

Disciples 221

Chapter 221 No Chance To Act Like A Pretentious Prick

Although Leng Luo prided himself on his strength, his cultivation base had not recovered at the moment. He could not go down and test the Slender West Park's Formation.

Pan Litian was even worse.

Everyone was anticipating what Lu Zhou would do next when...

Roar!

A deep roar rang from the forest around Slender West Lake.

Everyone's attention was, naturally, attracted by the roar.

"Bi An!"

Bi An was one of Lu Zhou's mount.

Little Yuan'er and Duanmu Sheng were used to this sight so they were not shocked when they saw Bi An charging at the cultivators.

On the contrary, Leng Luo and Pan Litian were thoroughly shocked and in awe. Both of them were old monsters and powerful cultivators with high statuses. They had spent much of their lives searching for mounts. They would even settle for an epic mount. Alas, mounts could only be found by chance. Many of the wild beasts in Misty Forest were unsuitable to be used as mounts. Even if they were tamed, they could only be used as ferocious beasts to pull carriages. For this reason, they were greatly shaken when they saw this rare legendary mount.

ce.

Lu Zhou ordered in a deep voice, "Find him." Bi An roared in response to its master's command. It turned around, stepped on an auspicious cloud, and charged into Slender West Park at lightning speed.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

As soon as Bi An dove down, it crashed through three buildings. The walls crumbled and rubble and debris flew everywhere.

Leng Luo and Pan Litian clicked their tongues in wonder as they witnessed this.

Leng Luo asked humbly, "May I ask how you came across this beast, Pavilion Master?"

Lu Zhou glanced at Leng Luo and Pan Litian, their curiosity was etched on their faces. It was only natural since both of them had been searching for such a precious mount as well. Ordinary cultivators knew these kinds of mounts could only be encountered by chance so they did not indulge in flights of fancy. Lu Zhou said nonchalantly, "I went to the Misty Forest, spent 300 days there, passing through the absurd landscape as I killed tens of thousands of wild beasts. In the end, I met Bi An with a stroke of luck and spent several months taming it."

The others regarded Lu Zhou with looks of respect and envy. What was an expert like? Perhaps, this was it.

Leng Luo cupped his fists. There was no need to verbalize his admiration.

Everyone could see how terrifying Bi An was. With its physical strength alone, it charged through many buildings in Slender West Park.

Lu Zhou did some calculations. Bi An was not a mount with special abilities like Whitzard. Instead, it was a fearsome beast with great combat strength. If it unleashed all its strength, even Divine Court realm cultivators would not be a match for it. It possessed great defensive abilities as well. It felt no pain while it crashed through the buildings.

Up until now, Lu Zhou had no chance to test Bi An's full strength. He had only speculated based on his observations. If he encountered a powerful opponent and lost his mount, it would be a great loss to him. Perhaps, after he had gotten stronger, he could play with it to test its strength.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Bi An suddenly came to halt after crashing through the buildings. It stood in the park as though it was searching for its prey.

"It has a good nose."

Bi An's nose twitched as it sniffed. Eventually, it turned in the direction of the buildings on the west of Slender West Park.

As expected, perhaps, they had sensed the threat the Bi An posed, several cultivators came charging out of the buildings with their swords pointed at Bi An.

Roar!

Bi An's body was suddenly enveloped in a blue light that seemed somewhat similar to an electric current.

Bzzt!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Several swords stabbed at Bi An's body.

"What a powerful defense."

"The legendary mount truly lives up to its reputation."

Leng Luo and Pan Litan offered another round of praises.

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Lu Zhou did not expect Bi An to possess such defensive power as well.

There were a handful of Divine Court realm cultivators among the Clarity Sect's disciples who charged out. They even unleashed their Ten Energies Universe avatars. Their seemingly aggressive attacks seemed like a tickle to Bi An. The beast was not affected in the least.

The defeated Clarity Sect's disciples turn-tailed and fled.

When they ran, Bi An was immediately excited. It took out one cultivator with each swipe of its claws. They were swatted away and flew through the air! Those who could not dodge in time were crushed along with their avatars and were turned into a bloody pulp.

Boom! Boom!

Two cultivators were smashed into meat cakes under Bi An's feet.

Bi An's savage combat strength stopped everyone in their tracks.

"Stop!" A firm and forceful shout rang in the air.

It was obvious the voice belonged to the person who had replied to Lu Zhou's call earlier. It was none other than Mo Qi, the Sect Master of Clarity Sect. Despite his words, he was still hiding and did not dare to show himself.

"The Evil Sky Pavilion is an intolerable bully!"

Duanmu Sheng cursed, "Ignorant old fool, didn't you think you were an intolerable bully as well when you laid siege on Golden Court Mountain? You can bully others but can't tolerate others retaliating? I can't believe a wretched and lowly person like you is the Sect Master of Clarity Sect!"

"..." Mo Qi was used to the double standards. He was the only one who could light a fire, but others were not even allowed to light their lamps.

Mo Qi's voice rang out again. "I'd rather be a broken jade than an intact tile!"

At this moment, Leng Luo pointed in a direction and said confidently, "There."

Lu Zhou surveyed his surroundings and said, "The Grand Formation has been activated." He waved his arm. With the command, Bi An switched direction and left Slender West Lake through the air.

Lu Zhou initially wanted to use Whizard. After all, Whizard's powers could instantly weaken the Grand Formation. However, when he thought about it, there seemed to be no need for that yet. There was no need to slaughter a chicken with a butcher's knife.

Slender West Lake was bubbling at this moment. The bubbles covered the entirety of the lake's surface.

Boom!

A figure suddenly shot through the roof, up into the air. The water from the lake swiftly gathered around the figure.

"Has Mo Qi mastered this abominable cultivation method as well?" Leng Luo wondered.

Pan Litian was from the Clarity Sect to begin with. He looked at it and said in disappointment, "What a huge disappointment! So you've wandered down this depraved path, Mo Qi!"

“Depraved path?” Lu Zhou was puzzled.

Pan Litian explained, “This is a devouring technique. It’s an abominable technique that absorbs other’s essence and Primal Qi to replenish himself!”

Mo Qi spread his arms in the air. Debris and rubble flew around him. The powerful Primal Qi converging around him was like flowing water. Everything entered his sea of Qi. At this moment, a murderous expression could be seen on his face.

Leng Luo cupped his fists slightly and said, “Let’s retreat.”

“Retreat?” Duanmu Sheng was shocked.

“Avoiding the brunt of this attack is the best course of action.” Leng Luo seemed strangely calm when he spoke.

“I agree,” Pan Litian said, “When this technique is unleashed, he won’t rest until he dies. Mo Qi has descended into depravity. He’d go berserk, and the best thing we can do is to avoid him when he does.”

The others looked at Lu Zhou, waiting for his decision.

Lu Zhou stared at Mo Qi.

The Grand Formation was swiftly activated. The rubble and debris of Slender West Park hovered in the air as though they were lifted by some energy. They orbited around Mo Qi.

Mo Qi hovered in the air like the eye of the tornado.

Lu Zhou looked around his surroundings. “Have you seen Pan Zhong?”

“No.” Duanmu Sheng shook his head.

Pan Litian was sprawled on the edge of the flying chariot and scouring the land with his eyes. Then, he sighed and shook his head.

Mo Qi’s voice rang out at this moment. “Since all of you have come, none of you will be able to leave.”

Leng Luo cupped his fists again. “Listen to me, retreat!”

Lu Zhou shook his head. The stage was set, and Mo Qi had put up a grand display of strength. ‘I’m sorry. I can’t let him continue being a pretentious prick. To save everyone’s time, I’ll end him right away!’ Lu Zhou flipped his right palm. The item card shattered as soon as it appeared in his palm. He struck out with his palm. A huge palmprint shining with golden radiance flew out.

When the Great Seal of Fearlessness appeared, everyone else felt at ease and was no longer afraid!

The palm print easily breached the Primal Qi. The Great Seal of Fearlessness charged on ahead with impressive force and struck Mo Qi who was still in the midst of amassing Primal Qi and absorbing energies from his surroundings.

Chapter 222 Think About the Shining Golden Palm

The Great Seal of Fearlessness hovered in the air for a moment. Like a firework, it shone brightly before it gradually faded away.

The cacophonous noise from the chaotic convergence of Primal Qi, the bubbling of Slender West Lake's water, and the collisions of rubble and debris rang in the air. However, as soon as the Great Seal of Fearlessness vanished, the noises abruptly stopped.

The objects froze in the air and fell, and the Primal Qi dispersed. "Ding! Killed a Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm target. Reward: 1,500 merit points."

Slender West Lake was calm again.

Leng Luo's body was stiff. He remained motionless as he looked in the direction where the Great Seal of Fearlessness had vanished. He attempted to look for Mo Qi's figure but found nothing.

Pan Litian held his jar of wine with a listless look in his eyes. Nobody knew what was going through his mind at this moment.

There were many elites in the Clarity Sect. Whether it was You Hongyi, the Seven Clarity Sons, or even Pan Litian himself, none of them had the confidence to be able to kill the Sect Master of Clarity Sect with just a palm strike. Although Mo Qi was injured, he was still a Seven-leaf elite after all. Moreover, Mo Qi had activated the Formation and had gone berserk...

"That pretentious prick. Isn't he reduced to ashes by my master as well in the end?" Little Yuan'er said. She was already immune to such displays so she did not find it strange at all.

Leng Luo. "..."

Pan Litian. "..."

Little Yuan'er's voice snapped everyone back to reality.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said lightly, "Search."

Pan Litian appeared anxious. Alas, he could not be of any help. He could only anxiously stand atop the flying chariot.

When Little Yuan'er heard the order, she leaped off the flying chariot. With swift movements, she shot toward the compound where Mo Qi had appeared from moments ago.

For a time, the scarlet Nirvana Sash shot in several directions. It was as if a fierce bandit had invaded a village and the chickens were scattered while the eggs were shattered.

Lu Zhou shook his head. He felt slightly helpless. He was hoping that she would become a well-rounded and elegant young lady who was knowledgeable and compassionate. It seemed like wishful thinking now.

After a brief moment, Little Yuan'er hovered above a roof and said, "Master, there's no one else here!"

Pan Litian said, "This little girl will become someone extraordinary if she's given some time."

"Are you complimenting me?" Little Yuan'er asked as she looked at Pan Litian.

“There aren’t many who are worthy of my attention. You’re one of the few who’s worthy of my attention. You’re truly talented. In less than five years, you’ll be in the Nascent Divinity... Tribulation... A Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar?” Pan Litian was halfway speaking when he saw Little Yuan’er unleashing her Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar.

Although it had yet to sprout any leaves, the dainty and exquisite avatar that was of similar height with her was dazzlingly bright.

Leng Luo glanced at Pan Litian and said mockingly, “You’ve been out of touch with the cultivation world for too long. I’m afraid you’re unaware of this little girl’s reputation... Ci Yuan’er. She joined the Golden Court Mountain when she was ten and entered the Mystic Enlightening realm in ten days, the Sense Condensing realm in three months, the Brahman Sea Eight Meridians in two years, and the Divine Court realm in three years. After that, she entered the Nascent Divinity realm within a year. I’m afraid that nobody can compare to this little girl under the heavens.”

Pan Litian was stunned. He opened his cloudy eyes and regarded the Little Yuan’er in awe. “Incredible, incredible... How can a human be so talented?”

Little Yuan’er was over the moon with the shower of praises, growing more proud of herself.

When Lu Zhou heard Pan Litian’s words, he suddenly remembered Ye Tianxin’s identity and shook his head. Little Yuan’er was human. It was true her talents seemed heaven-defying

“You should remember the kind words of the two elders and refrain from letting it get to your head,” Lu Zhou said sternly.

Little Yuan’er quickly adjusted her expressions. “Oh.”

‘Two elders?’

Pan Litian and Leng Luo were slightly stunned. Since when did they become elders? However, they had to bow their heads since they were now living under another person’s roof. Any thoughts of resistance disappeared when they recalled the shining golden palm print from before.

At this moment, Duanmu Sheng pointed at the surface of Slender West Lake that seemed to be bubbling again. “Master, something’s moving in the water...”

“That’s not the Formation. Is someone there?” Pan Litian frowned slightly. Glug! Glug! Glug!

The bubbles increased in numbers.

Splash!

Suddenly, a figure broke through the surface of the water. The figure flipped out of the lake and lay on the riverbank.

“Pan Zhong?” Duanmu Sheng exclaimed in shock.

Pan Zhong kept throwing up lake water that was slightly tinged with blood. His face was ghastly pale, and his aura was fiercely roiling. Leng Luo glanced at Pan Zhong and remarked, “How interesting! You’re

able to hide in the lake until now.” He had no sympathy for Pan Zhong at all even though he had joined the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Leng Luo’s coldness and indifference made Pan Litian feel displeased and discontented. He suppressed his surging emotions and said, “We’ve found him... Let’s take him back.”

Leng Luo said, “There’s no use. The Clarity Sect has access to many arcane arts. You should know better than me that what he needs now is treatment.”

He could see that Pan Zhong was wounded. If he was not treated soon, he might not have long to live.

Pan Litian’s eyelids twitched. Although Leng Luo’s words grated on his ears, they were the truth. Pan Zhong’s injuries were not minor, and he had stayed hidden under the lake for a long time.

“I’ll take a look at him,” Zhao Yue said with a bow.

“Go on.”

Zhao Yue left the cloud-splitting chariot and descended slowly next to Pan Zhong. She raised her hand and smacked him lightly. The Brilliant Jade Technique’s effects manifested and evaporated the water on Pan Zhong’s body. However, Pan Zhong was in a sorry state.

After a brief examination, Zhao Yue stood up and said, “Master, he’s been hit with a palm strike, and he’s suffering from serious injuries.”

Leng Luo said, “You’re only in the Divine Court realm, and yet, you pursued Mo Qi without considering your strength?”

Pan Litian retorted, “Such is the folly of youth. He should be commended for his bravery.”

Leng Luo said, “What good is bravery if he doesn’t have the strength to match it? How is this different from throwing his life away?”

Pan Litian said, “To put it lightly, this is about a person’s life and death. On a more serious note, this is about a nation’s safety. If everyone’s a coward, there would never be world peace. Even if you know you’re going to die, you should die with no regrets.”

Leng Luo said again, “So, is that why you withdrew from the world and became a beggar?”

Pan Litian was speechless. “You...”

The disciples watched the two old monsters bicker. For a moment, they did not know if they should make a move. Well, since their master did not say anything, they’ll just keep quiet.

When Lu Zhou saw those two people’s tempers rising, “That’s enough.”

Both of them fell silent immediately.

Although they were quick to bicker, they were old monsters who had lived for a long time. No matter how angry they were, they would never seriously start an internal feud. This was the greatest taboo, no matter which sect one belonged to. Naturally, it was the same in the Evil Sky Pavilion.

At this moment, Pan Zhong suddenly had a coughing fit, causing his injuries to worsen. Pan Litian turned around to face Lu Zhou. Then, he bowed and said, "I no longer want the sable magnolia."

"Hm?"

"Give it to him." Pan Litian pointed at Pan

Zhong.

"Are you sure?"

"There's nothing to be unsure about. I'm tired of living. I've been sick of everything a long time ago. I know this might be asking for too much. After all, I've never contributed to the Evil Sky Pavilion. However, Pan Zhong is still young, I believe he'll know what to do," Pan Litian said.

Lu Zhou nodded. He nimbly leaped off the flying chariot and slowly descended next to Pan Zhong. Leng Luo leaped down as well.

Pan Litian was the only left staring from above.

Duanmu Sheng smiled and said, "I'll give you a lift." He raised his palm and hit Pan Litian. His energy wrapped around Pan Litian and carried him down.

Lu Zhou raised a hand. The Critical Heal Card shattered, and a faint blue radiance could be seen in his palm.

Leng Luo exclaimed, "The Buddhist technique, the Merciful Ark of Salvation!"

The light blue Primal Qi enveloped Pan Zhong's body. His condition visibly improved in just a blink of an eye.

Chapter 223 Reinforcements from the Palace

The cultivation world was not lacking in cultivators who were skilled in various cultivation methods. There were many geniuses as well. However, only a handful managed to master the various cultivation methods.

It was rare to meet a cultivator who could easily unleash the Merciful Ark of Salvation like Lu Zhou did. Who would cultivate a healing technique when they could spend their time on something else? A brief moment later, the light blue radiance faded.

Colors returned to Pan Zhong's face, and his breathing became much smoother as well.

Leng Luo said, "Although the Merciful Ark of Salvation has great healing effects, it's rare to see such perfect execution of its effects." He was not stingy with his praise, and he meant every word of it.

Lu Zhou retracted his hand when the healing ended.

A delighted expression flitted across Pan Litian's face before he swiftly regained his composure. He said, "Thank you."

Lu Zhou glanced at Pan Litian.

Loyalty +5%.

Although Pan Li Tian was from the Clarity Sect, it seemed like he did not care about the destruction of the sect at all.

Lu Zhou regarded this as one of the benefits he reaped from this trip. After all, Pan Litian was the first elite of Clarity Sect, he could be considered as on par with Leng Luo.

Lu Zhou heard the system's notification as well. His subordinate had earned him 2,000 merit points although this meant that the subordinate would be difficult to tame.

He nodded in satisfaction. 'I've earned quite a lot this time. All I used was a single Deadly Strike Card.' Then, he said, "Bring him back to Golden Court Mountain."

"Yes, master." Zhao Yue raised her hand. Pan Zhong was wrapped in energy and brought back to the cloud-splitting chariot.

Pan Litian coughed unnaturally as he looked at the cloud-splitting chariot. 'How am I supposed to get up there? With my identity and status, it'd be awkward for me to ask for help.'

At this moment, a harsh and piercing whistle could be heard from the far end of Slender West Lake.

Leng Luo said, "Must be the reinforcements from the palace."

"Who cares? We'll just kill them as they come." Little Yuan'er brought her Nirvana Sash out again. The scarlet sash danced and fluttered in the air.

Pan Litian felt dizzy from just looking at it. Everything seemed tinged with red at this moment. He was sure he had not drunk to the point where he had exceeded his limit. The harsh and piercing whistle sounded again.

It was clearly trying to lure them over.

"Master, it's probably a trap. Be careful." Little Yuan'er moved to stand in front of Lu Zhou, much to his surprise.

"It's alright." Lu Zhou walked toward the eastern bank of Slender West Lake with his hands on his back.

Leng Luo and Pan Litian wondered if they should follow them. After all, both of them were old men who did not have much combat strength. Leng Luo was a little better since his injuries were half-healed, and his cultivation base had been restored by 20%. However, Pan Litian was genuinely a good-for-nothing who would only hold them back.

Little Yuan'er seemed carefree as she hopped and skipped along next to her master. There was no place in the world that was safer than her master's side.

Leng Luo said with a smile, "... If you're afraid, you can wait here."

"Don't be ridiculous. If I were afraid, I wouldn't have come to the Evil Sky Pavilion alone," Pan Zhong retorted.

Both of them exchanged a look before walking toward the eastern bank of Slender West Lake as well.

Four of them maneuvered their way through the destroyed park and eventually emerged from it.

Duanmu Sheng watched on from the cloud-splitting chariot, wondering if he should join them as well. He was not familiar with steering the flying chariot. He could fly it in a general direction, but it would be asking too much of him to navigate it to follow his master along the small path. After mulling over it for a moment, he decided to stay put.

Lu Zhou and Little Yuan'er walked in front. When they passed through the long corridor, they saw a young man carrying a sword while he leaned against the fence and lazily shook his leg.

The young man whistled again.

Little Yuan'er rolled her eyes and said, "Shameless."

The young man was none other than Jiang Aijian.

Jiang Aijian cupped his fists at Lu Zhou and said, "I take it that my letter has safely reached your hands, old senior. Otherwise, I wouldn't have been able to meet you."

Lu Zhou regarded Jiang Aijian curiously and said, "How did you know Mo Qi would be here?"

Jiang Aijian straightened up and said, "It's simple. I intercepted Mo Qi's letter. He had requested reinforcements from various forces. The only person who could save him was Mo Li."

Lu Zhou nodded.

At this moment, Leng Luo and Pan Litian walked over.

Jiang Aijian appraised them and said, "Greetings, Elder Hua." He walked up to them and shook Pan Litian's wizened hand as he greeted him.

Pan Litian was baffled by Jiang Aijian's behavior.

Jiang Aijian's gaze shifted from Pan Litian to Leng Luo and said, "Leader of the Black Knights, Lord Fan! Greetings!"

"Scram."

Jiang Aijian hastily retreated a step to Pan Litian's side. He muttered under his breath, "I knew Elder Hua is the friendly one..."

Pan Litian could not endure it and kicked Jiang Aijian. "Where did this wretched fellow come from?"

Jiang Aijian was stunned. 'I was being f*cking friendly by greeting you! Is this how you repay me?'

Little Yuan'er said enthusiastically, "He's Pan Zhong's grandfather! The first elite of the Clarity Sect."

Jiang Aijian scratched his head, a faint shocked expression could be seen on his face.

"Grandfather?"

"Scram!" Pan Litian bellowed.

Jiang Aijian knew that the Clarity Sect's first elite had left the sect a long time ago and had disappeared for a century. Nobody knew where he went. Needless to say, nobody would have expected him to show up at the Evil Sky Pavilion. He processed this information for a moment. Although these experts could not compare to the Evil Sky Pavilion's patriarch, they were not people to be trifled with. 'Hm, it's best to keep a low profile... My life is important after all.'

"Apologies! I have eyes but couldn't see. Please don't hold this against me seeing as I'm the one who rescued Pan Zhong," Jiang Aijian said.

Lu Zhou turned around and looked at Jiang Aijian who was smiling ingratiatingly. "You saved Pan Zhong?". Jiang Aijian flipped his hair and said conceitedly, "If I wasn't quick enough to save him, he would've died. He's only in the Divine Court realm, but he wanted to launch a sneak attack on Mo Qi. He's unaware of his own limits."

Pan Litian was not offended by this. Instead, he cupped his fists slightly at Jiang Aijian.

Jiang Aijian waved his hand and said with a smile, "It's nothing, it's nothing."

Lu Zhou said, "So, what you're saying is that I should thank you?"

Jiang Aijian hastily waved his hands. "No, no, no... There's no need to thank me. After all, we're working together." His tone made the listeners uncomfortable. Jiang Aijian said, "This is the Grand Beclouding Formation. It's not completely activated yet. Moreover, an elite like Mo Qi can't be defeated by small fries such as ourselves. I've drawn you here to tell you that you should quickly leave. If the people from the palace arrive, it'll be too late." "Didn't you intercept Mo Qi's letter?"

"He sent more than one. I can't exactly intercept all of them."

Everyone was rendered speechless.

At this moment, a troop of men charged toward them.

Leng Luo and Pan Litian turned to look.

The ground slightly quaked, and the lake's surface rippled.

However, Jiang Aijian did not seem afraid. He was still leaning on the fence. Usually, he would be the first to flee. He asked, "The reinforcements from the palace are here. Aren't you afraid?"

Pan Litian glanced at Leng Luo and said, "He's talking to you."

Leng Luo ignored him.

Hundreds of soldiers appeared in their line of sight.

A lady in blue embroidered robes was at the lead, and four men with helmets followed closely behind. Based on their auras, one could tell they were not weak.

Leng Luo and Pan Litian did their best to appear calm as they furtively looked at Lu Zhou. They felt lucky the old villain was here to handle things. Otherwise, they could only flee with their tails between their legs.

Shortly after, the soldiers came to a halt.

The horses neighed.

The lady leaped off her steed, smoothened the hem of her dress, and gracefully walked over

Perhaps it was out of habit, she curtsied at Jiang Aijian before she saluted Lu Zhou and said, "Jingyi offers her greetings to old senior."

Little Yuan'er said with a smile, "You're here."

Leng Luo and Pan Litian were puzzled. 'Since when did the Evil Sky Pavilion collude with the Imperial court?' Both of them were unaware that Lu Zhou had saved Li Jingyi's life in Anyang, therefore, it was only natural that she greeted him.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said, "You're here to help Mo Qi?"

An awkward expression appeared on Li Jingyi's face as she said, "I'm only following orders. I'm to kill everyone who approaches Slender West Park without any exception... I'll never forget that you'd helped me, old senior, and I'm not an ingrate. You should leave Slender West Lake for now, old senior. I'll deal with things here."

'Help?' Pan Litian did not manage to stifle his cough. He briefly wondered if he was in the wrong place.

Li Jingyi continued, "There are other reinforcements coming from the palace as well. I think they'll be here soon."

Chapter 224 Four Dark Knights

"There are more reinforcements?" Jiang Aijian was slightly stunned.

Li Jingyi glanced at Jiang Aijian and grunted in reply.

Jiang Aijian cupped his fists and said, "Well, uh... I have something else to attend to. I'll be taking my leave."

"Wait," Lu Zhou said.

Jiang Aijian looked guilty as he turned around and asked, "Old senior, is.. is there anything else you want to say?"

"I have some questions for you." "Ask away, old senior. I'll tell you anything and everything I know. I received a piece of information yesterday that when Zhang Yunsan found out about his close friend's affair, he killed the pair with a single strike. He's not in a good mood these days."

The others looked at Jiang Aijian as though he had gone mad.

Lu Zhou was not interested in Zhang Yuansan's family affairs. He raised his wizened hand and grabbed Jiang Aijian's arm. He pulled Jiang Aijian to the side of the lake as though Jiang Aijian was a chick.

Jiang Aijian's expression clearly showed he was unwilling, but he was in no position to refuse.

"Is Mo Li still in the palace?" Lu Zhou asked.

“One of the Divine Capital’s Three Godly Archers, Chen Zhu, is her subordinate. When Chen Zhu died, the Second Prince was so angered that he spat out blood and grounded her.”

This was similar to Lu Zhou’s speculation. He asked again, “What’s Mo Li doing recently?”.

“She’s staying put. old senior. Both of you fought several times, and she’s heavily injured. I don’t think she’ll be recovering anytime soon,” Jiang Aijian answered honestly.

Whether it was the people controlled by Mo Li through witchcraft spells or the Grand Witchcraft Formation, they were all shattered by Lu Zhou.

That was the shortcoming of witchcraft. The more powerful the witchcraft spell or Formation, the backlash on the spellcaster was great as well when the spells were broken.

Lu Zhou nodded and said, “Is the Emperor not going to do anything about the internal feud in the palace?”.

Fortunately, Jiang Aijian was the Third Prince. Any other person would not be able to answer this question.

Jiang Aijian shook his head. He said with a sigh, “To be honest, I don’t know.”

“I believe you.” Lu Zhou stroked his beard and continued, “Final question.” He paused and looked at the surface of Slender West Lake with his hands on his back before he asked without beating around the bush, “IS the Emperor the one who wants to find Cheng Huang?”

Ever since Ye Tianxin left the Evil Sky Pavilion, Lu Zhou had been thinking about this matter. Mo Li had a long time ahead of her before she reached her life limit. Why was she so anxious to find Cheng Huang? The Emperor was old, but he was still holding onto his position. He had the strongest motive. Like Emperor Qin from earth, he was probably searching for the elixir of life after he unified the six nations.

Jiang Aijian shook his head and said, “No.” Initially, Lu Zhou wanted to ask about the key. However, he did not have a single clue about it and did not even know where he should begin. He did not know what it looked like, what its function was, he knew nothing. How could he ask Jiang Aijian to search for it? For this reason, he did not bother to ask about the key.

Realization seemed to dawn on Jiang Aijian at this moment as he asked, “Old senior, are you intentionally waiting for the reinforcements from the palace to arrive?”

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and remained silent, exuding an ambiguous air.

At this moment, the sounds of hooves clopping rang in the air.

Several men spurred their steeds through the forest around Slender West Lake. They seemed more impressive compared to Li Jingyi’s group.

Li Jingyi was only accompanied by her deputies and several cultivators. However, this group of reinforcements was all cultivators.

When she saw this, Li Jingyi shouted, “The Black Knights are here. Everyone, please leave immediately!”

When Jiang Aijian heard this, he shuddered and said, "Old senior, I'll be going now. Farewell!" As soon as he finished speaking, he leaped into the air, intending to flee.

Alas, Lu Zhou caught Jiang Aijian's arm and said, "You won't be going anywhere."

Jiang Aijian pulled a face. "There's no use in me staying here!"

Lu Zhou did not reply to him. He merely looked at the Black Knights.

Since these people were reinforcements from the palace, Lu Zhou did not take them lightly. In the unlikely scenario that they could not hold these people back, they could use Jiang Aijian as a last resort. Jiang Aijian was the Third Prince after all.

The Black Knights approached them swiftly and loudly. The cultivators wore long black robes and silver helmets. The four cultivators in the lead were in a formation.

Li Jingyi's men swiftly retreated to Slender West Lake.

The Black Knights stopped in neat rows.

"Li Jingyi?" One of the Black Knights looked at Li Jingyi, clearly confused.

Li Jingyi asked, "Are you here under orders as well, Black Knights?" Naturally, she knew that they were here under orders. However, she was here on the Emperor's orders. She did not know who the Black Knights were serving now.

Swoosh!

The Black Knight drew his sword at the slightest hint of disagreement.

The four knights in front stepped on the back of their steeds and launched themselves into the air. They landed before Li Jingyi and the others.

"We're here on the chief's orders to clear Slender West Park. Li Jingyi... you're falling short of expectations. The Black Knights will surely file a complaint against you to the palace," one of the four Dark Knights said with a dark expression on his face.

Li Jingyi's expression remained calm.

At this moment, Leng Luo stepped forward. Leng Luo's appearance was different from the others, making him stand out. When he walked out, he caught the attention of the Black Knights.

"Whose orders are you following?" Leng Luo asked.

The four Dark Knights glanced at Leng Luo. His familiar attire confused them.

Li Jingyi smiled wryly. "Naturally, it's the leader of the Black Knights, Lord Fan Xiuwen."

"Bastards!" Leng Luo suddenly cursed, creating a soundwave. He understood why there were four new Dark Knights, he even understood the need for a new leader of the Black Knights. However, he could not tolerate the fact that his old name was being used by someone else.

The four Dark Knights stared at Leng Luo. "Who are you?"

Leng Luo walked up to them until he was only half a meter away from the tips of their swords.

For some odd reason, the four Dark Knights took a step back.

Leng Luo said coldly, "Chen Zhonghe, Yue Chong, Li Qing, and Duan Yanhong have fought along with me and claimed countless lives. Their bones are filled with killing intent that was tempered by their time on the battlefield. Do you think the likes of you are fit to be called the Four Dark Knights?!"

The four of them retreated again. If they could not understand what was happening, they would be idiots. Their eyes widened as they watched Leng Luo approaching them with his silver mask.

Li Jingyi exclaimed, "Fan Xiuwen, Leng Luo?!"

The Four Dark Knights retreated again. They were clearly flustered. Since they joined the Black Knights until they were appointed as Dark Knights, they had heard countless stories about this legendary individual. The legend of Leng Luo was the most widely spread story in the Black Knights' base. Even when the fake Fan Xiuwen took up office, he had trouble replacing Leng Luo's place in the Black Knights' hearts.

"Impossible! Fan Xiuwen has been killed by the old villain. Are you trying to trick us?" They raised their long swords and finally stood their ground.

"Heed my order, everyone! This man is impersonating Lord Fan, the leader of the Black Knights. He'll be executed here! Kill all those who trespassed upon Slender West Park! There'll be no exception"

"Kill without exception!"

"Kill without exception!"

Several hundred Black Knights shouted in unison. Their Primal Qi surged, and the soundwave washed over Li Jingyi's group and moved toward Jiang Aijian and Lu Zhou.

Pan Litian shook his head. He looked at Lu Zhou and said, "They're only trying to show off. As expected, it's all up to you now, Pavilion Master."

Lu Zhou appeared calm. Inwardly, he was thinking, 'Like hell I'll do something about this. With this many Black Knights, even if I have ten times the number of Deadly Strike Cards I have now, it still won't be enough. Fortunately, I have a prince here whom I can use as a shield.'

"Jiang Aijian, don't be afraid." Lu Zhou tightened his grip on Jiang Aijian, but his expression was benevolent and gentle. "Yuan'er, keep an eye on him."

Little Yuan'er pulled a face at Jiang Aijian. "Chicken!"

At this moment, hundreds of Black Knights drew their swords.

Chapter 225 Yu Zhenghai's Ambition

The atmosphere was tense and hostile. Both sides were poised to attack...

Li Jingyi glanced at Jiang Aijian...

Leng Luo did not make a move. After all, he was not completely healed yet. He would be in a disadvantageous position if he fought the Four Dark Knights.

The Dark Knights seemed to have noticed Leng Luo's abnormal behavior. One of them sneered and said, "You've got guts trying to impersonate the chief. Kill them all!"

Several hundred Black Knights closed in on them.

Little Yuan'er was boiling in anger as she said, "Master, let me have a go at them. I'll make sure there's nothing left of them when I'm through with them."

Before Lu Zhou could reply, Leng Luo shook his head and said, "There's no need to intervene... After roaming this world for many years, I, naturally, have tricks up my sleeve." Instead of retreating, he advanced. This action shocked the others.

"Kill!" The Four Dark Knights attacked. Four long swords stabbed toward Leng Luo at the same time.

Leng Luo's hands were placed on his back from the beginning until the end. He had held a high and lofty position for so many years, he would not allow himself to be humiliated.

Whoosh!

Leng Luo suddenly vanished from sight.

In the next moment, he appeared among the Black Knights.

Bzzt!

At the same time, an Eight-leaf Golden Lotus avatar materialized out of thin air. Eight golden and shining leaves spun swiftly around the lotus.

The swirling energy tore through the ranks of Black Knights.

With a single move, the group of knights who numbered in the hundreds crumbled.

From a distance, the golden lotus resembled a golden and massive bowl.

The avatar disappeared as swiftly as it had appeared.

Although it merely maintained its appearance for a second, it was enough to deal with the Black Knights.

Eight-leaf was the known limit achievable by humans in the cultivation world.

The Righteous Sect and Heavenly Sword Sect had spread rumors about the Evil Sky Pavilion's patriarch achieving the Eight-leaf stage a long time ago and now possessed a Nine-leaf Golden Lotus. However, nobody believed it. Ye Tianxin had witnessed the Nine-leaf Golden Lotus and thought she had seen wrongly at that time. After all, when the Golden Lotus spun at top speed, it was difficult to determine the number of leaves.

Leng Luo's avatar was different. Similar to how experienced game players differentiated different items, at a certain level, cultivators could also determine the level of the avatar they were seeing.

The short-lived display of the Eight-leaf Golden Lotus scared the hell out of the Black Knights. Many of them reeled from the impact. Some of them threw up mouthfuls of blood, some cowered in fear, and some were in shock.

At this moment, Leng Luo no longer attacked. He stood straight with his hands on his back. He surveyed the Black Knights who had fallen on the ground and said, "Weaklings!"

The Four Dark Knights looked at Leng Luo with pale faces as they gulped.

Swords were scattered all over the forest floor.

The hundreds of Black Knights behaved as though they were facing an extremely formidable enemy as they struggled to get on their feet.

"We were blind for not recognizing you. Please forgive us, Lord Fan!" The Four Dark Knights immediately surrendered.

Against a cultivator with an Eight-leaf Golden Lotus avatar, even if the new leader of the Black Knights was here, they still could not do anything else but kneel.

Behind the Four Dark Knights, many of the Black Knights crawled forward and kneeled.

"It's Lord Fan!"

"All hail Lord Fan!"

"Lord Fan, you're alive!"

A hint of excitement could be heard in some of the knights' voices.

Alas, things changed with the passage of time. Although some things might remain the same, people would inevitably change.

Leng Luo said, "Lord Fan no longer exists in this world..."

"Lord Fan..."

"Silence!" Leng Luo said evenly. His voice was not laced with Primal Qi nor did it create soundwaves.

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However, the Black Knights stumbled backward from shock. They looked at their former leader with expressions of disbelief and incredulity

The Four Dark Knights were not Leng Luo's former subordinates. They were wary since they had offended him earlier. Although these new Dark Knights could not be compared to their predecessors, they were still elites among the Black Knights. Regardless, faced with an Eight-leaf elite, they had lost all motivation to fight.

Lu Zhou and the others knew that Leng Luo could have killed every one of the Black Knights since they knew what kind of person he was. It was clear he was being merciful for old time's sake.

Leng Luo was wounded and his cultivation base was far from being fully recovered. It was more than commendable that he could even conjure his Eight-leaf avatar and maintain it for a second.

Lu Zhou thought Leng Luo might be a burden coming here. Who knew Leng Luo was capable of such a feat?

There was no need for Lu Zhou to make his move now.

A stiff expression appeared on Pan Litian's wizened face. However, he could not help but applaud Leng Luo for his technique.

Lu Zhou released Jiang Aijian.

Jiang Aijian sighed in relief. It felt as though he had been freed after spending 100 years in prison.

Lu Zhou stepped forward and said, "Leng Luo."

Leng Luo turned around. He no longer kept his hands on his back. Instead, he cupped his fists at Lu Zhou.

Upon seeing this, the Black Knights were shocked.

'Who's this person who managed to earn the respect of Leng Luo who has an Eight-leaf avatar?

Everyone's eyes were trained on Lu Zhou at this moment. Although he appeared old, he seemed to be filled with vigor.

Little Yuan'er hurried after her master.

Lu Zhou looked at the Dark Knights and asked, "Mo Li's orders?"

The Dark Knights were not idiots. Even Leng Luo did not act impudently to this old man. They were not so foolish as to underestimate him.

One of the Dark Knights suppressed his fear and said, "The Black Knights are directly under the Imperial family's command. We're here on His Majesty's orders."

Lu Zhou turned to look at Li Jingyi and Jiang Aijian. He did not think that Mo Li would be so bold to control the Emperor.

In that case, there was only one possibility. The Emperor genuinely did not wish to see the demise of the Clarity Sect. That was why he sent Li Jingyi and the Black Knights to support the Clarity Sect.

Knowing the palace, there were only three forces available to them. The first was Wei Zhuoyan's men, but he was occupied with suppressing the rebel army. Even if he was here, he would not be much of a threat. Moreover, Lu Zhou had even saved Li Jingyi's life. The second option was to send the Black Knights. Without Fan Xiuwen leading them, their strength was greatly reduced. Moreover, with Leng Luo here, his former subordinate would retreat as far as three blocks away if they saw him. The third option was the Imperial guards. Naturally, the Emperor would not casually mobilize the Imperial guards.

This confirmed Lu Zhou's theory that the rascal, Yu Zhenghai, was opposing the Emperor. The heights of his ambition were abundantly clear.

Meanwhile, when Leng Luo recalled he had been controlled while he was the leader of the Black Knights, he realized that there was nothing about the Black Knights that he would miss. However, the Black Knights were the Black Knights. Many of his former subordinates had fought along with him in the past.

'I must sever my ties with my past. Fan Xiuwen is now dead, and I'm Leng Luo once again.' After thinking things through, Leng Luo looked at the Black Knights and bellowed, "What are you waiting for? Scram!"

The Black Knights behaved as though they had been granted amnesty. They hurriedly mounted their horses and quickly disappeared into the forest.

Once the Black Knights left, Leng Luo began to sway slightly. It was clear the move he had unleashed earlier had taken a toll on him. For now, that was the extent of his powers. His injuries were too serious after all. He could only keep up the cool act until now. He had finally cut off ties with his past.

Jiang Aijian carried his sword and walked over. He said meaningfully, "Old senior, that's a high-level trick you pulled there."

Little Yuan'er looked at Jiang Aijian in confusion and asked, "What move?"

"The Black Knights are the Emperor's pawns after all. Since you let the Black Knights go, you're just creating trouble for Yu Zhenghai," Jiang Aijian said.

Lu Zhou turned to look at Jiang Aijian and said gently, "You're really smart... Why don't you come to the Evil Sky Pavilion to have a cup of tea before you leave?"

"..." Jiang Aijian hastily waved his hands and said, "No, thank you... I have something to attend to. Old senior, let's meet another time." As he spoke, he slowly retreated. He was afraid Lu Zhou would grab him again. As he leaped into the forest, he said, "Old senior, before I leave, let me give you another piece of news. Your seventh disciple, Si Wuya, is at the Clarity Sect's main altar." His voice trailed off.

The others were rendered speechless.

Jiang Aijian only told Lu Zhou about this when he left. Just how much did he fear Lu Zhou?

Li Jingyi could not hold back her laughter. She quickly regained her composure and said, "I'll be taking my leave."

Lu Zhou had a good impression of Li Jingyi. At the very least, she was a tactful person. Hence, he did not stop her.

Li Jingyi led four of her deputies and the others away.

Silence descended on Slender West Lake again.

Lu Zhou turned around and walked toward the flying chariot. He scoffed as he said, "Rascal."

"Master, where are we going?"

"The Clarity Sect's main altar!"

Chapter 226 Catching Disciples

Little Yuan'er leaped in joy. It seemed like she was happy she did not need to return to the Evil Sky Pavilion yet.

However, would it not be too early for Pan Litian and Leng Luo to go to the Clarity Sect's main altar at this moment? It was not that they were afraid of the Clarity Sect. Now that Mo Qi had been reduced to ashes, the sect did not have much strength left. You Hongyi and the Seven Clarity Sons were like arrows at the end of their flight. The main point was the Nether Sect. The Nether Sect was also at Clarity Sect's main altar. The Nether Sect's Four Great Protectors were all first-rate elites. It was rumored that the cultivation base of the Sect Master of the Nether Sect, Yu Zhenghai, was at the same level as the Evil Sky Pavilion's patriarch. It was still acceptable if it was a one-on-one fight. However, there were so many elites on the Nether Sect's side, how were they going to deal with all of them? Moreover, the Golden Court Mountain's barrier had just recently malfunctioned. Their current priority should be to return to the mountain to recuperate.

Three old men bringing a little girl along on their journey. It was an odd sight no matter how one looked at it. They returned to the flying chariot.

Pan Litian said, "I think that this won't do."

"What won't do?"

"I can understand you want to clean up the mess from your sect, Sect Master, but I heard that Yu Zhenghai's cultivation base is extremely profound, and he has a massive force at his disposal. He won't be easy to deal with," Pan Litian said.

"I know what I'm doing," Lu Zhou said.

Leng Luo said disapprovingly, "Are you that reluctant to visit the Clarity Sect again? I think you're the first person I've met who used such an excuse to avoid something."

"Old Leng, do you feel uncomfortable if you don't take a swipe at me?"

"Old Pan, I'm trying to teach you to face your fears instead of running away from it."

Perhaps, they had been bickering too much recently. The others acted as though they did not hear the duo as though they were already immune to it.

Lu Zhou glanced at Pan Zhong who was lying in the flying chariot and said, "Zhao Yue, take him back."

Whitzard came on the clouds.

When Pan Litian saw Whitzard, he stopped bickering with Leng Luo immediately. His eyes were as wide as saucers when he looked at Whitzard that was shrouded in auspicious Qi with a shocked expression on his face. A cultivator would have used up his fortunes for eight lifetimes just to be able to see one legendary mount in his life. In many families and even cultivation sects, there would only be one legendary mount shared throughout the generations. He did not expect that Lu Zhou would possess two legendary mounts.

Leng Luo, on the other hand, was much calmer. The memory of the Grand Predecessor Formation was still fresh in his mind. He would never forget Whitzard's mighty powers.

Pan Litian asked, "How did you obtain Whizard? According to the books, Whizard is extremely difficult to tame. Moreover, it can't be found in Misty Forest."

"Whizard?" Lu Zhou said as he stroked his beard. He shook his head and sighed. "I obtained it by a stroke of good luck. It's nothing significant enough to mention."

Pan Litian said, "You're being too humble. Anyone who can tame Whizard must be powerful. It's rumored that Whizard can speak the tongues of men, understand the feelings of all living things, and knows about the appearances of everything under the heavens. Is that true?"

Little Yuan'er answered the question on her master's behalf, "I don't know about that since it has never spoken. All I know is that it's strong." It was an extraordinary feat when it unleashed its skill and brought a rain of auspicious Qi that dampened the Ten Shamans' Grand Formation.

Whizard hovered beside the flying chariot.

Zhao Yue conjured up some energy and lifted Pan Zhong as she mounted Whizard.

"Go." Lu Zhou waved his arm.

Whizard moved on the clouds and disappeared among the sea of clouds in just a blink of an eye.

In terms of speed, Whizard was slightly faster than a flying chariot. The only shortcoming was that a mount could only carry so many passengers.

Pan Litian kept his eyes on Whizard until it was finally out of sight. Then, he shook his head and sighed without saying anything. He merely cupped his fists at Lu Zhou slightly. He felt slightly embarrassed to spout words of gratitude at his age. He thought it was better not to say anything. He lifted the wine jar and drank a cup, drinking alone in the flying chariot.

Duanmu Sheng, who was manning the helm again, asked, "Master, are we really going to the Clarity Sect's main altar?"

Lu Zhou glanced at Duanmu Sheng and said, "Are you doubting me?"

"I dare not. I'll continue manning the helm."

Lu Zhou looked at his remaining items. Deadly Strike Card x3, Impeccable Card x4, Critical Block Card x7 (passive), Binding Cage Card x4, Refining Talisman x1, Ji Tiandao's Peak Form Trial Card x1. Critical Heal Card x3, Improved Critical Heal x3. Whizard. Bi An. If he used all these cards on his wicked disciples, the process of disciplining them might be much smoother. This was especially true about the Improved Binding Cage Cards.

Yu Zhenghai, Yu Shangrong, and Si Wuya were all experts. Lu Zhou would have to catch them first before making them submit to him.

Since Lu Zhou had the Peak Trial Card, he was confident he could take on ten Yu Zhenghais.

Whizz!

The cloud-splitting chariot drew a wide arc in the air. Like the carp leaping through the dragon gate, the chariot sped toward the Clarity Sect.

"I'm sorry, little junior sister... Hold on tight."

"It's alright, senior brother, this is fun!"

The old men did not find this as exciting as Little Yuan'er did.

The flying chariot picked up speed and left a long tail in its wake. Along the journey, the flying chariot gradually stabilized.

Meanwhile, in the Clarity Sect's main altar.

The main altar was splattered with blood, and discarded weapons were strewn everywhere. It was a complete disaster as far as the eyes could see.

Half of the seven peaks were charred.

A massive flying chariot was parked in the skies above this scene.

Dozens of cultivators stood in a square formation on the main altar as they looked at the clouds to the east. The four individuals standing at the lead wore robes of different colors.

After a moment's silence, the Vermillion Bird Hall's First Seat, Yang Yan, could no longer restrain himself and asked, "Will the old villain really show up?"

Hua Chongyang looked at him sternly and said, "Watch your attitude. If the sect master hears this, you'll be punished."

Bai Yuqing said, "The old senior has gone to Slender West Lake. Knowing his temper, Mo Qi would be hard-pressed to escape his fate. However, the reinforcements from the palace might hinder him. Wei Zhuoyan has some elites on his side after all. The old senior might have a difficult time escaping from this."

"I'm afraid Mo Qi probably didn't expect he would die in the old senior's hands after escaping from sect master's hands."

The others exchanged looks and nodded.

"The sect master trusts the Evil Sky Pavilion's Mister Seventh... If Mister Seventh said the old senior would come, he would certainly come."

"Is he that confident?"

"Have you forgotten how sect master punished you previously? Don't underestimate that person... Don't underestimate any of the Evil Sky Pavilion's disciples for that matter," Hua Chongyang said, "If the old senior didn't have his own agendas, I don't think that any of them would be weaker than us."

"Remember, we're supposed to keep the old senior here with our words for as long as we can to buy sect master some time... You Hongyi and the others are all that's left."

"I hope nothing untoward would happen with four of us here. If there's nothing we can do, we can always run away!"

The four of them agreed. They were convinced it was not shameful to flee from such an expert.

They were still discussing among themselves when the cloud-splitting chariot appeared among the clouds.

Hua Chongyang looked up and informed the others, "They're here."

Bai Yuqing seemed amazed. "The reinforcements from the palace were defeated this quickly?"

"This is definitely the Evil Sky Pavilion's chariot."

"Notify the sect master and Mister Seventh, tell them to proceed with caution."

Chapter 227 Why Do You Slander Me, Third Junior Brother?

On the cloud-splitting chariot.

Lu Zhou looked down at the Clarity Sect's main altar with his hands on his back.

"Master, the Clarity Sect's barrier has been breached, and the seven peaks are burning," Duanmu Sheng said as he looked at the seven mountains around the main altar.

"The Nether Sect's flying chariot!" Little Yuan'er exclaimed as she pointed at the flying chariot that hovered above the main altar.

Duanmu Sheng snorted. He steered their flying chariot toward the Nether Sect's flying chariot.

Perhaps, they had noticed this, the Nether Sect's flying chariot retreated swiftly to the back of the main altar.

The cloud-splitting chariot's speed dropped and arrived in the air above the main altar.

"Hua Chongyang of Azure Dragon Hall pays respect to old senior."

"Di Qing of Black Tortoise Hall pays respect to old senior."

"Yang Yan of Vermillion Bird Hall pays respect to old senior."

"Bai Yuqing of White Tiger Hall pays respect to old senior."

The four voices reached the cloud-splitting chariot since it was laced with gentle soundwaves that transmitted the messages clearly.

The people on the cloud-splitting chariot looked at the four individuals who were neither overbearing nor servile. "Master, it's the Nether Sect's Four Great Protectors."

Lu Zhou nodded as he looked down at the main altar.

The cloud-splitting chariot hovered above the main altar.

Leng Luo observed the land from the flying chariot as well. He said, "It's rumored that two of the Nether Sect's Four Great Protectors are Six-leaf cultivators while the other two are Seven-leaf cultivators... I wonder if there's any truth to that rumor?"

"With such strength, it's no wonder that the Nether Sect is capable of wiping out the Clarity Sect..." Pan Litian said.

Lu Zhou glanced at Pan Litian. Pan Litian was from the Clarity Sect after all. He seemed unaffected by the calamity that had befallen the Clarity Sect...

However, Lu Zhou did not ask Pan Litian about it. He looked at the Four Great Protectors and asked, "Where's Yu Zhenghai?"

Hua Chongyang bowed, cupped his hands, and said, "Old senior, the sect master told us to wait here... The sect master also said that although Nether Sect is the one that annihilated the Clarity Sect away, you can claim it for yourself if you want, old senior."

Lu Zhou surveyed his surroundings but did not see Yu Zhenghai. As expected, that rascal was cunning!

Duanmu Sheng yelled, "Tell Yu Zhenghai and Si Wuya to show their faces now! How ridiculous for them to cower in fear when master's here!"

Hua Chongyang was not angered at all. He continued to say, "Please stay your anger, Mister Third. The sect master and Mister Seventh are busy so they can't come."

"Nonsense! There's no excuse for being cowards... Aren't they ashamed of themselves for acting otherwise?" Duanmu Sheng said, incensed. Although Duanmu Sheng was nowhere near as glib as Mingshi Yin, he had his way of cursing.

Nonetheless, Hua Chongyang and the others were not angered. After all, Duanmu Sheng's words were true. Otherwise, four of them would not be ordered to wait here. "Old senior, I speak the truth. I dare not lie!" Hua Chongyang bowed again. He could already feel the heat of Lu Zhou's anger.

If this went on any longer, Lu Zhou might very well vent his anger on them.

The Four Great Protectors made preparations to retreat at a moment's notice. If the old senior were to strike, they would immediately flee without hesitating or attempting to block his attack. They should have no problem fleeing since they were Six and Seven-leaf Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm cultivators. Naturally, they were unaware that Lu Zhou did not even take them seriously. "Tell me, then. Where's Yu Zhenghai and Si Wuya right now?" Lu Zhou did not believe four of them did not know this.

"Uh..."

"You're not telling?"

"Old senior, we're members of the Nether Sect. We can't commit such an act of betrayal. I hope you can understand this, old senior," Hua Chongyang said. "Since you're not willing to tell me, I'll return to the Evil Sky Pavilion." Lu Zhou's gaze fell on Hua Chongyang.

Hua Chongyang shuddered. He instinctively took a step back. His brain went into overdrive. He hastily strung sentences together and said, "Please forgive me, old senior. I'm only one of the Four Great Protectors, and I play no pivotal role in the sect. Moreover, Golden Court Mountain's barrier has been acting up lately. You should be careful of opportunists, old senior."

Bai Yuqing chimed in as well, "I heard that Luo Changfeng, the Sect Master of Heavenly Sect and Luo Xing Kong's son, was killed by you, old senior. Luo Xingkong has been actively searching for a way to seek revenge from you. You must guard against him, old senior!"

Yang Yan added, "There's no need to be so cross with our sect master, old senior... He had no choice but to leave the Evil Sky Pavilion back then!"

When they heard this, Little Yuan'er and Duanmu Sheng understood their words well. Both of them were Yu Zhenghai's juniors, and they knew better than anyone else how their master had treated them back then. However, they did not know why their Eldest Senior Brother was so determined to leave.

All this time, the Nether Sect's Four Great Protectors had been behaving respectfully.

Leng Luo said, "In any case, betraying his master is a grave sin. The four of you aren't idiots. I don't think I have to explain the concept to you. He can run for now, but he can't run forever."

Hua Chongyang and the others remained silent.

Just when the Four Great Protectors were at a loss as to how to deal with the situation, a deep voice rang from the third peak of the Clarity Sect. "Master, why do you have to do this?" The voice traveled through the forests and mountains, sounding as though it had come from far, far away. It echoed among the cliff faces between the main altar and the seven peaks.

Based on this, it was clear Yu Zhenghai had heard their conversation.

Lu Zhou waved his hand expressionlessly. "Rascal."

"Understood!" Duanmu Sheng steered the cloud-splitting chariot determinedly toward the third peak.

The Four Great Protectors were shocked. They did not expect the old senior to pull such a stunt.

The cloud-splitting chariot left a tail in its wake like a comet and arrived at the third peak in just a blink of an eye.

The situation on the Clarity Sect's third peak was no better than the main altar. It was a complete mess all around them. The buildings halfway up the mountain were almost all burned into ashes. Corpses of the Clarity Sect disciples were strewn on the steps.

Regardless of how much Pan Litian despised the Clarity Sect, he still sighed upon seeing this scene. "They brought this upon themselves."

Lu Zhou did not have time to care about Pan Litian's past at this moment. He was determined to look for the source of the voice.

The forest was dense so it obscured their sights. All Lu Zhou needed was to see Yu Zhenghai or Si Wuya's figures before he would unleash the Improved Binding Cage Cards.

The entire mountain was eerily quiet.

At this moment, the Four Great Protectors approached them through the air. They hovered near the flying chariot and stood in a

row.

"Old senior!"

“Old senior... The Clarity Sect tried to harm the Evil Sky Pavilion numerous times. They were also planning on ganging up on the Evil Sky Pavilion with the others on the Noble Path... Since our sect master has annihilated the Clarity Sect, you should feel happy, old senior!” Hua Chongyang tried to persuade Lu Zhou with all his might. He bowed and lowered his head as he spoke in a solemn tone.

Lu Zhou did not even deign to look at him once.

Duanmu Sheng said, “If he truly has the Evil Sky Pavilion’s interest at heart, what was he doing when the ten great elites attacked master? What was he doing when the ten great elites attacked Golden Court Mountain the second time? Not only did he betray master, but he colluded with the Noble Path and exposed master’s whereabouts! He deceived his master and denounced the patriarch. He deserves to be put to death!”

Upon hearing this, the Four Great Protectors were rendered speechless. At the end of the day, this was a matter between the members of the Evil Sky Pavilion. It had little to do with the Four Great Protectors. Even if it had something to do with them, they did not have the courage to do anything. Who would dare to recklessly make a move against such an elite? Moreover, their sect master had repeatedly instructed them not to attack the Evil Sky Pavilion at all.

From behind the Clarity Sect’s third peak, Yu Zhenghai seemed bothered by Duanmu Sheng’s words. He replied, “Third Junior Brother, we’re disciples with the same master. Why must you slander me?” When his voice rang in the air, Primal Qi surged in the air.

It was quite obvious that not only was Yu Zhenghai in Clarity Sect, but it seemed like he was locked in a battle as well.

Chapter 228 Binding Mantra

Moo!

A mooing noise that was laden with battle intent resounded in the air.

When the mooing ended, a loud explosion sounded in the air.

A golden radiance shot up from the third peak’s foothill. It rose hundreds of feet into the air. The golden radiance spiraled in an anti-clockwise direction and swept through the forest, uprooting all the trees in its path. The energy formed a huge ripple that continued to sweep out through the surroundings.

The commotion was too huge.

Everyone turned to look in the direction of the commotion.

Leng Luo said, “It’s the mount, Kui Niu. That was Kui Niu’s call.”

“Isn’t Eldest Senior Brother’s mount some other beast?” Naturally, Little Yuan’er had only heard of it but had never seen it. Moreover, what little she knew was the rumor from the cultivation world.

It was unlikely that Leng Luo had guessed wrongly since he was knowledgeable.

Lu Zhou glanced at the golden radiance and the sweeping energy. He recognized it as Yu Zhenghai's skill that he had become famous for, the Dark Heaven Starlight. However, since they were too far away, he could not see the rascal.

Duanmu Sheng prepared the flying chariot for flight.

The Four Great Protectors exchanged glances and arranged themselves in a row. Then, they moved swiftly to the front of the cloud-splitting chariot. At the same time, the four of them activated their avatars. Two Six-leaf Avatars and two Seven-leaf Avatars appeared at the same time. Such powerful opponents were indeed awe-inspiring.

The avatars merely remained for an instant before disappearing again. The resonance of the energy negated the mooing sound, and it gradually faded. Their surroundings were quiet again.

"We know that we're not a match for you, old senior... Our sect master has spoken about your peerless strength. Even if the four of us join forces, it's impossible for us to defeat you. Please think this through, old senior!"

They were trying both the soft and hard methods. In other words, if Lu Zhou was hell-bent on stopping them, the four of them would fight him

Pan Litian coughed and took a step back. He seemed helpless.

Leng Luo was calmer than Pan Litian. Perhaps, it was due to his mask that no one knew what expression he wore on his face.

Meanwhile, this seemed to prove that Yu Zhenghai's cultivation base was on par with his master's cultivation base! After all, if the Four Great Protectors had such a profound cultivation base, it stood to reason that Yu Zhenghai would have an Eight-leaf avatar.

Lu Zhou looked at the four of them. He had a good impression of these four individuals. At the very least, they had always been polite. For this reason, he did not intend to kill them. However, he bought four Thunderblast Cards, just in case. "I commend you for your bravery." His voice turned deep and domineering as he said, "In light of the Cloud Treading Boots, I'll make an exception this time... Step aside!"

The words, 'step aside', resounded in everyone's ears. There was no ostentatious display of soundwave or fluctuation of Primal

Qi.

Lu Zhou was confident that he could repel the four of them. If they wanted to take their chances with the 1% sure-kill rate, they would have to rely on their own luck.

Hua Chongyang bowed, sweat beaded on his forehead. He did not dare look at Lu Zhou on the flying chariot. He gritted his teeth and steeled his resolve. He waved his arm and said, "Retreat."

Bai Yuqing did not understand this. Although he did not want to fight the patriarch of the Evil Sky Pavilion, how could they retreat on a whim when they had a grand plan to execute?

"We're supposed to buy time for the sect master... You Hongyi shouldn't be able to hold out for much longer. The third peak's defensive Restrictions should be breached anytime now! We can't retreat!" Yang Yan said.

"I'll say it again, retreat! In the sect master's absence, I'll be assuming his role!" Hua Chongyang said in a deep voice

"Understood!" The others had no choice but to bow and follow the orders.

The four of them slowly made way for Lu Zhou.

Leng Luo and Pan Litian exchanged a look. Then, they looked at Lu Zhou who seemed unmoved. There were no fluctuations of aura on Lu Zhou's body...

However, the formless aura field was enough to strike fear into the hearts of the onlookers.

Three feet of ice was not formed in a single winter's day. The tempering of a millennium has given Lu Zhou a commanding presence. Hua Chongyang, Bai Yuqing, Yang Yan, and Di Qing parted to the sides respectfully.

Duanmu Sheng understood what his master wanted and steered the flying chariot toward the Clarity Sect's third peak.

There were countless towering trees at the foot of the third peak. The cloud-splitting chariot flitted through the forests like an electric eel in the ocean.

"Master, up ahead..." Little Yuan'er pointed out.

Pan Litian said, "That's where the Clarity Sect keeps its prisoners. There are up to 1,000 Restrictions... No wonder, no wonder..."

Leng Luo said, "The Four Great Protectors were buying time for Yu Zhenghai... With Yu Zhenghai's strength, even he would need some time to break through these Restrictions."

Little Yuan'er was slightly impatient. She hopped around and said, "Third Senior Brother, quick, quick, quick, quick... Don't let Eldest Senior Brother get away!" She pointed at a round clearing where the energy blast had swept through.

The trees were uprooted, and rubble and debris were strewn on the ground.

The cloud-splitting chariot's advantage was not clear in a forest since it had to maneuver around huge and towering trees.

At high altitudes, the flying chariot could fly at its maximum speed. At low altitudes, it would not be able to achieve the same speed.

Moo!

Kui Niu's call sounded again. It seemed to be trailing off.

"Running away?" Lu Zhou pushed away from the ground and leaped off the cloud-splitting chariot.

When she saw her master jumping out, Little Yuan'er applauded and said, "With master making his move, Eldest Senior Brother won't be able to get away now!"

When Lu Zhou leaped out, he did not unleash his grand technique.

Bi An appeared and growled.

Lu Zhou landed on Bi An's back and they shot forward at breakneck speed.

Bi An resembled a bolt of lightning as it traveled through the forest. Eventually, it reached where Dark Heaven Starlight struck moments ago.

Lu Zhou looked around at his surroundings. He studied the trees carefully as Bi An slowly descended. There were still remnants of auras left behind by the energy around the trees.

Only the Great Dark Heaven Memorial could leave this in its wake.

Lu Zhou made his way to the prison. Soon enough, he saw the entrance to the prison below the peak. The two pillars at the entrance had been damaged, one of them was tilted at an angle. It was clear it was destroyed by an energy as well. There were bloodstains all over the floor. Clearly, a battle had taken place here.

Layers of Restrictions stood before Lu Zhou. The thousand-layered Restrictions of the Clarity Sect stood in his path like 1,000 spiderwebs.

'Where would Yu Zhenghai be?'

Bzzt! Bzzt!

Electricity crackled along the thousand-layered Restrictions. The powerful Restrictions had clearly weakened from relentless attacks, and it looked like it was about to vanish at any given time.

At this moment...

Moo!

Kui Niu's call sounded close to Lu Zhou. He turned around to look and saw Kui Niu shooting through the forest. It resembled a yak with a white body and no horns. At this moment, it seemed to be shining.

'That person on Kui Niu's back must be that rascal!' Lu Zhou waved his arm without hesitation. The Improved Binding Cage Card shot out.

Lu Zhou had never seen the Improved Cage Bind Card in action yet. However, the instant it was unleashed, he could feel that it was different from before, in speed and power. The Improved Binding Cage Card seemed to be moving faster and smoother although it was not as large as he imagined.

"A Daoist Mantra? The Binding Mantra?" Lu Zhou was puzzled by this. He wondered why the improved version was not the cage itself. Instead, there was something that resembled the Daoist Binding Mantra.

There was a huge 'bind' script surrounded by a golden Eight Trigram. It was shrouded in rich Primal Qi as it shot toward Kui Niu.

"After it." Lu Zhou was certain Yu Zhenghai would not be able to escape this time. Bi An sped toward the target. They were instantly above the prison. It was a cliff face that was nearly perpendicular to the ground. The mantra disappeared after plunging over the cliff. Since the mantra disappeared, this meant that its effect was triggered.

'The rascal won't be able to get away!' Lu Zhou stood on Bi An's back and searched the area with his eyes. "You rascal, do you think you can run from my mantra by hiding?"

It was unfortunate that Lu Zhou could not follow the Binding Cage like he did when he was Yanzi Yunsan. The mantra moved too quickly. It flew past in an instant. There were upside and downside to the improved cards.

Fortunately, Bi An had a keen nose. Since the mantra had hit, Yu Zhenghai had to be nearby.

At this moment, Lu Zhou heard the system's notification.

"Ding! Punished the rascal. Reward: 300 merit points."

'Punish?' Lu Sheng had never heard of this notification before. This meant that the Binding Mantra had found its mark.

Chapter 229 Your Lives Have Nothing To Do With Me

Bi An slowed down. Its nose twitched. With its keen nose, Bi An was like an oversized hunting hound that was searching for its prey on the cliff face. It growled every now and then. If anyone showed up, it would pounce without any hesitation.

Lu Zhou was in no hurry. He allowed Bi An to do its thing.

It traveled downward along the cliff face and entered the forest again. The dense canopy had blocked out most of the sunlight.

Lu Zhou looked at the forest and found nothing odd about it. 'What a cunning man.' Bi An continued moving forward, picking up speed. Lu Zhou looked at the fallen trees in front of him. There were signs of them being rammed by a beast.

'He should be up ahead...' An entire row of trees had fallen.

Shortly after, Bi An stopped. It looked up and began growling at a huge tree stump. Lu Zhou looked up as well. The energy from the technique had left a round clearing in its wake. Some clothes laid scattered beside the tree stump.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. "The cicada sheds its carapace."

Bi An's sense of smell would not fail. Since it stopped here, this meant that its target was here.

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The surroundings were completely quiet. Lu Zhou surveyed his surroundings for signs of movements.

'Alas... he has gotten away.' Lu Zhou frowned slightly. 'This can't be...'

He called up the system dashboard. He read the Improved Binding Cage Card's description again. Indeed, it had a sure-trigger rate. Also, the system had reminded him that the card would hit its target without fail. In that case, if Yu Zhenghai's cultivation base was sealed, how did he manage to control a feisty mount, clear the forest, and leave at such swift speed?

Lu Zhou leaped off Bi An's back and walked up to the pile of clothes. He stooped down and glanced at them.

"Yu Zhenghai's clothes." Lu Zhou remembered the sizes of Yu Zhenghai's clothes back when he was still cultivating on Golden Court Mountain.

'What a crafty escape plan.' Even so, it should have been impossible for Yu Zhenghai to make such a quick escape. 'Could it be that he's used some kind of ground escape technique like Yanzi Yunsan?' Lu Zhou raised his hand. Energy seals scattered in his surroundings like flower petals. These energy seals were not destructive. They were more like tracking seals. They were classified as beginner-level cultivation seals and were comparatively easier to master. They did not take up much of a cultivator's resources as well. When Little Yuan'er's clansmen were kidnapped back then, Murong Hai had used this technique to track down the hostages. At the same time, these seals could track down living beings in the vicinity. Naturally, if the target possessed a cultivation base, this technique would hardly be of any use as it would be blocked by a cultivator's protective energy. However, if the Binding Cage Card had successfully landed, the target's cultivation base should be sealed. There was no way to block the tracking seals without one's cultivation base. And yet, the seals flew throughout the forest for some time before vanishing like bubbles in the air.

There were no signs of movements, and Lu Zhou did not sense any living beings nearby.

"Did he make Kui Niu drag him away?" The records in the books stated that Kui Niu was also a legendary mount. If it traveled at full speed, it would have been difficult to catch up to it. However, it was slightly unbelievable for it to be able to leave without causing a commotion.

Lu Zhou looked at the bloodstains on the clothes. 'He must've used some other technique that didn't require his cultivation base to make Kui Niu leave.'

There were all kinds of sects under Great Yan's skies. The three teachings were the mainstream sects that included the majority of cultivators. There was also witchcraft, which required a long time to cast spells, therefore, people would generally prefer cultivating Daoist techniques instead. Lu Zhou was knowledgeable enough to rule out some auxiliary items cultivators used such as the Cloud Feather Raiment, heaven-grade weapons, and Formation streamers that activated Formations.

"Rascal, looks like you picked up some skills after leaving the Evil Sky Pavilion." Lu Zhou slowly rose to his feet. He circulated his Primal Qi and condensed it into energy. With a wave of his arm, the energy spiraled and transformed into a mini Dark Heaven Starlight. Although he was only in the Divine Court realm, his mastery of the skill was evident.

The Dark Heaven Starlight multiplied, in just a blink of an eye, the trees within 100 meters of him were cut down by the energy. Looking down from above, one could see a round clearing.

Lu Zhou sensed his dantian's sea of Qi. He nodded in satisfaction. As his cultivation base slowly recovered, he found it easier to cast his disciples' cultivation methods and techniques. The problem of

being unable to cultivate his disciples' cultivation methods when he first transmigrated had also been solved with the gradual restoration of his life. It might not be as powerful as one unleashed by a Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm cultivator, but it was still a magnificent sight to behold. At the very least, it was no problem for him to cut down a few trees.

A moment later, Bi An followed Lu Zhou's orders. It swept the area but found nothing. It could only return empty-handed to its master.

Lu Zhou leaped back onto Bi An's back. He swept his gaze across the forest and said, "How long can you hide without your cultivation base?"

Lu Zhou did not think that there was anyone capable of breaking the Binding Mantra. Unless the Binding Mantra only lasted for a short period, he was confident that the rascal would come begging sooner or later.

"Return."

Bi An gave a low growl and shot toward the Clarity Sect's third peak.

The cloud-splitting chariot waited at the same spot before Lu Zhou left.

Lu Zhou returned to the prison. It was the same as when he left. Nothing had changed. He looked at the thousand-layered Restrictions that buzzed with electricity. Clearly, the Clarity Sect's Restriction was breaking. The final survivors of the Clarity Sect had to be hiding behind the Restrictions. Otherwise, Yu Zhenghai would not have unleashed the Great Dark Heaven Memorial to try and breach the Restrictions.

Lu Zhou deliberately waited for a moment. Perhaps, he could obtain some information about Yu Zhenghai from these people.

At this moment, the thousand-layered Restrictions vanished. At the same time, a red-clad woman carrying a sword in her hand slowly walked out.

Several disciples behind her looked around warily. The seven of them arranged themselves in a semicircle. Every one of them was injured with various degrees of severity.

"The Nether Sect has left?" They looked around in confusion.

The woman in red was the last elite of the Clarity Sect, You Hongyi. At this moment, she noticed the old man standing on Bi An's back. She hastily said, "Look out, everyone."

The Clarity Sect's disciples noticed the old man on Bi An as well.

The legendary mount with a majestic air stared at them.

You Hongyi did not dare to let her guard down. She asked Lu Zhou, "Are you from the Nether Sect?"

Lu Zhou shook his head. "If it weren't for me, you would've all been sent to the Yellow Springs."

When You Hongyi heard this, realization dawned on her. She hastily bowed. "So you're the one who chased away the great villain, Yu Zhenghai."

The other Clarity Sect's disciples bowed as well. "Thank you for helping us, old mister!"

“How can we ever repay your kindness?”

“Ding! Received pious worship from 15 people. Reward: 150 merit points.”

‘Uh...’ Lu Zhou was slightly stunned. ‘I must have an air of benevolence about me. Alas, all your lives have nothing to do with me.’

You Hongyi looked at the surroundings. Then, she sighed and shook her head. “If you didn’t come, old mister, I’m afraid that the Clarity Sect would’ve been...”

“The Nether Sect is an insufferable bully!”

“Yu Zhenghai is supported by the Evil Sky Pavilion’s old villain and commits all sorts of wicked deeds wherever he goes. The Clarity Sect had attacked Golden Court Mountain before. It’s to be expected that this calamity had befallen the sect.”

The Seven Clarity Sons discussed among themselves emotionally.

“I wonder if Sect Master’s here?”

You Hongyi said snappily, “Don’t mention the sect master ever again! If he didn’t collude with the factions within the palace, the sect wouldn’t have ended up like this!”

The others lowered their heads and no longer dared to speak.

When Lu Zhou saw that they had relatively calmed down, he said, “I have some questions, and you’ll answer them.” When he spoke, he pointed at You Hongyi who was standing at the lead.

Chapter 230 Si Wuya’s Method

You Hongyi pointed at herself and asked in confusion, “Me?” She walked out of the range of the thousand-layered Restrictions and instinctively looked around. Everywhere she looked was a complete mess, and black smoke was rising from the other six peaks. Her expression darkened upon seeing this. She endured the pain from her injuries and cupped her fists slightly at Lu Zhou. “Ask away, old mister.”

“Are you the current Grand Elder of Clarity Sect, You Hongyi?”

“Yes, I am.”

“Was the person you fought earlier Yu Zhenghai, the Sect Master of the Nether Sect?” Lu Zhou asked.

An expression of anger appeared on You Hongyi’s face as she said, “Of course, I would recognize him even if he’s reduced to ashes! My sect had thousands of cultivators, and yet, this is what we’re reduced to! Please grant us justice, old mister!”

“You want me to grant you justice?” Lu Zhou did not know if he should laugh or cry even though his expression remained calm.

“My sect has fallen to this state. Sooner or later, the same fate would befall the other sects on the Noble Path. At that time, the land would be plunged into chaos, and the people would live in misery. Since you’re able to chase away that villain from the Nether Sect, please help us, old mister!” You Hongyi said sincerely as she knelt and cupped her fists.

The others kneeled and cupped their fists at Lu Zhou as well.

Although Lu Zhou was not the one who annihilated the Clarity Sect, Yu Zhenghai was still his disciple after all. If news of Yu Zhenghai annihilating the Clarity Sect spread out, the cultivation world would still shift the blame to the Evil Sky Pavilion.

‘Surely, they’re not going to ask me to commit suicide here as a way to seek justice for them, right?’ Lu Zhou said apathetically, “The Clarity Sect brought this upon themselves. You Hongyi, let me ask you a question. What is considered noble, and what is considered fiendish? Did Mo Qi seem like he was on the Noble Path when he dabbled in arcane arts? Moreover, 30 years ago, the Clarity Sect and the Seven Stars Villa fought over territories, sacrificing thousands of commoners within a hundred miles; is that noble?” He was not going to list more examples. There were too many to go on. Compared to the Evil Sky Pavilion, the Clarity Sect seemed more like it was on the Fiend Path. Nevertheless, at the end of the day, it was the survival of the fittest.

“Uh...” You Hongyi was rendered speechless. If she had been asked this question in the past, she would have answered without any hesitation that the Clarity Sect and the ten great sects were definitely on the Noble Path, whereas the Evil Sky Pavilion, the Nether Sect, the Fiend Temple, and the Azure Dragon Association were all on the Fiend Path. However, her sect master, Mo Qi, had secretly cultivated arcane techniques that required him to devour the essence and blood of human cultivators. This was 100 times worse than those on the Fiend Path. When she thought about this, she felt Lu Zhou was truly benevolent for not striking them when they were down. After mulling it over for a long while, she said, ashamed, “Your words have enlightened me.” Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded as he said, “Back to the main topic... Did you see anyone else apart from Yu Zhenghai?” You Hongyi nodded and said, “The Evil Sky Pavilion’s seventh disciple, Si Wuya, was here as well. That man is treacherous and cunning. He’s a master of schemes. His support was what made it possible for the Nether Sect to control the seven peaks.”

Upon hearing her words, the Seven Clarity Sons began to get worked up.

“That man is despicable! He planted more than 100 moles in our ranks. How detestable!”

More than 100!

‘Uh...’ Even Lu Zhou felt that Si Wuya had gone slightly overboard. An ordinary person would have planted one or two moles in their enemy’s ranks, and yet, Si Wuya planted more than 100. ‘Is he trying to go against the norm and planned to get his moles to work together?’

You Hongyi said, “The Clarity Sect had always recruited disciples every year. All he did was exploit this. There’s nothing more to be said about this.”

It was truly a feat for Si Wuya to have managed this. It was slightly unbelievable.

“Where’s Si Wuya now?” Lu Zhou asked.

“Do you have a grudge with the people from the Evil Sky Pavilion, old mister?” You Hongyi wondered aloud.

Lu Zhou gave it some thought before replying, “Not exactly.”

When You Hongyi heard these words, it held a different meaning from what Lu Zhou meant. She thought even if Lu Zhou did not exactly have a grudge against the Evil Sky Pavilion, their relationship could not be that good as well. She said, "If you can deal with the Evil Sky Pavilion, old mister, it'll be something to rejoice about."

Lu Zhou shook his head. Perhaps, he was used to this kind of scene, he found himself immune to it now.

You Hongyi seemed to remember something at this moment. She bowed and asked, "May I know which sect you belong to, old mister? I'll certainly visit you and thank you again for saving us from our doom."

"The Evil Sky Pavilion," Lu Zhou replied honestly.

You Hongyi was stunned. She thought she had misheard Lu Zhou. She asked again, "I'm sorry. Which sect did you say you're from, old mister?"

At this moment, the cloud-splitting chariot appeared from among the trees. Perhaps, the people onboard had waited too long and lost patience.

The clearing that had been left in the Great Dark Heaven Memorial was a suitable place for the cloud-splitting chariot to hover above.

The others were, naturally, attracted by the cloud-splitting chariot's sound.

In just an instant, You Hongyi recognized the flying chariot. She shuddered and cried out, "Fall back! Get back into the prison!" The Seven Clarity Sons shuddered as well as they retreated.

However, after they made it past the first pillar, they seemed to finally remember the thousand-layer Restriction had been destroyed. If they went in now, would they not be sitting ducks?

"Old mister, quick! The Evil Sky Pavilion is here!"

"Old mister!"

At this moment, all of them placed their hopes in Lu Zhou who was standing on Bi An.

Lu Zhou was not surprised by the frightened expressions on their faces.

At this moment, Little Yuan'er stepped into the air, wrapping the Nirvana Sash around her. Her attire was exceptionally eye-catching in the green forest. She approached Lu Zhou gleefully. "Master!"
'Master?'

On the flying chariot, Duanmu Sheng, who was at the helm, cupped his fists and said, "Master, we've been waiting for you anxiously. Where's that traitor?"

You Hongyi stumbled backward. She felt her chest tightened. 'Run? Can we make it?'

"Elder You, what's the matter?"

"Elder You had suffered from Yu Zhenghai's palm strike. She's injured."

The Seven Clarity Sons were worried.

However, You Hongyi hastily said, "Run, run now... That's the Evil Sky Pavilion's cloud-splitting chariot!"

“Evil... Evil Sky Pavilion?”

The Seven Clarity Sons looked at the flying chariot, the little girl who flew out from it, and the old man who casually stood on Bi An’s back. The pieces finally clicked. Without a second thought, all of them scurried away! “Running away? Too late!” Little Yuan’er’s Nirvana Sash flew out. It was red like the tongues of flames as it flew out. At the same time, she was also wrapped in it. It seemed as though the area around her had caught fire.

You Hongyi did not move. When she saw the heaven-grade weapon’s might, she seemed horrified. She was almost certain the little girl was the Evil Sky Pavilion’s ninth disciple.

You Hongyi and the Seven Clarity Sons were arrows at the end of their flight, they could not outrun Little Yuan’er’s Nirvana Sash.

In just a blink of an eye, the Nirvana Sash tripped the Seven Clarity Sons and the other disciples who were running away. They could no longer move.

“That’s enough.” An elderly voice rang from the flying chariot. The person who had spoken was none other than the former elite of the Clarity Sect, Pan Litian.

You Hongyi looked up and exclaimed in shock, “Elder Pan?” She was overjoyed.

The Seven Clarity Sons struggled to their feet and looked at the old man on board the flying chariot as well. They said in unison, “Greetings, Elder Pan!”

The first elite of the Clarity Sect had returned! It felt like a ray of hope was shining down on them at this moment!

Pan Litian said expressionlessly, “I’m not your Elder Pan. I’m an elder of the Evil Sky Pavilion!”