

Disciples 511

Chapter 511: Propping Up the Floating Island (Part Three)

“The Taixu Academy’s sword path elite, Yuan Chong?!”

Someone among the crowd recognized Yuan Chong’s unique skill at once.

It was said that this person had achieved great feats with the sword a long time ago, but he had always kept a low-profile. He could also be described as cunning and sinister. He usually hid in a corner before landing a powerful strike on his target. This was exactly what was happening now.

Yuan Chong’s eyes gleamed as he stared at Little Yuan’er in the skies.

Little Yuan’er was young and fearless. She immediately brought out her Nirvana Sash and defended herself.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

The energy swords struck the Nirvana Sash.

Yuan Chong had expected as much. He stepped on the Nirvana Sash and advanced.

Whizz!

A Seven-leaf avatar materialized in the air.

The others exclaimed in shock.

“Yuan Chong is a Seven-leaf cultivator?!”

“The Taixu Academy is really invested in this!”

They thought Jiang Lizhi was the most powerful elite the Taixu Academy had sent here. After all, when Jiang Lizhi was killed by the palm seal, nobody from the Taixu Academy stepped forward. Nobody expected there to be an elite hiding among them.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

The energy swords and the Nirvana Sash clashed.

Little Yuan’er was only a Three-leaf cultivator. How could she go up against a Seven-leaf elite?

Yuan Chong unleashed a grand technique and appeared behind the Little Yuan’er.

Energy swords rained down.

“Ah...” Little Yuan’er pushed Conch to the back, shielding Conch behind her.

“Sister Yuan’er!” Conch cried out.

“Don’t worry!” Little Yuan’er cast her Seven Stars Cloud Treading Steps. She left afterimages in the air. Since she needed to carry Conch at the same time, this was almost at the limit of her capabilities.

“Die, little girl!” The energy swords dispersed Little Yuan’er’s afterimages. The instant the afterimages disappeared, Yuan Chong struck with his palm.

The palm seal struck Little Yuan’er at lightning speed.

Bam!

Little Yuan’er reeled back as wind stirred in the surroundings. Her dantian’s sea of Qi was in chaos.

“Hm?” Yuan Chong frowned slightly. He hovered in the air. “You’re still alive?”

Yuan Chong dove again. The energy swords broke free of the Nirvana Sash and joined as one. He joined his palms together. “I hope that you’ll be reincarnated with a good life.”

The energy swords shot toward Little Yuan’er again.

Little Yuan’er thought she was about to die when a row of umbrellas spread out before her in an array. Energy spread and formed an umbrella-shaped wall. She looked up and saw a pretty and graceful lady descending from the sky before landing on four umbrellas.

The thousands upon thousands of energy swords were blocked by the umbrellas.

“Sister Jingyi?”

The newcomer was none other than Li Jingyi.

Li Jingyi gave Little Yuan’er a sidelong glance and smiled. “Are you alright?”

“I’m alive and kicking.” Little Yuan’er immediately flew to Conch’s side.

The sudden appearance of this elite attracted everyone’s attention.

Floating above the sunken floating island, Madam Huang registered a look of delight. “Li Jingyi?”

“Greetings, mistress.”

Mistress?

Yuan Chong frowned and said, “I heard that Huang Shijie had several disciples who are all elites. Unfortunately, Huang Shijie is tyrannical and couldn’t win their hearts. Are you the genius umbrella cultivator, Li Jingyi?”

Li Jingyi pursed her lips into a smile. “I didn’t think I was this famous.”

“Li Jingyi, Penglai Island’s time is over. An outstanding talent should be able to follow the current trends. Huang Shijie wasn’t kind to you. Why would you risk your life for him?” Yuan Chong asked.

“A teacher for one day, a father forever. Yuan Chong, I advise you to give up.”

Yuan Chong laughed. “Open your eyes and look. Who do you think is going to give up at this time?”

Li Jingyi surveyed her surroundings. The floating island was already submerged beneath the waves, and the Formation had shattered. She saw chaos everywhere she looked. Many umbrella cultivators lay on the ground, unmoving. They were from the same sect, after all. How could she be unaffected? Alas, it

seemed like she was too late. She did not expect the once glorious Penglai Island to be reduced to a piece of juicy meat that was being fought over a pack of ravenous wolves overnight.

While Li Jingyi was lost in her thoughts, Yuan Chong seized the opportunity to attack. He moved his hands and launched several energy swords.

Li Jingyi stepped on the umbrellas as the umbrellas spun upward. She launched energy seals into the air.

Their energies collided.

Boom!

Both opponents retreated at the same time. The competition of their energies was also a showdown of their cultivation bases. They were both Seven-leaf elites and should be evenly matched. It was difficult for the sword and the umbrella to emerge superior over the other. Both opponents faced each other from a distance.

Wu!

A strange sound rang from the sea again, attracting everyone's attention.

Conch pointed at the sea and exclaimed excitedly, "Luo Yu is coming!"

It had the body of a fish and the wings of a bird. Its voice was like a mandarin duck.

Splash!

Luo Yu broke the surface of the sea. Unlike the first time, it created huge waves that rippled outward.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Li Jingyi blocked it with her umbrellas.

Yuan Chong controlled his energy swords with his palms to block the splash from the water.

Little Yuan'er shielded Conch as she looked at Luo Yu in shock.

Luo Yu treated everyone above the sea's surface as its enemies. Why?

Alas, the low-rank cultivators nearby were not as fortunate. Their chests were instantly pierced by the deadly water droplets. Holes could be seen on their bodies.

"Uh..."

"This livestock can kill!"

The cultivators nearby quickly retreated!

The umbrella cultivators from Penglai Island retreated as well. They stayed away and watched.

Madam Huang flew up and looked down at Luo Yu.

At this moment, Luo Yu did a complete turnaround in the air and flapped its wings. It was shrouded in a faint light. At this moment, it was diving toward Conch who was standing near the sea's surface.

“Luo Yu is going in for the kill!”

“Stand back!”

This was their first time seeing Luo Yu trying to kill someone.

Li Jingyi frowned. There was a complicated look in her eyes. She turned to look at Little Yuan'er. With a deep voice, she said, “Stand back.”

“Oh!” Little Yuan'er brought Conch with her and flew backward.

Li Jingyi asked, “Where's your master?”

“Master?” Little Yuan'er smacked her forehead. “That's right! Where's my master? Master... Help! I won't last for much longer!”

Li Jingyi. “???”

Yuan Chong. “???”

The cultivators stared at the young girl, baffled. All of them grew alert, guarding against the expert who might suddenly show up to protect the young girl. Fortunately, no such expert showed up to help this young girl.

At this moment, Luo Yu moved between the young girls and the others. For some reason, it did not hurt the girls. It flicked its body, separating the two girls.

Conch exclaimed in shock as she flew upward. The energy surrounding her was scattered by Luo Yu.

Luo Yu's movements were nimble as it carried Conch away.

“Conch!” Little Yuan'er exclaimed in shock. The situation was out of her control. Her master entrusted Conch's protection to her, but she had let him down. A panicked expression appeared on her face, stemming from her helplessness.

It happened too quickly. Who could have reacted to it?

Li Jingyi could not do anything even if she wanted to rescue Conch.

Yuan Chong kept his eyes on Li Jingyi as he kept her occupied. At the same time, he ordered, “Taixu Academy disciples, kill that young girl!”

“Understood!” The Taixu Academy disciples' voices were thunderously loud.

100 disciples from the Taixu Academy flew on their swords and shot toward the sea's surface at the same time. None of them cared about Luo Yu or Conch. They were focused on their target, Little Yuan'er.

The 100 cultivators conjured up energy swords. The densely packed energy swords formed a mass of swords that flew toward Little Yuan'er.

Li Jingyi's heart sank. The young lady was in danger!

At this moment...

Whizz!

A blue light shone from beneath the water's surface. The sea between the four islands was completely covered by the blue light.

The members of the Taixu Academy did not even have time to react when they heard a splash!

"The floating island?!"

The floating island broke the surface of the water, creating huge waves.

The cultivators who were fighting intensely on the four islands were drawn by this scene. They stopped fighting and looked at the floating island. At this moment, they saw a dark blue palm seal huge enough to carry the entire floating island beneath the island.

Everyone held their breaths. They looked at the massive palm seal that seemed to be able to cover the skies. For a time, they forgot about the battles they were engaged in. They forgot everything.

The waves and the spreading blue energy struck the Taixu Academy disciples who were advancing toward Little Yuan'er. All of them were sent flying, spitting out mouthfuls of blood in the sky.

Under the huge massive palm seal, one could see an old man who was the size of a leaf when seen from afar. The old man held his palm above his head. A blue light shone from his palm. It was obvious the massive blue palm seal came from him! His action of propping up the floating island was akin to directing the great rivers to flow east and returning the mighty waves. It was only natural for the others to be shocked.

Chapter 512: Kill Them All

Lu Zhou stared at the underside of the floating island as he concentrated on controlling the massive palm seal. His extraordinary power surging out of his body in an eye-catching manner. He saw the stunned expressions on everyone's faces as they looked at him.

Many of them sat limply on the ground, trembling in fear. It seemed like they had given up on resisting.

Lu Zhou did not have the time to care about these people. He continued to hold the island up.

Everyone was silent, in awe, as they watched this magnificent scene.

Whizz!

The huge palm seal carried the floating island and propped it up 100 meters above sea level.

When the core island of Penglai Island returned to its position, a crisp sound rang in the air. It sounded grating and unearthly.

Penglai Island's mistress could not suppress the joy that welled up in her heart after she regained her senses. Tears streamed down her face.

At this moment, Little Yuan'er had temporarily forgotten about Conch. She looked at her master who was carrying the island with one hand and murmured, "Master..."

100 meters in the skies.

Lu Zhou's palm seal was still in position, but... his extraordinary power was running out. He ignored everyone with a slight frown on his face. He had some extraordinary power left. Should he save some for himself or should he finish it?

Rumble!

The floating island shook. The palm seal shrank!

When he saw this, Yuan Chong snapped out of his awe. He exclaimed in delight, "No risk, no gain! Who's with me?"

Bam!

Yuan Chong shot out like a fired arrow.

The elites in the surroundings stirred.

No risk, no gain!

A handful of elites made their moves at the same time.

The others resumed their deathly attacks against the Penglai Island's umbrella cultivators. They knew that one or the other had to die in this battle.

In fact, many of them merely wished to fish in troubled waters. However, with many people doing this, there were, naturally, a few individuals who were willing to gamble with their lives. Moreover, a desperate person could easily spur others into action.

Ma Qing looked at the extremely chaotic battlefield and shook his head. "Madness, this is madness!"

Li Jingyi flew with her umbrella in hand. The umbrella in the air launched densely packed energy seals. This was a Penglai skill, the Green Bird.

At this moment, about five cultivators summoned their avatars and charged toward the underside of the floating island.

Wu!

"Luo Yu?"

Luo Yu rose among swirling waves that rose toward the floating island in a pillar of water.

Conch was riding on Luo Yu's back, but she showed no signs of fear. She spurred Luo Yu along the water pillar as it flew upward. The moment she blew on her conch, Luo Yu spread its wings and released beams of light.

The fish leaped above the floating island.

The sun shone on the waves. A rainbow appeared above the floating island. It was an absolutely stunning sight.

Showered in the light, Lu Zhou suddenly felt as though the scripts of the Heavenly Writing scrolls in his mind were activated. "Interesting."

Did Luo Yu possess magical healing abilities? Was Luo Yu obeying Conch's commands?

In any case, this was certainly the will of the heavens! His extraordinary power was, with Luo Yu's help, replenished!

Lu Zhou's expression was calm as he continued to hold the island in place. "Rise!"

The floating island returned to its original position!

Lu Zhou lowered his arm and surveyed his surroundings. The first person he saw was Yuan Chong. When Yuan Chong was ten meters away, Lu Zhou struck with his palm.

The power of past lives!

The Great Seal of Fearlessness!

A massive palm seal that seemed to belong to Tathagata Buddha was launched.

Yuan Chong wanted to block it. He summoned his Seven-leaf avatar. There was a collision of golden lights before the huge palm seal smashed onto his face. "Impossible! He's really a Nine..."

Bam!

Before Yuan Chong could finish his sentence, he exploded in midair.

"Ding! Killed a target. Reward: 1,500 merit points."

Lu Zhou did not look at Yuan Chong. He swept his gaze in several other directions. If holding up the island with a single hand could not intimidate these desperate cultivators, the only option was to kill them all.

"You want to die? I'll grant you your wishes!"

Madam Huang widened her eyes. She saw several palm seals flying in several directions. It was as though blue fireworks were exploding in the sky.

When the palm seals disappeared, corpses dropped like flies from the sky into the sea. The seawater was stained red.

Wu!

Luo Yu wanted to continue flying.

Conch patted Luo Yu and softly said, "Go home."

Luo Yu seemed incapable of flying anymore. It could not circle around the floating island any longer nor could it help Lu Zhou restore his extraordinary power. It shifted its direction and dove.

Lu Zhou raised his palm. He condensed his Primal Qi into energy that wrapped around Conch.

When Conch was lifted away, Luo Yu leaped into the air again, seemingly reluctant to part with her. It hovered in the air and looked at her.

"You'll be alright." Conch waved her hand.

Wu!

Luo Yu opened its mouth. A beam of blue light emerged.

The cultivators who saw this exclaimed in shock. "The Lantian jade!"

Lu Zhou raised his palm and pulled the Lantian jade toward himself.

Against the sunlight, the Lantian jade released puffs of green smoke that resembled Luo Yu's tears. The tears turned into pearls that dropped into the ocean as smoke rose from Lantian mountain where jade was produced under the sun's warmth.

It was rumored that the Lantian jade existed inside the belly of oceanic beasts, just like how rare pearls existed in clams.

As Lu Zhou witnessed this, he allowed himself to be in awe of the world's wonders.

Luo Yu gave a final cry before it dove from the skies into the sea. It swam a few circles before it disappeared from sight.

Whizz!

Whizz!

The radiance of a Formation shone under the sea. It shone on Penglai Island.

The four loosely arranged islands were shifted back to their rightful positions.

The beams of the Formation's light seemed to spin as they were reactivated.

Clack!

The unique sound of the Formation being activated resounded across Penglai Island.

The barrier... was restored!

After being washed by seawater, the buildings and plants on the floating island seemed exceptionally brighter. Against the setting sun, the gorging seawater spilled over the island's edges. The unique Formation sent the seawater back to the floating island in a loop. The rainbow above the floating island and the rainbow from the waterfalls complemented each other in their brilliance.

Penglai Island was back to normal.

Everything seemed like a dream.

At this moment, Li Jingyi suppressed the excitement in her heart as she looked at the four islands with the wax paper umbrella in her hand. She said in a clear voice, "The Formation is completed. All Penglai Island disciples, take down all those who acted against us."

Under the Formation's energy, the other cultivators were suppressed. Even flying seemed extremely difficult.

On the contrary, the combat strength of the umbrella-wielding Penglai disciples was boosted.

The tides of the battle on the island turned.

The Penglai Island disciples began their counterattacks.

Madam Huang finally registered what was happening. She wiped her tears away. She bowed slightly toward Li Jingyi.

Li Jingyi was taken aback. She hastily returned the gesture. "That won't do, mistress."

"In any case, you saved Penglai."

"The person you should be thanking is Senior Ji, mistress." Li Jingyi looked at Lu Zhou who was hovering under the floating island.

Madam Huang said in shock, "You're really Senior Ji of the Evil Sky Pavilion?"

Lu Zhou placed the Lantian jade in Conch's hand. He looked at Madam Huang and said, "In the flesh."

No wonder, no wonder. Who could compete against a Nine-leaf cultivator?

Madam Huang bowed emotionally and said, "Penglai Island is forever grateful for your deeds!"

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said, "I've always been reasonable. I took your heavenly scroll and saved your floating island. Apples to apples."

"We're indebted to you, Senior Ji... We never could understand the Penglai Heavenly Scroll in the first place. If it could be used for a greater cause in your hands, Senior Ji. All the more reason for you to have it. In any case, Penglai Island shall erect a monument to remember your deeds, Senior Ji. It'll be consecrated daily."

'Erect a monument to remember his deeds and consecrate it daily?'

This seemed overboard. It sounded awkward as well. Only a dead person would have a monument that was consecrated, right?

Lu Zhou looked at Madam Huang and said, "There's no need for that."

Madam Huang had heard about how the Evil Sky Pavilion Master was someone who rarely changed his mind. When she saw he was determined, she no longer said anything.

At this moment, Little Yuan'er's voice reached them. She flew to Lu Zhou's side, delighted. "Master."

Lu Zhou nodded and asked, "Are you alright?"

Little Yuan'er replied with a smile, "I'm fine." However, as soon as she spoke, her blood essence surged as blood trickled from the edge of her lips, and she nearly fell.

"Sister Yuan'er."

Lu Zhou extended his hand, his energy supporting Little Yuan'er in the air.

When Madam Huang saw this, she hastily said, "The floating island is completely wet. Please follow me to the eastern island."

However, Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "Wait."

"Is there anything else, Senior Ji?"

As he looked down at the four islands, he saw the cultivators who were still desperately struggling. He could hardly find any sympathy in his heart. After muttering to himself for a moment, he said, "Don't leave any survivors from the Taixu Academy..." After a slight pause, he added, "I'll watch from here."

Li Jingyi was inwardly shocked. However, she did not object. This time, they did not even have the chance to be captured as prisoners. They could not blame anyone else for their lots in life. She lowered her gaze and bowed slightly. "I'll get to it."

After she said this, she dove. Her Seven-leaf avatar dove as well. Her avatar swept through the low-ranked cultivators.

For a time, there was a rain of blood.

Chapter 513: To See Your Head

When Lu Zhou carried the floating island on his palm, he had already killed an elite. Even if there were more elites, they would not be able to change the situation much.

Within the Formation, the Penglai Island disciples had the upper hand. The ornamental veins on the umbrellas seemed capable of resisting the suppression from the Formation.

The Seven-leaf Li Jingyi gracefully and calmly tore through the cultivators who trespassed on Penglai Island. Although she was a woman, her aura, after being in the army for many years, was stronger than the others.

Madam Huang hovered in the air, transfixed by Li Jingyi's movements.

This was how the cultivation world operated. It was a dog-eat-dog world.

Some of the cultivators, still in shock, seemed to have gone insane as they laughed before jumping into the water. "Old Villain Ji! He's truly Old Villain Ji..."

In the waters, Luo Yu did not care about the circumstances of the swimmers. With a flash of movement, it killed them.

"The Taixu Academy caused us too much trouble!"

"Curse that Taixu Mirror! It's getting us killed!"

Under extreme circumstances and with a strong will to survive, humans could erupt with terrifying power. A couple of Nascent Divinity elites burned their sea of Qis and charged toward the barrier above.

Lu Zhou raised his palm and launched a palm seal to his left. He raised his other palm and sent one to his right.

The palm seals seemed to have eyes of their own as they chased after their flying targets and shot them down!

Thud!

Thud!

They crashed onto the island's hard rock ground. Their heads were the first to touch the ground and splattered like watermelons, spilling their contents all over the cold surface.

Lu Zhou did not mind using his extraordinary power. Whenever he saw a target taking flight, he sent a palm seal his or her way. When he had firm control over the skies, everything became deathly still. He looked down from his high vantage point and swept his gaze at the land below. 'Who's next?'

Madam Huang was not young or inexperienced. She was well prepared for Penglai Island's huge crisis. The hearts of men were often unpredictable. It was rare to have an exchange of benefits fairly, let alone receiving help with no demand of repayment. She knew how furious Old Senior Ji was. His youngest disciple had been harmed. Could the Taixu Academy still hope for a peaceful end? It was relatively easy for the Taixu Academy disciples on the island. The problem was solved once they were all killed. However, the other members of the Taixu Academy might be dragged into this mess.

Meanwhile, Li Jingyi showed no mercy. As a former genius disciple of the Penglai Sect, she displayed a mighty commanding power at this moment. Starting from the eastern island, the four islands were gradually cleared.

The struggling cultivators registered looks of despair on their faces when they saw the wax paper umbrellas blotting out the sun as they flew toward them. Many fell on their knees and begged for mercy. As for the Taixu Academy disciples, begging for their lives made no difference. Many cultivators tried to fly out of the barrier as well, but they were repelled by the barrier and fell into the sea.

Luo Yu was king in the water. It killed them as they came.

When the smell of blood from the water had dispersed considerably, Luo Yu leaped out of the water with a school of fish in its wake. Tens of thousands of fishes broke the surface of the sea. It was a breathtaking sight to behold.

If Old Senior Ji had not propped up the floating island with a single hand before this, this display alone would have been unforgettable.

The fish let out a collective deep cry, like that of a mandarin duck, that reached Conch's ears.

Conch waved at the fishes. "Goodbye."

Madam Huang regarded Conch with an expression of shock. She said softly, "I didn't expect this little girl to be capable of communicating with Luo Yu. Luo Yu is no ordinary beast. It lived in Penglai for a century. Over 100 years, the Penglai disciples didn't dare to enter or approach the water. I'm surprised to learn that Luo Yu was living right under the floating island."

Lu Zhou said, "When I dove into the sea, the Formation was already damaged. With Luo Yu's wisdom, why would it smash its own foot with a rock?"

"You're saying, Senior Ji, that someone else damaged it?" Madam Huang was shocked.

"That's your problem, and none of my concern."

"Thank you for the reminder, Old Senior Ji."

A moment later, the cultivators who tried to take advantage of the situation were practically cleared away.

As expected of an elite who experienced killings on the battlefield, Li Jingyi was not stained by a single drop of blood after taking care of her enemies. If one did not know her background, it would be difficult to imagine her as a warrior who had served in the army for many years.

Lu Zhou could not have cared less about the condition of the others. This was Penglai Island's matter. He had obtained the Penglai Heavenly Scroll and kept the floating island up. They were now even. The Lantian jade was a welcome surprise.

At this moment, Lu Zhou suddenly remembered Luo Yu. He turned to look at Conch and asked, "Conch, can you understand Luo Yu?"

Conch nodded lightly and said, "Mhm. It said that its child is right below."

"How did you make it follow your orders?" Lu Zhou asked, puzzled.

A vicious beast of the sea such as Luo Yu had cultivated far longer than humans. It had at least cultivated for 100 years or up to tens of thousands of years. Although they were less talented than humans, they accumulated experience over the years. Up until now, humans had not figured out how expansive the seas were.

There was once an Eight-leaf cultivator who tried to cross the Endless Ocean to reach the shore on the other side. However, due to the long flight, his Primal Qi was depleted. He fell into the sea and was devoured by the oceanic beasts.

Many oceanic beasts could fly for short spans of time. It was too dangerous for cultivators to fly too near the surface, and it was a waste of Primal Qi to maintain a high altitude. Hence, no cultivator had successfully crossed the Endless Ocean yet.

Conch shook her head, seemingly at a loss, as she said, "I... I just told it what to do and it listened."

Luo Yu had considerable wisdom, after all. Surely, it did not wish for the floating island to destroy this place.

Madam Huang said with a sigh, "From now on, we'll treat Luo Yu with kindness."

Lu Zhou said, "Once bitten twice shy. Perhaps, Luo Yu will leave this place."

It leaped out of the surface to bid farewell to Conch earlier. That was a clear sign of its departure.

Madam Huang nodded with a helpless expression on her face.

At this moment, Li Jingyi had finished cleaning up the stragglers. She leaped into the air, bowed, and said, "Senior Ji, the Taixu Academy cultivators have been eliminated."

Lu Zhou nodded, pleased.

Madam Huang said at once, "Come with me, please."

Lu Zhou glanced at Conch and Little Yuan'er. Little Yuan'er was injured. She needed to rest here. Hence, he followed Madam Huang and landed on the eastern island.

The Penglai disciples from the other islands, excluding those on the floating island, were already gathered on the plaza outside the great hall.

Ma Qing led the Qingyun Sword Sect as they stood in neat rows outside the great hall as well.

The people were arranged on two sides.

The Penglai disciples, regardless of their strengths, were all looking at the sauntering old man with fearful respect.

In line with Penglai's rules, the disciples bowed in turn to welcome them. It was also a show of respect.

"Welcome, old senior!"

On the steps before the great hall, Madam Huang turned around. She waited for Lu Zhou to walk up the steps. Then, with a deep voice, she said, "Kneel." Her voice resounded across the plaza.

The Penglai disciples, including Li Jingyi, who had left the sect a long time ago, fell to one knee. Their movements were synchronized, and they kept their eyes on the ground.

"Ding! Received devout worship from 2,805 individuals. Reward: 28,050 merit points."

Everyone was sincere in their worshipping.

With a clear voice, Madam Huang said, "Senior Ji kept the island afloat with a single palm and saved Penglai while we were in crisis. Please allow me to salute you." This time, she formally and respectfully saluted him.

Lu Zhou waved his hand, a surge of energy stopped her.

"There's no need for this," Lu Zhou said, "It won't do for the great Penglai Island's mistress to kneel before another."

"You're right, senior." Madam Huang was moved.

At this moment, Lu Zhou suddenly said with a stern voice, "Well? Aren't you going to show yourself?"

The others were shocked! They looked to their sides.

The Penglai disciples got to their feet hastily and searched the area. They thought there were still stragglers hiding amongst them.

"No, no, no..." Behind the door of the great hall, a figure flitted out. The man held a sword in one hand and raised the other as he walked out of the great hall with a smile on his face.

The others focused their gazes on him.

Many Penglai disciples tightened their grips on their weapons tighter, filled with the urge to charge at the newcomer.

However, Madam Huang exclaimed in shock, "Liu Chen?"

“Mistress, that name sounds awful. Call me Aijian... The Ai means ‘love’ and Jian means ‘sword’. In other words, Sword Freak or greatest sword under the heavens...” Jiang Aijian shamelessly said.

Madam Huang frowned slightly.

When he said this, the Penglai Island disciples seemed to stir with emotions.

“Eldest Senior Brother?”

“Is it really Eldest Senior Brother Liu Chen?”

Jiang Aijian raised his hand again and waved at the crowd. He said, “That’s right. Back by popular demand, I’m the Penglai genius cultivator, the handsome and cool sword path Eldest Senior Brother Jiang... Ai...Jian!” He emphasized his name.

Lu Zhou said in a deep voice, “Had enough fun?”

Jiang Aijian stumbled. He bowed with a chuckle. “Nothing escapes you, old senior. I’ve been observing for a long time. I’ve even taken care of several elites who wanted to attack the little girl... Little girl, don’t give me that look. All in a day’s work.”

Little Yuan’er bit back the pain and spat on the ground.

Conch followed suit and spat on the ground as well.

Jiang Aijian. “???”

Lu Zhou said, “I had to hold up an entire island with a single hand while you seem to be having a good time watching the show in the shadows.”

“Old senior, that’s unfair and untrue!” Jiang Aijian waved his hands frantically. “I killed several of their members in secret. They were all first-rate elites. Look at my arm, there are wounds from swords.”

“Hm?” Lu Zhou frowned.

Jiang Aijian no longer dared to retort. He hastily said, “You’re right... You’re completely right.”

Lu Zhou remembered that Li Jingyi had displayed some powerful umbrella cultivation techniques during the battle at Liang Province and Upper Prime City. However, he did not relate those to Penglai back then. In hindsight, it was not surprising for the two of them to be Penglai Island disciples at all.

“Jiang Aijian, you cultivated Dao Invisibility and love sword techniques. Penglai is known for its umbrella cultivators. How did this work out?” Lu Zhou asked as he stroked his beard.

“An umbrella is not fit for a man... I like the sword better,” Jiang Aijian said as he hugged his sword close to his chest.

Madam Huang stepped forward and grabbed Jiang Aijian’s ear. “You bastard.”

“Ow... that hurts! Mistress, let go, let go...”

Madam Huang pushed him away and reprimanded him, “Penglai was in danger, and yet, you remain stubborn and rowdy.”

"I came as soon as I could... Junior Sister Jingyi came after me, you know?" Jiang Aijian covered his ear and retreated.

Madam Huang gave it some thought. Penglai had survived this crisis anyway. Jiang Aijian's personality had been this way since the beginning. He must have expended much effort in secret that they did not know about. In the end, she sighed and said, "I'm grateful for all of you."

Jiang Aijian shook his head and said, "I don't dare take credit. It's thanks to Old Senior Ji for the island afloat. It wasn't even this exciting when Old Senior Ji defeated the ten great elites! This is even more exhilarating to watch!"

Propping up the island with a single palm was indeed magnificent, but it used up nearly all of Lu Zhou's extraordinary power. If it were not for Luo Yu's magical power, he could not have maintained it.

At this moment, a faint green light glowed at Lu Zhou's side.

Madam Huang, Jiang Aijian, and Li Jingyi looked to the side at once. They were looking at Conch's palm.

"The Lantian jade?"

Chapter 514: The Jade in Lantian Smokes Under the Sun

The sudden radiance drew everyone's attention to it.

Lu Zhou turned to look as well. However, he had to treat Little Yuan'er's injuries now. He said, "Put it away for now."

"Oh." Conch did not want to part with this jade.

Jiang Aijian said, "The Lantian jade can be made into a pendant. It has protective and reconstructive properties on one's internal organs and Extraordinary Eight Meridians... Mhm, it's well suited for this little girl. Eh, little girl, you don't look too good."

"..."

"Come inside," Madam Huang said immediately.

They went into the great hall.

Although Penglai Island's fame and strength were not comparable to the Evil Sky Pavilion, each of the islands had its own palace. That was not something ordinary sects could afford.

Inside the palace.

Madam Huang said, "Men."

"Yes, mistress."

"Go and fetch Doctor Fang." Madam Huang turned to face Lu Zhou. "Doctor Fang is a skilled healer, and the best we have on Penglai Island. She'll be fine in his hands."

Lu Zhou raised his hand and said, "No need."

Madam Huang was taken aback. She did not understand.

At this moment, Lu Zhou's palm was already raised. Faint blue light shone from between his fingers. A miniature blue lotus emerged from his palm. He pushed forward lightly. The blue lotus fell onto Little Yuan'er's body like willow seeds.

Little Yuan'er felt comfortable when the blue lotus fell on her. She shut her eyes despite herself.

Conch looked at Little Yuan'er with a guilty expression. It was clear she blamed herself for Little Yuan'er getting injured. She looked at the Cloud Feather Raiment she was wearing; if Little Yuan'er had not given her the precious garment to wear, Little Yuan'er might not have gotten injured.

The blue lotus enlarged and blossomed in a blink of an eye. Powerful vitality was surged out.

"This is..." Madam Huang was dumbfounded. She had never seen such a healing technique before.

Jiang Aijian spread his arms and said, "I don't know what it is either... There are plenty of wonders in the world. Humans were even killed by Luo Yu. What's there to be surprised about?"

Madam Huang nodded. When the Penglai Patriarch obtained the heavenly scroll, he merely studied a small part of it. To this day, nobody could understand it. It was normal for there to be new and mysterious techniques. Senior Ji's feat of holding up the island alone was unprecedented in itself.

After the blue lotus's radiance faded, Little Yuan'er opened her eyes slowly.

"How do you feel?" Lu Zhou asked.

Little Yuan'er moved her limbs about and said, "It doesn't hurt anymore."

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said with a nod, "You'll have to recuperate for three days before you'll be completely healed."

Conch said remorsefully, "It's my fault for holding you back."

Conch's words drew everyone's attention to her.

Jiang Aijian wondered out loud, "Old Senior Ji, is she your new disciple?"

Lu Zhou shook his head.

"Her foundations and talents are great. She's comparable to your ninth disciple. You certainly have a discerning eye."

"She directly entered the Mystic Enlightening realm," Lu Zhou said,

"Huh?" Jiang Aijian's jaw dropped. His mouth remained agape for a long time. He had personally seen Conch control Luo Yu as it flew around the floating island. With that power alone, the major sects would have fought over her. How could he not be shocked to find out she had directly entered the Mystic Enlightening realm naturally?

As the saying went, 'Comparing oneself to others would only give rise to endless misery'.

"Jiang Aijian."

"Yes... I'm here." Jiang Aijian shuddered and raised his hand at once.

“What’s the situation inside the palace?” Lu Zhou asked.

Jiang Aijian shook his head and said, “Senior Ji, the lotus-severing method is widely spread. Everyone’s using every waking minute to try and get ahead of the others. Your first disciple is going about conquering cities. Your seventh disciple is slightly more excessive. He has eyes on me even when I’m using the toilet. He’s a perv... I mean, great.”

“What’s Liu Gu doing now?” Lu Zhou asked.

“Well... When the Emperor was mentioned, Jiang Aijian hesitated. At the end of the day, he was Great Yan’s Third Prince. After the Jinghe Palace was burned down many years ago, he left the palace and joined Penglai, eventually becoming the Sword Freak. However, Liu Gu was still his father no matter what. In truth, this was the reason why Jiang Aijian had seldom been in contact with the Evil Sky Pavilion lately. He had foreseen that the Imperial family was on a collision course with the Evil Sky Pavilion and that the situation would only escalate.

Yu Zhenghai’s advances had pushed the Imperial family into a corner. The more frustrating thing was that the Imperial family had taunted the Evil Sky Pavilion several times. Even the Taixu Academy and the Hengqu Branch, which had been active lately, had gotten close to the Imperial family.

“He’s your father, after all,” Lu Zhou said knowingly.

Jiang Aijian remained silent.

Lu Zhou continued, “You’ve been my source for so long. Even if there weren’t any meritorious deeds, you’ve worked hard. If only you tell me...”

“...” Jiang Aijian widened his eyes slightly. In other words, could he be spared if he told Lu Zhou what he knew? His thoughts were immediately transported back to the past. The scenes in Jinghe Palace replayed in his mind. There was his tutor whom he feared and respected at the same time; his cultivation teacher who put him on the path of the cultivation world; and his biological mother... whose face he had long forgotten... Everything seemed close enough to touch, but they were from a time that could not be reversed.

After what seemed like hours, Jiang Aijian’s smile was replaced by a solemn expression. It was rare for him to be so serious. He bowed at Lu Zhou and said, “The fates of each man are pre-determined... I’ve done all I could.”

Lu Zhou nodded. With his hands behind his back, he walked up to Jiang Aijian and regarded with a deep look. “You’re smart.”

Jiang Aijian remained silent.

“Regardless if you begged for mercy or not, it wouldn’t change my mind...”

Jiang Aijian felt speechless. ‘Then what was all the talk about meritorious deeds and hard work about?’ He was shocked as well. Clearly, the old senior had asked this question because he did not want him to be an obstacle in his path. When he thought about this, a chill ran down his spine.

“However... In light of your special relationship with Liu Gu, I won’t make you meddle in the affairs of the Imperial family from now on.”

When he heard this, Jiang Aijian cupped his fists at Lu Zhou. "Thank you, old senior."

If he was not going to meddle with the Imperial family's affairs, he would certainly be assigned to other tasks... Jiang Aijian suddenly remembered something. He hastily said, "Senior Ji... That Luo woman you told me to look for, there's no way of searching for her!"

"Little is known about her at the moment. That's also the reason why I'm here," Lu Zhou said.

"Luo woman?" Madam Huang asked, puzzled.

Jiang Aijian said, "This Luo woman helped Yun Tianluo become the leader of the Three Sects 300 years ago. She's gifted in tune as well. I haven't found anything about her up until now. It's like looking for a needle at the bottom of the ocean!"

"How could a woman like that remain unknown?" Madam Huang was perplexed.

"You're right, mistress. She's someone without a reputation... In any case, I couldn't find out anything about her. I don't think Si Wuya can as well," Jiang Aijian said.

At this moment, Conch held up the Lantian jade and said, "Hot, hot... It's hot."

The Lantian jade was emitting green smoke.

"Quick, quick, quick... Place it under the sun," Jiang Aijian said urgently.

Conch was slightly stunned. She looked at Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou nodded and said, "Go."

Conch ran out of the palace and placed the Lantian jade on the steps.

The sun shone on the Lantian jade. The green smoke thickened as it rose into the air.

Under the sunlight, the Lantian jade seemed to glow vividly.

With a deep voice, Lu Zhou said, "Raise your hands, regulate your breathing, and focus your mind."

"Oh." Conch did as she was told.

Lu Zhou waved his hand. The Lantian jade floated.

The sunlight seemed to be melting the Lantian jade.

"Acknowledge your owner."

Swish!

Lu Zhou fired an energy blade that pricked Conch's finger.

A drop of blood flew toward the Lantian jade under his energy's guidance.

A crackle rang in the air.

The Lantian jade seemed to have been activated. It grew softer as it released a gentle and green glow.

The Penglai disciples before the palace wore envious expressions on their faces.

Chapter 515: Whose Flute is Playing in the Night?

There was no need to elaborate on the rarity of the Lantian jade. Anyone who obtained it was certainly someone who had a lot of luck.

There were those who once risked their lives by traversing the ocean to capture various beasts and kill them in search of the Lantian jade. For a considerable period of time, the Lantian jade became a rare treasure in the cultivation world's black market. However, the oceanic beasts were too ferocious. Low-rank cultivators dared not cross the sea while high-rank cultivators did not care much for the jade. With this, the Lantian jade's rarity increased.

At this moment, the Lantian jade seemed like it was going to acknowledge its owner.

Envious or not, this was something everyone wanted to see.

The drop of blood that flew out from Conch's slender finger activated the Lantian jade and turned the green smoke crimson.

The Lantian jade seemed to liquify as it hovered formlessly in the air.

"What shape do you want it to take?"

A jade pendant, a hanging ornament, a bangle, or a necklace... It was up to her.

Lu Zhou thought about the accessories that girls liked. He was prepared to fix its shape for her with his energy.

Conch looked at the floating Lantian jade happily. She replied without hesitating, "A flute."

"A flute?"

The others were puzzled. A Lantian jade was more suited to be worn as an accessory to modify one's Extraordinary Eight Meridians. It was their first time hearing someone wanting to turn it into a flute.

Regardless, the shape of the jade was up to Conch. No matter how good the item was, if it was not to her liking, it was useless.

Lu Zhou knew Conch was gifted in tune. Perhaps, a flute might just be what she needed. The short flute she brought back from Jing Province was only an ordinary flute and would not stand the test of time. The new flute would be a good match for her.

"Alright." Lu Zhou waved his hand. Energy wrapped around the Lantian jade.

Under the sun's rays, the Lantian jade was slowly taking shape. A moment later, the green smoke dispersed, revealing an almost translucent and glittering Lantian jade flute.

The sunlight was dazzlingly reflected off the jade flute's surface. Its surface was smooth enough to reflect the images of the others. The flute was beautiful and exquisite.

Soon enough, the dazzling Lantian Jade Flute flew into Conch's hand. It was cold to the touch in the beginning before it gradually rose to her temperature.

“If it were me, I’d have chosen a sword... The Lantian Jade Sword. Trading ten years of my life for it wouldn’t even be too much...” Jiang Aijian clicked his tongue and muttered under his breath. He was almost drooling as he looked at the jade flute. The more he thought about it, the more he felt Dragonsong was not as stunning as he had initially thought it was.

Conch held the flute and looked at it in admiration. It was exactly what she wanted. After playing with it for a moment, she looked up at Lu Zhou and politely said, “Thank you.”

Jiang Aijian asked, “You know how to play the flute?”

Conch did not answer him. Instead, she brought the Lantian Jade Flute to her lips, playing a fast-paced melody. There were no unnecessary notes or mellifluous melody. It was different from the tunes she used to play. The quick notes resonated in the air. When it reached the sea’s surface, schools of fishes leaped out of the sea in beautiful arcs!

Conch only played it once. However, once was enough to prove her mystical talent and ability.

Jiang Aijian’s mouth was agape as he stared at the four islands, where the sound of the flute reached, as schools of fishes leaped out from the sea. He applauded and said, “Congratulations, Senior Ji! You’ve obtained another little ancestor.”

Conch turned to look at Jiang Aijian and repeated his words quizzically, “Little ancestor?”

“Don’t mind him. No ivory can come from the mouth of a dog,” Little Yuan’er said as she held Conch’s arm.

“Oh.” Conch nodded.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard, satisfied. It seemed like the Lantian Jade Flute was a much more formidable weapon compared to normal heaven-grade weapons. If Conch could enter the ranks of grand cultivators in the future, she would be able to control more powerful beasts.

Lu Zhou noticed Conch seemed to be in a better state with the Lantian Jade Flute’s influence. He asked, “How do you feel?”

Conch raised the Lantian Jade Flute, looked at it, and said, “I like it.”

“Give me your hand,” Lu Zhou said.

Conch extended her arm obediently.

Lu Zhou placed two fingers on her wrist. He could sense her Extraordinary Eight Meridians were being nourished by a faint energy. He was shocked. “Is this the effect of the Lantian jade?”

He could even feel that Conch’s five orifices were opened. Who would believe him if he told them this?

In the annals of history, it was recorded that genius cultivators could open one orifice in the morning and open five orifices in the afternoon to enter the Brahman Sea realm. This was the limit of humans.

Although Conch had skipped a few steps, she was essentially uninitiated in cultivation. She had never meditated or deliberately cultivated and had directly progressed. It was mind-boggling.

Lu Zhou decided to wait until Conch could harness the full potential of the Lantian Jade Flute. If she could cultivate, he would accept her as a disciple.

...

After everything was almost completely dealt with, Lu Zhou turned to look at Jiang Aijian and said, "Jiang Aijian."

Jiang Aijian raised his hand again, almost reflexively. "Here, here, here..."

"Notify Taixu Academy's Lin Xin to give me an explanation within seven days," Lu Zhou said.

Jiang Aijian was shocked by Lu Zhou's words. However, he did not dare to have an opinion. He only bowed and said, "Understood."

At this moment, Lu Zhou recalled the red coffin and said, "Also, the Luo woman... might be from somewhere else."

Since the person in the coffin was certain about the existence of the Nine-leaf and Ten-leaf stage, it was possible that he was from the same place as the Luo woman.

'What a headache. Will I be able to find you?' It was meaningless for him to ponder on it now. He could only take his time to find her.

"I'll search for her as best as I can," Jiang Aijian replied.

Lu Zhou nodded and walked out of the palace.

Little Yuan'er and Conch followed him.

When Jiang Aijian saw this, he knew they were leaving. He escorted them out of the palace with Madam Huang and the others. He bowed. "Safe journey, old senior."

On the plaza in front of the palace, 2,800 disciples said in unison, "Safe journey, senior."

Lu Zhou and the others left on Whizard's back. They vanished from sight in an instant.

After Lu Zhou left, Jiang Aijian carried his sword, cleared his throat, and said narcissistically, "Aren't all of you going to greet your handsome and cool Eldest Senior Brother?"

The crowd stepped forward.

"Eldest Senior Brother, Eldest Senior Brother... How did you get acquainted with Senior Ji?"

"Eldest Senior Brother, is Senior Ji really at the Nine-leaf stage? What a shame that we didn't get to see it today!"

"Eldest Senior Brother, the person I admire the most in the Evil Sky Pavilion is Mister Second, the Sword Devil, Yu Shangrong. Is he handsome? Tell me, tell me! Eldest Senior Brother, why aren't you saying anything?"

Jiang Aijian. "???"

Li Jingyi could not help but cover her mouth as she tried to stifle her laughter. She was used to awkward situations like this. Without thinking much about it, she walked toward the shore and looked up at the sky.

The sun shone on the Penglai Island, lending it an air of magnificence.

“Could a human truly hold up an island with his hand?”

...

In the deepest part of Moonlight Woodland, the Misty Forest.

In a bottomless abyss.

A glittering water droplet slid off a leaf and dropped on Ye Tianxin’s fair face.

She opened her eyes, still groggy. ‘What happened? Am I dreaming?’

When she saw the scene before her eyes, she was deeply in awe.

Vines crawled all over the extremely tall cliff face. Various beasts flew in the air. Their sizes ranged from being as large as mountains to as delicate as butterflies.

Ye Tianxin trembled as she sat up. “Where is this place?”

As soon as she got up, something moved under her.

Ye Tianxin cried out involuntarily, “Cheng Huang!”

Her memories came crashing back to her at this moment. She was not dreaming! This was real! The creature that carried her off the cliff was Cheng Huang, the beast that she had been painstakingly searching for. She traversed all of Great Yan, through fields and mountains, through the nations of the Other Tribes, crossing thousands of miles, just to find it.

Ouu!

Cheng Huang stood up and looked behind.

Their eyes met. It was like placing a soccer ball next to a soybean.

Chapter 516: Legacy of the Fairfolk

Ye Tianxin tried her best to calm her racing heart and maintained her stillness. Her instincts told her that Cheng Huang was not hostile. Otherwise, she would have been dead long ago.

“Cheng Huang?”

Cheng Huang did not respond. Its delicate eyelashes moved as its eyes moved.

“Do you recognize me?” Ye Tianxin attempted to communicate with it.

However, Cheng Huang could not speak the tongue of men. It merely looked at her silently.

Just when Ye Tianxin was about to try again...

Ou!

Cheng Huang cried out. Then, it stepped forward and ran.

Ye Tianxin nearly lost her footing. She quickly circulated her Primal Qi to stabilize herself. With her previous experience in mind, she was not in much of a wretched state compared to before. She quickly held tight with energy seals and faced forward.

The endless forest was ahead of her, countless winged beasts were above her, and countless vicious beasts were around her.

Ye Tianxin was greatly shocked by the sight.

Cheng Huang leaped across a small forest patch before it finally descended and came to a halt. Then, it sat on the ground and raised its head, letting out a cry that was clearer and louder than before.

Ou!

Its cry resounded through the surroundings, instantly causing the beasts in the vicinity to scamper away.

Ye Tianxin looked at the skies. She noticed a 100-foot tall stone statue opposite a lake. The statue was of a woman.

Ye Tianxin who was shocked by this sight flew over and landed near the statue's feet. She discovered the word 'Fairfolk' etched on the statue's feet. There were smaller rows of letters protected by Formation veins. However, with the erosion that came with time, the carvings were no longer illegible. They were now a collection of dents and holes.

For some unknown reason, when Ye Tianxin saw the word 'Fairfolk', tough as she was, she could not control her emotions and began to cry.

Scenes of the past played out in her mind.

The citizens of the Fish Dragon Village seemed to be standing before her.

Alas, everything had changed.

However, her efforts had paid off. Her hard work was worth it.

Cheng Huang cried out at this moment, pulling her back from her thoughts.

Ye Tianxin quickly calmed herself down before she turned around. She stood at the feet of the statue, dressed in garments as white as snow. Her gaze seemed more in her garments as white as snow. Her gaze seemed more steadfast than before.

"Cheng Huang, I, Ye Tianxin, have found you."

Cheng Huang lowered its head and body. Its nose touched the surface of the lake.

The small lake was only the size of its palm.

Ye Tianxin was puzzled. "Are you telling me to drink from the lake?"

Cheng Huang shook its head.

“Bathe?”

Cheng Huang nodded.

Ye Tianxin. “...”

She was a woman, after all. How could she not feel embarrassed about bathing out in the open?

Swoosh!

Cheng Huang suddenly swung its paw at her.

Ye Tianxin started. She instinctively conjured up her Primal Qi and condense it into energy to defend herself.

Bam!

Ye Tianxin was sent flying.

Splash!

She fell into the lake.

Ye Tianxin poked her head out of the water with a quizzical expression on her face.

Cheng Huang lowered its head and looked at her with what seemed like a helpless expression. It raised its paw as though to say it had been gentle with her. Then, wind stirred in the air as it turned around and leaped away.

When the place finally fell silent, Cheng Huang was no longer anywhere to be seen.

Meanwhile, she felt the warmth from the lake... The water contained some unique Primal Qi that was surging toward her. It felt exceptionally comfortable. “What a unique lake!”

She lowered her head and was amazed to find a huge Formation at the bottom of the lake.

The Formation illuminated the entire water body and shone through the surface, casting an imprint of its veins in the skies.

The Primal Qi contained within the Formation began to surge wildly into her body at this moment, and she felt her dantian’s sea of Qi filling up. She was shocked to discover her cultivation base was improving just by submerging herself in the lake!

The energy from the lake kept surging toward her.

She did not dare to let her thoughts wander. She quickly sat with her legs crossed, half-submerged in the lake, and closed her eyes.

Primal Qi began to gather around her at an alarming speed.

...

The next day.

In the discussion hall of the Taixu Academy.

“The Evil Sky Pavilion is an insufferable bully! They killed 100 of our disciples at the heaven worship platform and another 100 on Penglai Island... Jiang Renyi, Jiang Lizhi, and Yuan Chong all died in battle. The Golden Taixu Mirror has also been taken by the Evil Sky Pavilion! I can't let this enmity go!” Xiao Shan, the president, said.

“That's right... The Evil Sky Pavilion has gone too far. Patriarch... we can't just let this slide.”

At this moment, one of the elders rained on their parade and said, “The Evil Sky Pavilion's Ji Tiandao is at the Nine-leaf stage... How are you planning to seek revenge?”

They were loud when they vented their anger earlier, but they were rendered speechless now.

Seated higher than the others, Lin Xin frowned slightly and said, “A warrior may be killed but never humiliated... The Taixu Academy has always been on good terms with the Divine Capital and never colluded with parties of dishonest conduct. If we make a request to the Divine Capital's Imperial family to intervene, maybe use the Ten Terminal Formation to lay out an inescapable net, perhaps, we can capture a Nine-leaf cultivator.”

“That's right! A warrior may be killed but never humiliated! Old Villain Ji has never regarded us as humans! His Majesty has been experiencing successive breakthroughs. He might be the next Nine-leaf cultivator after Old Villain Ji. When that time comes, we'll see how the old villain can remain as obnoxious as he is now!”

At this moment, the voice of one of the disciples rang from outside...

“Report! A letter from the Divine Capital.”

“The Divine Capital? Who is it from?”

The disciple opened the letter and said, “It... it looks like it's from the Evil Sky Pavilion.”

Why would a letter of the Evil Sky Pavilion be sent from the Divine Capital? With no time to dwell upon it, Li Xin said, “Read it.”

The disciple scanned the contents of the letter. Various expressions flitted across his face as he read the letter.

Xiao Shan, the president, frowned and said impatiently, “You were told to read the letter. Be quick about it!”

The disciple gulped before he began to read aloud, “I'm the first Nine-leaf expert under the heavens, the master of the Evil Sky Pavilion, master of nine disciples, do you fear me now? I'm demanding an explanation from Lin Xin, the Patriarch of the Taixu Academy Patriarch, within seven days. If you fail to do so, I'll kill your entire family! Ha-ha-ha!”

The others frowned. They regarded the disciple with puzzled expressions. “???”

Were these the words of the Evil Sky Pavilion's Patriarch, Ji Tiandao? Was it not some hooligan impersonating him? They had their doubts, but none of them dared to say anything.

Bam!

The old Lin Xin slammed his palm on the table, causing it to shatter immediately. "He's bullying us just because he's a Nine-leaf cultivator... I'll be damned if there isn't a way for us to deal with him!"

However, Xiao Shan who was seated next to Lin Xin suddenly rose to his feet and said, "Patriarch... Why don't you... apologize to him?"

"Hm?" Lin Xin glared at Xiao Shan.

The elders around Lin Xin rose to their feet and bowed at him as well.

"Patriarch, the Taixu Academy has suffered a lot to reach where we are today. We can't afford to offend the Evil Sky Pavilion."

"That's right. The Evil Sky Pavilion's villain doesn't bat an eyelid when he kills someone. None of the ten great sects had a good end. The Taixu Academy has worked hard to be where it is today. We can't let it be destroyed overnight!"

"When one of us attains the Nine-leaf stage in the future, we'll surely get our revenge, but until then..."

Lin Xin's wizened face and eyelids twitched. Just moments ago, were they not filled with indignation due to the injustice of the situation? It did not seem like they thought much of a Nine-leaf cultivator when they were cursing him earlier. Was it... all an act?

Lin Xin's gaze darkened. He looked at them resentfully for not meeting his expectations. He said through gritted teeth, "I'd rather die than submit! I'll head to the Divine Capital tomorrow. I'll see who can do anything to me then!"

"..."

...

Meanwhile, the story of the Evil Sky Pavilion's Patriarch holding up the floating island with his hand spread like a wildfire.

It spread to Yu Province City. It was the talk of the people in the taverns and teahouses. Some even made it into a saga and wrote songs about it.

"Comrade, I'm sorry to bother you. Can you repeat your tale about how the Evil Sky Pavilion's Patriarch propped up the floating island with his hand?" a green-robed swordsman to a cultivator opposite him in a teahouse.

"If you want to hear it, I'll tell you all about it..." the cultivator replied with a smile.

Chapter 517: The Old Sword Devil is Back

He poured a cup of water for himself, straightened his back, and said, "The Penglai Sect seldom dealt with the outside world. They managed to gain a foothold in the cultivation world thanks to their Five Islands Formation. Somehow, recently, there was a glitch in their Formation. The floating island is the core island of Penglai. Its 10,000 feet in length, and its weight is immeasurable. It only stayed afloat due to the powerful Formation... If the island sinks into the ocean, the other four islands will surely sink as

well.” He stopped for a moment when he realized the others in the surroundings were talking about it as well. Then, he continued to say with a smile on his face, “Alas, the Penglai Sect had no allies. The island master, Huang Shijie, an Eight-leaf expert, invited various sects to lend them a helping hand. Unfortunately, they were all ravenous wolves with ambitions of their own. They wanted to take advantage of the situation, naturally, they wished for the floating island to sink. In the end, somehow, Old Senior Ji went to Penglai. When the floating island sank, the four islands descended into chaos. Coincidentally and also, unfortunately, Huang Shijie wasn’t around...”

The cultivator continued to say animatedly, “One thing led to another, the Evil Sky Pavilion’s Patriarch, a Nine-leaf elite, killed the Taixu Academy’s Jiang Lizhi with a single strike. With the strength of Atlas, he held up the floating island with a single hand. He brought it out of the ocean, 100 meters up in the air. Everyone was, naturally, frightened. In the end, he obtained the Golden Taixu Mirror and the Penglai Heavenly Scroll.”

There was a hubbub of discussion in the teahouse.

Many of them had heard this story multiple times, but they could not get enough of it.

The green-robed swordsman smiled and asked, “How do you know so much about this, comrade?”

“I’ve always admired the Evil Sky Pavilion. I always keep an ear out for anything that has to do with the Evil Sky Pavilion,” the man replied with a faint smile on his face.

The green-robed swordsman nodded.

The man’s gaze fell on the scabbard in the green-robed swordsman’s hand. He said with a smile, “Dear sir, that sword you got there bears some semblance to the sword of the Evil Sky Pavilion’s Yu Shangrong.”

“Is that so?” The green-robed swordsman looked at his sword with a straight face.

“Why, of course... I heard that the Sword Devil is back with a new hit list and that he’s in this Yu Province City now...” the man said.

“Do you know him as well, my friend?” The green-robed swordsman was as gentle as ever.

The man placed his teacup on the table. He chuckled and said, “I’ve heard about him, that’s all.”

“In that case, do you know... that you’re on his hit list as well?” The green-robed swordsman smiled faintly.

“Hm?”

Bzzt! Bzzt! Bzzt!

The sword in the green-robed swordsman’s hand vibrated slightly.

The man was shocked. He looked at the green-robed swordsman, horrified.

The green-robed swordsman said, “Mouse King, Li Cang... I’m sorry, but your time is up.”

The Mouse King, Li Cang's eyes widened. Realization finally dawned on him. He looked at the polite and gentle green-clad gentleman sitting opposite him as he said tremblingly in a hoarse voice, "Sword Devil!"

Zing!

The Longevity Sword left its scabbard!

With lightning speed, the energy sword shot toward Li Cang.

The runes flickered with energy, gleaming coldly.

Zing!

The Longevity Sword returned to its scabbard.

It was as though nothing had happened. All of these happened in just a blink of an eye, leaving everyone unaware.

After the Longevity Sword returned to its scabbard, a weak energy surged into the scabbard.

The surroundings were as lively as ever. The customers continued chatting away merrily. Everything went on as normal.

Yu Shangrong raised his teacup and took a sip. He placed it back down and looked at Li Cang, the Mouse King, who was seated opposite himself. He smiled faintly. "Goodbye."

After Yu Shangrong went down the stairs and vanished from sight, Li Cang remained motionless like before. His eyes were half-open as though he did not have time to fully open them. A hint of fear and shock could still be seen on his face. His lips were slightly parted, but no sound came from it.

The Mouse King, Li Cang, was the best scout of Yu Province's garrison general. He was skilled in gathering intel from various sources, infiltrating enemy bases, and creating opportunities for the army. He was a competent subordinate of Ji Qingqing, one of the eight great commanders! He usually kept a low-profile in the teahouse. He would listen to the others brag about their glorious experiences. This was the first time he had spoken about what he knew. However, he clearly did not expect to run into the Evil Sky Pavilion's Yu Shangrong. Alas, it was too late.

After what seemed like hours, the teahouse's waiter came to clear the table.

"Sir... sir?"

When the waiter saw Li Cang, the Mouse King, keeping quiet, he waved his hand in front of Li Cang's face.

Still no reaction.

Hence, he poked Li Cang.

Thud!

In just a split second, Li Cang, the Mouse King, fell backward.

At this moment, a bloody slit appeared on his neck, and blood began to gush out.

“Murder!”

“There has been a murder!”

...

Inside the General’s Mansion in Jing Province.

Yu Zhenghai was discussing his next course of action with Si Wuya.

Hua Chongyang hurried into the room with the Darknet’s information in his hand. He bowed and said, “Sect master, Mister Seventh, Yu Zhou’s Mouse King, Li Cang, has been assassinated. It was a sword slash from the front...” Then, he drew a finger over his neck.

“How many times does this make?” Yu Zhenghai asked with his hands on his back.

“This is the fifth time this month... The garrison general of Yu Province is one of the eight great generals from the Divine Capital, Ji Qingqing. The five deceased are her subordinates,” Hua Chongyang replied.

Yu Zhenghai said, “Jing Province’s General Wen Shu included, that makes six. Who’s this person? Do we have anything on him?”

Hua Chongyang shook his head and said, “This man made a hit list, just like Mister Second did. He would add names to the list every few days. Unlike Mister Second’s hit list, it seems like this hit list is intended to scare the others. Those who leave Yu Province may live while those who are stubborn will be killed without exception.”

“Interesting, interesting... If I’m able to meet this interesting person in the future, I must form a friendship with him!” Yu Zhenghai bluntly said.

Si Wuya asked, “Is it possible that the person is Second Senior Brother?”

Yu Zhenghai’s expression darkened. “Him?”

“Under the heavens, I’m afraid Second Senior Brother is the only one who can kill his opponent in such a direct manner.” After saying this, Si Wuya quickly added, “Of course, this includes you, Eldest Senior Brother. In fact, you’re probably better.”

“Wise brother, do you really think that it’s him?” Yu Zhenghai turned around and looked at Si Wuya.

Si Wuya was taken aback. He said, “Perhaps, I’m just overthinking.”

“That’s what I think as well.”

Hua Chongyang understood the situation so he did not comment on it. He bowed and said, “I have another matter to report.”

“Let’s hear it.”

Hua Chongyang produced a stack of papers and said, “The incident of Senior Ji holding up the floating island with a single hand is currently spreading. From what I know now, it seems like the news isn’t fabricated.”

Yu Zhenghai took the papers and looked through them. They were mainly ditties and limericks sung by the general public.

After going through them, Yu Zhenghai tossed the papers on the table and said with a laugh, "Regardless of its authenticity, this is good news for us. With the Evil Sky Pavilion's fearsome reputation, the cultivators of Great Yan will think twice before meddling in the affairs between the Nether Sect and the Imperial family."

Si Wuya said, "But, Eldest Senior Brother, master doesn't like you using the name of the Evil Sky Pavilion..."

Yu Zhenghai shook his head and said, "Wise brother... You're intelligent, but even you can have a lapse in judgment."

Si Wuya was puzzled.

Yu Zhenghai said shamelessly, "Master has made it clear that he's not going to go easy on me... In that case, I might as well do as I please."

"..."

He was going to be punished anyway. He would still suffer the same consequences if he did not do this. He might as well do as he pleased.

Hua Chongyang said, "When Island Master Huang heard that Senior Ji propped the island up with a single hand, he hurried back to Penglai Island without stopping to rest."

Yu Zhenghai nodded.

Huang Shijie had been helping the Nether Sect lately. When Penglai Island was in danger, he was helping the Nether Sect here. In terms of morality, it had been more than enough.

"Very well." This meant that he would have one less helper in his quest to conquer Yu Province. However, with a mysterious elite helping him in the shadows, he felt less pressured.

...

Inside the abyss of the Moonlight Woodland.

There was no sun to help Ye Tianxin keep count of the days. All she could do was estimate the time.

After what seemed like days, Ye Tianxin felt that her dantian's sea of Qi was completely filled. She opened her eyes slowly.

Chapter 518: Seven-leaf Ye Tianxin

Ye Tianxin conjured up her Primal Qi and leaped out of the lake into the sky. She hovered in the air as she looked down at the lake.

The glow from the Formation had faded. Most of the Primal Qi had been absorbed by her. She raised her hand and studied her palm.

Whizz!

A dainty and delicate Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar floated above her palm. Six leaves spun around the Golden Lotus under its feet.

Ye Tianxin circulated her Primal Qi. Rings of energy appeared on the avatar and traveled downward.

Winged beasts flew between the valleys. However, none of them dared to linger.

The bright moon seemed like something from a painting. It remained in the night sky, never setting.

The top of the abyss seemed too far away to be seen.

The energy rings whizzed as they traveled down the avatar's body like hula hoops.

Ye Tianxin focused her mind. Although she had absorbed a huge amount of power, she could still feel the difficulty of sprouting a leaf. She steadied her breathing and willed herself to focus. 'Again!'

The radiant rings' brightness intensified.

Her unwavering determination increased the avatar's brightness.

Whizz!

A soft sound rang in the air.

Ye Tianxin was surprised to discover one of the corners of the Golden Lotus was parting. It did not take long before a shining golden leaf sprouted.

The appearance of this leaf immediately made her Extraordinary Eight Meridians flow extremely smoothly and her dantian's sea of Qi grew. The rich Primal Qi in her body was instantly channeled into her sea of Qi.

A breakthrough!

Seven-leaf Hundred Tribulations Insight.

Ye Tianxin was overjoyed. She summoned her avatar.

It enlarged rapidly. Her original Six-leaf avatar was only about 80 feet tall. After reaching the Seven-leaf stage, it was now 90 feet tall.

She flew forward with her avatar. Alas, she had barely flown for 100 meters when the winged beasts above the abyss seemed to have noticed their prey, and they began to lunge at her, numbering in the thousands.

Their deafening cries resounded throughout the abyss.

"Danger!" Ye Tianxin immediately turned around.

Countless winged beasts dove toward her in the skies. Their eyes and claws were glowing with a faint light.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Ye Tianxin's avatar shielded her from all the attacks.

She frowned slightly. She blamed herself for losing her sense of measure and attracting the beasts around the abyss to herself. Although she could kill low-rank beasts, who knew how long it would take to clear all the low-rank beasts here?

“Grand technique!” With a flurry of movements, Ye Tianxin escaped with her avatar.

The abyss was too huge. Its borders could not be seen at all. If she ran into a more powerful beast while running away, she would be as good as dead.

The winged beasts in the air gathered and continued to fly toward her.

“Can’t a Seven-leaf cultivator deal with this?” She looked at the vines on the cliff wall. ‘Let’s give it a try!’

With her unyielding temperament, she directed her avatar toward the skies without a second thought!

Countless winged beasts pursued her as they attacked.

Ye Tianxin was focused on flying up. In just a blink of an eye, she was several hundred meters up in the air. She surveyed her surroundings and found various beasts holding on to the cliff wall as well. Her hairs stood on end. She did not want to remain in this dangerous place for another second. She did not even have the urge to kill them. She continued flying up.

Suddenly...

Boom!

A wing that seemed like a heavenly screen passed by and struck her avatar!

Bam!

Energy rippled out horizontally.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Rocks fell from the cliff face; vines were severed.

The blow on her avatar caused her to drop.

The wind roared in her ears as it scratched at her energy shield like knives. She looked behind her. Countless flying beasts were still coming at her. Sharp beaks, cold, gleaming claws, and green eyes were all she could see. Her heart sank. Was she going to die from being killed by beasts right after she attained the Seven-leaf stage?

“No!”

Her avatar suddenly appeared and grew in size!

Boom!

The wild beasts were sent flying. Many of them were killed on the spot and fell due to gravity. However, compared to the beasts that survived, their numbers were negligible.

More and more beasts were eyeing this falling prey.

They lunged again!

This was food from the outside. It was fresh! A never-before-seen delicacy!

Ye Tianxin summoned her avatar again and merged with it.

Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam!

The beasts attacked the avatar, growing more and more ferocious by the minute.

Ou!

A huge being sailed through the skies. Its broad back with golden feathers caught Ye Tianxin as it swiped its paw at the other beasts!

Boom!

Hundreds of winged beasts were scattered and fell.

Severed limbs rained down the depths of the abyss. The cliff face that once seemed like paradise was now hell.

The Ten Thousand Years Cheng Huang was here!

When Cheng Huang struck, there was a rain of blood. It lowered its body and bared its fangs. Its sharp cry that shook the lands scattered the incoming beasts.

Cheng Huang leaped into the air. It easily covered 100 meters in just a move.

Ye Tianxin was stunned.

Cheng Huang... was terrifying. Was an Eight-leaf cultivator a match for it?

She immediately felt a great sense of security. At the same time, she started blaming herself. How could she have been so foolish? She had been searching for Cheng Huang for such a long time. Why did she not think about leaving with it? Instead, she thought she could return to the top of the abyss with her Seven-leaf cultivation base. How was that different from rushing toward her own death?

Cheng Huang landed and swung its paw again.

Boom!

Rocks from the cliff wall shot into the air.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Each of the rocks was bigger than Ye Tianxin.

Ye Tianxin was stunned by this display.

With this attack, the winged beasts scurried away. They vanished from sight in no time.

Cheng Huang growled and leaped back to the shore of the lake, before the rock statue.

“Uh...”

The distance she traversed after flying for such a long time was nothing to Cheng Huang that covered the same distance in a few simple leaps.

Cheng Huang laid itself on the ground and lowered its head.

The surroundings were extremely quiet.

Ye Tianxin understood at once... This was its domain. A beast that was powerful enough would have its own domain. The other beasts would surely steer clear of it.

Ye Tianxin kept her eyes trained in the distance. She hovered before Cheng Huang's eyes. She said, "Thank you."

Cheng Huang remained on the ground without giving a reply. Its eyes merely shifted.

"What's wrong? Are you hurt?"

Ye Tianxin immediately felt worried. She flew around Cheng Huang. After examining it, she found no injuries.

At this moment, Cheng Huang raised its paw and parted a pile of leaves before the statue.

Ye Tianxin looked at it. There were signs of carvings on the rock. It was a Golden Lotus. There were eight leaves on the Golden Lotus. The words carved beside the Golden Lotus were practically worn away by time.

Ye Tianxin was stunned. She flew forward and touched the veins. Only humans could be capable of this. Humans were the only ones who would leave symbols like these behind.

After pondering on it for a long time, Ye Tianxin turned around and faced Cheng Huang. "You want me to reach the Eight-leaf stage?"

Ou!

Cheng Huang lowered its paw.

Ye Tianxin nodded and said, "Alright."

A hundred years human and Ten Thousand Years Cheng Huang.

...

Inside the eastern pavilion, the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Lu Zhou called up the system dashboard and checked the merit points he had accumulated.

Merit points: 97,430.

Chapter 519: The Way to Deal with a Nine-leaf Cultivator

He had close to 100,000 merit points. If he continued to save his merit points, he could purchase two Golden Lotus Leaves. His current cultivation base was only in the Two-leaf Nascent Divinity realm. With these many merit points, he would be lying if he said he was not tempted to spend them. However, he

knew he had to restrain himself. If he saved them until he became a grand cultivator, they could be used to their full potential. In any case, it should be fine if he spent some of them on... lucky draws, right?

"Lucky draw," Lu Zhou muttered.

"Ding! Spent 50 merit points. Obtained Reversal Card x1."

'Not bad. Again.'

"Lucky draw."

"Ding! Spent 50 merit points. Obtained the mount, Ji Liang."

"Note: Due to the system having spent too much energy sending the legendary mounts, Whizard and Bi An, to the host, this mount would be coming to the Evil Sky Pavilion on its own."

"Ji Liang: A good steed from the Land of Wuwang in the distant north."

Lu Zhou's eyes widened when he saw this.

'It's been so long... When was the last time I received such a good reward? Finally, I'm a European Emperor!'

Ever since he obtained Whizard and Bi An, Lu Zhou had witnessed how powerful legendary mounts were. Even when Ji Tiandao was still around, he did not obtain a powerful mount. His first disciple, Yu Zhenghai, on the other hand, obtained a powerful mount, but who knew how much trouble Yu Zhenghai had gone to just to obtain his mount?

The mounts owned by a handful of major sects were only lesser beasts.

Lu Zhou's mounts were treasures that one could never hope to encounter. One could only dream about it.

'Not bad, not bad at all. I should quit while I'm ahead. I won't make any more draws! You can't do anything about that, can you?'

Based on Lu Zhou's understanding of the system, the next draws would only be thank-you messages.

Lu Zhou was extremely pleased.

...

Meanwhile, in the faraway Land of Wuwang in the distant north.

A group of wild horses whose hooves glowed brightly was galloping across a grassless plain.

At the end of the group, a horse that was clearly different from the others, with a snow-white coat and fiery-red mane that was ten feet length and 80 feet height, came to a halt. It seemed like it had heard its summons. It neighed before it broke off from the group and flew south.

...

After obtaining the mount, Lu Zhou no longer touched the lucky draw system. Instead, he returned his attention to the Three Scrolls of Heavenly Writing.

After meditating on the Human Scroll, Lu Zhou had practically understood the ways to use the four powers and their effects.

He looked down, curious. What would the Earth Scroll be?

Rows after rows of mysterious scripts appeared before his eyes. They looked strange and squiggly.

If the scripts of the Human Scroll resembled hieroglyphs of ancient human civilization, the scripts of the Earth Scroll could only be described as extremely messy. He could at least find some pattern in the scripts of the Human Scroll. The Earth Scroll was just... baffling. In any case, the chants for the Heavenly Writing powers would be slowly revealed to him when he began to meditate.

Lu Zhou frowned slightly. 'Calm down. Let's look at the prices of the item cards to calm down.'

After that, he separated the Human Scroll and Earth Scroll. He did not rush to meditate on the Earth Scroll. Instead, he continued to meditate on the Human Scroll of Heavenly Writing.

'I should replenish my extraordinary power for now, just to be safe.' With this thought in mind, Lu Zhou sat down with his legs crossed and placed his palms before his dantian, breathing in and out. This was akin to a double cultivation exercise.

...

Inside the discussion hall of Taixu Academy.

"Patriarch... How are we supposed to go against a Nine-leaf cultivator? We're running out of time. Who can hold off the Nine-leaf cultivator when he comes? We only have a few days left!" One of the Elders was so anxious that his face was flushed red.

"Unless the Divine Capital is willing to help us, I don't see another way out..."

"The Divine Capital is currently engaged with the Nether Sect... They don't have the time to look after us!"

All of the people present in the hall had something to say. They looked at Lin Xin whose brows were tightly knitted.

Lin Xin was in a bad mood as well. In the cultivation world now, even the top sects would retreat for a three days' march if they encounter a Nine-leaf cultivator, let alone the Taixu Academy.

Most elites would choose to hide behind the barriers of their sects and cultivate in secret to improve their cultivation bases. Unfortunately, it was not easy to reach the Nine-leaf stage in a short time.

In truth, Lin Xin was completely out of ideas.

At this moment, a disciple walked in, cupped his fists, and said, "Patriarch, His Highness the Crown Prince is here."

The others were shocked to hear this.

"Bring him here, quick."

In no time at all, a disciple led the current Crown Prince of Great Yan, Liu Zhi, into the discussion hall.

The Taixu Academy's elders rose to their feet.

Lin Xin descended the steps.

Without waiting for them to speak, Liu Zhi waved his hand at once and said, "No need for that. Let's get down to business." He strode into the discussion hall and assumed Lin Xin's seat at once.

Lin Xin had no choice but to take the seat to the left.

Liu Zhi sat down and said, "I know you're being targeted by the Evil Sky Pavilion... I'm here to give you a clear direction."

The eyes of the members of the Taixu Academy brightened.

Lin Xin cupped his fists and said, "Kindly enlighten us, Your Highness."

At this moment, Liu Zhi beckoned to someone outside the hall.

Two soldiers who escorted him here walked in, carrying a box between them. They lowered it onto the floor with a loud clang!

The others looked at the box in confusion.

Liu Zhi said, "Open it!"

The two soldiers opened the box.

When everyone looked over, they saw a set of armor that seemed extremely old inside the box. There were red threads made from a unique material running along the armor, forming defensive veins. There was also a unique red knot on the corners of the armor. However, having been eroded by time, this armor was worn-out. Its red now carried a purple tinge.

"What's this?" Lin Xin asked, puzzled.

Liu Zhi said, "I don't have time to beat around the bush with you lot. It's quite impossible for the Taixu Academy to face a Nine-leaf cultivator head-on. Under the heavens, the Imperial family is the only one who can... I'll lend you this armor, but... I have one condition."

Lin Xin was still baffled.

Armor? Condition?

Lin Xin hastily said, "Kindly enlighten us, Your Highness!"

Liu Zhi glanced at Lin Xin and asked, "Do you know why the previous emperor was capable of subduing the nine provinces and unifying the 12 nations from Rongxi to Rongbei? Naturally, it was due to the power that only the Imperial family has..."

The Taixu Academy was close to the Imperial family. Naturally, they knew just how powerful the Imperial family was.

Liu Zhi smiled and said, "To tell you the truth... this armor came from an elite... The secret scrolls of the palace state that the elite came from the northern borders on a coffin. He traversed the 12 nations of

the Other Tribes and reached Great Yan. He once said that nobody should and can attain the Nine-leaf stage. The special power of this armor will be awakened when faced with a Nine-leaf cultivator.”

An elite?

When the others heard this, their expressions turned fearful. They looked at Liu Zhi. He did not seem to be lying. Was this... one of the Imperial family’s trump cards?

Liu Zhi suddenly said, “By the way, this elite was the one who created the Ten Terminal Formation in the Divine Capital.”

“...”

The power of the Ten Terminal Formation was known by everyone under the heavens. No matter how many leaves an elite had, they still had to maintain a low profile in the Divine Capital.

For thousands of years, people had always assumed that the Ten Terminal Formation was born out of the collective wisdom of the Confucian schools. However, based on Liu Zhi’s words, that was clearly not true. Just how many secrets did the Imperial family have?

After a long pause, Lin Xin finally asked, “Are you asking me to don this armor and fight Old Villain Ji, Your Highness?”

“That’s right.”

The others exchanged a look among themselves.

Although Lin Xin had lived for a long time, he still felt uneasy when he heard Liu Zhi’s words. “How do we know if this armor is genuine, Your Highness?”

The Nine-leaf stage itself was a dream in and of itself. If Old Villain Ji did not show the splendor of the Nine-leaf stage to the world, perhaps, nobody would believe in the existence of the Nine-leaf stage until today.

“You don’t have a choice!” Liu Zhi replied in a deep voice.

“...” Lin Xin was speechless.

“If you don’t believe me, you can have a good look at the armor... Who can forge this in this time and era?” Liu Zhi said.

Lin Xin’s fingers were shaking as he bent down and picked up the helmet. It was heavy, about 100 catties.

However, for cultivators, this weight was nothing.

Lin Xin cradled the armor in his hand and studied it. He was the Taixu Academy’s Patriarch and an Eight-leaf expert, after all. He was, naturally, more discerning than other people. When he saw the exquisite ornamental patterns on the armor, he felt his emotions stirred. He cried out excitedly, “Unprecedented... Truly unprecedented!”

The other elders with lower cultivation bases could not understand Lin Xin's excitement nor could they discern what was so special about the armor.

Seeing Lin Xin's reaction, Liu Zhi knew Lin Xin could tell the armor was unique. He smiled haughtily. "... Do you think His Majesty would expend so much effort to study the Nine-leaf stage just because of some baseless legend?"

'No wonder... no wonder.'

"That's enough. The Formation veins on the armor are one of a kind. It can't be copied," Liu Zhi said.

Lin Xin suppressed his excitement and asked, "What's your condition, Your Highness?"

Chapter 520: The Taixu Academy's Explanation

Liu Zhi straightened his back and rose from his seat. With his hands on his back, he said, "I'm trying to help my father out. I'm sure you've heard that the Nether Sect is set on conquering the nine provinces. The battle of Yu Province is close at hand. The Taixu Academy is to send every one of its members to the battlefield to aid General Ji."

Lin Xin was not surprised by Liu Zhi's condition. He had expected as much. If the Taixu Academy wanted help from the Divine Capital, there was, naturally, a price to pay. He nodded, acquiescing to Liu Zhi's condition. "Okay. You have my promise, Your Highness."

Liu Zhi stood before Lin Xin as he said, "Don't think you're getting the shorter end of the stick here. After this tribulation, you'll receive another five leaf-sprouting pills as a reward. Don't forget... the Big Dipper Academy only listens to the Imperial family's orders."

"Thank you, Your Highness." Lin Xin bowed.

"The battle of Yu Province is of high importance. You should send your men there as soon as possible... I'll give you another something to calm your nerves." Then, Liu Zhi moved his head close to Lin Xin and whispered to Lin Xin.

The others could not hear what was said, but they saw Lin Xin's eyes widening and eyelids twitching.

Lin Xin had tried to maintain his dignity as the Patriarch of the Taixu Academy before this. However, at this moment, he could only respectfully say, "Thank you for the pointers, Your Highness!"

"I'll leave it to you, then. Farewell." Liu Zhi did not stay for long. He turned around and walked out of the discussion hall.

Lin Xin hastily said, "Zhou Wenliang, see His Highness off."

"Me?"

"Yes, you!"

The Second Elder, Zhou Wenliang, nodded and ran out at once.

Lin Xin said, "Xiao Shan, bring 1,000 core disciples with you to reinforce General Ji's army."

"Patriarch... c-can we trust the Crown Prince?" Xiao Shan seemed apprehensive.

Lin Xin's expression grew stern as he said in a low voice, "Do it."

"Understood."

Ever since the elders had proposed that he apologized to the Evil Sky Pavilion, Lin Xin had been furious with them. He was in no mood to waste words with them. So long as he could survive this disaster and continue to ally with the Divine Capital, it might be possible for them to attain the Nine-leaf stage in the future. At that time, his great limit would be a thing of the past.

Zhou Wenliang returned soon after Xiao Shan left. He looked at the armor in the box and tentatively asked, "Patriarch... Is the armor really that powerful? Can it repel a Nine-leaf cultivator?"

"It can't be fake," Lin Xin placed his hands on his back and said, "I've visited the Imperial city many years ago and was fortunate to enter the inner warehouse... The items there are rare treasures and weapons gathered from all over the world. The person who managed the inner warehouse back then was Princess Yun Zhao. At that time, she had maintained that the Nine-leaf stage was achievable."

The Second Elder, Zhou Wenliang, bowed and said, "Patriarch, the academy is safe with you personally making a move!"

Lin Xin glanced at Zhou Wenliang and said, "I want to find the best place to lay out a Formation and come up with a plan to defeat Old Villain Ji... Send the armor into my room."

"Understood!"

...

Seven days passed by in just a blink of an eye.

In the Evil Sky Pavilion.

When Lu Zhou opened his eyes again, he gauged his extraordinary power. After confirming that his extraordinary power was completely replenished, he called up the dashboard.

He checked the menu for the Earth Scroll and noticed that nothing had changed.

"It can't be meditated on at the same time?"

If they were two different kinds of extraordinary power, that would be troublesome. He would have to spend more time meditating when he cultivated.

To confirm this theory, Lu Zhou opened the menu for the Earth Scroll. He tried to meditate on the scripts of the Earth Scroll. It was just like that time when he first encountered the Human Scroll. He had to meditate while looking at the Earth Scroll's menu. However, the scripts did not emerge from the Earth Scroll's menu as he expected. He sighed. "So, the Earth Scroll isn't as easy, after all."

He closed the Earth Scroll's menu. There was a new mission on the mission list: Search for the remnants of the Open Earth Scroll.

Lu Zhou frowned slightly. 'This is too much! Even the Human Scroll wasn't like this in the beginning!'

At this moment, Mingshi Yin's voice rang from outside. "Greetings, master."

“What is it?”

“The Taixu Academy requests an audience.”

Lu Zhou had been too focused on the Earth Scroll that he had forgotten all about this. The Taixu Academy had repeatedly challenged the Evil Sky Pavilion. If they could not give him a satisfactory explanation, he would not let them off the hook.

Lu Zhou walked out with his hands on his back. When he saw Mingshi Yin standing respectfully, he asked, “You’re alone?”

Lately, Mingshi Yin was the only one who came to greet him. He did not see the others.

Mingshi Yin scratched his head and said, “Fifth Junior Sister and Eighth Junior Brother are brave enough to sever their lotuses and have been cultivating. As for the others, I have no idea where they are.”

As soon as Mingshi Yin finished speaking, an excited voice rang in the air. “Old Fourth, Old Fourth, where are you? I’ve improved a lot in my Overlord Spear skills! You have to believe me.”

Swoosh!

Mingshi Yin disappeared without a trace.

‘It’s no wonder he has been lingering around the eastern pavilion. He knows the others wouldn’t dare to recklessly come in.’

Duanmu Sheng did not enter the eastern pavilion. He passed the eastern pavilion and soon vanished from sight.

Lu Zhou shook his head as he walked toward the Evil Sky Pavilion’s great hall.

...

Inside the great hall.

Lu Zhou sat in a stately manner on his seat.

Apart from Pan Zhong and Zhou Jifeng, the others were not there. It did not look like the Evil Sky Pavilion at all.

Three members from the Taixu Academy were escorted into the great hall by the female cultivators. Once they entered the great hall, the three of them fell to their knees.

“Greetings, Old Senior Ji! I’m Taixu Academy’s Second Elder, Zhou Wenliang.”

“Greetings, Old Senior Ji! I’m Taixu Academy’s Third Elder, Wang Jianrang.”

“Greetings, Old Senior Ji! I’m Taixu Academy’s Fifth Elder, Zhang Gong.”

‘What do we have here? Before this, it was Ren, Yi, Li, Zhi, Xing and Wen, Liang, Gong, Jian, Ran are Confucian virtues that mean benevolence, justice, courtesy, wisdom, sincerity and moderation, kindness, respect, frugality, and magnanimity. ren-yi-li-zhi-xin. This time, it’s wen-liang-gong-jian-rang[1]. What a complete lineup.’

The three of them looked up and to their sides. The great hall was empty. They were puzzled. Was this the Evil Sky Pavilion? It was so underwhelming that they briefly thought they were in the wrong place. After all, there were many who impersonated Ji Tiandao and his nine disciples lately. It had almost become a trend.

Finally, Zhou Jifeng said in a deep voice, “What are you looking at? How dare you behave impertinently before the pavilion master?”

“Please forgive us, Senior Ji! We’re here to sincerely apologize...” Zhou Wenliang hastily replied.

“Apologize?” Lu Zhou looked down at the trio. “If you’re sincere, Lin Xin should have come.”

Pan Zhong thought Lu Zhou’s words made sense. He instantly cursed at the trio. “A bunch of fools... Do you think the Evil Sky Pavilion can be easily deceived?” A wave of satisfaction rose in his heart after he vented his anger. Moreover, with the other disciples absent, the pressure on him had lessened considerably. He felt great! He had to seize this opportunity and leave a good impression on the pavilion master. As the saying went, ‘When the tiger is away from the mountain, the monkey would take charge’.

Zhou Wenliang shuddered and hastily said, “Senior Ji, I can explain!” He immediately pulled the package that the older two elders were holding between them. He opened it and said, “Senior Ji, have a look at this!”

The others were puzzled. They looked at the content of the package. There was a dark red armor. The veins were densely packed and extremely fine.

It was normal that Zhou Jifeng and Pan Zhong did not see anything special.

However, Lu Zhou’s emotions stirred when he saw the armor. The veins on the armor resembled those on the coffin the Roulain, Lanni, brought here!

“Senior Ji, Lin Xin is colluding with the Crown Prince and plans to do you harm. It’s said that this item can be used against a Nine-leaf cultivator. How absurd!”

Translator’s note: Ren, Yi, Li, Zhi, Xing and Wen, Liang, Gong, Jian, Ran are Confucian virtues that mean benevolence, justice, courtesy, wisdom, sincerity and moderation, kindness, respect, frugality, and magnanimity.