

## Disciples 671

### Chapter 671: The Red Coffin That Could Reach The Other Side of the Shore

Lu Song felt a searing pain when the energy swords slashed at his body. At this moment, fear had completely tightened its grip on his heart, causing him to lose the will to resist.

‘Golden avatar? Is there truth to the Sky Martial Court’s research?’ Lu Song tried to get a better look at the sword elite in front of him. Alas, he could get a clear look. It was strange. Why did he have no recollection of this elite’s face? It was as though he had forgotten what the elite looked like. Even if he did not, what did it matter now? After all, he finally understood the reason Yu Shangrong had lured him here.

The energy swords continued their attacks on Lu Song’s body, face, and eyes, causing him to lose consciousness. After what seemed like hours, the energy swords finally disappeared.

Yu Shangrong hovered in the air as he held his scarlet Longevity Sword, pointing its tip downward.

Lu Song’s intact body lay behind Yu Shangrong. However, in just a second, a blast of energy erupted before the body exploded and scattered in the air.

The energy swords had completely devoured Lu Song.

...

“Ding! Killed a target. Reward: 1,500 merit points. Domain extra: 1,000 merit points.”

...

Yu Shangrong did not look back. After all, an elite knew the outcome of a battle the moment he made his move.

Lu Song was a Six-leaf elite, and Yu Shangrong was an Eight-leaf elite. He could have killed Lu Song with a single sword strike. Moreover, he was not an ordinary Eight-leaf cultivator. For someone like him, killing a Six-leaf cultivator was like an incredibly boring chore.

Yu Shangrong flipped his palm, and the Longevity Sword was restored to its original state after a red energy flew into the sword.

After he put his sword away, his body flashed out of sight again as he returned to the Thousand Willow Monastery.

...

When Yu Shangrong returned to the Thousand Willow Monastery, Ji Fengxing ran up to him and anxiously said, “S-senior... Where’s the Flying Star House’s Lu Song? We’re done for if he returns to the Flying Star House! We can’t afford to offend the Flying Star House!”

“He’s dead,” Yu Shangrong replied nonchalantly.

“D-dead?!” Chills ran up Ji Fengxing’s spine. His eyes widened in shock as he asked “How did he die?”

Yu Shangrong crossed his arms and leaned against the railing, He looked at the mountains and rivers and calmly said, "All you have to do is to swing your sword."

"..."

'Is this how bosses talk?' Although this was not the answer Ji Fengxing expected to hear, it sounded reasonable enough.

After a beat, Ji Fengxing asked skeptically, "Senior... That's not what I meant. Lu Song is a Six-leaf elite of the Flying Star House. He's a Six-leaf cultivator... Did you kill him?"

Yu Shangrong glanced at Ji Fengxing before he said, "He's a weakling... Is there a reason why I can't kill him?"

"..." Ji Fengxing was at a loss for words. Yu Shangrong made it seem like Six-leaf cultivators were an insignificant existence.

When Yu Shangrong saw the shocked and speechless expressions on Ji Fengxing's face, he decided to explain himself. After all, he would have to stay here for a while. He did not want to seem too eye-catching. When he recalled his earlier words, he said, "If you know me, you'd understand how humble I'm actually being."

"..." Ji Fengxing took another step back. A complicated expression appeared on his face.

The more he tried, the worse things became. Yu Shangrong decided not to say anything else. He shifted his gaze away to look at the scenery beyond the railing.

At this moment, Wuwu said excitedly, "You're amazing, big brother!"

Yu Shangrong glanced at Wuwu. He found this little girl more likable. He said, "It's nothing."

Thud!

Ji Fengxing's reaction was rather delayed. After all this time, he finally said excitedly, "Brother... you're my big brother from this day onward! Big brother..." Then, he shuffled forward on his knees, intending to hug Yu Shangrong's legs.

Yu Shangrong frowned slightly. Ji Fengxing's antics reminded him of his Eighth Junior Brother. They were somewhat alike. If it had been Zhu Honggong doing this, he would not have found it strange. However, Ji Fengxing's actions made him feel slightly awkward. In the end, he only pointed at the three corpses and said, "Clean them up."

"Alright. I'll get to it immediately." Ji Fengxing ran down.

Yu Shangrong added, "If you run into members of the Flying Star House, tell them you didn't see anyone."

Ji Fengxing grinned and said, "Got it!"

Wuwu chimed in as well. "Got it!"

...

On the main peak of the Flying Star House.

At this moment, a disciple hurried into the main hall, bowed, and said, "Elder Meng, Elder Lu's life stone has shattered!"

In the red lotus domain, most sects would prepare life stones for cultivators in the Nascent Divinity realm and above. With these stones, they would be able to confirm the life or death of their members.

Nascent Divinity realm cultivators were the core power of sects. Most sects would assign disciples to keep an eye on their life stones. If any of them shattered, the disciples would immediately report to the higher-ups.

Upon hearing the disciples' words, Elder Meng frowned slightly. "Who dares touch Lu Song?"

"Elder Lu brought three disciples to the Thousand Willow Monastery. Could the people from the Thousand Willow Monastery kill Elder Lu because they couldn't come to an agreement?" the disciple speculated out loud.

Meng Changdong shook his head and said, "The Thousand Willow Monastery isn't so dumb that they'd offend the Flying Star House... Don't spread news about this for now. Investigate it in secret."

"Understood."

Meng Changdong was lost in his thoughts. Under the heavens, there were not many who would dare attack members of the Flying Star House. He did not think the Thousand Willow Monastery was bold enough to do this.

Ever since Elder Ye Zhen led the others to the land where Luan was, the Flying Star House had lost four Nascent Divinity realm elites.

'Sky Martial Court? Or was it the Ninth Temple?' Meng Changdong thought about the forces that were at odds with the Flying Star House. However, in the end, he still could not think of anyone bold enough to act against the Flying Star House. Moreover, Ye Zhen was like the sun at high noon now.

...

Meanwhile, in Great Yan's Liang Province City.

Hua Yuexing bowed and said, "Mister Seventh, I've guarded this place for a month, just as you ordered me to. The birds did not disturb the common folk. The two largest birds flew away yesterday. I don't know where they went."

When Si Wuya heard this, he was slightly puzzled. "The Nine-leaf stage will bring forth disasters. It's not surprising that Jiang Wenxu drew the manmians here. However, master is also a Nine-leaf cultivator. Why would the birds leave?"

At this moment, Yu Zhenghai flew over and landed on the city wall. He said, "That's easy. Jiang Wenxu was able to hide in Great Yan for so long, given how shocking most of master's techniques are, it's only natural that master has his way as well..."

"You have a point, Eldest Senior Brother," Si Wuya replied.

Yu Zhenghai stood on the city wall and looked ahead as he said, "How's research on the red coffin coming along?"

"We've made three copies... However, we aren't sure of the route yet. If we recklessly descend into the abyss, we might get lost," Si Wuya said.

"That's enough," Yu Zhenghai said.

"What do you mean, Eldest Senior Brother?"

"I can do it with the progress we have now. After all, Second Junior Brother wandered into the red lotus domain without any help..."

"However, there are too many uncertainties regarding the red coffin..."

"There's no need to worry. I'll explain everything to master," Yu Zhenghai replied.

With this, Si Wuya no longer attempted to dissuade Yu Zhenghai.

...

In the afternoon. In the hall.

Lu Zhou looked at the kneeling Yu Zhenghai. He stroked his beard and asked, "Have you thought it through?"

Yu Zhenghai kowtowed and said, "Second Junior Brother fell into the abyss because of me. I won't be able to live with myself if I don't rescue him. Now that the red coffins are prepared, I ask for permission to go, master!"

Lu Zhou looked at Si Wuya and said, "How confident are you that the red coffins will reach the other side of the shore?"

"I'm only 70% certain. The red runes will keep the beasts at bay, but the details can still be improved. Please give me three months!" Si Wuya said.

Yu Zhenghai prostrated himself and said, "70% is enough. Please allow me to go, master!"

## **Chapter 672: Desolate-grade Jasper Saber**

Lu Zhou did not expect Yu Zhenghai to be so determined. However, the risk was too great when there was only a 70% chance of success for the red coffin.

At this moment, Si Wuya said, "Eldest Senior Brother, are you really going?"

"Naturally."

Si Wuya nodded and said, "I remember that Second Senior Brother doesn't have his scabbard with him. Back then, I inscribed the Longevity Sword with runes and imbued it with the power to absorb vitality. I have some runes left. I'll inscribe them on the scabbard so that it can detect where the other runes are. It should be able to lead you to Second Senior Brother."

When he heard this, Yu Zhenghai was delighted. "That's great! This way, there won't be any room for error."

"That's only an 80% chance of success. If the red coffin doesn't last until it reaches its destination due to damage and attacks from the beasts, I'm afraid..." Si Wuya said worriedly.

"No matter. With my Eight-leaf cultivation base, why would I fear the beasts?" Yu Zhenghai said confidently as he patted his chest.

Lu Zhou shook his head. He had first-hand experience of how fierce and powerful the beasts were when he encountered Chi Yao in the black water. Even after using half of his extraordinary power, he could not kill Chi Yao. What could Yu Zhenghai do then?

Lu Zhou looked at Yu Zhenghai and said, "Is your cultivation base at the peak?"

Lu Zhou thought about Chi Yao's Heart. That item could provide the user with 1,200 years of life. With that, the requirements of the golden lotus would be fulfilled. He had just recently attained the Eight-leaf stage. At most, he was back to his peak. He needed more time to reach the peak of the Eight-leaf stage. If Yu Zhenghai was already at the peak, he could ask Yu Zhenghai to attempt the Nine-leaf stage first.

Great Yan's Big Dipper Academy had developed a medicinal pill that extended a person's life. However, for someone already at their great limit, it would have no effect.

In the past, his host, Ji Tiandao, had attempted this method in the palace.

Therefore, Chi Yao's Heart was best to be used at the point of a breakthrough.

Yu Zhenghai replied, "Give me a few more months, and I'll return to the peak of my cultivation base."

Lu Zhou said, "Wait for a few more months before traveling to the red lotus domain. Chi Yao can help you reach the Nine-leaf stage. But to use it, you'll need to be at the peak of the Eight-leaf stage."

Yu Zhenghai was slightly taken aback when he heard this.

There was no Eight-leaf expert in this world who did not want to reach the Nine-leaf stage. All of them had tried to reach this elusive stage. Even Yu Shangrong, who was focused on swordplay, had attempted to kick down the doors to the Nine-leaf stage.

Chi Yao's Heart was extremely precious. It was something their master had brought back from the abyss with great difficulty. However, his master was willing to give it to him? How could Yu Zhenghai not feel shocked or moved?

However, Yu Zhenghai shook his head and said, "It's too precious, I can't accept it. Moreover, Second Junior Brother is in the red lotus domain and is surrounded by dangers. If his identity is exposed, he'll be in even more danger. We can't waste a single moment."

Lu Zhou stroked his beard as he considered this. The two notifications from the system proved that Yu Shangrong was in trouble again. If Yu Shangrong unleashed his energy, it would be difficult for Yu Shangrong to conceal his identity. After a moment, he said, "Give me your Jasper Saber."

“Uh...” Yu Zhenghai did not know what his master intended to do. He assumed his master was going to confiscate his weapon and forbid him from leaving. He kowtowed and said, “Please allow me to go, master!”

“Leave your Jasper Saber with me today, and you may leave tomorrow.”

Yu Zhenghai was overjoyed. He said, “Thank you, master.” Then, he respectfully presented his Jasper Saber to his master.

After that, Yu Zhenghai looked at Si Wuya meaningfully before both of them left to prepare the red coffin.

...

Lu Zhou picked the Jasper Saber up and studied it for a while.

He sighed emotionally. This was the first heaven-grade weapon Ji Tiandao had given as a gift. After a few centuries, the saber was now completely in sync with Yu Zhenghai and had reached the peak of heaven-grade. It was undoubtedly one of the best candidates to be upgraded into a desolate-grade weapon.

He had learned about desolate-grade weapons through Jiang Wenxu. This meant there were surely desolate-grade weapons in the red lotus domain.

‘My disciples deserve the best weapons.’ Lu Zhou took a shining stone out. With just a thought, the stone hovered in the air as it buzzed. After a moment, it burst into flames.

Lu Zhou raised the Jasper Saber that was being drawn to the shining stone.

Bam!

The shining stone and the Jasper Saber collided, and the flames turned blue.

This was no ordinary blue flame. The tongues of the flame rose in a straight line as it burned, completely engulfing the Jasper Saber.

The fire crackled, and both sides of the blade shone.

The flames continued to burn.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and wondered how long the process would take.

In the end, he sat on the rush cushion. Before he closed his eyes, he muttered to himself, “Let’s do a lucky draw.”

“Ding! Spent 50 merit points. Obtained: Reversal Card x10.”

‘Not bad. I’ll need these when I’m attempting the Nine-leaf stage.’

“Lucky draw.”

“Ding! Spent 50 merit points. Obtained: Reversal Card x10.”

Lu Zhou was taken aback. ‘I seem to be quite lucky today.’

“Continue.”

“Ding! Spent 50 merit points. Obtained: Critical Block Card x10.”

Lu Zhou was puzzled when he saw the Critical Block Cards. They had never been activated before. Why would the system reward him with the cards?

‘This must be a joke. Who can harm me?’

The next ten draws ended with him being thanked for his participation. He immediately lost all will to continue.

He closed his eyes and meditated on the Heavenly Writing scrolls.

...

A day had passed.

Early the next morning.

Sizzle!

The loud noises of burning pulled Lu Zhou out of his meditative state. He opened his eyes and looked at the burning shining stone.

The flames burned in midair. Strangely, it did not spread.

The Jasper Saber was red. It was dazzling.

Swoosh!

All of a sudden, the flames vanished.

Lu Zhou pushed with his palm out. His energy caught the Jasper Saber and kept it from falling to the ground.

“Ding! Upgrade successful. Obtained desolate-grade weapon, the Jasper Saber. Reward: 2,000 merit points.”

“Jasper Saber. Grade: Desolate. Owner: Yu Zhenghai.”

Lu Zhou could feel the Jasper Saber was not hot despite being burned so he released his energy and let the saber drop into his hand.

His Primal Qi surged.

“Nice.” Although he possessed a weapon like Unnamed, when he touched the Jasper Saber, he could not help but praise it.

When he channeled his Primal Qi into the saber, he could feel that its sharpness had exceeded those at the heaven-grade.

“So this is the desolate-grade?”

The Jasper Saber looked no different from before, but it was sharper now. Streaks of fluorescent lights would gleam off the blade from time to time.

He withdrew his Primal Qi.

At this moment, Yu Zhenghai's voice rang from the other side of the door. "Greetings, master."

"Come in."

Yu Zhenghai opened the door and entered the room.

Mingshi Yin and Si Wuya had come as well.

The three disciples stood respectfully in the center of the room.

"Master, the red coffin is ready. I'd like to depart today," Yu Zhenghai said.

Lu Zhou opened his palm, and the Jasper Saber sailed toward Yu Zhenghai.

Surprised, Yu Zhenghai caught his weapon. The Jasper Saber was wrapped in rich energy. He was stunned when he held it in his hand. His eyes widened as he said, "My Jasper Saber..."

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded as he said, "That's right. The Jasper Saber is now a desolate-grade weapon."

"Desolate-grade?"

The three disciples were stunned.

"In the red lotus domain, a desolate-grade weapon will be of much help."

Yu Zhenghai fell to his knees immediately and said, "Thank you for the desolate-grade weapon, master!"

Si Wuya and Mingshi Yin could not help but feel envious.

"Ma... Master. How did you do it?" Mingshi Yin said in a slightly pleading tone as he took out his Separation Hook.

Lu Zhou rolled his eyes and said, "Increase your strength. Everything will come in due time."

Upgrading a weapon earned him 2,000 merit points, and it helped improve his disciple's cultivation base. As a result, they would be able to help him gain more points. Therefore, he would gladly do it. Upgrading his disciples was the same as upgrading himself, after all.

At this moment, Lu Zhou remembered Chi Yao's Heart. "Old Fourth."

"Yes, master."

"Bring me Chi Yao's Heart."

"Understood."

Shortly after, Mingshi Yin returned with the Heart of Chi Yao.



Lu Zhou looked at it. Indeed, it was too large. He waved his hand, and energy wrapped around Chi Yao's Heart. He could sense the abundant vitality in it.

"Your previous deaths cost you 600 years of life. After your last death, you've run out of life. The Red Fish Heart has given you 100 years of life. Chi Yao's Heart can provide you with 1,200 years of life. Take half of it for now."

Yu Zhenghai kowtowed, overwhelmed by the favor. "Master, I can't possibly accept something as important as this!"

"Your current 100 years of life is somewhat frail. If you don't have Chi Yao, you won't last long in the red lotus domain as well. How are you going to rescue Old Second, then?"

"Uh..." Indeed. Yu Zhenghai's first two deaths cost him 600 years of life. On top of that, he had lived for 300 years. In theory, he should not have come back to life from his last death. It was a miracle that he did. If he replenished his life with Chi Yao's Heart, he would be able to resurrect from death again thanks to the special attributes of the Wuqi tribe. With this, he would have a higher chance of surviving the abyss.

"Eldest Senior Brother, you should just accept it. We can't help but worry about you in your current state," Mingshi Yin said.

Yu Zhenghai no longer refused Lu Zhou. He kowtowed loudly thrice.

Lu Zhou did not stop Yu Zhenghai from kowtowing. This was because he knew Yu Zhenghai's thoughts.

After Yu Zhenghai finished kowtowing, Lu Zhou raised his wizened hand. The scenes of what happened 300 years ago flashed before his eyes. They were master and disciple, after all. After experiencing three deaths, his only wish for his disciple was for his disciple to stay safe. He placed his hand on Yu Zhenghai's crown and pressed it lightly. He said sincerely, "Live on."

### **Chapter 673: The Red Coffin**

In the afternoon. In Liang Province City.

Next to the cloud-splitting chariot, Yu Zhenghai spent the entire morning absorbing half of the vitality contained in Chi Yao's Heart. When he was done, he kept the other half of the heart. Then, he asked, puzzled, "Master, why do you want to save half of Chi Yao's Heart?"

Before Lu Zhou replied, Si Wuya said, "Chi Yao's Heart won't help you directly break through the great limit... Among our fellow disciples, only Sixth Senior Sister and your longevity are damaged. Taking too much of it is a waste. The remaining half should be saved for when you're attempting the Nine-leaf stage."

Yu Zhenghai said, "In that case, I'll leave this to Junior Sister Tianxin."

Ye Tianxin who was standing nearby said, "Eldest Senior Brother, since you're going to the red lotus domain, you need this more than I do. I'm fine."

Lu Zhou said, "The Red Fish Heart can restore her longevity. All you should worry about is yourself." After all, he could go down to the abyss and catch a fish or two if he ever felt like it. However, the same could not be said for Chi Yao's Heart.

"Understood."

"The flying chariot is ready. Master, Eldest Senior Brother, this way," Mingshi Yin said.

The others boarded the flying chariot.

Mingshi Yin was the last one to board the flying chariot. He bragged, "Eldest Senior Brother, I'll man the helm. I'll show you my navigating skills."

Mingshi Yin was about to activate the flying chariot when Yu Zhenghai frowned. "Hm?" That one word was dripping with obvious disapproval.

Mingshi Yin immediately understood his Eldest Senior Brother's intention. He nodded and bowed as he said, "Eldest Senior Brother, if you'd do the honors."

Yu Zhenghai went to the helm and said, "You were still playing with dirt when I manned the helm. Manning the helm is an art. It's not something that can be mastered overnight. You have to keep it stable and smooth while sailing. When in flight, it must be steady and not turbulent. Look closely..." He pushed his palm forward.

The cloud-splitting chariot rose into the air.

Shortly after, the cloud-splitting chariot flew toward Heaven's Moat as it gradually picked up speed. As it left Liang Province City, it dragged a long tail behind itself. A few breaths later, it was sailing at top speed.

On the ground, the other members of the Evil Sky Pavilion who were there to see them off rubbed their eyes.

"An Eight-leaf cultivator manning the helm... I... I'm afraid the Evil Sky Pavilion is the only one who can afford this." Huang Shijie shook his head.

"Even the position of manning the helm was being fought over. Mingshi Yin is a Seven-leaf elite, after all, and he's so young. I'm sure his future achievements won't be inferior to Mister First."

"Indeed. The most terrifying thing about him isn't his talent, but his way of doing things. He knows when to advance and when to retreat. Although he's only a Seven-leaf cultivator, I'd rather spar with Mister First than with him. He's too... unscrupulous."

When the cloud-splitting chariot disappeared from sight, Huang Shijie kicked Jiang Aijian who was standing with a lazy posture.

"Ouch!" Jiang Aijian rubbed his sore spot as he asked in a rather aggrieved tone, "Master, what was that for? I don't think I've done anything wrong. That was uncalled for."

Li Jingyi covered her smirk.

Jiang Aijian said, "What are you laughing at?"

“Nothing.” Li Jingyi turned around and left.

Jiang Aijian looked at the sky and said with a sigh, “Am I the only sane person under the heavens?” The others were all crazy, and he was the only rational one. He lamented his fate.

...

The cloud-splitting chariot easily crossed Heaven’s Moat and sailed toward the 100,000-foot-deep abyss.

“You must adjust your input of Primal Qi instead of thoughtlessly maintaining a steady stream. You must judge for yourself when to increase or decrease your output of Primal Qi. If the flying chariot is supposed to climb Heaven’s Moat, you’ll have to increase your input beforehand to accelerate and rise. Above Heaven’s Moat, you can slow down and maintain the chariot’s altitude. You can leave the downward flight to gravity, but you must mind the altitude as you dive. You mustn’t let it accelerate, and you have to stop the momentum from growing too huge. The descent must be steady. Old Fourth... do you understand?” Yu Zhenghai said confidently.

Mingshi Yin and the other fellow disciples were speechless.

“Old Fourth?”

“Uh... Yes, I understand. Listening to you is better than studying for ten years,” Mingshi Yin said.

Yu Zhenghai said, “This is why manning the helm helps in training your control over Primal Qi. Manning the helm often is beneficial in improving your cultivation base and strength.”

The others nodded. They looked as though they found his words educational.

After Yu Zhenghai finished speaking, he looked at Lu Zhou who was resting with his eyes closed. He said, “Master, is there... anything you want to add?”

Lu Zhou opened his eyes and said, “Your explanation is great. I have nothing to add.”

“Thank you for your praise, master.”

Zhu Honggong saw the satisfied expression on his master’s face. He wondered if this was flattery of a higher level. He could not tell if this was intentional on his Eldest Senior Brother’s part due to his Eldest Senior Brother’s stern expression. Nevertheless, he was impressed.

Duanmu Sheng looked at the helm and exclaimed, “So, what Old Fourth told me before is true!”

Mingshi Yin could not help but smugly say, “Told you so! I will never lie to you, Third Senior Brother. Manning the helm is a form of training your control over Primal Qi. Eldest Senior Brother, you’ll be descending into the abyss later. Let me take over from here...”

“I’ll do it.” Duanmu Sheng tossed his Overlord Spear to Mingshi Yin.

Mingshi Yin caught it and staggered backward. “...”

Duanmu Sheng pushed forward and grabbed the helm, replacing Yu Zhenghai.

The input of Primal Qi suddenly changed so the flying chariot dove abruptly.

After Duanmu Sheng channeled his Primal Qi into the cloud-splitting chariot, it rose again.

The others could barely keep their footing steady.

“???”

“Steady. Right, like this.” Yu Zhenghai was slightly worried.

“Third Senior Brother, you’ve manned the helm several times now. Why aren’t you showing any progress?” Little Yuan’er said with a pout.

“That was an accident! Isn’t it fine now?”

Laughter rang from the flying chariot.

...

Some time later.

The cloud-splitting chariot slowly descended near the 100,000-foot-deep abyss.

Everyone disembarked.

“Bring the red coffin out.”

“Watch your words. We’ll call it the transporter from now on. Coffin sounds so inauspicious.” Mingshi Yin waved his hand.

“You have a point, Fourth Senior Brother,” Zhu Honggong said with a smile.

Zhou Jifeng and Pan Zhong brought the transporter out and placed it next to the abyss.

Yu Zhenghai looked at the transporter and inhaled deeply. Then, he turned to look at Lu Zhou and said, “Master, there’s no need to worry. I’ll surely bring Second Junior Brother back safely.”

“This journey will be treacherous. Think thoroughly before making any decisions. In regard to this, all of you should learn from Old Fourth,” Lu Zhou said.

The others looked at Mingshi Yin. Should they be as shameless as him? Ptooeey! Although they had their misgivings, they had no choice but to bow and nod at their master’s words.

“Understood!”

Mingshi Yin felt slightly embarrassed from being praised. He scratched his head.

Yu Zhenghai said, “I’ll remember your teachings, master.” Shortly after, he looked at his fellow disciples and said, “Farewell.”

The others bowed.

Yu Zhenghai raised his hand.

The red coffin flipped and dropped into the abyss.

He pushed away from the ground lightly and hovered in the air. He bowed again before he dove into the abyss at top speed. He landed on the red coffin and dropped down the seemingly bottomless abyss.

The red coffin had left. Nobody knew when it would return.

Lu Zhou stared at the entrance to the abyss for a long time before turning around and said, "Let's return."

...

Yu Zhenghai stood on the red coffin as it fell.

After listening to Si Wuya's reminders, he had mentally prepared himself for the things he might encounter. He remembered the things he should do about the endless darkness and the measures he should take when he was on the black water.

He knew it would take a while before he reached the bottom so he closed his eyes.

#### **Chapter 674: Going Down the Abyss Again**

After what seemed like hours, Yu Zhenghai opened his eyes. Apart from the roaring wind in his ears, all he could see was darkness. When he looked up at the sky from the abyss, it was dark as well. No stars could be seen.

He recalled Si Wuya saying he would have to act when he felt a pulling force under him. Before it happened, he wanted to have a good sleep to kill the boredom. Hence, he closed his eyes.

...

After an unknown time had passed, Yu Zhenghai who felt as though he had spent a long time in this darkness suddenly felt a pull from below. He was immediately invigorated.

He was right to rest while he descended. His mental state was not affected at all. When he opened his eyes, he felt more energetic.

He looked around curiously. He had seen many dangerous things in life. Compared to all those things, this was nothing. After all, his current situation was one where he only could not see his surroundings. What was there to be afraid of?

He conjured a shining golden palm seal to illuminate his surroundings.

The walls of the abyss were gone, and the pulling force intensified.

Yu Zhenghai did not resist the pulling force. In fact, he even accelerated his descent. Then, he wasted no time in lifting the coffin's lid and entering the coffin.

His Primal Qi wrapped around the red coffin as it continued to descend.

In the endless darkness, Yu Zhenhai lay in the red coffin. He held the scabbard of Yu Shangrong's Longevity Sword with one hand while he kept his other hand pressed against the base of the red coffin to channel his Primal Qi into it.

After a while...

Splash!

The sound of the red coffin hitting water rang in the air.

Yu Zhenghai was delighted. "I'm at the bottom now!"

Anyone with a weaker mind would not have survived the descent.

Yu Zhenghai raised the Longevity Sword's scabbard. His Primal Qi surged as the scabbard buzzed. Something stirred in him, and he steered the red coffin in the direction he wanted.

...

Five days had passed.

Yu Zhenghai did not see any light. This meant he was completely clueless about his current whereabouts.

He could feel the red runes on the scabbard were glowing. His direction was clear, and he felt relieved.

"Perhaps, I'll arrive when I wake up." Yu Zhenghai closed his eyes in sweet anticipation of a good rest. The trip to the red lotus domain did not seem so terrible. On the contrary, it seemed interesting.

The thought had barely appeared in his mind when he heard loud splashes outside.

"Hm?" Yu Zhenghai opened his eyes and looked out of the red coffin. Naturally, he could not see anything.

He raised his palm. A golden seal shone, illuminating the inside of the red coffin.

Splash!

He could clearly feel the red coffin being lifted into the air by a huge wave, causing him to feel disoriented.

"A beast?" He remembered Si Wuya's warning and hazard a guess. If it was a beast, he should stay inside the red coffin all the more. He should not go out.

Splash!

The red coffin was tossed into the air by the huge waves again.

Yu Zhenghai was even more disoriented this time.

Crack!

"No..." Yu Zhenghai's heart sank when he saw a crack appearing on the red coffin. He quickly increased the input of Primal Qi. He condensed it into energy and protected the red coffin.

Bam!

Amidst loud banging sounds, the red coffin ricocheted.

Yu Zhenghai activated his protective energy to prevent the coffin from being damaged.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

He could hear the coffin being knocked around.

Yu Zhenghai frowned. He wondered if the runes were damaged. He launched another palm seal to illuminate his surroundings again. He saw the red runes inside the coffin. Indeed... they were dimmer now.

He could not see what was happening outside. However, if the runes inside were damaged, there was no need to wonder about the state of the runes outside.

This was bad.

Crack!

The red coffin cracked open!

Yu Zhenghai had prepared himself for this. He struck with his Jasper Saber before it flew under his feet and carried him.

Several energy sabers shot out into the surroundings and illuminated the surroundings.

With this, he saw the boundless body of black water and darkness. He saw fragments from the shattered red coffin dropping into the water.

Yu Zhenghai held onto the Longevity Sword's scabbard and said, "Second Senior Brother, are you cursing me behind my back?"

As he looked at the shattered red coffin, he sighed. Fortunately, the scabbard was still with him. At the very least, he would not be lost. He decided to fly at full speed for the remainder of the journey.

As he moved forward, he suddenly realized he had overlooked something. Where was the beast that destroyed the red coffin?

Woo!

A cry resounded in the darkness.

Above?!

Yu Zhenghai launched a palm seal.

The shining seal sailed forth.

Then, he saw something that he would not forget.

An extremely huge fish had leaped out in an arc. It arched its body like a heavenly dome.

"This isn't Chi Yao... This is... Wen Yao?"

Wen Yao was like a carp. It had the body of a fish with bird wings. It was pale with a white head and scarlet jaws.

Yu Zhenghai held his breath. He felt that he was barely the size of its scale. He was greatly shaken.

Although he was the master of the Nether Sect that had dominated the lands for a long time, and he was an Eight-leaf cultivator, he was still shocked by the beast before him.

His Seventh Junior Brother had said before that men would always improve. Whether it was the Four Great Forests, the Endless Ocean, or the black water, men had explored them all.

Since he could no longer count on the red coffin, he could only fly on his own.

He stood on the Jasper Saber and continued to fly.

Splash!

Wen Yao plunged into the water, stirring up a huge wave.

Yu Zhenghai pushed his palm forward. A conical energy seal shone and kept the water at bay as he forced his way through the wave.

Wen Yao let out another cry that echoed thunderously in the darkness as it leaped out of the water again. This time, it lunged at Yu Zhenghai.

"This is bad!" Yu Zhenghai flipped his palm. The Jasper Saber spun away from him and released countless energy sabers.

Dark Heaven Starlight.

With the help of the desolate-grade Jasper Saber, Dark Heaven Starlight took form instantly. Even so, the Dark Heaven Starlight that should have a wide range seemed insignificant in front of the gargantuan Wen Yao.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

The energy sabers struck Wen Yao.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

White marks appeared on Wen Yao's scales. It dove toward Yu Zhenghai, intending to swallow him whole!

"It's so powerful?" Yu Zhenghai's Dark Heaven Starlight that was unleashed by a desolate-grade weapon only seemed like a scratch to Wen Yao.

Yu Zhenghai shot up and hovered above Wen Yao.

Sovereign Descent!

His energy sabers fell toward Wen Yao like the tide. His desolate-grade weapon and Great Dark Heaven Memorial was finally showing their effect.

The tempest of energy sabers crashed on Wen Yao's body as a thunderous sound rang in the air.

Wen Yao felt pain from the attacks and swiftly dove into the water.

"It sure is tough." Even Sovereign Descent merely caused it to feel pain.



With Yu Zhenghai's Eight-leaf cultivation base and desolate-grade weapon, his strength was comparable to that of an Eight-leaf-and-a-half cultivator.

He knew he could not afford to stay here any longer. Moreover, he had to save his Primal Qi. He quickly fled through the air.

Alas, the Wen Yao was a ferocious beast. It swam at top speed in the black water. After a short while, it leaped out from the water again, stirring the black water into waves.

Yu Zhenghai raised his hand and fisted his hand.

The Jasper Saber hovered in the air as he unleashed defensive energy seals from his body.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Yu Zhenghai was sent flying by the waves.

Behind the waves, Wen Yao was waiting for him with a gaping maw.

Yu Zhenghai looked up and pushed forward with his palms! A round energy seal appeared in front of him. He was the size of a basketball compared to the energy seal. This was the limit of his range!

Bam!

Wen Yao rammed against the shield.

Bam!

It rammed against it again!

Yu Zhenghai frowned. "Are the heavens trying to get rid of me?"

He unleashed his Primal Qi again as he reinforced his shield. As he maintained his huge defensive shield, his Primal Qi was being depleted at a greater rate as well.

Wen Yao looked undeterred as it pounced toward Yu Zhenghai.

At this moment, a school of Wen Yaos suddenly leaped out of the black water!

### **Chapter 675: A Heartless Swordsman**

Yu Zhenghai's heart sank. If this continued, he would surely die. He believed it now; there was no hope for survival in the abyss.

He had made all possible preparations before descending into the abyss. He had reached the bottom, but he could not escape from the jaws of the beasts. If he could not survive, then the other cultivators had no hopes of surviving.

Bam!

Wen Yao continued to ram against his shield.

Yu Zhenghai thought he was going to die when the remaining half of Chi Yao's Heart suddenly glowed red.

The red light swirled around Yu Zhenghai. Perhaps, it was due to him consuming the other half of the heart. The red light merged with him smoothly, making it seem like the one who had unleashed the red light.

Splash!

When Wen Yao saw the red light, it dove and disappeared into the black water, much to Yu Zhenghai's confusion.

Similarly, the school of Wen Yaos dove into the water as well.

In just a few breaths, silence was restored.

It dropped into the black water and disappeared.

Yu Zhenghai was confused. He surveyed his surroundings, feeling lost. He kept the huge shield up.

From a distance, he looked like he was standing in the center of the sun or the moon.

Finally, Yu Zhenghai withdrew his Primal Qi, and the light disappeared.

He touched the remaining half of Chi Yao's Heart at his waist and said with a hint of relief, "Master truly has foresight."

He did not stay there any longer. He flew on his Jasper Saber as he let the scabbard guide him.

...

Yu Zhenghai continued flying for three days.

He was overjoyed when he saw a sliver of light. Similar to Yu Shangrong, the prolonged time in the darkness had made him feel numb. With this sliver of light, he reinvigorated.

He picked up his pace, and soon enough, he emerged from Black Water Mystic Cave.

Mountains, rivers, tall trees, the sun...

The scenery and the air invigorated Yu Zhenghai.

He hovered in the air and surveyed his surroundings. "This is the red lotus domain?"

After a while, he calmed down from his shock and excitement. He held the scabbard and circulated his Primal Qi. The red runes reacted slightly.

"He's here!" Yu Zhenghai was filled with emotion. If he was not worried about attracting the attention of the beasts, he would have unleashed his Great Dark Heaven Memorial several times to release the pent-up feelings from flying in the dark for so long.

He had to adapt to his surroundings.

Knowing Yu Shangrong, he would not be content with lodging under another person's roof. Although he was an Eight-leaf cultivator, he was sure to have a hard time.

Yu Zhenghai flew forward. After flying for 100 meters, he heard something to his left.

“Who dares intrude upon the Flying Star House’s territory?”

A man and woman sped toward Yu Zhenghai.

Yu Zhenghai came to a halt and slowly turned around. Since he was in a new place, he was, naturally, more alert and warier than usual. It was not difficult for him to figure out the Flying Star House was a sect in the red lotus domain, but it was difficult to gauge how strong it was.

“You are?”

“Zhang Guo of the Flying Star House.”

“Yue Luping of the Flying Star House.”

When the pair spoke, they greatly emphasized the words ‘Flying Star House’.

Having spent much of his time in the outside world, he knew what this meant. He said, “I was just passing by. I have no intentions of trespassing.”

Zhang Guo said, “Passing by? You must be an expert in picking your routes, sir. The lands dozens of miles around the Black Water Mystic Cave are under the luans’ attacking range. I’ve never seen the likes of you passing by when the luan was still around. The Flying Star House has just taken down the luan, and you suddenly showed up! Apart from the people of the Sky Marital Court, nobody is allowed to get close. Aren’t you aware of this rule?”

Yu Zhenghai did not want to cause trouble. He remembered what Si Wuya said; he should keep a low profile. After all, there were powerful elites in the red lotus domain. Therefore, he said, “The ignorant man is blameless. Kindly forgive me for this.”

“The Flying Star House has its own rules... The Black Water Mystic Cave is too important. I don’t care who you are, but you’ll have to come with us now.” Zhang Guo glared at Yu Zhenghai.

“Black Water Mystic Cave?” Yu Zhenghai turned to look at the oval cave entrance. From here, it was just a gaping hole of darkness. It seemed that the people of the red lotus domain had thoughts about studying the Black Water Mystic Cave for a long time now. From where he emerged, he was on the right side of the Black Water Mystic Cave. The cave entrance seemed small, but it was actually several miles wide.

Yue Luping said, “If you’d please.”

The Black Water Mystic Cave was top secret. Naturally, news of it could not be leaked out.

“I have something else to attend to. I won’t be able to entertain you.” Yu Zhenghai turned around and prepared to leave.

Whizz!

Whizz!

The duo summoned their avatars to block Yu Zhenghai’s way.

Yu Zhenghai was not shocked by their strength, but he was surprised by the existence of the red avatars and red lotuses. With this, there was no longer any doubt that he was now in the red lotus domain.

In Zhang Guo and Yue Luping's eyes, Yu Zhenghai seemed afraid. With this, their arrogance swelled.

Yu Zhenghai caught their expressions. With the intention of keeping a low profile, he said, "Why are you behaving so aggressively when you're merely at the Two-leaf stage?"

"Hm?"

"In the past, I wouldn't have wasted my breath with the likes of you two, but I'm in a good mood today. I'll let you go with your lives. Go on, run away," Yu Zhenghai said solemnly.

Zhang Guo and Yue Luping were speechless.

Men would always stubbornly insist on their own ideas.

Were there still people who were bold enough to stand up against the Flying Star House?

In any case, the duo was tasked with bearing the heavy responsibility of guarding the Black Water Mystic Cave.

"Take him down!" Yue Luping decided to not waste any more time.

The two of them lunged at Yu Zhenghai with their red avatars.

Yu Zhenghai shook his head helplessly. He aimed his palm upward!

Great Dark Heaven Memorial, the Dark Heaven Starlight!

Shining golden energy saber rained down.

Zhang Guo and Yue Luping widened their eyes. Their voices trembled as they cried out, "A-a... a desolate-grade weapon!"

Yue Luping said hoarsely, "Golden energy sabers?! A foreign tribe from the cave?!"

The energy sabers slashed at the two red avatars.

The duo did not have a chance to retaliate and died immediately.

The Jasper Saber returned to Yu Zhenghai.

Yu Zhenghai touched his Jasper Saber and said, "Foreign tribe? In my eyes, you're the foreign tribesmen here. You're too weak."

He sheathed his Jasper Saber. He held the scabbard in his hand again, and with just a few movements, he vanished from sight.

...

At dusk.

On the Flying Star House's main peak.

Elder Meng was dealing with certain affairs when a subordinate hurried in.

“Elder Meng, Zhang Guo and Yue Luping who were guarding Black Water Mystic Cave are dead!”

Elder Meng frowned and stopped what he was doing. Ever since they killed the luan, they lost six Nascent Divinity realm cultivators.

“Do we know who killed them?” Elder Meng asked.

“Unlike the others, the wounds on their bodies were made with utmost precision. There was no mercy in the attacks nor were there any signs of struggles. They seemed to be... killed by a single move. Their opponent must be someone wielding a saber.”

“A saber?”

“The people of the Sky Martial Court went over and scouted the place. They came up with three possibilities.”

“Let’s hear it.”

“The first possibility is that this was deliberately done by the Flying Star House’s enemies. Second, the wounds from the sword and saber seemed to have taken out our men with a single move. It’s highly possible that they’re from the same person who wields a saber and a sword. He might be a reclusive elite. The third...” The disciple paused before continuing, “It might be someone from the foreign domains!”

Elder Meng’s expression darkened. He said with a sigh, “I’ve told them to seal the Mystic Cave in the past, but the people of Sky Martial Court won’t listen. They’re stubborn. If it’s really an elite from the foreign domains, I’m afraid that it’ll spell the end of the red lotus domain! Humans are already at their limits in fending off the beasts. How are we supposed to deal with another powerful enemy?”

“But... the Sky Martial Court has sent five men on the transporter. Elder Ye said that we have no choice but to work with the Sky Martial Court,” the disciple mumbled.

“Is that why Ye Zhen took down the luan?” Elder Meng felt that these people were insane.

“But... the people of Sky Martial Court don’t think that way. They’re of the opinion that they would find the secrets behind the Ten-leaf stage and heaven-earth shackle on the other side. That’s how the problem of the red lotus domain can be solved. At that time, we’ll finally be free from the harassment of the beasts.”

“Imbeciles!” Meng Changdong waved his sleeve and cursed. He said no more. What could he do at this juncture?

After venting, Meng Changdong said, “I don’t think the elite is from the foreign domains. Continue with the investigation. Focus our efforts on the Thousand Willow Monastery... The unlikeliest opponent might very well be the opponent.”

“Understood.”

...

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

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

When he heard this notification, Lu Zhou could not tell if they were from Yu Zhenghai or Yu Shangrong.

He opened his eyes and looked at the system dashboard.

“Judging by the time, Yu Zhenghai should be there by now.”

Lu Zhou stood up. He stopped meditating on the Heavenly Writing scrolls. He went to the courtyard and stretched his limbs.

At this moment, Si Wuya hurried over and said, “Master, I have something urgent to report.”

“What is it?”

“High-ranking beasts are attacking the City of Mo!”

### **Chapter 676: The Beginning of the Disaster?**

Lu Zhou stopped what he was doing. He stroked his beard as he said, “High-rank beasts?”

“Ordinary cultivators can’t do anything to them. These beasts are wreaking havoc in Mo City. Fortunately, the city is protected by the best Formation. Otherwise, who knows what would’ve happened?” Si Wuya said.

“Jiang Wenxu is already dead. Why did the beasts appear in Mo City?”

Si Wuya explained, “Ever since the manmians appeared near Heaven’s Moat, I’ve tasked some men to keep an eye on the activities outside of human settlements. The manmians eventually went away. My theory is that after Jiang Wenxu unleashed his Nine-leaf power, he attracted the attention of the beasts. The manmians did not find what they were looking for so they left.”

“Someone in Mo City has reached the Nine-leaf stage?” Lu Zhou asked.

“It’s possible. According to Jiang Wenxu’s words, the disaster brought forth by the Nine-leaf stage is the beasts. However, from what my sources in Mo City told me, there aren’t any Nine-leaf cultivators in the city,” Si Wuya said.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard as he pondered over the matter.

Si Wuya looked at his master and said, “I suspect that these beasts are here... because of you.”

Lu Zhou did not reply. He was not a real Nine-leaf cultivator. Even if the Nine-leaf stage truly brought with it a disaster, it would not be because of him. In that case, what was the reason for this?

This was not merely the rule of the jungle; this was also the rule of the dark forest. Every man was a hunter in the dark forest where danger lurked in every corner. It was possible for the hunter to encounter other hunters while they explored the forest. When it was impossible to determine if the other person was a friend or foe, how would the hunter ensure his own safety? The answer was to open fire and kill the other person. If a hunter encountered an ant, would he care about it? No, he would not. He would choose to leave and might not even notice the ant in the first place. What if the hunter

encountered a primordial beast? His gun would become meaningless. In that case, the only thing he could do was to run.

"I'll go take a look," Lu Zhou said.

Si Wuya was slightly taken aback by this. He did not expect his master to personally make a move. He intended to remind his master of his current state. Yet, his master did not speak in defense of himself and was going out in search of the beasts instead. When he recalled, his master was even capable of killing Chi Yao, he was no longer worried. "Safe journey, master."

"Don't tell anyone else about this."

"Understood."

Lu Zhou glanced at the system dashboard. Whitzard was still resting. Bi An was too rocky of a ride. Therefore, he summoned Ji Liang and left along a deserted route.

...

In the past, Lu Zhou needed to bring a few of his disciples during his travels to protect him. Leave the Deadly Strike Cards aside, now that he had returned to the Eight-leaf stage, coupled with the item cards and the Heavenly Writing power, even if he was up against a Nine-leaf cultivator, he could still put up a fight.

Of his ten disciples, apart from Old First, Old Second, and Old Sixth who were making preparations to attempt the Nine-leaf stage, his other disciples had great room for improvement in terms of their cultivation bases. Bringing them along would only slow him down.

As he continued to travel, he felt his speed was too slow. Therefore, he urged his mount on. "Ji Liang, faster."

Neigh!

Ji Liang neighed unenthusiastically, but it picked up speed. However, it was not enough.

Lu Zhou said in a deep voice. "You livestock. How dare you defy my order?"

When Ji Liang heard Lu Zhou speaking in a low voice, it neighed a few times before it picked up speed.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and wondered if the horse was worried.

Apart from him, Mingshi Yin and Yu Shangrong were the only ones who had ridden Ji Liang before.

Ji Liang was rather special, after all, since it was his only mount that came to him on its own accord after he obtained it.

However, Lu Zhou did not spare it any other thoughts

...

Mo City was the northernmost human settlement among Liang Province's ten cities.

In less than two hours, Mo City appeared in his sight.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Above Mo City, bat-like creatures flew in the sky. Their claws glinted with faint light. They were clearly deadly.

The sky curtain barrier kept the beasts at bay.

“Manmans?” Lu Zhou stood on Ji Liang’s back and looked at the manmans.

The birds above were small. They rammed against the barrier, sending ripples across its surface as the sounds of their collision boomed in the air.

Lu Zhou got off Ji Liang’s back and entered the city. He could see the people had shuttered themselves in their houses.

Ballistae were occasionally fired from the city walls. Alas, it was like trying to put out a huge fire with a cup of water. It was not very effective.

Lu Zhou walked along the path.

Dozens of cultivators shot past him in the city.

Someone shouted, “Did anyone go to the main city? Please ask the Evil Sky Pavilion’s Patriarch to send help! Things are getting tough. If this goes on, Mo City will be done for!”

“Look up.”

Lu Zhou looked at the sky in the direction that they pointed.

A group of manmans was approaching from the north. They were led by a gargantuan bird.

“Not again! I don’t think the barrier is going to last!”

The cultivators in the city took flight.

Energy sabers and swords shot out of the barrier and killed the little manmans.

However, the largest bird did not seem to be affected. It dove toward the barrier.

Boom!

A huge ripple spread on the surface of the barrier.

The recoil of the energy struck the nearby cultivators out of the air.

The gargantuan manman had a wingspan of dozens of meters. Its head alone was several meters wide. With its wings extended, it seemed as large as the sky curtains itself.

The cultivators hovering above the roofs retreated.

When one of the cultivators noticed Lu Zhou, he called out, “Old mister, take cover! Don’t come out!”

The cultivators here were kind enough.

Lu Zhou did not respond. He kept looking at the huge bird.



Boom!

The huge manman rammed into the barrier again.

A ripple spread.

Crack!

A crisp sound rang in the sky, indicating the barrier was on its last leg and was about to break.

“Get ready!”

Lu Zhou was surprised to see the dozens of cultivators working together to fight the huge beast.

Boom!

Crack!

As the huge manman charged again, its talons glinted with a strange light.

As the ripple spread, the sky curtain finally reached its limits and shattered like glass. The energy from the sky curtain scattered in the air like starlight.

“Now!”

Every cultivator in Mo City shot up to the heavens.

The cultivators below the Divine Court realm charged at the little manmans and took out one each.

Manman corpses dropped down from the sky.

Meanwhile, about five Nascent Divinity realm elites attacked the huge manman. The five of them unleashed their energy sabers and swords at the same time.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The energy sabers and swords struck at the faintly glowing talons of the manman. Alas, they were... ineffective!

“Attack its body!”

“Alright!”

The five of them parted as they launched energies and their blades from all directions.

They seemed to have agitated the huge manman as it began to wildly flap its wings.

Swoosh!Fuh!

It stirred up a wild tempest.

It swatted the three cultivators on the left.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The three cultivators were sent flying. Fortunately, they were protected by their protective energies. After a while, they managed to stabilize themselves.

“Again!”

The huge beast did not seem interested in them. It flew low and at a high speed. It flapped its wings again.

Boom!

Two buildings were destroyed by its wings. Its destructive power was shocking. The five cultivators were no match for it.

Lu Zhou decided that he had seen enough. He could not allow the livestock to continue wreaking havoc here. He pushed away from the ground. With a gruff voice, he said, “Livestock.”

At this moment, an individual moved toward him at great speed. He appeared in front of Lu Zhou with his grand technique, shielding him. “Old mister, stand down. I’ll deal with this!”

Lu Zhou regarded the old man’s back skeptically and said, “You’re no match for the beast. Allow me.”

The old man ignored Lu Zhou. He looked at the five Nascent Divinity realm elites and said, “I’m the Luo Sect’s Chu Nan. Everyone, stand back.”

‘Chu Nan? The Grand Elder of the Luo Sect?’ Lu Zhou stroked his beard and wondered. He had visited the Luo Sect’s holy land twice. The only person he knew was the Second Elder, Godly Archer Shan Yun Zheng. He never paid any attention to this grand elder.

‘Aren’t you going to turn around and see who I am? I should reveal my identity so he doesn’t throw away his life needlessly...’

“Chu Nan?” Lu Zhou’s voice was imposing.

Chu Nan did not turn around. He said, “Old Mister, blades do not have eyes. This huge beast is inhumane. I’m worried you might be caught in the crossfire. Time waits for no man, but please give me some time.”

“...”

After saying this, Chu Nan shot toward the huge beast like a fired arrow. He moved at lightning speed.

The cultivators cried out, in awe of his speed. As expected from an elite of the Luo Sect.

“Hang in there, everyone. When the people of the Evil Sky Pavilion arrive, we’ll all be safe!”

“The Luo Sect isn’t weak either!”

Sparks of hope were ignited in their hearts.

## **Chapter 677: I’d Still Have To Do It**

What a curious coincidence.

When Lu Zhou first went to the Luo Sect's holy land, Chu Nan was the one who led the party to greet the Evil Sky Pavilion. However, Chu Nan was unbelievably proud. Before Lu Zhou showed himself, he was knocked out by Pan Litian and Leng Luo. He did not even meet Lu Zhou. On top of that, Lu Zhou had been using many Reversal Cards lately. Half of his hair was now dark. Compared to his silver mane in the past, he looked starkly different.

Moreover, Chu Nan did not even spare a glance at Lu Zhou now.

It seemed like the previous lesson was not enough.

The people of the Luo Sect were proud. That much was true.

Lu Zhou shook his head. When he saw that Chu Nan was eager to take the vanguard and defend Mo City, he did not object. He only hovered in the air and watched.

Bam!

A loud explosion rang in the air and resounded through the land.

Chu Nan joined his palms together. His palm blade was extremely fierce as he struck at the huge beast's wing.

Sparks flew.

This move of his dislodged a feather.

"Nice!"

"Well done!"

"As expected of Luo Sect's Grand Elder!"

Although Chu Nan merely managed to dislodge a feather, it was better than not having any effect at all. The others were greatly motivated by this.

Lu Zhou shook his head helplessly. Although this was not the time for him to put a dent in their morale, he wondered how they were going to defeat the beast when they got so excited over a feather. These beasts were here for Nine-leaf cultivators, after all!

At this moment, someone who caught Lu Zhou's reaction asked, "Old Mister, why are you shaking your head?:

"This beast isn't easy to deal with."

The person standing on the left nodded, "Old Mister, we all know this. However, this beast is wreaking havoc. We have no choice but to do whatever we can. It's better than sitting on our butts and waiting to be killed. Moreover, if we retreat, what will happen to the civilians here? If this were a war, we'd still have a chance. However, these beasts are different."

"Aren't you afraid of death?"

"What good will it do being afraid?"

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. He praised, "I like young men like you."

"Thank you for your praise, old mister."

"Which sect are you from?"

"I have no sect."

"If you're willing, you can join mine. Although you can't be my disciple, being a member of a sect is better than being like rootless duckweed." Lu Zhou truly liked talents like this. The Evil Sky Pavilion had always preferred quality over quantity. A person's character was even more important.

However, the young man shook his head and said, "I'm used to being free and unfettered. I don't like being tied down, but thank you for the offer, old mister."

"I'm..."

"That's enough, old mister. Even if the Evil Sky Pavilion's Patriarch himself is here, my answer would still be the same."

"..."

'Is my Evil Sky Pavilion not popular?'

To be honest, this was Lu Zhou's first time being turned down.

'Forget it. I'm not someone who would force someone against their will.'

Bam!

The Luo Sect's Grand Elder, Chu Nan, joined his palms again as he moved closer to the huge manman. He struck with his palm blades and dislodged another feather.

"Nice!" The crowd cheered.

The smaller manmans dared not sweep down as they were kept at bay by the other cultivators. They circled high above in the air and waited for their leader to lead them.

The huge manman shrieked when it lost another feather. Its talons glowed red, and it started flapping its wings in a frenzy at this moment.

"I'll cut you down!" Chu Nan shouted. He appeared at lightning speed and appeared above the huge beast. Then, he joined his palms together again. Soon enough, a massive energy saber materialized between his palms!

The energy saber was dozens of meters long and several meters wide. It was just big enough to cover the manman's body.

Whizz!

An avatar was summoned!

Almost everyone widened their eyes in shock when they saw the shining golden avatar.

“He cultivated to the Eight-leaf stage! Amazing!”

“We’re saved! He’s a recultivated Eight-leaf cultivator!”

As expected, the moment the avatar appeared, the manman seemed to sense danger. It adjusted its direction and flapped its wings.

Chu Nan tossed the energy saber out.

The avatar’s palms moved. It held the energy saber and swung its hands.

“I heard that after the lotus is severed, the avatar could move around. I didn’t think it was true.”

“I’ll give it a try when I go home. This is too awesome!”

The others were filled with excitement when they witnessed this scene.

Alas, when the massive energy saber struck, the manman brought its wings together, and the energy saber struck its wing.

Boom!

Several feathers fell off.

The manman shrieked and extended its wing before it lunged. Its speed and power were several times greater than before. It seemed to be in a frenzy. Originally, its target was not these cultivators. However, Chu Nan’s relentless attacks seemed to have provoked it.

At this moment...

The manman’s talons flashed red.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

“No!” Chu Nan retracted his avatar and sped backward!

However, the manman was intelligent. It seemed to know where Chu Nan was retreating to. It flapped its wings immediately and gave chase.

The smaller manmans flew forward as well when they heard the rallying cry from their leader.

Under such circumstances, Chu Nan would have to summon his avatar to kill the manmans with a single strike. However, if he did that, his avatar would be vulnerable to the beasts’ sharp talons. What should he do? In the end, he activated his protective energy and kept using his energy saber to strike down the smaller manmans near him.

“Senior, look out!”

The huge beast swiped with its talons.

Chu Nan reeled. His protective energy was instantly penetrated by the sharp talons. His clothes were torn to shreds as well.

“It’s powerful!”

The others felt their hearts sink.

The huge manman's strike landed true. It flapped its wings and lunged again.

Boom! Boom!

Two houses collapsed.

Lu Zhou shook his head. He stroked his beard and said, "I'd still have to do it myself in the end!"

Lu Zhou stepped into the air and vanished from sight. With a burst of speed, he quickly appeared before Chu Nan. He had an erudite air about him as he stood with his hands on his back.

The young cultivators were shocked as they exclaimed in unison, "Old mister!"

Chu Nan looked at Lu Zhou's back and seemed shocked as well. "Old mister, run away. I can still fight."

"You're too weak. What's the meaning of fighting a fight you can't win?" Lu Zhou did not look at Chu Nan when he spoke. His eyes were trained on the manman.

At this moment, the huge manman finally arrived before Lu Zhou. He struck with his palms.

Buddhist Hand Seal!

The huge palm sailed toward the manman's chest.

Boom!

The bird cried out and flapped its wings.

Lu Zhou unleashed his grand technique and appeared before the manman.

"Avatar."

A 100-foot golden lotus avatar towered in the air.

"An Eight-leaf golden lotus avatar! He's an elite!"

"I didn't expect Great Yan to have this many unknown elites!"

"There's only a handful who can resist severing their lotuses at this point."

Nonetheless, the cultivators were still worried. If Chu Nan who had cultivated to the Eight-leaf stage could not do anything to the manman, how was the old mister with the golden lotus supposed to defeat it? In their opinion, avatars with golden lotuses were weaker than avatars without golden lotuses.

After Lu Zhou summoned his avatar, he pushed his hand down.

"What's he doing?"

Everyone's eyes were fixed on Lu Zhou at this moment.

Lu Zhou controlled his avatar with a golden lotus and brought it down on the manman.

Boom!

Ripples spread on the golden lotus.

Kree!

The huge manman shrieked. The crushing force from the golden lotus pained it.

Chu Nan and the young cultivators felt as though their hearts were in their mouths. Could an avatar be used in this manner?

This was but one of the many ways to use an avatar. The defense of the lotus was on par with a heaven-grade weapon. Lu Zhou knew how to use the avatar better than anyone else. He retracted his avatar and reactivated it. He was now high up in the skies!

Unlike before, this time, Lu Zhou's avatar was slightly slanting to the side. The sharp lotus leaves spun as they sailed toward the huge manman.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Feathers were dislodged again.

After eight horizontal slashes, the manman sped backward.

It seemed injured!

"You're amazing, old senior!"

"No way!" Chu Nan also learned something new from this. As the manman retreated, he no longer looked down on the old man. He bowed and said, "Which sect are you from, senior?"

Lu Zhou did not reply. Instead, he said, "Look closely!"

There was a flurry of movements as Lu Zhou's avatar disappeared.

Unnamed appeared in Lu Zhou's palm.

Since the beast was tough, and it was extremely difficult to kill it with the ordinary combat power of an Eight-leaf cultivator, Lu Zhou wondered if Unnamed that was of unknown origin would be able to cut the beast just as it had cut through Jiang Wenxu's blood sword.

Black runes swirled around the blade.

Unnamed was too small and delicate. As the battle raged on, it was barely noticeable.

Lu Zhou's grip on Unnamed was firm. With a flurry of movements, he shot toward the huge manman.

Swoosh!

Unnamed's blade glinted coldly.

Lu Zhou shot past the manman at lightning speed, drawing Unnamed across its wings.

Crack!

A part of its wing broke.

“Unnamed is effective.” Soon enough, Lu Zhou confirmed his speculation. Without waiting for the wing to fall, he made a move again.

Lu Zhou was aware beasts would grow fiercer and more terrifying when they were injured. Therefore, he wanted to chase the manman out of Mo City before it was truly enraged.

Lu Zhou appeared in front of the manman again. He raised his hand that glowed blue.

Originating from nothing, from it comes everything. Living in samsara and learning from it. This is the power of past lives.

Daoist Nine Cuts Hand Seals!

Bam!

The huge manman cried out. Before it dropped to the ground, it was pushed away by the blue palm seal!

“This...”

The others were dumbfounded.

Lu Zhou sped forward. He stared at the manman and said gruffly, “Clean up the others!”

“Understood!”

The others snapped back to their senses and flew toward the smaller manmans.

Lu Zhou moved forward and launched another blue palm seal.

The huge manman flew backward at an angle. Every time it tried to catch its breath, Lu Zhou would send a palm seal its way.

Chu Nan could not help but exclaim, “My horizons have been widened!”

### **Chapter 678: Do You Have to Ask When the Pavilion Master is Here?**

It was slightly difficult for Lu Zhou to try and injure this huge bird with his Eight-leaf cultivation base. Based on the fight between Chu Nan and the beast, he could tell that the manman was a high-rank beast stronger than those at the Eight-leaf stage. Hence, he had gathered some of his extraordinary power in his palms before he attacked.

This was the new fighting method Lu Zhou devised. Since he had an Eight-leaf cultivation base, he decided to not waste that foundation. He would base his attacks on his cultivation base and mix it with extraordinary power. This way, he would be unparalleled among his peers. At the same time, he would be able to save much of his extraordinary power. Clearly, his experiment on the manman was successful. Every palm strike was just right, causing the manman unable to resist.

After dozens of palm seals, the beast was forced out of Mo City to the southeastern direction by Lu Zhou.

The morale of the cultivators in the city skyrocketed. They charged savagely toward the smaller manmans.



Some of the cultivators moved to the Eyes of the Formation, intending to mend the barrier.

Meanwhile, Chu Nan was still as stunned as a wooden chicken. He kept muttering about how his horizons had been widened.

The cultivator who had declined Lu Zhou's invitation earlier was stunned as well. "The old mister is powerful! He resembles the Evil Sky Pavilion's Patriarch..."

"The Evil Sky Pavilion's Patriarch?" Chu Nan looked over.

"Although the old mister looks younger, the way he strikes with his palms and his way of doing things resemble the Evil Sky Pavilion's Patriarch."

"Do you know much about the Evil Sky Pavilion?" Chu Nan was puzzled.

"I know a little about them... The Evil Sky Pavilion's Patriarch is the person whom I respect the most. He's a master of palm seals. When the Evil Sky Pavilion dealt with the Taixu Academy's Lin Xin, I was watching on Dangyang Peak. The Eight-leaf Lin Xin was not even worthy enough for the patriarch to make a move. After Lin Xin's death, the patriarch's Abandon Wisdom shattered the barriers of the Taixu Academy that they prided themselves on."

Chu Nan said, "You have a point... Young man, I can tell you're braver than most. Have you ever thought about joining the Luo Sect?"

Upon hearing this, the young man was inwardly delighted. He said, "I'm used to being free and unfettered. Even if the patriarch himself is here, I won't easily join his sect. When the old mister extended an invitation to me earlier, I turned him down politely. However, considering how chaotic the world is now, it's better to have a place to return to than to remain like rootless duckweed. I'd be extremely grateful if you'd recommend me, grand elder."

"Very well." Chu Nan nodded in satisfaction. He enjoyed being flattered in that manner.

At this moment, two young cultivators flew toward them and landed beside them.

"Congratulations, Xiao Yun."

"You can look after us now that you're joining the Luo Sect."

Xiao Yun, the sectless cultivator, nodded.

Chu Nan said, "All of you are talented. If you're willing, you may join the sect as well."

Upon hearing these words, the cultivators were delighted. They bowed and said in unison, "Thank you, grand elder!"

...

The manmans above Mo City were cleared away by the collective effort of the cultivators.

The skies were clear again, and peace was restored.

100 cultivators flew westward. They hovered in the air and looked down at the spot where the huge manman crashed down.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou's final palm strike defeated the manman. He did not put much extraordinary power in his palm seals. At most, it could only push his targets away. However, coupled with the black runes on Unnamed, he managed to sever its other wing.

The manman could no longer fly. It flapped its wings as it crashed onto the ground, stirring up a violent sandstorm and rocks.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

The rocks hit the city walls, leaving dents on them.

The manman was furious!

The cultivators were worried that the city walls would crumble. They rose into the air, condensed their Qi into energy, landed on the city wall, and formed a temporary barrier that kept the rocks at bay.

The Eight-leaf Lu Zhou did not worry about the flying rocks. His protective energy kept them at bay.

When Lu Zhou landed, the others cried out, "Old mister, look out!"

"Although you're a powerful Eight-leaf cultivator, this livestock isn't like other beasts."

Based on Chu Nan's experience, none of them dared to look down on the livestock.

Shortly after, there were no more rocks flying in the air.

A crater formed on the ground by the frenzied flapping of the manman's wings earlier.

"No matter." Lu Zhou stroked his beard and calmly stepped forward.

The others were shocked to see this. Elites were, truly, bold.

The 100 cultivators looked on as Lu Zhou stepped forward.

Like before, Unnamed materialized in Lu Zhou's palm again. The black runes could faintly be seen.

Without using Deadly Strike Cards, Unnamed was a crucial weapon he needed to kill the manman. Relying on his Eight-leaf cultivation base alone would require lots of time and effort.

"Old mister, be careful! Manmans are usually paired. Even if this one dies, there's still another one!" Xiao Yun shouted from the city wall.

"There's another one?"

Manmans were biyi birds. They would stay together even in death.

Lu Zhou was still lost in his thoughts as the manman's talons glowed red, and it lunged toward Lu Zhou.

The others widened their eyes. They could not bear to witness this bloody scene. They knew that the sharp talons could easily tear through a human's protective energy.

Chu Nan frowned deeply as well. He wanted to jump down and help.

At this moment, Lu Zhou suddenly struck with his palm. The Eight Trigrams expanded under his feet, and Six seals emerged from him.

The Six Compatible Seal burst forth! The Nine scripts formed a connected circle and struck the wound on the manman's wing in succession.

The palm seal sent it flying in the air for a brief moment.

The others watched with their jaws dropped. This series of attacks was not possible without rich combat experience. As fellow Eight-leaf cultivators, they understood the techniques and skills required to pull this off. This was not something one could achieve by just relying on luck alone.

"If there's one, I'll kill it. If there's a pair, I'll kill them." Lu Zhou moved swiftly. He was only the size of the manman's feather, causing him to look like an ant trying to shake a tree.

The others held their breaths as they continued to watch.

Before the manman dropped to the ground again, Lu Zhou raised his hand that held Unnamed.

An energy sword burst forth and rose sharply into the air!

The shining golden energy sword seemed to be covered in a dark aura as the black runes swirled around it.

"What's that?"

"Fiend Zen?"

"If Fiend Zen is used for righteous motives, it's righteous!"

The instant the energy sword expanded, it stabbed the manman's body. An anguished cry resounded across the city immediately.

"This..."

"Amazing!"

"Although the old mister is only at the Eight-leaf stage, he achieved so much with so little effort. This is what an elite should be like!"

From afar, it was as though Lu Zhou had brought a sword down from above and sliced through a colossal beast.

...

In the distant forest west of Mo City.

A cry was heard.

The manmans came flying over.

"Here they come!"

The 100 cultivators barely had the time to revel in Lu Zhou's powers when they turned their gazes toward the forest.

"Old mister, stand back!"

Lu Zhou put Unnamed away. Then, he appeared above the injured manman that was trashing on the ground.

Many smaller manmans came flying from the trees.

“Ready.” The cultivators on the city walls shouted again.

At this moment, from the southern side of Mo City, a cultivator shouted excitedly, “Here comes the people from the Evil Sky Pavilion!”

“The Evil Sky Pavilion is here!”

The cultivators were excited. They looked westward.

On the horizon, the Evil Sky Pavilion’s cloud-splitting chariot dragged a long tail behind itself as it sped forward.

Lu Zhou looked at the flying chariot and frowned. He told Si Wuya to keep a low profile. Why did the Evil Sky Pavilion suddenly appear here?

The cultivators in Mo City hovered in the air and waited silently for the chariot.

Shortly after, the flying chariot stopped above Mo City.

Chu Nan led the others to greet them.

“We weren’t expecting anyone from the Evil Sky Pavilion. Please forgive our lack of hospitality, senior!”

At this moment, a person stepped out of the flying chariot. It was Si Wuya with the four elders behind him.

Si Wuya did not even look at Chu Nan before he descended. “Master!”

Chu Nan and Xiao Yun were taken aback.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and glanced at Si Wuya. He said, “I can deal with this. What are you doing here instead of looking after Liang Province?”

Si Wuya said in a hushed tone, “Master, I don’t think this matter is so simple... I discovered something new.”

“Something new?”

“I found this at where the manmans made their nests.” Si Wuya produced a talisman.

The talisman was drawn with red runes.

Lu Zhou frowned.

Si Wuya continued to say, “I suspect the people from the red lotus domain are already here. Since there are Nine-leaf cultivators in the red lotus domain, I’m sure they’re much more advanced in cultivation bases and the research on the red lotus than we are. The red coffins are their inventions as well. Hence, it’s highly possible that they’ve arrived in the golden lotus domain.”

At this moment, another huge manman appeared and made a shocking move. It dove and grabbed the injured manman with its claws before it took flight again.

Meanwhile, the smaller manmans were charging toward Mo City.

Lu Zhou glanced at them and said, "Guard Mo City with the four elders for now. I'll be back!"

"Understood!" Si Wuya bowed.

Lu Zhou stepped into the air and chased after the two huge manmans. He said gruffly, "Livestocks! I'd like to see where you're going to run to!"

In just an instant, Lu Zhou and the two huge manmans disappeared in the horizon.

Above Mo City, the cultivators watched with complicated gazes. They were greatly shaken.

"Chu Nan? Is that you?" the Evil Sky Pavilion's Pan Litian called out. He recognized Chu Nan right away.

Chu Nan gulped before he hastily said, "Elder Pan!"

The 100 cultivators bowed at the same time.

"What are you doing here?" Pan Litian asked, "I remember you were like the sun at high noon in the Luo Sect."

Chu Nan waved his hand and said sheepishly, "That's all in the past. Don't embarrass me. Elder Pan... That old master is..."

Pan Litian shook his head speechlessly. "Do you even have to ask? It's the pavilion master himself!"

### **Chapter 679: The Red Lotus Envoy**

Chu Nan was shocked, and he tried to hide the awkwardness he felt. He lowered his head and said, "So, it really is Senior Ji... I thought that he looked familiar earlier, but I just couldn't believe it."

"Well, now you know... You're much smarter than you were in the past," Pan Litian said.

These words made Chu Nan flush red.

The young cultivator, Xiao Yun, who was hovering behind Chu Nan, nearly lost control. He quickly stabilized his footing before he muttered to himself, "What did I miss?"

Nobody bothered with these young cultivators.

Only Xiao Yun knew what a great opportunity he had missed. The Evil Sky Pavilion had always been strict about recruiting disciples and members. From Pan Zhong and Zhou Jifeng to Ye Tianxin's subordinates, the female cultivators from the Derived Moon Palace, all of them were elites who were famed in different parts of the world.

Similarly, the names of the four elders of the Evil Sky Pavilion resounded like thunder.

Alas, it was too late for regrets.

Si Wuya flew over at this moment. He drew level with the four elders before he said, "Master ordered us to defend Mo City for now."

"Alright." Pan Litian looked at the manmans and laughed. "It's been a long time since I stretched my limbs. Old Leng, shall we see who can kill the most beasts?"

Leng Luo clenched his fists and said, "Bring it on!"

Leng Luo vanished out of sight and soon reappeared near the manmans. With a flurry of movement, he summoned his avatar that expanded swiftly.

Six golden leaves spun in the air. Then, they flew out and returned. With these two moves, hundreds of manmans dropped to the ground.

"No fair! I'll show you." Pan Litian tossed his Golden Gourd Bottle out, and a golden light shone from under his feet.

The Golden Gourd Bottle increased in size, covering the sun.

Pan Litian lay down and said gruffly, "Drunk on the Mountain."

With these words, a turbulent surge of energy appeared immediately.

Boom!

One-third of the manmans were knocked out from this move.

The others were greatly shaken. The two elders' moves were precise and vicious compared to killing the manmans one by one.

They were Eight-leaf experts in the past. However, now that the two elders had cultivated to the Six-leaf stage, their strength seemed to be on par with that of an Eight-leaf cultivator. Both of them attacked with so much ease that it seemed as though they were strolling in the park.

"I'll join in!" Zuo Yushu gripped her Coiling Dragon Staff tightly. The veins on the staff glowed as talismans flew out in the air.

Huge scripts flew toward the manmans. Every single talisman took out a manman.

Even a Godly Archer could hardly compare to Zuo Yushu's capability of killing that many targets with such precision.

The others instinctively turned to look at Hua Wudao.

Hua Wudao cleared his throat before he said, "The three elders' strength is shocking. I won't embarrass myself."

"..."

With the members from the Evil Sky Pavilion making a move, the manmans were nothing. They were soon killed.

Si Wuya nodded and flew toward the top of the city wall.

At this moment, the young cultivator, Xiao Yun, who was hovering behind Chu Nan, hastily stepped forward to greet Si Wuya with a bow, "Greetings, Mister Seventh."

"You are?" Naturally, Si Wuya did not know him.

"You might not be aware of this, Mister Seventh, but Senior Ji wanted to recruit me into the Evil Sky Pavilion earlier. I wonder if..." Xiao Yun said.

Upon hearing the words, Chu Nan frowned.

Alas, Si Wuya did not give Xiao Yun a chance to finish his words before he interjected, "My master has always been strict about recruiting members... If he's really interested in you, he'll surely look for you again. There's no need to speak to me."

Xiao Yun. "..."

'Oh, no...' Xiao Yun thought to himself. His heart sank when he saw Chu Nan staring at him. As the saying went, he had 'tossed the watermelon away for the sesame'. However, it seemed like now he was going to lose the 'sesame' as well.

...

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou pursued the manman.

If the manman was flying alone, he might not be able to catch up. However, since it was carrying the injured manman, its speed has slowed down considerably. Moreover, after it entered the forest with tall trees, maneuvering became even more difficult. It had no choice but to crash through the huge trees to make a path for itself. It could not fly any higher. Apart from that, their sizes meant that they were not light.

"Livestock, where will you run to now?"

He struck with a palm. The shining golden palm shot forth and struck the manman's wing. He finally caught up to the manmans in the forest.

His palm strike dislodged several feathers.

"A male and a female?"

The male bird was injured, and the female bird was trying to rescue it.

The female bird winced. It flapped its wings furiously as it tried to fly out of the forest.

Lu Zhou summoned his Eight-leaf avatar. His golden lotus appeared.

With his grand technique, he appeared above the bird.

"Go!" He pushed his hand down as it shone brilliantly with a blue light that shone at a greater intensity. He moved at lightning speed.

He did not unleash Abandon Wisdom but unleashed the Buddhist Great Vajra Wheel Hand Sign instead.

Boom!

It struck the manman's head.

The manman was hurt and cried out as it dropped.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

It fell at an angle, crashing through dozens of tall trees before landing heavily on the ground.

Lu Zhou retracted his avatar and hovered in the air more than ten meters above the manman.

"I won't forgive you." He was about to attack when a person emerged from the forest behind the manmans.

It was a middle-aged man in armor and a red bandana on his head. "Wait."

Lu Zhou looked over.

The middle-aged man drew closer to the manman and looked up at Lu Zhou. He seemed satisfied as he nodded and said, "You must have a profound cultivation base to be able to kill these manmans."

Lu Zhou asked tonelessly, "Who are you?"

"If you can spare these livestock on my account, old mister, I'll thank you on their behalf," the middle-aged man said.

"The manmans had harassed the city. Why are you protecting them?"

"Why must you kill them, old mister?" the middle-aged man retorted.

"Shouldn't they be killed?" Lu Zhou asked.

"Well..."

The middle-aged man was about to explain further, but Lu Zhou did not want to waste time on this matter so he interjected, "You're in no place to voice out your opinion when the Evil Sky Pavilion has made a decision."

Lu Zhou had intentionally mentioned the Evil Sky Pavilion. 'Go on... Run for your life.'

Contrary to Lu Zhou's expectations, the middle-aged man was not frightened by the mention of the Evil Sky Pavilion. Instead, he said again, "Old Mister, I still think that we should spare them."

Lu Zhou frowned slightly. 'This person isn't afraid of the Evil Sky Pavilion? Is he a recluse who lives in the mountain with no regard for worldly affairs? Does he not know about the Evil Sky Pavilion?'

"Are you telling me what to do?" Lu Zhou asked.

"Old mister, we should forgive if we can..." The middle-aged flew up and drew level with Lu Zhou. His armor seemed to thrum before it flashed and red runes appeared on it.

Realization dawned on Lu Zhou when he saw this. He said, "You're from the red lotus domain." At the same time, he noticed the red runes on the feathers of the manmans.

'No wonder.'



The middle-aged man was slightly taken aback. He said in surprise, "You know about the red lotus?"

'What a coincidence!'

Anyone else would not have recognized the red armor. Throughout Great Yan, only the Evil Sky Pavilion knew about the armor.

Lu Zhou's expression was solemn as he looked at the man and asked, "How did you come to Great Yan?"

The middle-aged man did not reply. Instead, he asked, "How did you know about this?"

"Answer me."

"... I'll have no choice but to take you down," the middle-aged man said now that he realized his identity had been exposed. Killing intent surged from his body immediately.

Whizz!

His armor shone red as he summoned his avatar.

The red lotus bloomed, and eight leaves spun around the red lotus.

Without another word, Lu Zhou unleashed his grand technique. With a burst of speed, he pushed his palm forward and launched a palm seal.

The Buddhist Great Seal of Fearlessness shone with a faint blue light.

The middle-aged man advanced instead of retreating and struck with his palm as well.

Bam!

The palms struck collided.

The middle-aged man reeled back.

Bam! Bam! Bam.

He crashed through more than ten trees.

His armor shone. The red veins carved on it burst forth with a weblike energy as he flew forward. His expression was one of shock as he said hoarsely, "Nine leaves?!"

The armor would only be activated by attacks from a Nine-leaf cultivator!

He looked up and saw Lu Zhou's figure drawing closer. He was overjoyed. "You're rushing to your own death..."

Lu Zhou slashed at the red net with Unnamed.

The net of red runes was cut open. He pushed his palm out.

The middle-aged man had thought the red runes could stop Lu Zhou. He did not expect it to be so easily broken. He could not react in time and recoiled again. He spat out a mouthful of blood.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

He crashed through three trees again and sat limply on the ground. His expression was one of fright.

The difference in their strength was huge!

Lu Zhou stroked his beard with one hand and the other on his back. He stepped forward and said gruffly, "Answer my question."

### **Chapter 680: I'm Weak Here**

The middle-aged man did not expect this unpresentable old man to be capable of piercing his armor and dealing such a heavy blow.

"How did you reach this land?"

"From the Endless Ocean in the north," the middle-aged man replied tonelessly.

"What's your name?" Lu Zhou asked.

"Gu Ming of the Sky Martial Court." Gu Ming adjusted his position and looked up as he said, "A month ago, I came on the transporter across the sea. I've been laying low in this forest when I encountered the manman. Then, I used the talismans to harass them and made them attack the city."

"Since you're from the red lotus domain, why do you want to attack a human settlement?" Lu Zhou found this weak Eight-leaf cultivator audacious. Even the Nine-leaf Jiang Wenxu, who was here several centuries ago, was not as audacious as Gu Ming who attacked a human city as soon as he arrived. He was vicious.

Gu Ming said, "We want to know how powerful you are as a whole. The strength of a Nine-leaf cultivator is needed to kill the manmans. Only when we're sure... that..." He stopped talking abruptly.

"Only then you'll invade, right?" Lu Zhou finished the middle-aged man's words.

Gu Ming looked away.

Lu Zhou said, "Of the grand cultivators here, I'm considered weak."

Gu Ming frowned deeply. He looked at this old man as tides of fears surged in his heart. He had confirmed that Lu Zhou was a Nine-leaf cultivator. If this the old man's words were true, then... the red lotus domain would be in danger! His heart thumped wildly against his ribcage. In the end, he said, "I don't believe you. Before you showed up, nobody was able to stop the manmans. My comrades are..."

"So, you have comrades here."

Gu Ming realized he said the wrong thing, but it was already too late. In the end, he said, "I don't even know where they are..."

"What is Sky Martial Court?" Lu Zhou asked.

Gu Ming did not answer the question immediately. He could tell the old man was trying to understand the red lotus domain. If a Nine-leaf cultivator was considered weak here, he would become a great sinner cursed for generations if he were to give out too much information about the red lotus world and brought a devastating calamity to his homeland.

When Lu Zhou saw Gu Ming keeping quiet, he said, "Is Jiang Wenxu from the Sky Martial Court?"

Gu Ming was shocked and frightened. The old man knew more than he expected. "He's from the Flying Star House, not the Sky Martial Court."

"Flying Star House..." Lu Zhou repeated the name.

"There are two Nine-leaf cultivators in the Flying Star House. Jiang Wenxu is one of them."

"Who's the other one?" Lu Zhou asked.

Perhaps, it was because of Jiang Wenxu, but Lu Zhou did not have a good impression of the Flying Star house. They would certainly have a conflict if they were to meet in the future. It would be good for him to understand more about them now.

Gu Ming replied, "Grand Elder Ye Zhen."

Ye Zhen.

Lu Zhou made an effort to remember the name. Then, he asked again, "What's the red lotus domain's intention of coming here and studying the transporters?" He needed to obtain much information. His understanding of the red lotus domain was superficial and insufficient.

Gu Ming lowered his head and said, "Old mister, I've answered many of your questions. Can I go now?"

Lu Zhou shook his head. He turned around and faced Gu Ming with his back. He looked at the pair of manmans and said, "You may leave if you tell me everything about the red lotus domain in detail. Otherwise, you'll end up like the manmans."

Swoosh!

"Die!" Gu Ming moved like a fired arrow. He unleashed all of his Primal Qi and charged forward with a red lotus. The remaining veins on his armor and the red lotus complemented each other's lights dazzlingly.

Lu Zhou sensed the danger coming at him from behind. He knew he had no time to turn around so he did not hold back and unleashed the power of muting.

The blue lotus blossomed under his feet.

Like light and shadow, permeating everywhere while staying still in samadhi.

Bam!

Gu Ming rammed into the blue energy shield with his red lotus. He had pretended to be submissive so he could wait for an opportunity to kill Lu Zhou. However, he did not expect his attack would be deflected. His heart sank to his feet as he exclaimed, "Blue?!"

All of a sudden, Gu Ming felt the golden lotus domain was far more complicated and terrifying than he had imagined. Men had always had a healthy fear of the unknown. To him, Lu Zhou was an unknown person whom he feared.

Lu Zhou turned around slowly. He said coldly, "Futile."

The blue lotus spun as a blue lotus shot out and landed on Gu Ming. His expression was unsightly as his chest caved in and his limbs were severed. He was sent flying by the blue energy.

The plants in an area of ten meters were instantly crushed. The trees in a 100-meter area fell. Everything in a 1,000-meter area was affected.

After the blue lotus energy ran its course, a dismembered and disfigured Gu Ming fell out of the skies.

“Ding! Killed a target. Reward: 1,500 merit points. Domain extra: 1,000 merit points.”

“Ding! Killed a male manman. Reward: 4,000 merit points.”

“Hm?”

‘The manman is dead as well?’

Lu Zhou no longer paid any attention to Gu Ming. He looked at the manmans.

The heavily injured male manman was killed by the Heavenly Writing power.

After being hit by the Heavenly Writing power, the female manman was also gravely injured.

“I’ve used too much out of carelessness.” Lu Zhou felt helpless.

Gu Ming was protected by his armor and the red runes. Moreover, he could not tell if Gu Ming was armed with any other weapons. After all, his understanding of the red lotus was too shallow. TO be safe, he had used one-third of his extraordinary power to deal with Gu Ming.

Half of the extraordinary power could kill Chi Yao. One-third could kill the male manman, but not the female manman.

The manman’s reward was only 4,000 merit points. Clearly, it was weaker than Chi Yao.

From this, Lu Zhou could infer that it was safer to use half of his extraordinary power if he wanted to kill a huge beast.

The gravely injured female manman flew back and crashed into a few trees. It struggled to get up.

Lu Zhou did not do anything. He saw the female manman removed the remains from the trees from its own body with difficulty and flapped its wings. It flew for a few meters before crashing down. It was not running away. Instead, it was trying to make its way toward the male manman. Blood drenched its talons and feathers.

The female manman struggled for a long time as it moved toward the male manman. It spent a long time dragging itself forward, leaving a bloody trail in its wake. When it finally reached the male manman, it rested its head on the male manman’s body and looked at Lu Zhou. There was no hatred or hostility in its eyes. Instead, it seemed relieved. It crooned in a low voice.

Lu Zhou saw the red runes on its talons, and he waved his arm.

The runes fell to the ground and disappeared.

The female manman withdrew its wings. It blinked again before closing its eyes as though it was tired.

“Ding! Killed the female manman. Reward: 4,000 merit points.”

There are birds on Chongwu Mountain that resemble mallards with one wing and one eye. They fly in pairs and were known as manmans.

Lu Zhou sighed. All creatures had intelligence. Sometimes, men could not even compare to birds.

He continued to study the manmans. He wondered if they would drop unique items just like Chi Yao did. However, there was nothing.

He did not stay long before leaving in the air.

...

An hour later after Lu Zhou left...

Two armored cultivators with red bandanas on their heads flew forward.

“Over here!”

The two of them hurried over with talismans made from red runes. When they saw the scene before their eyes, a shocked expression appeared on their faces.

“Gu Ming!”

They were greatly shaken when they saw the disfigured and dismembered limbs.

“There’s an elite!” The duo’s expressions turned grim.