activate the Birth Chart in the Bringing the Sheep Into the Temple position in the human region.

With that, he placed the Ling Hou’s life heart in its position.

Clack!

It was much easier than he had imagined. Perhaps, that was why when it suddenly submerged a little, he was somewhat caught off guard by the wave of pain that assaulted him.

‘So fast?’

He hurriedly activated the Purple Glazed Ceramic to resist the pain. After waiting for a moment, he discovered there was no movement at all. Based on his previous experience, after placing the life heart

into the Birth Palace, it would begin to slowly submerge before it would absorb his lifespan. However, there was no movement at all.

He waited for a while, but there was still no movement. Feeling something was amiss, he reached out with his bare hand, intending to grab the life heart. After all, he had spent 500 years stabilizing his realm; there was no reason for him to fail.

However, as soon as his hand touched the life heart, with the Gracious Moon Forms the Beam as the starting point, a ray of light appeared, connecting it to the Extreme Yin, the Three Wonders, and Bringing the Sheep Into the Temple positions.

“What’s going on?” Lu Zhou was perplexed. It just so happened that the few positions that had caught his eyes were connected. Was it a coincidence?

Lu Zhou exerted a little more strength, but the life heart was stuck and could not be pulled out.

He mobilized his Primal Qi to help him, but before his Primal Qi surged out, it collided with another force and disappeared.

“This...”

The power of a cultivator originated from the Dantian’s sea of Qi. The Dantian’s sea of Qi and the Birth Palace complemented each other. From a certain perspective, Lu Zhou’s action was akin to stepping on his own feet to rise up into the sky. It was not surprising the Primal Qi had vanished.

‘I can’t take it out, and it’s not moving. Is it just going to be stuck like this?’

Lu Zhou continued observing the four positions in his Birth Palace as they continued to shine. After a moment, he picked up the second Ling Hou’s life heart and checked the position again.

“There’s no mistake. The position I chose earlier is a good match...”

Lu Zhou had always been careful when activating his Birth Chart. Hence, he never encountered any problems so far. It was really difficult for him to understand why such a thing would happen now.

At this moment, the Birth Palace began to hum as the light from the four positions grew brighter. Soon after, vitality energy surged out from the Birth Palace, overflowing from the lotus seat.

In just a second, it lit up the training hall like a miniature aurora. Then, it grew brighter, illuminating the sky above the training hall. It was beautiful and magnificent.

...

“Go and inform Venerable Master Qin that a heaven and earth phenomenon has occurred!”

“Understood.”

Disciples rushed out of the five major training halls in the Qin clan to look at the sky.

When Qin Renyue received the report, he hurried out and flew up into the sky to look at the ‘aurora’ from afar.

“Four Lives On the Same Branch?!”

“Venerable Master, what’s Four Lives On the Same Branch?”

“Four Lives On the Same Branch means that one can activate four Birth Charts at once. This is an incredibly rare opportunity that will cause a heaven and earth phenomenon,” Qin Renyue explained.

Upon hearing these words, the disciples in the vicinity looked envious.

“Who could it be?” Yuan Lang, one of the 49 swordsmen, asked in a low voice.

“Brother Lu is already a Venerable Master so it shouldn’t be him. If it’s really him, it’d be too shocking, and it would definitely attract the Great Void’s attention. It’s like that it’s my honorable junior nephew,” Qin Renyue said.

“The fourth disciple of the Evil Sky Pavilion?”

“Apart from him, I can think of anyone who would be given such a rare opportunity,” Qin Renyue said as he nodded, “In a few years, his achievements would definitely not be inferior to Brother Lu’s.”

Yuan Lang was astonished.

The longer Qin Renyue watched, the more he felt that any miracles could happen to the owner of a Great Void Seed.

Although Qin Renyue was curious, he did not dare to disturb Mingshi Yin, whom he thought was the cause of this phenomenon. Hence, he ordered everyone to stay clear of the southern training hall. He even sent out the 49 swordsmen to patrol the vicinity of the southern training hall to drive away fierce beasts or cultivators who came to watch the show.

...

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou looked at the power that kept surging out and thought to himself, ‘This can’t go on...’

If this continued, would his cultivation base and strength that he had raised with great difficulty disappear?

“Perhaps, it’s really activating a few Birth Charts at the same time...” The more Lu Zhou thought about this, the more convinced he became. Hence, he directly placed another life heart in his Birth Palace.

Clack!

With that, the aurora dimmed slightly, and the power that was surging out slowed down as well.

“It works...”

Lu Zhou brought the life hearts of He Luoyu and the Moon Whale and looked at the positions for the Great Birth Charts in his Birth Palace. Then, he decisively placed them into their respective positions in his Birth Chart again.

Clack!

After placing four life hearts into his Birth Chart, they began to spin and absorb his lifespan.

This meant that his disciples would not be able to reuse He Luoyu and Moon Whale's life hearts.

'Forget it... There's no need to worry about them for now...'

Lu Zhou paid close attention to his Birth Palace, looking for changes. He felt his cultivation and lifespan fluctuating.

...

At the same time, the aurora completely vanished from the sky above the southern training hall in the Qin clan.

...

At the white palace in the Great Void.

The blue-clad female attendant bowed before she said, "Master, the phenomenon for the Four Lives On the Same Branch appeared in the green lotus domain. It's likely that the owner of the Great Void Seed has appeared. The Sacred Hall has sent people over."

Lan Xihe nodded. "Back then, we lost the ten Great Void Seeds. As long as someone uses the seeds, we'll find out sooner or later. There's no need to care about anything apart from the White Tower Council. The Sacred Hall will deal with this matter."

The blue-clad female attendant said, "But the current Tower Master..."

"She won't be exposed. That's my training hall. Don't forget, I'm also an Equalizer. I know better than anyone how to avoid the Great Void's attention," Lan Xihe said.

"I understand."

### **Chapter 1358: Four Lives on the Same Branch**

Lan Xihe continued, "Don't tell anyone that Ye Tianxin has the Great Void Seed. I won't let you off easily if you dare to speak nonsense."

The blue-clad female attendant hurriedly fell to her knees. "I'm loyal to you, master. The sun and moon can bear witness to this. If I'm even the slightest bit disloyal, I'm willing to die a terrible death!"

Lan Xihe stepped forward and helped the female attendant up. "Of course, I believe you. You've been with me for so many years. Even your incarnation followed me to the White Tower Council to maintain the balance. If I can't trust you, then I really don't know who else I can trust."

These words sounded a little sad. It was as though Lan Xihe had no one else she could trust despite being the vast Great Void.

The blue-clad female attendant said in an attempt to lighten the mood, "Master, Tower Master Ye can be trusted..."

Lan Xihe sighed. "But she doesn't trust me... The only reason she agreed to stay in the White Tower Council and to become the Tower Master is only due to Pavilion Master Lu. I am such a failure..."

"No, there are many people who trust you..." the blue-clad female attendant said comfortingly.

"Forget about them. They're all trying to benefit from me or take advantage of me," Lan Xihe said.

The blue-clad female attendant nodded. "Master is right."

Lan Xihe continued to say with a soft sigh, "Now that the Great Void Seed has appeared, the other eight seeds will most likely appear as well. The Great Void Seed can drastically change a cultivator's physique and talent. If one's talent is already high, it's even better. Perhaps... the imbalance is heralding the chaos that is about to descend on the world..."

The blue-clad female attendant said reassuringly, "Master, don't worry so much. In any case, I'll protect Tower Master Ye. Even if I die, I'll guard the White Tower Council for you."

Lan Xihe and the blue-clad female attendant stood in the great hall and looked at the blue sky outside in silence.

...

In the southern training hall in the green lotus domain's Qin clan.

Lu Zhou looked at the four life hearts in his Birth Palace incredulously.

Based on his current knowledge, this feat was almost impossible, and yet, he did it. This was indeed a fortuitous opportunity. It was akin to gathering all the risks and pains of activating four Birth Charts into one point.

After stabilizing his realm for 500 years, Lu Zhou's Birth Palace had, in fact, reached an unprecedented level. Even if he could not activate four Birth Charts at once, it should not be difficult to activate two at once.

"500 years for this?" Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction. After estimating the absorption of his lifespan, he increased the speed of the Pillar of Impermanence from 100 to 400 times faster.

He discovered the absorption speed of his life hearts was almost similar to his speed when he was in closed-door cultivation.

With the increase by 400 times and the simultaneous activation of four Birth Charts, Lu Zhou felt a slight pain. Fortunately, he had spent 500 years stabilizing his realm so the pain was bearable.

Then, he decided to use his divine power to numb the pain as well.

"Avatar."

He brought out the blue avatar. It was now pure blue. The Concealment Card had long lost its effect during the years he spent in closed-door cultivation.

"So much energy?" He did not expect the energy in the blue avatar to be so abundant. He did not spend much time cultivating it, after all. Apart from killing his enemies with his divine power, he found the golden lotus was much more useful to him.

However, its growth was not too surprising. After all, comprehending and meditating on the Heavenly Writing also helped its growth.

Seeing its abundant energy, Lu Zhou decided to see if he could break through. With that, he pushed his palm down, causing the vitality energy in his Dantian's sea of Qi to stir.

A blue ring of light appeared at the waist of the blue avatar and began to fall. However, its descent was not smooth. In fact, it looked like it was struggling to descend. It was not as easy as the golden avatar

"It seems like it's quite difficult to break through with the blue avatar..."

'It's easier to break through using my lifespan. However, sprouting one leaf requires 10,000 years of life. Is the system trying to kill me?'

If he was patient, breaking through by meditating on the Heavenly Writing was a good choice. However, it took too long.

The blue circle of light looked as though it was being stopped by an invisible force from descending. It even brought about a pressure in his Dantian's sea of Qi and will.

Breaking through with the golden avatar brought about pain, but with the blue avatar, it was sort of like a mental torture.

'Very good. So they both bring about physical and mental torture!'

Lu Zhou thought he was a little reckless and impulsive. He should have waited for the completion of his four Birth Charts before he attempted to upgrade his blue avatar. However, now that he had started, he could not stop. He could only grit his teeth and continue.

"I don't believe I can't do this!"

Lu Zhou pressed his hand down, shrinking the blue avatar and enlarging the blue circle of light.

A bubbling noise began to ring loudly; it sounded like the sound of boiling water.

Beads of sweat appeared on Lu Zhou's forehead. It was as though he was being pressured by an extreme weight. Even his spirit and will were under pressure.

As a transmigrator, he suddenly recalled the golden hoop that the Monkey King wore that restrained him. He felt as though the blue circle ring was trying to restrain him.

'I'm not a monkey! You can't restrain me!'

Lu Zhou pressed his hand down again.

A golden palm seal fell on the blue ring around the blue avatar.

Bang!

Like a pool of clear water, the blue ring of light finally fell.

Lu Zhou felt a mysterious force rushing toward him before he was sent flying back.

Bang!

Lu Zhou's back crashed against the inscriptions for the formations in the training hall. They lit up and wrapped around him like a spider web.

At the same time, the blue avatar spun rapidly as divine power surged out from it.

Lu Zhou suppressed his surging blood and qi before he flew forward and pressed the ring of light down again.

'It's so difficult?'

After stabilizing his cultivation base for 500 years, it was still so difficult to upgrade the blue avatar using the conventional method. How much more difficult would it be if he did not stabilize his cultivation base for such a long time?

The golden and blue light shone brilliantly, one on the left and one on the right.

At this time, Lu Zhou saw the light from the Four Lives On the Same Branch fused with the blue ring of light.

"???"

Lu Zhou landed on the small cushion and inhaled deeply before he studied the puzzling scene before him. This was beyond his understanding, and he believed it was beyond the understanding of everyone in the current cultivation world. No one had ever cultivated two avatars after all. When he had first manifested the blue avatars, he had looked through the ancient books. He did not find anything about anyone cultivating two avatars. In other words, it was likely that since ancient times, he was the first person to cultivate two avatars.

He endured the oppressive pressure and looked at the energy and light that complemented each other, feeling rather happy. Beautiful things tend to make people happy after all. The merging of the light was a rather dazzling sight.

Alas, beautiful things were mostly short-lived.

At this time, the Four Lives On the Same Branch suddenly stopped.

Clack!

Then, the Birth Chart positions lit up one after another. The light was like an electric arc as it spread to the blue ring of light. The blue ring of light flashed faintly with a golden light a few times before it suddenly dropped.

Clack!

At the same time, the four positions in the Birth Palace were flat and smooth. This meant that the four Birth Charts had been activated.

The pain in Lu Zhou's Dantian's sea of Qi vanished as well. Instead, a warm surge of energy filled his sea of Qi, making him feel a sense of unprecedented comfort.

At this moment, the sixth leaf sprouted from the blue avatar's lotus.

## Chapter 1359: I Was Waiting For a Venerable Master

"It's done?"

This was out of Lu Zhou's expectations. He did not expect to successfully activate four Birth Charts and upgrade his avatar at the same time.

The mental pressure vanished, and he felt very comfortable and relaxed. It almost felt as though he was flying.

Lu Zhou flipped his hand. "Jump."

The blue avatar leaped a meter up. When it landed, it returned to normal again.

Lu Zhou moved his hand, and the blue lotus flew up. The blue avatar vanished, and only six leaves could be seen spinning in the air. He controlled the six leaves and shot them at the table.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Then, the leaves returned to the lotus.

The table was reduced to rubble.

Lu Zhou knew this could not gauge the blue avatar's strength. He was only testing its mobility and his ability to control its various parts. He found them quite satisfactory. With the Heavenly Writing power, there was no need to consider the avatar's strength for now.

He did not think his Eighteen Chart golden lotus avatar would be able to withstand a strike from the blue avatar that had been imbued with the divine power.

Lu Zhou turned his attention to his golden lotus. He looked at it as though he was admiring a perfect piece of art. The patterns on the lotus seat were exquisite.

"18 Birth Charts... Let's go out and test it to see how stable the realm is..."

In fact, he could test it out in the training hall. For safety's sake, he could also go to a remote place and test its power. If there was nothing wrong, he could go to the Sky Hook Ropeway. If it was not too stable, he would return to this place and stabilize it more. This was to ensure it would be easier to pass the Venerable Master Trial.

The third Birth Trial was also known as the Venerable Master Trial, for obvious reasons. After passing the Birth Trial, one would be a Venerable Master.

Lu Zhou looked at his remaining lifespan.

Remaining lifespan: 10,387,556(28,459 years)

"Venerable Masters have 30,000 years of life... Then, there are 12,000 years of life..." Lu Zhou muttered to himself, calculating his lifespan. If it were not for him recycling life hearts, he would have more than 30,000 years of life now. In any case, 28,000 years were not bad.

However, Lu Zhou still needed to be cautious. With the blue avatar that was like a vampire, 28,000 years was nothing. When the blue avatars entered the Thousand Realms Whirling stage, 28,000 years might not even be able to fill the gap between its teeth.

Then, Lu Zhou waved his hand, decreasing the speed of the Pillar of Impermanence to 100 times faster again.

...

In the time it took to blink, a figure appeared at the northern peak near the southern training hall.

“The abilities of the four Birth Charts actually resonate with each other...”

The speed from the two Ling Hous’ life hearts was a pleasant surprise. This speed was unprecedented if one did not consider the power of the Dao.

“What’s He Luoyu’s ability?” Lu Zhou wondered as he extended a strand of consciousness toward He Luoyu’s position in his Birth Palace.

As soon as it lit up, the other three positions would instantly resonate and transfer their powers over.

Buzz!

Ten clones of Lu Zhou appeared immediately.

“He Luoyu has one head and ten bodies so its ability is to create ten clones?” Lu Zhou shook his head. These clones could only be used to confuse laymen, but they were ineffective against experts.

Lu Zhou looked at the Moon Whale’s position; it was also his 18th Birth Chart. He muttered to himself, “I’ve activated six Great Birth Charts in total with the life hearts of Lu Wu, Yong He, Tian Wu, He Luoyu, and the Moon Whale...”

“What’s the Moon Whale’s ability?”

The 18th Birth Chart marked the becoming of a Venerable Master. Its importance was self-evident.

When the position lit up, it resonated with the other three Birth Charts again. Then, a buzzing noise rang in the air.

Then, the power of the Birth Chart shot up into the sky that was covered with dark clouds. A thunderous noise rang in the air as it rained down.

The aquatic lives, sea beasts and ordinary aquatic beasts alike, fled for their lives.

After a moment, everything returned to normal.

“???”

‘Is that all?’

Lu Zhou frowned. He felt that his two newest Great Birth Charts were really lacking in strength.

After a moment, he gauged his cultivation base and found they were relatively stable. He nodded in satisfaction.

“At least those 500 years didn’t go to waste.”

Lu Zhou looked north. It was time for him to visit the Sky Hook Ropeway. He would pass his Birth Trial there. He glanced at the southern training hall for a moment. He did not plan to bring anyone with him, not even Whizard.

With just a flash, he flew toward the Soaring Peaks where the Sky Hook Ropeway was located.

...

Soaring Peaks.

One peak was on the left and the other was on the right. They pierced through the clouds and towered into the sky.

The Sky Hook Ropeway connected the two peaks, and it was one of the best places to train in the green lotus domain.

Hundreds and thousands of cultivators could be seen on the mountainside of the southern Soaring Peak. Many young cultivators hovered in the air as well. They were all trying to make their way across the Sky Hook Ropeway.

“It’s too difficult. I only managed to advance one-tenth of the length this time. I’ll try to advance further next time.”

“The sect master said we have at least one-fourth of the ropeway before we’re qualified to compete for the positions of core disciples...”

“Don’t feel disheartened. After all, only Venerable Masters can travel the length of the ropeway. There’s no way we can do that so whatever we do is good enough...”

Everyone nodded.

Behind the group of young cultivators, an old man leaned against a huge boulder and drank wine as he looked at the young cultivators. His robes were thin and simple, making him look like a vagrant. Despite the state of his clothes, he was clean. His hair was thick, and he seemed to be in high spirits. Although his face was filled with wrinkles, he did not look haggard.

A young man walked over and asked, “Old man, you’ve been here for more than ten years. Why don’t you give it a try?”

The old man said with a smile, “I’m waiting for someone.”

“Waiting for someone? Who? The time you used to wait is enough for you to challenge the ropeway a few times. It’s a good opportunity to challenge yourself and learn from your failures...” the young man said.

The old man continued to lean against the boulder as he said with a smile, “I’m waiting for a fated person...”

“A fated person?”

"This person will definitely be able to travel the length of the ropeway," the old man said.

Upon hearing this, many cultivators laughed.

"You really know how to joke! A Venerable Master would have to be bored to come over here and play. You're saying you're waiting for a Venerable Master, right?" the young man asked.

The old man only laughed and did not say anything else.

At this time, a figure flew over from the distance. In just a few breaths, it was nearing the Soaring Peaks. Since the figure's speed was too fast, the young cultivators could not catch its speed.

The old man's smile widened. "He's here!"

When Lu Zhou approached the Soaring Peaks, he deliberately slowed down. When he was halfway up the mountain, he saw a platform jutting out from the mountain wall where several hundred cultivators were gathered. He flew over immediately.

Since no one knew Lu Zhou, no one stepped forward to greet him. Moreover, many people would come and go in this place.

After landing on the platform, Lu Zhou looked up and sighed. "So this is the Sky Hook Ropeway?"

"That's right."

The old man walked to Lu Zhou's side.

Lu Zhou looked at the old man suspiciously and asked, "You're here to challenge the ropeway as well?"

The old man smiled. "No, I came here to wait for you."

"Hm?"

"I'm waiting for a Venerable Master."

### **Chapter 1360: Impeccable Body**

Lu Zhou was puzzled. He studied the old man; the old man's complexion was ruddy and his body looked healthy. After confirming the old man was not a vagrant, he said, "I don't recognize you."

What was even stranger was that the information of the young cultivators had appeared in front of Lu Zhou, but he did not see the old man's information.

"Me?" The old man's eyes lit up. He chuckled and said, "But I know you..."

"Hm?" Lu Zhou felt the old man was very strange. He had always been cautious in order to ensure his survival.

The other cultivators were no match for Lu Zhou; it was good enough if they were even at a quarter of his cultivation base. They were not a threat to him. However, the old man in front of him was like an ordinary person. There were no fluctuations of energy that indicated he was a cultivator. However, the

peak was so high up. Even if an ordinary person could climb up so high, he or she would not be able to stay for long. This meant that the old man's cultivation base was unfathomable and could not be underestimated.

He could have asked Qin Renyue to guard him while he faced his Birth Trial. However, doing so would only lead to more questions. Hence, it was not convenient.

Lu Zhou wondered how did the old man recognize him. Was the old man a fanatical fan who admired him and remembered him?

The old man interrupted Lu Zhou's thoughts when he said, "Sit."

Lu Zhou was not in a hurry to cross the Sky Hook Ropeway. He walked over and sat on a rock across from the old man. He asked, "Did you come to challenge the ropeway?"

From time to time, the old man would raise his head to look at the cultivators who were trying to cross the Sky Hook Ropeway.

The old man shook his head and replied, "The Sky Hook Ropeway is useless to me."

Lu Zhou was slightly surprised by these words. Based on the old man's composure and bearing, the old man should not be an ordinary person. Hence, he said, "So you're an expert."

"I don't deserve that title," the old man said as he cupped his fists together at Lu Zhou.

"You said you recognized me and have been waiting for me at this place?" Lu Zhou asked again.

The old man nodded.

Lu Zhou carefully searched his memories, but he had no impression of the old man at all. The old man did not smell familiar as well when he used the power of smell to sniff the old man. He was 100% certain this was his first meeting with the old man. Thus, he said confidently, "I've never met you before."

"That's not important," the old man said as he raised his hand and pointed at the Sky Hook Ropeway.

"No, it's very important," Lu Zhou said.

"..." The old man was briefly stunned. Then, he laughed. His expression was rather complicated when he looked at Lu Zhou as he said with a sigh, "You're still the same."

"Lu Tiantong?" Lu Zhou asked.

"Lu Tiantong, the Venerable Master from the black lotus domain, is indeed a rare talent, but he's still far from being comparable to the fated person I've been waiting for," the old man replied.

"Fated person?"

"It's you."

"..."

The old man said earnestly, "I've been waiting here for ten years. For the past ten years, I've been here every day, watching the sunrise and sunset, watching the young men attempt to cross the ropeway. I finally met you today."

Lu Zhou thought the old man was crazy and weird. He brought out a manual and said with a straight face, "Young man, I see that your bones are strange..."

The old man played along. He brought out a brown bag from his chest and said with a smile, "Fated person, I see that your talent isn't bad..."

"Stop." Lu Zhou immediately raised his hand and stood up. "I don't have time to waste with you."

When the old man saw Lu Zhou was about to leave, he hurriedly rose to his feet to stop Lu Zhou. "No, no, listen to me. I have a way to help you pass the ropeway."

Lu Zhou glanced at the old man and asked, "You?"

"Your understanding of the Sky Hook Ropeway is definitely not as good as mine. In fact, it might even be worse than these young cultivators. Knowing yourself and your enemy will ensure that you win all your battles. If you don't understand the ropeway, even if you're talented, you'll still have to suffer," the old man said.

At this moment, a few young men looked over at them.

Lu Zhou turned back and said, "I don't associate with nameless people."

The old man understood and hurriedly said, "Jie Jin'an."

Lu Zhou had no impression of this name as well. He asked, "How can you be certain that I'm the fated person you're waiting for?"

Jie Jin'an laughed. "After the imbalance appeared, two Venerable Masters died. At that time, I was certain a new Venerable Master would appear. That Venerable Master is the fated person. And you... You're the fated person."

"..."

Lu Zhou was shocked and speechless. The old man's foresight was not bad. Outwardly, he calmly asked, "Could it be that you've said these same words to many people over the years?"

"Uh..." Jie Jin'an frowned before he swiftly changed the topic. "Look at the Sky Hook Ropeway. Look at how long it is..."

"About 10,000 feet..." Lu Zhou said after studying it for a moment.

"You're greatly mistaken," Jie Jin'an said, "It looks like it's 10,000 feet long, but it's actually infinite."

"Infinite? Is there an Illusory Formation?" Lu Zhou asked.

"No, no, no," Jie Jin'an said, "The Soaring Peaks and the Pillars of Destruction are quite similar. They can look into people's hearts. If you want to cross the ropeway, you have to have an extraordinary ability, and you must have at least 18 Birth Charts."

Lu Zhou already knew this.

Jie Jin'an continued to say, "The extraordinary ability refers to your ability to overcome your inner demons. Without that ability, even if you have 20 Birth Charts, you'll still fail. This is also the reason why many Venerable Masters refuse to come here. No one's willing to face their fears and weaknesses after all..."

Lu Zhou looked at the Sky Hook Ropeway and did not say anything.

Jie Jin'an said, "I've been waiting here for 10 years. Apart from helping you to cross the ropeway, there's another thing. That's to return something to its original owner."

"Return something to its original owner?" Lu Zhou asked skeptically.

"Ah, I meant I have a gift for you," Jie Jin'an said, immediately correcting his words. Then, he brought out the bag again and pushed it toward Lu Zhou. "It's in this bag."

Lu Zhou reached out to take it when Jie Jin'an put the bag away and said, "Cross the ropeway first. This thing is too valuable. If you can't cross it, it means you're not the fated person. If I give it to you, it'll only bring you danger."

"..."

Lu Zhou frowned. A second ago, the old man was adamant he was the fated person, but now the old man changed his words. Thinking that the old man was a scam artist, he lost all interest in speaking to him.

Jie Jin'an suddenly called out when Lu Zhou was about to walk away, "You have the Impeccable Body. Hence, the difficulty of the ropeway is much more difficult for you compared to ordinary cultivators. You have to be careful!"

"Impeccable Body?"

"The Impeccable Body attracts ten times the disaster. I'll wait for you at the northern Soaring Peak," Jie Jin'an said before he flew away.

Following that, one of the three young men who overheard the conversation stepped forward and said, "Hello, may I ask if you're here to challenge the ropeway as well?"

"What's the matter?" Lu Zhou asked.

"It's nothing. We just hope to gain experience and insight. We don't mean to offend you."

These young men were not fools. After listening to Lu Zhou and Jie Jin'an's conversation, they were certain the person in front of them was an expert with 18 Birth Charts. They were just young men who came here to gain experience; the expert before them was a Venerable Master who came to the battlefield. How could they compare?

After the information of the three young men appeared. He asked, "Is it very difficult?"

The information of the three young men appeared before his eyes. He asked, "Is it very difficult?"

One of them sighed. "It's very difficult. The further I went is only one-fourth of the way..."

"I didn't even reach one-fifth before I fell..."

"I only traveled one-sixth..."

The three of them looked dejected.

Lu Zhou frowned and said, "Young men, don't be impetuous. The further you go, the more stable you must be. Didn't your master teach you this?"

The three young men exchanged a look and bowed at the same time. "Thank you for your words."

Lu Zhou no longer paid attention to the trio. With a tap of his toes, he flew up.

remember to be impetuous. The further you go, the more important your temperament is. Didn't your master teach you?"

The three of them looked at each other and bowed at the same time. "Thank you."

Lu Zhou no longer paid any attention to the three of them. With a tap of his toes, he flew toward the top of Soaring Peak.

The trio followed suit. It was a rare learning opportunity to watch an expert cross the ropeway, after all.

Lu Zhou landed on the top of the Soaring Peak.

The three young people flew up as well.

Hundreds of cultivators surrounded a huge rock. The end of the ropeway was connected to the huge rock, and it connected to the opposing peak.

As soon as he landed, he saw dozens of cultivators falling from the ropeway. After falling a certain distance, they suddenly jolted awake and hurriedly mobilized their Primal Qi. They were so frightened that their backs were drenched in cold sweat. They would rest a rock nearby before they attempted to cross the ropeway again.

Many of the young cultivators repeated this same cycle.

At this moment...

"Make way! There's an expert crossing the ropeway!"

"Expert?"

"Come, come, place your bets! How much do you want to bet?" a cultivator, who seemed used to this, shouted immediately.

"I'll bet a fire spirit stone that he can't pass even one-third of the ropeway!"

"I'll bet ten obsidian essences that he can't even cross one-third of the ropeway!"

Swoosh!

A red object flew over from the distance and landed in front of the bookie.

Everyone was shocked upon seeing the red object.

“Blood ginseng!”

Then, Jie Jin’an’s calm voice rang from the distance. “I bet a piece of blood ginseng that he’ll pass the Sky Hook Ropeway.”

“...”

Everyone was in an uproar.

The bookie looked at Lu Zhou who had just arrived. ‘Is this the expert who plans to cross the ropeway?’

The bookie gulped. To be honest, even if he thought it was impossible for the person in front of him to succeed, he did not dare to accept the blood ginseng as a bet. The stake was too big for him.

“S-senior... I can’t afford to accept your bet...”

Jie Jin’an’s voice rang from the distance again. “It doesn’t matter. If you lose, congratulate the fated person on my behalf. Shout your congratulatory words ten times into the sky. As for the congratulatory words, I’ll leave it up to you. If I lose, the blood ginseng will belong to you.”

“???”

‘Is there such a good deal in this world?’ The bookie said in disbelief, “Senior, aren’t you just giving me the blood ginseng?”

“How can it be so simple? When he crosses the ropeway, all of you are to stay away and keep quiet,” Jie Jin’an said with a smile.

The bookie’s eyes lit up. “That’s easy!”

Those who could stay on the Soaring Peaks for a long time were not too weak after all. It was not difficult for them to keep each other in check.

The bookie said, “If I win, I’ll keep one-fifth of the blood ginseng. The rest will be divided among all the cultivators with five or more Birth Charts.”

“Agreed!”

There was no objection. Winning or losing aside, who would not want to participate in such a fun activity?

Those with fewer than five Birth Charts could only watch enviously. The weak had no right to speak, after all.

Lu Zhou looked at the northern Soaring Peak and asked, “You’re really generous. Are you so certain I’ll succeed?”

“No, no, no, I don’t think you’ll succeed on your first try. I have high hopes for you, but I don’t think you’ll succeed today,” Jie Jin’an said with a smile.

“Not necessarily. One try is all I need,” Lu Zhou calmly said.

The bookie was naturally invested in this matter. He said, "It seems you don't know much about the Sky Hook Ropeway. Even Venerable Master Fan took two years before he successfully crossed it. He would attempt to cross it once a month, which means he attempted to cross the ropeway 24 times. It took Venerable Master Qin 13 months to cross the ropeway, which means he attempted 13 times. Venerable Master Tuoba took eight months, which is equivalent to eight attempts. As for Venerable Master Ye, he tried 11 times in five months, which is an average of two attempts a month."

Lu Zhou was inwardly startled when he heard these words. 'There's such a thing? Then, aren't my earlier words too arrogant?'

Jie Jin'an said, "Nevertheless, the fated person I've been waiting for will definitely succeed in three to five attempts."

Everyone was in an uproar when they heard these words.

One of the cultivators said respectfully, "With all due respect, senior, I don't think anyone's capable of crossing the ropeway with so few attempts."

Jie Jin'an only smiled; he did not say anything.

Lu Zhou no longer paid attention to the others. Instead, he placed his hands on his back and stepped onto the ropeway.

As soon as his feet touched the incomparably thick chain, a chill surged into the soles of his feet. The cold was not any less than the Cold Pond at the peak of the snowy mountain in Cloud Mountain.

'So cold?' Lu Zhou was surprised. Was it really true that the Impeccable Body meant ten times the difficulty? After all, the cold in the Cold Pond was incredibly cold. It was the place where he faced his Birth Trial.

Lu Zhou mobilized a little divine power to resist the cold before he continued forward. He had just taken three steps when the scene around him changed completely. The cultivators had all vanished.

"Hm?" Lu Zhou found that he seemed to be walking on an empty broad road.

"Illusory formation?" He continued walking forward. His instincts told him that something more complex than Illusory formations was at play on the Sky Hook Ropeway. The first and second Birth Trials tempered the Birth Palace while the third Birth Trial tempered one's will.

Lu Zhou continued forward, unwavering.

Crack!

The scene cracked like shards of glass before he reappeared on the ropeway. The spectating cultivators reappeared as well. However, it was incredibly cold. It snowed heavily as the wind howled in his ears.

Lu Zhou continued forward before the scene changed again.

"Golden Court Mountain?" Lu Zhou found he was now at the foot of Golden Court Mountain.

While he was in a daze, a figure flew over from afar, attacking him with a large saber.

“Master, you’ve lived long enough! It’s time for you to go!”

Lu Zhou raised his head and saw that his attacker was his eldest disciple, Yu Zhenghai. He struck with his palm immediately.

Bang!

The palm seal sent Yu Zhenghai flying back.

“Master?!” Yu Zhenghai cried out in surprise.

Lu Zhou’s blood and qi surged in his body. His energy in his Dantian’s sea of Qi was chaotic as well. ‘My palm seal backfired?’

‘It’s an illusion. It’s a test,’ Lu Zhou kept reminding himself inwardly. He held his breath, alert, guarding his Dantian’s sea of Qi.

Due to the Heavenly Writing, it was easy for him to ignore distractions. He recited the mantras for the power of sight and the power of hearing.

For all lives in the universe, their lives, deaths, kindness, evil, merits, and sins can be clearly seen.

To gain the power to hear everything so that we can hear voices in all realms at will.

The divine power glowed in Lu Zhou’s eyes and ears immediately.

His eyes swept across his surroundings. However, Golden Court Mountain still stood before him, not the Sky Hook Ropeway.

‘The Heavenly Writing power is ineffective?!’