

Disciples 831

Chapter 831: The Theory of Birth Charts

He could not see clearly from the top of the hill. He flew up to the tall tree next to him and looked in the direction from where the Yong was coming.

“Sky Wheel Mountain Range?”

“Why would it come from there?”

He observed the terrain in his surroundings.

The Yong flew over from the west where there were not many expansive forests and places large enough for the huge beast to hide.

He was certain there were no foreign tribe settlements beyond the Sky Wheel Mountain Range.

If the Yong came from a faraway place, it would take a long time to arrive.

So, where did the Yong come from? Did it appear out of thin air?

A disciple flew up and stood behind before he said, “Boss, the letter has been sent.”

“Good.”

“Boss, there’s something that I don’t understand...”

“What is it? Be quick about it. Say what you must. Don’t disturb my thoughts.”

The disciple asked, “Since the Sky Martial Court has concluded that 1,500 years are needed to initiate a Birth Chart, can’t they just kill more non-Birth Chart Beasts and accumulate 1,500 years of life?”

The boss turned around and stared at the disciple.

The disciple flinched when he saw his boss staring at him.

“You must be the greatest genius in the world. There are many in the Sky Martial Court, and it seems like none of them can compare to you. Get out of my sight!”

“Alright! Disappearing right away.”

After the disciple left, the boss scratched his head and muttered to himself, “That’s right. Why not?”

...

Inside the Sacred Rites Hall in the Sky Martial Court.

A disciple entered the Sacred Rites Hall. He bowed and said, “Court Master, there’s a situation on Cloud Mountain. It’s said that a Birth Chart Beast has appeared.”

The elders in the hall looked at the disciple in shock.

"A Birth Chart Beast? Are you sure?" Mo Buyan asked after he walked up to the disciple.

"The letter is authentic. The codes match. The shadower said he witnessed several Cloud Mountain elites working together to attack the huge beast, but there was nothing they could do to the beast. It's huge, and its defenses are formidable."

The elders exchanged a look before they shifted their eyes to the calm Yu Chenshu.

Mo Buyan asked, "Court Master, what should we do?"

"The abilities of the Birth Chart Beasts are different. If the information is true, then the huge beast must be a defense-type Birth Chart Beast," Yu Chenshu said.

"I'm curious. Where are all the records of people initiating their Birth Charts?" someone asked.

"The times have changed, and the world is changing as well. 2,000 years ago, only 1,000 years of life was needed to initiate a Birth Chart. Now, 1,500 years is needed. This is the result of the Sky Research Court's efforts. Hence, most of the results they obtained should be reconsidered. Their values as references are greatly diminished," one of the elders said.

"Why is a Birth Chart Beast necessary to initiate a Birth Chart?" Jiang Tingzhong asked.

"If one uses the life heart of a defense-type Birth Chart Beast to replenish one's life, one would obtain defensive abilities... One normal life heart is far from enough. Also, chances of failure are high, and one would not gain an ability. Moreover, a Birth Chart Beast's life heart is unique. If you want to know more about this, you can go through the records on the third floor of the library," Mo Buyan replied.

The third floor of Sky Marital Court's library was usually forbidden ground. Even elders needed to obtain permission from the court master to enter. It was not a place they could enter at will.

"The records from the old books stated that cultivators have different talents. The number of Birth Charts one can initiate is different from others. Is that true?"

Before anyone could reply to this question, Yu Chenshu raised his hand and interjected, "That's enough."

Silence descended on the Sacred Rites Hall immediately.

The elders silently looked at Yu Chenshu.

Yu Chenshu swept his gaze across his men before he said, "I didn't gather all of you here to discuss Birth Charts. Ordinarily, I've never seen any of you being so enthusiastic. Did all of you decide to become studious now?"

Everyone lowered their heads, feeling discomfited. Indeed, there was no need to trouble themselves with this matter. Those who could initiate their Birth Charts under the heavens were few and far in between. When they were younger, they were also curious and tried to understand it. However, now that they were older, they should be much more realistic.

Yu Chenshu slowly rose to his feet and began to pace around before he finally said, "Bring me the map of Great Tang."

“Understood.”

In no time at all, a disciple returned to the hall with a map of Great Tang.

The map was very detailed. It mapped the entire red lotus domain, including Great Tang and the foreign tribes’ lands.

The elders got up and gathered around the map.

“Court Master, what’s this?”

“Why would a Birth Chart Beast suddenly appear on Cloud Mountain? Where did it come from?”

Mo Buyan studied the map for a moment before he said, “Cloud Mountain is remote. It’s far from the large forest. There are many mountains in the vicinity and some rivers. The forest there is dense, but it’s still within the bounds of human activity. A Birth Chart Beast shouldn’t have appeared there.”

“Could it have come from the ocean?”

“Impossible. The Yong doesn’t live in the sea. It’s a typical land beast unless...”

Everyone looked at Mo Buyan curiously, waiting for his answer.

Mo Buyan pointed at the mountain range on the map. “Sky Wheel Mountain Range.”

...

Cloud Mountain.

The Yong’s formidable defenses shocked Nie Qingyun and the others.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong had been launching barrage after barrage of attacks at the beast, and yet, they only managed to make it bleed a little.

Regardless, the insignificant wound infuriated the Yong. It seemed to be in a frenzy at this moment as it swept through the forest in the surroundings.

Nie Qingyun hurriedly erected the barrier to keep the beast at bay.

“This Yong’s offensive power isn’t very high so it won’t be able to breach the barrier any time soon. However, the barrier’s power is limited. We must come up with an idea to drive it away soon,” Nie Qingyun said.

“It’s only a Yong. I’ll be damned if I can’t take it out!” Yu Zhenghai said. Then, he threw his Jasper Saber out before he leaped into the air. After he joined his palms together, energy sabers that resembled ice crystals appeared around him and the Yong.

The Jasper Saber shot out as the energy sabers converged and formed a Saber Formation Dragon.

“Water Dragon Song?” Nie Qingyun exclaimed in a tone filled with praise. “I didn’t expect Brother Yu’s comprehension skill to be so high. To think he understood Senior Lu’s technique.”

The energy sabers shone with golden radiance. Then, the head of the golden dragon stabbed at the Yong’s chest.

The Yong screeched louder than before.

Bam!

When the golden dragon disappeared, the Yong rammed against the barrier immediately.

Bam!

The barrier shook.

"This Yong is stubborn. Even in this state, it's still trying to get in. Allow me..." Nie Qingyun leaped forward.

"I'll join you." Yu Shangrong flew out as well.

The three split in three directions. Yu Shangrong shot the left; Yu Zhenghai flew to the right; Nie Qingyun moved to the center.

The Two Nine-leaf cultivators and the Ten-leaf cultivator manifested their avatars at once. Following that, the three avatars attacked in unison.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Although the Yong was not particularly intelligent, it was frightened as well when it saw such an aggressive attack intelligent.

As waves after waves of relentless attacks rolled, the Yong spasmed in pain. The number of wounds on its body increased as well.

At this moment, Yu Shangrong made a shocking move. He unleashed his grand technique and appeared behind the Yong's head and manifested his avatar again.

The 150-foot avatar was merely one-third of the Yong's head, but it was enough.

The avatar brought its hands down. Its golden hands were like iron shackles as they caught the Yong's wings.

At the same time, nine leaves flew out, slashing at the Yong.

Nie Qingyun said with a sigh, "I've never seen an avatar used in such a manner. Is this unique to the golden lotus domain? Eh? Where's the lotus?"

Before Nie Qingyun could regain his senses, Yu Zhenghai had already made a move.

Nie Qingyun longer dwelled on his thoughts. Invigorated, he cried out, "It won't last much longer. Let's do this!"

Chapter 832: Take It Up a Notch

Yu Shangrong used his avatar to restrain the Yong's wings so it could not trash around. This provided Yu Zhenghai and Nie Qingyun the opportunity to focus on their attacks.

Countless energy sabers struck the Yong's chest.

The Cloud Mountain disciples were dumbstruck by what they saw. They had witnessed the impressive strength of a Ten-leaf cultivator before, but the two Nine-leaf cultivators exceeded their expectations with strength almost comparable to that of a Ten-leaf cultivator.

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"Just how... powerful is the Evil Sky Pavilion? These two disciples look like Ten-leaf cultivators no matter how I look at it!" Meng Changdong murmured as he regarded the two eldest disciples of the Evil Sky Pavilion with a complicated gaze.

Li Yunzheng's eyes twinkled as he said, "To be honest, I'm even more excited about meeting my master now. Although Eldest Senior Uncle and Second Senior Uncle are always at odds and claim superiority over each other, both of them acknowledge my master's capability. My master's cultivation base must be profound"

"How can the seventh disciple be more powerful than the first and second disciple?" Meng Changdong found Li Yunzheng's words unreasonable.

"You can't say that," Li Yunzheng said, "In the cultivation world, those who are more accomplished are superior. I heard from Monastery Master Xia that grandmaster's favorite disciple isn't First or Second Senior Uncle."

Meng Changdong recalled the time he used the talismans to contact the golden lotus domain. He recalled the massive Cheng Huang that swept through the invasion force from the golden lotus and nodded his head in assent. With all these thoughts in mind, he felt that it was not degrading at all to be the Guardian of the Evil Sky Pavilion at all!

...

Boom!

The Yong continued to resist. This time, it tried to unfurl its wings to break free of the restraint. As its eyes widened, blood continued to flow down its body.

The Cloud Mountain disciples shifted their attention to the beast again.

When Yu Zhenghai the Yong was in a frenzied state again, he said, "Second Junior Brother, let it go. Be careful. It might damage your avatar."

Yu Shangrong was aware of this as well. Although his avatar still had the Yong's wings in its grasp, the beast was trashing more and more violently.

Following that, Yu Shangrong leaped up and retracted his avatar before he retreated with a flurry of movements.

The Yong screeched when its wings were released.

Nie Qingyun laughed. "To think we're able to kill a Birth Chart Beast! It won't be too late to kill it after it's done trashing about."

"You have a point. We can just avoid it for now," Yu Zhenghai said.

The three of them only watched as the Yong trashed around. All of a sudden, it turned around and began to flap its wing to rise higher in the sky. Then, it dove at the three men.

“Dodge.”

The three of them shot in three different directions.

However...

Boom!

The Yong rammed into the barrier instead.

Cracks appeared on the barrier immediately. The barrier was now running out of power after being erected for so long.

Nie Qingyun frowned. “This is bad. The barrier is broken!”

The Yong flapped its wings, stirring up a strong gale of Primal Qi that destroyed the buildings on the ground.

After breaking the barrier, the Yong flew higher into the sky again.

“What is it doing?” Nie Qingyun was baffled by the Yong’s actions. “Running away?!”

Yu Zhenghai said gruffly, “It won’t get away!”

Yu Zhenghai was about to give chase when...

Whoosh!

A golden energy seal shot through the roof of Lu Zhou’s room.

Then, a Nine-leaf avatar wrapped in energy seals charged toward the Yong’s belly. It raised its hand that glowed blue as it moved below the Yong at lightning speed and pushed its palm up.

“Livestock.”

From afar, the palm strike looked like an insignificant leaf trying to strike the belly of an eagle. It looked so small and harmless.

Contrary to appearance, when the palm landed, energy rolled out immediately, creating ripples in the air.

Bam!

A palm-shaped indentation could be seen on the Yong’s belly immediately.

“Master?!” Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong exclaimed in shock.

“Senior Lu.” Nie Qingyun looked at the Yong and the palm-shaped indentation on its belly incredulously. He was shocked by the force of the attack.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou’s palm strike sent waves after waves of aftershock to the Yong’s internal organs.

The Yong looked at the old man who suddenly appeared. A dense life aura was swirling around the old man. At this moment, it seemed to be wavering. It wanted to eat the old man, but it felt slightly frightened at the same time. Moreover, it had been injured by Nie Qingyun and the others.

Although the Yong was not intelligent, it possessed what all beasts had: survival instincts.

After a beat, the Yong screeched before it turned around to fly away. Its movement seemed stilted due to its injuries.

Lu Zhou hovered in midair and looked at the Yong as he said, "Don't let it get away."

"Master, your avatar?"

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong had never seen this avatar before.

It spun at a uniform speed while it maintained its miniature size. It seemed to be sprouting a leaf at this moment.

Nie Qingyun said, "It's all shown in Senior Lu's attacks. The avatar is only a small manifestation. The palm strike caused the Yong to flee in defeat. I'll go after it! It won't get away!"

Nie Qingyun summoned his Ten-leaf avatar again.

The red lotus blossomed. The 200-foot avatar flew toward the Yong. After unleashing two grand techniques, it engaged the Yong.

...

Lu Zhou glanced at the avatar behind him. The leaf-sprouting process had not concluded. However, he could sense the vitality bursting from the nine golden lotus leaves. He only had to wait for them to be done.

Alas, the wait felt awfully long. Every second seemed like a year.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong were still stunned by this sight.

The avatar continued spinning at a uniform speed.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

The Yong fought intensely against Nie Qingyun. The defenses of the frenzied Yong seemed to have grown even stronger. Even the Ten-leaf Nie Qingyun had a hard time taking it down quickly.

Waves of energy rolled out in every direction in the sky.

Lu Zhou hovered in the air as he looked at the Yong and the golden lotus.

When the golden lotus spun, it radiated dense vitality that shocked Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai. They could not understand it at all.

Sometimes, there was no need to understand every single thing in the world of cultivation.

The two disciples continued to be mesmerized by the flaming golden lotus as though they were the ones sprouting a leaf.

Lu Zhou glanced at his disciples and wondered if Eternal Paragon was taking effect and enlightening his two disciples. He decided not to disturb them.

Subsequently, Lu Zhou flipped his palm up, and Unnamed materialized in the form of a bow.

Lu Zhou rose higher into the sky until he exited the barrier. Then, he surveyed the surroundings.

Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai followed suit and rose high up in the sky. They chased away other winged beasts that were trying to draw closer.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou pulled the bowstring back. Then, using his desolate-grade weapon and the Heavenly Writing's extraordinary power, he fired an energy arrow toward his target – the Yong's eye.

Bam!

The Yong screeched and trashed violently,

Nie Qingyun immediately shot backward. Fortunately, he was a Ten-leaf cultivator so he managed to dodge the Yong's attacks. An expression of awe appeared on his face when he saw the blue energy arrow stuck in the Yong's eye. "You're truly amazing, Senior Lu. Why didn't I think of that!"

Although the Yong's defenses were formidable, its eyes were not as tough as other parts of its body. It was gravely injured by the desolate-grade bow and arrow.

Soon after, Lu Zhou pulled the bowstring back again.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Lu Zhou fired another three energy arrows toward the Yong's eyes.

At this moment, the Yong finally lost its vision. It spun around directionlessly at the same spot as blood flowed out of its eyes. It was a gruesome sight.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou was appraising the strength of this Birth Chart Beast. In the Black Water Mystic Cave, he only managed to kill Chi Yao with a Deadly Strike Card. Chi Yao was stronger than a Nine-leaf cultivator; its strength was closer to a Ten-leaf cultivator. However, the Yong was even stronger than Chi Yao. Even after firing four arrows, he still failed to deal a fatal blow.

'I need to save my extraordinary power. I can't let this go on any longer.'

Lu Zhou finally said, "Step away from it. It has lost its eyesight and won't be able to go far."

Nie Qingyun nodded and retreated to the distance to watch the Yong.

...

Meanwhile, the troop of scouts in the distant forest wore expressions of shock on their faces.

"Who is this? A golden lotus cultivator?"

"Boss, shall we move closer?"

"Scram! Can't you see all the elites gathered there? That Ten-leaf cultivator must be Nie Qingyun. The two Nine-leaf cultivators must be that Mister Lu's lackeys. One of them is a Nine-leaf cultivator without

a lotus. That old man is a Nine-leaf golden lotus karmic fire Godly Archer... I reckon he must be Mister Lu's strongest lackey. With a Godly Archer present on the scene, those who don't want to turn into targets should keep their distance!"

"Uh... You're right, boss!"

The long range of Godly Archers was the nightmare of low-rank cultivators.

"Pass on a message to the Sky Martial Court. That old fiend, Yu Chenshu, has a match now. We didn't see that Lu person make a move at all."

"Understood."

...

Lu Zhou was focused on the struggling beast.

Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai would look at the Yong occasionally, but they were clearly more intrigued by their master's golden lotus.

The vitality from Lu Zhou's avatar was like a delicacy to the Yong. As though it could no longer resist, it suddenly turned around to face Lu Zhou.

"Master, it's acting strange," Yu Zhenghai said.

Yu Shangrong nodded. "It can sense the vitality. Master, leave this to me. You should get some rest."

Yu Zhenghai chimed in, "Second Junior Brother has a point. Master, there's no need to trouble yourself over such a trivial matter. We'll work together with Nie Qingyun."

The two disciples were not wrong. Their strength, along with Nie Qingyun's strength, was sufficient to deal with the Yong.

At this moment, the Yong suddenly lunged at Lu Zhou. It could sense the rich and powerful vitality energy up ahead. Only by consuming this delicacy would it be able to survive.

"No!" Nie Qingyun shot toward the Yong with a flurry of movements in an attempt to stop the Yong.

Bam!

The beast did not avoid Nie Qingyun who stood in its path.

In the end, Nie Qingyun had to fly higher to get out of its way.

Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai launched countless energy swords and sabers at the same time.

Countless waves of attacks struck the Yong. However, it persisted, spurred on by its survival instinct. It did not care about the energy sabers and swords slashing against its body and injuring it. At this moment, its defenses were raised. Its talons glinted as it charged through the storm of energy swords and sabers.

It was too late to stop the Yong.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou made no attempt to move away and continued to look at the Yong.

The Yong was clearly risking its life just to get to Lu Zhou.

At the final moment, Lu Zhou raised his palm and no longer conserved his extraordinary power. He aimed his palm at the sky, launching a faintly blue palm seal as wide as a sky curtain.

Bam!

It blocked the Yong!

The two opponents were now locked in a tug of war.

Lu Zhou checked his extraordinary power. He had half left. However, it would soon be depleted if he kept this up.

The Yong parted its bloody beak, revealing its fangs. Sparks flew as the fangs brushed against the blue palm seal.

Lu Zhou felt a huge impact as he retreated several meters. Then, he heard a crisp noise ring in the air. He quickly turned to look behind him.

His golden lotus had grown a size bigger, and where it was once empty, the tenth leaf had sprouted. The Ten-leaf golden lotus was now in full bloom!

10 feet, 20 feet, 30 feet...

The avatar's size increased swiftly. It shot up into the sky and eventually stopped at 200 feet.

Lu Zhou's sea of Qi had widened, and his cultivation base had risen.

The golden flames around his avatar burned even brighter now.

Under the scorching heat of the golden flames, the beast's instincts seemed to be repressed. It was shuddering at this moment.

Lu Zhou manifested a blue palm seal in his left hand while he wielded Unnamed with his right hand.

Black runes swirled around Unnamed at this moment.

At this moment, Lu Zhou suddenly retracted the blue palm seal. Following that, an energy sword larger than the sword in his hand emerged. It was 100 feet long and dozens of feet wide.

At this moment, black runes, golden karmic power, and the extraordinary power pierced through the Yong's body at the same time...

Chapter 833: Great Discovery

The Ten-leaf golden lotus avatar towered in the air. The golden karmic fire made the 200-foot avatar look even more dazzling.

Anyone who saw the avatar would look at it in fearful respect.

For Nie Qingyu and the others, they knew Lu Zhou was finally going all out when they saw this.

The sword strike demonstrated his unparalleled strength! His attack was clean and thorough!

They were stunned.

Meanwhile, the huge energy sword accurately pierced the Yong's heart.

Time seemed to stand still at this moment.

The Yong looked as though it had forgotten how to struggle. It did not seem to register the pain searing through his internal organs as it felt its life quickly slipping away.

Nie Qingyun, Yu Zhenghai, and Yu Shangrong continued to look at the sword in awe. There was nothing flashy or beautiful about it; it was plain. However, when it stabbed into the heart of this defense-type Birth Chart Beast, it moved like a hot knife through butter.

After a brief moment of silence, the Yong seemed to finally register the pain in its body as it screeched wretchedly. Unlike the previous times, its cries formed a powerful soundwave. At the same time, the Primal Qi in its body rippled out in waves.

"Retreat!" Nie Qingyun flipped backward.

There was no need to block this attack and fight to the end.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong flipped backward as well.

Lu Zhou, who had just reached the Ten-leaf stage, was now the person standing closest to the Yong. The stubbornness of the Yong had exceeded his expectations. That sword strike had contained almost half of his extraordinary power, and yet, the strike still failed to kill the Yong.

After a beat, Lu Zhou put Unnamed away and retracted his avatar.

Seeing One's Nature, unmoving like a mountain, water as calm as a lake, Buddhist Dhyana Mudra.

Lu Zhou made a series of hand signs.

The Dhyana Mudra kept the sound technique at bay. It resonated and thrummed at the same time.

With this, the Ten-leaf karmic fire Lu Zhou perfectly blocked the sound technique.

"I'd like to see how long you're able to endure!"

Lu Zhou felt indignant.

Unnamed appeared in his hand again. It glowed with a faint blue light.

Even the Birth Chart Beast that was skilled in defense would not be able to block this attack from the extraordinary power and black runes.

Lu Zhou flew out as he brandished Unnamed. Every time he struck, he would leave a new wound on the Yong's body.

At this moment, the Yong finally decided to give up on the delicacy in front of him. It turned around and fled, enduring the pain in its body.

Lu Zhou gave chase as he followed up with more attacks.

The Yong was already injured by Nie Qingyun, Yu Zhenghai, and Yu Shangrong. Then, it received a fatal blow from Lu Zhou. It was also burned by the Ten-leaf karmic fire. There was no doubt it would die soon.

However, Lu Zhou did not ease up nor did he let his guard down. Instead, he unleashed his grand technique and appeared in front of the Yong, holding his sword with both hands.

An energy sword several times larger than the one before fell on the Yong's head like a guillotine.

Meanwhile, Nie Qingyun, Yu Shangrong, and Yu Zhenghai who had just flown over saw this scene. Their expressions froze immediately.

"Uh..."

The Cloud Mountain disciples' expressions were even more exaggerated. They could hardly believe what they were seeing.

At this moment, the Yong that had been cleaved into two fell from the sky. That was right. The defense-type Birth Chart Beast that suddenly appeared was cleaved into two by Senior Lu!

In fact, Lu Zhou had only dealt this final blow with all his extraordinary power after he confirmed Unnamed could breach its defenses. He deemed this the safest course of action.

Lu Zhou did not want to waste too much time chasing after it. If they moved far from the range of Cloud Mountain, there would surely be more variables.

The Birth Chart Beast was so inconspicuous; it would definitely attract people's attention.

Therefore, it was best to end the battle as quickly as possible and leave no trace behind. The simple but fierce sword was a good way to achieve that.

...

On a tree branch of a huge tree far from Cloud Mountain.

The few cultivators stared at the shocking sword strike with their mouths agape. It took them a long time to regain their senses.

"F*ck! He's a Ten-leaf karmic fire cultivator!"

"What color is it? Sometimes it's blue, and sometimes it's golden."

"I'm starting to think I have a problem with my eyes. I think we're too far away to be able to see clearly."

"I'll send a letter to the Sky Martial Court now."

"Letter my ass... Give me some talismans. Why do I need to be so diligent? This is a Ten-leaf karmic fire cultivator. Let's not get involved in this. That's enough watching for today. We're retreating!"

"Boss, what color was that? Ack! Sorry, boss!"

...

The Yong, a Birth Chart Beast, crashed onto the ground with a loud boom.

“Ding! Killed the Birth Chart Beast, Yong. Reward: 6,000 merit points.”

Nie Qingyun and the others finally regained their senses. Even then, the shock lingered in their hearts.

After all, Senior Lu finally stopped suppressing his realm and used his Ten-leaf cultivation base to fight.

Nie Qingyun nodded. As expected, Senior Lu was incredibly powerful. Although they were both Ten-leaf cultivators, he was aware of the difference between him and Senior Lu. Finally, he said, “Congratulations, Senior Lu, on killing the Birth Chart Beast.”

“Master.” Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai cupped their fists at the same time.

Lu Zhou retracted his avatar and Unnamed. He nodded in response before he flew down toward the Yong. He hovered above it and looked for its life heart.

Nie Qingyun said, “The Birth Chart Heart must be somewhere near its heart.”

Lu Zhou said, “Not always. Most beasts that started cultivation have undergone some mutations. For a beast such as this, its internal organs and bones have become stronger. The heart is the heart. The life heart is a crystallization of vitality. These two objects aren’t the same.”

“I’m enlightened. My knowledge is too shallow.” Nie Qingyun felt embarrassed.

Lu Zhou raised his hand slowly, clearing away the trees and weeds in the surroundings. In just a blink of an eye, only the Yong’s carcass was left.

Nie Qingyun, Yu Zhenghai, and Yu Shangrong stood nearby.

“For the first time in my life, I witnessed how powerful the golden karmic fire is,” Nie Qingyun praised.

“Is it different from the red karmic fire?” Yu Zhenghai asked.

“When the red karmic fire ignites, its red flames seem similar to the fire that civilians lit in their houses. The golden karmic fire, on the other hand, seems more capable of destruction.”

“Which one’s more powerful?” Lu Zhou asked

“That’s hard to say. Those who mastered karmic power are few to begin with. However, judging from your fight with Ye Zhen, they’re almost the same. Back then, you were using the Nine-leaf cultivation base. If you used the Ten-leaf karmic fire, Ye Zhen wouldn’t have stood a chance against you, Senior Lu,” Nie Qingyun replied.

At this moment, Lu Zhou saw a life heart that glowed red. He waved his hand, bringing the life heart into his hand.

“Ding! Obtained the life heart of the Birth Chart Beast, Yong. Provides 1,500 years of life. Capable of initiating a Birth Chart. Birth Chart ability: Defense.”

Nie Qingyun’s eyes lit up. A hint of envy could be seen flashing in his eyes. “Senior Lu, is it really a Birth Chart Heart?”

Lu Zhou nodded and said, “Indeed.”

“Congratulations, Senior Lu!”

“Congratulations, master.”

The three of them bowed in unison

Lu Zhou put it away. He would study it in the future.

Since this was a Birth Chart Beast, it certainly had a connection to initiating a Birth Chart.

Lu Zhou’s current understanding of Birth Charts was too low. He could only make preparations to initiate his Birth Chart after he understood them.

“Let’s return.” Lu Zhou flew back to Cloud Mountain.

...

Inside the Sacred Rites Hall in the Sky Martial Court.

“Court Master, we’ve sent men to the Sky Wheel Mountain Range. They made a huge discovery at the eastern rift valley of the mountain range. There were signs of Birth Chart Beasts there. It’s likely that a Birth Chart Beast was born there.”

The elders seemed thrilled by this news.

“That’s good news. How many years has it been? It’s almost time for the red lotus domain to have a cultivator with a Birth Chart!”

“Court Master, I suggest we make our move now and head to Sky Wheel Mountain Range.”

“Yes, we mustn’t waste time!”

The elders spoke up one after another.

Yu Chenshu maintained a neutral expression. He did not respond to this topic immediately. Instead, he asked, “Any news on the Yong at Cloud Mountain?”

“The shadower did not reply... Our men are heading there now.”

Jian Tingzhong said, “It’s not easy to take down a defense-type Birth Chart Beast. It’s highly possible the Birth Chart Beast escaped from them. If that’s the case, the Birth Chart Beast will certainly flee toward the rift valley.”

Chapter 834: Sky Wheel Rift Valley

“All the more reason to hurry. I propose we send our main forces there to take down the Birth Chart Beast,” Jian Tingzhong said gruffly.

“That won’t do. There must be a grand cultivator looking after things in the Sky Martial Court. We can’t just leave. The despicable golden lotus domain dwellers have invaded, and we must be careful of ambushes from their side,” someone said.

Yu Chenshu, on the other hand, remained silent, deep in his thoughts.

The debate in the Sacred Rites Hall lasted for a while. Everyone had their own opinions and could not agree with each other. In the end, they looked at Yu Chenshu and waited for a verdict from him.

Yu Chenshu said, "We shouldn't be rash. Let's send someone to Sky Wheel Mountain Range to investigate, in case this is a ploy to lure us out of the Sky Martial Court. It won't be too late for us to move after we confirmed the existence of the Birth Chart Beast."

The elders nodded. They found Yu Chenshu's words reasonable. This way, they could ensure the safety of the people in the Sky Martial Court and send their main forces to rift valley to take down the Birth Chart Beast. With their court master making a move, things would be much simpler. The Sky Martial Court had gone through much trouble to capture Sikong Beichen; they could not give Cloud Mountain and the Ninth Temple any opportunity to act at all.

"By the way, when are Wang Shizhong and His Majesty returning?" Yu Chenshu asked.

"Wang Shizhong's subordinates have returned. According to them, His Majesty is thoroughly enjoying himself touring the lands. His Majesty will return in a few days."

Yu Chenshu frowned slightly.

"Look into this matter. Wang Shizhong is a cautious man. I don't think he'll allow the young emperor to tour the lands."

"Understood."

"That will be all for today. Make sure none of the discussion today leaks out." After saying this, Yu Chenshu left the Sacred Rites Hall with his hands on his back.

Jiang Tingzhong and Elder Qiu followed him out of the building.

...

Cloud Mountain.

Lu Zhou and the others finally returned.

"Master!" Little Yuan'er and Conch ran out.

Lu Zhou looked at Little Yuan'er and Conch. He had sensed the changes in their auras. Hence, he asked, "Breakthroughs in your cultivation bases?"

Little Yuan'er smiled and said, "Thanks to you, master, I'm now an Eight-leaf cultivator! Junior Sister Conch is close to being a peak Three-leaf cultivator as well."

Nie Qingyun clicked his tongue in amazement. "To reach the Eight-leaf stage at such a young age. You have a promising future ahead of you!"

There were many genius cultivators on Cloud Mountain as well. However, they were a far cry from the two girls.

Lu Zhou nodded, pleased. This must be the effects of Eternal Paragon. Since his battle with the Yong was too intense, he did not immediately notice Little Yuan'er had sprouted a new leaf.

At this moment, Meng Changdong brought Li Yunzheng, Xia Changqiu, Wuwu, and Ji Fengxing over. Soon after, the Cloud Mountain elder arrived as well.

“Senior Lu, that was a breathtaking display! You defeated the Birth Chart Beast with your amazing might!”

“Congratulations on obtaining the Birth Chart Heart, Senior Lu.”

Everyone bowed and congratulated Lu Zhou.

“It’s only a Birth Chart Beast. It’s nothing,” Lu Zhou said.

At this moment, Meng Changdong said, “Senior Lu, I have something to say.”

“Let’s hear it.”

“The Yong seemed to have peculiar origins. I’ve observed the surrounding terrains and couldn’t figure out where it came from. After I retraced its flight route, I discovered something,” Meng Changdong said.

“What did you discover?”

“I suspect that the Yong came from Sky Wheel Mountain Range,” Meng Changdong said.

The others were shocked by Meng Changdong’s words.

Yu Zhenghai said, “You’re saying there are more Birth Chart Beasts there?”

“That’s right.”

Meng Changdong said confidently, “2,000 years ago, there were Birth Chart experts, but at that time, it was easier to initiate Birth Charts. Nobody knew what happened to lead to the situation today, but the Sky Martial Court blamed it on the heaven and earth shackles. Hence, they began their 2,000-year research on the shackle but found nothing. Anyway, back to the Birth Chart Beasts, every sect and cultivator dreams of catching one. After all, using a Birth Chart Heart is the easiest way for a Ten-leaf expert to initiate his Birth Chart. Alas, no Birth Chart Beast that fulfills the requirements has appeared. I don’t know why the Yong decided to show up now, but since it did, there must be a reason. The Yong has caused too much of a ruckus, and the Sky Wheel Mountain Range can be easily seen from many directions. I’m sure the major sects will head there in search of Birth Chart Beasts.” After a beat, he continued to say, “Senior Lu, with your unfathomable cultivation base, you should head to Sky Wheel Mountain Range immediately. I believe that nobody will dare fight for the Birth Chart Hearts if you’re there.”

Lu Zhou kept his expression neutral. Inwardly, he did not feel too confident since he had depleted his extraordinary power. He asked, “Do you think Yu Chenshu will go there as well?”

“It’s highly likely. The Sky Martial Court has been researching Birth Charts for many years. They’ve been searching far and wide for Birth Chart Beasts. They even sent their men deep into the forests and the Endless Ocean. Every year, there would be 100 cultivators who lose their lives because of this. Yu Chenshu has no reason to let such a great opportunity slip past his fingers,” Meng Changdong said,

“However, with your strength, Senior Lu, you can defeat Yu Chenshu at Sky Wheel Mountain Range and establish a reputation for yourself.”

“...” At this moment, Lu Zhou felt his collection of trump cards was not very useful. This was especially true when he encountered an opponent like Ye Zhen.

Yu Chenshu would certainly not be inferior to Ye Zhen. If Lu Zhou did not have his extraordinary power, he would be evenly matched with Yu Chenshu, at most. Yu Chenshu commands the Sky Research Court, therefore, he would surely have many ways to preserve his life. Nevertheless, he was not afraid of Yu Chenshu. He only wanted to be completely certain when it came to taking Yu Chenshu down.

‘What about Peak Cards?’

Nie Qingyun said at this moment, “Guardian Meng has a point. Time waits for no man. Senior Lu, I’ll go with you.”

“We’re willing to go with you, master,” Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai said in unison as they bowed.

With something as important as the Birth Chart, there would certainly be a huge incident. It was likely people would fight to the death in Sky Wheel Mountain Range to obtain Birth Chart Hearts.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard as he pondered on the matter. Finally, he said, “There’s no need to rush things for now.” Then, he looked at the hole on the roof of the building he had made when he appeared earlier.

Nie Qingyun said at once, “I’ll send someone over to mend it. Please follow me to the side hall, Senior Lu.”

Lu Zhou nodded. Then, he said, “Since the Birth Chart is important, we can’t be careless about this. The Yong has been killed by me. If I leave Cloud Mountain and Yu Chenshu decides to come, how will you fend him off?”

“Uh...” Nie Qingyun was at a loss for words. Indeed, he did not have the capability to stand against the Sky Martial Court.

In the past, the Sky Martial Court did not bother to do much to deal with Cloud Mountain. However, things were different now that Birth Chart Hearts were in the equation.

As Lu Zhou entered the side hall, the others exchanged a look.

Xia Changqiu said with a sigh, “Your worries aren’t unfounded, Senior Lu... With Yu Chenshu, we shouldn’t act rashly. Senior Sikong has been captured. We should be wary of him. With the Sky Martial Court’s way of doing things, they will certainly station some of their men to keep an eye on Cloud Mountain if they hadn’t already done so. Moreover, there are also the hidden elites from the palace. Another option is for Senior Lu to go to the Sky Wheel Mountain Range alone while we stay to defend Cloud Mountain.”

After the incident with Sikong Beichen, the members of Cloud Mountain were wary of leaving the mountain.

Lu Zhou, who had entered the side hall, was mulling over this matter as well.

Currently, apart from Yu Chenshu, Xiahou Sheng, the Thousand Blades Temple's Jian Zhen, and the hidden elites of the palace, there was no need for him to worry about the Nine-leaf cultivators.

Lu Zhou was confident he could deal with Yu Chenshu alone, but he would have a hard time if other elites with Yu Chenshu's strength showed up as well. He did not want the situation with Ye Zhen to repeat itself.

After a moment, Lu Zhou brought the Yong's heart out. As he studied it, he muttered inwardly, 'Can this thing really help a Ten-leaf cultivator initiate his or her Birth Chart?'

Chapter 835: A Strong Man Can Defeat Ten Martial Artists

Lu Zhou knew that it was time for him to learn more about Birth Charts. However, there were more important matters to decide for now. For example, should he head to Sky Wheel Mountain Range?

The major factions would most probably treat Sky Wheel Mountain Range as a stage for a competition of their strength.

It did not seem worth it to Lu Zhou to expend so much effort for the Birth Chart Beasts. After all, he had the Reversal Cards, after all. He did not even have to worry about 2,00 years of life, let alone 1,500 years. The only thing he needed was the abilities the Birth Chart Beast might give him.

Lu Zhou continued to study the Yong's heart.

Compared to ordinary beasts, the life heart of a Birth Chart Beast was angular. Ordinary life hearts were like oval crystals; their shape was not dissimilar to a walnut. On the other hand, the life heart of a Birth Chart Beast resembled a Rubik's cube.

"Strange... Can't I initiate Birth Charts with the Reversal Cards?" Lu Zhou wondered out loud.

After he was done examining the life heart, he put it down. Then, his thoughts wandered to Sky Wheel Mountain Range.

"I've exhausted my extraordinary power, and I don't have many trump cards now."

The extraordinary power granted him an advantage over his peers, allowing him to defeat them. The six powers from the Heavenly Writing scrolls could also deliver a shocking effect if used at the correct time.

However, it was unlikely that Yu Chenshu would go to Sky Wheel Mountain Range. Moreover, there would also be people from other factions. Even if Lu Zhou brought Nie Qingyun and his two eldest disciples along, he still would not gain the upper hand.

'Should I just keep a low profile?'

Lu Zhou stroked his beard as he continued to ponder on this matter. After a while, his eyes lit up. "If the Sky Martial Court goes to Sky Wheel Mountain Range, should I seize the opportunity to attack the Sky Martial Court and rescue Sikong Beichen?"

However, soon after, he shook his head and dismissed that thought. 'Surely this will occur to Yu Chenshu as well since it occurs to me.'

What should he do? For the umpteenth time since he arrived in the red lotus domain, he regretted not bringing Si Wuya along. Alas, it was pointless to feel regret now.

He knew there was no question he had to bring Conch if he wanted to get to the bottom of her origins. Among all his disciples, Little Yuan'er was the only one who could look after Conch. Therefore, he had decided back then to bring the two little girls with him.

"Is anyone outside?" Lu Zhou asked.

"Your orders, Senior Lu?:"

"Summon Meng Changdong here. Tell him to bring some talismans with him."

"Understood."

Lu Zhou almost forgot he had the means to contact Si Wuya.

Soon after, a Cloud Mountain disciple led Meng Changdong to the side hall.

Meng Changdong opened the door and entered the room respectfully. "Senior Lu, were you looking for me?"

"Contact Si Wuya," Lu Zhou said.

Meng Changdong nodded and said, "Understood."

Meng Changdong had grown smarter. He had already drawn several Formation canvases in advance for communication purposes. When the Cloud Mountain disciple told him to bring talismans with him, he brought the Formation canvas as well. Formation veins could be seen on the canvas as soon as he unrolled it.

Following that, Meng Changdong folded his palms. His Primal Qi surged, and the Formation veins on the canvas lit up. Subsequently, he raised his right hand and held a talisman between two fingers. Soon after, the talisman ignited.

Rune seals appeared in the air and formed a picture.

...

At this moment, Si Wuya was studying the Sky Chariot and Water Shuttle in the southern pavilion. When he saw the Formation canvas in the room glowing, he immediately ignited a talisman. He had communicated with his master and Meng Changdong several times now, and Meng Changdong had taught him the necessary techniques. He also learned how to make talismans and Formation canvases. Then, using Zhao Yue and the Empress Dowager's influence, extreme-grade talismans were gathered from all over the empire and sent to the Evil Sky Pavilion.

...

There was a circle of light in the air before Lu Zhou saw Si Wuya.

Si Wuya saw his master and Meng Changdong as well. "Greetings, master."

When Lu Zhou saw Si Wuya was about to formally salute him, he raised his hand to stop Si Wuya before he said, "That's enough. There's something urgent I'd like to discuss with you."

"Something urgent?" Si Wuya was puzzled.

Lu Zhou gave Si Wuya a brief account about Sky Wheel Mountain Range, the Sky Martial Court, the various factions, and Yu Chenshu. He spoke about the Yong and Birth Charts as well. He only withheld the part about him recently sprouting the tenth leaf. After all, Meng Changdong was with him, and everyone in the red lotus domain was under the impression he had long sprouted the tenth leaf.

Si Wuya was shocked upon hearing his master's words. He hastily congratulated his master, "I was unaware that you've become a Ten-leaf cultivator, master. Congratulations..."

Lu Zhou frowned slightly and said, "That's not the point. In your opinion, how should we deal with this?"

Si Wuya asked, "How many tricks do you have up your sleeve, master?"

"..." This was not an easy question to answer. Lu Zhou could not possibly tell Si Wuya about the Deadly Strike Cards, the Peak Card, or any cards for that matter. However, how was Si Wuya supposed to strategize and come up with a plan if Si Wuya did not know the full extent of his strength?

When Si Wuya saw his master was deep in his thoughts, he tactfully said, "Forgive me for being rude, master."

"No matter."

Then, Si Wuya asked, "If I may be bold... Are you confident about defeating Yu Chenshu in a one-on-one battle?"

Lu Zhou stroked his beard as he thought about this and said, "Even if two Yu Chenshus come at me at the same time, I'll be able to defeat both of them, let alone one Yu Chenshu."

Meng Changdong was shocked by Lu Zhou's reply. He wondered if this was the sort of confidence a Birth Chart gave a person. The feeling of winning life's lottery by joining the Evil Sky Pavilion increased.

Si Wuya nodded before he said, "I see. This is simple then. The Birth Chart Beast you killed proves there are other Birth Chart Beasts at Sky Wheel Mountain Range. There are too many possibilities in the world. Most people dislike uncertainties. Hence, they're usually cautious. What needs to be done is to turn one of the possibilities into an inevitability. With something as important as the Birth Chart, Yu Chenshu is bound to show up."

"How are we supposed to turn a possibility into an inevitability?"

"Give the Yong's life heart away!" Si Wuya made a shocking statement.

"Give it away?"

"Even if the other factions go to Sky Wheel Mountain Range, they might not make a move at all. The life hearts of Birth Chart Beasts is a trigger to a great war. Once you give the life heart away, all you have to do is wait and reap the rewards. When Yu Chenshu shows up, you can take his head. If other elites show

up, they'll definitely fight Yu Chenshu. Sometimes, even the strongest alliance crumbles in the face of benefits," Si Wuya explained.

Meng Changdong. "..."

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. Si Wuya's plan was reasonable. However, why did he feel the plan was shameless and even despicable?

Si Wuya continued to say, "You can bring the Yong's carcass to Sky Wheel Mountain Range and create the illusion that the Yong had escaped... This way, the pressure on Cloud Mountain will ease as well," Si Wuya said.

Meng Changdong nodded and said, "Good idea."

Si Wuya added, "To prevent accidents, I've come up with two backup plans as well..."

Meng Changdong. "..."

"The first backup plan is like this... Eldest and Second Senior Brothers have profound cultivation bases. When you're at Sky Wheel Mountain Range, send Eldest and Second Senior Brother to the Sky Martial Court and challenge them. Leave two marks on them. If Yu Chenshu appears, they won't need to remove the marks. If Yu Chenshu didn't show up, have them remove the marks."

Si Wuya, who was getting carried away, continued to say, "The second backup plan..."

"Enough." Lu Zhou interjected.

'I'm getting a headache.' Lu Zhou felt that it was a headache as well when his disciples had too many thoughts. He wondered if his seventh disciple ever felt exhausted from all these brain activities.

Si Wuya hastily bowed as he said, "I'm sorry, master. These are all crude plans. I'm just worried because I'm not familiar with your circumstances."

Meng Changdong mused, 'You call this unfamiliar?'

Lu Zhou maintained a neutral expression as he said, "Your plans are good, but why must I take such a roundabout way?"

"You're right, master. A strong man can defeat ten martial artists. I was worried for nothing."

Chapter 836: The Yong is Resurrected?

Initially, Meng Changdong intended to join the discussion. Although Si Wuya's plans were not fantastic, they were good. At the very least, they were safe and feasible. However, when he remembered Lu Zhou's unreasonable cultivation base, he had no choice but to swallow his words. Indeed, a strong man could defeat ten martial artists. No matter how good a plan was, it would be rendered useless in the face of absolute power.

Si Wuya understood this more than anyone in the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Lu Zhou nodded and asked, "How's the Evil Sky Pavilion recently?"

Si Wuya replied, "The four elders are now Nine-leaf cultivators. Third Senior Brother is facing some slight difficulties, but he's already an Eight-leaf cultivator. He's been working diligently. In my opinion, he should be able to reach the Nine-leaf stage soon. Eight Junior Brother... he's at the Five-leaf stage. Senior Sister Zhao Yue is busy with governance and has only raised her cultivation base by one leaf. I think that's strange so I'll head to the Divine Capital soon to find out more about it."

The four elders of the Evil Sky Pavilion were geniuses in their own right, to begin with. Before they severed their lotuses, apart from Hua Wudao, they were already famous individuals in the golden lotus domain. They were Eight-leaf elites as well. It was not surprising for them to have reached the Nine-leaf stage.

Si Wuya continued to report to his master, "Also, Penglai Island's Huang Shijie attempted to reach the Nine-leaf stage previously, but he did not have a life heart. Therefore, I decided to give him two life hearts."

Lu Zhou said, "You did well. Penglai Island had helped the Evil Sky Pavilion on numerous occasions. Two life hearts are nothing. You can make the decisions on such minor matters, and there's no need to report to me."

Si Wuya nodded. He continued, "Jiang Aijian stopped by a few days ago..."

"What business does he have?" Lu Zhou wondered out loud.

"He says he wants to meet his grandmother, but he doesn't want to ally with the palace. He wants Senior Sister Zhao Yue to give him a token that would grant him access to the palace. However, I turned his request down since the situation in the Divine Capital hasn't fully stabilized yet. I'll allow him to have the token when the time is right," Si Wuya said.

If Lu Zhou had been in the golden lotus domain, he would have given the token to Jiang Aijian without much thought. However, he had been away from the golden lotus domain for a long time so he did not know much about the current situation there. He was sure Si Wuya had his own concerns. As Si Wuya's master, he could not be too controlling.

"Alright." Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction. With Si Wuya taking care of things in the golden lotus domain, there did not seem to be huge problems. "I have one other thing to ask."

"What is it, master?" Si Wuya bowed.

"I'm getting old. There are many things that I can't do on my own. Great Tang's emperor, Li Yunzheng, is well-read and has a wide view of the world. He's clever and eager to learn. He's a rare talent so I've decided on your behalf and accepted him as your disciple."

Si Wuya was slightly taken aback. He looked up and pointed at himself with a shocked expression on his face. "Master, you... you recruited a disciple... for me?"

"Are you opposed to it?" Lu Zhou asked.

Si Wuya immediately waved his hands and said, "I dare not. I'm just worried I might lead him down the wrong path. After all, this is the monarch of an empire we're talking about. If anything untoward happens, my name will be cursed for an eternity."

"I believe in your abilities. After all, you were once the grand tutor. You should have confidence in yourself. It's decided then. Don't disappoint me," Lu Zhou said with a slight frown

"Understood..." Si Wuya replied with a bow.

"Guardian Meng will send you some information about the red lotus domain. If there's nothing else, that'll be all for now."

Meng Changdong and Si Wuya said at the same time, "Understood."

Meng Changdong ended the connection. Then, he cupped his fists at Lu Zhou and took his leave.

After that, Lu Zhou sent for Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai.

Lu Zhou's two eldest disciples were puzzled. They wondered what their master wanted with them. After they entered the side hall, they stood respectfully at the side.

"I summoned you here because there's something I'd like both of you to do."

"What is it, master?" Yu Zhenghai asked, "If it's about Sky Wheel Mountain Range, you can leave it to me and Second Junior Brother. We'll make sure to get it done."

Lu Zhou shook his head. "That's not it... I want both of you to head to the Sky Martial Court and secretly investigate Yu Chenshu. Don't engage in a fight with him. All you need to do is find out if he's there"

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong were puzzled by their master's orders.

Lu Zhou raised his palms and pushed them forward.

Two marks flew toward his two disciples.

"If you don't see Yu Chenshu, remove the marks and deal with the situation."

"Yes, master."

Lu Zhou decided to follow Si Wuya's plans after he modified them slightly.

The red lotus domain was not the golden lotus domain where he could do as he pleased, after all. The Sky Martial Court held great power in the red lotus domain, and he was not certain if they had hidden trump cards or Formations that would be troublesome to deal with.

Before the lotus-severing era dawned in the golden lotus domain, Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai were peak Eight-leaf elites. They could roam freely everywhere. Even sects with formidable Formations and barriers did not pose a threat to them. However, this was not the case in the red lotus domain.

"Remember to prioritize your safety. Go, then," Lu Zhou said.

Yu Zhenghai said with a smile, "Don't worry, master. If I can't even escape from a troublesome situation, then I would've been a sect master for so long in vain." However, after he finished speaking, he felt that he had misspoken so he hastily said, "I mean, I'll be sure to complete the mission."

In truth, Yu Zhenghai was not wrong. Although he was a Nine-leaf cultivator, he was already used to sparring with Qingyun, a Ten-leaf cultivator. His real combat experience was not inferior to all Nine-leaf

cultivators. Ordinary Nine-leaf cultivators would have a hard time trying to capture him and Yu Shangrong. Moreover, it was not like Lu Zhou was sending them to a fight to the death.

With that, the two left and prepared to leave Cloud Mountain.

Following that, Lu Zhou rose to his feet and walked to the back of the hall. He called out, "Whitzard."

Upon hearing its master, Whitzard flew over from the nearby forest.

"Use your ability."

Whitzard obeyed Lu Zhou's order and brought auspicious rain to Cloud Mountain.

Lu Zhou closed his eyes. The Heavenly Writing's extraordinary power was being replenished at an extremely quick rate. Soon enough, his extraordinary power was fully replenished.

After Whitzard used its ability, it lay on the ground to rest.

After checking the system dashboard, Lu Zhou discovered he had more than 100,000 merit points left. He could use them to purchase item cards at the final moment if he needed to. There was no need for him to stock up on item cards now.

When he completed his preparations, Lu Zhou left the side hall and activated the Purple Glazed Ceramic. He left Cloud Mountain silently and flew toward where the Yong fell.

Since Nie Qingyun was on Cloud Mountain, even if the other factions were to attack at the same time, he could fend them off for some time. Not even Ye Zhen could take the mountain before, let alone now.

...

When Lu Zhou reached the spot where the Yong fell, he studied the huge carcass. Without any hesitation, he shoved the life heart back into the carcass. Subsequently, he waved his hand, condensing Primal Qi was condensed into energy, and mended the carcass.

Although the carcass was huge, it was not immovable for the Ten-leaf Lu Zhou. When Lu Zhou was an Eight-leaf cultivator, he already managed to prop a floating island up with one hand. Moving the Yong that was much smaller than the floating island was not difficult at all.

"Let's go."

The Yong flapped its wings and rose into the air, controlled by Lu Zhou's energy.

Compared to the Yong, Lu Zhou was insignificantly small. Most people would not discover him as long as he hid behind the wings.

...

Meanwhile, the Cloud Mountain disciples jumped in shock when they witnessed this scene. They hurried to the main peak immediately.

"Sect master! This is bad! The Yong came back to life! The Yong came back to life!"

Nie Qingyun's eyes widened in shock when he heard these words. He hastily rose to his feet as he said, "Impossible!"

"It's alive! You'll be able to see it if you go out and have a look."

With a burst of movements, Nie Qingyun flew above the main peak. He looked at the Yong that was leaving. His eyes shone with complicated emotions as he murmured, "How... how's this possible?"

Nie Qingyun had personally witnessed Lu Zhou take out the Birth Chart Beast's heart. His common sense told him regardless of the type of beasts, it was impossible to live without a heart. He hastily landed and hurried to the side hall to find Lu Zhou.

When Nie Qingyun arrived at the entrance of the side hall, he bowed and said, "Nie Qingyun requests an audience with Senior Lu."

There was no reply.

Nie Qingyun raised his voice and tried again. "Nie Qingyun requests an audience with Senior Lu."

It was as silent as a graveyard. There was no reply, just like before.

In the end, Nie Qingyun had no choice but to give up. After a moment, something stirred in his mind when he recalled the Yong's movements earlier.

"Could it be... That's wonderful, Senior Lu!"

After realization dawned on him, Nie Qingyun behaved as though nothing had happened and swiftly returned to the main hall.

Chapter 837: Inevitable

Lu Zhou flew at a slow speed as he continued controlling the Yong. In fact, the flight was slightly shaky, making it look as though it was severely injured.

Lu Zhou continued to control it for two hours, crossing mountains, rivers, and forests before he arrived near the Sky Wheel Mountain Range.

When Lu Zhou saw the Sky Wheel Mountain Range, he found it rather familiar. Apart from the height of the mountains and the flora and fauna, it was rather similar to the golden lotus realm.

As he continued to survey his surroundings, he muttered to himself, "Fortunately, I didn't encounter any cultivators during my journey here... Otherwise, I would have to kill them..."

After a moment, he flew toward the top of the Sky Wheel Mountain Range and continued to observe his surroundings.

The Sky Wheel Mountain Range was not high, but it was vast. The terrain was complex and rugged. As he hovered above the mountain range, he did not see a suitable place to land.

"Where could the Yongs be?"

Lu Zhou flew east from the Sky Wheel Mountain Range, passing the most rugged area before he saw a deep valley. His eyes lit up immediately. "A valley? This should be the Sky Wheel Rift Valley..."

There was no doubt the valley was a perfect hiding place for the vicious beasts to hide. In fact, there might even be Birth Chart beasts hiding in this place.

Just as Si Wuya had said, "The word 'maybe' indicates a possibility."

Nothing was impossible in this world, and Lu Zhou needed to confirm it.

Towering trees covered one-third of the valley, obscuring Lu Zhou's view. After looking around for a moment, he found a place and muttered, "This is it..."

He brought the Yong with him as he dove and landed under one of the trees. Subsequently, he flew to a nearby hill and waited.

"Disguise Card." Lu Zhou brought a Disguise Card out and quickly shattered it. After all, there were many disciples on the Twelve Sects of Cloud Mountain who knew what he looked like. After the incident with Ye Zhen, he could not be certain if there were still spies among the Cloud Mountain disciples. This was also the reason he decided to act alone.

The Disguise Card took effect immediately. He felt a cooling sensation on his wrinkly face before he felt it distorting and changing. At the same time, the color of his hair was changing at an astonishing speed as well. In just a few breaths, his appearance had changed drastically. From an old man with grey hair, he now looked like a mature and calm middle-aged man.

After his appearance changed, he could not help but mutter to himself, "When will my appearance change to that of a handsome young man?"

He recalled all the times he had used the Disguise Card and confirmed his appearance would look younger and younger and each time. He wondered if the card would make him younger was related to his cultivation base.

He was rather satisfied with the appearance of a middle-aged man. At the very least, he was certain no one from Cloud Mountain would be able to associate this middle-aged man with him.

Lu Zhou looked at the sun before he finally sat down cross-legged and adjusted his breathing to recover his strength. Although it did not consume much of his energy to travel with the Yong, he liked to be in peak condition at all times.

With this, Lu Zhou entered his state of cultivation in the silent valley as the cooling sensation from the Purple Glazed Ceramic permeated his body.

...

Meanwhile, in the Sacred Hall of the Sky Martial Court.

A disciple was giving a report. "Court Master, there's a new discovery. The Yong, the Birth Chart Beast, has successfully escaped from Cloud Mountain. It's flying toward the great valley in the Sky Wheel Mountain Range!"

Mo Buyan was pleasantly surprised by this report. He exclaimed, "That's great! It seems like Cloud Mountain isn't capable of taking down the Birth Chart Beast!"

Jian Tingzhong said, "Court Master, we shouldn't wait any longer. We have to set off immediately. We have to take down the Birth Chart Beast when it's at its weakest! If we don't make a move, the other forces will definitely make a move!"

Everyone present on the scene knew the importance of a Birth Chart Beasts, after all. Even the youngest elder had gone to the library to learn more about the Birth Chart Beasts.

The life heart of a Birth Chart Beast was the key to activating one's Birth Chart. Would there be anyone who would not be tempted by this?

Yu Chenshu looked at the disciple and asked, "Are you sure?"

"The reconnaissance team we hired has long left. However, I sent some of our people nearby to monitor Cloud Mountain. Our people witnessed the Yong flying in the direction of the Sky Wheel Mountain Range. Moreover, its movement as it flew seems to indicate it's injured."

A frown appeared on Yu Chenshu's face as he asked, "Didn't the people from Cloud Mountain chase after it?"

"No."

At this moment, Jian Tingzhong said, "The people from Cloud Mountain won't dare to make a move unless that Lu person makes a move. Otherwise, Nie Qingyun would only end up like Sikong Beichen."

Yu Chenshu mulled over the matter for a moment before he finally said, "Mo Buyan, Jian Tingzhong, come with me. The rest of you will stay here to guard the Sky Martial Court!"

"Understood!"

Soon after, a flying chariot could be seen rising to the sky, leaving the Sky Martial Court and flying rapidly toward the east.

...

At this time, Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai were flying swiftly to the Sky Martial Court at a low altitude.

After an hour, when the duo flew into the range of the Sky Martial Court, they saw a flying chariot in the sky.

Both of them exchanged a look before they sped up.

....

In the great valley of the Sky Wheel Mountain Range.

At this time, Lu Zhou had recovered all the energy he had used when he traveled here. Out of curiosity, he used the power of hearing from the Human Scroll of Heavenly Writing.

His range of hearing expanded quickly.

In order to save his extraordinary power, he did not use his power of insight. Moreover, compared to the power of insight, the consumption of energy of the power of hearing was still acceptable.

Soon enough, the sound of people whispering rang in Lu Zhou's ears.

"It should be around here. Lower your voice, and don't alarm the Yong. When we find the Yong, think of how to deal with it. If we get its life heart, we'll be rich!"

"Alright, alright, let's end this quickly. When the people from Cloud Mountain catch up, it'd be over. Hurry!"

At this moment, several cultivators were flying at a low altitude in the valley.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou used the Purple Glazed Ceramic to conceal his aura.

The cultivators continued flying in the sky.

Based on their auras, they seemed to be Nascent Divinity Tribulation Realm cultivators.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou stayed silent and glanced at the corpse of the Yong lying in the valley. 'It's obviously there. Why is it so difficult for them to find it?'

Those cultivators flew back and forth three times before they finally found the Yong.

"It's here!" An excited voice rang in the air.

One of the cultivators quickly dove and landed next to the Yong. "Huh? The Yong is dead?"

The other cultivators hurried over and landed one after another. All of them had an expression of confusion and disbelief on their faces.

"How strange! The Yong should've flown back to its nest, right? How did it die here?"

"Look! It has a fatal wound..." a young cultivator said as he kicked at the Yong's fatal wound.

It did not matter if the young cultivator used a lot of force in his kick, but the corpse of Yong split into two immediately as soon as he kicked it. The wound looked clean as well.

The cultivators grew even more dumbfounded.

"This..." One of the cultivators sighed at this moment. He lamented, "Someone has already killed the Yong. We're too late!"

"What a pity! I can't believe someone is actually a step ahead of us! Based on the wound, it seems to be caused by a sword. For that person to be able to kill the Yong, he has to be a top swordsman!"

All of the cultivators felt regretful and were about to leave when...

"The life heart is still here!"

Everyone turned back immediately.

One of the cultivators stepped forward. He disregarded the mess and the gore as he dug the corpse open with his bare hands, bringing out the Yong's life heart. Everyone was shocked and quickly looked over.

The life heart shone with a red light, and its intensity was not inferior to that of the sun in the morning.

The cultivators widened their eyes in surprise and joy. They managed to obtain the life heart that could help one to activate one's Birth Chart! Alas, they were so overwhelmed by happiness that they did not wonder why someone would leave the Yong's life heart behind after killing the Yong.

At this time, a cultivator who was standing next to the cultivator who was holding the life heart suddenly drew his saber and decapitated the cultivator who held the life heart.

As soon as the head rolled to the ground, the murderer quickly grabbed the life heart before he leaped backward and flew to a nearby hill. Following that, he shouted, "Let's see which one of you dares to make a move against me. This is my..."

Chapter 838: An Innocent Man Would Get In Trouble Because Of His Wealth

"Zhang Hao, what are you doing?"

The cultivators were naturally shocked by the sudden turn of events. They did not expect Zhang Hao to suddenly make a move. At this moment, all of them regarded him warily as though he was their enemy.

Zhang Hao, who had always been very cautious, looked to the left and to the right before he said, "I'm warning you; don't chase after me. This life heart is mine. All of your cultivation bases are lower than mine. If you chase after me, I'll kill you." He held the life heart in his arm, preparing to leave.

"Zhang Hao, you want to leave after killing someone? Your cultivation base is high, but do you think you can fight against five of us at once?" The cultivator closest to Zhang Hao looked at the others and tried to persuade them to work together. "Don't let him leave. Let's work together to take him down."

"Alright." The other cultivators did not think twice and agreed to work together.

Zhang Hao seemed surprised by their decision. However, now that things had come to this point, there was no turning back. He hastily leaped into the sky to fly out of the valley.

The other five cultivators flew up at the same time and unleashed their grand techniques. Two of them stood guard in the sky while the other three blocked the exit of the valley.

Zhang Hao sneered as he said, "Just admit that you want the life heart."

"We'll let you leave if you hand the life heart over."

"Well, that will depend on whether you're capable of taking it from me."

Just like that, a fierce battle broke out in the sky while the corpse of the Yong lay on the ground.

...

Lu Zhou shook his head.

These cultivators should have been nearby. After all, they arrived very quickly. Unfortunately, they did not have the luck nor strength to keep the life heart. This world had always been cruel.

In any case, Lu Zhou was not worried they would be able to leave with the life heart.

At this time, the large sects should have arrived.

However, Lu Zhou did not make a move. He continued observing his surroundings. After all, patience was the basic quality a hunter should have.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The sound of energies clashing continued to ring from the valley, The resonance of avatars being manifested rang in the air as well.

Lu Zhou looked up. He saw the cultivator, Zhang Hao, had seven leaves. On the other hand, among the five cultivators, three of them had six leaves while the other two had five leaves. They could be considered grand cultivators. He wondered for a moment if he should seize the opportunity and kill all of them.

With his current strength, just using Sovereign Descent was enough to kill all of them.

In the end, he finally decided to kill them. After all, he had placed the life heart in the corpse of the Yong to lure his prey.

Lu Zhou slowly rose to his feet. Just as he was about to make a move, he heard a faint noise. It seemed like someone was approaching. With this discovery, he stopped moving. When he turned around, he saw cultivators behaving sneakily.

When one of the cultivators saw Lu Zhou, he was clearly taken aback. However, he quickly regained his senses and said with a chuckle, "Friend, I didn't expect you to think of hiding here as well. It seems like we're kindred spirits!"

Lu Zhou frowned slightly. "Who are you?"

"Stop pretending. I saw the Yong. What's your name?" the man asked, dropping all pretenses.

"My... My surname is Lu," Lu Zhou said. He almost forgot himself and gave his name away.

"Come on, be honest with me. My name is Wei Junzi, and this is my little brother..."

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The sounds of two avatars colliding rang in the air at this moment. One of the avatars crashed against the mountain and was shattered by Zhang Hao's avatar. With this, his opponent died a terrible death.

Wei Junzi shuddered. He shook his head as he said, "How pitiful. An innocent man would get in trouble because of his wealth. Do you think it'd be easy once you possess the life heart?"

Lu Zhou asked skeptically, "Aren't you here to snatch the life heart as well?"

Wei Junzi replied, "No, I'm not that stupid."

Lu Zhou saw the shadow of Jiang Aijian in Wei Junzi. Both of them were rather similar, but Wei Junzi seemed bolder. Moreover, he found it strange that Wei Junzi did not seem wary of him.

In any case, Lu Zhou did not dwell on the matter. No matter what these people were planning, he could just easily slap them down.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Based on the noises that were growing softer, it seemed like the battle in the valley was coming to an end.

Lu Zhou shifted his attention back to the valley and discovered Zhang Hai had lost an arm.

Zhang Hao wiped the blood off his face and looked at the corpses on the ground with a cold expression on his face.

Wei Junzi said, "The big fish is coming. We better leave if we don't want to be discovered." As soon as he finished speaking, he quickly pulled his companion away and retreated to the depths of the forest.

However, when Wei Junzi discovered Lu Zhou was standing still, he hastily called out, "Brother Lu, come over here! Hurry up!"

Naturally, Lu Zhou was not afraid of being discovered at all since he had the Purple Glazed Ceramic. Nonetheless, he still followed Wei Junzi.

...

After killing his companions, Zhang Hao held onto the life heart and rushed to leave the canyon. He knew he had to leave this place as soon as possible. As long as he could escape into the depths of the dense forest, no one would be able to find him.

Alas, just as Zhang Hao was about to leave the valley, a Nine-leaf avatar descended from the sky,

Boom!

The Nine-leaf avatar landed in a horizontal position, breaking the trees and blocking Zhang Hao's path.

A cultivator stood in front of the Nine-leaf avatar and extended his hand toward Zhang Hao as he said indifferently, "Thank you for helping me obtain the life heart."

Zhang Hao's eyes widened in fear. His lips trembled, and his legs weakened. He knew it was over. The life heart he had held against his chest dropped to the ground immediately. He stumbled a few steps back as he stammered, "You're the Heavenly Fire Sect's Feng Zihe?"

Feng Zihe shook his head expressionlessly. With just a flip of his hand, the life heart flew into his palm. His fingers trembled slightly as soon as the life heart was in his hand, but he quickly regained his composure. He said indifferently, "Respect should be given to this life heart that can activate Birth Charts. Those who disrespect it should be cut down..."

Feng Zihe pushed his left hand out, and an energy saber shot toward Zhang Hao.

"No, no!" Zhang Hao cried out. He turned around immediately, intending to flee. Alas, he was shredded into pieces by the energy saber. He could not even put up a fight.

After Feng Zihe obtained the life heart, he surveyed his surroundings as he quickly withdrew his avatar. However, just as he turned to leave, he saw an avatar flying toward him at a low altitude. Soon he discovered there were, in fact, three Nine-leaf avatars flying toward him from three different directions!

"No!" Feng Zihe widened his eyes and feared and decisively ran back into the valley. Earlier, in order to stop Zhang Hao, he had no choice but to manifest his avatar to end the battle quickly. Unfortunately, his avatar had been discovered by others.

Feng Zihe continued to flee. From time to time, he would turn back to look at the three avatars flying toward him. After running past several towering trees, he saw the Yong's corpse, which had been cleaved into two, on the ground. He only frowned slightly as he continued to run deeper into the valley.

...

In the dense forest near a mountain.

Wei Junzi chuckled before he said, "It's just as I expected. If you follow me, you'll be able to watch a good show. Brother Lu, why are you looking at me like that? Don't worry, I'm very familiar with this area."

"Why are you helping me? Aren't you afraid I'd kill you?" Lu Zhou asked.

"We don't have a conflict of interest. Why would you kill me? Why don't we work together? If we succeed, you can have the life heart. I'm not an ambitious person. After they leave, I only plan to ransack the corpses to see if there are any treasures," Wei Junzi replied.

Lu Zhou glanced at him and said, "You can do all that without my help, right?"

Wei Junzi replied, "You seem to be cautious, and I like your style. You'll know what I mean if you follow me. Anyway, it's up to you to follow me or not." Then, he turned to his companion and said, "Let's go!"

"Yes, boss!"

The duo hurriedly ran toward the sloping mountain.

Lu Zhou's expression was calm as he looked at the duo. After a moment, he followed them.

...

In the Lu Zhou, Wei Junzi, and his companion took a shortcut and made seven to eight turns before they arrived at the end of the valley.

Lu Zhou looked calm. He glanced in the direction where the two of them disappeared and chased after them.

"Shush!" Wei Junzi shushed everyone as they hid behind a cliff.

At this moment, Feng Zihe flew to the end of the valley as well and found a place to hide.

It was dark at the depths of the valley.

Soon enough, three Nine-leaf avatars appeared as well.

“He must be hiding here. Don’t let him escape. Cut out all escape routes!”

“Come out! Hand over the life heart and our Crimson Sun Sect will spare your life. We just want the life heart. If you don’t want to die, come out!”

The last two words contained a sound wave that shook the entire valley. The soundwave attacked indiscriminately. Those with low cultivation bases had no way of defending against it, causing their blood qi to boil.

Needless to say, Lu Zhou was not the slightest bit affected.

On the other hand, Wei Junzi’s companion was pale as he silently endured the impact brought by the soundwave.

“If you don’t come out now, don’t blame the Crimson Sun Sect for being merciless. On the count of three...”

“One.”

“Three.”

“Two.”

The soundwaves swept out again as three avatars appeared again.

At this moment, Wei Junzi frowned. “Why aren’t the people from the Sky Martial Court here yet?”

“Why do you think the people from the Sky Martial Court will come?” Lu Zhou asked curiously.

“Would the life heart of the Birth Chart Beast appear here for no reason? That old fox with the surname Lu on Cloud Mountain is very cunning. He actually thought of such a method to lure various forces here. However, I don’t understand his reason for doing this.”

“Old fox?” Lu Zhou frowned. It seemed like this Wei Junzi knew quite a bit.

Wei Junzi chuckled. “Hey, I just realized you have the surname as him!”

As soon as Wei Junzi finished speaking, a beam of red light shot out from the depths of the valley. He instinctively turned to look and exclaimed in surprise, “The power of the Birth Charts?”

Chapter 839: A Gathering of Elites

Lu Zhou was about to question Wei Junzi after he heard Wei Junzi describing him as a cunning old fox when he saw the beam of light as well.

“This the power of the Birth Charts?” Lu Zhou wondered out loud.

Wei Junzi turned around to look at Lu Zhou curiously. “Your speech and temperament indicate you’re not a new cultivator. How could you not even know this?”

“Then can you control three energy swords?” Lu Zhou retorted. Everyone had their flaws after all.

“Fine, you win.” Wei Junzi spread his hands helplessly. He really could not control three energy swords. “The Birth Chart power is unique to the Birth Chart Beast’s life heart. This is crazy. Isn’t this just announcing the location to everyone?”

In fact, Feng Zihe deliberately released the Birth Chart power and released the beam of light.

The three elites from the Crimson Sun Sect stopped in their tracks immediately.

“Withdraw.”

The trio withdrew their avatars. A frown could be seen on all their faces.

“It’s too late. He wants to attract all the elites here.”

“No! It’s not easy to find the life heart of a Birth Chart Beast; how can we just give up?”

The trio hovered in the air and continued arguing among themselves.

“It’s too late!”

At this moment, flying chariots could be seen flying from the southeast, east, and northeast directions of the Sky Wheel Mountain Range.

In the west, cultivators riding on huge beasts were flying over swiftly as well.

At this moment, Feng Zihe laughed maniacally as he said, “If I can’t have it, then all of you don’t even think about getting it!”

The three elites from the Crimson Sun Sect exchanged a look before one of them said, “Fine. The Crimson Sun Sect might not obtain the life heart, but you’ll definitely die!”

At this moment, the life heart was like a hot potato. Whoever was in possession of it would only attract trouble.

In the end, the three elites from the Crimson Sun Sect flew to a corner and waited for the arrival of the other elites.

...

When Wei Junzi saw the elites coming from all directions, he exclaimed in surprise, “That person with the surname Lu is truly a cunning old fox! What an amazing trick. I really admire him!”

Lu Zhou frowned and said, “Trick?”

“Ha, I saw three great elites from Cloud Mountain fighting the Yong. Based on the situation at that time, Cloud Mountain should be able to kill the Yong. Therefore, there’s only one possibility. This is all orchestrated by Cloud Mountain. The old fox probably wants to reap the benefits of the fisherman.” Wei Junzi did not hesitate to voice out his speculations.

“Why were you near Cloud Mountain?” Lu Zhou asked.

“Brother Lu, don’t ask.”

“Then, why did you bring me here?” Lu Zhou continued to ask.

Those who came to the Sky Wheel Mountain Range and Valley only had one objective: to obtain the life heart of the Birth Chart Beast. Lu Zhou could not figure out why Wei Junzi would ask him to follow him here. After all, an extra person was an extra competitor.

A smile appeared on Wei Junzi's face as he said, "You'll know in a while. Don't worry, I won't harm you."

At this moment, three flying chariots and an enormous flying beast appeared above Sky Wheel Valley.

At the same time, the cultivators from the Crimson Sun Sect flew up into the sky as well.

"Sun Jie of the Crimson Sun Sect greets all the seniors."

The trio from the Crimson Sun Sect could acutely sense the formidable auras within the three flying chariots.

Nevertheless, the trio was left standing for a long time. No one paid any attention to them at all.

In the end, someone from the red flying chariot on the easternmost side broke the silence. "Hural, there's nothing for you here. Leave."

The cultivator riding the flying beast was muscular and had a strange appearance. Upon hearing these words, he did not object. Instead, he bowed at the red flying chariot and said, "Farewell."

Hural was a foreign tribesman. He knew the three flying chariots were from Great Tang. Although he coveted the life heart, he did not dare to fight for it under these circumstances. Therefore, he could only leave obediently.

Meanwhile, the trio from the Crimson Sun Sect did not even dare to breathe loudly.

Similar to the red flying chariots, the other two flying chariots were magnificent as well. However, they were much bigger than the red flying chariots.

At this moment, the atmosphere in the valley was incredibly oppressive. Coupled with the dim light of the dusk, it was even more stifling.

At this moment, the person in the red flying chariot said in a slightly surprised tone, "The True Kunlun Sect and the Void Sect really have produced Ten-leaf elites..."

"Court Master Yu, it has been a long time since we last met." A voice rang from the True Kunlun Sect's flying chariot in the northeastern horizon.

"How rare for Court Master Yu to pay us a visit..." A mocking voice rang from the Void Sect's flying chariot following that.

At this moment, the beam of light was still shining toward the horizon. It was this beam of light, the power of Birth Charts, that had attracted them here.

The pillar of light was the power of their fates. It was the most enticing treasure that had attracted them here. All of them would gladly pay a huge price to obtain it.

At this moment, the Sky Martial Court, the True Kunlun Sect, and the Void Sect surrounded the beam of light in a three-way formation.

Meanwhile, the other sects and cultivators who arrived late at the Sky Wheel Mountain Range could only watch from afar. Moreover, they did not dare to approach. Since the strong sects were there, how could they stand a chance at all?

The atmosphere in the sky above the valley was heavy and silent.

After a long time, Yu Chenshu, who was sitting in the red flying chariot, said without beating around the bush, "I'm determined to obtain the life heart. I'm willing to compensate the True Kunlun Sect and the Void Sect. heart of life. I will not yield."

Yu Chenshu, this elite, was really direct with his negotiation.

...

Meanwhile, Wei Junzi grew excited upon hearing these words. He grabbed his companion before putting his index finger to his lips, gesturing to his companion to keep quiet.

...

After Yu Chenshu finished speaking, a deep laughter rang from within the True Kunlun Sect's flying chariot. "How does Court Master Yu intend to compensate us? This is the life heart of a Birth Chart Beast, after all."

"I'm curious as well. How do you plan to compensate us?"

Although it seemed like it was a three-way negotiation, it was quite obvious that the True Kunlun Sect and the Void Sect were on the same side at this moment.

It was like a scene out of the Three Kingdoms.

At this time, Lu Zhou studies the huge flying chariots. There were quite a huge number of people surrounding the flying chariots.

For these people to be able to negotiate with the Sky Martial Court so confidently, the two sects must have had a Ten-leaf elite sometime over the past 2,000 years. Since the life heart of a Birth Chart Beast had appeared, it was only natural that the two sects would no longer conceal their strength or bid their time.

"A desolate-grade weapon, 10,000 supreme grade talismans, five heaven-grade weapons, three top-grade cultivation methods of Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism for each of you," Yu Chenshu said emotionlessly.

"The Sky Martial Court is truly rich and generous. Back then, the Sky Research Court created so many things... It really makes one envious," the person from the True Kunlun Sect said.

"The foundation of the Sky Research Court still exists. Our Void Sect is aware we're no match for it," the person from the Void Sect said mockingly.

Yu Chenshu ignored the two sects' sarcastic words and said, "Let's not beat around the bush. Just tell me if you agree or not."

“Court Master Yu, you’re a little hasty today... It seems like it isn’t enough just to send a person here...” the person from the True Kunlun Sect said again.

The person from the Void Sect said in agreement, “Well, it’s not a surprise since we’re talking about a Birth Chart Beast and its life heart. However, a desolate-grade weapon... I’m afraid...”

Powerful sects, naturally, looked down on things below the desolate grade. Moreover, the Sky Martial Court had a strong foundation and did not lack these weapons.

At this moment, Sun Jie from the Crimson Sun Sect suddenly stepped forward and said, “Seniors, please allow me to speak. The life heart is now in the possession of a Nine-leaf cultivator in the valley. He intentionally unleashed the power of the Birth Chart. This isn’t the time to argue. If the power of the Birth Chart is exhausted, the life heart would lose the ability to help one activate one’s Birth Chart. Why don’t I go down and retrieve the life heart first?”

There was no response from the three flying chariots.

...

In the meantime, Lu Zhou stroked his beard as he fell deep into his thoughts. He had to let those people fight among themselves. If the three forces successfully came to an agreement, his plan would have failed.

Wei Junzi turned around before he raised his hand and erected a soundproof barrier. His Primal Qi did not fluctuate at all. He chuckled softly and said, “You act rather old-fashioned...”

Lu Zhou’s gaze landed on Wei Junzi. After sizing him up for a moment, he said in a cold tone, “Why? Are you planning to scheme against me?”

Chapter 840: People Die For Money, And Birds Die For Food

“Me? How could I be so bold? Brother Lu, you’re too cautious. Don’t worry. Just watch...” Wei Junzi said sheepishly.

Lu Zhou did not respond and looked at the three flying chariots in the air.

The negotiations between the three forces caused the atmosphere in the Sky Wheel Rift Valley to be oppressive and tense.

At this moment, Wei Junzi said with a smile, “How could it be good if they don’t fight among themselves? Let me tell you a secret; there’s another Birth Chart Beast in this Sky Wheel Rift Valley...”

“There’s another Birth Chart Beast?” Lu Zhou was moved by these words.

At this moment, the three large forces did not dare to act recklessly because they could not be sure there was another Birth Chart Beast.

Lu Zhou had deliberately left the Yong’s life heart to cause internal strife between these people. After all, there was no doubt the life heart of a Birth Chart Beast would draw all the heavyweights of the cultivation world here. However, he did not expect there to be another Birth Chart Beast here.

“The Sky Martial Court is too strong. The True Kunlun Sect and the Void Sect are overestimating their strength. In fact, it’s best for them to just accept the Sky Martial Court’s offer. However, what do you think will happen if they know there’s another Birth Chart Beast in the Sky Wheel Rift Valley?”

Lu Zhou frowned. Even if there were two life hearts from two Birth Chart Beasts, he knew the Sky Martial Court would want both life hearts. However, the other two forces definitely will be dissatisfied. Even if the Sky Martial Court decided only to take one life heart, the balance between the three forces would be broken.

“You plan to break this balance?” Lu Zhou asked Wei Junzi without blinking.

“This is the reason I asked you to follow me here.” Wei Junzi brought a small green bottle from the inner pocket near his chest before he continued to say, “This is a pill that fakes vitality energy. It will take effect in a short time, and the ‘vitality energy’ would immediately attach itself to the user...”

Wei Junzi continued to explain, “This fake vitality energy is actually a smell-based potion. Beasts won’t be able to discern the real thing from the fake so they would definitely be attracted to this fake vitality energy.”

Following that, Wei Junzi handed the small green bottle to Lu Zhou and said, “So... Brother Lu, I’ll have to trouble you.”

Lu Zhou asked with a slight frown, “You want this old man to be bait?”

“Or else?” Wei Junzi spread his hands out with a helpless expression on his face. “Among the three of us, you’re the most suitable....Of the three of us, only you are the most suitable. Moreover, don’t refer to yourself as an old man; you’re really not that old. Why would you call yourself an old man?”

Nevertheless, Lu Zhou took the green bottle.

Wei Junzi continued to say, “Previously, I’ve investigated this valley. When we fight, you can open this bottle. At the end of the day, what treasure you manage to obtain will depend on your luck. What do you think?”

“You can open the bottle yourself. Why do you need me to do it?”

“The Birth Chart Beast is too powerful; I don’t have the courage to do such a thing,” Wei Junzi replied. As soon as he finished speaking, he removed the barrier.

Subsequently, he made a soft shushing noise and waved his hand, indicating they should be silent lest they alert the people in the flying chariots of their presence. His expression clearly said that if they were exposed, all of them would die together.

Lu Zhou remained silent and continued observing the situation in the air instead.

...

In the red flying chariot, Yu Chenshu said calmly, “Humans should not have too big of an appetite like a snake that intends to devour an elephant. Does the True Kunlun Sect and the Void Sect even have a desolate-grade weapon?”

The person in the True Kunlun Sect's flying chariot replied, "Court Master Yu, you worry too much. I'm sure it won't be difficult for us to obtain at least one desolate-grade weapon. Moreover, I'm certain your Sky Martial Court isn't lacking in desolate-grade weapons."

The person from the Void Sect chimed in as well, "Court Master Yu, two aren't too little, and three aren't too much... We're talking about the life heart of a Birth Chart Beasts. Please consider this matter carefully." The person did not conceal the mockery in his tone when he spoke.

However, how could these super elites fight just because of one or two sentences?

"Two desolate-grade weapons each. This is my final offer." Yu Chenshu's voice drifted out from the red flying chariot.

"Alright." The person from the Void Sect agreed first.

However, at this moment, the beam of light suddenly disappeared.

The three cultivators from the Crimson Sun Sect looked at the same time.

Then, Sun Jie shouted, "Seniors, don't let that person escape!"

A calm voice rang from the red flying chariot. "He won't be able to escape."

Subsequently, two figures flew out from the red flying chariot and dove into the valley.

Two people flew out of the red sedan and dived into the valley.

"Mo Buyan? Jian Tingzhong?"

Sure enough, Yu Chenshu was not the only one from the Sky Martial Court who came here.

Meanwhile, the two elders from the Sky Martial Court moved at lightning speed.

The sound of resonance of avatars being manifested rang throughout the valley.

The beast scampered away, and the birds took flight immediately from the disturbance. At the same time, the trees were flattened.

Meanwhile, Feng Zihe, who was holding the life heart, hurried deeper into the valley. He could not allow the three forces to come to a peaceful agreement after all. If that happened, he would surely die! Only by taking advantage of the chaos could he escape. If he was lucky, he would be able to escape not only with his life intact but with the life heart as well.

Feng Zihe's eyes widened when he looked up and saw the two avatars flying in the sky. Then, he looked at the three flying chariots resentfully and muttered to himself, "The Sky Martial Court is really useless. They didn't even bother to fight and attempted to negotiate instead. Yu Chenshu is really magnanimous..."

Among the elites in the Sky Martial Court, Mo Buyan and Jian Tingzhong were the strongest Nine-leaf elites.

Meanwhile, the trio from the Crimson Sun Sect was dumbfounded as they watched the scene unfolding before them. They were Nine-leaf cultivators as well, but the difference between their strength and Mo Buyan and Jian Tingzhong's strength was like heaven and earth!

Each of the elders from the Sky Martial Court wielded a desolate-grade weapon; a hook and a saber. They did not hesitate to destroy the valley just to search for Feng Zihe.

It really had to be said that the foundation of the Sky Martial Court was really strong. Even elders possessed a desolate-grade weapon each. No wonder Yu Chenshu readily agreed to part with four desolate-grade weapons, giving two desolate-grade weapons each to the two forces, in exchange for the life heart.

At this moment, Feng Zihe's voice rang from the depths of the valley, "If anyone comes over, I won't hesitate to jump into the valley's abyss!"

Jian Tingzhong and Mo Buyan stopped in their tracks as they looked ahead.

In the end, Mo Buyan said, "Hand over the life heart, and I'll spare your life."

"No! I risked my life to obtain the life heart. Why should I give it to you?" Feng Zihe replied defiantly.

"You're seeking death!"

Just as the duo from the Sky Martial Court was about to make a move, Yu Chenshu, who was still sitting in the red flying chariot, raised his hand and said, "Hold on."

Mo Buyan and Jian Tingzhong were naturally obedient and no longer moved.

Yu Chenshu calmly asked Feng Zihe, "What do you want?"

Feng Zihe sneered, "What can you give me?"

"A flood-grade weapon?"

Silence descended in the valley immediately,

Everyone was shocked by these words.

Yu Chenshu's magnanimity and determination to obtain the life heart far exceeded everyone's expectations. He was actually willing to give up a flood-grade weapon!

One had to know, the value of a flood-grade weapon in the hands of a Nine-leaf expert far exceeded the value of a life heart!

Was there anyone who would not be tempted by such an offer? However, would Yu Chenshu really keep his words and hand over a flood-grade weapon after he had obtained the life heart?

Feng Zihe scoffed before he said, "You think you can trick me? If anyone dares to come any closer, I'll throw the life heart into the abyss. No one would be able to obtain it at that time!"

Yu Chenshu frowned. Things were truly complicated and ever-changing. After he thought he had successfully dealt with the people from the True Kunlun Sect and the Void Sect, this person suddenly appeared to complicate matters.

...

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou, who was still hiding, frowned. 'Hey, hey, I'm the one who obtained the life heart and intentionally left it there. How can I really lose the life heart?'

At this moment, Wei Junzi suddenly said, "I'm sorry!"

Without any explanation, Wei Junzi took out another green bottle and smashed it against a stone.

When Lu Zhou turned around, he discovered Wei Junzi possessed more than one green bottle.

Crash!

A loud noise rang in the air as the green bottle smashed against the stone.

Naturally, the noise did not escape the attention of the powerhouses in the sky.

"Who's sneaking around?" A voice rang from within the Void Sect's flying chariot.

Needless to say, Wei Junzi had already expected to be exposed once he threw the green bottle. He only waved at Lu Zhou and said, "Till we meet again!"

Lu Zhou raised his right hand. His fingers glowed as he grabbed Wei Junzi's shoulder. "You dare to scheme against me with such petty tricks?"

Wei Junzi's expression changed drastically. He could inexplicably sense the danger in the glowing fingers. After all, he had moved at lightning speed to flee, and yet, he was easily caught by Lu Zhou's glowing fingers.

Lu Zhou turned back to have a look before he pushed his hand out.

Bang!

With just a strike, Lu Zhou destroyed their cover. Just like that, he, Wei Junzi, and his companions were completely exposed.

Wei Junzi's eyes widened in shock and fear. "Y-you... You... You... Why are you doing this? Hurry up and let me go!"

Meanwhile, everyone's attention was focused on Lu Zhou, Wei Junzi, and his companion.

From the Sky Martial Court's flying chariot, someone said in surprise, "Wei Junzi? Why are you here?"

"This is a misunderstanding. Truly! I'm just here to watch the show. Don't mind me. Please continue with what you were doing..." Wei Junzi hurriedly said. However, how could he leave? He was firmly grabbed by Lu Zhou.

Following that, everyone shifted their attention to Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou looked up at the three flying chariots and said, "The Sky Martial Court is really wealthy and generous. Since you want the life heart, why don't you compensate me as well?"

Mo Buyan and Jian Tingzhong frowned immediately.

Wei Junzi gave Lu Zhou a thumbs-up and said, "You're really awesome. You even dare to demand something from the Sky Martial Court!"

Contrary to everyone's expressions, Yu Chenshu, who was sitting in the red flying chariot, said casually, "Everyone who's present today will be compensated. Since you want it, I'll give you a heaven-grade weapon."

"..."

The Sky Martial Court truly lived up to its reputation. They were rich and generous!

Wei Junzi who had heard these words felt that it was a good offer.

However, at this moment, Lu Zhou's voice resounded loudly, "It'd be best if it's a flood-grade weapon..."

Wei Junzi. "???"