

Disciples 861

Chapter 861: A Wise Man Submits to Circumstances

Everyone in the Sky Martial Court had long been aware of Yu Chenshu's death. Due to the sighting of a black lotus cultivator, rumors were swirling outside that Yu Chenshu was killed by the black lotus cultivator. However, the spies from the Sky Martial Court had witnessed the battle between their court master and the elite from Cloud Mountain. Although the spies did not see the elite from Cloud Mountain killing their court master, they were certain their court master was suppressed and beaten the entire time.

Yu Chenshu's life stone had already shattered. Who could have killed him? Everyone else was saying it was the black lotus cultivator, but they did not even see the shadow of the black lotus cultivator. Moreover, there were many who had witnessed Lu Zhou killing Mo Buyan and Jian Tingzhong at lightning speed.

To confirm the news, Qiu He even sent people to the Void Sect.

After the battle, the Void Sect did not want to offend the Sky Martial Court. They were anxious to wash their hands of this matter so they told the truth.

Therefore, to the people of the Sky Martial Court, it was Senior Lu from Cloud Mountain, Nie Qingyun, the Thousand Willow Monastery, and the others who killed Yu Chenshu.

Who knew the murderers would boldly come to the Sky Martial Court in broad daylight? How could the people of the Sky Martial Court not be angry?

Fortunately, Qiu He had always been calm and rational. What could they do to an opponent whom even Yu Chenshu was not a match for? Therefore, he invited the five Grand Dukes over and planned to ask General Xia Hou to lead them. With the Sky Martial Heavenly Formation, they might have a fighting chance.

...

Above Sky Martial Mountain.

At this moment, many Sky Martial Court disciples leaped into the air and flew toward the huge flying chariot. There were forty to fifty disciples hovering in front of the flying chariot.

Before any of the disciples could speak, Nie Qingyun said, "Summon Qiu He here to meet Senior Lu."

A Ten-leaf elite was not someone the young Sky Martial Court disciples could compare to. Nie Qingyun's soundwave shocked them so much that they were on the brink of collapse. Their faces were ashen, and they almost fell from the sky.

At this moment, five people flew over from the direction of the Sky Martial Court.

The person in the lead was dressed in a long gray robe and had an imposing air about him.

"Elder Qiu." The Sky Martial Court disciples bowed.

Qiu He was very tactful. He did not beat around the bush and made an inviting gesture as he said, "Everyone, please..."

Nie Qingyun glanced at Qiu He and said, "You have good eyesight."

Qiu He only looked at Nie Qingyun with a hint of helplessness flashing in the depths of his eyes. "Greetings, Sect Leader Nie. Greetings, Senior Lu."

"There's no need to bow to me... Don't blame me for reminding you. Other than Senior Lu, you must not neglect these four people," Nie Qingyun said as he gestured at Yu Zhenghai, Yu Shangrong, Little Yuan'er, Conch who were standing on the right.

Qiu He bowed to the four of them.

"And this one as well."

Qiu He looked up, then he quickly said, "Greetings, your Majesty."

The Sky Martial Court disciples greeted Li Yunzheng as well

Li Yunzheng waved his hand and said, "No need."

Not too long ago, these people had looked down on Nie Qingyun. Although he had a Ten-leaf cultivation base, in the Sky Martial Court, he was not even comparable to an elder. The Sky Martial Court and the Flying Star House's Ye Zhen even wanted to annex Cloud Mountain.

The world was always changing, and one would not be able to predict the future. He looked at the Monastery Master of the Thousand Willow Mastery, Xia Changqiu, who was standing in the corner and said, "Monastery Master Xia, thank you for your reminder that day..."

"It's nothing, it's nothing," Xia Changqiu said.

Following that, Qiu He led the flying chariot.

The flying chariot landed outside of the Sky Martial Court's Sacred Rites Hall.

Qiu He led the elders inside the Sacred Rite Hall while the core disciples of the Sky Martial Court could only wait outside.

When Lu Zhou alighted from the flying chariot, he surveyed his surroundings. At this moment, he discovered how magnificent and luxurious the Sky Martial Court was. When he walked into the hall, he saw the huge pillars that were carved with intricate Dao patterns. Even the floor was covered in Dao patterns. He had noticed that all the disciples of the Sky Martial Court possessed weapons at the earth grade or above. Meanwhile, the core disciples possessed heaven-grade weapons. This was something unimaginable for other sects. To think what he was seeing now was just the superficial surface. No wonder Yu Chenshu was so confident and generous. If he had fought with Yu Chenshu in the Sky Martial Court that day, it would have been as difficult as ascending to the heavens to kill Yu Chenshu. Yu Chenshu had a flag that could cast the Life Siphoning Technique to replenish his puppet's life. What other treasures or trump cards did Yu Chenshu have in the Sky Martial Court?

When everyone had entered the Sacred Rites Hall, Qiu He said with a bow, "Your Majesty, please take the main seat."

Li Yunzheng frowned and ignored Qiu He. Instead, he said to Lu Zhou, "Grandmaster, please take the main seat."

Qiu He. "..."

Grandmaster?

Qiu He looked at Wang Shizhong who was standing at the back. Wang Shizhong was the Head of the Secretariat in the royal court. Why was he being so submissive? The emperor... Wang Shizhong...

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou could not be bothered to climb the stairs so he just took a seat on the left. Then, he turned his eyes to Qiu He and asked, "In the Sky Martial Court now, who has the authority to speak?"

Qiu He replied, "Naturally, it's the court elders."

There were about five or six elders standing behind Qiu He. All of them were elderly and wore long gray robes. They seemed to all possessed a high cultivation base.

Based on this alone, one could see how powerful the Sky Martial Court was.

Lu Zhou asked, "Do you know why I came to the Sky Martial Court?"

Qiu He shook his head and said, "Please enlighten me, Senior Lu."

"Sikong Beichen, the Temple Master of the Ninth Temple, is a friend of mine. How can I stay idle when my friend's in trouble?" Lu Zhou said.

The Sky Martial Court's Elder Duan said, "The Ninth Temple is a traitor. Sikong Beichen killed General Chen, an important official of the royal court. This is a grave crime. It's not surprising and justified that Court Master Yu was ordered to capture Sikong Beichen."

"Bullsh*t," Nie Qingyun cursed.

Everyone turned around to look at Nie Qingyun in unison.

Even Xia Changqiu was shocked. When did Nie Qingyun become so passionate? He was the Sect Master of Cloud Mountain, a Ten-leaf elite. How could he voice his thoughts so openly?

Nie Qingyun did not care about the strange looks people were shooting him and continued to say, "Even if Yu Chenshu were alive, he wouldn't dare to speak to Senior Lu in such a manner. Are you tired of living?"

"You..." Duan Yi said.

Qiu He cupped his fists together and hurriedly interjected, "Everyone, please don't be angry." Then, he turned around and said to Lu Zhou, "Senior Lu, before we begin our negotiations, I have a question."

"Speak."

"Senior Lu, did you really kill Court Master Yu?"

It was still important to clarify this matter even if they believed the visitors in front of them were murderers.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said, "There's one thing I need to clarify before I answer your question..." His tone was low when he spoke. "You're mistaken if you think I'm here to negotiate with you. You will do whatever I tell you to do. You're not qualified to negotiate with me. And, yes, I killed Yu Chenshu. If you're unhappy, I don't mind killing a few more people..."

The atmosphere in the Sacred Rites Hall turned tense immediately.

All the reasons, excuses, and speeches Qiu He prepared became worthless at this moment.

Qiu He and the elders standing behind him felt their hearts thumping wildly in their chests.

After a brief silence, Duan Yi, the elder from the Sky Martial Court, mustered up his courage and said, "Senior Lu, you've already killed Court Master Yu. Don't tell me you want to kill all of us? This is the Sky Martial Court, not Cloud Mountain or the Sky Wheel Mountain Range."

Lu Zhou shifted his eyes to Duan Yi. He was quiet; he only stared at Duan Yi for a few seconds before he shifted his eyes back to Qiu He.

Qiu He turned around and said, "Elder Duan isn't feeling well. It's not suitable for him to stay in the Sacred Rites Hall. Bring him away so he can rest."

"Understood." Several disciples walked into the hall.

Duan Yi was slightly agitated. He wanted to protest, but Qiu He waved his hand and sealed his acupoints. Following that, he was dragged out by the disciples.

Xia Changqiu from the Thousand Willow Monastery shook his head and muttered under his breath, "I thought the people from big sects are smart. As it turns out, they're rather stupid."

Since all of them had come here, how could they not know this was the Sky Martial Court?

Qiu He's face was expressionless as he said tonelessly, "If Senior Lu has any request, please tell me."

Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction, "A wise man submits to circumstances."

Qiu He naturally knew what Lu Zhou meant. He waved his sleeve and said, "Release Temple Master Sikong."

"Elder Qiu?! This is a felon of the royal court. How are we going to explain this to General Xia Hou?!"

Qiu He's expression darkened, and his voice turned stern as he said, "If I say release him, then release him!"

Chapter 862: You're All Traitors!

Upon hearing Qiu He's tone, the other elders from the Sky Martial Court no longer protested and fell silent.

Qiu He's voice was still echoing in the hall when...

Bang!

Li Yunzheng, who was sitting next to Lu Zhou, suddenly slammed his hand on the handle of his seat and said angrily, "How dare you!"

The elders of the Sky Martial Court jumped in fright before they looked at Li Yunzheng one after another.

Everyone, including those from Cloud Mountain, was confused.

What was this little emperor trying to do?

Li Yunzheng remained quiet, maintaining the dignified expression on his face. When the pain in his hand finally faded away, he said angrily, "Are you trying to rebel?"

Qiu He was stunned. He quickly bowed and said, "Your Majesty, this matter really has nothing to do with the Sky Martial Court. The Ninth Temple often went against the royal court. When they heard that the Ninth Temple was colluding with the Thousand Willow Monastery, they sent General Che, the General of the North, to investigate the matter. However, General Chen died later. The Grand Duke of Fu gave full authority to the Sky Martial Court to investigate this matter. Court Master Yu was ordered to capture Temple Master Sikong, which resulted in today's consequences. The Sky Martial Court was only acting according to orders."

Although Li Yunzheng did not hold any real power, he was not an idiot. He scoffed lightly before he said, "Why didn't I receive any report from the Grand Duke of Fu? Moreover, who was the one who ordered Court Master Yu to capture Temple Master Sikong?"

"This..." Qiu He did not know how to answer this question. The palace's affairs had always been complicated, and there were many things he could not carelessly say even if he had inside information.

Li Yunzheng turned to look at Lu Zhou and saw Lu Zhou tapping his fingers, indicating for him to continue. Needless to say, with his grandmaster's support, he grew more confident.

"How strange! As the ruler of the country, how could I be unaware of such an important matter? Moreover, if Sikong Beichen is a felon of the royal court, why is he imprisoned in the Sky Martial Court? Shouldn't he be sent to the Supreme Court for trial and imprisonment?"

Everyone knew Li Yunzheng was only asking despite knowing the answer to his own questions. They also knew the little emperor was just putting on a show of strength.

Everyone knew that Li Yunzheng was asking despite knowing the answer.

"Qiu He, tell me, who owns Great Tang? Who makes the decisions?"

Thud!.

Qiu He fell to his knees immediately. "Of course it's Your Majesty! This land is yours so Your Majesty naturally makes the decisions!"

"If it's as you said, then you're all traitors!"

"I... I know my sins! I beg you to forgive me, Your Majesty."

The other elders from the Sky Martial Court fell to their knees as well.

After all, the label of a traitor was not to be taken lightly.

It was unfortunate Li Yunzheng did not have any real power. These elders were all old foxes. At most, they would only play along. It was not like they would lose anything after all.

How could Nie Qingyun not understand these old foxes' thoughts? He said, "Since you know your sins, why don't you apologize with your deaths?"

Qiu He was taken aback.

It was well known that Cloud Mountain and the Ninth Temple had enmity between them that had never been resolved for years. Nie Qingyun and Sikong Beichen were also always at loggerheads. Why was Nie Qingyun speaking up for the Ninth Temple today?

The people from the Sky Martial Court remained silent.

At this moment, a few disciples from the Sky Martial Court carried Sikong Beichen into the hall.

Yao Qingquan and Zhao Jianghe were not present today. After they got injured, they rested on Cloud Mountain for two days before they returned to the Ninth Temple to recuperate. If they were present, what would they think if they saw Sikong Beichen's current state?

Nie Qingyun hurriedly stepped forward to support Sikong Beichen. After a brief examination, he shook his head when he discovered that Sikong Beichen's condition did not look optimistic.

After all, this was the Sky Martial Court, Yu Chenshu's Territory. There were many ways to torture prisoners. Even Ten-leaf elites would not be able to endure it.

Nie Qingyun shook his head again as he reported his discovery, "His Eight Extraordinary Meridians have been sealed, and his Dantian's sea of Qi has been blocked by a unique energy. His internal injuries are quite serious as well."

Bang!

Li Yunzheng slapped the handle of his seat again as he scolded, "Well done, Qiu He! What's the punishment for lynching someone?"

Qiu He kowtowed as he said, "Your Majesty, we've been wronged! Sikong Beichen and the court master were injured during their battle. We didn't lynch anyone!"

The other elders from the Sky Martial Court did not dare to speak at this moment.

"Do you think I'm a fool?" Li Yunzheng stood up and walked to Sikong Beichen's side. He pointed at the wounds on his body.

Some of the wounds on Sikong Beichen's body were new and some were old.

Qiu He was stunned. He looked at Sikong Beichen with a dumbfounded expression on his face. He really did not know which b*stard had secretly beaten Sikong Beichen! Whoever that person was truly had caused a lot of harm today!

At this moment, Lu Zhou finally spoke up. He said tonelessly, "Stand down."

Li Yunzheng stepped aside and returned to his seat.

Lu Zhou pushed his hand out toward Sikong Beichen and a few blue lotuses emerged from his palm.

The elders from the Sky Martial Court looked at the blue lotuses in shock and disbelief. They knew about the golden lotus and the black lotus, but what with this blue lotus that suddenly appeared out of nowhere?

The powerful vitality energy from the blue lotuses surged into Sikong Beichen's body. They healed him greatly. The bruises on his face gradually faded away, and his wan expression also slowly disappeared. Soon after, he slowly opened his eyes. With Nie Qingyun's help, he lifted his head. His messy white hair made him look incredibly pitiful.

The first person Sikong Beichen saw was Lu Zhou. He smiled faintly and said, "B-brother Lu..."

Lu Zhou asked expressionlessly, "Who hurt you?"

Sikong Beichen looked to the left and to the right. When he saw the disciples from the Evil Sky Pavilion, Cloud Mountain, and the Thousand Willow Monastery, he knew he was safe. Then, he said, "I couldn't really see. It's too dark underground." He had to take three deep breaths before he could continue speaking. "However, Yu Chenshu is one of them..."

Lu Zhou nodded. "Help him sit down."

Nie Qingyun brought Sikong Beichen to the left and helped him sit down.

Lu Zhou looked at Qiu He and the other elders and said, "Tell me, how should we settle this score?"

Qiu He and the others were so confused that they could not be any more confused. Yu Chenshu was already dead. Was it not enough?

"I really don't know who beat up Sikong Beichen. Usually, only the court master and those close to him are allowed to enter the underground prison. Apart from that, no one is allowed to enter!" Qiu He became more and more agitated as he spoke.

At this moment, a loud voice rang from outside.

"The Grand Duke of Fu has arrived"

A middle-aged man with a broad face wearing an official uniform and a brocade hat slowly walked in with his hands on his back. His footsteps were steady; when he walked, he looked imposing and awe-inspiring. Four guards carrying sabers trailed after him as they walked into the hall.

After entering the Sacred Rites Hall, the Grand Duke of Fu, whose name was Cui An, came to a stop. His eyes were like those of a hawk as they swept past everyone. First, it was Qiu He who was kneeling. Then, it was the people from Cloud Mountain who were standing on the right. Finally, it swept past the calm Lu Zhou, the dispirited Wang Shizhong, and landed on the young emperor, Li Yunzheng.

Cui An finally said, "Greetings, Your Majesty."

“What are you doing here?” Li Yunzheng asked.

“Your Majesty, there are many traitors around, and it’s not safe. Please return to the palace.” Cui An was, naturally, different from those low-ranking officials who were easily suppressed. When he spoke, his voice was sonorous and powerful. He did not even give Li Yunzheng a chance to speak and only flicked his sleeve.

The four people standing behind Cui An immediately walked toward Li Yunzheng.

Upon seeing this, Wang Shizong cried out in his heart as an ominous feeling rose in his heart. He hurriedly took a few steps back.

Li Yunzheng’s brows were tightly knitted. He felt a heavy pressure on his chest, causing him to feel like he could not breathe. Such a thing had happened to him many times. If this had happened in the palace, he might not have cared so much and would just swallow his anger. However, today was different from the past. He had already been shown hope, and this so-called official who supported the country wanted to kill his hope? How could he not feel suffocated?

Li Yunzheng turned to look at Lu Zhou with a pleading expression on his face as he called out, “Grandmaster...”

Lu Zhou waved at Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong.

The duo naturally understood their master.

When the four guards finally arrived, two energy swords and two energy blades sliced across the guards’ necks at lightning speed.

Thud! Thud! Thud! Thud!

The four guards’ eyes widened in shock as they fell to the ground; they did not even have time to react. Blood flowed out of their necks and seeped into the wooden brown floor in the Sacred Rites Hall.

Upon seeing this, the Grand Duke of Fu, Cui An, frowned.

Chapter 863: Who Could Contend With A Thousand Realms Whirling Avatar?

Cui An only frowned slightly when he saw the four guards being killed; he did not lose his temper. Then, he looked at Lu Zhou and asked, “I heard a rumor early in the morning that someone has killed Yu Chenshu. Are you the rumored expert with the surname Lu?”

Li Yunzheng said in a deep voice, “Cui An, are you not going to kneel when you see me? How dare you disrespect your master!”

Cui An ignored the furious Li Yunzheng and only said, “Your Majesty, you’re still young and easily influenced. After this matter is dealt with, I’ll naturally apologize to Your Majesty. The other four Grand Dukes are on their way here as well.”

Li Yunzheng wanted to continue reprimanding Cui An, but Lu Zhou raised his hand to stop him.

Lu Zhou’s expression was calm as usual as he asked, “So, you’re Cui An, one of the five Grand Dukes?”

If Cui An's men were around, they would definitely rebuke Lu Zhou for referring to Cui An by his name instead of title.

Nevertheless, Cui An did not seem to take offense. He only crossed his hands and placed them on his back as he replied, "Yes."

Lu Zhou could see the hostility in Cui An's eyes so he bluntly asked, "You seem to be dissatisfied?"

Lu Zhou found it a little strange. The elders from the Sky Martial Court knew he was the one who killed Yu Chenshu, but they did not dare to voice their opinions at all since he arrived. Where did Cui An's confidence come from?

Cui An said in a low voice, "Dissatisfied? Do you know this is the Sky Martial Court? Not only did you kill the Court Master of the Sky Martial Court, but you have the audacity to come here. I really don't understand you."

Indeed. Lu Zhou's actions were difficult for ordinary people to understand. After killing the head of the other party, he even came to the other party's house in broad daylight to make all kinds of demands. It was a little too much.

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "I've always been reasonable when dealing with matters. Shouldn't Yu Chenshu die for trying to kill my friend?"

"Whether he should die or not is not up to you to decide. It should be decided by the Supreme Court. Moreover, Yu Chenshu's mission was given by the royal court," Cui An said steadily and confidently as though he had justice on his side.

"A mission from the royal court?" Lu Zhou turned to Li Yunzheng and asked, "You're the emperor. Did you give such an order?"

Li Yunzheng hurriedly shook his head and said, "Grandmaster, how could I give such an order! Cui An, how dare you defy the emperor?!"

"..."

The emperor himself had opened his mouth to refute the claims, contradicting Cui An's words.

Cui An's expression did not change at all when he heard Li Yunzheng's words. Instead, he only scoffed lightly and said, "Do you think you can threaten me just because you kidnapped the emperor?"

Lu Zhou stroked his beard silently as he listened to Cui An. Initially, after he killed Yu Chenshu in the Sky Wheel Mountain Range, he thought it would be enough to intimidate the Sky Martial Court Academy and the royal court. He did not expect there would still be people who were so ignorant and foolish. However, it was not surprising. The world was big; it was inevitable that there would be one or two ignorant idiots. This was also good. He could gain something out of this situation.

Cui An continued to say, "If you didn't come, it would have been fine. However, you just had to come here. As the saying goes, you don't want to take the path to the heavens, but you chose to charge down to hell. You can't blame me for this..."

After Cui An finished speaking, he looked at the crowd before he sternly said, "Qiu He, as the second elder of the Sky Martial Court, not only did you not avenge your court master's death, but you're even kneeling and begging for mercy from his murderer. You're a humiliation to the Sky Martial Court."

Qiu He kept quiet and remained kneeling on the ground.

Cui An looked at the other elders from the Sky Martial Court and raised his voice as he said, "What are you waiting for? Hurry up and activate the Sky Martial Heavenly Formation!"

Qiu He remained still.

Cui An sighed and shook his head. "A bunch of trash!"

Then, Cui An raised his hand and waved it.

Buzz!

A buzzing sound rang from outside the hall.

Soon enough, the ground trembled slightly, causing the furniture in the hall to shake as well. Even the building seemed to tremble slightly.

Qiu He exclaimed in shock, "The Sky Martial Heavenly Formation? How do you know to activate the formation?"

Everyone was perplexed.

At this moment, Sikong Beichen coughed before he interjected weakly, "So it was you who snuck into the underground prison at night and injured me..."

Cui An scoffed. "You're old and muddle-headed. You can't even differentiate day from night. I'm an important official of the royal court. It's my responsibility and obligation to kill those who harm the country. I serve the country righteously. What need is there for me to be sneaky? Sikong Beichen, if it weren't for Yu Chenshu's sake, I would've killed you with a kick. You wouldn't have had the chance to bark here today."

Sikong Beichen frowned. "You..."

At this moment, Lu Zhou turned to look at Cui An and asked, "Are you done?" His aura now was slightly different from before.

No one dared to interrupt Lu Zhou.

Cui An nodded. "Yes, I'm done. It's a waste of my breath to say so much."

"Take him down." Lu Zhou waved his sleeve.

Yu Zhenghai was the first to make a move. His hand glowed with a golden light as he grabbed Cui An's neck.

Cui An pushed his hand out immediately and both opponents' energies collided.

Bang!

Cui An was sent flying out of the Sacred Rites Hall. However, he did not seem flustered. He raised his head and looked at the sky. He said calmly in a clear voice, "The formation has been activated. Since you've made your choice, all of you can stay here forever."

"You think you alone are capable of this?" Yu Zhenghai sneered.

"Of course, it's not just me. I've prepared a gift for you..."

At this moment, one after another, people appeared from the buildings in front of the hall. They were all dressed shabbily, and their appearances were unkempt. Their hair was messy, and their beards had clearly not been shaved for a long time. There were all sorts of people; blind and bald men, lame people, people with heads tilted unnaturally to the side, crazy and hysterical women, and old men with bent bodies.

Cui An turned to look at these people who looked like beggars and said, "As long as you kill everyone in the Sacred Rites Hall, all of you will regain your freedom!"

A bald man laughed maniacally. "Cui... Cui An... You said it yourself... If you lie to us..."

"Haven't I already free you from the prison?" Cui An retorted.

Another person laughed. "Deal! It's a deal! The air outside is so fragrant... It would smell even better if blood were spilled!"

The sound of cackling rang in the air before someone said, "How about we tear off the heads of those people in the Sacred Rites Hall? Hurry! I can't wait anymore!"

Upon seeing this, Meng Changdong exclaimed in surprise, "The members of the Sky Research Court!"

"It's those lunatics from the Sky Research Court! Everyone, be careful!"

With this reminder, everyone grew nervous.

In Great Tang, there was no one who had not heard of the Sky Research Court. After all, the current status of the Sky Martial Court was built upon the foundation laid by the Sky Research Court. Even the foreign tribes in Great Tang were wary and had kept a respectful distance from the Sky Research Court.

At this moment, Cui An leaped on top of a building and said, "The Sky Martial Heavenly Formation has been activated. Your strength will be greatly boosted. Go!"

Yu Zhenghai shook his head. He was about to make a move again when Lu Zhou's voice rang from behind him.

"Stand down."

Yu Zhenghai's fighting spirit was instantly put out by his master's words. It was as though someone had poured a bucket of ice-cold water on him. Nonetheless, he obediently returned to the Sacred Rites Hall.

In fact, Lu Zhou was looking out for his disciple. After all, this was the Sky Martial Court. It was not a bad thing to be cautious. Moreover, it was good to conserve strength if possible. There was no need to fight until the sky fell and the earth cracked if it was not necessary.

Swoosh!

In just a blink of an eye, Lu Zhou appeared in front of the Sacred Rites Hall. He looked at the group of people as he stood with his hands on his back. "The Sky Research Court?"

A bald man said in between bursts of laughter. "Hey, hey! Someone recognizes us! It's been so long, and there are still people who know us! Old man, since you have good eyesight, we won't kill you! Get out of our way!"

Lu Zhou nodded his head in satisfaction after confirming the group of people was from the Sky Research Court.

On the other hand, when Cui An heard the bald man's words, he hurriedly said, "No! We have to kill him first! What are you waiting for?"

The members of the Sky Research Court stared at Lu Zhou.

Meanwhile, Cui An flew up into the air and looked around before he said, "I'll return in an hour!"

Cui An was very smart. He retreated to the distant horizon.

"Heh, that bastard. He's using us to fight his battles!" The bald man spat.

"The people from the royal court are all like this! Disgusting!"

One of the women looked at Lu Zhou and said, "Old man, I'm sorry. However, I have to do it for my freedom!"

With these words, the people from the Sky Research Court charged forward.

"Avatar!"

Buzz!

A golden lotus that resembled a pond appeared in front of everyone's eyes. The ten leaves were dazzling as they shone with a golden light. Then, a humanoid avatar rose from the ground and soared up into the sky above the Sacred Rites Hall. In just an instant, its height reached 300 feet. Finally, golden karmic fire began to burn and surge around it.

The members from the Sky Research Court widened their eyes in shock as they flipped backward and retreated. Then, they looked up at the avatar's head.

An astrolabe appeared, and a Birth Chart lit up.

Everyone looked at this sight in awe, excitement, shock, and disbelief when a beam of light shot out from the Birth Chart.

Meanwhile, Cui An felt rather satisfied and happy that his plan was going smoothly as flew away. All of sudden, he felt a sense of danger at his back. He quickly turned around and saw a sight he would never forget.

Cui An saw a 300-foot avatar burning with golden fire and a golden astrolabe hovering at the back of its head towered above the Sacred Rites Hall. At this moment, a beam of light was shooting toward him from the golden astrolabe.

Cui An's eyes widened in shock and fear as his body trembled. His heart rate increase by 10,000 times as he exclaimed, "Thousand..."

Whoosh!

The beam of energy light pierced Cui An's heart accurately, leaving behind a neat and bloody round hole.

Before Cui An died, his mind was blank. The 300-foot avatar with a golden astrolabe was reflected in his eyes as he dropped from the sky. He tried to breathe but discovered that he could not. It did not take long before his head slackened and he died.

Meanwhile, the lunatics from the Sky Research Courts were petrified!

Chapter 864: Once The Thousand Realms Whirling Avatar Appears, Who Would Dare Compete With It?

The lunatics from the Sky Research Court felt the intense heat of the raging golden karmic fire. The heatwave swept across their bodies and their faces; it was blazing hot. Their minds were blank as though even their thoughts had been burned away.

These people were once the top geniuses of the Sky Research Court. No one understood avatars better than them. Even if there was just a slight difference in an avatar, it would not escape their notice.

A 300-foot avatar!

That dazzling golden astrolabe; that twelve golden lines that resembled those of a clock; that 36 triangles that formed a pattern. Every line and every circle shone with a golden light and looked like a peerless treasure and artwork.

Before the beam of energy light had shot out, the distinct Birth Chart had flashed brilliantly. The power of a Birth Chart!

Four words appeared in their minds; the Thousand Realms Whirling!

"The Thousand Realms Whirling avatar..."

Meanwhile, the experienced and knowledgeable Sikong Beichen, the elders of the Sky Martial Court, the Evil Sky Pavilion, the Cloud Mountain, the Thousand Willow Monastery, and the young and fearless emperor, Li Yun Zheng were all in awe of this magnificent avatar.

All cultivators dreamed of becoming a peerless powerhouse. Alas, many could never reach such heights in their lifetimes. Nevertheless, how lucky were they to be able to witness the appearance of a Thousand Realms Whirling Avatar?

Then, everyone remembered the calm and composed old man, the owner of this magnificent Thousand Realms Whirling avatar.

At the same time, the elders from the Sky Martial Court, who were still kneeling, stiffened and paralyzed by fear. Their fear was not any less than the lunatics from the Sky Research Court.

On the other hand, Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong's reactions were not as exaggerated as the others. They solemnly admired their master's avatar.

Perhaps, due to the effects of Eternal Paragon, Lu Zhou's four disciples were exceptionally serious when they were admiring their master's avatar. Their hearts were filled with longing as though they had just found a dream or an objective.

...

In the west direction of Sky Martial Mountain, four flying chariots flew side by side at the same speed.

A low voice rang from the flying chariot on the left. "Grand Duke, it seems like Sky Martial Heavenly Formation has been activated."

"I'm afraid now that the formation has been activated, the Sky Martial Court will start a massacre. It seems like Elder Qiu was not exaggerating in his flying letter. The formation, coupled with the Sky Martial Court's geographical advantage, can gather an incredibly destructive power. Even Yu Chenshu himself wouldn't be a match for something like that."

Someone sighed. "Those lunatics from the Sky Research Court are really talented. It's unfortunate that they're too cunning and dishonest."

"Let's speed up. The formation won't last for long."

With that, the speed of the four flying chariots increased by several folds.

...

Lu Zhou's heart skipped a beat. 'There's no notification?'

With Ye Zhen and Yu Chenshu serving as examples, Lu Zhou, naturally, did not let his guard down.

Lu Zhou ignored the petrified lunatics from the Sky Research Court and lightly tapped his feet. He flew into the sky as nimble as a swallow. He flew toward the horizon with his 300-foot avatar in tow.

The golden Thousand Realms Whirling avatar that shone dazzlingly and surging karmic flames mesmerized everyone. When they finally regained their senses, they ran out of the Sacred Rites Hall.

"Senior Lu, what are you doing?"

"Are you going to flatten the Sky Martial Court?"

As soon as Qiu He heard these words, his eyes rolled to the back of his head and his head lolled to the side before he fell to the ground. He had fainted.

"Elder Qiu!"

“Elder Qiu!”

These weak people from the Sky Martial Court did not deserve sympathy. They had been domineering and bullying the weak for a long time now. Their prestige was deeply rooted in the people’s hearts. Alas, how the tide had changed!

Meanwhile, the lunatics from the Sky Research Court were still looking at the avatar.

The Thousand Realms Whirling avatar was like a sun that illuminated the entire Sky Martial Mountain. Its imposing aura could be felt in every direction. The birds and the beasts on Sky Martial Mountain flew off and scampered away in fear.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou flew near the chest of the avatar. One person, one avatar flew together.

As Lu Zhou flew past, the disciples in Sky Martial Court around the Sacred Rites Hall trembled as they prostrated themselves on the ground.

When Lu Zhou flew past the Literary Star Gate, some female disciples’ faces turned pale before they fainted.

Finally, Lu Zhou came to a stop above a semicircular pool before he looked down at the pool.

The clear blue water reflected the magnificent figure of the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar.

Cui An, the Grand Duke of Fu, should have fallen here.

Lu Zhou activated the power of hearing with his extraordinary power, extending the range of his hearing around the pool and into the pool.

It was quiet. He did not hear anything out of the ordinary.

Lu Zhou was certain the power of the Birth Chart had pierced Cui An’s body. Under normal circumstances, it would be impossible for him to survive.

At this moment.

Splash!

Lu Zhou heard splashing noises in the pool.

The Thousand Realms Whirling avatar straightened itself. The golden astrolabe began to spin.

As long as Cui An appeared, the power of the Birth Chart would strike him.

After Lu Zhou’s earlier experimentations, he discovered the power of the Birth Chart was equivalent to having four Deadly Strike Cards.

Splash!

Disturbance could now be seen on the surface of the pool. It grew more and more intense.

All of a sudden...

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

“He’s a Nine-leaf cultivator, but I don’t even get a domain bonus?”

In the pool, where the disturbance was the most intense, a huge black lotus suddenly appeared. Then, it slowly descended into the pool and spread in all directions like tendrils on ink in water. Gradually, it covered the entire pool.

Meanwhile, a few bold disciples of the Sky Martial Court who had come to the semicircular pool were shocked when they saw the black lotus.

“Black lotus!”

The disciples gulped when they looked up and saw the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar.

At this moment, the pool suddenly regained its calmness.

Lu Zhou brought the Golden Taixu Mirror out and shone it on the pool.

Lu Zhou wondered to himself, “He’s not a puppet... Is it some kind of evil clone technique?”

In other words, the real Cui An had died a long time ago. Lu Zhou’s Birth Chart had actually killed the black lotus cultivator who was residing in Cui An’s body.

This reminded Lu Zhou of the witchcraft in the golden lotus domain. Zhao Yue was once controlled by some witchcraft cultivator. Even Leng Luo and Zhang Yuanshan and the others from the Righteous Sect were controlled by witchcraft.

Lu Zhou thought it was an incredibly annoying technique!

Nevertheless, Lu Zhou’s goal had been achieved. The other person’s main body was not here so it would be useless even if he dug three feet into the ground.

At this moment, a humming noise rang in the air. The noise came from the barrier in the sky.

Lu Zhou slowly turned around.

Beams of red light shot out in the sky from different directions at this moment.

Lu Zhou no longer paid attention to the semicircular pool. Instead, he controlled his Thousand Realms Whirling avatar and flew up into the air.

...

“The Sky Martial Heavenly Formation!”

Nie Qingyun flashed and appeared in the air before he manifested his 200-foot avatar, trying to help. It had to be said that his 200-foot Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar looked rather shabby compared to the 300-foot Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. He cried out, “Senior Lu, watch out! It’s the Sky Martial Heavenly Formation!”

At this moment, the beams of light converged at the huge stone pillar in front of the Literary Star Gate.

Sikong Beichen's voice rang in Lu Zhou's ear, "The Sky Research Court spent decades to construct this formation. There's a high possibility its destructive force is enough to kill even a Birth Chart master. Be careful, Brother Lu!"

At this moment, the Sky Martial Heavenly Formation had successfully completed its activation.

Nie Qingyun shouted at the group of lunatics in front of the Sacred Rites Hall, "What are you doing? Why aren't you stopping the formation?"

The bald man regained his senses and looked at the old man hovering in front of the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar as he stammered, "S-stop... W-we... We can't stop it..."

The other lunatics from the Sky Research Court regained their senses one after another and looked at the red beams of light that shot out from all directions in the Sky Martial Court.

With the mountains and rivers as the foundation, and heaven and earth serving as a prison, this killing formation was created.

A slight frown appeared on Lu Zhou's face as he withdrew his Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. No wonder Yu Chenshu was so confident and did not leave the Sky Martial Court at all unless it was absolutely necessary.

Lu Zhou continued to rise higher. Just as he was about to leave the barrier, the beams of light formed something like a spider web in front of the Literary Star Gate.

The sky and earth changed as the wind and clouds met.

Lu Zhou thought to himself that this time, he had no choice but to act ostentatiously. At this moment, the entire Sky Martial Court was in his field of vision; he turned to look unblinkingly in the direction of the Literary Star Gate.

The sound of energies resonating grew louder and louder in the meantime.

The elders from the Sky Martial Court looked at the old man in the sky nervously.

At this time, Qiu He finally regained consciousness. He cried out immediately, "Stop it! Stop it!"

Unfortunately, the Sky Martial Court elders were all aware that once the Formation was fully activated, there was no way of stopping it unless one had the abilities to move the mountains, fill the sea, and cover the sun with a hand. It was futile. Who could possibly have such exaggerated abilities?

...

Meanwhile, the other Grand Dukes of Great Tang finally arrived and quickly flew out of their flying chariots.

They looked at the Sky Martial Mountain and the red beams of light that converged at the Literary Star Gate solemnly.

"The killing formation has been successfully activated!"

"Who's that?"

“It’s...”

“Is he the expert who killed Yu Chenshu?”

At this moment, the huge rock in front of the Literary Star Gate suddenly shot out a towering red pillar of light toward Lu Zhou who was hovering high in the sky.

Chapter 865: The Four Grand Dukes

Everyone held their breaths.

Lu Zhou’s expression did not change as he manifested his 300-foot Thousand Realms Whirling avatar again.

Buzz!

Then, Lu Zhou cast the power of past lives with his extraordinary power.

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

Following that, a blue Buddha Body appeared.

At this moment, Lu Zhou’s entire body seemed to be suffused with a blue light.

Coupled with the extraordinary power from the Heavenly Writing, the golden Thousand Realms Whirling avatar and the blue Buddha Body seemed to merge and complement each other. The avatar’s hands were placed together just like the blue Buddha Body.

The golden astrolabe at the back of the avatar that resembled a clock shot forward and began to spin.

Lu Zhou’s main objective now was to defend himself. He was also surprised when he saw the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar’s posture. Previously, his Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar’s lotus was its strongest defense. Moreover, the golden astrolabe had moved forward in front of him swiftly, shielding him.

Lu Zhou’s main thought was to defend... seeing the thousand worlds whirl make this defense, he was also surprised.

The beam of light was as dazzling as a rainbow as it hit the golden astrolabe.

...

Nie Qingyun widened his eyes. He could feel this energy was not something he could withstand so he quickly descended on the ground. The aftershock from the collision caused him to stagger, leaving him with no choice but to withdraw his avatar.

Upon seeing this, Xia Changqiu was the first to run over to support Nie Qingyun.

...

“The Thousand Realms Whirling avatar!” the four Grand Dukes exclaimed in unison, thoroughly shocked.

These four Grand Dukes were Zheng Ting, the Grand Duke of Yun; Wang Yun, the Grand Duke of Zhen; Lu Tianning, the Grand Duke of Hu; Li Chang, the Grand Duke of Wei.

Apart from the eight great generals of Great Tang, these four people, along with Cui An, the Grand Duke of Fu, were the part of the core figures who protected the safety of the Guannei Circuit's capital. Collectively, they were known as the Five Grand Dukes. Rumor had it that each of them possessed a flag formation. When they joined forces and combined their flags, they would be able to activate the Sky Guarding Formation in the capital of Guannei Circuit to defend against fierce beasts.

The Grand Dukes had come to the Sky Martial Court as a show of power to increase their leverage when negotiating. However, when they saw the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, they suddenly understood that their intention to make a grand display of power was nothing more than a joke.

...

At this moment, the sky above the Sky Martial Court flashed with red and golden light.

A blue light could be seen in the center of the golden light; it was the blue Buddha Body.

Could this fearsome killing formation kill a god?

No one knew the answer.

The killing formation had never been activated for a long time due to Yu Chenshu's abnormal strength and profound cultivation base. Most of the Ten-leaf elites could not compare to him and were killed by him. Moreover, the Sky Martial Court had many allies.

...

Sikong Beichen looked at the firework display in the sky, completely mesmerized. It took him a long time before he recovered his senses.

The 'firework display' was none other than the sparks from the collision to two energies.

...

Just like that, the dazzling golden astrolabe deflected the full attack of the killing formation that the lunatics from the Sky Research Court in front of the Sacred Rite Halls had spent their entire lives to create.

The astrolabe continued to spin as the beam of light from the killing formation pressed against it.

A sharp and piercing noise rang in the air, resounding throughout the entire Sky Martial Mountain.

The noise was so grating to the ears that no one could endure it; all of them quickly covered their ears with their hands. The sound seemed to have a penetrative quality to it that caused people to feel uncomfortable.

At this moment, the lunatics from the Sky Research Court grew even more frightened despite being dumbfounded. They had once proclaimed the Sky Martial Heavenly Formation was capable of killing gods. To them, gods were cultivators whose cultivation bases far surpassed the limits of Great Tang's

cultivators. An example would be a Birth Chart master. Therefore, this killing formation was also known as the god-killing formation.

However, at this moment, the god-killing formation could do nothing to the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar at all!

Being a Birth Chart master did not mean one would be able to successfully form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar; activating a Birth Chart was just a prerequisite to form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar.

The elders from the Sky Martial Court and the Five Grand Dukes had long received news about the elite with the surname Lu who was a Birth Chart master and thought they were well-prepared to face him. What a joke! As it turned out, they had grossly underestimated this old man's strength! The golden astrolabe hovering at the back of the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar was like a slap to their faces at this moment.

...

The energy from the god-killing formation was not infinite. It would gather energy once every few decades.

This time, the activation of the god-killing formation had consumed the energy that the Sky Martial Court had accumulated for many years.

...

At this moment, the bald man, one of the members of the Sky Research Court, pointed at Lu Zhou and gave voice to the question in his heart. "Who's this person?!"

Who was this person?

The members of the Sky Research Court had been imprisoned underground for 100 years. However, prior to their imprisonment, they knew all the great experts in Great Tang. It was impossible for such a heaven-defying expert to suddenly appear after only 100 years had passed.

Meanwhile, Nie Qingyun gulped before he said, "Thank you, Monastery Master Xia."

Xia Changqiu said, "Don't mention it, don't mention it." Then, he turned around to look at the spectacle in the sky just like everyone else.

At this moment, the red beam of light finally vanished.

Meanwhile, the huge astrolabe still emitted a golden light. The outermost ring and the innermost ring on the astrolabe spun in the clockwise direction while the ring in the middle spun counterclockwise. Gradually, the rings stopped spinning, and the light disappeared as well.

With this, the golden astrolabe returned to its original position behind Lu Zhou and his avatar.

Subsequently, Lu Zhou looked at the Literary Star Gate and shook his head as he said disdainfully, "Is that all?"

Lu Zhou felt like he had overestimated the Sky Martial Heavenly Formation, known widely as the god-killing formation. What an exaggeration! He did not even need to use the blue Buddha Body to deal with it. Perhaps, this had something to do with the strong defense of the Yong whose life heart he had used to activate his Birth Chart.

In the meantime, the lights from the god-killing formation dimmed and vanished.

The lunatics from the Sky Research Court looked at the disappearing lights in the sky in a daze.

“How’s this possible?” The bald man could not accept this. “This god-killing formation is the lifework of our Sky Research Court! How can this be it?”

At this moment, Yu Zhenghai walked out and asked the lunatics, “What? You’re not convinced?”

“...”

Xia Changqiu chimed in, mocking them without any mercy, “Hey, why are you surprised that the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar deflected your god-killing formation? Do all of you from the Sky Research Court think you’re omnipotent? Please widened your eyes to have a good look! This is a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, not a Hundred Tribulation Insight avatar!”

The lunatics had no response to these words.

At this moment, a disciple from the Sky Martial Court suddenly shouted, “The four Grand Dukes are here!”

Yu Zhenghai, Yu Shangrong, and the others flew up above the Sacred Rites Hall and looked at the four flying chariots in the east.

Meanwhile, Qiu He fell limply to the ground. “It’s over! It’s over! It’s over!”

“What a sin! Why must they come here to die?” Wang Shizhong’s body trembled when he heard the four Grand Dukes had arrived. He lifted his head to take a look. His cultivation base had been sealed so he could not fly. However, he must find a way to stop the four people from getting into conflict with Lu Zhou. After all, Wang Yun, the Grand Duke of Zhen, was his father!

On the other hand, Wang Shu, who was standing behind her father, Wang Shizhong, seemed to be in a daze. She panicked when she finally regained her senses.

The four flying chariots flew past Sky Martial Mountain before it finally arrived in the sky above the Sky Martial Court.

At this moment, the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar shifted slightly. With this, the astrolabe was now directly facing the four Grand Dukes.

Lu Zhou stepped forward with his hands on his back.

The four flying chariots stopped about 200 meters away from the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar before four people flew out.

“What’s this?” Lu Zhou frowned and said in a deep voice, “You people really don’t know what’s good for you.”

As soon as Lu Zhou finished speaking, the Birth Chart on the astrolabe lit up ominously.

After the four people landed side by side, they hastily bowed and said, "Greetings, Senior Lu."

As the saying went, 'A wise man submits to circumstances'. This was the truth since time immemorial.

The real Cui An might have died a long time ago, and it did not matter who took over his body, but there was no doubt he was much dumber than these four Grand Dukes.

Lu Zhou flicked his sleeves, and the light from the Birth Chart on the astrolabe dimmed. Nevertheless, just the tremendous pressure brought by the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar was more than enough to make the four Grand Dukes shiver and sweat profusely.

The four Grand Dukes were very respectful. They cupped their fists together, still bowing and not daring to raise their heads.

Lu Zhou glanced at them as he said, "State your names."

"Li Chang, the Grand Duke of Wei."

"Lu Tianning, the Grand Duke of Hu."

"Zheng Ting, the Grand Duke of Yun."

"W-wang... Wang Y-yun, t-the G-grand Duke of Zhen..." Wang Yun stuttered. Outwardly, he was the only one who seemed incredibly nervous.

At this moment...

Thud!

Wang Shizhong fell to his knees and said loudly, "Senior Lu, this has nothing to do with my father. Please show mercy. I beg you, Senior Lu! Please show mercy!"

Upon seeing this, Wang Shu fell to her knees as well. It seemed like while she was in Cloud Mountain's prison, she had been cured of her arrogance, narcissism, her high opinion of herself, and her brattiness. "Senior Lu, please spare my life!"

With the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, even the Ten-leaf cultivators did not dare behave audaciously, let alone a worthless child of an official like her.

Lu Zhou flicked his sleeves again, withdrawing the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar.

With this, the oppressive atmosphere lightened by half.

Lu Zhou looked at the four men and asked, "Are you here under orders to kill me?"

The four men hastily replied in unison, "I don't dare!"

Then, Lu Tianning added, "This is all a misunderstanding! A misunderstanding!"

Lu Zhou could not be bothered with them. He stroked his beard and said, "I hope all of you are smart."

Chapter 866: The Lunatics from the Sky Research Court

The four Grand Dukes did not dare to move, afraid that the old man in front of them would suddenly kill them.

Lu Zhou turned around and descended as light as a feather.

Upon seeing this, the four Grand Dukes could not help but stagger a few steps, breaking out in cold sweat. After taking a deep breath to calm themselves down, they descended as well. Perhaps, they had been riding in the flying chariots for too long, when they landed, they felt lightheaded, giddy, and uneasy.

The four Grand Dukes were important figures in the capital of Guannei Circuit. With their high status, they would receive kowtows from others no matter where they went. However, today, it was the other way around. No one paid any attention to them, and everyone was looking at Lu Zhou reverently.

After landing steadily, Lu Zhou turned around and looked at the petrified lunatics from the Sky Research Court who were standing on the building opposite of the Sacred Rites Hall and said, "Aren't you going to come down?"

The lunatics did not reply. Only after a while, they realized that Lu Zhou was talking to them.

Thud!

At this moment, the bald man who was in shock rolled down from the roof and fell to the ground, breaking a lot of tiles. He was so shocked that it seemed like he had become a fool and forgot that he was a cultivator. It was as though he had forgotten how to use Primal Qi.

"Ouch!"

The other lunatics regained their senses one after another when they heard the bald man's exclamation.

At this moment, Zhen Ting, the Grand Duke of Yun, said, "Senior..."

However, Lu Zhou glanced at Zheng Ting and said, "Who allowed you to interrupt me?"

Zheng Ting was startled. He instinctively lowered his head and meekly took two steps back. He had no choice but to swallow his words to plead for mercy.

The cultivation world had always been cruel. No matter how high one status was, it did not mean it would always be the case.

The other three Grand Dukes sighed in relief inwardly. They looked at Zheng Ting with a hint of gratitude as though they were thanking him for bearing the brunt of Lu Zhou's ire on their behalf. Elites usually had unpredictable tempers; it was best to avoid provoking the old man.

Thus, the four Grand Dukes stood at the side like palace maids. They did not dare to look around unnecessarily and could only observe the situation from the corners of their eyes. Perhaps, it would be fine if they did not look, but when they did, they would be even more shocked.

At this time, Lu Tianning discreetly pointed at Wang Shizhong who was kneeling nearby and looked at Wang Yun meaningfully.

When Wang Yun saw his son and granddaughter kneeling on the ground without a shred of dignity, he felt it was difficult to breathe. He wanted to do something, but he knew there was nothing he could do. He had long been aware that his son and granddaughter were trapped on Cloud Mountain. All this time, the royal court had been holding back and waiting for an opportunity to snatch his son, granddaughter, and the emperor back. Alas, not only did he not get the opportunity he was looking for, but he even witnessed such an outcome. He was really overwhelmed with mixed emotions at this moment.

When Wang Shizong saw the conflicting expression fleeting past his father's face, he hurriedly winked at his father furtively. It was good enough that he could keep his life; what else did he want?!

Lu Zhou looked at the lunatics from the Sky Research Court who remained in stunned silence and asked, "Are you not going to say it?"

A woman whose head was tilted to the side smiled ingratiatingly and hurriedly replied, "S-senior... We... We're indeed the geniuses from the Sky Research Court."

Upon hearing these words, those who were unaware of this fact were in shock and disbelief. All of them had heard of the Sky Research Court.

However, it was really difficult to associate the people in front of them with the geniuses from the Sky Research Court. They just seemed like a group of repulsive and ugly people. There was one with an extremely bent back, a blind person, a bald man, another one who was riddled with scars old and new, and so on.

Lu Zhou looked at the bald man and asked, "What's your name?"

The bald man chuckled and replied with a stutter, "My... My... My name is He Zhong."

Upon seeing this, a man with his head tilted unnaturally to the side head tilted to the side hurriedly chimed in, "Senior, my name is Huang Yu. I'm skilled in formations and Dao inscriptions." Then, he lowered his head and bowed before he looked up with a fawning expression and asked, "Senior, can I have a look at your Thousand Realms Whirling avatar?"

It was over!

The four Grand Dukes subconsciously raised their heads to look at the group of misfits.

It was unfortunate that most geniuses were blunt, and their emotional quotient was not high!

Was the avatar of an elite something one could take a look at just because one felt like it?

The four Grand Dukes thought the group of misfits was really courting death!

However, to the four Grand Dukes' surprise, Lu Zhou's expression did not change at all. Moreover, he said in a somewhat amiable tone, "I can let you see it, but you have to listen to me..."

Huang Yu cackled and nodded repeatedly, clearly delighted. "Good, good!"

Then, a skinny one-eyed man licked his lips before he said fawningly as well, "Senior, I... My name is Wang Dachui. I... I... I'm good at forging..."

"Forging?" Lu Zhou turned to look at Wang Dachui and sized him up for a moment.

To these people from the Sky Research Court, after being imprisoned for long, they had long been indifferent to life and death. People would not be able to imagine how difficult their days were in the underground prison. However, feelings that had been long forgotten like admiration and awe welled up in their hearts again when they saw the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar despite their fear and shock. They were researchers, after all. How could they not be in awe after witnessing such a scene?

Lu Zhou raised his hand and said, "Longevity sword."

Yu Shangrong did not hesitate and respectfully placed the Longevity Sword in his master's hand.

Swoosh!

The broken Longevity Sword was unsheathed in just a blink of an eye. Then, it flew and came to a stop in front of Wang Dachui.

Lu Zhou asked, "Can this be repaired?"

Wang Dachui's eyes lit up immediately. He seemed to have been cured of his stutter as he said without a hitch, "Good sword! What a good sword! This sword is incredibly sharp; it's a peerless sword that has reaped many lives! The owner must be an expert of the Sword Path!"

Yu Shangrong smiled faintly. "It's not worth mentioning."

Wang Dachui glanced at Yu Shangrong. "This is your sword?"

"That's right."

"The compatibility of this sword and its owner has reached perfection. It's first-class in both quality and the way it was forged! It's really first-class in the world... But..." Wang Da Chui said before he suddenly came to a stop. Then, he continued to say, "The sword's killing intent is too strong. There's no doubt the sword is good, but it's only the best among heaven-grade weapons. What a pity! What a pity!"

Yu Shangrong. "..."

To Yu Shangrong, the Longevity Sword was like his life. To insult the Longevity Sword, was it not to insult him as well? However, after pondering on Wang Dachui's words for a moment, he had to admit Wang Dachui's words were true. How could he refute the truth?

At this moment, Lu Zhou finally said, "I asked if you're able to repair it. I didn't ask for your evaluation."

Wang Dachui scratched his head. Then, a previously unseen confident expression appeared on his face as he said with a smile, "If I can repair it, then no one in this world can! This is just a heaven-grade sword. It's easy to repair it!"

"What do you need?" Lu Zhou asked.

"Three purple fire stones, and preferably a furnace above the desolate grade! Also... my hammer! I have to have my hammer! No other hammer is as good! I don't need anything else apart from that. The sword was forged from an incredibly rare material. It has to be melted at a high temperature before it can be reforged. Most people only care about rare materials when they're forging. However, the true

essence of forging lies in the hammer! One needs skills and strength to wield the hammer when forging. There are 49 to 77 types... The first type..."

"That's enough!" Lu Zhou interjected. "Can you use fire spirit stones instead?"

"Fire spirit stones?! You should've told me you have fire spirit stones earlier. They're much superior to purple fire stones! The purple fire stones won't be able to reforge the sword to perfection, and after reforging, the sword would still be at the same grade. However, with the fire spirit stones, if one is lucky, there's a chance the sword's grade would improve during the forging process! There are many grades of forging materials, and there are more than 20 types of stones that can be used for forging. The first one is..."

Everyone. "..."

Lu Zhou interjected again, "Since you said you're capable of it, this old man will let you repair this sword. If you're successful, this old man won't treat you unfairly."

Wang Dachui scratched his head and said, "There's no problem with repairing it, but you have to provide me with the materials! A virtuous woman can't cook without rice!"

Lu Zhou brought a fire spirit stone out from his body and tossed it over to Wang Dachui.

How could Yu Shangrong not understand his master's intention? He hurriedly brought his fire spirit stone out and tossed it to Wang Dachui as well.

It was obvious to anyone paying attention that they were still short of one fire spirit stone.

The Sky Martial Court's Qiu He had always been very tactful. At this moment, he stepped forward and said, "The Sky Martial Court has a few fire spirit stones. The forging hammer and the furnace are all kept in the Literary Star Warehouse."

"Alright." Lu Zhou glanced at Qiu He before shifting his eyes to Huang Yu. "Do you know how to draw formations?"

"I don't know how to do it, then no one else in the world knows how to do it!" Huang Yu said confidently.

"The Longevity Sword is a good sword. How can it lack runes? I'll leave the inscription of the runes to you. Are you willing to do it?" Lu Zhou asked.

Huang Yu did not agree immediately. Instead, he looked Lu Zhou in the eyes and asked, "Freedom?"

"I'll grant you freedom."

"It's impossible... The others..." Huang Yu said as he looked around his surroundings with a helpless expression.

Lu Zhou did not look at the people standing on both sides. He stroked his beard and asked without changing his expression, "Is there anyone here who objects to this?"

Chapter 867: Teaching Them a Lesson

In fact, Huang Yu knew the matter of regaining his freedom would not be a problem since the mighty figure with a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar had spoken. However, she just wanted confirmation.

If there was anyone who dared to stand up and object during such an occasion, that person must be crazy, stupid, or both.

At this moment, Li Yunzheng said in a clear voice, "Since grandmaster has said so, I'll write a decree to release these people from the Sky Research Court."

Huang Yu looked at the youth in front with a puzzled expression and asked, "Who are you?"

The people from the Sky Research Court had been imprisoned underground for 100 years.

They had been imprisoned underground for a hundred years. They had no idea what was going on in the outside world during that time. How could they know anything about the little emperor? All they knew was the young man in front of them was handsome, elegant, and had an extraordinary bearing and aura. Now that they heard the young man referring to the old man as grandmaster again, how could they not be curious?

Lu Zhou said with a frown, "Are you not going to greet the Emperor of Great Tang?"

After the lunatics from the Sky Research Court found out about the young man's identity and heard Lu Zhou's words, they put up a show of greeting him.

However, Li Yunzheng waved his hand and said, "No, no, you can dispense with the formalities..."

Just to be safe, the four Grand Dukes had also followed suit and greeted Li Yunzheng as well. When they heard Li Yunzheng dismissing them, they straightened their backs.

However, a displeased expression appeared on Li Yunzheng's face as he said, "Who allowed you to stand?"

The four Grand Dukes looked at Li Yunzheng in shock. If it were before, they would not have cared about him. However, the circumstances now were different. They could only kneel and said in unison, "Your subject pays respects to Your Majesty."

Then, Li Yunzheng looked at the four Grand Dukes and asked, "I want to write a decree to free these people from the Sky Research Court. Do you have any objections?"

"Your Majesty, this subject will obey your decree." Wang Yun, the Grand Duke of Zhen, was the first to speak.

The other three said in unison, "Your subject obeys."

With the support from the four Grand Duke, it was only a matter of time before Li Yunzheng regained his power.

Huang Yu was stunned.

The people from the Sky Research Court looked at Li Yunzheng with a complicated expression.

Then, all of a sudden, all of them straightened their backs. Those whose bodies were bent earlier stood straight. Those with heads unnaturally tilted to the sides straightened their heads. Those who were only standing in the corner passively earlier also walked over at this moment.

All in all, there were more than thirty people. There were a lot of prisoners. However, the number was small compared to their original number of more than 100. Over the past 100 years, nearly seventy of them had died of unnatural causes.

At this moment, those from the Sky Research Court gathered and bowed at Lu Zhou and Li Yunzheng. "Thank you, Your Majesty, for your grace. Thank you, senior, for granting us our freedom."

They sounded coherent, and their voices were clear, completely different from how they were before.

Those who were unaware wore expressions of confusion on their faces while those in the know only sighed.

At this moment, Sikong Beichen cupped his fists together at the people from the Sky Research Court and said, "Congratulations!"

Huang Yu said, "Thank you."

Then, Huang Yu turned to look at Lu Zhou and said solemnly, "Senior, please tell us what you need us to do."

They were geniuses who had lived a long life after all. How could they not know there was no such thing as free lunch in this world?

Lu Zhou clasped his hands on his back and said, "My request is very simple. First, repair this sword. Second, find Luo Xuan. Other than that, I have no other request."

Huang Yu frowned and said, "Just these two requests?"

"That's right," Lu Zhou said.

"That won't do... Senior, please mention a few more conditions. Weapons, talismans, drawing formations, capturing fierce beasts, anything is fine..." Huang Yu took the lead to say.

The Sky Research Court's He Zhong also echoed similar sentiments. "That's right, senior. Don't you think that's insulting? Although our lives might be cheap, these two requests definitely aren't enough."

"..."

This scene really confused the people in front of the Sacred Rites Hall.

A genius was indeed a genius. Even their brains were different from that of a normal person.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said, "I only have these two requests. Since I've granted you freedom, why would I restrict you? You can leave the Sky Martial Court now, and you're free to fly high in the sky. You can do as you please..."

"..."

This time, it was the geniuses from the Sky Research Court who were dumbfounded.

Meanwhile, the four Grand Dukes and the elders of the Sky Martial Court really could not understand Lu Zhou's thoughts. Everyone knew these people from the Sky Research Court were like treasures. If only these geniuses listened to them, they would definitely take them for their own use. With these geniuses, they would be able to defeat thousands of soldiers and horses.

Talismans, runes, seals, weapons, formations, Dao inscriptions, subduing beasts, cultivation methods from the Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism school of thinking, innovative creations, secret techniques, the Sky Shuttle, and many more things... Giving up on these people was no different from giving up on these treasures!

Huang Yu really could not wrap his head around this. He turned around and looked at the gates of the Sky Martial Court, the foot of the mountain, and the sky. It would be a lie to say he did not want to leave. However, now that he was finally able to leave, he found it hard to believe. Once he stepped out of this mountain, he would be free!

At this moment, Lu Zhou suddenly said, "However, before all of you leave, I have a few words of advice..."

"Please speak, senior."

"There's no one in this world who knows the universe better than all of you. Even if there were no Sky Martial Court, there would still be the Earth Martial Court or the Martial Court... Even if there were no red lotus domain, there would still be the black lotus domain. Even if there were no black lotus domain, there would still be the blue lotus domain..." Lu Zhou knew he had to teach this group of people a lesson. He raised his wizened hand and an exquisite golden lotus appeared on his palm under the sunlight.

Lu Zhou pushed his hand out, and the flower hovered in the air.

Under the sunlight, the lotus bloomed slowly. Soon enough, golden karmic fire shrouded the lotus, making the color even more vivid.

Then, Lu Zhou used the Heavenly Writing's extraordinary power and turned the golden lotus into a blue lotus. At this moment, the lotus was in full bloom.

Lu Zhou did not stop and used a Disguise Card and turned the blue lotus into a red lotus.

Huang Yu exclaimed in shock, "This... How is this possible?!"

The people from the Sky Martial Court were confused as well; they did not know what was going on. Even the top geniuses who often studied things beyond the heavens did not understand this, how could they have any hope of understanding this? They could only watch with a dumbfounded expression on their faces.

Lu Zhou looked at the red lotus as it began to change.

The red lotus began to darken, looking like fresh blood, before it turned purple. The purple lotus only appeared for an instant before it turned into a black lotus.

At this moment, everyone's attention was focused on the black lotus.

The black lotus shone dazzlingly under the sunlight as it continued to spin. At this moment, as though the edges of the petals were being dyed by the sunlight, it suddenly turned into a white lotus! Then, in just a blink of an eye, the white lotus turned into a green lotus!

Lu Zhou did not have much time; he had only ten seconds left. Seeing that the green lotus was about to disappear, he used his extraordinary power gain and turned the green lotus blue.

The blue lotus shone even brighter than before as it shot up into the sky.

Then, Lu Zhou used his healing technique.

In the sky, the blue lotus rapidly increased in size, covering more than thirty people from the Sky Research Court.

In just a moment, their vitality seemed to return to them. Then, all sorts of injuries and scars from whip marks, knife marks, sword marks, hand marks to bruises were healed in just a breath.

Lu Zhou was rather satisfied when he saw the expressions on the faces of those thirty people. He did not care what the others thought.

Lu Zhou had ended the demonstration with a blue lotus and healed them with it to prove to them that the lotuses were real and not some illusory technique.

The last Disguise Card had played its role. The cost was indeed huge, but it was worth it. After all, this demonstration was for the talented people, not because he wanted to show off.

Lu Zhou looked at the expressions on their faces again. Something was not right. He wondered if he had shown a little too many colors that he collectively caused all of their minds to go blank.

The existence of the black lotus domain, the red lotus domain, and the golden lotus domain had already been confirmed. The blue lotus was a product of the Heavenly Writing's extraordinary power. The other colors were created using the Disguise Card; Lu Zhou had never seen them before.

If he had overdone his display and caused them to obsess over the lotuses' colors, would that not be a mistake?!

Chapter 868: The Great Deception and the Geniuses (1)

If the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar had shocked them, the shock when they saw the display of colors of the lotuses was beyond description.

The Sky Research Court was established over 1,000 years ago, and the members had spent all their time studying and researching. Their understanding of the universe was not inferior to anyone else. They were privy to many secrets that were unknown to the cultivation world such as the golden lotus domain and the black lotus domain, and the ferocious beasts hidden in the depths of the forest and the Endless Ocean. However, at this moment, it felt like their knowledge had been refreshed.

The geniuses had all kinds of questions in their minds. They wondered if the Sky Martial Court had advanced so much during the time they were imprisoned. Based on their research, did the Sky Martial Court somehow produce some incomprehensible results?

It was understandable that there were new discoveries during the 100 years they were imprisoned. Too many things could happen in 100 years.

Huang Yu was the first to snap out of the stupor. He rubbed her eyes, causing them to water. However, when he looked up again, the blue lotus in the sky had already faded away.

It was a real blue lotus!

After a long time, He Zhong finally said, "An illusion?" However, how could it be an illusion? Nothing was more real than this. The wound on his body had been healed.

No, this could not be considered as refreshing their knowledge. This was overturning everything they had ever known!

The Sky Research Court had studied this matter hundreds of years ago and paid a huge price because of the research. Why was it that only people who were born in the red lotus domain could only cultivate red lotuses and why did people who were born in the golden lotus domain could only cultivate golden lotuses? Why was it impossible for those who were born in the golden lotus domain to cultivate red lotuses?

This display truly overturned everything they had ever known. How could they not be in a stupor? Their eyes were dazzled and their minds were buzzing from the various colors.

How could a person master so many cultivation methods with so many different colors?

There were too many questions running across the minds of the geniuses from the Sky Research Court.

Even the first-rate geniuses were at a loss, there was no need to mention the others; this included Lu Zhou's disciples who thought they understood their master the most.

The four Grand Dukes remained kneeling as though they were frozen.

The display was too unbelievable.

Even after the display had ended after a long time, the crowd still wanted more. It was too surreal.

At this moment, Lu Zhou said, "Whether it's blue lotus or a green lotus, no one knows the meaning of these colors better than all of you. Think about it. When you leave this place, perhaps a few hundred years later, what if a powerful black lotus cultivator appears in front of you? What would all of you think at that time?"

Geniuses were stubborn. They had a one-track mind when pursuing knowledge. That was right. In order to survive and to pursue a peaceful life, all they needed to do was to leave this place. However, what about the future? A black lotus cultivator had already appeared, and the black lotus Thousand Realms Whirling avatar in the Sky Wheel Rift Valley was still a hot topic during dinner in various relay stations.

As the saying went, 'Even before an avalanche, there's not a single snowflake that's innocent'.

"You are all talented people from the Sky Research Court. You yearn for freedom, and it was not easy for you to obtain freedom. Therefore, I won't restrict you. You can all freely leave. From now on, the Sky

Research Court no longer has anything to do with all of you. Your names will also be erased from the Sky Martial Court and the royal court,” Lu Zhou said as he stroked his beard and looked at the geniuses.

At this moment, the geniuses looked like they were deep in their thoughts. This meant that they were hesitating and were carefully making a decision.

‘That’s right. Think harder...’ Lu Zhou thought to himself before he said, “The red lotus domain has undergone many trials and tribulations to arrive at where it is today. However, there will be more disasters in the future. If it’s up to me, I, naturally, wish that all of you won’t leave. After all, every single one of you is Great Tang’s biggest talent and the foundation of the Sky Martial Court. If all of you leave, it will be a great loss to Great Tang and the red lotus domain. However, I’ve always kept my words. Therefore, I will not force you to stay if you intend to leave.”

Then, Lu Zhou made an inviting gesture and said, “Please.”

The geniuses were stunned.

At this moment, how could the others not understand Lu Zhou’s intention? Indeed, the older one was, the wiser one would be. Truly amazing! If he wanted to keep the talented people, he had to make them stay on their own accord. Was it not because of Yu Chenshu using the wrong method to deal with these people that Sky Martial Court was reduced to this state?

However...

Huang Yu said regretfully, “Senior Lu, you truly know our hearts. To be honest, people like us only know how to do these small things. We know nothing about governing a country, serving the people, or healing the people. Moreover, we’re not so selfless that we would sacrifice ourselves to save the world. In fact, we only want to do what we like; we want to continue doing what we did in the past... Unfortunately, the current Sky Martial Court...”

When Huang Yu finished speaking, he shook his head.

The other geniuses followed suit and shook their heads as well.

He Zhong, who was standing at the back, laughed maniacally before he said, “The Sky Martial Court is too smelly! It’s no longer fragrant. It’s really too smelly! That’s right! Where’s that old fart, Yu Chenshu? This place is as smelly as him. Do you guys smell it? It smells like sh*t... No, it’s worse than that. It’s smelly and sour. It smells like someone who hasn’t taken a bath in 800 years!”

“...”

He Zhong’s outburst was to be expected. He was likely heartbroken over the Sky Martial Court’s treatment of them. Moreover, with Yu Chenshu’s way of doing things, it would take more than a few words to change his mind.

Lu Zhou, who had expected this, said, “I’ve killed Yu Chenshu with my own hands...”

Lu Zhou had also expected this, so he said,

“I’ve killed Yu Chenshu with my own hands...”

The geniuses were stunned by these words. All of them turned to look at Lu Zhou one after another.

“Yu Chenshu is dead? !”

At this moment, Xia Changqiu said in a clear voice, “Yu Chenshu was too audacious; he tried to snatch a Birth Chart Heart from Senior Lu’s hands. However, he was unaware that Senior Lu had long formed a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. This matter is not a secret. The True Kunlun Sect and the Void Sect were present at that time. If you don’t believe this, you can ask around...”

Indeed. This was the Sky Martial Court. If he was still alive, how could he not be here at this moment?

The geniuses were further shocked.

“This...” Huang Yu was speechless.

Lu Zhou asked, “I personally killed Yu Chenshu. Do you doubt my words?”

“No, no, it’s not that... It’s not a surprise at all that someone who has formed a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar to kill someone who only has a Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar. It’s just that I’m... a little surprised,” Huang Yu said, “That old thing had taken many treasures from us. The Puppet Secret Technique, the Confinement Seal, the Life Siphoning Flag, and many other weapons. Apart from that, there were also the method to gather energy for the god-killing formation and the blueprint left behind by the Sky Research Court. A while ago, that old fox even upgraded his Confinement Seal to the flood grade. He thought he would be invincible, but he probably didn’t expect...” He trailed off and sighed.

A man with a beggar-like appearance, who was standing behind Huang Yu, clicked his tongue and said, “That old fart deserves it! It’s been 100 years. Who doesn’t know what kind of person he was? He’s a liar! A con artist!”

The geniuses cheered.

“Good riddance!” someone said before spitting on the ground.

It was clear that the people from the Sky Research Court hated Yu Chenshu to the bones.

At this moment, it finally dawned on Lu Zhou why Yu Chenshu was so insistent on dying at that time.

Lu Zhou suddenly understood why Yu Chenshu wanted to die. Yu Chenshu and this group of people were like oil and water. How could Yu Chenshu who had always been high and mighty be willing to let these people he had once trampled under his feet see him defeated and in despair?

At this moment, Xia Changqiu seized the opportunity and said, “Yu Chenshu is dead. The Sky Martial Court can be demolished and rebuilt or we can just change its name and make sure that it becomes a better place! I think it’s a pity that all of you are leaving. You really need to consider this carefully. Once you step out, you won’t be able to return any more. You’re all geniuses so I’m sure you can tell how sincere Senior Lu is. I believe once the Sky Martial Court is rebuilt, Senior Lu will definitely satisfy all your needs.”

Chapter 869: The Great Deception and the Geniuses (2)

Lu Zhou hurriedly raised his hand and interjected, "Monastery Master Xia, don't misunderstand me. I only hope all of you will be able to live to your full potential, but... I have no intention of forcing any of you to stay!"

"Yes, yes, yes..." Xia Changqiu hastily said.

However, Xia Changqiu's words seemed to have stunned the geniuses.

Huang Yu asked curiously, "Senior Lu, do you really intend to rebuild the Sky Research Court?"

"Well, if you want to rebuild it, we'll rebuild it. If you want to, then it's fine as well," Lu Zhou said.

The geniuses were delighted.

"Then, can you return my possessions to me?"

"The things in the Literary Star Warehouse are yours to begin with..." Lu Zhou replied calmly.

"You'll satisfy all our needs?"

Lu Zhou said resolutely, "No, I won't promise such a thing. However, as long as it doesn't go against my morality, I'll agree to everything."

The geniuses understood the reasoning behind this answer. Moreover, why would people help them if they were completely inflexible?

Huang Yu was the first to raise his hand and said, "Good! I'll stay!"

With Huang Yu taking the lead, the others raised their hands and agreed one after another.

Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction as he said, "Very good."

At this moment, Li Yunzheng chimed in, "Then, I will also write a decree for the Sky Martial Court to be demolished and for the Sky Research Court to be rebuilt!"

Meanwhile, Wang Dachui held the Longevity Sword carefully and hurriedly said, "Leave this sword to me! If I can't repair it, I'll personally chop my head off and present it to you on a platter, Senior Lu!"

The beggar-like man said, "Dachui, stop showing off! I can repair it as well! It's not your turn to brag. Give it to me!" He walked up to Wang Dachui and began arguing over the Longevity Sword.

"Hey, don't fight me over it! Serious matters should be left to the professionals! What do you know? Get out of the way! No one's allowed to get close to this sword!" Wang Dachui said indignantly. He held the Longevity Sword tightly against his body as he looked at his peers vigilantly.

"..."

Although Lu Zhou managed to convince these talented people to stay, they needed to be managed. Then, he thought of Si Wuya. In a way, Si Wuya was similar to these people. He decided not to dwell on the matter. When Si Wuya arrived, he would let Si Wuya think of a solution.

Following that, Lu Zhou said, "Don't forget my second request."

Everyone quieted down and looked at Lu Zhou.

“Luo Xuan?”

The geniuses’ excitement faded immediately as soon as Luo Xuan was mentioned.

“Senior Lu, Luo Xuan is the ultimate genius of the Sky Research Court! It’s pity! It’s truly a pity that she’s a fool now.”

Lu Zhou asked skeptically, “A fool?”

“We’re not sure what’s going on either... We were imprisoned by Yu Chenshu before she returned. To capture us all at once, he invited everyone from the Sky Research Court to a banquet. Later, he sealed our cultivation bases and imprisoned us under the Literary Star Gate.”

“The Literary Star Gate...” Lu Zhou turned to look at the Literary Star Gate. This was where the beams of light converge before shooting out that towering pillar of light at him.

“Senior Lu, I’ll go and save Luo Xuan now.”

“Wait.” Lu Zhou turned around with his hands on his back. “I’ll go.”

Everyone nodded.

Huang Yu looked at the people from the Sky Research Court and asked, “I’ll go with Senior Lu... Do you want to come with us?”

“No, no, no! It’s so smelly I could die! Even if you beat me to death, I’m not going! You go!”

Following that, Huang Yu and He Zhong walked to Lu Zhou.

Huang Yu said, “I’ll lead the way.”

Lu Zhou’s entourage followed him as well as Huang Yu led them to the Literary Star Gate.

While they were walking, Huang Yu asked tentatively, “Senior Lu, do you know Luo Xuan?”

“We met once,” Lu Zhou answered truthfully. Their meeting was limited to one-half of the memory crystal.

Huang Yu said with a sigh, “She’s the most talented person in our Sky Research Court. She even created the Water Shuttle at such a young age. It’s truly a pity...”

“Was she very powerful?” Lu Zhou asked.

“She had already reached the Ten-leaf stage. However, she spent most of her energy studying the ten-leaf level, but most of her energy was spent studying the other worlds. She was the first person to discover the golden lotus domain and the black lotus domain. 300 years ago, she created the Water Shuttle and traveled through the Black Water Mystic Cave. After that, she disappeared for quite some time. For some reason, when she returned it was as though she had become a fool. She’s locked in the deepest part of the underground prison by that old fart, Yu Chenshu,” Huang Yu said.

After a brief pause, Huang Yu continued to say, “It’s not an exaggeration to say that if she had focused on her cultivation, she wouldn’t be inferior to Yu Chenshu. After sprouting the tenth leaf, she began researching some kind of potion or something. She wanted to create something that could help humans

raise their cultivation bases and break the limit of the Birth Charts and the Thousand Realms Whirling stage. She experimented on herself, causing her Ten-leaf cultivation base to be incredibly unstable. She really suffered a lot..."

After a while, Huang Yu stopped in his tracks and said, "Senior Lu, we're here."

Little Yuan'er and Conch who had followed their master came to a stop as well.

From the beginning until now, Conch's expression had been slightly unnatural. She felt inexplicably familiar with this place.

Huang Yu pointed at the stone pillar and said, "This is the most powerful part of the god-killing formation. The Sky Martial Court used it to gather a large amount of energy for the god-killing formation. Once its power is released through this stone pillar, even a Birth Chart master would have a difficult time."

They had all seen the power of this stone pillar with their own eyes. It was really impressive that the Sky Research Court created such a powerful formation.

"Open it." Huang Yu pointed at the Literary Star Gate.

He Zhong walked to the side with a smile and said, "Would you believe me if I say I can open this lock with my fingernail?"

"Stop showing off. Hurry up," Huang Yu urged He Zhong.

"You're no fun!" He Zhong raised two fingers as a surge of energy entered the keyhole. Then, with a click, the lock was opened. After his cultivation base was unsealed, he could now condense energy. It was nothing to unlock a lock.

Creak!

The Literary Star Gate opened.

Lu Zhou and Huang Yu walked in the lead.

Soon enough, Huang Yu brought everyone to the underground prison.

The dark underground prison was unsettling and made one feel rather uncomfortable.

At this moment, Little Yuan'er discovered Conch's unnatural expression, "Conch, what's wrong?"

Conch shook her head. "Senior sister, I'm... I'm fine... I'm just a little dizzy."

Lu Zhou stopped walking and turned back to look at Little Yuan'er and Conch. Then, he said, "Yuan'er, bring Conch out."

"Okay." Little Yuan'er reached out to support Conch.

However, Conch waved her hand and said, "Master, I'm fine. There's no need for me to leave..."

"Are you sure you're fine?" Lu Zhou flicked his finger, and a golden seal floated forward.

One gave birth to two, two gave birth to four, four gave birth to eight... In just a moment, the dark underground prison was lit up.

Conch nodded. "I'm really fine. I'm just a little dizzy! Maybe it's the airflow here..."

"Okay."

Lu Zhou and the others continued to move forward. They continued walking; it was as though there was no end to the underground prison.

A sour stench permeated the entire place while in the prisons on both sides, chains and shackles could be seen.

A skeleton could also be seen sitting in one of the prison cells.

It was truly shocking. To think the people from the Sky Research Court were imprisoned here for 100 years.

Even after walking for 15 minutes, they had yet to reach the end.

Li Yunzheng stopped in front of a prison cell. He knocked on the iron door angrily and said, "Yu Chenshu! If he is still alive, I will definitely chop him into pieces!"

Although Li Yunzheng was young, he was not unfamiliar with hardships. For many years, he lived a lonely life in the royal palace that was like a prison. Fortunately, he survived it.

When he saw two rows of prison cells, smelled the indescribable stench, the corpses, and the bones, how could he not feel pain on their behalf? Compared to the people from the Sky Research Court, his life was incredibly comfortable.

Everyone wanted a carefree life, but how many could have such a life?

Moreover, in an environment such as this, how was it possible to talk about dreams and the future? Just being able to leave the place and breathe the fresh air probably already felt like a huge blessing.

Huang Yu and He Zhong's heart was moved by Li Yunzheng's reaction.

At this moment, Huang Yu finally said, "The door to the inner room, where Luo Xuan is being held, is up ahead. Yu Chenshu prepared a special prison for her and kept her apart from us. We haven't seen her in a long time. Yu Chenshu came here once a month. I don't know what her condition is like now so Senior Lu, you should mentally prepare yourself..."

Chapter 870: Symptoms of a Lost Soul?

"Don't worry." Lu Zhou slowly raised his hand. Energy surged out, emitting a brilliant light.

The stone door that was densely carved with complicated symbols appeared before everyone's eyes.

Huang Yu said, "Only Yu Chenshu could open this door. However, he left a key to his confidant who would come to clean the room every once in a while. Apart from that, no one is able to enter."

Lu Zhou asked, "Where's the key?"

"We don't know." Huang Yu and He Zhong shook their heads.

"Master," Little Yuan'er said, "Just save the trouble and kick the door open."

Upon hearing this, Wuwu and Ji Fengxing instinctively moved to the side.

Little Yuan'er rushed to the door and directly kicked the door.

Bang!

Dust stirred up from the kick and fell on the stone door that was about 300 feet tall. Apart from that, nothing happened.

Little Yuan'er withdrew her feet. The corners of her lips turned down as she put her hands on her hips and scoffed. "I don't believe this wicked door is so strong! I'm going to destroy it!"

He Zhong hurriedly moved in front of Little Yuan'er to stop her. He said, "No, no, no, my great little ancestor, you can't do this! It's not difficult for a cultivator to destroy this door, but what if the door collapses? Luo Xuan is still inside, after all, and I heard her condition isn't very good."

A small stone door, naturally, could not stop cultivators, let alone an elite like Lu Zhou who had formed his Thousand Realms Whirling avatar.

Huang Yu looked at He Zhong and asked teasingly, "Aren't you able to unlock the door with your fingernail?"

"Give me some time! Just watch," He Zhong said as he turned around to face the door.

To be precise, what prevented the stone door from opening was not a lock, but some mechanism and a Formation. It was difficult for ordinary cultivators to open it, but the lunatics from the Sky Research Court loved a challenge.

However, Lu Zhou raised his hand and stopped He Zhong, "Let me do it..."

"Yes, Senior Lu..."

Lu Zhou stood in front of the stone door before he gently pushed his hand out until his palm was flushed against the stone door.

The symbols on the door lit up immediately.

As soon as they lit up, Lu Zhou felt his heart stir. The symbols were not incomprehensible at all. It was in fact an engraving of a symbol that everyone on earth recognized; it was a dragon.

As a transmigrator, Lu Zhou was naturally familiar with the eastern culture since he was young. How could he not recognize the dragon although right now, the symbols were just a rough carving of the dragon?

"It's a carving of a fierce beast?!"

"What fierce beast is this?"

Lu Zhou looked at Meng Changdong, Xia Changqiu, and the others and said, "It's a dragon."

"A dragon? There are many kinds of dragons recorded in the ancient books, but none of them look like this," Li Yunzheng said in confusion.

"What do the dragons in the ancient books look like?" Lu Zhou asked.

"Oh... There are a lot of them. There are seven or eight kinds of dragons recorded in the ancient books, but none of them are curved like this... It's strange. They look like insects..." Li Yunzheng said.

"Stop talking nonsense and slap your mouth." Lu Zhou frowned.

Everyone was stunned.

Although Li Yunzheng was the emperor, his other identity was that of Lu Zhou's granddisciple. It was natural for a grandmaster to discipline his granddisciple.

Li Yunzheng raised his hand and symbolically slapped his mouth. Then, he returned his gaze to the lit-up dragon carving and asked, "Grandmaster, what's this?"

"It's an ancient and sacred dragon... Legend has it that it can be visible and invisible, small and big, short and long... It's the symbol of a nation; the symbol of the spirit," Lu Zhou explained as he continued to channel his Primal Qi into the door.

Li Yunzheng nodded despite the confused expression on his face.

Huang Yu praised Lu Zhou. "I see. Senior Lu is truly knowledgeable. I'm impressed."

As soon as Huang Yu finished speaking, the symbols moved before they formed a complete dragon.

Following that, Lu Zhou channeled his extraordinary energy into the door.

A dragon came to life and flew out of the door before it disappeared into thin air.

Bang!

The stone door collapsed into a pile of rubble in just an instant.

Everyone retreated to avoid the falling rubble.

Only Lu Zhou remained motionless, pushing the rubble away with his energy.

He Zhong exclaimed in surprise, "Senior Lu's cultivation is truly profound and awe-inspiring! This stone isn't made from ordinary materials, and yet, Senior Lu easily turned it into a pile of rubble!"

The others did not pay attention to He Zhong.

He Zhong asked Xia Changqiu awkwardly, "Don't you think so?"

Xia Changqiu, Meng Changdong, and the others acted as though they did not hear He Zhong.

"It's really very impressive..." He Zhong's praise sounded unnatural and forced.

The Cloud Mountain's Nie Qingyun looked at He Zhong as though He Zhong was an idiot. His expression seemed to say, "Is he really a genius from the Sky Research Court?" Why was He Zhong making a fuss over nothing?

Lu Zhou walked into the stone room with his hands on his back.

Light shone through from both sides of the long corridor.

The condition of the stone room was worlds apart from the dark prison cells behind them.

Everyone was surprised by this sight.

"Yu Chenshu was really generous to spend so much money building such a place."

Soon after, the corridor led them to the deepest part of the room.

Everyone came to a halt immediately.

There was a bed in the center of the room. A woman with white hair and a wrinkled face lay quietly on the bed. Her eyes were glassy; there was no sign of life in them at all.

Huang Yu sighed. "Who knew she'd end up like this?"

Lu Zhou did not say anything and walked to the side of the bed. His eyes fell on the woman.

In 300 years, the woman in front of Lu Zhou had lost her youth. Nevertheless, he could still recognize her from his memories. There was no doubt the woman lying on the bed was Luo Xuan whom Ji Tiandao had met 300 years ago.

At this moment, time seemed to speed backward. Memories of the past returned to Lu Zhou's mind.

It seemed like the legend of the dragon had been told to her in that unknown place.

They had supported each other and escaped unknown dangers until they reached the

The legend of the dragon seemed to have been told to her in that unknown place.

They had supported each other and escaped from unknown dangers... until they arrived in Great Yan.

Since Lu Zhou did not speak, the others, naturally, remained silent. No one knew what was going through his mind at this moment.

On the other hand, Conch began to feel dizzy and dizzy. It was as though she had imbibed too much alcohol or as though she had been drugged. However, she steeled herself and tried her best not to faint or fall.

At this moment, Lu Zhou finally asked, "You took something from me. When will you return it?"

Luo Xuan's eyes remained lifeless, looking as though she did not hear Lu Zhou at all.

"Senior Lu, she has lost her soul. That was why there was nothing Yu Chenshu could do to her. We learned from her and pretended to be crazy as well," Huang Yu said with a wry smile on his face.

Lu Zhou ignored Huang Yu and continued to ask, "Where's the Great Void?"

Huang Yu suddenly trembled when he heard this question. "Why is everyone asking the same question? Yu Chenshu had asked this as well. Every time he came here, he would ask this question. His voice was loud, and he sounded like a madman... Great Void... What is it exactly?"

Hearing this question.

Huang Yu suddenly quivered and said: "Why are you all asking this question? Yu Chenshu seems to be asking too. Every time she comes down, she has to ask. His voice is too loud, like a madman. Taixu... What is it?"

Lu Zhou looked at Huang Yu and said, "Everyone, leave."

Everyone bowed and left one after another.

Meanwhile, Conch was about to turn around when she finally could not endure it and fell.

"Master! Conch is..." Little Yuan'er hurriedly caught Conch.

Lu Zhou glanced at the Conch and said, "Take her out, and let her rest."

Little Yuan'er said in shock, "Master... She's... She's really hot to the touch!"

Lu Zhou frowned. Why would Conch have a fever for no reason? Normally, it was impossible for cultivators to run a fever. If she had a fever, it could be that she was poisoned.

"You and Conch can stay. The others may leave."

"Yes."

Everyone turned around and began to leave one after another.

Before Huang Yu left, he said, "The Sky Research Court's Sun Zhonghua is skilled in medicine and healing. Should I summon him here?"

"There's no need for that for now. If there's a need, I'll call you."

"Then we'll take our leave!" Huang Yu and He Zhong turned around and left the underground prison. They knew it would not be appropriate for them to stay any longer so they left quickly.

After everyone left, Lu Zhou waved his hand casually. Energy surged out and shrouded Conch before it carried her in front of Lu Zhou.

Subsequently, Lu Zhou raised his palm. Soon enough, a blue lotus appeared on his palm.