

Disciples 481

Chapter 481: We Meet Again

Huang Shijie's sudden attack caught Si Wuya off guard. He retreated to the side and gave them some space.

Yu Zhenghai was in no hurry. He was calm as he stood with his back straight. His left arm was on his back as he parried the attacks with his right hand.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Huang Shijie continued attacking with his palms. The afterimages and their radiance were dazzling.

Despite the high-speed attacks, Yu Zhenghai dealt with them easily and calmly.

Huang Shijie was flying horizontally now. His attacks grew faster and faster, stirring up a gust of wind and leaves.

The disciples from Penglai Island stood near the flying chariot and did not interfere. They merely observed in silence.

Similarly, the members of the Nether Sect observed in silence as well.

It was enjoyable to watch elites battle, after all.

From the landing point of the flying chariot, Huang Shijie kept attacking.

Yu Zhenghai retreated as he parried the blows. When he was at the edge of the steps, he raised his palm. His hand suddenly enlarged. "Earth Shaker!"

An energy saber seemed to appear out of Yu Zhenghai's palm before it turned into the shape of a crescent moon. He brought the blade down.

Boom!

Huang Shijie had to stop his attacks. He flipped backward and landed on his feet.

The battle ended.

Both opponents barely used 20 percent of their strengths. This was not even a warmup. Even so, the outcome was clear.

Huang Shijie said with a smile, "I'm surprised to see that your cultivation base has improved further."

"I can say the same about you."

"What's the matter? Am I not welcome here?" Huang Shijie asked.

Yu Zhenghai laughed. "I can't be happier to see you. Come inside!"

They entered the great hall.

Inside the great hall, Yu Zhenghai addressed Huang Shijie and said, "This is my wise brother, Si Wuya."

Si Wuya cupped his fists and said, "Greetings, senior."

Huang Shijie nodded in approval. "I've heard about the Evil Sky Pavilion's Mister Seventh, Si Wuya. You're in charge of the Darknet and have an information network that spans the land under the heavens. Your sources are everywhere: around the emperor and also among the common folk. Now that I've met you, I see that you live up to your reputation."

"You flatter me, senior," Si Wuya replied.

At this moment, Shen Liangshou carried a brocade box and walked over as he said, "This is the lotus-severing survival pills that Senior Huang requested the Core Yang Sect to refine." He presented the brocade box with both hands.

Yu Zhenghai took the brocade box and placed them on the table.

Shen Liangshou was a loyal fan of the Evil Sky Pavilion. Ever since the battle at Liang Province, the person he wanted to meet the most was the Evil Sky Pavilion's first disciple. Now that he was presented with such a wonderful opportunity, he would not let it slip past his fingers. He had to keep himself in check in case he lost control and showered Yu Zhenghai with flatteries. As he looked at Yu Zhenghai, "As... as expected..."

"What did you expect?" Yu Zhenghai did not seem to mind Shen Liangshou's words.

"You're as majestic, big, and tall as I've imagined. As expected of the Evil Sky Pavilion's Mister First," Shen Liangshou said with a hint of awe.

"Reward him." Yu Zhenghai waved his hand.

A Nether Sect disciple beckoned Shen Liangshou over to receive his reward.

Shen Liangshou took a few steps backward and said with a smile, "Thank you very much!"

The moment he retreated, Huang Shijie said, "I heard that the Evil Sky Pavilion's Master has already attained the Nine-leaf stage a long time ago?"

"That's right." Yu Zhenghai did not withhold the information from him. After all, the more powerful the Evil Sky Pavilion was, the more fearful people would be of it.

"By the way, you may not believe me, Sect Master Yu," Huang Shijie calmly said, "However, when I passed by the heaven worship platform, north of Jing Province, I ran into a Nine-leaf elite."

Upon hearing this, Si Wuya widened his eyes in shock. He was the first to react. "A Nine-leaf elite? My master went to the heaven worship platform?"

Huang Shijie shook his head and said, "It wasn't your master."

Yu Zhenghai frowned. There was another Nine-leaf elite? He was almost invincible as he swept his way through the empire because he was a peak Eight-leaf elite. His peers might not even be able to defeat him. Only his master, Ji Tiandao, could subdue him. Now that there was another Nine-leaf cultivator, did this not mean his plan might fail at the final and crucial moment? He asked, "Who is it?"

Shen Liangshou who had returned to the great hall after obtaining the reward money chimed in, "Mister First, I can attest to that. The person's surname is Lu. I don't think anyone knows about his origins, seeing that he's a recluse elite. The leader of the Nether Sect's Four Great Protectors, Hua Chongyang, was at the heaven worship platform as well. You can verify this with him when he returns."

"His surname's Lu?" Yu Zhenghai's expression was grim. Things were getting complicated. They could not even determine if that Nine-leaf elite was a friend or a foe. At this moment, at least, he did not seem like a friend.

Huang Shijie said with a sigh, "I didn't expect another Nine-leaf cultivator to emerge so fast after we enter the Lotus Severing era."

"Do you know where the man's current location is, brother Shijie?" Yu Zhenghai asked.

Huang Shijie shook his head, "I don't dare question such an elite."

Yu Zhenghai was visibly disappointed.

Shen Liangjie said, "The First Seat of the Azure Dragon Hall seemed to be acquainted with Nine-leaf Lu... There's a young girl with them as well."

"The girl who knows the tongue and tune of beasts..." Si Wuya said.

"Is that why you sent your subordinate to the heaven worship platform? To retrieve this girl, Sect Master Yu?" Huang Shijie asked in confusion.

"That's right. That girl is gifted in tune and can command beasts. If we have her help, Jing Province will be in the bag. What a shame..." Yu Zhenghai lamented.

"I see," Huang Shijie said.

"Brother Shijie, you've been living in seclusion on Penglai Island for a long time. Now that the nine provinces are in chaos, why don't you seize this opportunity and lend me a helping hand?"

"Uh..." Huang Shijie did not agree to Yu Zhenghai's request immediately. Deep down, he wanted to make Penglai Island more secular. Otherwise, he would not have protected a minor sect such as the Core Yang Sect nor would he leave Penglai and come to the Nether Sect's territory. All he needed was a chance. If he agreed to the proposal prematurely, he would be selling himself short.

Yu Zhenghai said in a powerful and resonating voice, "If you help us, Brother Shijie, Penglai will become the greatest sect in the future, and there'll be a place for Penglai in the Divine Capital."

"Deal!" Huang Shijie replied.

Yu Zhenghai smacked the table and said in a clear voice, "Men!"

"Yes, sect master."

"I wish to hold a banquet to welcome Brother Shijie," Yu Zhenghai said.

"Congratulations!" Sheng Liangshou said loudly as he cupped his fists.

Si Wuya did not expect things to proceed so smoothly. He stood up and walked to Yu Zhenghai's side. He was about to speak when Yu Zhenghai patted his shoulder and said, "Wise brother, you must be tired. You should go ahead and rest. I'll take care of the rest."

"Eldest Senior Brother..."

"Don't worry, I know what I'm doing." Yu Zhenghai's face was flushed, clearly in high spirits.

The atmosphere in the great hall was merry when a disciple hurried into the hall. "Sect Master, the Azure Dragon Hall's First Seat has returned!"

"Bring him here," Yu Zhenghai said.

The people of the Penglai Sect looked outside the great hall.

The sun had already set at this time so they could only vaguely make out three figures slowly walking toward them.

When the lights from the great hall shone on the three individuals, the entire great hall immediately became as silent as a graveyard.

An old man could be seen holding the hand of a young lady who looked like a fairy.

Hua Chongyang, on the other hand, walked at the back as though he was an attendant.

Since the people from Penglai Sect had seen the old man before, they knew who he was. For a time, they stood in stunned silence as they looked at the old man.

"We meet again." Lu Zhou was the first to break the silence.

Chapter 482: My Surname's Lu

Lu Zhou's 'we meet again' pulled everyone back to the present.

Shen Liangshou was rather quick-witted. He was the first to rush up to Lu Zhou and bowed as he said, "Greetings, Senior Lu... I didn't expect to meet you here."

Lu Zhou ignored Sheng Liangshou. He calmly looked at Yu Zhenghai who was seated in the great hall. This was the first Evil Sky Pavilion's disciple. Then, he saw his seventh disciple, Si Wuya, seated to Yu Zhenghai's left.

Huang Shijie rose to his feet immediately and bowed along with the Penglai Sect disciples. He said, "Greetings, Senior Lu."

"Rise." Lu Zhou waved his hand.

At this moment, Yu Zhenghai and Si Wuya stood up, wariness apparent in their eyes. Both of them studied Lu Zhou, wondering who he was. Since Huang Shijie accorded such respect to him, they did not dare to neglect their manners. Both of them cupped their fists together at Lu Zhou. They did not beat around the bush and asked in unison, "Where are you from, senior?"

Lu Zhou could no longer say he was from Penglai. How could he use that excuse again.

However, before Lu Zhou could reply, Hua Chongyang stepped forward from behind, bowed at Yu Zhenghai, and said, "Sect Master, Senior Lu has lived in seclusion for many years in a mountain and seldom concerns himself with the trivial affairs of the world. The person beside him is Miss Conch from the heaven worship platform."

Lu Zhou did not care if Hua Chongyang helped him explain his origins. After all, he finally met Yu Zhenghai.

Miss Conch's appearance shocked Yu Zhenghai and Si Wuya slightly. They looked at her. For a time, they could not understand what their relationship was.

Hua Chongyang immediately bowed again before he walked to Yu Zhenghai's side. He whispered into his ear and recounted the day's events.

When Yu Zhenghai heard there was a possibility of a Nine-leaf elite joining his cause, his eyes widened in surprise. He smiled immediately and said, "So, it's Senior Lu... We're honored to have you visit the Nether Sect, Senior Lu. Please have a seat."

Lu Zhou led Miss Conch into the hall and sat down.

"Are you the Nether Sect's Yu Zhenghai?" Lu Zhou asked.

Yu Zhenghai said in a slightly smug tone, "Yes. I've studied in the Evil Sky Pavilion. My master is Ji Tiandao. He's also a Nine-leaf expert like you."

Upon hearing this, Shen Liangshou said in a fawning manner, "That's right, Sect Master Yu... The Evil Sky Pavilion's Master is truly a heroic figure of the times. The sun and moon pale in comparison to his Nine-leaf avatar. Sect Master Yu is the Evil Sky Pavilion's first disciple and controls the greatest Fiend sect under the heavens. Now that the nine provinces are in chaos, the Nether Sect merely act as the situation calls for. We will surely restructure the rivers and the mountains."

Lu Zhou turned around and looked at Shen Liangshou. "Is Ji Tiandao that powerful?"

Something stirred in Yu Zhenghai's heart. He noticed the old man's wariness. A Nine-leaf expert could only be kept in check by another expert of the same rank.

Shen Liangshou eagerly replied, "The Evil Sky Pavilion's Patriarch is not only a Nine-leaf expert, but he has nine outstanding disciples as well. The youngest of them, Miss Ninth, Ci Yuan'er, entered the Nascent Divinity realm in just five years. I don't think anyone has ever managed this feat, and I don't think anyone ever will... Mistery First and Mister Second are full-fledged Eight-leaf cultivators. They're one easy step away from becoming Nine-leaf cultivators."

Yu Zhenghai nodded in satisfaction. 'I didn't reward you for nothing. You're quite glib. Keep on talking...'

"If the nine disciples are so outstanding, I wonder just how amazing the Evil Sky Pavilion's Patriarch is?" After praising his idol to the high heavens, he thought he should not just continue with the praises. He needed to say something to balance the praises and also to cast 'Senior Lu' in a better light. Talking was an art. If one could talk well, one would be able to reach great height. He continued to say, "Naturally... You're an outstanding individual. Now that the Lotus Severing era is in full bloom, cultivators are pursuing the Nine-leaf stage, and the major sects are working toward this at full force. Anyone who's at

the forefront of the new era is surely an exceptional person. Moreover, you've been keeping a low profile for such a long time, Senior Lu, you must be really modest. In this aspect, Old Senior Ji would do well to learn from you."

Yu Zhenghai chimed in, "It's true that my master likes attention. I hope everyone here doesn't mind."

Lu Zhou frowned slightly. He now understood why the outside world would heap the blame of all the crimes the rascals committed on the Evil Sky Pavilion. Due to his disciples, his name was pushed to the top of the blacklist!

When the Penglai Sect's Huang Shijie saw such a good opportunity to entice Lu Zhou to their cause, he said, "We've known each other a long time now, Sect Master Yu. Initially, I wanted to help you take down Jing Province, but if Senior Lu is willing to lend a hand, the Penglai Sect will willingly be under Senior Lu's command."

Lu Zhou did not respond to them immediately. He looked at Wuya who was next to Yu Zhenghai and asked, "What about you?"

Si Wuya had been keeping mum all this while. Nobody knew what he was thinking.

Lu Zhou allowed Si Wuya to leave the Evil Sky Pavilion because he wanted to see what choices Si Wuya would make. From the looks of things, Si Wuya seemed to have made up his mind.

Si Wuya smiled and said, "Since you're here, Senior Lu, I'm sure you have something that you want as well. Let's hear your conditions."

Everyone shifted their attention back to Lu Zhou again. Si Wuya was right. How could they have forgotten about this? Let alone Jing Province, if they had the help of a Nine-leaf elite they would have a chance at taking down the Divine Capital. What conditions could satisfy such an individual?

Something stirred in Yu Zhenghai's heart. He felt slightly nervous as he looked at this old man.

"I want the whole world," Lu Zhou said.

"..."

The others were shocked.

Silence descended on the great hall.

After a long pause, Yu Zhenghai said, "Senior Lu, surely, you're joking?" He had been working so long to conquer the world. To him, this Nine-leaf Lu's words sounded hostile and grating.

"My appetite and ambition have always been big," Lu Zhou said nonchalantly.

"Senior Lu, your cultivation base is profound. My master..."

The moment he said the words 'my master', Lu Zhou placed his hand lightly on the table next to him.

Crash!

The table shattered immediately.

The others jumped back in shock.

Lu Zhou slowly rose to his feet. He looked at Yu Zhenghai and asked, "Are you worthy of mentioning your master?"

Yu Zhenghai asked, "Why would you say that, Senior Lu?"

The others furtively retreated back. They could sense an odd atmosphere in the air.

The Jasper Saber on the saber holder inside the great hall was buzzing.

Hua Chongyang's expression changed. After all, he was the one who brought the old man here. How could his Eight-leaf sect master defeat a Nine-leaf cultivator? He fell to one knee and hastily said, "Please calm down, Senior Lu!"

Lu Zhou ignored him completely. He looked at Yu Zhenghai. His voice was low and brought with it a great pressure as he said, "You want the world, but I want the world as well. Why? Are you reluctant to give up on your ambitions?"

Yu Zhenghai would never hand the fruits of his labor to someone else on a silver platter.

Si Wuya said in a deep voice, "Senior Lu... Are you going to make an enemy out of the Evil Sky Pavilion?"

The Nether Sect disciples inside the great hall fanned out and drew their swords.

Shen Liangshou's lips trembled slightly. Then, he said, "Senior Lu, please think this through!"

Who dared to make an enemy out of the Evil Sky Pavilion?

Lu Zhou asked, "So what if I am?"

As soon as he said these words, the Jasper Saber shot out with a bang into Yu Zhenghai's hand at lightning speed.

Chapter 483: Stay Here If You Want To Die

Yu Zhenghai gripped his Jasper Saber tightly. His palm was wet with sweat.

Huang Shijie was stunned; he did not expect this turn of events. Naturally, he should be aligning himself with the Nether Sect. He truly did not expect Nine-leaf Lu was so bold as to make an enemy out of the Evil Sky Pavilion. 'This... What am I supposed to do?'

Yu Zhenghai had never liked indecisive people. "Brother Shijie, this has nothing to do with you. If you're afraid, you should leave right now."

Huang Shijie said with a sigh, "Just as well... Since I made a choice, I can't possibly give up halfway. Penglai Island will stand with the Nether Sect!"

"Good! It means a lot to hear you say that, Brother Shijie." The Jasper Saber in Yu Zhenghai's hand shone with a golden radiance.

Si Wuya frowned deeply. Their battle would start at any moment. He said again, "My master, Ji Tiandao, is on his way here!" This was the greatest countermeasure they could use against Nine-leaf Lu.

Unfortunately, Lu Zhou did not seem to care at all. “Young man... You’re too green.”

As soon as Lu Zhou finished speaking, he moved his hand. He decided to launch a preemptive strike. The Jasper Saber flashed brightly before it shot toward Lu Zhou.

When the Jasper Saber approached Lu Zhou, a bluish radiance could be seen between his index and middle fingers. He brought his fingers together.

Bam!

The energy saber scattered, and the Jasper Saber fell into Lu Zhou’s hand.

It was deathly quiet at this moment.

A Nine-leaf cultivator... was outrageously powerful. The others felt their scalps tingle when they witnessed his strength. He casually stopped a heaven-grade weapon with his bare hands. Where would they find the courage to act recklessly after witnessing this? If a Nine-leaf elite went all out, not a single person here would survive. Who would be bold enough to move?

Yu Zhenghai was a peak Eight-leaf cultivator who lived up to his name. Although that strike was not his most powerful attack, it was not a technique that any ordinary person could deflect with their bare hands. He gulped.

“I’ll kill anyone who moves, and I’ll kill their entire family as well!”

The voice resonated loudly in the great hall. Lu Zhou’s words were clearly meant for Huang Shijie and the Nether Sect disciples.

With this bold claim, the atmosphere turned even tenser. Fear rose in everyone’s heart. Even the bravest among them were cowed by these words.

Lu Zhou said in a deep voice, “Apart from Yu Zhenghai, everyone, get lost!”

“...”

The atmosphere was heavy.

Huang Shijie had never felt such a pressure. Although he was an Eight-leaf expert with a high social standing, he had no choice but to lower his head at this moment.

Everyone in the great hall was stunned.

When Lu Zhou saw everyone remained unmoving, he said, “Stay here if you want to die.”

Yu Zhenghai’s eyes widened. They were bloodshot. He looked at his Jasper Saber between Lu Zhou’s fingers, afraid to make a move. He knew the Nether Sect would fall if he made a move now.

“Get out!” Yu Zhenghai said.

The others pulled long faces.

“Sect master!”

“Eldest Senior Brother!”

Yu Zhenghai glanced at them as he said "I'm the master of this sect. Even if the skies were to fall... I'll carry it on my shoulders. Get out now!" His thunderous voice reached everyone's ears. He understood now; Nine-leaf Lu came to rain on his parade.

"Eldest Senior Brother!" Si Wuya wanted to say something else.

At this moment, Yu Zhenghai waved his arm. A powerful blast of energy pushed Si Wuya out of the hall.

Feeling helpless, Huang Shijie cupped his fists at Yu Zhenghai and left the great hall.

The others had no choice but to leave the great hall as well.

It was meaningless to make unnecessary sacrifices. Yu Zhenghai understood this.

Lu Zhou turned to look at Conch. He noticed that she was unaffected by the soundwave.

At this moment, there was a blur of movements as Yu Zhenghai leaned forward. Countless palm seals sailed toward Lu Zhou.

"Even if you're a Nine-leaf cultivator, I'll still fight!"

Bam! Bam! Bam!

As Yu Zhenghai attacked, a crushing aura washed over Lu Zhou. He raised his hand and struck with his palm. The scripts 'Imperial Order' combine with a blue palm seal shot out.

Bam!

Yu Zhenghai's countless palm seals immediately scattered as he reeled back. His mind was blank at this moment. 'It only took him a move! Is this the power of a Nine-leaf cultivator?' There was a time when he thought he could also enter the world of the Nine-leaf stage. He did not think the Nine-leaf stage was much more powerful than the Eight-leaf stage. After all, when he was young, he had once killed a Five-leaf cultivator when he was only a Three-leaf cultivator.

After one rise above the Seven-leaf stage, there were rarely instances of defeating a higher rank cultivator. The difference of a single leaf was as great as the distance from the clouds to the ground. Although Yu Zhenghai knew it was impossible for an Eight-leaf cultivator to best a Nine-leaf cultivator, the fact that he was defeated with a single strike dealt a huge blow to his confidence and self-esteem.

Boom!

Yu Zhenghai crashed into the wall of the great hall. There was now a huge hole there.

At the same time, he slid for a long distance before he stopped.

The Nether Sect disciples outside the great hall, Huang Shijie, and Si Wuya... stood there in stunned silence.

A full-fledged Eight-leaf cultivator could not withstand a single hit from a Nine-leaf cultivator.

Lu Zhou stepped forward and walked through a hole in the wall. He was now behind the wall of the great hall.

The night was pleasing, and stars dotted the dark skies.

“Stand up,” Lu Zhou said.

Yu Zhenghai bit back the pain and slammed his palm on the ground to bring himself to his feet.

Thud!

Yu Zhenghai had barely risen half a foot when he crashed down again. He was shocked. ‘Where’s my cultivation base?’ He attempted to circulate the Primal Qi inside his dantian’s sea of Qi at once. He discovered it empty, as if it was bound in a cage.

Lu Zhou moved closer. His aura was that of a lofty and unshakeable mountain.

Yu Zhenghai could barely breathe from the pressure.

Boom!

Yu Zhenghai suddenly stomped his feet and charged at Lu Zhou like a wild beast. He flailed his fists in a savage manner.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Lu Zhou parried the blows with his palm. Punches without a cultivation base were like mere rocks. How could he be a match for Lu Zhou now?

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Yu Zhenghai attacked wildly.

When Lu Zhou was bored of parrying, he pushed forward.

Boom!

Yu Zhenghai reeled back again. He rolled on the ground, surprisingly uninjured.

Lu Zhou was shocked. Was this the characteristic of the Wuqians? Outwardly, he looked down at Yu Zhenghai and asked, “Is that all you’ve got?”

“You...” Yu Zhenghai gritted his teeth. He struggled and pushed himself off the ground with a single hand.

“I’ll teach you a lesson on behalf of your master.”

Another huge palm seal was launched.

At the same time, a pair of shining golden wings shot toward Lu Zhou from behind. The pair of wings spanned dozens of feet. Thousands upon thousands of energy needles shot toward him.

Lu Zhou flipped his palm. Unnamed morphed into a shield. His energy gathered around the shield and formed a light shield.

Boom!

It deflected all the energy needles.

Si Wuya immediately gave up on the attack and continued flying forward.

“Trying to take him away?” Lu Zhou struck with his palm again.

Another Strengthened Binding Cage Card emerged. Unlike the Binding Mantra, this bore the symbols of the ‘Imperial Order’.

It struck Si Wuya at lightning speed. He fell to the ground immediately, His cultivation was sealed. He flipped over and retreated until he was next to Yu Zhenghai. “Eldest Senior Brother, I’ll hold him off. You should go.”

Yu Zhenghai sighed. “My wise brother, you’re a fool! While there’s life, there’s hope!”

“That won’t do. The Nether Sect cannot do without you.”

Lu Zhou looked at the two of them. He shook his head and said, “Are you still thinking of running away after being hit by my palm seals?” He got closer.

At this moment, Si Wuya finally realized both of them had lost access to their Primal Qis. He trembled inwardly.

“Ding! Captured the rascal, Yu Zhenghai. Reward: 1,000 merit points.”

Chapter 484: Face to Face Lesson

Having experienced this several times, Lu Zhou was not surprised. With the effects of two Strengthened Binding Cage Cards, it was only natural that Yu Zhenghai and Si Wuya were unable to break free.

This was the second time Si Wuya was hit with this card. It seemed like the effects were just as effective.

When Lu Zhou used the first Strengthened Binding Cage Card, he infused it with some of the Heavenly Writing’s extraordinary power so that he would not be harmed by Yu Zhenghai’s energy. He felt fortunate that things were still within his control. He kept these two cards especially for him.

Si Wuya parted the front of his robe and lowered his head to look. Under the dim moonlight, the words ‘Imperial order’ were especially eye-catching. This was not ‘Bind’ as he had expected. He said in shock, “The Celestial Masters Sect’s technique?” However, he did not think the old man before him was a member of the Celestial Masters Sect just because of this. This technique reminded him of his master’s Binding Mantra. Both techniques shared quite a lot of similarities. He looked up and studied the old man again.

Lu Zhou stepped forward. When he was about three meters from them, he looked at Si Wuya and asked, “You wish to die as well?”

Before an expert, all plots and schemes were meaningless. Si Wuya said, “If I stood by idly, I would be doing a disservice to my Eldest Senior Brother, the Nether Sect, and the teachings of my master.”

Si Wuya’s actions surprised Lu Zhou. He remembered what Zhu Honggong told him. Si Wuya had rescued Zhu Honggong, Yu Shangrong, and Yu Zhenghai... Now, he was still trying to save Yu Zhenghai.

At this moment, Yu Zhenghai stood up. He placed a hand on Si Wuya’s shoulder, pulled him back, and said in a deep voice, “I’ve told you. This has nothing to do with you.”

“Why must you be this stubborn, Eldest Senior Brother?” Si Wuya asked with a frown.

“Listen to me on this.” Yu Zhenghai’s expression was dark as he sternly said, “Get lost.”

Yu Zhenghai pushed Si Wuya to the side again. He had no other choice. It was not easy for the Nether Sect to rise to its heights today. He had already come up with a countermeasure. This was nothing but a branch. Worst case scenario, he could just give it up. As long as there was life, there would be hope.

Yu Zhenghai was no stranger to death. He had been bullied many times in the past. He met Lu Zhou’s eyes and said, “One should answer for one’s actions.”

“Very well.” Lu Zhou placed a hand on his back and extended a hand before himself. “I won’t bully you. I won’t be using any Primal Qi. If you can defeat me, I’ll spare you.”

Yu Zhenghai was slightly stunned. He did not know why this old man would target him. He had no quarrel with him. He was baffled!

Whoosh!

Yu Zhenghai charged forward with a punch.

Lu Zhou sidestepped him and tackled him with his shoulder.

Bam!

Yu Zhenghai flew to the side.

“Ding! Punished Yu Zhenghai. Reward: 500 merit points.”

“Is that all?”

Lu Zhou’s achievements in Body Tempering was not inferior to Yu Zhenghai.

Yu Zhenghai had experienced countless setbacks and sufferings, under his master’s watch, he had converted his past experiences and misfortunes into motivation to work harder. Could he not defeat an old man without his Primal Qi? No!

Yu Zhenghai got to his feet again and charged. His fist whooshed through the air, and his attacks rained down on Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou dealt with the attacks calmly. He parted the winds of the punches with his fierce palm strikes.

As the saying went, ‘Four ounces could move 1,000 catties’.

Bam!

Yu Zhenghai reeled again!

“Ding! Punished Yu Zhenghai. Reward: 500 merit points.”

“Again!” Yu Zhenghai cried out, enduring the pain.

The cycle repeated itself over and over again.

Huang Shijie and Hua Chongyang did not leave. At this moment, they walked into the hole on the wall as well. They stared at the scene before them with their mouths agape.

“S-so... t-this is how a Nine-leaf beats up an Eight-leaf?” Huang Shijie said incredulously. He felt as though he was watching a senior beating up a junior. It did not seem like the old man was trying to look cool.

“I wouldn’t have believed it if I didn’t see it myself.”

“But... Why would Senior Lu pick on Sect Master Yu?”

The two of them exchanged a glance.

Miss Conch poked her head out between them and watched the battle.

Huang Shijie glanced at her before looking at Hua Chongyang.

Hua Chongyang understood what he was thinking. He said, “No.” If they took Conch hostage, they were only sealing their fates. Moreover, the Penglai Sect and Nether Sect would be dragged into this. Moreover, he could not bring himself to do such a thing.

Bam!

Yu Zhenghai kept reeling. He kept losing, but he kept fighting. He struggled to his feet and said through gritted teeth, “Again!”

This scene reminded Yu Zhenghai of the terrifying training process of the Body Tempering realm when he first joined the Evil Sky Pavilion. That was a memory he could never get rid of for the rest of his life. His master had trained him with a regime that was 100 times stricter than what the others were subjected to. His training continued regardless of the seasons, whether it was freezing cold or sweltering hot. Ji Tiandao had tempered his body and will day after day, year after year. It was normal for him to be beaten up. Staying inside an icy cave naked and being exposed to the scorching sun were regular components of his routine. Perhaps it was due to his body, he successfully tempered his body and entered the Mystic Enlightening realm in ten years. It would not be an exaggeration to say the hardships he went through were equivalent to the collective hardships the other eight disciples went through, if not more.

The two of them fought for what seemed like hours.

Yu Zhenghai had lost count of the times he was sent flying.

Bam!

Yu Zhenghai was sent flying again.

“Senior Lu, I’m begging you!”

Thud!

Surprisingly, Si Wuya fell to his knees at this moment.

Without a second word, Hua Chongyang ran to Si Wuya’s side and fell to his knees as well.

Yu Zhenghai was lying on the ground, panting heavily as he looked at the night sky. He was exhausted; he no longer wished to move. He felt as though all his internal organs were injured.

Lu Zhou sighed. 'Hang in there. I can't let this rascal off so easily.' With or without Primal Qi, his old bones were not made to withstand long battles. He had underestimated this rascal's tenacity. He looked at Si Wuya and asked, "You're kneeling for him?"

"Please spare the sect master, senior Lu." Hua Chongyang prostrated himself.

When he heard this, Yu Zhenghai suddenly shouted, "All or nothing..." He charged toward Lu Zhou like a bull, advancing with much greater strength than before.

Lu Zhou frowned slightly. 'Just how much strength does this rascal have? The Wuqi Tribe, huh? Should I act shamelessly?'

Yu Zhenghai did not have any complicated thoughts in his mind. Once he had a goal or target, he would not give up until he got what he wanted. He leaped to the side with the aura of a mountain bearing down.

Whoosh!

Instead of retreating, Lu Zhou advanced. He looked up and raised his hand at lightning speed.

As the saying went, 'Four ounces could lift 1,000 catties'.

Yu Zhenghai suddenly backed away, laughing. "You've been tricked!" He pushed both his palms down.

"Hm?" Lu Zhou suddenly felt Yu Zhenghai had the force of 10,000 ounces. Was this another characteristic of the Wuqi Tribe? His finger shone with a blue light as he said in a deep voice, "Rise." He pushed up, holding Yu Zhenghai up with his hand!

The others were shocked.

Similarly, Si Wuya and Hua Chongyang looked at this scene in shock.

Yu Zhenghai knew how heavy his technique was. He was almost certain no one could withstand his attack without using Primal Qi. 'How... is this possible?'

In just a blink of an eye, Lu Zhou tossed Yu Zhenghai, and Yu Zhenghai sailed through the air again.

Yu Zhenghai fell to the ground with a loud crash before he rolled around. He felt as though the world was spinning at this moment.

Lu Zhou said, "Trying to trick me?"

When Yu Zhenghai came to a stop, he endured the pain and looked at Lu Zhou, clearly frightened. It did not work! He lost again! He had lost completely. Fear washed over Yu Zhenghai's heart... He thought he was peerless in Body Tempering. Why was this old man so outrageously powerful? He felt despair rising in his heart as well. It seemed like everyone was as significant as an ant in front of a Nine-leaf cultivator. "At this point, you can do whatever you want with me, be it to kill or to flay me alive." He had never felt this kind of despair before.

“Do you think I don’t dare to kill you?!” Lu Zhou tapped the ground lightly with his foot. Primal Qi surged.

When the Primal Qi rippled out, everyone present felt their hearts sink.

This was the end.

A palm strike sailed through the air at this moment!

Chapter 485: Promise

The palm shot at Yu Zhenghai at lightning speed.

Nobody attempted to block this attack from a Nine-leaf cultivator. At this moment, all of them thought Yu Zhenghai was done for.

Yu Zhenghai looked at Lu Zhou who was lunging at him through the air. His consciousness wavered. This strike reminded him of his master. In the end, he closed his eyes. ‘Forget it. Death ends all troubles.’ At this moment, he felt incredibly relaxed. Everything would become the past eventually. He was born with nothing and would not bring anything with him when he died. Why should he stubbornly cling to his life?

Whoosh!

A breeze caressed Yu Zhenghai’s face. He expected the palm strike to split his head, and the troubles and pain would disappear in an instant. However, nothing happened. ‘I’m still alive?’ His thoughts were still with him. He could still control his body. He could still move his fingers.

The entire place was silent. No one dared to move.

Yu Zhenghai opened his eyes. He saw a hand in front of him, only a fist away from him. It did not follow through. He asked in confusion, “Why?”

Lu Zhou retracted his palm. “I’m acquainted with your master. I’m only here because of another person’s request.”

Yu Zhenghai, Si Wuya, Hua Chongyang, and the others were shocked.

Inside the great hall, Shen Liangshou and the others who were slowly making their way toward them heard this as well. They pulled long faces. After all this trouble, Nine-leaf Lu was on the Evil Sky Pavilion’s Patriarch’s side? They knew each other? That was quite a fright they had!

Yu Zhenghai asked, “Did he ask you to come?”

“He did.” Lu Zhou nodded.

Yu Zhenghai frowned deeply and said, “If he sent you here to teach me a lesson, I’m afraid that I’m going to have to disappoint you.” He struggled to his feet with great difficulty before he said, “I won’t submit even if it means I have to die.”

Lu Zhou appeared puzzled as he asked, “Do you hate him so?”

“Hate?” Yu Zhenghai shook his head. “A teacher for a day is a father forever. As a disciple, I have no right to hate my master.”

“What if he has his own reasons for his actions?” Lu Zhou asked.

“Who’s going to care about my reasons, then?” Yu Zhenghai asked loudly, clearly agitated.

“Preposterous.” Lu Zhou wanted to curse at him. However, without the memory crystal, he could not be sure about the truth. If things were truly like what Yu Shangrong, Si Wuya, and Yu Zhenghai had said, there was no doubt he was in the wrong. However, he had a feeling there was more to the matter. He could not think of a reason or motive for Ji Tiandao to commit those acts. Although he was a brash and hot-tempered person, it did not make sense that he raised and nurtured nine outstanding disciples just to kill them.

Lu Zhou’s remark calmed Yu Zhenghai down.

Yu Zhenghai sighed and said, “I admit... I’m not doing his kindness justice.”

Lu Zhou turned to look at Yu Zhenghai. At the end of the day, Yu Zhenghai’s current cultivation base was given by Ji Tiandao.

“Senior Lu, may I have a word?” Yu Zhenghai made an inviting gesture.

Lu Zhou turned back to glance at Miss Conch.

Miss Conch looked at Yu Zhenghai and smiled. “Don’t give up, alright?”

Under the moonlight, her pure and simple smile with her curt advice made Yu Zhenghai tremble. ‘Don’t give up.’ There were many things that he had yet to accomplish. How could he easily think about giving up?

Yu Zhenghai said, “Look after her. I’ll kill anyone who dares touch her.”

This surprised Lu Zhou. His rascal was not as shameless and despicable as he thought.

The two of them walked into the forest.

The moonlight grew dim.

Thud!

As soon as they entered the forest, Yu Zhenghai fell to his knees wordlessly.

Lu Zhou was taken aback. ‘He didn’t recognize me, right? It should be impossible for him to do so...’

As a transmigrator, his personality and temper were very different from Ji Tiandao’s. With the Appearance Alteration Card and the fact that the two of them had not been in contact lately, there should be no way for Yu Zhenghai to recognize him. Even someone as intelligent as Si Wuya could not recognize him. How did Yu Zhenghai recognize him?

“Senior Lu... Please give me six months,” Yu Zhenghai said.

Lu Zhou asked skeptically, “Six months? What do you mean?”

“Since you’re here on my master’s request, I’m sure my master will listen to you,” Yu Zhenghai said.

“Of course...” Lu Zhou said proudly. “When I met Brother Ji, you were still playing with dirt.”

“That’s why... I humbly ask you to give me six months, Senior Lu. Six months later, regardless of whether I succeed or fail, I will surely go up the mountain and own up to my sins!” said Yu Zhenghai earnestly.

Six months...

Lu Zhou was in no hurry to answer his question. He knew he could easily take Yu Zhenghai away if he so wished, at this moment. However, if he did that, who would deal with the Imperial family?

Previously, he had no intentions of looking for trouble with the Imperial family before this, but time and time again, the Imperial family had provoked the Evil Sky Pavilion.

“Is world dominion that important to you?” Lu Zhou asked.

It was not a good thing for cultivators to be overly covetous of power and position.

Scenes of the past surfaced in Yu Zhenghai’s mind before he replied, “It is!”

Lu Zhou looked at Yu Zhenghai and said, “I can spare you... but you’ll have to answer my questions.”

“Let’s hear them, Senior Lu.”

“First, where’s your master’s memory crystal?”

“Rongxi. Lou Lan,” Yu Zhenghai answered curtly.

“Where is it, exactly?”

“I don’t know.”

“Second, what’s sealed within the memory crystal?” This was one of the answers Lu Zhou wanted to know the most. Since he could not find it at the moment, he chose to ask about it for now.

Yu Zhenghai replied in a slightly uncertain tone, “It should be the same as Yun Tianluo. As for the other memories... nobody knows.”

Lu Zhou nodded and asked again, “Final question, why are you so cold toward your master?” In other words, what drove a wedge between the both of them?

Yu Zhenghai answered, “I’m not being cold. I merely have no choice.”

“Oh? Just because you’re from the Wuqi Tribe? Or is it because you’ve had a hard life since young?” Lu Zhou asked.

Yu Zhenghai was shocked. He looked up at the old man before him, dumbfounded.

Lu Zhou said, “I’ve heard something from Yu Shangrong. Is Brother Ji trying to study the Nine-leaf stage through both of you?”

Yu Zhenghai did not expect the old man to know this much about the Evil Sky Pavilion. After a moment of silence, he nodded and replied, “That’s true.”

“Alright.” Lu Zhou increasingly felt that the matters between the nine disciples and Ji Tiandao were becoming more and more complicated.

At this very moment, a melodious tune from a flute reached them from the Nether Sect branch’s great hall. The melody was mellow and pleasant. Many pairs of blue eyes appeared among the trees.

The flute sounded louder and louder. It was full of vigor.

The beasts inside the forest crept closer.

“The lady who knows the tongue and tune of beasts?” Yu Zhenghai said in shock.

Chapter 486: Old Senior Ji

The melodious tone complemented the quiet night. On its own, the tone was pleasing to the ears. However, taking into considerations that it could make beasts malleable to its will, it no longer seemed harmless and beautiful.

The beasts slowly crept closer.

Lu Zhou raised his feet slightly and stomped.

The land shook!

A ripple of radiance spread into the surroundings.

The vicious beasts immediately scampered and disappeared into the night.

“You sent Hua Chongyang to the heaven worship platform so you can use this girl to take down Jing Province, am I right?” Lu Zhou asked.

“Uh...” Yu Zhenghai knew this was not something to boast about. How could a sect master like him use an innocent young girl for his own gains? However, those who did great things would not fret over such trivial matters. They had to make some allowances here and there. “Yes,” he replied.

“I’m curious about her identity as well,” Lu Zhou said.

Yu Zhenghai felt slightly guilty when he remembered Miss Conch asking him not to give up. Up until now, this was his life’s motto. He had experienced and endured many hardships growing up. The Wuqians migrated due to the war and were wiped out because of it. He witnessed the deaths of his brothers but was powerless to do anything. He was sold to Lou Lan by traffickers as a manual laborer. He was treated as a plaything by the aristocrats who sliced his body until he bled to death. Not giving up was the only thing that kept him going to this day. And yet, he intended to use Miss Conch? How could he not feel guilty or regretful? In the end, he said, “Six months... Six months are all I need...”

“Do you resent your master because he tried to use you to attain the Nine-leaf stage?” Lu Zhou asked again.

This question made Yu Zhenghai fall silent. He was thinking of an answer. Matters were complicated. Many details had already been lost in the sands of time. After thinking about it for some time, he said, “Wuqian cultivators can only die thrice... To tell you the truth, I’ve already died twice.” He sounded calm when he said this as though it was nothing important.

Lu Zhou's gaze fell on Yu Zhenghai along with the moonlight. He could hardly imagine this was the first disciple he recruited. He vaguely remembered that Yu Zhenghai joined hardships he endured, he had a single goal, and that was to keep getting stronger. He asked, confused, "Was the first time in Lou Lan?"

Yu Zhenghai nodded.

"The second time is by Ji Tiandao's hands?" Lu Zhou mentioned his host's name instead of referring to him as Brother Ji or your master. Yu Zhenghai's second death was what he was most curious about. Yu Zhenghai was whisked away by Si Wuya after his death. That was how the personal diary came to be.

"Early in the third month of the 154th year of Emperor Yong Qing's reign in Great Yan, my master was meditating on his Golden Lotus and lost control for a time. He started spouting unintelligible words and would go on and on about the Nine-leaf stage. In the middle of the month, I was sparring with Second Junior Brother at Heaven Mountain's Phoenix Lake. My master exploded in a fit of rage, and the three of us battled it out... The battle lasted for seven days and seven nights. We moved north from Heaven Mountain's Phoenix Lake, passed by Cloud Rage River and Scarlet Orchid Mountain... In the end, my master bested both of us," Yu Zhenghai said. He paused for a moment and sighed before continuing, "My master returned to the Evil Sky Pavilion after the battle while Second Junior Brother and I recuperated there. While we rested, we had a quarrel that lasted for three days. Second Junior Brother left in anger"

When Lu Zhou heard this, something stirred in him. The things Yu Zhenghai was telling him could not be found in his memories. According to what Yu Shangrong said and coupled with the inferences made based on available information, Ji Tiandao had sealed all memories related to the Nine-leaf stage. What did Ji Tiandao see that made him seal his memories?

Lu Zhou's gaze fell on Yu Zhenghai. "Was the battle spontaneous?" It did not make sense for three people to suddenly fight for no reason.

Yu Zhenghai shook his head, indicating he did not know the answer to this.

Seeing Yu Zhenghai's calm expression, Lu Zhou said, "So, you died because of him."

"It's related but unrelated at the same time..." Yu Zhenghai smiled wryly and shook his head.

"What do you mean?"

"Someone sneaked up on me and attacked me when I was heavily injured. It's too insignificant to mention," Yu Zhenghai said.

"Who attacked you?"

Yu Zhenghai shook his head. "Thank you for your concern, Senior Lu, but I must deal with my own matters."

"Just as well." There was no use to press Yu Zhenghai about this. Lu Zhou decided to let him do what he wanted. He had gained a rough understanding of the events in the past.

Yu Zhenghai had spoken about this easily and in simple terms. However, nobody knew just how many hardships he had to endure. Yu Zhenghai's temper and character meant that he did not like to grumble or bow his head at another person. This was the kind of person he had been since young.

Lu Zhou was surprised by Yu Zhenghai's actions today. It was clear Yu Zhenghai truly wanted to rule the world. After thinking about this for some time, he placed his hands on his back and turned around, walking to the edge of the forest. He did not answer him directly.

"Senior Lu!" Yu Zhenghai was perplexed.

"Although I'm an old friend of your master, I cannot make decisions on his behalf."

Yu Zhenghai stood up and said, "In that case, please pass on the message for me, Senior Lu."

Lu Zhou stopped walking. Without turning back, he said in a deep voice, "Know your place."

Yu Zhenghai was stunned.

Yu Zhenghai was only a disciple. Was this the attitude he should be assuming while talking to his master? How dare he ask a senior to pass on his message?

When Lu Zhou arrived at the place where the battle took place a few moments ago, he looked at the moon.

The sound of the flute had stopped.

Shen Liangshou emerged from the hole in the wall. Against the moonlight, he bent his back and nodded as he spoke. "You have some shocking techniques, Senior Lu. It's truly a sight to behold."

Lu Zhou glanced at the bootlicker and said, "Shen Liangshou."

Shen Liangshou was overjoyed as he said, "I didn't expect you to know me, Senior Lu... I'm overwhelmed by this favor." At the same time, he felt pleased with himself. Being at the top of the whitelist was not without its perks. Huang Shijie was an Eight-leaf expert, and yet, Senior Lu did not recognize him. He could not help but feel proud when he thought about this.

"Have you joined to Penglai Sect?" Lu Zhou asked.

"No, no, no..." Sheng Liangshou said with a bow, "I've joined the Core Yang Sect. I was escorting Old Senior Huang to deliver the survival pills."

"You should give more thought to what you should and shouldn't do," Lu Zhou said.

Shen Liangshou found these words vaguely familiar. Suddenly, he cried out, "Old Senior Ji has said that same thing before."

"Oh?"

"If only Old Senior Ji is as approachable as you, Senior Lu," Shen Liangshou said.

At this moment, under the moonlight, Huang Shijie, Miss Conch, Si Wuya, and Hua Chongyang appeared near the hole in the wall.

Lu Zhou noticed that Miss Conch was holding a short flute. She seemed to like it very much.

Yu Zhenghai emerged from the forest as well at this time. He walked forward with the moon behind him.

Everyone's eyes darted between the Nine-leaf expert and the Eight-leaf expert.

Lu Zhou did not look at him. "Approachable?"

"Yeah... S-senior Lu... eh? Your face..." Shen Liangshou was rendered speechless as he witnessed a shocking scene.

Under the moonlight, there seemed to be a slight distortion on Lu Zhou's face!

Lu Zhou canceled the effects of the Appearance Alteration Card.

There was a brief flash of light before the black-clad white-haired and slender appearance of a teacher with a stern aura appeared before everyone.

"Ah..."

Shen Liangshou staggered backward. His eyes were full of fear. "Old... S-s-senior Ji?!"

Chapter 487: Turn Tail and Run

Shen Liangshou was stunned. 'How did his appearance change? What's this? What happened?'

Si Wuya shuddered as he looked at Lu Zhou. It was not surprising if the other could not recognize Lu Zhou, but it was impossible for him not to recognize his master. How else could it be but his master standing in front of him? He stammered in a hoarse voice with an incredulous expression on his face, "Ma... Master?" In hindsight, everything was clear. After all, how could there be so many Nine-leaf elites showing up all of a sudden? Who else could easily use the Celestial Masters Sect's talismans? He should have realized this sooner and could not help but lament his stupidity. In fact, the thought that 'Senior Lu' was his master did cross his mind for a fleeting moment, but he quickly dismissed that thought since the old man did not resemble his master at all.

Huang Shi Jie who was in shock quickly bowed. "Brother Ji, it's you! Well met, well met!"

"You changed!" Conch smiled.

Hua Chongyang's reaction was similar to Shen Liangshou. He stumbled back and fell on his butt. He was inwardly beating himself for bringing a wolf into the sheeps' den earlier. Even worse, now he found out he had brought the Patriarch of the Evil Sky Pavilion here?!

What was happening? Everyone was stunned. They felt as though they were having a mental breakdown.

Lu Zhou could tell he had reverted to his true appearance. His beard had grown longer. He did not pay attention to everyone's shocked expressions. He only said indifferently, "It's only an insignificant skill."

Out of everyone present, the person who was most shocked was none other than Yu Zhenghai who was standing behind Lu Zhou. His eyes widened in shock, and he felt as though he had been slapped a few times. His eyelids twitched uncontrollably. He asked in a tentative and respectful tone, "Master, it's you?!" A hint of reluctance and incredulity could be heard in his voice as well. Before Lu Zhou replied, he turned tail and ran without saying another word. 'I should run.'

Swoosh!

Yu Zhenghai sped toward the forest. It was exhausting to run without Primal Qi. He was physically tired, but more than that, he was mentally tired! 'To think that old geezer even knows how to alter his appearance! Why didn't I think of that?' He vanished among the trees in just a blink of an eye.

The others were dumbfounded.

Hua Chongyang and his subordinates were stunned as well. Was this still their majestic and impressive sect master?

Everything happened too quickly. The others could not keep up with the turn of events.

Lu Zhou did not pursue Yu Zhenghai. Instead, he beckoned at Miss Conch. "Conch. The song."

"Mhm." Miss Conch seemed to enjoy the feeling of being useful. She brought the flute to her lips at once. The melodious and familiar tune filled the air.

Sound was, naturally, faster than a human running.

Without or without his cultivation base, Yu Zhenghai could not have outrun sound even though his physique was superior to ordinary humans.

Deep within the dark forest, many pairs of glowing green eyes appeared.

Yu Zhenghai immediately stopped in his tracks. Even without his Primal Qi and cultivation base, he did not think much of these vicious beasts. He said in a deep voice, "Get lost."

Some of the weaker beasts did not dare to approach him. On the contrary, the strongest beasts continued to advance on him.

Beasts were beasts, after all. In their eyes, humans were one of the most delicious food in the world.

The beasts pounced at Yu Zhenghai!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Yu Zhenghai swung his fists wildly as fought the wild beasts.

...

Lu Zhou and the others heard the sounds of fighting from the forest. However, he did not seem bothered by it. He looked at everyone and said, "He deserves it."

Shen Liangshou was close to tears. He prostrated himself on the ground at once and said, "Old senior Ji... You... Why do you have to do this..."

This was not funny at all! Shen Liangshou wanted to cry, but no tears came out. He was in much pain. If Old senior Ji could alter his appearance, why did he spend so much effort to memorize the appearances of the features of the members of the Evil Sky Pavilion? How meaningless!

"You're moved?" Lu Zhou looked down at Shen Liangshou.

How could Shen Liangshou not be moved? He was so moved that he nearly cried!

Smack! Smack!

Shen Liangshou began to slap himself.

The others sighed inwardly at the sight. This served as a reminder for them not to judge someone by their appearances in the future.

Meanwhile, the melodious sound of the flute did not stop.

The moonlight was getting brighter.

Si Wuya glanced at the dark and thick forest. He suppressed the shock in his heart and said, "Master, I'm worried Eldest Senior Brother's life will be in danger if we don't rescue him soon."

"It doesn't matter." Lu Zhou shook his head. "You underestimate him." Inwardly, he thought to himself, 'He's tougher than a bull when he fought me earlier.'

If Yu Zhenghai could not even withstand the attacks of these wild beasts, it would be the biggest joke ever.

Si Wuya gulped before he said, "Master, you could've just come if you have business with him. W-why?"

Lu Zhou felt it was a waste of time to answer this question. The answer was obvious; if he did not alter his appearance, Yu Zhenghai would have run off at the get-go before he even came knocking. If he could meet Yu Zhenghai, how was he supposed to capture him?

Si Wuya realized his question was redundant, therefore, he no longer asked.

Lu Zhou raised his hand and said, "Conch."

"Oh." Conch stopped playing.

Lu Zhou gave Conch an admiring look. It was a shame this young girl could not control her own talents. However, there was no rush. He could slowly nurture her if she decided to cultivate in the future.

'If she's someone the Taixu Academy and Hengqu Branch want as a disciple, should I accept her as my disciple as well?' Prior to this, Lu Zhou had never thought about accepting any more disciples. However, now that he thought about it, it did not seem like a bad idea.

At this moment, Huang Shijie cupped his fists and said, "I didn't expect this young girl to be this gifted. She'll certainly become someone great if she's taught well in the future."

Huang Shijie thought about the nine disciples of the Evil Sky Pavilion. They were already outrageously talented. Now, another genius was likely to join the Evil Sky Pavilion. He lamented the unfairness of the heavens and wondered when the Penglai Sect be graced with some quality disciples. Nevertheless, he could only grumble inwardly. How would he dare to verbalize his thoughts?

Lu Zhou looked at Conch with a satisfied expression. In any case, this matter was not important now. He had to deal with the matter at hand first.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The sound of fighting resonated from the forest before it abruptly stopped.

Lu Zhou looked at Si Wuya and pushed with his palm out before a palm seal shot toward Si Wuya.

In just an instant, Si Wuya felt the mantra on him had been lifted, Overjoyed, he said, "Thank you, Master." He rose to his feet immediately, preparing to help Yu Zhenghai.

"Wait."

"Master?"

"Do you remember what I've said?" Lu Zhou asked.

"I do."

"In that case, have no regrets."

"I won't." Si Wuya bowed at Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou waved his sleeve.

Si Wuya understood what Lu Zhou meant. He turned around and flew into the forest.

In truth, Lu Zhou had long known the decision Si Wuya would make. At the end of the day, as their master, he would have to let them go out to the world and learn on their own. Children needed to be given the independence to explore once they come of age. What would the consequences be? Nobody knew... Whether they would succeed or fail, it was all a part of life.

Shortly after, Si Wuya returned with Yu Zhenghai on his back.

Yu Zhenghai was covered in bruises and bumps, unconscious.

Chapter 488: Intangible Instructions are the Most Fatal

At this moment, Lu Zhou looked at Yu Zhenghai...

Name: Yu Zhenghai

Identity: Wuqian (human)

Realm: Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm

If it were not for the Appearance Alteration Card, it would have been practically impossible for him to meet Yu Zhenghai, judging by how quickly he had run earlier.

Everyone sighed in relief.

Compared to an unfamiliar Nine-leaf expert who appeared out of nowhere, the disciples of the Nether Sect and Penglai Sect preferred to face Ji Tiandao. After all, he was the master of the Sect Master of the Nether Sect Master. This meant, in a way, he was in the same camp, right?

Lu Zhou brought Conch back into the great hall through the hole in the wall.

The others followed.

Hua Chongyang patted Shen Liangshou's shoulders and said, "Are you coming?"

Shen Liangshou said after looking up, "Go on ahead. I... I'll slap myself a few more times to hammer it into my memories."

“Suit yourself.” Hua Chongyang felt regretful and helpless as well. If it were not for him, the old senior would not be here at all.

However, at this juncture, there was no other way but to plow on.

Hua Chongyang entered the great hall.

Si Wuya was still carrying Yu Zhenghai as he said, “Master, Eldest Senior Brother is injured. I’ll take him back.”

Lu Zhou extended a palm. A palm seal struck him.

Si Wuya, initially, thought his master intended to strike him. However, after a while, he discovered his master had merely lifted the mantra that suppressed Yu Zhenghai’s cultivation base.

“Thank you, master.” Si Wuya left the great hall through the main entrance with Yu Zhenghai on his back and headed to the resting room.

...

Inside the room.

Si Wuya tossed Yu Zhenghai on the bed. He said with a sigh, “I’ve already told you that master isn’t a simple character... but you wouldn’t listen.” As he spoke, he flipped his palm and channeled some of his Primal Qi into Yu Zhenghai’s body.

Si Wuya continued to say, “You should be grateful that master is the one who showed up today. If it were some other Nine-leaf cultivator, do you think he would’ve been satisfied with Jing Province alone?”

After channeling his Primal Qi into Yu Zhenghai’s Extraordinary Eight Meridians, Si Wuya was baffled. “There are no internal injuries? Forget it, you aren’t so cowardly back then. Even the young lady’s tune could subdue you.” Then, he said with a sigh, “Here lies the great Sect Master of the Nether Sect.”

After sensing Yu Zhenghai’s condition had stabilized, Si Wuya rose to his feet and left the room, closing the door behind him.

The room was plunged into darkness immediately.

Yu Zhenghai’s eyes snapped open immediately in the darkness, and he sat up straight. His heart was thumping wildly in his chest.

He stood up and walked to the door. Then, he fell to the ground and tried to peek through the narrow slit before he patted his chest.

Soon after, he returned to the bed and sat down slowly with a soft sigh.

“I didn’t want to do this as well.”

He tried to circulate the Primal Qi inside his dantian’s sea of Qi. He was surprised and puzzled to find that his cultivation base was no longer restricted. However, he was still cautious and did not recklessly circulate his Primal Qi.

The Nine-leaf stage was no laughing matter.

Yu Zhenghai laid down, acting as though he was asleep.

...

Inside the great hall.

Lu Zhou looked at everyone.

For a long while, nobody said anything.

At this moment, Si Wuya walked into the great hall.

“Greetings, master,” Si Wuya said with a bow, “Eldest Senior Brother’s condition has stabilized.”

Lu Zhou looked at Si Wuya. Knowing Si Wuya had made up his mind, he asked again, “You’re determined to take down Jing Province?”

Si Wuya fell to his knees immediately. “Master... Currently, Jing Province City is an impregnable fortress. Eldest Senior Brother is at his wits’ end. I proposed we lay siege on the city with vicious beasts.”

At this juncture, everyone glanced at Miss Conch who was seated at the side.

“That’s a good idea, but... do you know how much Primal Qi and how high one’s cultivation base are needed to control these beasts? Conch isn’t a cultivator.”

‘Conch?’ Although Si Wuya had guessed this young lady was the person who understood the tongue of beasts, he was not aware that she was not a cultivator. It was not enough for her to know the tongue of beasts. When the beasts fought, they could be easily frightened by powerful cultivators if nobody spurred them on. He looked at Conch with a slightly shocked expression. “She isn’t a cultivator?” Then, he shook his head and said with a sigh, “In that case, we can only think of another way.”

“Wen Shu can’t be easily dealt with,” Lu Zhou said.

Naturally, Si Wuya knew Wen Shu was not a simple character whom they could easily defeat.

At this moment, Huang Shijie cupped his fists and said, “I sympathize with Sect Master Yu. The Penglai Sect is willing to lend a helping hand to the Nether Sect.”

Lu Zhou looked at Huang Shijie. “Hm?”

Huang Shijie was startled. “I’m not asking for anything in return. I’m purely helping a friend.”

Nobody believed him.

However, Lu Zhou replied, “Alright.”

Huang Shijie. “???”

Lu Zhou stood up, looked at the night scene, and said, “Si Wuya.”

“Yes, master.”

Lu Zhou infused some Primal Qi into his voice and said loudly, "I'll give him six months. After six months, whether he succeeds or fails, he has to be brought to me, dead or alive."

"Yes, master!"

"Ding! Discipline Yu Zhenghai. Reward: 200 merit points."

Based on this, it was obvious Yu Zhenghai was only feigning unconsciousness.

In fact, Lu Zhou had no plans of dragging Yu Zhenghai back to the mountain with him this time. The Nether Sect was ready to carry out their plan. Yu Zhenghai was too far into his quest to conquer the Divine Capital to turn back now. Moreover, Si Wuya had also made his choice... As their master, he had to be reasonable. As for the matters between master and disciples, he decided to leave it at the back of his mind for now.

'Rascal, why are you playing dead for when I punched you so softly?'

Lu Zhou raised a hand and said, "Conch."

"Mhm."

Conch slid off her chair and nimbly walked to Lu Zhou's side.

"I want to take you back to the Evil Sky Pavilion. Will you come with me?"

Upon hearing this, Si Wuya was shocked. He asked, "Master, are you accepting another disciple?" It had been more than five years! It had been a long time since Ji Tiandao last accepted a disciple. He did not expect his master to accept a disciple now. If the Evil Sky Pavilion opened its doors, throngs of people would swarm there.

"Who knows?" Lu Zhou said ambiguously.

When Huang Shijie and the others saw that Lu Zhou was leaving, they stood up.

"Master, it's getting late. Why don't you spend a night here and leave tomorrow?" Si Wuya asked.

"Ding! Disciplined Yu Zhenghai. Reward: 200 merit points."

'That rascal is truly a rascal. He doesn't want me to stay here.'

At this moment, Conch grabbed Lu Zhou's arm and happily, "I'll go to the Evil Sky Pavilion!"

Lu Zhou turned to look at Conch and said, "What if we stay here for a month?"

"Ding! Disciplined Yu Zhenghai. Reward: 200 merit points."

This time, Conch did not nod, but she did not reject the idea as well.

Lu Zhou could see she would rather not stay here.

"Forget it." Lu Zhou took Conch's hand and was about to leave when he suddenly remembered something. "The Darknet's information network covers the lands under the heavens. Does that include the Western Regions where the Other Tribes live?"

Si Wuya replied confidently, "I dare not boast, but it's the truth."

"In that case, use every resource at your disposal to locate a woman with the surname Luo," Lu Zhou said, "300 years ago, Yun Tianluo became the leader of the Three Sects because of her help."

"Yes, master!" said Si Wuya with a bow.

When Huang Shijie heard this, he exclaimed in shock, "A woman with the surname Luo? 300 years ago?"

Lu Zhou looked at Huang Shijie. "You've heard of her?"

Huang Shijie nodded and said, "It just so happens that I have."

Chapter 489: The Legend of Luo Shiyin

"Tell me what you know." If Lu Zhou had more information about the Luo woman, it would be relatively easier to look for her.

Huang Shijie said, "300 years ago, I attained the Eight-leaf stage out of pure luck. At that time, I knew nothing about the Eight-leaf stage. Penglai was in turmoil, and I had to take charge. Hence... I visited the Three Sects and asked Yun Tianluo for advice."

Lu Zhou did not know Huang Shijie was acquainted with Yun Tianluo as well.

Back then, the Three Sects were in the limelight. After becoming an Eight-leaf cultivator, Yun Tianluo rose to the peak. From that moment on, the Three Sects officially opened their doors to recruit disciples using Yun Tianluo's name and swiftly grew stronger.

It was common for the other sects to have discussions about cultivation with Yun Tianluo at the Three Sects. Naturally, not everyone was lucky enough to be given such a chance.

"At the time, Yun Tianluo mentioned a woman with the surname Luo. He said that he obtained her cultivation method and improved by leaps and bounds. Naturally, I didn't believe him wholly. After leaving the Three Sects, I heard there truly was such a person. She has one special ability..." Huang Shijie said.

"What is it?" Si Wuya said.

The more information they could glean about, it would make their search easier.

"She's gifted in tunes."

Huang Shijie said solemnly, "I had a wonderful conversation with Yun Tianluo. I couldn't get the woman he mentioned out of my mind ever since. Hence, I ordered my Penglai Sect disciples to look for her. Then, I heard rumors that she is gifted in tune. She frequently sits at the seashore while playing the zither. Someone once saw the fish and beasts of the sea responding to her music as they leaped around happily."

The others were in wonder.

Lu Zhou glanced at Miss Conch. Was this trait not similar to Miss Conch? He said, "Conch has the same talent as well, but it's not surprising. There are members of the Other Tribes in the west who know the tongue of beasts."

Huang Shijie turned and looked at Conch as he said, "Then, a tidal wave washed over the shore. The Luo woman disappeared with the waves. I reckon she's dead now."

However, it was easy for a powerful cultivator to walk on air or the waves. How could she drown?

Si Wuya asked, "Anything else?"

"The Luo woman is legendary, but she keeps a low profile. I don't know anything else about her apart from that," Huang Shi Jie said.

"What about her name?"

"I don't know."

The others sighed helplessly.

Hua Chongyang said, "Indeed, she resembles Miss Conch."

Although Conch seemed to have only understood half of the conversation, she nodded and said, "Yes."

One of them was a legendary figure 300 years ago; the other was a 16-years old young lady in her prime. Alas, there was a high chance the former was gone now.

Huang Shijie said, "This young girl is talented. If she starts cultivating, I'm sure she has a bright future ahead of her."

Similarly, Lu Zhou felt this young girl had great potential as well.

Si Wuya bowed at Lu Zhou and said, "Master, I'll look for this Luo woman with all the. Whether she's alive or dead, I'll give you an explanation."

"Alright." Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded in satisfaction.

It was getting late. It was time for him to leave. Just when he was about to turn around, Huang Shijie seemed to hesitate over speaking up. In the end, he stepped forward and called, "Brother Ji, wait up!"

"What is it?"

"If you have the time, will you visit Penglai as a guest?" Huang Shijie asked.

It had been a long time since he had visited Penglai Island. Penglai Island had always been referred to as a great island. The place derived its glory from the throngs of talented cultivators they produced over the years.

Unfortunately, Lu Zhou still had many matters to attend to and did not have much strength or energy to spare. Hence, he said, "The Penglai Sect rarely concerns themselves with worldly affairs. You, the master of the island, actually came all to Jing Province. Are you trying to say the little island of Penglai isn't enough to satisfy you anymore?"

Huang Shijie was taken aback. He said at once, "We have no choice. Truly, we don't..."

Nothing came for free in this world, after all.

Lu Zhou waved his hand and said, "Play your role well. Don't covet what's not yours."

Huang Shijie dared not retort. He said at once, "Thank you for your teaching, Brother Ji."

The other Penglai Sect disciples bowed, "Thank you for your teaching, Old Senior Ji."

Who would dare to speak against a Nine-leaf cultivator?

Si Wuya was relieved. Ever since Huang Shijie appeared, he was worried the most about people being greedy and covetous. What if his Eldest Senior Brother could not satisfy their demands? However, with his master's words, it would serve as a deterrence. No matter how ambitious they were, they still had to act restraint.

...

After stepping out of the great hall, Lu Zhou surveyed his surroundings.

Si Wuya followed him out and said, "It's only a branch. The environment lives much to desire."

"It's alright. If the situation permits, I'll come again," Lu Zhou said.

"Ding! Disciplined Yu Zhenghai. Reward: 200 merit points."

"You're always welcome here, master," Si Wuya replied.

"Ding! Disciplined Yu Zhenghai. Reward: 200 merit points."

They made small talk for a moment before Lu Zhou decided to live. He summoned Bi An.

Conch and Lu Zhou leaped onto Whizard's back and they flew away.

The members of the Nether Sect and Penglai Sect sighed in relief.

Si Wuya wiped the sweat off his face as well.

Hua Chongyang fell to his knees at once. "Mister Seventh, please punish me severely for my incompetence! I won't feel at ease if the punishment isn't harsh."

Si Wuya sighed, shook his head, and said, "Punishment is a must... but not now. The battle of Jing Province is about to begin. Atone your sins with merits."

Hua Chongyang said, "I will do my best."

Si Wuya looked at Huang Shijie. "Senior Huang, you must be tired... Why don't you spend the night here in the branch?"

"It's nothing." Huang Shijie led his disciples and left.

When everyone had left, Si Wuya made his way to Yu Zhenghai's room.

A short while later, he stood outside the room and called out, "Eldest Senior Brother, master has left."

It was quiet. There was no reply from the room.

“Eldest Senior Brother?”

No reply.

“Master has left, honest.”

Si Wuya found this strange. He found no issues when he examined his Eldest Senior Brother’s body with his Primal Qi moments ago. After his master unsealed his cultivation base, he should have been awake by now with his recuperating abilities.

While he felt puzzled, there was a voice rang from up above. “Tell Yu Zhenghai that I’ll remember his actions of using the Evil Sky Pavilion’s name.”

“Ding! Disciplined Yu Zhenghai. Reward: 500 merit points.”

Si Wuya shuddered. He turned around at once. He looked up and saw Whizard hovering in the skies. “Yes, master!”

Conch was seated before Lu Zhou on Whizard’s back.

His master’s movements were truly unpredictable. Who would be able to figure out his thoughts?

When Si Wuya looked up again, Whizard had already vanished in the horizons. Then, he looked at his Eldest Senior Brother’s room that was as silent as a graveyard. He gave it some thought before saying, “Looks like Eldest Senior Brother is seriously wounded...” After saying this, he left.

...

The room was completely dark and silent.

Yu Zhenghai opened his eyes after Si Wuya left. He looked at the ceiling, continued to sleep.

Early the next morning, Si Wuya stood outside the room again. He bowed and said, “Eldest Senior Brother.”

There were still no movements. ‘Okay, this is going too far.’ Si Wu Ya sai, “Eldest Senior Brother... I’ve come up with a good plan to take down Jing Province in seven days.”

Slam!

The door was pushed open by a surge of Primal Qi.

Yu Zhenghai walked out with his hands on his back.

“Eldest Senior Brother, did you rest well yesterday?”

“I had a long dream. I don’t feel comfortable.” Yu Zhenghai stretched his limb.

Chapter 490: Natural and Unrestrained

A dream?

Si Wuya understood and said, "You've been stretching yourself thin these days, Eldest Senior Brother. Why don't you leave the management of the sect to me for a couple of days and concentrate on resting?"

"That's a sound idea. Thank you, wise brother." Yu Zhenghai raised a hand and sent a palm seal into the air.

From the nearby stable, Kui Niu came sprinting toward him.

Yu Zhenghai leaped onto its back and said, "See you in two days."

"Safe journey, Eldest Senior Brother."

Moo!

Kui Niu mooed and left in the air.

At this moment, Hua Chongyang came running over in haste. He placed a hand on his forehead. After observing for some time, he wondered, "Why is the sect master in such a hurry?"

Si Wuya ignored him and made his way to the meeting hall.

...

The Evil Sky Pavilion.

Duanmu Sheng, Zhao Yue, Zhu Honggong, and Little Yuan'er surrounded Miss Conch. It seemed like they worried she was going to run away.

"Master has said that we're not to frighten or bully her." Zhu Honggong smiled at Conch.

One of them sighed. "At his age, why did master suddenly bring a child back?"

"Do you think that she's his daughter born out of wedlock?" Zhu Honggong muttered under his breath.

Bam!

"Ow!"

"Third Senior Brother, what was that for?" Zhu Honggong asked.

"Do you have a death wish, talking trash behind master's back like that?" Duanmu Sheng looked solemn.

"Uh... You're right, Third Senior Brother."

Zhao Yue moved in front of Conch and waved at her. With a faint smile, she asked, "What's your name?"

"Co... Co... Conch." She held a flute in one hand and a conch in the other.

"Her real name is Conch?" Zhu Honggong asked with a smile.

Little Yuan'er leaped to Conch's side and compared their heights. She found they were about the same height. Then, she circled around Conch as she asked, "Where's your house?"

"Far, far away." Conch pointed east.

Little Yuan'er leaped back. She pulled at the hem of Zhao Yue's clothes and said, "Senior Sister... I don't think she's too bright."

Conch blinked and asked in confusion, "What's not bright?"

"I'm saying you're stupid."

"Stupid?"

The others understood now. Indeed, Conch was not too bright.

Little Yuan'er giggled and said, "That won't be a problem. I'll protect you from now on. I'll smash the heads of anyone that bullies you!"

"Thank you," Conch said.

"Let's go... We'll have some fun."

"Mhm."

The two young girls held hands and ran down the mountain.

Duanmu Zheng, Zhao Yue, and Zhu Honggong were baffled and stunned as they stared at young girls' retreating backs. Were they not supposed to question Conch together? Why did Little Yuan'er defect at the last minute?

...

Inside the eastern pavilion.

Lu Zhou sat with his back straight on the rush cushion as he looked at the points on the system dashboard.

Merit points: 54,680

He had gained more than he expected from his trip to Jing Province.

He merely gained several thousand merit points from killing the Taixu Academy's Jiang Renyi, the Hengqu Branch's Zhang Can, and the Jing Province's deputy general Ning Han. The remainder of the points were basically from Yu Zhenghai.

'Just how uncomfortable is that rascal in my presence? I should pay him a visit whenever I'm short on merit points.'

Lu Zhou looked at the disciplining missions on the dashboard while he was at it.

The mission of disciplining his eight disciples appeared on the dashboard. They were almost complete.

He noticed there was another mission at the bottom: Searching for the Luo woman. Status: In progress.

"What secrets does this Luo woman hold? Where is she?"

Since something came up in the system, this meant the person was still alive. What was left now was to slowly search for her.

Lu Zhou glanced at his merit points again. He was wondering if he should buy a Golden Lotus Leaf. It was slightly impractical for him to accumulate merit points and purchase the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. He noticed the reminder beside the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. He had to be above the Eight-leaf stage to purchase it. In other words, he had to be at the Nine-leaf stage. The Thousand Realms Whirling was still far away.

However, it was too much of a waste to purchase a Golden Lotus Leaf at this point. He could sprout leaves through cultivation from the One-leaf stage to the Five-leaf stage. He noticed the reminder beside Golden Lotus Leaf as well. He could save the merit points for a time where he would need it more.

When he thought about this, Lu Zhou muttered, "Lucky draw."

"Ding! Spent 50 merit points. Obtained Reversal Card x5."

A good start.

However, Lu Zhou got ten appreciation messages when he did more draws. Then, he gave up.

He closed the system dashboard.

He crossed his palms and placed them before his dantian's sea of Qi. Primal Qi flowed along his Extraordinary Eight Meridians. His dantian's sea of Qi was like the source of a fountain. Primal Qi surged and filled his sea of Qi. The speed of his cultivation was much better than when he first transmigrated here, as he had expected.

Lu Zhou cleared his mind of distracting thoughts and began cultivating.

...

Meanwhile.

Conch and Little Yuan'er wandered around.

"The eastern pavilion is where my master lives... It's best to avoid that place if there's nothing urgent. Otherwise, you'll just be asking for a beating. That's the southern pavilion; most of my senior siblings live there. Oh, there's also three old men and an old woman. That's the western pavilion where the other disciples and the others stay. The books, weapons, and cultivation methods are kept in the western pavilion... That's the northern pavilion. It serves as a warehouse and a storage room..." Little Yuan'er explained.

"Behind the northern pavilion is the back of the mountain..." Little Yuan'er brought Conch to the back of the mountain.

At this moment, they saw Yu Shangrong leaning on the trunk of a huge tree with the Longevity Sword in his hand. He had a faraway gaze, clearly lost in thought, as he held a letter in his other hand.

"Who's that? He looks strange," Conch asked curiously.

Little Yuan'er giggled and said, "Don't mind him. He's been on the treetop for several days now."

Her voice barely faded when Yu Shangrong kept the letter in his pocket. He did a flip in midair and landed before the two of them.

Little Yuan'er stuck her tongue out. She lowered her head and said, "Second Senior Brother."

Yu Shangrong smiled. He caressed her head and asked, "A guest?"

"Hello. I'm Conch." Conch extended her hand and smiled sweetly.

"Hello."

"Conch? What a good name," Yu Shangrong praised.

Little Yuan'er pulled Conch away and ran toward the back of the mountain. She said, "Second Senior Brother, master brought her here. I'm supposed to show her around."

"Master?"

Yu Shangrong looked at Miss Conch suspiciously. Apart from looking pure and naïve, there was nothing special about her. His master rarely brought people back to the mountain? Why would he do it now? Before he could ask any further questions, Little Yuan'er and Conch had already left for the back of the mountain.

Yu Shangrong did not dwell on this. He pushed away from the ground and flew toward the waist of the mountain with movements as nimble as a swallow.

...

Meanwhile, Pan Zhong and Zhou Jifeng saw Little Yuan'er and Conch and exchanged a look.

"A newcomer!"

"Don't point at her!"

"Once bitten twice shy. Let's not act rashly this time, no matter what happens!"

"Understood! I'll listen to you this time, Brother Zhou! We'll avoid her as best as we can!"

The two of them turned around and left without any hesitation.

...

Night fell.

Lu Zhou felt that his dantian's sea of Qi was being filled with Primal Qi. Perhaps, he had been raising his realm and cultivation base with the avatars before this. He had never spent any of his saved Primal Qi. It had only increased. There was now a substantial amount.

"Can I achieve a breakthrough?" Lu Zhou wondered. With ample experience and skills, it seemed possible for him to attempt to sprout a leaf with this amount of Primal Qi.