

Disciples 931

Chapter 931: True Speed

The blackguard said, "We don't want to start a war... Why do you have to gamble with their lives?"

'Ah?'

The thousands of cultivators retreated one after another.

Xuan Chengzi, Mo Xinglu, and Zeng Yan's expressions were extremely unsightly at this moment.

Lu Zhou shook his head and asked, "What does it have to do with me if they die or not?"

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

The trio felt as though they had fallen into a sea of despair. No matter who won or lost today, the three sects would not have a good ending.

What was going on? What sin did they commit that before they could even warm up the life hearts they obtained, the life hearts were snatched away and they were ruthlessly sent to hell.

Six blackguards.

Six Thousand Realms Whirling avatars.

These were enough to sweep through the golden lotus domain and the red lotus domain.

Fortunately, the internal strife in the Black Tower Council was serious. Otherwise, there would be a huge disaster.

The cultivators retreated more than a hundred meters, but it was of no use. In a battle between Thousand Realms Whirling experts, they were like ants walking among elephants. They felt like fish on a chopping board.

"You insist on making an enemy out of the Black Tower Council?" the blackguard continued to ask.

Lu Zhou said, "Why are you talking so much? You don't dare to recklessly kill because you're afraid of being punished, right?"

"Hmm?" The Black Guards were shocked.

"The three life hearts are already in my possession. Do you think six of you can snatch them from me?" Lu Zhou asked. Inwardly, he calculated his strength and six opponents' strengths.

His opponents had 26 Birth Charts collectively. If he used the Deadly Strike Cards, he would be able to destroy five Birth Charts. With the supreme mystic power, he should be able to destroy two Birth Palaces. However, there would still be three people left behind. Although he had some decent weapons, they did seem sufficient. The gap was rather big.

Lu Zhou decided to intimidate them first.

The blackguard said again, "The Black Tower Council is doing this to protect the red lotus domain."

"Life and death are determined by fate; wealth and honor are determined by heaven. Did you ask them if they want to be protected?" Lu Zhou pointed at the thousands of cultivators who had retreated to the sides.

"..."

The blackguard tried to explain again, "The red lotus domain isn't strong enough. Just a low-level Birth Chart Beast is enough to make all of them miserable. If they encounter a beast king..."

"Enough," Lu Zhou raised his hand and interjected, "I'm tired of hearing such words."

The blackguards looked at each other. It's their first time meeting, how could the old man be tired of listening to such words?

"Then don't blame us for being rude. Get into formation."

Four blackguards suddenly flashed and surrounded Lu Zhou.

The Black Guards did not give up. In their opinion, there were six of them so their chances of winning were very high.

In just a blink of an eye, they began to fight.

Everyone exclaimed in shock. The speed was too fast! Was this the might of Thousand Realms Whirling experts?

One of the blackguards raised the long halberd in his hand and brandished it around.

Lu Zhou frowned slightly. "I'll grant you your wish."

Lu Zhou seemed to have vanished into thin air before he appeared behind the blackguard standing in the east direction and struck with his palm.

As though he could sense the danger, the blackguard flashed away.

Alas, Lu Zhou seemed to have predicted his movement and moved to his back again at an even faster speed before striking with his palm again.

"Little Five!"

Lu Zhou's expression remained unchanged as five fingers shone with blue light.

Everyone born into the world had a name and race. They would eat, drink, experience happiness and sadness. Originating from nothing, from it comes everything. Living in samsara and learning from it. This was the power of past lives.

Bang!

Following that, Abandon Wisdom shot out and landed on the blackguard's back. As expected, he was sent flying back and spat out a mouthful of blood. However, surrounded by energy, the blood looked black.

“Ding! Destroyed one Birth Chart. Reward: 6,000 merit points.”

Lu Zhou felt like the technique was not very suitable for destroying too many Birth Charts at once. The supreme mystic power was rather limited. Nevertheless, the palm seal perfectly displayed his might.

When Mo Xinglu saw the familiar blue light, she exclaimed in surprise, “It’s him?!”

“Who?”

“The old senior who killed Yu Chenshu.”

“It’s him?!” Xuan Chengzi was shocked as well.

The person who killed Yu Chenshu only had ten leaves at that time. However, in less than a year, he now possessed the power to fight against six blackguards?

Meanwhile, the blackguard’s expression was one of shock and disbelief after his Birth Chart was destroyed.

Upon seeing this, the two captains brandished their long halberds that were shrouded with black energy. The atmosphere seemed to turn gloomy in just an instant, and their aura seemed to have grown stronger.

At this time, the blackguard in the western direction manifested his avatar. The three Birth Charts on the black astrolabe shot out beams of light immediately.

Lu Zhou flashed and dodged the attacks. With the ability from the fourth Birth Chart, his speed was so fast that it seemed like he had disappeared into thin air.

“Where is he?”

“Be careful!”

In just a blink of an eye, Lu Zhou flashed to the back of the black Thousand Realms Whirling Avatar and grabbed it with one hand. His other hand shone with a blue light as he brought it down on the Birth Palace in the Lotus Seat.

Lu Zhou’s speed was so fast that the blackguard trembled in fear.

“No!”

Lu Zhou’s hand ruthlessly destroyed the Birth Palace.

The avatar was damaged in just an instant, and the three Birth Charts on the astrolabe went at the same time.

Although Lu Zhou did not obtain merit points by destroying the Birth Palace, it was convenient that he could destroy a few Birth Charts at once.

Without the avatar and the Birth Charts, the blackguard in front of Lu Zhou was a weak sheep.

The blackguards in the surroundings rushed to their comrades. “Retreat!”

A blue lotus appeared and bloomed under Lu Zhou's feet at this moment. The surging energy from the blue lotus swept toward the five blackguards.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The energy from the blue lotus cut through the mountain range in Eastern Forest Mountain like a hot knife through butter.

Now that the five blackguards had disappeared, Lu Zhou pressed his hand down on the chest of the blackguard whose Birth Palace he destroyed.

The blackguard fell from the sky and crashed heavily on the ground.

"Ding! Killed a target. Reward: 8,000 merit points. Domain bonus: 2,000 merit points."

Lu Zhou did not let down his guard. He looked around for the remaining blackguards, but they were nowhere to be seen? Did they use some secret technique to escape? Could it be an invisibility technique? From this battle, it could be seen that his combat techniques for the Thousand Realms Whirling were still insufficient. Yan Zhenluo's book only covered the basic common knowledge after all. There were no secret techniques.

He had used the supreme mystic power thrice now and depleted half of it. If he used all his trump cards, it was not impossible to kill all of them. However, he did not think it was worth it.

The power of hearing.

Blue energy lingered around Lu Zhou's ears. The range of his hearing spanned 1,000 meters in just an instant.

Every sound of the movement, breath, and heartbeat of those from the Seeking Heaven Sect, the True Kunlun Sect, and the Void Sect entered his ears.

Lu Zhou turned around and glanced at Xuan Chengzi and the others.

With just a glance, the trio immediately fell to their knees in the air.

"Old sir, please forgive us!"

Upon seeing this, thousands of people fell to the ground at the same time.

"Old sir, please forgive us."

At this moment...

Thump! Thump! Thump!

'The sound of heartbeats?'

Lu Zhou Lu Zhou's attention was not on them but on the north of the mountain range in the Eastern Forest Mountain. He recalled the blackguards seemed to have come from the north earlier. He flashed and traveled thousands of meters north in just a blink of an eye.

He hovered in the air and continued to listen.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

All of a sudden, the extremely faint sound of heartbeats stopped. The surroundings were terrifyingly quiet.

Lu Zhou placed one hand on his back as he said in a low voice, "Playing cat and mouse with me?"

Lu Zhou struck with his palm.

Boom!

A golden palm seal flew in the direction where he last heard the heartbeat and landed on a rock.

Four blackguards appeared immediately. They rushed toward the fifth blackguard who was hit by the palm seal before they escaped in a flash.

"Go!"

"Where are we going?!"

Lu Zhou chased after them at an even more exaggerated speed.

Chapter 932: Is This The Might of the Black Guards?

Lu Zhou, who had obtained Di Jiang's ability, felt that the blackguards' speed was a little slow. He wondered if they were intentionally slowing down. It was similar to how human movements were slow in the eyes of cats, just not as exaggerated. They were all Thousand Realms Whirling experts after all.

In a blink of an eye, Lu Zhou had already chased them to the northern jungle.

Meanwhile, Xuan Chengzi, Mo Xinglu, and Zeng Yan looked at each other/

"Should we chase after them?" Mo Xinglu asked.

"No... We should just stay here," Xuan Chengzi said, "If we chase after them, we might get hurt..."

The disciples below nodded.

The battle of the Ten-leaf experts in the Sky Wheel Mountain Range had already leveled the mountains and the valley. In comparison to the battle between so many Thousand Realms Whirling experts, that was likely just like an appetizer.

Zeng Yan sighed as he said with a troubled expression, "Then, the life heart..."

"At this point in time, you can still think about the life heart? It's better to think about how to save your life..."

The three of them lowered their heads and sighed in unison. They decided not to leave and wait instead.

They knew they could run now, but they wouldn't be able to run forever. If the Thousand Realms Whirling experts were angered, who knew what they would do. It was better to just wait. At least, there was a chance of survival.

Now that they thought about it, after meeting the blackguards, the old Thousand Realms Whirling expert seemed rather reasonable.

...

While chasing after the blackguards, Lu Zhou hesitated slightly. Based on what he knew, the blackguards should not be so weak. Moreover, their fighting style was too timid. After losing only one blackguard, they turned tail and ran.

Lu Zhou was puzzled. Were they really from the powerful Black Guards in the Black Tower Council?

...

In the forest east of the Eastern Forest Mountain.

Buzz! Buzz!

Two golden avatars towered in the sky.

One of the avatars had a spinning golden lotus with ten leaves. The tips of the leaves were burning with wisps of golden flames.

The other avatar had no lotus which made it look rather cool and mysterious. Ten leaves revolved around the avatar in an orderly manner like ten moons revolving around earth.

...

"Ten leaves?" Lu Zhou, naturally, knew what happened as soon as he saw the avatars.

With so many people looking out for Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong, it was only a matter of course that they successfully sprouted the tenth leaf.

At this moment, the five blackguards hesitated for a moment before they flew toward the two Ten-leaf avatars.

Upon seeing this, Lu Zhou frowned slightly. "You dare to target my disciples?"

Lu Zhou mobilized the power of the fourth Birth Chart.

A golden light seemed to shine from his body. Soon after, the space seemed to ripple and distort when he moved due to the extreme speed.

Lu Zhou arrived at the back of the five blackguards at the speed of light and struck with his palm.

The five blackguards turned around and stood shoulder to shoulder with their halberds next to them. Then, they flashed and disappeared again.

Lu Zhou's palm strike missed its targets.

'Hmm? What kind of move was that?'

Lu Zhou turned around and confirmed his disciples were safe and sound. At the same time, he saw Si Wuya flying over on Di Jiang's back. He hurriedly sent a voice transmission to Si Wuya. "Don't come over."

The blackguards must be still in the vicinity. Based on that earlier move, their speed increased for a moment. It was faster than the speed of flashing. If his disciples came over and were taken hostages, it would be quite troublesome.

Si Wuya and Di Jiang hovered in the sky thousands of meters away, unmoving. "Master, what's wrong?"

"The Black Guards. They're all Thousand Realms Whirling experts," Lu Zhou said as he looked around.

Si Wuya, worthy of being Lu Zhou's smartest disciple, rose higher into the sky and looked at the setting sun, the clouds, and the ground. He looked in all directions before he finally said through voice transmission, "Master, continue to go north. They'll definitely go north."

Si Wuya was right. However, Lu Zhou said, "No, if they turn back, all of you will be in danger."

Lu Zhou flew slightly north to a large valley. It was humid here, the terrain was rougher, and there were beasts.

Lu Zhou chanted the mantra for the power of hearing.

For a few thousand meters, there were no sounds of movement at all. This time, there was no heartbeat.

Lu Zhou moved forward slowly. Every few meters, he would stop and look around.

"I gave you a chance. Not only did you not cherish it, but you provoked me instead," Lu Zhou said as he continued moving forward.

He cut off the power of hearing. He decided to save his supreme mystic power and rely on his cultivation base instead to sense the movement around him.

Although he had just killed a blackguard, he could not be complacent.

Creak!

A sound rang from the left!

"Why are you so aggressive, old sir?"

Lu Zhou raised his hand.

Swoosh!

Boom!

A palm seal landed on the towering tree, shattering it immediately. Nevertheless, no one could be seen.

"When you provoked me earlier, did you think about the consequences? What makes you think you can twist right and wrong as you wish? Let me show you the vastness of the universe today..."

A reply came from the front right.

"We've given up the three life hearts. Why don't we forget about this matter? Moreover, we've lost one of our comrades. Why don't we consider that as compensation for our previous offenses?"

This blackguard was rather smart and flexible.

Lu Zhou looked around his surroundings as he fell deep into his thoughts. He did not strike the spot where the voice came from. He thought it was not a bad idea to end the matter like that.

However, a cold voice rang from the depths of the northern jungle at this moment. "Kill him or all of you will die!"

"L-lord Wu?"

'Lord Wu? Even the blackguards sound so respectful when addressing this person. Is he the judge? I acted too ostentatiously this time... Is it too late to escape now?'

"Yes."

The voice seemed to come from the depths of hell. It sounded like it came from very far away. This Lord Wu was clearly quite far away and was not bothered with personally making a move.

Lu Zhou raised his head.

A fierce wind began to blow. The sky darkened and the sun dimmed as thunder rang and lightning flashed in the air.

Lu Zhou leaped up the sky and arrived above a towering tree. When he looked down at the basin in front of him, he saw a shocking scene. A flag was erected in five directions around the basin. The flags were the color of ink, and the black patterns on the flags flashed faintly. The flags that were 1,000 feet tall covered a vast area.

'Formation flags?' Lu Zhou was surprised to see them. The 1,000-foot black formation flags were rather strange. Even at the height he was hovering at, he still had to crane his neck up to look at them.

At this moment, the five formation flags began to shoot out black energy swords.

As thunder and lightning rang and flashed in the sky, the energy swords swept out, cutting down all the trees in an instant. The energy swords seemed indestructible; they continued flying out even after hitting targets after targets.

Lu Zhou looked at the five blackguards standing under the five formation flags respectively as they held their halberds.

Buzz! Buzz! Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!

Five Thousand Realms Whirling avatar appeared for a moment before they disappeared again. In just an instant, five heaven-defying black energy swords shot toward Lu Zhou.

"Unnamed." Lu Zhou raised a hand, turning Unnamed into a shield with the scripts from the Taiji Yin and Yang.

Boom!

The five terrifying energy swords slammed against Unnamed, pushing Lu Zhou back hundreds of meters away from the basin.

Buzz!

The energy swords did not dissipate and kept pushing against Unnamed.

Lu Zhou was in disbelief when he felt his blood qi roiled in his body. "I have underestimated you."

Boom!

The supreme mystic power!

Unnamed shattered the five energy swords in just an instant.

Meanwhile, the five formation flags fluttered in the wind. With each movement, a sonorous and powerful noise would ring in the air. Soon after, they shot out energy swords again.

Was this the might of the Black Guards?

Chapter 933: The Fierce Old Demon Ji

Lu Zhou turned around to take a look, but his line of sight was blocked. Everything around him was like hell on Earth, completely covered by the ink-colored gang qis. The Sword Gang Qis occupied the space within a radius of several thousand meters.

The Black Wu guards finally made their move.

Lu Zhou did not retreat, but instead advanced... flashing forward, dodging the ink-colored sword gang qis that blotted out the sky.

However, under the control of the formation flag that was a thousand feet tall, the sword aura became even more fierce and powerful..

"Nameless Shield."

He raised his hand to block in front of him.

The shield was no longer a small shield. Suddenly, it hummed, like an umbrella that could block the shining golden light in the sky.

The shield that looked like the sky flew back.

Bang, Bang, Bang..

The Sword Shield was forced back by the unknown shield seal.

Lu Zhou took the opportunity to flash forward and activate his life core.

The golden astrolabe appeared in his palm. He only made an arc motion, and five flaming light beams shot out.

Bang, Bang, Bang!

Bang, Bang!

The five black guardians placed their palms in front of them. The whirling of a thousand worlds was activated, and the power of the light beams forced them back.

At the same time, the five black astrolabes shot out dense light pillars with gang imprints, striking back at Lu Zhou..

‘this old man... is really going too far?’?

Lu Zhou was now completely covered in danger.

Once the power of supreme mystery was used up, he would really be finished.

In this environment, there was no room for carelessness.

The Black Guardians came from the Black Tower and were top-notch experts. How could they not have any means.

“Formation flag...”

Lu Zhou looked at the formation flag that was a thousand feet tall. It kept swaying with the wild wind and shot out ink-colored sword energy.

He had to find a way to get close to them.

The power of life force and the power of supreme mystery were both limited. He could not waste them like this.

While he was thinking, the sword energy shot out from the formation flag that was a thousand feet tall neutralized the Unknown Shield. The entire world returned to the state of the Purgatory of sword energy.

“Seal formation.”

Bang Bang Bang!

The sword energy was thrown out by the seal formation.

“Six Directions Dao Seal.”

Eight trigrams appeared under his feet, and ten golden words appeared on his body.

The sword energy was all pushed back.

Lu Zhou continued to flash forward.

The Black Guardian took out his dharma body at the same time and threw out the long halberd in his hand..

Lu Zhou glanced at it. was he going to use a fatal blow? It was not worth it... even if he took one person away, there would still be four people left.

Wait a little longer.

If it really did not work, the fatal strike and all the power of supreme mystery could take away two people. It was not too late to retreat.

The long halberds revolved around the formation flag. The five long halberds shone with black light... gang qis revolved around the long halberds. Under the support of the formation flag, the five long halberds seemed to pierce through the void and stabbed towards Lu Zhou.

At the same time.

The Dark Sword Gang that blotted out the sky covered the five long halberds.

At the critical moment, Si Wuya's voice sounded

"Master, sea soul bead."

He received a reminder.

Lu Zhou immediately took out the sea soul bead.

"Merge."

Yuan Qi activated the sea soul bead.

With the sea soul bead as the center, the temperature within a few kilometers suddenly dropped.

Zhi —

Absolute Zero.

Under this effect, all the energy within the ice seal was frozen.

Everything was frozen.

Creaking sounds of freezing covered the sky and earth.

The ink-colored sword aura in the sky also became a part of the ice... Then, the five formation flags turned into ice sculptures and stopped moving.

The five Black Wu guards did not think and said in unison, "Retreat."

"Retreat."

"You want to leave? It's too late."

Without the sword aura blocking him, Lu Zhou was like a fish in water. He activated his life matrix heart and his entire body flashed with golden light. He appeared beside one of the Black Wu guards and struck out with his palm.

"Block."

The armor of the Black Wu guard lit up with dao patterns.

The black astrolabe appeared in front of his chest.

"You can't block it!"

Boom!

This palm contained the power of the grand mystery.

“AH –”

The astrolabe shrank into his body.

[ding, you have killed a life force. You have received 6000 merit points.]

Seeing this, the others attacked from all directions.

Four ink-colored gang seals swept over.

In order to destroy all wisdom and wisdom, they were able to stay in Samadhi Zhengding. As for their appearances, such as light and shadow, they were able to display everything. As for Yu Samadhi, he did not move at all.

The blue lotus bloomed.

The power of Taixuan once again forced the four of them to retreat without reason. Bang Bang Bang Bang... The four of them were sent flying.

This scene was extremely similar to the scene of the Donglin mountain range killing the Black Wu guard.

Lu Zhou grabbed the black wu guard in his hand and instantly unleashed five consecutive palm strikes.

This time, he did not have the power of the grand mystery.

Absolute Saint Qi Zhi landed on the heart of the Black Wu guard one by one.

Bang Bang Bang..

“No! ! !”

Lu Zhou struck out with his sword in his palm. The nameless sword wrapped around the sword energy and a golden light surrounded it.

It was aimed at the body of the Black Wu guard who was unable to retaliate after being struck by the five consecutive palm strikes.

The sky was filled with Lu Zhou’s shadow.

Xiu Xiu Xiu..

Every strike of the nameless sword sliced through the black guard’s body.

After a series of dazzling attacks, Lu Zhou appeared near the black guard with his back facing the person and looked at the four of them.

In his palm, the nameless sword flickered with a firefly-like golden light.

Another ‘combination’.

..

The battle stopped.

The black guard behind Lu Zhou seemed to be immobilized and didn't move at all.

He didn't even look at the Black Guard. Instead, he stared at the remaining four people without blinking.

Kacha —

The armor of the black guard behind him broke into pieces one by one.

Then... blood spurted out from his body.

He had been cut into pieces by Lu Zhou's nameless sword a long time ago.

Blood spurted out like a tap that had gone out of control.

[ding, one life matrix killed, 6000 merit points obtained.]

[ding, one target killed, 8000 merit points obtained, 2000 points gained from land boundary.]

That Black Wu guard was reduced to pieces and fell into the basin, disappearing. It would not be long before he became food for the fierce beasts in the wilderness.

..

The remaining four black guards gulped, their Adam's apple bobbing up and down.

"Are we really going to lose?" The black guards' voice became hoarse.

Hearing this, Lu Zhou's expression was calm.

From these words, he could tell that the black guards still had a trump card?

But things had already come to this point... how could they not pay the price after acting tough?

"Lose?" Lu Zhou shook his head.

"To be honest... We don't want to fight. The black guards are only the enforcement layer. The judge is right behind us..." the captain of the Black Guards pulled out a barrier and transmitted his voice.

"The Judge?"

"Lord Wu likes to watch the tiger fight on the mountain. I admit that you are very powerful... But if this continues, it will be disadvantageous for both of us. You are the expert who killed Yi Yao, aren't you?" The captain of the Black Guards said.

"I did kill Yi Yao," Lu Zhou said calmly.

"Half a year ago, I was ordered to investigate this matter... if I wanted to do it, I would have done it long ago. Why wait until now?" "I thought that you wouldn't care about these low-level life forms after entering the thousand realms... I didn't expect that we would meet again." The captain of the black guards shook his head.

"Why are you telling me this?" The nameless sword in Lu Zhou's hand was still there.

"Let's take a step back and call it a day," said the leader of the Black Guards.

“What if I don’t agree?”

“...”

The leader of the black guards said helplessly, “Ever since I became the black guards, I knew that I would die... I really want to live longer. The greater world is full of dangers. As long as I have a choice, I won’t be the Black Guards anymore.”

“Since you can see clearly, you still dare to threaten me?” Lu Zhou said.

“A person in his position has no choice,” the black guards said, “If I knew it was you... I definitely would not have appeared in the Donglin mountain range.”

Living was the most important thing for survival.

This was the rule that he had always followed since he became the black guards.

Later, the black guards reminded him, “There’s not enough time. Lord Wu, wait for us to report back.”

There was also Lord Wu.

As expected..

From the northernmost point of the mountain range, a low voice sounded:

“Is this your disciple? The smell on his body is interesting, interesting... he’s very smart, reaching here.”

Lu Zhou suddenly raised his head and looked towards the north.

When he looked towards the back, Si Wuya’s shadow was nowhere to be seen.

“Seventh?”

Lu Zhou’s face turned stiff as he looked at the four black guards, “Where is he?”

“Sir...”

“Take me to him.” Lu Zhou’s body was full of killing intent.

The Black Guard looked left and right, waved his arm, and said with a conflicted expression, “Lord Wu is one of the four great judges of the Black Tower... to be honest, I don’t want to see you die.”

He suddenly felt that... the balance within the black tower was really going to be broken?

“Don’t force me to kill.”

Lu Zhou’s tone was cold.

The black guards pointed at the northern mountain range.

Lu Zhou’s body once again emitted golden lines as he chased after them like lightning.

In the blink of an eye, he disappeared.

The remaining four black guards let out a sigh of relief.

“What do we do now? The mission failed.”

“Report truthfully... but before that...”the captain of the black guards raised his hand and slapped his chest.

With a grunt, blood spurted out.

“Leader!”

“Do it!”

The remaining black guards sighed and heavily injured themselves.

“Don’t mention the two brothers who died... there are many people from the black tower who will look for him.”The leader gestured towards the sky and Earth and bowed. His originally bright eyes turned cold, “Don’t blame me, go well.”

It was not easy for anyone to survive in this world.

The four black guards flew toward the northern mountain range.

“What should we do if he kills us?”The other captain said.

“Then... we will die together.”

“...”

..

They flew toward the north.

Lu Zhou had used up all of his speed and life force.

Finally, he saw di Jiang floating above the forest.

“Di Jiang?”

GA — —

Di Jiang saw its real owner and flew over as fast as lightning. Lu Zhou landed on its body.

“Where’s seventh?”

Ga, GA Ga..

Di Jiang suddenly dived down, almost causing Lu Zhou to fall. Fortunately, his cultivation was profound, so he adjusted at an extremely fast speed.

He roughly understood the situation.

Si Wuya must have known something and took advantage of di Jiang to come here, wanting to find out what was going on. However, he did not expect to meet the judge of the eight-life matrix!

He was captured?

Lu Zhou closed his eyes slightly..

The divine ability of the heavenly book had a blue light attached to his eyes.

Si Wuya's vision appeared.

He saw that Si Wuya was caught by a huge black hand in the clouds, unable to break free.

"The Great Void Aura, it's actually the great void Aura... The heavens are helping me, the heavens are helping me! ! !"

Lu Zhou suddenly opened his eyes... and raised his head to look at the sky.

In the clouds, a black lotus disc at the bottom of the Lotus seat appeared in his field of vision. The Black Lotus was charging toward the heavens, breaking through the clouds.

The black lotus shone brightly in the sky.

PS: Recommendation ticket and monthly ticket... Today is 2:5K. Monday, I want a ticket. Thank you.

Chapter 934: Take This Palm Seal!

The black lotus was rather big, giving off an oppressive aura. Just like black clouds looming over a city. If it were not for the distinct lotus shape and the dazzling black light, one might actually mistake it for black clouds.

As the black lotus moved up, the ten leaves spun, parting the clouds in its path.

...

Meanwhile, the four blackguards did not rush to return. Although they still had tricks up their sleeves, they rather not run into Lu Zhou again.

As they flew, they thought about how the judge would punish them, if they could survive this disaster, and if they did, how they were going to report this failed mission.

The four of them were anxious and ill at ease. Moreover, two of their ranks had died. How could the atmosphere be pleasant?

At this moment, all four of them felt the shift in the energy and looked up in unison in the direction of the 'entrance'. When they saw the 750-foot avatar, all of them were shocked.

750 feet far surpassed all of the heights of their avatars after all.

After forming the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, every Birth Chart would increase the height of one's avatar by 50 feet. Upon reaching the sixth Birth Chart, one had to pass the Birth Chart test. If one passed the test, one's avatar would grow another 30 feet taller. Apart from that, after passing the test, one would gain abilities like the Birth Chart fusion ability. Needless to say, if one failed, one would not be able to activate the seventh Birth Chart. On the other hand, those whose Birth Palaces were small, naturally, did not even have a chance to take the test.

The blackguards were very strong... in the red lotus domain. However, they were only average or slightly above average in the Black Tower Council. Someone like Lord Wu was a genius whom they all looked up to.

When the four blackguards regained their senses, they were confused.

“Why is Lord Wu going back now?”

“Why is he in such a hurry?”

The captain frowned and said, “The entrance just opened. Lord Wu must have something urgent to attend to. This is a good thing for us. We should find a place to recuperate.”

“... Didn’t we get injured in vain then?”

“First, report to the Black Tower Council.”

“Understood.”

The blackguard standing at the left brought a black talisman out. Just as he was about to light it, the black lotus suddenly stopped spinning.

“What’s That?”

One of the blackguards exclaimed, “It’s him?”

“Life and death are determined by fate. I’ve already tried to persuade him. If he doesn’t listen, there’s no one to blame for his death.”

The blackguards saw Lu Zhou riding on Di Jiang’s back, flying up.

That seemingly weak body rode on the lightning-fast mount as a conical energy appeared five feet in front of him.

...

At this moment, Wu Guangping, one of the four judges in the Black Tower Council and an Eight Chart expert, stood above the black lotus avatar with an excited expression on his face. All of a sudden, he frowned when he sensed movements underneath his avatar.

“Hmm? Thousand Realms Whirling? Interesting.”

...

At the same time, Lu Zhou continued climbing up the sky as he had yet to see the Eight Chart expert. When he reached a certain altitude, he said Di Jiang before he flew off its back. “Wait for me to return.”

Squawk!

A thunderous cry rang in the sky.

Di Jiang was very obedient. It flew away at lightning speed. Now that it was not carrying anyone, its speed was even faster than before. In just a blink of an eye, it had already flown a distance away.

Lu Zhou continued to fly up. When he was dozens of feet away from the bottom of the black lotus avatar, a thunderous voice rang from above.

“Weak.”

Following that, tens of thousands of shadows appeared around Lu Zhou and began to attack. His instincts told him the shadows were incredibly dangerous. He hurriedly clenched his left hand, and the Golden Buddha Body appeared around him.

The Golden Buddha Body looked different from before. It sat cross-legged on the lotus, and the lotus shone with a much dazzling golden light.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

The attacks from the shadows that surrounded the Golden Buddha Body rained down like a storm on the Golden Buddha Body. Countless black palm seals hit the Golden Buddha Body, causing it to ring like the tolling morning bell. The ringing spread in all directions, alarming the beasts on the ground and in the sky.

On the other side, the four blackguards watched in confusion. Their eyes widened as they stared at the Golden Buddha Body that withstood the attacks from the shadows.

Similarly, Wu Guangping who had used a powerful technique thought he would be able to easily kill the frail old man was slightly surprised as well. He did not expect his countless palm seals were like cotton candy when they hit the Golden Buddha Body. His body stiffened for a moment before he quickly descended and appeared in front of Lu Zhou. He asked skeptically, “You’re capable of blocking my palm seals?”

Lu Zhou did not even wait as he pushed his right hand out.

The enhanced Deadly Strike Card disappeared into spots of starlight immediately.

“Take this palm strike.” A vortex spinning counter-clockwise appeared before it transformed into a terrifyingly huge palm seal.

Apart from its size, it was no different from a palm seal by an ordinary cultivator. It looked deceptively simple.

Upon seeing this, Wu Guangping’s eyes flashed in disdain. Then, he advanced and launched a black palm seal several times larger than Lu Zhou’s palm seal.

Swoosh!

“Hmm?” Wu Guangping frowned.

The golden palm seal was unaffected by the black palm seal and passed through it easily.

Then, Wu Guangping moved his 750-foot Thousand Realms Whirling avatar in front of him to block the simple-looking golden palm seal.

Alas, the golden palm seal was unstoppable.

Bam!

The golden palm seal landed on the black Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. The avatar flashed brightly before cracks began to appear on its body.

Wu Guangping's expression changed drastically. He retreated hastily, spitting out a mouthful of blood.

All of a sudden, the sound of glass breaking rang from the towering 750-foot avatar.

The golden palm seal continued to fly unimpeded toward Wu Guangping.

...

Meanwhile, the four blackguards stared at the scene before them unblinkingly. When the golden palm seal flew into the clouds, obscuring their sight, they could not help but sigh regretfully. Alas, they could not witness an exciting battle.

Perhaps, they were not paying attention. They had assumed Wu Guangping's palm seals had hit the old man's vital points and destroyed his Birth Charts. With the golden palm seal disappearing into the clouds, they were even more convinced the old man had died. After all, how could the old man's Golden Buddha Body withstand the attack from an Eight Chart expert? Look, the old man did not even have a chance to manifest his avatar before it died; it was just a futile struggle to go against an Eight Chart expert.

However, soon after, they were shocked to discover the old man was not dead! Instead, he was standing proudly and looking at the sky.

At this moment, they realized something was amiss.

With Wu Guangping's temper, how could he tolerate a weak cultivator acting so presumptuously for such a long time? By right, Wu Guangping should have already killed the old man.

...

Boom!

Wu Guangping looked at the golden palm seal that was closing in on him in disbelief. He focused all his energy in his hands before he pushed them out.

Crack!

As soon as Wu Guangping's hand met the golden palm seal, a cracking noise rang in the air. Both his arms were broken!

The golden palm seal continued to push forward and stuck itself to Wu Guangping's body.

...

In the distance.

Lightning flashed a few times within the clouds. Following that, there was a clap of thunder and the sounds of screaming.

When silence returned...

“...”

“What’s wrong with Lord Wu?”

“Did the entrance close?”

The four blackguards looked at the sky in confusion.

...

“Ding! Killed one target. Reward: 10,000 merit points. Domain bonus: 5,000 merit points.”

Si Wuya, naturally, witnessed everything. He felt as though his soul was shattered when the palm seal landed on Wu Guangping. At this moment, he was once again in awe of his master’s profound strength.

Just a single palm strike was able to kill an Eight Chart expert! How invincible!

Chapter 935: Old Seventh’s Thoughts and the Runic Passage

From Lu Zhou’s point of view, he saw the golden palm seal shoot up. After it landed on its target, a miserable cry rang out before everything disappeared into nothingness.

Although it was a loss using the enhanced Deadly Strike Card, it was a necessary move. If he did not use it, he would have suffered a greater loss. All in all, Lu Zhou was rather satisfied with the card’s effect.

“Master.” Si Wuya’s voice rang from above.

Lu Zhou flew over.

Si Wuya had already escaped and was hovering in the air. Upon seeing his master rushing over, he kneeled in the air and said with a contrite expression on his face, “I was wrong and almost harmed master. Please punish me, master.”

Si Wuya gulped after he finished speaking. He had witnessed the entire one-sided battle. His master’s palm strike was truly shocking. Although he had always known his master was strong, this was the first time he really understood how profound and mysterious his master’s strength was. As the saying went, ‘Confidence comes from strength.’ No wonder his master always remained confident and unflustered no matter what situation he faced. Be it Ye Zhen, Yu Chenshu, Xia Housheng, the Grand Dukes, or the blackguards, they were nothing in front of his master.

Lu Zhou did not blame Si Wuya. Instead, he looked at the stormy sky and asked, “What did you discover?”

Si Wuya replied, “Master, when you were fighting the blackguards, I noticed some movements over here. To prevent reinforcement from reaching the blackguards, Di Jiang and I flew here. That’s when I saw this runic passage. I know it’s dangerous, but...”

Lu Zhou raised his hand.

The sky gradually calmed down and turned blue again. There was nothing but huge fluffy white clouds in the blue sky now.

Lu Zhou asked, puzzled. "What's a runic passage?"

Si Wuya explained. "During the last six months, apart from cultivating and teaching Li Yunzheng, I have been spending time in the Sky Research Court. During my time there, I read about runic passages from the research Luo Xuan left behind. According to the people from the Sky Research Court, Luo Xuan first came across a runic passage when she was excavating an ancient tomb. After that, she devoted herself to researching the runic passage and confirmed the existence of the World Beyond the Heavens."

"How did the runic passage prove the existence of the World Beyond the Heavens?"

"The runic passage allows one to fly at an extremely fast speed..."

"Fly? Is it faster than Di Jiang?"

"It's far faster than Di Jiang. We can't use logic to view it. It's like this..." Si Wuya tried to explain it in the simplest way possible. He struggled for a moment before he fisted both his hands and lifted them.

"From the left to the right, the distance is greater than that of the Endless Ocean that lies between the golden lotus domain and red lotus domain. However, with the runic passage, you can just..."

"So it's like teleportation?" Lu Zhou found the words Si Wuya was looking for.

Si Wuya's eyes lit up immediately. He looked at his master and said excitedly, "Yes, it's like teleportation. The runic passage has high requirements for it to work. The energy consumption is really high and the location has to be suitable as well. If it were not for the World Beyond the Heavens, Luo Xuan probably would have studied the runic passage. In any case, later on, the royal family put a stop to the research. Following that, Luo Xuan used the runes from the runic passage she found to create a runic passage in the Black Water Mystic Cave. That was how she managed to get to the golden lotus domain. This also proved the existence of the World Beyond the Heavens..."

Si Wuya paused to catch his breath before he continued to say, "Master, as you've seen earlier, the runic passage not only has a high consumption of energy and strict requirements regarding its location, but it has high requirements of the user as well... Perhaps, the red lotus domain did not want to alarm the cultivators so they suppressed the research. When master confirmed that the black lotus domain has been monopolizing the Birth Chart Beasts in the red lotus domain for a long time now and has plans to monopolize the golden lotus domain, I couldn't help but wonder how they pulled it off when they had to travel such a long distance. Even if it was an Eight Chart Thousand Realms Whirling expert, it would still take five days to cross the Endless Ocean! Five days are enough for the Birth Chart Beast to be captured by someone else before the black lotus cultivators arrived. Moreover, after listening to master's encounter with the black Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator in the Sky Wheel Rift Valley, I realized the valley was somewhat similar to the golden lotus domain's Heaven's Moat. In any case, it'd be much easier for the black lotus cultivators to travel the Endless Ocean than to enter through the lava. It didn't make sense to me... That's why I took the risk and came here to see if I can learn anything..."

After Si Wuya finished speaking, he looked up at the tranquil sky.

Lu Zhou asked, "Are you certain?"

"Yes, it's the runic passage."

"Weren't you afraid he'd kill you?" Lu Zhou asked.

Si Wuya replied honestly, "I was betting on him not killing me..."

Lu Zhou. "..."

Si Wuya explained, "First, based on Lu Li and Di Jiang's reaction, I confirmed that I have the Great Void energy. Although I don't know what it is, I'm sure it's some special energy. Second, I've contacted Senior Sister Zhao Yue many times and learned that the cultivator, Lian Xing, was trying to obtain her Great Void energy, apart from suppressing her cultivation base. Whether it's Lu Li, Lian Xing, or Di Jiang, their reaction to the Great Void energy is one of awe. It's like some treasure that surpasses all treasures. Therefore, I was certain this person wouldn't kill me. At most, he would capture and imprison me before he tried to extract the Great Void energy from me. In fact, it's a good thing if I were captured. I'd be able to infiltrate the Black Tower Council and work with master from the inside... Alas..."

Upon hearing this, Lu Zhou looked at Si Wuya with a complicated expression as he said, "Based on your words, it seems like I ruined your plans?"

Si Wuya fell to his knees again. "That's not what I mean, master..."

"Alright, rise before you speak," Lu Zhou said, "You're right, but it's a little risky. If this black lotus cultivator doesn't know what's good for him, wouldn't you die in vain? What if he's a psycho who likes to inflict torture? How are you going to deal with him at that time?" He stopped himself from saying what if Wu Guangping liked men?

"I understand. Thank you, master, for enlightening me. I know my mistake," Si Wuya said.

Lu Zhou looked at the calm sky again and asked, "Can you create a runic passage?"

An embarrassed expression appeared on Si Wuya's face as he said, "I'm afraid I can't do it alone. The difficulty of creating a runic passage is a thousand times more difficult than building the Sky Shuttle."

"What if we include the members of the Sky Research Court?" Lu Zhou frowned.

"If we count them in, there's some hope, but it'll take time... If we can obtain some blueprints, methods to gain energy supply, and other information, it will be much easier," Si Wuya replied.

Lu Zhou was silent. "Why can't you say you have a ready-made one for me?"

In the end, Lu Zhou decided to ask Yan Zhenluo about this matter.

"I'll leave the runic passage to you. As for the other things, I'll think of a way," Lu Zhou said.

Si Wuya was overjoyed. "Understood."

"Apart from that, don't make a big deal out of today's matter. I don't want to be too high-profile," Lu Zhou said.

"Understood."

When Lu Zhou turned around, he saw the four blackguards standing still like statues in the distance. He frowned slightly. He had used up his Deadly Strike Card. How was he supposed to fight now? Buy another Deadly Strike Card?

‘No, that’s not right. They seem afraid, and it looks like they want to run away...’

Upon seeing this, Lu Zhou said loudly, “Your Lord Wu, the judge with eight Birth Charts, has been killed by me. How dare you act so impudent in front of me?”

Si Wuya. “???”

‘Master, what happened to keeping a low profile?’

The four blackguards trembled, and they almost lost their grips on their long halberds.

The four blackguards. “...”

Chapter 936: Deception Is Also A Skill

The clouds in the sky had blocked the blackguards’ visions earlier. They only saw lightning flashing within the cloud before the sky calmed down again. In their opinions, the judge, the Eight Chart expert, must have already returned to the black lotus domain through the runic passage.

‘Stay calm...’

‘It can’t be true!’

‘How can he kill Lord Wu?’

‘Impossible!’

The blackguards had fought Lu Zhou earlier. If they had given it their all, they might stand a chance of defeating him. His strength was a far cry from an Eight Chart expert! They could not believe the person in front of them had killed Wu Guangping.

At this moment, the captain of the blackguards standing on the left suddenly heard the rustling of the talisman from his body. He hurriedly brought it out and lit it up. Soon enough, a piece of paper appeared. There were two sentences written on it: Lord Wu’s life stone has shattered. Investigate this matter.

“...”

The captain’s eyes widened and his hand that was holding the paper trembled.

The other captain of the blackguards sensed the abnormality of his action and with a wave of his hand, brought the paper over to have a look. Upon seeing the message, he exclaimed in shock.

Following that, the two remaining took a look at the paper as well. Needless to say, they were not any less shocked than the two captains.

The Black Tower Council’s Eight Chart judge, Wu Guangping, had died... and the person who killed him was standing nearby and staring at them with a burning gaze. They felt incredibly uneasy and uncomfortable. It felt as though they had been drinking fine wine for a long time and were suddenly told that they had been drinking horse urine all along.

Lu Zhou and Si Wuya looked at the four blackguards.

After a moment, Lu Zhou said through voice transmission, "Follow me closely. Don't make any unnecessary moves."

"Understood." Si Wuya's expression remained calm as he followed his master and flew toward the four blackguards.

Similarly, Lu Zhou showed no changes in his expression as well. Although he knew danger lay up ahead, he still had to advance. He had to intimidate them.

Finally, Lu Zhou came to a stop a few dozen meters away from the four blackguards. His expression when he looked at them seemed to say, "What? Do you need me to invite you over?"

The four blackguards were not fools. They understood Lu Zhou's meaning. They hurriedly flew out and stopped ten meters away from Lu Zhou. All of them wore varying expressions of embarrassment on their faces. A moment ago, they were sworn enemies who fought each other, and now... now, it was as though they were reunited with an old friend.

Lu Zhou calmly asked, "Do you want to live?"

Si Wuya watched silently.

"If we don't want to live, why would we heavily injure ourselves?"

The four blackguards pressed their hands against their chests, looking uncomfortable.

"If you want to live, you'll answer my questions."

The four blackguards exchanged a quick look before they nodded.

Lu Zhou asked one of them, "What's your name?" He had noticed that this person had been leading the six blackguards since before.

"I'm Shen Shi, a captain of the blackguards," Shen Shi answered honestly.

Lu Zhou continued to ask, "That person earlier... He was a judge in the Black Tower Council?"

Shen Shi replied, "Yes, he's Lord Wu Guangping."

Lu Zhou fell silent.

After Shen Shi finished speaking, he felt that it was inappropriate to address Wu Guangping as 'Lord' in front of an expert. He said, "Wu Guangping was very active in the Black Tower Council, and he was also one of the outspoken representatives from the radical faction. More than 1,000 years ago, he supported the plan to annihilate the red lotus domain but was opposed by the conservative faction. More than 300 years ago, he participated in the Great Void Expedition and was one of the few who survived it. After that, he became even more zealous. He kept requesting the Upper Council to send him to the red lotus domain. Today... is his first day on his mission to the red lotus domain..."

'He died on the first day of his mission? Well, there's nothing I can do. If I didn't kill him, he would've killed me. The strong prey on the weak. No one can be blamed for this...' Outwardly, Lu Zhou asked, "The Great Void Expedition?"

Shen Shi hesitated for a moment, looking to the left and the right before he finally said, "In the past, the Black Tower Council, the Imperial family, the Dark and Light Alliance, and few other forces selected a few elites to go to the Unknown Place to search for the Great Void Seed. It was a top-secret expedition. I wasted a lot of treasures back then and still could not find out much."

Si Wuya was puzzled. "You know about the Great Void Seeds?"

"It's said to be some kind of precious treasure that's beneficial to cultivation. It grows in the Unknown Place, and it's said that if you have it, you can activate eight Birth Charts, at least. However, I've always suspected it to be a lie. The heavens set rules for humans; why would it give us a shortcut?" Shen Shi opined.

Si Wuya smiled. "What do you think of me?" What he meant to say was, 'I have the Great Void Energy. Are all of you blind?'

Shen Shi looked at Si Wuya for a moment and nodded before he said, "You're talented and have an imposing bearing. If I'm not mistaken, you cultivated some Confucian cultivation method..."

Si Wuya. "..."

'Forget it. At least I can confirm they can't sense the Great Void energy on me...'

Since Lu Li, Di Jiang, and Wu Guangping could sense the Great Void energy on him, Si Wuya wondered if only special mounts and cultivators with profound cultivation bases could sense the energy.

After a moment, Si Wuya replied, "I have cultivated a few techniques from the Confucian school, but I've also cultivated techniques from the Taoism and Buddhism schools." Following that, he asked, "Do you know how to go to the Unknown Place?"

"No. All I heard is that there are many fierce beasts there. They're extremely fierce and travel in groups. The ancient books have said that there are many fierce beasts in the world. No one knew the exact number. They walk on land, swim in the sea, and soar in the sky. Not only are they much more powerful than humans, but their numbers are greater as well..."

Lu Zhou asked, "How many life hearts does the Black Tower Council obtain each year?"

Shen Shi replied, "Not many. Two or three are considered a lot. Some years, there's none..."

Si Wuya found this strange. He asked, "If we calculate according to this number, after 2,000 years, there should be more Ten-leaf experts in the red lotus domain. Why are there so few now? Ten-leaf experts should have 3,000 years of life, at least."

Si Wuya was reminded of the golden lotus domain. Back then, there was no Nine-leaf cultivator because attempting the Nine-leaf stage would drain one's lifespan. Even if there were in the past, most of them died quickly. As time went on, the Nine-leaf stage became just a legend, with many people not believing it to be real.

Shen Shi said with a sigh, "Some of them were killed and some were imprisoned in the Black Tower Council's prison. It's no longer easy to monopolize the Birth Chart Beasts here. Take today for example. There were so many Ten-leaf cultivators around. If this were in the past, the blackguards would've been waiting at the stone forest formation in advance with no one the wiser."

Si Wuya asked confidently, "Let me guess. Is that why you appointed a contact person in the red lotus domain to tighten your control here?"

Shen Shi and the other blackguards looked at each other awkwardly. They could not deny this.

Lu Zhou asked, "Did you use the runic passage to come here?"

"T-this..." Shen Shi stammered.

Lu Zhou said indifferently, "If I wanted to kill you, I would've done so earlier. Wu Guangping is dead, and the internal strife in the Black Tower Council will only intensify. The secrets you're guarding will be made known sooner or later. Even if you don't tell me, do you think no one else will tell me?"

Shen Shi was taken aback. Indeed. If no one from the black lotus domain had spoken to the old man in front of him, where did the old man learn how to activate his Birth Chart? How did he know how to control the Birth Chart powers? How did he kill Yi Yao?

"Little blackguard, don't think too highly of yourself. I've given you a chance so you must cherish it," Lu Zhou said as he stood with his hands on his back.

Quack!

Di Jiang cried out at this moment as it circled the place where Wu Guangping had disappeared from.

Even one of the four judges, Wu Guangping, had died. What qualifications did the blackguards have to negotiate with the person in front of them?

In the end, Shen Shi nodded. "Indeed. We came through the runic passage."

Lu Zhou waved his hand and said, "I've always been one to keep my words. Hand over the information related to the runic passage, and I'll let all of you leave."

Chapter 937: I'm Relieved To Hear You Say That

Although some might consider what Lu Zhou was doing as a deception, he did not think so. After all, he did kill two blackguards and Wu Guangping. Based on these three deaths alone, he was certain the blackguards did not doubt his strength. Moreover, he was not entirely without means to fight now. He still had some supreme mystic power left, and he had more than 100,000 merit points. With these, it was not difficult to intimidate these four people.

Even Si Wuya was convinced of his master's strength. In the past, in order to deceive his enemies, he needed to consider many factors to ensure his success. He needed to know his enemies inside out to make good use of them. It was one of the reasons he had founded the Darknet in the golden lotus domain. Nevertheless, all his schemes and deceptions were nothing in front of his master's absolute power. Due to his master's peerless strength, his master's method was much more straightforward compared to his. After all, what need is there for his master to be deceptive when his master was so strong?

Shen Shi thought about it for a moment before he said, "We only know how to use the runic passage. We don't know how to build or create it."

“How do you use it?”

“In order to use the runic passage, one has to have three Birth Charts, at least. To gather Primal Qi to use the runic passage, one can use talismans to gather Primal Qi. One could use energy stones as well, but that would be too wasteful. Since the blackguards are always in groups of three, it’s easy for us to use the runic passage. The higher the cultivation base, the smoother the journey will be. We don’t get to choose the runic passage we use; it’s all up to the Rune Masters to decide. As for the exact locations of the runic passages, no one knows for sure. This is all I know,” Shen Xi said.

Lu Zhou turned and glanced at Si Wuya before he asked, “Do you have any questions for them?”

Si Wuya looked at Shen Xi and asked, “Is there a woman named Lian Xing in the Black Tower Council?”

Shen Xi shook her head and said, “No. Not that I know of.”

“Are you sure?”

“The Black Tower Council keeps a record of its members. After joining the Black Tower Council, one’s name will be recorded. I’ve seen the record before, and I don’t remember seeing this name.”

“Could it be an alias?”

“The Black Tower Council doesn’t have the habit of using aliases.”

Si Wuya frowned.

No one knew what he was thinking about.

Lu Zhou nodded. “Last question. What kind of formation flags did you use earlier in the Eastern Forest Mountain’s basin?”

“The Eight Desolate and Six Harmony Flags,” Shen Xi said as his eyes brightened, “To tell you the truth, the Eight Desolate and Six Harmony Flags should have eight flags occupying eight specific positions. However, since we had only five flags earlier, the strength was much weaker.”

Lu Zhou’s expression remained unchanged as he said, “Alright. That’s all.”

Lu Zhou, naturally, knew the implications behind Shen Xi’s words. Shen Xi meant to say that no matter how weak the blackguards seemed, they were not completely useless. However, how could he be impressed? He had more than one universe-grade, or fusion weapon, in his hand. Just the Sea Spirit Pearl alone was enough to break their thousands upon thousands of energy swords earlier.

Shen Xi asked, “May I ask how I should address you, senior?”

“My surname is Lu.”

“Senior Lu, we’ll take our leave now. We’ve already told everything I know. There’s a time limit given to use by the Black Tower Council so we have to return now to report to the council,” Shen Xi said.

“Wait.” Lu Zhou stopped them.

Shen Xi was taken aback. “Senior Lu, are you going back on your words?”

The three blackguards were instantly on guard. They looked at Lu Zhou and Si Wuya warily.

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "I always keep my word. When you return, pretend you don't know anything about Wu Guangping's matter."

Shen Xi said, "Of course."

They were not stupid. If they revealed what they had seen, how could they live? How could Wu Guangping, one of the four judges of the Black Tower Council, die when the blackguards survived? Even if they reported, they would have to provide concrete evidence. Otherwise, they would only be charged with dereliction of duty or something worse.

Lu Zhou waved his sleeves.

The four blackguards exchanged a look before they left.

...

An hour later.

The blackguards appeared in a forest.

The other captain asked, "Shen Xi, aren't you afraid the Black Tower Council will pursue this matter?"

"Things have already escalated to this extent, do we have a choice? Don't always think about your duty to the council. Remember that the Black Tower Council only treats us as chess pieces..."

"But..."

"There are no buts. If you want to live, just do as I say," Shen Xi said.

"Aren't you afraid that I'll tell on you?"

"If you want to die, you can report me to the council. In any case, do you think the council will believe you? Wu Guangping is dead. He's an Eight Chart expert. Do you really have the guts to say you were there to witness his death?"

"..."

Shen Xi said gravely, "Remember what should and shouldn't be said."

"Then, what about this Lu person?"

"I don't know," Shen Xi said, "Just treat him as a Birth Chart Beast that we lost to some other forces."

"Then what about our injuries?"

"Bear with it. Times have changed. Previously, I wanted to lead the conflict in the council to him. However, he's too terrifying..."

Black Guardian. "..."

'Doesn't this mean we injure ourselves in vain?'

...

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou and Si Wuya made their way back to the Eastern Forest Mountain.

Di Jiang quickly caught up from behind.

Before long, they saw thousands of cultivators standing near the stone forest in an orderly fashion.

Si Wuya looked over and said, "Master, there's movement over there."

When the thousands of cultivators saw Lu Zhou and Si Wuya flying back, they bowed almost at the same time.

"Greetings, senior."

Xuan Chengzi, Mo Xinglu, and Zeng Yan stood respectfully at the lead. Earlier, when Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong sprouted the tenth leaf, they had sensed the shift in energy and rushed over here.

Lu Zhou's figure flashed and appeared in front of the three sects with his hands on his back. "It's you?"

Xuan Chengzi, Mo Xinglu, and Zeng Yan wore sheepish expressions on their faces.

Mo Xinglu said, "It's a misunderstanding. It's all a misunderstanding. We came here to ask for forgiveness from senior."

"Ask for forgiveness?" Lu Zhou glanced at the trio.

"We were blind... If we knew it was Senior Lu, even if we had the courage of a lion, we wouldn't have dared to fight for the life hearts!" Zeng Yan said nervously.

Lu Zhou said, "I've always been a reasonable person. Of the three Birth Chart Beasts, two were attracted by my disciples, and one was attracted by your disciple. Do you want the life heart?" He lifted his hand, and Xi Qu's life heart appeared in his hand.

The crystal clear life heart attracted everyone's attention immediately.

At this moment...

Woof! Woof! Woof!

Qiong Qi began to bark when it sensed the life heart.

The people from the Evil Sky Pavilion looked over, inwardly amazed.

Lu Zhou extended his hand in front of Zeng Yan.

Upon seeing this, Zeng Yan knelt on one knee and hastily said, "No, no, no. This doesn't belong to me. The beast should've been attracted by your disciples as well..."

"Really? Can two of them attract three Birth Chart Beasts?" Lu Zhou asked, puzzled.

Zeng Yan said, "There's nothing absolute in this world. Although Birth Chart Beasts are said to have territorial awareness, the two Shan Gaos and Xi Qu appeared in the same place. If it's your disciples, let alone three, it's even possible for them to attract five Birth Chart Beasts. My disciple hasn't even stabilized the Ten-leaf stage, he can't possibly attract so many Birth Chart Beasts..."

"I'm relieved to hear that. Then... I'll take the three life hearts." Lu Zhou nodded and longer dwelled on this matter. He tossed the life hearts to his disciples.

Yu Zhenghai caught the three life hearts immediately.

Zeng Yan hurriedly nodded and said, "It's a matter of course for you to keep the three life hearts. Our Seeking Heaven Sect is also very reasonable."

"Well said. However, it's a pity your disciple died in vain. You've sacrificed too much just to take down the Birth Chart Beasts," Lu Zhou said with a sigh.

"Taking down fierce beasts is the responsibility of all humans. How can we talk about dying in vain or sacrificing too much when we're doing our duty? Thank you for your concern, senior!" Zeng Yan said with a red face.

Following that, Lu Zhou shifted his gaze to Mo Xinglu and Xuan Chengzi. "Both of you..."

"Senior Lu, we... we've met before at the Sky Wheel Mountain Range!" Mo Xinglu took the initiative to say.

Lu Zhou nodded and asked, "Both of you are also looking for Birth Chart Beasts?"

Chapter 938: Yu Shangrong's Path to Promotion

Xuan Chengzi and Mo Xinglu nodded awkwardly. How could they dare to say no?

"Old senior, is there anyone who doesn't want to be a Birth Chart expert? I'd be lying if I said no. All these years, both our sects have been searching for Birth Chart Beasts. I don't know why Birth Chart Beasts are so rare," Xuan Chengzi said.

"Honesty is a virtue. I wouldn't have liked it if you lied." Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. He looked at the mountain range in the Eastern Forest Mountain before he continued to say, "Since you're already at the Ten-leaf stage, there's no need to rush. There are many Birth Chart Beasts. Sooner or later, you'll be able to capture one."

Xuan Chengzi nodded. "With senior's words, I can rest assured.. We want to apologize for our earlier transgression."

Lu Zhou said, "There's no need to apologize. Not only am I reasonable, but I've always been merciful as well."

Xuan Chengzi, Mo Xinglu, and Zeng Yan were delighted and bowed to Lu Zhou. As expected of an awe-inspiring Thousand Realms Whirling expert. Such majestic bearing and magnanimity!

At this moment, Lu Zhou suddenly sighed. "It would be great if we can find fire spirit stones."

Everyone knew how rare fire spirit stones were. Even the entire Sky Martial Court only had a few of them.

The trio was stunned as they instinctively looked at the old man in front of them. An air of melancholy and worry, as though he had seen the vicissitudes of life, lingered around him.

Mo Xinglu hesitated for a moment before she gritted her teeth and said, "Senior Lu, if you don't mind the True Kunlun Sect is willing to offer you a fire spirit stone."

Upon seeing this, Zeng Yan and Xuan Chengzi hurriedly said, "We're also willing to offer you a fire spirit stone."

Lu Zhou looked at Mo Xinglu in surprise. "You have a fire spirit stone?"

Mo Xinglu said, "Over the last 1,000 years, the disciples of the True Kunlun Sect have been searching for Birth Chart Beasts everywhere. They didn't find Birth Chart Beasts, but they found a fire spirit stone. It's extremely rare, and one needs three stones for it to be of any use. It's useless for me to keep this one fire spirit stone so I might as well give it to Senior Lu."

Zeng Yan and Xuan Chengzi chimed in again. "Sect Master Mo is right! It's better to give it to Senior Lu!"

Lu Zhou's expression was extremely kind as he said, "How can that be? How can I just receive without giving? How about this? I'll give you a life heart in exchange for the fire spirit stone."

Mo Xinglu shook her head and said with a smile, "No, no, no... I can't possibly accept the life heart. This is a sincere gift from the True Kunlun Sect to Senior Lu. It wouldn't feel sincere if I accept something in exchange for it. Moreover, it's better to leave the life hearts to your disciples. They need it more than I do. There's still plenty of time in the future for me to look for one. There's no rush. I'm already grateful that I was fortunate enough to meet Senior Lu."

Before Mo Xinglu came here, she had already learned that the people from the Evil Sky Pavilion were all Lu Zhou's people. Apart from a group of experts with profound cultivation bases, they had just gained two new Ten-leaf cultivators. Therefore, she knew Lu Zhou needed the life hearts.

"This..." Lu Zhou hesitated.

"Senior Lu, please accept it!" Mo Xinglu bowed.

Xuan Chengzi and Zeng Yan bowed as well. "Please accept it, senior."

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. "In that case, I'll accept it. Just send the fire spirit stones to the Sky Martial Court."

"Thank you, Senior Lu!" Mo Xinglu straightened her back and said, "Then, we won't disturb you any further. I'll make sure you receive the fire spirit stone within three days."

"Thank you."

"See you in the future."

The trio looked delighted as they led the thousands of cultivators toward the mountain range in the Eastern Forest Mountain.

Ming Shiyin who was standing in the forest had witnessed the entire thing. He muttered to himself, "As expected, the older, the wiser..."

Clank!

The Overlord Spear fell to the ground, attracting everyone's attention.

Duanmu Sheng hurriedly picked up before he scratched his head sheepishly. "Master, I'd be embarrassed to stab people with my spear if you handle matters in this manner..."

"The best tactic is to defeat the enemy without force," Si Wuya said.

Lu Zhou said slightly annoyed, "You talk too much..."

"I know I'm wrong." Si Wuya bowed.

Lu Zhou turned around to look at Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong who were standing next to the stone forest formation. He asked, "How's the sprouting of the tenth leaf?"

Yu Zhenghai smiled and manifested his avatar without saying a word.

Buzz!

A 200-foot golden avatar appeared before everyone's eyes as golden flames surged. Apart from the color not being as vivid, it was rather similar to Lu Zhou's Ten-leaf avatar.

Everyone from the Evil Sky Pavilion looked at the golden avatar enviously. Not only did Yu Zhenghai successfully sprouted the tenth leaf, but he had also gained the karmic fire.

The color of the karmic fire was light. It looked as though a little yellow was mixed into the gold.

At this moment, Yu Zhenghai looked at Yu Shangrong who was standing next to him and said, "Second Junior Brother, I hope you don't mind this since master wanted to see my avatar."

Yu Shangrong did not pay attention to Yu Zhenghai. He only cupped his fists together at his master and said, "Master, I was lucky enough to successfully sprout the tenth leaf." He seemed much more relaxed compared to Yu Zhenghai.

Buzz!

Another golden avatar appeared.

Everyone looked at Yu Shangrong.

The four elders of the Evil Sky Pavilion walked closer, curious.

"Mister First..."

"Hmm?"

"Sorry, excuse me." Pan Litian, Leng Luo, Zuo Yushu, and Hua Wudao walked past Yu Zhenghai one after another.

Yu Zhenghai. "???"

Only Ming Shiyin rode Qiong Qi to Yu Zhenghai's side and said ingratiatingly, "Eldest Senior Brother, I'm here to look at your avatar..."

“Get out of my way,” Yu Zhenghai said.

“Okay, Eldest Senior Brother. How would you like me to get out of your way? Should I roll away? Do you want me to somersault away? Do you prefer a front somersault or a back somersault? I can even do a horizontal somersault...” Mingshi Yin said as he stood on Qiong Qi’s back.

Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

“...”

Yu Zhenghai clearly had a Ten-leaf avatar with karmic fire. Why did it feel so worthless at this moment? He shook his head and moved closer to have a look as well. Was an avatar with a lotus so interesting?

After the four elders of the Evil Sky Pavilion carefully observed the changes in the avatar, Pan Litian exclaimed, “So it looks like this at the Ten-leaf stage!”

“It looks much more human without the golden lotus,” Zuo Yushu said with bright eyes.

Ten golden leaves revolved around the golden avatar. It was much more comfortable to look at compared to an avatar with a lotus.

Perhaps, the four elders were also in the same boat as Yu Shangrong, they kept looking at his avatar and did not pay attention to Yu Zhenghai’s karmic fire avatar at all.

Under normal circumstances, Yu Shangrong would not put his avatar on display for everyone to see. However, his master had ordered him to stand aside. Therefore, he only stood at the side with his arms crossed as he looked into the distance with an indifferent expression on his face.

After a moment, Leng Luo asked, “Without the lotus, there’ll be no Birth Palace. How can he activate his Birth Chart then?”

Everyone looked at Leng Luo. Why did this old man suddenly put his foot in his mouth?

Alas, Leng Luo could not take back what he said.

Little Yuan’er skipped to Yu Shangrong’s side and said with a smile, “Second Senior Brother, it’s okay! Even without activating your Birth Chart, I believe you can kill all those Thousand Realms Whirling experts!”

Yu Shangrong raised his hand and patted Little Yuan’er’s head before he said, “Little Junior Sister, it seems like you know me best.”

At this moment, Conch walked over and said, “Second Senior Brother, I’m the Little Junior Sister now. I heard you were the first to sever the lotus back then. For this reason alone, you’re the strongest!”

Yu Shangrong smiled indifferently. “I’ll remember what Little Junior Sister said. With your words, it doesn’t matter even if I can’t enter the Thousand Realms Whirling. Nevertheless, the road of cultivation is long so I won’t give up easily...”

Yu Zhenghai. “...”

‘Forget it. I’m the eldest so I should give in sometimes.’

After that, Yu Zhenghai obediently withdrew his avatar.

At this moment, Si Wuya said, "Since we have three life hearts, why don't we let Second Senior Brother try activating his Birth Chart?"

Everyone, including Yu Shangrong, turned to look at Si Wuya.

After a moment, Yu Shangrong turned to look at his master.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard as he studied the lotus-less golden avatar. Then, he extended his hand and said, "Life hearts..."

Yu Zhenghai handed the two Shan Gao and Xi Qu's life hearts to Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou selected Xi Qu's life heart and said, "Let's try this first."

"Understood."

Chapter 939: Yu Shangrong's Path to Promotion

Everyone could not wait to see the development of a cultivator without a golden lotus and looked at Yu Shangrong unblinkingly. Without the lotus and Birth Palace, would it be possible to activate a Birth Chart and gain the awe-inspiring astrolabe at the back of the avatar?

Yu Shangrong did not pay attention to the eyes watching and concentrated on activating his Birth Chart. No matter what, it should be easier than when he severed his lotus back then. At that time, he was the first to sever his lotus when the chances of survival were uncertain. The Great Yan's Imperial family even sacrificed many lives just to make life-saving pills as insurance before severing their lotuses. However, he did not have any failsafe when he severed his lotus. Later on, the method of severing one's lotus became popular and much safer in the golden lotus domain. Whenever people think or spoke about severing the lotus, they would inevitably associate it with Lu Zhou and his second disciple, Yu Shangrong, the Sword Devil. It was as though the pair of master-and-disciple was synonymous with severing the lotus.

Yu Shangrong could not help but briefly think that his cultivation and sword path were destined to be lonely and filled with hardships.

After a brief moment, Yu Shangrong gathered his thoughts and focused all his attention on activating his Birth Chart. He looked at Xi Qu's life heart that his master gave him after he shrank his avatar.

At this moment, Lu Zhou said, "You've just sprouted the Ten-leaf stage. You can stabilize your foundation first before activating your Birth Chart. The more stable your foundation is, the easier it'd be for you to activate your Birth Chart. It'd be less painful as well."

Yu Shangrong said, "I'm sure it can't compare to the pain of severing my lotus..."

Lu Zhou nodded before he said again, "Xi Qu's life heart boosts one's defenses and strength. These two attributes are compatible. In the Birth Palace, the Civil and Military zone is the most suitable..."

Lu Zhou looked at the bottom of Yu Shangrong's avatar. Without the lotus, how was he supposed to look for the Civil and Military zone in the Birth Palace? After a few seconds, he casually waved his hand, manifesting his lotus.

Everyone's eyes lit up immediately.

Lu Zhou's lotus was fully bloomed. Every leaf was succulent and straight. His Birth Palace was rather vast, and its distinct edges shone with a faint light.

"This is the Civil and Military zone. It's suitable for all elementary life hearts," Lu Zhou said.

Si Wuya chimed in, "Elementary life hearts contain 1,500-1,800 years of life; intermediate life hearts contain 1,800-1,2000 years of life; advanced life hearts contain 2,000-2,500 years of life. Advanced life hearts mostly come from beast kings. Beast kings have the ability to control beasts with elementary life hearts. More than 2,000 years ago, a beast king controlled many fierce beasts and attacked the red lotus domain, bringing with a beast tide."

Everyone nodded as they listened to Si Wuya's explanation.

After a while, Duanmu Sheng bluntly asked, "We have the life heart now, but Second Senior Brother doesn't have a Birth Palace. Where are we going to place the life heart then?"

Everyone from the Evil Sky Pavilion looked at Yu Shangrong blankly. They had no idea as well. Even if they had any ideas, they did not dare to casually speak up.

At this moment, Yu Shangrong lowered his hand that was holding onto the life heart before he tried placing it on his avatar's feet.

Thud!

The life heart fell to the ground immediately.

Everyone shook their heads helplessly. Where could they place the life heart if there were no lotus and Birth Palace?

Yu Shangrong lifted his hand, and the life heart flew back into his hand. Following that, he raised his other hand before ten golden leaves flew into his hand one after another. One after another, he tried to place the life heart on the lotus leaves. Alas, there were no movements at all.

Meanwhile, the people from the Evil Sky Pavilion watched with worried expressions on their faces. If Yu Shangrong could not activate his Birth Chart, did it mean that the formidable Sword Devil's cultivation would stagnate at the Ten-leaf stage?

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and continued to observe the situation. All ten of his disciples had the Great Void Seed in them. It would be a pity if they could not advance further in their cultivation.

At this moment, Si Wuya said, "Try placing it in your Dantian's sea of Qi."

Yu Shangrong placed the life heart in his Dantian's sea of Qi. Similar to before, there were no changes. In the beginning, he was still able to remain unmoved. However, after failing three times, his spirit of

competitiveness rose immediately. He raised his hand and used energy to control the life heart to fly around the avatar.

The life heart flew up, down, left, right close to the avatar.

“...”

The life heart flew around the avatar so swiftly that it left a streak of light in its wake.

After a moment, Yu Shangrong brought the life heart back into his hand.

Another failed attempt to activate the Birth Chart.

Yu Shangrong raised his head and brought his avatar closer to him so he could study it. His eyes and expression were as calm as a still lake, nary a ripple could be seen.

Little Yuan'er said reassuringly with a smile on her face, “Second Senior Brother, it doesn't matter. Perhaps, your foundation at the Ten-leaf stage isn't stable enough yet. You probably need to wait for it to stabilize before you can activate your Birth Chart...”

Si Wuya nodded. “Ninth Junior Sister has a point... The process of cultivation has always been gradual and orderly. It's not something one can rush or improve overnight. Second Senior Brother, you should wait until your cultivation base has stabilized.”

Following that, Yu Zhenghai stepped forward and said, “If Second Junior Brother can't activate his Birth Chart, I won't activate my Birth Chart as well. It's not a big deal...”

Everyone was trying to comfort Yu Shangrong and ease the heavy atmosphere at the same time.

How could Yu Shangrong be unaware of everyone's intention? He smiled faintly before he said, “I appreciate everyone's good intentions. To me, activating the Birth Chart after sprouting the tenth leaf isn't any different from those Eight-leaf cultivators in the golden lotus domain who tried to sprout the ninth leaf back then. At that time, the road to the Nine-leaf stage was dark and uncertain, but everyone soldiered on and worked diligently just to sprout the ninth leaf. This is the essence of cultivation; to march forward despite the uncertainties that lie ahead. Cultivation itself is going against the heavens. The road of cultivation is destined to be fraught with danger and hardships. If there are no hardships to temper cultivators, how could there be experts?”

The four elders of the Evil Sky Pavilion nodded and responded one after another.

“Listening to Mister Second's words is better than studying for ten years...”

After all, the four elders were in the same boat as Yu Shangrong after they stepped on the path of severing their lotuses. It was only natural that they would be slightly upset seeing that they might not be able to activate their Birth Charts. However, with Yu Shangrong forging the path ahead of them, they felt more at ease.

Yu Shangrong cupped his hands at everyone. “Let's work hard together.”

At this moment, Lu Zhou raised his hand.

The life heart suddenly flew out of Yu Shangrong's hand to his back.

The Birth Palace was connected to the Birth disk on the astrolabe; the Birth Chart would appear on the astrolabe's Birth disk after it was activated. Therefore, once the Birth Chart was successfully activated in the Birth Palace, the astrolabe, the most eye-catching thing of a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, would appear as well.

Everyone instinctively looked up; their eyes were bright as they watched. Since Lu Zhou did not give up, did it mean there was still hope?

Meanwhile, the life heart flew around the position where the astrolabe should be. Unfortunately, there was still no movement,

Lu Zhou shook his head slightly before he moved the life heart close to Yu Shangrong's avatar.

Buzz!

'Hmm?' Lu Zhou felt a slight change in the life heart and quickly said, "Don't move!"

At this moment, everyone stared at the life heart intently.

Despite not holding much hope, Yu Shangrong obeyed his master and moved to the side after he saw the solemn expression on his master's face. After that, he continued to look at the life heart indifferently.

After taking a closer look, Lu Zhou thought he saw faint wisps of energy flowing out like smoke into the seemingly breathing avatar. He immediately recited the mantra for the power of sight from the Heavenly Writing Powers. With the supreme mystic power lingering around his eyes, what he saw was naturally different from what the others saw.

When the life heart was in front of the avatar, Lu Zhou could clearly see faint energy entering the avatar. Indeed, he was not mistaken. The avatar seemed to be breathing!

Lu Zhou's eyes darted between Yu Shangrong and the avatar, and he discovered that the avatar was breathing in rhythm with Yu Shangrong. 'The fusion of human and avatar?'

Lu Zhou cut off the Heavenly Writing Power and fell deep into his thoughts. Before severing one's lotus, one's avatar was just like a statue. Even the Wolf King avatar and the Tiger King avatar could only make slight biting movements. However, after severing one's lotus, one's avatar would gain mobility. One could freely control it to move in many different ways. It was just like one's second body.

However, apart from gaining mobility, there did not seem to be other benefits that came from severing one's lotus. However... if one's avatar could directly absorb the energy from a life heart... it would make up for all shortcomings that came from lacking a lotus!

Lu Zhou could not help but wonder what would happen once the avatar completely absorbed the energy from the life heart. Although nothing was confirmed at the moment, at least, he had made a new discovery.

Lu Zhou nodded as he stroked his beard and said, "The avatar is absorbing the energy from the life heart... See if you can sense it and expedite the process..."

“The avatar is absorbing the life heart’s energy?” Yu Shangrong was slightly surprised. He felt as though his understanding of cultivation had been overturned. In the past, one had to work on oneself to cultivate or increase the strength of one’s avatar. There was no such thing as an avatar being able to ‘cultivate’ on its own by absorbing energy.

Although Yu Shangrong was slightly skeptical, due to his trust in his master, he did as his master said. He recited the mantra for the Return and Enter Three Souls. With this, the movement of the avatar that could only be seen by Lu Zhou previously grew distinct.

Everyone was shocked when they saw the gentle rise and fall of the avatar’s chest and wisps of green energy wafting out of the life heart into the avatar.

“It... It can be done in this manner as well?”

Chapter 940: Experimenting With A New Way To Cultivate

Yu Shangrong continued to breathe as green energy from the life heart entered the breathing avatar.

However, the changes in the avatar were almost unnoticeable.

After two hours, the energy from the life heart was almost completely absorbed by Yu Shangrong’s avatar. The light from the life heart had grown dim as well.

“The avatar really absorbed the life heart’s energy!”

“Didn’t I say there’s always a solution to every problem? This avatar will definitely grow stronger and stronger!”

Everyone waited patiently for the avatar to completely absorb the energy from the life heart despite being eager to see the results. After all, most of them had advanced to the Nine-leaf stage by severing their lotuses. This determined if they could become a Thousand Realms Whirling expert in the future.

...

When evening fell, the avatar buzzed. In just an instant, golden light illuminated the entire Eastern Forest Mountain. At the same time, the light from the life heart went out before it fell to the ground. It looked just like an empty shell now that the energy was depleted.

Yu Shangrong pressed his hand against his Dantian’s sea of Qi as he let out a long breath.

Si Wuya walked over and asked, “Do you feel any changes?”

Yu Shangrong said, “My lifespan has increased a little... About 500 years. Apart from that, there doesn’t seem to be any changes”

Si Wuya said, “Only your lifespan increased?”

If that was the case, then it was slightly wasteful. After all, one could increase one’s lifespan with an ordinary life heart. Using the Birth Chart Heart to increase one’s lifespan was truly a bit wasteful.

The others were naturally dissatisfied with this result.

Si Wuya said as he furrowed his brows, "This is rather strange. Life hearts contain vitality energy and special energy. How can there be no effects at all when they've been absorbed by the avatar?"

Pan Litian said, "If it's not enough, should we let Mister Second use the remaining two life hearts to try?"

Yu Shangrong shook his head immediately and said, "Elder Pan, thank you for your good intentions, but we've already wasted one life heart. There's no need to waste the other two."

The others sighed.

At this moment, Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said, "It's a good thing that the avatar is able to absorb the life heart's energy. We'll still have to figure out how to use this to help you activate your Birth Chart..."

"Yes."

"It's getting late now; let's return."

Everyone bowed before they entered the Sky Shuttle and returned to the capital.

...

At night. In the Preservation Hall.

Lu Zhou opened the system interface and looked at the merit points he obtained in the Eastern Forest Mountain.

Merit points: 178,500.

Remaining lifespan: 642,420 days (236 years in 1,760 days are from the Reversal Cards)

Items: Critical Block Card x158(passive), Golden Taixu Mirror, Appearance Alteration Card x2, Synthesis Card x2

Mounts: Whizard, Bi'an, Ji Liang, Qiong Qi, Dang Kang, Di Jiang

Weapon: Unnamed(unknown), Jade Horsetail Whisk(heaven-grade), Magistrate Brush(super heaven-grade), Purple Glazed Ceramic(intermediate desolate-grade), Cold Wind Trident(basic desolate-grade), Confinement Seal(intermediate flood-grade), Dragon Eagle's Fury(intermediate desolate-grade), Flash Hook(intermediate desolate-grade), Sea Soul Pearl(fusion grade)

Overall, he had made a small profit.

Following that, he decided to stock up on item cards.

Lu Zhou looked at the price of the Deadly Strike Card. 30,000 merit points.

The price had risen again.

After mulling over, he did not immediately buy the Deadly Strike Card. Instead, he decided to try his luck with the lucky draw.

"Lucky draw."

“Ding. Spent 50 merit points. Obtained: Reversal Card x5.”

Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction. He had previously used up all his Reversal Cards. It was time for him to replenish the card. With the cards, after activating a Birth Chart, he could leave the life heart for his disciples to use.

Xi Qu and the two Shan Gao's life hearts were elementary life hearts. The Civil and Military zone in his Birth Palace had been occupied so he had no use for the three life hearts. For him to activate his fifth Birth Chart, he would need to capture some special Birth Chart Beast that had an intermediate life heart.

“Draw.”

“Ding! Spent 50 merit points. Obtained: Reversal Card x5.”

“Draw.”

“Ding! Spent 50 merit points. Thank you for your participation. Luck point +1.”

Despite his gut feeling, Lu Zhou continued to draw until midnight. As expected, he was continuously thanked for his participation.

Lu Zhou rubbed his temples as he muttered, “I thought I'd be able to draw a Deadly Strike Card. Based on how things are going, it seems like I won't be able to get one until dawn, at least.”

Lu Zhou sighed and shook his head. It was getting harder and harder to draw useful items.

“I guess I'll have to buy the Deadly Strike Card.”

Currently, only cultivators with more than eight Birth Charts were able to put pressure on him. He did not need to use the Deadly Strike Card to deal with the others.

In the end, he bought three Deadly Strike Cards.

After checking his merit points, he found he had spent 93,000 merit points on the three Deadly Strike Cards and the lucky draws.

Every time he bought a card, the price would increase.

After a moment, he decided to buy an Impeccable Card as well.

When he was done, he looked at his remaining merit points and muttered to himself, “After a night, the fruits of my hard work today are gone... I can only continue to work hard to earn merit points...”

Lu Zhou imagined the merit points he would receive if he could destroy Wu Guangping's Birth Charts one by one instead of killing him in one blow. However, based on the situation at that time, it was impossible to do so.

Lu Zhou sighed before he dismissed these thoughts. Then, he activated the Purple Glazed Ceramic and began to meditate on the Heavenly Writing.

...

Two days later. In the Preservation Hall.

Lu Zhou finally replenished his supreme mystic power.

Coincidentally, Si Wuya walked in at this moment with a map in his hand. "Master, I have something to report."

"What is it?" Lu Zhou's gaze fell on the ancient map. With just a glance, he saw there were many new changes to the ancient map. In the red lotus domain, a special area had appeared.

Si Wuya pointed to the southwestern corner of the red lotus domain and said, "When I was looking at the map this morning, I noticed the changes. I didn't dare to delay and brought it over for master to have a look. This ancient map is both miraculous and mysterious. It should be some kind of ancient treasure. Many areas on the map seem to be shrouded by some special power, but they'll gradually reveal themselves as time passes."

Lu Zhou only nodded. He could not say the map was given to him by the system, after all.

Si Wuya continued to say, "This place used to be called the Southern Kingdom. Later on, due to natural and man-made disasters, the place was abandoned. At some point in time, it became a part of Great Tang. It's nothing but a barren land so there's no need to pay attention to it. I have a feeling that if we can uncover the entire map, we should be able to learn the secrets behind the heaven and earth shackles."

Based on Lu Zhou's past experience, he knew a new area would not appear on the map for no reason. He opened the system interface to look at the mission panel. Just as he had expected, there was a new mission: Search for a new scroll from the Heavenly Writing.

It had been a long time since he was given a new mission.

Based on the mission and the appearance of a new place on the map, it seemed like he had to travel south in the red lotus domain to search for the scroll from the Heavenly Writing.

"Master?" Si Wuya called out tentatively when he saw his master lost in his thoughts.

Lu Zhou replied, "There's no need to worry about the secret of the heaven and earth shackles for now. Where's your Eldest Senior Brother and Second Senior Brother?"

"Eldest Senior Brother said that to play it safe, he plans to wait a month before activating his Birth Chart since he had just sprouted the tenth leaf. Second Senior Brother seems to be... in a bad mood since he failed to activate his Birth Chart. He has been practicing with his swords non-stop for two days straight now..."

"Summon them here."

"Understood."

As soon as Si Wuya left, Lu Zhou felt movement from the black talisman. He lit up as soon as he brought it out. In just a moment, Yan Zhenluo's figure appeared before his eyes.

Yan Zhenluo did not beat around the bush and immediately asked, "Brother Lu, did you kill Wu Guangping?"

Lu Zhou did not bother hiding this and nodded. "Wu Guangping wanted to kill my disciple; how could I allow him to do that?"

Yan Zhenluo said, "He... wants to kill your disciple?"

"Do I look like a liar to you?" Lu Zhou asked.

Yan Zhenluo regained his senses and hurriedly said, "Then, he deserves death."

Lu Zhou said, "You're a member of the Black Tower Council, after all, but you're speaking up for your fellow member and are siding with an outsider instead... Why did you contact me?"

"Two days ago, the Black Tower Council was in an uproar over Wu Guangping's death. I was worried the radical faction would send people to the red lotus domain again."

"They still dare to come after Wu Guangping's death?"

"In all honesty, I don't think they'll dare to come in the near future. Currently, there's a conflict between the Black Tower Council and the Dark and Light Alliance now. They won't have the time to deal with the matters in the red lotus domain when they can't even take care of themselves now. On top of that, there's the internal strife to deal with," Yan Zhenluo said. After a pause, he said gravely, "However, there's one thing I have to remind you. Recently, we've lost too many Birth Chart Beasts. I'm afraid once the Black Tower Council's situation stabilizes, they will carry out the annihilation plan."

"The annihilation plane?"

"Annihilate all the cultivators at or above the Ten-leaf stage," Yan Zhenluo said as his expression turned grimmer.

Lu Zhou nodded. "If hunters want to continue eating lamb, they should first kill the sheep that might turn into wolves. It's not a bad plan."

"Brother Lu, you're not afraid?"

"We'll deal with whatever comes our way. I've never been afraid in my life," Lu Zhou replied indifferently.

After a moment, as though he had just recalled something, Yan Zhenluo said, "I just remember that Brother Lu is from the golden lotus domain. I found out that the Black Tower Council has sent blackguards to the golden lotus domain."

"I know about that." Lu Zhou thought about Lian Xing who was with Zhao Yue in the golden lotus domain.

"I'm relieved Brother Lu is already aware of that. By the way, how's Lu Li?" Yan Zhenluo asked.

"He is fine."

Lu Zhou did not say Lu Li's life was more comfortable than that of an emperor at this moment.

Yan Zhenluo was delighted upon hearing these words. "Thank you, Brother Lu. I'll send you more talismans so we can keep in contact. Along with that, I'll send you the method to create the talismans."

Lu Zhou nodded. "It's best if you're able to send information regarding runic passages as well..."

"I'll try my best, but I can't make any promises. After all, information about runic passages is highly confidential. I'll contact you at a later date..."

"Alright."

The talisman burned to ashes, and Yan Zhenluo's image disappeared.

Not long after that, Si Wuya led Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong into the Preservation Hall.

"Disciple greets Master."

"There's no need for formalities." Lu Zhou slowly rose to his feet and placed his hands on his back. "I summoned both of you here because I have a mission for both of you."

Yu Zhenghai smiled and said, "I can handle the mission alone. Second Junior Brother absorbed the energy from the life heart and has yet to completely stabilize it."

Following that, Yu Shangrong said, "Eldest Senior Brother, you worry too much. The effect from the life heart's energy isn't big so it doesn't affect me. However, Eldest Senior Brother needs to stabilize his foundation in preparation to activate his Birth Chart. Therefore, it's best if I carry out this mission alone."