

Disciples 321

Chapter 321 A Great Show

Although the Empress Dowager was old, she still remembered the woman.

“Consort Li?”

The so-called Consort Li was Mo Li’s title.

Mo Li walked as though she was being boosted by the wind. Her movements were graceful and nimble. She slowly walked to the Empress Dowager before she bowed and said, “Greetings, Empress Dowager.”

The Empress Dowager said, “What brings you here, Consort Li? Shouldn’t you be in the palace?”

Mo Li smiled faintly. She turned around, raised a finger, and said, “To capture someone.”

“Capture someone?”

The Fourth Prince who was sitting at the side chuckled and said, “Who’s there to be captured here? Brother, you’re making a mountain out of a molehill. Besides, if you’re intending to capture someone, brother, why is Consort Li needed?”

The conversation between the two was suddenly charged with tension.

The Second Prince, Liu Huan, stood up and said, “Fourth brother, let’s not rush things... Although Consort Li is a woman, she’s smarter than most. Let her finish.”

With the Second Prince backing her, Mo Li finished her unfinished sentence. She pointed at the man in the exotic clothes and said, “To capture him.”

Mingshi Yin was stunned. ‘I’ve been exposed? How’s that possible?’ He hastily said with his peculiar accent, “You’ve made a mistake! It’s a mistake...”

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Two men in armor appeared on the rooftops near the Obedient Villa.

Zhao Yue looked up and frowned.

Mo Li bowed at Liu Huan and said, “I didn’t let you down, Your Highness.” “Very good.” “This man is the Evil Sky Pavilion’s fourth disciple, Mingshi Yin,” Mo Li announced.

Everyone began to whisper among themselves.

The troupe members who had just gotten off the stage looked frightened as well. This peculiarly dressed man did not resemble the rumored villain at all. Liu Bing said, puzzled, “Mingshi Yin?” “That’s right.”

“Grandmother, the Evil Sky Pavilion has always been at odds with the Imperial city. Many years ago, the Evil Sky Pavilion’s Old Villain Ji stole the Imperial token from the palace. The Princess from the western regions who was betrothed to our nation was also kidnapped by the Evil Sky Pavilion’s Yu Shangrong. The seventh disciple, Si Wuya, sowed dissension and caused a conflict between Great Yan and Rongbei.

Ten of thousands of cultivators lost their lives because of that! How can we not execute people who have committed such grave sins?" Mo Li said.

The Empress Dowager looked at Mo Li and said, "Is this the great show you want to show me?"

Mo Li replied, "Grandmother... As a consort, it's only natural for me to share His Highness' burdens."

"What do you intend to do?" the Empress Dowager asked. "Behead him," Mo Li said coldly.

The others were taken aback. They looked at Mo Li incredulously.

The people from the palace merely knew that the woman by the Second Prince's side was exceptional. They did not expect her to be so decisive and ruthless.

Whoosh!

Suddenly, Mingshi Yin stomped his foot on the ground. Like a fired arrow, he shot toward Obedient Villa. "You caught me this time around. I'll be back!"

Whizz!

One of the elites who were standing on the rooftops flew toward Mingshi Yin. Mingshi Yin smiled. "Five-leaf?" His Separation Hook gleamed. The elite from the palace sneered and said, "Five-leaf is enough to take you down!"

An avatar appeared! The 60-foot avatar attracted everyone's attention.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

The two opponents began to engage in a fight.

Initially, Mingshi Yin intended to flee. However, he was tied down now.

Mo Li nodded in satisfaction. "Princess Zhao Yue, what do you think?" Zhao Yue said, "Are you talking to me?" "You're the Evil Sky Pavilion's fifth disciple, princess. Since I'm going to capture your senior brother, I hope you'll forgive me," Mo Li said with a slight bow.

The Empress Dowager frowned. She had never troubled herself with secular affairs and rarely paid attention to the cultivation world as well. She would not have cultivated if she did not wish to live longer. She disliked fights and killings. Hence, she learned cultivation methods that focused on nurturing a person's character and were helpful in healing. After the long-lived Emperor passed away, she had given up on those cultivation methods. However, she did not expect that she would be able to meet Princess Yun Zhao's orphan in this lifetime. How could she allow anyone to harm Zhao Yue?

"Consort Li, you're being audacious!" the Empress Dowager raised her voice.

Mo Li kneeled immediately. "Grandmother, I don't know what you mean."

"Zhao Yue is a member of the Imperial family, the orphan of Princess Yun Zhao... Now that she's returned to the Imperial family, she's my granddaughter. Are you trying to go against me?" the Empress Dowager said in a low voice.

The Second Prince, Liu Huan, frowned. He had never seen the Empress Dowager show any interest in the struggles within the palace. Also, she rarely cared about anything, especially after the long-lived Emperor left. He did not expect the Empress Dowager to stand up for Zhao Yue. 'This is going to complicate things.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Above the Obedient Villa, Mingshi Yin and the Five-leaf elite were still locked in battle.

Mingshi Yin fought as he looked for a way to flee.

The Fourth Prince, Liu Bing, said, "Grandmother's right. Zhao Yue is our little sister after all."

Liu Huan said with a scoff, "Even the child of heaven bears the same sin as the common folk once a crime is committed."

Zing!

Zing!

The soldiers at the side drew their swords!

"I'd like to see who dares to touch Zhao Yue?!" The Empress Dowager rose to her feet in anger as she stared at everyone coldly.

The Fourth Prince, Liu Bing, said, "Brother, grandmother came here to rest in peace. If her condition worsens because you agitated her, it'd be difficult for you to shake off the responsibility."

Liu Huan bowed and said, "Grandmother... Please consider the bigger picture! Li

Empress Dowager inside now?"

Li Yunzhao did not find himself in his current position without a knack to read the mood. He swiftly said, "I only take orders from the Empress Dowager!"

The atmosphere suddenly turned heavy.

Everyone had their own plans and agendas. The Empress Dowager had no intention of getting too involved in this. All she wanted was to protect Zhao Yue.

Mo Li said, "Grandmother, please consider the bigger picture... The Evil Sky Pavilion must be annihilated! You've kept yourself away from the affairs of the world, grandmother, so you don't know what the Evil Sky Pavilion did... That's right, you can ask these performers."

The Empress Dowager shook her head. "Little Li."

Li Yunzhao turned to face the Empress Dowager. "Strike her mouth."

"Mhm."

Whoosh!

Li Yunzhao moved at lightning speed and appeared next to Mo Li. He drew up a blast of energy with just a swing of his arm.

Smack!

Li Yunzhao's palm landed on Mo Li's mouth.

Mo Li did not dodge. She took the hit squarely. Blood trickled from the edge of her lips. Li Yunzhao returned to his original position in the next second.

Liu Huan frowned. However, he did not dare to voice out his frustrations. Who dared to have an opinion if the Empress Dowager decided that someone should be hit?

The Empress Dowager asked, "Consort Li, do you have anything else to say?"

Mo Li curtsied and said, "I've made a mistake. I'll visit Sister Zhao Yue one of these days and offer my apologies." A hint of killing intent flashed in her eyes briefly before it disappeared. Then, she pointed at Mingshi Yin who was fighting in the air and continued to say, "Grandmother, are you going to protect him as well?"

The Empress Dowager looked up at the two figures who were locked in battle.

Zhao Yue wanted to say speak up, however, she was interrupted by Mingshi Yin's laughter. Soon after, he said, "This isn't the Divine Capital, and yet, you're thinking about keeping me here? Wishful thinking!"

Whoosh!

A Five-leaf avatar appeared out of thin air.

Bam!

Mingshi Yin raised his arms. He fell from the impact of the heavy blow.

Boom!

A building collapsed. Clouds of dust stirred up. Mo Li smiled and said, "You're not getting away."

The Five-leaf Avatar continued to descend as the cultivator spoke loudly, "This is all the Evil Sky Pavilion's Mingshi Yin has got. Surrender yourself!"

An energy blade appeared in the avatar's hand as it dove down.

In the other courtyard, the commotion could be heard as well.

"Let's go have a look." Jiang Aijian could not wait any longer.

When they exited the courtyard, they saw the palace elite diving down to attack! His hands were wrapped around a sword covered in a thick layer of energy.

"An assassin?" Jiang Aijian wondered aloud.

Chapter 322 All Living Things are Equal

Boom!

The energy blade descended.

Lu Zhou frowned slightly. He said, "Let's take a look."

"Hm?" Jiang Aijian sensed a change in the old senior's aura. He led Lu Zhou to the Obedient Villa. When they encountered the soldiers outside the villa, he took the Imperial family's token out.

"My lord? You... you..." The soldier could barely speak from his overwhelming emotions.

"Shh!" Jiang Aijian shushed him. He lowered his voice and said, "I'm under His Majesty's orders to secretly protect the Empress Dowager."

"Yes, of course... My lord, please enter. These two are?"

"Hm? Who are you to ask?" "I apologize for my rudeness. Please enter..."

The three of them successfully entered the Obedient Villa.

Lu Zhou had practically forgotten about the Imperial token. He had to admit that Jiang Aijian was quite quick-witted.

The three of them were close to the scene of the battle. They did not even have time to look at Zhao Yue and the Empress Dowager when the dust around the crumbled building settled.

The building had disappeared, and an entanglement of Bluewood could be seen on the ground. "What happened?" The cultivators nearby were puzzled by this sight.

The Five-leaf elite did not move at this moment.

The Obedient Villa was extremely quiet.

Everyone's attention was focused on the battle. The fourth disciple of the Evil Sky Pavilion, Mingshi Yin, was he dead or alive?

Boom!

The Bluewood exploded. A Three-leaf Avatar emerged from the wooden cocoon.

Mingshi Yin shot into the skies above the Three-leaf Golden Lotus. His Separation Hook shone brilliantly. From underneath the Golden Lotus, 1,000 energy blades shot out along with the Separation Hook.

When Li Yunzhao saw this, his eyes widened. "As expected of an Evil Sky Pavilion's disciple. Conjuring energy blades with an avatar and pairing them up with a heaven-grade weapon. This strength... is terrifying!" He remained guarded. He waved his arm and conjured up a layer of energy to shield the Empress Dowager, just in case. However, his worries were for naught.

Mingshi Yin's attack was clearly meant for the Five-leaf elite who wanted to kill him.

The other person leaped. As soon as he moved along with his avatar, the 1,000 energy blades converged. With the Separation Hook, the blades moved toward the elite's avatar like hooks.

Zing!

The Separation Hook returned to Mingshi Yin's palm.

Thud!

Before anyone could react, the Five-leaf elite crashed to the ground. His eyes widened, and his body was bloodied.

When Lu Zhou saw this, he stroked his beard and nodded.

Little Yuan'er was so excited that she nearly jumped.

Lu Zhou caught her in time. Jiang Aijian offered his praise in a soft voice, "Old senior, this disciple of yours... He's truly something else. He killed a Five-leaf Avatar with a Three-leaf Avatar... That's like a fantasy." As a cultivator himself, he knew just how great a difference every leaf would make in the Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm.

Even Lu Zhou did not expect this. He remembered that Mingshi Yin was only at the Two-leaf stage. However, it seemed like he had suddenly sprouted another leaf.

Mingshi Yin's attack landed true. He wiped away the blood on the edge of his lips and swiftly flew away. "Don't come after me... I have plenty from where that came from!"

Mo Li ordered in a low voice, "Activate the Formation!"

The cultivators around them moved.

'Activate the Formation?' Jiang Aijian shook his head and said, "Mo Li is a witchcraft cultivator, after all. It's only natural for her to have prepared some spells beforehand."

However, the peculiar thing was she did not send someone else after Mingshi Yin.

Lu Zhou looked to his left and right. He wanted to see where Leng Luo was. Unfortunately, there was no sign of him. He stroked his beard as he waited for the Formation to be activated. 'Activate all the Formations you want... Witchcraft is useless against me anyway. In fact, it'll work in my favor.' "That disciple of yours sure is cunning. To think that he could escape from this..." Jiang Aijian said with a thumbs-up.

On the second floor of the pavilion north of the Obedient Villa.

Han Yuyuan looked at the fleeing Mingshi Yin and said, "Sect Master Si, your Fourth Senior Brother is much more cunning than you. He's wise enough to conserve his strength. Alas, he won't be able to survive. Do you believe me?" Si Wuya shook his head and said, "I don't think so. If you think so, then, you don't know my Fourth Senior Brother at all."

"Oh?"

"Even with the Darknet's extensive information network, I can't say for sure that I'll be able to catch my Fourth Senior Brother," Si Wuya answered honestly.

"Hah, even the great Darknet's master has his humble moments. However... That's you... I don't think you understand why the Imperial family likes the enclosure at Rubei."

"Why is that?"

"Look... How's he going to escape when Rubei City is this huge?"

Bzzt!

A strange buzzing noise rang in the air.

From the pavilion, a rippling energy resonated with the buzzing noise from Rubei City's walls.

The weather in the sky changed. A strong gust of wind blew through Rubei at this moment.

The civilians looked up in surprise. The non-cultivators wondered if the weather was turning bad. It felt as though there was going to be a storm.

The cultivators, on the other hand, felt stifled.

"My Primal Qi has been blocked!"

"What happened?"

The cultivators noticed the sudden change in their bodies. They looked up at the skies. They could no longer conjure up their Primal Qi...

Several barriers appeared around the Obedient Villa.

The cultivators nearby retreated hastily when they saw this.

This was the Imperial family's territory. Nobody dared to get close. Moreover, there were many soldiers standing guard around the compound.

Inside the Obedient Villa.

The others looked up at the skies as well.

Jiang Aijian, Little Yuan'er, and Lu Zhou sensed the abnormality in the air.

Jiang Aijian said sheepishly, "This is bad... It's not a Witchcraft Formation. It looks like... the Ten Terminal Formation."

Lu Zhou stroked his beard as he observed the situation and said, "The Ten Terminal Formation is a Grand Formation unique to the Divine Capital. Why is there one here?"

"These are all cloned Formations... They only possess one of the Ten Terminal Formation's strengths," Jiang Aijian replied.

"Master, I... I can't seem to mobilize my Primal Qi anymore..." Little Yuan'er mumbled.

"Stop trying. All Primal Qi has been blocked. This is one of the most terrifying aspects of the Ten Terminal Formation..."

Lu Zhou seemed unfazed. He secretly tried to circulate his Primal Qi. As expected, it felt empty. Nothing moved. He wondered about the extraordinary power and tested it. A cooling sensation instantly spread throughout his body.

With this Formation, the entire villa was now cut off from the outside world. Everyone within the villa was now a mortal. At most, they were mortals with tougher bodies.

'Let's leave this to Leng Luo.' Lu Zhou wanted Jiang Aijian to lead the way to escape when they heard a sound from the villa's entrance. "I say... What a merciless bunch! I'm Princess Zhao Yue's senior brother. How rude! Unhand me!"

Two muscular generals flanked Mingshi Yin as they escorted him over.

Clearly, Mingshi Yin had failed to escape.

He was tossed by the two generals.

A brilliant smile bloomed on Mo Li's face as she said, "This is the Ten Terminal Formation... It's quite unexpected, isn't it?"

Li Yunzhao was slightly stunned. He frowned.

Zhao Yue registered a slight change in her expression as well.

The other soldiers and generals were neither shocked nor puzzled. Clearly, they were privy to this plan.

Mo Li said, "Inside the Ten Terminal Formation, all beings are equal."

This meant that everyone inside the Obedient Villa were mortals.

The Fourth Prince, Liu Bing, clapped his hands and said, "I'm impressed... As expected of you, brother. That's a brilliant move."

After spending years on the battlefield, he, naturally, knew how terrifying Formations could be. If it were not for the cities and barriers, wars between nations could very well be fought by cultivators alone. There would have been no need for mortals. When the battle proceeded into the cities, the ones that would decide the outcome of the battle were these mortal fighters. "Your Highness, I've captured Mingshi Yin. Kindly pass your judgment."

"Very well." The Second Prince, Liu Huan, rose to his feet and waved his arm as he said, "Behead him."

A general drew his sword.

Zing! "Wait!" Zhao Yue took a step forward.

The others looked at her in confusion.

Zhao Yue frowned and said, "I'll kill anyone who dares to touch my Fourth Senior Brother!"

Upon hearing this, the Empress Dowager could not help but glance at Zhao Yue. She sighed deeply before looking at the Second Prince, Liu Huan. Then, she pointed at Mingshi Yin and said, "In that case, I'll support Zhao Yue this time. As long as I'm here, nobody's allowed to touch a single strand of hair on his head..."

Mo Li turned around slowly. Her eyes were trained on the Empress Dowager, but her words were addressed to the Second Prince. "Your Highness, I've guessed correctly, haven't

I?"

Liu Huan bowed at the Empress Dowager and said, "Grandmother, please return to your room to rest. I'll explain this to the Emperor later."

There was a faint scent in the air.

"Poison."

The cultivators who took in this scent were unharmed.

The Empress Dowager, on the other hand, fell immediately.

Li Yunzhao caught the Empress Dowager at once. He pointed at Mo Li and said, "You fiend! How dare you act against the Empress Dowager?! I'll have your head for this!" He rested the Empress Dowager on the chair behind him and leaped into action.

Mo Li retreated. Li Yunzhao had barely leaped over when he found himself losing control of his body. He staggered. He was not used to moving around without the support of his Primal Qi.

Zing!

Two soldiers drew their swords and stood before Li Yunzhao.

"Eunuch Li, you should conserve your energy," Liu Huan said coldly with his hands on his back.

"Your Highness!"

At this moment, Liu Huan suddenly turned around.

Boom!

A loud noise reverberated in the air as Liu Huan suddenly kicked Li Yunzhao's chest. "You lowly slave... If it weren't for my grandmother, I would've never permitted you to foul my ears with that voice of yours."

"Eunuch Li!" Zhao Yue's expression changed.

"I'm alright... I've promised someone that I'd protect you even if it costs me my life. Princess Zhao Yue, this is the Empress Dowager's jade token. Take it..." Li Yunzhao produced a piece of jade from his pocket.

Mo Li said coldly, "Don't waste your energy... Even if the king of the heavens himself is here, she can't be saved."

Mo Li waved her hands, and two men stepped forward and captured Zhao Yue...

Zhao Yue struggled defiantly. Unfortunately, without her Primal Qi, she was no match for two grown men. She was eventually suppressed. "These are members of the Imperial guard... You dare resist?"

Due to the Ten Terminal Formation in the Divine Capital, the Imperial guards stationed there consisted of seasoned elites who did not control Primal Qi. Compared to them, cultivators who relied too much on Primal Qi were weak.

Zhao Yue was dragged to Mingshi Yin's side.

Mo Li was in an exceptionally good mood to see the two villains being captured.

At this moment, Liu Bing, the Fourth Prince, said, "Brother, isn't this inappropriate?"

"You've got a problem, fourth brother?"

"You're doing all this just to capture two villains? If grandmother's condition worsened due to anger, can you really bear the consequences?" Liu Bing asked.

Liu Huan chuckled and waved his hand. Several soldiers around Liu Bing drew their swords.

Liu Huan said, "That's why... I'll have to trouble you, fourth brother."

"What do you mean?" Liu Bing asked.

"Fourth brother... Don't worry, I'll make this entire scene look like an accident... After your death, I'll mourn for you for three days!" Liu Huan said.

Liu Bing clapped his hands and said, "Do you think that I'd come here unprepared? If you dare attack me, the Black Knights outside the villa and my own men will come charging in. They're all seasoned warriors, trained on the battlefield!"

"Are you threatening me?" Liu Huan glared at Liu Bing.

Liu Bing met Liu Huan's gaze unflinchingly. "Don't force my hand, brother!"

Since ancient times, there had been countless instances of people killing their brothers or masters to climb up the social ladder. However, nobody expected this to happen in the Obedient Villa.

At this moment, Mingshi Yin could no longer endure it. He shouted, "Oh, shut up! Jiang Aijian, what are you waiting for? Come out and save the day, will you?"

"Jiang Aijian?"

The Obedient Villa stirred.

Hundreds of soldiers swarmed in from the surroundings. They were worried that Mingshi Yin would escape.

"I'm not afraid of you. I have the Imperial token right here!" Jiang Aijian held the Imperial token up high. It would be too late if he did not act now. He would have to rely on his moles at this crucial moment.

The crowd dispersed!

Everyone was looking at Jiang Aijian and the token in his hand.

'Is Jiang Aijian out of his mind?'

'The audacity!'

'Liu Huan disobeyed the Empress Dowager and is even vicious and bold enough to kill his own brother. Will he really care about the Imperial token?'

Chapter 323 With Me Here, We're Undefeatable

Lu Zhou stroked his beard as he held onto Little Yuan'er's hand. He did not think he could rely on Jiang Aijian completely. He could only count on himself at the most crucial moment. There was no use having the Imperial token. Most importantly, Primal Qi could not be used while the Ten Terminal Formation was activated. What was Jiang Aijian thinking? Jiang Aijian was going to be clobbered for this.

"Master?" Little Yuan'er was puzzled as to why her master was holding her hand.

Lu Zhou gave Little Yuan'er a look, signaling her to keep quiet. At the appropriate moment, he would unleash his grand technique and calmly leave on Whizard's back. It was a foolproof plan. However... 'What am I going to do about the two rascals? Well, let's just wait for now.'

Meanwhile, Jiang Aijian walked into the thick of the conflict with the Imperial token raised above his head.

The two princes were not blind. The soldiers around them immediately recognized the Imperial token. They knew that the item granted the wielder power to command the Imperial guards.

'That's strange, isn't that item lost a long time ago? Why would it be in the hands of a traveling performer?'

"Seeing the token is like seeing His Majesty himself! Kneel!" Jiang Aijian shouted.

Swoosh!

The soldiers did as they were told. However, they quickly realized that something was amiss.

The two princes and Mo Li did not kneel.

Liu Huan smiled and said, "A fake token. Take him as well and behead him."

Jiang Aijian was speechless. 'Damn it! I knew this won't work!'

Mingshi Yin wore an incredulous expression on his face as he said, "You've got to be kidding me."

Bam!

One of the soldiers suddenly stood up and kicked Jiang Aijian's buttocks. Jiang Aijian fell forward, flipped several times on the ground, and wailed in pain. He shouted, "What are you standing there for? Take them away!" As expected, the soldiers behind Liu Huan brandished their swords and advanced on Liu Huan and Mo Li.

Mo Li and Liu Huan drew the swords of their servants and parried the attacks. Bam! Bam! Bam!

Lu Zhou observed the situation around him and mused that Jiang Aijian was slightly skilled. 'Are those the people you've planted around Liu Huan?'

Liu Huan's expression was one of shock as he stood back-to-back with Mo Li as they fought Jiang Aijian's men.

When the Imperial guards and the soldiers nearby saw their masters being attacked, they swarmed in like bees.

"Damn it! They're quite good at putting up a fight?" Jiang Aijian was surprised.

Amidst the flashes and shadows of blades, Jiang Aijian crawled to where Mingshi Yin and Zhao Yue were standing. He pulled them to their feet, and they left.

Mingshi Yin shook his head and said, "I shouldn't have trusted you... Now, I can't get away..."

Swords upon swords barred their way.

"Uh..." This was awkward. Jiang Aijian turned around to look at Mo Li and Liu Huan. His people... suffered great losses.

On the other hand, aside from slight tears in their clothes, Liu Huan and Mo Li seemed unharmed.

Pa! Pa! Pa!

Liu Bing clapped his hands and said, "Looks like you've not wasted your martial arts skills, brother..."

Liu Huan said coldly, "Cultivators have always been powerful. They're capable of going up against 1,000 and even 10,000 opponents at once... However, do you know why they aren't dominating the world?" He paused for a moment before he continued saying, "It's the cycle of all things. There's a bane for everything. If you're smart enough, one day, you'll come to realize that the entire world is nothing but a cage in which the cycle repeats itself."

Mo Li wore a smile that was as charming as a flower. "Well said, Your Highness..."

She walked up to Li Yunzhao and kicked him. It was brutal and merciless. She did not behave like a woman at all.

Li Yunzhao grunted in pain. He rolled on the ground before spitting out blood. "See that? The powerful Eunuch Li can't even take a kick."

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou reconfirmed Mo Li's identity and information. He was not surprised to find that she was an Other Tribesman from Lou Lan. He released Little Yuan'er's hand as he searched for Leng Luo with his eyes. Eventually, he shook his head and sighed. His voice resounded loudly as he said, "Forget it."

Everyone's attention was instantly drawn to Lu Zhou at this moment.

"People who have no business here... Hm?" Mo Li trailed off. She found these people familiar. After a moment, she recalled the scene when one of her puppets was freed by a special power. She remembered seeing this wizened face at that time. A look of fear appeared on her face as she cried out, "It's you?"

Lu Zhou stroked his beard as he stepped forward. "You're Mo Li?"

Mo Li smiled and said, "What a surprising turn of events..."

The Ten Terminal Formation had been prepared for Mingshi Yin, Zhao Yue, and the Fourth Prince. She did not expect to capture the Evil Sky Pavilion's patriarch as well. How could she not feel delighted? It seemed like she had recovered from her surprise. Liu Huan seemed to have noticed something as well. There were flames in his eyes as he said, "Old Villain Ji?"

The others were in an uproar.

The soldiers staggered backward despite their training. They felt their confidence leaking out of their body. "Stand your ground! What is there to fear within the Ten Terminal Formation?"

Upon hearing this, the soldiers were greatly relieved.

"The path to heaven is wide, and yet, you chose to barge into hell where there's no escape." Mo Li did not waste any time and quickly waved her hand.

The ten great generals by her side spread out and took a step forward.

In her opinion, only a Five-leaf cultivator or above was her match outside the Formation. Within the Formation, everyone was equal.

Lu Zhou flipped his right palm and gauged his extraordinary power. 'I can use it.' At the same time, Unnamed materialized in his hand.

The others appeared frightened.

Liu Bing recognized Lu Zhou. He remembered meeting Old Villain Ji in the Prince of Qi's Mansion back then. Due to the chaos in Obedient Villa, he did not notice Lu Zhou earlier. He was greatly shocked. He did not bother with putting on a tough act and stumbled backward. "Old senior?"

Mo Li curtsied toward Liu Huan. "Your Highness, may I deal with this?"

"You may." Liu Huan placed his hands on his back. He walked to the seat next to where the Empress Dowager was seated and took a seat. After glancing at the unconscious Empress Dowager, he felt much more at ease. "Thank you, Your Highness." Mo Li turned around.

"These ten generals are all elites among the Imperial guards. There are three Three-leaf, four Four-leaf, two Two-leaf, and one Six-leaf cultivator... I don't think I'd be doing you a disservice by having them entertain you. Kill his disciples first before you kill him..."

"As you command!"

The air grew heavier as the atmosphere turned tense.

Inside the pavilion in the distance.

Han Yuyuan could barely contain his laughter. He slapped his thigh as he said, "Sect Master Si... Would you look at that? One might be able to avoid natural disasters, but one can never escape from the consequences of one's sins! The Evil Sky Pavilion will be no more from today onward!"

When Si Wuya saw the old man calmly stroking his beard through the window, his expression was one of complete shock. He frowned deeply 'What's master doing here?' He said, "How dare you!"

wa

Bam!

Han Yuyuan kicked the table before Si Wuya, and it shattered. "When your head falls to the ground later, let's see if you can still remain arrogant."

The Obedient Villa

"Master!" Zhao Yue and Mingshi Yin exclaimed in unison. When they saw Lu Zhou walking out, they did not know if they should feel happy.

Lu Zhou ignored them. Instead, he stared at Mo Li and said, "You dare touch my disciples?"

"Kill him... You'll be a hero of Great Yan!" Mo Li said.

"As you command!" One of the generals glanced at Lu Zhou. Then, he unsheathed his sword. Without hesitation, he brought it down on Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou turned to the side slightly. Something glinted in his right hand.

Whoosh!

In just a blink of an eye, Lu Zhou shot past the general and was standing behind him.

The general's body stiffened. He looked incredulous as his eyes widened.

Lu Zhou's eyes were still trained on Mo Li.

Thud!

The general fell face down. He had been powerless to fight back. "Ding! Killed a target. Reward: 1,000 merit points."

The sunlight shone on the corpse. The flies picked up its scent soon enough and came buzzing.

The smell of blood permeated the air.

The Obedient Villa was deathly silent at this moment.

'Is this Old Villain Ji of the Evil Sky Pavilion? He's inside the Ten Terminal Formation with his old body deprived of Primal Qi, and yet, he can still kill?'

Mo Li's fingers immediately twitched. When she clenched her hands, she discovered they were drenched in sweat.

Everyone's eyes were focused on Lu Zhou.

"You're wrong," Lu Zhou said with equanimity, "My life's limit is upon me, and I'm no match for many of you in terms of cultivation base... I'm really pleased with this Ten Terminal Formation."

Lu Zhou was telling the truth. If it had been a battle of cultivation bases, the Imperial guards would have given him a headache. With the Formation, everyone was equal. However, he had the support from the Heavenly Writing and Unnamed. Nobody was a match for him in regard to techniques and killing experience.

Mo Li shook her head in disbelief. She hastily ordered, "Don't listen to his lies. An old man like him won't last long!" She did not think her words were rousing enough so she added, "You're all warriors of Great Yan. Can't you best an old man who has one leg in the coffin?"

"I'll go!" One of the generals brandished a saber as he charged out.

Everyone was equal inside the Ten Terminal Formation. However, there never was any absolute equality in nature to begin with.

Lu Zhou raised his hand.

“Master, be careful!”

“Master!”

Little Yuan’er, Mingshi Yin, and Zhao Yue exclaimed in shock.

Clack!

The sunlight reflected off Unnamed coldly.

The extraordinary power slightly shone as it traveled along Unnamed’s edge.

Lu Zhou held Unnamed with a reverse grip and brought it up at an angle to parry the general’s saber before drawing it across the general’s neck.

Silence reigned again as the battle ended, just like that.

Lu Zhou gauged his remaining extraordinary power. Without using any of the techniques, the extraordinary power supplied him with a steady flow of energy that kept his spirits high. Clack!

The saber split in two. The general widened his eyes... His lips were trembling as he said, “Im... impossible.” He could not inhale while the air escaped from his lungs. Blood gushed forth from his neck.

“This is for my disciple, Zhao Yue.”

Thud!

“Ding! Killed a target. Reward: 1,000 merit points.”

Liu Huan realized how serious the situation was at this moment. He stood up and said, “You and you, attack!”

“As you command!”

Two soldiers advanced.

At this moment, all techniques or showy demonstrations were meaningless. The only thing that determined the outcome was a person’s killing technique. Little Yuan’er suddenly realized why her master instructed them not to use their Primal Qi when they cultivated... It was to prepare for a battle such as this.

Lu Zhou was calm. His thumb pressed firmly against Unnamed. He stepped forward as his sword slashed at the two advancing soldiers at a peculiar angle.

The sound of a blade penetrating armor reverberated in the air.

“These two are for Jiang Aijian.”

“Ding! Killed a target. Reward: 1,000 merit points.”

“Ding! Killed a target. Reward: 1,000 merit points.”

Mo Li’s eyelids twitched. She was afraid and instinctively took a few steps back. Lu Zhou seemed completely at ease. He advanced with Unnamed in hand. His speed was neither rushed nor slow.

Chapter 324 What Makes a Devil

Jiang Aijian’s sources had been walking on a knife’s edge for many years. They slept with the tigers and did not know when they would lose their lives. From the moment they decided to follow Jiang Aijian, they knew that they would most probably die. Their lives were light as a feather, and their deaths like a breeze. Perhaps, nobody would even remember them. However, they did not shun death and viewed it as an old friend.

Jiang Aijian felt his heart stir when he heard Lu Zhou’s words. His impression of the great villain of the Evil Sky Pavilion changed again. What was a villain? What made a villain? Was someone who took away intelligent life and went against the laws of morality a villain? The longer he lived, the more he was convinced that everyone was a villain.

“You and you! I’d like to see how long he can keep this up!”

These two generals learned from their peers’ mistakes. They advanced in a pincer attack. Their blades stirred up a gust of wind.

Although the cultivators could not use their Primal Qi right now, their physical bodies were not something mortals could compare to since mortals did not undergo Body Tempering.

Every step the two generals took left a dent on the ground. In just a moment, they brought their blades down!

Lu Zhou pirouetted. He flipped Unnamed in his hand and wielded it the right side up. He lunged and thrust Unnamed.

“Hm?” The several simulations the two generals had run through in their minds were nullified by Lu Zhou’s puzzling action.

Lu Zhou was like an illusion as he slipped through their attacks. He slashed and turned around...

The swords of the two generals were still raised in the air. Their mouths were agape as they stared blankly into the air. They could feel their lives swiftly escaping their bodies through their wounds. It was agonizing for them to breathe, and they could feel their heartbeats slowing down. The metallic smell of blood filled their nostrils. They did not know if it belonged to themselves or to another person. It was no longer important to figure out how Old Villain Ji managed this. When they fell, the world spun around them, and everything was plunged into darkness.

Two more men lost their lives.

“This is for my disciple, Mingshi Yin.”

The 2,000 merit points Lu Zhou were rewarded with did not move him.

The glaring sunlight was so bright that it was difficult for the others to keep their eyes open. Even the smell of blood was prickling and dry. The serene and comfortable environment of the Obedient Villa was instantly turned into a scene of carnage.

There was no flashy Primal Qi or glaring energy. All that was left was the killing on the battlefield!

At this moment, Lu Zhou only had eyes for Mo Li. His opponents were now feeling less confident than they had been after he had consecutively killed six of their numbers. The six who were slain were no small fry either. They were members of the Imperial guard!

Mo Li seemed to have awoken from her daze, She waved her hand. "Generals, stand back!" The remaining four generals took several steps back.

At this juncture, no matter how powerful the elite was, they could not change anything. It was better to overwhelm Lu Zhou with foot soldiers. Throughout history, there had been plenty of heroic individuals being worn out by using the tactic of numbers. No matter how skilled a person was, they could never withstand attacks from numerous people.

"Kill Old Villain Ji, and you'll be rewarded with 10,000 catties of gold. Also, you'll be crowned as a prince or minister in the future!" Liu Huan announced.

There were two layers of meaning to this statement. The first was that Liu Huan was determined to wipe out the Evil Sky Pavilion. The second was that he wanted to become emperor. There would always be brave men when a handsome reward was offered. The soldiers nearby wielded their pickaxes and charged at Lu Zhou.

"Old senior, I'll help you!" Jiang Aijian rushed over. He did not even bring Dragonsong along in order to hide his identity. He seemed like a flimsy reinforcement.

Mingshi Yin and Zhao Yue stood up.

"It's only killing some people... It's been a long time since I've felt this way."

"Don't forget about me, senior brother, senior sister!" Little Yuan'er leaped out.

Everyone was gathered now.

Lu Zhou said, "Just take care of yourselves."

Mingshi Yin was smart. He thought, 'I'm surprised to find master possessing this level of combat strength at his age.' He glanced at Unnamed in his master's grasp. 'This sword is more than what it seems...'

A master was a master. His experience that spanned a millennium and his aces were not things that these young people could compare with.

Mingshi Yin and Jiang Aijian's confidence were instantly bolstered.

Liu Huan's eyes darkened. He brought his arms down.

Many soldiers swarmed at them.

In Lu Zhou's hand, Unnamed was slightly shaking. It was as if a millennium's worth of killing techniques and experiences truly merged as one with Lu Zhou at this moment.

Sword and man became one!

Lu Zhou shot toward Mo Li. With lightning movements, he maneuvered through the soldiers.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

The pickaxes snapped and fell to the ground.

Unnamed left a trail of dead souls in its wake.

The soldiers kept pushing forward in throngs. The scene before their eyes left them dumbfounded.

Lu Zhou's figure was like a tilting doll as he swayed to the left and right while swinging Unnamed. His skills were clean and precise. There were no unnecessary movements.

Eventually, the final man dropped.

The scene fell silent once more.

Lu Zhou's appearance remained the same. His expression was unchanging as always. He wielded the sword in his hand. A drop of scarlet blood glistened in the sunlight as it dropped off the tip of Unnamed's blade and fell to the ground.

Lu Zhou had thoroughly frightened the soldiers. None of them dared to charge forward anymore. They aimed their spears at him... as they retreated.

Lu Zhou did not look back. The soldiers who had fallen to the sides opened up a sort of path for him to walk on. As he advanced, the soldiers retreated.

Mo Li took a staggering step backward. Her face was ghastly pale! She never expected the Evil Sky Pavilion's Old Villain Ji would be this powerful.

Lu Zhou stopped in his tracks. Like an ordinary old man on the streets with an exquisite sword in his hand, he looked to his left and right. "If you want to die, I don't mind killing a couple more."

Mo Li knew that he was trying to manipulate them. She said at once, "Stop him! Stop him!"

Liu Huan's eyes ablaze. They were bloodshot.

There was a handsome reward. However, there were also cowards. Money was nothing if one was dead. Having an official's hat was nothing if one could not wear it!

The soldiers retreated!

"Defectors will be court-martialed!"

When Lu Zhou saw that several hundred soldiers were about to charge at him again, he shook his head slightly. "Bi An."

Roar!

A thunderous roar resounded through the villa as Bi An charged in.

Dong!

When it entered the Ten Terminal Formation, the auspicious clouds at its feet scattered, and it dropped to the ground.

“Bi An can’t utilize its Primal Qi as well?”

However, even without its Primal Qi, Bi An’s fangs and formidable body was not something these ordinary soldiers could fight against.

Bi An understood its master’s intentions. It charged into the ranks of the fear-stricken soldiers. With every swipe of its paws, a soldier was sent flying. For a time, the crowd fell into disarray!

“What’s this?!”

“Old Senior Ji’s mount?” “How’s that possible?!”

They were frightened to begin with. With Bi An charging into their ranks, their morale crumbled. The hundreds of soldiers did not even think before they tossed their spears aside and scampered away.

Lu Zhou did not have time for the soldiers...

Bi An sprinted wildly. The soldiers who stood in its way were swatted away.

It ran up to Mingshi Yin and the others.

Then, it sat on the ground like a guardian deity. Nobody else dared to approach them.

“Wow. Old senior, you should’ve summoned this beast a long time ago. Nobody would’ve dared to stand up against us.” Jiang Aijian moved closer to Bi An. He extended a hand to touch it, but when Bi An growled, he pulled his arm back at once in fright.

Little Yuan’er walked up to Bi An, grabbed a tuft of its hair, and said, “It hates you.”

“Protect them,” Lu Zhou ordered.

Bi An obeyed and sat on the ground. It no longer attacked the soldiers. Perhaps, it knew that its Primal Qi was restricted. Hence, it smartly conserved its energy.

Mo Li was stunned, and so was Liu Huan. This was completely out of their expectations.

Even so, many soldiers planted themselves before the two of them.

Lu Zhou continued moving forward. He suddenly felt that the lives of the people before him were very fragile. They were as fragile as paper. “I’ve told you... Inside the Ten Terminal Formation, I’m undefeatable.”

Mo Li fought back her disapproval as she waved her hand and said, “Shut it down... Shut the Formation down! Now!”

Jiang Aijian shook his head and said, “Once the Ten Terminal Formation is activated, it can’t be disturbed for an hour. Didn’t you know that when you obtained the cloned blueprints?”

“How did you know about that?” Mo Li looked at Jiang Aijian. Jiang Aijian scratched his head. They were still teenagers when the fire at Jing He Palace happened. Throughout the years, their appearances had changed greatly. Moreover, with Jiang Aijian’s sloppy and mischievous appearance, nobody would have guessed that he was the Third Prince. However, that was no longer important.

Mo Li look at Lu Zhou who was slowly making his way toward her.

Beside the Empress Dowager, Liu Huan shouted, “What are you standing around for... Fourth brother, tell your men to attack!”

They were soldiers from the borders, after all. They should not be afraid of death.

However, Liu Bing shrugged. He spread his arms and said, “Brother, this has nothing to do with me! I’ve only brought a few men, and they have to protect me as well...” He turned to look at Lu Zhou at once and said, “Old senior, I have nothing to do with this. I can only protect myself!” Lu Zhou did not look at him. He continued walking forward.

The air felt extremely suffocating at this moment.

Mo Li and Liu Huan were flustered. They felt the stifling sensation of calling out to the heavens and the earth only to have their pleas fall on deaf ears.

“Black Knights!” Mo Li retreated again. There were four more soldiers left before herself.

At this moment, the Black Knights finally charged into the villa from outside.

The soldiers no longer stopped them.

Liu Huan felt much more at ease as he said, “Heed my order, Black Knights. Kill everyone from the Evil Sky Pavilion!”

When the Black Knights entered, the largest steed in the forefront charged toward Mo Li.

“Out of the way!”

“Fan Xiuwen is here to save the day!”

When they heard the name, the four generals shuddered and parted.

Fan Xiuwen leaped off his horse.

Mo Li was overjoyed. She smiled. “General Fan, just in time. I...”

Splurch!

“I... I...”

The others in the surroundings were drawn by the sound of a sword piercing flesh. Soldiers on the battlefield were no stranger to this sound. Their gazes instantly shifted from Lu Zhou to Fan Xiuwen.

The sword in Fan Xiuwen’s hand was embedded in Mo Li’s stomach.

Mo Li's voice was stuck in her throat. Her words sounded weak. Her eyes widened as her body slackened. She lowered her head slowly as she looked at the sword that pierced her stomach. It was drenched in blood.

Chapter 325 Die Together, Then

Mo Li's garments were dyed in her own blood. Her blood blended perfectly with her bright red clothes. Her eyes continued to widen. She was still stubbornly holding on, unwilling to give up.

Everyone was stunned.

Even the Second Prince, Liu Huan, was as stunned as a wooden chicken. The leader of the Black Knights was an elite whom Mo Li had supported. Why would he suddenly attack Mo Li? Countless questions ran amok in his mind, but they never made it out of his mouth. The flames of his anger were stoked. Fan Xiuwen had stabbed his beloved consort, his wonderful helper! He shook with rage.

Mo Li was just as puzzled. Her life was escaping from her. She looked at her blood gushing forth from her stomach. She hastily waved her hand. She had thought some powerful spell would surge forth from her fingers, but nothing happened.

In the Ten Terminal Formation, even Mo Li was a mortal. She chuckled. She had forgotten that she was in the Ten Terminal Formation as well. She looked up at the stocky Fan Xiuwen and saw the silver mask and the eyes brimming with killing intent. The sight made her shudder. "It's... it's you?"

The eyes were windows to a person's soul. When she saw this pair of eyes, Mo Li knew the person standing before her was the Fan Xiuwen of old, the person who was once on the top of the blacklist, Leng Luo. Leng Luo spent a long time to infiltrate the Black Knights' camp and kill the fake Fan Xiuwen. Then, he impersonated Fan Xiuwen. What a strange feeling it was to impersonate oneself.

Leng Luo's hoarse voice sounded. "That's right. It's me..."

"Fan Xiuwen!"

"How dare you, Fan Xiuwen?! What are you doing?!"

"Consort Li!"

The four generals at the sides had incredulous expressions on their faces. They had sworn to protect Mo Li, and yet, here she was, stabbed.

Leng Luo suddenly raised his voice and said, "In the name of the Emperor, I, hereby, execute the disobedient subject, Mo Li... Her accomplices will be treated likewise!"

What a grand statement. However, the other Black Knights who had followed him here were puzzled. Did they not agree to kill the Fourth Prince and the villains from the Evil Sky Pavilion? Why did their leader suddenly attack Mo Li?

The appearance of the Black Knights turned the tide of the situation around.

Mingshi Yin, Little Yuan'er, and Jiang Aijian felt relieved

Leng Luo slowly turned around and looked at the Second Prince, Liu Huan.

Liu Huan finally reacted. He glared at Leng Luo and said, "Good... Very good..." He waved his arm and continued to say, "Do you think this is all I've got?"

'Hm?' The soldiers looked at the Second Prince.

Even the Fourth Prince, Liu Bing, wondered what else Liu Huan had up his sleeve.

Liu Huan pointed at the nearby pavilion and said, "Old Villain Ji... Your disciple, Si Wuya, is held inside that building... If you make a single move, I'll immediately give the order for him to be killed!"

Bam!

The window of the pavilion broke.

Han Yuyuan grabbed Si Wuya's collar. He poked his head out and said loudly, "A bunch of losers! You can't even kill an old man inside the Ten Terminal Formation?"

"Seventh Junior Brother?" "Si Wuya?"

Mingshi Yin and Jiang Aijian were both shocked.

Indeed, Mingshi Yin's impression of Si Wuya was not the best. On top of that, Si Wuya had always been cunning and manipulative. However, when he saw this, he was still enraged.

Lu Zhou looked over as well. Indeed, it was Si Wuya. "That rascal. How did he land himself in this predicament?"

Han Yuyuan guffawed and said, "Today, I'll publicly execute him!"

Han Yuyuan's deputies drew their swords behind him. They waited for the Second Prince's order.

Leng Luo said, "You dare?!" His hand exerted force, and Mo Li grunted as blood trickled from the edge of her lips. She suddenly leaned forward.

Splurch!

The blade impaled her.

"Senior Brother... avenge... me..."

Leng Luo did not expect Mo Li to expedite her own death. However, he did not have time to process this. He pulled his sword out! Mo Li fell backward.

Outside the Obedient Villa, an ice-cold voice rang out. "No... Junior sister!"

It resounded throughout the entire villa.

The Ten Terminal Formation covered the entire villa. Hence, Mo Li's senior brother, Ba Ma, was lying in wait outside the Formation as they had planned. This was to prevent anyone from escaping. However, their plans could not keep up with the changes!

At this moment, Ba Ma's purple energy formed dark clouds outside the villa.

Liu Huan looked up and said, "Ba Ma, I'll avenge Consort Li's death.".

A hoarse voice rang from the dark clouds. “No...”

“Hm?”

“My junior sister is dead. All of you shall die with her!”

Ba Ma was not Mo Li. He only had a single target and that was the Fourth Prince, Liu Bing. Liu Bing was his sworn enemy who had cut down countless citizens of Lou Lan.

Meanwhile, Han Yuyuan frowned. He grabbed Si Wuya and said, “Useless! A bunch of useless trash! Do I have to do everything myself?”

Si Wuya looked up. He said with a chuckle, “Isn’t it too early to celebrate?” “You and your cocky mouth!”

Bam!

Han Yuyuan pushed his hand down and pressed Si Wuya’s head against the windowsill. With just a single swing of the blade, Si Wuya’s head would roll.

He did not even know whose voice it was that ruined the entire plan...

“The Formation is gone!”

With the Formation gone, Primal Qi surged! The civilians of Rubei City immediately felt refreshed. The suffocating sensation was gone.

The air flowed freely, and the clouds drifted naturally again.

Everything was back to normal. At this moment, everyone realized that in the next fight, they would no longer be equals. It was no longer a fight between mere mortals.

The purple clouds rolled to the villa. This was a Grand Witchcraft Formation.

Inside the villa, Liu Huan suddenly ordered, “What’re you waiting for? Take down Old Villain Ji!”

If ordinary fights would not do it, the four great generals acting against the old villain should do it now.

Whizz!

Four avatars appeared and lunged at Lu Zhou.

At this moment, Han Yuyuan sneered coldly. “Saber!”

His deputy at the side drew his saber and tossed it over!

Unfortunately, it was not aimed at Han Yuyuan’s palm. Instead, it drew across Han Yuyuan’s neck!

A red line appeared.

Han Yuyuan was stunned. He turned around and looked at his most trusted subordinate. ‘Impossible!’

Si Wuya held his head askance and smiled faintly. “I told you... Isn’t it too early for you to be celebrating?”

His other deputies leaped into rage. They exclaimed at the same time, “General Han!”

The deputy who killed Han Yuyuan planted himself before Si Wuya. "Sect master, you've endured many hardships!"

This was the reason why Si Wuya was calm and confident during the time he was held captive.

At this moment, Si Wuya saw a scene that he would never forget for the rest of his life.

Purple lightning crackled across the sky.

In the midst of the four avatars, Lu Zhou leaped into the skies!

"What's that?"

A blue lotus appeared under Lu Zhou's feet.

Boom!

A thunderous explosion shook the heavens!

All of Lu Zhou's extraordinary power surged forth at this moment.

The blue lotus blossomed.

Like a blue firework, it expanded into the surroundings. Lu Zhou's silhouette could no longer be seen.

Si Wuya covered his eyes with his sleeve.

When Han Yuyuan's deputies behind him saw this, they swung their blades at him.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

The pavilion was filled with energy blades. It was in chaos.

The subordinate who shielded Si Wuya parried the blows as best he could.

Dozens of blows were exchanged in the blink of an eye.

Two fists were no match against four arms, after all. He took a few cuts and was pushed back!

"We'll be rewarded if we kill Si Wuya!"

At the same time, the blue radiance in the sky covered the entire pavilion like seawater.

Everyone's sight was obscured.

From Lu Zhou's vantage point, it seemed like he was in the middle of a blue ocean. He could not see anything. Bam!

Everyone inside the pavilion was pushed away without discrimination! Although they were far away, they were still affected by the blue lotus's energy.

As for the four avatars, they were instantly destroyed as though they were made from paper. The four great generals and their avatars were the closest to the epicenter of the power. Under the waves of energy from the blue lotus, they reeled and spat out blood. They died instantly, powerless to fight back.

Lu Zhou's extraordinary power was no longer what it used to be. An eruption in close range was too much for the four generals to handle.

The purple clouds receded swiftly!

Si Wuya's clothes on his upper body were torn. The huge 'Bind' character on his chest was washed away by the blue lotus' power.

Han Yuyuan's deputies struck out at the air. They unleashed their energies and formed energy blades.

At this very moment, Si Wuya's lips curved into a smile as he said, "... I'm back!" He raised his hand. The hidden weapon formed by thousands upon thousands of energy blades materialized in his hand and shot toward Han Yuyuan's deputies. "This..."

"Didn't he lose his cultivation base?"

Miserable screams rang in the air, and there was a shower of blood.

As Si Wuya descended, he adjusted his posture. He did not even look at them. He knew what the outcome was. The instant his feet touched the ground, a green-robed figure appeared on a branch of a tree near the pavilion.

With a gentle and polite voice, the person said, "My apologies. I thought it was too much for you to handle."

"Second Senior Brother, there's no time to explain. Let's go!" Truth be told, he was not bothered at all when Han Yuyuan captured him. However, the blossoming blue lotus caused him to frown.

Yu Shangrong smiled and said, "Don't worry... Master has used too much of his Primal Qi. He won't have any strength left." Si Wuya only said, "Trust me."

Yu Shangrong's smile faded. His expression turned solemn.

"Let's go."

The two of them swiftly made their way out of Rubei City. The instant Lu Zhou's extraordinary power's outburst ended, he did not have enough energy to climb higher. Hence, he descended slowly. His sight was gradually restored. He looked in the direction of the pavilion immediately. He saw Yu Shangrong and Si Wuya moved at lightning speed. "Whizard."

Whizard stepped on its auspicious clouds as it flew toward Lu Zhou at top speed and carried him.

Lu Zhou turned and said, "I'll leave the rest to you."

"Yes, master!" In the Obedient Villa, there were Mingshi Yin, Leng Luo, Little Yuan'er, and his mount, Bi An. The ten great generals were dead. The survivors were nothing to be afraid of.

Lu Zhou rode on Whizard as he chased after Yu Shangrong and Si Wuya...

Chapter 326 Kill the Prince, Striving in Radiant Cloud Forest

Lu Zhou flew past the pavilion on Whizard's back. He paused for a brief moment and looked down.

Someone lay on the ground with his bloodied arm raised toward the sky as he mumbled, "Sect master... you're unharmed..."

Lu Zhou did not waste any time on this man and continued on his way. He wondered how Si Wuya managed to make his subordinates unswervingly loyal.

A delicate messenger bird flew toward the man's finger, pecked at the blood on the man's fingertips, and flew away. A moment later, Ye Zhixing moved as swiftly as a phantom as he picked the person up and instantly vanished.

In the Obedient Villa.

It was as silent as a graveyard.

After having its Primal Qi restored, Bi An was fuming from its nostrils. It looked as if it was ready to lash out at anyone at a moment's notice.

After witnessing its ferocity, the soldiers, cultivators, and Black Knights in the vicinity did not dare to underestimate this mount.

"There, there, be a good boy." Little Yuan'er patted Bi An.

Bi An obediently lay on the ground. It raised its head proudly and regarded the humans in its surroundings with disdain. It was looking down its nose at them.

Leng Luo, Mingshi Yin, and Jiang Aijian unleashed their avatars. It only took them an instant to do so!

Leng Luo with his Eight-leaf!

Jiang Aijian with his Five-leaf!

And, uh... Mingshi Yin with his... Three-leaf!

Zhao Yue and Little Yuan'er glanced at them before turning the other way as though they did not see anything.

Then, the three avatars vanished.

None of the avatars was as striking as the Eight-leaf Golden Lotus.

Its height and number of leaves were enough to shock everyone.

"Don't give me that look. You must think that you're so great with five leaves, don't you?!" Mingshi Yin rolled his eyes at Jiang Aijian. "Yes, yes, yes... You're the powerful one here... I'll admit it..." Jiang Aijian nodded. He was not joking. He knew he could never pull off killing a Five-leaf elite if he were at the Three-leaf stage. It was not embarrassing for him to step back at this juncture. Moreover, the Eight-leaf Leng Luo was here. No matter how many leaves they had, they would still pale in comparison.

Leng Luo's cultivation base was not fully recovered, but it was not difficult for him to flash his Eight-leaf Golden Lotus for an instant. He looked at Mo Li who was lying on the ground apathetically. She did not move.

Jiang Aijian walked over to Leng Luo's side. He gave Mo Li a disgusted glance and said, "How tragic..." "Tragic?" "Mhm, it's quite tragic..." Leng Luo raised his hand. The blade was still covered in Mo Li's blood.

Jiang Aijian did not know what Leng Luo was going to do. He took a step back.

Primal Qi emerged from Leng Luo's hand and it condensed into energy. His golden energy wrapped around his saber as he brought it down at Mo Li's body.

"Uh..." Jiang Aijian looked away. 'It's best to not watch. If I did, my f*cking mental state will be in jeopardy!'

Leng Luo was, perhaps, the only person under the heavens who was capable of such a feat.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Several energy blades fell on the corpse.

Leng Luo was hacking Mo Li into pieces and grinding her bones into dust.

The others felt their scalps prickle and their hairs stand on end at this sight.

When they thought about it, Leng Luo and Mo Li were enemies who could not bear to be under the same skies. Mo Li had Leng Luo under her control for many years and made him do countless despicable acts. His grudge might not even be assuaged after he hacked her up.

The Second Prince, Liu Huan's lips trembled at this sight. He stumbled over his words. "You... you... you..." His face was pale. His limbs were weak.

Leng Luo finished his business and put his saber down. Then, he turned around and tidied his clothes as if nothing had happened. Then, he explained, "For a great witch such as herself, we have to proceed with caution. If she's made into a puppet or revived, we'll have our hands full."

'Mhm, you can stop explaining now. I'll believe you, okay?' Jiang Aijian nodded fervently as he moved further away from Leng Luo. He looked at the soldiers around them and the puzzled Black Knights.

Liu Huan could not stand this anymore. He said threateningly, "Fan Xiuwen... If you can't give me a good explanation for this, you'll bear the consequences..." "Why must I explain my actions to you?" Leng Luo asked.

"You!" Liu Huan was perplexed.

Jiang Aijian picked up an ordinary saber from the ground. He flicked it with his finger, and a crisp sound rang in the air. He smiled in satisfaction before he explained, "Your Highness, don't you know who he is? He's the man whose name once shocked the heavens and was once on the top of the blacklist, Leng Luo."

The others were shocked.

The Black Knights' original members only knew about Fan Xiuwen. They did not know about Leng Luo. After the death of the four Dark Knights, nobody in the Black Knights knew that Fan Xiuwen was Leng

Luo. The remaining Black Knights looked perplexed as well. 'Isn't our leader an impostor promoted by Mo Li? How did he turn into Leng Luo?!

However, there was no point dwelling on it. The Eight-leaf Avatar was sufficient proof of Leng Luo's identity.

The eyes of the Second Prince, Liu Huan, were ablaze with fury as he stared at Leng Luo and Jiang Aijian. "So what if he's Leng Luo?! He killed Consort Li... He'll have to pay for it with his life!"

Jiang Aijian said with a smile, "You seem to enjoy dictating another person's fate, don't you?"

"That's right! Jiang Aijian... I won't forgive you."

"Oh, please, no... I love my life very much! Your Second Highness, please don't stoop to my level..." Jiang Aijian feigned a frightened expression on his face.

Upon seeing this, Liu Huan felt disdain for Jiang Aijian. His fear toward Leng Luo's Eight-leaf avatar greatly lessened as well. He pointed at Jiang Aijian and said domineeringly, "Kneel before your prince!"

Jiang Aijian did not seem angry. Instead, an amused expression appeared on his face.

Upon seeing this, Mingshi Yin said, "Why are we wasting words with him? Let's beat him up! When master returns, he'll be further punished!"

Jiang Aijian walked up to Liu Huan.

Liu Huan flicked a speck of dust off his sleeve and said, "Kneel."

"Right away."

Splurch!

The sound of a blade piercing flesh rang in the air again. The sound was unique and easily recognizable.

The soldiers' eyes lit up. They finally understood Jiang Aijian had picked up the blade and flicked it earlier... It was all for this moment...

The saber was completely embedded in the Second Prince's chest. The tip of the saber had exited through his back and was exposed in the

air.

Liu Huan's eyes widened. He glared at Jiang Aijian with a look of disbelief in his eyes. Jiang Aijian's smiled back at Liu Huan. His hand was tightly gripping the hilt of the saber as he continued to push it into Liu Huan's chest.

Drip.

Drip.

The blade was drenched in blood. Drops of blood slid off the blade's edge. The droplets fell on the stone floor and splattered into the shapes of scarlet plum blossoms

The Obedient Villa was so quiet that the sound of the blood dripping was so clear.

When Leng Luo saw this, he was only mildly surprised. He raised his hand and said threateningly, "Whoever moves will die by my hands."

The remaining survivors did not dare to move.

Jiang Aijian was still smiling as he looked at Liu Huan. After a long pause, he chuckled. It sounded indifferent laced with a hint of sadness

At the corner, Liu Bing, the Fourth Prince, did not dare to make a sound at all. He tried to speak but found his voice stuck in his throat. In the end, he helplessly shook his head and lowered his arms.

The fates of humans were determined by the heavens. A person would have to finish the path he had undertaken no matter the circumstances. Even unto death, there should be no complaints. A short cough rang in the air as Liu Huan's final breath escaped from his mouth. Blood was gushing from the edges of his lips as well. With his remaining strength, Liu Huan reached forward and grabbed Jiang Aijian's hands. Jiang Aijian did not flinch. Instead, he leaned forward and whispered into Liu Huan's ear, "The 1,000 lives in Jing He Palace is looking at you as you pay for your sins!"

Liu Huan's eyes widened in shock!

Jiang Aijian shook his head. His palm released some energy...

Bam!

Liu Huan reeled before he dropped to the ground with the saber protruding from his chest. The Second Prince, Liu Huan, was dead!

He dropped to the ground.

Jiang Aijian chuckled. Once again, he had returned to his usual lazy and flippant self. He returned to Bi An's side and sheepishly said, "I didn't do that on purpose... Heh, I didn't know he was so weak!"

Mingshi Yin, Little Yuan'er, and Zhao Yue looked at Jiang Aijian speechlessly.

Although Zhao Yue was closely related to them in name, they had never spent much time together. Hence, she did not feel sad at all. Moreover, Liu Huan had gone overboard. She felt relieved that he was dead.

"What do we do about the rest?" Mingshi Yin was getting excited. For some reason, he found himself pumped up as he looked at the proud Bi An. He loved bullying others by taking advantage of the situation. Oh, to be more precise, taking advantage of the... beast!

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou rode on Whitzard as they flew above the forest. He wondered how much time had passed. The only thing he knew was that he was getting closer. At the same time, he weighed his options in his mind.

With Yu Shangrong and Si Wuya's speed, they were definitely no match for Whitzard.

'I'll continue giving chase this way! Rascals, where can you run to now?'

Whitzard understood its master's will. It shot past the mountain peaks and the forest.

Lu Zhou suddenly said, "Wait a minute!" Whizard stopped and let out a loud cry, the soundwave spread out at a terrifying speed. Yu Shangrong and Si Wuya were caught off guard. They quickly dropped down.

Fortunately, Yu Shangrong had very good control over his cultivation base. After the initial shock, he quickly adjusted his condition and landed slowly. "Second Senior Brother, stay calm!" Si Wuya landed and looked up. He scanned the skies with widened eyes.

Yu Shangrong appeared calm. "I am calm."

"It doesn't look like he's coming after us."

"There's no need to fear even if he is." Yu Shangrong remained composed.

Si Wuya. "... After giving it some thought, he felt something was amiss. He said, "Your cultivation base is profound, Second Senior Brother. It's only natural that you're unafraid. However, I've just been freed of the mantra, and I'm not in my best condition. I'd have to trouble you to bring me along as we leave this place as quickly as possible, senior brother."

"Sure," Yu Shangrong replied without any hesitation.

Before Si Wuya could say another word, Yu Shangrong's energy was already wrapped around him.

The two of them flew toward Radiant Cloud Forest. They looked back occasionally as they flew forward.

Si Wuya said, "It looks like master's not coming after us."

Yu Shangrong nodded and inquired, "Your mantra has been removed?"

"I don't know what happened as well..." Si Wuya recalled what he saw in the pavilion. Fear still lingered in his heart.

"In any case, it's good that it's undone," Yu Shangrong said nonchalantly.

The two of them sped on.

Si Wuya looked straight ahead. Puzzled, he asked, "Where are we going, Second Senior Brother?"

"Radiant Cloud Forest," Yu Shangrong calmly replied.

"Now?"

"Now."

Chapter 327 Pursuing the Rascals

Si Wuya did not understand. However, when he saw that Yu Shangrong appeared indifferent to all this and did not seem to be in a good mood, he did not press on with his questions.

Yu Shangrong was also clearly moving at a much higher speed compared to before.

They sped past the trees.

After Lu Zhou voiced out his suspicions that something was amiss, he suddenly remembered that his item cards were all in cooldown.

‘Awkward.’ He had been chasing after them for so long, and yet, he had completely forgotten about this. Moreover, he had also depleted the extraordinary power from the Heavenly Writing earlier. He was too caught up in the situation. Was he not just asking for it if he chased his disciples while he was completely defenseless?

Lu Zhou stood on Whitzard’s back as he looked at the item cards on the system dashboard. There were about five days left of the cooldown. “Whitzard... Are my disciples, Zhao Yue and Mingshi Yin, in danger?”

Whitzard gave a strange cry.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. “It’s good that you understand me.”

Lu Zhou was just about to turn back and return when a black flying chariot flew past him...

The flying chariot was not quick. Instead, it was moving at a leisurely pace as though the people onboard were enjoying the scenery.

The waves of the Primal Qi were not smooth. The flying chariot seemed to be damaged. Judging by its route, the flying chariot seemed to have come from Rubei City. There were no other human cities in the area. What was a flying chariot doing here? Lu Zhou was puzzled. This place was far removed from any human settlements. Further north, there was nothing but mountains and forests. Usually, human cultivators would not wander out of the cities or sects. When they ventured into the forest, they risked running into some terrifying beasts. Even if they came in here to tame a mount, there was no need for a flying chariot. This was unconventional.

Lu Zhou steered Whitzard toward the flying chariot. He wanted to see to whom this flying chariot belonged. When he was near the flying chariot, he heard conversations from within.

“You slackers! Advance at full force!”

“Sect master, we can’t! The energy blast earlier has damaged much of the flying chariot’s Formation veins.”

“Sect master, why don’t we ditch the flying chariot and flee? If your plan fails, we’re done for!”

Based on the conversation, it was clear these people had fled from Rubei City.

As the saying went, ‘Enemies on a narrow road’.

Unfortunately, Lu Zhou was currently powerless to do anything against them.

‘Forget it. Consider yourselves lucky.’

Lu Zhou was just about to leave when a black figure emerged from the black chariot.

“Who’s there?!” The figure shot out at lightning speed toward Lu Zhou. ‘This is... Dao Invisibility. It’s an elite!’ Lu Zhou frowned. ‘Whitzard, you’ll have to do more than support me now.’

However, when the black figure approached and was about to attack, he saw his target. ‘Auspicious Qi? Whitzard?’ He looked at the old man on top of the beast again. ‘Old Villain Ji?!’

Bam!

The black figure struck at thin air and forcibly stopped his attack. He rode on the backlash and somersaulted before he kneeled in the air. "Greetings, old senior! This is all a big misunderstanding!"

Lu Zhou's expression was calm. He looked at the face of this black figure and said, "Duan Xing?"

It was the Fiend Temple's Third Seat, Duan Xing.

Ever since the Fiend Temple Master, Ren Buping, died in the battle against the Ten Shamans at Tangzi Town, Duan Xing was selected as the new sect master. Their paths did not cross since that incident. And yet, here they were now.

Duan Xing awkwardly said, "Old senior... Aren't you in Rubei City? What... what brings you here?" He immediately regretted asking that question.

Was it not obvious? Look at the mount Lu Zhou was riding on! Compared to their dilapidated flying chariot that was threatening to crash, he was truly outclassed.

"You're asking me?" Lu Zhou stroked his beard and replied with a question. "No, no, no, I dare not!" Duan Xing hastily replied.

"Where are you going?" Lu Zhou asked.

"Well..." Duan Xing said hesitantly, "To watch the show."

"Watch the show?"

"Old senior... It's only natural that you're unaware of this." Duan Xing shook his head. "Your first and second disciples have agreed to battle on Cloud Shine Peak. Not many know about this. It's truly a shame if we don't watch a battle between such elites. Hence, we mustered up our courage to go and have a look."

"You're saying that the rascals, Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong, are going to fight it out on Cloud Shine Peak?" Lu Zhou asked.

"That's right." Lu Zhou's gaze fell on Duan Xing's flying chariot. Clearly, Duan Xing knew many things that happened inside Rubei City. Was it a coincidence? He did not think so.

The blooming of the blue lotus in Rubei City had affected Duan Xing's flying chariot. This meant Duan Xing was nearby at that time. Who was Duan Xing pursuing? There was no reason for Duan Xing to flee in this direction.

Lu Zhou said tonelessly, "Duan Xing."

"Yes, senior." "Don't try to play tricks with me," Lu Zhou said. 'You aren't fit to witness a battle of this level.'

"I dare not!" Duan Xing broke out in cold sweat at once. His fingers shook as he honestly said, "To tell you the truth, senior, I knew you're in Rubei City and witnessed you unleash your great power earlier..."

"Why?" Lu Zhou asked.

Duan Xing shook his head and said with a sigh, "The Fiend Temple is but a pale remnant of what it once was. My comrades need to survive as well. Alas... the Nether Sect isn't giving us any chance. They want to wipe us out! I intended to visit you at the Evil Sky Pavilion, old senior, but you weren't there. After making several detours, we came to Rubei."

This explanation was reasonable.

Duan Xing continued to say, "The flying chariot is damaged. I have been running after you, old senior, in fear of missing you!" When he remembered what had nearly happened earlier, he hastily added, "What happened earlier is an honest misunderstanding. I thought someone was trying to ambush us." After saying that, he thought to himself, 'You're riding Whizard after all. No matter how slow the beast is, it can't be slower than this lousy flying chariot! I'm surprised we even caught up to you. That really frightened me to death.'

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. "Accompany me to Cloud Shine Peak."

Duan Xing was overjoyed. He hastily bowed and said, "Of course, old senior... This is my first time riding the legendary mount, Whizard!" As he spoke, he prepared to hop on Whizard's back.

"Scram," Lu Zhou said.

Duan Xing was taken aback.

"Look around you, look at the rivers and mountains. It would be such a waste not to enjoy the beautiful scenery, don't you think?" Lu Zhou steered Whizard toward the flying chariot.

Duan Xing hastily said, "I get it now! This way, old senior!" He quickly boarded the flying chariot.

"Quit slacking off! What are you daydreaming about? Come and greet the old senior!" Duan Xing said.

The Fiend Temple's disciples bowed. They did not even dare to breathe heavily.

Lu Zhou landed on the flying chariot. With a wave of his arm, Whizard left.

"Have a seat, old senior! This flying chariot isn't the best. It won't fly like the wind. I hope you don't mind."

"That's alright..." Lu Zhou waved his hand and sat down. He stroked his beard and said, "It's good to take it slow." At the same time, he glanced at the time on the dashboard. There was no need for him to rush things at the moment.

The flying chariot sailed slowly as if it was in a drunken stupor toward the setting sun.

Chapter 328 The Great Limit, Yu Shangrong's Goal

The waterfall fell like a curtain of water. The sun's rays glinted in the light.

Lu Zhou sat on the flying chariot. He stroked his beard as he took in the scenery.

The flying chariot was swaying. The flight was rough. However, this did not stop him from admiring the sights.

The flying chariot arrived at a spot near Cloud Shine Peak when it was getting dark. "Old senior, we're at Cloud Shine Peak. However, I'm guessing your disciples will only show up in two days." Duan Xing walked to Lu Zhou's side.

"We're already here?" Lu Zhou said.

Duan Xing scratched his head. 'Was it too fast? We have been flying for a long time. Even the sun has set...' In fact, it would have been faster if he had flown on his own. In the end, he decided to play along and said, "I personally manned the helm and put my back into it. I didn't dare to waste your time, old senior..." Lu Zhou frowned slightly. He said nothing. He merely waved his arm irritably.

Duan Xing felt awkward. He wondered what he had done wrong. He did not even speak during the journey, afraid of disturbing Lu Zhou while Lu Zhou was enjoying the scenery. However, Lu Zhou was still displeased.

Lu Zhou stood up and looked down at Cloud Shine Peak. At this moment, it seemed like images buried in the depth of his mind were slowly surfacing. "Cloud Shine Nunnery." Lu Zhou saw the temple halfway up the mountain. He nearly forgot that Cloud Shine Nunnery was built here. The temple was located 1,000 miles away from the northern capital. It had a lonely and isolated air to it. Perhaps, the monks and nuns were truly indifferent to material things.

"You're indeed knowledgeable, old senior. The temple here is indeed called Cloud Shine Nunnery. Only nuns occupy the temple," Duan Xing said. After that, he entertained thoughts about seeking shelter at Cloud Shine Nunnery. However, there were only nuns there. He thought it was inappropriate for a group of men to stay there.

Cultivators could spend the night anywhere. The location did not matter much to them. Since their bodies were impervious to cold, they could fall asleep even if they were hanging off a tree branch.

"Descend," Lu Zhou said curtly. "At once." Duan Xing hastily brought the flying chariot to a slow descent.

There were no signs of civilization for 100 miles around Cloud Shine Peak. The trees were tall while the cliff faces were steep.

When the flying chariot descended into the forest, they saw the dense canopy covering the sky.

Lu Zhou had recovered some of his Primal Qi during the journey so he leaped off the flying chariot.

The others dropped down as well. Only a handful was left to guard the flying chariot.

Shortly after, Lu Zhou and the others were outside Cloud Shine Nunnery.

Duan Xing volunteered without any prompt. "I'll knock." He knocked twice on the door loudly.

The doors swung open. An old nun came out.

"It's you?" Lu Zhou recognized the nun immediately.

Xuan Jing was startled. She immediately straightened a palm and bowed. "Old benefactor Ji... Forgive me for the hospitality even though you traveled so far." She pushed the doors until they were completely open.

Lu Zhou was puzzled. 'Isn't there anyone else in the Cloud Shine Nunnery? Why would Buddhist Master Xuan Jing personally answer the door?' He glanced at the courtyard. It was filled with overgrown weeds and fallen leaves. It seemed slightly desolate. "This way, dear benefactors."

When they entered the courtyard, Lu Zhou asked, "Are you the only one here?"

"Wu Nian left long ago. For now, I'm the only one in Cloud Shine Nunnery," Xuan Jing replied with a straightened palm.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. 'Just as well. There won't be as many rules if she's alone.'

The place was big enough. "I'll be staying here for a few days," Lu Zhou said.

Upon hearing this, Xuan Jing said, "Benefactor Ji, this way please..." She did not have time to settle the others in. She was short-handed, after all.

Duan Xing shrugged helplessly. He glanced at his comrades. 'Don't look at me. There aren't any young nuns here. Clean it up yourselves!'

Lu Zhou followed Buddhist Master Xuan Jing to a secluded room. The view, location, and environment were clearly a notch above the rest.

Buddhist Master Xuan Jing said, "This way."

Lu Zhou nodded slightly. He walked into the room with his hands on his back.

The surroundings were unique and beautifully secluded. There was a bookshelf, a desk, and a round window ledge that provided a view of the mountains beyond Cloud Shine Nunnery. "All those years ago, you had a discourse about the Path with my master in this very room, Benefactor Ji," Xuan Jing said.

They had a discourse about the Path in Cloud Shine Nunnery, watched the moon on Lilac Mountain, and observed the fishes in Hundred Leaves Lake. When Lu Zhou recalled this, he shook his head and sighed. "Jing Yan was greatly talented. Alas, she couldn't get rid of the distracting thoughts."

"You're right, Benefactor Ji. That was what my master said as well."

"How did she die?"

"My master's great limit was brought forward by two centuries..." Xuan Jing shook her head and sighed.

Lu Zhou considered it. Usually, a Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm cultivator could live for 600 years... With every subsequent leaf that sprouted, their life span would increase by 50 years. Nobody had ever attained the Nine-leaf stage. For this reason, nobody could overcome the Thousand-year limit. That was how the great limit came to be.

If the cultivator did not actively seek death, it would not have been a problem to live for 900 or even slightly more than 1,000 years. Why would her great limit be brought forward?

"My master attempted to enter the Nine-leaf stage but failed in the end. For that, she depleted her essence and blood," Xuan Jing replied.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded, "It's the ninth leaf again." He remembered the sword path genius of the northern capital. Gong Yuandu, said the same words before he died. Indeed, the loss of one's essence and blood would negatively impact one's longevity.

However, according to the ordinary rules and cultivation paths, the life span of humans should increase with their breakthroughs. Why would the Nine-leaf stage shorten their lives?

"Before my master died, she warned everyone who has reached the Eight-leaf stage to not foolishly attempt breaking through to the Nine-leaf stage," Xuan Jing said.

"When I had a discussion with her, she was filled with tenacity and courage, determined to reach the Nine-leaf stage..." Lu Zhou said with a hint of irony.

"You're at the peak of the Eight-leaf stage since a long time ago, Benefactor Ji... You should have more experience and insight compared to my master about this matter."

Lu Zhou said nothing. Xuan Jing had a point. Since Ji Tiandao was at peak of the Eight-leaf stage, could he have attempted to enter the Nine-leaf stage? Was that why he died?

"Make yourself comfortable, benefactor. I'll take my leave." When Xuan Jing saw that it was getting late, she no longer bothered him. She turned around and left.

Lu Zhou continued to entertain his thoughts. How many Eight-leaf cultivators could not resist the temptation of attempting to break through to the Nine-leaf stage?

Lu Zhou remembered the Reversal Cards. If attempting to enter the Nine-leaf stage would shorten his life... He had the Reversal Cards... Did this mean he would be different from others and would successfully become the first Nine-leaf elite in the cultivation world?

He thought about it for a while before he finally shook his head. 'It's useless to think about this now. I'll find out after my cultivation base improves and I can personally make an attempt. I should think about how to capture the three rascals instead.'

Lu Zhou needed to stay here for five days. He hoped that Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong would not appear too early. His item cards were on cooldown. This meant that he could only depend on the Heavenly Writing scroll.

When he thought about this, Lu Zhou walked up to the bed and sat on the floor. He faced the Hundred Leaves Lake that was miles away and entered his meditation state.

At night. Near Hundred Leaves Lake.

The moon was reflected on the lake's surface.

Yu Shangrong stabbed his Longevity Sword into the ground and rested his hands on its hilt. He sighed and said, "After this battle, should I conceal my identity and leave out the rest of my life near this lake?" Nearby, Si Wuya was trying to adjust his Primal Qi. He said with a smile, "Indeed, this is a nice place. Alas, Cloud Shine Peak is too near." In other words, their master had spent too much time here. 'Do you dare?' Usually, he would not speak to his Second Senior Brother in this manner.

Yu Shangrong walked away from the Longevity Sword and walked toward the Hundred Leaves Lake. He slowly walked on the lake's surface as though he was walking on land as he said, "The most dangerous place is also the safest place..." The water did not touch him. He waved his arm gently.

Zing!

His Longevity Sword left its scabbard of its own accord. The red blade stood out in the dark of the night.

The sword rose, and the water of the lake rose with it as well!

The water rained down like a waterfall.

Yu Shangrong remained above the lake's surface. He did not conjure up his protective energy before he swung his Longevity Sword around. He raised his hand and cast a shadow with his sword.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The water droplets were hit by Yu Shangrong at a terrifying speed. They flew into the trees nearby and left holes in their wakes.

The body of water fell back on the lake. Everything turned quiet again. Yu Shangrong's sword skills bordered on perfection. He was the only one who could remain dry using his sword skills alone without relying on his Primal Qi or energy blades.

Crash!

Several trees in the vicinity fell to the ground, and the Longevity Sword returned to its scabbard.

Yu Shangrong said gently, "Seventh Junior Brother, in terms of sword skills, how would you rate this move?" Si Wuya said earnestly, "You're peerless in terms of sword skills, Second Senior Brother."

"That's why... even if master is here, there's no need to worry."

Si Wuya, on the other hand, was not as confident as Yu Shangrong. Otherwise, he would not have constantly reported their master's whereabouts to Yu Shangrong. Zuo Xinchuan, Sword Saint Luo Shisan, Runan's Zhuo Ping, Yu Shangrong feared none of them. He fearlessly met them in battles, risking running into their master in the process. However, those were different times. In the end, he said, "Second Senior Brother, I'm not questioning your strength... but master's strength seems to have improved."

Yu Shangrong frowned. His feet sunk half an inch into the water. He pushed away from the lake's surface at once. A burst of energy appeared, and the water stains on his feet instantly disappeared. He looked at Si Wuya as he waited for an explanation.

Si Wuya said, "Outside the Obedient Villa, I saw master standing on a blue lotus... Initially, I thought it was the barrier's power. I was wrong. The power from the blooming blue lotus is capable of removing the mantra on my body. The barrier doesn't have such capabilities..."

"Are you certain?" Yu Shangrong asked.

"I am," Si Wuya said gravely, "Perhaps, master has found a way to overcome the great limit."

Yu Shangrong's gentle expression remained unchanged when he heard this. However, he said in a displeased tone, "Junior brother, if you're trying to dissuade me from fighting Eldest Senior Brother with this, I'm afraid that I'll have to disappoint you."

"You've misunderstood me, senior brother. That's not what I meant at all," Si Wuya said.

Yu Shangrong responded, "I hope not." "I swear to the heavens that I have no such intentions." Si Wuya raised three fingers in the air.

Yu Shangrong let the matter rest. He turned around slowly, and the Longevity Sword flew into his hand. He asked, "Seventh Junior Brother, who do you think will win, between Eldest Senior Brother and I?"

'Here we go again. This is too difficult.' Si Wuya felt speechless, but he did not show it on his face. He said, "You will win, of course."

"I think so too," Yu Shangrong said gently, "It's getting late. You should get some rest, Seventh Junior Brother."

His voice barely faded when a blue fluorescent light sparkled in Cloud Shine Peak's direction. It was like a firefly. Unfortunately, it was too far away. At a distance of several miles, this level of brightness was the same as darkness.

Si Wuya continued to sit in the lotus position and adjusted his aura. He had to recover as much of his cultivation base as he could within these few days. He did not want to waste any time. He stayed that way the whole night.

Early the next morning.

When the sun rose, Si Wuya was awakened by the dew that fell on his face. When he opened his eyes, he saw his Second Senior Brother standing at the side.

Yu Shangrong only pointed at Cloud Shine Nunnery and said, "Smoke from kitchen chimneys."

Si Wuya wanted to say that standing next to someone while they were sleeping was scary. However, he had no choice but to swallow the words. In the end, he said, "I've investigated Cloud Shine Nunnery. After the abbess, Wu Nian, lost her cultivation base, she left Cloud Shine Nunnery. The remaining members are nothing to be worried about. The Cloud Shine Nunnery has disbanded. Xuan Jing is managing the place on her own. Why would there be smoke from the kitchen chimneys?"

"Pleasure," Yu Shangrong said softly, "You don't understand the pleasures of the world, Junior Brother Wuya."

"Perhaps," Si Wuya replied.

"I know what you want to say..." Yu Shangrong chuckled. As soon as he finished speaking, he launched himself into the sky and brandished the Longevity Sword.

An Eight-leaf avatar materialized out of thin air. It was 100-foot tall with an Eight-leaf Golden Lotus spinning under its feet. Its radiance was blindingly bright.

Yu Shangrong hovered within the avatar. He crossed his arms and said with a smile, "Junior brother, after this battle, I won't have any more opponents in swordplay." Then, he added, "Apart from master." Si Wuya regarded this avatar with a complicated look in his eyes. Sometimes, he felt that his Second Senior Brother was foolish. Sometimes, he felt that he could not understand him at all. He wondered what the Sword Devil, whose name struck fear in those who heard it, was pursuing.

Inside Cloud Shine Nunnery.

Lu Zhou opened his eyes. He looked at the 100-foot avatar that was miles away. "Hundred Leaves Lake?"

'Rascal.' There were more than four days left before the cooldown period was over. There was no need for him to rush. There was nothing he could anyway. It was better for him to be patient.

At this moment, Duan Xing's voice rang from outside. "Old senior! There's a situation! An Eight-leaf avatar has been sighted."

"I know," Lu Zhou said indifferently.

Duan Xing, initially, wanted to ask if Lu Zhou planned to do anything about it, but then, he thought better of it. After all, it was too offensive. Whether the old senior decided to make a move or not had nothing to do with him. Hence, he only bowed and said, "I'll await your good news, old senior."

In any case, Duan Xing and his Fiend Temple could only be sideline supporters before the battle. They could not do anything else. That was an Eight-leaf Avatar. Anyone in their right minds would not go any closer. After the avatar vanished, the Hundred Leaves Lake was silent once more.

Lu Zhou closed his eyes again and meditated on the Heavenly Writing.

Another day passed.

Lu Zhou felt that only one-fifth of Heavenly Writing's extraordinary power had been restored. At this level, he could only repel a Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm elite once, at most. It was far from enough. However, there was nothing he could do. There was too little time. His meditation speed did not improve as well.

At this moment, someone's voice rang from outside again. "Old senior, the Nether Sect's flying chariot is here."

Lu Zhou opened his eyes slowly and replied, "Alright." He stood up and emerged with his hands on his back.

Duan Xing and the others respectfully stood outside. He said, "It has been confirmed that the ultimate battle between your first and second disciple will be above the Hundred Leaves Lake. Indeed, it's a wonderful place for a sparring session."

Lu Zhou ignored Duan Xing. He stepped out of the courtyard with his hands on his back. He needed to find another spot that was more suited to watch the battle instead of being cooped up in his room with a limited view. Although he had a great view of Hundred Leaves Lake, for a battle of this level, the range could easily extend for several miles. It was too easy for the battle to be out of his field of vision.

Lu Zhou walked toward Cloud Shine Peak. At the same time, from the distance, he saw a huge black flying chariot flying toward the Hundred Leaves Lake.

Chapter 329 The Ultimate Battle

The others from the Fiend Temple swiftly walked past the steps and followed Lu Zhou. They looked up and saw the flying chariot.

The black flying chariot looked like a narrow rectangular block through the leaves. Wide stripes of Formation veins were etched on the sides of the flying chariot where cultivators sent their energies into to move it. The scale of the chariot, the number of people it took to fly it, and the grandeur were rarely seen.

The others came to halt and looked at the flying chariot in awe. The flying chariot slowed down considerably once it was near Cloud Shine Forest.

Compared to that flying chariot, the Fiend Temple's flying chariot looked as insignificant as a child's toy.

Duan Xing looked at the flying chariot and said, "I heard that the Nether Sect has absorbed the Righteous Sect and the Clarity Sect. Its force has grown stronger ever since. In less than half a year, the number of people who joined the Nether Sect more than doubled... I didn't expect them to have a new flying chariot as well." He, naturally, did not know that Yu Zhenghai's previous flying chariot had been destroyed on the Lotus Dais.

Lu Zhou merely glanced at the flying chariot before he continued on his way with his hands on his back. He did not walk to the top of Cloud Shine Peak. Instead, he walked toward an outcrop. There were several huge trees with bent trunks on each side of the rock that slanted outward. This could be a perfect place to avoid the sweltering summer heat. Duan Xing nodded when he saw Lu Zhou walking as though he was strolling in the park.

One of Duan Xing's subordinates said, "Although Sect Master Yu put on such a grand display, I still think someone like the old senior who remains humble and simple is the true elite."

Duan Xing turned to glance at that subordinate.

The subordinate was startled.

"You've got a point," Duan Xing praised him.

The old senior stayed true to himself. Each of his steps was firm and simple, there were no flashy shows. This was the way experts should behave.

Duan Xing and the others stood on the huge boulder. All of them stood behind Lu Zhou and did not dare to move forward.

Duan Xing looked into the distance and saw the flying chariot had come to a stop. He bowed and asked, "Old senior, when are you planning to make your move, if not now?"

Lu Zhou said nothing. He merely looked at Duan Xing meaningfully before he turned back to observe the flying chariot.

Duan Xing shuddered inwardly. His palms were wet with sweat. His question was too foolish. Naturally, the old senior was waiting to swoop in and reap the benefits while the two parties fought. Rumor had it that Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong's cultivation bases were on par with their master. In fact, there was also a rumor about them having surpassed their master. He did not know if those two people had surpassed their master, but he had no doubts that they were both Eight-leaf elites.

Apart from that, the Nether Sect's Four Great Protectors, Hua Chongyang, Bai Yuqing, Yang Yan, and Di Qing, were all first-rate elites. Apart from those four people, the Nether Sect had no lack of elites scattered across the land.

Duan Xing did not forget Si Wuya, the Darknet's master. He wondered where the cunning and mischievous man was hiding. If the old senior planned to take them down, it was better for him to secretly observe before he made a move.

After thinking about all that, Duan Xing was even more convinced that the old senior was a true elite. He was nothing like what the rumor had said. He was not someone with a fiery temper and strength to match.

The huge flying chariot hovered above the Hundred Leaves Lake.

Yu Shangrong crossed his arms and stood on the surface of Hundred Leaves Lake. His eyes were closed. The Azure Dragon First Seat, Hua Chongyang, was the first to emerge. He cupped his fists and said, "Greetings, Mister Second."

The Hundred Leaves Lake was silent as usual.

The clear surface of the lake was like a transparent mirror that reflected Yu Shangrong's chiseled face. Hua Chongyang felt awkward seeing Yu Shangrong's blatant disregard. He said again, "Greetings, Mister Second." "...". Similarly, Yu Shangrong did not reply again.

At this moment, Bai Yuqing, Yang Yang, and Di Qing emerged as well. They stood in a row. Four of them said in unison, "Greetings, Mister Second."

Yu Shangrong seemed to have fallen asleep. The four of them exchanged glances and were at a loss.

At this moment, inside the flying chariot, Yu Zhenghai broke into a burst of laughter. The soundwaves from his laughter spread across the Hundred Leaves Lake.

The fish at the bottom of the lake broke the surface as they leaped into the air, creating many ripples on the, otherwise, peaceful surface.

Yu Shangrong opened his eyes.

The four great protectors parted to the sides and bowed. "Sect master."

Yu Zhenghai emerged with his hands on his back. He looked down at Yu Shangrong who was standing in the middle of the lake. Although Yu Shangrong looked small when he stood in the middle of the lake, there was no doubt he could destroy the Hundred Leaves Lake if he so wished. Finally, he said, "Second Junior Brother, how long has it been? You've become cold and heartless. My four great protectors are first-rate elites. They've always wanted to fight you. Although they know they would lose, it doesn't stop them from trying. Why don't you give them a chance?"

Yu Shangrong finally spoke. "My apologies, Eldest Senior Brother..." In other words, he refused.

Yu Zhenghai asked, "Why?"

"Throughout the years, I've fought 135 opponents... There was only a single person who has yet to die under my sword."

Hua Chongyang, Bai Yuqing, Yang Yan, and Di Qing were speechless.

"Sword Freak Chen Wenjie, Mobei's Sword Slave Wang Haichao, the Sect Master Wang of the First Sword King in the Green Province, the Lou Lan's Sword Emperor of the western region, Yue Zhengrong... All of them died under my blade." Yu Shangrong did not think there was a need for him to list out all the names. Just these few names were enough to strike fear into the listeners' hearts. He looked up and swept his eyes across the four great protectors. He smiled faintly. "Apart from that, I don't recommend them to watch the battle."

The four of them exchanged glances again. They could accept that he found them unworthy to challenge him. However, he even said they were unworthy of watching the fight. The words were too hurtful even for his standard.

"It's so that they won't be traumatized."

Hua Chongyang, Bai Yuqing, Yang Yan, and Di Qing were speechless.

Elites of the sword path could not help but obsess with sword skills. There were many with exceptional sword skills who plunged into the depths of self-abasement and lost their minds after witnessing Yu Shangrong's sword skills.

Yu Zhenghai smiled earnestly and said, "You don't have to worry about that. Those people are weak. However, if my subordinates can't even acknowledge the fact there's someone stronger than them, then, they're not worthy of being in my Nether Sect."

"Glad to hear that."

Yu Zhenghai tapped with the tips of his feet. He flew forward as though he was as light as a feather before he dove down. He dropped swiftly. In a blink of an eye, he was already above the lake's surface. Surprisingly, the lake's surface remained calm. It seemed like it was not affected by the disturbance. Based on this, one could see how terrifying his control over his strength was.

Yu Shangrong uncrossed his arms and cupped his fists lightly. "Greetings, Eldest Senior Brother." This was just a courtesy.

"Go ahead, junior brother."

"You're older, senior brother. Go ahead."

"You're younger, junior brother. You go ahead."

"In that case, let's do it together..."

Swoosh!

The water from the Hundred Leaves Lake that was several miles wide shot into the air under the pressure of their Primal Qi.

The water droplets fell. The water droplets seemed to be wrapped by their energies. Every water droplet formed energy cones.

The lotus leaves were now riddled with holes. The huge chariot retreated.

Si Wuya retreated as well.

The two opponents did not budge from the center of the lake. However, the energy cones did not harm them. They dispersed before they could even get near their bodies.

Water droplets continued to fall.

Energy seals that shined like starlight appeared behind Yu Zhenghai...

“Jasper Saber.” The Jasper Saber spun out of the flying chariot and flew toward its owner.

At the same time, it dropped down as a huge burst of energy shrouded it, making it look like a huge pinwheel. This was the Great Dark Heaven Memorial, the Dark Heaven Starlight.

“Longevity Sword.”

Zing!

The Longevity Sword shot out of its scabbard. There was a rain of blades. This was the Guiyuan Sword Technique, the Sword Devil’s Destiny.

The two blades clashed.

Everyone was dumbstruck.

Duan Xing’s jaw dropped. His eyeballs threatened to fall out of their sockets.

Was this a battle?

Even if they retired from the cultivation world in the future, he was certain that they would still be handsomely rewarded with a career in removing mountains.

As for the disciples of Fiend Temple, they were utterly stupefied. They did not know what to think. A battle of this level had well exceeded their imaginations and expectations. Although they had thought about the battle and what it would be like, none of them could have imagined this.

In the middle of the Hundred Leaves Lake, the two opponents stood motionlessly as a sword and saber clashed in the air.

Duan Xing exclaimed in amazement, “Is this what the Eight-leaf stage is like?”

If the disciples were this mind-blowingly powerful, just how powerful would Ji Tiandao be at his peak?

Duan Xing could no longer suppress his curiosity. He asked, “O-old senior... Who do you think will win?”

“Just watch,” Lu Zhou answered in a vague manner.

“Yes, old senior.”

Lu Zhou did not wish for their battle to end too soon. There were still about four days before the cooldown period ended. If they finished before then, he would have no choice but to take the risk and chase after them on Whizard’s back.

Lu Zhou was not surprised by the battle before him. He had anticipated this. Both of them were evenly matched.

Meanwhile, the four great protectors who were watching the battle from the flying chariot finally understood what Yu Shangrong meant. After all, Yu Shangrong could unleash such a destructive power just by pure control of his Primal Qi. This was not as simple as a difference in the number of leaves. Even Eight-leaf elites could be starkly different from each other.

As the final water droplet fell into the lake, the Jasper Saber and Longevity Sword parted and returned to their respective owners.

Yu Zhenghai held his saber in one hand. He extended his arm straight to the side.

Yu Shangrong wielded his sword with his right hand. He stared at Yu Zhenghai.

The first exchange of blows was merely a chance for them to gauge their opponent’s strength. Yu Zhenghai laughed and said, “Indeed, your cultivation base has improved a lot, Second Junior Brother.”

“The same could be said about you, Eldest Senior Brother.”

“So, I take it that your Guiyuan Sword Technique is now in the three-soul stage?” Yu Zhenghai asked.

Accomplished swordsmen were one with their swords. It was as though their weapons were born out of their bones.

“I heard that no one has seen your Great Dark Heaven Memorial’s Sovereign Descent. senior brother. I’d like to see it.”

As soon as Yu Shangrong finished speaking, both of them instantly tap the tips of the feet on the surface of the lake at the same time

The two of them tapped the surface of the lake with the tips of their feet at the same time. This meant the battle was progressing to a higher level. Both the Jasper Saber and Longevity Sword were now wrapped in energy.

When Hua Chongyang saw this, he raised a palm. “Retreat. Climb higher!”

“Understood!” The members of the Nether Sect did not dare to be careless.

...

Upon seeing this, Duan Xing shuddered. He was overcome with the urge to flee the scene. “Old senior... Why don’t we take a few steps back and watch from there?”

Lu Zhou looked at him indifferently but did not move.

Duan Xing felt slightly relieved. They were several miles away from the Hundred Leaves Lake. The skies were clear, and their field of vision was wide. Naturally, they would feel the impact of the battle. However, he was a Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm elite, after all. It should not be a problem for him to defend himself. He nodded to himself. 'If we're affected by the battle, I'll have to perform well. The fate of the Fiend Temple rests on this occasion. I can't mess up at the most crucial moment.'

Chapter 330 Why Are Eight-leafs Elites So Powerful?

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong hovered in the air as they faced each other in the distance.

Their blades vibrated from their energies.

Swoosh!

Both of them vanished at the same time. In the next second, they reappeared and collided above the Hundred Leaves Lake.

There was a vertical outburst of energy from the point of their collision. Their energies plunged into the lake like a shining golden blade, and the water parted.

The Hundred Leaves Lake seemed like it was instantly split into half. The water in the lake shot into the air.

Shortly after, the air was filled with countless energy blades that hit every droplet in the surroundings and shot toward Yu Shangrong. Energy blades spun as they shot out relentlessly. The densely packed energy blades surrounded him. He hovered in the midst of the energy blades with his eyes closed. He closed his ears to other sounds. The energy blades kept everything else away from him.

Si Wuya shook his head helplessly. He could not remain here. He decided to watch the battle from another spot. 'Why do they have to do this? Isn't it good enough if they just forgo using their Primal Qi, take a seat, and talk things through?'

Si Wuya sped in the other direction. With a simple leap, he flew onto a peak several miles away and sat there with his legs crossed. He adjusted his breath and tried to meditate, occasionally taking a peek. He muttered, "Oh, whatever! Just fight to your heart's content... This will never end."

He knew how powerful the two opponents were. This battle would go on for some time. He decided that it was better for him to take a rest and wait until they were done with their battle.

Above the Hundred Leaves Lake.

The energy blades seemed to have covered the skies.

"Retreat!" Hua Chongyang raised his hand again. He had a feeling that the battle would become even more terrifying from here on out.

Bai Yuqing looked at the two opponents in the air with a complicated gaze. "Is this what true Eight-leaf elites are like?"

"Perhaps," Hua Chongyang glanced at the other three and said, "They haven't even unleashed their avatars yet."

The three of them nodded. If those two decided to unleash their avatars and grand techniques, just how destructive would the battle be?

The flying chariot retreated and climbed even higher into the sky.

Yu Shangrong opened his eyes at this moment. His energy blades froze. The Longevity Sword was bent to his will. All blades vibrated and launched a coordinated attack.

The battle intensified!

The space above the Hundred Leaves Lake was filled with energy blades.

The energy blades of both opponents parried each other. Their energies burst and rippled into the surroundings. The impact of the battle was spreading toward the banks. The large trees near the lake were affected as well.

Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai's bodies vanished in the horizons.

The audience knew that they did not exactly vanish. The two opponents were just moving at an incredibly fast speed that they were not visible to the naked eyes. The only things the audience could see were the energy blades that seemed to have blocked out the sun and the sky. Meanwhile, there were also bursts of energies when the two collided.

A battle such as this was boring for Lu Zhou. He shook his head and no longer stroked his beard. Instead, he turned around and walked back to Cloud Shine Nunnery with his hands on his back.

Duan Xing asked, perplexed. "Old senior... you... you're not going to watch the battle?"

Lu Zhou ignored him. He returned to his lodging and sat with his legs crossed with his back facing the round window. He continued meditating on the Heavenly Writing.

It was just as he had expected, Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai's cultivation bases were on par with each other. Their battle would drag on for a long time. When Lu Zhou sat down, he checked the cooldown timer... There were slightly more than three days left to go. He hoped his disciples' battle would not end so soon.

At this moment, Buddhist Master Xuan Jing's voice rang from outside. "Benefactor Ji." "What's the matter?"

"There are elites fighting at the Hundred Leaves Lake. As to not affect the Cloud Shine Nunnery, I suggest we move to another place, Benefactor Ji," Xuan Jing replied. "Are you willing to see Cloud Shine Nunnery being destroyed?" Lu Zhou responded with a question. "Well..." Xuan Jing stood in the courtyard. She sighed helplessly and said, "The current Cloud Shine Nunnery is but a pale image of what it once was. If it is destroyed, then, so be it."

Lu Zhou said, "I see." He did not say if he agreed to changing the location.

Xuan Jing felt it would be rude to speak anymore so she turned around and left.

At the same time, Duan Xing walked in through the courtyard's door. He saluted Xuan Jing and continued making his way in. After that, he bowed and said, "Senior... I've discovered that there's a

minor barrier in Cloud Shine Nunnery that we can use. Although my cultivation base is a far cry from the Eight-leaf stage, I can still manage a Formation or two. What do you say to..."

"There's no need to activate the barrier," Lu Zhou interjected.

"Understood." If the barrier was activated, would that not be equivalent to announcing to the rascals that there was an elite in Cloud Shine Nunnery? No cultivator would dare come close to this area. If he were to startle those two rascals, and they left, all his earlier efforts would go to waste.

Lu Zhou closed his eyes and entered the meditation state again. He had a millennium's worth of knowledge and experience. Hence, he was used to seeing great battles such as this one... However, for the others, this was a rare opportunity for them to experience and learn from.

That was why Duan Xing and the Nether Sect's Four Great Protectors continued to watch the fight through the night.

The second day...

Lu Zhou opened his eyes and glanced at the system's dashboard. He checked the cooldown status of the item cards and glanced at the Hundred Leaves Lake as well. The overlapping mountains that once stood outside his window had changed. Lilac Mountain seemed to have lost half its height. He looked at the forest around Hundred Leaves Lake, the area had been flattened. The peaks nearby were nowhere in sight as well. Cloud Shine Peak was the only mountain that remained unharmed.

Lu Zhou thought they would have to move to another place if Cloud Shine Peak was caught in this battle. Who knew the rascals would not touch Cloud Shine Nunnery? It was clear they had deliberately avoided this place.

Why was an Eight-leaf cultivator so powerful? The answer was perfectly displayed at this moment.

Duan Xing scratched his face. He seemed to feel numb all over so he smacked his own face.

Smack!

'Ouch! Right. This is f*cking real!'

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong, who had fought for a day and a night, had shifted the location of their battle from above the Hundred Leaves Lake to Radiant Cloud Forest.

Thousands of birds and beasts scurried away in fright. Some of the beasts that could not escape in time were killed by the occasional stray energy blades.

Another day passed. Lu Zhou opened his eyes again and woke up from his meditation state.

It was quieter now without the sounds of colliding energies.

The intense sounds of battle had suddenly stopped after having continued for two days and two nights. Everyone was curious about it.

Lu Zhou slowly rose to his feet and looked in the direction of the Hundred Leaves Lake.

The two peaks at the sides of Lilac Mountain opposite of Hundred Leaves Lake were occupied by a person each. The intense battle seemed to have stopped.

The Jasper Saber was hovering on Yu Zhenghai's right. Meanwhile, the Longevity Sword hovered a foot before Yu Shangrong. "Junior brother... How much Primal Qi do you have left?" Yu Zhenghai asked calmly.

"I've barely wasted any. What about you, senior brother?" Yu Shangrong replied with a smile.

"Me too..."

Yu Shangrong smiled and said, "Let's get serious, then."

"Just what I wanted."

The moment their voices faded.

Whizz!

Whizz!

The resonance of power reverberated thunderously in the air.

Two 100-foot avatars towered over their surroundings. There were two Eight-leaf Golden Lotuses spinning slowly under the avatars.

This was the unique mark of the Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm, the Hundred Tribulations Insight Avatar. An Eight-leaf Golden Lotus was a sign of the strongest power among Hundred Tribulations Insight avatars.

Upon seeing this, Hua Chongyang gave a decisive order, "Retreat for ten miles."

"Retreat for ten miles!"

Meanwhile, Si Wuya shook his head. He said with a sigh, "They finally decided to get serious." He slowly rose to his feet. With a light leap, he flew into the distance.