

Disciples 541

Chapter 541: The Time has Come

Time passed by in just a blink of an eye. Before long, another month had passed.

Inside the hidden chamber in the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Lu Zhou felt that he was once again in a state where there was no distinction between the world and himself. Spots of starlight seemed to dance around him.

At this moment, the system gave a notification...

“Ding! System permission upgrade is successful.”

“The Three Scrolls of Heavenly Writing, the Human Scroll’s level has been raised.”

“System effective area improved, but it will consume Heaven Writing’s extraordinary power.”

“Increased item card variety with price hikes.”

The series of system notifications rang in Lu Zhou’s ears. However, he did not seem to have heard them. He remained immersed in his meditation state.

The runes of the Earth Scroll kept dancing around. The extraordinary power of the Human and Earth Scrolls gradually merged into one.

...

Meanwhile.

Liu Ge, Su Sheng, and Gu Yirain once again appeared at the foot of Golden Court Mountain.

“Your Majesty, the promised time with Old Villain Ji is here. What should we do if he refuses to meet us?” Su Sheng asked.

Liu Ge glanced at Su Sheng and said, “General Su, be mindful of your form of address.”

When Su Sheng heard this, he hastily said, “I’ve made a mistake.”

Gu Yiran said, “You’re worrying too much, Brother Su. Although Senior Ji is of the Fiend Path, from what I know, he’s a man of his word.”

“I hope so,” Su Sheng said.

If this had been in the past, Liu Ge might have given his opinion on Ji Tiandao. Since they knew each other, he was confident he knew Ji Tiandao somewhat. However, since their last meeting, he suddenly felt the master of the Evil Sky Pavilion was not as easy to deal with as he had previously thought.

Liu Ge walked up to the barrier.

Su Sheng understood. He cupped his hands around his mouth and projected his voice. “The Imperial city’s garrison general of the northwestern gate, Su Sheng, requests an audience with Senior Ji.” His voice was filled with rich Primal Qi, but it was not destructive.

The soundwave traveled across Golden Court Mountain before it gradually faded in the mountains.

Soon after, a figure flew down from Golden Court Mountain. It was none other than Mingshi Yin.

Mingshi Yin hovered in the air and said, "I'm sorry... I was just thinking about asking you to come another day."

Liu Ge, Su Sheng, and Gu Yiran were taken aback. This was the promised time. How could their appointment be canceled without prior notice?

"Mister Fourth, Old Senior Ji has agreed to this arrangement. How can it be changed at will?" Su Sheng said.

Since Su Sheng and Liu Ge had learned about the boxes' purpose, they were more assertive and bold compared to their previous visit. Moreover, Su Sheng was slightly resentful of the palm strike from Lu Zhou.

Mingshi Yin crossed his arms and said with a smile, "I'm the one who changed the appointment date."

"You?"

"My master is old. He can't estimate the duration of his secluded cultivation accurately. I hope you understand, Your Majesty," Mingshi Yin said.

A frown appeared on Su Sheng's face immediately. "How can the arrangement be called off when it has been promised?"

"Heh... What does my master have to do with me not letting you in?" Mingshi Yin pointed at the barrier. "Are you going to force your way through?" His expression made it clear that he would not comply with their request.

Su Sheng grew annoyed.

Su Sheng was about to step forward and argue when Liu Ge raised his hand and interjected, "Fine. I'll come back tomorrow."

...

Early the next morning.

Liu Ge, Su Sheng, Gu Yiran, and another Imperial bodyguard rode their flying chariot to the foot of Golden Court Mountain again.

Like the day before, Su Sheng projected his voice toward the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Mingshi Yin came flying down from one corner of the Evil Sky Pavilion. As he hovered in the air, he said, "I'm sorry... Why don't you come another day?"

This time, he was being honest.

"Mister Fourth, we've made an arrangement with you to meet today... I don't think it's good to go back on your words," Su Sheng said.

Mingshi Yin spread his arms. "I never said that I'm trustworthy."

"You!" Su Sheng had never met someone as shameless as Mingshi Yin before. Although he was one of the eight great generals who fought on the battlefield for many years, he felt powerless.

At this moment, Liu Ge said with his hands on his back, "When do you suggest we come back then?"

Mingshi Yin stroked his chin and gave it some thought. "How about... a year later?"

"..." When Mingshi Yin saw the frown on Liu Ge's face, he chuckled and said, "I'm kidding! Come again tomorrow."

As the saying went, 'Third time's the charm'.

Liu Ge would not allow Mingshi Yin to talk his way out of this tomorrow. "What should we do if the same thing happens tomorrow?"

"Now, you're a reasonable man unlike him... We'll leave tomorrow's worries for tomorrow. No one can predict the future."

"..."

What a cunning villain!

Liu Ge said, "In that case, please tell Brother Ji that I'll visit again tomorrow."

During the first two times, Liu Ge had easily given in to Mingshi Yin. Now that he had finally spoken out, it was clear he was determined to go up the mountain on his third try.

Mingshi Yin said, "Safe journeys, Your Majesty. I'll make sure to convey your message to my master."

Liu Ge and the others turned around and left.

Mingshi Yin sighed and swiftly returned to the Evil Sky Pavilion.

After returning to the pavilion, Mingshi Yin walked toward the hidden chamber and paced like an ant on a hot pan. 'What should I do? What should I do?'

He had been waiting for his master to emerge from the hidden chamber over the past few days. However, he could not detect any movement inside at all.

Mingshi Yin called out softly again at the door of the hidden chamber and received no reply. Then, he mumbled to himself, "Looks like I can only count on myself."

He turned around and left.

Currently, the Evil Sky Pavilion's four elders were only at the Four-leaf stage, at most, after their re-cultivating. Duanmu Sheng, Zhu Honggong, and Zhao Yue had severed their lotuses and were re-cultivating as well. With their overall strength, it would be unbelievably difficult to intimidate Liu Ge and the others.

Mingshi Yin pondered on this for a moment before he finally decided to send a letter for help.

...

In the afternoon, in a certain Nether Sect branch.

At this moment, Hua Chongyang hurried into the great hall.

"Sect master, our Yu Province's branch received a letter from the Evil Sky Pavilion. The Retired Emperor, Liu Ge, Su Sheng, and Gu Yiran are now at the Evil Sky Pavilion. They seem hostile, and the Evil Sky Pavilion is asking its first disciple to take charge."

Yu Zhenghai and Si Wuya were stunned.

"I have to take charge at the Evil Sky Pavilion?" Yu Zhenghai was perplexed.

"Mister Fourth didn't explain much in his letter, but reading between the lines, this seems like a complicated situation." Hua Chongyang passed his letter to Yu Zhenghai.

Instead, Si Wuya took the letter and read it. Then, he said, "With master's Nine-leaf cultivation base, it shouldn't be a problem for him to deal with Liu Ge. Even without master, we still have the four elders. What's happening?"

Yu Zhenghai said, "Wise brother, could this be a trap? Do you think master intends to go back on his word and lure me there?"

Upon hearing this, Si Wuya shook his head. "That's unlikely."

'If he wanted to catch you, he would've done so the last time he was here. Why would he wait until now?'

"Liu Ge, that old thief! To think he's still alive. Did he attain the Nine-leaf stage as well?" Yu Zhenghai's breathing quickened. This was an outcome that he wanted to see the least.

Throughout these five months, the Nether Sect had been trying hard to conquer the nine provinces. Now that they had conquered Yi Province, all that was left was Yan Province and the Divine Capital. There was less than a month from the promised time with his master. The cultivation world was now in the Lotus-severing era. The Five-leaf elite he had seen five months ago had shocked him. If someone attained the Nine-leaf stage in such a short time after severing his or her lotus, it would truly be a huge obstacle to the Nether Sect.

"Liu Ge and master are old friends. They were acquainted when master was at his peak many years ago. Liu Ge had invited Master to be the teacher of the state in the Divine Capital then. Master would've been the lord of many, and the servant of one. However, master has never liked to be restricted. Hence, master founded the Evil Sky Pavilion on Golden Court Mountain and recruited disciples," Si Wuya said, "According to my calculations, Liu Ge's great limit should've been up... It's not impossible for him to be at the Nine-leaf stage now."

"..."

Si Wuya continued, "From what I know, among the four elders, Leng Luo and Pan Litian are injured, and Hua Wudao is a Seven-leaf cultivator... The new Elder, Senior Zuo Yushu, is a noteworthy character, but she's from the Confucian school. Su Sheng and Gu Yiran are from the Confucian school as well."

Yu Zhenghai frowned.

Si Wuya said, "Eldest Senior Brother... I suggest that we help the Evil Sky Pavilion. Naturally, it's just a suggestion. The decision is entirely up to you."

Chapter 542: Decisive Battle of Heavenly Energy

Yu Zhenghai remained silent.

Si Wuya felt torn as well when he made the suggestion. He knew how much Yu Zhenghai longed to conquer the world. After all, his suggestion was essentially like asking Yu Zhenghai to dismiss the advantageous situation they were in to help the Evil Sky Pavilion. It would be well if everything went smoothly, but if any problem were to occur, the Nether Sect's efforts thus far would be wasted. If that were to happen, how would he face the members of the Nether Sect? He decided to remain silent when he saw Yu Zhenghai was lost in his thoughts. Before he retreated from the great hall, he said, "Eldest Senior Brother, I'll take my leave."

The others understood Si Wuya's intent and took their leave as well.

The great hall that dimly lit was now silent.

Yu Zhenghai turned around with his hands on his back to face the wall. Nobody knew what he was thinking. He stroked the Jasper Saber softly as he stared at it, still lost in his thoughts.

...

The next day, the sun rose in the east as it always did.

Mingshi Yin made his way to the hidden chamber first thing in the morning to greet his master. As expected, he did not receive any reply from his master. He sighed as he made his way down the mountain again.

Soon after, Mingshi Yin saw a flying chariot sailing toward the mountain as promised and landed at the foot of Golden Court Mountain.

Su Sheng had a keen eye. As soon as the flying chariot landed, he saw Mingshi Yin hovering in the air, waiting for them. He rose into the air and waved at Mingshi Yin who was standing behind the barrier. "Mister Fourth, we meet again."

"Hello there," Mingshi Yin said with a smile.

"I'm sure Senior Ji has come out from his cultivation in seclusion. Please lead the way, Mister Fourth." Su Sheng smiled.

Mingshi Yin said, "I'm terribly sorry, but... can you come again tomorrow?"

"..."

"Just treat me as an untrustworthy and petty man," Mingshi Yin said. Despite his words, he was slightly annoyed. Why must he submit to these guests who pestered him to meet his master when his master did not want to see anyone? It had nothing to do with his promise.

Su Sheng smiled and said, "I don't think there's a need for us to leave. The Evil Sky Pavilion is huge. We can just wait on the mountain until Senior Ji emerges from his cultivation in seclusion."

Mingshi Yin chuckled and said, "If you're smart, General Su, you'd do well to listen to my advice so you won't regret it later."

"I'm afraid that's not up to you to decide," Su Sheng replied. As he spoke, densely packed talisman seals appeared around him. The talisman seals hovered in the air and shone with golden radiance as they floated toward the barrier. He was clearly trying to break the barrier.

The Confucian school was known for its Formations and Expansive Heavenly Energy.

At this moment, from the midpoint of the mountain, numerous talisman seals descended. Each seal was larger than the one before it.

Su Sheng frowned slightly and shouted, "Is this how the Evil Sky Pavilion treats its guests?" He pushed his palms forward, and a round Confucian Heavenly Energy shield materialized in front of him.

Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam!

The descending script seals that came from the midpoint of the mountain were blocked by the Heavenly Energy.

Shortly after, a gruff voice rang from where the script seals shot out. "I'd like to see who's bold enough to force their way into the Evil Sky Pavilion."

When Su Sheng heard this, he bowed. "Greetings, Senior Zuo. I didn't mean to force my way into Golden Court Mountain... His Majesty has an arranged meeting with Senior Ji. We're merely here to uphold our end of the agreement."

"I'm making the decision on the pavilion master's behalf. The arrangement is now called off. Get lost from Golden Court Mountain, all of you," Zuo Yushu said harshly.

Mingshi Yin was slightly shocked. He did not expect Elder Zuo to be so domineering. 'I like it!'

At this moment, Liu Ge projected his voice and said, "Zuo Yushu, are you going to stop me from going up the mountain?"

"Liu Ge... This is the Evil Sky Pavilion, not the palace. Don't think you can intimidate me." Zuo Yushu rose into the air and swung her staff. A row of talisman seals spun around her. All the seals were of the word 'human'.

Su Sheng frowned slightly. "Heavenly Energy, single script seal."

The character for 'human' was sometimes replaced with 'mercy', which was the core seal cultivated by the Confucian school. Throughout the years, only a handful had been capable of cultivating this script seal to great heights. Zuo Yushu was one of them. This was the most powerful script seal in the Expansive Heavenly Energy's arsenal.

"I see that you're not completely blind." Zuo Yushu looked down at him in the skies.

Su Sheng said, "When the Confucian school was expanding many years ago, you were supposed to be our saint, Elder Zuo. Alas, that position is only reserved for men, not women... Even so, the Confucian disciples were still respectful of you. Why did you join the Fiend Path, Elder Zuo?"

“Do I have to explain myself to you?” Zuo Yushu retorted.

Su Sheng was rendered speechless.

Gu Yiran said, “Why must you be so overbearing, Elder Zuo? You can’t replace Senior Ji.” After he finished speaking, he pushed his hand out and launched a palm seal.

A slight frown appeared on Zuo Yushu’s face as she waved her staff. Golden light burst out from the staff immediately. The ‘human’ script seals formed a line that collided with the palm seal.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

After a while, the energy from the collision finally subsided.

“Elder Zuo... kindly enlighten me.” Gu Yiran stomped his feet and shot into the skies until he drew level with Zuo Yushu.

Mingshi Yin was taken aback. He did not expect the taciturn Gu Yiran to step forward and fight first. This was bad.

Although Zuo Yushu had severed her lotus and was recultivating, she would not tolerate such behavior. Her staff spun in the air as she released script seals and talisman seals. The talismans swirled around her and formed a long chain.

Without another word, Gu Yiran summoned his avatar.

Whizz!

A 100-foot Eight-leaf avatar shone with golden light bringing with it a stifling atmosphere.

Boom!

The script seals and talisman seals faded away.

Zuo Yushu did not expect Gu Yiran to suddenly strike with all his might and was pushed back by the powerful energy.

Gu Yiran said, “Elder Zuo, it’s just as I thought, you’re not at the Eight-leaf stage...”

While Zuo Yushu reeled back, she suddenly swung her staff. A fine golden line appeared on her staff and formed the pattern of a winding dragon from the handle to the other end of the staff. Then, a mystical talisman seal shot out.

Bam!

Gu Yiran retreated with his avatar. A shocked expression could be seen on his face as he cried out, “The Coiling Dragon Staff! No wonder! The Coiling Dragon Staff is in your hands all along, Elder Zuo!”

At this moment, the spinning Coiling Dragon Staff shot back into Zuo Yushu’s hand. She held it next to her as she hovered in the air. With a meaningful look in her eyes, she said, “You need my permission if you want to climb up the mountain.”

Suddenly, Su Sheng tapped the tips of his toes and flew into the air with movements as nimble as a swallow. Then, he stood shoulder to shoulder with Gu Yiran.

The two great generals, both at the Eight-leaf stage, looked at Zuo Yushu from a distance.

“Elder Zuo... why must you do this?” Su Sheng placed his hands on his back. He stepped forward; radiant circles appeared with every step he took. The talisman seals on his body formed unique Formation veins.

When the Formation veins came into contact with the barrier, a door appeared in the barrier! Then, Su Sheng easily stepped into the barrier!

Mingshi Yin was shocked. ‘He’s a master of Formations?!’ Those who were masters in Formations were like people with master keys. Not everyone could become a master in Formations. This reminded him of Pan Litian and his Second Senior Brother. At their level, the existence of a barrier did not make much of a difference!

Zuo Yushu expected as much. She waved her Coiling Dragon Staff again. A dragon-shaped Expansive Heavenly Energy shot out.

Su Sheng waved his huge hand. His palm shone with a golden energy seal as he clenched his fist!

Bam!

He caught the coiling dragon energy seal!

“This level is at the Four-leaf stage, at most. Elder Zuo... you should know what the Eight-leaf stage means.” Su Sheng clenched his hand. The coiling dragon energy seal dissolved.

Upon seeing this, Zuo Yushu’s frown deepened.

Chapter 543: Super Heaven-grade

Zuo Yushu had severed her Golden Lotus and was re-cultivating. Naturally, she was not a match for the Eight-leaf Su Sheng. The Four-leaf Zuo Yushu had done well to be able to exchange several blows this far. If Su Sheng attacked with his full strength, he could have easily killed a Four-leaf cultivator with a single strike.

Su Sheng summoned his 100-foot avatar that towered above everyone. An Eight-leaf Golden Lotus spun under its feet. He was convinced Zuo Yushu’s cultivation base was not what it used to be.

Zuo Yushu took several steps backward and tossed the Coiling Dragon Staff in the air. A huge circle emerged under her feet. Script seals arranged themselves neatly as they shone with golden light.

Su Sheng was perplexed. “An enhancement Formation... but you won’t be affected...”

Suddenly, a voice rang from behind Zuo Yushu. “Young man, you’re too green!”

Whizz!

A huge gourd bottle energy seal passed through Zuo Yushu’s Formation as it grew in size.

Pan Litian shot toward them. He sent his golden gourd bottle energy seal crashing toward his opponents head-on.

Boom!

The golden gourd bottle energy seal hit the 100-foot tall avatar, stirring up a gust of violent air.

A shocked expression appeared on Su Sheng's face as he reeled back from the huge impact with his avatar.

Bam!

A loud explosion sounded as Su Sheng collided with the inner wall of the barrier.

Pan Litian hovered in the air as the golden gourd bottle spun around him. His eyes were trained on Su Sheng. "I know barriers can't keep Confucian elites like you who are masters of Formations. In that case, we'll let you in... This move is called: to close the door and hit the dog!"

Su Sheng had gone to much trouble before he finally entered the barrier. However, now that he had entered, would he be able to get out? Just how much Primal Qi would he waste by traveling back and forth?

Su Sheng stabilized his avatar as he looked at Pan Litian. He now understood why Zuo Yushu had activated her Formation. He would not allow himself, one of the eight great generals, to be humiliated like this. He joined his palms together and cried out, "In that case, don't blame me for what happens next!"

Su Sheng's 100-foot avatar flew out.

Upon seeing this, Pan Litian retreated.

At this moment, the Six Compatible Seal appeared behind Zuo Yushu. Five scripts surrounded the largest script as they spun.

Hua Wudao flew toward them and landed on Zuo Yushu's Formation. The five scripts immediately turned into nine scripts.

Boom!

Su Sheng's Golden Lotus avatar collided with the Six Compatible Seal.

With this opening, Pan Litian unleashed his golden gourd bottle energy seal at the avatar.

"I see..." Su Sheng shouted, "Expansive Heavenly Energy!"

With Su Sheng in the center, his surging Primal Qi rippled out into the surroundings.

Bam!

Pan Litian pulled the golden gourd bottle energy seal with a single hand before he tossed it.

A black shadow flitted past. Soon, the skies were filled with black figures.

Bam! Bam! Bam

In just a blink of an eye, countless footprints hit the golden gourd bottle energy seal. With the extra push, the golden gourd bottle energy seal pierced through Su Sheng's energy and landed on the avatar.

Boom!

Su Sheng reeled back with his avatar.

The black figure belonged to the Evil Sky Pavilion's elder, Leng Luo.

At this moment, the Evil Sky Pavilion's four elders hovered in the air.

After Su Sheng stabilized his footing, he looked at the four elders in shock. He retracted his Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar and flipped backward, leaving the barrier.

Pan Litian clenched his hand and recalled his golden gourd bottle.

Su Sheng's gaze was complicated as he looked at the four elders. He felt resentful. "The Evil Sky Pavilion's four elders?"

"Young man, the Evil Sky Pavilion isn't a place where you can behave as you pleased."

Su Sheng said, "Alas... this only reveals your cultivation bases haven't been restored. I was careless earlier, but I won't make the same mistake twice. Let's kick this up a notch." As he spoke, he looked at the box behind Liu Ge, Emperor Yong Shou.

Liu Ge was the source of Su Sheng's confidence. He closed his eyes. The turbulent wind around him finally calmed down. After inhaling once, he opened his eyes again.

Whizz!

A 100-foot avatar appeared again. Chain-like talisman seals appeared around the avatar. The seals formed a single line that spun around the avatar.

Pan Litian said, "Elders, what do you say?"

Zuo Yushu, Leng Luo, and Hua Wudao nodded at the same time.

"Naturally, we fight!"

Mingshi Yin was filled with emotions. He said, "As expected of the Evil Sky Pavilion's elders! This is too awesome! I'd like to see how the elders are going to deal with an Eight-leaf cultivator!"

"Now!" Pan Litian said gruffly.

As soon as Pan Litian finished speaking, apart from Hua Wudao who had advanced several meters, the other three elders turn-tailed and fled back toward the Evil Sky Pavilion. They vanished in just an instant.

Hua Wudao. "???"

Mingshi Yin. "???"

How could they bully an honest person like this?

'Is this how you old farts deal with an Eight-leaf cultivator?'

Hua Wudao hastily fled as well.

Su Sheng was perplexed. 'Why did they run away?'

It was taxing to maintain a 100-foot avatar so he quickly retracted it by clenching his hand. He turned around and said, "Your Majesty, I'd like to break this Formation. Kindly give the decree."

Liu Ge shook his head and said, "We shouldn't be rude."

"Understood."

The barrier was like a door. For masters of Formations, barriers could hardly impede them. Even cultivators such as the Five Mice of Upper Prime City could tamper with the Formation veins through unique means and bypass the barrier. Back then, Pan Litian had lost his cultivation base, and yet, he made it through the barrier with his gourd bottle. If the person did not understand Formations, they could only forcibly break it like what the ten great sects did. However, against such a barrier, it was better to use brains than brawn.

Whoosh!

An energy arrow sailed toward them at this moment.

Su Sheng frowned slightly. He raised his palm and deflected the energy arrow. He saw Hua Yuexing standing atop the southern pavilion. She was pulling on a more powerful energy arrow. "Sneak attack? Is everyone in the Evil Sky Pavilion despicable?"

Su Sheng rose into the air and struck with his palms several times. A few talisman seals shot out.

Hua Yuexing's expression changed slightly as she pulled on her bowstring.

"Miss Yuexing, fall back!" Mingshi Yin rose into the air and flew toward the Evil Sky Pavilion at lightning speed.

Hua Yuexing was not a match for an Eight-leaf opponent. Even the four elders had fled.

"You can't run away." Su Sheng's talisman seals were just a hair's breadth away from the barrier.

At this moment, a black umbrella shot toward them from the side.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

The black umbrella opened and blocked the talisman seals as it spun in the air.

"Hm?" Su Sheng looked up.

An old cultivator dressed in long robes flew toward them at blinding speed. His grand technique flashed a few times before he finally landed on top of the umbrella.

"Huang Shijie?" Su Sheng recognized the old man. He was none other than Huang Shijie, the Master of Penglai Island Master.

Huang Shijie, "How can I be excluded from such a lively occasion?"

Gu Yiran looked up fiercely. He pushed away from the ground and shot up like a fired arrow. He joined his palms together and closed his fingers as he shot toward Huang Shijie. "Huang Shijie, you're my opponent!"

Huang Shijie looked over. 'Another Eight-leaf cultivator?' He raised a hand; a huge palm seal appeared in front of him.

Bam!

"Abandon Wisdom!"

The palm seal collided with Abandon Wisdom, stirring up the wind.

The two of them flew into the distance at the same time.

Huang Shijie kept a palm in front of himself. Then, he raised his left hand.

Bam!

Huang Shijie sent his opponent retreating with a single strike.

The two of them looked at each other from a distance.

This Abandon Wisdom had widened Huang Shijie's horizons as well.

Gu Yiran rose into the air after he stabilized himself and said, "Since when did Penglai Island ally itself with the Evil Sky Pavilion?"

"I'm old friends with Brother Ji. His problems are my problems as well."

"Huang Shijie, are you really going to meddle in this?" Gu Yiran asked.

"So long as I'm here... Nobody is allowed to touch the Evil Sky Pavilion!" Huang Shijie looked at Su Sheng who was hovering at the back. Then, he looked at the Evil Sky Pavilion within the barrier as he called up his Primal Qi. The black umbrella flew back into his hand, and he flipped his left palm. With this, countless afterimages of him and the umbrella filled the air as the black umbrella shot out countless energy seals.

Gu Yiran shouted, "Hundred Tribulations Insight!"

Su Sheng summoned his Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar as well.

The two avatars shot past the energy seals in the skies at the same time, leaving energy ripples in their wake.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Both sides were engaged in a fierce battle.

Liu Ge who was prepared to enter the barrier looked at the fight with great interest.

The skies were already filled with the trio's silhouettes.

This battle was of a much higher level compared to the battles that happened near Golden Court Mountain in the past.

“Huang Shijie is helping the Evil Sky Pavilion?” Liu Ge stood with his hands on his back as he looked at the fight.

An imperial bodyguard walked over. “Shall we head up, Your Majesty?”

“There’s no rush.” Liu Ge watched the battle.

Huang Shijie, Su Sheng, and Gu Yiran fought for dozens of rounds, and yet, there was no victor.

Liu Ge looked at the sun again and calmly said, “Open the box.”

“Understood.”

Two Imperial bodyguards opened the first box.

Clack!

A sword with red veins was revealed.

The Imperial bodyguards were staring at the sword with widened eyes.

Liu Ge opened his hand, and the sword flew into his hand. “This sword’s name is High Void, a super heaven-grade weapon...”

Liu Ge no longer offered any explanation. The words ‘super heaven-grade’ was more than enough to show how extraordinary the sword was.

The two imperial bodyguards shuddered. They bowed and said, “Your Majesty’s might knows no bounds!”

Liu Ge looked at the three opponents fighting in the air. He held High Void in his hand as he rose into the sky...

Chapter 544: You’re No Match for Me Even with My Eyes Closed

Liu Ge was finally making a move. He looked like a bolt of lightning as he flew in the air. His sword was not ostentatious; the red veins did not stand out as well.

Since the trio was locked in a melee, they did not notice Liu Ge’s sword coming at them.

Like a meteor, Liu Ge shot past Su Sheng and Gu Yiran toward Huang Shijie.

Bam!

High Void’s energy sword collided with the black umbrella.

An explosion of energy rang in the air.

The trio was sent flying by this strange power.

A chip appeared on the black umbrella. Huang Shijie felt chills running up his spine when the sword energy shot through the black umbrella and pierced through his protective energy.

Bam!

Huang Shijie reeled back.

The black umbrella fell.

"Nine-leaf?" Huang Shijie looked incredulously at the falling black umbrella. He spat out a mouthful of blood. The first thought that appeared in his mind was that Liu Ge was a Nine-leaf cultivator. He kept reeling.

Su Sheng and Gu Yiran stabilized their footing and greeted Liu Ge in unison. "Your Majesty."

When they saw High Void in Liu Ge's hand, they finally realized the box held the sword.

"I hope you'll be able to withstand another hit from my sword." Liu Ge circulated his Primal Qi. High Void vibrated.

When Huang Shijie saw the sword in Liu Ge's hand, his heart sank. An ominous feeling rose within him.

Mingshi Yin appeared to be worried as well. He was the one who called Huang Shijie over. If something happened to Huang Shijie, how was he supposed to explain it to his master?

Boom!

A loud explosion rang from the direction of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

The others looked over and saw a puzzling scene.

A faint blue light shrouded Lu Zhou as he crashed through the ceiling of the hidden chamber and rose into the sky. He sat with his legs crossed, and his eyes were still closed.

"Master?"

"The pavilion master has emerged from his cultivation in seclusion?"

The Evil Sky Pavilion disciples looked up.

"What's happening?"

Nobody understood what was happening.

Liu Ge stopped his movements and looked at Lu Zhou.

Su Sheng and Gu Yiran looked at Lu Zhou as well.

When Lu Zhou appeared, the Evil Sky Pavilion's four elders emerged from the pavilion and looked at the heavens.

The other disciples flew up the southern pavilion and watched from a distance.

Liu Ge held High Void in a backhand grip and kept it behind himself. He cupped his fists at Lu Zhou.

"Brother Ji, we meet again."

"Greetings, Senior Ji." Su Sheng and Gu Yiran bowed in the air.

Yet, Lu Zhou's eyes remained shut. He did not seem to have heard them.

Lu Zhou flew out of the barrier and stopped in the skies, dozens of meters away from the barrier.

Liu Ge drew level with Lu Zhou. As far as he could see, he was surrounded by mountains, rivers, and forests.

Lu Zhou did not respond to him.

Liu Ge repeated himself. "Brother Ji, we meet again."

Lu Zhou remained silent.

Su Sheng said in a hushed voice, "Your Majesty, be careful."

Suddenly, Gu Yitan raised his palm and sent a palm seal over.

The palm seal was instantly upon Lu Zhou.

Bam!

The palm seal scattered and vanished without a trace!

"Hm?"

What was happening?

Gu Yiran was baffled. He looked at Liu Ge and said, "Your Majesty, I was just trying to probe Senior Ji. Please forgive me."

"Probe?" Liu Ge glanced at Gu Yiran. "If there had been an ounce of selfishness in your actions, I wouldn't forgive you."

Gu Yiran's back broke out in cold sweat upon hearing this. He bowed and said, "I dare not!"

This was not the time for internal quarrels.

Liu Ge looked at Lu Zhou who was sitting cross-legged in the air, still shrouded by a faint blue light. "Congratulations on coming out from your cultivation in seclusion, Brother Ji." He had infused powerful Primal Qi into his words, and they resounded thunderously. Every syllable struck at the faint blue light around Lu Zhou.

Liu Ge's sound technique was instantly nullified! It had no effect whatsoever.

...

"What cultivation method is master using?" Zhu Honggong's eyes widened. He was standing in the southern pavilion.

"A defensive cultivation method like the Golden Buddha Body, but I've never seen this before."

...

Lu Zhou was lost in the power...

To gain the power to hear everything so that we can hear voices in all realms at will.

This was the first power of the Heavenly Writing's Earth Scroll, the Clear Heavenly Ears.

It could be used to listen and to filter out sounds.

The sounds of the outside world were completely blocked out. This included sound techniques.

Liu Ge's expression was grave as he said, "As expected, Brother Ji is at the Nine-leaf stage."

Lu Zhou had used his power to activate the armor's power before this. It was clear that the extraordinary power was beyond the Nine-leaf stage. It was not surprising that Liu Ge would have such thoughts.

Liu Ge continued to say, "If that's the case, please forgive me, Brother Ji. For the safety and peace of the world, I'm willing to be cursed for betraying a brother and a friend!"

Whizz! Whizz! Whizz!

High Void thrummed in Liu Ge's hand.

Su Sheng and Gu Yiran watched with an expectant expression on their faces. They knew Liu Ge was about to attack the only Nine-leaf cultivator in the world.

Liu Ge flipped his right hand and pointed High Void at Lu Zhou. A word seal appeared.

Swoosh!

His expression remained grave. He was calm as he watched the sword energy shoot toward Lu Zhou's chest like a bullet.

The Evil Sky Pavilion's disciples, elder, female cultivators, and Huang Shijie widened their eyes as they witnessed this scene. All of them cried out in unison.

"Master!"

"Pavilion Master!"

"Brother Ji!"

The sword seal seemed to be capable of passing time and space as it sailed across the sky. With its lightning speed, it drew close to Lu Zhou.

Bam!

The blue light suddenly converged at one point.

Liu Ge was sent flying back for ten meters. He flipped in the air and quickly stabilized his footing. Then, he raised his wizened hand, and High Void returned to him. His eyes widened when he looked at Lu Zhou. "He parried High Void?"

When Liu Ge was still on the throne, he had secretly tested High Void's might. He was certain that High Void could break a heaven-grade weapon. Ever since then, he kept High Void a tightly guarded secret. The sword was his trump card. The mysterious elite had once said that there should not be a Nine-leaf

cultivator in the world. He was supposed to cut the person down with this sword if a Nine-leaf cultivator appeared. The mysterious elite had left behind a chant that could be used to activate the red veins on High Void.

Liu Ge looked at the red veins on High Void and no longer hesitated. For the people, for Great Yan, for the Imperial family, he could not allow a Nine-leaf cultivator to exist!

Liu Ge attacked again. The sword sliced through the air.

The blue energy appeared again, forming an impenetrable barrier around Lu Zhou.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Afterimages appeared fleetingly in the sky as Liu Ge shot to the left and right, moving at a blinding speed. Every time he moved, he would conjure up an energy sword to strike the blue energy.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

The energy swords rained down like a tempest! His rhythm picked up as well.

This scene reminded everyone of the Sword Devil, Yu Shangrong.

"Your Majesty..." Su Sheng gulped.

Gu Yiran said, "No wonder His Majesty is bold enough to come here..."

At this moment, Liu Ge suddenly stopped moving and hovered before Lu Zhou. He held High Void between his palms as he chanted.

The red veins shone brighter.

Liu Ge was delighted. He looked at Lu Zhou, who was still sitting cross-legged in the air, pointedly. Then, he cried out in a deep voice, "Go!"

With High Void at the center, the energy sword enlarged and sliced down.

The huge energy sword collided with the blue energy!

Boom!

The aftershock from the collision rippled outward.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

In just a blink of an eye, Liu Ge, Su Sheng, and Gu Yiran were hit by the shockwave. The three of them reeled back.

Since Liu Ge was standing the closest to the point of collision, the shockwave struck him square on the chest. He spat out a mouthful of blood as he was sent flying back.

The entire place was deathly silent.

The huge energy sword had vanished as well.

High Void fell slowly before it struck the barrier with a clang.

The red veins dimmed.

Upon seeing this, Liu Ge was confused. However, more than anything else, he was frightened. From the beginning until the end, Lu Zhou did not open his eyes at all. He did not even defend himself, at least not knowingly. And yet, nobody could move him. What was wrong?

Huang Shijie's thoughts were complicated as he watched from afar. He mumbled to himself, "If Brother Ji is so strong, what am I doing here?" He decided to just watch.

Meanwhile, the Evil Sky Pavilion's four elders watched with their mouths agape. Their mouths felt dry at this moment.

"... he's not even doing anything?"

"The pavilion master's eyes are still shut."

"Is he asleep?"

"I've never conceded to anyone throughout my entire life. The pavilion master is the first person."

Chapter 545: Fight between Eight-leaf Cultivators

In the skies above the Evil Sky Pavilion, the blue light was almost indistinguishable from the blue sky.

"Your Majesty!" Su Sheng and Gu Yiran cried as they fought to stabilize themselves in the air. They kept flipping to minimize the impact. Even then, it did not keep their blood essence from surging and numbing their limbs. The duo rode on the momentum with great difficulty before they finally managed to catch Liu Ge.

Finally, the trio managed to regain their footing in the air. They looked at Lu Zhou who was still sitting cross-legged with his eyes shut. He seemed calm and peaceful. It was as though nothing had happened. What a baffling situation!

Mingshi Yin flew into the air above the Evil Sky Pavilion and shouted, "Hey, hey, hey... you three shameless old farts! You can't even defeat my master who's asleep! Aren't you ashamed of yourselves?"

Liu Ge raised his hand and suppressed his surging blood essence.

Su Sheng and Gu Yiran looked at Lu Zhou who remained unscathed.

"Your Majesty, are you alright?" Su Sheng asked.

"I'm alright." Liu Ge's chaotic Primal Qi gradually calmed down.

They did not even look at Mingshi Yin. There was no need for them to waste their time on a disciple who only had a Four or Five-leaf cultivation base.

"Continue." Liu Ge's eyes shone with determination.

In fact, at this moment, the thought of retreating had already appeared in Su Sheng and Gu Yiran's minds. Even the super heaven-grade weapon, High Void, could not pierce the peculiar energy. Was there a point in continuing? This was different from the battlefield. On the battlefield, it was a battle of killing techniques and willpower. However, what was the point of applying it here? However, every

person had their own roles to play. When their master gave the order, as subordinates, they would have to obey.

Liu Ge pointed at the blue radiance around Lu Zhou and said, "Look closely."

Su Sheng and Gu Yiran widened their eyes and studied it.

"I see... the power is decreasing."

This was why Liu Ge was bold enough to continue. He had noticed the blue energy had weakened after a round of attack.

"I'm willing to be the vanguard."

"Me too."

The two generals declared their loyalty.

Liu Ge opened his palm. High Void that had dropped on the barrier vibrated before it flew back into his hand. The radiance from the red veins had disappeared as swiftly as it had appeared. "Good... It's been a long time since I've fought alongside both of you."

The Evil Sky Pavilion's four elders flew up the top of the pavilion and stood in a row. The existence of a super heaven-grade weapon had exceeded their expectations. They could do nothing to help at this juncture. It was precisely because they were experienced individuals that they knew acting recklessly was akin to throwing their lives away in vain.

"You'll have to go through me!" Huang Shijie rose up into the air at this moment. Primal Qi burst forth from under his feet, and he swiftly drew level with the others.

"Huang Shijie... Since you want to die, I'll fulfill your wish!" Gu Yiran adjusted his direction and glanced at Liu Ge and Su Sheng.

The three of them exchanged a look.

"The fight isn't over until the fat lady sings!" Huang Shijie a palm upward; an umbrella-shaped energy seal appeared above his head. Shortly after, the umbrella-shaped energy seal spun and shot energy needles in the air.

"I didn't take you for someone who repays the kindness he received from another person, Island Master Huang," Pan Litian said.

"The pavilion master had held the Penglai Island up with a single hand. It was a shocking move, and an amazing one."

The others nodded approvingly. Huang Shijie was an old Eight-leaf elite, after all. It was not a problem for him to deal with Gu Yiran. However, what could be done about Su Sheng and Liu Ge?

The others looked over.

Su Sheng was already standing above Lu Zhou. He struck with densely packed talisman seals.

“Confucian talisman seals!” Zuo Yushu shook her head. “As expected of an old, sly fox. They can tell that brother’s energy could be chipped away. That’s why he’s using such low-rank talisman seals.”

“Despicable!”

“Shameless!”

“Low class!”

Hua Wudao turned to look at Mingshi Yin who spoke last. “What’s low-class about this?”

“It doesn’t matter. Let’s just continue hurling insults at them.” Mingshi Yin glared at Su Sheng.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Talisman seals descended. They were all negated by the blue energy around Lu Zhou.

15 minutes later, Su Sheng dove and launched a palm seal.

Boom!

The blue energy repelled it.

Su Sheng grunted as he flipped backward. He retreated 100 meters back. He was truly frightened.

‘Senior Ji is still unconscious. How are we supposed to fight him when he wakes up?’

“Your Majesty, the energy has weakened again.” Although Su Sheng was hit by the backlash, his attack was still effective.

Liu Ge nodded in satisfaction. High Void thrummed slightly in his hand. He turned around and looked at the battle between Gu Yiran and Huang Shijie. The two opponents were moving further and further away. They were evenly matched. For a time, it was difficult to tell who would win.

Su Sheng said gruffly, “There’s no need to worry about General Gu, Your Majesty. General Gu and I are both of the Confucian school. He’s someone who fights more valiantly as the battle drags on. I believe that he’ll defeat Huang Shijie soon enough.”

“Good,” Liu Ge replied. Then, he raised his sword. The red veins glowed again.

Su Sheng joined his palms together, and a talisman seal appeared. “I’ll always be by your side, Your Majesty.”

The Evil Sky Pavilion’s four elders’ expressions were grave as they watched this scene.

“The pavilion master’s defensive energy seems to be weakening.”

“Su Sheng and Liu Ge are trying to wear it down... They’re too despicable.”

“Let’s do something to draw their attention later.”

The four elders exchanged looks.

Su Sheng and Liu Ge circulated their Primal Qi as they flew toward Lu Zhou.

The countless talisman seals cordoned off a huge round area.

Su Sheng wanted to whittle away Lu Zhou's energy in this manner to create an opening for Liu Ge.

When the talisman seals were about to hit...

Awoo!!!

From behind the cliff of the eastern pavilion, a snow-white figure suddenly appeared.

Whizz!

An Eight-leaf avatar materialized!

Boom!

A tidal wave of Primal Qi rippled out of the 100-foot avatar, shattering all the talisman seals. The seals fell down like snowflakes.

Su Sheng was caught off guard. He reeled back and flipped in the air. He was already injured by Lu Zhou's energy before. With this, he suffered an even greater injury. His blood essence roiled. Blood surged up his throat before he spat out a mouthful of blood.

"Who is it?" Liu Ge turned around and flipped his palm. A palm seal sailed out to break Su Sheng's fall...

The 100-foot female avatar towered in front of Lu Zhou. Under the shining golden avatar, eight leaves spun slowly around the Golden Lotus. A white-clad woman stood in the avatar. It was none other than Ye Tianxin.

"Sixth Junior Sister?" Mingshi Yin exclaimed in shock.

The four elders were also shocked by this.

"Is this the Evil Sky Pavilion's sixth disciple, Ye Tianxin?"

"Sixth Senior Sister... is at the Eight-leaf stage!" Zhu Honggong sounded incredulous.

Meanwhile, a group of female cultivators gathered on the plaza inside the Evil Sky Pavilion's barrier. They formed a square Formation and said in unison, "Welcome back, Palace Master!"

They were once the female disciples of the Derived Moon Palace and regarded Ye Tianxin as their leader. Now that Ye Tianxin was back as an Eight-leaf cultivator, they could hardly remain calm. They looked up at her with tears in their eyes, knowing that their leader had returned.

Ye Tianxin did not respond to them. She knew there were more pressing matters to deal with at the moment.

From the conversations in his surroundings, Liu Ge knew who the white-clad woman was. "I've truly underestimated Brother Ji. To think that he has such an outstanding disciple! Eight-leaf, Ye Tianxin?" A hint of confusion could be heard in his voice, and his eyes were filled with doubt, shock, and disbelief.

Ye Tianxin looked up with a cold expression and said, "A fate worse than death awaits those who trespass into the Evil Sky Pavilion." She had just recently attained the Eight-leaf stage, and her avatar had a domineering presence. Her Blue Waves Technique rolled toward her opponents like a tidal wave.

With both hands on High Void, Liu Ge sliced through the waves. He stepped forward.

Su Sheng released a blast of Primal Qi as well and said, "You have a death wish..."

Chapter 546: Ye Tianxin Returns

The three of them engaged in battle instantly.

The air turned turbulent. It was extremely chaotic. The energy rolled out toward the barrier, but the barrier kept it at bay.

The Blue Waves Technique was without waves at first. However, when it was unleashed, it resembled the endless tide. Ice-cold surges and waves swelled alternately at random, catching the target off guard.

The white-clad Ye Tianxin was keeping the duo in check.

"It's no wonder the Evil Sky Pavilion is able to shock the lands under the heavens... Its first disciple, Yu Zhenghai, and second disciple, Yu Shangrong, are both outstanding individuals. To think that even the sixth disciple is so powerful," Hua Wudao exclaimed in awe.

"The Blue Waves Technique is magnificent... She's fighting against two opponents at once. If I didn't see this with my own eyes, I wouldn't have believed it."

"The pressing matter now is to wake the pavilion master up."

When he heard this, Leng Luo said, "No."

"What do you mean?"

"When a person's cultivation is at a critical point, it might be detrimental to him if we forcefully wake him," Leng Luo said.

"So, you're saying that we can only stand here and watch?" The others looked flustered.

"This young girl has only recently attained the Eight-leaf stage. She should be able to hold them off for some time..."

The others nodded. At this moment, they could only place their hopes in Ye Tianxin.

It was meaningless for Seven-leaf cultivators and below to interfere in a battle between Eight-leaf cultivators. Moreover, Seven-leaf cultivators aside, the person with the highest cultivation base in the Evil Sky Pavilion at the moment was the Five-leaf Mingshi Yin.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Beams of energies collided in the air.

Ye Tianxin was highly focused as she struck. However, her opponents were Liu Ge, who wielded the super heaven-grade weapon, High Void, and one of the eight great generals, Su Sheng, who was highly experienced on the battlefield. It would be as difficult as ascending to heaven to win against them.

...

An hour later.

The battle was gradually reaching its climax.

The fight was not as intense as it was when it just started.

At this moment, Su Sheng saw that the energy around Lu Zhou was nearly gone. He cried out, "Your Majesty! Old Villain Ji's protective energy is almost gone! I'll deal with this woman!"

"Alright." Liu Ge had noticed it as well. The opportunity was finally here.

Su Sheng raised two fingers. He steeled his resolve and bit his finger. Fresh blood dripped onto the talisman in his left hand. The shining golden talisman seal was instantly dyed crimson from his blood. "Little girl... I'm not called one of the eight great generals for nothing!"

Red talisman seals danced in the air and formed a huge dragon. The densely packed runes weaved together before they lunged toward Ye Tianxin.

Ye Tianxin tossed her Amorous Hoop out as she struck the huge dragon with her Blue Waves Technique. The scene resembled a dragon swimming among the waves of the sea...

The battle instantly intensified several-fold.

Liu Ge's expression remained indifferent. The red veins on High Void shone blindingly bright at this moment. He tapped the air with his feet, held High Void in his right hand, and flew toward Lu Zhou.

"No!"

"Stop him!"

"That's a Confucian talisman seal's golden dragon and an Eight-leaf technique! The little girl is careless!" Zuo Yushu stomped her foot in frustration.

The Evil Sky Pavilion's four elders left the barrier at once.

Liu Ge seemed to have anticipated this. He launched several palm seals with his left hand and pushed down with all his might.

Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam!

The four Elders were repelled!

Liu Ge kept his sword on course toward Lu Zhou's head. His eyes were blazing as he coldly said, "It's over, Brother Ji..."

At this moment, Ye Tianxin unleashed her grand technique and moved toward them. She struck perpendicularly at High Void with her palm.

Bam!

"Hm?" Liu Ge frowned.

This palm strike caused High Void to veer off course. The price Ye Tianxin paid was that her back was now exposed to the huge talisman seal dragon.

Bam!

The huge talisman seal dragon struck Ye Tianxin's back.

Everything happened in just a blink of an eye.

Ye Tianxin grunted and spat out a mouthful of blood.

"Sixth Junior Sister!"

"Sixth Senior Sister!"

Ye Tianxin had just broken through recently and became an Eight-leaf cultivator. It was amazing that she lasted against two opponents as long as she did. She had done her best.

Everyone's eyes widened as they looked at the white-clad figure. The blood was a stark contrast against her white robes.

Ye Tianxin fell. As she fell, she caught a glimpse of Lu Zhou. The sight she saw seemed to be frozen in her mind. At this moment, thousands upon thousands of thoughts flashed past Ye Tianxin's mind. She remembered when she first climbed the mountain to learn the art of cultivation, how her fellow disciples bickered, the helplessness she felt when she left the Evil Sky Pavilion, and the despair and rage she felt when her master destroyed her cultivation base. She had asked herself countless times if she had regrets. No matter the situation, her answer always remained the same. No. There was karma and a cycle for everything. She would have to pay for her own sins. A satisfied smile bloomed on her face at this instant. Everything was over now.

Ye Tianxin continued plummeting to the ground.

After his attack hit its mark, Su Sheng shouted, "You think too highly of your own strength."

Liu Ge's sword strike was deflected by Ye Tianxin's palm strike. His blade missed Lu Zhou by a meter to Lu Zhou's left.

At this moment, a blue lotus bloomed around Lu Zhou!

Boom!

A blast of energy covering a wide area rippled out.

The blue lotus opened and struck Liu Ge on the chest and side.

Bam!

Liu Ge reeled from the impact.

The force did not subside as it continued spreading. The blue lotus' power struck the Eight-leaf Su Sheng as well.

Bam!

The two of them flew away like kites with their threads severed. They spat out blood at the same time as they were sent flying back.

With this, Su Sheng's injuries grew worse.

At this moment, Lu Zhou who was sitting cross-legged on the blue lotus suddenly opened his eyes. The stars of the night skies seemed to fill his eyes as they twinkled and shone. The extraordinary power of the Human and Earth Scrolls was finally in harmony. Although the Human Scroll's extraordinary power was depleted, the activated Earth Scroll's extraordinary power instantly filled it up. His cultivation in seclusion was finally over!

Lu Zhou was puzzled by the sight that greeted his eyes as soon as he opened them. He saw a white-clad figure falling to the ground. He frowned and softly said, "Rascal."

Then, he caught a glimpse of Liu Ge and Su Sheng who were both flying back.

"Hm? Why are both of you injured?"

Liu Ge and Su Sheng. "???"

Lu Zhou slowly rose to his feet as he surveyed his surroundings. The blue lotus under his feet faded away. He saw the Evil Sky Pavilion's four elders and his disciples. He saw the female cultivators gathered on the plaza before the great hall.

Ye Tianxin fell on the barrier with a bang. The barrier seemed as smooth as glass, and Ye Tianxin continued sliding toward the cliff. Crimson blood stained her white clothes.

Lu Zhou frowned. Scenes played out in his mind. The series of events that happened around him earlier were being replayed in his mind like a movie. Despite his age, his temper was instantly stoked at this moment.

Lu Zhou dove. He raised a palm, and a huge Fiend Monk's Hand Seal descended from the skies.

As she rolled down, Ye Tianxin saw the hand seal through her swimming vision... It seemed familiar to her.

During the Bluesun Mountain battle, Lu Zhou had used this exact hand seal to capture Ye Tianxin and destroy her cultivation base. Now, the same Fiend Monk's Hand Seal was coming at her. The difference was this time the Fiend Monk's Hand Seal was carrying her. She hovered in midair.

Lu Zhou could sense life leaking out of Ye Tianxin at this moment.

Ye Tianxin looked up with difficulty as she called out weakly, "Master?"

"You don't regret this?" Lu Zhou finally spoke.

"Repaying kindness with my life... I... I don't regret this," Ye Tianxin said in a trembling voice.

Lu Zhou shook his head and asked, "Don't you resent me for driving you out?"

"No." Her vitality was seeping away. In just a blink of an eye, her hair turned white. She was losing consciousness. The power of the talisman seal's golden dragon was wreaking havoc in her. She felt as though she was drying up inside.

Lu Zhou raised a hand that was palm radiating with blue energy and temporarily prevented Ye Tianxin from losing her vitality. However, signs of her life fading away were still there. He finally realized there was a possibility that Ye Tianxin might die.

"Master, don't waste your Primal Qi... The crisis is still unresolved," Ye Tianxin struggled to say, "I... I have many things I want to tell you... Alas, there's no time." Her breathing grew more and more labored.

The power of the talisman seal's golden dragon had exceeded everyone's expectations.

Dozens of female cultivators from the Derived Moon Palace prostrated themselves on the ground and sobbed.

The Evil Sky Pavilion's four elders were silent.

"Rest well. You won't die," Lu Zhou said.

"Before I die... I... would like to ask for a favor, master," Ye Tianxin said.

"What is it?"

"I... want to... rejoin the Evil Sky Pavilion."

Chapter 547: Good Punching Bags

"I... would like to rejoin the Evil Sky Pavilion... I have nowhere else to go... Please grant me this request, master!" Ye Tianxin struggled to get up on the Fiend Monk's Hand Seal before she kneeled. Her injuries and swaying body did not hamper her determination.

People kneel at the heavens, the earth, and their parents. A master for a day, a father forever. Kneeling at her master was akin to kneeling at her father.

Lu Zhou had every right to accept this gesture.

Everyone in the Evil Sky Pavilion was watching this intently. They looked at Lu Zhou expectantly. Who could remain unmoved by this? A person's heart was made of flesh, after all.

A master and a disciple; an old man and a young lady; one kneeling, and the other standing.

After what seemed like hours, Lu Zhou finally said, "Alright." His reply was concise and to the point.

Ye Tianxin smiled before she closed her eyes and fell backward.

Lu Zhou waved his sleeve. The energy seal carried her into the barrier like a boat.

The four elders circulated their Primal Qi at the same time and caught Ye Tianxin in the air.

Ye Tianxin was finally back.

Lu Zhou shifted his gaze away from Ye Tianxin and looked at Liu Ge and Su Sheng in the distance.

Su Sheng was heavily injured, but he could still fight. His eyes brimming with horror.

Liu Ge, on the other hand, seemed unaffected. Apart from his slightly disheveled hair, he seemed uninjured.

Lu Zhou rose slowly into the air. His expression grew extremely frosty. He stared at the duo motionlessly. Liu Ge and Su Sheng did not flee, seemingly confident about going against him. However,

he did not care about their reasons at all. Then, he looked at the sword in Liu Ge's hand, High Void, before he stared at Liu Ge.

Liu Ge met Lu Zhou's gaze. At this juncture, there was no turning back.

Liu Ge was about to speak when Lu Zhou said, "I gave you a chance..." His anger was palpable despite his calm voice. He dove without warning.

The others exclaimed in shock. Their eyes were glued to the pavilion master as he showcased his wondrous might. When the pavilion master flew down, they could hardly contain their awe and excitement.

"I spared your lives, but you're insistent about them throwing away... Seems like you no longer want it!" Lu Zhou raised his fist and charged toward Liu Ge and Su Sheng.

Su Sheng's face flushed red as his battle spirit rose. He had spent many years on the battlefield. He was not afraid of death. He pounded his chest like a gorilla before energy surged out of his body. He cried out, "Your Majesty, stand back! I'll fight him!" Then, he flew to meet Lu Zhou like a fired arrow.

Fist against fist!

Lu Zhou's right fist was wrapped in an energy seal that glowed with a blue light.

Bam!

The blue and golden lights collided! A vertical blast of energy exploded.

The outcome was just as expected...

Crack!

A crisp sound rang in the air, Su Sheng's right arm was severed as he flew back. He had no time to react at all. He flew back the same way he came.

Boom!

Su Sheng shot past Liu Ge and crashed heavily onto the ground, spraying dirt everywhere.

Liu Ge did not catch Su Sheng. Instead, he was shocked by the power packed in Lu Zhou's punch. A person who cultivated an energy to its extreme had to put in painstaking effort during the Body Tempering stage and cultivate their bodies to the extreme. The Ji Tiandao he knew was not a person who was skilled in energy fists. How could that punch be so powerful?

As the dust settled, Su Sheng's vision cleared. He was in a pit. Coughing violently, he pressed his hand to the stump on his shoulder. He crawled out of the pit before he spat out blood due to his heavy injuries. Blood spilled on his chest and stained the ground red.

Lu Zhou said tonelessly, "It seems like you enjoy bullying my disciples?"

Su Sheng felt stabbing pain all over his body. He felt life draining from his body. "..."

"Weak," Lu Zhou said ruthlessly.

Su Sheng looked at the skies. His breathing was shallow now. He could no longer move.

'Still alive? What a good punching bag.'

Liu Ge frowned deeply. He clenched his fist and raised High Void. "Brother... Ji..."

"You're unworthy!" Lu Zhou moved swiftly toward Liu Ge and cut him short. He flipped his palm. Unnamed materialized in his hand.

An energy sword swirled around Unnamed.

Liu Ge's face fell. He raised High Void and moved to parry the blow.

There was a flash of cold light!

Bam!

Unnamed and High Void collided!

After this exchange, both opponents' backs were facing each other.

"This sword is High Void, a super heaven-grade weapon... There are Nine-leaf Formation veins on it, which is supposed to be a bane for Nine-leaf cultivators... You've lost." As soon as Liu Ge finished speaking...

Crack!

A crack appeared on High Void before it broke.

"Hm?"

The crisp sound made Liu Ge's heart shudder. He turned to look, and his eyes widened. What happened? His heart sank to the depths of the valley at once. He pulled his arm back and studied his weapon. The other half of the blade had fallen, only half of High Void remained in his hand.

Liu Ge looked at Lu Zhou...

Lu Zhou held Unnamed in his right hand; his back was still facing Liu Ge. The delicate-looking Unnamed was exuding a black runic aura at this moment.

"What's that weapon?" Liu Ge exclaimed in shock.

Lu Zhou did not answer him. Instead, he flipped his palm and aimed it at the ground.

Unnamed fell, wrapped in a blue light. It shone like a torch in winter. Its speed increased!

Liu Ge looked down before realization dawned on him. He dove. "Stop!"

Lu Zhou raised his palm and launched a palm seal.

Bam!

Liu Ge was sent flying.

Unnamed, shrouded in a blue radiance, descended from the skies. The energy sword suddenly expanded and stabbed Su Sheng!

Bam!

Su Sheng was already heavily wounded to begin with. There was no way he could have withstood this blow.

Unnamed pinned Su Sheng firmly onto the ground like a nail.

“I’ll have Su Sheng’s life!”

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

At this moment, Liu Ge realized he had severely underestimated Lu Zhou’s strength. His eyes were brimming with disbelief as he was sent flying back. He gripped what remained of High Void tightly to stabilize himself. He glanced at Su Sheng who was impaled by Unnamed. “Why? I’ve done everything for the people, for Great Yan... Why must you attain the Nine-leaf stage?” He fired one question after another; his emotions were clearly in turmoil.

Lu Zhou looked at Liu Ge indifferently. “You keep spouting nonsense. I’ll have your life!”

He flipped his palm.

Whizz!

With a zing, Unnamed dislodged itself from Su Sheng’s chest and flew back into Lu Zhou’s hand. The energy sword elongated as he charged toward Liu Ge in the air.

The sword vibrated.

Liu Ge tapped his dantian’s sea of Qi. There was a surge of rich Primal Qi as his sea of Qi began to burn. The red veins on High Void’s blade burned as well. He spat out a mouthful of blood on the veins. High Void was now gleaming with a peculiar scarlet glow. “I didn’t want to do this. Since you’ve forced my hand, Brother Ji, I’ll fight you to death.” He swung his sword.

The scene from moments ago was reenacted.

Both opponents passed each other.

At this moment, A rich blue Mudra Ward appeared on Lu Zhou.

A clear heart would show one’s nature and free one’s mind. A heart set like a stone would be as immovable as a mountain.

Bam!

High Void drew across the Ward Mudra.

Unnamed drew across Liu Ge’s protective energy.

Another round ended right after the opening.

Liu Ge lowered his head and saw his punctured protective energy that now resembled a deflated balloon as his Primal Qi escaped. Then, he turned to look at Lu Zhou's Mudra Ward... There was only a scratch on the Mudra Ward that was fast healing. He was stunned. He had lost again. His fingers trembled. He was too careless. His knuckles whitened around High Void's hilt.

Lu Zhou's voice rang in the air. "You dare challenge me with that strength?"

"Open the box," Liu Ge said. His voice reverberated in the skies.

"Understood!"

The two remaining Imperial bodyguards hastily opened the second box.

"Hm?"

When the box was opened, a stack of talismans flew out toward Liu Ge. They moved at a speed greater than grand techniques.

Liu Ge was covered in talismans in just a blink of an eye. The talismans wrapped around him tightly and seemed to be dissolving into his flesh and blood. The red runes on High Void's broken blade flew toward Liu Ge as well and merged with him. He looked somewhat like a mummy now.

The red runes shone.

Lu Zhou looked at the red talismans and said indifferently, "You're finally willing to use it."

Chapter 548: I Will Fulfill Your Wish

Liu Ge's voice was now hoarse. He laughed maniacally before he said, "These talismans were left behind by the mysterious elite. I'm like an immortal... When the talismans' effects are gone, I... will die as well."

Lu Zhou looked at the talismans that seemed to have melted into Liu Ge's body and shook his head. "I was expecting some treasure, but instead, it's just some arcane art."

"This is enough," Liu Ge retorted. "Brother Ji... Seems like you know the Nine-leaf stage is evil. Otherwise, why did you seal your memories away?" Liu Ge said.

"You know about my memory crystal?"

"I won't allow anyone to attain the Nine-leaf stage... It matters not that you're my old friend. If I can dissuade you, I'll naturally try to dissuade you. However, since you can't be dissuaded, I'll kill you." As soon as Liu Ge finished speaking, he moved at lightning speed, leaving only a red streak in his wake. Amidst the the shouts from the Evil Sky Pavilion's members, he charged straight at Lu Zhou.

'How fast!'

The others thought the battle would be a difficult one.

Lu Zhou suddenly raised his hand, pointing five fingers ahead. His hand shone with a blue light before a huge blue palm seal flew out and landed on Liu Ge.

Crack!

Lu Zhou clenched his fingers, holding Liu Ge in a firm grip. He could sense that Liu Ge had indeed grown stronger, but he could also feel the extraordinary power's endurance had increased. The palm seal consumed a quarter of his extraordinary power.

"Immortal?" Lu Zhou raised his hand and looked at the mummified Liu Ge. He could see talisman had melted on Liu Ge's face, making it seem as though some barbaric runes had been carved branded on him. It was a truly strange sight.

"You-you can't kill me."

"I'll try."

The five fingers tightened their grip!

The popping sound of dislocated joints rang in the air. It was a rather jarring noise.

The people of the Evil Sky Pavilion did not expect Lu Zhou to suddenly clench his hand. It was a ruthless and cold move, but it was satisfying and direct at the same time. They were moved by this. Nobody truly knew how strong a Nine-leaf cultivator was, after all. However, after witnessing Lu Zhou's technique, they were reminded again that Nine-leaf cultivators were really unimaginably powerful. Whenever they made a move, it seemed as though they were capable of destroying heaven and earth.

When the five fingers tightened into a fist, it felt as though a biscuit had been crushed. Through the palm seal, Lu Zhou could clearly feel that the Fiend Monk's Hand Seal, released through the power of past lives, had crushed Liu Ge's internal organs and ground his bones together. However, he did not receive the system notification.

Soon enough, the palm seal faded away.

Liu Ge dropped from the skies and crashed onto the ground with a boom.

'He's not dead?' Lu Zhou dove. 'Should I use a Deadly Strike Card? Doesn't seem to be worth it, though.'

Currently, Lu Zhou had about a quarter of extraordinary power left.

All of a sudden, Liu Ge's body shone with a crimson light. His bones shifted back into their positions. His body wriggled as his organs began to heal.

Above the Evil Sky Pavilion, Mingshi Yin's jaws dropped when he saw this. "What kind of f*cking arcane art is that?"

The others nodded, agreeing with Mingshi Yin's words.

"That's gross!"

"The people of Great Yan have never cultivated evil arts that bring people back from the dead. Even if it's an arcane art, I've only heard of something like a human controlling a puppet through Formation veins. I've never heard of anyone being granted immortality even if it's just for a short time."

"Those veins are the same as the ones on the coffin brought by the Roulian. Could this be an arcane art of the Other Tribes?"

“Unlikely. If the Other Tribes have such arcane arts, they would’ve used it a long time ago in a large scale and attacked Great Yan.”

Liu Ge’s trump card and technique had truly exceeded their expectations.

Lu Zhou looked down at the ‘mummy’ that was returning to life.

Liu Ge flipped over and spat out a mouthful of blood; his breathing was labored. However, he did not seem to be in pain. Instead, a smile could be seen on his face. The talismans worked! He was invincible, an immortal! This only further proved that the mysterious elite’s words were true. He looked at the skies and chuckled as he said, “I... can’t die.”

Lu Zhou had been thinking about Liu Ge’s weakness. The coffin’s occupant had said that nobody could live forever. He looked down at Liu Ge and said, “It’s clear you trust the elite’s warning... I’m sure he must have told you nobody can live forever.”

Liu Ge felt as though he was struck by a bolt of lightning. His eyes widened as he looked up. “You’ve met him?!”

Lu Zhou saw the crimson light shining from the veins on Liu Ge’s body. He raised a hand; Unnamed appeared in his hand.

Black runes swirled around Unnamed.

Were black and red antagonistic?

Lu Zhou remembered the inscriptions inside the Mausoleum of Swords and Emperor Yong Shou’s tomb. “Did you stay in the Mausoleum of Sword for a long time?”

Liu Ge stood up and said, “A great deal of Yin and Yang energy is needed to cultivate an immortal body.”

“No wonder.” Lu Zhou nodded, pleased. The body was the vessel. If a person wanted more power, the vessel would have to be improved. The powers of the tomb’s inscriptions seemed to be the same as the powers of the red veins.

Liu Ge spread his arms and said while facing the skies, “The truth here is that I’m now immortal!”

“You’ve spoken too soon!” Lu Zhou joined his palms together. He channeled the remaining quarter of extraordinary power into Unnamed. Unnamed instantly changed into countless energy swords that rained down from the skies above.

Liu Ge looked up, intending to dodge. Alas, he discovered that he could not escape. The energy swords swiftly rained down on him. He laughed maniacally. “Ji Tiandao, my great limit has already passed. I kept myself alive by absorbing life force with these runes... I’ve known about the secret of the Golden Lotus absorbing life, 300 years ago, but I chose not to tell you! What can you do about it...”

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Thousands upon thousands of energy swords pierced Liu Ge’s chest.

Everything seemed to freeze at this moment.

Unnamed returned to Lu Zhou's hand. He glanced at Unnamed. The black runes were still there even though their numbers were reduced. He looked at Liu Ge who had been stabbed in the chest.

Liu Ge looked at his own chest. Some of the red runes on the red veins on his chest were being erased by the black runes. His wounds were not healing. Fresh blood kept gushing out. He could not believe his eyes. "No..."

Lu Zhou lowered himself slightly and looked down at Liu Ge as he said, "See? There isn't anyone who can't be killed..."

Liu Ge looked around his surroundings. He was at a loss. Everything was slipping away. The rivers, the mountains, his people, everything in this world were rushing past him. His wounds were still not closing. Liu Ge staggered several steps back as though he had seen a cavalry charging at him. His gaze grew hollow as he flailed his arms wildly. He screamed, "Kill... kill... kill!" This was interspersed with panic attacks. "Don't come here! Go away..." His blood stained the ground red. As he flailed and stumbled around, he left trails of blood in his wake.

"I won't die... I really won't die... You lie, you're lying..." Liu Ge continued until his voice turned hoarse. After his final word, he stopped moving abruptly. Blood flowed out of his seven apertures. Tears streamed out of his eyes down his face.

Lu Zhou did not make any move. He only regarded Liu Ge coldly.

As the saying went, 'A person would talk kindly on his deathbed'. Liu Ge suddenly said, "Was I mistaken?"

Lu Zhou did not answer him.

There was a brief moment of silence.

Liu Ge seemed to have thought things through. He chuckled. Then, he placed his hands on his back. With a haughty expression on his face, he looked at Lu Zhou and said, "Brother Ji, can you send me off?"

"Where's the crystal?"

"You should check out Lou Lan's royals..."

"Fine, I'll fulfill your wish!" Lu Zhou struck with his palm.

A huge palm seal descended from the skies.

Liu Ge maintained his posture that was befitting of an emperor. He spread his arms, looked up, and smiled. "I hope that I can be your friend again in the next life!"

Boom!

Lu Zhou pushed down with his fingers. Abandon Wisdom.

Liu Ge was reduced to ashes that scattered in the wind.

"Ding! Killed a target. Reward: 2,000 merit points."

...

Meanwhile.

Huang Shijie and Gu Yiran kept moving westward from the foot of Golden Court Mountain. Nobody knew how long they had been fighting.

Both opponents exchanged blows and were near the limits of their respective Primal Qis.

The two of them stood across each other.

Gu Yiran glared at Huang Shijie and said, "Huang Shijie, you old geezer. I swear I'll kill you today."

Huang Shijie sat on the ground, chuckled, and said, "Ooh, scary..."

"You..." Gu Yiran was straining to keep his body upright. He said coldly, "You're an island master, but you behave like a gangster. What a shame! What an insult!"

"Heh, to tell you the truth, I learned this from my disciple... A man won't live long if he cares about his pride too much. Look at you, aren't you tired standing there? You must be tired... I'm not. I'll be fine after some rest. After that, I'll kill you!"

"You wish!" Gu Yiran stomped his feet and joined his palm together. He released a burst of Expansive Heavenly Energy.

Chapter 549: Here Comes the Saber

The Confucian school's Expansive Heavenly Energy seemed gentle, but it was actually ferocious. On the surface, it was moderate and mild; on the inside, it was tenacious and violent. Toughness and gentleness were combined. When it was unleashed, the Expansive Heavenly Energy resembled a body of righteous Qi. Hence, there were many who preferred to cultivate in the Confucian school.

There were many Confucian elites in the Divine Capital. Many Confucian elites were palace officials as well. Among the eight great generals, Su Sheng and Gu Yiran were Confucian elites.

Gu Yiran would succeed or die trying to complete the orders given by Emperor Yong Shou. Emperor Yong Shou launched a campaign against the Other Tribes and established peace in the kingdom. For the people, for Great Yan, for the citizens... Gu Yiran would not allow anyone to disturb His Majesty's plans.

There was a buzz in the air when the Expansive Heavenly Energy was released. Energy seals in the shape of runes materialized around Gu Yiran. The script seals joined together in a long chain and curled into the shape of a long dragon!

"Script seal's golden dragon!" Gu Yiran cried out as the huge script seal's golden dragon soared.

Huang Shijie's eyes widened as he gritted his teeth. He raised both arms and fought with all his might as he released an energy seal that formed a circular wall.

Boom!

The first attack by the script seal's golden dragon instantly shattered the energy seal wall. Huang Shijie had no choice but to retreat.

The script seal's golden dragon continued to attack.

At this juncture, they were fighting for their lives.

Huang Shijie knew he would be a goner if he let his guard down.

Gu Yiran controlled the golden dragon and struck with both palms.

The script seal's golden dragon lunged at Huang Shijie for the second time.

The golden dragon's eyes were huge scripts...

Huang Shijie frowned deeply and folded his palms to block the attack again.

"Huang Shijie, you've been fooled!"

The script seal golden dragon split into two and pincerred Huang Shijie from the left and right.

Two script seal golden dragons attacked at the same time.

"Sh*t!"

Bam!

When Huang Shijie parted his palms, it was too late. Before he could launch the energy seal from his palms, he was struck by the dragon heads. The attacks hit his arms, and he reeled back. He bit back the pain as he stumbled and fell to the ground.

Gu Yiran nodded in satisfaction. The twin script seals' golden dragons coiled themselves around his body. "Island Master Huang, is this all you got?"

"Gu Yiran, Brother Ji has already attained the Nine-leaf stage a long time ago. Why are you being so stubborn?" Huang Shijie persuaded.

"Old geezer... If there's no guarantee, His Majesty wouldn't venture into the tiger's den."

"Liu Ge is also a Nine-leaf cultivator?" Huang Shijie exclaimed in shock.

"There can't be Nine-leaf cultivators in this world... Nine-leaf cultivators aren't allowed to exist. I've said what I have to say. It's time to send you on your way!" Gu Yiran no longer wasted any words.

The script seal golden dragons merged into one. The golden dragon danced in the air and lunged at Huang Shijie's face.

"I'm not a person who's afraid of death!" Huang Shijie let out a burst of Primal Qi.

At this moment...

Whoosh!

A ringing rang from above.

The sound was too unique. It easily attracted the attention of the two men.

In the skies, a jasper-like saber spun down. At first glance, it did not look eye-catching. However, its speed was extremely shocking. The energy wind stirred up by the spinning blade was different from other weapons. Most importantly, the saber's target seemed to be the huge script seal's golden dragon.

Just when it was about to land on the script seal's golden dragon, the saber suddenly shot out spinning energy sabers.

It sliced through the golden dragon. The golden dragon was split into two. It instantly lost its momentum. The script seal shattered like glass and fell in just a blink of an eye.

The recoil from the destruction of the script seal's golden dragon sent Gu Yiran flying back! His expression changed slightly. He staggered more than ten steps back before he stomped on the ground to stabilize himself. He felt fear tightened its grip around his heart when he saw the saber.

The saber split the script seal golden dragon. It spun two times. With a crisp sound, it stabbed into the ground.

Sunlight glinted off the blade. Anyone with a keen eye would be able to tell the saber was special. It was well-known that heaven-grade weapons could break through energy. A saber capable of slaying a dragon such as this one... were few and far in between. There was only a person who owned a jasper-like saber such as this one.

The same name surfaced in both Huang Shijie and Gu Yiran's minds: Yu Zhenghai, the Evil Sky Pavilion's first disciple, the Sect Master of the Nether Sect Master, and the Eight-leaf elite who was trying to take over the world!

It had to be Yu Zhenghai!

Gu Yiran felt slightly nervous. He could not help but look up. As he had dreaded, Yu Zhenghai who was dressed in a navy robe descended from the skies with his hands on his back. Soon after, he landed firmly with both feet on the ground.

Boom!

Energy rippled outward.

Zing!

The Jasper Saber flew from the shockwave back into Yu Zhenghai's hand. He tightened his grip around the saber.

Gu Yiran gulped. Even among Eight-leaf cultivators, there were different levels. Although he was one of the eight great generals, faced with Yu Zhenghai, he keenly felt his presence and cultivation base were lacking in comparison. He did not wish to fight against such a powerful opponent. He did not even want to meet such an elite.

Yu Zhenghai turned around slowly and looked at Gu Yiran. He said tonelessly, "Gu Yiran?"

"Yu... Yu Zhenghai?"

As soon as Gu Yiran finished speaking, Yu Zhenghai struck with his palm.

Bam!

Gu Yiran blocked the attack with his arm and stumbled three steps back.

Yu Zhenghai shook his head. "Eight great generals?"

"You... you..."

Yu Zhenghai struck again. The palm seal pushed forward and struck Gu Yiran's arms precisely.

Bam!

Gu Yiran took five steps backward.

Yu Zhenghai said in a grim tone, "Challenging the Evil Sky Pavilion?"

"I... I..."

Yu Zhenghai struck for the third time.

Boom!

With this strike, Gu Yiran rode on the momentum, stepped into the air, turned around, and fled.

'Run!'

The moment Gu Yiran saw Yu Zhenghai, he knew that he could not possibly win. Running away was the only option available. He could only keep his life if he fled. He rose into the air. Expansive Heavenly Energy shrouded his Eight-leaf avatar.

"How can you leave? I'm just getting started!" Yu Zhenghai forcefully flung his Jasper Saber out.

The Jasper Saber spun like a top and shot out with a speed that far surpassed Gu Yiran's speed.

Halfway toward its target, the Jasper Saber released a powerful spinning energy.

The Great Dark Heaven Memorial, Dark Heaven Starlight.

The trees and plants within 100 meters were felled by the energy.

It was also at this moment the Dark Heaven Starlight passed through Gu Yiran's body.

Bam!

A chip could be seen on Gu Yiran's avatar. He had no choice but to recall his avatar and drop down to the ground. He wore a frightened expression on his face as he saw Yu Zhenghai approaching. He put up all his defenses as he retreated and cried out, "I have no wish to fight you!"

"Will the fight stop just because you want it to?" Yu Zhenghai had one hand on his back as he walked toward Gu Yiran.

Was this a joke? Gu Yiran was one of the eight great generals while Yu Zhenghai was the Sect Master of the Nether Sect. He would conquer the Divine Capital sooner or later. They were both enemies. How could they not fight?

Gu Yiran seethed in anger. "I admit your cultivation base is more profound than mine... However, you might not necessarily have an advantage if we fight to the death."

Yu Zhenghai looked at Gu Yiran like a wild wolf looking at a rabbit awaiting its death. "You can try." He flicked with his hand.

Bam!

The Jasper Saber spun out.

Stamping Saber!

Several energy sabers flew erratically. They looked both mystical and peculiar at the same time.

Gu Yiran did not expect Yu Zhenghai to attack without warning. His expression changed as he quickly joined his palms together. Expansive Heavenly Energy was stirred up around him.

At the same time, Yu Zhenghai moved swiftly with a speed that surpassed the Jasper Saber.

Grand technique!

In just a blink of an eye, Yu Zhenghai appeared before Gu Yiran and struck with a palm.

Bam!

The palm seal struck Gu Yiran's chest.

Gu Yiran slid back on the ground. His blood essence surged and his breathing stopped for a moment!

Bam!

Gu Yiran crashed on a tree.

The Jasper Saber did not attack. Instead, it flew back to Yu Zhenghai's hand.

Gu Yiran pressed his chest and looked at Yu Zhenghai incredulously. His attacks were fierce, but his control was precise. Based on this, one could see how experienced he was in combat.

Yu Zhenghai said, "Aren't you ashamed of yourself? One of the great eight generals bullying an old man?"

"..." Gu Yiran wanted to say that he was an old man as well!

Huang Shijie felt slightly awkward when he heard Yu Zhenghai's words.

Yu Zhenghai continued to advance.

Gu Yiran's eyes reddened as he said, "You're only striking a man when he's down."

"In that case, let me allow you three strikes." Yu Zhenghai extended his left hand in an inviting gesture.

"Are you trying to humiliate me?" It was only then that Gu Yiran realized, with Yu Zhenghai's strength, Yu Zhenghai could have killed him with a move. However, Yu Zhenghai did not.

"Mhm." Yu Zhenghai nodded.

"A soldier can be killed but not humiliated."

“Some people don’t deserve respect.”

“Fine, fine, fine...” Gu Yiran repeated the same word over and over again. It seemed like he was close to breaking down.

Chapter 550: Healing

Gu Yiran had nowhere to run or hide. He was already at the end of the road. He inhaled deeply before he raised his right hand to have a look. Soon enough, he calmed down, and a fierce expression appeared on his face as well. His change of attitude made it clear he no longer cared about life or death.

“I’ve never used this technique before... Since Sect Master Yu’s forcing me into a corner, I have no choice... I hope this will satisfy you,” Gu Yiran said as he raised his left hand and struck his dantian’s sea of Qi.

Bam!

Gu Yiran’s sea of Qi ignited at once. Expansive Heavenly Energy surged from his body like burning flames. His eyes became bloodshot; his tendons and bones seemed to have undergone transformations as well.

A shocked expression appeared on Huang Shijie’s face upon seeing this. He hastily said, “Sect Master Yu, you should dodge this.”

Yu Zhenghai ignored Huang Shijie’s advice. He remained calm. He had faced many elites in life, after all. The cultivation world was largely divided into the Confucian, Buddhist, and Daoist sects. Each sect had its own specialties. He had met many elites like Gu Yiran in the past. For this reason, he did not have any reaction to Gu Yiran.

The flaming Expansive Heavenly Energy emitted a domineering aura. Just as Gu Yiran was about to attack...

Whoosh!

The Jasper Saber shone with a mysterious light before it shot out and neatly slashed Gu Yiran’s neck. It was so fast that he did not even have time to react.

Just like that, the battle had ended.

Yu Zhenghai no longer spared Gu Yiran another glance. He turned around indifferently and made his way to the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Meanwhile, Huang Shijie regarded Gu Yiran with a complex look in his eyes. ‘That’s it?’

At this moment, Gu Yiran’s head slid off his neck.

Although Huang Shijie was the Island Master of Penglai Island, he was still slightly taken aback by this gory side. He turned away and hurriedly caught up to Yu Zhenghai.

Yu Zhenghai said conversationally, “You underestimated me, Island Master Huang. Gu Yiran planned to fight with all his might by burning his sea of Qi and blood essence. If I allow him to act, it’d be

troublesome to deal with him. I don't have much free time so I won't play along with his silly game. It's easier to end it with a single strike. He was going to die anyway."

"That was an impressive move, Sect Master Yu. My horizons have been widened," Huang Shijie replied.

Yu Zhenghai stopped in his tracks suddenly. He looked at Huang Shijie and asked, "How have you been since our last meeting, Brother Huang?"

There was no doubt that Huang Shijie had been a great help to Yu Zhenghai.

Huang Shijie smiled and said, "It's all thanks to Brother Ji holding up the island with his hand that Penglai was saved from its crisis."

"That's good to hear," Yu Zhenghai replied.

"I have to thank you as well, Sect Master Yu, for your timely arrival. That Gu Yiran was slightly troublesome to deal with," Huang Shijie said.

Yu Zhenghai said bluntly, "Since we're brothers, you can just address me as brother. Sect Master Yu sounds too formal."

Huang Shijie was slightly taken aback. He truly did not care about the form of address one way or another. However, since he addressed Ji Tiandao as Brother Ji, if he were to address Yu Zhenghai as brother as well, would that not make Ji Tiandao and Yu Zhenghai brother as well? How awkward!

Yu Zhenghai could tell what was going through Huang Shijie's mind. He patted Huang Shijie's shoulder and said, "There's no need to worry, Brother Huang. We'll keep this separate from my master."

"I... I see..." Despite his words, Huang Shijie still felt uncomfortable.

Yu Zhenghai laughed and said, "Let's go."

"Did you come all the way from Yan Province?" Huang Shijie asked.

"Yes. I came here as quickly as I could, but it took longer than expected. What's the situation at the Evil Sky Pavilion?" Yu Zhenghai asked as he took to the sky.

Huang Shijie followed suit as he shook his head and said with a sigh, "Things aren't looking great. It's Emperor Yong Shou; he's alive!"

"Hm?"

"He seems to have mastered some method to prolong his life. It's an extremely arcane art. Brother Ji is still in his cultivation state. The cultivation bases of the others aren't profound enough. I fear for their lives," Huang Shijie said.

Upon hearing this, Yu Zhenghai frowned and said in a deep voice, "Brother Huang, I'll make my way there first." Without waiting for Huang Shijie's reply, he appeared hundreds of feet away with a flurry of movements. In just a blink of an eye, he vanished from sight.

Huang Shijie was shocked by Yu Zhenghai's successive use of his grand technique. He unhurriedly made his way to the Evil Sky Pavilion since he had almost depleted his Primal Qi. Moreover, he would not be of

much help even if he was at the Evil Sky Pavilion now. He murmured to himself, "It seems like the Evil Sky Pavilion has been restored to its former glory... This is how an Eldest Senior Brother should behave..."

Huang Shijie's words inevitably reminded himself of his first disciple, Jiang Aijian. He turned his head to the side with a slightly contemptuous expression on his face. "Ptooey..."

Comparisons would only bring forth misery.

...

Penglai Island.

Jiang Aijian shuddered and sneezed before he rose to his feet. "Who the f*ck's badmouthing me?"

He saw Li Jingyi tickling his nose with a feather with a smile on her face. She asked, "Are you still sleeping at this hour?"

Jiang Aijian moved the feather away from his face and said, "Stop this, junior sister..."

"Eldest Senior Brother, the battle of Yan Province is at hand. Aren't you going to give me some pointers?"

Ever since Li Jingyi entered the palace and stayed by Wei Zhuoyan's side in the army, she had always received tips from Jiang Aijian. Wei Zuoyan became the commander-in-chief of the three armies with Li Jingyi's help. With the death of the real Wei Zhuoyan, the fake Wei Zhuoyan's status was merely a shadow of what it once was. However, Li Jingyi did not change.

"Old senior Ji has helped us greatly in the past, we have to let him win. I'm afraid Wei Zhuoyan would obey the palace's orders. You can just disappear and let him handle it," Jiang Aijian said.

"You're not concerned about the Imperial family?" Li Jingyi asked.

Jiang Aijian was the Third Prince, after all.

"I'm not." Jiang Aijian leaned back on his chair indifferently. He rested his head against the seat, attempting to go back to sleep, after he said, "Let me know when master returns! His chair is a really good sleeping spot."

"..."

...

Inside the southern pavilion of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

"Master, Sixth Junior Sister's condition doesn't look so good. If we let this go on, I'm afraid..." Mingshi Yin had examined Ye Tianxin earlier. He was clearly worried.

Lu Zhou looked at Mingshi Yin and said, "Old Fourth, go and clean up the mountain. If anyone comes, report to me."

"Yes, master." Mingshi Yin turned around and left at once.

Zuo Yushu stood in front of everyone and said, "The script seal's golden dragon is a fierce move. We can only restore her vitality after dealing with the golden dragon's effect. Alas, it's too late."

Leng Luo recalled the scene when the pavilion master healed Princess Yong Ning so he asked, "Pavilion Master, why don't you use your healing technique again?"

Lu Zhou looked at him and said, "If there's nothing else, get out, all of you."

"Understood." The others bowed and left the southern pavilion respectfully.

Only a few dozen female cultivators remained inside the southern pavilion. They kneeled on the floor and kowtowed at Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou looked at them as he said, "She's my disciple. I won't let her die so easily. Get out."

"Understood." The female cultivators left.

The southern pavilion fell silent.

Lu Zhou walked into the room. When he saw the white-haired and unconscious Ye Tianxin, he frowned deeply.

Lu Zhou flipped his palm. A Strengthened Critical Heal Card materialized in his hand. He shattered the card, and light enveloped her immediately.

A unique and mystical power swirled around Ye Tianxin and nourished her Extraordinary Eight Meridians. The corrosive effect of the script seal's golden dragon was being purged. Her internal injuries were also healing at an alarming rate.