

Disciples 1411

Chapter 1411: Killing the Nine-clawed Black Dragon in Anger

Lu Zhou raised his hand. He pushed his hand that was wrapped in Primal Qi out before he suddenly stopped. His hand trembled slightly. How could he not feel anything? A master for a day was a father for life, after all. What father could do this to his child?

Lu Zhou hesitated. He found it difficult to face his failure. His mind was in a mess at this moment as various thoughts appeared. He wondered if he did not transmigrate here, if he did not force his disciples back to the Evil Sky Pavilion, if he had stopped at the eighth leaf, would this have happened.

After a moment, he dismissed the messy thoughts and pushed his hand out again.

When the golden palm seal arrived above Si Wuya, it multiplied into several seals.

This was the sealing technique of the Celestial Masters Sect.

In the past, this palm seal was the most inconspicuous among the Taoists. Compared to the Body Binding seal, this seal was slow and more complex. Nascent Divinity Tribulation cultivators could use it to cultivate, and when they sprouted to their eighth leaf, they would be able to unleash great power.

Apart from that, it also had another function: it could seal a target and keep it in its original state.

Whether it was Taoists or Buddhists, they often used this kind of sealing technique to send the dead off.

Lu Zhou did not expect he would have to one day use this technique on his disciple.

He shook his head in self-mockery. His disciples were so capable; they were like cockroaches that could not be beaten; they would even think of ways to kill their master.

Reality was full of drama and surprises. How could it be smooth sailing on the path of cultivation? What kind of cultivation path was one without bloodshed?

At this moment, the golden seal landed one by one on Si Wuya's body. Then, they fused again and formed an even larger seal, covering him from head to toe.

A buzzing noise suddenly rose from Si Wuya's body.

Lu Zhou looked over and saw an orb of blue light rising from Si Wuya's Dantian's sea of Qi.

"Great Void Seed..."

This only confirmed Si Wuya's death again.

Lu Zhou recalled the time when he gave Si Wuya the Great Void Seed.

Si Wuya had asked, "Master, what's this?"

"It's a kind of medicinal pill. If I tell you to eat it, then you should eat it. Why are you asking so many questions?"

“Is it poisonous?”

“If I want to poison you, do I need to use such a despicable method? After eating the medicinal pill, you’ll be grounded at the back of the mountain for a month until your Dantian’s sea of Qi stabilizes. If you can’t do it, then you’ll never be let out.”

Did Ji Tiandao teach them well or was he too harsh?

The past was unbearable to recall.

Lu Zhou clenched his hand.

When the Great Void Seed was sealed as well, it was pushed back into Si Wuya’s Dantian’s sea of Qi. Then, there was no movement.

After a while, the seal rippled.

“The death aura is too strong?” Lu Zhou cleared his mind of distracting thoughts and launched another few palm seals.

This sealing technique could be perfectly executed by Eight-leaf cultivators, let alone a Great Venerable Master like him. He felt that something was amiss.

“Seal!”

Two huge seals that contained powerful Primal Qi appeared in front of him and blocked the death aura.

Lu Zhou was surprised by how strong the death aura was growing. In fact, it seemed unstoppable. He wondered if this had something to do with the Great Void Seed.

He used his divine power, forming a lotus.

Perhaps, he had spent too much time in the Resurrection Scroll, he was still not very clear-headed.

The scene in the room kept changing. There were fog, forests, mountains, rivers, the land, the Endless Ocean, and the scenes under the sea. There were bright lights, endless dark, and finally the merit stone.

Lu Zhou saw the letters on the merit stone floating up one by one. They were like golden fluttering butterflies, illuminating the darkness.

Lu Zhou held his breath and focused his mind before he circulated his Dantian’s sea of Qi. With that, his mind suddenly became clear.

When the scene changed back to the room, he just happened to see the golden letters entering Si Wuya’s body. With that, the death aura was instantly dispelled.

“What’s going on?”

The sealing had been completed.

Lu Zhou looked at his palms. There was nothing out of the ordinary. Everything was normal.

“This Scripture of Sermons is so strange. No wonder people call him the Unholy One.”

He always felt that there was a huge secret hidden in the Scripture of Sermons as well as incomprehensible powers.

When he sensed his body was a little stiff, he instinctively looked at his lifespan. He frowned slightly.

"I actually lost 1,000 years?"

Even with the circulation speed of the Pillar of Impermanence that had been increased by 1,000 times, staying for seven days within the pillar's range would only cost 7,000 days. Why did it become 1,000 years?

Whatever it was, Lu Zhou was not in the mood to think about it now. Whether it was the Scripture of Sermons, the merit stone, or the primal sealing method, none of them could bring Si Wuya back to life. What were 1,000 years compared to that?

Si Wuya's deathly pallor seemed to have diminished, and the death aura was gone.

Lu Zhou sighed. He shook his head, looking as though he had aged a lot. Then, he turned around and walked out of the room.

Everyone from the Evil Sky Pavilion was waiting in the southern pavilion.

"Master."

Lu Zhou's expression and gaze were the same as before. He looked at everyone for a long time before he said tonelessly, "Prepare a proper burial."

"..."

Yu Zhenghai seemed to be the most impacted. He staggered back, and his face turned pale as though he had lost half of his life.

The four elders lowered their heads.

The night wind blew over from the mountains, stirring up the withered leaves.

...

Three days later.

Everyone in the Evil Sky Pavilion was in low spirits.

The four elders and the guardians as they stood outside the southern pavilion.

Pan Zhong walked over from afar, shaking his head as he said, "Mr. First and Mr. Second didn't come out at all for three days. They were working on the coffin in the northern pavilion without saying a single word the entire time."

Pan Litian sighed. "Leave them alone for now. Don't disturb them at this time."

Zhou Jifeng asked, "What are we going to do next?"

"Mr. First said that Mr. Seventh had said that he wanted to return to the sea after his death. I think tomorrow..." Pan Zhong could not finish his words.

Zuo Yushu said with a sigh, "I've never seen my brother like this. He's been in the eastern pavilion and hasn't moved at all. It doesn't seem like he's cultivating."

"A master is like a father. How can he not feel anything? Even those two girls haven't come out for a few days now," Pan Litian said trying to ease the atmosphere, "Without them causing a ruckus, it feels like something is missing."

"It's better not to inform Mr. Third, Miss Fifth, and Mr. Eighth first so as not to affect their emotions."

Everyone nodded.

"Should we inform those from the Darknet?"

"Yes. They were sworn brothers, after all."

"Alright."

With this, the news was quickly sent to the Darknet in Yellow Peak Mountain.

...

The next day.

The eastern pavilion.

"Master, it's time," Ye Tianxin said in a low voice from outside the eastern pavilion.

"Go ahead first. I want to be alone," Lu Zhou said. His eyes were closed the entire time.

"Understood."

...

Everyone was gathered at the southern pavilion at this time. They looked at the black coffin carved with runes.

This was destined not to be a happy day.

"Raise the coffin."

"No need. All of you can stay," Yu Zhenghai said expressionlessly as he pressed his hand on the coffin.

Yu Shangrong turned around and flew into the distance, equally as expressionless as Yu Zhenghai.

The others stepped back one after another.

"Seventh Junior Brother likes silence. He should be happy with this..." Yu Zhenghai said as he swept his gaze over. Then, he gathered the qi in his hand before he forced a smile on his face and said, "Let's go."

Yu Zhenghai flew out of the Evil Sky Pavilion with the coffin.

Following that, Mingshi Yin, Ye Tianxin, Little Yuan'er, Conch, Pan Zhong, Zhou Jifeng, Leng Luo, Hua Wudao, Pan Litian, Zuo Yushu, Meng Changdong, Shen Xi, Li Xiaomo, Yan Zhenluo, Lu Li, Kong Wen and his brothers, Qin Naihe, the 49 Swordsmen from the Qin clan, and the female cultivators in the Evil Sky Pavilion bowed deeply in unison at the sky.

...

At the Endless Ocean.

The surface of the sea was so calm that it did not seem like there was an imbalance at all.

Yu Zhenghai looked at the coffin and pointed at the sea before he said, "In the past, I remember you said that if something bad happened to you, you want to be returned to the sea..."

He smiled as he continued to say, "There are many sea beasts in the sea. Don't you want to change your mind?"

Yu Zhenghai patted the coffin lightly, but it was silent. There was no response.

"Sea beasts don't recognize their own kin, and they'll tear you into pieces. This coffin and master's sealing technique won't be able to protect you for long."

The sea was still calm.

Yu Zhenghai hovered in the air for a long time. When his smile finally disappeared, he said, "Eldest Senior Brother is useless. You managed to bring me back to life, but I couldn't do it for you."

Yu Zhenghai closed his eyes and pushed his right hand down.

Energy seals surrounded the coffin, bringing it to just the surface of the sea.

Yu Zhenghai maintained this for a day and a night.

Night fell; dawn broke before night fell again.

Until Yu Zhenghai's hands began to tremble and grow numb did he say, "The water in the Endless Ocean is very cold. If you feel cold, remember to return to us."

Splash!

The coffin sank into the sea as runes lit up one after another. It continued to descend until it was swallowed by the sea.

...

In the eastern pavilion.

Lu Zhou opened his eyes. He flashed and appeared above the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Yu Shangrong, who had been standing in the dark night unmoving for a long time now, suddenly turned around in confusion, slightly surprised. "Master?"

Swoosh!

Lu Zhou vanished from sight. He did not go to the Endless Ocean. Instead, he went to the runic passage in the forest.

...

Late at night.

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

Qin Renyue was meditating and cultivating when a low voice rang in his ears.

"Venerable Master Qin, I want to borrow your runic passage."

"Brother Lu?" Qin Renyue exclaimed in shock. He flashed and flew in the direction of the voice. He had heard a trace of anger in Lu Zhou's voice. Anger that seemed to have been forcefully suppressed by powerful rationality.

When Qin Renyue saw Lu Zhou hovering in the sky, he asked, "Where are you going, Brother Lu?"

"To Yu Zhong in the Unknown Land."

"The Unknown Land? Now?" Qin Renyue was confused. He was unaware of what had happened.

"Yes, now," Lu Zhou said.

Upon seeing Lu Zhou's serious and determined expression, Qin Renyue knew Lu Zhou was not joking. He said, "Alright. I'll accompany you."

After traveling through the runic passage, the duo flashed through the Unknown Land.

...

After two hours, the duo finally arrived at Yu Zhong.

The Pillar of Destruction stood tall, looking as though it would never collapse.

During the night, Yu Zhong looked almost like the other nine domains.

The sky was still hidden by the black fog. Just as before, nothing could be seen.

Qin Renyue said as he looked at Lu Zhou, "We're at Yu Zhong."

Lu Zhou's expression remained the same. He raised his head and looked at the sky before he said, "Today, I'll pierce through the sky!"

Swoosh!

Lu Zhou moved at the speed of lightning as he shot up into the sky.

Qin Renyue turned pale in fright as he raised his hand to stop Lu Zhou. "Brother Lu!"

Alas, how could Lu Zhou listen to Qin Renyue at this time? Even Chen Fu could not stop him from making such a crazy move previously.

Qin Renyue grew even more anxious. He flew higher into the sky and hurriedly shouted, "You must not, Brother Lu! The fog above Yu Zhong hides the Nine-clawed Black Dragon! It's extremely powerful!"

Lu Zhou did not look back and shot into the dark fog.

Qin Renyue stopped in the air. His cultivation base was not strong enough to fight against the heavens so he could only stop here. If he took another step forward, he might be doomed.

“Why?” Qin Renyue could not figure it out. He looked at the black fog worriedly. Then, he sensed the energy fluctuations in his surroundings before he flew back and forth beneath the fog, trying to see if he could catch a glimpse of Lu Zhou’s shadow. Alas, there was nothing to be seen or heard.

...

In the black fog.

Lu Zhou flew straight up without stopping. He did not know how long he had been flying before the oppressive feeling appeared. With this, he knew he had entered the range of the Nine-clawed Black Dragon.

“Show yourself!” Lu Zhou bellowed.

Soundwaves that had been imbued with the divine power rippled out in all directions in just a blink of an eye. It was thunderous and powerful as though it came from the heavens itself.

...

Qin Renyue raised his head when he heard the thunderous voice reverberating in the sky. He exclaimed, “Brother Lu!”

Alas, his voice could penetrate the black fog or the strange energy fluctuation in the surroundings.

Following that, he heard a low cry. The hair on his body stood on end immediately. “Nine-clawed Black Dragon!”

...

When Lu Zhou finally saw the huge wings that were as sharp as blades emerging from the darkness, he decisively shattered three Deadly Strike Cards.

“I will take your life today!”

Three palm seals appeared side by side like three dazzling golden blades, spanning tens of thousands of feet.

Bang!

When the black wings collided with the palm seals, the wings were mercilessly crushed.

A shriek rang in the air immediately from the dense and dark fog.

...

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The sounds of muffled explosions high up above the black fog shocked Qin Renyue even more. He kept trying to see through the black fog but it was futile. All he could hear were the sounds of muffled explosions and sharp cries.

...

When Lu Zhou saw the black wings flapping, clearly trying to fly away, Lu Zhou bellowed, “Freeze!”

Lu Zhou released all the power of the Hourglass of Time.

Blue electric arcs appeared in the sky above Yu Zhong, freezing the immense figure.

Lu Zhou flashed and appeared above the Nine-clawed Black Dragon before another two palm seals descended.

Due to his anger, he no longer cared about his merit points. He had long stopped worrying about gains and losses. His killing intent made him act with hesitation.

Two mighty Expansive Heavenly Energy seals swept the dense fog away and hit the Nine-clawed Black Dragon.

The long and miserable cry lasted for a full 15 minutes, capable of piercing people's eardrums.

...

Qin Renyue's eyes were widened as he looked in the direction of the miserable cry. He kept muttering, "Brother Lu, nothing can happen to you!"

Following that, Qin Renyue saw a sight he would never forget in his life.

The immense figure of the Nine-clawed Black Dragon, with its wings folded, dropped out from the black fog and plummeted to the ground at Yu Zhong.

Boom!

At this time, Lu Zhou emerged from the black fog as well.. Then, he hovered high up in the sky looking down at the Nine-clawed Black Dragon.

Chapter 1412: Fighting the Heavens

Qin Renyue stared at the fallen Nine-clawed Black Dragon in a daze. It took him a long time to accept what he was seeing. He had heard many legends about the Nine-clawed Black Dragon. Some said it was the guardian of the sky above the Pillar of Destruction in Yu Zhong. Some said it was the Equalizer of the Great Desolate Land. There were also those who said it was a fierce beast raised by the Great Void.

The Nine-clawed Black Dragon had reaped many lives of those who were foolhardy. The wise men had warned the next generation in the ancient books of this hidden fierce beast in the Unknown Land. Their warnings were always the same: don't try to challenge it.

The idea that the Nine-clawed Black Dragon was invincible was passed down from generation to generation, but now, it was dying.

At this moment, the Nine-clawed Black Dragon lay on the ground at Yu Zhong. It struggled, flapping its wings.

The nearby trees and mountains were all flattened by the Nine-clawed Black Dragon.

Finally, Qin Renyue forced himself to calm down before he flew next to Lu Zhou and asked, "Brother Lu, you... you killed it?"

"It deserves to die," Lu Zhou said.

"..."

Qin Renyue did not know what to say. Inwardly, he wondered, 'The Nine-clawed Black Dragon is an ancient beast; when did it offend Brother Lu? Wait, wait, wait, this isn't the main point!'

Qin Renyue stammered, "T-the Nine-clawed Black Dragon... I-it's not even afraid of Saints... T-this..."

Qin Renyue almost wanted to ask if the Nine-clawed Black Dragon in front of him was a fake.

Lu Zhou looked at Qin Renyue solemnly and asked, "Who said Great Venerable Masters can't kill it?"

Actions spoke louder than words, after all.

Qin Renyue still had not recovered from his shock. He thought that the legend about the Nine-clawed Black Dragon had to be exaggerated. It was definitely not as powerful as rumored!

At this moment, the Nine-clawed Black Dragon struggled again before it finally stilled.

"Ding! Killed the Nine-clawed Black Dragon. Reward: 50,000 merit points."

When Qin Renyue saw that the Nine-clawed Black Dragon was dead, he was overjoyed. He turned around to congratulate Lu Zhou when he discovered Lu Zhou did not look happy at all. From the beginning until the end, Lu Zhou had remained expressionless.

Qin Renyue had lived for a long time. The more he looked at Lu Zhou, the more he was certain that Lu Zhou was suppressing his anger.

At this time, Lu Zhou brought Unnamed in the form of a sword and flew down. Tens of thousands of energy swords flew toward the carcass.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Although the Nine-clawed Black Dragon's hide was incomparably tough, it was still easily sliced open by Unnamed.

It would have been almost impossible for humans to cut open this 10,000-meter-long behemoth.

However, to Lu Zhou who was a Great Venerable Master, he managed to cut it into three pieces with his energy swords in less than 15 minutes.

Soon after, Qin Renyue saw six life hearts, which occupied the positions of the six-pointed star, shining brilliantly. "Life hearts..."

Lu Zhou casually waved his hand and put the six life hearts into the Vast Sky Bag.

Qin Renyue: "..."

As expected of a Great Venerable Master!

...

As soon as the Nine-clawed Black Dragon died, a crisp noise rang from the Scales of Justice in front of the Sacred Hall.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Figures began to appear one after another in front of the Sacred Hall.

An elder hovered in the air and said, "There's a huge commotion in the Great Desolate Land, and the Nine-clawed Black Dragon has disappeared."

Everyone broke into an uproar immediately.

"The Nine-clawed Black Dragon disappeared?! Who's so bold as to make a move against the sacred beast of the Great Void!?"

"We still don't know if it's dead or alive. If it was really killed, then there are only two suspects. The culprit is either one of the ancient divine beasts in the core area of the Unknown Land or Chen Fu, the Great Saint. Apart from Chen Fu, there are no Saints in the nine domains."

"I disagree. The imbalance has been going on for so long. During this time, I'm sure many powerful cultivators have emerged. Don't forget about the ten Great Void Seeds that were lost more than 300 years ago?"

"Impossible!" the old man in the sky said as he shook his head, "Even with the Great Void Seed, it's impossible to become a Venerable Master in a short time, let alone a Saint. Everyone knows how strong the Nine-clawed Black Dragon was."

"Don't argue. Let's just hear what the Hall Master has to say."

Everyone fell silent.

After a long period of silence, a voice rang from the hall.

Everyone bowed immediately.

"The hall has been paying close attention to the balance and the stability of the nine domains. We've also been eliminating uncertain factors. Don't jump to conclusions regarding this matter. Send someone to investigate first. Don't make fools out of yourselves."

"Understood."

"Ouyang, I'll leave this matter to you," the Hall Master of the Sacred Hall said in a dignified voice.

Ouyang Ziyun bowed and said, "Understood."

...

In the Unknown Land's Yu Zhong.

After Lu Zhou put away the six life hearts, he raised his head and looked at the sky. His anger had yet to subside.

It was likely that due to the death of the Nine-clawed Black Dragon, the imbalance at Yu Zhong seemed to worsen. The fog roiled, and the wind raged violently.

Flurries of hurricanes spun around the Pillar of Destruction at Yu Zhong as a large number of beasts appeared in the distance.

Qin Renyue raised his voice to be heard over the wind and said, "I'm afraid we've attracted the attention of the Great Void. Let's go, Brother Lu!"

Lu Zhou did not speak. He only stared at the dark fog unblinkingly. Would the people from the Great Void show up? Finally, he said, "I haven't killed enough. How can I leave?"

Qin Renyue was shocked. He hastily asked, "Brother Lu, do you really intend to fight the heavens?"

Lu Zhou said, "The Great Void caused the tragic death of my disciple. If I don't seek revenge for him then I'm not worthy of being his master!"

Qin Renyue froze when he heard this. He had planned to risk his life and drag Lu Zhou away, but upon hearing these words, he dismissed his thoughts. He finally understood the reason behind Lu Zhou's fury.

Everything in the world had a cause and effect.

Qin Renyue no longer stopped Lu Zhou. Instead, he stood side by side with Lu Zhou. He looked at the sky and asked, "You're sure you want to do this?"

"This matter has nothing to do with you so you can leave now," Lu Zhou said.

Qin Renyue smiled and said, "What a joke. If I leave now, can I still be considered a friend?"

"You won't regret it?"

Upon hearing these words, Qin Renyue recalled many things as he looked at the thick black fog in the sky. He recalled the scenes of the Fire Phoenix burning the northern training hall down and scenes from the past. Then, he shook his head and said, "I regret many things in my life, but this is one thing I have no reason to regret. I don't even regret Moshang's death, let alone fighting side by side with Brother Lu."

"Alright." With that said, Lu Zhou turned around and launched a palm seal that had been imbued with the divine power.

Then, before the palm seal pushed Qin Renyue back, Lu Zhou tossed one of the Nine-clawed Black Dragon's life hearts to Qin Renyue.

"Brother Lu, what are you doing?!" Qin Renyue was greatly alarmed. He was not a match for a Great Venerable Master, after all. He could not contend with Lu Zhou's power of the Dao at all.

After pushing Qin Renyue 1,000 meters away, Lu Zhou said, "If you really think of me as a friend, don't stay here and drag me down. Take the life heart and go."

"..."

Violent winds continued to surge.

Qin Renyue grew more annoyed the longer he looked at the Nine-clawed Black Dragon's life heart Lu Zhou had given him. He said, clearly irritated, "I treat you as a friend, but do you treat me as a friend?"

Qin Renyue did not leave. Instead, he flew back to Lu Zhou's side.

At this time, a figure flashed past Qin Renyue. He was greatly alarmed.

Dozens of palm seals sailed in the air.

"Who is it?!"

The figure was abnormally agile and easily dodged Qin Renyue's palm seals.

"You're kind and righteous, but this isn't the time for you to be reckless..."

Lu Zhou turned around and saw the person standing near Qin Renyue. He said, "Jie Jin'an?"

Jie Jin'an froze for a moment before he looked at Lu Zhou and asked, "You remember me?"

"Even if you turn into ashes, I'd still remember you," Lu Zhou said.

Jie Jin'an laughed awkwardly before he said, "Uh... I was just joking. Don't mind me."

"You know each other?" Qin Renyue asked, surprised.

Jie Jin'an shook his head. "No."

'If you don't know each other, why do you speak so familiarly? Are you crazy?'

Qin Renyue was confused.

At this time, Jie Jin'an said, "Don't just stand there. The people from the Great Void are here.. Let's go."

Chapter 1413: Confronting the Great Void

Jie Jin'an arrived in front of Lu Zhou in just a blink of an eye and grabbed Lu Zhou's arm.

Lu Zhou turned around. His body was suffused with the divine power as he avoided Jie Jin'an and asked, "How did you know I'm here?"

Jie Jin'an said anxiously, "There's no time to explain. Come with me first!"

"Do you think I'm afraid of the Great Void?"

"I know you're not afraid. It's not in line with your character at all. However, now isn't the time for you to make an enemy out of the Great Void!" Jie Jin'an said with a hint of exasperation.

"It's just as I thought: you're from the Great Void," Lu Zhou said.

The fog in the sky kept churning as the Pillar of Destruction lit up like the moon, illuminating Yu Zhong.

Jie Jin'an frowned upon seeing this. "The glazed ceramic has lit up! Let's go!"

Jie Jin'an pushed his hand out, and an astrolabe appeared in front of the trio.

The space froze as a vortex appeared, forcefully bringing the trio away.

...

By a stream near a remote mountain.

Lu Zhou, Jie Jin'an, and Qin Renyue landed on the ground. They looked in the direction of Yu Zhong immediately. Due to the distance, they only saw the faint light from the glazed ceramic in the Pillar of Destruction; they could not see anything else.

The flying beasts in the sky seemed afraid of the light; they did not dare to get close at all and fled in different directions. Among them, there was no lack of beast emperors.

Lu Zhou asked, "Who are you exactly?"

"Don't be so suspicious. If I were your enemy, I wouldn't have helped you. I even gave you a gift," Jie Jin'an said.

Qin Renyue said with a frown, "I thought you said you don't know each other?"

Jie Jin'an said with a straight face, "We don't."

"..."

"Do you think I'm not a match for them?" Lu Zhou asked.

Jie Jin'an did not reply to Lu Zhou's question. Instead, he pointed at the fog above the Pillar of Destruction in Yu Zhong and said, "Look."

A white-clad cultivator rode on a frost dragon and streaked across the sky. He circled Yu Zhong before he shot toward the mountain stream.

As Jie Jin'an looked at the frost dragon, he said, "I received news that the Nine-clawed Black Dragon is dead so I rushed here. I didn't expect it to be you. If I were a step too late, you would've been targeted by the Great Void."

Then, Jie Jin'an pointed at the frost dragon and gestured to Lu Zhou and Qin Renyue to step aside.

Qin Renyue was shocked. "It's really a frost dragon!"

"There's no lack of powerful beings in the Great Void. This is just the tip of the iceberg. The Great Void is as powerful as it was in the past. It's not an exaggeration to say that if the Great Void wants you dead, then you'll be dead," Jie Jin'an said.

Qin Renyue said with a grim expression on his face, "As expected of the Great Void. By the way, what's his cultivation base?"

The white-clad cultivator rode on the frost dragon and crossed the mountain stream before vanishing from sight.

Jie Jin'an replied, "He's just from an ordinary patrol team. He can't be considered strong. What is strong is the frost dragon. That frost dragon is one of the three existing frost dragons in the Great Void. They're ancient divine beasts."

Qin Renyue was stunned. Then, he asked, "Then, compared to the Fire Phoenix, which one is stronger?"

The strength of a divine beast was beyond Qin Renyue's understanding, after all.

Jie Jin'an replied, "There's no way to compare them. The Fire Phoenix can be reborn, and the frost dragon can't. The Fire Phoenix deals damage with true fire while the frost dragon has the ability to control water. However, strength-wise, the frost dragon is stronger."

"How strong!" Qin Renyue exclaimed.

"These are all tamed fierce beasts. Some of the ones that are as intelligent as humans are even more terrifying," Jie Jin'an solemnly said.

At this time, Lu Zhou said, "You seem to have forgotten something."

"What is it?" Jie Jin'an was puzzled.

Qin Renyue helpfully reminded Jie Jin'an. "The Nine-clawed Black Dragon."

Jie Jin'an: "..."

Jie Jin'an smacked his forehead lightly and asked Lu Zhou, "How did you kill the black dragon?"

Lu Zhou did not answer Jie Jin'an.

Jie Jin'an circled Lu Zhou a few times, alternating between shaking his head and nodding his head. After a moment, he finally shook his head and said, "Impossible! Absolutely impossible!"

Qin Renyue remained silent. He was outside of the black fog so he could not see what was going inside. In fact, he also found it hard to believe, but based on the situation, it was highly likely that Lu Zhou really killed the black dragon.

Buzz!

At this time, the unique sound of energy resonance rang from the Pillar of Destruction.

Upon hearing this, Jie Jin'an's expression changed slightly. He rose up to the sky slightly and looked at the Pillar of Destruction from a low altitude. He quickly landed and said, "It's the Holy Maiden. I have to hide! Take care, both of you!"

"Wait!"

Jie Jin'an could not wait any longer. He had to leave quickly. He disappeared from sight in just a blink of an eye at a speed that was difficult to catch with the naked eye.

Qin Renyue returned to Lu Zhou's side and called out tentatively, "Brother Lu?"

Qin Renyue did not know if he should leave or stay so he decided to ask Lu Zhou's opinion.

Lu Zhou stood with his hands on his back and said, "There's no need to worry."

At this time, the duo saw two towering green avatars in the sky. Their heights were unknown. When the green avatars disappeared, they saw two figures above the mountain stream.

Qin Renyue was still worrying about being discovered by the Great Void when Lu Zhou said, "You're finally here."

"..."

The two cultivators in the sky looked down. With just a flash, they descended until they reached a low altitude above the mountain stream.

A familiar figure and a familiar face.

"Lan Xihe," Lu Zhou called out. The reason he was not worried was due to his ability to smell the other party's aura through the power of smell. He had long smelled the refreshing scent of mint and hibiscus.

The other person was the blue-clad female attendant who was always by Lan Xihe's side.

Lan Xihe frowned slightly as surprise flashed in her clear eyes. "It's you?"

"Thank you for remembering me," Lu Zhou said expressionlessly.

Lan Xihe asked, "Did you kill the Nine-clawed Black Dragon?"

"Yes, I did." Lu Zhou was not afraid to be honest.

Lan Xihe said, "You're really brave. Aren't you worried about being punished by the Great Void?"

The way Lan Xihe spoke about punishment seemed to indicate she held a high position. Her words and actions were clearly those of someone who held a high position.

Lu Zhou did not answer Lan Xihe's question. Instead, he asked, "Are you alone?"

Lan Xihe did not respond to Lu Zhou's question as well. Instead, she said, "I believe Pavilion Master Lu couldn't have killed the black dragon. Please take care of yourself. Let's go."

After saying that, Lan Xihe and the blue-clad female attendant turned to leave.

However, Lu Zhou continued to say, "I intentionally killed the black dragon for the purpose of meeting the people of the Great Void."

"Hm?" Lan Xihe turned around.

Lu Zhou said, "It's best if you don't simply move."

Lan Xihe's expression was slightly unnatural upon hearing these words. She was puzzled; why was Lu Zhou so hostile? Nonetheless, she still said, "Back then, the person Pavilion Master Lu sparred with at the white tower was just a projection of mine from a sacred relic I left in the white tower. Are you really confident you'll be able to defeat me now?"

Lan Xihe could sense that Lu Zhou was ready to make a move at any time.

Lu Zhou said, "It doesn't matter if you're a god from the heavens or a human on earth. Killing my disciple is an unforgivable crime."

"Killing your disciple?"

"Is the Halcyon Bird your mount?"

"Yes," Lan Xihe replied.

"You're quite brave seeing as you dare to take responsibility for your actions.. Didn't I teach you enough of a lesson back then?" Lu Zhou asked in a dark voice.

Chapter 1414: Confronting the Heavens

Realization finally dawned on Lan Xihe. She asked, "Pavilion Master Lu, you mean to say that the Halcyon Bird killed your disciple?"

Lu Zhou stared at Lan Xihe unblinkingly. How could Lan Xihe not know about such a big matter?

Lan Xihe could clearly see the hostility in Lu Zhou's eyes so she said, "It's true that I have control over the Halcyon Bird, but the beast tamer, Yang Liansheng, could also control it. The Halcyon Bird and Ling Guang, the Fire Deity, were old enemies, and they both perished on Mount Halcyon. That's all I know. Whether you believe it or not, it's up to you."

"You really don't know?" Lu Zhou was perplexed.

The blue-clad female attendant who was standing next to Lan Xihe suddenly said, "With my master's status, there's no need for her to explain herself to you."

The blue-clad female attendant was no longer the same person from the past, after all. She now emitted a strong sense of superiority.

Lu Zhou did not hesitate and instantly launched a palm seal that had been imbued with one-third of his divine power. The divine power brought it with a huge sense of oppression and intimidation.

The blue-clad female attendant's expression changed drastically, and she hastily retreated for ten meters.

Alas, the palm seal tore through space and appeared in front of the blue-clad female attendant in just a blink of an eye.

Lan Xihe exclaimed in surprise, "A Venerable Master?"

Then, Lan Xihe raised her fair right hand that shone like the sun, dispelling the palm seal.

Qin Renyue and Lu Zhou: "..."

Qin Renyue's heart pounded in his chest even harder than before when he saw this scene. The woman in front of them was clearly very powerful.

Lan Xihe dropped her hand, and the light disappeared. After everything returned to normal, she said, "I didn't expect you to become a Venerable Master in such a short time."

Lu Zhou said expressionlessly, "You're much stronger than the projection of yours."

Lan Xihe's expression turned slightly unnatural when Lu Zhou mentioned her projection. Regardless of whether it was her real self or her projection, there was no denying she had lost terribly because of Lu Zhou's three moves. As a Holy Maiden of the Great Void, that matter was indeed rather embarrassing. As an equalizer, how could she be called competent if she could not suppress those from the nine domains?

Lan Xihe finally said, "Back then, I used a sacred relic to form a projection without any memories. I stayed in the White Tower Council to maintain peace. If I had left even the slightest bit of memory in my projection, you wouldn't have been able to defeat me."

Sensing that the atmosphere was getting tenser like a fight could break out at any moment, Qin Renyue hurriedly waved his hand and said, "Can we talk about the matter at hand?"

Then, Qin Renyue winked meaningfully at Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou ignored Qin Renyue and solemnly said, "Then, let's get down to business."

"Please speak," Lan Xihe said.

"It's only right for someone to pay with their lives after killing someone," Lu Zhou said.

"The Halcyon Bird, Yang Liansheng, Yue Qi, and Yang Jinhong all died on Mount Halcyon. Isn't that enough?" Lan Xihe was perplexed. If it were not because she knew Lu Zhou, based on the perspective of the Great Void, Lu Zhou should be the one to blame for that huge incident.

"They were killed by Ling Guang. What does it have to do with me?" Lu Zhou said expressionlessly.

"..."

Lan Xihe was speechless.

Qin Renyue did not expect the people from the Great Void to be so reasonable. He found it rather unbelievable. After a moment, he said, "I don't think you're behind the incident. All you need to do is to tell us who is the culprit."

"The culprit is Yue Qi. There's no one else," Lan Xihe said with a sigh, "I didn't expect this to happen. I'm very sorry. I'll hide the matter today from the Sacred Hall. I'm very sorry for your loss, Pavilion Master Lu."

Lu Zhou was silent. If it were someone else who came, he would have thrown out a bunch of item cards without wasting words. He did not expect to meet Lan Xihe. After talking to her, it was clear she was unaware of what had happened. Moreover, based on her strength, there was no need for her to lie. Moreover, she had once helped Ye Tianxin and the Evil Sky Pavilion. It was not time to make an enemy out of the Great Void yet.

Seeing that Lu Zhou was silent, Lan Xihe said directly, "Farewell."

Then, Lan Xihe flew away. The Sun, Moon, and Star Wheel shone brightly before she arrived at the Pillar of Destruction in just a blink of an eye and vanished from sight,

Qin Renyue inhaled deeply before he said, "She's very strong."

"Indeed," Lu Zhou said.

"Fortunately, she knows how to distinguish right from wrong. If we really fight, the consequences would be unimaginable," Qin Renyue said.

Lu Zhou remained silent. Whatever he said now would sound like he was bragging anyway. It would just make things awkward.

At this moment, a figure flew over.

"She left?"

Qin Renyue nodded. "That's right."

"That was close. That woman isn't simple. Don't provoke her. Both of you are really courageous; you didn't bother hiding at all! If she's angry, I don't even dare to show myself," Jie Jin'an said.

"You seem afraid of her."

"I'm not afraid of her, but I'm afraid of the people behind her," Jie Jin'an said, "Saying that, that woman has the potential of becoming a supreme being in the future so we can't underestimate her."

"S-supreme being?" Qin Renyue was shocked.

"She has the Great Void Seed, after all," Jie Jin'an said.

"..."

Qin Renyue fell silent. That woman clearly had a powerful background.

Jie Jin'an said, "There are ten halls in the Great Void. One of the halls, the eighth hall, used to be called the Hall of Light, but its name was changed to Xihe Hall. It's the only hall that has a name change. Accordingly, she's one of the 12 Dao Saints of the Great Void."

"She's actually a Dao Saint?"

"After becoming a Venerable Master, the number of Birth Charts is no longer the deciding factor of power. The control over the laws and the comprehension of the laws are the deciding factors. However, if one's comprehension level was the same as one's opponent, then the deciding factor would be the number of Birth Charts. Lan Xihe was already a Saint with 30 Birth Charts 10,000 years ago. When a Saint has mastery over the Dao, they would be known as Dao Saints. When they have mastery over the Great Dao, they would be known as Great Dao Saints."

Although Lu Zhou's expression remained the same, he was rather surprised. He did not expect Lan Xihe to be that strong. How terrifying.

Qin Renyue moved next to Lu Zhou and said, "That was close! Brother Lu, it seems like we couldn't recognize Mount Tai when it was in front of us. To think that the Great Void is so strong!"

"???"

Jie Jin'an coughed twice before he said, "Let me remind you that the person next to you is not bad either. Don't talk nonsense."

Qin Renyue smiled and said, "Of course, Brother Lu is not bad! Is there a need to state the obvious?"

"No, no, no, you don't understand," Jie Jin'an said, intending to explain. However, when he recalled how complex things were, he only helplessly said, "Forget it. You won't understand even if I explain it to you."

Then, Jie Jin'an straightened his back and said, "Remember to cultivate well. Farewell."

"Jie Jin'an," Lu Zhou called out.

"What's the matter?" Jie Jin'an was puzzled

"Why are you helping me?"

Jie Jin'an scratched his head and thought for a long time, but he still could not think of a good excuse. Therefore, he grinned and said, "Because of fate."

"..."

After saying that, Jie Jin'an disappeared.

Qin Renyue said, filled with admiration, "Brother Lu, you have a lot of friends. Moreover, all of them are experts."

Lu Zhou did not respond. Instead, he flew into the air before he made his way to the Pillar of Destruction.

Qin Renyue's expression changed instantly. "Again?"

Nonetheless, Qin Renyue gritted his teeth and followed Lu Zhou. After witnessing Lan Xihe's strength, his heroic spirit and boiling blood had long been cooled down.

The duo flew over the carcass of the black dragon, took a detour in the Forest of Horror, and drew close to the Pillar of Destruction.

This was Lu Zhou's second time being so close to the Pillar of Destruction in Yu Zhong.. The difference was that this time he returned as a Great Venerable Master.

Chapter 1415: Chaos in the World

Lu Zhou had come to Yu Zhong's Pillar of Destruction because he had seen the light from the glazed ceramic. The trip to Great Han had made him understand that the Purple Glazed Ceramics were tools for illuminating the Pillars of Destruction and that they were very rare.

Since there were ten Pillars of Destruction, there should be ten Purple Glazed Ceramics.

Lu Zhou suspected that his Purple Glazed Ceramic came from the largest and tallest Pillar of Destruction, which was at Ren Ding, the heart of the Unknown Land.

The Purple Glazed Ceramic that Qiu Wenjian obtained should also be the real thing. It was just inferior to Lu Zhou's.

Qin Renyue looked at the Pillar of Destruction that towered into the fog and muttered, "No matter how many times I've been here, it still looks so awe-inspiring."

Lu Zhou said with a sigh, "The person who created the pillars must be peerless. After all, they support an entire land that suppresses the world."

Qin Renyue seemed to understand and not understand Lu Zhou's words at the same time. He asked, "Brother Lu, what do you mean?"

Lu Zhou pointed at the Pillar of Destruction that towered into the black fog and said, "It's exactly what you think. The Pillars of Destruction support the Great Void."

Qin Renyue: "..."

As Venerable Master, Qin Renyue's knowledge and experience naturally surpassed those of ordinary people. He had read many ancient books to look for answers, and he had seen many clues that alluded to the Great Void being in the Unknown Land. However, that was it. No one knew exactly where the Great Void was located in the Unknown Land. Although the Great Void had invited many peerless cultivators, Venerable Masters, and Saints from the nine domains in the past, none who left returned.

Occasionally, people from the Great Void would appear to carry out missions, but they were arrogant and disdained to speak to those from the nine domains. In fact, even some cultivators from the Great Void did not know exactly where the Great Void was located since they relied on teleportation talismans and runic passages to go in and out of the Great Void.

Moreover, the Unknown Land was really too vast. It was difficult to get a full view of everything.

After a moment, Qin Renyue asked, "Brother Lu, if the Great Void is really at the top of the Pillars of Destruction, then... you're not really going to fly up there, are you?"

Lu Zhou stared unblinkingly at the Pillar of Destruction that resembled a humongous chimney as he replied, "Of course, I'm going to fly up there, but not now."

Qin Renyue felt relieved upon hearing these words.

Lu Zhou pointed at the Pillar of Destruction and said, "Let's go and have a look."

Qin Renyue immediately said, "No, no, no. Something will definitely happen. The Great Void is particularly strict when it comes to the Pillars of Destruction. There's no Tian Wu or Lord Zhennan here, and the black dragon has also..."

Lu Zhou interjected, "Alright. You wait here. I'm going in."

Swoosh!

Lu Zhou flew up into the sky along the Pillar of Destruction. With the pillar as a guide, he would not lose his way in the darkness of the black fog.

Lu Zhou flew for 15 minutes before he felt the vitality energy begin to thin and the pressure began to bore down on him. Venerable Masters could still continue flying up past this point, but most cultivators would have to stop at this point.

Lu Zhou looked at the Pillar of Destruction curiously. If the Great Void was located so high up, was the environment up there good?

He shook his head. No matter what, everything was just his speculation before he could confirm it. However, based on Lan Xihe's strength and the formation, the environment in the Great Void should be much better than those in the nine domains.

The wind whistled in Lu Zhou's ears as he continued to fly up. Fortunately, the protective energy of a Great Venerable Master was capable of dealing with the wind.

After a while, he could feel his vitality energy was almost exhausted. The pressure had grown even heavier as well. Since he could not mobilize the energy in his surroundings, he could only use the energy from his Dantian's sea of Qi.

'Who on earth is capable of creating the Pillars of Destruction?' Lu Zhou wondered again. It was so high up that even he, a Great Venerable Master, was pressured by the height.

After an unknown period of time, Lu Zhou came to a stop.

"A vacuum zone?"

It was relatively calm here. The glazed ceramic shone brighter here due to the slightly thinning fog.

Lu Zhou frowned. "Going any higher will be extremely dangerous..."

Lu Zhou looked at the Pillar of Destruction that had a diameter of more than tens of thousands of feet. Then, he pushed his hand out.

Boom!

The palm seal hit the Pillar of Destruction, leaving a mark behind. However, in just a short moment, the mark silently disappeared.

"The higher it is, the studier it becomes?" Lu Zhou was inwardly shocked.

At this moment, a terrifying thought appeared in Lu Zhou's mind: if the Pillars of Destruction were destroyed, would the Great Void return to the world?

In some of the ancient books he had read, some of the great ancestors of the past had prayed fervently for the Great Void's return to the world. When the world was in chaos, the Great Void that represented the peaceful and prosperous era of mankind left the land and came to the sky. Was it abandonment or was it for the pursuit of something else?

Lu Zhou continued launching dozens of palm seals. All of them hit the Pillar of Destruction, and the results were the same as before; all the marks disappeared without a trace after a short while.

Swoosh!

Lu Zhou rose about 1,000 meters above the vacuum zone. In just an instant, heavy pressure assaulted him from all directions. He brought out his Purple Glazed Ceramic and tossed it out.

"Go!"

The Purple Glazed Ceramic shone brilliantly like a moon. It cut through the fog and the clouds, dispelling the darkness.

Then, Lu Zhou joined his palms together.

“Golden Buddha’s Body!”

Buzz!

The Golden Buddha’s Body helped Lu Zhou resist the pressure.

He hovered in the air, waiting for the return of his Purple Glazed Ceramic.

...

Meanwhile, Qin Renyue was on tenterhooks as he paced back and forth. After a long time had passed, seeing that Lu Zhou had yet to return, he flew around the surroundings to check for abnormal movements.

When there were powerful fierce beasts passing by, he would hide.

...

In the Great Void.

In front of the Sacred Hall.

A group of cultivators gathered and waited silently.

After an unknown amount of time had passed, a voice rang from within the hall.

“Have you investigated the matter regarding the Nine-clawed Black Dragon?”

A monk bowed and said, “I have sent a patrol team along with the frost dragon to Yu Zhong and Great Han. They’ve yet to return.”

“Where’s the Holy Maiden?”

“The Holy Maiden should be on her way back.”

As soon as these words were said, Lan Xihe and the blue-clad female attendant appeared in the distance.

The cultivators in the vicinity looked at her with gazes filled with admiration and awe, instinctively making a path for her.

Lan Xihe’s limpid eyes and expression were the same as usual as she looked in the direction of the hall and said, “Lan Xihe greets the Hall Master.”

“Dispense with the formality.”

“I’ve investigated the matter regarding the black dragon, but I still can’t find the culprit,” Lan Xihe said.

Everyone exchanged a glance. Even the Holy Maiden went to Yu Zhong to investigate the matter and found nothing.

The Hall Master did not seem angry by the lack of results. He only said, "Then continue investigating."

At this time, Lan Xihe said, "However, there's one thing I don't understand."

"Speak."

"The Halcyon Bird should have only listened to me. Why did it secretly leave with Yang Liansheng?" Lan Xihe asked.

Upon hearing these words, the others were confused. They did not understand what Lan Xihe was trying to say.

"Mr. Ouyang has already investigated this matter. The Halcyon Bird and Yang Liansheng colluded with Yue Qi. The trio had already received the punishment they deserved and paid for it with their lives, dying together with Ling Guang."

Lan Xihe furrowed her brows slightly. 'Then how did Pavilion Master Lu's disciple appear on Mount Halcyon? It's impossible for him to go there if no one guides him there. There can't be such a coincidence.'

After a moment, Lan Xihe said again, "The Halcyon Bird has always obeyed my orders. It wouldn't leave for no reason."

"What do you mean?"

"Someone's manipulating the incidents in the dark. I demand a thorough investigation," Lan Xihe said.

A cultivator said, "Are you doubting Mr. Ouyang?"

Lan Xihe shook his head and said in a loud and clear voice, "No. I agree with the conclusion that Mr. Ouyang arrived at. However, I want to thoroughly investigate the matter to find out who's manipulating this behind the scenes. The culprit can't go unpunished."

Everyone remained for a moment before they agreed with Lan Xihe one after another.

"I agree with the Holy Maiden."

"Me too."

"I agree as well."

After a long time, the voice rang from the Sacred Hall again.

"Then, we'll do as the Holy Maiden wishes."

"Understood."

Clank!

At this moment, the Scales of Justice at the back began to creak and fluctuate greatly before it returned to its original state.

The cultivators turned around. Their eyes were filled with shock. The imbalance had always crept up slowly since ancient times. This sudden rise and fall surprised everyone.

“What happened?”

“The formation under the Scales of Justice. Something must have disturbed the balance.”

Swoosh!

At this moment, a black-clad figure appeared above everyone.

Everyone fell silent.

The black-clad figure smiled and said, “Why don’t I go and take a look?”

The Sacred Hall was silent.

The voice rang from the Sacred Hall again.

“Old Jiang, leave this small matter to them.”

The black-clad figure said, “It’s fine. If there’s a need, I’ll go.”

With that, the black-clad figure vanished into thin air.

...

Boom!

An explosion rang from the Pillar of Destruction.

The earth trembled and the fog in the sky surged violently.

At this time, Lu Zhou, who was still hovering in the air, saw something bright shooting toward him. It was the Purple Glazed Ceramic.

Lu Zhou smiled as he extended his hand. “Come!”

The Purple Glazed Ceramic that was like a shooting star tore through space and returned to Lu Zhou’s hand.

The sky dimmed immediately.

There was no time to sense the Purple Glazed Ceramic’s changes now. He descended swiftly through the fog and whistling wind.

...

Qin Renyue heard a clap of thunder and instinctively looked up. After a while, he saw Lu Zhou emerging from the fog like an immortal. He called out, “Brother Lu!”

Now that Lu Zhou’s vision was no longer obscured and the pressure was gone, he was like a fish in water. He quickly used the divine power and the power of the Dao and landed at the foot of the Pillar of Destruction in just a blink of an eye.

Yu Zhong was completely dark at this moment.

“Let’s go,” Lu Zhou said.

“Alright!”

The duo did not waste time and made their way toward the runic passage.

Buzz!

In just a moment, the duo vanished from sight.

...

In the Evil Sky Pavilion.

The eastern pavilion was quiet.

Yu Shangrong stood on a huge boulder outside of the eastern pavilion and stared at the place where his master lived. He was curious; why had his master not returned yet?

“Mr. Second, Mr. First has returned,” Pan Zhong said.

“Alright.” Yu Shangrong’s expression was the same as usual.

Pan Zhong said tentatively, “Mr. First seems to be in a good mood...”

Yu Shangrong wanted to say something but held back in the end. He only let out a soft sigh before he flew away nimbly. After flying for about ten minutes, he turned around and said, “Old Seventh’s death dealt a big blow to him. From now on, don’t mention the name ‘Si Wuya’ in front of him.”

“Understood,” Pan Zhong said as he watched Yu Shangrong fly away to the back of the mountain. In just a short moment, he saw energy swords lighting up the sky at the back of the mountain. He said helplessly, “Mr. Second has started practicing his swordsmanship alone again..”

At this time, Zhou Jifeng flew over from afar and said with a sigh, “How can we not understand his feelings?”

As soon as Zhou Jifeng’s voice fell, Yu Zhenghai appeared in the distance.

“Mr. First,” Pan Zhong and Zhou Jifeng called out and bowed in unison.

Yu Zhenghai nodded before he asked, “Where’s Old Second?”

“He’s gone to practice his swordsmanship at the back of the mountain,” Pan Zhong replied.

Yu Zhenghai said, “Old Seventh’s death has dealt a great blow to him. From now on, don’t mention the name ‘Si Wuya’ in front of him.”

“Understood.” The duo nodded quickly.

With that, Yu Zhenghai flew away.

...

In the icy and dark depths of the Endless Ocean.

Sea beasts swam back and forth occasionally.

Those with a keen sense of smell were now gathered at the bottom of the sea, attracted by a fragrant smell. They swam back and forth, searching for the source of the fragrance. When they finally saw a faint light, they rushed toward it immediately.

They ruled under the sea. There were no humans to stop them after all. They swam unimpeded toward the bottom of the sea.

When they finally saw a glowing black coffin, which was the source of the fragrance, they began to charge at it in a frenzy as though they had lost their minds.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The runes on the black coffin would release energy seals, killing the weaker sea beasts that dared to approach.

Fresh blood dyed the water at the bottom of the sea red immediately as the carcasses of the weaker sea beasts floated in the water.

Perhaps, the terror of the depths of the sea was beyond human understanding. When Yu Zhenghai sealed the coffin and dropped it into the Endless Ocean, he likely did not expect there would be so many sea beasts.

Just a school of weaker sea beasts had millions of sea beasts.

On their own turf without human intervention, the sea beasts were even more unbridled and vicious.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

They kept slamming against the black coffin as the muffled sounds of collision rang underwater.

Crack!

Under their relentless effort, a crack finally appeared on the coffin.

Upon seeing this, the sea beasts grew even more frenzied. It was as though they could already see the delicious food before their eyes as the smell of the fragrance grew even stronger, wafting out of the crack.

The scent caused the sea beasts to lose their rationality immediately. They attacked the coffin crazily and even attacked each other to fight for the food.

Blood continued to flow as the water churned under the sea.

Some of the sea beasts' carcasses had already floated up, on their way to the surface.

The underwater fight continued. Alas, no one was able to witness this spectacular scene.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Crack!

Another crack appeared.

At this moment, a huge sea beast charged over and slammed into the coffin, killing 10,000 sea beasts in just one go.

Boom!

Seawater shot up, forming a tall wave of blood in the air.

Chapter 1416: Growth

The sea beasts fled in all directions. Their greed for delicious food vanished into thin air with the appearance of the huge sea beast. All they cared about now was their lives.

As the sea beasts fled in throngs, they stirred up huge waves dyed with blood that crashed against the shore.

At this time, a courageous cultivator finally flew over to have a look. When he saw the bloody seawater, his legs trembled from fear. He thought the end of the world had arrived and for a moment, he did not know what to do.

With that, rumors began to spread. Some people said there was an impending attack from the sea beasts and some said it was a sign that the heavens were going to cleanse the world and punish mankind.

...

In the east of Great Yan.

The coastline of the Endless Ocean stretched endlessly, and it was dyed red with blood.

On the surface of the sea, a huge sea beast could be seen biting on a coffin as it charged through countless sea beasts and cut across the surface of the sea like a sharp knife.

...

On Golden Court Mountain.

Yu Zhenghai was holding his Jasper Saber and waving it around, looking bored. He kept repeating the same movements until his body grew numb. Only then did he stop to sit down.

At this time, a female disciple walked over. She bowed and said, "Mr. First, there's a report from the Divine Capital."

"A report?"

"Yes. From Hua Chongyang, the former protector of the Nether Sect."

"Read it."

Even at the mention of his old friends, Yu Zhenghai's expression remained the same.

"A strange phenomenon has occurred in the Endless Ocean. The seawater has turned into blood, causing cultivators and the ordinary folks to panic."

“The seawater has turned into blood?” Yu Zhenghai frowned. “Alright. I’ll go and have a look.”

With that, Yu Zhenghai left the Evil Sky Pavilion and rushed toward the Endless Ocean. With his current cultivation base, his top speed had now surpassed Kui Niu.

After half a day of flying at top speed, Yu Zhenghai arrived at the seaside. He saw many cultivators hovering in the air, looking at the blood-red water.

“What happened?”

“There are so many sea beasts’ carcasses. Perhaps, they’re fighting among themselves? Don’t be fooled by the rumors.”

At this time, a cultivator flew back from the Endless Ocean and said, “There are beast emperors out there. They’re scaring away all the weaker sea beasts. It seems like they’re headed east.”

After listening to the conversation in his surroundings, Yu Zhenghai felt like something was amiss. He left a series of afterimages in his wake as he flew out to sea, causing everyone to exclaim in surprise.

...

Yu Zhenghai went to the spot where he had sunk the coffin and swept his eyes across his surroundings.

Sea beasts’ carcasses littered the surface of the sea. Some of the carcasses were so fresh that blood was still gushing out from them.

Yu Zhenghai’s expression stiffened upon seeing this. A vein throbbed on his forehead and he shouted, “Seventh Junior Brother!”

Then, he brought out the Jasper Saber and unleashed a 10,000-foot-long energy saber, which seemed to carry a force that seemed capable of splitting the sky and earth, that descended from the sky.

Swoosh!

It struck the sea, stirring up a huge wave on both sides. Alas, the Endless Ocean was too deep. How could he split the sea with just his energy saber alone? The sea quickly returned to its original state.

Yu Zhenghai continued swinging his saber in a frenzy. All the carcasses on the surface of the sea were diced up by him.

However, no matter how many times he hacked, it was useless. After an hour, he had no choice but to give up. He looked at the surface of the sea helplessly. He did not want to accept the fact that even if there were no sea beasts, Si Wuya would have been long carried away by the currents.

He sighed heavily as he continued to look at the sea. Finally, just as he was about to turn around, a cultivator dressed in silver armor appeared next to him. Surprised, he asked, “Who are you?”

“Get lost!” the silver-armored cultivator said coldly.

Subsequently, a soundwave swept toward Yu Zhenghai, sending him flying back. He grunted before blood trickled out the corner of his lips. With this, how could he not know the person before him was an expert whose cultivation base far surpassed his?

Yu Zhenghai flipped in the air and stepped on the surface of the water before he stabilized his footing. After wiping the blood off the corner of his lips, he said, "I don't know you. Why did you attack?"

A trace of surprise flashed in the silver-armored cultivator's eyes as he exclaimed, "You didn't die?"

Yu Zhenghai turned to look at the sea. It seemed like this matter was not simple. The silver-armored cultivator was likely not from the golden lotus domain. He had to think of a way to leave. After a moment, he asked, "Are you from the Great Void?"

The silver-armored cultivator frowned and said, "Lowly ants actually know about the Great Void?"

Following that, the silver-armored cultivator launched a black palm seal.

Bang!

In just a second, it sent Yu Zhenghai flying back again.

The silver-armored cultivator landed on the surface of the sea, stepping on it as though he was on land. Then, he said, "You actually managed to withstand two moves from me. Interesting."

Humans might not care about ants hiding in the grass, but if an ant grew to the size of a spider, humans would definitely kill it.

Splash! Splash! Splash!

The silver-armored cultivator walked on the surface of the sea. His confident smile revealed his killing intent as he said, "Since the Equalizer is carrying out a task, you shouldn't be here."

Then, the silver-armored cultivator shot out toward Yu Zhenghai, leaving afterimages in his wake. When he arrived in front of Yu Zhenghai, he pushed his hand out.

At the same time, Yu Zhenghai pushed his hand out as well.

Bang!

The collision stirred up huge waves immediately.

The silver-armored cultivator looked at Yu Zhenghai and said with a hint of praise, "You're a very tenacious ant. Originally, I thought this mission was going to be boring. I guess it's not as boring as I imagined it to be..."

Then, the silver-armored cultivator seemed to vanish into thin air before he reappeared below Yu Zhenghai and struck upward with his hand.

Yu Zhenghai spun around and unleashed his energy saber.

Bang!

The silver-armored cultivator whose hand was still above his head received the energy saber head-on. A black lotus bloomed under his feet as he soared up, pressing back against the energy saber.

Boom!

Yu Zhenghai flew out again.

The silver-armored cultivator smiled slightly and said, "Alas, my time is limited so I can't play with you anymore. I'm going to end this now."

A shadow flashed and appeared above Yu Zhenghai in just a second. At the same time, a black lotus spun out toward him.

Yu Zhenghai hurriedly cast his First Trial ability. His body flashed red before he merged with his avatar.

When the black lotus hit Yu Zhenghai, his golden lotus shrank and vanished into his Dantian's sea of Qi.

"A life-saving ability?"

Splash!

Yu Zhenghai sank into the sea.

The silver-armored cultivator sensed the movement under the water. When he could not detect any life force, he nodded in satisfaction as he said, "Only foolish people would protect their Birth Charts with their lives. Without your life, what use are your Birth Charts?"

After confirming there was no sign of life, the silver-armored cultivator began to investigate the strange phenomenon.

...

At the same time.

At the Qin clan's southern training hall.

Lu Zhou had already rested for half a day.

At this moment, Qin Renyue paced back and forth as he muttered, "The sky has been pierced..."

"The people of the Great Void don't recognize you. Why are you so afraid?" Lu Zhou asked.

Although the Great Void knew there were four Venerable Masters in the green lotus domain, they did not know about the specifics.

Qin Renyue replied, "But that woman recognizes you!"

"I haven't even settled the score with them, and yet, they dare to look for trouble with me?" Lu Zhou said.

"..."

Qin Renyue said, "Now's not the time to care about pride. In any case, I'm not worried about Brother Lu, but what about the others?"

Upon hearing these words, Lu Zhou fell silent. Indeed, he was not worried about his life; no one could do anything to him. However, what about his disciples? He had already lost one disciple. How could he repeat the same mistake?

Finally, Lu Zhou said, "You're right."

Qin Renyue nodded as he said, "I'm glad Brother Lu agrees with me. By the way, I have an excellent place for you to cultivate."

"No need," Lu Zhou rose to his feet and said, "I have another place."

"Where is it, Brother Lu?"

"Unknown Land is vast.. With its environment, there's no better place for cultivating than that place."

Chapter 1417: Without Destruction There Can Be No Construction

Qin Renyue wanted to persuade Lu Zhou to not be so reckless. However, he recalled Lu Zhou was a Great Venerable. Even if Lu Zhou could not defeat his opponent, he should have no problem escaping. Moreover, due to how vast the Unknown Land was, it was also easier to deal with the people from the Great Void. Most importantly, the cultivation resources in the Unknown Land such as life hearts were better in the Unknown Land.

"That's a good idea. If you're going to the Unknown Land, it's best to stay away from the core area and the Pillars of Destruction," Qin Renyue finally said.

Lu Zhou asked, "Are life hearts of the fierce beasts in the core area better?"

"..."

Qin Renyue thought to himself that he should not have mentioned the core area. Nevertheless, he answered truthfully, "Of course."

"Very good," Lu Zhou said with a nod.

"..."

Lu Zhou looked at the sky outside and said, "It's time for me to return."

"Alright." Qin Renyue did not stop Lu Zhou this time. Just as Lu Zhou was about to step out of the training hall, he said, "Brother Lu, I'm sorry for your loss."

Lu Zhou did not turn back nor did he say anything. With just a flash, he vanished from sight.

...

At dusk.

In the golden lotus domain.

At this moment, a rainbow appeared among the clouds and shone on the ground. This was a rare sight due to the imbalance.

The waves crashed against the shore repeatedly. The terrifyingly bloody seawater was nowhere to be seen. The sea had long regained its original appearance.

At this time, while a few cultivators admired the rainbow, the silver-armored cultivator flew over and asked, "Did you see anything abnormal on the surface of the sea?"

“Huh? No.”

“Previously, the seawater was red. Does that count as strange?”

The silver-armored cultivator smiled. “Of course, it counts. Apart from that, is there anything else?”

“Well, there were many sea beasts and their carcasses as well. The largest one was headed east.”

“Many thanks,” the silver-armored cultivator said as he cupped fists together.

“Why are you asking about this?”

“I’m just trying my luck, hoping to find life hearts,” the silver-armored cultivator replied.

Everyone nodded.

The silver-armored cultivator asked again, “Who has the highest cultivation base in the golden lotus domain?”

“No way, brother! You don’t even know this?”

The silver-armored cultivator smiled and said, “I really don’t know.”

Upon hearing this, the cultivator took a step back and asked warily, “You don’t know?”

The silver-armored cultivator could tell something was amiss so he asked, “Is it wrong not to know?”

“Are you a foreigner?”

The silver-armored cultivator became impatient with this back-and-forth so he flicked his wrist, sending a wave of Primal Qi over.

The cultivators fell to their knees immediately, sweating profusely.

“I’ll ask the questions. All you have to do is answer them.”

“Y-you’re... You’re really a foreigner! You don’t even know about the strongest cultivator of Great Yan, Senior Ji?”

“Senior Ji?” The silver-armored cultivator said skeptically. At the same time, he grumbled inwardly, ‘Elder Jiang, why didn’t you come instead?’

Outwardly, the silver-armored cultivator continued to ask with a smile, “Where is that Senior Ji now?”

As soon as his voice fell, he noticed something was amiss. The kneeling cultivators in front of him had raised their heads, but their eyes were not trained on him. Instead, they were looking at something or someone behind him.

At the same time, a voice rang from behind him.

“You’re looking for my master?”

The silver-armored cultivator spun around and exclaimed in surprise, “You’re not dead?!”

The kneeling cultivators looked at the drenching wet person in front of them whose eyes were shining with killing intent, wielding the Jasper Saber in his hand. He was none other than Yu Zhenghai, the first disciple of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Yu Zhenghai was fast. He swung his Jasper Saber with both hands, unleashing a 1,000-foot-long energy saber.

Bang!

The silver-armored cultivator sneered. "I'd like to see how tenacious you are!"

Then, the silver-armored cultivator lifted his hand and caught the energy saber with two fingers.

As the battle began, the cultivators retreated one after another.

"It's Mr. First!"

"It's Mr. First from the Evil Sky Pavilion!"

"Thank you for saving our lives, Mr. First!"

...

"Ding! Worshiped by 15 people. Reward: 15 merit points."

...

Yu Zhenghai glared at the silver-armored cultivator angrily and pressed down with his energy saber.

Crack!

At this time, the silver-armored cultivator discovered his protective energy had been breached. His expression changed as he hurriedly flick his two fingers.

Bang!

The duo separated.

The silver-armored cultivator landed on the surface of the water and looked at Yu Zhenghai solemnly.

"You've grown stronger?"

Swoosh!

Yu Zhenghai's gaze was filled with killing intent as he said, "It's too late for you now!"

Whoosh!

Yu Zhenghai arrived in front of the silver-armored cultivator and launched the Great Dark Heaven Palm.

The silver-armored cultivator pushed his hand out.

Boom!

Waves rose up to the sky immediately.

“This is good! I’m not interested in weak opponents,” the silver-armored cultivator said as he attacked.

The duo battled fiercely above the sea.

The seawater surged endlessly, and sea beasts leaped out of the sea as they fought back and forth.

After a while, the silver-armored cultivator exclaimed in disbelief, “You actually passed your second Birth Trial?!”

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The duo continued to fight fiercely.

The silver-armored cultivator was extremely surprised. The combat strength of someone who had passed the second Birth Trial was much stronger than those who had only passed the first Birth Trial, after all.

After fighting for a while, the silver-armored cultivator chuckled and said, “I’ve played enough. Although you’ve passed your second Birth Trial, you’re still no different from an ant. Give up!”

Buzz!

A dazzling astrolabe shining with 18 Birth Charts appeared in the sky.

Yu Zhenghai frowned. “Venerable Master?”

“I’ve been suppressing my cultivation base to investigate some matters. You should feel honored that I’m unleashing my full strength,” the silver-armored cultivator said he flashed forward toward Yu Zhenghai and pushed his astrolabe out.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Pillars of water shot up into the sky immediately.

All the weaker sea beasts were instantly killed as well.

Yu Zhenghai flipped in the air. Their difference in strength was too great. For experts, even a millimeter of difference made a huge difference, let alone the difference of so many Birth Charts.

Within a radius of 100 kilometers, waves rose up into the sky.

Yu Zhenghai’s blood and qi surged violently. His mind raced as he thought about how to overcome the difference in the strength between him and his opponent. Following that, he tossed his Jasper Saber out.

The Jasper Saber burst forth with countless energy sabers, fusing with the huge wave they stirred up that was like a city wall. Then, he spun around and flew away.

“You want to leave?”

The silver-armored cultivator’s body flashed with a black light as he shot past the wall of energy sabers. Just as his palm was about to land on Yu Zhenghai’s back...

Creak!

The seawater froze.

The silver-armored cultivator froze like an ice sculpture.

Yu Zhenghai's foot was caught by the ice as well so he could not move. However, the ice did not spread past his foot. When he looked up, he saw a huge figure descending from the sky.

Duanmu Sheng stood above Lu Wu, holding the Overlord Spear in his hand. His expression was one of sorrow as he looked down.

"Lu Wu?! Third Junior Brother?!" Yu Zhenghai exclaimed in surprise.

Lu Wu's body was big, but it was very nimble. As soon as he landed on the frozen seawater, it slapped its paw at the silver-armored cultivator.

Boom!

Then, Lu Wu lowered its head and began to exhale another breath of freezing energy.

Creak!

The sea continued to freeze.

Finally, Lu Wu stomped its feet, cracking the ice.

Bang!

At this time, the silver-armored cultivator flew out of the sea, spitting out a mouthful of blood.

Lu Wu stepped on the ice and flew up, baring its fangs at the silver-armored cultivator.

Duanmu Sheng said angrily, "How dare you bully my senior brother! Lu Wu, kill him!"

Roar!

Lu Wu's roar shook heaven and earth.

The silver-armor cultivator spun around and said angrily, "I'll kill you first!"

Since the silver-armored cultivator was in danger of being killed by Lu Wu, he pounced toward Duanmu Sheng instead.

Chapter 1418: A True Genius: Six in the Morning and Eight in the Evening

Although the silver-armored cultivator was as fast as lightning, Lu Wu was equally as fast, and its attack was accurate. It bit down on his thigh.

The silver-armored cultivator suddenly turned around and brought his hand down, decisively severing his leg. Then, he shot toward Duanmu Sheng at lightning speed. His palm flashed with a black light, looking like the hand of death, as he struck at Duanmu Sheng.

Duanmu Sheng was shocked. He hastily lifted his Overlord Spear and held it horizontally in front of him. Two purple dragons burst out as his eyes flashed with purple light.

Boom!

Duanmu Sheng was sent flying back. When the Overlord Spear knocked his chest, his entire body grew numb. At the same time, the two purple dragons swam up and down in his body, dispelling the chaotic black energy.

The silver-armored exclaimed in shock, "The corrosive energy from the Unknown Land?!"

At this time, a voice rang from the silver-armored cultivator's back. "It seems like you're not afraid of death!"

Chills ran up the silver-armored cultivator's spine as an ominous feeling rose in his heart. He turned around and saw Lu Wu looking down at him from above. Then, as fast as lightning, Lu Wu chomped down on his remaining leg.

Blood dripped down the corners of Lu Wu's mouth as it said, "It's been a long time since I tasted a delicacy from the Great Void!"

Swoosh!

Fear spread through the silver-armored cultivator's body. He wanted to move but found that he was unable to do so. He could only let Lu Wu bite him.

In the end, the silver-armor cultivator ended up in Lu Wu's mouth. As it chewed on the cultivator, an expression of enjoyment could be seen on its face. It was as though it was eating the most delicious piece of steak. The vitality energy leaked out from the cultivator's body into its mouth, making it feel very comfortable.

Every time the silver-armored cultivator lost a Birth Chart, blood would surge out violently from his body. This continued until Lu Wu swallowed him.

Lu Wu raised its head majestically to the sky. The fur on its body was like needles, glinting dazzlingly under the light of the rainbow. Then, it looked at Yu Zhenghai and Duanmu Sheng who were looking at it in a daze. It licked its lips in a leisurely manner as it said, "He's not enough to even fill the gaps between my teeth..."

Indeed, to the beast emperor, Lu Wu, humans were insignificant, size-wise. If it treated humans as food, humans were indeed unable to fill the gaps between its teeth.

Duanmu Sheng inhaled deeply. After the purple dragons vanished, he said, "I thought you didn't eat humans."

"Nonsense," Lu Wu replied.

Yu Zhenghai flew forward as energy seals appeared on his body, evaporating the water on him. Then, he said, "Fortunately, you arrived in time."

Duanmu Sheng looked at Yu Zhenghai and asked, "First Senior Brother, I heard that Seventh Junior Brother is dead?"

Yu Zhenghai's expression froze. Then, he sighed, which was equivalent to confirming Duanmu Sheng's question.

Duanmu Sheng looked at the Endless Ocean. His desire to fight vanished immediately. Then, he fell to his knees in the air and cried out loudly.

Yu Zhenghai did not stop Duanmu Sheng. Instead, he went to Duanmu Sheng's side and patted Duanmu Sheng's shoulder.

The duo looked at the Endless Sea and did not speak for a long time.

Lu Wu sat behind the duo and looked in the eastern direction without saying a word as well.

The sun was setting in the west at this moment. The last ray of light swept through the dark clouds before it finally disappeared.

...

In the eastern pavilion of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Lu Zhou was puzzled when he received the notifications from the system after he returned.

He thought Zhu Honggong was up to no good again so he used the power of sight to check in on Zhu Honggong. However, he found that no one was worshiping Zhu Honggong. The yellow lotus domain was relatively stable as a whole. This was likely because there were not many fierce beasts there and the general strength was not very high. In order to ensure the balance, those from the Great Void would not rashly go to the yellow lotus domain, in fear of further disrupting the balance.

Then, Lu Zhou checked in on Zhao Yue. She was busy in the palace, and no one was kowtowing to her as well.

The others were all in the Evil Sky Pavilion so it was impossible that the notification came from them.

With that, Lu Zhou checked on Duanmu Sheng. When he saw the carcasses floating in the sea, and the blood that dyed the shore red, he finally understood what had happened.

With that, he cut off the power of sight. Then, he brought out the Pillar of Impermanence and pressed it into the ground before adjusting the circulation speed until it was 1,000 times faster.

Then, he meditated on the Heavenly Writing. He did not continue exploring the Scripture of Sermons. It was too strange and might bring a huge backlash. He was already lucky enough that nothing happened previously.

'Maybe Chen Fu is right. It's very difficult to control the Resurrection Scroll. If I'm not careful, I might really be punished by the heavens.'

In the past, Lu Zhou had been rather passive. However, he had to take the initiative now. If he wanted to confront the Great Void, he would have to have sufficient strength.

"18 Birth Charts are still far from enough..."

He had to increase his strength and the Evil Sky Pavilion's strength.

...

The next morning.

Duanmu Sheng and Yu Zhenghai arrived in front of the eastern pavilion.

"Greetings, master."

Lu Zhou opened his eyes and said, "Enter."

The duo entered the hall. When they saw their master sitting cross-legged on the ground, they bowed again.

Lu Zhou looked at the duo and sensed their cultivation bases briefly before he asked, "How's the situation in the Misty Forest?"

Duanmu Sheng looked gloomy as he replied, "With Lu Wu around, things are stable. It's just that the number of fierce beasts is increasing."

Lu Zhou nodded and asked, "How's your cultivation coming along?"

"I've made some progress. I can withstand Lu Wu's attacks for a while now," Duanmu Sheng replied.

"It's not bad that you're able to withstand Lu Wu's attacks. Your cultivation path is rather unique, after all. Remember that you have to sprout your leaves," Lu Zhou said.

"Yes."

Then, Lu Zhou looked at Yu Zhenghai and asked, "Did you meet someone from the Great Void?"

Yu Zhenghai was shocked. Then, he hurriedly said, "Yes. I was no match for him. Fortunately, Third Junior Brother and Lu Wu arrived in time."

"I'm not blaming you." Lu Zhou said, shaking his head. He sighed, thinking about Si Wuya. As someone who had transmigrated to this world, material things aside, he only had his disciples. He had already lost one, how could he stand to lose another?

Yu Zhenghai said through gritted teeth, "I shouldn't have taken the risk. However, after today, I'll work even harder than before! A blood debt can only be repaid with blood!"

Lu Zhou said gravely, "Perhaps, I shouldn't have accepted disciples back then..."

Bang!

Duanmu Sheng dropped the Overlord Spear in shock.

Then, the two disciples knelt and kowtowed in unison.

"Master, why would you say that?"

The duo thought they had done something wrong.

Seeing the huge reaction from his disciples, Lu Zhou waved his hand and said, "Rise to your feet."

The duo stood up, filled with trepidation.

Lu Zhou sighed. "Back then, perhaps, all of you would've led better lives if you didn't join me or return to the Evil Sky Pavilion. Now, all of you have met with danger again and again after returning to the Evil Sky Pavilion."

Yu Zhenghai said as he kneeled again, "No matter what master says, I will never leave the Evil Sky Pavilion."

Duanmu Sheng, who was slower by a beat, kneeled as well.

Lu Zhou sighed. It was difficult for him to find someone to talk to in this vast world. He felt rather helpless. Every day, when he woke up, all he saw were people who relied on him. Where were the people he could rely on? He could not fall; he could only continue to stand tall.

After calming down, Lu Zhou waved his hand and returned to his dignified self. "You may leave."

The duo bowed and left. Just as they were about to step out of the hall...

"Yu Zhenghai," Lu Zhou called out.

Yu Zhenghai stopped in his tracks.

Lu Zhou said bluntly, "I'll make the Great Void repay a hundredfold for what they've done."

Upon hearing that, Yu Zhenghai clenched his hands into fists as his eyes reddened.

...

In the next half a month, the Evil Sky Pavilion was quieter than usual.

Due to Si Wuya's death, everyone became very serious.

Pan Zhong and Zhou Jifeng, who usually liked to joke around, no longer spoke freely as well.

The four elders were only focused on cultivation.

Little Yuan'er, the most mischievous and playful among all the disciples, showed unprecedented and shocking concentration. She did not leave her room at all for half a month.

...

In the morning.

The sky was just beginning to brighten when a female disciple came to the eastern pavilion. She bowed and said, "Pavilion Master, Miss Ninth sent me here to inform you that she has passed the first Birth Trial."

"Alright." Lu Zhou's calm voice rang from the hall.

After the female cultivator left, she returned again in the afternoon.

"What is it?"

The female disciple stammered, "M-miss Ninth has activated her seventh Birth Chart."

"Alright." Lu Zhou was not surprised by this.

Among all his disciples, Little Yuan'er had the highest talent. Moreover, due to her young age and naivety, she did not have too many complex and distracting thoughts. Perhaps, on the surface, she seemed the most ordinary, but the heavens gave shocking talent and aptitude. In the past, she did not move, but now that she moved, it was astonishing.

...

In the evening.

Instead of the female cultivator, Conch rushed over to the eastern pavilion.

"Master, hurry up and have a look at Ninth Senior Sister! She's gone mad!"

Creak!

Lu Zhou pushed the door open. He placed his hands on his back as he looked at Conch and asked, "Gone mad?"

Conch said anxiously, "Ninth Junior Sister just passed her first Birth Trial this morning, and yet, she insisted on activating her seventh Birth Chart at noon. After that, she insisted she was fine, and now, she activated her eighth Birth Chart! She'll die if she continues!"

"..."

Lu Zhou's eyes widened slightly. 'This girl is too daring! Six in the morning, seven in the afternoon, and eight in the evening? What's the difference in committing suicide?'

"I'll go and have a look."

Lu Zhou flashed and appeared at the southern pavilion in just a blink of an eye before he activated his power of sight and power of smell. When he found Little Yuan'er room, he pushed the door open immediately.

Bang!

He saw the little Fire Phoenix flying back and forth in the air, spitting flames. Little Yuan'er sat cross-legged in the center of the room, looking at the little Fire Phoenix with joy. Finally, he saw the golden avatar in front of her, and the eight dazzling Birth Charts on her lotus seat. Even more shockingly, she was holding another life heart in her hand, clearly about to activate her ninth Birth Chart.

"???"

Lu Zhou frowned. He really could not understand this.

"Master?!" Little Yuan'er looked at her master in confusion.

Lu Zhou walked into the room and took a closer look at Little Yuan'er's Birth Palace.

At this time, the little Fire Phoenix turned around and spat out flames at Lu Zhou.

Swoosh!

Lu Zhou waved his sleeve, sending the little Fire Phoenix flying back. It crashed against the window and slid to the ground. It cried out miserable, feeling extremely aggrieved.

Lu Zhou ignored the little Fire Phoenix and said to Little Yuan'er, "Don't move."

"I'm fine, master."

"If I tell you not to move, then don't move."

"Oh."

Lu Zhou pressed his hand down.

Imbued with the divine power, a blue lotus fell on Little Yuan'er's Birth Palace.

Lu Zhou was surprised when he discovered how tough Little Yuan'er's Birth Palace was. The purpose of the first Birth Trial was to temper one's Birth Palace and to make it stronger. Nonetheless, he was still surprised by how strong her Birth Palace was. With the strength of her Birth Palace, there was in fact no need for her to pass the Birth Trial, she could naturally form her first Birth Trial ability.

Upon seeing Lu Zhou's grave expression, Little Yuan'er asked anxiously, "M-master, what's wrong with me?"

Lu Zhou did not answer her. Instead, he grabbed her wrist and checked her pulse. Primal Qi surged into her Dantian's sea of Qi. He discovered that her Dantian's sea of Qi was as strong as her Birth Palace.

'This is really strange...'

Every time there was a breakthrough, the Dantian's sea of Qi would expand once. At the same time, the walls of the sea of Qi would grow stronger as well, making it harder to break through again. However, Little Yuan'er had easily raised her cultivation base to that of an Eight Chart cultivator.

"When did you activate your eighth Birth Chart?" Lu Zhou asked solemnly.

"A-about an hour ago," Little Yuan'er replied.

"..."

Lu Zhou's expression was a little unnatural as he asked again, "When did you activate your seventh Birth Chart?"

Little Yuan'er thought about it for a moment before she said, "About an hour and a half ago?"

"..."

'Is there still justice and law in this world?'

Lu Zhou checked Little Yuan'er's pulse again. This time, he used his divine power to check her Dantian's sea of Qi.

"Hmm?" Soon enough, he discovered he could not force Little Yuan'er's Great Void Seed to show itself.

Little Yuan'er said eagerly, "Master, I'm fine. I feel like I can continue activating my Birth Chart!"

At this time, Conch appeared at the door and said, "Look, master! I told you Ninth Senior Sister has gone crazy!"

Then, Lu Zhou let go of Little Yuan'er's hand and brought out the Golden Taixu Mirror.

Imbued with the divine power, the Golden Taixu Mirror shone on Little Yuan'er.

With that, Lu Zhou saw Little Yuan'er's Eight Extraordinary Meridians and her Dantian's sea of Qi. All of her meridians were glowing with the Great Void energy.

Upon seeing this, Conch's mouth dropped open in shock as she raised her hand to cover her mouth.

"You've completely fused with the Great Void Seed," Lu Zhou said.

Then, he shone the Golden Taixu Mirror on Conch. A ball of blue light could be seen in Conch's abdomen. The Great Void Seed was still being digested and had yet to completely fuse with her. In this state, the Great Void Seed could easily be taken away by others.

Little Yuan'er asked, slightly confused, "So... Can I, can I still cultivate?"

"Not only can you cultivate, but from now on, your cultivation speed is going to be faster than everyone," Lu Zhou said. He recalled when he first activated his Birth Chart, he had activated two in a day as well. Since Little Yuan'er had the Great Void Seed, it was normal for her to be able to activate three in a day.

Many of the talented cultivators recorded in the ancient books could activate two life hearts a day.

Upon hearing Lu Zhou's words, Little Yuan'er said, "Alright. Then, I'll activate another Birth Chart!"

Then, she reached out to press a life heart into her Birth Palace.

Lu Zhou frowned and waved his sleeve.

Swoosh!

Before the life heart touched the Birth Palace, it was swept up by a wave of energy.

"Nonsense."

"Master..." Little Yuan'er pouted, not knowing what she did wrong.

Chapter 1419: Returning to the 'Great Void'

After checking Little Yuan'er's cultivation, Lu Zhou said, "It's very dangerous to activate three Birth Charts in a day. Although your Birth Palace is very strong, you can't be so eager to chase after instant success."

Little Yuan asked, "Master, after passing the first Birth Trial, it would be easier and less painful to activate the next Birth Charts, right?"

"That's right," Lu Zhou replied.

“However, how come I don’t feel any pain at all?”

“...”

‘These words are quite infuriating...’

It reminded Lu Zhou of some of his bad memories on earth. He had studied with all his might but only barely passed the exam while some people played around all day but still obtained full marks. It all boiled down to talent.

Even with the Great Void Seed, Little Yuan’er talent was high enough that she would still make rapid progress. With the Great Void Seed, she was like a tiger with wings or a fish in water. Moreover, she cultivated the Supreme Purity Jade Slip. This cultivation method was fluid and did not seem to have a clear direction, but it was profound, and its progress was gradual. After all these years, not counting her time under the effect of the Pillar of Impermanence, it was not surprising that she could activate three Birth Charts in a day.

Lu Zhou had once activated four Birth Charts a day.

Some geniuses in the green lotus domain also managed to activate two or three Birth Charts in a day.

There was no lack of such people who did not care about their lives and dared to take such risks like activating three Birth Charts in a day, after all.

“It doesn’t hurt?” Lu Zhou asked as he pressed his hand down on Little Yuan’er’s Birth Palace and increased the pressure slightly. Seeing that there was no change in her expression, he increased the pressure slightly again. With this, her expression finally changed a little.

Lu Zhou lifted his hand and said, “This should be a result of your years of cultivation. You’ve accumulated a lot of energy and experience so you were able to activate three Birth Charts in a day. Based on what I’ve seen, you should be able to activate another Birth Chart, but I advise you to wait.”

“Oh, I will listen to master then,” Little Yuan’er said with a nod.

Following that, Lu Zhou brought a life heart out and said, “This is the life heart of the Nine-clawed Black Dragon. You can use it to activate any of the upcoming few Birth Charts.”

Little Yuan’er took the life heart and looked at the life heart that resembled a black pearl and shone with a mysterious light. Then, she said, overjoyed, “Thank you, master!”

“Cultivate well. You don’t have to rush to activate your Birth Charts,” Lu Zhou said.

“Alright! I’ll activate it tomorrow then!” Little Yuan’er said.

“...”

Lu Zhou rose to his feet and turned to leave.

Conch, who was standing at the entrance, said blankly, “Master...”

“You cultivate well too. Don’t worry about the life hearts,” Lu Zhou said.

“Understood.”

Lu Zhou glanced at the little Fire Phoenix from the corners of his eyes. He still had the life heart of a divine beast as well. Currently, he did not lack beast emperors' life hearts.

...

Back in the eastern pavilion.

Lu Zhou decided to enter the Unknown Land again.

Compared to the Unknown Land, the Evil Sky Pavilion was now more eye-catching.

Si Wuya's death was like a wake-up call to him/

If Yu Zhenghai was not a Wuqian, he might not have escaped death. Based on his observation, the injuries Yu Zhenghai sustained at the Endless Ocean were not light.

The Unknown Land was vast. It was easy to travel, accumulate resources, and improve one's cultivation base. The most important thing was it could help his disciples activate their Great Void Seeds.

Mingshi Yin's Great Void Seed seemed to have been activated. If his speculation was right, his disciples needed to obtain the 'approval' of the Pillars of Destruction to activate their Great Void Seeds.

Hence, all things considered, it was imperative for them to go to the Pillars of Destruction in the Unknown Land.

Following that, Lu Zhou brought the Purple Glazed Ceramic out and mobilized his Primal Qi. As expected, it had grown stronger.

"The Purple Glazed Ceramics at the Pillars of Destruction truly have extraordinary origins," Lu Zhou muttered to himself.

Back when he had obtained the Purple Glazed Ceramic from Ye Zhen, he had already felt the Purple Glazed Ceramic was not simple. Now, his suspicion had been confirmed. With this, he knew he had to be even more careful at the Pillars of Destruction.

Finally, Lu Zhou pushed his thoughts aside and began to cultivate after mobilizing the Purple Glazed Ceramic.

...

The Evil Sky Pavilion sent news to Zhao Yue and Hua Yuexing in the Divine Capital and Zhu Honggong and Zhao Hongfu in the yellow lotus domain.

...

After arranging affairs in the palace, Zhao Yue went to look for the empress dowager to bid farewell.

When the empress dowager heard that Zhao Yue was leaving, she grabbed Zhao Yue's hand and said tremblingly, "G-grandson... Grandson..."

Perhaps, it was due to old age, her mind had become muddled. As a result, she had trouble recognizing people and speaking coherently.

Zhao Yue leaned forward and whispered into the empress dowager's ears, "Grandmother, I'll return."

"Chen'er..." the empress dowager muttered repeatedly as she held Zhao Yue's hand.

Zhao Yue sighed before she straightened her back.

Li Yunzhao, the eunuch by the empress dowager's side said, "Princess, the empress dowager hasn't slept well over the past few days. Please bear with her..."

"It's fine. Send a message to Island Master Huang. If it's possible, arrange for the prince to come and see her."

"Understood."

With that, Zhao Yue turned around and left the room.

Seeing Li Yunzhao following behind her, she said, "Grandmother likes basking in the sun in the morning and drinking tea at noon. Make sure she gets to do that every day."

"Understood."

"She likes listening to songs as well. However, there's no need for her to listen to them at Obedient Summer Villa. She can listen to them at Jinghe Palace."

"Understood."

Zhao Yue suddenly stopped in her tracks. In fact, it was useless to say these words. Li Yunzhao had served the empress dowager for so many years, after all, so he knew much more than she did regarding the empress dowager. There was no need for her to worry too much.

With that, she strode out of the palace.

Li Yunzhao flicked his sleeves and knelt before he kowtowed, placing his forehead on the backs of his hands as he respectfully sent the princess off.

...

In the yellow lotus domain.

In the palace.

Zhu Honggong was chatting and laughing with the emperor, Zai Hong.

At this moment, Zhao Hongfu walked in. "Mr. Eighth, Your Majesty."

Zai Hongfu smiled and said, "Miss Zhao, don't stand on ceremony, You can sit wherever you like."

Zhao Hongfu knelt on one knee and said, "The Pavilion Master has summoned Mr. Eighth back to the Evil Sky Pavilion."

Zhu Honggong and Zai Hong were stunned.

Zai Hong rose to his feet and asked, "You said that our Divine Protector's master is summoning him back?"

Zhao Hongfu's usual mischievous smile vanished as he solemnly said, "Yes."

Zai Hong turned around and said to Zhu Honggong, "Why don't you bring your honorable master here? I'll give my throne to him. What do you think?"

Zhao Hongfu interjected, "Your Majesty, this has nothing to do with the throne at all. Moreover, the Pavilion Master doesn't care about these things."

Zhu Honggong took a bite of the fruit in his hand and asked, "Why is master summoning me back?"

Zhao Hongfu frowned. A hint of sorrow could be seen on her face as she said, "Mr. Seventh... has passed away."

Thud!

The pear in Zhu Honggong's dropped and rolled on the ground. Then, he fell limply against the chair and fainted.

...

Zhu Honggong slowly regained consciousness at noon.

Zai Hong patted his chest nervously and said, "Brother, you're finally awake."

Zhu Honggong hurriedly sat up and pushed the imperial physician and female attendants away before he called out, "Hongfu! Hongfu! R-return, return to the Evil Sky Pavilion now!"

Zai Hong sighed. "Are you really going back?"

As soon as Zai Hong's voice fell, Zhu Honggong began to cry loudly as he kept muttering repeatedly, "Seventh Senior Brother."

...

The next morning.

Zhu Honggong and Zhao Hongfu carried a large number of mystic microstones as they stepped into the runic passage Zhao Hongfu had constructed.

...

When Zhu Honggong and Zhao Hongfu appeared in the runic passage in the Evil Sky Pavilion, most of the members of the Evil Sky Pavilion were already present.

Kong Wen was the first to step forward and say, "Greetings, Mr. Eighth."

Zhu Honggong's expression that was originally solemn suddenly froze. Then, his face contorted as he burst into tears and leaped out of the runic passage. He bawled loudly, saying through his tears, "Seventh Senior Brother! You died so miserably! My Seventh Senior Brother!"

"..."

Zhu Honggong's tears and snot were sincere. It was the sudden outburst that stunned everyone.

Perhaps, everyone present had a longer time to come to accept Si Wuya's death, most of them had calmed down slightly. After all, they could not drown in sorrow. In the end, they could only sigh and shake their heads as they watched Zhu Honggong cry.

Zhu Honggong wiped the tears off his face and said, "I want to see master!"

Then, without another word, Zhu Honggong went to the eastern pavilion.

Meanwhile, Kong Wen looked at the runic passage that was filled with mystic microstone as he exclaimed, "These... are mystic microstones?!"

Zhao Hongfu said, "Over the past few years, Mr. Eighth didn't dare to slack off. He would bring people to dig for mystic microstones every day. Most of the mystic microstones in the yellow lotus domain are all here..."

After saying that, Zhao Hongfu let out a long sigh. It was a pity that the brain that was the best at arranging these matters was gone.

No matter how great the treasures were, they could not arouse people's interest.

Swoosh!

At this time, Yu Shangrong flew into the air with the Longevity Sword in hand and said, "Send the mystic microstones to Sky Martial Academy."

"Understood."

Then, Yu Shangrong looked at Yan Zhenluo and Lu Li before he asked, "Are both of you ready?"

Yan Zhenluo replied, "We're ready. We can leave at any time."

"Gather in front of the main hall tomorrow morning."

"Understood."

Everyone bowed.

...

Zhu Honggong naturally did not dare to cry at the eastern pavilion. Instead, he went to the back of the mountain alone and stayed in the Cave of Reflection the entire night.

The next morning, a female cultivator came over and said, "Mr. Eighth, the Pavilion Master is waiting for you."

With that, Zhu Honggong left the Cave of Reflection. When he arrived, he saw everyone from the Evil Sky Pavilion had gathered; everyone, except for his Seventh Senior Brother. Grief welled up in his heart, and he began to cry again.

Everyone: "..."

At this time, Lu Zhou who was standing in front of the crowd with his hands on his back said reproachfully, "Is there a point in crying?"

Zhu Honggong wiped his tears away and stopped crying immediately. Then, he asked in confusion, "Master, where are we going?"

At this time, Mingshi Yin came to Zhu Honggong's side and nudged Zhu Honggong with his elbow before he whispered, "Idiot! Don't mention Old Seventh in front of master. Master is sadder than you. The Evil Sky Pavilion is no longer safe. We're a sitting target for the Great Void if we continue staying here. Hence, we're going to the Unknown Land."

"Oh." Zhu Honggong nodded.

At this time, Yu Zhenghai came to Zhu Honggong's side as well. He patted Zhu Honggong's back and said, "Your Seventh Senior Brother won't like to see you like this."

"I understand, Eldest Senior Brother," Zhu Honggong said.

Now that everyone was gathered, Lu Zhou faced everyone and said, "I'm sure all of you are aware of why I've summoned you so I won't repeat myself."

Everyone looked at Lu Zhou silently as he continued to say, "Back then, I accepted all of you into the Evil Sky Pavilion because I valued your abilities. The Unknown Land is very dangerous, and you may lose your lives at any time. Now, I'll give all of you a choice: you can choose to stay or leave the Evil Sky Pavilion. I won't stop you, force you, or blame you."

After saying that, Lu Zhou turned around with his hands on his back.

Yu Zhenghai, Yu Shangrong, Duanmu Sheng, and the other disciples of the Evil Sky Pavilion stepped forward immediately. Their answers were obvious.

As the four elders stood in the second row, Leng Luo said, "What kind of multiple-choice question is this?"

Then, Leng Luo and the other three elders walked toward Yu Zhenghai and the others without any hesitation.

Then, the Left and Right Envoys, the three Guardians, Pan Zhong, Zhou Jifeng, Hua Yuexing, and Zhao Hongfu smiled and joined the others as well.

Following that, Kong Wen and his brothers stepped forward as well.

Then, Kong Wen said with a smile, "Pavilion Master, no one here is more familiar with the Unknown Land than me. I'm willing to continue to work hard!"

"Alright." Lu Zhou turned around.

At this time, Qin Naihe, the Free Man, flew over from afar and said, "Don't forget about me!"

The female cultivators from the Derived Moon Palace wanted to join the team as well, but Lu Zhou waved his hand and said, "It's not that I don't want to bring you with me. However, with your cultivation bases, if you enter the Unknown Land, you'll most likely die."

"Pavilion Master!"

The female disciples knelt on the ground with dejected expressions on their faces. Some of them even began to cry.

Lu Zhou knew bringing them to the Unknown Land would not bring them any harm. On the contrary, it would harm them. He swept his gaze across the Evil Sky Pavilion's main hall and looked at the shining barrier before he said, "I'm only leaving for a period of time. When I return again, the Evil Sky Pavilion will be at its peak."

At this time, Ye Tianxian chimed in, "Sisters, why don't you return to the Derived Moon Palace for now? I promise that I'll definitely return and bring all of you back here."

With this, the female cultivators rose to their feet and smiled.

Lu Zhou said, "Yu Zhenghai, take Bi An with you."

"Yes," Yu Zhenghai said.

"Zhaoyue, take Yingzhao with you."

"Yes."

"As for... Dijiang, Conch, you can take it with you for now."

Conch noticed his master had used the word 'for now'. She nodded and said, "Yes."

The other mounts all had their owners so there was no need to arrange anything.

Lu Zhou called out to Whitzard before he said, "Let's go."

The people from the Evil Sky Pavilion bowed and said in unison, "Yes!"

This was the largest and most orderly gathering of the Evil Sky Pavilion in history.

...

The news of the Evil Sky Pavilion's departure quickly spread throughout Great Yan.

When the Sect Masters of the Yun, Tian, and Luo Sects rushed over, the Evil Sky Pavilion was already empty.

Subsequently, Nan Gongwei, the Sect Master of the Tian Sect, warned the cultivation world that no one was allowed to touch the treasures in the Evil Sky Pavilion. With that, this became the unwritten rule in Great Yan.

...

Many people were gathered in Golden Court Mountain.

The people from the top ten sects that were once enemies of the Evil Sky Pavilions and the people from the Big Dipper Academy and the Taixu Academy were all gathered. There were also fanatical fans of Old Demon Ji.

Everyone seemed to have a tacit agreement, and no one dared to touch the treasures in the Evil Sky Pavilion. Hence, even those with ill intentions did not dare to act.

...

At the foot of Golden Court Mountain.

A young man knelt on the ground and kowtowed three times followed by another nine times in the direction of the Evil Sky Pavilion, looking very pious.

At this moment, a cultivator asked curiously, "Who are you? Although it's understandable to be respectful, there's no need to kneel and kowtow, right?"

The young man replied, "As master for a day, a father for life. A man should kneel to the heavens, to the earth, and to his parents."

"???"

"My name is Li Yunzheng. I came here to see my master off."

No one understood Li Yunzheng's words. They only shook their heads, thinking he was another fanatical fan.

At this time, a cultivator flew into the air and said in a clear voice, "These are the words Mr. Seventh wanted to give to the cultivators of Great Yan!"

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Sheets of paper fell from the sky in all directions.

The others cultivators gathered and picked up the paper, looking at them curiously.

Meanwhile, the cultivator looked in the direction of the Evil Sky Pavilion and muttered to himself, "Mr. Seventh, it's a pity I came too late and couldn't give the things to the Pavilion Master.. However, by doing this, I can also be considered to have fulfilled your last wish."

Chapter 1420: Chifenruo; Ji Ming

The cultivator hovered in the sky and looked at Great Yan's cultivators. He smiled in satisfaction when he saw how surprised, curious, and excited they were. He recalled the peaceful days when he studied and discussed many topics at the Sky Martial Academy and was filled with nostalgia. As one of the lunatics from the academy, he, Huang Yu, who had no relatives and friends felt as though he had lost something important at this moment. After a moment, he inhaled deeply to suppress his emotions.

Li Yunzheng, who was holding a sheet of paper in his hand at this moment, looked up and asked, "Is this really left behind by my master?"

Huang Yu landed and said to Si Wuya, "Yes. Greetings, Your Majesty."

Li Yunzheng raised his hand and said, "We're in the golden lotus domain so there's no need to abide by the formalities between the ruler and the subjects to avoid misunderstanding."

"Understood."

Everyone was busy looking at the sheets of paper so they did not notice anything strange.

Li Yunheng nodded as he said, "I believe in my master's judgment. The shackles of heaven and earth in the golden lotus domain can be broken by severing the lotus. In the future, the golden lotus domain will definitely become the strongest."

Huang Yu nodded as he said, "Mr. Seventh had long suspected this, but he was not 100% certain. He had been searching for secrets of the shackle for three years now."

"Did he find them?" Li Yunzheng asked.

Huang Yu shook his head. "This was also Mr. Seventh's greatest regret."

"It doesn't matter if the secrets are found or not. Master had already found a way to verify the way to break the shackles, after all. This is enough," Li Yunzheng said. He stood with his hands on his back as he looked at the Evil Sky Pavilion's barrier. His youthful face showed a maturity beyond his years as though he had grown up overnight. After a moment, he said, "Let's return to Great Tang."

"Yes."

...

In the Misty Forest.

Lu Zhou rode on Whizard and flew at the lead.

The others followed closely behind him.

Ye Tianxin and Cheng Huang were in front of Duanmu Sheng and Lu Wu who brought up the rear.

Lu Wu rolled its eyes and said, "Their speed is too slow..."

Since the journey was rather boring, Duanmu Sheng asked, "Lu Wu, who's better: you or Whizard?"

Lu Wu looked at Whizard that was shrouded in auspicious qi as it said, "Once it matures, perhaps, I'd be embarrassed to compare myself to it. However, right now, it's not as good as me!"

"..."

At this moment, Zhu Honggong who was riding on Dang Kang flew over. "Alright, you can go ahead and brag. There are no consequences to bragging anyway."

Lu Wu bared its fangs, and Dang Kang shivered. It flew away with a whoosh, nearly throwing Zhu Honggong off its back.

"Hey, you worthless thing! Can you think of my pride and dignity? There's no need to be afraid of it!"

Dang Kang did not even spare a glance at Zhu Honggong. It only grunted and continued flying.

Everyone laughed upon seeing this.

After entering the thick cloud of fog, Lu Zhou finally came to a stop. Then, he looked at Yuan Lang and the other swordsmen before he called out, "49 Swordsmen."

Yuan Lang rushed over and bowed as he asked, "Your orders, Senior Lu?"

"You've worked hard during this period of time. The Unknown Land is very dangerous so you should return to the green lotus domain first," Lu Zhou said.

Yuan Lang shook his head and said, "Senior Lu, although we're not members of the Evil Sky Pavilion, we're good friends of the Evil Sky Pavilion. Isn't right for friends to fight side by side?"

Following that, the remaining 48 swordsmen behind Yuan Lang said in unison, "Senior Lu, don't refuse us."

Lu Zhou looked at the 49 swordsmen. "This.."

Yuan Lang interjected, "Life and death are predetermined by the heavens. I understand Senior Lu is worried something might happen to us and you'd be unable to give Venerable Master Qin an explanation. However, Venerable Master Qin has long instructed us to help Senior Lu even if we have to risk our lives."

Lu Zhou knew that it would be unreasonable to refuse after Yuan Lang had said these words. So he nodded and said, "Very well. If there are benefits for the Evil Sky Pavilion, the 49 swordsmen will have a share as well."

Swoosh!

With that, Lu Zhou flicked his sleeve.

Whitzard bleated before it flew deeper into the Misty Forest.

The 49 swordsmen were greatly excited as they flew out as well, following Lu Zhou.

They continued flying. After passing through Moonlight Woodland, they entered the abyss. After traveling for five days, they finally stepped into the Unknown Land again.

...

Great Void.

In a hall.

A black-clad cultivator paced back and forth.

About half an hour later, a silver-armored cultivator walked over and said with a bow, "Master, I've investigated the matter. One of our men died in the Endless Ocean to the east of Great Yan. I spoke to the local cultivators and found there was a strange phenomenon previously. Apart from that, I found out the murderer is Lu Wu. It used to be the mount of Venerable Master Duanmu of the black lotus domain."

"Lu Wu?" The black-clad cultivator frowned. Then, he said as his eyes flashed with a strange light, "Duanmu Dian, 30,000 years have passed. Is that why you don't care about your mount anymore?"

The silver-armored cultivator asked, puzzled, "Master, isn't Duanmu Dian dead?"

“How can a Venerable Master die so easily? Moreover, after he came to the Great Void, he even increased his Birth Charts,” the black-clad cultivator said.

The silver-armored cultivator was surprised. Then, he asked, “Then... Is it possible that Venerable Master Duanmu sent Lu Wu to...”

“It’s not him,” the black-clad cultivator said.

The silver-armored cultivator was further confused.

After a moment, the black-clad man said with a smile, “Forget it. It’s just a death.”

At this moment, the silver-armored said tentatively, “Then, you once impersonate the Holy Maiden and left a clone...”

The black-clad cultivator turned to look at the silver-armored cultivator with a piercing gaze, causing the silver-armored cultivator to falter. “Hm?”

“I apologize! I know my mistake!” the silver-armored cultivator hurriedly said as he fell to his knees.

“Scram!”

With that, the silver-armored cultivator got up and ran out of the hall.

The black-clad cultivator looked outside the hall and muttered, “The world is a chessboard, and all living beings are chess pieces. You’re just a chess piece.”

He opened his hand, revealing a white object.

The white object was shrouded by a ball of red light. Then, it began to twinkle like the stars.

Soon after, a bloody mist rose from the black-clad cultivator’s body. It converged in front of him before it gradually formed a figure that was about the same height as him. As time passed, the figure grew more and more life-like until it was no different from a human.

The expression on its face was incredibly frosty and arrogant.

The black-clad cultivator coughed and staggered three steps back after he finished creating the figure. He said, “30% of my cultivation and a high-grade sacred relic. This price is truly high...”

After composing himself, he looked at the ‘person’ in front of him and said, “Find him and kill him!”

“Yes.”

“Don’t be as stupid as before. If anything happens, don’t forget to save your memory,” the black-clad cultivator said as he tossed a crystal out.

The ‘person’ caught the crystal and said again, “Understood.” Then, he asked, “What’s my name?”

The black-clad cultivator thought about it for a moment before he said, “Jiang Dongshan.”

With that, Jiang Dongshan turned translucent before he vanished from sight.

Following that, the black-clad did not waste time and sat down cross-legged to meditate. He regulated his breathing and circulated energy through his meridians to restore his cultivation.

When he finally stopped, he muttered to himself, "What secret is the golden lotus domain hiding?"

Among the nine domains, the golden lotus was nowhere near the top. It was only natural that he was surprised that his plans were ruined one after another by the golden lotus domain.

At this moment, a subordinate of his appeared outside of the hall.

"Master, Mr. Ouyang is here to see you."

"Why is he here?"

A burst of laughter rang in the air as Ouyang Ziyun walked in directly. He said, "Why can't I be here? Jiang Wenxu, did you do something embarrassing again?"

"You should ask yourself this question, Ouyang," the black-clad cultivator said.

"You don't look too good..." Ouyang Ziyun said, "Did you go to one of the nine domains again to become a local tyrant again like before?"

"It's useless for you to try and provoke me," The black-clad cultivator said with a smile, "I've always followed the rules before and after the Sacred Hall's ban. The same can't be said for some people."

"Well, if the Sacred Hall is aware of it, then so be it..."

The duo no longer spoke.

After a while, the black-clad cultivator said, "Send the guest out."

Ouyang Ziyun seemed to be in a good mood. He said, "I came to tell you something..."

"What matter is it that requires Mr. Ouyang to come over personally?" Jiang Wenxu asked curiously.

"He's back," Ouyang Ziyun said as he turned around to look at Jiang Wenxu with a smile. "Hmm? What's wrong with your expression?"

"Who are you talking about?" Jiang Wenxu frowned.

"Guess."

"No matter who it is, if they can't abide by the Great Void's rules, they'll be regarded as a deviant. You don't need to use this to threaten me. Moreover, no one can pass the test of the Holy Master of the Tenth Hall," Jiang Wenxu said as he rose to his feet. He flicked his sleeve and said, "Send the guest out."

"You're afraid, aren't you?" Ouyang Ziyun laughed.

"Send the guest out!"

A silver-armored cultivator hurried inside and made an inviting gesture to Ouyang Ziyun.

Ouyang Ziyun laughed even louder than before, looking extremely happy. He clasped his hands on his back and left the hall.

Bang!

Jiang Wenxu struck the jade decoration at the side as he said in a deep voice, "No one can live forever."

...

In the Unknown Land.

The sky was covered with black fog as usual.

A fierce wind raged in the sky, but when it reached the surface of the land, it calmed down significantly.

The people of the Devil Sky Pavilion stood on the cliff and looked down at the vast land.

The endless stretches of mountain ranges and rivers were like a black-and-white painting by a talented artist.

The four elders were filled with emotions. They had never seen such a scene before. There were really all kinds of wonders in the vast world. How could a frog living at the bottom of the well have a broad vision?

"If only Seventh..."

Mingshi Yin coughed and nudged Zhu Honggong with his elbow immediately.

Zhu Honggong hurriedly said in a contrived manner, "Wow! It's too f*cking beautiful here!"

Everyone: "..."

After a moment of silence, everyone laughed. With the silly and happy-go-lucky Zhu Honggong around, even the Unknown Land with its harsh environment would not be boring.

Kong Wen said with a smile, "Mr. Eighth, the Unknown Land is vast. Let alone you, even a Venerable Master needs more than five years to cross the Unknown Land from one end to another. This can be advantageous. With such a huge place and countless powerful fierce beasts, we won't be easily found."

"It's really so vast?"

"That's right. There are so many of us, but in the Unknown Land, we're just a speck of dust. In any case, we can go wherever we want," Kong Wen said.

"Kong Wen is right. If we stay in any of the nine domains, there'll be too many cultivators around. There are too many eyes and ears. Who knows we might even run into an Equalizer? Moreover, things are different in the Unknown Land. If you don't like someone, you can directly kill them," Mingshi Yin said.

"Uh... Is it necessary to be so cruel?" Zhu Honggong asked.

"Eighth Junior Brother, you have to remember we're now in the Unknown Land. To be merciful to your enemies is to be cruel to yourself," Mingshi Yin said with the air of a wise man.

Everyone nodded. This had always been the case in the cultivation world. The human heart was the most unpredictable, after all.

At this moment, Yan Zhenluo turned around and asked, "Pavilion Master, where are we going?"

“We’ve already been to one of the Pillars of Destruction in Yu Zhong. Which pillar is closest to us now?” Lu Zhou asked.

Kong Wen brought out a stack of paper and licked his fingers as he flipped through it. After a moment, he said, “We’re close to Yu Zhong and Po Xiao. However, Po Xiao is in the inner core area. I suggest we go to Ji Ming first.”

“Ji Ming?”

“Yes. It’s called Chifenruo in ancient times,” Kong Wen said.

Zhu Honggong said eagerly, “Then, let’s make a move! It’s nearby after all.”

“This...” Kong Wen said awkwardly, “It’s... relative near... We still need to travel for several months or even half a year to get there. It’s impossible to arrive so quickly unless we have runic passages or Collective Teleportation Jade Talismans.”

Lu Zhou thought about the jade talismans that Chen Fu, the Great Saint, used. Their speed was so fast as they visited a few Pillars of Destruction. Now that he thought about it, it was rather wasteful.

Yu Zhenghai said, “Well, this is good. We can accumulate life hearts during our journey.”

Lu Zhou nodded and said, “Let’s go.”

With that, Lu Zhou rode on Whizard and swooped down the cliff, soaring in the Unknown Land between heaven and earth toward Ji Ming.

...

Ten days later.

At a swamp in the Unknown Land.

Kong Wen stood next to Whizard and pointed up ahead as he said, “This place is called the Cloud Peak Swamp. It got its name from the mountain in front of us that towered into the clouds. There might be fierce beasts here. Everyone, please be careful.”

The others nodded.

At this moment, Little Yuan’er stuck her head out and asked, “Master, why don’t I go ahead and scout the area?”

Upon hearing this, Yu Shangrong calmly said, “Ninth Junior Sister, you don’t have to do this kind of work. Just relax and watch.”

After traveling in the Unknown Land for so long, Yu Shangrong felt like his sword had gotten rusty. If he did not draw his sword for a day, he would feel uncomfortable all over. How could he give away such a good opportunity?

“Oh.”

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Everyone continued to move forward. In just a short moment, a towering mountain appeared before their eyes.

“Second Junior Brother, let me do this.”

Swoosh!

Yu Zhenghai flew out on his Jasper Saber at top speed.

Yu Shangrong: “???”

Yu Shangrong had always been a gentleman. He could only sigh helplessly as he looked at the unreasonable Yu Zhenghai search for fierce beasts.

At this time, Mingshi Yin exclaimed in surprise, “Eldest Senior Brother has passed his second Birth Trial! Amazing!”

Yu Shangrong turned to look at Mingshi Yin knowingly, “You’re not pretty amazing as well.”

Mingshi Yin chuckled and took a step back as he said shiftily “Forget I said anything. I’ll keep quiet now.”

Everyone only watched. Sometimes, too many people were not necessarily a good thing.

After a while, Yu Zhenghai found a fierce beast at the foot of Cloud Peak.

Its body was pitch black, and it was 1,000-feet tall.

“This beast king is called the Drought Demon,” Kong Wen said, “It likes water so much that it would dry up the rivers, streams, and swamps around it. No wonder the swamp had dried up... It must be the work of the Drought Demon.”

Yu Zhenghai, who had been eager to fight, rushed out excitedly, wielding his Jasper Saber.

A 10,000-feet-long and 1,000-feet-wide energy saber slashed at the Drought Demon. It seemed capable of splitting the sky and land as it fell.

Boom!

Just like that, the Drought Demon was cleaved into two.

“...”

“This... Isn’t this an overkill?” Yan Zhenluo said.

Yu Zhenghai turned around and said, “You don’t understand. This is how sabers are like. When a man wields a saber, he should be firm, masculine, fierce, and powerful. Only with these things, can one unleash the full potential of the saber.”

“But you previously said the best way to wield a saber is to wield it according to the situation?”

“So you’re saying my saber attack isn’t ferocious?” Yu Zhenghai asked.

“Uh.... Ferocious! It’s very ferocious!”