

## Disciples 1601

### Chapter 1601: Please Come Over For a Moment

After Mingshi Yin finished speaking, he leaned slightly to the side and asked with a faint smile, “Do I have the bearing of the Sword Devil?”

Duanmu Sheng could not be bothered with Mingshi Yin. Mingshi Yin really liked imitating their Second Senior Brother for no reason. If Mingshi Yin was found out, Mingshi Yin would definitely be beaten up again. It was better to pretend like he did not see anything.

The Vajra behind Mingshi Yin asked in confusion, “Who’s the Sword Devil?”

“He’s a skilled swordsman,” Mingshi Yin replied with a smile.

“Since he’s able to obtain Mr. Ri’s praise, his swordsmanship must be extraordinary.”

“His swordsmanship is definitely extraordinary, but it’s still slightly lacking compared to mine,” Mingshi Yin said.

Duanmu Sheng: “...”

Duanmu Sheng cleared his throat as a reminder to Mingshi Yin.

“It’s not against the law to brag in the Great Void, right?” Mingshi Yin asked.

At this moment, a Dao attendant flew over from the distance before he said with a bow, “Sorry for the wait. The divine lord originally planned to personally welcome you, but he suddenly has something to attend to so I’ll lead the way instead.”

Mingshi Yin frowned. “Your divine lord is really arrogant.”

“Please don’t take offense.”

“Forget it, forget it. I’m not a petty person. Lead the way,” Mingshi Yin said.

Following that, Mingshi Yin, Duanmu Sheng, and the others flew out of the flying chariot. As they flew, they looked at the floating platforms, which were more like pieces of land, above Southern Split Mountain. Each of the platforms was at least 3,000 feet away from the other. They were all held up in the air by the Southern Split Mountain’s energy.

They were a little like the golden lotus domain’s Penglai Island. Penglai Island used formations and chains to connect the five islands together. Then, they used another formation to keep the island in the middle suspended in the air. The other four islands powered the formation as well.

The floating platforms in Southern Split Mountain were large and were suspended in the air purely by energy. Trees and unique structures could be seen on them. They were very suitable places for cultivation.

When they were approaching one of the platforms closest to the southern sky, the Dao attendant said, “Everyone, this is the Southern Cloud Viewing Platform. You can have a look around. The divine lord will arrive in a moment.”

On the Southern Cloud Viewing Platform, they discovered that just as its name suggested, all they could see were clouds. Due to the distance, they could only see vague and faint outlines of the other platforms.

"It's really a cloud-viewing platform," Mingshi Yin said.

The four Vajras stood like wooden blocks behind Mingshi Yin.

"Mr. Ri should prepare for the upcoming battle for the position of commander."

Upon hearing this, Mingshi Yin looked at the Dao attendant and asked, "Have the people from Xuanyi Palace arrived?"

The Dao attendant was not stupid. He was naturally not going to say that Nan Li had gone to welcome Xuanyi. That would be tantamount to belittling the Scarlet Emperor. Hence, he said with a smile, "They should be here soon."

Mingshi Yin asked again, "Do you know about Xuanyi Palace's Zhang He?"

The Dao attendant replied, not sparing the details, "Commander Zhang is a top expert in Xuanyi Palace. He's also someone Emperor Xuanyi is fond of. It's said that Commander Zhang comprehended the Great Dao through observing the clouds."

"Interesting." Mingshi Yin smiled.

The Dao attendant said before he turned to leave, "I'll take my leave for now."

Then, Mingshi Yin looked at the four Vajras and asked, "When is the Scarlet Emperor arriving?"

"His Majesty isn't coming to Southern Split Mountain."

"He's not coming?" Mingshi Yin was somewhat surprised. "It seems like he's not worried about my performance at all."

"The Scarlet Emperor had said that after the two of you lose, we're to bring you back immediately."

"..."

...

At the same time.

In the northern sky of Southern Split Mountain.

The platforms and buildings here seemed much higher.

Nan Li said with a smile, "What a rare guest! It's truly an honor that Emperor Xuanyi is here to visit my humble abode."

Xuanyi, Zhang He, and Lu Zhou descended from the sky. Several Dark Guards and female attendants followed behind them.

Xuanyi smiled. "Divine Lord Nan Li, it's been so many years since we last met. When did you become so good at flattery?"

Nan Li only smiled before he turned to Zhang He and said, "Commander Zhang, it's a pleasure to meet you."

Zhang He returned the greeting. "Greetings, Divine Lord Nan Li."

When Nan Li noticed the imposing Lu Zhou, he asked, "This is?"

"He's a new captain of the Dark Guards, Old Mister Lu," Zhang He said. It was impossible for him to say that Lu Zhou was a subordinate of the White Emperor on such an occasion. He no longer said anything and only looked at Nan Li.

Nan Li sized Lu Zhou up. Since Xuanyi brought Lu Zhou here, he thought that Lu Zhou must be extraordinary. Then, he finally said with a smile, "I heard that Xuanyi Palace recruited a Dao expert. You must be him, right, Captain Lu?"

In fact, based on Zhang He's introductions, there was nothing wrong with this title. However, Xuanyi felt rather uncomfortable upon hearing it so he corrected, "It's Pavilion Master Lu."

"Pavilion Master?"

"Pavilion Master Lu was the master of a pavilion before he came to the Great Void," Xuanyi said. With this, he could somewhat maintain Lu Zhou's status without revealing too much. Whether or not he intentionally showed his stance, no one knew.

Nan Li cupped his fists together at Lu Zhou and said, "Pavilion Master Lu, it's a pleasure to meet you."

Lu Zhou nodded before he praised, "Southern Split Mountain is indeed Fengshui's treasure. It's a perfect place for cultivation. I didn't expect that after 100,000 years, the spring here is still as beautiful as before."

Zhang He: "???"

'This act is too much! It's as though he's been here before!'

Nan Li asked, "Pavilion Master Lu, have you been here before?"

Xuanyi, the MVP, came to the rescue and said, "During our journey here, I told Pavilion Master Lu all about this place."

Zhang He: "?"

'Did you? I was there during our entire journey here; how come I didn't hear His Majesty talking about Southern Split Mountain? Was I too sleepy and muddle-headed?'

Nan Li smiled. "I see. Everyone, please follow me."

When they entered the Dao hall, a feast, fine wine, and beautiful women could be seen.

After everyone took their seats, Nan Li said, "It's Southern Split Mountain's honor to be able to receive you, one of the masters of the ten halls. If there's anything not to your liking, I hope you'll forgive me."

Xuanyi said without beating around the bush, "I came to see an old friend here today and to prepare for the commanders' competition. It's out of my expectations that Southern Split Mountain would be chosen as the venue."

"It's a trivial matter," Nan Li replied before he asked Zhang He, "Commander Zhang, are you confident?"

Zhang He smiled and said, "If someone wants to snatch the position of commander from me, they'd have to be capable."

"The opponent is some by the Scarlet Emperor's side," Nan Li said.

"The Scarlet Emperor is powerful, and someone I respect. However, we still have to follow the rules of the Great Void," Zhang He said.

"You have a point. It seems like you're very confident about retaining your position," Nan Li said with a smile.

At this moment, Lu Zhou asked, "Is the Scarlet Emperor here?"

Nan Li did not reply immediately. Instead, he looked at the Dao attendant next to him and asked, "Is the Scarlet Emperor here?"

The Dao attendant stepped forward and replied, "The Scarlet Emperor isn't here. Only the two challengers and the four Vajras came."

Nan Li nodded. "As expected, the Scarlet Emperor is a busy man."

Nan Li emphasized the words 'busy man'. Clearly, he was slightly dissatisfied that he had been stood up.

"I was invited by the Scarlet Emperor. I didn't expect him not to show up," Xuanyi said with a smile.

In the end, Xuanyi and Nan Li were of different statuses. Since Xuanyi did not seem dissatisfied, Nan Li naturally could not show his dissatisfaction.

At this time, Zhang He said in a clear voice, "What a pity he's not here. His Majesty is now a great divine king."

Upon hearing this, Nan Li revealed an expression of surprise. "A great divine king? Congratulations!"

"I was just lucky." Xuanyi was in a good mood today so he was not affected by the Scarlet Emperor's absence.

"It's indeed a pity that the Scarlet Emperor's not here," Nan Li said as he raised his wine cup, "I'll toast Great Divine King Xuanyi."

At this time, how could Xuanyi not mention his benefactor, Lu Zhou?

Xuanyi glanced at the expressionless Lu Zhou before he said in a neutral tone, "It's all thanks to my discussion of the Dao with Pavilion Master Lu that I was enlightened. Otherwise, it would've been as difficult as ascending to the heavens to become a great divine king."

Zhang He felt that he was increasingly unable to understand Xuanyi. Even if Lu Zhou was the White Emperor's subordinate, there was no need to flatter Lu Zhou to this extent, right?

Nan Li exclaimed, "No wonder Great Divine King Xuanyi brought Pavilion Master Lu here! He's really a Dao expert!"

Lu Zhou shook his head. "His breakthrough has nothing to do with me. It's due to his diligence."

Nan Li raised his wine cup again. "Pavilion Master Lu, you're too modest! Come, let me toast you!"

Upon hearing this, Zhang He raised his wine cup and said, "Let me toast Divine Lord Nan Li first."

Nan Li said with a smile, "Since Commander Zhang has such an expert by his side, let's seize the chance to ask for advice together! Come, let's toast Pavilion Master Lu!"

Zhang He: "..."

Zhang He was speechless. 'I really don't want to deal with this anymore. I want to go home!'

Alas, Zhang He was the Commander of Xuanyi Hall; how could he leave? He thought to himself, 'Forget it. Just treat him like he's the White Emperor.'

With this thought in mind, Zhang He felt much more comfortable. Treating Lu Zhou as the White Emperor made him able to understand and accept Lu Zhou's treatment more.

After drinking the wine, Lu Zhou asked, "Since the Scarlet Emperor isn't here, where are the two challengers?"

Nan Li pointed in the direction of the Southern Cloud Viewing Pavilion and said, "They're at the Southern Cloud Viewing Pavilion. Pavilion Master Lu, you're also interested in the owners of the Great Void Seeds?"

Lu Zhou knew that the two owners of the Great Void Seeds whom the Scarlet Emperor took away were Mingshi Yin and Duanmu Sheng. Hence, he said, "Since they're guests as well, why don't we invite them over for a chat?"

'Let's confirm they're my two wicked disciples first and act according to the situation. This is the Great Void, not the nine domains, after all.'

Nan Li said with a smile, "I'm afraid I'll have to disappoint Pavilion Master Lu. It's best not to meet before the commander's competition begins."

"The commander's competition?"

Xuanyi explained, "After the land split 100,000 years ago, the ten Pillars of Destruction lifted the Great Void to the sky. In order to maintain the stability of the Great Void, the ten halls recruited cultivators from all over the world. Everyone has their own duties. The commander of a hall is the core strength of a hall. The Great Emperor decided to hold the commanders' competition once every 1,000 years to provide fresh blood to the ten halls."

Zhang He said, "I came today to warm up. Since everyone's in such high spirits, there's no need to wait."

Nan Li asked, "Commander Zhang, do you plan to spar now?"

“My fists are already restless!” Zhang He said before he flashed to a vast suspended field suspended between two floating platforms.

The field was vast and shaped like an octagon. There were obvious formations around it. Clouds swirled around it, making it look mysterious.

After Zhang He appeared in the middle of the field, he sent a voice transmission to the Southern Cloud Viewing Platform.

“I’m Commander Zhang He of Xuanyi Palace. Please come over for a moment.”

At this time, Lu Zhou asked, “What are the cultivations of the two challengers?”

Nan Li replied, “They both possess the Great Void Seeds. They were Saints 100 years ago. I’m afraid now they’ve already comprehended the Great Dao and become Dao Saints.”

Xuanyi said, “The Great Void doesn’t lack top quality life hearts and cultivation resources, after all. It’s only normal that they’ve become Dao Saints.”

“It’s only average...” Lu Zhou said casually.

“What?”

“They’re just Dao Saints. They need to work harder,” Lu Zhou said.

Nan Li was even more surprised. Initially, he assumed Lu Zhou was a Dao Saint. However, based on the words ‘they’re just Dao Saints’, it was clear Lu Zhou’s cultivation was much higher. This means Lu Zhou was at least a Great Dao Saint.

From the northern Dao hall and the Southern Viewing Cloud Platform, one could see the field very well. No wonder Southern Split Mountain was chosen as the venue. Coupled with the formations, it would be easy to see who was better.

Meanwhile, Zhang He hovered three inches off the ground and placed his hands on his back. Seeing there was no movement from the Southern Cloud Viewing Platform, he said again in a clear voice, “Friends from the Flaming Sea, please come over for a moment. Divine King Xuanyi, Divine Lord Nan Li, the heaven, the earth, the sun, and the moon will be our witnesses.”

At this moment, a long spear glowing with a golden light shot from the clouds like a meteor toward Zhang He.

Zhang He’s expression did not change as he calmly responded. With one hand and two fingers extended, he reached out to push the golden spear away.

The golden spear stirred up a violent wind when Zhang He’s hand caught it between his fingers.

“Go!”

Zhang He’s hand seemed to contain the might of a thousand blades. He was a famous cultivator who fought with his bare hands in Xuanyi Palace.

The golden spear trembled before it was sent flying with a loud swoosh by Zhang He's two fingers. The wind swept toward the mountains, stirring up thousands of leaves.

### **Chapter 1602: Southern True Fire**

A figure shot over from the Cloud Viewing Platform, streaking across the sky. In just a moment, he appeared above the golden spear and gripped it, causing the golden spear to buzz and vibrate immediately.

Duanmu Sheng stepped forward as the coiling dragon around the spear flashed purple amidst the golden light. He held the Overlord Spear horizontally in front of him with his right hand. His body was suffused with a golden light, and he looked majestic and energetic. His expression was calm, but his eyes burned like fire. He looked at Zhang He and asked, "You're Zhang He?"

Zhang He looked up with a smile and asked, "How should I address you?"

"My surname is Duanmu, and my name is Sheng," Duanmu Sheng said.

"Brother Duanmu, although you're the Scarlet Emperor's subordinate, I won't let you become the Commander of Xuanyi Palace," Zhang He said.

Duanmu Sheng scoffed before he said, "Do you think I need your permission to become the Commander of Xuanyi Palace? Have a taste of my Overlord Spear!"

Duanmu Sheng flashed forward in the sky and attacked with lightning speed.

The duo fought fiercely. They moved to the left and right as energy seals flew in all directions. The mysterious formations absorbed all the energy seals immediately, neutralizing damages to the surroundings.

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In Nan Li's Dao hall.

Lu Zhou, Xuanyi, and Nan Li watched with great interest.

Nan Li nodded and said praisingly, "I still remember Commander Zhang's performance during the previous competition 1,000 years ago. He's still as impressive as he was before."

Xuanyi said, "He's extremely talented, and he has not slacked off in his cultivation over the past 1,000 years. He should be able to win."

"What do you think of the spear expert, Great Divine King Xuanyi?"

Xuanyi observed for a moment before he said, "The power he possesses is domineering and fierce. He seems to have the corrosive energy in his body. His attacks are decisive, and his spear techniques are good. However, he'd need more strength to defeat Zhang He. Saying that, he has yet to use his full power."

Nan Li nodded before he turned to Lu Zhou and asked, "Pavilion Master Lu, what do you think?"

Lu Zhou took a few more glances before he said tonelessly, "For the time being, it's difficult to determine who's stronger."

Although Lu Zhou was confident about his disciple, his confidence was not blind. After 100 years, he did not know how much his wicked disciples' cultivation had improved. He could no longer use his power of sight to observe them, after all. It was likely due to the fact that they had comprehended the Great Dao. The Heavenly Writing was connected to the Great Dao and likely have the same origins. It was not surprising that to maintain the balance, he could no longer observe his disciples.

"Why don't we bet on who will win?" Nan Li asked with a smile.

Xuanyi seemed to find this suggestion interesting. He smiled and pointed at Zhang He below and said, "Of course, it'll be Zhang He."

Nan Li nodded.

Since Zhang He was a member of the Xuanyi Palace, it was not surprising that Xuanyi chose Zhang He. Otherwise, would Xuanyi not disappoint his subordinate?

"Pavilion Master Lu?" Nan Li asked Lu Zhou.

"Neither," Lu Zhou asked.

Xuanyi and Nan Li looked at Lu Zhou in confusion.

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Lu Zhou added, "There's another person."

Realization dawned on Nan Li. He said with a smile, "The Scarlet has two owners of the Great Void Seeds. This person is good with the spears, but we still don't know about the other person's ability. Pavilion Master, you think the other person will win?"

Lu Zhou nodded.

With that, Xuanyi said without hesitation, "For Pavilion Master Lu to think so highly of someone, the other party must not be simple. I'll also follow Pavilion Master and bet on the other person."

Nan Li: "?"

Xuanyi laughed. "There's no point in talking. Let's just bet."

"Very well. If you lose, you can't deny it."

"When I have ever gone back on my words? If I win, you'll have to bring out the 100 Flowers Brew from Southern Split Mountain," Xuanyi said.

"Alright. If I win, you have to preach about the Great Dao in Southern Split Mountain for ten days," Nan Li said.

"Deal," Xuanyi said decisively.

Then, Nan Li and Xuanyi turned to look at Lu Zhou in unison.



Lu Zhou said, "The 100 Flowers Brew is good, but it's not enough for me."

"Oh? What does Pavilion Master want then?" Nan Li asked.

"I heard that Southern Split Mountain was bathed in the southern true fire for 10,000 years. As a result, it's summer all year here," Lu Zhou said.

Nan Li's heart stirred slightly. He asked, "Pavilion Master Lu, do you want the southern true fire?"

Lu Zhou nodded. "In fact, the southern true fire does more harm than good to you. Although it's always summer here, the true fire also evaporated a lot of Primal Qi. It might be a blessing if the southern true fire was taken away."

Nan Li was somewhat displeased. Regardless, the southern true fire was something that belonged to Southern Split Mountain. It was not something that could be taken away so easily. He looked at Xuanyi, hoping Xuanyi would speak up about the absurdity of this matter. After all, they were just having fun, joking around, and betting. With such high stakes, it would only ruin the atmosphere.

Unfortunately for Nan Li, Xuanyi asked, "Divine Lord Nan Li, are you afraid to bet?"

Nan Li: "?"

"I'm not afraid, but the southern true fire is very fierce. It's not something ordinary people can easily approach. Its effect on the Primal Qi in Southern Split Mountain is limited. Moreover, it keeps the fierce beasts away from the mountain as well. It can be considered a holy fire that protects the mountain. How can I use it as a stake in a bet?"

Lu Zhou shook his head. "Those who are ignorant are fearless."

"What do you mean, Pavilion Master Lu?"

Lu Zhou said, "The southern true fire came to life in ancient times. When the sky opened, and the land was lifted, the true fire lost its root after leaving the earth. With the power of the earth to feed it, there's only one way for it to continue existing..." He paused before he said, "That's to absorb your energy."

Upon hearing this, Nan Li rose to his feet abruptly and exclaimed, "Nonsense!"

At this time, the battle below was still going on intensely. There was no winner or loser.

Lu Zhou was not angry at all. If he were in Nan Li's shoes, he would have been angry as well if someone said the holy fire that protected Southern Split Mountain was harmful. It was indeed difficult to accept.

Lu Zhou raised his wine cup before he tossed the wine out.

The crystal-clear droplets of wine were suspended in the air as golden Primal Qi gathered around the wine droplets like pearls and agates.

Xuanyi and Nan Li looked at Lu Zhou, slightly confused.

The wine droplets glowed brightly, filled with Primal Qi. When the sun shone on it, they looked even more resplendent. However, after a moment, the droplets were vaporized, returning to heaven and earth.

During this process, Lu Zhou only made the droplets of wine hover in the air and did nothing else. This meant that what happened to the droplets was all the effect of the environment in Southern Split Mountain.

"This... How's this possible?" Nan Li muttered. He trembled slightly as he looked at his palm. He could not accept this; he wanted to try it for himself.

A ball of green Primal Qi rose from Nan Li's palm. At the same time, the formation in the Dao Hall began to hum and light up as the Primal Qi began to expand rapidly, covering more than a radius of 300 miles. As it expanded, it revealed the meridians of the land. Soon enough, a ball of fire appeared in the horizons of Southern Split Mountain briefly before it disappeared abruptly with the Primal Qi as though it had devoured the Primal Qi.

Nan Li had never noticed this before. In fact, all those living in Southern Split Mountain had never noticed this before.

Southern Split Mountain was a good place to meditate and cultivate. The Primal Qi here was rich. Hence, although the cultivation speed of the people here was slow, they thought it was due to their lack of talent. No one ever thought the problem had something to do with Southern Split Mountain.

Nan Li found it hard to accept this result.

Lu Zhou said, "This would be even more obvious if Southern Split Mountain was on land. The advantage you have is that your buildings and platforms are suspended in the air. Otherwise, all of you would've been sucked dry a long time ago. Did you really think the fierce beasts were scared away?"

"..."

Nan Li was speechless.

Xuanyi nodded. "I understand now. Pavilion Master Lu is truly knowledgeable. I'm truly impressed!"

Nan Li, who still found this matter hard to accept, looked at Lu Zhou with a complicated expression and asked, "How did you know?"

"The Northern Hall in Xuanyi Palace holds a collection of books. The records of the mountains, lands, and rivers of the Great Void are there," Lu Zhou said.

Xuanyi immediately said, "Indeed, Pavilion Master Lu has been reading in the Northern Hall for quite some time."

Nan Li frowned. "Even if you're telling the truth, I won't agree to the bet."

Lu Zhou nodded and said, "I won't force you. Let's continue to watch the battle."

Lu Zhou looked down.

Needless to say, at this moment, it was difficult for Nan Li to concentrate on watching the battle. He looked absentminded as he watched the battle.

At this time, the Overlord Spear flew around the arena, stirring up violent winds and Primal Qi. The cries of the wind pulled Nan Li back to his senses.

“Imperfect Divine Intervention!”

Duanmu Sheng appeared high in the sky before he swooped down and thrust his spear out.

Space and time froze.

Zhang He looked up. Instead of retreating, he advanced and cried out in a voice that could topple the mountains and overturn the seas, “Rise!”

The battle grew even more intense.

The very fabric of space was torn as the energy seals collided.

Fortunately, the powerful formations absorbed the duo’s attacks and mended the damage within it.

After the duo collided, they pulled away from each other. One went up and one went down. There was still no winner. They looked at each other silently.

After a moment, Duanmu Sheng tightened his grip on the Overlord Spear and said, “Again!”

Zhang He smiled and said, “Forget it, Brother Duanmu. You can’t beat me. There are rules in the Great Void. Moreover, the fight for the positions of commander isn’t a fight using our lives. We should stop here. I know you didn’t use your full strength, but I didn’t either.”

Duanmu Sheng was very competitive, but upon hearing these words, his fighting spirit was reduced by half.

Zhang He cupped his fists together at Duanmu Sheng and said, “Brother Duanmu, let’s fight another day. I hope we can be friends.”

“It’s too early to say that. Indeed, we fought to a draw. However, it doesn’t mean no one can defeat you,” Duanmu Sheng said.

“Oh?”

At this time, a burst of laughter rang from the Southern Cloud Viewing Platform. Then, a voice rang in the air.

“Commander Zhang, if both of you had fought using your lives, you would’ve been defeated by him long ago.”

Zhang He looked at the Southern Cloud Viewing Platform in confusion.

The owner of the voice was Mingshi Yin. He continued to say, “His trump card is that he’s not afraid of death.”

“Hmm?”

Swoosh!

A figure flew over at lightning speed and appeared in the middle of the field in just a blink of an eye. Just as quickly, the entire field was crawling with vines and trees.

"I'll give you 15 minutes to recuperate. I don't want others to say I took advantage of the situation and won unfairly."

Zhang He's fighting spirit rose again. He smiled and said, "Interesting. However, I can't rest. Resting will only make me weaker! Take this!"

Zhang He rushed toward the green vines like a lightning bolt. His hands were like blades as he cut the trees in front of him into halves.

### **Chapter 1603: Get Down to the Ground (1)**

Zhang He's strength was overbearing and fierce. In just one breath, he had cut down the trees and Bluewood vines. When he focused his eyes and looked across the field, Mingshi Yin had disappeared. However, he did not let down his guard and used the power of the Dao to sense his surroundings. It did not take long for him to sense a cold energy surging toward him from below his feet. He leaped up into the air immediately.

As expected, Mingshi Yin broke out of the ground. With his Separation Hook in hand, he unleashed golden wind blades as he flashed toward Zhang He.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

In just a short time, Mingshi Yin had attacked countless times.

If two opponents' comprehension of the Great Dao and laws was similar, the factor that determined the winner and the loser would be their combat experience.

Zhang He fought back and retreated in the air. He moved his hands, blocking Mingshi Yin's fierce attacks.

The power of the Dao swept out all over the field.

Although the battle seemed like a battle between those with fewer than 10 Birth Charts, in fact, they were using the laws. If their comprehension of the Dao was not profound, they would not be able to block even the most ordinary moves.

Mingshi Yin's attacking speed was similar to Zhang He's defending speed. For a moment, they were in a stalemate.

After a few breaths, Zhang He said with a smile, "If this is all you have, I'm afraid you'll be disappointed."

Mingshi Yin replied with a smile, "This is just the beginning. You're celebrating too early."

Swoosh!

Mingshi Yin suddenly vanished into thin air. There were no fluctuations or ripples at all.

Their comprehension of the law of space was similar, canceling each other out. If Mingshi Yin had used some space-traversing techniques, Zhang He should have been able to sense it. However, Mingshi Yin vanished into thin air with no traces at all.

“What’s going on?” Zhang He’s heart tightened as an ominous feeling rose in him.

“Fall!”

A heavy pressure came from above Zhang He.

Boom!

Zhang He’s protective energy shattered, and he had no choice but to dive down. He was the Commander of Xuanyi Palace, after all, so he managed to react quickly. He had rich combat experience, and many things were already ingrained in his bones. Even then, the attack caused his blood and qi to surge, and he almost vomited blood. However, he remained calm, unlike ordinary cultivators who would likely be at a loss at this moment.

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As soon as Zhang He landed, he released his energy seals without restraints and flipped in the air before landing again. He staggered back a few steps before he spun around and looked up.

Mingshi Yin crossed his arms and looked down at Zhang He with a smile. Seeing that Zhang He had not fallen to the ground, he said, “You have some skills.”

Zhang He frowned. “How did you do it?”

Dao Saints would not be capable of what Mingshi Yin had just done, after all.

Zhang He could not figure it out. To be able to disappear without leaving any traces, even if Mingshi Yin’s comprehension was greater, it still should not be possible.

Mingshi Yin replied with a smile, “I won’t tell you.”

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In the northern Dao hall.

Xuanyi, who had watched the battle, said, slightly puzzled, “What a good trick. I can’t tell how he did it.” He looked at Nan Li, who was still in a daze, and asked, “Divine Lord Nan Li, can you see through the trick?”

“No,” Nan Li replied mechanically.

Xuanyi looked at Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou shook his head. “I don’t know as well.”

Xuanyi exclaimed in surprise, “Even Pavilion Master doesn’t know?! This young man is truly not simple.”

Upon hearing this, Nan Li was pulled back to his senses. He looked at Xuanyi in confusion. He kept having this nagging feeling that Xuanyi thought very highly of Lu Zhou to the point where it seemed as though Lu Zhou was superior to Xuanyi.

‘An illusion? This wicked disciple spends his time learning all kinds of strange things. How did he do it earlier?’ Lu Zhou was puzzled.

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Zhang He stomped on the ground and rushed toward Mingshi Yin as he said, “All tricks can’t withstand a single blow from absolute strength!”

Zhang He was extremely fast, leaving ripples in his wake. A conical barrier soon formed in front of him.

“Great Dao?”

Mingshi Yin crossed his arms in front of him.

The space trembled.

Bang!

When the attack landed, Mingshi Yin flew high up into the sky. Then, he asked with a smile, “Is this all?”

“This is just the beginning,” Zhang He replied with a smile.

Then, Zhang He crossed his fingers before a cross mark appeared on his palm before he charged out again.

The space rippled.

Swoosh!

To everyone’s surprise, Zhang He pierced Mingshi Yin’s body.

“...”

“...”

An angry roar rang from the Cloud Viewing Platform. “Old Fourth!”

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Lu Zhou rose to his feet as his eyes burned like fire. He said in a deep voice as a vortex appeared in his hand, “How dare you!”

Xuanyi looked at Lu Zhou in confusion and shock. “Pavilion Master Lu?”

Zhang He revealed an expression of shock as soon as he pierced Mingshi Yin’s body. He looked in the direction of the Dao hall in a daze as he stammered, “I, I didn’t expect him to be so weak. I, I didn’t mean to break the rules.”

“You didn’t break the rules.”

A voice that carried a hint of a smile rang in Zhang He’s ears.

“Hm?”

Before Zhang He could turn around, a heavy force that seemed to weigh 10,000 pounds hammered at him from behind.

Boom!

It landed accurately on Zhang He’s back.

“Get down!”

The voice was sonorous and powerful like thunder.

#### **Chapter 1604: Get Down to the Ground (2)**

Zhang He’s brain was buzzing, and he did not have time to think about the reason. He could not resist the surging energy and was heavily injured, causing him to spit out blood.

‘It was another trick!’ Zhang He glared at Mingshi Yin and gritted his teeth to endure the intense pain. He planned to escape using the method before, but when he was falling, he saw the space distort and twist under him.

“The greater law of space?!”

Zhang He fell into the twisting space.

Swoosh!

As though the height of 3,000 feet had been greatly reduced, Zhang He crashed heavily to the ground. He sprawled on the field that had been destroyed.

The battle had ended, and silence returned.

...

Everyone in both the northern Dao Hall and the Southern Cloud Viewing Platform looked at Mingshi Yin in confusion.

Under normal circumstances, one could not use the same trick twice in front of experts. However, Mingshi Yin had done it. Furthermore, no one could figure his trick out. There was no intense collision or tense fights, Zhang He had fallen just like that.

“If I tell you to get down, you should get down,” Mingshi Yin said with a smile.

...

In the Dao hall.

Xuanyi and Nan Li were puzzled.

Lu Zhou seemed to have noticed something, and the vortex in his palm gradually dissipated.

“Pavilion Master Lu?”

Lu Zhou raised his hand to his lips and coughed slightly before he said, "The scent of the southern true fire is somewhat pungent and unpleasant."

Xuanyi's nose twitched slightly as he looked to the left and right. 'Is there a smell?'

On the other hand, Nan Li frowned. Nonetheless, he only said, "Commander Zhang He actually lost."

Xuanyi sighed and said, "Although I really hope Zhang He can win, I've expected this. The person Pavilion Master Lu bet on can't be simple, after all."

Nan Li nodded perfunctorily.

"How did he do it?"

Lu Zhou scoffed. "He's just a little clever; he can't be considered great."

Upon hearing this, Xuanyi looked at the field carefully again before he said with a smile, "I see."

Nan Li said, slightly anxious, "What is it? Don't keep me in suspense."

Xuanyi pointed at the field and said, "Divine Lord Nan Li, please take a look."

There were pieces of wood on the ground.

What Zhang He had pierced earlier was not Mingshi Yin, but a block of Bluewood.

"Interesting," Nan Li said as he nodded.

"To be able to use Bluewood to create a clone is not easy," Xuanyi said as he nodded in satisfaction, "This child is worth teaching."

Nan Li said, "Making clones consumes a large amount of blood essence. In order for the clone to have combat strength, it has to be given its own consciousness using something like a sacred relic. It's like giving birth to a child. How did he do it in such a short time?"

"What you're talking about is clones that need to exist for a period of time. However, if the clone only exists for a brief time, it doesn't need blood essence nor too much energy. It only requires control. The drawback is that it can distract one from the battle, and it's too demanding on one's state of mind. Not everyone is able to do it," Xuanyi explained. Then, he said praisingly, "What a rare talent. If he becomes the new Commander of Xuanyi Palace, I'll welcome him with open arms."

As soon as Xuanyi's voice fell, a mocking voice rang from below.

"Xuanyi Palace? Welcome me with open arms? Who says I'm willing?"

Xuanyi: "???"

Mingshi Yin continued to say, "How boring. There's no one here who can fight. Hey, hey, hey, where are you?"

Mingshi Yin's voice echoed loudly.

The expressions of the cultivators standing behind Xuanyi soured immediately.



Mingshi Yin continued with his provocation. "Come out, come out. This is a deal. I'll knock two people down for the price of one!"

Zhang He finally flipped over and glared at Mingshi Yin. "You're too arrogant! How dare you!"

Mingshi Yin spread his arms and shrugged. "There are no rules against talking right? Moreover, don't I have freedom of speech?" Then, he raised his head and said loudly, "Freedom of speech!"

"..."

'I'm so angry!' Zhang He had already lost. If he continued to fight, he would still lose. It would only be asking for trouble. Moreover, extreme actions were not allowed. In the end, he could only swallow his anger.

At this moment, from the Dao hall, Xuanyi waved his sleeve and said in a deep voice, "How arrogant."

Then, someone behind Xuanyi leaped down like a shooting star and appeared in front of Mingshi Yin. He was fierce and overbearing as he waved the Meteor Hammer in his hand.

Mingshi Yi flashed and dove down before flying into the distance. "You're so fierce as soon as you appear! You almost scared me to death!"

The Meteor Hammer user shouted, "Don't run!"

"There are no rules saying I can't run! The venue is so big. How are you going to stop me?" Mingshi Yin said before he flew away.

"You're as timid as a mouse! How can you compete for the position of commander?" the Meteor Hammer user said, feeling speechless.

"Oh, then should I listen to you, stand still, and let you hammer into pieces? Are you a fool?" Mingshi Yin said.

"What?"

"I asked if you're a fool!" Mingshi Yin said.

The Meteor Hammer user was enraged. "You! I'll skin you alive!"

The Meteor Hammer user flew out.

At the same time, thousands of vines rose from the ground. All of them were suffused with a golden light.

Upon seeing this, Zhang He smacked the ground and left the battlefield. It was fine that he lost; he did not have to continue to stay here. He moved to the side and watched the battle as he clutched his chest. Then, he saw Mingshi crouching on the ground in the distance and looking at him like he was a fool!

## **Chapter 1606: Refreshing One's Worldview (1)**

Back on the Southern Cloud Viewing Platform.

Mingshi Yin shuddered and lowered his head.

Duanmu Sheng was puzzled. He asked, "What's wrong with you?"

Duanmu Sheng did not have a good look at Lu Zhou's face earlier. Even Xuanyi and Nan Li, a great divine king and divine lord respectively, could only barely see Lu Zhou's face, let alone a Dao Saint like him. In his mind, there was no way Mingshi Yin would be defeated.

Mingshi Yin sighed. "He's an expert."

"Expert? How powerful?" Duanmu Sheng asked as he raised his Overlord Spear, looking as though he was ready to leap down. He said, "Let me experience it for myself! Previously, I only used 50% of my strength during my battle with Zhang He. I should spar with such an expert!"

"Trust me. It's better not to go," Mingshi Yin said.

"The Scarlet Emperor said that no matter what kind of powerful opponents we encounter, we must go all out. We must beat Xuanyi Palace to the ground in Southern Split Mountain. With that, when the true competition for the commanders begins, we won't have to fight," Duanmu Sheng said clearly.

"Why won't you trust me?" Mingshi Yin shook his head.

A Vajra said, puzzled, "Xuanyi Palace actually has an expert Mr. Ri can't defeat?"

"In this world, there'll always be people better than you. It's best to keep a low profile. Don't underestimate Xuanyi Palace," Mingshi Yin said.

"???"

The four Vajras looked at Mingshi Yin in confusion. After Mingshi Yin had provoked and scolded Xuanyi Palace the most. They could not understand why he would say these words now. It was truly confusing.

Duanmu Sheng lifted his Overlord Spear and said, "Wait for me here. In less than 15 minutes, I'll definitely beat him to the ground!"

Upon hearing this, the four Vajras bowed in unison. "We'll wait for Mr. Duanmu's good news."

Duanmu Sheng leaped down.

The four Vajras were about to walk to the edge to watch when Mingshi Yin stopped them and said, "Come, come and have a cup of tea."

"Aren't you worried, Mr. Ri?"

"Worry my as\*," Mingshi Yin said, "We should run away after we finish our tea."

"..."

The four Vajras' expressions were not too good at this moment. After all, they represent the Scarlet Emperor's dignity. It was fine Mingshi Yin had no intention of preserving the Scarlet Emperor's dignity, but he even wanted to throw it away.

"Have some tea," Mingshi Yin said as he sipped from his teacup.

"Mr. Duanmu must have already begun to fight. Let's go and have a look."

The four Vajras walked toward the edge. However, before they arrived, Duanmu Sheng suddenly shot up from below.

Duanmu Sheng's face and body were covered in dirt and dust.

The four Vajras were stunned.

"Mr. Duanmu... won?"

"Uh..." Duanmu Sheng looked embarrassed as he said, "In fact, I only went down to have look."

'So did he win or lose?' The four Vajras grew even more confused. Looking at Duanmu Sheng's dirty face and strange expression, they could not figure it out even more. It was solemn, embarrassed, and it strangely contained a hint of happiness.

"Mr. Duanmu?"

"Why are you so annoying?" Duanmu Sheng stabbed his Overlord Spear into the ground. "Isn't it normal to be defeated when faced with an expert? Victories and defeats are common among warriors. Don't tell me you've never lost?! Do you have to poke at my sore spot?"

The four Vajras were stunned.

Mingshi Yin could not help but spit out the tea in his mouth. 'When did Third Senior Brother become so eloquent?'

Mingshi Yin rose to his feet and said, "Alright, alright, let's hurry up and escape."

"Escape?"

The four Vajras and the two Great Void Seeds' owners were representatives of the Scarlet Emperor. If they left just like that, would it not be a disgrace to the Scarlet Emperor?

The four Vajras were about to speak when Mingshi Yin looked at Duanmu Sheng meaningfully. With just a swoosh, Mingshi Yin flew toward the flying chariot.

"Mr. Ri?!"

Duanmu Sheng shouted, "Wait for me!"

Duanmu Sheng did not hesitate and flew after Mingshi Yin.

The four Vajras were left behind, looking at each other in bewilderment. Even if the opponent was very strong, it should not be like this, right?

"Aren't they usually very arrogant? Why are they like completely different people today?"

"That's right. They're always arrogant. This change is too drastic."

"Perhaps, the opponent is really strong?"

The four Vajras walked to the edge and looked down, but there was no one down there. Then, they looked at the Dao hall, but it was shrouded by the clouds so they could not see anything. In the end, they sighed and shook their heads.

“There’ll always be someone stronger in the world. It seems like a new expert has appeared. This can be considered a lesson to both of them.”

“This is very normal. Just like how a child is fierce in front of his family, they’re timid when faced with outsiders. How are we going to report this to the Scarlet Emperor when we return?”

“Beautify it a little...”

“That’s all we can do.”

With that, the four Vajras cupped their fists together at the northern Dao hall. One of them said, “After today, it’s clear our strength is lacking. We’ll meet again another day.”

A faint voice rang from the northern Dao hall. “Send a message to those two. Tell them: just because you’ve learned a few petty tricks doesn’t mean you can act impudently in Southern Split Mountain. Cultivate properly. The next time I see you, if you don’t improve, I’ll definitely teach you a lesson.”

“???”

The four Vajras were angry, and their expressions were unsightly. Nonetheless, they bowed and said, “Thank you for your advice. We’ll convey the message.”

## **Chapter 1607: Refreshing One’s Worldview (2)**

The Four Vajras flew into the flying chariot before it turned around and disappeared into the southern horizon with creaking sounds.

After conveying Lu Zhou’s message, one of the Vajras said, “This Xuanyi Palace dares to trample on our dignity! We must snatch it back the next time we meet!”

“No, no, I won’t do it,” Mingshi Yin said as he shook his head.

One of the Vajras protested, “Mr. Ri, he even said those words! Insulting you is like insulting the Scarlet Emperor!”

“Insulting?” Mingshi Yin cleared his throat and said, “It’s fine for him to insult me. He’s right. However, how is it insulting the Scarlet Emperor? Anyway, it’s a small matter. I’ll apologize next time.”

“???”

A Vajra said, confused, “Mr. Ri, this isn’t like you. Shouldn’t you seek revenge?”

“Let’s talk about this another time. I’m going to take a nap now.”

“...”

...

/

In the northern Dao hall of Southern Split Mountain.

Xuanyi said with a smile, “Pavilion Master Lu is truly capable. With just a small move, you’re able to make the other party flee in panic.”

At this time, the injured cultivators from Xuanyi Palace flew back with embarrassed expressions on their faces.

Meanwhile, Nan Li was in a daze; he had yet to recover from his shock. He found it difficult to accept the reality before him. 'When did he make a move? I did not see anything at all.'

"Those two brats are still wet behind the ears," Lu Zhou said.

"You have a point." Xuanyi nodded tactfully. Then, he turned around and reprimanded Zhang He lightly.

However, Zhang He did not come up with any excuses. Instead, he said, "That spear user is fierce and overbearing. He indeed exceeded my expectations. As for the Bluewood user, he really caught me off guard. Today, I wholeheartedly admit defeat."

"Are you willing to give up the position of commander?" Xuanyi asked.

Zhang He was stunned. Although he was unwilling, he thought he would still lose in the official competition later on. He might even lose more miserably. Hence, he fell to the ground and said, "I'm willing to give up my position."

"Oh?" Xuanyi did not expect Zhang He to be so open-minded and magnanimous.

Zhang He continued to say, "Although I acknowledge their strength, I disagree with their questionable characters."

"Questionable characters?"

"I intended to have a friendly sparring session, but they repeatedly insulted me and Xuanyi Palace. This is a great disrespect. It's really unfortunate that the Great Void Seeds fell into their hands," Zhang He said.

Lu Zhou frowned slightly. These words were slightly unpleasant to the ears. It was like how only parents could criticize their children; they would feel uncomfortable if outsiders were to criticize their children.

"I don't know if their characters are questionable, but you're gossiping behind their backs now. What qualifications do you have to talk about character?" Lu Zhou asked.

"This..." Zhang He lowered his head, ashamed. Then, after thinking for a moment, he said, "Your Majesty, I'm willing to give up my position, but I want to give it to Pavilion Master Lu."

Nan Li said, surprised, "You're talking about the position of Commander of Xuanyi Palace. Aren't you being too hasty?"

Xuan Li frowned. "Nonsense. The position of commander is very important; how can it be given away so easily? Pavilion Master Lu has just joined Xuanyi Palace so it's not suitable for him to be commander. Otherwise, members of Xuanyi Palace will gossip about favoritisms. How can we win the hearts of the masses then?"

Zhang He's heart was moved. 'His Majesty still thinks highly of me!'

Xuanyi glanced at Lu Zhou from the corners of his eyes and thought to himself, 'I hope teacher won't be angry. Isn't such a low position an insult to him?'

Nan Li said, "I think Pavilion Master Lu is very suitable to become the Commander of Xuanyi Palace."

Xuanyi decisively changed the topic and said, "Nan Li, I remember you and Pavilion Master Lu made a bet, right?"

"A bet?"

"Are you going to renege on your promise?" Xuanyi asked with a smile.

Nan Li revealed an embarrassed expression. Seeing that everyone was staring at him, he could only sigh and say, "It's not that I want to renege on my promise. However, the southern true fire isn't something humans are a match for. If I give it to you, I'll only be harming you. Pavilion Master Lu, why don't you give up?"

Humans were like this sometimes. They might not value some things, and yet, they still refused to give them to others.

Lu Zhou said, "I hope you'll keep your promise."

"This..."

"I hate people who renege on their promise the most," Lu Zhou said.

"..."

'With these words, there was no room for negotiation.

Xuanyi sighed and said, "Divine Lord Nan Li, although we have a good relationship, you indeed made a bet. Hence, I can't speak for you."

Nan Li's eyelids twitched. 'Why does it feel like he's acting?'

Indeed, Nan Li and Xuanyi did not only know each other for a day or two. In fact, the duo could be considered good friends in the Great Void. Nonetheless, Xuanyi had never said such words until today.

Nan Li sighed. "Alright. However, let me be clear. If something happens, you can't blame it on Southern Split Mountain."

Xuanyi looked at Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou said, "Don't worry. I never blame others for my actions."

"Alright."

Nan Li rose to his feet and gestured to the left. "Please."

Lu Zhou and Xuanyi rose to their feet in unison.

With that, the trio flew toward a mountain in the north with Nan Li flying in the lead.

### **Chapter 1608: Refreshing One's Worldview (3)**

After flying for 100 miles, they saw a mountain pass.

"This is the entrance that leads to the true fire," Nan Li said.

Xuanyi asked, puzzled, "It's underground?"

"The true fire has to be kept underground to suppress its power. Otherwise, it'll definitely cause a disaster," Lu Zhou said.

"Listening to Pavilion Master Lu's words is better than 10 years of reading," Xuanyi said, filled with praise.

"Huh?" Nan Li looked at Xuanyi in confusion. 'What kind of flattery is this?'

Xuanyi seemed to realize his words were too flattering so he quickly cleared his throat and said solemnly, "Pavilion Master Lu, you're really well-read; I can't compare. Let's move on."

Xuanyi said the words 'let's move on' very casually.

Lu Zhou could not be bothered with these things. He looked at the mountain pass and said, "Lead the way."

Nan Li led the group underground.

After passing through a narrow underground tunnel, everyone felt the temperature rising higher and higher. Fortunately, their cultivation was very high so it did not affect them at all.

After traveling for about half a mile, they felt the pressure rise. The air seemed to distort due to the high temperature. A few cultivators from Xuanyi Palace could not continue forward so they only stayed and waited there.

After another half a mile or so, they could feel another spike in the temperature.

Buzz!

Nan Li activated his protective energy. "It's here."

Lu Zhou and Xuanyi activated their protective energies as well to fend off the heat.

Swoosh!

At this time, a green ball of flames flew over. It seemed out of place in this place that burned red.

"Southern true fire," Nan Li said before he flashed and dodged the attack from the ball of green flames.

Lu Zhou and Xuanyi flew to the sides as the ball of flames flew between them. The high temperature from the southern true fire caused the duo's protective energies to sizzle. They were both taken aback by this.

Xuanyi flew up for about 300 feet up in the air and said, "Pavilion Master Lu, I'll leave this to you."

'In any case, I don't want this item, and it's likely on teacher alone can deal with it. It's best for me to get out of the way first.'

Nan Li did not expect Xuanyi to act so decisively. Then, he also followed suit. Now was not the time to care about dignity or reputation; self-preservation was the most important. He flew to Xuanyi's side and looked down.

The southern true fire did not fly up and only circled the area below. It circled Lu Zhou so swiftly that it looked as though a circle of flames had formed around Lu Zhou.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Lu Zhou stared at the southern true fire intently.

As though it finally sensed Lu Zhou's location, the southern true fire suddenly shot toward Lu Zhou.

"Watch out!" Nan Li cried out.

Lu Zhou raised his hand and used Unnamed in the form of a shield to defend against the attack.

Boom!

Nan Li exclaimed in shock, "Void grade?! Pavilion Master Lu actually owns a void-grade weapon?"

"That's only natural," Xuanyi replied in a matter-of-course tone.

"???"

'How's this only natural when even you, a great divine king, only possess infinite-grade weapons???'

Most supreme beings have sacred relics and infinite-grade items and did not lack them. It was not that they did not want void-grade items, but it was extremely difficult to upgrade them to that grade. Void-grade items could freely change their forms, with their initial forms being their true forms.

For example, if the Overlord Spear was upgraded to the void-grade, its true form was naturally spear. The other forms are called 'derivative forms'. Items and weapons in their true forms are ten times more powerful than their derivative forms.

Void-grade items were not only powerful, but when used correctly, they could even withstand a part of the power of the laws. They also possessed spirituality.

How could Nan Li not be surprised?

Buzz!

As expected of the southern true fire, that was a divine fire. It even dented Unnamed. In fact, it looked as though Unnamed was on the verge of melting.

Lu Zhou put away Unnamed as his robe rustled.

Upon seeing this, Nan Li frowned and said, "The robe isn't simple. It seems to be..."

Xuanyi interjected with a straight face, "You must have seen wrongly."

"Seen wrongly? No, no, no. Look carefully, Divine King Xuanyi. When the divine fire approached, the robe clearly released a surge of energy that blocked the heat. Very few experts and fierce beasts in the world can easily block the heat of the southern true fire. This robe looks like it's weaved from... the tendons of a Rain Dragon," Nan Li said, filled with convictions.



Again, without changing expressions, Xuanyi said, "How can it be? Dragon tendons are limited. How can they be weaved into a robe? This robe should be a sacred relic. Otherwise, Pavilion Master Lu would've been able to fend off the southern true fire."

Nan Li nodded and sighed. "You're right. I haven't been sleeping well lately so my eyes are blurry. I apologize."

Xuanyi said, "It's fine. This southern true fire has been tormenting you for a long time. When Pavilion Master Lu takes it away, you'll be able to sleep soundly. From now on, there'll be four seasons in Southern Split Mountain. Isn't it wonderful to enjoy flowers and spring and the snow in winter?"

"After hearing Great Divine King Xuanyi's words, my heart feels more at ease," Nan Li said. However, a second later, he shook his head; he had almost been influenced by Xuanyi. He said, "That's not right. I'm afraid Pavilion Master Lu won't be able to bring the southern true fire away."

"How do you know?"

"This divine fire was born from eight desolate lands in six directions. It has been nourished by heaven and earth. It's truly fearsome. It should be underground. If it's brought outside, it will only cause a huge disaster. All that aside, don't tell Pavilion Master Lu intends to take it with his bare hands? Where does he plan to keep it?" Nan Li said as he shook his head.

At this moment, Lu Zhou pushed his hand down.

A brown bag flashing with electric arcs shot and grew rapidly.

Swoosh!

The Vast Sky Bag flew out, easily capturing the southern true fire.

Lu Zhou flew over and grabbed the Vast Sky Bag. Then, it began to shrink in his hand immediately after the pattern on it lit up briefly.

Nan Li: "???"

Xuanyi: "???"

Lu Zhou casually put the Vast Sky Bag away before he flew to the duo and said, "We can leave now."

Even the mentally-prepared Xuanyi was shocked by this move. For a moment, he was frozen. No one knew what he was thinking.

Nan Li's mouth was agape. He could not speak for a long time.

Looking at the stunned duo, Lu Zhou flew up first.

It was at this time that Nan Li regained his senses. He asked, "Was I seeing things?"

"No," Xuanyi replied.

"It's a sacred relic!" Nan Li said.

"A sacred relic that can deal with a divine fire?" Xuanyi asked skeptically.

“This... I don’t think so.”

Nan Li felt as though he had been slapped in the face when he recalled his earlier words. Lu Zhou had proven him wrong with his actions. He felt like his worldview had been refreshed.

Xuanyi said, “Let’s go.”

Nan Li nodded and flew away.

...

When they left the mountain pass, the temperature began to drop. Soon enough, clouds began to gather. Cold breeze blew over from all directions. As the temperature continued to drop, the wind grew stronger and stronger. The sudden and drastic change in temperature caused a chain of reactions.

The platforms in the air swayed slightly as Primal Qi began to converge.

“This is bad! The Formations on the platform are about to be destroyed!” Nan Li exclaimed. Then, he turned around and bowed to Lu Zhou as he said, “Pavilion Master, please return the divine fire to Southern Split Mountain.”

#### **Chapter 1609: After the Rain, There Might Be a Rainbow... or a Great Flood**

Nan Li would rather be tortured than watch the platforms on Southern Split Mountain fall. They were the symbols of Southern Split Mountain and key structures of the place. Many cultivators liked to discuss the Dao here, and they liked the platforms. Without the platforms, it was no different from Southern Split Mountain collapsing.

Lu Zhou looked at the horizon. Then, he said, “We have an agreement. The true fire has been subdued by me. How can I return it to you?”

“This...” Nan Li could only say pleadingly, “Without the true fire, Southern Split Mountain will probably... I know I’ve made a promise, but I only wish Brother Lu will help me.”

“I didn’t say I won’t help you,” Lu Zhou said.

Nan Li was overjoyed. He nodded and said excitedly, “Good, very good! The true fire, true fire...”

Xuanyi frowned. “Divine King Nan Li, I think you’ve inhaled too much of the fumes from the true fire. Pavilion Master Lu agreed to help you, but he didn’t say he’ll return the true fire to you.”

“Uh... I misunderstood.” Nan Li looked embarrassed.

Lu Zhou looked at the converging clouds in the sky and explained, “It’s the effect of the temperature change.”

“What?” Nan Li was perplexed.

“I can’t explain. Just watch patiently,” Lu Zhou said.

/

After transmigrating, Lu Zhou would sometimes lose himself and forget where he came from. Sometimes, he would be very clear-headed. From time to time, familiar images would appear in his mind. As time passed, the images gradually turned blurry until he could no longer remember much of the past. All that was left was regret.

Swoosh!

Torrential rain fell from the sky.

Xuanyi and Nan Li looked surprised.

"It's been many years since it last rained. I didn't expect it to rain as soon as the southern true fire leaves. Is this going to destroy my Southern Split Mountain?"

Rain was expected under extreme temperature change.

The flowers, plants, and trees that lived in summer all year round were almost destroyed by the cold torrential rain.

When Nan Li saw this, his expression was naturally bad.

When Lu Zhou saw this, he asked, "Why worry about the auspicious rain?"

"Auspicious rain?" Nan Li swore he really did not see what was so auspicious about this rain. Everything was clearly battered beyond recognition by the rain. It was not an exaggeration to say that hundred flowers were withering.

"How can one see the rainbow without the wind and the rain?" Lu Zhou said. His protective energy kept the rain at bay as he looked up at the sky with his hands on his back. He sighed emotionally at this sentence that he heard often when he was a child.

"Well said!" Xuanyi, the loyal fan, said, "It's only natural that the disappearance of the true fire will disrupt things here for a while. However, new things won't come if the old things are around. Don't feel nostalgic about the past; you must look to the future. After the rain, you will see the sun again!"

Nan Li looked at the sky as well.

The rain continued to fall.

Zhang He and the others, who were standing behind, were shocked by the rain as well.

The formations continued to flicker. The platforms looked as though they were on the verge of collapse.

Zhang He, who saw this, added fuel to the fire. "Are they going to fall?"

Nan Li said, "They're not going to fall."

"The fluctuations of the formations are very intense. Under these circumstances, it's hard not to fall. Divine King Nan Li, you're truly very optimistic," Zhang He continued to say.

Nan Li coughed twice. 'Steady! Keep your state of mind steady!'

Nan Li said, filled with forced conviction, "A rainbow will appear after the rain!"

Zhang He said, "A great flood can also come after the rain."

"..."

Lu Zhou turned around to look at Zhang He with a complicated expression. Then, he turned to look at Xuanyi. His expression seemed to say, 'This is your subordinate, the Commander of Xuanyi Hall? With a friend like this, do you even need enemies?'

Xuanyi hurriedly said, "Don't talk nonsense."

Zhang He came to his senses and bowed. "I was just speaking nonsense. I hope Divine King Nan Li won't take offense. You're right. After the rain, there'll always be a rainbow."

It was unknown how much time had passed. The group stood at the mountain pass for a long time.

Since Lu Zhou had taken the true fire, he would not just leave. Although he had an agreement with Nan Li, he still did not want Southern Split Mountain to collapse because of the absence of the southern true fire. Moreover, if one showed respect to him, he would also respond in kind. It had always been his way of doing things.

"The rain has stopped."

Everyone looked at the sky.

The platforms were still swaying. Although they did not fall, the promised rainbow did not appear as well. Southern Split Mountain was in a mess after the rain.

Zhang He could not help himself and poured another bucket of ice water on Nan Li. "The formations are weakening. I'm afraid the situation is not good."

Nan Li turned to Lu Zhou again and said, "Pavilion Master Lu, please return the true fire."

"It's still too early to decide. Just watch carefully."

Swoosh!

Lu Zhou flew to the center of the platforms between the south and north, hovering between heaven and earth.

Xuanyi, Nan Li, and Zhang He looked at Lu Zhou in confusion, not knowing what he was going to do.

Then, Lu Zhou brought out the Pillar of Impermanence.

Golden light flashed.

"Infinite-grade!" Nan Li exclaimed in surprise.

The Pillar of Impermanence, brimming with spirituality, was like a mountain-stabilizing pillar at this moment as it stabbed into the ground.

Boom!

Lu Zhou mobilized his Primal Qi and the divine power and imbued them into the Pillar of Impermanence. The power of healing from the Heavenly Writing and the surging vitality from the Pillar of

Impermanence swept out in all directions rapidly. As golden lotuses bloomed, everything was brought back to life. The withered flowers bloomed, and the trees began to grow.

“What a good technique!” Xuanyi exclaimed.

“This....” A complicated expression flitted across Nan Li’s face as he said, “Why does it feel like he’s... he’s... Who is it?”

Xuanyi nodded. “That’s right. You have a discerning eye. Pavilion Master Lu is an expert I met while I traveled east of the Endless Ocean to the Lost Land.”

With this interruption, Nan Li nodded. “No wonder!”

‘No wonder Great Divine King Xuanyi treats him in such a manner!’

Realization also dawned on Zhang He. ‘No wonder! It seems like His Majesty has long known him!’

As the enormous vitality energy restored all things, Lu Zhou suddenly waved his hand.

Boom!

The Pillar of Impermanence dislodged itself from the ground and flew into the sky. Then, it began to spin. The divine power began to restore the formations, covering a radius of 30 miles.

Before long, the platforms stopped shaking as the formations stabilized.

After Lu Zhou put away the Pillar of Impermanence, the clouds had already begun to disperse. At the same time, sunlight shone from between the clouds as a dazzling rainbow appeared in the sky. The rainbow had emerged after the storm. Southern Split Mountain looked like a scene out of a painting.

Everyone watched in a daze.

Xuanyi flew up and looked down.

Nan Li, Zhang He, and the others flew up as well. They sighed emotionally as they took in the scenery before them.

It was just as Lu Zhou had said: After the rain, the rainbow would appear.

After losing the southern true fire, Southern Split Mountain had been reborn, and it was not inferior to the past.

What surprised Nan Li the most was the Primal Qi in Southern Split Mountain was even richer and purer than before. He greedily breathed in the fresh and Primal Qi. He could not help but mobilized his Primal Qi to cultivate. He felt as though his Eight Extraordinary Meridians had been refreshed.

Nan Li was a divine king. How could he not understand the negative effects of the southern true fire? However, he was also human. It was difficult for him to overcome human nature.

Lu Zhou asked, “Are you satisfied?”

“Yes, yes... I’m very satisfied.”

After the change, it was only a matter of time before Southern Split Mountain rose to a higher level.

Nan Li bowed to Lu Zhou and said, "Brother Lu, I don't know what to say to express my gratitude."

Xuanyi raised his hand and said, "Divine Lord Nan Li, even I am embarrassed to address Pavilion Master Lu as brother."

"Yes, yes, yes. Please forgive me, Pavilion Master Lu," Nan Li said. He was just trying to get close to Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou said, "I'll take the southern true fire."

"May I ask what Pavilion Master Lu intends to do with the true fire?" Nan Li asked curiously.

### **Chapter 1610: Disciple Greets Master**

When Lu Zhou saw the curiosity and doubts in Nan Li's eyes, he answered truthfully, "The southern true fire can improve the karmic fire."

Nan Li was briefly stunned by these words. He asked, "You want to refine the karmic fire into divine fire? In the first place, not everyone possesses the karmic fire. Even if you possess the karmic fire, using the southern true fire to forcefully refine your karmic fire might result in a backlash!"

Lu Zhou nodded. "You're not wrong."

Xuanyi said, "Divine Lord Nan Li, based on your words, are you doubting Pavilion Master Lu's ability?"

"No, no, no." Nan Li shook his head repeatedly.

"Is it convenient for us to stay for a night at the northern Dao hall? It's getting quite late, after all," Xuanyi asked.

Nan Li smiled. "Let alone a night, you can even stay for ten days or half a month. Southern Split Mountain will always welcome you."

"Very well."

...

At night.

The people from Xuanyi Palace stayed in Southern Split Mountain.

In the northern Dao temple.

Zhang He flew in and kneeled on one knee as he said to Xuanyi, "Your Majesty, I have a request."

At this moment, Xuanyi and Lu Zhou were chatting happily.

"What is it?" Xuanyi noticed Zhang He's expression was a little serious.

"Today, I witnessed Pavilion Master Lu's skills and abilities with my own eyes. I truly admire him. I don't feel worthy of being the Commander of Xuanyi Hall. Therefore, I'm willing to assist Pavilion Master Lu!" Zhang He said earnestly. Previously, he was unaware of Lu Zhou's ability. After today, he was thoroughly convinced so his words were very sincere.

Xuanyi frowned. "Didn't we already discuss this?"

"We did. However, Pavilion Master Lu's cultivation is profound, and his abilities far surpass mine. If I continue to shamelessly hold onto my position, I'm afraid I'll bring shame to Xuanyi Palace when I meet those two people again in the future," Zhang He said.

Xuanyi nodded slightly. Although Zhang He was not extremely smart nor was he meticulous in planning things, he was very righteous and loyal.

Lu Zhou said, "I feel that the young man who defeated you using his clone can take on this heavy responsibility. If you insist on giving up your position, you can give it to him."

"???"

Zhang He was stunned.

Xuanyi was stunned as well.

Upon seeing their reactions, Lu Zhou continued to say, "Don't underestimate him. Outwardly, he looks like a despotic and arrogant ruffian who lacks manners. However, he's very shrewd and cunning."

Xuanyi laughed. "Pavilion Master Lu seems to know him very well. Now that you mention it, he's really quite interesting."

Zhang He said unwillingly, "I still think Pavilion Master Lu is the most suitable."

"Don't be rude," Xuanyi admonished him.

Zhang He lowered his head; he no longer dared to speak.

Xuanyi said, "Don't mention this matter again."

"Understood," Zhang He raised his head and said, "I still have something I don't know if I should say."

"Speak," Xuanyi said.

"Has Your Majesty met the White Emperor recently?" Zhang He started with this question.

Upon hearing this, Xuanyi frowned and said, "Scram!"

Zhang He felt that the situation was not right so he hurriedly turned around and left.

After Zhang He left and the others retreated, Xuanyi cupped his fists together at Lu Zhou and asked, "Please don't be angry with him."

"I'm not that petty."

"That's good. I won't disturb you further," Xuanyi said before he took his leave.

...

Midnight.

Lu Zhou brought the southern true fire out of the Vast Sky Bag. He suppressed it with the divine power and toyed with it, precisely controlling its heat.

With a flip of his hand, his karmic fire appeared. Following that, he merged the karmic fire with the divine fire.

He had learned this method from the memories of the Unholy One. The Unholy One naturally possessed the karmic fire. He had intended to take the southern true fire away but was delayed due to some matters.

Now that Lu Zhou possessed that knowledge, how could he let go of such a great opportunity?

After the true southern fire was subdued, it seemed harmless as it constantly weaved into Lu Zhou's karmic fire.

The process was uneventful and did not cause too much damage.

...

The next day, Lu Zhou made up an excuse to stay for two more days and did not leave.

Nan Li, who had wished Lu Zhou was stronger, was naturally delighted. He wanted to continue to observe the stability of the formations.

Lu Zhou took advantage of the time to continue refining his karmic fire, gradually absorbing the southern true fire.

Fortunately, he had the Purple Glazed Ceramic, the divine mark robe, the Vast Sky Bag, and most importantly, the divine power. They all easily suppressed the southern true fire.

He spent the entire two days refining his karmic fire.

...

Two days later.

At night.

When Lu Zhou put the southern true fire into the Vast Sky Bag, a figure flashed past.

"Who's so bold?" Lu Zhou asked in a deep voice.

The figure rushed into the hall sneakily like a thief. He rolled over on the ground and removed the black cloth from his face.

Thump!

After knocking his forehead on the ground, he said, "Disciple greets master!"

"Old Fourth?"

Apart from his fourth disciple, Lu Zhou really could not think of anyone else.

Mingshi Yin raised his head and chuckled sheepishly.

Lu Zhou frowned. "How dare you. Aren't you afraid of being discovered?"



"It's fine. These people are weak," Mingshi Yin said with a smile. Then, in the next second, he moved forward with his knees with a crying expression on his face and hugged Lu Zhou's legs as he said, "Master! I really thought you died!"

"No good words can be expected from a scoundrel!" Lu Zhou said as he kicked Mingshi Yin away. Then, he added, "Didn't you say you don't have a master?"

Mingshi Yin continued kneeling as he said, "I swear I was just acting for them to see! This is the Great Void, and the walls have ears. I swear on the Separation Hook that if there's an ounce of untruth in my words, I'll let the Separation Hook kill me!"

"Enough. Stop talking about useless things. How did all of you and Old Third to the Great Void?" Lu Zhou asked.

Mingshi Yin told Lu Zhou about what happened with him and Duanmu Sheng before he told Lu Zhou about Qi Sheng as well.

"Qi Sheng?" Lu Zhou frowned in confusion.

"This person intentionally led us to believe he's Old Seventh and secretly helped us. However, the truth is he's very cunning and has yet to show his foxtail," Mingshi Yin said.

"You don't think he's Old Seventh?" Lu Zhou asked.

"Impossible!" Mingshi Yin said confidently, "Master, I know Old Seventh very well."

"If it's not Old Seventh, why did he lure all of you to the Great Void?"

"He's trying to curry favor with the Sacred Temple. He's now Great Emperor Ming Xin's lackey. Then, I think he's trying to curry favor with us to rope you in," Mingshi Yin said.

"Rope me in?"

"You... Aren't you the Unholy One? Master, why didn't you tell me about your legendary identity earlier? From now on, I'm your number one lackey!" Mingshi Yin said. Then, he waved his fist as he added, "Let's see who dares to bully me in the future!"

"???"

Lu Zhou frowned and scolded him, "Is that all you got?"

Lu Zhou's stay in the Great Void was rather smooth now due to his identity as the Unholy One. Since everyone misunderstood him, he decided to let them be. Every time he comprehended the Heaven Scroll and the Resurrection Scroll, he felt like he was the Unholy One. Since the world needed an Unholy One, he had decided to become one.

"Master, you're the high and mighty Unholy One. Are you planning to return to the peak and take back what you've lost?" Mingshi Yin asked with a cheeky smile.

Lu Zhou said, "Your master doesn't have such ambitions."

Mingshi Yin revealed a regretful expression.

Lu Zhou changed the topic and asked, "How are the others?"

Mingshi Yin replied, "Eldest and Second Senior Brothers are enjoying themselves at the Azure Emperor's place. I heard they're also participating in the commanders' competition. I think they should be going to Xuanyi Palace in a few days to challenge Zhang He. As for Fifth and Sixth Junior Sisters, I'm afraid their situation isn't too good at the White Emperor's place..."

"Hm?" Lu Zhou frowned.

"The White Emperor and Qi Sheng have a very good relationship. Qi Sheng is cunning so he's definitely not a good person. My two junior sisters are very simple-minded, and I don't know if the White Emperor is mistreating them," Mingshi Yin said.

"The White Emperor shouldn't be so stupid. At the very least, they're future supreme beings," Lu Zhou said.

"That's true," Mingshi Yin said before he continued to report, "Old Eighth and that Qi Sheng is with the Sacred Temple. Master, there's something I don't know if I should say..."

"Speak frankly."

"I suspect that Old Eighth has already betrayed the Evil Sky Pavilion," Mingshi Yin said solemnly, "During the 100 years you were gone, he has done a lot for the temple. He's now the number one lackey of the Sacred Temple. No, no, he's the second. Qi Sheng is the number one lackey of the Sacred Temple."

"..."

Lu Zhou asked, "How did you know this?"

"I went to the Sacred Temple once. Not only did Old Eighth completely submit to the temple, but he's also spouting nonsense about the Unholy One to do whatever he wants!" Mingshi Yin said indignantly.

"If that's the case, I won't let him off lightly," Lu Zhou said.

"That's right! You have to punish him severely!" Mingshi Yin added fuel to the fire. Then, he continued to say, "As for Ninth Junior Sister and Tenth Junior Sister..."

Mingshi Yin hesitated and stopped speaking.

Lu Zhou frowned.

Mingshi Yin took a step back before he said, "I will be direct, but please don't be angry. I think Ninth and Tenth Junior Sisters have acknowledged the thief who kidnapped them as their father!"

"Acknowledged the thief as their father?"

'In 100 years, those wicked disciples have turned out this way?'

In fact, it was only normal for Lu Zhou to feel apprehensive about his disciples. He knew about and experienced the betrayals of Ji Tiandao's example, and there was also Chen Fu, who died in Fragrant Valley, serving as an example.

"The relationship between two junior sisters and Emperor Shang Zhang is so good that it makes one's hair stand on end! I heard that he treats them like his daughters. How outrageous!" Mingshi Yin said angrily.

Lu Zhou said, "Emperor Shang Zhang, his name seems vaguely familiar."

Mingshi Yin said with a gossipy expression, "Do you remember the Dark Prince, the zombie king that guarded one of the Pillars of Destruction? They both had enmity. It was the Dark Prince that cheated with Shang Zhang's concubine!"

Lu Zhou looked at Mingshi Yin suspiciously. At this moment, not only did Mingshi Yin look like a gossipy woman, but Mingshi Yin also looked like a treacherous official depicted in the history books. He said with a frown, "Old Fourth, they're all your fellow disciples. Are you sure you're right?"

"Master, I'm not lying. I'm only telling you what I think," Mingshi Yin said.

"If it's really as you said, I'll punish all of them severely," Lu Zhou said.

At this time, Mingshi Yin muttered, "I can't guarantee my speculations are right though..."

As soon as Lu Zhou heard this, he reprimanded Mingshi Yin immediately, "Bast\*rd! How dare you spout nonsense when you're unsure?"

"I know I'm wrong!" Mingshi Yin kneeled down obediently on the ground.

"Forget it. After all, this isn't the Evil Sky Pavilion. You can leave," Lu Zhou said with a wave of his sleeve.

"Leave?" Mingshi Yin said, "Master, let me stay with you. It wasn't easy for me to escape."

"I still have a lot of things to do. You should return," Lu Zhou said before he added, "It might be safer for you to stay with the Scarlet Emperor."

Once Lu Zhou's identity was exposed, the ten halls would definitely attack him. At that time, he would have to deal with them alone. It would be difficult to have all his disciples follow him.

Mingshi Yin's eyes lit up. "Alright! I'll work with you in secret!"

"Your current mission is to grow stronger. You don't need to worry about anything else," Lu Zhou said, "I'll personally investigate the situation of the others."

"Understood."

Then, Lu Zhou threw the Vast Sky Bag to Mingshi Yin and said, "The southern true fire is in there. Use it to refine your karmic fire. It can improve your cultivation and will greatly benefit you."

"Thank you, master!" Mingshi Yin. Then, the cheeky smile on his face vanished before he kowtowed to Lu Zhou respectfully and loudly.

Thump!

"Master, since disciple isn't by your side, you have to... take care."

"Alright, go."

