

Disciples 911

Chapter 911: The Captivity Plan

Zhao Yue sighed. "I still find it hard to believe what you said. I've thought about it for a long time; I should tell master about this matter."

Lian Xing shook her head and said, "What did you say when you first left the Evil Sky Pavilion's Golden Court Mountain?"

Zhao Yue said, "It's different from the past now. The number of times we've met can be counted on one hand. I can't trust you. At that time, I really intended to leave the Evil Sky Pavilion. Junior Sister Tianxin was determined to discover the truth about the Fish Dragon at that time. I pitied her and sympathized with her. However, I'm different from her; I've never thought about killing my master. I'm very grateful that you killed the witchcraft cultivator from Loulan, but ultimately, the one who saved at the altar in Runan was my master, not you."

Lian Xing looked at the flowers in the garden as she said, "I just want to talk to you about cooperating... You didn't trust me in the past, what about now?"

"Cooperating?" Zhao Yue asked in confusion.

"Listen to me," Lian Xing's tone became gentle as she said, "The black lotus domain has been treating the people in the red lotus domain like farm animals to monopolize life hearts. The golden lotus domain will definitely become the second red lotus domain. The most suitable person to act as a liaison for the black lotus domain's plan is you."

The captivity plan.

This was the second time Zhao Yue had heard of this term. The first time was when she met Lian Xing previously. She had no choice but to believe Lian Xing as time passed, especially after the incident with Jiang Wenxu. In a way, Jiang Wenxu's method was also a kind of captivity plan.

"The captivity plan can protect the golden lotus domain from the fierce Birth Chart Beasts. It'll also help the golden lotus domain escape the notice of experts. Every once in a while, we'll send someone to assist you with your problems and also maintain your status and power," Lian Xing said.

Zhao Yue frowned slightly. "I think you might have misunderstood me. I don't care about status and power."

Lian Xing fell silent. Indeed, if Zhao Yue wanted power, she could use her royal bloodline to ascend the throne and become the Empress of Great Yan. After a beat, she said, "Perhaps... there's something else you've always wanted?"

Zhao Yue asked, "Why can't you act on your own?"

"It'll expose our existence..." Lian Xing said.

"You're trying to sugarcoat the matter when you're just trying to get me to become your lackey," Zhao Yue said.

"It's not like that," Lian Xing explained, "The captivity plan is beneficial to both of us. Once the Birth Chart Beasts appear, they'll bring a storm of blood with them. At that time, it'd be too late for you to regret it."

"Then why are you still suppressing my cultivation? Have you been lying to me all this time?" Zhao Yue frowned.

"I'm not lying to you." Lian Xing turned around.

At this time, Lu Zhou finally saw Lian Xing's face. At first glance, she looked like a young girl. However, her mature and elegant long dress spoke of maturity beyond her appearance. After having a good look at her exquisite facial features, it could be seen that she was a peerless beauty in her prime, not a young girl.

"You have the Great Void energy. This energy will bring you trouble. The higher your cultivation base is, the stronger the energy would be..."

"Great Void?" Although this was not the first time Zhao Yue had heard these words, she could not help but feel curious.

"Since the time we've met until now, when have I ever lied to you or did anything that was unfavorable to you?" Lian Xing asked.

Upon hearing this, Zhao Yue seemed to waver slightly. "Sister Lian Xing, it's not that I don't trust you... I just don't want to be the second Jiang Wenxu. I don't care about the Great Void energy or whatever. I still think it's best to report this matter to my master."

Lian Xing shook her head and said, "I'm afraid that your master can't even take care of himself... It's very likely that he's been targeted by the Black Tower Council."

Zhao Yue frowned.

Lian Xing said, "If you still don't believe me... We'll wait a little longer. A Ten-leaf cultivator should appear in the golden lotus domain soon. Moreover, I suspect the Black Tower Council has already sent people here a long time ago."

"Sister Lian Xing, we were once friends, or perhaps, sisters. I don't care about trivial matters, but the captivity plan is an important matter. I must report it to master."

Lian Xing furrowed her brows. "As you wish. I've already said everything I can. I hope you'll think things through." With that, she waved her hand and flew out of the palace in just a blink of an eye.

...

Lu Zhou cut off the Heavenly Writing Power.

Was Lian Xing a member of the Black Tower Council as well? However, based on her words, it did not seem like she's a member of the Black Lotus Council. Was she a cultivator from another force in the black lotus domain?

Based on Zhao Yue's behavior, it seemed like Lian Xing did not harbor ill intentions. She had said she suppressed Zhao Yue's cultivation base to hide the Great Void energy. However, that did not make sense. After all, his other disciples had Great Void Seeds as well, and so far, they had not been exposed.

Who was this Lian Xing?

After thinking for a long time, Lu Zhou still could not come up with an answer.

Regardless, he could now confirm the reason Zhao Yue's cultivation had stagnated was due to Lian Xing's intervention. Since he knew nothing about Lian Xing's strength and cultivation base, it was not feasible to send Ye Tianxin there to get rid of Lian Xing.

He was in the red lotus domain, and it would take some time for him to return to the golden lotus domain.

How could he solve this problem?

'Yan Zhenluo.' A name appeared in Lu Zhou's mind.

If Lian Xing was a member of the Black Tower's council, it was not a bad idea to start with Yan Zhenluo.

With this matter settled for the time being, he nodded and decided to check in on his eighth disciple. He recited the mantra for the Heavenly Writing Power again. Soon enough, his eighth disciple appeared in front of his eyes.

Zzzzzz! Zzzzzz! Zzzzzz!

Zhu Honggong was slumped over the table, drooling as he slept.

Lu Zhou. "..."

'How can I have such a disciple?'

Zzzzzz! Zzzzzz! Zzzzzz!

At this moment, Xu Wanqing rushed in. "Sect Master!"

Zhu Honggong sat immediately. He rubbed his eyes and wiped his drool away as he said groggily, "Who is it? What are you doing?"

"It's me! Xu Wanqing!"

"What's the matter? Why are you so anxious?" Zhu Honggong asked.

"Senior Lu asked me to invite you over. He said that everything is ready."

"Oh... I will go now." Zhu Hong stood up and followed Xu Wanqing out of the hall.

The hall was extraordinarily spacious and luxurious.

Upon seeing this, Lu Zhou felt it was better to worry about himself. His eighth disciple seemed to be faring better than him.

When Zhu Honggong arrived at another hall, Lu Li was standing with hands on his back. There was no one else around.

Xu Wanqing bowed and took his leave.

Lu Li asked, "Previously, you said your master's the one who came up with the lotus-severing method?"

"Yes, what about it? My master is a genius!" Zhu Honggong said, "With this, sprouting the ninth leaf won't consume 1,200 years of life!"

Lu Li nodded and said, "The world is so big; there are all kinds of strange things... I really can't wait to meet your master."

"Senior... am I going to sprout my leaf here?"

"Yes... After sprouting the ninth leaf, a giant beast will appear. At that time, you'll lead over 1,000 cultivators from the Flood Sect to kill that giant beast. The life heart can be used to nurture some of your trusted men. Apart from that, we can also use it to deal with Birth Chart Beasts in the future. Alright, let's begin..."

"Understood."

Chapter 912: We Meet Again, Yan Zhenluo

The power of the supreme mystic power had been depleted so the scenes were, naturally, interrupted. He did not recover much of the supreme mystic power over the past two hours, to begin with.

"Old Eighth is in the yellow lotus domain and has the help of an expert like Lu Li so there shouldn't be any problem."

After gathering his thoughts, he looked at the two Synthesis Cards he had just obtained. A question suddenly appeared in his mind: if he had three Peak Trial Cards, what would the synthesized cards be like?

Unfortunately, apart from the three Peak Trial Cards he obtained when he first transmigrated, it had been difficult to obtain Peak Trial Cards. It was good enough if he could obtain one, let alone three.

Following that, Lu Zhou brought three fire spirit stones before bringing out the Purple Glazed Ceramic.

The Purple Glazed Ceramic was now at the desolate grade. After being forged with three fire spirit stones, its grade would rise. However, he needed a forging expert like Wang Dachui to forge it. Fortunately, he had a refining talisman so he did not need to ask for help.

Lu Zhou waved his hand and brought the refining talisman out before he casually lit it up. Subsequently, he tossed the fire spirit stones into the fire. When the fire spirit stones were melted by the almost translucent flames, it made for a rather magical sight. After that, he tossed the Purple Glazed Ceramic into the fire.

...

Early in the morning the next day.

Under Si Wuya's plans, the civil and military officials and the Great Generals of the Ten Paths submitted without any objection. Those who did not submit or could be trusted were demoted or sent back to their hometowns. With that, Li Yunzheng successfully regained authority over Great Tang.

On the eastern wall.

Yu Shangrong stood against the wind, looking at the capital.

Yu Zhenghai looked over and asked, "Second Junior Brother, are you worried that you won't be able to activate your Birth Charts?"

Ever since Lu Zhou manifested his Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, many of them had noticed a problem. How was one going to go about activating their Birth Charts without a lotus?

Yu Shangrong only said, "We'll cross that bridge when the time comes."

"Unfortunately, Eldest Senior Brother has no choice but to take the lead..." Yu Zhenghai said.

"It's still unknown who's going to take the lead..." Yu Shangrong was one who would not easily admit defeat. Even if he no longer had a golden lotus, he would continue to cultivate. He had not even sprouted the tenth leaf; he would only be seeking trouble by thinking about the Thousand Realms Whirling now.

Yu Zhenghai brought out his Jasper Saber at this moment and wiped it with his sleeve. He was just about to ask Yu Shangrong to look at his bright desolate-grade Jasper Saber when...

"Mister Second, someone from the Sky Research Court came over and asked me to pass this to you!" Ji Fengxing shouted from below.

The duo turned around and looked at Ji Fengxing and saw him carrying a rectangular brown object in his arms. It did not seem like its made of wood; it looked more like a slab of stone.

Yu Shangrong asked in confusion, "What's that?"

"Wang Dachui said that you have to personally open it. He wanted to bring it to you, but Mister Seventh has something urgent to discuss with him so he entrusted me to bring it to you," Ji Fengxing replied.

Yu Zhenghai patted Yu Shangrong's shoulder and said, "It looks broken after it's reforged. Second Junior Brother, if it really doesn't work, I'm willing to give you the Jasper Saber. After all, I can still fight without a weapon. Moreover, the Great Dark Heaven Memorial is an invincible cultivation method..."

Yu Shangrong ignored Yu Zhenghai. Instead, he extended his arm.

A surge of golden energy appeared immediately and brought the thing in Ji Fengxing's arm to him.

Swoosh!

The energy looked like a golden dragon as it moved to bring the item back to Yu Shangrong's hand.

Yu Shangrong tightened his grip, slightly cracking the stone that encased the item inside. He frowned before he increased his strength.

Crack!

The stone cracked grew bigger and faint Primal Qi leaked out before they entered Yu Shangrong's body through his hand. He felt as though his entire body was buzzing.

Yu Shangrong's eyes lit up immediately. He turned his hand slightly as an energy sword burst out, cracking the stone open completely. Soon enough, an unbroken Longevity Sword that shone with a faint light and emitted a cold air was revealed.

Yu Shangrong let the Longevity Sword hover in front of him. As soon as he released his Primal Qi, 80,000 energy swords appeared in the sky immediately. He made it seem like an easy task when he did this. Initially, without the Longevity Sword, he could manifest 60,000 energy swords. With the Longevity Sword, he easily manifested 80,000 energy swords.

At this moment, the royal guards looked up at the sky that was filled with energy swords.

"Flood... Flood grade?" Yu Zhenghai exclaimed in surprise. The Longevity Weapon was a heaven-grade weapon before this, but after being reforged by the Sky Research Court, it jumped straight to the flood grade?!

'This.. ' Yu Zhenghai silently put away his desolate-grade Jasper Saber. He suddenly felt it was slightly unfair.

Yu Shangrong dispersed the sky full of energy swords with a greatly satisfied expression on his face before he said, "Eldest Senior Brother, although I regard this sword as my life, since it broke, I'd learn to get by. The sword is so good, I can't possibly just keep it for myself. Eldest Senior Brother, do you want to share it?"

Yu Shangrong clenched his hand, and the Longevity Sword reverted to its ordinary appearance. Nevertheless, when the sunlight glinted off of it, it still emitted an aura that was more formidable than a desolate-grade weapon.

"Congratulations, Second Junior Brother. Although the sword is good, I still prefer the saber. Moreover, it's just the flood grade, after all. Sooner or later, the Jasper Saber will be at the flood grade as well," Yu Zhenghai said.

At this moment, Ji Fengxing exclaimed from below, "It's the Longevity Sword! Wang Dachui said it would take three months to reforge, but the forging masters of the Sky Research Court worked together and reforged it in under a month!"

Yu Shangrong said, "Thank them for me."

"Alright," Ji Fengxing said.

Ji Fengxing was about to leave when Yu Zhenghai suddenly jumped down and called out, "Wait!"

"Is there anything I can help you with, Mister First?"

"Where's Wang Dachui now?"

"He's in Mister Seventh's study."

“What a coincidence! It’s been a long time since I’ve spoken to my Seventh Junior Brother. Take me to him,” Yu Zhenghai said.

“Oh.” Ji Fengxing scratched his head. Did Yu Zhenghai not ask about Wang Dachui? How did it end up with Yu Zhenghai wanting to see Si Wuya?

...

Another two days passed.

When Lu Zhou heard a faint cracking noise, he opened his eyes and saw the fire from the refining talisman had vanished. Then, he gauged his supreme mystic power. Indeed, without the Purple Glazed Ceramic, his speed of replenishing the supreme mystic power was much slower. He had only managed to replenish half of it.

Lu Zhou flicked his sleeve and the Purple Glazed Ceramic flew into his hand.

“Ding! Obtained the flood-grade Purple Glazed Ceramic.”

Lu Zhou clenched his hand. In just an instant, a refreshing energy coursed through his body before going straight to his heart. By slightly mobilizing his Primal Qi, he could feel the energy circulating his body at a leisurely pace.

As for the Purple Glazed Ceramic, as soon as Lu Zhou activated it, it automatically helped him mobilize his Primal Qi and circulate it through his Eight Extraordinary Meridians and his Dantian’s sea of Qi.

“Not bad.” With the flood-grade Purple Glazed Ceramic, it was as though he was constantly in his cultivation state. Although it was not as fast as if he were to really cultivate, with time on its side, it was incredibly useful. Moreover, there was no limit to the times he could use the Purple Glazed Ceramic. He also discovered that his speed of replenishing supreme mystic power had increased by four or five times. With this, he only needed two days to fully replenish his supreme mystic power; it was unlike before when he needed seven days to replenish the power.”

“What will happen if it goes through a ‘fusion’?” Lu Zhou wondered out loud. He knew it would be easy to fuse it.

Lu Zhou did not dwell on the matter and rose to his feet.

After a moment, he recalled his agreement with Yan Zhen Luo. He did not tell anyone about this matter.

After a brief moment, he activated the Purple Glazed Ceramic again and flew out of the royal palace.

...

As expected, just as Lu Zhou arrived near the stone formation, Yan Zhenluo showed up immediately.

Yan Zhenluo cupped his fists together at Lu Zhou as he said, “Brother Lu, you’re here. This means you believe my words...” Then, he raised his head to look at the sun.

Lu Zhou asked, “Have you been hiding here over the past few days?”

"The Birth Chart Beast might appear at any time. As an envoy, I can only wait here for it to appear. After we're done with the Birth Chart, I'll give Brother Lu the life heart."

"Aren't you afraid the Black Tower Council would pursue this matter if you give the life heart to me?" Lu Zhou said.

"They should be used to it. Many years ago, the Black Tower Council had lost many life hearts. They were stolen, lost, or embezzled."

Chapter 913: Di Jiang

Upon hearing this, Lu Zhou said, "Your Black Tower Council seems to be in a mess."

Yan Zhenluo did not refute Lu Zhou's words. Instead, he nodded. "You're right. However, we don't just have internal problems; there are external problems as well."

Lu Zhou raised an eyebrow. "External problems?"

Yan Zhenluo said helplessly, "Brother Lu, please forgive me for not being able to say more. In the future, Brother Lu will naturally understand."

With this kind of attitude, Lu Zhou found it difficult to force Yan Zhenluo to speak as well. After all, he was an old man with grace. Yan Zhenluo was very tactful and polite, it would be strange if he used force to make Yan Zhenluo talk. After a moment, he asked, "Do you know of a woman named Lian Xing?"

Yan Zhen Luo shook his head and said, "Lian Xing? I've never heard of her. Why do you ask, Brother Lu?"

"I met a mysterious person by chance, and I felt she was strange. Are you sure there's no such person in the Black Tower Council?" Lu Zhou asked.

"Although I'm just an ordinary member of the Black Lotus Council, I'm not completely without knowledge. I'm sure I've never heard of such a person in the council. Perhaps, she used an alias?" Yan Zhenluo suggested.

If it was an alias, then there was no way to investigate the matter. If Lu Zhou could not investigate Lian Xing's origin, he would just have to observe Zhao Yue more in the future.

With this thought in mind, Lu Zhou looked at Yan Zhenluo and said, "I'm not an unreasonable person. If you're sincere, I'll be sincere as well. I'm curious. Is it worth it for you to do all these things for Lu Li?"

"Lu Li once saved my life," Yan Zhenluo replied honestly, "In this world where the strong prey on the weak, it's too difficult to find a trustworthy friend. What's more, we're brothers who have gone through thick and thin together. Without Lu Li, I, Yan Zhenluo, wouldn't be here."

Then, Yan Zhenluo looked up and asked, "Brother Lu, in your life, there should be someone worth risking your life to protect, right?"

Lu Zhou was stunned by Yan Zhenluo's question. If he were still on earth, he would answer without hesitating. For example, there were his parents who gave birth to him and raised him. However, in this bizarre world fraught with danger, he was not sure if there was anyone he wanted to protect. Those he

trusted here were his disciples and the elders of the Evil Sky Pavilion. However, he did not know if trusting them meant he was willing to risk his life for them. He was not sure he would be able to do it.

From the initial betrayal of his disciples to the righting the path of his disciples and his disciples' amazing feats, everything went smoothly. They did not warrant anything as dramatic as risking his life.

Lu Zhou was silent for a long time.

Upon seeing this, Yan Zhenluo cupped his fists together and said, "I've misspoken..."

Lu Zhou dismissed his thoughts and said, "Lu Li is safe for now, but he's not in the red lotus domain."

"Not in the red lotus domain?" Yan Zhenluo was shocked. "I checked Lu Li's route. He left from the Sky Wheel Mountain Range to the Endless Ocean. I went to the Endless Ocean to look for him but could not find him. He has exceeded the time limit the Black Tower Council had given him for his mission. Did he go to the golden lotus domain?"

After investigating the matter, Yan Zhenluo found out about Lu Zhou's fight with Yu Chenshu. He also found out Lu Li had used his Thousand Realms Whirling avatar to carry Lu Zhou away. This was also one of the reasons he did not make a move when Yi Yao was fighting Lu Zhou.

"He's not in the golden lotus domain," Lu Zhou said.

"Then where's he? How did Brother Lu determine his safety? No, I have to get him out from wherever he is," Yan Zhenluo said worriedly.

Lu Zhou replied, "He's with my disciple now."

"???" Yan Zhenluo.

"You can rest assured. With Lu Li and my disciple's cultivation bases, no one can hurt them. Moreover, Lu Li won't be coming back so soon so you can rest assured and stay in the Black Tower Council," Lu Zhou said.

"Really?"

"I've never been one to lie. It's up to you to believe it or not," Lu Zhou said.

Yan Zhenluo was overjoyed and immediately bowed to Lu Zhou. "Thank you, Brother Lu."

"You believe me just like that?" Lu Zhou felt the person in front of him was too trusting.

"I have no other choice. Moreover, I won't lose anything by trusting you," Yan Zhenluo said honestly.

"I admire smart people the most." Lu Zhou stroked his beard as he looked at Yan Zhenluo.

At this moment, Yan Zhenluo raised his head and looked at the sun in the sky. He said, "My luck is good... The Birth Chart Beast is here!"

"You can sense Birth Chart Beasts?" Lu Zhou asked.

“Birth Chart Beasts can sense powerful humans, especially humans who have just sprouted the tenth leaf. The Black Tower Council created this stone formation that can attack and defend at the same time. Every time a Birth Chart Beast approaches, the stone formation will send out a signal.”

Lu Zhou turned and looked at the center of the stone formation in the distance. Indeed, the circular area in the center was flashing. He sighed at the power of the Black Tower Council. Its reach was really long; he wondered how many worlds it had in its backyard. He asked, “How many worlds does the Black Tower Council have under its control?”

Yan Zhenluo shook her head. “As soon as Brother Lu asks a question, it hits the heart of the matter immediately. These are top secrets in the Black Tower Council. Ordinary members aren’t privy to such matters. However, I sometimes wonder if there’s a bigger power behind the black lotus domain.”

“Interesting,” Lu Zhou said, “I appreciate your answer.”

If everyone was smart as Yan Zhenluo, it would be great. It was very pleasing to deal with smart people.

Buzz!

A buzzing noise rang from the stone forest at this moment.

“It’s coming,” Yan Zhenluo said, “There won’t be anyone within a five-kilometer radius. I’ll shoot down the Birth Chart Beast as fast as I can.”

“Alright.”

The sound of wind whistles in the forest at this moment.

The duo instinctively turned around to look. They saw a fiery red ball of light flying toward them from the towering tree in front of them.

Although Lu Zhou’s expression remained calm, his eyes widened imperceptibly. What the hell was this thing?

Yan Zhenluo said gravely, “This is bad...”

“You can’t deal with it?” Lu Zhou asked.

“This isn’t an ordinary Birth Chart Beast. This beast is called Di Jiang. It’s shaped like a ball, red like fire, has six legs, and four wings. It’s faceless,” Yan Zhenluo explained, “I didn’t expect to attract a Di Jiang.”

“I’m really curious. Why don’t the Black Tower Council go straight to the fierce beasts’ nest but wait in human cities instead?” Lu Zhou asked.

Would it not be better to find the fierce beasts’ nest?

“Impossible,” Yan Zhenluo said immediately, “Indeed, you can find a lot of beasts in the nest. However, it’s too dangerous. For example, places in the red lotus domain like the Black Water Mystic Cave, the Endless Ocean, and the depths of the Sky Wheel Rift Valley aren’t places that humans can stay...”

Yan Zhenluo's words reminded Lu Zhou of the colossal beast in the Endless Ocean. Such a colossal beast even warranted a warning from the system; one could imagine how powerful it was. He nodded silently in agreement.

Yan Zhenluo looked at Di Jiang that was flying over and said, "This beast is incredibly fast. It's the fastest among all the known fierce beasts!"

Lu Zhou's eyes lit up. He recalled Yi Yao's exaggerated flashing speed. How amazing would it be if he had the speed from this Birth Chart Beast? He asked, "Is it suitable for me?"

"Very suitable... With Di Jiang's life heart, Brother Lu's speed will be even faster than Yi Yao's speed."

At this moment, Di Jiang came to a stop in the air. Its body was chubby, and its legs were kicking back and forth. It was hard to imagine that this was a beast that Yan Zhenluo was wary of.

Yan Zhenluo tapped his toes before he shot up at lightning speed. He flashed behind Di Jiang and pressed his hand down.

Boom!

A black palm seal that was like Mount Tai pressed down on Di Jiang immediately.

After being hit by the huge force, Di Jiang rose up immediately at the speed of light. His speed was clearly several times faster than before.

Yan Zhenluo frowned and said, "As expected, I can't catch him."

Chapter 914: The Unexpected Life Heart

"Can't you catch it?" Lu Zhou asked again.

"It's too fast." Yan Zhenluo's expression was solemn at this moment. "I might have to go back on my words this time."

Lu Zhou noticed Yan Zhenluo's speed was on par with Yi Yao's speed. The palm strike earlier was clearly meant to strike Di Jiang down to the stone forest. He did not expect Di Jiang's reaction and speed to be so exaggerated.

"Let me try." Lu Zhou flashed into the air. With his grand technique, he appeared above Di Jiang and pressed his hand down.

Blue light flashed in the sky in just an instant.

Abandon Wisdom.

'Let's see how you dodge this,' Lu Zhou thought to himself. With the unique supreme mystic power, the Abandon Wisdom automatically locked onto its target.

Yan Zhenluo was shocked upon seeing this. Scenes of Lu Zhou and Yi Yao's fight appeared in his mind again. He really admired that blue energy. He had enough reasons to suspect Lu Zhou was from the blue

lotus domain. However, this was just his personal conjecture. In fact, he had never heard or read about the blue lotus domain.

Meanwhile, as though it could sense the incoming danger, Di Jiang flapped four of its wings at once and flew out of the forest. It disappeared like a puff of smoke in just a blink of an eye.

“So fast?”

The blue palm seal flew over, drawing a curve in the air.

However, Di Jiang managed to avoid the Abandon Wisdom.

Soon enough, Abandon Wisdom disappeared into thin air.

Lu Zhou frowned slightly. It seemed like the supreme mystic power was not without limits.

“I’ll chase after it.” Yan Zhenluo chased after Di Jiang on the ground. With his grand technique, he appeared in front of Di Jiang in a flash. He manifested his avatar before one of his Birth Chart shot out a net-like light toward Di Jiang.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

With great agility and speed, Di Jiang avoided the net-like attack from Yan Zhenluo. In the end, it had no choice but to turn around.

As it happened, Lu Zhou was standing at the back, He looked at Yan Zhenluo’s astrolabe. It was a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar with six Birth Charts on the astrolabe.

It was clear that Yan Zhenluo had mastered the combat techniques of the Thousand Realms Whirling to perfection. Although he only manifested his avatar for a moment, it could be seen his control of his astrolabe had reached perfection.

Yan Zhenluo called out, “Brother Lu, chase it to the forest.”

Lu Zhou nodded. He joined his palms together before he began to make hand gestures. He did not know why, but he had never been so enthusiastic as he was today when fighting the enemy. After a moment, he spread his arms.

Hundreds of thousands of energy swords filled the sky in just a beginning, blocking the front like an impenetrable wall.

Yan Zhenluo said, “I truly admire you, Brother Lu!” He followed Lu Zhou and manifested countless energy swords as well even though their numbers were not as numerous as Lu Zhou’s energy swords. Nevertheless, both of them worked together rather well to block Di Jiang.

Di Jiang seemed to panic at this moment. It quickly turned around and flew in the area where nothing stood in its way to the forest. Although it was fast, it seemed to be flying blind at this moment. It kept circling and flying back and forth. It seemed like its IQ was not very high.

“There’s hope,” Yan Zhenluo said. He had always fought alone, therefore, his tactics were all solitary tactics. He had forgotten about Lu Zhou. With two Thousand Realms Whirling avatars, it would be slightly embarrassing if they still could not capture Di Jiang.

The two rode the energy swords that filled the sky and flew toward the forest; one on the left and one on the right. Both of them did not bother conserving their Primal Qi at all. They flashed forward, forcing Di Jiang to fly down.

...

It was only natural that two Thousand Realms Whirling experts fighting a Birth Chart Beast would cause a huge commotion.

The cultivators in the distance looked up in the sky. Those with low cultivation bases could only see Lu Zhou and Yan Zhenluo as two specks of dots and the flashes of light in the sky.

Someone sighed. "I haven't been sleeping well recently. Am I getting old? I feel like I'm seeing things..."

...

Fortunately, the commotion only lasted for a short moment.

Driven to a corner by two Thousand Realms Whirling experts, Di Jiang had no choice but to return to the forest. Then, he flew back and forth on the treetops.

"Beast, let's see where you can fly off." Lu Zhou stopped in midair. He raised his right hand, and a dark round stone appeared in his hand. Soon enough, it transformed into a bow.

Buzz!

An energy arrow appeared on Unnamed that had transformed into a bow.

Yan Zhenluo said in surprise, "Fusion?"

Even in the Black Tower Council, fusion weapons were incredibly rare; there were only a few of them in the Black Tower Council. In fact, not all Thousand Realms Whirling experts possessed flood-grade weapons, let alone fusion weapons. He really did not expect Lu Zhou to possess a fusion weapon. At the very least, it looked like a fusion weapon.

The energy arrow shot out in the air after Lu Zhou released the bowstring.

Yan Zhenluo expected Lu Zhou to only shoot an arrow. He did not expect Lu Zhou to continue shooting energy arrows one after another.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Lu Zhou manifested five energy arrows altogether, infusing them with sufficient supreme mystic power before shooting them out.

When the first energy arrow was about to land on Di Jiang, it lowered its altitude and avoided the arrow.

The energy arrow drew a huge arc in the air, chasing after Di Jiang.

At this moment, the second energy arrow drew close to Di Jiang.

Alas, Di Jiang avoided the second energy arrow as well.

The two energy arrows drew two huge arcs in the air.

At this moment, the third and the fourth energy arrow arrived.

Di Jiang screeched. It flapped its wings in a frenzy, leaving only afterimages in its wake. It caused the duo's vision to go blurry.

Lu Zhou and Yan Zhenluo were both cultivators of the Thousand Realms Whirling. Their eyesight was not something ordinary people could compare to. Even at the Thousand Realms Whirling stage, they could only see afterimages of Di Jiang. One could only imagine Di Jiang's speed. Ordinary people could never hope to see anything.

As the fifth arrow cut through the clouds and the air, it seemed to have predicted Di Jiang's position.

Coupled with the pressure from the four energy arrows, Di Jiang was left with nowhere to run except to go down.

Bang!

At this moment, the fifth arrow pierced its wing.

Upon seeing this, Yan Zhenluo flashed and appeared above Di Jiang. He struck with his palm, launching dozens of palm seals.

Alas, even injured, Di Jiang was ridiculously fast. It dodged to the left and to the right before it flew into the forest.

Yan Zhenluo called out as he looked at Lu Zhou meaningfully, "Brother Lu..."

"Alright."

The duo seemed to have a tacit understanding as Lu Zhou landed in the west while Yan Zhenluo landed in the east. Following that, both of them flashed to the center.

The perception of Thousand Realms Whirling cultivators was naturally far above the masses. The wind in the air and the blades of grass were all within their perception.

The duo unleashed their grand techniques and arrived in the forest in just a blink of an eye.

This place was in a different direction from the stone forest. One could imagine if there were only one of them, it would be as difficult as ascending to the heavens just to catch Di Jiang.

"Beast, you won't be able to escape," Yan Zhenluo said when Di Jiang landed in the clearing.

In the sky, Di Jiang looked like it was the size of a wild boar; on the ground, it looked like it was the size of a cow.

Di Jiang was different from other Birth Chart Beasts of its size. It was really strange. At this moment, it had tucked all its wings in. Apart from the slight tremors on its body, it was not moving at all.

At this moment, Yan Zhenluo raised his hand.

Talismans appeared in the air immediately.

At this moment, Lu Zhou called out, "Wait."

“Brother Lu?” Yan Zhenluo was confused. If they did not make a move now, they might not have such a good chance to capture Di Jiang again.

Lu Zhou said, “It seems to have surrendered.”

When Lu Zhou saw Di Jiang’s posture, he was also very surprised. This scene reminded him of the time when he caught a rooster on earth. When he was young, he had chased a rooster until it had nowhere to run. When it was cornered, it curled up on the ground with its wings tucked in, covering its body. It indicated that it was afraid and no longer planned to run.

“Are you sure?” Yan Zhenluo was not sure since he had no such experience. In the past, he only collected life hearts by killing the Birth Chart Beasts.

“Dijing is so fast. Is it suitable to be used as a mount?” Lu Zhou asked.

“I’m afraid not. Di Jiang is not suitable to be a mount. It’s too fast. It takes too much energy for cultivators to just stay on its back. Moreover, Di Jiang isn’t capable of acknowledging a master. Once it grows up, it’ll absorb a large amount of evil energy and kill humans. Killing it is the best choice. Don’t show mercy to fierce beasts. Fierce beasts exist to devour humans,” Yan Zhenluo said.

“You have a point.” Lu Zhou nodded. He walked over and stopped when he was ten meters away from Di Jiang. He said with a sigh, “Beast, this is your fate. You can’t blame others.”

Just when Lu Zhou was about to make a move...

Di Jiang raised its head and opened its mouth before a glowing crystal flew out of its mouth.

Lu Zhou waved his hand, and the life heart flew into his hand.

Squawk! Squawk!

Di Jing squawked twice as though it was pleading for its life.

Yan Zhenluo exclaimed in surprise, “This beast actually took the initiative to hand over its life heart! This is really eye-opening! There really are all kinds of wonders in this world!”

Chapter 915: Recruiting the Future Envoy of the Evil Sky Pavilion

Yan Zhenluo had been retrieving life hearts for 1,000 years. During that time, he had never seen anyone who was capable of making a fierce beast voluntarily hand over its life heart. Di Jiang was the first. Therefore, he was shocked.

Lu Zhou put away the life heart before he observed Di Jiang with a hint of surprise in his eyes. It did not seem to have a high IQ, but it unexpectedly knew to hand its life heart over to protect itself.

“Di Jiang...”

Di Jiang let out a strange cry that seemed almost mournful and contained a hint of pleading.

Yan Zhenluo shook his head and said, “Brother Lu, you can’t keep this beast. I’ll get rid of it.”

“Wait.” Lu Zhou raised his hand to stop Yan Zhenluo.

Yan Zhenluo was perplexed. He could not figure out what Lu Zhou was trying to do.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Di Jiang flapped its wings. However, he remained in situ. Without its life heart, not only did it lose its speed, but it had also lost its strength.

Life hearts were energy sources of forced beasts after all. They contained powerful vitality energy and Primal Qi. Fierce beasts without life hearts were akin to cultivators losing their Dantian's seas of Qi. Naturally, in the eyes of cultivators, fierce beasts were still beasts. They could not compare to cultivators at all.

Lu Zhou stood in front of Di Jiang and stroked his beard as he asked, "Di Jiang, do you understand what I'm saying?"

Quack! Quack!

Di Jiang let out a duck-like quacking cry.

Yan Zhenluo was dumbfounded by this. Although he was experienced, the scene in front of him was rather difficult to understand.

Lu Zhou continued to stroke his beard and said, "It's good that you understand."

Yan Zhenluo. "???"

How did the old man understand Di Jiang?

Lu Zhou continued to say, "I don't care where you came from or why you came. Since you met me, I'll give you a chance." Then, he lowered his voice before he continued to say, "Are you willing to be my mount?"

Yan Zhenluo. "..."

Yan Zhenluo was about to object again, but he swallowed his words when he recalled Lu Zhou's style of doing things was different.

Di Jiang let out a pleading cry again.

Lu Zhou's expression was solemn as he said, "You're not willing?"

Di Jiang cried out in response.

"There are so many people who want to be my disciple, but they've no chance. Livestock, you really don't know what's good for you. How are you going to fly back without your life heart? Even if I let you go, you'll be slaughtered and burned to death. You'll suffer a fate worse than death. You can give it a try if that's what you want..." Lu Zhou said.

"..." Yan Zhenluo, a Six Chart expert, was rendered speechless. This method... could it really work?

Di Jiang began to flap its wings again, trying to fly. Soon enough, its four wings carried its chubby body up into the sky. There was no doubt that it was born to fly. It looked proud as it flew up half the height of a tree...

At this moment, Lu Zhou frowned as he said using the Heavenly Writing Power, "Watch out!"

Quack!

Di Jiang fell from the sky as it quacked. Although its body was the size of a cow, its posture when falling was not too ugly.

Boom!

Di Jiang landed in front of Yan Zhenluo.

The commotion caused the birds to take flight and the beasts on land scampered away, no longer searching for food. It was incredibly noisy in the forest and took a while before it was silent again.

The leaves fell like snow, making it seemed like it was autumn.

Di Jiang sprawled on the ground. Seemingly unresigned, it screeched.

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "You're going to insist on being stubborn?"

Di Jiang flapped its wings and looked yearningly at the sky where it could soar freely. Alas, its body trembled and it found that it could not move.

Upon seeing this, Yan Zhenluo cursed, "Livestock. Since you refuse this goodwill, you can only die. Now that you've lost your life heart, if you return to your nest, you won't have a good ending. Stay by Brother Lu's side and cultivate diligently. At that time, you can form another life heart..."

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Di Jiang suddenly stopped flapping its wings and slowly looked at Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou said, "This is your last chance. Are you willing to be my mount?"

Quack! Quack! Quack!

Di Jiang lowered its wings and head before it quacked a few times at Lu Zhou.

"Ding! Obtained mount, Di Jiang. Master: Lu Zhou."

"Very good."

Di Jiang finally submitted.

Yan Zhenluo who had been watching said, "I really didn't expect it to agree to become a mount. Di Jiangs have always been arrogant and difficult to tame. This Di Jiang seems young..."

Lu Zhou nodded. "I'm just lucky."

"It can be tamed slowly if it stays by your side. When it forms its life heart again, it'll recover its speed. Once it matures, it'll be a big help to you in the future..." Yan Zhenluo said.

"How long does it take to form a life heart?" Lu Zhou asked.

"At least a hundred years. However, it ranges from 300 to 500 to 1,000 years. It takes a very long time for them to form life hearts..." Yan Zhenluo replied.

“That’s too long.” This meant that Di Jiang would not be able to help him for a long time. At least Qiong Qi and Dang Kang had their roles to play; if it was going to take so long for Di Jiang to form its life heart, was it not useless?

Yan Zhenluo seemed as though he could read Lu Zhou’s thoughts as he continued to say, “However, there’s a way to expedite its recovery.”

“Oh?”

“To activate a Birth Chart, cultivators must place a life heart in the lotus seat’s Birth Palace to create a Birth Chart zone. The process will absorb 1,500 years of life from the life heart. If Brother Lu is willing, you can substitute it with your own lifespan. After you successfully activate your Birth Chart, you’ll gain 500 years of life. In other words, you can exchange Di Jiang’s life heart with 1,000 years of your life,” Yan Zhenluo explained.

“Is this method feasible?” Lu Zhou asked skeptically.

“Yes,” Yan Zhenluo said, “In the black lotus domain, there are elders who sacrifice 1,000 years of their lives so that they reuse the life hearts and give them to the younger generation. However, you can only use this method twice with a life heart. One Birth Chart grants 500 years of life while eight Birth Charts grant 4,000 years of life. Therefore, 1,000 years is nothing. Naturally, this all depends on Brother Lu...”

Quack! Quack! Quack!

As though it understood Yan Zhenluo, Di Jiang suddenly ran to Lu Zhou’s side, looking much more obedient and submissive.

“Nevertheless, this is the first time I’ve met someone who’s considering reusing a life heart and giving up 1,000 years of life to return it to the beast,” Yan Zhenluo said with a hint of mirth.

Lu Zhou nodded. After a moment, he looked at Yan Zhenluo and said, “You’re a smart person. I admire smart people the most. Are you interested in joining my Evil Sky Pavilion?”

“Uh...” Yan Zhenluo was dumbfounded. He did not expect this at all.

“I’ll definitely treat you well,” Lu Zhou said.

A troubled expression appeared on Yan Zhenluo’s face as he said with a sigh, “Alas, I’m a member of the Black Tower Council. Although I yearn for freedom, I can’t easily leave the Black Tower Council. There are still many things I need to do at the council. However, I really appreciate your kindness, Brother Lu.”

“Well, you don’t have to decide immediately. Let me know if you change your mind,” Lu Zhou said.

“Thank you, Brother Lu.” After thanking Lu Zhou, Yan Zhenluo brought a thick book out of the pocket near his chest and handed it to Lu Zhou with both hands. “This contains the basic principles of Birth Charts and the Thousand Realms Whirling. Please accept this, Brother Lu.”

Lu Zhou nodded. After he accepted the book, he asked, “Since you gave Di Jiang to me, how are you planning to explain yourself if the Black Tower Council pursues the matter?”

Chapter 916: The Black Guards

Yan Zhenluo replied with a smile, "That's easy. I'll just take a feather from Di Jiang when I report back to the Black Tower Council. At that time, they'll have to forgive me."

Di Jiang's speed was the fastest among the fierce beasts, after all. It was unlikely for a single Thousand Realms Whirling expert to take it down. It was somewhat unreasonable if the Black Tower Council punished Yan Zhenluo for it.

Lu Zhou nodded and said, "Go ahead. Tell me what you want?"

Yan Zhenluo bowed before he said, "I only want to ensure Lu Li's safety."

"Nothing else?"

"That's right. I only have this one request," Yan Zhenluo said.

"Alright." Lu Zhou nodded.

"Thank you." Yan Zhenluo straightened his back and looked at the setting sun. "It's getting late. Before I leave, there's another thing I need to remind you about, Brother Lu."

"What is it?"

"The Black Tower Council is aware of Lu Li's disappearance as well. They're also aware of the disappearance of the Birth Chart Beast on Cloud Mountain. Since you have a golden Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, I suspect the Black Tower Council will send the Black Guards to investigate this matter..." Yan Zhenluo said in a grave tone.

"Black Guards?"

"The Black Guards is a team in the Black Tower that maintains order and rules. They're like law enforcers. They have authority over the lower level of the Black Tower Council. The average black guard has around four Birth Charts. Each team they send out usually has three people," Yan Zhenluo explained.

"The Black Tower Council is so strong?" Lu Zhou's heart moved slightly. There were so many Thousand Realms Whirling in the Black Tower Council?

Yan Zhenluo smiled wryly as he said, "The Black Tower has been around for tens of thousands of years. It has successfully recruited many experts over the years. Apart from that, it also has a monopoly over life hearts. It's not strange that it's so strong. In fact, there are many weak cultivators in the black lotus domain. Although there are many forces and sectless cultivators, many of them aren't even in the Nascent Divinity Tribulation Realm. Those who join the Black Tower Council are all the cream of the crop."

"I see." Lu Zhou nodded.

"It's getting late; I have to go. This is a special black talisman paper. If you have any news about Lu Li, just light it up. Thank you, Brother Lu," Yan Zhenluo said respectfully as he handed a black talisman paper to Lu Zhou.

"Alright." Lu Zhou put the black talisman away.

“See you soon,” Yan Zhenluo said as he approached Di Jiang.

Di Jiang took a few steps back and hid behind Lu Zhou.

Squawk!

Di Jiang squawked.

“It’s just a feather. Don’t be noisy.” Lu Zhou plucked a feather and handed it to Yan Zhenluo.

After taking the feather, Yan Zhenluo disappeared in a flash.

Lu Zhou looked at the stone forest before he made his way back to the capital.

...

Back in the capital.

Lu Zhou slowly flew back with Di Jiang.

Due to Di Jiang’s relatively small size and due to its lack of a life heart, no one could tell it was a Birth Chart Beast.

The Purple Glazed Ceramic completely hid the aura of the life heart.

No one paid him any attention as he flew to the royal palace.

When Lu Zhou arrived at the royal palace and was on his way back to the Preservation Hall, he saw Yu Shangrong.

Yu Shangrong bowed. “Greetings, master.”

“Where’s your Eldest Senior Brother?” Lu Zhou knew the duo often sparred together and could not help but wonder where Yu Zhenghai went.

“Eldest Senior Brother heard that someone in the capital had sprouted the tenth leaf so he went to investigate. It’s said that this person is skilled with sabers. With his personality, how can he let go of a chance such as this?”

Lu Zhou nodded. Since Di Jiang appeared, it was not surprising that a new Ten-leaf cultivator had appeared. He asked, “What is this person’s name?”

“I only know his surname is Zhang,” Yu Shangrong replied.

“Good. Pay attention to this person,” Lu Zhou said before he placed his hands on his back and left.

Yu Shangrong said respectfully, “Farewell, master.”

...

In the Preservation Hall.

Di Jiang looked around curiously until it grew tired and fell asleep.

Lu Zhou brought out the book that Yan Zhenluo had given him before he pored over it. Fortunately, even if he was reading, the Purple Glazed Ceramic continued helping him to replenish his supreme mystic power. Naturally, the speed was not as fast as if he were meditating.

...

On the morning of the third day.

Lu Zhou finally finished reading the book. He sighed emotionally after he closed the book.

“No wonder Yan Zhenluo could easily see that I have no experience with the Thousand Realms Whirling...”

Lu Zhou gained a lot of new knowledge from the book. For example, one should search for life hearts according to suitability and their abilities instead of focusing on the number of life hearts. The Thousand Realms Whirling avatars were different from the Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar in the sense that the lotus seat and the astrolabe could help one block a fatal blow. When a cultivator was hit with a fatal strike, the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar would shrink and enter the cultivator’s body to absorb the fatal strike. Naturally, the price was the destruction and loss of a Birth Chart on the Birth Chart disk and the Birth Palace. Needless to say, without Birth Charts, even if one had a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, one would not be able to block a fatal strike. Apart from that, he learned that the astrolabe and lotus seat could be used independently without the avatar.

This also solved one of the concerns in Lu Zhou’s heart. This meant that to use the power of the Birth Charts, he could just manifest the astrolabe alone. Naturally, the power would be boosted if one used it along with one’s avatar. However, using the astrolabe alone had its benefits as well.

One could not be too rigid in cultivation. For example, the astrolabe had shocking defensive power. The Birth Chart power could be released from the front and from the back, providing great defenses. This was the same for the lotus seat. However, to protect their Birth Palace, most people would not use their lotus to defend themselves; they would use the astrolabe instead. After all, it was difficult for one to destroy a Birth Chart. The power of the Birth Chart would quickly repair the astrolabe.

After Lu Zhou processed the information, he called out, “Men.”

Little Yuan’er ran in instead of the attendant. When she saw Di Jiang lying at the side, she exclaimed, “M-master! It’s so cute!”

“...” Lu Zhou found it difficult to find the connection between the word cute and Di Jiang’s six legs and four wings. After a moment, he asked, “Do you like it?”

Lu Zhou had too many mounts, after all. He could hardly look after all of them on his own. It would be best if he could pass the responsibility to one of his disciples.

With Qiong Qi and Dang Kang serving as examples, he did not think it was inappropriate to give Di Jiang to Little Yuan’er.

However, Little Yuan’er unexpectedly shook her head and said, “I don’t like it.”

“...”

Then, Little Yuan'er continued to say, "I want a really big mount like Sixth Senior Sister's Cheng Huang. The bigger it is, the better! This... This beast is so small!"

Quack! Quack! Quack!

Di Jiang quacked, seemingly dissatisfied with Little Yuan'er evaluation of it.

Lu Zhou said, "Call your Seventh Senior Brother over."

"Understood." Little Yuan'er turned around and left.

Soon after, Si Wuya returned to the Preservation Hall with Si Wuya.

As soon as Si Wuya laid eyes on Di Jiang, his eyes lit up. "Di Jiang?"

"You know of it?" Lu Zhou asked.

"Di Jiang is red. It has six legs and four wings, and it's skilled in flying. It's said that it can sing and dance as well. Where did you find this Di Jiang, master?" Si Wuya asked, clearly surprised.

"I had nothing to do and subdued it when I ran into it," Lu Zhou said.

Si Wuya said in admiration, "Di Jiang's speed is as fast as lightning. Master, you're amazing for being able to subdue it."

Lu Zhou said, "Alright, alright. However, it's useless now that I've taken its life heart. I'll return its life heart to it once it has completely submitted itself." After a brief pause, he continued to say, "I summoned you here to give you this book."

Lu Zhou casually waved his hand, and the book in front of him flew out and landed in Si Wuya's hands.

Si Wuya asked, "What's This?"

"It's the basic principles of activating Birth Charts and combat techniques for the Thousand Realms Whirling. After reading it, summarize the main points and give them to the members of the Evil Sky Pavilion."

"Understood!" Si Wuya's heart moved. Since time immemorial, very few people were willing to share their cultivation method selflessly.

At this moment, Di Jiang flapped its wings once as it looked at Little Yuan and Si Wuya.

Squawk! Squawk! Squawk!

Di Jiang's squawks echoed in the entire Preservation Hall.

After a moment, it rose to its feet and walked unsteadily toward Si Wuya and Little Yuan'er.

Upon seeing this, Little Yuan'er jumped back and asked, "Master, Seventh Senior Brother, what does it want?"

Chapter 917: The Fourth Birth Chart and the Speed-type Life Heart

Di Jiang sized up Si Wuya and Little Yuan'er for a moment before it lowered its head and began to sniff the ground as it drew closer to them.

Quack! Quack!

Suddenly, Di Jiang lifted its head and quacked twice. Its eyes were particularly bright at this moment.

Quack! Quack!

Then, it ran past Little Yuan'er and stopped in front of Si Wuya.

"Seventh Senior Brother, it seems to like you," Little Yuan'er said, fascinated.

A woman's intuition was always accurate.

Si Wuya looked at Di Jiang curiously, not knowing it was doing.

Lu Zhou was puzzled. His mounts seemed to be very interested in his disciples. After a moment, he looked at Di Jiang and asked, "Di Jiang, do you want to follow him?"

Di Jiang did not have its life heart now and needed someone to take care of it. His disciples were the best candidate.

Quack! Quack!

As though it was replying to Lu Zhou, Di Jiang quacked twice.

Upon seeing this, Lu Zhou said to Si Wuya, "Since this beast is willing to follow you, you can take care of it from now on."

Si Wuya felt that Di Jiang was very strange. How did Di Jiang choose its target? He was different from his Fourth Senior Brother; his thoughts were more rational, and he did not believe in fate. Upon hearing his master's words, he bowed. "Understood."

"Apart from that, the cultivation resources and environment in the red lotus domain are much better than the ones in the golden lotus domain. Over the next period of time, I'll personally supervise your cultivation. You must reach the Ten-leaf stage in three years."

Si Wuya exclaimed in shock, "T-ten... Ten leaves?!"

It was almost impossible for ordinary people to reach the Ten-leaf stage in three years. Si Wuya knew this would not be a problem for his Eldest and Second Senior Brothers. If it were not for the shackles in the golden lotus domain, his senior brothers would have sprouted the ninth and tenth leaf a long time ago. As expected, once the shackles were broken, their cultivation base rose rapidly.

"You're not confident?" Lu Zhou asked.

"When cultivators sprout the tenth leaf, they'll attract Birth Chart Beasts. I'm afraid at that time we'll have a conflict with the black lotus domain. I've studied the points of the stone formations that Fourth Senior Brother obtained, and I've also consulted the Sky Research Court about it. I plan to use a new formation to mislead the black lotus domain."

Lu Zhou nodded. "You can make decisions on this matter. How's Li Yunzheng's performance?"

“He has just started cultivating, and it can be considered smooth so far. He’ll have to depend on himself...”

Lu Zhou nodded.

“Master, there’s another matter.”

“Speak.”

“Recently, I have also studied the activation of Birth Charts. Up until now, all known methods to activate Birth Charts center around the lotus seats. If that’s the case, what should we do about Second Junior Brother, Third Senior Brother, and Eighth Junior Brother in the future?” Si Wuya said.

How were they going to activate their Birth Charts if they did not have a lotus?

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and mulled over Si Wuya’s words. After a moment of silence, he said, “Since the lotus has been severed, it’s irreversible. I’ll think of a solution to this problem. Both of you may take your leave.”

“Yes, master.” Si Wuya and Little Yuan bowed before they left.

Di Jiang was honest and obedient as it tottered after Si Wuya.

...

After leaving the hall, Little Yuan’er asked curiously, “Seventh Senior Brother, it’s following you.”

The two turned around and looked at Di Jiang.

Di Jiang was acting like a domesticated pet at this moment.

“Great Void energy?” Si Wuya suddenly remembered Lu Li’s words when they were in the Sky Shuttle above the Endless Ocean. In fact, he had been thinking about those words since he had heard them. He had a hunch when he saw Di Jiang sniffing around earlier.

Si Wuya glanced at Little Yuan’er. ‘Am I the only one with the Great Void energy? Is that why Di Jiang didn’t choose Little Junior Sister?’

“Seventh Senior Brother, what’s the Great Void energy?”

“It’s nothing. Let’s go.”

Upon seeing Di Jiang obediently following Si Wuya, Little Yuan’er muttered to herself, “All I said was you’re a little small, and it’s the truth! Is that why you didn’t choose me? How petty!”

Di Jiang. “???”

...

In the Preservation Hall.

Lu Zhou did not meditate on the Heavenly Writing. Instead, he was mulling over Yan Zhenluo’s words. A life heart could be used twice as long as one’s willing to give up 1,000 years of life. However, there were

probably not many cultivators who were willing to give up on 1,000 years of life. With 1,000 years, they would be able to find another life heart.

Lu Zhou brought out Di Jiang's life heart. It was like an ice crystal with white mist swirling inside. Then, he brought out the map Lu Li had given him and began to study the positions.

He muttered to himself, "Hidden jade, partial cultivation method to regulate one's breathing, increase the defenses of the Birth Chart disk..."

"Riding the wind and breaking the waves?" Lu Zhou looked at the human-grade Birth Chart. "Found it. Speed-type life heart."

'Riding the wind and breaking the waves' increased one's speed and was a very suitable position for a speed-type life heart.

Lu Zhou manifested his Thousand Realms Whirling Water. He recalled what he had learned from the book Yan Zhenluo had given him. It was said that he could manifest individual parts of his avatar.

He decided to only make the avatar's body vanish.

He flicked his sleeve. Nothing happened.

He tried again. Nothing happened.

After trying about ten times, he finally succeeded.

There was only a lotus in front of him.

He could clearly see his Birth Palace on his lotus seat now compared to previous times when he had to enlarge his avatar to the point where his head was level with his avatar's crotch just to have a better look at his Birth Palace. It was a rather awkward position.

Lu Zhou knew he had to keep practicing how to use the individual parts of his avatar until he was familiar with it. For this reason, he was not in a hurry to activate his next Birth Chart. Instead, he studied the different methods to use his avatar's parts. He only stopped when he was familiar with them.

It took him almost an entire day to familiarize himself with the methods.

...

In the evening.

Lu Zhou manifested his golden astrolabe without his avatar.

The golden astrolabe was like a shining golden mirror.

The front of the astrolabe was the Birth Chart disk where the Birth Charts were manifested. The back of the astrolabe was a shield.

Lu Zhou would only choose to strengthen the shield at the end. After all, he had Unnamed that could easily transform into a shield if needed.

“So does this solve the danger of getting shot in the head?” Lu Zhou said to himself with a smile on his wizened face.

All that was left now was for him to activate his fourth Birth Chart.

He withdrew the astrolabe and manifested his lotus. Following that, he opened the system interface.

Remaining lifespan: 961,423 days (2,634 years in which 110 years are from Reversal Cards)

“2600 years... 1500 years...” He checked his Reversal Cards and discovered he had 77 left. After a brief moment, he decided to use the Reversal Cards.

“Use.”

Ten Reversal Cards disappeared immediately as rich vitality energy surged in the Preservation Hall.

...

At the same time.

The four elders of the Evil Sky Pavilion who were in the vicinity of the Preservation Hall raised their heads and saw the rich and surging vitality energy above the hall.

Xia Changqiu, Ji Fengxing, and WuWu looked up in surprise.

“Four elders, this is...” Xia Changqiu pointed at the strange phenomenon above the Preservation Hall.

Pan Litian smiled before he said, “Pavilion Master is cultivation. If it isn’t urgent, no one should approach the hall...”

“I understand, I understand...” Xia Changqiu said, “I’ll inform the patrol team and tell them not to go close to the hall.”

“Thank you.”

Xia Changqiu turned around and left.

The moment the trio from the Thousand Willows Monastery left, Pan Litian said to the other three elders, “I have three urgent matters to attend to. Please excuse me.”

Pan Litian did not even wait for their replies before he tried to leave.

“Stop pretending, Old Pan. Even if you just move your old butt a little, I know what’s going through your mind... Let’s go together...” Leng Luo said as he placed his hands on his back and walked toward the Preservation Hall.

Back in the Evil Sky Pavilion, whenever this phenomenon occurred, they would take advantage of it. How could they let such a good opportunity slip past them now?

Therefore, the four elders of the Evil Sky Pavilion snuck close to the Preservation Hall like thieves to absorb the excess vitality energy.

They were there until the next morning.

...

After using up all his Reversal Cards, Lu Zhou looked at the light streaming into the hall from outside.

He inhaled deeply. He wondered if there was a limit to the vitality energy that converged. Each time he used ten Reversal Cards, it took a moment before it fully converged.

“Is it a heaven and earth shackle?”

Based on what he knew, whether it was the golden lotus domain, the red lotus domain, the black lotus domain, or even the weak yellow lotus domain, every domain had a heaven and earth shackle.

The golden lotus domain had gotten rid of the eight-leaf limit, but it was still bound by the shackles of heaven and earth.

The more he used his Reversal Cards, the feeling of the heaven and earth shackle grew stronger and stronger.

“What is it exactly?” Lu Zhou wondered to himself as he looked up.

He only thought about this matter briefly before he dismissed it.

Subsequently, he looked at the system interface again.

Remaining lifespan: 100,7628 days (2,760 years in which 236.5 years are from the Reversal Cards)

“I gained more than 200 years from the Reversal Cards...”

Lu Zhou looked around for a moment before his eyes finally landed on a bronze mirror on the table. He used his energy and brought the bronze mirror to him.

‘I gained more than 100 years of life this time, I wonder if I’ve become more handsome...’

When Lu Zhou looked in the mirror, he saw himself with a head full of black hair.

Chapter 918: A Unique Cultivation Method?

His face looked well-defined now, and his dark eyes were as calm as usual. However, there were still wrinkles on his forehead and a few strands of silver hair at his temples. His eyebrows and beard still did not have the luster they would have if he was young.

“Not bad...” Lu Zhou muttered to himself after evaluating his appearance. Based on his current appearance, it was not difficult for people to see that he was a handsome and elegant man in his youth.

The road to regaining his youth was long. He would take his time.

After Lu Zhou returned the ancient bronze mirror to its original position, he decided it was time to activate his Birth Chart.

He looked at the ‘Riding the wind and breaking the waves’ position in the Birth Palace, hoping that it would not absorb the lifespan he gained from the Reversal Cards.

Following that, he picked up the life heart and placed it in the Birth Palace without any hesitation.

The life heart lit up the 'Riding the wind and breaking the wave' position in the Birth Palace immediately.

Lu Zhou looked at the Birth Chart zone intently.

Swoosh!

The golden karmic fire appeared around the lotus seat immediately, but it did not obstruct his view of the lotus seat. As the life heart sank into the zone, he could feel his Birth Palace expanding.

As he waited for the activation of the Birth Chart to be completed, a thought appeared in his mind after looking at his Birth Palace. 'Hmm? It seems like I can activate 10 Birth Charts for now?'

However, he knew it could not be that simple. Lu Li and Yan Zhenluo had reached the limit at five and six Birth Charts respectively. How could both of them reach the limit so easily?

"Does innate talent and aptitude have anything to do with the number of Birth Charts one can activate?"

As the saying went, 'Talent defines the upper limit while diligence only defines the lower limit.'

No matter how diligently a cultivator cultivated, they would not be able to increase the number of Birth Charts they could activate if their Birth Palaces were not big enough.

A distinct noise rang from the life heart at this moment.

Lu Zhou suddenly felt as though his Dantian's sea of Qi was splitting. Fortunately, he had read about this side effect in the book that Yan Zhenluo had given him. The more Birth Charts one had activated, the more the difficulty would increase. The pain of activating a Birth Chart would, naturally, increase as well.

Activating a Birth Chart was like using a life heart to carve a place in the Birth Palace. The process of 'carving' felt like cutting one's flesh. The pain was necessary, and one could not use Primal Qi to lessen the pain. Otherwise, it would affect the special ability from the life heart.

Lu Zhou sat down cross-legged. This pain was nothing to him; he could still tolerate this little bit of pain. Moreover, the Dantian's sea of Qi was tough, to begin with, and there was no threat of it really breaking.

...

The entire process lasted for about two hours. The feeling of his Dantian's sea of Qi splitting had also disappeared.

"Life heart..." Following that, Lu Zhou decisively grabbed the life heart in his Birth Palace and brought it out.

Crack!

Soon after, the zone in the Birth Palace mended itself. It rippled and caved in, forming an hourglass-shaped dent.

"It's a success..." Lu Zhou looked at the life heart in his hand that was still brimming with energy and vitality energy.

After he put the life heart away, he observed the change in his Birth Palace. A vortex had appeared and began to devour his lifespan.

-100 days

-200 days

– 300 days.

Seeing his life decreasing at a stable rate, he was rather relieved. As long as it did not exceed the years he received from the Reversal Cards, no matter how much it decreased, it would recover sooner or later. Otherwise, his appearance would revert to that of an old man again after he exerted so much effort to look young again.

Thinking about this made him miss his time on earth when he was a student and was pursued by many girls. That time in the past had become a beautiful memory that he could never return to.

It would take a while for the entire thing to be over so he no longer paid any attention to his Birth Palace. Instead, he chanted the mantra for the Heavenly Writing Power inwardly to check in on his eighth disciple and Lu Li.

As the blue energy converged around his eyes, scenes after scenes flashed past his eyes.

...

At this moment, Dang Kang was sound asleep, lying in front of Zhu Honggong who was sitting on a chair.

Lu Li who sat across from Zhu Honggong said, "It's all thanks to the fact that you severed your lotus that you're able to easily sprout the ninth leaf."

Zhu Honggong said, filled with pride, "That's only natural! When master proposed severing the lotus to sprout the ninth leaf, the entire golden lotus domain had bowed to him."

"However... how are you going to activate your Birth Chart without a lotus? You need the lotus seat to activate the Birth Chart," Lu Li said as he furrowed his eyebrows.

Zhu Honggong shrugged. "Nine leaves isn't bad. Since I'm peerless in the yellow lotus domain, I'll just stay here and marry a few beautiful wives. That's right, if you're willing, I'll look for a few beautiful wives for you as well!"

Lu Li frowned and said, "You promised me that you would go back."

"Isn't it good to stay in the yellow lotus domain? Why should we leave? As long as we don't intentionally look for trouble, we'll continue to rule over the domain. We'll strictly follow your plan of keeping the fierce beasts away. I won't try to sprout the tenth leaf to avoid attracting the beasts as well. At that time, even the experts from the black lotus domain wouldn't be able to find us..." Zhu Honggong said.

Lu Li's frown deepened. He suddenly felt that Zhu Honggong had changed into a different person. It was not like he did not expect this. Zhu Honggong was only human. Was there anyone who would easily leave behind a high position and status?

Lu Li shook his head and said, "In the end, you're muddled by your position."

"I'm very clear-headed..." Zhu Honggong said as he chuckled and shook his head, "Everyone thinks I'm stupid, but all of you are the stupid ones. Is it uncomfortable to live such a life? This is heaven. I love it here."

"But you promised me..."

"I didn't say when I'd leave though..." Zhu Honggong interjected as he shrugged.

Lu Li asked, "Aren't you afraid your master will look for you? He's probably worried about you..."

Zhu Honggong was momentarily stunned by Lu Li's words. After thinking about it, he said, "Master treated me kindly. Eldest Senior Brother treats me like an elder brother... Second Senior Brother, Seventh Senior Brother... all of them treated me like their brother. I have to find a chance to bring them here to enjoy life!"

Lu Li. "???"

Did Eldest Senior Brother not mean that he was the eldest? How could he treat Zhu Honggong like an elder brother?

At this moment, Zhu Honggong stood up and poured a glass of water as he said, "Senior, it seems like you're in a bad mood. Hurry, drink some water and calm down..."

"No need," Lu Li said in a clear voice, "Zhu Honggong, it's not in your destiny to live the life of an emperor."

"Well, I'm living the life of an emperor right now..." Zhu Hong spread his arms. He really did not understand what Lu Li meant.

Lu Li. "..."

After a moment, Lu Li said, "You have the Great Void energy. Dang Kang chose you and followed you wholeheartedly only because it wants to rely on the energy to grow stronger. Don't tell me you think your handsome appearance attracted it? In the future, you'll become a powerful cultivator. You will face heaven and earth for those who suffered injustice; you will face God who has created countless shackles... This is your mission and this is your future. You will never be able to rid yourself of it."

Zhu Honggong was stunned.

The hall was silent for a long time.

In the end, Zhu Honggong shook his head, "I don't care about my mission or my future. I'm not very ambitious, to begin with."

"You're a hopeless case..." Lu Li said, clearly disappointed.

Zhu Honggong leaned back lazily and crossed his legs, exuding the air of a young master. "You're not my master... Nobody can control me but my master."

'Impudent!'

At this moment, a thunderous voice rang in the depths of Zhu Honggong's mind, causing his hair to stand on ends and chills to run up his spine. The voice and the word were very familiar. It was like that time when his master reprimanded him back when he was in the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Zhu Honggong fell to his knees immediately. His body trembled as he looked outside of the hall timidly as he called out tentatively, "M-master? I was wrong! I was wrong!"

Lu Li. "???"

Lu Li, naturally, did not hear anything. He only looked at the kowtowing Zhu Honggong in confusion, wondering what kind of show was this.

...

Meanwhile, after Lu Zhou shouted the word 'impudent', he completely used up his supreme mystic power, cutting off the scene before his eyes,

The Preservation Hall was in a mess at this moment. Tables and chairs lay in a broken heap on the ground, and none of the pillars were without cracks.

...

Outside of the Preservation Hall.

At the same time, the four elders from the Evil Sky Pavilion were suddenly sent flying back at the same time as they spat out a mouthful of blood.

"Old Pan, it's all your fault... You've made the Pavilion Master angry!"

"You can't blame me for this... How could I know this would happen?"

Thud! Thud! Thud! Thud!

The four elders landed on the ground one after another.

Xia Changqiu walked over from the distance. He stroked his beard as he asked curiously, "Four elders, what are you doing?"

The four elders hurriedly rose to their feet and feigned a calm expression. They placed their hands on their backs and puffed their chests out.

Following that, Pan Litian said with a straight face, "This is a new cultivation method. Your knowledge is limited so I'm afraid you won't be able to understand it."

"No wonder..." Xia Changqiu cupped his fist together and said, "Such a strange cultivation method has truly broadened my horizon... Can I..."

"No," Pan Litian refused decisively.

"I'm sorry for being rude." Xia Changqiu felt he was asking for too much as well. "In any case, I thought I heard a shout earlier. Did something happen?"

“Monastery Master Xia, you talk too much.” Leng Luo said pointedly as he turned away. His silver mask glinted coldly under the light.

“I apologize. I’ll take my leave now.” Xia Changqiu hurriedly left. He thought to himself that experts were indeed experts. Even their cultivation methods were so unique. If only he could learn a thing or two from them.

After Xia Changqiu left, the four elders of the Evil Sky Pavilion turned to look at the Preservation Hall before they exchanged a look.

“Let’s go and have a look.”

Okay

Chapter 919: True Speed

In fact, the four elders of the Evil Sky Pavilion did not act rashly. They had experience with this after all. Previously, they had absorbed the excess vitality energy and benefited greatly from it. The entire process was pleasant and smooth. At that time, the pavilion master did not get angry at all so why did he flew into a rage this time?

The four elders carefully climbed up the steps of the Preservation Hall. Before they entered the hall, they could already see the hall was in a mess.

The two large doors were badly damaged. Obvious cracks could be seen on the pillars and the tiles on the ground.

Zuo Yushu was alarmed when she saw this. “Brother’s sound technique is truly peerless...”

Hua Wudao looked at the cracks on the ground and said, “However, most of the force from the technique dissipated after it traveled out of the hall. Based on this, it’s obvious that the Pavilion Master was holding back and didn’t intend to seriously injure us...”

The four elders wiped the blood off the corners of their lips and looked at the damaged hall fearfully.

“Don’t just stand here. Let’s go in and ask for forgiveness,” Pan Litian said.

The other three elders nodded in agreement.

After they tidied their appearances, they were about to enter the hall when Lu Zhou suddenly walked out with his hands on his back.

When Lu Zhou saw the bloodstain at the corners of their lips and the sorry states they were in, he asked, “What happened to the four elders?”

The four elders were dumbfounded.

Who was the person standing in front of them? Where was the Pavilion Master? It was impossible for the person in front of them who exuded the charm of a middle-aged man to be the Pavilion Master! However, the clothes, the posture, the aura...

No way! This person was really the Pavilion Master!

All of sudden, they recalled the rich and surging vitality energy from before. Did the Pavilion Master master some heaven-defying method to rejuvenate his appearance?!

Despite the questions in their minds, the four elders were more restrained than the younger generations. They did not ask questions even if there were doubts in their hearts. It did not take long before they calmed down.

Pan Litian took the initiative to speak first. "Please forgive us, Pavilion Master!"

"Forgive?" Lu Zhou frowned in confusion before he asked in a deep voice, "Who injured the four elders? How audacious. In Great Tang's royal palace, there's actually someone who dares to act boldly in front of me?"

The four elders looked at each other with hints of relief in their eyes. It seemed like the incident earlier was an accident, and they had misunderstood the matter.

Pan Litian replied, "It's nothing like that. We were just sparring..."

"Sparring?"

"I apologize for making the Pavilion Master worry," Pan Litian said.

"That's good... I thought someone bullied the elders."

"With Pavilion Master here, even Thousand Realms Whirling experts won't dare to act rashly. Please rest assured, Pavilion Master!"

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. "Alright. Summon someone here in two hours to clean up the hall."

"Understood." The four of them hurriedly left. All of them felt as though a weight had been lifted off their shoulders now that they knew Lu Zhou was not angry and did not vent his anger on them. Moreover, they felt incredibly happy when they saw Lu Zhou wanting to stand up for them when he thought they were being bullied.

After a while, Pan Litian said, "Pavilion Master looks younger than us now..."

"Could it be some kind of disguise technique?"

"If it's a technique it has to be a secret technique... Let's not speculate anymore. In any case, I feel brother is becoming more and more attractive..." Zuo Yushu said.

"..."

...

When Lu Zhou returned to the Preservation Hall he looked at the mess of ruined paintings, porcelain, and expensive calligraphies on the ground. Fortunately, most of the supreme mystic power had lessened when it left the hall. It would be a huge loss if he accidentally killed his four elders.

After a moment, he returned his attention to his Birth Palace on the lotus seat. Then, he looked at the 30 triangles on the astrolabe's Birth Disk.

Following that, he looked at his lifespan on the system interface. As expected, it was almost 1,500 years. He relaxed slightly upon seeing this.

The complete activation of his fourth Birth Chart should be done in another two hours.

He thought to himself, "The activation of the fourth Birth Chart went more smoothly than I thought it would go... I wonder how difficult it would be to activate the fifth Birth Chart?"

Lu Li had five Birth Charts, and Yan Zhenluo had six Birth Charts. Although Yan Zhenluo did not reveal much about the Black Tower Council, Lu Zhou could roughly estimate the strength of the Black Tower Council based on the book Yan Zhenluo gave him. There were people with more than eight Birth Charts in the Black Tower Council.

"The Black Guards..." Lu Zhou knew this was a force that could not be underestimated. If it were just a few people, they would be easy to deal with. However, it would be troublesome if there were five or six of them.

It was not enough for him to just rely on himself. It seemed like it was time to raise his disciples' cultivation bases.

His eldest and second disciples were not bad. Both of them had the Great Void Seeds so their progress should be good. However, his third and fifth disciples were rather worrying.

As Lu Zhou kept an eye on his Birth Chart, he fell deep into his thoughts, thinking of how he should train his disciples.

"Conch has already inherited Luo Xuan's cultivation. Perhaps, she'll be the first disciple to reach the Thousand Realms Whirling stage... It's a pity she's too young. Her foundation isn't stable, and she lacks combat experience..."

...

In the yellow lotus domain.

Lu Li looked at the trembling and kowtowing Zhu Honggong in confusion.

After a while, Zhu Honggong finally collapsed on the ground limply. He inhaled deeply and wiped the sweat off his forehead. After that, he finally noticed Lu Li looking at him in confusion. How embarrassing!

Lu Li said, "You're really... reverent toward your master,"

Zhu Honggong snuck a look outside of the hall again before he said, "I can't help it..."

Lu Li sighed and returned to his seat before he said, "Although I'm not your master, I've taught you many things. You're still young so you're not farsighted enough. If things are as you thought them to be, I'd be willing to enjoy a peaceful life as well. Unfortunately, this isn't the case..."

"Why?"

"I'm not completely certain. I only heard the situation has something to do with the Great Void. Previously, rumors were circulating from the upper level of the Black Tower Council that something was

lost in the Great Void. Every year, men would be sent out to look for it. Zhu Honggong, answer me honestly. Have you been to the Great Void?”

Zhu Honggong scratched his head and said, “I have not. I’m just an ordinary person. My father, Zhu Tianyuan, is an honest cultivator. My mother... That’s right! Who’s my mother? Is it possible that my mother is an expert from the Great Void? Am I the descendant of a Great Void expert?”

“...”

It was hard to communicate with someone who was so imaginative.

Lu Li asked again, “The young man with the golden wings on the Sky Shuttle is your Seventh Senior Brother?”

“Yes, why?”

Lu Li said solemnly, “He has the Great Void energy as well...”

Zhu Honggong exclaimed in shock, “Is... Is Seventh Senior Brother my long-lost biological brother?!”

“...” Lu Li gave up on trying to communicate with Zhu Honggong. He shook his head and left the hall. Before he left, he said, “If you want to enjoy your life here, then stay. I’ll think of a way to leave...”

“Wait!” Zhu Honggong called out. He hurriedly rose to his feet and stopped Lu Li. “Am I someone who goes back on my promise? I was just joking with you! To be honest, I really miss my senior brothers and the others. I don’t know how they’re doing at this moment. How can I live with myself if I stay here and enjoy my life while they suffer?”

Lu Li nodded. “You can leave the Flood Sect to me for the time being. Focus on your cultivation and try to sprout the tenth leaf in one year. At that time, we’ll have the Flood Sect help us take down the Birth Chart Beast. With another life heart and the king of the sea beast’s life heart, you’ll be able to reach the Thousand Realms Whirling stage and activate a Birth Chart...”

After Lu Li left, Zhu Honggong kept replaying Lu Li’s words in his mind. After a moment, he said with a sigh, “It seems like I have no choice... As it turns out, I’m the chosen one. How can I keep a low profile like this?”

“...”

At this moment, Dang Kang grunted before it rubbed itself against Zhu Honggong’s legs.

Zhu Hongtong sighed again and said, “In this world, you’re the one who understands me the most!”

...

In the royal palace’s Preservation Hall.

It was quiet as usual.

After two hours, Lu Zhou’s Birth Palace finally stabilized after two hours.

The ‘Riding the wind and breaking the waves’ zone in the Birth Palace flashed brilliantly, indicating the success of activating the fourth Birth Chart.

Lu Zhou looked at his lifespan on the system interface.

Remaining life: 642,628 days (1,760 years in which 236 years are from Reversal Cards)

Lu Zhou nodded his head in satisfaction. He could clearly feel from his Dantian's sea of Qi that his cultivation base had risen.

After he withdrew the lotus seat, he pushed on hand out.

Buzz!

The golden astrolabe appeared in his hand.

This scene reminded him of the scene in the movie he saw on earth where a sect leader held the Supreme Heavenly Mirror that could shoot out dazzling light.

As he continued to study the golden astrolabe, he muttered to himself, "It looks a little similar to the Golden Taixu Mirror as well."

At this moment, the golden astrolabe flashed brilliantly. The twelve dividing lines on the golden astrolabe looked awe-inspiring.

"Karmic fire."

Whoosh!

The karmic fire appeared on the golden astrolabe.

"Birth Chart Power."

In the next second, Lu Zhou flashed outside of the hall. He was silent and faster than the wind. He could tell he was much faster than Yi Yao. However, since he had to use the grand technique as well, the energy consumption was higher than normal. Apart from that, there was also a limit to how many times he would be able to use the Birth Chart Powers. If he used all of it on speed, he would only be able to use it sixteen times. Nevertheless, he was satisfied.

At this moment, Lu Zhou looked up and saw a figure in the distance.

"Old First?" Lu Zhou muttered to himself, "Alright, let's start with you. I'll personally supervise your cultivation..."

Chapter 920: Let's Start With Yu Zhenghai

Lu Zhou did not use the Birth Chart power as he flashed toward Yu Zhenghai. He discovered Yu Zhenghai's speed and movement were top-notch. For a Nine-leaf cultivator, it was very impressive.

Lu Zhou continued following Yu Zhenghai to the western palace wall. "What's he doing?"

Normally, Lu Zhou rarely paid attention to his disciples' personal lives. Perhaps, he was in a good mood today so he suddenly took an interest.

The afterglow of the evening light illuminated the stop of the wall to the tiles on the ground in the palace.

Lu Zhou had the Purple Glazed Ceramic so most cultivators would not be able to discover his presence. He leaped lightly over the wall and stood in the evening wind, stroking his beard.

Yu Zhenghai stood with his hands on his back as he looked at the evening sky, completely unaware that his master was near him.

At this moment, a person dressed in gray robes rushed over from afar and arrived at the palace wall in just a blink of an eye. His speed was not slow. As soon as he arrived, he called out, "Mister First..."

Yu Zhenghai said, "You kept your promise..."

"Since I've made a promise, how would I dare not to show up? I wonder what Mister First thinks of the matter I mentioned previously?" the person asked.

Yu Zhenghai replied, "Zhang Wanxiang, if you want to join the Evil Sky Pavilion, you must speak to my master. He has a very discerning eye and never makes mistakes in judging people."

"Even Mister First doesn't have the right to decide on such matters?"

"It's not that I don't have the right. It's just that... there's no need for me to make a decision..." Yu Zhenghai replied.

"Huh?"

"You're just a Nine-leaf cultivator. This isn't anything impressive in the Evil Sky Pavilion. Moreover, I've only just met you a few days ago. A hero understands another hero. Your saber skill is passable, but it's far from enough," Yu Zhenghai said.

"..."

The evening wind blew softly as the sunset and brought away the remaining light.

Yu Zhenghai looked at the horizon outside of the western wall and said with a sigh, "You should return. You can consider serving Great Tang in the future..."

"No, no, no... Mister First, you misunderstand me."

"What is it?"

"I'm not a simple Nine-leaf cultivator..." As soon as Zhang Wanxiang finished speaking, energy fists shot toward Yu Zhenghai's face. At the same time, energy sabers shot out and slashed at Yu Zhenghai's protective energy.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The sudden change surprised Yu Zhenghai. However, he was not an ordinary Nine-leaf cultivator. After so many life-or-death battles, he had learned to stay calm when faced with sudden danger no matter when or where.

The Great Dark Heaven Palm appeared, easily deflecting the energy sabers and energy fists one after another.

"Is that all?" Yu Zhenghai sneered.

"If you have the guts, follow me."

Lu Zhou who was watching the scene thought to himself, 'He's goading him?'

It was clear Zhang Wanxiang was trying to lure his disciple away. If they were on the other side of the wall in the royal court, the commotion would have attracted the attention of others. This person was rather smart; he probably had tricks up his sleeve.

Yu Zhenghai smiled and said, "You want to lure me away? I'll grant you your wish." After that, he leaped up and followed the other person.

Lu Zhou shook his head. Blindly fighting and making hasty decisions. He wondered how his first disciple managed to maintain the Nether Sect. After thinking for a moment, he shook his head. It was not good to judge his disciple so early. After all, his disciple might have his own tricks up his sleeve as well. Otherwise, he would not have been so reckless.

Lu Zhou was about to follow Yu Zhenghai when another figure appeared at Yu Zhenghai's original position. It was his second disciple, Yu Shangrong.

Yu Shangrong, who was carrying the Longevity Sword on his back, crossed his arms. He stood against the wind and murmured to himself with a faint smile on his face, "It's just a Ten-leaf cultivator who hid his cultivation base. It's better to spar with Nie Qingyun..."

Lu Zhou. "..."

'It seems like my worries are unfounded...'

Yu Shangrong's body was as light as a swallow as he chased after Yu Zhenghai.

Lu Zhou waited for a moment before he followed his two disciples.

...

In the relay station in the west of the capital.

Perhaps, it was due to the commotion caused by Yu Zhenghai and Zhang Zian, they attracted a lot of attention.

"There are high-level cultivators sparring again! Hurry up! Let's go and have a look!"

"It's so lively. The commotion seems to be coming from the royal palace. Could it be the rumored Evil Sky Pavilion?"

"A friendly reminder to those with less than five leaves, it's better if you don't watch the battle!"

...

Yu Zhenghai chased after Zhang Wanxiang all the way to a desolate area west of the capital.

It was dark and the empty buildings on both sides gave the place a creepy and desolate air. Weed grew unchecked everywhere. This place was rather suitable for sparring.

The Jade Saber that Yu Zhenghai carried on his body buzzed.

Yu Zhenghai felt his fighting spirit rising. He had gotten so used to sparring with Nie Qingyun that he had grown rather numb. On the contrary, Zhang Wanxiang brought with him a sense of danger that excited him.

Zhang Wanxiang asked, "Mister First, if I defeat you, can I join the Evil Sky Pavilion?"

"Defeat me? You can continue dreaming." Yu Zhenghai took a step forward but did not draw his saber. He flashed and arrived in front of Zhang Xiang before he struck with his palm.

The Great Dark Heaven Palm.

The golden palm seal pushed Zhang Wanxiang back immediately.

Zhang Wanxiang smiled slightly and pushed his palm against the palm seal. After a while, he stomped his feet and clenched his hand.

Just like that, the golden palm seal disappeared.

The cultivators who were watching nearby broke into an uproar.

"G-golden palm seal? He's from the Evil Sky Pavilion!" one of the cultivators exclaimed.

"His opponent is a red lotus cultivator; one of our own," another one said.

It did not matter that the Evil Sky Pavilion's name had spread in the red lotus domain, there would still be people who used color to distinguish between friends and foes. However, since the battle at the Sky Wheel Rift Valley and since the Evil Sky Pavilion had subdued the Sky Martial Court, no one dared to openly provoke the Evil Sky Pavilion.

The battle between the two Thousand Realms Whirling experts in the royal palace had filled many cultivators with awe and respect. Indeed, if experts went on a killing spree, there would definitely be a bloodbath.

After Li Yunzheng regained control of Great Tang, his subsequent actions had reduced much of the hostility toward the golden lotus domain. There were many people who believed the golden lotus domain and the red lotus domain should work together and not be enemies.

At this moment, a green-robed swordsman carrying a sword on his back landed in the midst of the crowd. He was not someone who reveled in excitement, but a faint smile could be seen on his face at this moment as he watched the battle in front of him.

At this moment, the person next to Yu Shangrong turned around and asked, "Hey, who do you think will win?"

"You're asking me?" Yu Shangrong asked.

"Yes, your movement technique is quite good so I'm sure your judgment can't be all the bad..."

Yu Shangrong looked ahead as he replied with a faint smile on his face, "Perhaps, the red lotus cultivator will win. That golden lotus cultivator seems rather arrogant; it might place him in a disadvantageous position."

"Brother, you have a discerning eye!" After that, the cultivator turned away and cried out, "Come, come, place your bets! I bet the red lotus cultivator will win!"

Upon hearing this, several cultivators placed their bets.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou landed on a building and watched the battle from afar.

Zhang Wanxiang tapped his toes before he shot to the top of a building. Thousands of energy sabers bloomed in front of him before they shot out like a boomerang.

Yu Zhenghai spread his arm as a golden energy saber appeared above his palm.

One turned into two; two turned into four; four turned into eight...

Buzz!

Thousands of energy sabers shot out.

"The Dark Heaven Starlight."

The Great Dark Heaven Memorial crushed Zhang Wanxiang's energy sabers like a windmill. Its force from the collision swept toward Zhang Wanxiang as well.

Nevertheless, Zhang Wanxiang calmly reminded Yu Zhenghai, "You can use your saber. It's a huge mistake to underestimate your enemy."

"If I use my Jasper Saber, I'm afraid you won't be able to block it." Yu Zhenghai pushed his hand out again.

A palm seal shot out followed by energy sabers.

Zhang Wanxiang did not retreat but advanced instead.

In just a blink of an eye, the two opponents' energy sabers collided and struggled against each other.

The energy sabers slashed in all directions. The already dilapidated buildings were riddled with saber marks and holes.

Meanwhile, the cultivators did not stop discussing among themselves.

"From the looks of it, the red lotus cultivator isn't at a disadvantage. Nevertheless, it must not be easy to fight an expert from the Evil Sky Pavilion," someone said.

In an uncharacteristic move, Yu Shangrong chimed in as he watched the battle, "That's because that golden lotus cultivator hasn't unleashed his full strength yet."

"Hey, didn't you bet on the red lotus cultivator winning? Why are you speaking up for the opponent?"

Yu Shangrong's expression remained the same as he said with a faint smile on his face, "Betting on who will win and who actually wins are different matters. They're not mutually exclusive."

“ ... ”

What kind of logic was this?

The young man next to Yu Shangrong asked curiously, “Brother, are you familiar with the Evil Sky Pavilion?”

Yu Shangrong tilted his head slightly and modestly replied, “Just a little...”

“I heard that the ten disciples of the Evil Sky Pavilion are all experts. All of them can summon the wind and the rain as they please. Is this true?”

Yu Shangrong nodded. “All the praise sounds exaggerated, it’s the truth.”

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

At this moment, the number of energy sabers suddenly doubled.

Zhang Wanxiang’s expression was solemn at this moment,

The rhythm of the battle seemed to have completely changed.

Upon seeing this, someone exclaimed in surprise, “When did the capital have such an expert? This number of energy sabers can only be manifested by those with nine leaves at least!”

Someone laughed. “That person from the Evil Sky Pavilion is going to be pushed to a corner. Since the red lotus cultivator can easily manifest such a huge number of energy sabers, it’s likely that he’s the expert who had just sprouted the tenth leaf a few days ago.”

When Lu Zhou heard these words, he recalled the Birth Chart Beast, Di Jiang, that he and Yan Zhenluo subdued a few days ago. Was Di Jiang attracted by Zhang Wanxiang?

On the other hand, Yu Shangrong looked at Zhang Wanxiang whose attacks were growing fiercer and fiercer and murmured, “Unfortunately, he might not be able to win even if he has ten leaves...”