

Disciples 1401

Chapter 1401: Real or Fake Purple Glazed Ceramic?

‘Purple Glazed Ceramic?’

Lu Zhou recalled his Purple Glazed Ceramic that he obtained from Ye Zhen. It was too much of a coincidence for the names to be the same.

Ever since he obtained the scrolls of the Heavenly Writing, he had always felt that the manner in which he obtained things was too coincidental. There were the blue crystals, that special robe he had obtained from the mausoleum, the Hourglass of Time, and the Scripture of Sermons.

He recalled Chen Fu’s earlier words about heaven and earth being the chessboard while the living things were the chess pieces. So who held the chess pieces? Who was pulling the strings? Was he also someone’s chess piece? The feeling of being a chess piece was not very good. Perhaps, he was thinking too much, or perhaps, he did not want to know just yet.

Lu Zhou said, “The Purple Glazed Ceramic from the Great Abyss’ Pillar of Destruction?”

Hua Yin explained, “The Great Abyss is the ancient name for Ren Ding. All the new names also hold the meaning of a person defeating the heavens. The biggest Pillar of Apocalypse is in the Unknown Land’s Ren Ding. Its interior is incredibly dark, and the Purple Glazed Ceramic illuminated the inside of the pillar. As for its specific function, I’m not sure about that.”

Lu Zhou nodded. “It’s nothing much. It only increases the speed of cultivation.”

Lu Zhou was not lying. After the Purple Glazed Ceramic was upgraded to the infinite grade, it gained a freezing ability. However, it could only be used once before it needed to be recharged.

Hua Yin said respectfully, “Senior, you must be joking. Increasing cultivation speed is the best function.”

At this time, the green-clad cultivator’s voice rang from outside the pavilion.

“Saint Chen, I’ve brought Qiu Wenjian here.”

“Let him wait outside. Bring the thing here,” Hua Yin said.

Although this was no doubt putting on airs, if one was not strong enough, one could only stand outside.

The green-clad cultivator carefully held a brocade box and walked into the pavilion. Then, he set it down on the table before he moved to stand at the side respectfully.

Chen Fu looked at Lu Zhou and asked, “Do you also want to have a look?”

Lu Zhou nodded. “I’ll take this chance to have a look. Let me see what’s so special about the Purple Glazed Ceramic?”

Chen Fu smiled and flicked his sleeve.

Clack!

The lid of the brocade box flipped open, revealing a crystal clear glass bead that emitted a faint light.

Lu Zhou could feel the special energy from the glass bead, and its light seemed to refresh his mind.

Hua Yin was the first to speak. He said, "As expected of something that came from the Pillar of Revelation."

Chen Fu nodded slightly and asked, "It's very difficult to obtain the things from the Pillar of Destruction. How did you obtain it?"

Chen Fu's words were clearly directed at Qiu Wenjian who was standing outside.

Qiu Wenjian was slightly excited upon hearing Chen Fu's question. Although he could not see into the pavilion, he could tell Chen Fu was in a good mood. He said, "I don't dare to deceive the Saint. I obtained this after killing a beast king when I went to the Unknown Land with my companions."

"Beast king?" Hua Yin was surprised.

Chen Fu said, "The Unknown Land is very chaotic. Sometimes, the battles between fierce beasts are even more brutal than those of humans. There were many fierce battles at the Great Abyss' Pillar of Destruction, and the Purple Glazed Ceramic had long been lost. Who knew that it was taken away by a mere beast king. This kind of thing is fated."

Qiu Wenjian said, "I was just lucky as well."

Chen Fu said, "The Purple Glazed Ceramic is indeed a rare treasure. Even if it's luck, you still deserve it. Alright, you can bring it back now."

Just as Chen Fu's voice fell, Qiu Wenjian hurriedly said, "Saint Chen, I came to offer this Purple Glazed Ceramic to you. I really dare not keep such a precious treasure. I hope you'll accept it."

"One shouldn't receive without giving. How can I cover other people's things?" Chen Fu said lightly.

Qiu Wenjian replied, "This is what I willingly offered. I hope the Saint will accept it. I don't want to be robbed by a group of bandits on my journey back and die a miserable death. Being able to find a worthy master for the Purple Glazed Ceramic is enough for me. It also helps me solve a huge problem."

'This excuse to give gifts is really eye-opening,' Lu Zhou thought to himself. Although he was a transmigrator and a modern person, he felt inferior to Qiu Wenjian in regard to this. Back in the modern world, there were countless ways to bribe someone. He had to admit Qiu Wenjian's way to bribe someone was very refreshing.

Qiu Wenjian kept kowtowing as though he could not wait to get rid of the Purple Glazed Ceramic. It was as though the Purple Glazed Ceramic was a ticking time bomb.

However, Qiu Wenjian's excuse was not without any sense. Indeed, he would attract trouble with the Purple Glazed Ceramic.

Chen Fu remained silent.

At this time, Hua Yin cupped his fists at Chen Fu and said, "Master, it's better to accept it. Leaving it with him will indeed cause a fatal disaster."

Qiu Wenjian was overjoyed and continued kowtowing. "Thank you, Mr. First!"

Chen Fu nodded and said, "Alright, I'll accept the Purple Glazed Ceramic. It's a treasure after all. I won't take your treasure for nothing. Tell me, what do you want? Just say it."

Qiu Wenjian's little heart pounded in his chest. He had been waiting for this. He first let out a long sigh before he said, "There are 1,000 people in the Seven Stars Sword Sect. All these years, they've suffered with me. Recently, our conflict with Sunset Sect has intensified. Up until now, it hasn't eased. I hope Saint Chen will step forward. For the sake of the 1,000 people in the Seven Stars Sword Sect, please help us survive."

Qiu Wenjian's words were appropriate, but their underlying meaning was very clear.

With Chen Fu's status, he naturally would not interfere in such matters. Even if he decided to interfere, he did not need to personally make a move. In fact, all he needed to do was nod his head. With just a nod, the Sunset Sect would disappear.

The eyes of Yan Mu, who was sitting in the pavilion, widened in shock. 'This Qiu Wenjian is really shameless!'

Chen Fu said, "I have no time to care about the competition between sects. Hua Yin, go and have a look."

Hua Yin bowed. "Understood."

Qiu Wenjian kowtowed excitedly. "Thank you, Saint Chen. Thank you, Mr. First."

Qiu Wenjian had just risen to his feet when a voice rang from the pavilion.

"Wait."

Chen Fu and Hua Yin were taken aback. They turned to look at Lu Zhou in unison.

Lu Zhou rose to his feet and pointed at the Purple Glazed Ceramic as he said, "He used a fake Purple Glazed Ceramic to deceive you. Shouldn't he be punished?"

"Fake?" Chen Fu frowned.

Qiu Wenjian who was standing outside was shocked, and his hair stood on end. He hastily made his way to the pavilion. As he drew closer, he saw two familiar figures: Yan Mu and Zhou Tian, the expert swordsman. He did not think about why the duo was in the pavilion. Instead, he pointed at Yan Mu and said, "Saint Chen, t-they're slandering me!"

Hua Yin flashed and appeared in front of Qiu Wenjian. He said with a frown, "Slandering?"

"That's Yan Mu. He's the Sect Master of the Sunset Sect! The Sunset Sect and our Seven Stars Sword Sect have been fighting for so many years. This Yan Mu just can't wait to see me die!" Qiu Wenjian said as he pointed at Yan Mu.

Yan Mu: "..."

Yan Mu, who had been nervous, was so angered by Qiu Wenjian's words that he said, "Qiu Wenjian, you're spouting nonsense! Your Seven Star Sword Sect is always making things difficult for the Sunset Sect and taking advantage of us. You're like a bandit, burning, looting, and killing near our sect! How dare you lie in front of a Saint?!"

Chen Fu and Hua Yin frowned at the same time.

As a Saint, Chen Fu truly did not have any interest in this matter. However, since the matter had escalated to this point in front of him, how could he brush it aside in front of Lu Zhou?

Qiu Wenjian said, "Didn't the Sunset Sect act like that first? Mr. First will investigate this matter clearly. Also, as for whether the Purple Glazed Ceramic is real or fake, the Saint can judge for himself. When is it your turn to judge?"

"What a sharp-tongued brat," Lu Zhou said before he waved his hand and launched a palm seal over.

Bang!

Qiu Wenjian flew backward and spat out a mouthful of blood!

Everyone was shocked that Lu Zhou dared to make a move in front of a Saint. What kind of courage was this?

Yan Mu's mind went blank while Qiu Wenjian was so stunned by the sudden strike that he temporarily forgot about the pain.

Chapter 1402: It's Fate

Thump!

Qiu Wenjian fell to the ground limply as though he had lost all his strength. He had come here today to vent his anger, but he did not expect to suffer another strike. 'F*ck, why is this happening to me?'

Chen Fu's expression was somewhat unnatural. After all, he was the host, and Lu Zhou, as a guest, had overstepped the boundary. This was against etiquette.

Lu Zhou knew Chen Fu was unhappy so he thought of a way out. He said, "Saint Chen, don't be angry. I saw that you were being deceived by a despicable person so I punished him on your behalf. You've been in a high position for a long time and hear so many flattery and flowery words so I'm sure you've gotten numb to it."

The explanation was sufficient to ease the tension. Chen Fu's frown eased as well.

Lu Zhou said, "Please take a look."

Then, Lu Zhou brought out his Purple Glazed Ceramic and placed it in the box.

It shone brightly. The humid air in the pavilion turned refreshing and cool in just an instant due to the Purple Glazed Ceramic. Even the surrounding Primal Qi seemed to flow smoother than before.

The heat outside was gradually dispelled as well. Even the speed of the waterfall seemed to be affected.

Chen Fu and Hua Yin looked at the Purple Glazed Ceramic with complex expressions on their faces.

Lu Zhou's Purple Glazed Ceramic was vastly different from what Qiu Wenjian had presented Chen Fu. After all, it had been upgraded several times by Lu Zhou. Its effects, light, and energy were naturally incomparable.

Yan Mu: "..."

Qiu Wenjian struggled to lift his head to have a look. His eyes widened immediately. How was this possible?

A hint of surprise flashed in Chen Fu's eyes when he looked at Lu Zhou's Purple Glazed Ceramic.

Lu Zhou had always kept his treasures a secret, but today, it was necessary to show one of them. He was not worried Chen Fu would try to snatch it away. Otherwise, he would not bring it out even if he were given a million merit points. After their brief interaction, he felt Chen Fu was not that kind of person. Nevertheless, one could not judge a book by its cover, and the human heart was the hardest to predict so he was still a little cautious.

Lu Zhou finally said, "This is the real Purple Glazed Ceramic."

Then, Lu Zhou picked the Purple Glazed Ceramic up.

"This..." Chen Fu said.

"Does Saint Chen want to look at it more?" Lu Zhou asked.

Of course, Chen Fu wanted to continue looking at it. However, the item was not his. If he made it too obvious that he wanted to look at it, he felt it was not befitting his status as a Saint. Thus, he wore a profound expression on his face and said, "So this is the real Purple Glazed Ceramic?"

"You're a Saint so you should know better," Lu Zhou replied.

"Impossible, impossible! This is impossible..." Qiu Wenjian crawled over and shook his head repeatedly as he said, "I obtained this Purple Glazed Ceramic from the Unknown Land. It can't be fake! I dare to swear it's real!"

"So you're saying my Purple Glazed Ceramic is fake?" Lu Zhou asked as he looked at Qiu Wenjian.

Qiu Wenjian: "..."

Yan Mu felt extremely relieved, especially when he thought about what could have happened if Qiu Wenjian had succeeded in his scheme. He also felt very happy when he looked at Qiu Wenjian's pathetic state now. 'Let's see how the Saint is going to deal with you now!'

Qiu Wenjian gulped before he mustered up his courage and said, "Whether it's real or fake shouldn't be determined by its size and luster. I heard that a collision between the real and the fake will reveal the truth. The fake will definitely reveal its true form in front of the real one!"

Chen Fu was puzzled. "A collision?"

“There’s a unique energy from the heavens and the earth within the Purple Glazed Ceramic. It can’t be faked. We’ll know once we let them collide,” Qiu Wenjian said.

Chen Fu turned to look at Lu Zhou. This depended on Lu Zhou’s attitude after all. In his opinion, the two Purple Glazed Ceramics were real. If there was a fake, it only meant that the person who created the fake was highly skilled. Before the outcome was determined, he did not want to express his opinion.

Lu Zhou scoffed. “You won’t realize your folly until the worst has happened.”

Then, Lu Zhou brought out his Purple Glazed Ceramic again. After placing it in the box, he pointed at Hua Yin and said, “To be fair, you should do it.”

Chen Fu nodded.

Only then did Hua Yin walk forward and pick up the two Purple Glazed Ceramics.

Hua Yin’s cultivation base was rather good. He was also a Venerable Master, but he could not distinguish between the real and the fake. After all, the two Purple Glazed Ceramics contained special energy. The energy could help increase one’s cultivation speed. They were indeed rare treasures. In any case, he would know which one was real once he tested them out.

Hua Yin held Lu Zhou’s Purple Glazed Ceramic in his left hand and Qi Wenjian’s Purple Glazed Ceramic in his right hand. Then, he brought them together with a slight force.

Bang!

Two waves of energy collided immediately. They weaved and intertwined in the pavilion as sizzling sounds rang from the point of collision.

The Purple Glazed Ceramic on the left shone dazzlingly as its energy formed a vortex. It immediately devoured the energy on the right, fusing with it. Then, the vortex of energy returned to the Purple Glazed Ceramic.

With that, the light from the Purple Glazed Ceramic on the right dimmed before it faded completely.

Crack!

The Purple Glazed Ceramic in Hua Yin’s right hand cracked.

On the contrary, the Purple Glazed Ceramic in Hua Yin’s left hand shone even brighter than before.

With this, Hua Yin respectfully handed the Purple Glazed Ceramic back to Lu Zhou.

The result was clear.

Qiu Wenjian staggered back in disbelief before he slumped to the ground. A wet path could be seen around his crotch area.

Chen Fu waved his sleeve and said, “Throw him out.”

“Understood.”

However, Hua Yin felt the punishment was too light so he said, "Master, he tried to deceive you with a fake. This is a great disrespect! How can we only throw him out?"

"I'll leave it up to you then," Chen Fu said. He could not be bothered with such trivial matters. His mood had been completely ruined by the fake Purple Glazed Ceramic. It even showed that he did not have a discerning eye, causing him to lose his dignity.

Hua Yin nodded. His figure flashed and appeared next to Qiu Wenjian. Then, he lifted Qiu Wenjian up as though he was lifting a chick.

Qiu Wenjian hastily begged for mercy. "Please forgive me, Saint Chen! Please forgive me! I really didn't know it was a fake! It wasn't my intention to deceive you! I really didn't know it was a fake!"

Qiu Wenjian's voice grew fainter and fainter until it disappeared completely.

Lu Zhou clenched his hands around the Purple Glazed Ceramic and sensed its changes. It seemed like it had become a little stronger. After putting it away, he asked, "You're a Saint. Are you going to kill him?"

Chen Fu said, "Hua Yin knows his limits."

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "Sometimes, it's fine to go overboard."

Chen Fu: "..."

When Yan Mu heard these words, his image of Lu Zhou was further elevated.

Chen Fu felt embarrassed from the earlier incident so he did not say anything else even if he did want to show his magnanimity. In the end, he asked, "This Purple Glazed Ceramic is very rare. How did you obtain it?"

"I've been to the Unknown Land," Lu Zhou replied.

"It's fate," Chen Fu said as he nodded. Then, he turned to look at Yan Mu and asked, "You're the Sect Master of Sunset Sect?"

Yan Mu: "..."

Yan Mu tried to compose himself before he nodded and said, "Yes."

Chapter 1403: The Location of the Great Void

Chen Fu nodded and said, "Sunset Mountain is a good place."

Yan Mu did not think too much into Chen Fu's words and only nodded and said, "Yes, yes, yes. If you have the time, p-please do visit. I'll... I'll make sure to welcome you!"

Chen Fu did not respond. Instead, he looked at Lu Zhou said, "I've never believed in luck. You must have some means to be able to obtain the Purple Glazed Ceramic. How should I address you?"

After all, up until now, Chen Fu still did not know Lu Zhou's name.

Lu Zhou replied, "My surname is Lu. I'm from the Evil Sky Pavilion in the golden lotus domain."

Yan Mu gulped. His image of Lu Zhou fell slightly. After all, since ancient times, the twin lotus domain had withdrawn from the world. It was Chen Fu himself who set this rule, and it had been that way for tens of thousands of years. Even the six Venerable Masters of Great Han abided by this rule.

The eastern capital and the western capital were originally the capital cities of the two respective green lotus domains and were at the heart of the two domains before they split. After the great war, both cities remained with them.

After being isolated for such a long time, it was only natural that Yan Mu was slightly prejudiced toward a stranger from the golden lotus domain.

Chen Fu's expression remained the same as he said with a sigh, "In the end, this day still came."

Lu Zhou said, "Humans would always have unnecessary thoughts. It's just like men who profess their love and loyalty but are secretly thinking about the girl next door."

Yan Mu: "???"

Yan Mu really did not understand the conversation at all. He thought to himself, 'Forget it. Ignorance is bliss.'

Lu Zhou said, "I'm talking about the runic passage that leads to this place."

Chen Fu did not disagree. Instead, he said, "The world is originally one. It's difficult to sever all ties."

Lu Zhou nodded in agreement. It was so hard for him to find a Saint, naturally, he would not let go of such a good opportunity to learn more things. Hence, he said, "Apart from seeking your advice about resurrection methods, there's another thing I'd like to seek your advice as well."

Chen Fu glanced at Lu Zhou from the corners of his eyes. When he saw Lu Zhou's expressionless face, he thought to himself, 'Is this the attitude one has when seeking advice?'

Lu Zhou continued to say, "I've always been curious. Everyone's so afraid of the Great Void, and everyone says the Great Void is in the Unknown Land. However, after so long, no one has found the Great Void. Where exactly is the Great Void?"

Lu Zhou had asked this question many times. The more he asked, the more bizarre and unreliable the answers became.

Chen Fu turned to the side and said, "In the sky."

This was the same answer Lu Zhou received previously.

"In the sky?" Lu Zhou raised an eyebrow.

Yan Mu instinctively raised his head and looked at the clear skies and saw a few flying beasts. One of it flapped its wings that spanned 100 feet, bringing it far into the distance in just a blink of an eye.

Chen Fu sighed. "In the nine domains, those who know the answer have long returned to heaven. It's not surprising that you don't know about it."

Lu Zhou thought Chen Fu's answer seemed credible. So he asked, "How do I find it?"

Chen Fu looked at Lu Zhou strangely as he asked, "Why do you insist on finding the Great Void?"

Lu Zhou did not answer Chen Fu immediately, It was a vague feeling; it was as though destiny was at play. It felt like an invisible force was driving him in that direction.

The shackles of heaven and earth, supreme beings, and being chess pieces to unknown forces; Lu Zhou felt like he was being guided to uncover these mysteries.

Finally, Lu Zhou said, "The imbalance has worsened. The nine domains are on the brink of collapse. The cultivation world has long been problematic. The Great Void likes policing people so why aren't they doing anything?"

Chen Fu frowned. "Is the imbalance in the outside world so bad?"

"You've been in the twin lotus domain for too long," Lu Zhou replied. The implication was Chen Fu was way behind times, and the outside world had long been turned upside down.

Chen Fu sighed. "Alas, you have the heart but not the power. Do you plan to save the world?"

"I'm not so kind. I just want to save myself," Lu Zhou said.

Chen Fu nodded. He seemed like he was lost in memories as he said, "100,000 years ago, the land split. At that time, the imbalance was very bad as well. Countless people were killed and injured. All living things were in a dire strait. Many Saints tried to save the world, but they died tragically as well. When you defy the heavens, the suffering is endless."

"You think too highly of the Great Void," Lu Zhou said as he shook his head.

Chen Fu looked at Lu Zhou with a complex gaze. It was not the first time today he looked at Lu Zhou with such a gaze. He really wondered where Lu Zhou's confidence came from for Lu Zhou to act so arrogantly not only to him but in regard to the Great Void as well. Finally, he asked, "You're determined to find the Great Void?"

"That's right."

"Very well. If you can convince me, I'll tell you what I know," Chen Fu said tonelessly.

Lu Zhou was not in a rush to speak. He picked up his teacup and took a sip, savoring the fragrance. He looked at the clear sky and the waterfall. The scenery at Autumn Dew Mountain was truly pleasant.

'Hm?'

At this moment, Lu Zhou suddenly felt a unique energy fluctuation. It was a Saint's power of the Dao. His intuition told him that Chen Fu was sensing his strength and cultivation base. He set his teacup down lightly before he silently chanted the mantra for the power of concealment.

With one's true body and wisdom in the Heavenly arts, one can reveal one's vast strength. With the cloud medallion, one will be able to hide from sight and avoid detection through various Heavenly arts.

At this moment, everything was still and silent.

Yan Mu looked frozen with his mouth slightly open, and his eyes were dull; he looked just like a life-like sculpture. The green-clad cultivator standing nearby was motionless as well. The waterfall froze as sunlight glinted off it.

The freezing power of a Saint was indeed powerful.

Then, Lu Zhou silently chanted the mantra for the power of infinite deduction.

With infinite deductions, it's possible to know and not know, to see and not to see. There are all kinds of changes in the laws of nature that are known by all living beings in this world.

With two of the Heavenly Writing powers, scene after scene appeared in Lu Zhou's mind like a movie. There were flying chariots, fierce beasts, strong cultivators, weak cultivators, common folks, blood, severed limbs, corpses, and cries. Death was everywhere.

Lu Zhou was slightly shocked. He continued to use the power of infinite deduction.

Death, death, death. It was all death.

Lu Zhou did not stop until the scenes stopped coming.

"Senior?" Yan Mu gently touched the corner of Lu Zhou's robes, pulling Lu Zhou back from his thoughts.

"Hm?" Lu Zhou looked at Yan Mu.

Yan Mu pointed at Chen Fu. "The Saint is..."

Lu Zhou turned around and saw Chen Fu was motionless.

However, in just a moment, Chen Fu looked up and asked, "Have you thought about what you're going to say?"

Lu Zhou rose to his feet and said, "Change."

"Change?" Chen Fu was puzzled.

Lu Zhou said, "Before your death, you should make a change."

After using the power of infinite deduction, Lu Zhou came to the conclusion that Chen Fu was nearing the end of life. He did not think

Yan Mu gently touched the corner of Lu Zhou's clothes and pulled him back from his thoughts.

Lu Zhou turned around and asked, "Yan Mu?"

Yan Mu pointed at Chen Fu and asked, "Saint?"

Lu Zhou looked over and saw that Chen Fu wasn't moving.

At this moment, Chen Fu turned around and said, "Have you thought of a reason?"

Lu Zhou stood up and said,

"Change."

Chen Fu was slightly puzzled.

Lu Zhou continued, "Make changes before your death."

The result of the Infinite Numerancy divine art was that Chen Fu was nearing the end of his life. He did not think Chen Fu, who was a Saint that was revered by the people, would be able to accept such an outcome.

Yan Mu: "..."

In fact, not many people knew precisely how long a Saint could live. A Venerable Master could live for 30,000 years, and people speculated that a Saint could live for 100,000 years. This was only speculation. Most cultivators could not live that long to verify their speculation, after all. Saint also did not have the time to tell the common people how long they could live. Moreover, it was not a very auspicious topic. Nonetheless, auspicious or not, everyone had to face both life and death.

Yan Mu looked at Lu Zhou in shock. Despite all the outrageous things Lu Zhou had said earlier, he really did not expect Lu Zhou to say such a thing to Chen Fu. These words could be interpreted as a provocation after all. With this, Lu Zhou's image in his heart dropped again, returning to its original position.

Chen Fu said, "Alright."

Yan Mu: "???"

Chen Fu suddenly flashed and appeared outside of the pavilion. "Hua Yin."

Although Chen Fu's voice was not loud, it traveled far into the distance.

Not long after, Hua Yin appeared near the pavilion. He bowed and asked, "Master, your orders?"

"I'll be gone for a moment. No one's allowed to follow me."

"Understood."

Chen Fu flashed and appeared high up in the sky, leaving the barrier.

Yan Mu was filled with envy and admiration. A Saint was indeed a Saint. Even a Great Venerable Master would have to lower his head in front of a Saint. He turned to look at Lu Zhou and discovered Lu Zhou had vanished. When he looked up again, Lu Zhou was already standing next to Chen Fu.

The duo disappeared at the same time and appeared thousands of meters away at the same time. With another flash, they vanished out of sight.

Yan Mu's heart skipped a beat.

Hua Yin walked to Yan Mu's side and asked, "Who is he to you?"

"It's my first time meeting him," Yan Mu answered truthfully.

"Do you think I'll believe that?"

"It's the truth. It's my first time meeting him today."

"It's best for you to be honest. I've disbanded the Seven Stars Sword Sect. You should know what this means," Hua Yin said.

Yan Mu panicked. "I swear to the heavens that I'm telling the truth!"

Hua Yin looked at the sky and murmured, "To be able to compete with a Saint, his cultivation base has to be very high."

"I-I didn't expect this either."

"With such an expert by your side, how could you have lost to a piece of trash like the Seven Stars Sword Sect? Hua Yin said as he shook his head.

"..." Yan Mu felt too embarrassed to say anything.

...

At the same time.

Lu Zhou followed Chen Fu and appeared in a desolate area.

Chen Fu came to a halt and pointed downward, "This is the runic passage that leads to the Unknown Land."

Lu Zhou followed Chen Fu and landed in the runic passage. Then, he asked, "What are you going to do?"

"You'll find out soon enough," Chen Fu said.

Chen Fu activated the runic passage, and it lit up.

In just a blink of an eye, the duo vanished.

...

15 minutes later.

The duo arrived at the dark Unknown Land.

The Primal Qi in the Unknown Land was still chaotic. The fog in the sky roiled as though it was alive. The carcasses of fierce beasts littered the ground.

Chen Fu did not walk out of the runic passage immediately. Instead, he closed his eyes and inhaled deeply, inhaling the familiar scent of the Unknown Land. It was as though he had returned home. He opened his eyes, looking satisfied, and surveyed his surroundings. Then, he sighed heavily and muttered to himself, "Everything has changed."

As Chen Fu walked out of the runic passage, five orbs of light flew over from all directions. He waved his hand, keeping them.

Lu Zhou found it strange so he asked, "What are they?"

"Collective Teleportation Jade Talismans."

Chen Fu grabbed Lu Zhou's left arm with his right and said, "Let's go."

With that, he crushed one of the jade talismans.

Lu Zhou felt the space distort immediately like when he was in the runic passage. However, there was something different about it as well.

When everything returned to normal, Lu Zhou found they were hovering in the air. He saw a huge pillar that towered into the clouds. It was barely visible through the fog.

Over 1,000 fierce beasts stampeded across the land, fighting with each other for territories.

“This place used to be called Chifenruo; it’s now known as Ji Ming. The Pillar of Destruction at Chifenruo supports this part of the world. Do you see it?” Chen Fu asked in a low voice.

Lu Zhou was immersed in the grandeur of the Pillar of Destruction at this moment.

Chen Fu crushed another jade talisman.

Like before, the space distorted as a burst of light enveloped the duo.

This time, the duo appeared on a mountain peak that was shrouded in mist. When they looked down the mountain, they saw rivers and forests.

Just like before, Lu Zhou also saw another Pillar of Destruction that towered into the clouds.

There were fewer fierce beasts in this place compared to the one before.

“This place was called Shetige; it’s now called Ping Dan. The Pillar of Destruction here supports the current generation. What do you think?” Chen Fu asked.

Lu Zhou nodded. Looking at the endless mist, towering mountains, and rivers, he could not help but sigh at how tiny humans were.

Chen Fu crushed a jade talisman again.

As soon as they appeared in the sky, Chen Fu said, “This is Po Xiao; it used to be called Shanyan. The Pillar of Destruction here supports this part of the world.”

Lu Zhou asked, “You’re trying to tell me that the Pillars of Destruction support the world?”

“They’re the origin of everything,” Chen Fu said.

“...”

Chen Fu crushed another jade talisman again, bringing them to their next destination.

This time, Lu Zhou found himself at a silent barren land. The trees were withered, and the vitality energy was thin. It was stifling and uncomfortable.

“This place was called Zhixu; it’s now called Shi Shi,” Chen Fu said.

“Why don’t people continue using the ancient names?” Lu Zhou asked.

Chen Fu replied, “Because they were the names of the Great Void.”

“...”

“Before the land split, the locations of the ten Pillars of Apocalypse were the Great Void.”

Lu Zhou was surprised by this answer.

Chen Fu did not wait and brought Lu Zhou to their next destination.

Lu Zhou was familiar with this place. He saw the Forest of Horror where Lord Zhennan used to stay. He took the lead to say, “This place used to be known as the Great Desolate Land, and now, it’s known as Yu Zhong.”

Chen Fu asked curiously, “You’ve been here before?”

Lu Zhou nodded.

Chen Fu said, “I’ve used up all five jade talismans. Do you still... want to see the remaining five Pillars of Apocalypse?”

Chen Fu did not think it was going to be very comfortable flying around.

Fortunately, Lu Zhou shook his head and said, “No need.”

“The ancient names of the locations of the remaining five pillars are Dunzhang, Xieqia. Huantan, Zuo’e, and the heart of the Unknown Land is called Great Yuanxian. Great Yuanxian is incredibly vast, and even I won’t rashly go there,” Chen Fu said.

Lu Zhou asked, “Since these places used to be the Great Void, then where’s the Great Void now?”

Chen Fu hesitated. After a few seconds of silence, he said, “Look up.”

“...”

Powerful fierce beasts with wings that spanned tens of thousands of feet were faintly discernible through the thick fog.

Human cultivators often said that it was relatively safe below the fog in the Unknown Land. It was the most dangerous behind the fog.. As it turned out, it was not because the fierce beasts were hidden behind the fog, it was because the Great Void was hiding behind the fog.

Chapter 1404: Heaven and Earth

This was not the first time Lu Zhou came to the Unknown Land. He had a basic understanding of this place. The environment was harsh, the energy here was chaotic, there were many fierce beasts, and there were also the deformed tribes. The living conditions here were poor for humans, but fierce beasts thrived in this place. There was no sunlight all year round, and it was cold. Ordinary people could not survive here while cultivators walked on thin ice here.

All this time, Lu Zhou believed the Great Void was somewhere in the core of the Unknown Land, hidden by an ancient formation. He did not expect that the Great Void was in the sky, hiding in plain sight.

Lu Zhou sighed. “It’s really in the sky.”

Chen Fu said, "That's why I brought you to see the Pillars of Apocalypse. The pillars aren't supporting the land, it's actually supporting the Great Void."

Chen Fu's words were truly shocking.

The first time Lu Zhou entered the Pillar of Apocalypse, he had wondered if there was a top, and if there was, where did it lead to? The answer was clear now.

Due to the imbalance, the fog was even thicker than normal.

Lu Zhou asked, "Did the people from the Great Void come looking for you?"

Chen Fu placed his hands on his back and nodded before he said, "An envoy from the Great Void once wanted to bring me to the Great Void. However, what would happen to Great Han if I'd left? Great Han's peace did not come easily. If I'd left, chaos would descend and rivers of blood would flow."

Lu Zhou said, "You shouldn't think too highly of yourself. There's nothing in this world that you can't let go of. If you'd left, the situation in Great Han would indeed change. However, peace would eventually come in a different form. You just don't want any change."

This was also the conclusion Lu Zhou came to after using the power of infinite deduction.

Chen Fu did not refute Lu Zhou's words; he did not have the energy to do so. Moreover, Lu Zhou was right. He did not like change. It was not like he had never reflected on himself.

Lu Zhou continued to say, "Moreover, you still have your ten great disciples."

Chen Fu chuckled and asked, "I remember you said you have disciples as well. Can you guarantee their absolute loyalty?"

Chen Fu returned the same question to Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou was rather relaxed when he heard this question. After all, he had experienced his disciples' betrayal before. He replied, "No."

"You're very frank. I agree with you," Chen Fu said, "They're just afraid of my strength."

These words reminded Lu Zhou of Ji Tiandao when he had just transmigrated. It seemed to be the same case as Chen Fu.

From a certain perspective, force and fear could indeed control people but going too far would render it effective. The backlash would begin once force and fear disappeared.

Compared to Ji Tiandao, Chen Fu was luckier. He had always stood at the top so no one could shake him. However, now, he faced the same problem as Ji Tiandao once did; their impending deaths.

History often repeated itself.

Lu Zhou looked at Chen Fu and asked, "What do you plan to do?"

What would come, would come eventually.

Chen Fu laughed before he calmly said, "Maybe you're right. It's time for a change."

Lu Zhou nodded. In fact, from the moment he met Chen Fu, he could not determine if Chen Fu was a friend or foe. The human heart was unpredictable, after all.

With Chen Fu's status as a Saint, Lu Zhou might not have been able to see Chen Fu or even fight Chen Fu. On top of that, there were so many obstacles along the journey. Fortunately, everything turned out relatively well in the end.

From the looks of it, Chen Fu was not as cold and unapproachable as he had imagined.

Everyone had a bad trait. They did not like what was freely given but preferred something that took effort to obtain. It was somewhat like chasing women. The nice guy often did not get the woman they wanted while the scumbag would have no shortage of women.

Lu Zhou sighed and said, "Just like yours, my ten great disciples are all outstanding. At that time, they submitted to me due to my strength and waited until I was nearing the end of life. Some of them even coveted my weapons, cultivation methods, and treasures. At that time, the entire cultivation world joined forces to suppress me."

These words were spoken very casually, but Chen Fu could empathize. Only a master could understand how tragic it was for disciples he had taught to betray him. Whether it was the righteous path or not, killing one's master was truly a chilling deed.

Chen Fu asked curiously, "What happened after that?"

"I was lucky enough to break through the Eight Methods Connected stage and became the first person to sprout the ninth leaf in Great Yan. I was also the first to sprout the tenth leaf, enter the Thousand Realms Whirling stage, and become a Great Venerable Master," Lu Zhou replied.

"So you did you severely punish the disciples who betrayed you?" Chen Fu did not care about Lu Zhou's glorious past.

Lu Zhou shook his head and slowly said, "Masters should impart knowledge and resolve confusions. A master for a day is a father for life. Even a tiger wouldn't devour its cubs, let alone humans. Ever since that incident, I've often reflected on why such a thing happened."

"Why?"

"It's true that using force can make people submit, but it can't win people's hearts," Lu Zhou said in a faint voice.

Chen Fu remained silent as he looked at the roiling fog. After a while, he asked, "How's your relationship with them now?"

"You'll have to ask them," Lu Zhou replied.

Chen Fu did not expect this answer. He could tell Lu Zhou cared about his disciples. Whether it was looking for the Resurrection Scroll, words, or actions, it all spoke of Lu Zhou's care. Moreover, Lu Zhou did not blame his disciple when recounting the past. Instead, Lu Zhou reflected on himself.

There were no disciples who could not be taught, only masters who gave up on their disciples.

Chen Fu sighed. It was unfortunate there was not much time left. He dismissed the distracting thoughts in his head and said, "If possible, bring them to Autumn Dew Mountain so they can discuss the Dao with my disciples."

Lu Zhou: "?"

"It's good to let them see the world so they can learn to make up for their shortcomings. Moreover, I'm also curious about the disciples you taught," Chen Fu said.

"..."

Lu Zhou replied, "Wait until I find the Resurrection Scroll."

Chen Fu nodded. "Alright."

Lu Zhou pointed at the fog and asked, "You said the Great Void is in the sky, right?"

Chen Fu nodded again.

Lu Zhou solemnly said, "Then I'll personally ascend to the heavens to take a look!"

As soon as Lu Zhou's voice fell, he did something that shocked Chen Fu. He flew up into the fog like a released arrow.

Chen Fu cried out, "Stop!"

Lu Zhou ignored him and flew past the fog.

The black fog blurred his vision, preventing him from having a good look at his surroundings. He chanted the mantra for the power of sight and the power of smell as he continued traveling through the fog. He turned around to look. It was as though he had fallen into an endless black sea. Even with the power of sight, his vision was only a little clearer.

Lu Zhou kept casting his grand technique as he moved.

He suddenly recalled the White Tower Council's Ning Wanqing. In such an environment, what was the use of sight? Sometimes, other senses could be more useful than eyes. With that, he cut off the power of sight and continued flying.

Lu Zhou did not know how long or how high he had flown. He only gradually slowed down when he sensed the vitality energy was getting thinner. At this moment, he could not help but doubt Chen Fu's words. How high up the fog was the Great Void hiding exactly? Was it higher than the heavens?

Swoosh!

All of a sudden, Lu Zhou heard a sudden gust of wind.. Following that, he saw a pair of flapping black wings before he saw a huge black creature that seemed as huge as the sky let out a low cry.

Chapter 1405: The Balance Between Heaven and Earth

'What the hell is this?' This was Lu Zhou's first thought.

Since the fog was black, it was quite difficult to distinguish the wings from the fog.

Just as the wings were about to hit Lu Zhou, a loud swish rang in the air as they expanded another 100 feet. The feathers on the wings glowed with a silver light.

With just a thought, Lu Zhou brought out Unnamed in the form of a shield and held it up in front of him.

Bang!

A golden energy rippled out in the black fog immediately.

Lu Zhou used his power as a Great Venerable Master to freeze the pair of black wings. Then, he seized the chance and soared higher into the sky. As he flew higher and higher, the vitality energy vanished, and even the air was incredibly thin. A huge pressure assaulted him from all directions as though he had plunged into the bottom of the sea.

Fortunately, Venerable Masters did not need to breathe. Their strength was also enough to withstand the pressure.

Lu Zhou continued to fly recklessly up the sky like a shooting star, leaving a trail of golden energy in his wake. It was unfortunate that due to the black fog no one was able to see such a dazzling scene.

Whoosh!

At this moment, wings that were like sharp blades sliced horizontally at Lu Zhou from a strange angle.

Lu Zhou's speed was incredibly fast. He wanted to use the power of the Dao to quickly leave, but the the lack of vitality energy and the thin air affected him slightly, causing his reaction speed to decrease as well.

"Unnamed!"

Buzz!

Unnamed shield Lu Zhou in just an instant.

Bang!

Lu Zhou was pushed back.

'So strong!' With this strike, Lu Zhou gained a new understanding of the strength of the fierce beasts in the fog. Based on his battle with the Fire Phoenix, he could tell this fierce beast was even stronger than the Fire Phoenix.

The fact that he was sent flying back along with Unnamed had exceeded his expectations. It was a little too much. Just as he was thinking about how to escape, he heard another swish from his back.

Another wing slashed over.

Lu Zhou did not rely on his sight. He now purely relied on his other senses. He flashed immediately. However, due to the pressure, his speed had decreased a little.

The fierce beast was clearly quite intelligent. It seemed to have already anticipated this move from Lu Zhou. It moved its wings quickly and slashed upward instead.

Bang!

Lu Zhou quickly activated his protective energy. Alas, his protective energy only lasted a few seconds before it shattered like glass before a huge force struck his back.

Lu Zhou grunted softly as his blood and qi surged. He felt a piercing pain coming from his Dantian's sea of Qi as well.

At this time, the advantage of passing the third Birth Trial came into play. Due to the strong and stable foundation of his Dantian's sea of Qi, despite the pain, he was able to quickly mobilize his Primal Qi, turn around, and launch a few palm seals.

The palm seals shone like stars in the night sky and contained the force of a violent storm. They landed accurately on the wings, but they did not damage the wings at all.

"Very well! Let's see what a pair of wings can do to me!" Lu Zhou grew angry. A Deadly Strike Card appeared in his hand, and he shattered it decisively.

A small vortex appeared in his palm before a palm seal appeared, expanding by 1,000 times and 10,000 times. Golden light shone dazzlingly as it shot toward the wings with the might of heaven and earth.

Boom!

The palm seal cast its golden light on the black wings when it struck, dispersing the black fog.

Subsequently, a sharp cry rang from below the black wings. The cry resounded through the sky. It sounded as though the entire Unknown Land would be able to hear the sorrowful cry.

All the nearby fierce beasts on land fled in a panic while the flying beasts hurriedly lowered their altitude.

The ripples from the soundwave swept down to the ground, causing the towering trees to tremble.

'The Deadly Strike Card is quite effective.'

Lu Zhou was certain the fierce beast was a divine beast with more than one life heart.

The divine beast flew away in pain, disappearing into the fog.

Once again, the black fog rolled in.

Lu Zhou looked at the sky. The pressure was getting stronger.

Just as Lu Zhou was deciding if he should turn back, a figure flashed next to Lu Zhou.

"Let's go!"

It was Chen Fu. He grabbed Lu Zhou's wrist, and with powers that surpassed Lu Zhou's understanding, he tore through space, stepped into a vortex, and drove away the darkness.

Swoosh!

In just an instant, they arrived on a nearby mountain.

Chen Fu's eyes were slightly widened as he let out a long sigh and said, "That was a Nine-clawed Black Dragon."

Chen Fu shook his head as he watched the silhouette of an immense figure retreating into the distance.

Now that Lu Zhou was no longer so high up in the sky, the pressure was gone. His vitality energy had also been restored. It was much easier to breathe as well. He had thought the living conditions in the Unknown Land were harsh, but compared to the conditions in the black fog, the Unknown Land was like a paradise.

"Nine-clawed Black Dragon?"

"It's a powerful fierce beast raised by the Great Void. It's incredibly powerful. It's from ancient times. Legend has it that it was originally a worm. It grew wings and transformed into a black dragon."

"Dragon?" Lu Zhou recalled the dragon he knew from earth. What he had seen and the picture in his mind was completely different. It seemed like calling that thing he had seen a black dragon was only to make it sound more presentable.

"The black dragon is very powerful. Its duty is to keep humans and fierce beasts below the fog from approaching the Great Void. You were in great danger earlier," Chen Fu said.

"How many hearts does it have?" Lu Zhou asked.

"About six," Chen Fu replied.

With six hearts, it meant that it should have quite a lot of life hearts as well.

Lu Zhou said regretfully, thinking about the life hearts, "It's indeed very powerful."

Chen Fu said, "You're too reckless."

Lu Zhou knew his actions were a little rash. However, his actions were based on the fact that he had a million merit points and four Deadly Strike Cards. His mind was still filled with thoughts about the black dragon as he muttered to himself, "Perhaps, I should've killed it earlier."

"What?"

"Nothing," Lu Zhou said. If he had repeated his words at this moment, it would sound like he was bragging.

Chen Fu looked at Lu Zhou and asked, "If I'm not mistaken, you hid your cultivation, right?"

"???"

"When we were at Autumn Dew Mountain, I sensed your cultivation. There are some things that can't be hidden," Chen Fu said.

'This...' Lu Zhou did not know how to explain himself. In the end, he only removed the effect of the Disguise Card, revealing his true appearance.

Chen Fu was not surprised. He grew even more certain of his suspicion. He let out a long sigh before he said, "It's been a long time since a decent cultivator has appeared. All these years, all the talented cultivators were taken away by the Great Void."

"Why would the Great Void do that?"

"To maintain the so-called balance... In the vast universe, the wise Saints have spoken about many laws such as the law of conservation, the law of the jungle, the law of space, the law of time, and the laughable law of balance," Chen Fu said.

"The law of balance?" Lu Zhou was puzzled.

"The Great Void follows the principle of fairness and balance. They can't tolerate even the slightest tilt from the scales. If it tilts slightly, they'll send someone to eliminate the cause of the imbalance. If it tilts heavily, they would watch as humans and fierce beasts fight each other, cleansing the world to regain the balance," Chen Fu said.

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "What a joke."

Chen Fu said, "That's not all. The Great Void prides itself on being superior to others. In order to maintain balance, it treats all lives from the nine domains like grass. Now that imbalance has worsened, they might seize the opportunity to set fire to everything."

Lu Zhou furrowed his brows as he asked, perplexed, "Then, why didn't they come after you?"

After all, Chen Fu was a Great Saint.. Logically, the Great Void should view him as the biggest variable.

Chapter 1406: Repent and You Shall Be Saved!

Chen Fu scoffed. "As I said, the Great Void thinks it's superior to everyone. This alone makes it very hard for me to accept them. Back then, in order to become a Saint, I traveled all over the nine domains and discovered a very interesting thing..."

"What is it?"

"They're not afraid of the imbalance, but they're afraid of the domains' destruction," Chen Fu said.

"The imbalance can go away, but there are no domains, there'll be no balance," Lu Zhou said.

Chen Fu nodded as he continued to say, "That's right. That's why after I quelled the disturbance in the twin lotus domain and brought peace to it, I forced them to leave me alone by severing the boundary."

"Severing the boundary?"

"The nine domains are connected to the Unknown Land. The places where they're connected are the boundaries. In the end, they came to an agreement with me. I can stay, but I can't leave."

"But you just left," Lu Zhou said.

"The imbalance is bad so the Scales of Justice should be ridiculously tilted now. Don't worry," Chen Fu said.

“Then you can go out and relax during this time,” Lu Zhou said.

“There’s no need for that.” Chen Fu shook his head.

Lu Zhou asked, “I’m very curious. There should be many Free Men, Venerable Masters, and Saints in the past. Why didn’t they leave any clues about the World Beyond the Heavens?”

Chen Fu laughed before he said, “Of course, they did! However, does anyone believe it? However, it’ll bring about huge uncertainty so it’s best to let people discover for themselves.”

This kind of topic was just like how the benevolent saw benevolence and the wise saw wisdom.

Lu Zhou recalled Chen Fu’s earlier words and asked, “So the connected place is the narrowest?”

Chen Fu said, “When you have the time, go to the Endless Ocean.

Lu Zhou thought of a question and asked, “I’m very curious. The free people and the saints are everywhere. Why didn’t they leave some clues for the closed world and tell them the secret of Beyond Avalon?”

Chen Fu laughed and said, “Of course there is... but does anyone believe it? Furthermore, this will bring about a huge uncertainty. It’s better for them to figure it out themselves.”

This kind of topic was about how the benevolent see the benevolent and the wise see the wise.

Lu Zhou recalled Chen Fu’s words and asked, “So everything is connected?”

Chen Fu said, “If you have the time, go to the Endless Sea when the fog is gone. If you look at the nine domains from afar, you’ll discover something new.”

“Does this mean not even one domain can be missing? Otherwise, the balance will be forever lost?” Lu Zhou speculated out loud.

Chen Fu nodded and did not say anything else. He only let out a long sigh, lamenting the passing of time and an old life.

Lu Zhou had lost the desire to explore the Pillars of Apocalypse for now, and the fierce beast in the fog was not something he could deal with now. When he had enough Deadly Strike Cards, perhaps, he would try again in the future.

With that, the duo returned to the runic passage they came from.

After stepping into the runic passage, Chen Fu suddenly said, “I showed you those things because I admire your ability and potential.”

“You flatter me.”

“Even now, you still want to hide your cultivation?” Chen Fu looked at Lu Zhou with a knowing smile.

Lu Zhou: “?”

‘Is my cultivation base as a Great Venerable Master not good enough?’

Since Lu Zhou did not know how to explain himself, he remained silent.

Chen Fu waved his hand and said, "Forget it. I understand."

'What do you understand?'

Before Lu Zhou could explain, the runic passage lit up, and they returned to Great Han.

...

Autumn Dew Mountain.

Yan Mu and Hua Yin were still stuck on the same topic.

"That senior's cultivation base should be extremely high. Even my master is polite to him. I've never seen my master like this," Hua Yin said.

Yan Mu asked, still confused, "Mr. First, s-so the Saint wasn't angry at all?"

Hua Yin said, "No wonder your Sunset Sect was bullied! A mere Seven Stars Sword Sect dared to ride on your head and behave atrociously! If it weren't for that senior, you wouldn't even be able to speak to me!"

Yan Mu was taken aback. After being reprimanded by Hua Yin, he thought that Hua Yin was right. He thought about his time with Lu Zhou. Although their time together was short, Lu Zhou had indeed helped him tremendously. If even a Saint was polite to Lu Zhou, what right did someone like him, who had received Lu Zhou's help, have to look down on others?

At this time, two figures appeared outside of Autumn Dew Mountain Pavilion.

Hua Yin, who had already sensed the duo's presence, bowed immediately. "Greetings, master, senior."

Yan Mu kneeled and kowtowed. "Greetings, Saint Chen. G-greetings, senior."

Chen Fu ignored Yan Mu. He seemed to be even more polite than before as he said, "Please."

Lu Zhou walked into the pavilion.

Yan Mu: "?"

Yan Mu stole a glance at Lu Zhou and wondered inwardly, 'Is this Senior Lu's true appearance?'

After sitting down, Lu Zhou took two sips of tea. He rested for a moment before he rose to his feet and said, "Thank you for everything today. I never thank people easily. You're the first."

Chen Fu said, "There's no need to mention these things. I, Chen Fu, welcome you here at any time."

"See you again."

"See you again."

With that, Lu Zhou flashed and vanished from sight.

Chen Fu did not leave the pavilion. He raised his head and looked at the sky as he muttered to himself, "The new constantly replace the old; each new generation excels the previous. He holds special powers. I hope I'll be able to see the return of the Great Void to the world in my lifetime."

Hua Yin and Yan Mu: “???”

Chen Fu turned to Yan Mu and asked, “Who are you to him?”

“T-t-this...”

Hua Yin, who had understood everything long ago, interjected, “They’re just strangers meeting for the first time.”

“Strangers meeting for the first time?” Chen Fu revealed a disappointed expression.

This... this, this...”

“They’re just strangers meeting for the first time.” Hua Yin understood everything since long ago.

“First time meeting?” Chen Fu revealed a regretful expression. “I had wanted to let you into the mountain. Forget it. Hua Yin, see the guest out.”

Yan Mu: Ah?

Hua Yin looked at Yan Mu as he said to Chen Fu, “I’ll see him off the mountain then, master.”

...

When the duo arrived outside the mountain, Yan Mu wanted to say a few more words to Hua Yin. However, Hua Yin just turned back and walked into the barrier without another look or another word to him.

Yan Mu waved his hand and swallowed the words he was about to say. He turned around and sighed in frustration. “What should I do if I’d offended the Saint earlier? I have to look for Senior Lu!”

Yan Mu looked around and hurriedly made his way west when no one noticed him.

...

Lu Zhou flew west at a neither fast nor slow speed. Since he was rather sure he already had the Resurrection Scroll, he was no longer in a hurry.

As he flew, he recalled the scroll he obtained from the black lotus domain’s Nine Twists Illusory Formation.

Swoosh!

With a thought, he brought it out.

With just a glance, there did not seem to be anything special about it.

“Is the Resurrection Scroll hidden in the Scripture of Sermons?” Lu Zhou wondered out loud as he hovered among the clouds.

After thinking about it for a moment, he gathered his Primal Qi and sent a strand of his consciousness into the scroll.

“What Dao? What’s the Dao? It’s all nonsense!”

“...”

It was that familiar voice again.

Lu Zhou moved his consciousness within the scroll. It was as though he had entered a new world.

The darkness resembled the time before dawn broke, and the power of the heavens faintly permeated the starry sky.

“The hegemon of a region can control the entire world.”

Lu Zhou heard the familiar voice again.

“A mystical power, a painting, a plant, a tree, a flower, a world.”

“Life is death; death is life.”

Lu Zhou: “...”

The world within the scroll distorted, and a terrifying pulling force tugged at Lu Zhou’s consciousness. Then, Lu Zhou heard an angry shout.

“Repent, and you shall be saved!”

Another voice sounded. “What is the Dao? What is demonic? Repent? Bullsh*t!”

Swoosh!

When Lu Zhou felt the pulling force growing stronger, he withdrew his consciousness. The process of withdrawing his consciousness caused a disruption in his Primal Qi, and in turn, caused him to drop from the sky. After falling for about 1,000 feet, he finally managed to stabilize himself.

“What a powerful force,” Lu Zhou muttered as he looked at the scroll in his hand, “Could this be the secret technique Lu Tiantong wanted to impart to the world?”

However, Lu Zhou quickly shook his head, discarding this idea. After all, it was not just Lu Tiantong’s voice that he had heard. It was too early to come to a conclusion.

Lu Tiantong was a legend after dominating the black lotus domain 30,000 years ago. However, he eventually disappeared.

Although the energy from the Scripture of Sermons had been absorbed by the Heavenly Writing, the remnant energy was still rather extraordinary.

Lu Zhou shook his head. Similar to before, he had too many unanswered questions.

“Forget it. Let’s return for now.” Lu Zhou put away the Sermon of Scriptures. He would ponder on these matters later. After all, Si Wuya was now in a critical condition.

Just as Lu Zhou was about to leave, countless cultivators appeared in the south and north. Then, a voice rang in the air.

“Please stay.”

Chapter 1407: Unfilial Disciples

Lu Zhou ignored the newcomers.

‘Just because you ask me to stay, I have to stay?’

Lu Zhou flashed and appeared thousands of feet away. When he glanced back, he saw two figures, one from the south and one from the north, following him. They seemed to be Venerable Masters.

Lu Zhou waited for a moment. When they drew closer, he saw they were dressed in green robes.

The middle-aged cultivator in the southern sky cupped his fists at Lu Zhou and said, “Greetings, Senior Lu.”

Then, a comparatively younger cultivator flew from the north and cupped his fists at Lu Zhou as well. “Greetings, Senior Lu.”

Lu Zhou was curious. How did they know his surname was Lu? He asked, “Do you know me?”

“I’m Liang Yufeng, Saint Chen’s second disciple.”

“I’m Yun Tongxiao, Saint Chen’s fourth disciple.”

Lu Zhou finally understood. Chen Fu’s servants must have informed them about his visit.

Liang Yufeng hurriedly said, “I don’t mean to stop you, Senior Lu. I really want to express my filial piety to my master but my master is always in seclusion...”

Lu Zhou frowned. “If you want to express your filial piety to your master, then you should look for him. Why did you come looking for me?”

Liang Yufeng said with a helpless expression, “My master is stubborn and unwilling to see us. Old senior, how’s my master’s health?”

Lu Zhou’s heart skipped a beat. Was it just as simple as asking after Chen Fu’s health? If it were anyone else, they might not understand the implication behind these words, but he knew Chen Fu was nearing the end of his life. In the end, he said, “Didn’t you understand what I said?”

“Huh?”

“You should look for your master. Goodbye.”

As the saying went, ‘A person’s heart could be seen on his face’.

The duo did not seem like good disciples. In comparison, Lu Zhou preferred disciples like his eighth disciple. Although Zhu Honggong looked like a layabout, he had a good heart and treated his fellow disciples well. Zhu Honggong’s character surpassed his cultivation.

At this time, the countless cultivators in the distance appeared behind Liang Yufeng and Yun Tongxiao from the north and the south. There were over 10,000 of them.

Liang Yufeng cupped his fists together again and said, "Senior, no matter what, I must ask you for a favor. If I had a choice, I wouldn't have come here."

Lu Zhou was slightly angered by Liang Yufeng's words. He thought of Chen Fu's wizened appearance and felt a pang of empathy. He said reproachfully, "Unfilial disciples, since your master is unwilling to see you, you must have done something wrong."

"This..."

Lu Zhou changed the topic and asked, "Are you both waiting for Chen Fu to die?"

"..."

Liang Yufeng and Yun Tongxiao's eyes widened in shock.

When Liang Yufeng's shock was replaced by anger, he said, "Senior, I respect you as my master's guest, but it doesn't mean you can speak rudely."

Yun Tongxiao said with a smile, "Guests are guests. However, according to Great Han's rules, outsiders should be beheaded. If it weren't for my master, you wouldn't be able to leave."

Lu Zhou shook his head and laughed. "No wonder Chen Fu suddenly changed."

The duo looked at each other, puzzled.

Lu Zhou said solemnly, "Very well. I'll teach you a lesson on behalf of your master."

Lu Zhou raised his hand that had been imbued with the divine power. Then, he launched a palm seal that was like a mountain toward Liang Yufeng.

"Flawed Perfection!"

Liang Yufeng was very confident. He raised his hand to retaliate. Alas, before he could launch a palm seal, Lu Zhou's palm seal tore through space and arrived in front of him in just a blink of an eye.

Bang!

Liang Yufeng was sent flying back.

Yun Tongxiao's widened in shock. Then, he flashed, leaving afterimages in his wake.

At this time, over 10,000 cultivators moved in unison. Their green robes began to flutter and glow.

Lu Zhou flashed up in the sky and pressed his palm down. He used his divine power and the Hourglass of Time at the same time.

"Freeze!"

A beam of light, imbued with the divine power, shot out in all directions from the hourglass, sweeping past over 10,000 cultivators.

Lu Zhou did not know how long the effect of the Hourglass of Time would last, but he could sense it was very powerful. He flashed forward at top speed, leaving afterimages in his wake until he became blurry and turned invisible.

In fewer than three seconds, Lu Zhou unleashed 10,000 palm seals in all directions.

When the effect from the Hourglass of Time faded...

Boom!

Over 10,000 cultivators, including Yun Tongxiao, were sent flying back in unison before they dropped from the sky. Those with weaker cultivation bases vomited blood. They were completely unable to withstand the attacks. Due to the Hourglass of Time, to them, the attacks had come out of nowhere.

...

At a low altitude about 1,000 meters away.

Yan Mu was dumbstruck when he saw this scene. He had passed his second Birth Trial, after all, so it was not a problem for him to see that far.

When he saw the lone figure, he exclaimed in surprise, "S-senior Lu?!"

Then, he exclaimed again, further shocked, "Liang Yufeng?! Yun Tongxiao?!"

Yan Mu recalled how Lu Zhou had completely disregarded Hua Yin, Chen Fu's first disciple, and how Lu Zhou perfectly avoided three moves from Chen Fu. Now, Liang Yufeng and Yun Tongxiao could not even withstand a single strike from Lu Zhou. Then, when he recalled Chen Fu's sudden change in attitude, realization finally dawned on him.

"I get it now! You really can't judge a book by its cover!"

Pa!

Yan Mu slapped himself as he cursed himself angrily, "Yan Mu! You're the Sect Master of Sunset Sect, after all! Why don't you have a discerning eye? How can you be so muddle-headed and foolish just because you met the Saint?! Such a big shot was next to you, and yet, you were ignorant of it! How stupid can you be!"

In Yan Mu's heart now, Lu Zhou's status had been elevated to the same level as Chen Fu.

...

Lu Zhou looked down at everyone from the sky.

Liang Yufeng and Yun Tongxiao looked up at the high and mighty Lu Zhou in shock. The duo quickly concluded that Lu Zhou was a Great Venerable Master with a sacred relic. With this combination, Lu Zhou was already comparable to a lesser Saint.

Lu Zhou said, "Chen Fu has lived for so long, do you really think he doesn't know what both of you are thinking?"

The duo looked ashamed.

Lu Zhou continued to say, "On account of Chen Fu, I'll spare your lives. I'll also give you a piece of advice."

Liang Yufeng and Yun Tongxiao were now more well-behaved. They cupped their fists together at Lu Zhou.

“S-senior, please speak.”

“Treat each other with sincerity,” Lu Zhou said. Then, he waved his hand.

With that, Whitzard flew over from the distant clouds to Lu Zhou’s side. It lowered its body for Lu Zhou to get on.

How could someone who tamed Whitzard be simple?

Liang Yufeng and Tong Yunxiao watched in shock as Lu Zhou left.

At the same time, Yan Mu, who had regained his senses, chased after Lu Zhou with all his might as he shouted, “Senior Lu! Wait for me!”

Alas, it was too late. Lu Zhou had already disappeared into the clouds.

Meanwhile, Liang Yufeng and Yun Tongxiao looked at each other and sighed heavily.

“Treat each other with sincerity?”

Chapter 1408: Reverence

“Am I not sincere enough?” Liang Yufeng was puzzled.

Yun Tongxiao said, “I’ve always been sincere to master that I would even dig my heart out for him.”

Liang Yufeng looked at Yun Tongxiao strangely and said, “Old Fourth, I’m afraid if you dig your heart out, you’ll find that it’s black.”

“Second Senior Brother, why do you make things difficult for me when we’re both on the same boat?”

The duo sighed and looked down at their fallen subordinates.

“Where did he come from? How is he so strong?” Liang Yufeng said as he rubbed his chest. Even now, the pain still lingered.

“It was not very obvious, but there was a faint blue in his golden energy. I think that should’ve come from his sacred relic. A Great Venerable Master is truly strong,” Yun Tongxiao said. Then, he sighed before continuing, “We’ve been isolated from the outside world for too long. Perhaps, we’ve long been left in the dust.”

“Master has an agreement with the Great Void so he can’t leave. However, the agreement doesn’t stop us from leaving. If this continues, it won’t be good. If we don’t go out, others will come in anyway. Today’s matter is a good example. We can’t wait until we’re invaded. At that time, we’ll only regret it,” Liang Yufeng said.

“Second Senior Brother is right. Moreover, if something happens to...”

Liang Yufeng shushed Yun Tongxiao immediately. His expression was solemn as he looked to the left and right and saw Yan Mu, the Sect Master of Sunset Sect, flying past. After a moment, he said, "Don't talk nonsense."

Yu Tongxiao nodded.

...

Yan Mu could not catch up to Lu Zhou so he could only turn around dejectedly.

At this moment, Liang Yufeng swooped down and asked, "Who are you?"

Yan Mu replied, "Greetings, Mr. Second. I'm Yan Mu, the Sect Master of Sunset Sect."

"Are you familiar with that old senior?"

Yan Mu really wanted to puff his chest out and said he knew Lu Zhou. However, when he recalled how Lu Zhou had sent Liang Yufeng and Yun Tongxiao flying with just a move earlier, he worried he would have to bear the brunt of his association with Lu Zhou. Hence, he said expressionlessly, "No, I'm not familiar with him."

"Then, why were you calling out to him and chasing after him if you aren't familiar with him? Get lost!" Liang Yufeng said in a deep voice.

Yan Mu: "?"

Seeing that Yan Mu was in a daze, Yun Tongxiao said, "You're still not leaving?"

Yan Mu wanted to cry but had no tears. He turned around and left.

Liang Yufeng sighed. "I didn't expect a big shot to appear in the outside world."

"I'm just afraid there's more than one," Yun Tongxiao said.

"..."

It had been a long time since the people of the twin lotus domain had ventured outside. Every force and cultivator in Great Han abided by the Saint's rules.

Liang Yufeng looked in the direction where Lu Zhou had left and said, "The runic passage is still there..."

"Second Senior Brother, please don't," Yun Tongxiao said.

"Well, I'm just saying," Liang Yufeng replied.

The duo sighed again.

When their subordinates finally gathered themselves and flew into the air, more than 10,000 people rushed toward Autumn Dew Mountain in a sorry state.

...

At the same time.

When Qin Naihe saw the runic passage lit up from afar, he rushed over immediately from a withered tree in the distance. As expected, he saw Lu Zhou and Whizard standing in the runic passage. He called out, "Pavilion Master!"

Lu Zhou nodded before he asked, "Has there been any abnormalities around here over the past few days?"

Qin Naihe shook his head. "Everything was normal." Then, he asked curiously, "Pavilion Master, did you manage to meet the Saint?"

Lu Zhou replied, "Chen Fu can be considered as someone who knows how to distinguish right from wrong. I found the Resurrection Scroll."

Qin Naihe was overjoyed upon hearing this. He hurriedly bowed and said, "Mr. Seventh is saved!"

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "It's too early to tell. We still need to figure out how to use the Resurrection Scroll."

Right now, Lu Zhou really did not know how to use the Resurrection Scroll to bring the dead to life. Moreover, Chen Fu also said that using the scroll would incur heaven's wrath. Since he did not know what heaven's wrath was like, he could not act rashly. This was a matter of life or death. It was best to exercise caution in this matter. It was truly more difficult to save someone than to kill someone.

Lu Zhou and Qin Naihe rested for a while in the green lotus domain's Lost Land before they made their way to the Qin clan's southern training hall.

...

In the evening.

Lu Zhou and Qin Naihe finally arrived outside the southern training hall.

Yuan Lang reported the duo's arrival to Qin Renyue, and Qin Renyue personally flew out to welcome Lu Zhou after receiving the good news.

Qin Renyue called out happily, "Brother Lu!"

"I'll be staying here for a night," Lu Zhou said.

"Brother Lu, there's no need to be so courteous. Let alone one night, you can stay here as often as you want."

"Thank you."

After entering the training hall, Lu Zhou chatted with Qin Renyue while Qin Naihe and the others stood respectfully at the side.

Qin Renyue asked, "Brother Lu, did you meet the Saint? Did the meeting go well?"

All of them were curious about the Saint.

Lu Zhou nodded slightly. "It went well. Chen Fu isn't as cold or arrogant as I'd imagined."

Qin Renyue revealed an expression of admiration as he said, "It's pity I can't see the Saint."

"You admire the Saint so much?" Lu Zhou asked.

Qin Renyue reacted quickly. He thought he detected a hint of jealousy so he hastily shook his head. He said, "No, no, no. It's nothing compared to my admiration for Brother Lu! Although he's a Saint, considering our brotherhood, how can he compare to Brother Lu?"

Lu Zhou: "..."

"You're overthinking things. If you want to meet him, I'll bring you to see him next time," Lu Zhou said.

Qin Renyue was pleasantly surprised. He blurted out, "Really?!"

Lu Zhou suspected Qin Renyue of being another die-hard fan of Chen Fu.

Qin Renyue realized he had lost his composure a little. After all, he was a Venerable Master. In the past, he was one of the four Venerable Masters of the green lotus domain, and now, he was one of the two Venerable Masters in the green lotus domain. His status was not bad, and he had many supporters. How could he lose his cool?

Lu Zhou looked at Qin Renyue with a scrutinizing gaze that seemed to say Qin Renyue was a die-hard fan who was beyond saving.

Qin Renyue felt even more embarrassed. He hurriedly said, "It's getting late. I won't disturb Brother Lu's rest so I'll take my leave first."

Since Qin Renyue was leaving, the others naturally left as well.

...

After leaving the southern training hall, Qin Renyue looked at the sky and muttered to himself, "So the Saint is still alive..."

Yuan Lang said in a low voice, "Venerable Master, Saints are said to be able to live for 100,000 years. Saint Chen Fu has been around for about 100,000 years, right? Does this mean he has had another breakthrough?"

"Well, we can't rule out this possibility. The Great Void has never acted against the twin lotus domain. It's possible they're wary of Saint Chen," Qin Renyue said with a sigh, "In any case, I feel like a great disaster is coming."

"Venerable Master, there's no need to worry. No matter what, all of us will be with the Qin clan until our deaths!" Yuan Lang said.

Qin Renyue nodded and said, "I hope I'm overthinking things. No matter what, we have to continue to build a good relationship with the Evil Sky Pavilion."

"Continue to build a good relationship?" Yuan Lang scratched his head. Did he not already build a good relationship with the Evil Sky Pavilion? He really did not know how to proceed further.

Qin Renyue said, "When necessary, the 49 Swordsmen should visit the Evil Sky Pavilion to help out."

“Understood,” Yuan Lang said, “Speaking of which, previously, Mr. Fourth wanted to recruit us, but I declined. The 49 Swordsmen can do everything to help the Evil Sky Pavilion, but we’ll never betray the Qin clan!”

Qin Renyue was slightly surprised. “That happened?”

“Yes.”

“If it happens again...”

Yuan Lang hastily interjected, clearly nervous, “Don’t worry, Venerable Master! There won’t be a next time!”

“I meant to say if it happens again, don’t forget about me,” Qin Renyue said before he flashed away.

Yuan Lang: “???”

...

Early the next morning.

Lu Zhou rode on Whizard as he and Qin Naihe flew to the runic passage that would bring them back.

Qin Renyue, the 49 Swordsmen, and the disciples came out to see them off.

This grand send-off puzzled Lu Zhou. As his gaze swept across everyone, he asked, “Qin Renyue, what’s going on?”

Qin Renyue replied. “The Qin clan’s disciples admire Brother Lu and want to have a longer look at Brother Lu. I hope Brother Lu doesn’t mind this.”

Lu Zhou nodded, not surprised by Chen Fu’s words. After all, he was much more spirited and imposing than Chen Fu. Moreover, the Evil Sky Pavilion was famous as well. It was normal for people to revere him.

“Alright, I’m leaving,” Lu Zhou said with a wave of his sleeve before he stepped into the runic passage.

Qin Renyue called out, “49 Swordsmen.”

“Your orders, Venerable Master?”

The 49 Swordsmen stepped forward in unison.

“Send Brother Lu off.”

“Understood!”

Then, the 49 Swordsmen stepped into the runic passage as well.

Lu Zhou: “?”

Qin Renyue nodded and said, “Fortunately, this runic passage is large.”

Yuan Lang stood at the lead and said with a straight face, “Don’t worry, Venerable Master! We will definitely escort Senior Lu back to the Evil Sky Pavilion safely!”

‘Escort? Safely?’

Lu Zhou felt it was a bit crowded and was about to say something when Yuan Lang activated the runic passage and said, “Pavilion Master Lu, please take care of us.”

“...”

Chapter 1409: Death

Lu Zhou and 49 Swordsmen returned to the golden lotus domain through the large runic passage.

The sky in the golden lotus domain was still dark. The weather was ever-changing, and fierce beasts were wreaking havoc everywhere. Corpses were strewn all over the ground as well. Some of the fierce beasts’ carcasses were mutilated after the humans harvested their life hearts.

Lu Zhou flew in the lead as they returned to the Evil Sky Pavilion.

...

It was close to noon when they arrived at the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Yuan Lang looked at the surroundings from the top of Golden Court Mountain and nodded as he said, filled with praise, “I didn’t expect the Evil Sky Pavilion to be so tranquil and elegant. It’s much better than what I’d imagined.”

Qin Naihe. “...”

With the imbalance, carcasses of fierce beasts were littered on the ground. There were fights breaking out everywhere. The weather was unpredictable and gloomy. Where was it tranquil and elegant?

Qin Naihe thought that Yuan Lang’s flattery skill was not up to par.

When everyone learned of Lu Zhou’s return, they gathered in front of the main hall.

“Welcome back, Pavilion Master!”

After greeting Lu Zhou, the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion looked at the 49 Swordsmen in confusion.

Qin Naihe took the lead to say, “This is Venerable Master Qin’s 49 Swordsmen. They’re all skilled swordsmen and have come to help the Pavilion Master.”

Everyone nodded.

Yuan Lang nudged Qin Naihe with his elbow and said, “I really envy you.”

Qin Naihe asked in a low voice, “Aren’t you afraid Venerable Master Qin will be angered by these words?”

“Venerable Master Qin has said that if the Evil Sky Pavilion tries to recruit me, I shouldn’t forget about him,” Yuan Lang replied.

Qin Naihe: “...”

In the past, Qin Naihe thought he had jumped into a pit, but it seemed like that was not the case. He was really lucky that he did not even do much but managed to stumble upon a golden opportunity.

Lu Zhou swept his gaze across everyone. Apart from Duanmu Sheng, Zhao Yue, Zhu Honggong, and the runemaster, Zhao Fu, everyone was present.

"Alright, you can get to know each other," Lu Zhou said. Then, he said to Ye Tianxin, "Bring me to Old Seventh."

Ye Tianxin bowed. "Yes."

After Lu Zhou and Ye Tianxin walked to the southern pavilion, Qin Naihe continued making the introductions. He said, "These are the four elders of the Evil Sky Pavilion..."

...

The southern pavilion.

Lu Zhou did not enter immediately. Instead, he looked at Ye Tianxin. He had asked him to lead him here because he discovered that her cultivation base had improved tremendously. He said, "Your cultivation base has improved greatly."

Ye Tianxin said happily, "Thank you for your praise, master! I still need to work harder."

"Cultivating in Lan Xihe's training hall in the white tower is beneficial to you. During your time in the White Tower Council, did Lan Xihe make any unusual movements?" Lu Zhou asked.

Due to the incident in Mount Halcyon, Lu Zhou had to be cautious.

Ye Tianxin was also very curious after hearing about what happened to Si Wuya. She said, "There are no strange movements from Tower Master Lan. However, I'm quite curious. Previously, the Halcyon Bird had helped us so why was it so ruthless toward Seventh Junior Brother?"

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "The human heart is hard to predict. This is also why I called you back."

"I understand."

Although Lan Xihe did not seem to have a bad relationship with them, no one knew if she harbored ulterior motives.

Ye Tianxin said, still curious, "I don't understand why Tower Master Lan would expose herself at this time if she harbors ulterior motives. She should know about Ling Guang, right? What reason does she have to kill Seventh Junior Brother?"

Lu Zhou remained silent. This was a question with no answer. In the end, he only said, "Only Lan Xihe has the answer to this question."

Ye Tianxin nodded respectfully.

Lu Zhou asked again, changing the topic, "How many Birth Charts do you have now?"

"I'm a little lucky. The White Tower Council has been providing me with an endless stream of life hearts. I now have eight Birth Charts."

Lu Zhou nodded and did not continue speaking. He walked into the pavilion.

...

Inside a room in the southern pavilion.

Si Wuya lay on the bed, motionless. There was no sign of life on his body.

"During the days when master was away, senior brothers and the others took turns to look after Seventh Junior Brother, but..." Ye Tianxin hesitated to finish her words.

"I know what you want to say," Lu Zhou said.

Let alone the people from the Evil Sky Pavilion, even Lu Zhou himself was not certain if the Resurrection Scroll could really save Si Wuya.

At thistime, Lu Zhou mobilized his divine power and pushed a lotus toward Si Wuya.

The vitality energy from the lotus swept toward Si Wuya.

At the same time, Lu Zhou checked Si Wuya's conditions as well. Although his heart was beating, his Eight Extraordinary Meridians were now blocked. Not only was there no life force, but the aura of death was growing stronger as well. With that, if one looked carefully, his complexion had already become slightly pallid.

Lu Zhou brought the Purple Glazed Ceramic out and left it next to Si Wuya. Since it held a freezing energy, perhaps, it would be of use.

Then, he sighed and left the room.

"Where's Jiang Aijian?" Lu Zhou asked.

"Island Master Huang and Miss Jinyi brought him back to Penglai. He has some energy in him so?Penglai is a suitable place for him to recuperate."

"He has some energy in him?" Lu Zhou was taken aback.

"It should be the blood energy that saved him," Ye Tianxin said, "I'm not sure either."

Lu Zhou nodded. Since Jiang Aijian was fine, he would let him be for now.

Ye Tianxin asked, "Master, can Seventh Junior Brother be saved?"

"I'm not sure," Lu Zhou answered truthfully.

"..."

"You may leave," Lu Zhou said.

"Yes." Ye Tianxin bowed and left.

With just a flash, Lu Zhou returned to the eastern pavilion.

Ye Tianxin did not immediately leave. Instead, she returned to the room and checked Si Wuya's pulse. No matter how many times she checked, his pulse only spoke of his impending death.

Ye Tianxin's expression was one of sorrow as she stepped backward. She sighed helplessly before saying in a soft voice, "Seventh Junior Brother, I hope you'll become an ordinary person in your next life."

After that, she suppressed the complicated emotions in her heart, gathered her messy thoughts, and left the southern pavilion.

...

At the eastern pavilion.

Lu Zhou brought out the Pillar of Impermanence and pressed it into the ground. He adjusted its range until its effects only covered the eastern pavilion.

"Without the Purple Glazed Ceramic, I can only rely on you."

There were two things he needed to do first. One was to figure out the secrets of the Resurrection Scroll, and the other one was to increase his strength quickly so he would be able to deal with the consequences of using the Resurrection Scroll.

In his opinion, the divine power was peerless. Perhaps, it would be able to help him deal with his problems.

Lu Zhou thought about it for a moment before he increased the circulation speed of the Pillar of Impermanence to 1,000 times faster. Although lifespan was important, now was not the time to save the years of his life.

He checked his lifespan.

Remaining lifespan: 1,0387,509(28,458 years)

He had enough lifespan to cultivate.

Subsequently, he brought out the Resurrection Scroll and unrolled it.

Then, he pressed his hand down and sent a strand of his consciousness out.

In just a blink of an eye, he found himself in a dark and oppressive place. He could not see anything at all.

"Where am I?" Lu Zhou looked around. Since he could not see anything, he used the ability of the Netherwolf King. With that, he saw surging seawater in all directions.

'I'm underwater?'

The seawater churned quickly. It seemed like his body was not under his control as he was swept away by the currents, drifting back and forth in the sea. Soon after, the current pulled him down. It was like when he jumped down to the abyss to the Black Water Mystic Cave. The endless darkness pressed down on him; it was truly oppressive.

"What is life? What is death? Is life light, and is death darkness?"

A deep voice echoed in his ears.

Lu Zhou wondered inwardly, 'Is it the Unholy One?'

The owner of the voice did not seem to hear Lu Zhou and continued to say, "Those who die while doing their best are righteous. Those who try to shackle the dead to earth won't have a good outcome."

"The innate spirit and wisdom are enduring."

Lu Zhou frowned and asked, "Are you talking to me?"

Alas, in the dark, there was only silence.

Chapter 1410: Merit Stone

"Show yourself!" Lu Zhou said as he raised his voice.

His voice echoed for a long time in the darkness, but there was no response.

'The seabed?' Lu Zhou was pretty certain he was supposed to be underwater. However, he was puzzled. Why was he here? He wondered if there was a teleportation rune in the scroll. However, he did not sense being teleported away at all.

Lu Zhou continued to observe his surroundings.

Splash!

A huge object cut across the water.

"Fierce beasts?" Lu Zhou sank slightly before he launch a palm seal.

There was no light from the palm seal, and it vanished in just a flash.

Realization dawned on Lu Zhou. 'I should've known it's just my consciousness entering the world in the scroll.'

He looked at the fierce beast's huge body; it was at least 10,000 feet long. When it moved, the seawater churned.

In order to test his theory, he remained unmoving in his position. After a while, a smaller fierce beast swam over. Then, it swam through Lu Zhou's body that was in an incorporeal form.

'As expected!'

Lu Zhou was still wondering about the secrets hidden in the scroll when the deep voice rang in his ears again.

"No one can live forever! No one can live forever!"

Following that, there was a burst of laughter.

The voice grew more and more distant until it vanished completely.

"No one can live forever?" Lu Zhou was reminded of the scroll Jiang Wenxu left behind. In the scroll, there was a sentence: no one can live forever.

‘No way! Is Jiang Wenxu the projection left behind by the Unholy One in the golden lotus domains?’

After a while, Lu Zhou shook his head, dismissing this theory. If that was really true, he would feel quite disgusted. He really had a terrible impression of Jiang Wenxu. Jiang Wenxu behaved like a tyrant in the golden lotus domain for many years, and he was the puppetmaster hidden behind the scene while he pulled the strings. If Jiang Wenxu was the projection of the Unholy One, did it not mean that the treasures he obtained like the Hourglass of Sand and the Brocade Box he obtained in the Emperor Emeritus’ mausoleum had to be thrown away?

However, Lu Zhou thought it was unlikely. Jiang Wenxu was a conservative and liked to stick to the old ways. The Unholy One was called the Unholy One and a demon because he had studied unorthodox subjects and created a new cultivation path.

Lu Zhou collected his thoughts before he allowed himself to sink deeper. Since this was just his consciousness, there was nothing to be afraid of. At this time, he saw faint golden light from the depths of the sea. After a while, he saw that it came from a square golden box.

Lu Zhou was excited that he found a spot of light in the endless darkness. He continued to sink. He did not know how long he had been sinking, but he saw huge sea beasts. They naturally could not hurt him.

Suddenly...

“Don’t touch it!” A voice rang from the darkness.

Lu Zhou spun around and launched a palm seal into the darkness. “Who is it?”

Fear was born from darkness. The bottom of the sea was dark, making Lu Zhou rather tense and on edge.

Lu Zhou inhaled deeply and looked at the square three-dimensional golden box below. Each side of the box had nine small squares. There was a glittering golden letter etched in each of the small squares.

A few of the letters spelled out a word that caught Lu Zhou’s attention.

“Merit stone?” Lu Zhou asked out loud, “What is this?”

Most importantly, what did it have to do with the shackles of heaven and earth or eternal life? He could not figure it out at all.

...

At the same time.

Little Yuan’er and Conch looked at each other in trepidation outside of the eastern pavilion.

“Is master okay?” Little Yuan’er muttered.

“I don’t know either,” Conch replied.

Little Yuan’er scratched her head. “Why does he keep saying things we don’t understand?”

At this time, a voice rang from the eastern pavilion.

“Show yourself, Unholy One!”

Little Yuan’er was momentarily speechless. Then, she said, “Look, isn’t this shocking? Master was never like this before!”

Conch spread her arms, indicating her helplessness.

In their hearts, their master had always been tall, mighty, and fearless. It was a bit out of character for him to shout like this.

After a while, Little Yuan’er said, “Let’s go. There’s nothing we can do about this.”

“Okay!” Conch agreed immediately.

With that, the duo rushed to the back of the mountain.

...

In the darkness.

At this time, Lu Zhou frowned when he discovered his strand of consciousness was slowly assimilating into the painting.

The world in the scroll was so real that whenever there was any movement, he would instinctively react.

This feeling was rather uncomfortable.

When he tried to get closer to the golden merit stone, he was blocked by an invisible force.

“Don’t go near it! Don’t go near it!”

Lu Zhou asked, “Why?”

“No one can live forever! No one can live forever! No one can live forever!”

“What I want is not eternal life. I only want to bring the dead back to life,” Lu Zhou said.

“No one can live forever!”

This was not the answer to the question he asked. It seemed like this voice was part of the remnant energy left in the scroll by the Unholy One.

Lu Zhou shook his head helplessly. ‘Is it possible that this isn’t the Resurrection Scroll?’

However, Chen Fu did not need to lie. Moreover, 30,000 years ago, Lu Tiantong was the only one who dominated the black lotus domain. What went wrong?

While Lu Zhou was still pondering on the matter, the merit stone burst forth with light, and a shadow shot toward the merit stone. Following that, the merit stone exploded with power, causing the sea to shake.

The shadow was sent flying back immediately.

“No!”

Then, the shadow vanished, and the merit stone returned to its original state.

“Are scenes left over from the past?” Lu Zhou frowned. Perhaps, it was like a memory crystal.

“Thousands of laws from the Dao can be used, starting with Venerable Masters.”

“Only supreme beings can reverse time, and only supreme beings can bring the dead back to life...”

Upon hearing this, Lu Zhou shook his head. “Only supreme beings can bring the dead back to life?”

Swoosh!

At this time, Lu Zhou’s consciousness was pulled back by force. The world was spinning, and the stars were shifting.

Then, Lu Zhou’s eyes suddenly snapped open after his strand of consciousness was pulled out of the scroll. He felt as though he had just woken up from a dream.

He looked at the Scripture of Sermons before him and found that there were no changes.

What did the remnant voices and images in the scroll mean?”

Thump! Thump! Thump!

Hurried footsteps and an urgent voice suddenly rang from outside.

“Master, this is bad!”

“Come in.”

Little Yuan’er pushed the door open and anxiously said, “Seventh Senior Brother is dead! Seventh Senior Brother is dead!”

Lu Zhou did not say anything. He rose to his feet immediately, and with just a flash, he arrived at the southern pavilion.

“Master!”

“Pavilion Master!”

Everyone made way for Lu Zhou immediately.

When Lu Zhou entered the room, his gaze landed on Si Wuya immediately. The aura of death had completely shrouded Si Wuya’s body, however, due to the Purple Glazed Ceramic, there was no rotten stench. However, Si Wuya’s skin color had changed drastically.

“Master, you were cultivating in seclusion for seven days. Seventh Junior Brother, he...” Ye Tianxin started.

Lu Zhou did not let her finish. “Seven days?”

Everyone fell silent.

Lu Zhou did not expect that seven days had passed. With the circulation speed that had been increased to 1,000 times faster, it meant that he had spent 7,000 days inside.

Such a huge thing happened in seven days. Life and death were at stake, and everyone was anxious. Which of the members of the Evil Sky Pavilion did not care about Si Wuya's life or death?

Lu Zhou said in a deep voice, "Everyone, get out!"

"Understood!"

Finally, only Lu Zhou was in the room. He looked at Si Wuya and sighed heavily.

There were times when there was no coming back from one's mistakes.

If what he had gleaned from the scroll was true, then... it seemed like he really had no way to resurrect Si Wuya.

The room was silent.

Noon silently turned to evening.

Lu Zhou stood in the room quietly. After an unknown amount of time had passed, he began to talk to himself.

"Only supreme beings can bring the dead to life. There's nothing I can do," he said in a gentle voice.

In this world, there was no one who could stop life, aging, illnesses, and death.

"You saved Jiang Aijian, but you lost yourself. Do you regret correcting your mistakes?"

"Forget it. I'll use the most primal method to seal you up."

"If there's a next life, I'll accept you as my disciple again."