

## Disciples 921

### Chapter 921: Young People Are Still A Little Inexperienced

Upon hearing these words, a few people standing next to Yu Shangrong laughed.

“Brother, you probably don’t know the difference between nine leaves and ten leaves. How can ten leaves lose to nine leaves? If that person really has ten leaves and loses, I’ll walk backward...”

“Nonsense! There’s no meaning to that. Let’s make things clear. If the red lotus cultivator has ten leaves then all the bets are off!”

“That won’t do. No one knows the exact strength of both opponents beforehand. What if the expert from the Evil Sky Pavilion has ten leaves as well? This bet is really exciting!”

Everyone nodded.

Yu Shangrong did not reply to them. He only silently watched the battle. In his opinion, Zhang Wanxiang definitely had hidden strength. However, since he had just sprouted his tenth leaf, it was likely that he was still unfamiliar and unskilled with his newfound strength. Yu Zhenghai had sparred with an old-timer like Nie Qingyun for such a long time now; how could he lose so easily? However, sparring was sparring, and a fight was a fight. On the battlefield, it was as difficult as ascending to heaven for a Nine-leaf cultivator to defeat a Ten-leaf cultivator.

Zhang Wanxiang’s expression remained solemn as his energy sabers in the surroundings grew sharper.

Naturally, Yu Zhenghai had noticed this.

The two opponents continued to clash with their energy sabers, causing the buildings within a radius of 100 kilometers to collapse with a bang. The energy sabers had been slashing around in the air for so long now so it was not surprising that the buildings finally collapsed. With this, their fields of vision grew wider as well.

Zhang Wanxiang thought about how to neutralize Yu Zhenghai’s energy sabers for a moment before he said, “The next move of mine is called Drawing the Blade and Splitting the Water. I hope it’ll satisfy Mister First.”

Subsequently, Zhang Wanxiang clenched his hands before unclenching them again.

The Primal Qi in the surroundings were turned into energy before countless energy sabers formed a ring in the sky above Zhang Wanxiang. From a distance, it looked like a vortex.

Yu Zhenghai placed one hand on his back and shook his head before he stepped forward. “It’s not good enough.”

Yu Zhenghai arrived in front of Zhang Wanxiang and formed an energy saber in his hand before he brought it down, not giving Zhang Wanxiang the chance to complete the gathering of energy sabers.

Whoosh!

Zhang Wanxiang manipulated the energy sabers and a few energy sabers shot up to meet Yu Zhenghai.

Ten energy sabers deflected Yu Zhenghai's energy sabers while the remaining energy sabers shot toward him.

"Hmm?" Yu Zhenghai flew back. He thought the saber technique was somewhat interesting.

The energy sabers did not relent and continued to pursue Yu Zhenghai. At the same time, more and more energy sabers began to appear.

At this moment, Yu Zhenghai suddenly dove. He raised his hand, using the Great Dark Heaven Palm as a shield against the energy sabers.

Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam!

Surprisingly, Zhang Wanxiang seemed to possess endless Primal Qi. His energy sabers continued to shoot out one after another.

At this moment, someone said, "The victor is about to be decided."

"To have endless Primal Qi, the red lotus cultivator isn't simple."

Yu Shangrong glanced at the two cultivators who had spoken and shook his head before he said indifferently, "It's too early to claim victory for him... That person from the Evil Sky Pavilion has yet to use the weapon at his waist."

Everyone looked over. Indeed, the golden lotus cultivator had yet to use his weapon.

At this moment, when the Great Dark Heaven Palm shattered, the Jasper Saber flew into Yu Zhenghai's hand.

Buzz!

In just a moment, an energy saber that was dozens of feet long spun and rose into the air, deflecting the endless energy sabers.

Buzz!

Zhang Wanxiang suddenly moved forward and manifested his avatar.

The buzzing sound from the energy resonance was thunderously loud.

Boom!

The red lotus Ten-leaf avatar blocked Yu Zhenghai's energy saber after arriving in front of Yu Zhenghai.

Zhang Wanxing joined his palms together, holding the biggest energy saber before bringing it down on Yu Zhenghai.

Yu Zhenghai blocked with his other hand.

Buzz!

A golden Nine-leaf avatar appeared in the air.

The two opponents were stuck in a stalemate.

The 200-foot avatar collided with the 150-foot avatar.

Zhang Wanxiang's countless energy sabers limited the Jasper Saber's range of movement while he tried to restrain Yu Zhenghai with the energy saber in his hand.

With this, Zhang Wanxiang gained the upper hand. He asked with a smile, "Mister First, are you surprised?"

"Do I look surprised?" Yu Zhenghai calmly replied with an equally calm expression on his face. Indeed, he did not look surprised at all.

Zhang Wanxiang's smile disappeared, and he increased the power of the energy blade in his hand. The energy blade shone with a dazzlingly red light that looked like blood under the sun.

Yu Zhenghai was pushed back; his feet drawing two shallow trenches on the ground.

Upon seeing this, everyone cried out in surprise.

The energy sabers showed no sign of stopping and continued to fall.

Everyone wondered how Zhang Wanxiang could keep this up.

Drawing the Blade and Splitting the Water used endless energy sabers to limit the opponent's movements, leaving the opponent with very little chance to attack and interrupting the rhythm of the opponent's attack.

Lu Zhou nodded, slightly impressed. "To be able to force Yu Zhenghai back, Zhang Wanxiang is indeed slightly capable. If his energy sabers are purer, perhaps, his strength might be comparable to Yu Zhenghai."

After uttering those words, Lu Zhou realized there was something wrong with them. He should be more worried about his disciple.

Meanwhile, Yu Zhenghai retreated nearly 100 meters away. The rubble behind him was all knocked away by his protective energy.

The two opponents seemed to have a tacit understanding and did not leave the ruins to limit the damage from the battle.

Back then, the battle of Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong who were still Eight-leaf cultivators was enough to destroy the forest within 15 kilometers on Cloud Shine Peak. It was not out of the ordinary for a battle between a Nine-leaf cultivator and a Ten-leaf cultivator to destroy a city.

For this reason, the two opponents were attacking each other in a frenzy only in the ruins.

Meanwhile, when Zhang Wanxiang's strength was exhausted, Yu Zhenghai stomped on the ground and stabilized his body. Following that, the Great Dark Heaven Palm shot out fiercely.

Bang!

Zhang Wanxiang was sent flying back with an expression of disbelief on his face.

A Ten-leaf cultivator was sent flying by a Nine-leaf cultivator? Who would believe this?

The onlookers exclaimed in unison upon seeing this.

Meanwhile, Zhang Wanxiang flipped once in the air and regained his footing. He pushed his hand out, once again releasing energy sabers. Following that, he leaped up and slashed out with the energy saber in his hand.

Yu Zhenghai smiled faintly. "Water Dragon Song."

When Yu Zhenghai withdrew the Jasper Saber, his energy sabers converged into a water dragon. The golden water dragon shot toward the energy sabers in the sky.

Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam!

Yu Zhenghai sent Zhang Wanxiang flying back again with the Water Dragon Song.

At the same time, the desolate-grade Jasper Saber shot out as well, pushing Zhang Wanxiang further back.

When Zhang Wanxiang's energy sabers broke, he manifested his avatar immediately. This move was similar to when Zhu Tianyun fought the seven alliances; he used the Ten-leaf avatar to block Yu Zhenghai's Water Dragon Song.

Everyone shook their heads when they saw this scene.

"This... How's this possible? A Ten-leaf cultivator is beaten by a Nine-leaf cultivator? Fortunately, he has one more leaf. If they have the same number of leaves, wouldn't the red lotus cultivator lose without a doubt?"

"It's a desolate-grade saber..."

Everyone looked up.

Yu Zhenghai unleashed his grand technique and flashed up into the air. He wielded the Jasper Saber with both hands and brought them down.

How could Zhang Wanxiang dare to use his avatar to block an attack from a desolate-grade saber? After he deflected the Water Song Dragon, he hurriedly withdrew his avatar.

Boom!

Yu Zhenghai's saber seemed capable of destroying mountains and rivers. An energy saber that was thousands of meters long left a long and narrow mark on the ground that almost spanned the entire length of the ruins. It was an amazing and terrifying sight!

At this moment, the two opponents faced each other from a distance.

Zhang Wanxiang no longer dared to look down on his opponent. He said, "Mister First truly lives up to his reputation. I admit that I underestimated my opponent."

As Yu Zhenghai tightened his grip on the Jasper Saber, he said nonchalantly, "It's just the beginning."

Rumble!

A clap of thunder rang in the air at this moment before the rain began pouring down, adding a touch of mystery to the ruins.

Needless to say, the rain could not touch the cultivators at all. The raindrops were quickly evaporated by their protective energies. Since they were not in a battle, maintaining the protective energies to keep the rain at bay consumed very little energy.

However, for Yu Zhenghai and Zhang Wanxiang who were engaged in a battle, it was slightly more taxing. Perhaps, if they were ordinary cultivators, this tiny pressure could have been the straw that broke the camel's back. Fortunately, the battle was far from being over, and they still had the energy to spare. Hence, it was easy for them to keep the rain at bay.

At this moment, Zhang Wanxiang replied, "Then let's continue..."

Zhang Wanxiang manifested his red lotus 200-foot avatar. As the avatar flew horizontally in the air, he shot to the head of the avatar and rushed to attack Yu Zhenghai.

'Using the difference between the cultivation base to suppress the opponent?'

Yu Zhenghai and Nie Qingyun had sparred with each other many times, and Nie Qingyun would often use this technique to turn the table. He knew his Nine-leaf avatar would not be a match for Zhang Wanxiang's avatar in a direct battle. Therefore, he could only rely on his desolate-grade Jasper Saber. He would use his saber, skills, and experience to level the playing field between him and the Ten-leaf avatar.

Everyone applauded. "Amazing! They should've done this earlier!"

The red lotus avatar continued to fly as Yu Zhenghai held the Jasper Saber with both hands. Primal Qi surged out his Dantian's sea of Qi into the surroundings.

A loud roar rang in the air.

The golden water dragon had appeared again! Unlike before, it was several times stronger.

Boom!

"Water?!"

Zhang Wanxiang's avatar collided with the water dragon.

When Lu Zhou used this move back then, he had used the water of the pond near the cloud platform to demonstrate the might of Water Dragon Song. He did not expect the rain would give Yu Zhenghai an advantage.

The water droplets in the surroundings gathered on the water dragon roar that kept trying to devour Zhang Wanxiang's avatar.

At this moment, Zhang Wanxiang's eyes widened as he cried out, "It's coming!"

Zhang Wanxiang hastily withdrew his avatar and dove forward relying on inertia. After he brushed past the underside of the water dragon, he manifested his avatar again.

The water dragon pressed down.

Boom!

The water dragon landed on the back of the red avatar.

In the next moment, Zhang Wanxiang grunted as blood trickled out from the corners of his lips. However, he did not stop and directly brought the energy saber in his hand down.

Someone exclaimed, "He injured himself to injure the enemy!"

As the energy saber pressed down heavily, Yu Zhenghai had no choice but to use the remaining Primal Qi to unleash the Great Dark Heaven Palm.

Bang!

The instant the energy blades disappeared, one could see the buildings in the surroundings that had been flattened.

Yu Zhenghai staggered backward. He grunted and blood trickled out of the corners of his lips as well. He failed to gain the upper hand in this move.

Thunder rang from the sky as the rain continued to fall. The sound of the water hitting the ground was like the sound of thousands of soldiers and horses galloping on the battlefield.

Zhang Wanxiang smiled and said, "Mister First, you're injured."

"You don't have any intention of joining the Evil Sky Pavilion, am I right?" Yu Zhenghai said.

"Mister First, you're overthinking things. I just want to prove my strength."

Zhang Wanxiang stepped into the air, evaporating the rain that fell on him.

Buzz!

Zhang Wanxiang manifested his avatar again.

Yu Zhenghai's expression turned solemn. He stabbed the Jasper Saber into the ground before he joined his palms together.

Seeing this scene, Lu Zhou shook his head and looked at Zhang Wanxiang who was flying away. He said indifferently, "Young people are still too inexperienced."

### **Chapter 922: The Black Guards Will Come**

This sentence was Lu Zhou's evaluation of Zhang Wanxiang. He had long seen that Zhang Wanxiang had just sprouted the tenth leaf. Zhang Wanxiang was clearly unfamiliar with his newfound strength and would use the same move twice. To paralyze his opponent, Zhang Wanxiang would make slight changes to the technique the second time he used it. In this regard, Zhang Wanxiang could not compare to Yu Zhenghai who lived life on the edge of the saber.

Yu Zhenghai abandoned the saber and mobilized his Primal Qi. With a single move, he soared to the height of 100 meters.

Sovereign Descent.

The Dark Heaven Starlight.

Yu Zhenghai cast two techniques at the same time.

At this moment, the rain from the sky seemed to have turned into energy sabers.

“The sword of creation?” Yu Shangrong frowned slightly. This was a theory from the sword path.

The people next to Yu Shangrong who had heard his words and asked curiously, “The sword of creation?”

Yu Shangrong calmly explained, “It’s a theory from the sword path...”

“The sword path?”

“There are three kinds of swords: the commoner’s sword, the lord’s sword, and the son of heaven’s sword. However, above all these three swords, there’s the sword of creations. Otherwise known as the swordless path,” Yu Shangrong patiently explained, “What that person is doing is similar to the sword of creations even if he executed it rather awkwardly...”

Everyone seemed enlightened upon hearing Yu Shangrong’s words and nodded in admiration.

Someone said, “That’s considered an awkward execution? In any case, his energy sabers enable him to stand against a Ten-leaf cultivator despite only having nine leaves...”

“We’re not talking about the energy sabers. I’m talking about the theory from the sword path...”

“You’re right.”

At this moment, the energy sabers continued to fall heavily like torrential rain.

Zhang Wanxiang’s 200-foot red lotus avatar spun horizontally in position, stirring up the debris and rubble in the surroundings.

Soon enough, a circle of energy with a diameter of 200 feet suddenly shot out.

Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam!

The collision was thunderous and violent like a raging storm.

Zhang Wanxiang raised his chin and smiled. It was within his expectation that his opponent would change his move. “Nine leaves are ultimately not a match for ten leaves!”

Zhang Wanxiang leaped up as a saber appeared in his hand. Between his fingers, the scripts ‘The Path Has No Name’ appeared; they were surrounded by black runes.

Upon seeing this, Lu Zhou frowned slightly. “Hmm? Black runes?”

If it was just a Ten-leaf cultivator, Lu Zhou would not worry about his disciple at all. However, with the appearance of the black runes, things had gotten complicated.

Lu Zhou looked in the direction of Yu Shangrong who was standing among the cultivators and saw the calm expression on Yu Shangrong's face. It was clear Yu Shangrong had no intention of making a move at all. He wondered if he was worried for nothing again. If Yu Shangrong claimed to know Yu Zhenghai second best in the world, no one would dare to claim the first place. Since Yu Shangrong was calm, why was he getting worried for nothing?

Back in the sky.

When Yu Zhenghai saw Zhang Wanxiang making this move, he said in a deep voice, "I've been waiting for you..."

Following that, Yu Zhenghai pressed both his hands down.

In just an instant, energy blades surged up from all directions.

Zhang Wanxiang was not intimidated at all. He looked at the saber in his hands, clearly very confident about the black runes. He aimed for Yu Zhenghai's heart as he said, "You're dead."

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The saber in Zhang Wanxiang's hand parted the sea of energy sabers in the sky as the red lotus avatar followed in its wake. When he was about to arrive before Yu Zhenghai...

Yu Zhenghai suddenly parted his palms.

Buzz!

Whoosh!

The Jasper Saber stuck in the mud buzzed before it flew up majestically into the air. In just a moment, an energy saber that was thousands of meters long appeared and slashed at the back of the red lotus avatar. It landed accurately on the shoulder of the 200-foot red lotus avatar. Its strength did not decrease as it continued to slice down until exited from the avatar's chest. Just like that one-third of the avatar was sliced by the thousands of meters long energy saber that was formed by the Jasper Saber. It looked as though someone had torn a hole in the sky.

Zhang Wanxiang cried out in pain. The black runes and the saber in his hand were still a few meters away from his opponent, and his avatar had been damaged, severely injuring his Dantian's sea of Qi.

At this moment, Yu Zhenghai used the Great Dark Heaven Palm again. The palm seal landed accurately on Zhang Wanxiang's chest.

Boom!

Zhang Wanxiang fell from the sky and crashed into the rubble of the collapsed buildings.

The ruins that were littered with dilapidated buildings were now like flatland.

Yu Zhenghai looked down at Zhang Wanxiang who was lying in a puddle of water. He was rather satisfied with the result of the battle.

Everyone was stunned by the outcome.



“The expert from the Evil Sky Pavilion is actually so strong?”

“First, he discarded his desolate-grade weapon and threw crazily powerful attacks at this opponent. Then, when the red lotus avatar was about to attack, he used his desolate-grade weapon to launch a sneak attack from the back! Wonderful! It’s truly wonderful!”

Yu Shangrong looked at everyone and said, “This is just a superficial feint. These moves are only flashy, but they’re very powerful. Moreover, the opponent’s lack of combat experience is a huge flaw. In conclusion, it’s not that the Nine-leaf cultivator is strong; it’s just that the Ten-leaf cultivator is too weak.”

“...”

“Brother, you talk as if you’re very strong. If you’re capable, why don’t you go out there?”

Yu Shangrong smiled gently and said in a polite tone, “It’s unfortunate that he has been defeated. If I were to make a move, he would’ve lost even more miserably.”

“...”

Everyone was rendered speechless by Yu Shangrong’s words. This person was really great at acting cool. They did not want to pay attention to him anymore.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou who was observing from the distance nodded in satisfaction. He recalled that when he was in the Evil Sky Pavilion, his two eldest disciples were already at the peak of the Eight-leaf stage. Although Ji Tiandao did not protect his two disciples, they were still able to dominate the cultivation world and rived each other. Now that he thought about it, he had never really witnessed them defeating a powerhouse. After witnessing the battle today, he was very gratified.

The thunder had stopped ringing, but the rain was still falling.

Nevertheless, Lu Zhou’s hearing, even without the Heavenly Writing Power, was extraordinary. He could easily hear everything in the distance. As he looked in the distance, time seemed to slow down as his eyes pierced through the rain that was falling incredibly slowly.

Lu Zhou’s heart stirred slightly. It seemed like he had become stronger. Was this a passive ability that came with activation of the fourth Birth Chart?

Back in the ruins, Yu Zhenghai slowly descended. However, he came to a stop next to Zhang Wanxiang before his feet touched the ground. Then, he raised his hand and the Jasper Saber flew back into his hand.

As his protective energy evaporated the rain before they could fall on him, Yu Zhenghai said, “Seventh Junior Brother told me that the genius from the Zhang family was missing and that there was a possibility he might seek revenge. You only changed your name but openly used your surname; how can I not be on guard? Zhang Ximing, what’s the point?”

The onlookers broke out in an uproar upon hearing these words.

“Zhang Ximing of the Zhang family? I heard that Zhang Yuanren committed suicide in the palace because he was afraid of being punished. After that, Zhang Ximing’s whereabouts was unknown. As it turns out, he broke through to the Ten-leaf stage?”

“No wonder. I felt something was amiss earlier. In the beginning, it looked like a friendly spar, but as time went on, it seemed like he was out for blood.”

“Zhang Yuanren deserves it. It seems like the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree. Zhang Yuanren’s crimes have long been posted all over the capital. There’s no one who’s unaware of what he had done. However, this Zhang Ximing still has the audacity to seek revenge? If he’s so capable, why didn’t he seek revenge from that mighty Thousand Realms Whirling expert? He deserves to be spat on for picking on a Nine-leaf cultivator!”

Words could assassinate. Si Wuya’s strategy was incredibly effective. There was no one who did not know that the loyal and valiant Zhang Yuanren was actually a corrupt and treacherous official; he was a traitor that everyone despised. Just the saliva of the common people was enough to drown the Zhang family.

Yu Shangrong smiled faintly before he said, “I’m afraid the matter isn’t so simple.”

“Brother, don’t you think you’re overthinking things...”

Yu Shangrong continued to say, “That’s not true. Forget about Zhang Ximing being a new Ten-leaf cultivator. Did you see the black runes around his hand earlier? It’s proof that the Zhang family was colluding with the black lotus domain...”

The people nearby were about to refute his words when...

Yu Zhenghai raised his head and looked at Yu Shangrong before he asked, “Second Junior Brother, what do you think about my victory?”

Yu Zhenghai’s voice was loud and clear so even the onlookers who were standing 1,000 meters away, just outside of the ruins, heard his words. The onlookers were surprised that he had discovered their presence so quickly. In any case, that was not important. What was important was... Who was his Second Junior Brother?!

Yu Shangrong replied, “It’s barely passable.”

Everyone. “???”

Yu Zhenghai argued, “I used the Sovereign Descent and saber of creation to attack Zhang Ximing. He thought that was my main attack, but he did not know the Jasper Saber was my killing move. How’s that barely passable?”

Yu Shangrong said, “It’s true that the Sovereign Descent has extraordinary effects. However, what do you mean by saber of creation? It’s called the sword of creation. Technically, you used a sword skill. Perhaps, that was why the effect was rather lacking when you tried to turn all creation into sabers. If it were me, I’d easily use the sword of creation and turn the rain in my swords to kill Zhang Ximing without needing to launch a sneak attack...”

“This...” Yu Zhenghai’s mouth opened and closed for a moment before he said. “What you said is just a hypothesis. I admit it was a little difficult to use all creation as sabers. However, it’s not possible for you to defeat him with energy swords alone with launching a sneak attack.”

Everyone. “???”

Yu Shangrong calmly refuted Yu Zhenghai’s words, “Eldest Senior Brother, have you forgotten that my sword has been repaired?”

Whoosh!

The Longevity Sword flew out of its sheath. Not only was it repaired, but it had also advanced to the flood grade. As it spun in the air, 80,000 energy swords filled the sky. Together with the rain, they formed a huge sword that covered the entire sky. It spun in the air above everyone.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

After a moment, the energy swords seemed to disappear into the Longevity Sword. Following that, the Longevity Sword flew back into its sheath.

The Longevity Sword’s speed was so fast that the cultivators present could barely catch a glimpse of its shadow.

Everyone. “...”

The two cultivators who thought that Yu Shangrong was bragging and acting cool were dumbstruck.

Yu Zhenghai said, “The difference between the two weapons can’t be considered as a difference.”

“Eldest Senior Brother has a point...”

Just like that, the two disciples reached an agreement.

At this moment, Zhang Ximing grunted and coughed out muddy water. His expression was one of disbelief as he looked at Yu Zhenghai hovering above him. He could not resign himself to this outcome! How could a Ten-leaf cultivator lose to a Nine-leaf cultivator? This was a great humiliation everywhere in the cultivation world! His eyes shone with undisguised hatred as he endured the pain and asked, “Y-you... You already knew everything right from the start?”

Yu Zhenghai replied nonchalantly, “You know too little about the Evil Sky Pavilion. I have a junior brother who’s extremely intelligent. As you can imagine, he makes for an excellent strategist. He had rounded up all the members of the Zhang family after His Majesty ordered the Zhang family to be executed. It was not difficult to notice your absence. There are very few people who dare to challenge me in this world. You sure have guts...”

“My Zhang family was... wronged... wronged...”

Yu Zhenghai asked, “Tell me, did the black lotus domain contact you?”

Zhang Ximing laughed maniacally. There was a hint of sorrow in his laughter. “You want to know? Unfortunately, I’m not going to tell you anything...”

“Do you think I won’t be able to find out if you don’t tell me?”

Zhang Ximing said in between his coughs, “So what... if you find out? I... I knew I couldn’t defeat a Thousand Realms Whirling expert so I decided to kill a Nine-leaf cultivator first...” All of sudden, he spat out a mouthful of blood. His eyes were bloodshot, and the blood on his chest was mixed with mud. When he recovered, he continued to say, “T-they... They... will d-definitely c... come...”

“They?” Yu Zhenghai tilted his head slightly.

### **Chapter 923: Personally Supervising Your Cultivation**

Zhang Ximing continued spitting blood from his mouth; it was clear he was about to die. Nevertheless, there was a victorious smile on his face. The rain fell on his face, washing away the dirt but blurring his vision at the same time. His bloodshot eyes looked even more terrifying due to how uncomfortable they felt. His mind seemed to have left him as he mumbled, “The Zhang family... is innocent... My father is not a... corrupt official. My father... is not a corrupt official... All of you have to die... All of you have to die...”

Zhang Ximing’s life continued to leak out of his body as he lay limply on the ground.

Yu Zhenghai’s Jasper Saber had cut Zhang Wanxiang’s avatar open after all. That alone was enough to cause grievous injuries. On top of that, Yu Zhenghai’s Great Dark Heaven Palm had also accurately landed on his chest, shattering his internal organs. It would have been strange if he did not die.

“Did I overdo it?” Yu Zhenghai asked Yu Shangrong.

“If it were me, he would’ve died long ago...”

“...”

The onlookers felt as though they were going crazy.

Meanwhile, the cultivator who said he would walk backward if Yu Zhenghai won stiffened as an unnatural smile hung on his face.

If the onlookers still could not guess the relationship between these two experts, they would be no different from mentally unsound people. Moreover, Yu Shangrong’s sword of creation and the 80,000 energy swords were more than enough to convince them.

At this time, Yu Shangrong flew over and came to a stop above Zhang Ximing before he said, “I’m sorry. Your father’s crimes have been exposed, and they’re irrefutable. Your background and upbringing should’ve helped you to distinguish between truths and falsehoods. Right and wrong are black and white. Justice needs to be served. If you had even a modicum of propriety or shame, you wouldn’t have used the word ‘wronged’. If I were you, I would’ve slit my throat long ago. How dare you run around provoking others in the name of vengeance?”

Upon hearing these words, the motionless Zhang Ximing began to spit out blood again. His eyes were filled with hatred, resentment, and unwillingness. Alas, it was useless.

Yu Shangrong looked at Zhang Ximing indifferently; he did not pity Zhang Ximing at all. After years of toeing the line between life and death, whether it was in the Melilot Graveyard, traveling south across

towering mountains and deep valleys, or having to endure the ridicules, he and Yu Zhenghai had suffered much more.

Only a pathetic person would misdirect his hatred, and Zhang Ximing was such a person.

Zhang Ximing's life continued leaking out of his body; his energy grew weaker and weaker.

Yu Shangrong looked at the fog and rain as he asked, "Where's the black lotus domain?"

"Y-you... you... you... If you're so... great, w-why... why don't you find them on... your own... You..." Zhang Ximing could not finish his sentence; his words were caught in his throat. After breathing heavily for a few moments, his head fell limply to the side, and he stopped breathing.

"Ding! Killed a target. Reward: 5,500 merit points. Domain bonus: 1,500 merit points."

Yu Zhenghai looked at Zhang Ximing who had stopped breathing and asked, "Is he really dead?"

"He should be dead," Yu Shangrong said.

Yu Zhenghai furrowed his brows slightly. "Will he come back to live like Ye Zhen?"

"That's possible..."

"One should learn from mistakes... Second Junior Brother, please move to the side. This time, I will finish him off properly." Yu Zhenghai raised his right. The Jasper Saber hovered above his palm and began to spin, releasing energy sabers.

Yu Shangrong was not interested in the corpse so he flew back to stand with the onlookers.

At this moment, the area within 60 meters was filled to the brim with golden energy sabers. They fell like a great waterfall as they slashed wildly. Although the area they covered was not too big, the commotion they caused made people felt as though the earth was quaking and the mountain was shaking. The commotion was even greater than when Yu Zhenghai and Zhang Ximing were fighting.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

After a while, silence finally returned.

Yu Zhenghai looked at his masterpiece in satisfaction before he flew away.

Upon seeing this, the cultivators who were watching the show retreated one after another, afraid of being attacked.

At this moment, Yu Shangrong said, "There's no need to be afraid. The Evil Sky Pavilion has always distinguished between right and wrong when dealing with matters."

"..."

Yu Zhenghai flew in front of everyone and swept his gaze across them. He asked, "Where's the Zhang family?"

"T-the city of J-Jingzhou... in... in Guannei Circuit," one of the cultivators answered nervously.

“Jingzhou City? Second Junior Brother, you should report this to master. I’ll head to Jingzhou City to investigate the Zhang family’s background,” Yu Zhenghai said.

Yu Shangrong shook his head and said, “If the black lotus domain is involved, I’m afraid it’s not appropriate for you to go alone.”

“Don’t worry. Times have changed. I know what to do.”

“No, if you encounter a Thousand Realms Whirling expert, you’ll be in danger. Master might not make it in time to save you,” Yu Shangrong refuted.

“I’ll be careful and focus on the investigation.”

“Eldest Senior Brother, it’s better if I go. After all, in regard to speed, you’re inferior to me.”

Everyone only dared to watch silently. They could not help but gulp as they wondered if this was how the experts from the Evil Sky Pavilion did things.

At this moment, a deep voice rang from the rain and fog.

“Both of you, return.”

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong turned around immediately, startled.

The familiar voice, tone... and the aura that pierced through the thick fog and rain.

The duo bowed and obediently replied, “Yes.”

Everyone. “...”

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong did not dally and flew away from the ruins.

The heavy rain poured down and washed over the ruins after the battle.

Zhang Ximing’s corpse had long been sliced into pieces by the merciless energy sabers.

The spectators also looked at the rain and fog...

“It can’t be...”

“Let’s hurry up and leave. It’s so scary here. Moreover, who do you think can make both of them so obedient?”

The spectators were about to turn around and leave when...

“Wait.”

Lu Zhou’s figure flashed and appeared in front of everyone. The rain and fog around them were evaporated by his energy, clearing everyone’s vision.

The onlookers saw an old man with black hair hovering in front of them with his hands on his back. All of them stared at him in a daze as they gulped.

“S-s-senior... Senior... w-what are y-you’re o-orders?” The person standing at the lead was sweating bullets.

Lu Zhou flicked his sleeve. The Golden Taixu Mirror appeared and shone on everyone present like a spotlight.

The crowd could not help but close their eyes when the dazzling golden light shone on them. When they opened their eyes, they discovered the black-haired old man had already left. His speed was so fast that it seemed as though he was never there at all.

...

The royal place.

The Preservation Hall had already been cleaned up when Lu Zhou returned.

He did not waste time and activated the Purple Glazed Ceramic to meditate on the Heavenly Writing to replenish his supreme mystic power. He had used up the supreme mystic power when he observed his eighth disciple.

After some time had passed, Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong finally arrived in the Preservation Hall. Both of them were shocked when they saw their master sitting cross-legged in the center. First, they were shocked that their master had returned so quickly. Second, their master seemed to have grown younger!

Needless to say, despite their shock, they did not dare to ask any questions. They stepped forward and greeted their master in unison, "Disciple greets master."

Inwardly, the duo was still wondering how their master made it back so fast? They had flown back without stopping. Based on their master's posture, it seemed like he had been here for a long time.

"You're finally back..." Lu Zhou opened his eyes.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong. "..."

"Both of you did a good job with Zhang Ximing. However, trying to investigate the black lotus domain is a little reckless," Lu Zhou said.

"Master is right," Yu Zhenghai said sheepishly.

"The Black Tower Council's plan has been disrupted. Sooner or later, they'll send people over. Rather than looking for them, it's better to wait for them to come to us. The Black Tower Council is full of experts. The Black Guards are all Thousand Realms Whirling experts. Do you think you can handle them?" Lu Zhou said.

The duo silently lowered their heads.

Lu Zhou continued to say, "Old First, you're my eldest disciple. Logically speaking, after breaking the shackles, you should improve the fastest. If you don't cultivate diligently, it won't be long before Yuan'er catches up to you."

Yu Zhenghai bowed and said, "I'm ashamed of myself. I promise to cultivate even more diligently and sprout the tenth leaf as soon as possible."

“Old Second, you’re my second disciple, and the first person to successfully attempt severing the lotus. However, to form your Thousand Realms Whirling avatar and activate your Birth Charts, you need your lotus seat where the Birth Palace is located. Therefore, only by sprouting the tenth leaf soon as possible will we be able to seek out new ways for you to rise to the next realm...” Lu Zhou said.

Yu Shangrong was, naturally, aware that usually one would need a lotus to form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar and activate Birth Charts. Due to his lack of a lotus, this matter had been weighing heavily on him. However, now that he had heard his master’s words, he was delighted and felt at ease. He hurriedly said, “Thank you, master!”

“In the coming days, I’ll personally supervise your cultivation.”

“Understood.”

“Ding! You’ve educated Yu Zhenghai. Reward: 200 merit points.”

“Ding! You’ve educated Yu Shangrong. Reward: 200 merit points.”

## **Chapter 924: Living In Fear Of Being Beaten Up**

Early in the morning the next day.

After the heavy downpour in the capital yesterday, everything seemed to have been washed clean. It was refreshing like a mountain painting.

It was quiet and peaceful in the ruins.

Three black figures could be seen speeding over from afar. Soon after, they came to a stop above the ruins. All of them were dressed in black armor, black helmets, and black masks. The trio stood in a triangle formation as they surveyed their surroundings. They could feel the leftover battle energy in their surroundings.

After a moment, the person on the left said, “Captain, although the aura is weak, this should be the place...”

The armored man standing in the lead nodded slightly. “That idiot, Zhang Ximing, is dead. We have no contact in the red lotus domain anymore.”

“What should we do next?”

“We’ll follow the council elder’s instructions. It’s not appropriate to start a massacre. We can’t disrupt the captive breeding plan. First, check the stone formations and repair all the damages. At the same time, we’ll look for a suitable contact.”

The two people behind him nodded.

The captain continued to say, “Moreover, the life heart that we’d lost recently should be in the possession of the new expert who appeared in the red lotus domain. The death of Yi Yao, a lower council member, is probably related to this person. Someone who can kill Yi Yao is definitely not simple. Therefore, do not confront this person alone. Since he dares to go against the Black Tower Council, he should have some force backing him.”



The average blackguard had four Birth Charts. Yi Yao had five Birth Charts, and at the time of his death, he possessed the Sea Spirit Pearl. Even then, he still died. For this reason, the trio was extremely cautious.

"I agree. Someone who can kill Yi Yao and openly opposes the Black Tower Council isn't someone we should confront alone."

The person on the right nodded before he said, "I'm curious. Yan Zhenluo and Yi Yao were out on the same mission. Yan Zhenluo's claim that he got lost just doesn't seem credible to me..."

"Yan Zhenluo has a close relationship with Lu Li. Now that Lu Li has disappeared, it's normal that he's distracted."

At this moment, the captain raised his hand to interrupt the other two men and said, "Our main focus is to do as the council elder instructed us to do. We can investigate this matter later. When the time comes, we can report to the higher-ups and request for more blackguards or ask the Court of Justice to take action. As for Zhang Ximing's death, there's no need to investigate it..."

"The Court of Justice? Will they take action? I'm afraid the other forces will be unhappy."

The leader shook his head and said, "I have a feeling the captive breeding plan will be disrupted. At that time, it won't be as simple as a war between the red lotus domain and the black lotus domain.

Moreover, the internal strife in the Black Tower Council is too deep. If the Court of Justice doesn't take action, I'm afraid there will be people taking the initiative to disrupt the plan. As for now, let's now dwell on the Thousand Realms Whirling expert in the red lotus domain. There will be others who rush to take action. Just do your job and remember that your survival is the most important thing!"

"Captain is wise."

"Let's go."

The trio flashed and vanished into thin air.

...

In the royal palace's Preservation Hall.

In order to supervise his disciples' cultivation, he had ordered them not to leave the palace without permission. All of them were to focus on their cultivation.

Starting from Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong, he would coach and assess them every two days.

In less than a month after this started, the expressions of Lu Zhou's disciples changed greatly. It felt as though they had returned to the past where they lived in fear of being beaten up. This was especially true for Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong, the two eldest disciples of the Evil Sky Pavilion. The duo was tortured every day by their master, making their junior brothers and junior sisters unable to look at them. The duo's lofty and majestic image in the hearts of their juniors had completely collapsed recently.

Lu Zhou naturally did not care about these things. In his opinion, his methods were way more humane compared to Ji Tiandao's methods. He even patiently explained and demonstrated to them things they did not understand.

...

One afternoon, the four elders of the Evil Sky Pavilion made their way to the Preservation Hall. When they arrived, they saw Duanmu Sheng standing in front of the hall with the Overlord Spear in his hand.

The four elders were not these people's masters so they did not have the right to interfere. Therefore, they only watched from afar.

Soon after, Lu Zhou emerged from the hall. He glanced at Duanmu Sheng curiously. "Old Third?"

Duanmu Sheng said straightforwardly, "Master, Eldest Senior Brother and Second Senior Brother aren't feeling well today; Seventh Junior Brother is teaching junior nephew to cultivate; Ninth Junior Sister and Little Junior Sister are practicing movement techniques."

Lu Zhou frowned before he said, "If they don't show up today, the next time they show up, it'll be double of what it usually is..."

As soon as Lu Zhou finished speaking, a voice instantly rang from afar.

"Disciple greets master!"

In just a moment, Yu Zhenghai could be seen in the distance.

When the four elders looked over, they saw Yu Zhenghai's face was swollen and riddled with bruises. He seemed a little embarrassed as he made his way over.

Soon enough, Yu Shangrong appeared as well with his Longevity Sword in his hand. However, apart from his strangely slow walking speed, he looked no different from usual.

The two eldest disciples stood in front of Lu Zhou and bowed.

Lu Zhou nodded and said, "Previously, I demonstrated the key trick of the Great Dark Heaven Memorial. Today, you will show what you've learned."

At this moment, Yu Shangrong bowed again before he raised his head and said, "Master, I have something to say."

"Speak."

"Third Junior Brother has only been watching us recently. I'm sure he has many questions in his heart," Yu Shangrong said with a straight face.

Indeed. During this time, most of his focus was on his eldest and second disciple. He should treat his disciples equally.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. He looked at Duanmu Sheng and said, "That's good... Old Third, I'll focus more on you in the coming days. Come here."

In the past month, the increase in merit points had slowed down a lot when Lu Zhou educated Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong. He had discovered that he could obtain merit points when he taught his disciples new things or share new insights with them. Since Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong had a deep understanding of cultivation, it was rather easy to teach them. Therefore, he could only earn points by giving them demonstrations. For this reason, the merit points he gained from the duo were rather pitiful. Unless their cultivation grew more profound and he could share new insights with them, he would gain very little merit points from them.

“Ah?” Duanmu Sheng was stunned.

Yu Zhenghai waved his hand and said, “Master wants you to go over. Third Junior Brother, it’s finally your turn.”

Duanmu Sheng thought that since his two senior brothers were still alive, there was nothing to be afraid of. Moreover, he had always been tenacious. Therefore, he walked over without any fear. “Master.”

Lu Zhou nodded and said, “Among your fellow disciples, your aptitude is the worst, but you’re the most diligent. Hard work can make up for many things, unlike empty words. I’ve always been aware of your diligence.”

Duanmu Sheng was moved when he heard his master’s words.

“Show me your Divine One Technique,” Lu Zhou prompted.

“Understood.”

Duanmu Sheng did not waste time and brandished the Overlord Spear in front of the hall. In the beginning, his speed was not particularly fast. However, it gradually grew fast like the wind and the shadow to a violent storm. Sometimes it was like the gurgling of a stream and sometimes it was like the surging of the sea. Every move was perfect and precise.

When Duanmu Sheng was done, he returned to stand in front of Lu Zhou. His face was not red nor was he panting.

After watching his third disciple’s demonstration, Lu Zhou nodded and asked, “Are you still sparring with Elder Hua?”

Duanmu Shen replied honestly, “We sparred ten times last month, out of which I won six times due to luck. However, after Elder Hua obtained the Square Box, I only managed to win thrice...”

Hua Wudao. “...”

Hua Wudao’s face flushed red. He was also a Nine-leaf cultivator after all. It was not that he was weak, but Duanmu Sheng was just too overbearing and too hardworking. Even if Duanmu Sheng was repeatedly defeated, he would not give up. How could someone withstand someone like him?

At this moment, Lu Zhou suddenly flashed and appeared 10 meters across from Duanmu Sheng. Then, he said, “Use all your strength and attack me...”

**Chapter 925: How Old Demon Ji Abuses His Disciples**

“Yes.” Duanmu Sheng was not as reserved as his Eldest Senior Brother and Second Senior Brother; he was more straightforward. He raised his Overlord Spear and looked at his master who was standing ten meters away. He had an illusion his master would kill him with one spear strike, but his rationality and instinct told him his master would not do that.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Duanmu Sheng raised his spear and charged forward. Then, he began to thrust his spear.

Lu Zhou retreated step by step, dodging the Overlord Spear. He was always able to dodge Duanmu Sheng’s spear at the right time. This was thanks to the effect of his fourth Birth Chart that improved his speed and gave him a clearer understanding of his movements.

Duanmu Sheng, naturally, did not think he would be able to defeat his master. As long as he was not too quickly defeated by his master, it would be considered a success. Therefore, he brandished the Overlord Spear with all his might, hoping to last longer.

When Lu Zhou sparred with his disciples, he would not make a move in the beginning. He would dodge while he observed their skills from all angles. Duanmu Sheng was no exception.

Yu Zhenghai was quite well-rounded, but he had a little too many unnecessary movements; Yu Shangrong’s speed was better and his movements were neater, but he only attacked and did not defend; Duanmu Sheng was overbearing and fierce, but he knew when to advance and when to retreat.

The four elders clicked their tongues in amazement as they watched.

Pan Litian said, “If he continues practicing like that, it won’t be long before he defeats Elder Hua.”

“Duanmu Sheng’s spear techniques have their unique characteristics. His advances are sharp, and his retreats are fast. He seems as immovable as a mountain and as fast as lightning. I really don’t see anything that needs improvement,” Zuo Yushu commented.

“Let’s continue watching.”

Duanmu Sheng’s spear techniques grew more and more formidable. His energy spears became more powerful as well.

“Thousand Waves.”

The Thousand Waves was like a huge wave of energy spears. It covered a wide range and was difficult to defend against.

Lu Zhou unleashed his grand technique and arrived behind Duanmu Sheng in just a blink of an eye. Then, he struck with his palm.

Bang!

Duanmu Sheng hurriedly leaped up.

“Pavilion Master is making his move now.” The eyes of the four elders brightened as though they had been waiting for this moment all this while.

Lu Zhou followed closely behind Duanmu Sheng and struck again.

Bang!

The palm seal landed on the ground as Duanmu Sheng deflected it with his energy spears.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

At this time, Lu Zhou caught the Overlord Spear between two fingers and casually struck Duanmu Sheng three times on the chest.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong averted their eyes. They suddenly felt much better.

Duanmu Sheng continued to suffer a one-sided beating from his master.

The sound of palm strikes rang in the air continuously.

Pan Litian would shudder and shrink back from time to time as he watched. It was as though he was suffering the beating instead of Duanmu Sheng.

At this moment, Meng Changdong who was passing by heard the commotion near the Preservation Hall. Curious, he walked to the hall. After he saw what was happening, he could not help but ask the elders, "What's the pavilion master doing?"

"Teaching his disciple."

"Are you sure he's not just beating his disciples?"

"I have my suspicions as well, but do we have any evidence?" Pan Litian replied.

The other three elders shook their heads repeatedly.

"No..." Meng Changdong replied.

...

After some time had passed.

Clank!

The Overlord Spear fell to the ground.

Duanmu Sheng was bent over the ground. His face was swollen, and he was panting heavily.

Lu Zhou stood across from Duanmu Sheng and watched him with a calm expression before he said, "Your spear technique has reached perfection. In the future, focus more on your cultivation method. Leave the Overlord Spear here, and come back for it tomorrow morning."

He still had a shining stone left; there was no need to save it. Moreover, the effect of the Great Void Seed on Duanmu Sheng was not very good. This problem had to be solved.

Duanmu Sheng gasped for breath before he said, "Understood."

"Ding! Educated Duanmu Sheng. Reward: 500 merit points."

Lu Zhou nodded and turned around to enter the Preservation Hall. All of a sudden, he halted his footstep and turned around to say, "Summon Old Fourth here tomorrow."

As soon as Lu Zhou finished speaking, he received a notification.

"Ding! Educated Mingshi Yin. Reward: 200 points."

'How cunning...' Lu Zhou said in a deep voice, "If he doesn't come, break his legs."

"Ding! Educated Mingshi Yin. Reward: 200 points."

After saying that, Lu Zhou entered the Preservation Hall in a flash.

Following that, the Overlord Spear that was lying on the ground thrummed and buzzed before it shot inside the hall.

Bang!

The door to the hall closed with a bang.

At this moment, Duanmu Sheng sat limply on the ground.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong gave Duanmu Sheng a thumbs up at the same time.

"You're amazing!" This was one of the rare occasions where the duo saw eye to eye.

Meanwhile, the four elders sighed.

Pan Litian asked, "Guardian Meng, elders, Luo Shiyin aside, who do you think will sprout the tenth leaf first?"

Everyone thought about the question seriously. However, after a long time, they only shook their heads. This was a very difficult question to answer.

The first and the second disciple had been improving swiftly; no one knew the true strength of the fourth disciple; the ninth disciple had always been very talented and did not need to be beaten up to improve.

It was hard to say who would be able to sprout the tenth leaf first.

...

Over the next six months, Lu Zhou only did three things: educate his disciples, keep an eye on Zhao Yue, and stabilize the foundation of his fourth Birth Chart.

In fact, rather than saying he was educating his disciples, it was more like he was beating his disciples. In the last six months, apart from Little Yuan'er and Conch, his other disciples were all beaten black and blue.

With the effects of 'Mentor' and 'Eternal Paragon', his disciples had progressed rapidly.

Duanmu Sheng and Little Yuan'er successfully sprouted the ninth leaf.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong could have sprouted the tenth leaf, but due to the master's advice, they suppressed their cultivation base. They needed to investigate the points of the stone formations first and make sure the Birth Chart Beasts that would undoubtedly appear when they sprouted their tenth leaf would not be snatched away by the Black Tower Council.

At this time, everyone in the royal court knew about Lu Zhou educating and training his disciples and had gotten used to the brutality of the training.

When Li Yunzheng heard of his teacher training with his grandmaster, he went to have a look twice. It was so terrifying that it left a shadow on him. At that time, he was really glad Si Wuya was his teacher. With Si Wuya's help, his cultivation had been going rather well. It took him a month to temper his body before he entered the Mystic Enlightening Realm. However, his first priority was to govern Great Tang, and he only cultivated as a means of support. Therefore, he spent most of his time on political affairs. With the support from the four Grand Dukes and the civil and military officials, Great Tang became more stable as well.

During this time, Si Wuya was undoubtedly the busiest person. Apart from cultivating and teaching Li Yunzheng, he would hang out with those people from the Sky Research Court and study random things. In the end, even the geniuses from the Sky Research Court were convinced of his ability.

On the other hand, Sikong Beichen, the Temple Master of the Ninth Temple, and Nie Qingyun, the Sect Master of the Twelve Sects of Cloud Mountain, put the past behind them and were friendly with each other. After bidding farewell to Lu Zhou, they returned to their respective sects. Before they left, they promised Lu Zhou to rush over as long as Lu Zhou needed them.

Meanwhile, Xia Changqiu, the Monastery Master of the Thousand Willows Monastery, was very aware of his capabilities. Therefore, he did not return to the Thousand Willows Monastery and stayed in the palace to curry favors. After all, as long as he stayed with Lu Zhou, the Thousand Willows Monastery would be safe.

...

In the evening.

After cultivating, Lu Zhou opened the system interface to check his merit points.

Merit points: 125,500

Half of the merit points were gained from teaching his disciples in the last six months. They were really like trump cards.

Although the merit points were not a lot, it was not little either.

After a while, he wondered to himself, 'The Black Guards didn't appear at all... Are they afraid of me?'

In the past six months, everything seemed normal. Nothing out of the ordinary had happened. Even that mysterious woman, Lian Xing, did not go to Zhao Yue again.

"How long will this peace last? It should be about time for the first Ten-leaf cultivator to appear in the golden lotus domain. Should we break the balance by starting with the red lotus domain or the golden lotus domain?"

This was an important matter. He had discussed this matter with Si Wuya. The new Ten-leaf cultivator in the golden lotus domain would be a wild card; they might be easily manipulated by the black lotus domain into implementing the captive breeding plan.

On the other hand, the red lotus domain was in a delicate situation now. Ever since the incidents with Lu Li and Yi Yao, the Black Tower Council did not make any move at all. It seemed like the forces hiding in the dark were waiting for the balance to break.

With these thoughts in mind, Lu Zhou called out, "Someone, summon Si Wuya here."

### **Chapter 926: The Evil Sky Pavilion Breaks The Stalemate By Sprouting The Tenth Leaf**

Someone outside the hall replied, "Understood."

About 15 minutes later, Si Wuya arrived at the Preservation Hall. He asked, "Master, were you looking for me?"

"How are your injuries?" Lu Zhou asked.

"Thank you for your concern, master. They're not serious."

"That's good... I've never been heavy-handed when I attack," Lu Zhou said with a straight face.

Si Wuya. "..."

"You're aware of the situation with the black lotus domain. In the past six months, there's been no sign of the Black Guards at all. Currently, your senior brothers are waiting to sprout the tenth leaf. However, if they do that, they'll definitely attract the Birth Chart Beasts? In your opinion, what should we do to get out of this stalemate?"

Si Wuya replied, "In this half a year, there's a possibility that there are others in the red lotus domain who have sprouted the tenth leaf. If that's the case, the Birth Chart Beasts they attracted have probably been taken by the Black Tower Council. Therefore, there won't be any conflict. To get out of this stalemate, someone from the Evil Sky Pavilion needs to sprout the tenth leaf. After all, we won't give up and let the Black Tower Council easily snatch the life heart."

Si Wuya paused for a moment as he brought the map of the points of the stone formations before he continued to say, "In fact, it's better if the Black Guards don't show up. I've joined the Sky Research Court to study formations to deceive them. We can pick the nearest stone formation and use the deceptive formation over the original formation so that it won't be able to transmit information back to the Black Tower Council. At that time, whichever member from the Evil Sky Pavilion can sprout the tenth leaf while master takes down the Birth Chart Beasts."

Was this the meaning of keeping a low profile, not acting recklessly, and not showing off?

Lu Zhou looked at Si Wuya in admiration. It was really different when one was intelligent!

After a beat, Lu Zhou asked, "Can we avoid the stone formation in the forest completely?"

Si Wuya smiled. "There's a risk in avoiding it. After all, it'll expose the presence of the Birth Chart Beasts. It's best to stay next to the stone formation."



Lu Zhou had to admit that Si Wuya's ideas really won over his heart! After a brief moment, he asked again, "Both of your Eldest and Second Senior Brothers are capable of sprouting the tenth leaf. Who do you think it's more suitable to be the first one to sprout the tenth leaf?"

"Both of them should sprout the tenth leaf together," Si Wuya replied.

"Hm?"

"Since we already have a plan, we should carry it out thoroughly. It'd be difficult for us to control the Ten-leaf cultivator in the golden lotus domain when we're here. Therefore, we should just try our best to take down or control the Birth Chart Beasts in the red lotus domain. Whether it's the golden lotus domain, the red lotus domain, or the black lotus domain, ultimately, this is just a struggle over the life hearts of Birth Chart Beasts..." Si Wuya said.

"Continue," Lu Zhou said.

Si Wuya pointed at a point on the map and said, "The Eastern Forest Mountain isn't far from the capital so we should capture the Birth Chart Beasts there."

Lu Zhou briefly mulled over Si Wuya's words before he said, "Very good. You can start making preparations for this matter. We'll set off tomorrow."

"Yes, master." After replying to Lu Zhou, Si Wuya recalled something and said, "Master, I've discovered some clues regarding Senior Sister Zhao Yue's matter."

"Speak."

"I suspect that someone approached Senior Sister Zhaoyue and suppressed her cultivation base, causing her cultivation to stagnate," Si Wuya said.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. "Did you find out the culprit's identity?"

"A woman named Lian Xing," Si Wuya said, "I found out about this when I contacted Senior Sister Zhao Yue last month."

Lu Zhou could not tell Si Wuya that he was aware of these matters so he just nodded and said expressionlessly, "Continue to keep an eye on her."

"Yes."

"How's Di Jiang's performance recently?" Lu Zhou asked.

Si Wuya replied confidently, "I've made it acknowledge me..."

Lu Zhou brought Di Jiang's life heart out and tossed it Si Wuya as he said, "Return this life heart to him. When there's a need, I might have to use Di Jiang."

Zhao Yue was far away in the golden lotus domain. If there was a need for Lu Zhou to return, he could only have Di Jiang whose speed was the fastest carry him back.

“Master, you...” Si Wuya’s eyes widened imperceptibly when he caught the life heart. He had read Yan Zhenluo’s book so he knew what the life heart meant. How could he not be surprised that his master gave up 1,000 years of life for Di Jiang?

Lu Zhou did not comment on the matter. He only said, “Go.”

Si Wuya held the life heart with both hands and said respectfully, “Yes, master. You should rest early as well.”

...

After leaving the Preservation Hall, it was already dark when Si Wuya returned to his residence.

He called out as soon as he arrived, “Di Jiang!”

Quack!

Di Jiang quacked like a duck as it obediently ran out from a corner.

“Master is benevolent. He gave up 1,000 years of life just to spare your life heart. I’ll return this to you,” Si Wuya said as he tossed the life heart to Di Jiang.

Squawk!

Di Jing opened its mouth and swallowed the life heart. The life heart moved in its abdomen for a moment before it returned to its original position in its body.

Quack! Quack! Quack! Quack! Quack!

Following that, Di Jiang seemed to be prostrating itself on the ground to express its gratitude. At the same time, its energy was changing. With the return of its life heart, it meant he had regained his ability to fly.

“You’re a Birth Chart Beast so you can’t show off like before. This is a pill especially made for you by the Sky Research Court to hide your life heart,” Si Wuya said before he brought a pill out.

Quack!

Di Jiang quacked and shook its head from side to side, showing its reluctance to eat the pill.

Si Wuya said with a smile, “Either you eat it or you spit out half of your life heart. Otherwise, it’d be just a matter of time before you’re taken away and killed..”

“...” Di Jiang was terrified by Si Wuya’s words. It hastily ate the pill. Then, it flapped its wings and circled around the residence a few times before it landed on the ground again.

Si Wuya nodded in satisfaction. Then, he touched the bruises on his face and said, “Sleep early today. Don’t disturb me. It’s been half a year, it’s about time I get a good night’s sleep... Master’s still as heavy-handed as he was in the past...”

...

The next day.

The Sky Shuttle left the royal palace for the Eastern Forest Mountain.

The Sky Shuttle's speed was fast so it took less than an hour before it slowly landed next to the stone forest formation in the Eastern Forest Mountain.

The four elders and Guardian Meng of the Evil Sky Pavilion leaped out of the Sky Shuttle together.

"Master, this is the place," Si Wuya said.

Lu Zhou looked down at the stone forest formation. It was the same as the one where he first met Yan Zhenluo.

Yu Shangrong also noticed the resemblance of this stone forest formation to the one he had broken previously. "Indeed. It's the same..."

Following that, the others alighted from the Sky Shuttle.

Lu Zhou said, "Si Wuya, set up the formation with the Sky Research Court's He Zhong and Huang Yu."

"Understood." Si Wuya led He Zhong and Huang Yu toward the stone forest formation.

"As for the rest of you, keep a lookout on things. Report to me immediately if you discover anything out of the ordinary," Lu Zhou calmly instructed the others.

"Understood."

Subsequently, everyone left in different directions, surrounding the stone forest formation.

...

About an hour later, Si Wuya returned. He said, "Master, we've already set up the formation."

Lu Zhou did not reply immediately. Instead, he stroked his beard and looked around the Eastern Forest Mountain. He wondered where the Birth Chart Beasts came from again. The Eastern Forest Mountain was far from the Endless Ocean so where did they come from? Where was the unknown land or the Great Void?

After a moment, he collected his thoughts and nodded. "Alright."

After that, Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong made their way to the stone forest formation before they manifested their avatars.

Both avatars were in their miniature size. The difference was one had a lotus while the other did not.

After that, the duo began to sprout the tenth leaf.

In fact, the Nine-leaf stage was just a transition point to the Ten-leaf stage. If the black lotus domain did not monopolize the Birth Chart Beasts, no one would stay long at the Nine-leaf stage.

After reaching the Ten-leaf stage, one would attract Birth Chart Beasts. If one was strong enough or had the support of a strong sect, one would be able to kill Birth Chart Beasts like how Lu Zhou killed the Yong on Cloud Mountain. Once the Ten-leaf stage had stabilized, one would be able to use the life heart to activate one's Birth Chart.

It felt like the heavens were playing with the people, making people from different domains compete over life hearts of Birth Chart Beasts.

‘I want to see where these Birth Chart Beasts come from...’ With this thought in mind, Lu Zhou flashed to the top of a towering tree and looked around the Eastern Forest Mountain.

Where were the fierce beasts hiding? From which hole did they fly out?

Lu Zhou flashed again from the west to the east. He stood on a rock and observed Mingshi Yin who was riding Qiong Qi. Since he had the Purple Glazed Ceramic with him, it was difficult for others to discover his presence. After confirming there was nothing unusual, he flashed in the northern direction.

After that, Lu Zhou flashed to the south before he finally returned to the stone forest formation.

Little Yuan ‘er, Conch, Xia Changqiu, and the others looked around vigilantly. Nothing was out of the ordinary.

Lu Zhou’s gaze fell on Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong who were in the process of sprouting their tenth leaf. At this moment, they were at the critical part of the leaf-sprouting process.

### **Chapter 927: Eight Chart Judges**

Since there were quite a few people on the lookout, there was no problem so far.

In order to avoid disturbance and distraction, Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong sat with their backs facing each other.

The two miniature avatars continued to flash and spin.

Lu Zhou had long taught his disciples the method of sprouting leaves. Their understanding was profound so sprouting leaves should not pose a problem to them at all. All he needed to do was keep an eye out on the blackguards who might appear and deal with the Birth Chart Beasts. Just to be safe, he silently recited the incantations for the power of hearing from the Heavenly Writing. In just a moment, the range of hearing spread far and wide.

In the east.

Ming Shiyin muttered, “Doggy, to be honest, I intentionally gave way to Eldest Senior Brother and Second Senior Brother. Do you believe me when I say I can already sprout the tenth leaf?”

Woof! Woof! Woof!

Qiong Qi barked.

“It seems like you understand me the most. You can consider following me when you grow up. Master has 3,000 mounts in his harem so he won’t dote on you alone. Only I will treat you well...” Mingshi Yin continued to say.

Woof! Woof! Woof!

“Alright, then. We have a deal. I didn’t raise you and clean your poop and pee in vain! I’ll catch wild beasts for you to eat every day!”

Lu Zhou "..."

He continued listening.

The four elders of the Evil Sky Pavilion reminiscing and lamenting the past as old people tended to do.

"I didn't expect that Evil Sky Pavilion would come to the red lotus domain... Moreover, we even became Nine-leaf cultivators. In the past, we're like frogs at the bottom of a well, thinking the Eight-leaf stage is highest..."

"If it weren't for me wanting to meet Pan Zhong, I would've missed out on such an exciting life. This is truly the work of fate..."

After that, Lu Zhou listened in another direction.

"Ninth Senior Sister, you'll be able to sprout the tenth leaf soon, right?" Conch asked.

"No matter how many leaves I have, I won't be as fast as you. Moreover, you even have the karmic fire! I'm so envious," Little Yuan'er replied.

"There's nothing to be envious of. I only inherited these from my mother. In fact, I envy you. Our senior brothers and the others really dote on you. They seem to be estranged from me."

"You're thinking too much. They're just not used to your sudden change."

"Alright. Ninth Senior Sister, we must continue to get along!"

"Okay!"

"Let's pinky swear."

Subsequently, Lu Zhou cut off the power of hearing and turned to look at Yu Zhenghai's golden avatar.

The ring of light was falling at a much greater speed now.

Upon seeing this, Lu Zhou believed it would not be long before Yu Zhenghai sprouted the tenth leaf.

Lu Zhou then turned his attention to Yu Shangrong.

Yu Shangrong's expression was calm as usual. The way he was sprouting his leaf was very different from Yu Zhenghai. Nine dazzling golden leaves revolved around his avatar.

Similar to Yu Zhenghai, Lu Zhou knew Yu Shangrong would successfully sprout the tenth leaf after passing this critical period.

At this moment, Lu Zhou heard a rustling noise and felt a slight movement on his body. In just a second, he brought a black talisman out from his sleeve.

'Yan Zhenluo?'

Lu Zhou flashed to a tree near the stone forest. Then, he waved his hand.

Swoosh!

The black talisman began to burn on the ground.

It did not take long before Yan Zhenluo's face appeared. He did not beat around the bush and hurriedly said, "Brother Lu, I sense that Lu Li is in danger!"

"Lu Li is in danger?" Lu Zhou frowned. If Lu Li were in danger, this meant his eighth disciple was in danger as well.

Yan Zhenluo said anxiously, "I've been keeping an eye on Lu Li's life stone every day. Today, the light of his life stone is very weak. Brother Lu, please tell Lu Li's whereabouts..."

Lu Zhou said, "There is no need to worry. Let me find out."

With a flick of his sleeve, the projection disappeared.

Lu Zhou placed one hand on his Dantian while the other was resting on his back. He closed his eyes and recited the incantations for the Heavenly Writing Power. His eyes shone with a blue light.

Soon enough, Lu Zhou saw yellow lotus cultivators surrounding and attacking a giant beast. They advanced and retreated in an orderly manner, looking organized and disciplined. A few injured cultivators lay on the ground, but they were quickly rescued by others.

In the air, in front of the giant beast, Zhu Honggong flew back and first as he sent energy fists at the giant beast.

Boom!

The giant beast screeched in pain when the energy fists landed.

Upon seeing this, a few cultivators cheered loudly in unison.

"Sect Master is amazing!"

Zhu Honggong glared at the giant beast and roared, "Brothers, don't panic. It's going to die soon... Wear it out! I'll hold up the sky if it falls!"

"Sect Master is mighty!"

"Sect Master is mighty!"

Xu Wanqing and Tao Jing each led hundreds of cultivators and flew side by side as they bombarded the giant beast with attacks. Numerous energy swords and energy blades shot out as the two teams took turns to attack.

Whenever the giant beast was about to rise, Zhu Honggong would fly to the top of its head and punch it at the critical moment. At the same time, he avoided the attack of the giant beast.

How could this be?

There was a team that dealt damage, a team that defended, and a team that specialized in healing injured cultivators. There were tens of thousands of cultivators on the battlefield, working together with Zhu Hong to attack the beast.

Lu Zhou looked around, trying to locate Lu Li. He could only see around his eighth disciple so his field of vision was limited.

Behind the crowd, in a huge carriage, Lu Li was supported by two cultivators. There was blood at the corner of his mouth as he looked at the beast with a red face.

“Mister Lu, your plan is working. The beast won’t be able to hold on for much longer!”

Lu Li nodded and said, “Attack with all your strength. We should not keep fighting for too long.”

One of them stood in the air and shouted, “Mister Lu has given an order. Attack with all your strength! Everyone! Attack with all your strength!”

Zhu Honggong looked back and said in a clear voice, “All brothers above the Five-leaf stage, follow my avatar. Gather!”

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Countless cultivators manifested their avatars and stood behind Zhu Honggong after he manifested his avatar.

Zhu Honggong’s avatar was 200 feet tall. Compared to the avatars that were only 30 feet tall, it stood out like a crane among chickens.

Lu Zhou was rather moved when he saw this. He did not expect his eighth disciple to be ahead of his other disciples. However, it was reasonable. After all, apart from the Great Void Seed, his eighth disciple had Lu Li’s help in gathering all the resources in the yellow lotus domain.

After a moment, Lu Zhou cut off the Heavenly Writing Power and the projection disappeared. He opened his eyes; the wind and the swaying trees brought him back to his senses.

Following that, he brought out another black talisman and held it between two fingers before it began to rustle and burn.

Yan Zhenluo appeared in front of his eyes immediately.

“Brother Lu,” Yan Zhenluo said anxiously.

“He’s fine,” Lu Zhou said calmly. “He’s only injured. It’s nothing serious.”

A delighted and relieved expression appeared on Yan Zhenluo’s face immediately. At the same time, he saw Lu Li’s life stone had grown brighter and was no longer flickering. “Thank you, Brother Lu. There’s another thing that needs your attention...”

“What is it?”

“The Black Tower Council’s radical faction is very dissatisfied that the blackguards they sent to the red lotus domain were focusing on repairs and inventory. Therefore, they have sent a judge to the red lotus domain,” Yan Zhenluo said solemnly.

“A judge?”

Yan Zhenluo explained, “The Black Tower Council is divided into the Upper Council and the Lower Council. The Upper Council makes all the decisions, and the Lower Council executes them. The Black Tower Council maintains rules and order while the judges are responsible for capturing and punishing

criminals. There are four judges in the Black Tower Council, and all of them have eight Birth Charts. They were selected by the council from various forces thousands of years ago, and their strength is unfathomable.”

“Eight Birth Charts...” Lu Zhou thought about his enhanced Deadly Strike Card.

According to the book Yan Zhenluo gave him, at the Thousand Realms Whirling, every six Birth Charts would see a qualitative leap in strength. Then, how strong were Eight Chart experts?

“There so many conflicting opinions in the Black Tower Council, but no one objected to this?” Lu Zhou asked, puzzled.

“Some people objected, but it was useless. Not everyone can remain rational after all, let alone the radical judges. The Black Guards doesn’t want to stir up trouble, but we still have to be careful of them switching sides at the last minute.

Lu Zhou nodded. “Alright.”

When the black talisman burned away, Yan Zhenluo’s disappeared as well.

Before Lu Zhou could gather his thoughts, he felt movements behind him. He shot into the sky immediately, leaving afterimages in his wake.

At the same time, Si Wuya, who was observing near the stone forest, raised his head and saw his master. Then, he hurriedly said, “Master, there’s a change... The Birth Chart Beast is heading to the mountain range of the Eastern Forest Mountain.

Lu Zhou looked at the mountain range in the Eastern Forest Mountain. Indeed, a huge shadow could be seen landing in the mountain range.

Lu Zhou frowned. “What’s going on?”

Logically speaking, the Birth Chart Beast should have rushed over here. Why did it fly there?

the Donglin mountain range. Indeed, there was a huge shadow that flew over and just happened to sink into the mountain range.

“What’s going on?” Lu Zhou asked in puzzlement.

Logically speaking, the life-bound beast should have rushed over here. Why would it go over there?

“It seems like something there has attracted the Birth Chart Beast.” Si Wuya did not think of this possibility at all. As the saying went, ‘Even wise men make mistakes’.

Fortunately, they were not too far away from the Birth Chart Beasts.

Lu Zhou looked at Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai and said, “Keep an eye on them. I’ll be back soon.”

“Understood.”

## **Chapter 928: A Three-Way Battle**

As Lu Zhou flew in the forest, he wondered what could attract a Birth Chart Beast.



Soon enough, he arrived in the air above the mountain range and looked down.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The sound of explosions and the ground quaking rang from the other side of the mountain range at this moment.

Lu Zhou followed the sounds of the commotion and flew up before he came to the top of one of the peaks that overlooked the west side of the Eastern Forest Mountain. When he looked down, he saw a group of cultivators fighting three huge beasts.

Two of the beasts had a similar appearance. They were dozens of meters tall and resembled boars with their huge tusks.

On the other hand, the third beast resembled an ox. It stomped the ground with four of its hooves, causing the ground and the mountains to shake.

“Three Birth Chart Beasts?” This greatly exceeded Lu Zhou’s expectations. It was likely that even Si Wuya did not expect this. This meant that there was probably someone here who was trying to sprout the tenth leaf as well.

Well, there was nothing strange in the world; all kinds of things could happen.

Numerous cultivators circled the three Birth Chart Battles as they used their energy swords and energy sabers to attack. Their expressions were rather unsightly at this moment.

“This is bad. Why did Birth Chart Beasts suddenly appear?” An old man standing in the lead looked at the three rampaging giant beasts on the ground in disbelief.

“I don’t know either. Should we retreat?!”

“No! It wasn’t easy to set up a trap; we have to take down at least one Birth Chart Beast. It’s been 2,000 years; we can’t afford to wait any longer...” the old man said.

Bang!

An eight-leaf cultivator could not dodge in time and was sent flying back by the boar-like giant beast. He threw up a mouthful of blood as he slid on the ground.

At this moment, someone shouted, “Retreat!”

In just a blink of an eye, someone carried the injured cultivators as hundreds of cultivators began to retreat.

The old cultivator stared at the three Birth Chart Beasts that kept advancing. In the beasts’ eyes, they were the most delicious food in the world.

“Team One, Team Two, keep the two Shan Gaos occupied. The rest of you, follow me to kill the Xi Qu.”

“The formation is too small; it can only hold one giant beast. We can’t kill them. Sect Master, we don’t we give up?!” someone suggested.

“Shut up!” the old cultivator roared, “Follow the plan!”

The two teams flew to the two flying Shan Gaos that resembled boars and were dozens of meters. They shot to the left and to the right, trying to distract the beasts.

Meanwhile, the Xi Qu on the ground that was similar to an ox did not pay attention to anything else. It pawed the ground before it charged toward the old cultivator in a frenzy.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

An avatar appeared.

At the same time, a round Eight Trigrams Seal successfully blocked the Xi Qu's tusk with a loud clang. Nevertheless, its strength was too great. It continued to charge wildly toward the Ten-leaf expert.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The Xi Qu hooves slammed on the ground thunderously, causing the birds in the forest to take flight. Even rocks begin to roll down the mountain due to the violent tremors.

The old man roared!

Bang!

The round Eight Trigrams Seal stopped the Xi Qu again.

The old man flipped in the air before coming to a stop in front of the Xi Qu. He spread his arms, and energy swords filled the air, shooting toward the Xi Qu's forehead.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The Xi Qu cried out in a strangely childlike voice. It stomped its hooves again and leaped up like a fish leaping over the dragon's gate in the sky.

The old man was clearly very experienced. He immediately unleashed his grand technique and flashed behind the Xi Qu.

"Maintain the rhythm! Don't panic. I'll lure him into the formation!"

...

At this point, Lu Zhou already had a basic understanding of what was going on.

The two boar-like giant beasts were called Shan Gao while the ox-like giant beast attacking the old man was called Xi Qu.

Lu Zhou did not know which sect these people were from, but it should be a coincidence that they were here. He suddenly wondered where the people from the black lotus domain were?

Based on Si Wuya's plan, they could avoid detection from the formation. However, if this sect's people were unaware, would it not be a disaster?

Bang!

At this moment, one of the Shan Gaos pierced an Eight-leaf cultivator's chest with its tusks. Its face was ferocious as it crushed and devoured the man.

Upon seeing this, Lu Zhou shook his head, but there was no pity in his heart. The cultivation world had always operated by the law of the jungle. The strong preyed on the weak, and the fittest survived. In that Shan Gao's eyes, the Eight-leaf cultivator was probably like a slightly more powerful ant. If an ant tried to bite a human, the human would quash it.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The earth continued to quake.

Lu Zhou did not choose to attack but waited for the black lotus cultivators to appear.

In reality, it should be easy for a few Ten-leaf cultivators and Nine-leaf cultivators to deal with a Birth Chart Beast even with a basic foundation. For example, even if Lu Zhou did not make a move on the Yong on Cloud Mountain, Nie Qingyun, Yu Shangrong, and Yu Zhenghai could still kill the Yong with their combined strength. The tactic adopted by his eighth disciple, who was far away in the yellow lotus domain, was even more exaggerated. He used a sea of people to kill the giant beast! Although the casualties were slightly higher, it was still a way to take down the Birth Chart Beast.

However, there were three Birth Chart Beasts now; how were this group of people going to deal with them?

Lu Zhou was also worried about these people's outcomes.

The world had always turned for the sake of profits. How could the fight for a Birth Chart Beast be so easy?

Lu Zhou was calmly watching the battle when a huge flying chariot flew over from the west.

The flying carriage was surrounded by thousands of cultivators.

"The True Kunlun Sect and the Void Sect?" Lu Zhou saw the two flags on the left and the right bearing the name of the sects. Did the two sects merge?

The flying chariot finally came to a stop in the western sky of the mountain range in the Eastern Forest Mountain.

Many cultivators flocked out and formed a square formation, surrounding the area.

Xuan Chengzi, the Daoist cultivator from the Void Sect, flew out of the flying chariot and looked down from the sky. He laughed and said, "Old Man Zeng, your Seeking Heaven Sect is really unlucky! Three Birth Chart Beasts? Do you need help?"

The old man fighting the Xi Qu was the Sect Master of the Seeking Heaven Sect, Zeng Yan.

Zeng Yan said, "Xuan Chengzi, if you have good intentions, join hands with my Seeking Heaven Sect and take down these three Birth Chart Beasts. Don't try to profit off this situation!"

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Several energy swords landed on the body of the Xi Qu.

Xuan Chengzi replied with a smile on his face, "I agree. In this regard, the Seeking Heaven Sect is lucky. There are three Birth Chart Beasts; one for each of us. What do you think?"

At this moment, Mo Xinglu from the True Kunlun Sect flew out of the flying chariot and landed next to Xua Chengzi. She said, "Don't be hasty. Don't you feel like something's amiss?"

"How so?"

"Think about it. How's it possible for the Seeking Heaven Sect to attract three Birth Chart Beasts?" Mo Xinglu asked.

Zeng Yan dodged the attack of the Xi Qu and flashed up into the sky. He appeared in front of the duo and said, "To tell you the truth, I don't know why there are three Birth Chart Beasts here. In any case, this is a good opportunity for us to work together. If we don't take them down, once the Sky Martial Court finds out about them, none of us will stand a chance!"

Mo Xinglu sneered before she said, "How long has it been since you left your cave? Yu Chenshu had died long ago. The person in control of Great Tang now is a Thousand Realms Whirling expert. That expert has already activated his Birth Charts and probably has no interest in these low-level beasts."

Zeng Yan shook his head and said, "If the Thousand Realms Whirling expert wants to cultivate his own force, will he really have no interest in these Birth Chart Beasts?"

Mo Xinglu and Xuan Chengzi were taken back by these words and exchanged a glance.

Following that, Xuan Chengzi said decisively, "Members of the Void Sect, listen up! Deal with that Shan Gao on the left!"

"Understood."

Mo Xinglu also did not hesitate before she said, "Members of the True Kunlun Sect, deal with the Shan Gao on the right!"

"Understood."

Numerous cultivators swarmed toward the Birth Chart Beasts like locusts.

With this, the Seeking Heaven Sect's Zeng Yan felt the pressure on him decrease greatly. Then, he hurriedly ordered his sect members to gather near the Xi Qu.

In just a moment, the entire eastern side of the mountain range in the Eastern Forest Mountain turned into a battlefield between humans and Birth Chart Beasts.

...

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou's expression remained the same as he continued to watch.

The mountains and rivers within a radius of a few miles were razed to the ground by the three sects and the Birth Chart Beasts.

The sky was filled with energy swords, energy sabers, talisman seals, and palm seals.

As time passed, the Birth Chart Beasts began to sustain injuries as well. However, many cultivators from the three sects had also fallen. Some of their avatars were torn apart and some of them were directly crushed by the beasts.

However, fierce beasts were still beasts, after all. They could not withstand the relentless attacks from the sea of people and the restriction from the formation.

After an hour passed, the three Birth Chart Beast's strengths were slowly being exhausted by the sea of cultivators.

"Everyone! Put in more effort... The Birth Chart Beasts are about to die!"

Xuan Chengzi and Mo Xinglu suddenly flew up.

"There's someone over there!"

Zeng Yan from the Seeking Heaven Sect followed suit. "Who's it?"

Xuan Chengzi and Mo Xinglu looked at the old man perched on one of the mountain peaks in the distance.

Lu Zhou knew that he had been discovered. He was not surprised at all. After all, he was standing in such an obvious place. The Purple Glazed Ceramic could only hide his aura, not turn him invisible. He flew off the peak and came to a stop in front of three people.

Xuan Chengzi asked, "May I ask who you are?"

"It doesn't matter who I am. What's important is that I want the life hearts of the two Shan Gaos," Lu Zhou bluntly said.

Zeng Yan was taken aback by Lu Zhou's bluntness.

"Old sir, I'm afraid that's inappropriate..."

Xuan Chengzi was about to speak when Mo Xinglu interjected with a smile, "Old senior, you must be joking."

During the battle at the Sky Wheel Mountain Range, Lu Zhou had used the Disguise Card. Therefore, it was expected that they did not recognize him. Moreover, he had also grown younger.

"Joking?" Lu Zhou stroked his beard and looked down at the ground.

### **Chapter 929: I'm Actually The Thousand Realms Whirling Expert**

Mo Xinglu and Xuan Chengzi had been coveting Birth Chart Beasts for a long time now. Previously, researches on Birth Chart Beasts were all controlled by the Sky Martial Court and Yu Chenshu. Now that Yu Chenshu had died, every sect had a chance of obtaining a Birth Chart Beast. Needless to say, they were unaware that the Birth Chart Beasts in the red lotus domain had long been monopolized by the black lotus domain.

The Void Sect's Xuan Chengzi said, "Old sir, I'm sure you've seen the thousands of cultivators from our three sects battling these three Birth Chart Beasts for a long time. As soon as you appeared, you demanded two life hearts. Isn't this a joke?"

They were old and cunning people who had lived for a long time and could hold their own for so long in the battle against the Birth Chart Beasts in the Eastern Forest Mountain. How could they not have an opinion at all in regards to Lu Zhou's demand?

The Seeking Heaven Sect's Zeng Yan had expended a lot of energy in the battle, and he looked rather miserable at this moment. If it was possible, he did not want to make another enemy. "My disciple risked his life to attract the Xi Qu and the two Shan Gaos. Our Seeking Heaven Sect lost more than ten cultivators. After sacrificing so much, how can we give up on the Birth Chart Beasts."

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. "I'm not an unreasonable person. However, the Birth Chart Beasts weren't attracted by your disciple; they were attracted to my disciples."

Mo Xinglu, Xuan Chengzi, and Zeng Yan looked at each other in dismay and confusion.

After a moment, Mo Xinglu smiled faintly and said, "Old sir, you can't prove that it was your disciples who attracted them, right? It's impossible for one person to attract three Birth Chart Beasts."

Xuan Chengzi agreed. "Birth Chart Beasts are territorial. Under normal circumstances, if one Birth Chart Beast appears, another Birth Chart Beast won't appear in the vicinity. Naturally, there are exceptions. In history, there were Birth Chart Beasts that appeared in groups. In the case of Shan Gaos, they usually appear in a pair. I think my words are reasonable as well, right?"

Lu Zhou looked at Xuan Chengzi and said, "You're right. However, it doesn't disprove the fact that these three Birth Chart Beasts are attracted to my disciples."

"This..." Xuan Chengzi was rendered speechless.

Zeng Yan had paid a huge price to come to this stage; how could he be willing to give the Birth Chart Beasts up? Therefore, he said, "Then let's invite the old senior's disciple here. We can just speak without showing evidence, right?"

"Are you implying that I'm lying?" Lu Zhou said as he glanced at the three Birth Chart Beasts that were on the verge of collapse.

Under the constant onslaught of attack from the Nascent Divinity Tribulation Realm cultivators, the Birth Chart Beasts' strength had greatly decreased compared to earlier.

The ground was in a mess. Many trees had fallen to the ground. The smell of blood permeated the air above the western sky of the mountain range in the Eastern Forest Mountain.

Mo Xinglu heard the anger in Lu Zhou's voice so she said, "Old senior doesn't look like someone who lies. However, what we said is reasonable as well. In your opinion, how do we determine whose disciple attracted the Birth Chart Beasts?"

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

As a tide of energy swords swept out, the three Birth Chart Beasts finally fell. The members from the three sects surrounded them and dug out their life hearts. One for the True Kunlun Sect; one for the Void Sect; one for the Seeking Heaven Sect. With this, the distribution of the 'spoils of war' was completed.

The injured disciples rested and healed their injuries. The ones who were uninjured rose into the sky and formed a large formation.

When Mo Xinglu saw that she had obtained the life heart, she said, "Old senior, do you know about the Sky Wheel Mountain Range?"

"The Sky Wheel Mountain Range?" Lu Zhou was puzzled, not knowing why she brought up the Sky Wheel Mountain Range.

Mo Xinglu said, "During the battle in the Sky Wheel Mountain Range, Yu Chenshu was killed by a Ten-leaf expert. After that, a Thousand Realms Whirling expert appeared in the capital. Xuan Chengzhi and I were lucky enough to meet that expert..."

Mo Xinglu's words clearly meant that she would not give up the life heart. Second, she implied that she knew the Thousand Realms Whirling expert. Therefore, it was up to Lu Zhou if he wanted to offend the Thousand Realms Whirling expert.

Since Mo Xinglu said these words, then Lu Zhou could only reveal his identity. As a Thousand Realms Whirling expert, there was no need for him to lie. He could easily make them see reason.

"Forget it."

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. "Actually, I am the..."

Buzz!

A buzzing noise rang in the air as a figure streaked across the sky from afar.

The thousands of cultivators were shocked and looked in the direction of the sound.

A 350-foot black Thousand Realms Whirling avatar towered over the northernmost area of the mountain range in the Eastern Forest Mountain. Then, it flew over at a low altitude. The astrolabe unique to a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar shot out a beam of light at lightning speed, causing all the cultivators present to freeze in fear.

"Thousand Realms Whirling avatar!" Mo Xinglu, Zeng Yan, and Xuan Chengzi cried out in surprise.

"Let's go!"

"It's too late!"

When a Five Chart Thousand Realms Whirling avatar appeared out of thin air in the Sky Wheel Mountain Range, the red lotus domain was in a state of panic. It was only after a long time had passed that they gradually forgot about the black lotus domain. How could they not be shocked when they saw another black lotus cultivator?

The Thousand Realms Whirling avatar was so fast that the trio did not even think of escaping.

To their dismay, after the appearance of the black Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, not one, but six cultivators in black armor wielding halberds appeared as well.

Perhaps, it was an illusion or it was their fear of the strong, but they felt these six people could destroy the earth if they wanted to. In just a blink of an eye, the black lotus cultivators had already covered a huge distance.

Lu Zhou looked at the height of the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar and the six people. It was likely the six people were from the Black Guards. After all, blackguards operated in groups of threes. Therefore, these people must be two groups of blackguards.

The manifestation of the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar and the power of the Birth Chart were just to flex their muscles, warning everyone present to not act rashly. Lu Zhou had to admit the effects were not bad. None of the thousand cultivators dared to breathe loudly, afraid they would anger the black lotus cultivators.

In fact, cultivators with nine leaves and ten leaves had always had a feeling that there was a greater force controlling things in the red lotus domain in the dark, causing them to be unable to move forward in their cultivation. Over the years, there were those with curious minds and adventurous spirits who were unafraid of death trying to unearth secrets. The Sky Martial Court's Luo Xuan was one of them. There were also people like Yu Chenshu who were obsessed with finding Birth Chart Beasts. Finally, there were people like Xiahou Sheng who were willing to be lackeys of the black lotus domain.

The six blackguards had varying body sizes; they were tall, fat, short, thin. However, their armor was the same.

Lu Zhou felt confident fighting a one-versus-three battle, but one-versus-six was a bit difficult. He wondered if he should retreat. There were also the three sects. Unless... he used the Peak Trial Card.

An indescribable pressure descended on the mountain range in the Eastern Forest Mountain immediately.

Mo Xinglu and Xuan Chengzi instinctively retreated a few meters.

The six blackguards hovered in front of the thousands of people, their backs facing the setting sun.

After some time had passed, the blackguard standing in the center of the group of three to the left said solemnly, "Hand over the life hearts..."

The members of the Seeking Heaven Sect, naturally, did not dare to refuse, but they were incredibly unwilling to give up the life heart. After all, they had paid a huge price to obtain it. However, what other choice did they have?

"I'll say it another time; hand over the life hearts." The blackguard's voice lowered by an octave, causing people to shudder.

Zeng Yan felt unresigned, but so what? He could only say through gritted teeth, "Give it to him!"

A cultivator from the Seeking Heaven Sect picked the life heart up and flew up.

"Very good." The blackguard was clearly satisfied with the Seeking Heaven Sect's performance.



Mo Xinglu and Xuan Chengzi could only wave their hands as well.

The cultivators from the True Kunlun Sect and the Void Sect flew up, each holding a life heart.

“Very good.” The blackguard nodded slightly and repeated these two words.

As the saying went, ‘Plans can never keep up with changes’.

Lu Zhou did not expect matters to take such a turn. However, as a Four Chart expert, how could he let others snatch the life hearts away from him?

“Wait.” Lu Zhou flew a few meters forward. “The two Shan Gao’s life hearts belong to me. I’m afraid I can’t let you have it...”

Xuan Chengzi, Mo Xinglu, Zeng Yan. “...”

The trio thought the old man must have gone crazy because of his obsession with life hearts. It was one thing to demand the life hearts from them, but to demand the life hearts from the Thousand Realms Whirling experts from the black lotus domain... it seemed like this old man did not want to live a long life!

### **Chapter 930: Returning the Favor**

The eastern side of the mountain range in the Eastern Forest Mountain was as silent as a graveyard. As a result, Lu Zhou’s words were extremely loud and clear.

Mo Xinglu hurriedly tried to hush Lu Zhou. “Old senior...”

The others were on the verge of tears.

‘You crazy life heart-obsessed old man, even if you want to die, can you not drag us into the water with you!?’

The blackguard in the center of the trio on the left looked at Lu Zhou. “Your life hearts?”

Lu Zhou’s expression remained unchanged. He stroked his beard with one hand while the other rested on his back. “That’s right.”

The blackguard nodded before he said in a low voice, “Well, from now, these life hearts belong to us. We, the Black Guards, will take them away. Can you hear my words clearly?”

Lu Zhou said, “I can hear your words clearly, but I don’t understand them.”

“You don’t understand?”

Buzz!

A 450-foot black lotus avatar appeared in front of everyone again. It was even more majestic and eye-catching up close. The black energy around its body was like moonlight shining in ink. The lotus and the ten leaves were black as well. The black astrolabe at the back gave it a mysterious air. The lights on the astrolabe glinted like the stars in the galaxy. This was the Thousand Realms Whirling; the dream of all Ten-leaf cultivators.

If a pin dropped now, the sound would probably resound in the mountain range.

The blackguard withdrew his avatar before he asked, "Do you understand now?"

Mo Xinglu, Xuan Chengzi, and Zeng Yan quickly nodded. "I understand, I understand..."

Lu Zhou. "..."

'To think that I was trying so hard to reason with these three people earlier. I should've just shown them my avatar!'

The blackguard looked at Lu Zhou and repeated his question, "Do you understand?"

Lu Zhou shook his head.

With this shake of head from Lu Zhou, the three Ten-leaf cultivators felt as though their hearts had dropped to the ground! If the old man angered the Thousand Realms Whirling expert, they would be buried together with him! How could this old man be so unreasonable!?

Mo Xinglu and Xuan Chengzi hastily spoke up one after another to prevent Lu Zhou from speaking.

"I'm sure the old senior understood your meaning. Seniors, please take the life hearts away."

"That's right, that's right, just take them away."

Unfortunately, the blackguard did not seem to be appeased by their words. He stubbornly waited for Lu Zhou's reply.

Lu Zhou said, "Isn't this daylight robbery?"

The blackguard flew forward dozens of meters and landed in the center of the group. He gripped his long halberd and said airily, "Humans are not born equal."

At this moment, the blackguard standing in the center of the trio on the right finally said, "There's no need to waste words with him. We just need to complete our mission."

"Alright." The blackguard nodded slightly. Then, he waved his hand casually.

The ink-like energy surged and collected the three life hearts.

The blackguard's movement was not fast. He deliberately let everyone have a good look as he took the life hearts away.

The life hearts were halfway across from the blackguard when Lu Zhou flicked his sleeve. Just like that, the three life hearts shot into his sleeve one after another.

The Black Guards. "???"

Xuan Chengzi, Mo Xinglu, and Zeng Yan. "???"

After obtaining the three life hearts, Lu Zhou said indifferently, "You're right. Humans are not born equal."

Lu Zhou put away his fate core and said indifferently,

Under the heavy armor and masks, no one knew what the expressions of the Black Guards were like at this moment.

However, one could see the blackguard, who was standing in front, tightening his grip on his halberd.

“Goodbye.” The blackguard raised his hand, and a black palm seal sailed toward Lu Zhou as it grew from small to large.

The six blackguards waited patiently for the old man to be smashed into pieces.

The thousands of cultivators held their breaths as they looked at the black palm fearfully. They shook their heads and sighed inwardly.

Swoosh!

Lu Zhou’s figure turned blurry, and he arrived in front of the blackguard who launched the palm seal before he struck with his palm.

Bang!

Lu Zhou’s palm strike landed straight on the blackguard’s chest, returning the favor.

The blackguard widened his eyes in shock, caught off guard. As he was sent flying back a few hundred meters like a cannonball, a dent on his armor could be seen. He grunted before he spat out a mouthful of blood.

“Captain!” One of the blackguards caught his injured captain. Even then, the force was so strong that he was also pushed back a few meters before he managed to come to a halt.

The scenery of the Eastern Forest Mountain was pleasing to the eyes. If it were not for the thousands of cultivators crowding here for the three life hearts, it would be perfect for one to enjoy the scenery. Alas, at this moment, the blood permeated the air, speaking of the many lives that were lost here, stirring up fear in people’s hearts.

It had always been like this in the cultivation world. Death could come upon a person in just a blink of an eye, and sometimes, one would not even know how one died.

Mo Xinglu, Xuan Chengzi, and Zeng Yan were shocked.

However, the trio’s shock was nothing compared to the blackguard’s shock. The armor hid his expression, but his exposed eyes revealed enough shock. At the same time, 10,000 questions arose in his heart. Who was this old man? Why was he so powerful? Why was such a powerful person so modest and reasonable?

This palm strike was just like an appetizer. Lu Zhou knew that it would be a little difficult to fight six of them alone. Moreover, it would be a huge loss to waste a Deadly Strike Card on these people. He recalled some information from the book he read; the essence of the Birth Charts resided in the Birth Palace. If the Birth Palace was destroyed, the Birth Charts would be destroyed as well.

At this moment, the six black guards regrouped and formed a line. The armor on their bodies seemed to have an inexplicable connection. Apart from them being identical, there seemed to be energy that linked them.

The blackguard whom Lu Zhou sent flying was the captain of the group on the left. He endured the excruciating pain in his chest and asked, "Senior, who are you?"

"It doesn't matter who I am. The life hearts belong to me."

"We, the Black Guards, are just following orders. Why must you make things difficult for us?" the captain asked.

"Making things difficult? I didn't see you acting this way earlier..." Lu Zhou shook his head disapprovingly. It was fine if the blackguard did not speak, but he could not help feeling angry after listening to these words. Since when did following orders become an excuse to bully others?

The blackguard decided to compromise. "There are three life hearts. Why don't you take one, and we'll take the remaining two?"

Lu Zhou shook his head.

One of the captains said again, "Your strength should be around that of a Five Chart expert. These low-level life hearts are useless to you."

Upon hearing these words, the thousands of cultivators were shocked. The blackguard who appeared domineering and mysterious earlier was actually speaking so politely!

Meanwhile, Xuan Chengzi, Mo Xinglu, and Zeng Yan wanted to slap themselves. Even the blackguard had to compromise with the old man. To think... to think they wanted to take advantage of the old man earlier.

Lu Zhou said, "I've already said I want all three life hearts."

The captain of the team on the right brandished his halberd.

The sound of energy resonance rang in the air.

In front of everyone's eyes, one, two, three Thousand Realms Whirling avatars appeared like three twinkling black stars.

Upon seeing this, the team on the left tacitly manifested their avatars.

Four, five, six Thousand Realms Whirling avatars!

The six avatars, four short and two tall, formed a line. The tallest were 450 feet tall while the shortest was 400 feet tall.

Among the six of them, there were two Four Chart experts and four Three Chart experts. The average strength of a blackguard was just as Yan Zhenluo had described.