

Disciples 1361

Chapter 1361: Killing Disciples to Attain the Dao?

Lu Zhou could feel the flow of the divine power, granting him exceptional eyesight and hearing. Every blade of grass, tree, mountain, and river in Golden Court Mountain did not escape his eyes and ears. However, these were clearly illusions. The divine power had never failed him before. How could he not be shocked by its failure now?

“Master, you’ve grown old!”

At this time, Yu Zhenghai ran over, brandishing his saber. In just a blink of an eye, there were multiple clones of Yu Zhenghai surrounding him.

Lu Zhou looked at the figures around him. He closed his eyes and reminded himself again, “These are all illusions.”

When he opened his eyes, he discovered Yu Zhenghai’s energy sabers were shooting toward him. Illusions or not, he could clearly sense the danger from the energy sabers. He hurriedly dodged the energy sabers.

Bang!

The energy sabers landed on Golden Court Mountain.

Lu Zhou reappeared behind Yu Zhenghai and struck with his palm again. As soon as the palm seal landed on Yu Zhenghai’s body, he felt his energy churning and surging in his Dantian’s sea of Qi.

This time, Yu Zhenghai vanished after he was sent flying back.

‘What a ropeway...’ Lu Zhou surveyed his surroundings, looking for a way to shatter the illusion. Alas, no matter how hard he searched, he could not find any flaws. If this were a Formation, then it had to be the most perfect formation in the world.

He unleashed his grand technique and flashed up to the Evil Sky Pavilion. He swept past the eastern, southern, northern, and western pavilions. They were deserted.

Everything looked so real that for a moment he wondered if the Sky Hook Ropeway was a dream instead.

‘I have to be quick. Otherwise, it’s going to get harder to distinguish truths from lies,’ Lu Zhou thought to himself.

Lu Zhou used the divine power again, but it was useless.

In the end, he returned to the foot of Golden Court Mountain with his golden lotus.

“Master...”

When he turned around, he saw Yu Zhenghai kneeling on the ground with bare arms and a face full of scars.

Lu Zhou walked over. He knew this Yu Zhenghai was fake.

As he swept past Yu Zhenghai, Yu Zhenghai kowtowed loudly as he cried out, "Master, I beg you!"

Lu Zhou ignored Yu Zhenghai and continued looking for flaws in the surroundings. Again, he found nothing.

When he turned around, Yu Zhenghai was still kneeling on the ground. He looked like a teenager now. His eyes brimmed with tears, his face was stained with blood, and his body was riddled with wounds. This was Yu Zhenghai's appearance when he had joined the Evil Sky Pavilion. He only had a vague memory of it, but today, it was clearly displayed before his eyes.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Yu Zhenghai kowtowed loudly thrice. "Master! I want to kill them to seek revenge!"

The stars changed as time passed. Everything seemed to have returned to the past. Was this an illusion or a dream? Was this his inner demon? Could inner demons be so real? Did he travel back in time?

When a gentle breeze blew past his ears, he clenched his hands, drawing blood.

'Killing a disciple to attain the Dao?'

Lu Zhou flashed and appeared in front of Yu Zhenghai. He reminded himself again, 'This isn't my disciple. This is my inner demon.'

He would kill this fake disciple to attain the Dao. He would slaughter everyone who stood in his way.

When he raised his hand, Yu Zhenghai raised his head, revealing his still tender face. Disbelief flashed in his eyes when he saw his master's raised hand. He called out, unsure, "Master?"

'Don't let the inner demon distract you...'

The golden palm seal shot out before it stopped half an inch away from Yu Zhenghai's face.

Lu Zhou's hand trembled slightly. He sighed before he said, "If I help you, I'll harm you. If you want to seek revenge, you'll have to rely on yourself. If you're incapable of that, I can't help you."

Yu Zhenghai continued to kowtow.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

"You have to grow stronger; you have to cultivate. You have to bear the humiliation and the burden. Only when you suffer will you be able to grow," Lu Zhou said.

Yu Zhenghai muttered to himself, "Only when you suffer will you be able to grow. Bear the burden... Bear the humiliation..."

At this moment, a disapproving voice rang from the forest. "Eldest Senior Brother, can you bear the suffering?"

Yu Shangrong, dressed in a green robe as always, flew over with movements as light as a swallow.

When Lu Zhou turned to look at Yu Zhenghai again, Yu Zhenghai was an adult again. At this time, he drew his Jasper Saber and started fighting fiercely with Yu Shangrong.

“Eldest Senior Brother, Second Senior Brother, stop fighting!” Duanmu Sheng cried out as he flew over from afar.

Bang! Bang!

An energy saber and energy sword sent Duanmu Sheng flying back at the same time. He spat out a mouthful of blood and fell to the ground before he called out for help, “Master...”

Lu Zhou frowned.

One by one, figures appeared at the foot of Golden Court Mountain.

Mingshi Yin said, “It has nothing to do with me.”

Zhao Yue shook her head and said, “Let’s fight. Once the winner is decided, this will be resolved.”

Ye Tianxin, Si Wuya, Zhu Honggong, Little Yuan’er, and Conch appeared one after another. Their expressions were complicated; each of them harbored their own thoughts.

All of his disciples had joined the Evil Sky Pavilion at different times. It was impossible for all of them to appear at the same time. Lu Zhou closed his eyes before opening them again, reminding himself they were just illusions.

The scene changed again.

He was in the hall in the Evil Sky Pavilion. He looked at his appearance; he had white hair. This was his appearance when he had first transmigrated over. After a short moment, his disciples’ voices drifted into the hall.

“Why isn’t master dead yet?”

“I didn’t obtain the Overlord Spear so how could I leave?”

“Senior brother, isn’t this a bad idea?”

“Junior sister, you’re still young. Master only cultivated us so he could kill us to sprout the ninth leaf!”

“...”

Lu Zhou rose from the ground and rushed out of the hall. In just a second, he arrived at the foot of the mountain again.

Energy seals exploded, sending ten people flying back at the same time.

Lu Zhou landed on the ground, wondering if he was really going to have to kill his disciples to attain the Dao.

“Master, why don’t you do it?”

“Didn’t you want to kill all of you?”

“Master!”

“If you don’t kill us, we’ll kill you!”

Yu Zhenghai, Yu Shangrong, Duanmu Sheng, and the others leaped into the air.

Lu Zhou swept his eyes past them and said in a deep voice, “Impudent!”

Boom!

Ten people were sent flying back once again.

At the same time, Lu Zhou felt his Dantian’s sea of Qi growing more and more restless. When he raised his head, he saw his ten disciples were flying back again. Just like that, he continued to send his disciples flying back.

The intense backlash put a huge pressure on his Dantian’s sea of Qi. He felt as though his strength was being drained out of his heart.

At this moment, a voice rang in his mind. “You only have two choices: kill or be killed.”

Lu Zhou. “?”

He raised his head and looked at his disciples who were flying over from all directions.

Then, the mysterious voice rang again from another direction. “You have the Impeccable Body. This means your Venerable Master Trial is ten times harder than others.”

Lu Zhou flicked his sleeve, sending his ten disciples flying. This time, the backlash caused him to grunt before spitting out blood. After that, he raised his head and asked, “How’s it impeccable?”

“No one knows. Only you have the answer. I can’t see your heart so I can’t help you with your inner demons.”

...

At the southern and northern Soaring Peaks.

Everyone looked at Lu Zhou in surprise.

Naturally, what they were seeing was different from what Lu Zhou was seeing.

At this moment, they saw Lu Zhou spitting a mouthful of blood as he stood still in the middle of the ropeway.

The fierce wind howled as snow fell heavily.

Lu Zhou seemed like he was losing to his inner demon, lost in the illusion.

A young cultivator said worriedly, “He seems to be dying...”

“I hope he makes it! To be able to cross half the ropeway, I really admire him!”

“That’s right! It’s impressive enough that he crossed half of the ropeway! Even if he fails, he’s likely to succeed in a few tries! I feel really lucky being able to witness the birth of a new Venerable Master!”

The path of cultivation was long. All cultivators longed for was to become strong. Seeing Lu Zhou, they could not help but root for him.

Even the bookie was staring at Lu Zhou with a burning gaze as though he was cheering Lu Zhou on. After seeing the Lu Zhou spitting out blood and injuring his Dantian's sea of Qi, he said, "Send two people to wait below the ropeway."

"Okay, I'll go."

Two young men flew below the Sky Hook Ropeway. As soon as Lu Zhou fell, they would catch him.

...

At the same time.

At the foot of 'Golden Court Mountain', Lu Zhou watched as his ten disciples flew toward him again.

Chapter 1362: Great Venerable Master

Lu Zhou was slightly angry. Once again, he erupted with energy seals.

The energy seals formed a halo and sent his ten disciples flying back. With this, they finally vanished without a trace.

A master was a master; a disciple was a disciple. To betray one's ancestor and master, and to offend one's elder was a line that should not be crossed.

However, this attack had backfired on him again. He bent his body before staggering three steps back. Those three steps felt as though he had crossed thousands of mountains and rivers, leaving the Evil Sky Pavilion far behind. As he spat out a mouthful of blood, he felt his Dantian's sea of Qi shattering. His ears were ringing, and his mind was blank.

Then, the mysterious voice rang in the air again.

"Hurry up! Retreat!"

Lu Zhou inhaled deeply. His chest heaved up and down; he was out of breath. He was like an old man who had been farming the entire day and needed to sit down to have a rest. After his Dantian's sea of Qi shattered, he had grown numb to the pain.

Lu Zhou sighed softly as he shook his head and looked up at the Evil Sky Pavilion. He murmured, "Maybe you're right. Becoming a Venerable Master isn't as easy as I thought. Is it the Impeccable Body?"

"What Venerable Master? What Impeccable Body? They're just hurdles on the road of cultivation. Keep walking. Rest if you need. Get up again if you fall."

...

The cultivators at the northern and southern Soaring Peaks looked at each other and frowned.

"This is bad! Is he possessed? It might affect his future cultivation!"

“Bring him back!”

On the northern Soaring Peak, Jie Jin’an’s expression was rather unsightly as he looked at Lu Zhou who was standing in the middle of the Sky Hook Ropeway. With the fierce wind and heavy snowfall, Lu Zhou looked as though he was going to be blown away at any moment.

Humans were ultimately too insignificant. It was simply too difficult for them to fight against heaven and earth.

“Retreat!” Jie Jin’an transmitted his voice again. When it reached the middle of the ropeway, it turned into a thunderous roar.

...

Lu Zhou was unmoved. He asked tonelessly, “Tell me. What’s a Venerable Master?”

...

No one at the southern and northern Soaring Peaks could answer Lu Zhou’s question.

At this time, Lu Zhou’s figure was becoming blurry amidst the wind and snow.

...

That voice transmitted to the middle, forming a thunderous roar.

Lu Zhou was unmoved. He said indifferently, “Tell me... What is a real person?”

...

On the northern and Southern Soaring Sky Peak, none of the cultivators could answer.

They couldn’t see Lu Zhou’s figure clearly anymore. They could only see his blurry figure struggling in the wind and snow.

“The ancient Venerable Masters didn’t sleep or dream. They lived a carefree life, ate without feelings, and breathed deeply. They were born to the heavens and were known as Venerable Masters. Venerable Masters are one with the heavens. Those who cultivate their inner selves were known as sages. In ancient times, there were Venerable Masters who seized the heavens and earth, grasped the Yin and Yang, breathed the essence, and guarded the spirit. With these, they lived forever until the end of time. Venerable Masters do not die, do not live, and do not exist.”

...

“???”

Jie Jin’an did not understand why Lu Zhou was struggling and persisting. After all, Lu Zhou could try again. With experience and mental preparation, it would be easier for Lu Zhou to succeed the next time.

If this continued, if Lu Zhou was injured by his inner demon, it would be harder for him to advance. At worst, he might even lose his cultivation, and it would be impossible for him to advance even half a step in the future.

...

At this moment, Lu Zhou's eyes suddenly lit up. With a flash, he advanced another third of the distance.

Upon seeing this, everyone cried out in surprise. They could hardly see him at this time; they could only vaguely see his figure moving forward.

"The backlash is so powerful! How's he still able to mobilize his Primal Qi?"

No one knew the answer to this question.

Jie Jin'an no longer persuaded Lu Zhou to retreat. Instead, he watched silently. After a long while, he muttered, "It's still the same..."

...

Lu Zhou arrived in front of Golden Court Mountain again. Forcefully mobilizing his energy was just his blue avatar's final struggle. When his Dantian's sea of Qi shattered, he would lose his cultivation, avatars, and energy.

Figures flashed in the sky as they attacked from all directions.

Yu Zhenghai, Yu Shangrong, Duanmu Sheng, Ming Shiyin...

Lu Zhou sighed softly and said, "As the ancient saying goes, 'To raise but not teach the child is the father's fault; to educate but not be strict is a neglect by the master.'"

Lu Zhou stopped moving and stopped mobilizing his vitality energy. The vitality energy in his Eight Extraordinary Meridians and Dantian's sea of Qi vanished before the sea of Qi vanished.

Lu Zhou closed his eyes.

The sound of the wind on Golden Court Mountain was getting further and further away.

"Master..."

His disciples' voices were also growing fainter and fainter.

"Master, please accept my bow." There was Yu Zhenghai who had just entered the Evil Sky Pavilion and acknowledged him as his master.

"I'll keep my promise for the rest of my life." There was Ye Tianxin who made a promise when she had just returned to the Evil Sky Pavilion.

One by one, the voices gradually disappeared.

The Eight Extraordinary Meridians had become ordinary meridians while his Dantian's sea of Qi was just flesh and blood.

'What's a Venerable Master?'

Lu Zhou felt as though his soul had been pulled out of his body and that he was floating in the universe aimlessly. He could sense the gossamer-like power of heaven and earth, suffusing the mountain, the land, humans, birds, and beasts.

The blood flowing in his meridians stopped. His heart stopped beating. His body temperature plummeted.

Swoosh!

A thin layer of frost covered Lu Zhou's hair, face, and body.

Then, it was as though his soul dove back into his body. He struggled to open his eyes. The gossamer-like power obeyed his will and converged from all directions.

Crack!

The layer of frost shattered.

The ordinary meridians were once again the Eight Extraordinary Meridians as blood swiftly flowed through them. At the same time, his Dantian's sea of Qi was rewoven. It was even deeper and more vast than before.

Primal Qi burst like spring water in his Dantian's sea of Qi before surging into his body, dispelling the cold instantly.

Lu Zhou's eyes suddenly snapped open. When he looked ahead, his inner demon and the illusions were no longer there. He had returned to the Sky Hook Ropeway and the northern and southern Soaring Peaks.

Between heaven and earth, Primal Qi surged and converged like a hurricane with Lu Zhou at the eye of the hurricane in the middle of the Sky Hook Ropeway.

"Heavens! It's done!"

"He... He must be the first person to rise from the dead! Is he a Venerable Master?"

"Don't be noisy! This is a critical moment!"

Everyone waited with bated breath. They all wanted to witness the birth of a Venerable Master.

At this moment, a white figure suddenly appeared in the sky.

"The Equalizer!"

"The Equalizer?!"

"Back off!"

The white-clad cultivator unleashed his grand technique twice and appeared in front of everyone in just a blink of an eye. He said tonelessly, "I've finally found you."

The white-clad cultivator held his halberd horizontally and thrust it at Lu Zhou.

Just as the halberd was about to pierce Lu Zhou's face, Jie Jin'an's figure appeared, shielding him. Jie Jin'an raised his hand, blocking the halberd.

Bang!

Energy surged, shooting up to the heavens and cleaving the land.

Jie Jin'an asked with a smile. "What's the matter? Why are you acting so rashly?"

The white-clad cultivator frowned. "Who are you?"

"I'm just a human."

"It's best if you don't interfere in the work of an Equalizer," the white-clad cultivator said.

"It's just another Venerable Master. I've never seen any of you make a move when it came to those four Venerable Masters. Why are you in such a hurry to act now?" Jie Jin'an asked, puzzled.

The white-clad cultivator scoffed before he said through voice transmission, "He was in contact with Ying Gou. I have reason to suspect that he's the Unholy One, a demon!"

Jie Jin'an did not know whether to laugh or cry. "You're really funny. How many years has it been since all of you are talking about the Unholy One? It's been 100,000 years! In those years, have you even seen the Unholy One once? Scram!"

Jie Jin'an pushed his hand out.

Bang!

The white-clad cultivator was actually pushed back by Jie Jin'an. He tasted something sweet and metallic at the back of his throat before he spat out blood. He looked at Jie Jin'an and exclaimed in shock, "Who are you?"

"I thought you Equalizers have the ability to see through a person? I'll give you a chance..." Jie Jin'an said as he spread his arms.

The white-clad cultivator put away his halberd and suppressed his anger before he said, "I'll be reporting this to the Sacred Hall. You can protect him for now, but you won't be able to protect him forever."

Jie Jin'an frowned. "How troublesome."

Buzz!

A strange energy resonance sound came from behind.

Jie Jin'an turned around in surprise. He found that Lu Zhou had vanished. When he faced the front again, he saw that Lu Zhou had already appeared in front of the white-clad cultivator. Through the snow, he could see Lu Zhou's body glowing with a faint blue light.

Lu Zhou grabbed the white-clad cultivator as he said, "You want to report this? You can't leave."

Lu Zhou raised his other hand, launching a blue Abandoned Wisdom that had been imbued with the divine power.

The white-clad cultivator struggled but found that he could not move at all.

Bang!

The palm seal landed on the white-clad cultivator's chest. He fell like a shooting star toward the ground.

Boom!

In just a blink of an eye, the white-clad cultivator landed at the foot of the Soaring Peak.

Jie Jin'an exclaimed in surprise, "Great Venerable Master?!"

Chapter 1363: The Equalizer Again

Swoosh!

The blue light on Lu Zhou's body vanished and was replaced by a golden light.

The Soaring Peaks were now covered in snow. The snow kept falling, blocking the cultivators' sight. Many of them flew into the sky to have a better look. Although they were excited and wanted to take a closer look, their instincts warned them to stay away from a fight between Venerable Masters or possibly someone even stronger.

Lu Zhou's Dantian's sea of Qi had been reconstructed.

A Venerable Master would return to his original state.

When his Dantian's sea of Qi shattered, he felt as though he had become the most ordinary human. He felt the change in the temperature and was affected by the heat and the chill. He could keenly feel the frailty of his beating heart as his blood rushed through his meridians. He felt the warmth when he exhaled. When a cultivator reached a certain realm, they could abstain from food for a long time. They became impervious to heat and cold and did not even need to breathe.

When becoming a Venerable Masters, those feelings of old would come back.

Everyone's body was made of flesh and blood; it was not something cultivation could change. With blood and flesh, life and death followed. The Equalizers were no exception.

Lu Zhou looked at the white-clad cultivator on the ground coldly. Without turning his head, he asked, "Great Venerable Master?"

Jie Jin'an laughed heartily. He could not stop for a long time. His laughter echoed between the Soaring Peaks. When his laughter finally subsided, he said, "I really didn't expect this! Not only did you successfully cross the Sky Hook Ropeway with just a try, but you even became a Venerable Master! The reason Venerable Masters are Venerable Masters is due to the power of the Dao, which is the law of everything in the world. If your understanding of the laws surpasses your opponent's, then you would become a Great Venerable Master."

Lu Zhou continued staring at the white-clad cultivator as he nodded.

Jie Jin'an's words were not difficult to understand. If two people were competing in flying speed, if their speed is the same, it would be pointless. Similarly, if one could freeze time but so could one's opponent, the abilities would cancel each other out. Hence, when one's comprehension of the law surpassed one's opponent, one would naturally gain an advantage.

"What about Saints?" Lu Zhou asked.

Jie Jinan was stunned by this question. After a moment, he said, “Don’t aim too high. Although I don’t know how you became a Great Venerable Master, you should stabilize your cultivation base first. Don’t think you’re invincible just because you tossed an Equalizer to the ground.”

Swoosh!

Jie Jin’an flew to Lu Zhou’s side.

Lu Zhou could sense the old man did not harbor malicious intentions. He trusted his natural instinct and his keen sense as a Venerable Master. Moreover, there was no need for the old man to help him when he was passing the Birth Trial if the old man wanted to harm him.

Lu Zhou glanced at Jie Jin’an from the corners of his eyes and thought to himself, ‘Does he really know me? With such a high cultivation base, he shouldn’t be a fanatical fan of mine, right? Then, who is he? Where did he come from? What’s his purpose?’

Before Lu Zhou could give voice to these three questions, the white-clad cultivator suddenly shot into the air.

Jie Jin’an laughed before he said, “Don’t go.”

Jie Jin’an left countless afterimages in his wake, causing the void to ripple as he blocked the white-clad cultivator’s path.

Lu Zhou flew over and asked, “Tell me the truth. Why did you try to kill me?”

The white-clad cultivator pressed a hand against his chest as he looked at Lu Zhou and Jie Jin’an warily. He said, “You affect the balance of heaven and earth. I was ordered by the Sacred Hall to eliminate the variable that affects the balance.”

Jie Jin’an spat before he said, “Bullsh*t! The Sacred Hall has ordered that the Equalizers are not to interfere with the nine domains during the period of imbalance. You committed a great crime by coming here without permission!”

The white-clad cultivator frowned. He looked at Jie Jin’an and asked in shock, “You’re from the Great Void?!”

Jie Jinan said, “You can think whatever you want.”

The white-clad cultivator raised his hand and the long halberd flew into his hand with a swoosh. When he tightened his grip, his body shone with a golden light.

Upon seeing this, Lu Zhou frowned. “You were from the golden lotus domain?”

“Do you think he can protect you?” The white-clad cultivator rushed over at top speed.

Lu Zhou felt a powerful void-tearing force coming at him. The gossamer-like divine power wrapped around him immediately. At the same time, it circulated in his body, neutralizing the void-tearing force. Then, he flashed and arrived in front of the white-clad cultivator and struck with his palm.

Bang!

Jie Jin'an landed on the ground at this moment. "You can't escape."

Jie Jin'an was incredibly fast. He kicked the Equalizer causing the Equalizer to spit out blood.

Meanwhile, the cultivators from the northern and southern Soaring Peaks flew over one after another, wanting to have a closer look.

They saw the Equalizer lying in a deep pit on the ground. His expression was very unsightly mixed with a hint of unwillingness as he said, "Great Venerable Master."

Lu Zhou said, "Don't try to resist. Your power of the Dao is ineffective against me."

The Equalizer launched into a violent coughing fit, coughing out blood, before he said, "To think a new Venerable Master is also a Great Venerable Master. There's no mistake: you're the biggest cause of the imbalance."

Lu Zhou frowned. "I'll give you one last chance. You can answer my question or..."

The Equalizer shook his head as he looked at Lu Zhou and Jie Jin'an solemnly. Then, he lowered his head to look at the ground before raising it again to look at the sky as he murmured, "I'm the Equalizer, and I'm loyal to the Sacred Hall. I'm willing to sacrifice my life to get rid of all potential variables that might affect the balance. I'm the Equalizer, and I'm loyal to Sacred Hall..."

"Let's go!" Jie Jin'an said.

When Jie Jin'an flew past Lu Zhou, Lu Zhou felt a gentle force bringing him up to the Soaring Peaks. He was about to protest when he saw the Equalizer suddenly explode in golden light. Then, a powerful force swept out in all directions. The light was like the sun, illuminating thousands of feet in just a blink of an eye.

Many cultivators hurriedly rose to the Sky Hook Ropeway while some hid behind the Soaring Peaks.

Those who were in distance, unaware of what was happening, were swept away by the terrifying force in just a blink of an eye. No one knew if they survived.

At this time, Jie Jin'an spun around and brought out a humongous astrolabe to cover their retreat.

Upon seeing this, Lu Zhou said, "Let me do it!"

Lu Zhou exerted a little force and pulled Jie Jin'an over. Then...

Buzz!

An astrolabe that was even more dazzling than the sun blocked the Primal Qi storm.

The four Great Birth Charts resonated.

When the cultivators who were hiding heard the sound of resonance, they raised their heads and saw a scene they would never forget for the rest of their lives.

An astrolabe as vast as the sky blocked the violent Primal Qi storm completely. The destructive force tore past the sides of the astrolabe like a huge flood while the two peaks stood firmly in the midst of the flood.

The violent storm lasted for a full 15 minutes before it gradually died down.

During this time, Lu Zhou sensed the power of 18 Birth Charts. Fortunately, the entire process was thrilling but not dangerous. He did not even need to use much of his divine power.

He admired his astrolabe. Every Birth Chart was the result of his painstaking effort. They all represented his growth. Now, he had finally become a Venerable Master.

When he was done, he put away his astrolabe and surveyed his surroundings.

During this quarter of an hour, Lu Zhou also felt the power and strength of the eighteen life signs.

The mountains, trees, and rivers were gone. Everything had been razed to the ground. The area within tens of thousands of feet was like a plain. There was nothing there except for the two Soaring Peaks and the Sky Hook Ropeway between them.

Many cultivators gasped as they looked at their surroundings in disbelief after surviving the disaster.

Jie Jin'an could not help but applaud. "You're stronger than I thought."

Then, Jie Jin'an flew toward the southern Soaring Peak.

Lu Zhou only unleashed his grand technique once and appeared in front of everyone in just a blink of an eye.

Almost instinctively, everyone fell to their knees in unison.

"Greetings, Venerable Master!"

Chapter 1364: Returning It to the Original Owner

The cultivators did not know the name nor the surname of this Venerable Master.

This was supposed to be a day of celebration for all cultivators. After all, the green lotus domain had given birth to another Venerable Master, no, a Great Venerable Master, who was superior to the four Venerable Masters of the green lotus domain. However, their hearts beat uneasily in their chest when they recalled the golden astrolabe earlier.

It was normal that there were prejudices against cultivators of a different color domain. This was inevitable. For those with a narrow mind, they would discriminate without reason. There were those extreme cultivators who had once mindlessly protested against foreign domains by slaughtering thousands of people on the busiest street of Great Qin. This was not the first nor the last incident of extreme discrimination.

The cultivators grew even more nervous when they recalled that even Jie Jin'an who had stayed on the Soaring Peaks for ten years was also from the golden lotus domain. With this, their hearts beat even faster in their chests.

“Rise,” Lu Zhou said. He felt a little regretful that he did not use the Disguise Card earlier. Being famous was fine, but being recognized was a completely different story. In the future, there would be more and more fanatical fans.

At this moment, the bookie stepped forward and respectfully handed the blood ginseng to Jie Jin’an and said, “Senior, I lost.”

Unexpectedly, Jie Jin’an waved his hand and said, “Take it and divide it among yourselves.”

The bookie’s eyes lit up upon hearing these words. His hands trembled in excitement as he hurriedly said, “Thank you, senior!”

‘This nouveau riche is very magnanimous!’

Lu Zhou also did not expect Jie Jin’an to be so generous as well. The blood ginseng was rare and was useful for cultivation and stabilizing one’s Birth Charts. It was even useful to Venerable Masters.

At this moment, the bookie waved his hand.

All the cultivators said at the top of their lungs in unison, “Congratulations, senior! Congratulations! We wish for senior to be invincible and undefeatable in all battles and for thousands of generations to come!”

“Congratulations, senior! Congratulations! We wish for senior to be invincible and undefeatable in all battles and for thousands of generations to come!”

Lu Zhou frowned. He raised his hand. “Stop.”

The voices stopped immediately.

Lu Zhou felt as though these people were simultaneously possessed by his eighth disciple.

Jie Jin’an said, “You deserve this.”

“I deserve this?” Lu Zhou was puzzled. He looked at Jie Jin’an and asked, “Who are you?”

‘They didn’t know each other?!’

The cultivators were dumbfounded. Not only was the duo speaking so familiarly, but they were even from the golden lotus domain!

Jie Jin’an smiled. “That’s not really important. There are two things that surprised me today. First was your arrival, and second was when you successfully became a Venerable Master in just one try.”

Lu Zhou stared at Jie Jin’an, feeling like the old man in front of him was a super charlatan.

Jie Jin’an continued to say, “According to the agreement, I have something to return... Ah, wait, I mean I have something to give to the fated person...”

“...”

Lu Zhou looked at the bag in Jie Jin’an’s hands and said, “You better think this through. I’ve already said I’m not Lu Tiantong.”

“You’re the fated person, regardless of who you are. Since I’ve said I’d give it to you, how can I go back on my words?” Jie Jin’an said with a smile. A hint of slyness shone in his eyes.

‘This old fraud... What’s in the bag?’ Lu Zhou waved his hand, and the bag flew into his hand.

Jie Jin’an hurriedly said, “It’s best if you open it when you return.” Then, he raised his voice and said, “Everyone...”

After successfully attracting everyone’s attention, Jie Jin’an rose high in the sky. A golden light shone from his palm as an astrolabe covered the sky. An eye seemed to appear in the Birth Chart, staring down at all living things. Then, he said, “Forget all your troubles.”

The power of the Birth Chart shot down immediately from the sky.

Everyone looked up in confusion at the power of the Birth Charts that bloomed like fireworks in the sky.

Lu Zhou felt himself briefly go into a trance before his divine power pulled him back to his senses, dispelling the trance-like effect.

When the light vanished, Jie Jin’an was nowhere to be seen. It was as though he was never there.

Apart from the surroundings that had been razed to the ground, the rubble and debris had been cleared

The cultivators were stunned for a long time. One after another, they held their heads as though they were clearing their minds.

“Huh? What happened?”

“What am I doing?”

“Eh? Why am I kneeling?”

The young cultivator got up and dusted the dust off his knees.

“I don’t know why I have a niggling feeling that something big happened. Look at our surroundings... Do you remember anything?”

“I remember... I remember a mighty figure sweeping past this place, only leaving the two Soaring Peaks and the Sky Hook Ropeway intact...”

Lu Zhou. “?”

He was somewhat surprised that the cultivators seemed to have forgotten everything.

Some people wanted to remember for a lifetime while some people wanted to forget. Regardless, memories were one of the most precious treasures for humans.

‘How did he erase everyone’s memories with the power of his Birth Charts?’

Lu Zhou was reminded of Yong He’s ability to confuse the minds. In a way, it was similar to Jie Jin’an ability.

Lu Zhou placed his hands on his back and turned to look at the Sky Hook Ropeway.

'What's the Impeccable Body? What did the Equalizer mean when he said the Unholy One has descended into the world? Why did the Equalizer suddenly interfere in the nine domains' affairs? Where did Jie Jin'an come from? Where's the Great Void? I should've captured him and tortured him for answers before he left...'

Lu Zhou had many questions but no answers. He waited for a while at the Soaring Peaks, but no one came to greet him. He sighed and flew down the mountain. The group of fanatical fans he had painfully cultivated was gone just like that.

...

It was abnormally quiet when Lu Zhou returned to the Qin clan's southern training hall.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong were still instructing Little Zhou and Little Wu as the two young cultivators sparred. Occasionally, they would demonstrate with their saber and sword.

Lu Zhou could see they had made great progress over the past five years as well.

When Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong saw their master hovering in the air at a low altitude, they hurriedly flew over. They bowed and greeted him. "Greetings, master."

"Continue," Lu Zhou said.

"Master, why don't you give me some pointers?" Yu Zhenghai asked.

Yu Zhenghai was approaching his second Birth Trial. If he could receive guidance from his master, he would feel much more at ease.

Contrary to expectations, Lu Zhou said expressionlessly, "Learn it on your own."

Yu Zhenghai. "??"

Yu Shangrong. "?"

Lu Zhou vanished into the training hall immediately after saying that.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong looked at each other in dismay.

Yu Zhenghai said seriously, "Master is old. The autumn air is chilly so it's inevitable that he'll be in a bad mood. As disciples, we can't take this to heart."

"You have a point," Yu Shangrong said.

"Shall we continue?"

"Okay."

The two of them flew into the distance.

...

At the same time, Lu Zhou brought the bag out. As he looked at the strange patterns on the back, he muttered suspiciously, "What's in it?"

Chapter 1365: The Treasure of the Past

He opened the back and held it upside down.

Thud!

A black and round object fell and rolled to his feet.

“What kind of... treasure is this?”

Lu Zhou’s six senses were extraordinary. He could smell something strange from the black object. He picked it up and studied it for a moment, but he really could not figure out what it was. Not only did it smell strange, but it was even slightly stinky.

Jie Jin’an’s cultivation base was unfathomable. It was likely this thing was a rare treasure that was worth a lot.

Lu Zhou threw it to the ground.

Thud!

Nothing happened.

He picked it up and smelled it again. He wanted to taste it but could not bring himself to do it due to the stench.

He thought about it for a moment. Perhaps, someone else might recognize this thing.

“Old fourth.”

...

Mingshi Yin rode on Qiong Qi to look for his master as soon as he received his master’s voice transmission. When he entered the hall, he said respectfully, “Master, what are your orders?”

Mingshi Yin’s days in the southern training hall had been boring. He was about to grow mold on his body due to inactivity. For five years, he had only cultivated and walked his dog.

Lu Zhou tossed the object over and asked, “Do you know what this is?”

Mingshi Yin caught the black object and sniffed it. Then, he revealed a disgusted expression as he said, “It stinks... Uh, I didn’t mean that. Something that belongs to master has to be a treasure. This should be a panacea, right?”

In order to show he meant his words, Mingshi Yin decisively rubbed it before tasting it. He immediately spat and coughed. “Master, the taste is really...”

“Just say it...” Lu Zhou calmly said.

“This thing doesn’t seem like a treasure, master! Please tell me what it is. I have eyes, but I’m not discerning. I really don’t know what it is,” Mingshi Yin said as he secretly scratched a little bit off the top and held it in his hand.

Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

Qiong Qi wagged its tails left and right as it barked at the black object.

Lu Zhou looked at Qiong Qi and asked, "Do you recognize it?"

Qiong Qi whimpered before it took a step back.

Mingshi Yin's eyes lit up. Then, he discreetly put the thing in his pocket before he said, "Since Qiong Qi reacted to it, it must be a treasure. I remember when we were in the Transient City ruins, Qiong Qi found something black as well. After it ate it, it became much stronger."

"Food?" Lu Zhou raised an eyebrow.

Now that he looked at it, the black thing really looked like something that was meant to be ingested. However, the smell was very unpleasant.

"Master, you don't know what it is as well?" Mingshi Yin looked at the thing in confusion.

Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

Qiong Qi barked even louder.

Lu Zhou tossed it at Qiong Qi and said, "Since it's a good thing, you try it first."

If even the dog did not want to eat it, he would have to examine it carefully. It smelled really disgusting. If the effect was not enough to make him ingest it, he might as well give it to Qiong Qi. It was not a problem to use Qiong Qi as a lab rat.

Unexpectedly, Qiong Qi barked a few times before it took a few steps back, showing a disgusted expression.

"This..." Mingshi Yin was confused.

"Summon Conch here."

"Understood."

Mingshi Yin left and quickly returned with Conch in tow.

Conch bowed and greeted Lu Zhou before she asked, "Master, what can I do?"

Lu Zhou pointed at Qiong Qi.

Conch understood immediately and began to communicate with Qiong Qi. Since she was proficient in the beast tongue, she quickly caught the key information.

Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

Conch covered her face as she burst into laughter.

Mingshi Yin asked curiously, "Junior sister, what did this idiot Qiong Qi say?"

Qiong Qi. "???"

Conch said, "Master, senior brother, Qiong Qi said this is the excrement of a fierce beast."

Mingshi Yin. "..."

Lu Zhou. "???"

Lu Zhou frowned. Although nothing much was known about Jie Jin'an, there was no doubt that Jie Jin'an's cultivation base was unfathomable. Would someone at or above the stage of a Venerable Master use excrement to play tricks?

Mingshi Yin began to retch as he ran out of the hall.

Lu Zhou and Conch. "???"

Although it was disgusting, it was not to the point of being able to cause one to vomit, right?

Conch ran out to check on Mingshi Yin. "Senior brother, what's wrong?"

"It's... nothing. I-I'm fine..."

"..."

When Mingshi Yin thought about the thing in his pocket, he felt so disgusted that he wanted to tear his clothes off. Goosebumps erupted on his flesh as he was assaulted by another wave of nausea.

Lu Zhou did not pay attention to Mingshi Yin. Instead, he looked at the black excrement on the ground.

Thump!

Crash!

He smashed the table next to him with a hand and bellowed, "Outrageous! Jie Jin'an, I won't forgive you!"

...

At the same time, on a towering ancient tree a distance away from the Qin clan's southern training hall.

Jie Jin'an leaned against the trunk with his legs crossed. His expression was one of happiness and contentment at this moment. He chuckled as he said, "I was just joking with you. Why are you so petty? When you return to the peak, you won't have so much fun anymore! Huh? That's not right. How can he still remember my name?"

Jie Jin'an suddenly straightened his back. "It's over."

Jie Jin'an flashed and flew into the distance.

...

Mingshi Yin and Conch were startled by Lu Zhou's sudden outburst. The two fell silent immediately, not daring to make a noise.

'Hm?' Lu Zhou's eyes fell on the bag that held the fierce beast's excrement. Logically speaking, if it were an ordinary bag, it would have long been destroyed along with the table when he smacked it earlier. However, not only was it intact, but the patterns on it were shining as well.

Realization dawned on Lu Zhou. "So the bag is the treasure."

When he held it in his hand, the bag shone brighter than before.

Mingshi Yin and Conch entered the hall again, looking at the bag curiously.

Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

Qiong Qi barked happily.

When Lu Zhou tightened his grip, all the patterns lit up in unison.

"Ding! Vast Sky Bag. It's an ancient sacred relic and has no grade. Its capacity depends on one's cultivation base."

Mingshi Yin's eyes lit up. "This is a treasure!"

Lu Zhou sent a strand of his consciousness into the bag. The space was about 100 feet in radius, and its height was that of the space between heaven and earth.

It turned out to be a sacred relic, but Lu Zhou had little use for it. After all, he could store his treasures in the system. However, it might be useful in the future. After all, he could not rely on the system too much. With enough spirituality, weapons could be shrunk to a size where they were almost completely undetectable. However, he had too many treasures to help them gain spirituality one by one. Hence, this Vast Sky Bag might be useful in the future.

Jie Jin'an likely came from the Great Void. Did he come all the way here just to deliver this bag? He thought something was not right. As he put the bag away...

Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

Qiong Qi barked as it darted toward the black excrement and began pawing at it.

Crack!

The hard surface cracked, revealing what seemed like lime powder sprinkled on top of an egg. The egg was smooth, glowing, and ink-colored.

"This is..." Mingshi Yin was stunned.

Conch was stunned as well.

Lu Zhou looked at the excrement on the floor and said, "I see..."

"Master, what do you see? What's this?" Mingshi Yin scratched his head twice.

"The excrement blocked off the aura of this thing. Even cultivators with a keen sense of smell won't be able to detect it," Lu Zhou explained. Then, he thought about Jie Jin'an and said, "Your method is indeed brilliant."

Lu Zhou waved his hand casually, and the black egg-like object flew into his hand. A chill permeated his hand immediately.. He frowned. "A recycled life heart?"

Chapter 1366: The Life Heart of an Ancient Divine Beast

"It's a life heart?" Mingshi Yin moved closer and looked at the life heart greedily. "Uh, master..."

"Hmm?"

Lu Zhou's 'hmm' was stretched longer at the end, and it contained a hint of challenge. Although it was just one word, it clearly said, "If you have the guts, you say it..."

Mingshi Yin took a step back with a respectful expression on his face. "It's nothing, it's nothing. I'll go back to sleep now. Uh, I mean, I'll go back and cultivate now."

Then, Mingshi Yin discreetly waved at Conch.

Conch bowed and then followed Mingshi Yin out of the training hall. She felt that Mingshi Yin was a little strange so when they were outside, she asked, "Fourth Senior Brother, do you have bugs on your body?"

"Huh? Bugs?"

"Otherwise, why do you keep scratching yourself?" Conch asked, confused.

Mingshi Yin began to retch again. He did not even look back as he flashed away, retching.

Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

Qiong Qi hurriedly chased after Mingshi Yin.

In just a blink of an eye, the man and the dog vanished into the distance, leaving Conch in a daze.

'Was it not just excrement from a fierce beast? It's not that disgusting, right?'

...

Inside the southern training hall.

Lu Zhou studied the life heart in front of him. He did not know which fierce beast the life heart belonged to, but he could sense the mysterious and unfathomable energy contained in the life heart. It was as vast and deep as the ocean; it was immeasurable. It was far superior to the life heart of a beast emperor.

"Divine beast?"

Lu Zhou continued studying it. He could not figure out its grade.

"Let's test it."

Lu Zhou clenched his hand and mobilized his Primal Qi. It flowed along his Eight Extraordinary Meridians before surging out from his palm and into the life heart.

Buzz!

Blurry scenes began to appear in Lu Zhou's mind.

He saw astrolabes and avatars clashing in the sky. Blood rained down, the sea parted, and the world collapsed.

Lu Zhou cut off his Primal Qi immediately. The life heart fell from his hand, rolling on the ground a few times before it came to a stop.

Lu Zhou seemed to be infected with some strange feelings.

"The emotions from its previous owner?" Lu Zhou was taken aback. He did not expect the previous owner of the life heart to be able to leave such a deep impression on the life heart. This meant that it would not be easy to use this life heart.

Lu Zhou inhaled deeply and calmed his emotions. Then, he waved his hand, bringing the life heart to him.

"Again!"

Lu Zhou clenched his hand and mobilized his Primal Qi again.

Just like before, scenes of bloodshed appeared. Corpses littered the ground as cultivators killed each other in the sky.

At this time, he felt as though a huge hand was ruthlessly digging into his Birth Palace before a piercing pain assaulted his heart and mind.

Lu Zhou unclenched his hand. He used the divine power to dispel the lingering emotions from the life heart's previous owner and the pain.

Lu Zhou exhaled as he looked at the life heart in shock. He muttered, "Whose life heart is so powerful?"

"Ding! The life heart of Gou Chen, the Saint Slayer. Ability: unknown."

"..."

'Gou Chen?' Lu Zhou looked at the life heart in a daze.

At this moment, Yuan Lang, one of the 49 swordsmen, landed at the entrance. He bowed and said, "Senior Lu, Venerable Master Qin invites you to the northern training hall for a gathering. However, if you're busy, it's fine. I'll inform Venerable Master Qin immediately."

Yuan Lang came to the southern training hall often to invite Lu Zou out, but most of the time, he was ignored. He had long cultivated an iron heart that could withstand rejections. If he was refused, then he would just return and report it to Qin Renyue.

"Alright," Lu Zhou replied.

Yuan Lang was briefly startled by the unexpected reply. Then, he hurriedly said, delighted, "Thank you, Senior Lu. I'll lead you there."

Lu Zhou put the life heart away into the Vast Sky Bag before he flashed to the entrance.

At this time, a thought occurred to him. Jie Jin'an had hidden the aura of the life heart by covering it with a fierce beast's excrement. Should he follow Jie Jin'an's example and hide the life heart within a fierce beast's excrement? After all, treasures would only attract trouble. Even experts would covet such a treasure.

However, when he thought about the excrement, he shook his head. 'Forget it. I'm not even afraid now that one of the Great Void Seed has been exposed, and this thing definitely can't compare to a Great Void Seed.'

"Lead the way."

"Yes."

The duo flew toward the northern training hall and arrived in just a blink of an eye.

When Lu Zhou landed, Qin Renyue walked up to him with a smile on his face. "Brother Lu, I apologize for not personally inviting you over."

When Lu Zhou saw how lively it was, he asked, "What's the matter that deserves such a celebration?"

Qin Renyue said, "The green lotus domain has another Venerable Master."

"Oh?"

"Someone saw the signs of the birth of a new Venerable Master near the Sky Hook Peak," Qin Renyue said.

Lu Zhou: "..."

Qin Renyue laughed heartily. He was 100 times happier than when he had passed the Venerable Master Trial. He said, "It's rumored that the new Venerable Master is a Great Venerable Master. If he's really a Great Venerable Master, it would be great. No matter how serious the imbalance is, the safety of the green lotus domain won't be threatened! It's only natural that I have to share such good news with Brother Lu!"

Lu Zhou could not be bothered to explain himself. He entered the training hall and randomly found a place to sit.

Qin Renyue chose the seat across from Lu Zhou. After he sat down, he said with a smile, "I've invited the eight Free Men here as well even though not all of them are able to attend."

"Eight Free Men?"

"They represent the eight forces in the green lotus domain. They heard about the birth of a new Venerable Master and wanted my help so they could visit him," Qin Renyue explained.

"So you want me to visit him as well?"

Qin Renyue could tell there was something strange with Lu Zhou's tone so he said, "No, no, no. I don't dare to ask that of Brother Lu."

Lu Zhou looked at the wine jar on the table and recalled his time at the Sky Hook Ropeway. He could still vividly remember the feelings in his Eight Extraordinary Meridians before and after he became a Venerable Master.”

Lu Zhou poured himself a cup of wine before drinking it in one gulp.

The fragrance of the wine melted on his taste buds, and its warmth seeped into his heart. It was a feeling he had not felt for a long time and left him feeling nostalgic.

After a moment, Lu Zhou asked, “Do you know Gou Chen?”

“Gou Chen?” Qin Renyue asked. Then, he said, “It was one of the ancient divine beasts. Before the disappearance of the Great Void, humans and fierce beasts lived together. When the chaotic era dawned, the world fell into chaos, and humans and fierce beasts slowly began to separate. Then, there was a civil war between the humans, dividing the lands. Similar to humans, fierce beasts have wars, big and small, among themselves as well. Generally speaking, the fierce beasts from before the Great Void disappeared were known as ancient divine beasts. However, they gradually went extinct due to the war, becoming rarer and rarer. Many of their life hearts were harvested by humans. Only a few powerful ancient divine beasts remain, but their whereabouts are unknown. Their life hearts are known as the ancient Great Void’s life hearts.. As for Gou Chen, it should’ve long been extinct.”

Chapter 1367: The Great Venerable Master is a Guest at My Humble Abode

Lu Zhou nodded and said, “There are ancient humans so there’ll naturally be ancient fierce beasts. Apart from the core region of the Unknown Land, where else could those fierce beasts go?”

Qin Renyue chuckled before he said, “I didn’t expect Brother Lu to be interested in this. After the disappearance of the Great Void, with the Unknown Land in the center, the land split into nine domains, surrounded by the Endless Ocean. There are islands scattered all over the ocean. Some of the intelligent and powerful fierce beasts migrated there to avoid the catastrophic event of the splitting of the lands.”

“What about sea beasts?” Lu Zhou asked.

“Sea beasts are stronger and more hostile. The most terrifying thing is that they seem to be only slightly restrained by the shackles of heaven and earth. Moreover, they have long lives as well. However, there’s a balance between heaven and earth. The sea beasts won’t easily come to shore. To them, the land is small and insignificant,” Qin Renyue replied.

“Is the Great Void small?” Lu Zhou asked skeptically.

“Uh, this...” Qin Renyue smiled awkwardly as he said, “My understanding of the Great Void is shallow and naturally can’t compare to Brother Lu.”

After saying that, Qin Renyue said with a sigh, “Sometimes, I think it’d be great if the people from the Great Void took me away as well. Everyone yearns for the Great Void in different ways. Death is inescapable. Rather than just waiting for my death, isn’t it better for me to have a look at the Great Void before I die?”

“Are you going to die soon?” Lu Zhou asked skeptically.

Qin Renyue: “?”

Lu Zhou said, “My words harbor no ill intentions. Venerable Masters can live for 30,000 years. I see that you’re filled with vitality and don’t look like a person who’s reached the end of his life.”

“I’m deeply moved by Brother Lu’s words,” Qin Renyue said.

“...”

‘Young people always like to stare at the sky with a melancholic expression and a sorrowful gaze. It’s really incomprehensible. If you have the time to sigh, why don’t you cultivate instead? Life is fleeting so why would you deliberately indulge in sorrow?’

After a moment, Lu Zhou asked, “If what you say about the ancient divine beasts’ life hearts are true, doesn’t it mean there’s no way for the people of today to obtain them?”

Qin Ren Yue nodded his head then he shook his head. After a moment, he said, “The ancient life hearts are even more terrifying than the divine beasts. No cultivators in the nine domains are capable of subduing them for use. Even if there’s a person who’s capable of that, it’s indeed impossible to obtain one. Perhaps, one can only obtain it if those ancient Saints reappear. People from the Great Void can kill an ancient Saint and obtain his or her ancient life hearts. Or, if one’s lucky, one might encounter someone like Moshang whose cultivation base is low but is bestowed with an ancient life heart from his or her elder. In any case, it’s almost impossible to obtain them even if these people appear. After all, it’s almost impossible to steal another person’s life heart from their Birth Palace unless they cooperate.”

Indeed. Under normal circumstances, who would manifest their Birth Palace and stand still while someone robbed them of their life hearts?

“Digging out a life heart is like killing a cultivator. Moreover, there’s also the risk of the cultivator choosing to self-destruct.”

“To think the ancient divine beast’s life hearts are so rare and precious,” Lu Zhou murmured.

‘Jie Jin’an is willing to give such a rare treasure to me?’

Qin Renyue asked, “Brother Lu, why are you asking about this all of a sudden? Don’t tell me you plan to go to the Unknown Land to look for them? If that’s the case, you’ll have to go to the core region...”

Lu Zhou shook his head. “I have no plans of going to the Unknown Land for now.”

Although Lu Zhou had become a Venerable Master, he needed time to familiarize himself with his new power. He would have to go to the Unknown Land again, but the time was not now.

At this moment, Yuan Lang walked in and said with a bow, “Everyone has arrived.”

“Lead them in.”

“Understood.”

Outside of the hall.

Flying chariots flew from all directions before landing outside of the northern training hall. Each flying chariot was guarded by hundreds of cultivators. There were handsome young men and women as well as elderly experts.

“Venerable Master Fan has arrived!”

The first flying chariot to land naturally belonged to Fan Zhong, one of the Four, now two, Venerable Masters.

...

When Lu Zhou heard the announcement, he frowned. “He’s shameless enough to come?”

“He’s a Venerable Master, after all. He came with the Free Man, Fan Haichen,” Qin Renyue said before adding, “If you’re displeased by his presence, I’ll have someone ask him to stay outside.”

Just as Qin Renyue was about to wave someone over, Lu Zhou said, “No need.”

Lu Zhou was now a Venerable Master. With his cultivation base now, Fan Zhong was not a threat to him.

“Vice Leader Gu Ning of the Phantom Union has arrived.”

“The Valley Master of Hurricane Valley has arrived.”

“...”

One after another, unfamiliar names rang in Lu Zhou’s ears.

Lu Zhou curiously asked, “Isn’t anyone from the Tuoba clan or the Ye clan coming?”

Qin Renyue said, “Out of the eight Free Men, only four or five are attending today. With Tuoba Sicheng and Ye Zheng’s deaths, the Free Men from their clans won’t be attending. The Free Man of my Qin clan... won’t be attending either...”

Lu Zhou nodded, ignoring Qin Renyue’s last sentence.

Qin Renyue knew better than anyone why Qin Naihe joined the Evil Sky Pavilion.

As the duo chatted, many cultivators walked into the hall, chatting and laughing. However, they fell silent as soon as they entered the hall.

“Greetings, Venerable Master Qin.”

Everyone bowed.

Qin Renyue frowned. ‘These bows are very problematic. With such a bigshot sitting across from me, how can they only greet me?’

Just as Qin Renyue was about to correct them, Fan Zhong walked in from the back of the crowd.

“Greetings, Venerable Master Fan.”

Everyone bowed again.

Fan Zhong walked to the front of the crowd and said respectfully, "Long time no see, Pavilion Master Lu."

Lu Zhou only glanced at Fan Zhong before ignoring him,

Everyone: "..."

Everyone present was a person of status. They knew cultivators who could see shoulder to shoulder with Qin Renyue could not be ordinary. However, if Qin Renyue did not make the introductions, it would be awkward for them to rashly bow to him.

Qin Renyue smiled and said, "This is my friend, Pavilion Master Lu of the Evil Sky Pavilion."

The eyes of Shang Yan, the Valley Master of Hurricane Valley, brightened immediately. He stepped forward and said, "I've heard a lot of your great name, Pavilion Master Lu."

Lu Zhou's battle with the Fire Phoenix in the Unknown Land had shaken the green lotus domain. Many people had heard of Lu Zhou's name because of that battle, but none of them had met him.

"As it turns out, it's Pavilion Master Lu. What an honor to meet you here!"

Everyone stepped forward one after another to bow.

Upon seeing that the people were not going to stop bowing any time soon, Lu Zhou waved his hand and said, "Dispense with the formalities."

"Thank you, Pavilion Master Lu."

Then, Qin Renyue said, "Please take your seats."

After everyone took their seats, Qin Renyue said, "I'm sure all of you already know why we're all gathered today."

Fan Zhong smiled. "In the past, we've always hosted these things at Venerable Master Tuoba's training hall or Venerable Master Ye Zheng's Yannan's Blessed Land. This year it's finally your turn."

Qin Renyue, who could sense Fan Zhong's dissatisfaction, said, "Then, why don't we change to Venerable Master Fan's training hall now?"

"No, no, no, what are you saying? I'm happy for Brother Qin," Fan Zhong said.

"Times have changed. In the past, when all the Venerable Masters were around, the world was peaceful. With the imbalance growing worse, there's the threat of fierce beasts invading our lands, annihilating the human race. The responsibility I bear has grown heavier now. If it weren't for the sake of the world, why would I bother with these matters?" Qin Renyue said.

Fan Zhong was rendered speechless by these words. Then, he glanced at Lu Zhou, who was seated next to him, furtively.

At this time, Shang Yan, the Valley Master of Hurricane Valley, tried to smooth things over. He said, "Both Venerable Masters are here for the sake of the world. The location doesn't matter; it's the

intention that counts. I know why Venerable Master Qin has invited everyone here. I heard that a Great Venerable Master had appeared at the Sky Hook Ropeway. Is this true?"

Everyone turned to look at Qin Renyue immediately.

Since Qin Renyue's Qin clan was located closest to the Sky Hook Ropeway, he was most likely to have answers they sought.

Although the memories of the cultivators at the Soaring Peaks were erased by Jie Jin'an, the commotion was so huge that it attracted many cultivators in the surrounding area. Qin Renyue was one of them.

Qin Renyue said with a smile, "Of course! That day, I was meditating in the training hall when I suddenly felt a terrifying wave of energy from the Soaring Peaks. I rushed out and observed from afar. I saw a huge storm brewing and before it wreaked havoc, flattening the area within ten thousand feet of the Soaring Peaks. You can verify it for yourselves if you don't believe me. Not only did a Venerable Master appear, but it's a Great Venerable Master!"

Everyone was shocked.

Qin Renyue continued to say, "Most importantly, the Great Venerable Master is a guest at my humble abode."

"..."

Shang Yan of the Hurricane Valley, Gu Ning of the Phantom Union, Fan Zhong, and the others were shocked.

Fan Zhong, in particular, was even more shocked. No wonder Qin Renyue had gathered everyone here.

Shang Yan asked again, "The Venerable Master is a guest at your training hall?"

"Yes," Qin Renyue said confidently.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou was puzzled. He thought to himself, 'How did Qin Renyue know it was me? I even used my Heavenly Writing powers to ensure no one was following me when I left...'

Shang Yan hurriedly said, "It'd be our honor to be able to meet the Great Venerable Master."

The others nodded.

Qin Renyue said again, "The Great Venerable Master has only passed his Birth Trial. Perhaps, due to his inexperience, he told me he's not feeling well when I invited him over. He's been vomiting non-stop. He'll come and meet us in a while."

Lu Zhou was inwardly surprised. 'He's not talking about me? It's someone else? Who dares to pretend to be me?'

Lu Zhou had grown rather tired of impostors.

Shang Yan asked, clearly confused, "Even a Great Venerable Master can feel unwell?"

"Of course," Gu Ning said, nudging Shang Yan.

“Ah, that’s right. Of course, we’ll wait until he feels better to meet him,” Shang Yan hurriedly said. Even if he knew it was just an excuse, he still had to act as though it was real.

Lu Zhou asked skeptically, “Qin Renyue, you know the Great Venerable Master from the Soaring Peaks?”

In his excitement, Qin Renyue almost forgot about Lu Zhou. He said with barely contained excitement, “Brother Lu, you must be even happier than I am when you were at the southern training hall that day! Congratulations, Brother Lu, congratulations!”

“???”

Qin Renyue’s ‘congratulation’ stunned Lu Zhou and everyone present.

‘Who’s he talking about?!’

At this moment, a voice rang from outside the training hall.

“I’m here, Venerable Master Qin! I’ll be disappointed if you didn’t prepare good food and good wine.”

Everyone collectively turned to look in the direction of the voice.

Soon enough, Mingshi Yin walked into the hall with Qiong Qi in tow.

Lu Zhou frowned.

Qin Renyue was the first to speak. “Honorable junior nephew, oh, no, I mean, greetings, Venerable Master.”

The others were in shock and disbelief. It was their first time seeing such a young Venerable Master. However, since Qin Renyue took the lead to greet the young Venerable Master, there should be no mistake. With that, everyone stepped forward one after another.

“Greetings, Great Venerable Master!”

Mingshi Yin: “???”

Mingshi Yin scratched his head in confusion before he said, “Venerable Master Qin, this joke isn’t funny at all.”

Qin Renyue smiled conspiratorially at Mingshi Yin before he said, “Don’t be modest. As a Great Venerable Master, your status is higher than mine. Even Brother Lu has to...”

Qin Renyue forcefully stopped the following words from coming out of his mouth. He coughed to cover his slip-up.

Thud!

Mingshi Yin fell to his knees and kowtowed immediately. “Greetings, master!”

“???”

Everyone was baffled.

‘The Great Venerable Master is Pavilion Master Lu’s disciple?’

Fan Zhong was in disbelief. It was not impossible, but it was almost unheard of for a disciple to surpass his master. It was already good enough if the master did not hold back when teaching a disciple; how could a disciple surpass his master?

At this time, Mingshi Yin hurriedly explained, "Master, this is a misunderstanding on Venerable Master Qin's part. I'm not a whatever... Great Venerable Master..."

Lu Zhou nodded. He knew his fourth disciple would not have the audacity to masquerade as a Venerable Master, let alone a Great Venerable Master. It was clear that Qin Renyue had misunderstood the situation. Hence, he said, "Although Old Fourth's talent isn't bad, he still has a long way to go before he becomes a Venerable Master."

At this moment, Fan Zhong brought a Qi pearl. As soon he brought it out, it shone brilliantly, illuminating the entire hall. Its brightness indicated the target was a Venerable Master.

Upon seeing this, Fan Zhong's eyes widened. "He's really a Venerable Master?!"

No one doubted the Qi pearl.

Silence descended in the hall.

"..."

Mingshi Yin turned around, flabbergasted. Then, he asked, "When did I become a Venerable Master?"

"Greetings, Venerable Master!"

Everyone rose to their feet and bowed. They were respectful and excited. No one would believe Mingshi Yin even if he denied it with all his might.

Qin Renyue looked at Mingshi Yin with barely concealed admiration.

Qin Renyue was about to bow when Mingshi Yin raised his hand, bringing the Qi pearl into his hand. Then, he clenched his hand, turning it into dust. After patting his hands clean, he said, "What bullsh*t is this? It's not accurate at all!"

Everyone thought the new Venerable Master was very unique; he was unprecedentedly modest.

Then, Mingshi Yin looked at his master innocently and said, "Master, I... I really don't know what's going on."

Lu Zhou said, "Rise to your feet and speak."

Qin Renyue smiled and did not say anything. Inwardly, he thought that Lu Zhou's attitude was not quite appropriate. If a member of the Qin clan became a Great Venerable Master, he would be eager to worship that disciple. It was not impossible for him to give up his position in the clan as well.

Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

Qiong Qi barked.

At the same time, a huge commotion could be heard from the southeastern direction.

Then, Yuan Lang ran in and said, "A fierce beast is headed this way!"

"How brave of it to come to Venerable Master Qin's training hall."

No one was worried. Almost all the elites in the green lotus domain were here, after all.

Qin Renyue said, "Let me go and have a look."

In just a blink of an eye, Qin Renyue appeared in the sky. When he looked in the southeastern direction, his expression changed slightly. "A divine beast? The Fire Phoenix?"

The Fire Phoenix let out a cry and shot across the sky. Flames burned and surged in the sky.

The cultivators guarding the flying chariots outside were so frightened that they paled instantly. They hurriedly brought the flying chariots with them and fled in the opposite direction.

Soon enough, the Fire Phoenix arrived above the northern training hall.

A scorching heatwave swept out immediately.

Qin Renyue flashed back into the hall and said, "It's a divine beast, the Fire Phoenix! Great Venerable Master, please make a move! We mustn't let it wreak havoc in the green lotus domain!"

Mingshi Yin. "???"

Everyone rushed out and looked at the sky in shock.

"It's truly the Fire Phoenix!"

"Strange! Why did it come here?"

Everyone was shocked and confused.

Lu Zhou thought to himself, 'Previously, it was frightened away by the Equalizer in the Unknown Land. It fled after leaving its egg behind. Did it come to look for its hatchling?'

Lu Zhou thought this was the most probable.

At this time, Fan Zhong's expression was grave as he cupped his fists together at Mingshi Yin, Lu Zhou, and Qin Renyue and said, "If the four of us work together, even if we can't kill it, we should be able to drive it away."

"Brother Lu has the experience of fighting with the Fire Phoenix. Everyone, don't worry too much."

The others nodded.

'It's up to Pavilion Master Lu and the Great Venerable Master now...'

Divine beasts were as strong as Saints, after all. Even if all of them joined forces, it still would not be easy to defeat the Fire Phoenix. They could only use the Dao inscription of the training hall to drive it away.

Mingshi Yin could not hold back any longer and said, "Master! I'll leave first! I... I can't deal with it!"

'Even a Great Venerable Master is fleeing?'

Everyone panicked.

Even a Great Venerable Master fled after seeing the Fire Phoenix! What did this mean for them then?

Swoosh!

The Fire Phoenix circled the sky, flapping its wings.

A scorching heatwave swept through the entire place immediately.

Chapter 1368: Reverence

The scorching heatwave swept through the northern and southern training halls.

Thousands of disciples from the Qin clan hastily retreated and laid low on the ground.

Meanwhile, the 49 swordsmen prepared themselves for a battle.

If a divine beast like the Fire Phoenix went all out, it would be over.

The 49 swordsmen had personally witnessed the scene of the Fire Phoenix injuring all 36 Big Dipper flag bearers in one go. They did not think they were any stronger than the 36 flag bearers.

The Fire Phoenix spat out a stream of flames at the Dao inscriptions.

The inscriptions flashed frantically.

“This divine beast is too powerful. The barrier from the inscriptions are a joke to it,” Fan Zhong said.

Qin Renyue naturally knew the Dao inscriptions’ barrier could not hold the Fire Phoenix back. However, he was still displeased when he heard Fan Zhong’s words. Hence, he said coldly, “You’re not a joke. So can you block it for me?”

Fan Zhong was speechless.

Although both of them were Venerable Masters, Fan Zhong was slightly weaker than Qin Renyue. To be precise, Fan Zhong was the weakest among the four Venerable Masters. Perhaps, this was due to his overly-cautious character. Moreover, with his character, he was destined to have sincere friends. After all, he would not always try to balance relationships, unwilling to offend all parties. In a way, it could be said that he was the kind of person who only cared about himself and disregard the world.

The sky was fiery red.

The Dao inscriptions’ barrier were almost destroyed by the heat.

Qin Renyue said, “Follow me!”

The 49 swordsmen replied in unison, “Understood!”

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Qin Renyue and the 49 swordsmen flew into the sky immediately.

The 49 swordsmen immediately converged into seven-point formation.

The others continued to maintain a wait-and-see attitude. No one dared to rashly step forward. They were aware of how terrifyingly powerful a divine beast was. Although Qin Renyue and the 49 swordsmen were strong, they likely could not even withstand a single shot of flames from the Fire Phoenix. If they rashly forward, it was tantamount to courting death.

Fan Zhong looked at Mingshi Yin and said, "I hope you'll make a move and defend the Qin clan's estate."

Everyone echoed Fan Zhong's sentiments.

Mingshi Yin: "..."

'I'm not a Great Venerable Master! If all of you fly up, perhaps, you'd be able to withstand half a ball of flames! If I go up, I'd be reduced to ashes! I won't make a move even if you beat me to death!'

When the Fire Phoenix saw Qin Renyue and the 49 swordsmen soaring into the sky, it screeched. Its ear-piercing cry resounded through the heavens. However, it did not attack.

Qin Renyue frowned and said, "This isn't a place where you should be."

The Fire Phoenix flapped its wings, fanning the flames that dyed the sky red.

...

Meanwhile, Yu Zhenghai, Yu Shangrong, Little Yuan'er, and Conch hovered in the air above the southern training ground and looked at the huge Fire Phoenix.

"Fire Phoenix! Everyone, be careful," Yu Zhenghai said warningly.

The southern training hall was quite far away so they were safe for the time being.

...

The Fire Phoenix looked down at everyone at the northern training hall. Then, it spread its wings and threw its head back with its beaks open.

Upon seeing this, Qin Renyue's expression changed dramatically. He roared, "Retreat!"

The 49 swordsmen hurriedly flew back.

Fortunately, this was Qin Renyue's private training hall so there were not many disciples of the Qin clan around.

On the ground, the various bigshots from the major forces in the green lotus domain ran for cover as well.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

A ball of flames flew toward the barrier formed by the Dao inscriptions.

The barrier only resisted for a moment before it shattered like glass. They dissolved into spots of starlight before scattering in the sky.

With this, the northern training hall was instantly drowning in a sea of fire.

“D*mn! It’s so strong?!” Mingshi Yin exclaimed. Although it was his second time seeing this, he still found it unbelievable.

Lu Zhou, Fan Zhong, and the other Free Men were also astonished.

Buzz!

Qin Renyue manifested his astrolabe at this moment. He held it in front of him, and before it exploded with all the power of his Birth Charts, he bellowed, “You dare to destroy my training hall?!”

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The power of the Birth Charts landed on Fire Phoenix. It did not dodge at all. Instead, it folded its wings around itself, letting the attack hit it. When it unfolded its wings, it was completely unharmed.

“...”

It was too powerful.

Qin Renyue suddenly remembered how miserable Ye Zheng and the 36 Big Dipper flag bearers were when they struggled in the sea of fire. He knew that he and the 49 swordsmen were not much stronger than them. Moreover, so many years had passed since it rose from the ashes, it had matured and grown even more powerful. He wondered how he should deal with it for a moment before he called out, “Brother Lu!”

At this time, Qin Renyue could seek help from Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou, who was standing at the training hall, glanced at Qin Renyue and asked, “Oh, so you remember me now?”

A sheepish expression appeared on Qin Renyue’s face. He glanced at Mingshi Yin and did some thinking. Over the past five years, he had quite many interactions with Mingshi Yin. Hence, he understood Mingshi Yin quite a bit. Mingshi Yin was famous for being... cowardly. When he thought about how Mingshi Yin was from the Meng clan, he thought it was to be expected. Moreover, he was not 100% certain Mingshi Yin was a Great Venerable Master. After all, it was almost impossible for one to improve so much in just five years. However, that phenomenon at the Sky Hook Ropeway was real. Hence, he concluded that Mingshi Yin’s miraculous improvement must be due to the Great Void Seed.

Finally, Qin Renyue said, “Brother Lu, I’m afraid only you can deal with him.”

Everyone retreated, looking at the huge Fire Phoenix nervously.

Lu Zhou flashed and appeared about 100 meters in front of the Fire Phoenix. He stood with his hands on his back as he said, “Beast.”

The Fire Phoenix made some strange noise at the back of its throat, opening and closing its beaks.

Alas, no one understood what it was saying.

When Lu Zhou saw the Fire Phoenix had no intention of attacking, he sent a voice transmission to it. "Are you here to look for the little Fire Phoenix?"

He used voice transmission since he did not want the others to know about the existence of the little Fire Phoenix.

The Fire Phoenix moved its head up and down as though it was nodding.

Lu Zhou continued to say through Voice Transmission as he raised his hand, "Since you entrusted it to me temporarily, I'll naturally return it to you. However, before that, don't you think there's something you should express?"

The Fire Phoenix's head tilted to the left and the right, confused. It did not quite understand human etiquette. It did understand what the human in front of it wanted. Was it not a matter of course that its child was returned to it? It lowered its head, and when it saw Lu Zhou's raised hand, anger began to surge in its heart. It thought that humans were indeed creatures. It would burn them with its mighty fire so they would know to fear the mighty and divine Fire Phoenix!

With that, the Fire Phoenix spat out a ball of flames.

Qin Renyue and Fan Zhong manifested their astrolabes and retreated 1,000 meters along with the other cultivators.

Lu Zhou did not expect the Fire Phoenix to suddenly attack as well. Human brains worked differently from that of beasts, after all. He hurriedly brought his astrolabe up to shield himself.

When the fire landed on Lu Zhou's astrolabe, a sizzling sound rang in the air. As soon as the fire burned his astrolabe, he felt the heat as well. It seemed like the astrolabe was melting. He was surprised by this discovery. After all, he was now a Venerable Master. Moreover, he had the fire-resistance ability from one of his life hearts. It seemed like it was still not enough compared to the Fire Phoenix's flames.

Creak!

Lu Zhou's astrolabe began to cave in. He pushed his hand against it, channeling his divine power into it. The golden light shone on the astrolabe with spots of blue light; it was a rather dazzling sight.

The astrolabe creaked, smoothening itself out, successfully blocking the flames.

Lu Zhou was only able to block the flames for now; he could not attack it.

With a buzz, the astrolabe straightened and finally blocked the flames.

At this moment, the Fire Phoenix suddenly stopped spewing flames. It spread its wings before it grew still.

Taking advantage of the brief respite, Lu Zhou put away the astrolabe and used the power of the Dao he had comprehended at the Sky Hook Ropeway. At the same time, he also used He Luoyu's ability.

Ten clones appeared in the air instantly.

Everyone saw the void ripple slightly. When they looked again, Lu Zhou was already hovering above the Fire Phoenix. Then, he launched a palm seal.

“Flawed Perfection.”

Chapter 1369: Flawed Perfection

The Fire Phoenix fell into a brief daze. Then, it swept its wings across the sky at Lu Zhou’s clones, harmlessly dispersing them.

Qin Renyue, Fan Zhong, and the others were slightly surprised when they saw Flawed Perfection.

Flawed Perfection seemed to have traveled through the void.

Logically speaking, the palm seal should have shot out from the palm and flown according to its trajectory before hitting its target. However, this palm seal vanished for an instant when it appeared. When it reappeared a distance away, it flew out in a dazzling straight line with the center missing.

From the Fire Phoenix’s point of view, the palm seal was quite a distance away. However, it did not know what happened, but the palm seal suddenly appeared in front of it.

Boom!

The palm seal landed on the Fire Phoenix’s chest. Its eyes widened in shock as it screeched in pain.

Everyone was shocked when they saw the Fire Phoenix being pushed 1,000 meters back by the immense force.

“It landed!”

“The attack landed!”

“The Fire Phoenix has an immortal body. This palm seal looks ordinary so how did it injure the Fire Phoenix? Moreover, the Fire Phoenix hides its body in the flames so it’s difficult to accurately hit it.”

“If I have the answer to your question, then I’d be a Venerable Master myself.”

At this moment, the Fire Phoenix flapped its wings again, seemingly recovered. Then, it spat out another ball of flames that was even more terrifying and hotter than before.

The flaming sky cast a red light on the northern training hall, making it look as though it was drowning in a sea of fire.

Lu Zhou did not use his astrolabe. Instead, he brought Unnamed in the form of a shield out before he flew forward.

Qin Renyue nodded. “Brother Lu still hasn’t cast his Golden Buddha’s Body. Even the Fire Phoenix was helpless against his Golden Buddha’s Body at that time.”

Fan Zhong did not see Lu Zhou fight the Fire Phoenix with the Golden Buddha’s Body previously. He had heard about it, but he had always been skeptical about news from the Unknown Land. Moreover, he did not think Venerable Masters were a match for divine beasts. Nevertheless, he said perfunctorily, “The Golden Buddha’s Body’s defenses are indeed amazing.”

Fan Zhong knew Qin Renyue thought very highly of Lu Zhou and was determined to forge a good relationship with Lu Zhou. To that end, Qin Renyue could even look past Qin Moshang's death. Not only that, but Qin Renyue even dared to go to the royal palace and fight the fake emperor of Great Qin in the Ultimate Formation.

Fan Zhong thought Qin Renyue was really bold with his actions. However, he knew he could never act in this manner. With just one wrong step, he would fall into the abyss, unable to leave.

In the past, the cultivation base of the fake emperor of Great Qin had always been a mystery. The four Venerable Masters did not underestimate him at all. Even Tuoba Sicheng did not dare to mess with the royal family. All sorts of signs pointed to the fake emperor of Great Qin being very strong. And yet, Qin Renyue still dared to firmly stand by Lu Zhou's side. In the end, his gamble paid off.

Unnamed that was imbued with the divine power glowed golden and blue. After a moment, the two lights suddenly merged, turning sort of... green?

Qin Renyue who caught a brief flash of it exclaimed, "Green?!"

At this moment, Lu Zhou, who was holding Unnamed in front of him, arrived in front of the Fire Phoenix. After half a year of tempering his body in extreme heat in the depths of Skywheel Mountain, he could finally see the use of it. Coupled with his power as a Great Venerable Master and the divine power, he was able to withstand the firestorm.

"Ice Seal."

Fight fire with ice. Cold versus heat.

The winner would be whoever had more vitality energy.

When Lu Zhou cast Ice Seal, he had used half of his divine power as well.

The freezing energy instantly dispelled the high heat.

Lu Zhou felt much better. He felt as though he had stepped into the cold universe on a dark lonely night.

On the contrary, the spectators found it even more unbearable now. The feeling of extreme heat and cold caused them to sweat and shudder even if they were cultivators.

In just a moment, the Fire Phoenix's flames were extinguished. The ice spread quickly, freezing the Fire Phoenix with its wings fully unfurled. Then, it fell down.

Lu Zhou stepped forward; the eight trigrams appeared beneath his feet while Yin Yang seals appeared on his body. From all directions, Primal Qi converged, looking like a dragon. Then, he launched another Flawed Perfection.

Qin Renyue's eyes widened. "Great Venerable Master?!"

Fan Zhong had also discovered this, but he was calmer. "So the Great Venerable Master is Pavilion Master Lu."

Shang Yan, the Valley Master of Hurricane Valley, laughed. "Venerable Master Qin, were you playing a joke on us? Pavilion Master Lu is right in front of us, but you deliberately misled us."

Gu Ning from the Phantom Union chimed in, "I was wondering how could a Great Venerable Master be so young. Moreover, how could a disciple surpass his master? As it turns out, the Great Venerable Master is Pavilion Master Lu."

They felt they had been dragged into the gutter by Qin Renyue.

Qin Renyue turned to look at Mingshi Yin, but Mingshi Yin looked at him with an expression that seemed to say, "What are you looking at? I told you earlier, but you didn't believe me and insisted on being stubborn."

Qin Renyue looked away, feeling slightly embarrassed. He should have known it was impossible. He knew Mingshi Yin spent a lot of time sleeping. How could Mingshi Yin become not just a Venerable Master, but a Great Venerable Master in just a few years? The Great Void Seed was indeed amazing, but it was not so amazing to the extent where it could transform one into a Great Venerable Master in just a few years. On the other hand, now that he thought about it again, Lu Zhou was already a Venerable Master. It was perfectly reasonable for Lu Zhou to break through and become a Great Venerable Master. It made perfect sense.

The difference between an ordinary Venerable Master and a Great Venerable Master lay in their comprehension of the Dao, which dictated the number of laws that they had mastery over. Ordinary Venerable Masters had mastery over one law, and the range of their control was rather small. On the other hand, Great Venerable Masters had mastery over two or even three laws, and their range of control was much bigger and lasted longer as well. For this reason, Great Venerable Masters could easily neutralize ordinary Venerable Masters' powers of the Dao.

The longer Qin Renyue looked at that palm seal that gathered all the vitality energy in the surroundings and left ripples in the void, the more convinced he was that it was the power of a Great Venerable Master.

Flawed Perfection fell from the sky. It vanished, and when it reappeared again, it was above the Fire Phoenix's head.

Everyone was stunned that Lu Zhou was able to control it from almost 100 meters away.

Boom!

In a battle between experts, even the slightest difference was like an insurmountable chasm. With a distance of 100 meters, many things could be done. Lu Zhou could launch a sneak attack from any direction at any given time.

When the palm seal landed on the Fire Phoenix, a burst of light exploded, illuminating the sky like the sun.

The ground within 100,000 feet trembled. Meanwhile, the sky above the Qin clan's estate lit up dazzlingly. Even from 1,000 miles away, one could see the brilliance from the horizon.

Crack!

The moment the Fire Phoenix landed, the layer of ice around it shattered. It flapped its wings immediately. It was further enraged after being knocked down. It soared into the sky, rushing toward Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou frowned. "You're not injured?"

Either the Fire Phoenix's healing ability was very high or his strike missed. There was no way it could be uninjured if his strike had landed. Lu Zhou felt very confident about that palm seal.

"Very well. I'll give you another palm seal..."

This time, Lu Zhou brought the Purple Glazed Ceramic out. Previously, he had used his life heart's Ice Seal ability. This time, he was going to use the Purple Glazed Ceramic's ability.

Upon seeing the Purple Glazed Ceramic...

"Infinite grade?"

"It's very normal for a Great Venerable Master to have an infinite-grade weapon," Qin Renyue nodded as he said.

"Indeed..."

Everyone nodded in agreement.

While they were chatting, energy burst from the Purple Glazed Tile.

The Fire Phoenix screeched. It had just arrived 100 meters in front of Lu Zhou before it was frozen again. Once again, it turned into an ice sculpture and fell from the sky.

Lu Zhou raised his hand. Unnamed in the form of a sword released an incredibly long energy sword that stabbed at the Fire Phoenix's body. He had imbued the divine power into the energy sword as well.

Bang!

The sound resounded thunderously in the sky, and the earth split.

It looked as though a giant sword had nailed a frozen sparrow to the ground.

The battle seemed to have ended.

Everyone was in disbelief.

"It's over?"

"The divine beast is defeated?"

No one dared to wonder out loud how a divine beast, which was comparable to a Saint, was defeated by a Venerable Master.

Meanwhile, Shang Yan exclaimed in shock, "Another infinite-grade weapon?"

Qin Renyue said, "There's no need to be so surprised. Brother Lu has at least three infinite-grade items."

"T-t-three? O-okay..."

Chapter 1370: I'm Not Someone to Be Trifled With

After a brief moment, everyone quickly pulled themselves together and calmed down. Their eyes were focused on the frozen Fire Phoenix that was nailed to the ground, waiting.

They did not doubt Lu Zhou's strength as a Great Venerable Master, but the Fire Phoenix was not an ordinary divine beast. Everyone knew its nickname: the Immortal Bird. Even if Lu Zhou used two infinite-grade weapons along with his power, it did not mean he could kill the Immortal Bird. Hence, they continued to wait for its rebirth as they stared at it intently.

Lu Zhou did not withdraw the energy sword. He continued holding onto Unnamed in the form of a sword and looked at the Fire Phoenix.

After a few breaths...

Crack!

The layer of ice shattered.

Swoosh!

Flames surged again on the Fire Phoenix's body. Surprisingly, the flames were even more intense than before. It supported itself using its wings and rose to its feet, allowing the energy sword to completely pierce its body.

Bang!

Lu Zhou put away Unnamed. Then, in just a blink of an eye, ten clones appeared again.

The Fire Phoenix flew into the air as the energy sword gradually dissipated. At this time, a drop of molten liquid dripped down.

"Fire Phoenix's true blood!"

The young cultivators guarding the flying chariots could not suppress their greed when they saw the blood and rushed over immediately.

"Brother Lu's strength is truly unfathomable! He actually injured the Fire Phoenix! The Fire Phoenix's true blood can greatly increase one's cultivation and change one's physique. Although it can't compare to the Great Void Seed, it's still a rare treasure," Qin Renyue said.

"However, in the short term, the Fire Phoenix's true blood is not different from the Great Void Seed. The true blood's effect will run its course, unlike the Great Void Seed. At that time, one's cultivation speed will decrease," Shang Yan said.

As Shang Yan, Gu Ning, Fan Zhong, and the others watched the young cultivators they brought with them running toward the true blood and shook their heads. The place they were rushing to was beneath the feet of a divine beast; did they have a death wish? As the saying went, 'A newborn calf is unafraid of the tiger'.

As expected, after the Fire Phoenix rose into the sky, it unfurled its wings that seemed to span the entire sky. Once again, the sky turned red and fiery.

From thousands of miles away, it seems like the sky was burning.

The flames and heat had reached an unprecedented height at this moment.

Lu Zhou looked down and bellowed, "Get lost!"

Lu Zhou used the divine power from his Six-leaf blue avatar and cast the power of speech.

The soundwave rolled out like a tsunami.

Hundreds of young cultivators were instantly sent flying back by the soundwave. Their qi and blood surged violently in their bodies while the weaker ones were already spitting out blood.

As expected of a Great Venerable Master! Each of his moves was shocking.

Lu Zhou still remembered the battle in the Unknown Land. When the Fire Phoenix spread its wings in such a manner, it meant that it was going to unleash its ultimate move. The current Fire Phoenix has grown much stronger. Despite being injured, its one move was enough to destroy the world.

After a moment, Lu Zhou said, "Young people, you don't know the immensity of heaven and earth. Is the Fire Phoenix's true blood something you can covet?"

The young cultivators flew thousands of meters back, looking at the Fire Phoenix in the sky in shock.

The true blood fell 300 meters before it was evaporated by the high heat from the Fire Phoenix's flames. The place where the young cultivators were standing at just a moment again was burning high with flames.

Fan Zhong took the initiative to say, "Thank you, Great Venerable Master Lu, for saving their lives."

With this, Shang Yan and Gu Ning reimagined their senses and thanked Lu Zhou as well.

Then, they turned around and reprimanded the young cultivators.

"How dare you? The Fire Phoenix doesn't even need to exert any effort to reduce all of you to ashes. Did you think you're very brave? If it weren't for Venerable Master Lu, all of you would've died!"

The young cultivators finally realized how impulsive they had been. All of them bowed to Lu Zhou to express their gratitude.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou's attention was no longer on them. He was only focused on the Fire Phoenix. It was simply too powerful. If they continued to fight, it would be difficult to determine the victor. He knew even if he could not kill the Fire Phoenix, the Fire Phoenix definitely could not kill him. He was enough of means to protect himself and 1,000,000 merit points.

At this time, the Fire Phoenix unfurled its wings again to their full extent before it stilled. Then, a screech tore through the heavens, heralding a firestorm.

Swoosh!

Qin Renyue felt angry and helpless when he saw this. He bellowed angrily, "Everyone, evacuate the training hall. Retreat!"

"Venerable Master?!"

The 49 swordsmen watched as the fire ravaged the southern and northern mountains and the previously lush forest before shifting their gaze toward the training hall. This was their home, the place they grew up. How could they be unaffected, watching their home burn?

Seeing the approaching firestorm, Qin Renyue decisively said, "Retreat! Where there's life, there's hope!"

With this, everyone flew away.

...

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong turned around and flew away with Little Yuan'er and Conch as well.

...

At this time, Lu Zhou said angrily, "Very well, if this is how you want to do it, don't blame me for not showing mercy."

Lu Zhou raised his hand, shattering a Deadly Strike Card. A vortex spun in his hand before forming the Great Vajra Seal Hand Sign. It shot across the sky like a shooting star, landing on the Fire Phoenix once again.

Bang!

"..."

Even if the Fire Phoenix knew he could not kill it, Lu Zhou had to let it know that he was not someone to be trifled with. Then, he manifested his 18 Chart astrolabe.

"Block!"

The astrolabe expanded at top speed, keeping the flames at bay.

Indeed, Lu Zhou was right. Prior to this, the Fire Phoenix had never taken cultivators at and below the stage of a Venerable Master seriously. In its opinion, these humans that were like lowly reptiles were not worthy of it using its majestic flames. However, this time, it felt an unprecedented wave of terror and suppression from the Nine Nether Void. It felt even more oppressive than the Great Void, causing its body to tremble.

The Fire Phoenix flapped its wings, fanning the fire.

Lu Zhou quickly withdrew his astrolabe after a few breaths.

Swoosh!

At this moment, a streak of auspicious energy that shone as brightly as the sun shot out from the lower sky of the southern training hall into Lu Zhou's body. Just like that, his divine power was swiftly restored.

Lu Zhou turned around and saw Whizard standing on a puff of auspicious clouds, looking at him like a gentle and elegant sheep.

'No wonder you're my favorite! No matter from which angle I look at you, you're so pleasing to the eyes!'

Now that Lu Zhou's divine power had been restored, he used it to resist the flames and heat. He looked at the northern training hall. Although he had used his astrolabe to block the flames, the northern training hall still could escape the fate of being burned. However, the southern training hall could still be salvaged.

Lu Zhou looked at the falling Fire Phoenix and said, "I've always followed rules when doing things. I've always been honest and kept my promises. I'm telling you now if you persist in being stubborn and making an enemy out of him, I'll go to the very end with you."

Each of Lu Zhou's words was loud and powerful.

Lu Zhou knew the Fire Phoenix was not dead. Moreover, it would become even stronger.

Before the Fire Phoenix reached the ground, it raised its head and looked at Lu Zhou, but it did not attack. It could not understand how a Venerable Master could possess such power that made one despair. It let out a loud cry before it flew up, drawing level with Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou stood with his hands on his back and looked at the Fire Phoenix. It felt as though he was looking at the sun at this moment. He asked, "Do you still want to fight?"

'Hold on. This moment depends on who gives in first...'

Finally, the Fire Phoenix shook its head.

Lu Zhou nodded and said, "Very good."

Then, the Fire Phoenix made a series of strange noises.

"Conch," Lu Zhou said through Voice Transmission.

...

When Conch heard her master's call, she was about to rush over.

However, before Conch could leave, Little Yuan'er stopped Conch and said, "Watch out. The big Fire Phoenix might act shamelessly!"

Conch laughed. "It's fine. Master is there!"

"Alright, then. Be careful. In any case, I'm not going over there," Little Yuan'er said.

At this moment...

"Yuan'er, bring the little Fire Phoenix here."

"..."