

Disciples 1371

Chapter 1371: Promise

Little Yuan'er raised her head and looked at the huge Fire Phoenix hovering next to her master with an extremely unwilling expression on her face.

Yu Zhenghai waved his hand and said, "Ninth Junior Sister, master is calling you. You have to go."

Little Yuan'er's eyes lit up as she grabbed the scruff of the little Fire Phoenix's neck before shoving it to Yu Zhenghai and said, "Eldest Senior Brother, why don't you help me look after it."

"Alright," Yu Zhenghai said with a smile.

At this time, Lu Zhou transmitted his voice to both Yu Zhenghai and Little Yuan'er.

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

Little Yuan'er: "..."

Yu Zhenghai sighed and handed the little Fire Phoenix back to Little Yuan'er. Then, he said with a sigh, "It's only natural for a mother to look for her child. You don't want it to be without its mother, right? Moreover, imagine how sad it would be without its mother."

Little Yuan'er nodded reluctantly and said, "I know. However, why does it seem like you're cursing its mother to die?"

"Is it?" Yu Zhenghai asked.

Yan Zhenluo, Lu Li, and the others nodded. It did seem like he was cursing the Fire Phoenix.

In the end, Little Yuan'er could only bring the little Fire Phoenix and followed Conch to her master's side.

...

When the Fire Phoenix saw Little Yuan'er holding the little Fire Phoenix by the scruff of its neck, its eyes widened. It was furious. Flames began to surge around it again.

Lu Zhou said, "You better restrain your temper. Otherwise, you might not be able to reunite with the little Fire Phoenix."

The Fire Phoenix: "..."

When Little Yuan'er and Conch arrived by Lu Zhou's side, he said again, "It's living much better than you'd imagined."

The Fire Phoenix made a string of noises.

Conch translated in a low voice, "It said that it doesn't believe you. It said that you must have been torturing its daughter."

“Torturing?” Lu Zhou shook his head and said, “You really don’t live up to your status as a divine beast. Take a look for yourself before you judge.”

The Fire Phoenix looked at the little Fire Phoenix in Little Yuan’er’s hand and chirped.

The little Fire Phoenix responded happily and flapped its wings.

Conch said, “The little Fire Phoenix said it was happy staying with Ninth Senior Sister and that she had lots of fun and... delicious food to eat.”

The little Fire Phoenix flapped its wings again, slowly rising up.

Little Yuan’er wanted to grab the little Fire Phoenix, but when she heard Conch’s words, she changed her mind. She thought that perhaps, her Eldest Senior Brother was right. A child without its mother would not lead a happy life. With that, she thought about her own situation as well. However, she thought she was better off than the little Phoenix. At least, she had grown up by her parents’ side. When she first left home and joined the Evil Sky Pavilion, she was depressed for a long time. Compared to her, the little Fire Phoenix was truly too miserable; it was separated from its mother before it even broke its eggshell. She understood the pain of separation all too well.

The little Fire Phoenix spat out a ball of flames at this moment.

...

“...”

Qin Renyue, Fan Zhong, Shang Yan, Gu Ning, and the others were stunned.

Lu Zhou was quite far away from them and had communicated telepathically with the Fire Phoenix so they had no idea what was going on. However, they were not blind. All of them had seen the little bird spitting out a ball of flames.

“H-how’s this possible?”

“I thought it was some special sparrow-like beast.”

“It’s actually the Fire Phoenix’s hatchling! No wonder the Fire Phoenix came here!”

...

When the Fire Phoenix saw the little Fire Phoenix spitting out a ball of flames, it opened its beaks slightly as its eyes widened. It looked unusually happy. The flames around it died down, revealing its dazzling red feathers.

The little Fire Phoenix flew over and circled the Fire Phoenix.

Blood was thicker than water. It was the same for humans and beasts.

At this time, the Fire Phoenix made a string of noises again.

Conch said, “Master, it’s apologizing to you.”

Lu Zhou said, "You should apologize to them. You burned their home. Think about it. If I killed your child, how would you feel?"

The Fire Phoenix was stunned. Then, its sharp claws moved.

Swoosh!

A drop of blood flew toward Qin Renyue and the others.

Qin Renyue was overjoyed when he saw this. He quickly used an energy seal to contain the drop of true blood.

Conch turned around and said, "Venerable Master Qin, this is the compensation from the Fire Phoenix. It hopes that you'll forgive it."

Qin Renyue would not stoop to the of a beast and be petty. Moreover, even if he was petty, he did not have the strength to back it up. If the Fire Phoenix wanted to leave without compensating him, he would not be able to stop it. It was good enough that he was compensated with its true blood.

Finally, Qin Renyue cupped his fists together and said, "Alright, alright."

The others looked at Qin Renyue enviously.

At this time, the Fire Phoenix turned around and flapped its wings.

The little Fire Phoenix chirped next to it, making noises along with its mother. Then, it began to scratch at its mother's body, looking like a spoiled child who was throwing a tantrum.

"..."

Lu Zhou looked at Conch.

Conch said, "The little Fire Phoenix said it doesn't want to leave."

Little Yuan'er smiled and said, "If it doesn't want to leave, then stay!" Then, she said to the little Fire Phoenix, "I'll take care of you!"

Swoosh!

Flames surged again.

The Fire Phoenix was bathed in flames again as its anger surged. It spread its wings as it glared at the little Fire Phoenix.

Upon seeing this, the little Fire Phoenix flew five meters back and spread its wings that spanned about seven or eight meters wide. Then, flames began to surge around it as well.

One big and one small were confronting each other!

When the Fire Phoenix saw the flames surging around the little Fire Phoenix, its eyes widened again. Perhaps, if it were human, there would be an incredulous expression on its face.

No one in the world knew better than the Fire Phoenix the progress of Fire Phoenixes. The little Fire Phoenix's performance showed that it was way ahead. Moreover, the little Fire Phoenix even dared to challenge it.

The confrontation lasted for a long time before the huge Fire Phoenix extinguished its flames, folded its wings, and lowered its head.

Conch said, "Master, it has agreed to let the little Fire Phoenix stay."

"Oh?"

"But it said that only Ninth Senior Sister is allowed to take care of the little Fire Phoenix. No one else is allowed to touch the little Fire Phoenix," Conch said. After a brief pause, she continued saying through voice transmission, "It said that the noble Fire Phoenix clan can't be defiled by lowly humans. It said that Ninth Senior Sister possessed the Great Void Seed so she's qualified to look after the little Fire Phoenix."

Lu Zhou was not angry. Lu Wu was like this, after all. Humans and fierce beasts were not the same. Hence, he said telepathically, "Since you know about this, I won't hide it from you. Not only does my disciple possess the Great Void Seed, but its energy is able to nourish the little Fire Phoenix. With this, in the future, not only will the little Fire Phoenix become a divine beast, but it can even be a supreme being."

The huge Fire Phoenix lowered its head, blinking its eyes that were like the sun.

Conch said, "Master, it tells you to set a condition to let the little Fire Phoenix stay by Ninth Senior Sister's side."

Lu Zhou remained calm as he said, "My condition is simple. Lend me your life heart."

Upon hearing this, the huge Fire Phoenix unfurled its wings that spanned thousands of feet.

Lu Zhou said, "You can think about it first. It's said that divine beasts are highly intelligent. So far, based on your performance, it doesn't seem to be true."

These words extinguished the Fire Phoenix's flames and anger immediately. It froze.

The little Fire Phoenix kept chirping and flapping its wings at this moment.

Not long after that, the Fire Phoenix nodded.

Conch said, "Master, it has agreed. However, it insists on watching you use its life heart and that it has to be returned immediately after you're done. It said that humans are the most despicable and shameless species in the world. It won't give you a chance to steal its life heart away."

Lu Zhou said, "I can't use the life heart now. Why don't you let me borrow it the next time you come looking for the little Fire Phoenix?"

Chapter 1372: Thank You, Great Venerable Master

The Fire Phoenix looked at Lu Zhou in confusion. The seemingly weak old man looked as though he could be knocked down with just a swipe of its wings. Who knew he could erupt with such terrifying power? Especially toward the end of the battle, it felt as though it was facing someone from the Great Void.

That was right! The Fire Phoenix wondered if the old man was from the Great Void. If that was the case, then leaving its child with these people was like leaving a sheep in the tiger's mouth.

With this, the Fire Phoenix made a series of noises again.

Conch said telepathically, "Master, it said that you're from the Great Void."

"Hm?"

"It said that unless you can prove you're not from the Great Void, it won't agree with your condition," Conch explained.

Lu Zhou frowned. "How do you want me to prove that?"

The Fire Phoenix moved before it made another series of strange noises.

Conch said, "It said you have to withstand the full brunt of its attack."

Lu Zhou: "?"

Little Yuan'er grew angry upon hearing these words. She placed her hands on her hips and said, "You're a really funny beast! My master just beat you up and subdued you. It's good enough that he didn't kill you. How dare you ask him to let you attack him? Conch, translate my words to it. Say it loudly and in an imposing manner!"

"Oh." Conch translated every word carefully.

In fact, even without translation, the Fire Phoenix could understand what Little Yuan'er said. It shook its head.

Little Yuan'er said, "You better be reasonable! My master is here so don't act arrogant! Don't humiliate yourself even if you have nothing better to do!" Then, she turned to Lu Zhou and asked, "Master, am I right?"

Lu Zhou: "..."

Indeed. He did not have a fetish for standing still and letting others attack him.

Lu Zhou looked at the Fire Phoenix and said, "I don't have time to waste with you. Why don't we do this? If you can withstand my palm strike, I'll do as you wish. What do you think?"

The Fire Phoenix shook its head immediately. Fear still lingered in its heart when it thought about the earlier scene. Fortunately, the old man in front of it had yet to master the method to kill an immortal divine bird. Nevertheless, it did not want to suffer the pain.

At this time, the little Fire Phoenix began to chirp again. It flapped its wings, lifting its chubby body.

The Fire Phoenix took a step back and nodded somewhat helplessly. Its expression was rather interesting. It seemed to say, "Alright, you little ingrate! You win! I agree, okay?"

Then, the little Fire Phoenix flew back to perch on Little Yuan'er shoulder, looking pleased with itself. It folded its wings and raised its head proudly, happily enjoying the Great Void energy. Only a descendant of a divine beast like it was qualified to enjoy the energy from the Great Void Seed.

Seeing that little Fire Phoenix was doing very well and even had the nourishment from the Great Void energy, the Fire Phoenix knew the little Fire Phoenix would progress rapidly. However, if these people were from the Great Void, the little Fire Phoenix would be in big trouble. It looked at Lu Zhou again. If it could confirm Lu Zhou was not from the Great Void, it thought it might be worthwhile lending Lu Zhou its life heart.

At the same time, everyone watched in confusion.

After a moment, the Fire Phoenix raised its head and closed the distance between it and Lu Zhou until it was only half an inch away from Lu Zhou. Then, a red wisp of flame flew toward Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou was puzzled. He did not sense any lethality from the wisp of flame. When it arrived in front of him, it was gentle and warm. Then, the flames seemed to turn into a mini vortex. Suddenly, the flame turned blue.

Swoosh!

The Fire Phoenix let out a cry as it flapped its wings. Its eyes looked as though it was going to fall out of their sockets.

Humans and beasts had different thinking, but they all felt the same emotions such as fear and joy.

Everyone clearly saw the fear in the Fire Phoenix's eyes at this moment.

After retreating a few steps, the Fire Phoenix lowered its proud head and put away its arrogance as the noble Fire Phoenix, looking extremely humble at this moment. Then, it made a string of low noises.

"..."

Upon seeing this, even the little Fire Phoenix was stunned. It looked at its mother in confusion.

Little Yuan'er and Conch also did not expect the Fire Phoenix's abrupt change in attitude.

Lu Zhou pointed at the Fire Phoenix and asked, "Conch, what did it say?"

Conch stuttered and scratched her head before she said, "Uh, it said... It's you? Master, it seems like it knew you from a long time ago?"

Lu Zhou said mercilessly, "I don't know it."

"Oh."

The Fire Phoenix: "..."

The Fire Phoenix who had lost its arrogance nodded as it made a lot of noise.

Conch nodded. "Well, it's good that you agreed. This is your promise to my master. Don't worry. My master is a man of his words. And let me tell you, my master hates those who go back on their words!"

The Fire Phoenix: "%# ¥ ...% @ ¥ #!"

It meant: I understand!

The Fire Phoenix shook its body and pulled out a feather before handing it to Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou looked at the feather, slightly confused.

Conch said, "It said that if you burn this feather, it'll be able to sense you and rush over immediately."

Lu Zhou nodded and put it away in the Vast Sky Bag.

Then, the Fire Phoenix slowly spread its wings. At the same time, it looked at the little Fire Phoenix, clearly reluctant to part with its child.

The little Fire Phoenix chirped happily like an insensible child, completely unwise to the pain of separation between parents and their children.

"You can go," Lu Zhou said, waving his hand.

The Fire Phoenix chirped and flapped its wings. In just a blink of an eye, it flew into the sky and vanished from sight.

...

Meanwhile, Qin Renyue and the others were confused. They could not hear what Lu Zhou said, but they could see everything.

All of them rushed back from the distance.

Yuan Lang, one of the 49 swordsmen, shouted, "Put out the fire!"

Gu Ning, Shang Yan, and Fan Zhong ordered their people to help as well.

"What are you waiting for? Help put out the fire!"

There were hundreds of people who were brought here by the Free Men. Hence, their speed of putting out the fire was not too bad.

The cultivators flew back and forth, bringing water from every direction to put out the fire.

Not long after, the fire was put out.

The northern training hall was charred black with wisps of smoke rising from the rubble.

Fortunately, the southern training hall was safe and the other places were safe. The northern training can be rebuilt.

After putting out the fire, everyone gathered and bowed in thanks.

Qin Renyue said, "Fortunately, Brother Lu's here. Otherwise, my northern and southern training halls would be gone for good."

Fan Zhong chimed in, "Great Venerable Master is truly extraordinary! Even the divine beast had to retreat. I really admire you. Venerable Master Qin, you must thank Great Venerable Master Lu."

Qin Renyue rolled his eyes. 'That's a matter of course; I don't need you to remind me.'

Lu Zhou waved his hand and said, "It's just a small matter. There's no need to speak about such trivial matters."

Qin Renyue was even more moved when he heard these words. "Brother Lu, my Qin clan will remember your great kindness!"

The young cultivators from the Qin clan originally were slightly dissatisfied about Qin Moshang's death. However, because of Qin Renyue, none of them dared to express their dissatisfaction with Lu Zhou. However, after witnessing Lu Zhou's performance today, all of them were thoroughly convinced.

About 3,000 disciples bowed at the same time.

"Thank you, Great Venerable Master!"

"Ding! Received the worship of 3,100 people.. Reward: 3,100 merit points."

Chapter 1373: Core Region

Although the merit points were not a lot, they were still merit points.

Lu Zhou's expression remained the same as he waved his hand, indicating the matter was not worth mentioning.

It was unexpected that a Great Venerable Master was so modest. Previously, Qin Renyue had invited him many times but was refused so he thought Lu Zhou was rather cold and aloof. Now, it seemed like it was all a misunderstanding.

Everyone was filled with even more admiration.

At this time, Qin Renyue asked, puzzled, "I'm confused. Why did the Fire Phoenix come here? Moreover, I saw the Fire Phoenix's attitude toward Brother Lu earlier. Fire Phoenixes prided themselves on their nobility. Why did it leave so easily?"

It was true that Lu Zhou's move was shocking. However, if it was a fight to the death, it would not be easy, even for a Great Venerable Master, to deal with it. Divine beasts were akin to Saints, after all.

Before Lu Zhou could say anything, Little Yuan'er took the lead and said, "That's because it's afraid of my master."

After that, Little Yuan'er patted the little Fire Phoenix on her shoulder.

In fact, everyone's eyes had long been attracted by the little Fire Phoenix.

Shang Yan suddenly exclaimed, "I know! The Fire Phoenix must have come here to look for the little Fire Phoenix, right?"

“...”

In other words, this disaster was brought by the Great Venerable Master.

Fan Zhong frowned before he said in a serious tone, “Pay attention to your words. In my opinion, the Great Venerable Master must have subdued the little Fire Phoenix. Hence, the huge Fire Phoenix surrendered and left.”

“Yes, yes, yes,” Shang Yan hastily said as he nodded.

Qin Renyue did not care. Even if Lu Zhou brought this disaster, it had already been resolved. The most important thing was that he received a drop of the Fire Phoenix’s true blood as compensation.

As everyone chatted and flattered the Great Venerable Master, they felt slightly sour in their hearts.

At this time, Qin Renyue said, “I have a deep friendship with Brother Lu. The northern training hall aside, it’s not a big deal for me to give Brother Lu the southern training hall.”

‘How magnanimous!’

With this level of flattery, the others thought they really could not compare with Qin Renyue.

Suddenly, Fan Zhong said, “It’s really enviable that Venerable Master Qin obtained the true blood.”

Inwardly, Fan Zhong thought to himself, ‘How dare you snatch away such a precious treasure from the Great Venerable Master?’

Lu Zhou said, “That’s what the Fire Phoenix gave him. I won’t take it from him.”

Fan Zhong nodded. “It makes sense. With the little Fire Phoenix, you’re not lacking in true blood.”

Chirp! Chirp! Chirp!

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The little Fire Phoenix rose into the air. With a swoosh, it spat out a ball of flames at Fan Zhong.

Fan Zhong appeared calm outwardly, but he was panicking inwardly. He hurriedly retreated and manifested his astrolabe in front of him.

Everyone was dumbfounded by the little Fire Phoenix’s quick temper. It spat out flames just like that.

Qin Renyue said, “I didn’t expect to make such a mistake. I didn’t know this turkey-like bird is actually the hatchling of a divine beast.”

As soon as Qin Renyue’s voice fell, the little Fire Phoenix suddenly turned to stare at Qin Renyue.

Qin Renyue: “...”

Swoosh!

The little Fire Phoenix did not spit fire but began to descend.

Little Yuan’er grabbed it and said, “You’re trying to show off again.”

Qin Renyue sighed in relief inwardly, thinking about the close call. Then, he said with a smile, "It's a joke. Don't take it to heart."

Lu Zhou thought it was about time so he said, "Since the northern training hall is destroyed, let's go to the southern training hall."

Everyone was overjoyed upon hearing this.

Naturally, the juniors were not invited.

The Venerable Masters and the Free Men followed Lu Zhou to the southern training hall.

...

In the southern training hall.

Lu Zhou said, "I have a question, and I hope I'll be able to obtain answers from all of you."

"Great Venerable Master Lu, please feel free to ask your question. I'll answer it to the best of my ability," Shang Yan said.

"The Free Men travel freely through the nine domains. Until today, many people are curious about the location of the Great Void. Did you see any signs of the Great Void in any of the nine domains?"

Everyone shook their heads.

Qin Renyue said with a sigh, "The location of the Great Void is a mystery. Perhaps, it's even hidden by an illusory formation. Experts are as abundant as clouds in the Great Void. Moreover, to be able to keep the balance of the nine domains, it mustn't be a small place."

Shang Yan nodded. "I agree. Many cultivators from the nine domains have gone to the Unknown Land, but not many have gone to the core region. Although I've been to many places such as the golden lotus domain, red lotus domain, and the purple lotus domain, I've not heard anything about the location of the Great Void."

"I didn't hear anything in the black lotus domain and the white lotus domain as well. I heard the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council went on the Great Void Expedition and suffered heavy losses as a result. The furthest they reached was one of the Pillars of Destruction and obtained the soil from there. Even then, most of the participants of the expedition are dead," Gu Ning said.

The strongest in the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council only had about 12 Birth Charts. It was quite good that some of them even managed to survive going to the Pillar of Destruction.

At this moment, Fan Zhong said, "I think the Great Void might not be in the Unknown Land."

Lu Zhou looked at Fan Zhong. Although he did not have a good impression of Fan Zhong, there was no denying that as a Venerable Master, Fan Zhong was still knowledgeable. Hence, he asked, "Why do you say so?"

Fan Zhong said, "To tell you the truth, I've crossed the Unknown Land. It took me 13 years and 8 months."

“...”

The training hall was as silent as a graveyard.

Many people tried crossing the Unknown Land, but they were forced to give up halfway. Some had to take a detour to avoid the core region. However, one naturally had to cross the core region to truly understand the Unknown Land.

Fan Zhong's words shocked everyone.

Lu Zhou asked curiously, "So you've been to the core region?"

Fan Zhong nodded. His eyes held a hint of vicissitudes and helplessness as he said, "Indeed, I've been to the core region. I've been to all ten Pillars of Destruction. There are three in the outer region, three in the middle region, three in the core region, and one in the heart of the Unknown Land."

Fan Zhong's expression changed slightly as he sighed and said, "I've never seen a pillar as thick as the Pillar of Destruction in the heart of the Unknown Land. It's 10,000 times taller than the other Pillars of Destruction. When I tried to approach it, I was swept away by a strong gust of wind. Following that, many divine beasts appeared so I had to... Uh... play dead to avoid the disaster."

"You, a Venerable Master, had to play dead? It's not easy to fool those divine beasts with keen noses with this trick though," Qin Renyue said with a smile.

"Anyway, that's not important. There's no need to care about that," Fan Zhong said, clearly wanting to avoid that topic.

"No, no, no, I care very much about that. Who knows I might go there in the future? It's best for me to learn from your experience," Qin Renyue said modestly.

“...”

Fan Zhong cursed Qin Renyue in his heart.

Lu Zhou asked, perplexed, "Why is that Pillar of Destruction different from the others?"

Fan Zhong said, "It's indeed strange. That's not all. If the Unknown Land weren't so dark, you'd be able to see that the Pillar of Destruction near the green lotus domain is green while the Pillar of Destruction near the golden lotus domain is yellow."

"So strange?" Mingshi Yin raised his eyebrows.

Yu Zhenghai frowned. "Old Fourth, if you don't speak, no one would complain about you being mute."

"Eldest Senior Brother is right. Everyone, please continue," Mingshi Yin said before he stood behind Yu Zhenghai respectfully, massaging Yu Zhenghai's shoulders.

Qin Renyue: "..."

Qin Renyue really could not understand the Evil Sky Pavilion. Why was the future supreme being treated in that manner?

Lu Zhou said, "Continue."

Chapter 1374: Old Man Ouyang

When Fan Zhong saw that Lu Zhou's attention was on him, he thought this might be a good chance to resolve the estrangement. He said, "Please bring the four treasures of the study."

Qin Renyue waved his hand.

A disciple of the Qin clan hurriedly brought an ink brush, a pot of ink, paper, and inkstone into the hall before setting them properly.

Fan Zhong picked up the brush and said in a serious tone, "Let's assume the Unknown Land is like a sundial, which aligns with the 12 o'clock position."

Qin Renyue said disapprovingly, "You're singing the same old tune. Can you say something new?"

Fan Zhong ignored Qin Renyue and continued to say, "The heart of the Unknown Land is called Ren Ding, which means men decide their fates. That's also where the Pillar of Destruction is."

Fan Zhong paused to look at Lu Zhou before he said, "I don't know how vast the core region is. I set off from the green lotus domain, and it took me two years to arrive at the outer region. Then, it took me another year to cross the middle region. Perhaps, it has something to do with the stability of the balance brought by the beast kings there. Then, it took three years for me to arrive at the core region and the heart of the Unknown Land. There were many mountains surrounding the Pillar of Destruction at the heart of the Unknown Land. The height of the trees there was 10 to 100 times taller than the trees in the outer region. I met an ancient divine beast there. Out of desperation to survive, I had not but to, uh, hide... in the excrement of a fierce beast for... three months. During that time, I heard powerful fierce beasts and the ancient divine beasts communicating and fighting each other. It's a pity I don't understand the beast tongue. After the beasts finally left and the coast was clear, I escaped and wandered the Unknown Land before returning to the green lotus domain through a runic passage."

"..."

Qin Renyue wanted to make fun of Fan Zhong, but when he saw the solemn expression on Fan Zhong's face, he dismissed that idea.

Venerable Masters were also humans. When faced with an ancient divine beast, it was not a shameful thing having to hide in a fierce beast's excrement. If Qin Renyue were in Fan Zhong's shoes at that time, who knew if he would be able to react as quickly as Fan Zhong?

"There are still ancient divine beasts in the Unknown Land?" Lu Zhou asked.

After the land split, some of the ancient divine beasts died and some escaped. The ones that survived should be in the Great Void.

"Yes. Apart from those that predate divine beasts, divine beasts that are much more intelligent than the average divine beasts are also called ancient divine beasts. That's one differentiated divine beasts the Great Void left behind before vanishing," Fan Zhong said, "There's a secret I want to tell Brother Lu."

Fan Zhong not-so-subtly changed the way he addressed Lu Zhou from 'Great Venerable Master Lu' to 'Brother Lu'.

Fan Zhong glanced at Qin Renyue from the corners of his eyes as he lowered his voice and said, "The Free Man of the Fan clan saw the Halcyon Bird at the White Tower Council."

Only Lu Zhou alone heard these words. He looked at Fan Zhong in surprise. He had seen the Halcyon Bird through his power of sight that day. He did not expect the Free Man of the Fan clan to be at the white lotus domain as well.

"When was this?" Lu Zhou asked.

Fan Zhong replied, "When Qin Naihe was in trouble..."

Qin Renyue: "..."

Lu Zhou nodded. The timing was right.

Fan Zhong said again, "Although the Halcyon Bird isn't as fierce as the ancient divine beasts, it's a descendant of the ancient divine beast from the Great Void. The bird had just reached maturity. Based on the Free Man's words, it should have become a divine beast. Its appearance was said to be rather intriguing."

"..."

Lu Zhou thought about Lan Xihe. Lan Xihe was from the Great Void. Where was the Great Void?

Qin Renyue said, "You've said so much, but you've yet to tell us where the Great Void is. Although it's admirable that you crossed the Unknown Land, it's a pity you still didn't find the Great Void."

Everyone sighed.

Fan Zhong shook his head and said, "The Equalizers maintain the balance. The Great Void placed a Red Line and forbade Venerable Masters from crossing it. Based on this, there must be something in the Great Void that can sense Venerable Masters. Before crossing the Great Void, I forcefully sealed one of my Birth Charts."

"..."

Qin Renyue gave Fan Zhong a thumbs-up. 'He's really ruthless to himself.'

Fan Zhong said rather proudly, "Although I didn't find the Great Void, I'm sure that the Great Void is in the Unknown Land."

"How can you be sure?" Lu Zhou asked skeptically. Even he was not sure of this matter.

Fan Zhong replied, "Although I don't understand the beast tongue, I understand the human language. Some of the fierce beasts spoke human language. I remember one of them saying that the Great Void didn't really leave and that when it returns, there'll be peace."

It was silent once again in the training hall.

After a dramatic pause, Fan Zhong said, “The Great Void has always been in the Unknown Land. These are the words I heard word for word.”

Qin Renyue really wished he could beat Fan Zhong up at the moment. He would have done it if it were not for his identity as a Venerable Master.

Lu Zhou had invited the Free Men here because they had traveled to various domains and had seen a lot. He did not expect Fan Zhong would be the one to have such a bizarre and interesting experience.

Fan Zhong said, “Brother Lu, if you really want to find the Great Void, there are two options. First, go to the core region in the Unknown Land. Although you might gain some clues there, even with the strength of a Great Venerable Master, it’d still be dangerous. Second, you can visit Saint Chen. Saint Chen is the only person in the nine domains to have reached an agreement with the Great Void. He must know much more than we do.”

Everyone nodded.

Yu Zhenghai cupped his fists together and said, “Master, I think Venerable Master Fan has a point. After all, as the saying goes, ‘Time invested in preparation isn’t wasted’.”

The disciples were eager to make a move. After all, their master was already a Great Venerable Master, but they were still struggling with the first and second Birth Trial.

When Qin Renyue saw Lu Zhou was immersed in his thoughts, he said, “Brother Lu, I have a Collective Teleportation Jade Talisman here. It can help you return to the golden lotus at any time.”

Lu Zhou nodded and put it away in the Vast Sky Bag.

Then, Qin Renyue rose to his feet and said, “Then, I won’t disturb you any longer; I’ll take my leave now. Farewell.”

Naturally, no one dared to stay for too long in the southern training hall. They left one after another as well.

Before Lu Zhou’s disciples left, he called out, “Old Fourth, Yuan’er, both of you stay.”

Mingshi Yin and Little Yuan’er bowed and stayed behind.

After everyone left, Lu Zhou said in a serious tone, “Old Fourth, news of you possessing the Great Void Seed has already spread. Many people know about it. Don’t think you can act unscrupulously just because you have your master’s support.”

Thud!

Mingshi Yin fell to his knees immediately. “I understand, master.”

The world was vast and filled with wonders. There would always be someone better than you.

“Yuan’er, the little Fire Phoenix has been exposed. It’s a descendant of a divine beast and has true blood. It’s inevitable that others would covet it.”

Little Yuan’er nodded as realization dawned on her. “I shouldn’t have brought it around with me...”

“Alright, be careful. You can both leave,” Lu Zhou said. Sometimes he felt that the world was so vast, but there was no place to stay.

After his two disciples left, he began to meditate on the Heavenly Writing.

...

When it was close to evening, with his keen senses, he sensed a subtle energy fluctuation. It made him feel like something was amiss.

If it were Qin Renyue or Fan Zhong, they would not do this. There was no need to consider the others since they were not capable of this.

Lu Zhou flashed and appeared in the air outside of the southern training hall. He did not rashly charge out since the other party might be trying to lure him into a trap. Hence, he cast his power of hearing and power of smell, covering a radius of 10,000 feet.

As expected, he sensed two presence at the ruins of the northern training hall. The two figures were very still, and their auras were retrained.

To the east of the southern training hall, there was another figure floating in the air. He did not hide his aura.

Lu Zhou thought about it for a moment before he flashed to the east and appeared 100 meters away from that figure.

An old man hovered in the air with his back facing Lu Zhou. His aura was fluid like water. He broke the silence first. “You’re here.”

Lu Zhou asked, puzzled. “Who are you?”

“Since you can sense my presence, you must be a Venerable Master at least,” the old man said, “My surname is Ouyang.”

“Ouyang?”

Lu Zhou had never heard of such a person in the green lotus domain. He asked, “Why are you looking for me?”

Chapter 1375: Penglai Is in Trouble

Old Man Ouyang still had his back facing Lu Zhou as he said, “There’s the remnant aura of the divine Fire Phoenix here. Did you see it?”

Lu Zhou asked, “You’re looking for the Fire Phoenix?”

Old Man Ouyang turned around. He looked like an ordinary old man, and his eyes spoke of the vicissitudes of life. He looked at Lu Zhou and nodded, revealing an expression of approval as he said, “You’re that Great Venerable Master, right? There’s no need to be hostile. I’m only here for the Fire Phoenix.”

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "It has already left. Based on your knowledge do you think I have a chance of defeating it?"

Old Man Ouyang looked at the ruins that were the northern training hall for a moment before he said, "You're right. I've offended you today. Your cultivation base and your talent are both very high. Perhaps, we'll meet again in the future. This Great Void Pill might be able to help you. Consider this compensation."

Lu Zhou was slightly surprised. This was not a big matter; was there a need for compensation? He did not know what the old man was thinking.

The Great Void Pill was not an ordinary pill. Back then, Tuoba Sicheng had relied on this pill to break through to the next stage of his cultivation. With this pill, Lu Zhou could easily have another breakthrough.

Lu Zhou asked, puzzled, "We don't know each other. Why would you give me such a valuable thing?"

Lu Zhou thought that things were rather strange recently. First, there was Jie Jin'an, and now, there was this old man with the surname Ouyang. Both of them had given him treasures without asking anything in return. Did they mistake him for another person? Did Lu Tiantong have such good connections with all these experts?

"Wait," Lu Zhou called out. Jie Jin'an left before he had a chance to ask any questions. This time, he wanted to get some answers out of Old Man Ouyang.

"Halcyon is coming. I still have something to do. Farewell."

Buzz!

With the sound of energy resonating, the old man vanished from sight.

The two cultivators at the northern training hall flew into the distant sky and vanished from sight as well.

Lu Zhou was perplexed. He frowned slightly as he looked at the now-empty sky. "Halcyon is coming?"

...

At the same time.

Old Man Ouyang and his two subordinates appeared on the northern side of a mountain peak.

Old Man Ouyang looked at his subordinate and asked, "Mr. Ouyang, the aura of the Fire Phoenix is very strong at the ruins. The Fire Phoenix shouldn't be too far away. Why don't you look for it?" one of the subordinates asked.

Old Man Ouyang looked at his subordinate from the corners of his eyes before he asked, "Are you questioning me?"

"I don't dare!"

"The Fire Phoenix is known as the Immortal Bird. With your strength, do you think you can catch it?" Old Man Ouyang asked.

"But, you're with us..." the subordinate said.

"I came to the green lotus domain to relax. I don't plan to look for trouble. Moreover, I can't defeat the Fire Phoenix either," Old Man Ouyang said.

"..."

"Leave. I want to be alone."

"Yes."

The two subordinates left in a flash.

After a while, a black figure appeared nearby. "Brother Ouyang, long time no see."

"Brother?" Old Man Ouyang frowned.

"I'm joking. Why are you so serious? We're already so old. It'd be boring to keep a straight face all day."

Old Man Ouyang said, "I came to see you not to talk about this nonsense."

"Alright, alright." The black figure chuckled. Then, he asked, "Did you see him?"

"Yes."

"What do you think?"

"I have no opinion," Old Man Ouyang said.

"Bah! To think you're someone from the Great Void."

"I gave him the Great Void Pill," Old Man Ouyang said, "I hope your judgment is not wrong."

"If I'm wrong, I, Jie Jin'an, will present my head on a platter to you."

Old Man Ouyang fell silent upon hearing these words. His face that was illuminated by the light in the sky seemed to hold a tinge of melancholy and dispirit as though he had gone through the many vicissitudes of life. He sighed, as though recalling the past that he could not bear to remember before he said, "I hope you're right..."

Jie Jin'an laughed before he said, "In this world, including the Great Void and the Endless Ocean, I'm the only one who's able to find him."

Old Man Ouyang nodded before he asked, "So, do you plan to hide forever?"

"Hide?" Jie Jin'an shook his head. "I'm just traveling the world. Why? Do you think you bunch of drunkards at the hall can capture me?"

Old Man Ouyang shook his head. "You're mistaken. It's not that they can't capture you; it's that they can't be bothered with you. You'd better watch out."

Jie Jin'an's expression turned solemn. "I'm leaving. I don't want to talk too much."

With a flash, Jie Jin'an vanished from sight.

...

In the southern training hall.

Lu Zhou muttered Old Man Ouyang's earlier words, "Halcyon is coming? Halcyon Bird?"

He was reminded of Si Wuya's odd behavior.

He silently recited the mantra for the power of sight.

...

In a room.

Si Wuya rose to his feet after packing his things. He said, "I'll set off to Penglai tomorrow. Come with me."

"It's not a problem for me to go to Penglai with you. However, you can forget about going to Halcyon," Jiang Aijian said as he shook his head.

Si Wuya said with a straight face, "I have three desolate-grade swords here. The Sky Martial Academy has just forged them. Their appearances are a little ugly so no one wants them. I'm thinking of melting them and reforging them tomorrow."

"Don't, don't, don't! Every sword is precious. You're really heartless! Be careful you might not be able to marry a wife in the future!" Jiang Aijian said.

Si Wuya only smiled.

Jiang Aijian said helplessly, "Fine, do I have a choice? I'll go with you, but the swords are mine!"

"Deal."

Jiang Aijian asked curiously, "Why do you insist on going to Mount Halcyon?"

"There's new information about the shackles of heaven and earth there. I need to verify it," Si Wuya replied.

"This excuse is too lame. If you don't want to tell me, then forget it," Jiang Aijian said. Then, he turned around and walked to the door as he said, "Don't forget my swords."

Si Wuya smiled as he called out, "Jiang Aijian."

"What? If you have something to say, then hurry up and say it," Jiang Aijian said.

"What's your lifelong pursuit?" Si Wuya asked.

Jiang Aijian looked at the scenery outside the door as he said, "My pursuit has always been the same. I can't only blame myself for being too single-minded. I don't want to cultivate nor do I want to live forever. I only want to collect all the good swords in the world. When I die, I want to be buried in a tomb filled with beautiful swords that will guard me for generations. Ah, how nice would that be..."

“...”

‘What a vulgar pursuit...’

“We’ll leave tomorrow.”

“Okay.”

...

Lu Zhou was slightly surprised. He murmured to himself, “Is there something happening at Mount Halcyon?”

He continued to observe Si Wuya. However, Si Wuya was just working at his desk so in the end, he could only cut off his power of sight.

At this moment, Yan Zhenluo and Lu Li appeared outside of the training hall.

“Pavilion Master.”

“Come in.”

Yan Zhenluo and Lu Li entered the training hall.

Lu Li did not beat around the bush and directly said, “The imbalance has worsened again. There are a lot of fierce beasts heading toward the golden lotus domain!”

Lu Zhou frowned. He was not a Great Venerable Master. Logically, with the appearance of a Great Venerable Master, it should have balanced out the deaths of Tuoba Sicheng and Ye Zheng. Not only did the imbalance not get better, but it had worsened, causing the fierce beasts to migrate again to restore the balance.

“Why is it the golden lotus domain?”

“I don’t know. Mr. Third and Lu Wu have gone to guard the entrance at the Misty Forest. For the time being, no fierce beasts can threaten the golden lotus domain. However... there’s no such guarantee for the sea beasts from the Endless Ocean,” Lu Li said.

“There are already movements at the east of the Endless Ocean. In fewer than five days, they’ll arrive at Penglai. I’m afraid Penglai is in trouble.. I’m really curious as well. Why is the golden lotus domain?”

Chapter 1376: A Painted Dream; Clues to the Great Void

Lu Zhou’s gaze fell on the painting on the table that Fan Zhong left behind. He could not help but think of the ancient goatskin map, which was surprisingly similar to the painting. The ancient goatskin map had revealed to him the Unknown Land, but it was unfortunate that there were more questions than answers.

The Unknown Land was oval and vast. The golden lotus domain was small, looking like a leaf that had just sprouted not too long ago. Compared to the vast Unknown Land, the nine domains were truly too

small. The nine domains surrounded the Unknown Land like nine leaves; some were bigger, some were smaller, some were far, and some were closer together.

The yellow lotus domain was not far from the golden lotus domain.

Lu Zhou wondered if the golden lotus domain was separated from the Unknown Land, and the yellow lotus domain was separated from the golden lotus domain. He thought this was quite likely. He wondered why the sea beasts would come to shore to attack humans every once in a while as well.

After a moment, he asked Lu Li, "Lu Li, when you were in the Black Tower Council, how did you know the sea beast king was making its way to the red lotus domain?"

Lu Li answered, "The 3,000 Dao inscriptions on the tower aren't just for defense. The square formation at the top of the tower resonates with the power of heaven and earth. Coupled with the 3,000 Dao inscriptions, they can detect the directions of fierce beasts. However, it can only detect those at or below the stage of beast kings. It's useless against those fierce beasts with high intelligence. Intelligent fierce beasts know how to avoid human detection. Sometimes, I wonder if the Great Void looks down on us just like how we look down on the sea beasts..."

Yan Zhenluo said, "That's foolish. In my opinion, sea beasts are much stronger than humans. Humans are lucky to be able to survive until now. They're on par with the land beast..."

Lu Li did not refute Yan Zhenluo's words.

Lu Zhou said, "Both of you can leave. If there's anything, report immediately."

"Yes."

After Yan Zhenluo and Lu Li left the training hall, Lu Zhou activated the power of sight again to observe Si Wuya. However, he cut the power off when he saw Si Wuya sleeping.

Then, he brought out the Vast Sky Bag and brought the Great Void Pill, the Celestial Mark Brocade Box, and Gou Chen's life heart out.

"Gou Chen's life heart isn't suitable to be used to activate the 19th Birth Chart," Lu Zhou muttered to himself before he returned it into the Vast Sky Bag.

Then, he looked at the Celestial Mark Brocade Box that he had obtained from the mausoleum. He wondered if he could open the box now that he had become a Great Venerable Master.

He placed his hand above the brocade box, his palm facing downward, as vitality energy surged out and buzzed before it pressed down on the brocade box.

Click!

A crisp noise rang in the air.

The brocade box was unlocked!

Lu Zhou lifted the lid. What he saw was not some powerful secret cultivation method, panacea, weapon, or treasure. Instead, it was an old beige Daoist robe.

“A robe?” Lu Zhou really did not expect to find an article of clothing in the box.

‘What’s the use of this? However, this brocade was placed in the tomb of the late Emperor Emeritus. Would they put invaluable things in the box? Let’s test it out...’

Lu Zhou casually waved his hand, launching a streak of karmic fire at the robe.

Sizzle!

“Hmm?”

The karmic fire stopped half an inch away from the robe. It could not get any closer to the robe.

As expected, the robe was not just an ordinary robe.

He tried to push the karmic fire closer. However, the karmic fire could not get any closer to the robe. Even if the karmic fire could not come in contact with the robe, with the distance of only half an inch between them, the robe should have been affected by the high temperature of the karmic fire. However, the robe remained safe and sound.

He was reminded of Little Yuan’er’s Cloud Feather Raiment. The effects were rather similar. The Cloud Feather Raiment was woven from golden and silver threads by formation masters. It did not take a genius to figure out that the beige Daoist robe in the brocade box was not simple.

Lu Zhou withdrew his karmic fire and brought out Unnamed in the form of a sword. He was planning to use Unnamed to slash at the robe. However, when he thought about how even the Confinement Seal might not be able to withstand Unnamed, he thought better of it. He decided to try with another weapon instead.

Lu Zhou brought the robe with him as he flashed outside the training hall. Then, he found a sword and slashed the robe a few times.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

As expected, the robe was not damaged at all.

“Interesting.”

Ordinary weapons were useless against it.

Then, he launched energy sabers and energy swords at the robe, slashing at it over and over again. Similar to before, the robe was not damaged the slightest bit.

“Although the zen tunic is also capable of blocking ordinary energy sabers and energy swords, this robe should be superior to the zen tunic,” Lu Zhou muttered to himself.

Then, he brought Unnamed in the form of a sword out again. After a brief moment of hesitation, he waved Unnamed.

Swoosh!

The distinct sound of fabric tearing rang in the air.

When Lu Zhou took a look, he saw there was indeed a very small tear on the robe.

He shook his head, slightly disappointed, "It's useless."

Since it could not withstand Unnamed's attack, it was useless.

He was just about to discard the robe when something rather magical happened. He saw the tear mending itself, returning the robe to its original state.

Lu Zhou was slightly surprised. Humans could heal their injuries, but robes could now also heal damages to it? He wondered what the robe was made of.

Lu Zhou brought Unnamed down on the robe again.

This time, a bigger tear appeared on the robe. Similar to before, the tear mended itself after a few seconds. The threads that wove the robe together seemed capable of finding each other and reconnecting.

"It's a treasure indeed!"

Lu Zhou channeled some Primal Qi into the robe, trying to sense something from the robe.

Buzz!

In just a moment, he felt as though he had fallen into a painted dream. He was in a mysterious and infinite galaxy. The universe was woven by silver threads, forming a formation. After a moment, he discovered there was actually only one silver thread. From the beginning until the end, only one silver thread weaved back and forth, with all sorts of twists and turns, forming a long Daoist robe.

The faint patterns on the robe flashed with light due to the formation on it. On both sleeves, there was a Taiji Yin Yang diagram.

Lu Zhou looked at the extremely exquisite weaving technique in admiration.

The robe was spotless as well. Whenever even a speck of dust fell on it, it would be automatically repelled by the silver thread of the robe.

"It's a treasure," Lu Zhou murmured.

Lu Zhou removed his outer robe and put the Daoist robe on.

Swoosh!

In just a second, he felt as though his Eight Extraordinary Meridians were connected to the robe, fusing harmoniously. The feeling was rather comfortable. After a moment, Lu Zhou's body began to cultivate on its own.

"Amazing!" With this robe, even if he did not consciously cultivate, his Primal Qi would recover faster than before. It could even recover his divine power. Combined with the Purple Glazed Ceramic and the Pillar of Impermanence, it would only take half a day to recover his completely depleted divine power. If he had an unlimited supply of divine power, it was not impossible for him to hold his ground against a Saint with his current cultivation base.

'Amazing! It's too amazing!'

...

When he returned to the training, Lu Zhou began to cultivate immediately. It would be a great loss if the robe's effect was only temporary. Hence, it was best to take advantage of it now.

Lu Zhou brought out the Scripture of Sermons and began to meditate on it along with the Heavenly Writing.

The robe seemed to possess an invisible force, pulling his consciousness into the Scripture of Sermons.

"What Scripture of Sermons? Cultivating the Dao? They're all bullsh*t!"

"I spent my entire life imparting my blood, sweat, and tears to the world, breaking the shackles of heaven and earth..."

"It's a pity! It's truly a pity! What is evil?"

"I've observed the world for a long time. Everyone is evil! Since everyone calls me evil, I'll show them what evil is!"

Buzz!

Lu Zhou's consciousness seemed to have entered a dark place that was surging with killing intent. Clanging sounds and disembodied voices continuously rang in his ears.

"Kill!"

"Kill!"

The sound of killing was ear-piercing.

Cultivators from the golden lotus domain, red lotus domain, black lotus domain, white lotus domain, purple lotus domain, dark green lotus domain, the jade green lotus domain flew past his eyes. Each and every one of them was fierce and malicious as they brandished their weapons at him; their faces were twisted with anger and hatred.

"Evil shouldn't exist in this world!"

"You deserve to die!"

"Is someone so evil qualified to preach?"

"Die!"

At this moment, Lu Zhou's eyes suddenly flew open. He stopped cultivating immediately.

A thin layer of sweat could be seen on his forehead. He was slightly surprised by this. Since he had started cultivating, he had not sweated for a long time. Under normal circumstances, cultivators would not experience the exhaustion of ordinary humans that caused sweating. He did not expect meditating on the Scripture of Sermons would result in him sweating.

Originally, he had thought perhaps, he would be able to obtain more Heavenly Writing Scrolls and power from the Scripture of Sermons. However, not only did it not go the way he thought it would, but he even felt lingering fear.

He had felt strong emotions such as grief, anger, arrogance, fear, and many over emotions invading his consciousness and mind. Fortunately, he was not drowned by those emotions.

“Is it the robe?” Lu Zhou looked at the robe suspiciously. He suspected the robe and the Scripture of Sermons had resonated which led to the earlier situation.

The painted dream was vague and mysterious. What did the owner of the Scripture of Sermons experience for him to leave behind such strong remnant emotions?

Lu Zhou shook his head and sighed. He felt slightly uncomfortable as though he was a stand-in for the owner.

After putting away the Scripture of Sermon, Lu Zhou checked his remaining lifespan.

“30 days have passed?”

Lu Zhou frowned slightly. It only felt like a short while, but 30 days had passed? 30 days were due to the 100 times speed from the Pillar of Impermanence. Without the Pillar of Impermanence, he had spent about half a day.

Lu Zhou thought about Si Wuya and quickly activated his power of sight.

...

A Sky Shuttle shuttled through the dark clouds.

Si Wuya and Jiang Aijian stood on the deck, observing their surroundings.

“Are you really not going to look for Senior Ji first?” Jiang Aijian asked.

Si Wuya replied, “Don’t worry. I’ve already sent a message.”

“Alright. Whatever it is, don’t forget about my swords.”

Si Wuya said with a smile, “Don’t worry. I won’t forget them.”

...

Lu Zhou then recalled there were indeed movements from a talisman, but he was too immersed in his cultivation to pay attention to it at that time.

He continued observing with his power of sight as he brought the talisman out and ignited it.

The content was very simple: There’s a new discovery regarding the shackles of heaven and earth. I’m going to Mount Halcyon. Don’t worry, master.

...

Below the Sky Shuttle, the sea was turbulent. They were already crossing the Endless Ocean.

Jiang Aijian said, "Turn left about 200 miles ahead, and you'll arrive at Penglai. Do you want to stop by? My master misses all of you greatly."

Si Wuya replied with a smile, "How are Island Master Huang and Miss Jinyi doing?"

"Very well. It's just that the sea level had risen and flooded two little islands. Apart from that, there's nothing much that's happening," Jiang Aijian said.

"Alright, let's go and have a look!"

"Okay."

It did not take long for them to arrive at Penglai.

Si Wuya noticed that it was just as Jiang Aijian had said; two of the five islands had been submerged by the water.

The island in the middle was still hovering in the air so there was no need to worry for the time being. However, the rise of the sea level was quite concerning. If it continued, it would not take long before the highest island would be submerged as well.

At this time, Huang Shijie and Li Jinyi flew up with the other disciples.

After greeting each other, Huang Shijie, who had learned that Si Wuya was going to Mount Halcyon, exclaimed in surprise, "You're going to Mount Halcyon?"

"That's right. I've always felt there's something strange about the shackles of heaven and earth. Mount Halcyon is the most easterly place known at present. Perhaps, we can find some answers there," Si Wuya replied with a nod.

Li Jinyi smiled faintly as she said, "Mr. Seventh studies the shackles of heaven and earth and regards it as his lifelong pursuit. It's really admirable."

"Hey, hey, hey, junior sister, I'm admirable as well, alright?" Jiang Aijian protested jokingly.

Li Jinyi only smiled in response.

Huang Shijie said, "Mount Halcyon is thousands of miles away from Penglai. It's very dangerous. Jinyi and I will accompany you on this trip."

For a long time now, the cultivation limit of the golden lotus domain had been broken. They could be considered to have made some progress. However, they were still a distance away from the Thousand Realms Whirling cultivators in the other domains. Even Jiang Aijian who was quite talented only had ten leaves.

Things were not the same as before so Si Wuya shook his head and said, "There's no need for that. I'll go with Jiang Aijian."

"One more person means extra strength. Don't refuse me. Brother Ji had done Penglai a great favor. If I just stand by and watch while you go to Mount Halcyon, I'll feel bad," Huang Shijie said with a smile. When he saw Si Wuya was about to refuse again, he hurriedly added, "It's settled then. I won't waste your time. Let's go now. Everyone else, return."

“Yes.” The Penglai disciples returned to the island.

Si Wuya looked at the submerged islands and said, “Island Master Huang, you have no plans to move?”

Huang Shijie sighed. “Penglai is my home and roots. How can a tree survive without its roots? I only hope the imbalance will end soon.”

Si Wuya did not say anything else.

The Sky Shuttle continued to fly in the eastern direction among the clouds above the Endless Ocean.

The sound of crashing waves and the roars of sea beasts rang from below.

The Sky Shuttle creaked.

“Everyone, be careful. Under normal circumstances, the sea beasts can’t come up to such a high place. However, with the imbalance, there’s no guarantee for that,” Si Wuya reminded.

Swoosh!

In the dense fog, a sea beast leaped up in an arc.

Jiang Aijian was taken aback. He said, “You jinxed us!”

Splash!

The sea beast fell into the sea again.

Si Wuya did not reply. Instead, he accelerated the speed of the Sky Shuttle.

...

Lu Zhou followed the direction of Si Wuya’s gaze and saw a black shadow under the surface of the sea through the dense fog.

The black shadow covered the entire sea. It was hard to tell how wide or long it was.

Following that, Lu Zhou cut off the power of sight.

“Men.”

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Kong Wen and his brothers rushed over as soon as they heard Lu Zhou’s voice.

“Pavilion Master, what are your orders?”

“Gather everyone. We’re returning to the Evil Sky Pavilion.”

“Understood!”

Kong Wen and his brother quickly passed on Lu Zhou’s orders to the others.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong stopped sparring immediately. They did not even have time to bid Little Zhou and Little Wu farewell before they flew back to the training hall.

When Yan Zhenluo and Lu Li arrived, Little Yuan'er and Conch were already at the training hall.

It did not take long before everyone was gathered.

Chapter 1377: The Appearance of the God-Like 2,000-Foot Avatar

Everyone was puzzled by the sudden decision to return to the Evil Sky Pavilion. This was especially true for Yu Zhenghai since he was close to his second Birth Trial. He had been studying ways to cross the Sky Hook Ropeway during this time. With their return to the Evil Sky Pavilion, it would disrupt his plan. Hence, he was the first to ask, "Master, why are we suddenly returning to the Evil Sky Pavilion?"

Lu Zhou replied, "Old Seventh has gone to Mount Halcyon. It's extremely perilous there. There are many powerful sea beasts on the route to Mount Halcyon from Penglai."

He did not mention anything about the shackles of heaven and earth or the Great Void. Since his disciples possessed the Great Void Seed, he would slowly help them to become supreme beings. When the time came, it would be easier for all of them to face those from the Great Void. However, he knew he could not rush things. For now, he would continue to collect clues about the Great Void. In short, it was better to progress using the tedious and long way.

Yu Zhenghai said skeptically, "Old Seventh has always been cautious in doing things. He would not easily place himself in danger. Why is he so impulsive and reckless this time?"

"Even a wise man isn't exempt from making mistakes," Yu Shangrong said with a hint of disapproval, "Back then, when Old Seventh was helping you out, he had also made many huge mistakes."

Yu Shangrong had to forcefully swallow the words 'when Old Seventh helped you to rebel'.

Yu Zhenghai said defensively, "It's not Old Seventh's fault. He's very good at strategizing and achieving goals, but he's just not very skilled at leading a sect."

At this moment, Lu Zhou interrupted the duo and said, "Since everyone's here, let's go."

"Yes."

...

Meanwhile, Qin Renyue brought the 49 swordsmen with him as he rushed over after receiving the news that Lu Zhou and the others were leaving. He was planning to persuade them to stay.

When Qin Renyue saw Lu Zhou and the others had already flown into the sky when he arrived, he called out, "Brother Lu, wait! Why are you in such a hurry to leave?"

Lu Zhou turned to look at Qin Renyue who was flying over and said, "I have important matters to attend to so I won't stay any longer."

Qin Renyue revealed a regretful expression as he said, "I haven't properly entertained Brother Lu. Since Brother Lu has something to attend to, I won't persuade you to stay. Yuan Lang."

"Yes, Venerable Master Qin." Yuan Lang stepped forward.

“Lead Brother Lu to the runic passage.”

“Yes.”

Lu Zhou nodded slightly and said, “I’ll visit again once the matters are settled.”

“You’re welcome to visit at any time.”

With that, Yuan Lang led the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion to the runic passage in the Qin clan that leads to the golden lotus domain.

...

Golden lotus domain.

30 miles north of the Divine Capital.

There was a sudden burst of light before the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion, plus Yuan Lang, appeared.

Yuan Lang surveyed his surroundings. When he saw the flying beasts littered the dark and gloomy sky, he turned around and cupped his fists together before he said, “The imbalance in the golden lotus domain is rather severe. Great Venerable Master Lu, if there’s a need, the 49 swordsmen are willing to help the golden lotus domain.”

Although the Evil Sky Pavilion’s general strength was not bad, there were only so many of them. They could not split themselves, after all. Moreover, the experts in the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council were also limited. With the support from the 49 swordsmen, the Divine Capital would be much safer.

On the contrary, the green lotus domain was relatively better and did not need any help for the moment.

For these reasons, Lu Zhou nodded.

Upon seeing this, Yuan Lang said, “I’ll bring people over tomorrow.”

At this moment, Mingshi Yin walked next to Yuan Lang and nudged Yuan Lang with his elbow. He said in a low and conspiratorial voice, “You’re quite interesting. Are you interested in joining the Evil Sky Pavilion?”

Yuan Lang: “???”

Lu Zhou turned around and said, “Alright, don’t waste time.”

With that, everyone followed Lu Zhou’s lead and flew toward the Divine Capital.

Yuan Lang scratched his head as he looked at the group of people who had flown away and muttered under his breath, “Was I too slow to agree?”

...

When Lu Zhou and the others flew into the Divine Capital, many cultivators looked up curiously.

No matter the time, the Divine Capital was a no-fly zone. Those who dared to do were all bigshots.

At this moment, the sound of a horn rang from the palace walls.

The experts from the imperial palace rushed up to the wall, prepared to meet their enemies.

Lu Zhou was just about to fly into the imperial palace when...

Swoosh!

A golden arrow shot out from the sky in the depths of the imperial palace toward Lu Zhou.

The cultivators below were not worried at all. They advanced, following the people in the sky curiously. When they saw the golden arrow, they grew even more confident.

After all, the golden arrow was from the number one Godly Archer in the Divine Capital, Hua Yuexing.

Over the years, Hua Yuexing had guarded the imperial palace and killed countless fierce beasts. She had long been acknowledged as the best Godly Archer by the young cultivators, surpassing Godly Archer Chen Zhu of the past.

Swoosh!

The golden arrow arrived in front of Lu Zhou from 10,000 meters away with an ear-piercing noise.

Lu Zhou raised his hand and easily caught the golden arrow. With that, the golden energy arrow dissolved into Primal Qi and returned to the universe.

Lu Zhou and the others continued to fly unimpeded.

The people from the Evil Sky Pavilion had long gotten used to such a scene so they were all unusually calm.

On the other hand, Hua Yuexing, who was hovering in the distant sky, frowned when she saw her energy arrow had been easily dissolved. She thought powerful enemies were invading the capital so she hurriedly ignited a talisman to request help from the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council.

At this moment...

“Hua Yuexing.”

Lu Zhou’s dignified voice rang from afar.

Although Hua Yuexing could not recognize the person in front of him, the voice was still very fresh in her mind. She exclaimed in shock, “Pavilion Master?!”

At this time, cultivators and experts rushed from all directions into the sky.

In order to overcome the imbalance, the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council had long made peace.

Avatars appeared one after another in the sky. Although their owners were nowhere close to approaching their second Birth Trials, they were still powerful figures in the golden lotus domain.

The avatars with seven or eight Birth Charts were about 700-750 tall. They made for a rather spectacular sight.

These cultivators were all protectors of the Divine Capital. With them, peace would continue to reign in the capital.

Buzz!

The sound of energy resonance that was far louder than the ones before suddenly rang in the air.

The cultivators in the direction of the sound in unison.

A dazzling golden avatar appeared.

Even when they bent their heads all the way back, they still could not see the full height of the avatar.

Cultivators usually judged cultivation bases based on the height and body of avatars.

This dazzling golden avatar towered over all things north of the Divine Capital. It looked as though God had descended from the sky.

Lu Zhou called out, "Zhao Yue."

At this moment, a woman hastily flew out of the imperial palace. Shocked, she hurriedly kneeled in the sky and said, "Greetings, master."

Upon hearing this, cultivators on the palace walls and the capital, including those from the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council, bowed in unison.

"Greetings, Pavilion Master Lu."

"Greetings, Senior Ji."

"Ding! Worshiped by 2,350 people. Reward: 2,350 merit points."

The commoners in the Divine Capital were no fools. Upon seeing all the powerful figures in the capital bowing so respectfully, they kneeled and kowtowed as well.

With the arrival of such a god-like person, the golden lotus domain was saved.

"Ding! Worshiped by 105,500 people. Reward: 105,500 merit points."

Lu Zhou had only manifested his avatar to announce his return to the Divine Capital. He did not expect to gain so many merit points from it.

Back when he helped Yu Zhenghai to take down the capital, he did not even receive so many merit points. It seems like the capital was prospering.

On the streets, men, women, the young, and the elderly stood in the streets and looked at the golden lotus that looked like it was 2,000 feet tall.

Previously, when the golden lotus cultivators saw the black lotus cultivators and the white lotus cultivators, the golden lotus cultivators could not help but feel inferior. However, now, when they saw the golden avatar that towered over all things, they were naturally filled with pride, admiration, and reverence.

After Lu Zhou determined he was not going to be rewarded with more merit points for now, he withdrew his avatar.

Instantly, the other cultivators felt as though a heavy burden had been lifted off their shoulders.

“Rise and speak,” Lu Zhou said before he flashed to stand in front of Zhao Yue.

Zhao Yue was shocked. In the years that she had not seen her master, his cultivation base had improved so much.

At this time, Hua Yuexing, who had rushed over from afar, arrived. She hurriedly kneeled in the air. “I apologize. I didn’t know the Pavilion Master has returned. Please forgive me.”

At the same time, Yan Zhenluo introduced, “This is Hua Yuexing, the Godly Archer from the Evil Sky Pavilion.”

Kong Wen and his brothers cupped their fists together to greet Hua Yuexing.

Hua Yuexing responded in kind. She was not a fool. She could naturally tell Kong Wen and his brothers were new members of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Lu Zhou said, “Your archery has improved a lot. What’s your cultivation base now?”

Hua Yuexing said sheepishly, “I’m embarrassed to say my progress is very slight over the years. I’ve only just stepped into the Thousand Realms Whirling stage.”

In fact, Hua Yuexing could be considered a cultivation genius. It was not easy for most people to enter the Thousand Realms Whirling stage in a short ten years or so. Many people would get stuck and take many more years to progress.

Lu Li said, “In fact, there was something I discovered when I was here previously. I have been wondering about it. I noticed the golden lotus cultivators’ speed of improvement is faster than the others. Miss Yuexing is rather talented. It’s rare for others to have such speed of improvement.”

“The golden lotus cultivators’ speed of cultivation is faster?”

“Yes, but I’m not sure about the reason. Perhaps, the land and the water here nourish the people here,” Lu Li said.

Everyone only laughed, treating it as a compliment and not thinking too deep into it.

Zhao Yu asked, “Master, why did you return?”

“We’ll talk about this later.”

“Yes, master.”

...

In a hall.

Li Yunzhao, the eunuch, hastily brought the Empress Dowager over when he heard about Lu Zhou’s return. He did not care about the other cultivators’ opinions.

Lu Zhou did not plan to stay for long. He only planned to rest a while before rushing to Penglai. When he saw the Empress Dowager, he asked, puzzled, "Empress Dowager?"

The Empress Dowager trembled before she said, "I heard Pavilion Master Ji has returned. Even if I risk injuring my body, I still have to come to see you."

Li Yunzhao added, "Senior Ji, it's like this. The Empress Dowager has recovered a lot over the years and recalled many of her memories. She has something to ask of you."

Lu Zhou nodded. "Speak."

Since the Empress Dowager was Zhao Yue's grandmother, he could not ignore her for no good reason.

The Empress Dowager nodded slightly before she slowly asked, "Jiang Aijian is that pitiful grandson of mine, Liu Chen, isn't he?"

Lu Zhou frowned slightly.

Everyone, regardless of whether they understood the conversation or not, did not dare to interrupt. Those in the know thought that the old lady would live to the end in confusion; they did not expect her to remember such a thing.

"Yes," Lu Zhou said.

Although the Empress Dowager already knew the answer in the depths of her heart, she still staggered back upon hearing the confirmation. Then, she began to sob.

Li Yunzhao hurriedly supported her. Then, he brought a chair from the side and led her to the seat as he comforted her.

The Empress Dowager said, "I remember everything! I remember everything now! Poor child, he... where's he now?"

Lu Zhou said, "He's living well."

"Then, why didn't he return? I want to see him! The emperor and I... owe him!"

"There's no need to blame yourself. The imperial family has always been complicated. It's not something you could control. He went to Penglai and became a disciple there. You should know why he didn't return so there's no need for me to explain," Lu Zhou said.

When Yu Zhenghai heard these words, he frowned and shook his head. Fortunately, those things had nothing to do with Wuqi. When the Wuqian seized the throne, the tragedy of Liu Chen's family had already happened.

The Empress Dowager stopped crying and asked, "If it's possible, Pavilion Master Ji, can you bring him back?"

Lu Zhou did not like forcing others to do things even if he knew he could make Jiang Aijian return to acknowledge his family.

Upon seeing Lu Zhou's hesitation, the Empress Dowager fainted.

Li Yunzhao hurriedly checked her pulse. He shook his head and sighed. "Too much sorrow. Ever since the Empress Dowager remembered His Highness, she has been beside herself with sorrow and crying every day. Her health is deteriorating, and she doesn't have many days left to live. If it weren't for her determination to meet His Highness, I'm afraid she would have..."

Li Yunzhao naturally did not dare to finish his sentence

Lu Zhou raised his hand, sending a blue lotus toward the Empress Dowager.

With the extraordinary healing ability of the blue lotus, the Empress Dowager regained consciousness very quickly. Alas, the blue lotus could not heal the sorrows in the heart.

The Empress Dowager sighed. "This... This is my last wish..."

Lu Zhou stood up and paced back and forth. After thinking for a moment, he said, "I'll bring him back."

"Truly?" The Empress Dowager was overjoyed. She disregarded the dignity of the imperial family and hurriedly kneeled in front of everyone.

"Empress Dowager!"

"Grandmother..."

Lu Zhou waved his hand.

A gentle energy surged out and brought the Empress Dowager back up to her feet.

"Your health isn't good so there's no need for such formalities." Then, Lu Zhou glanced at Li Yunzhao and said meaningfully, "Li Yunzhao."

"I understand, I understand," Li Yunzha hurriedly said. He stepped forward and coaxed the Empress Dowager in a soft voice before bringing her out of the main hall.

Everyone sighed.

Lu Zhou sat down and swept his gaze across everyone before he asked, "How's the situation in the Divine Capital over the years?"

Zhao Yue bowed and replied, "With the help of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council, everything was and is fine. Previously, Third Senior Brother had also subdued Bai Yi, the green lotus cultivator."

The cultivators from the Black Tower Council and White Tower Councils cupped their fists together in unison.

Lu Zhou said, "You've contributed a lot. If you have any requests, feel free to speak. I'll try my best to fulfill them."

A cultivator from the White Tower Council raised his hand before he said, "This is our duty. The white lotus domain and the golden lotus domain rise and fall together, after all. We don't dare to ask for rewards."

Then, a cultivator from the Black Tower Council said in a clear voice, "Pavilion Master Lu, we appreciate your kindness. However, we did not come here to be rewarded."

Lu Zhou nodded. "Alright."

Then, Lu Zhou brought out the Wind Spirit Bow and tossed it to Hua Yuexing. "This bow will help you. Use it well."

Hua Yuexing deftly caught the bow. When she felt the mysterious and profound energy of the Wind Spirit Bow, the Falling Moon Bow in her hands suddenly seemed lacking. She said gratefully, "Thank you, Pavilion Master."

Then, Hua Yuexing retreated to the side, unable to stop herself from admiring her new bow.

The black and white lotus cultivators. "..."

They felt like they had been too impulsive earlier.

Chapter 1378: Disaster Befalls Penglai Island; Mount Halcyon's Past

After giving away the Wind Spirit Bow, Lu Zhou had nothing of value left to give away. Most of his things had been deconstructed. The remaining things were all high-grade treasures that he often used.

Weapons: Unnamed, Purple Glazed Ceramic(infinite grade), Confinement Seal(fusion grade), Pillar of Impermanence(infinite grade)

Lu Zhou could sense many people's burning eyes on him. He thought he should continue collecting weapons for the Evil Sky Pavilion. Even if he could not use them, it was not a bad idea to use them to increase the overall strength of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

"Master, we should set off now?" Yu Zhenghai asked at this moment.

Lu Zhou shook his head. "Let's wait first."

Lu Zhou needed to confirm Si Wuya's situation first before making any plans.

Yu Zhenghai nodded. "Now that I returned to the golden lotus domain, I miss my brothers from the Nether Sect even more..."

Ever since Yu Zhenghai arrived at the red lotus domain through the Heavenly Moat, he had not seen anyone from the Nether Sect. They were brothers who had gone through life and death together; how could he not see them now that he had returned to the golden lotus domain?

Without waiting for Yu Zhenghai to finish speaking, Lu Zhou waved his sleeve and interjected, "Alright, go. Come back early."

"Thank you, master!" Yu Zhenghai turned around and rushed out of the main hall.

Coincidentally, when Yu Zhenghai left the main hall, he ran into Qin Naihe.

The duo nodded to each other by way of greeting and brushed past each other.

After entering the main hall, Qin Naihe bowed and greeted Lu Zhou. "Greetings, Pavilion Master."

Lu Zhou said, "You came at the right time. I've already spoken to Qin Renyue, and he has no objection regarding your matter."

"Thank you, Pavilion Master Lu," Qin Naihe said as he kneeled on one knee.

Lu Zhou nodded and said, "You're a Free Man, and you're also the cultivator closest to being a Venerable Master in the Evil Sky Pavilion. I think highly of your talent. Hence, I'm giving you this blue crystal that will help you advance."

Lu Zhou casually waved his hand.

The blue crystal that Lu Zhou had obtained from the Pillar of Destruction in Yu Zhong flew over.

"..."

Everyone was drooling when they saw this.

The cultivators from the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council were particularly envious. They wondered if it was too late to make a request now.

Qin Naihe caught the blue crystal, greatly surprised. He naturally knew the value of the crystal. Many people risked their lives going to the Unknown Land just to obtain it. Although it could not be compared to the Great Void Seeds, it was the closest thing to the Great Void Seeds. Lu Zhou had ten peerless disciples, and no matter from which angle he looked at it, he did not think it was his turn to receive such a valuable thing. Moreover, he had only joined the Evil Sky Pavilion not too long ago. Was this a test?

Hence, Qin Naihe said, "Thank you for your kindness, Pavilion Master. However, I can't accept such a valuable item. The ten disciples are all talented and need it more than I do. I hope the Pavilion Master will give it to them instead."

Lu Zhou shook his head. "Since I gave it to you, you should keep it."

"But, the ten disciples..." Qin Naihe was confused.

Mingshi Yin interjected, "You don't have to worry about that. Since my master gave it to you, you should accept it. If you want it, then don't refuse it."

'I can't tell you this thing is useless to us...'

Kong Wen knew that Mingshi Yin had the Great Void Seed so he said, "Brother Qin, if you really don't want it, then you can give it to me."

Qin Naihe. "???"

Lu Zhou said, "The blue crystal belongs to you now. Who you give it to is entirely up to you."

With this, Qin Naihe hurriedly put the blue crystal in his pocket, bowed to express his gratitude, and retreated to the side. His actions were unexpectedly fast and smooth. Then, he glanced at Kong Wen, thinking to himself, 'It's impossible for me to give it to you...'

Kong Wen could only shake his head with a regretful expression on his face.

The cultivators from the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council wanted to speak but hesitated. They really did not dare to speak up now. Even if Lu Zhou still had more blue crystals, could they afford to ask for them?

“Everyone can take their leave now,” Lu Zhou said with a wave of his hand.

After the other cultivators respectfully left the main hall, only those from the Evil Sky Pavilion were left.

Lu Zhou waved his hand and dismissed the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion as well.

After everyone left, Lu Zhou cast the power of sight and observed his disciples.

Duanmu Sheng and Lu Wu were still guarding the Misty Forest. All the cultivators who approached were frightened away by Lu Wu.

Lu Wu was very smart as well. It would prowl the Misty Forest, taking the initiative to look for curious cultivators and to scare them away.

Lu Zhou nodded. He was rather assured of Duanmu Sheng and Lu Wu.

Then, he looked at Ye Tianxin.

Ye Tianxin was still cultivating in the White Tower Council. Over the years, the White Tower Council had accumulated quite a lot of life hearts. It was enough for her to advance in her cultivation. Perhaps, it was due to Lan Xihe, the White Tower Council had always been very stable.

Lu Zhou wondered if Lan Xihe was also keeping an eye on Ye Tianxin and the White Tower Council. Based on the previous event, it was very likely.

Then, Lu Zhou observed his eighth disciple.

The runic passage in the yellow lotus domain had long been completed, and Zhu Honggong had recovered from his injuries a few months ago. Currently, he spent most of his time mining mystic microstones and other resources.

Lu Zhou did not need mystic microstones for the time being so he was not in a hurry.

Finally, Lu Zhou observed Si Wuya.

Above the Endless Ocean.

The fog lingered in the sky, and the sound of waves crashing rang from below.

“I keep feeling like something is amiss. Why don’t we retreat?” Jiang Aijian asked.

Si Wuya asked with a smile, “Do you not want the swords anymore?”

“Stop it. You’re so petty,” Jiang Aijian grumbled.

Li Jinyi stood at the deck, looking down at the sea. Since the Sky Shuttle was flying at a relatively low altitude, her view was rather clear. After a moment, she said, “Senior brother, I feel like these sea beasts are all heading toward Penglai...”

Upon hearing these words, Huang Shijie and Jiang Aijian walked over to have a look as well.

In the sea, countless sea beasts were indeed swimming in the direction of Penglai.

Huang Shijie frowned. "It's fine if Penglai is gone, but the people and the people living nearby will suffer. Send a message back and tell everyone to evacuate..."

"Understood." Li Jinyi did not waste time and sent a message back.

"Up ahead!"

Swoosh!

A sea beast leaped into the air.

"Slow down!" Jiang Aijian cried out anxiously.

Si Wuya's expression remained calm as he made a sharp turn.

The Sky Shuttle made a 90-degree turn, avoiding the sea beast.

Jiang Aijian looked back at the sea beast, perplexed. "What the hell is that?"

Everyone turned to look back as well.

The waves rose high into the sky as water arrows shot toward the Sky Shuttle.

Si Wuya pushed his hand out and accelerated the speed of the Sky Shuttle. "This Sky Shuttle had been modified and fortified many times before. Trust me."

Primal Qi shrouded the Sky Shuttle in the form of an oval golden barrier. Its speed increased by a hundredfold in just a blink of an eye.

Swoosh!

The Sky Shuttle tore through the sky and crossed hundreds of thousands of feet in just an instant.

Creak!

After a while, the Sky Shuttle finally came to a stop.

Si Wuya inhaled deeply. Although the speed was fast, the consumption of Primal Qi was a lot as well.

When they turned back to look into the distance, they saw that it was a behemoth that had caused the waves to rise into the sky. It was black and seemed to tower in the sky.

"It's really... f*c king big!" Jiang Aijian exclaimed. He was shocked that his legs weakened slightly.

"Let's go!" Huang Shijie flashed to Si Wuya's side. He channeled his Primal Qi into the Sky Shuttle, and it sped into the distance.

The Sky Shuttle was like a tiny golden boat caught in a storm in the middle of the sea.

The four people took turns and flew for half a day before they successfully shook off the behemoth.

...

Two days later.

The Sky Shuttle finally emerged from the dense fog and storm.

The four people sighed in relief after surviving the disaster.

"I almost ended up in the stomach of the sea beast. I really have to reevaluate the value of the swords," Jiang Aijian said as he shook his head.

Si Wuya calmly said, "If you don't want them, then forget it. I'll keep them."

Jiang Jin was displeased upon hearing these words. He had gone through such a disaster that if he were to give up on the swords now, would everything not be for naught? He hurriedly said, "Hey, you can't do that! We have an agreement!"

As soon as Jiang Aijian's voice fell, Li Jinyi pointed to the front and said, "Senior brother, look."

Everyone looked in the direction Li Jinyi had pointed.

A mountain that seemed like it rose from the sea and towered into the sky appeared in everyone's eyes. It was lush and seemed like springtime on the mountain. From afar, it looked like a verdant leaf floating on the sea.

"We've arrived at Mount Halcyon," Si Wuya said.

"T-this... This is Mount Halcyon? Are you joking?" Jiang Aijian asked.

Si Wuya said, "I'm not."

"You've been here before?" Huang Shijie asked curiously.

"I've seen it in my dreams," Si Wuya replied.

"..."

Everyone thought the joke was not funny at all.

Si Wuya continued to say, "Whether you believe me or not, there's no doubt I've dreamt about it many times. That's why this image lingers in my mind for so long. Sometimes it's like a fairyland, and sometimes it's like a place inhabited by demons..."

Jiang Aijian shrugged. "I agree it resembles a fairyland, but I just don't see it as a place inhabited by demons..."

"Perhaps, it'll look like that when night falls..."

"..."

These words caused the trio's hair to stand on end.

At this moment, Huang Shijie sent movements from a talisman at his waist. He ignited it.

A halo of light lit up before an anxious disciple appeared. He said, "Island Master, things are bad! The sea beasts are attacking Penglai Island, and we can't escape!"

Huang Shijie frowned and said, "Where are the Sky Shuttles?"

"The Sky Shuttles are useless. The sea level is rising too fast!"

In the projection, they saw the sea water rising rapidly. Half of the four islands were already submerged.

Si Wuya said decisively, "Return."

"Return?"

They had gone to so much trouble, escaping the danger, and they were going to return just like that?

"It doesn't make a difference if I come to Mount Halcyon later. We'll deal with Penglai's crisis first, and we'll talk about other matters later," Si Wuya said.

Huang Shijie nodded.

Si Wuya was just about to turn the Sky Shuttle around when a talisman at his waist moved. After igniting the talisman, he read the message before he said, "Penglai should be fine now."

"How?" Huang Shijie asked skeptically as he walked over to have a look at the message. Then, he exclaimed happily, "Brother Ji is back? That's great! With Brother Ji's help, everything will be fine!"

After that, Huang Shijie immediately passed the news to the disciples of Penglai, telling them to hold on until the reinforcement from the Evil Sky Pavilion arrived.

With that, they relaxed and continued flying toward Mount Halcyon.

Jiang Aijian stroked his chin and muttered, "I'm really curious... Why are there so many sea beasts all of a sudden?"

"The imbalance has worsened," Si Wuya said as he looked at Mount Halcyon.

"Then why does it look like the imbalance doesn't affect Mount Halcyon?" Jiang Aijian asked as he pointed at the calm sea and shining sun in the sky. It was rather peaceful. If it was possible, would it not be very comfortable if cultivators were to migrate to this place?

Si Wuya shook his head. "It's still too early to come to a conclusion. Let's go and have a look first."

Everyone nodded.

The Sky Shuttle picked up speed as it flew toward Mount Halcyon.

...

Penglai Island.

The seawater continued to rise.

The four islands were almost half-submerged, and the cultivators had all retreated to the highest island.

From time to time, sea beasts leaped from the sea. Cultivators who tried flying risked getting eaten by them.

"Madam Huang, we've counted. Three people died," a disciple said grimly after stepping forward.

Another disciple stepped forward and said, "We've spoken to the Island Master. He asked for us to hold on until the reinforcement from the Evil Sky Pavilion arrives. It's said that Pavilion Master Ji has returned."

"Pavilion Master Ji?"

Everyone was surprised.

Madam Huang sighed softly. "It's a good thing the Island Master isn't here, and it's a good thing we have many survivors. How many people have escaped so far?"

"Madam Huang, we have more than 3,500 disciples. More than 1,500 have left so we have about 2,000 left now," a disciple replied.

Madam Huang nodded. "Pass down the order. No disciple is allowed to leave without permission. Do your best to fend the sea beasts off..."

"Understood."

Swoosh!

A sea beast that was 1,000-feet long suddenly leaped up from the sea at the side, stirring up a huge wave that rose into the sky.

Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!

Countless avatars appeared above the island.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Droplets of water, like arrows, landed on the avatars.

The cultivators retreated as the sea beast fell back into the sea.

"It's the Tigershark!"

"Watch out!"

"The Tigershark is a beast king that can only be defeated by a cultivator with at least five Birth Charts! What are we going to do?!"

Everyone was terrified. Some of the timid ones could no longer endure it and began to tremble.

"Don't panic! As long as we can hold on until help arrives, we'll be fine!" someone shouted.

The cultivators were now on the main island of Penglai. It was also the floating island that Lu Zhou had lifted with a hand back then.

Penglai had learned from their mistakes. After that incident, they had strengthened their formations.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The sea beasts began to attack the barrier from the formations.

Everyone retreated again.

“We can only hope the barrier holds...”

Splash!

A huge splash rang from below at this moment, causing everyone to shudder.

Then, several mutated red plaice leaped out toward the island.

“Red plaices? Attack!”

The cultivators manifested their avatars and rushed forward.

The plaices were one of the sea beasts that could maintain a longer flight in the air. Although they were not as strong as a beast king, their number was high.

Soon after, scarlet fishes that were hundreds of feet leaped out as well, looking like a swarm of bees.

Chaos descended upon Penglai Island immediately.

Madam Huang shouted, “Get into formation!”

“Understood.”

About 20 female disciples brought out their umbrella-like weapons and got into a formation in the air.

Madam Huang took the lead, unleashing energy seals in the air from her umbrella.

The 20 female disciples worked together. Their energy seals were like golden snow flakes as they flew out in the air.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The small sea beasts were all pierced by the energy seals.

The larger sea beasts fell back into the sea in pain, letting out sorrowful cries that stirred up monstrous waves.

“It worked?”

At this moment, someone cried out, “What’s that?”

Everyone looked down and saw a huge shadow under the surface of the sea. It was even bigger than the Tigershark from before; it was bigger than the entire Penglai.

Madam Huang clenched her hands into fists upon seeing this. She said grimly, “Everyone, listen up! Get ready to abandon the island and leave with me!”

“Understood!”

Chapter 1379: The Strongest Reinforcement in History

Huge bubbles rose up to the surface of the sea as the waves grew stronger. The shadow beneath the surface of the sea began to grow clearer as well.

Humans were instinctively afraid of unknown and dark things. Those who were afraid of the deep sea had already grown stiff.

Madam Huang was now the backbone of Penglai Sect. With her wisdom, she knew she could break down now. Hence, she could only suppress the tumultuous emotions in her heart and said, "It'd be troublesome if it's a beast emperor."

The current golden lotus domain was no longer like the past. They were now aware of their cultivation limits, Birth Charts, Birth Trials, and fierce beasts.

The expressions of the Penglai Sect's disciples were slightly unsightly at this moment.

"Beast emperor..."

Let alone a beast emperor, they could even deal with a beast king.

"If Senior Ji doesn't come, we still have the Free Man of the Evil Sky Pavilion, Senior Qin."

Qin Naihe could not compare to Lu Zhou, but he was still leagues above them who had yet to enter the Thousand Realms Whirling stage.

At the mention of Lu Zhou, everyone turned to look in the western direction. The sky was empty save for sea beasts leaping up into the air once in a while.

The sea beasts continued to leap from the sea, trying to get onto the island. Due to the height of the island, they crashed on the sides of the island with loud booming noises, causing the island to tremble.

Rocks slid down the sides of the island into the sea.

The roughly 2,000 members of the Penglai Sect could only huddle together on the floating island, too afraid to move.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

At this time, as though they had received some sort of instruction, the sea beasts began to crash against the floating island in a frenzy. They leaped out of the water and began to rush toward the floating island at a higher frequency. They seemed to have lost their minds and no longer cared about pain as they threw themselves against the island. With that, small cracks began to appear on the island.

Everyone retreated again. They kept gulping as their hearts raced in their chests; they were extremely nervous.

Crack!

A huge crack extended from the edge of the islands to their feet at this moment.

Some cultivators whose fears got the better of them flew out immediately. Alas, as soon as they flew off the island, several sea beasts leaped up and swallowed them. When the sea beasts' mouths snapped shut, blood splattered everywhere.

"..."

It was as though the sea beasts were biting on extremely juicy dumplings. Those who were standing closer were splashed with blood.

Upon realizing the graveness of the situation, someone said, “Madam Huang, we can’t go on like this. While the situation is still somewhat under control, we should rush out now.”

“I agree!”

“I agree as well! What’s there to be afraid of?!”

The courageous disciples spoke up one after another, raising their hands.

Upon seeing this, Madam Huang nodded. “Alright. Then, I’ll lead the way. Get ready!”

2,000 people waited for Madam Huang’s order with bated breath.

In the sea, the huge shadow moved.

Boom!

Clank!

The four chains that held the floating island clanked loudly.

“Go!” Madam Huang cried out decisively. She took the lead and flew out as 2,000 people followed closely behind her.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

They flew out in unison.

The 20 umbrella-wielding cultivators released energy seals, opening up a path ahead of everyone.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Madam Huang looked to the left and right. With so many people, there were going to mistakes.

A few disciples were too nervous, and the circulation of their Primal Qi was not smooth. As a result, their speed slowed down significantly.

With this, the others could only watch helplessly as they were eaten by the sea beasts. They could save the others in time.

Blood splattered in the air, fanning the fear in everyone’s heart and causing them to speed up.

“Don’t stop! Keep up!” Madam Huang said, releasing a soundwave.

Although it was unfortunate, casualties were unavoidable in this situation.

The 2,000 people formed a square formation and flew 100 meters away.

Crack!

The floating island cracked open as a deep bellow rang from the sea as though it came from hell. Waves rose high into the sky, towering among the clouds. At the same time, a pillar of water shot up into the sky.

Everyone instinctively turned back to look. They saw the back of an enormous sea beast. A hole on its back was spurting out a pillar of water into the sky. They shuddered in fear at this sight.

More and more sea beasts began to leap up.

“Keep them away!”

The cultivators did not have astrolabes so they could only use their lotuses, forming a line in front of them.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The sea beasts crashed into the lotuses.

The disciples of Penglai Sect endured the pain from the impact and continued to hold their lotuses up.

Someone finally shouted, “If we keep using our lotuses to block them, we’ll die!”

“If we don’t do that, we’ll die as well!” someone shouted in return.

Nevertheless, they knew they had to be united at this moment in order to resist the sea beasts’ attacks.

The golden square formation in the sky, led by Madam Huang, continued to break through the walls of sea beasts in front of them, heaving toward Great Yan. Their strong desire to survive helped them to defeat wave after wave of sea beasts.

“The sea beasts are chasing after us!”

“Don’t be discouraged! Continue!”

The Penglai Sect disciples flew with all their might.

Boom!

The broken floating island could no longer withstand the attack from the sea beasts and fell from the sky into the sea, stirring up huge waves.

Madam Huang only took a glance; she did not stop moving. Her expression was determined, but her eyes were shining with tears.

“Madam Huang!”

“I’m fine. Continue!”

Madam Huang suppressed her emotions and continued to lead the group forward.

At this moment, a disciple pointed at something that was slashing through the sea on the right side.

“The Tigershark is here!”

In just a second, the Tiger Shark leaped out of the sea, arriving in front of them. All of them raised their lotuses to resist it.

Boom!

Painful cries rang in the air one after another.

The Tigershark had bitten through hundreds of cultivators. Hundreds of lotuses dimmed in just an instant.

On the other side, hundreds of disciples were sent flying back in the air. One by one, they fell into the sea, becoming food for the sea beasts.

In just a moment, the seawater was dyed red with blood.

“No!”

Who could endure watching their comrades die without any emotions?

“Keep your cool!” someone shouted.

“Get back into formation! Hurry up! Little Zhang, what are you standing there for?!” an older disciple shouted at the younger disciple who was scared silly.

Little Zhang, the younger disciple, laughed mournfully. He wiped the blood off his face before he looked at the sea beast below that was about to leap up again. Then, he laughed again.

“Little Zhang!”

Swoosh!

The sea beast leaped out of the sea, mercilessly biting Little Zhang.

The older disciple’s eyes reddened immediately. He swooped down and attacked the sea beast in a frenzy. “I’ll fight to the death with you!”

He wielded a saber with both hands and brought it down at the sea beast.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The sea beast roared in pain as it swung its tail around, hitting the chest of the older disciple. At the same time, Little Zhang flew out of the sea beast’s mouth and fell into the ocean.

Upon seeing this, Madam Huang gritted her teeth and said decisively, “Go!”

Being reckless would only get more people killed. At this time, she had to remain calm and rational. She chose to give up and continue to move forward.

The remaining 1,000 disciples looked at the red seawater in a daze. They did not know what to do.

“I can’t leave them behind!”

“Me too!”

A few cultivators rushed down.

Madam Huang sighed and waved her hand. She used the Green Bird of Penglai to sweep all the small sea beasts in the vicinity away.

The 1,000 disciples spread out to avoid the sea beasts.

It was utter chaos in the sky.

Madam Huang and her close disciples used all their strength to save the injured disciple. Fortunately, they succeeded.

“Let’s go!”

“Okay!”

Just as the square formation was about to fly forward again, the Tigershark leaped up from the left without anyone noticing until it was too late. Its bloody mouth was enough to fit 1,000 people. A bloody thigh could be seen between one of the gaps between its teeth at this moment.

“Madam!”

Madam Huang turned around and saw the Tigershark that was nearly 1,000 feet long. Its target this time was her and the twenty umbrella-wielding cultivators.

When they saw the Tigershark’s bloody teeth, they were stunned.

“It’s over!”

Faced with powerful fierce beasts, humans were too insignificant. They tried their best to escape, but in the eyes of the fierce beasts, their attempt was just a joke. What a cruel fate.

Madam Huang did not attempt to dodge. Her disciples were the same. If they retreated, the hundreds of disciples of the right would suffer.

At this time, Madam Huang shouted, “All of you continue to escape!”

These were her final words. She would place her hope of survival on the others.

At the critical moment...

Bang!

A golden arrow tore through the sky before piercing the head of the Tigershark. The huge force dragged it back into the sea.

Splash!

Everyone was stunned. When they finally looked in the direction whence the arrow came from, they saw Lu Zhou leading a group of people behind him. Unnamed in the form of a bow disappeared in his hand.

Lu Zhou calmly asked, “Madam Huang, are you alright?”

This voice was likely the most beautiful sound they had ever heard in their lives. They were so overwhelmed with happiness, excitement, and relief that they could not react for a moment.

They were saved! They were saved! Reinforcement was finally here!

Madam Huang staggered, and two disciples hurriedly stepped forward to support her. She was already at the end of her tether, and when she saw Lu Zhou, she heaved a huge sigh of relief. She said excitedly, "Senior Ji, you're finally here!"

Lu Zhou nodded. Then, he waved his hand and said, "Clean them up!"

"Understood!"

Yu Zhenghai, Yu Shangrong, Yan Zhenluo, Lu Li, Mingshi Yin, and Qin Naihe manifested their avatars and swooped down one after another.

The disciples of Penglai Sect were frozen. This had to be the strongest reinforcement team in history. This... this was the Evil Sky Pavilion's strength?

Needless to say, the small sea beasts could not even withstand a single blow.

The disciples of Penglai Sect did not feel sorry nor did they feel it was cruel as they watched the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion slaughter the sea beasts. Instead, they felt relieved. They clenched their hands into fists as they watched the performance of the people from the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou flashed in front of Madam Huang. Seeing her pale face, he cast his healing ability on her.

Madam Huang fell to her knees and said, "Thank you so much! Penglai Island will forever remember Senior Ji's kindness!"

Lu Zhou said, "It's nothing. How's Penglai Island?"

A female disciple hurriedly recounted what happened to the five islands of Penglai.

Lu Zhou nodded.

At this time, Madam Huang reminded Lu Zhou, "There might be a beast emperor. It's best to be careful, Senior Ji."

Lu Zhou looked down and saw a huge shadow under the sea's surface moving slowly from the direction of Penglai Island.

It was not the gargantuan Kun he had seen the first time he had crossed the Endless Ocean. It was a monstrous whale-like fierce beast. This whale-like fierce beast was even bigger than the Moon Whale whose life heart he had obtained from Meng Mingshi. It was very likely the whale-like fierce beast was a beast emperor.

Beast emperors' abilities were powerful. If the whale-like fierce beast was indeed a beast emperor, then it would be dangerous for the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion to rush out like this.

Lu Zhou called out, "Stop. Retreat."

The people of the Evil Sky Pavilion were puzzled. Nevertheless, they did not question him and obediently returned to his side.

The disciples of Penglai Sect were puzzled as well. They did not understand what Lu Zhou was trying to do.

Lu Zhou flashed forward and stood in front of everyone, looking at the sea. He observed the whale-like fierce beast.

“Senior Ji, be careful!” Madam Huang cried out in alarm at this time.

Dozens of sea beasts leaped up from both sides and pounced on Lu Zhou at the same time.

Seeing this, the disciples of Penglai Sect were worried.

On the contrary, the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion were completely calm.

Lu Zhou did not move. When the sea beasts were only a few meters away from him, his avatar suddenly appeared around before disappearing just as quickly. It appeared only for an instant.

Boom!

The appearance of Lu Zhou’s avatar alone killed off all the sea beasts that were pouncing at him. They dropped into the sea in pieces.

“...”

‘Is this the kind of power humans have?’

Lu Zhou descended and leisurely walked on the surface of the sea. However, the bloody water did not stain the hem of his robes at all.

“Beast, why aren’t you coming out to die?”

Wu!

A deep bellow rang from the sea that spread for 100 miles.

Water splashed up into the sky as small sea beasts rained down.

Lu Zhou looked lonely and small standing on the surface of the sea among the chaos.

Nevertheless, in the eyes of the Penglai Sect disciples, he looked heroic and bold. They all knew how dangerous it was at the surface of the sea, after all.

“Senior Ji, what are you doing?” someone asked.

Yan Zhenluo replied instead, “To deal with the small fry, you first have to take down their leader. Just watch.”

Everyone understood these words.

Lu Zhou did not even activate this protective energy and allowed the water to splash freely. However, due to his special robe, the seawater was automatically repelled.

Lu Zhou advanced step by step on the surface of the sea. A golden circle of light appeared beneath his feet as he made his way toward the shadow under the sea’s surface.

At this moment, more than four beast kings leaped up at the same time from all directions.

The waves were monstrous, rising high up into the sky and covering the sky and Lu Zhou.

Yu Zhenghai called out, "Rise higher into the sky."

Everyone flew up.

"Protect our friends from Penglai," Yu Zhenghai said again.

"Yes!"

The people of the Evil Sky Pavilion formed a human wall to protect the weak Penglai Sect disciples.

The Penglai Sect disciples clenched their hands, and their eyes were red with excitement.

At this time...

Swoosh!

With Lu Zhou in the center, the seawater began to freeze, the ice spreading in all directions.

10 meters, 20 meters, 30 meters, 100 meters, 200 meters, 300 meters, 1,000 meters, 5,000 meters...

The seawater continued to freeze.

Lu Zhou walked on ice, leaving more than four frozen beast kings in his wake. As he walked forward, the ice continued to spread in front of him.

At this moment...

Crack!

The frozen beast kings suddenly shattered into pieces, falling on the frozen surface of the sea. Just like that, all of them died.

"..."

Chapter 1380: What's a Great Venerable Master?

Everyone had heard about Qin Naihe, the Free Man of the Evil Sky Pavilion, with his 16 Birth Charts. They had also heard about the legendary story of how Lu Wu, the beast emperor, used his Ice Seal ability to deal with the invaders from the green lotus domain. However, they had only heard of these things and had never witnessed them.

Everyone in the Penglai Sect knew the Pavilion Master of the Evil Sky Pavilion was very strong. He was so strong that they could only look up to him. His feat of single-handedly propping the floating island up back then had become the stuff of legends in the Penglai Sect.

Their horizons were constantly being broadened by the changes in the golden lotus domain. They knew the person who was known as the God of Great Yan was very strong, but the demonstration of his strength today refreshed everyone's worldview. His strength was completely beyond their imagination.

The four or so beast kings were so easily frozen, and they shattered into pieces in just a blink of an eye. When their life hearts fell on the ice, the cultivators could not help but look at them with burning eyes. Naturally, none of them dared to pick the life hearts up. Their lives were much more important than life hearts, after all.

Lu Zhou did not even turn back to look at the beast kings he killed. He continued to stride forward in a leisurely manner on the surface of the frozen seawater. Inwardly, he was rather disappointed he was only rewarded with 1,000 merit points for each of the beast kings he killed. However, this was within his expectations. Even after becoming a Great Venerable Master, there were no changes in the reward.

The ice was clear like crystal. Through the ice, one could clearly see the shadow under the sea's surface.

The shadow swam back and forth; no one knew what it was doing. With every ten steps Lu Zhou took, it would flash forward but sink as well.

The people of the Evil Sky Pavilion maintained the distance as they followed Lu Zhou.

The disciples of Penglai Sect were a little scared.

Upon seeing this, Yu Zhenghai said, "Don't worry. With the Evil Sky Pavilion here, you're safe."

The Penglai Sect disciples felt much more relieved after listening to Yu Zhenghai's words. In fact, they also wanted to see how Lu Zhou was going to kill the huge monster.

The shadow showed no signs of ascending as Lu Zhou continued to move.

Everyone watched in confusion when suddenly...

Lu Zhou came to an abrupt stop.

Boom!

The sound of collision rang from under the ice. It did not take long before cracks began to form on the ice.

About 100 meters in front of Lu Zhou, a 30-foot-tall narrow fin, like the Grim Reaper's scythe, cut through the ice and shot toward Lu Zhou at an unimaginable speed.

Lu Zhou turned his body slightly, and the 30-foot-tall fin shot past him harmlessly, missing him by a hairbreadth. After easily dodging the fin, he bent slightly and pushed his palm down.

Bang!

A golden palm seal shot into the sea, leaving a hole in the ice. It was like a bright lamp illuminating the pitch-black sea. It was dazzling.

Wu!

A deep bellow rang from the sea again.

To be safe, Yu Zhenghai said, "Rise higher into the sky."

“Eldest Senior Brother, they can’t fly that high,” Little Yuan’er said as she pointed at the Penglai Sect disciples. She did not have to worry about the altitude since she was riding on Whizard.

Yu Zhenghai turned to look at Penglai Sect disciples. Then, a golden lotus bloomed under his feet. It kept increasing in size until it formed a lotus throne that held everyone up and slowly rose into the air.

The disciples exclaimed in awe and admiration as they looked at Yu Zhenghai’s Birth Palace. They were truly moved.

Under normal circumstances, cultivators would not reveal their Birth Palaces easily. After all, they would be exposing their vulnerabilities by doing so. The fastest way to kill Thousand Realms Whirling cultivators was to destroy their Birth Palaces.

In fact, Yu Zhenghai brought his lotus out without much thought for two reasons. One was due to his trust in the people present. Second was due to his fearlessness and confidence. His trust was touching, and his fearlessness and confidence were admirable.

With the golden lotus bringing everyone higher into the sky, when they looked down again, Lu Zhou already looked as tiny as an ant. After reaching a certain altitude, the lotus finally stopped moving.

Boom!

Lu Zhou’s palm seal seemed to have angered the huge beast in the sea.

Even from such a high place, the beast still looked huge. It was really humongous.

Madam Huang, who had mostly recovered, looked down at this time and asked, “Will... Will Senior Ji be able to do it?”

Qin Naihe said, “If the Pavilion Master can’t do it, then no one can.”

Qin Naihe’s words were filled with so much confidence that it boosted the confidence of the Penglai Sect disciples as well.

Madam Huang nodded and said, “To think Senior Ji’s cultivation has reached such a transcendental stage...”

Qin Naihe said, “A Venerable Master can crush an entire domain, let alone a Great Venerable Master!”

“Great Venerable Master?!”

The Penglai Sect disciples were shocked.

Qin Naihe asked, “By the way, why do you keep referring to Pavilion Master Lu as Senior Ji?”

Qin Naihe had grown curious as he continued listening to the people around him refer to Lu Zhou as Senior Ji.

Yu Zhenghai explained, “The golden lotus domain is weak. Hence, when the Evil Sky Pavilion went to the red lotus domain, in order to avoid attracting unnecessary attention to the golden lotus domain, my master changed his surname to Lu.”

“I see.” Qin Naihe nodded, thinking that Lu Zhou’s real surname was Ji.

On the other hand, Lu Li shook his head as he looked at them. Alas, he could reveal the identity of the ancestor of the Lu clan. He thought that Lu Zhou's method to hide his real identity was truly brilliant; now, everyone thought his surname was Ji. As the saying went, 'The older you get, the wiser you are'.

At this time, Lu Zhou looked around.

Crack!

Cracks began to form on the ice again.

Lu Zhou turned to look at the frozen remains of the beast kings. He waved his hands, conjuring countless energy swords before chopping the remains into even smaller pieces. Then, their life hearts flew into the air.

"Keep them well."

"Yes, master!"

Everyone almost drooled when they looked at the life hearts. Apart from that, they also thought it was very convenient for Venerable Masters to harvest life hearts.

Boom!

At this moment, the huge shadow banged against the ice again, breaking the ice.

Lu Zhou tapped his toes lightly and flew into the air with movements as light as a swallow.

Monstrous waves rose into the sky immediately.

Everyone cried out in surprise. For a moment, they admired the might of the sea. If they did not rise so high earlier, they would have been in trouble.

When Lu Zhou hovered in the air, two long and narrow sea beasts that glinted with dark blue scales leaped up.

The sea beast looked like mutated eels.

"Those are Eel Kings," Kong Wen said.

The mutated eels were not only able to discharge electricity, but they had sharp teeth and sharp claws as well. They bared their fangs and brandished their claws as they rushed toward Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou frowned slightly. He pressed his hand down.

"Flawed Perfection."

Two palm seals shot out immediately, hitting the two Eel Kings.

Boom! Boom!

Blood and flesh splattered everywhere.

"Ding! Killed an Eel King. Reward: 1,000 merit points."

"Ding! Killed an Eel King. Reward: 1,000 merit points."

Lu Zhou waved his hand, and two life hearts flew up into the sky again.

Everyone was dumbfounded. In front of a Venerable Master, or to be more precise, a Great Venerable Master, a beast king was no different from an ordinary fierce beast. Killing one was like a stroll in the park.

Swoosh!

Waves continued to rise in the sky as the beast continued to ascend in the sea.

Yu Zhenghai continued to rise higher into the sky.

Lu Zhou did not retreat. Instead, he advanced. He swooped down as he said, "Beast, I'll take your life today!"

Lu Zhou shrouded his body with his divine power. The divine power flashed on his robe like lightning bolts.

Wu!

The whale-like fierce beast seemed to sense the approaching danger, and it began to thrash its tail wildly.

Boom!

The waves grew higher and higher.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Droplets of water comparable to energy swords shot out from the waves, hitting the bottom of Yu Zhenghai's lotus.

Swoosh!

Yu Shangrong flew out, unsheathing his Longevity Sword.

Nearly eight million energy swords appeared, forming a circular formation. It spun in front of everyone, keeping the deadly splashes from the waves at bay.

The Penglai Sect disciples. "..."

The Evil Sky Pavilion was indeed the strongest reinforcement ever. The battle had just begun, but they were already overwhelmed by the sight.

The whale-like fierce beast swung its tail, adjusting its position.

Splash!

A pillar of water shot out from the whale-like fierce beast's blowhole toward Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou did not dodge. Instead, he launched a palm seal that rapidly expanded to block the pillar of water.

Bang!

The pillar of water landed harmlessly on the palm seal.

Lu Zhou pushed his hand out, increasing the size of the palm seal by several times before he pushed back against the pillar of water.

Splash!

Lu Zhou continued pushing, diving into the sea. The darkness and cold seawater assaulted his senses from all directions. Thanks to the Netherwolf King's night vision, the darkness of the sea did not hinder him. After descending for a while, he finally saw the pitch-black back of the whale-like fierce beast.

"Die!"

The palm seal that had been imbued with the divine power slammed down on the whale-like fierce beast.

Wu!

A thunderous bellow rang out, shaking the sea and stirring up a tsunami. The sea and the land trembled in unison.

The churning and turbulent sea did not affect Lu Zhou. He floated in the sea, looking at the enormous creature. With his current cultivation base, he did not need to breathe, and he was impervious to the cold.

The seawater continued to churn and surge violently.

When Lu Zhou sensed the whale-like fierce beast was rapidly descending into the depths of the ocean, he swiftly cast the power of sight and the power of hearing.

With that, he finally had a clear look at the whale-like fierce beast. He thought that the fierce beasts here could not be judged using common sense from earth.

The whale-like fierce beast was more than over 10,000 feet long.

Apart from that, he saw many beast kings swimming around the whale-like fierce beast. There were even more beast kings rushing toward it.

Naturally, sea beasts lorded over everything in the sea. When they saw humans in the sea, their eyes lit up as though they had seen the most delicious food in the world, causing them to go crazy.

More and more sea beasts, under the influence of the beast emperor and the beast kings, swam over.

Lu Zhou watched the descending whale-like fierce beast. 'It's too late for you to leave now.'

Lu Zhou moved like a lightning bolt toward the depths of the sea.

The whale-like fierce beast seemed angered by this. It bellowed again and thrashed.

Although it seemed like Lu Zhou was well under the sea, in fact, he was above the normal sea level due to the thrashing of the whale-like fierce beast.

Sea beasts continued swimming over from all directions.

Lu Zhou launched several palm seals at the whale-like fierce beast's body.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The sounds of the collision were thunderous even though they rang from the sea.

Buzz!

Lu Zhou manifested his avatar.

A humongous golden avatar emerged from the sea, shooting up into the sky.

The sea beasts were repelled by the golden avatar immediately.

When the golden avatar was out of the sea, the lotus under its feet began to spin furiously and burn with karmic fire. Following that, flaming lotuses burst forth.

This was the Flaming Golden Lotus, Lu Zhou's first Birth Trial ability.

The flaming lotuses reaped the lives of the sea beasts in the air and the ones just right below the surface of the sea. Whether they were small sea beasts, ordinary sea beasts, or beast kings, they were all either skewered by the lotuses or charred black by the karmic fire before their carcasses dropped back into the sea

The sea was truly a sea of fire at this moment.

At this time, Lu Zhou flashed forward with his avatar, crossing thousands of meters in just a blink of an eye. "It's too late for you to escape!"

Yu Zhenghai cried out enthusiastically, "Go, master!"

At this time, Kong Wen pointed below as he cried out, "Look! The life hearts!"

There were a lot of life hearts floating among the carcasses of the sea beasts.

"Don't be anxious. You'll have a chance to show your skills later," Yu Zhenghai said.

"Alright. I understand, Mr. First," Kong Wen said.

Meanwhile, Yu Shangrong withdrew his energy swords and rushed forward. If he missed out on this annual show, it would be a waste.

The whale-like fierce beast was too big so it was almost impossible for him to shake off Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou, whose avatar hovered next to him, launched palm seal after palm seal into the sea, accurately landing on the whale-like fierce beast's back.

No matter what the whale-like fierce beast did, it could not escape from Lu Zhou nor could it hide from Lu Zhou.

"It's afraid!"

"It's actually afraid?!"

Everyone felt more relieved when they saw this.

Lu Zhou pursued the whale-like fierce beast relentlessly. It did not take long before he had chased it for 100 miles, leaving the area near Penglai. He had now arrived at the open sea.

At this time, Qin Naihe sent Lu Zhou a voice transmission.

“Pavilion Master, be careful. It might be trying to lure you into the deep sea. In the deep sea, there are even more powerful sea beasts.”

“Alright, I know what to do.”

The others continued to maintain a distance as they followed Lu Zhou. From afar, it looked as though a golden statue was cutting across the sea.

At this moment, another monstrous wave rose high into the sky.

The whale-like fierce beast could no longer bear Lu Zhou’s relentless pursuit. It thrashed, stirring up waves, as it rose and leaped out from the sea.

For the Penglai Sect disciples, this was their first time seeing a beast emperor.

When the fierce beast, whose body seemed capable of covering the sky, appeared in the air, the water turned into water arrows, shooting toward the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion and Penglai Sect.

Yu Zhenghai hurriedly flew back with the others in tow.

Lu Zhou put away his avatar and flashed high into the sky, confronting the whale-like fierce beast.

An enormous astrolabe bloomed in the air. All the Birth Charts lit up at the same time, exploding with unprecedented brilliance. With that, the power of the Birth Charts burst forth at the same time.

Boom!

When the pillars of light landed on the whale-like fierce beast, it left a shocking bloody hole.

At the same time, Lu Zhou’s astrolabe successfully blocked the water arrows as well.

Each of his movements was fluid and smooth.

Following that, Lu Zhou did something that seemed crazy in the eyes of the others. He put away his astrolabe. Then, he flashed and appeared above the head of the gigantic whale-like fierce beast.

“Unnamed.”

Lu Zhou imbued his divine power into Unnamed that was in the form of a sword.

With that, energy swords burst forth, piercing the whale-like fierce beast.

“Avatar!”

When the towering golden avatar appeared, it grabbed an energy sword in each of its hands and charged forward. It successfully cut the whale’s body open with a force that could tear the sky and split the earth.

“...”

What was a Great Venerable Master? With his divine power, the power of the Dao, and the heaven and earth energy, he would defy the heavens and slashed the beast into pieces!