

Disciples 951

Chapter 951: Why Should I Let Him Live For Your Sake?

“This...”

Wu Chao almost hit Lu Zhou’s waist. His speed was astonishing when he escaped, especially now that he was boosted by the witchcraft formation. The power from the witchcraft could be seen with naked eyes as it gathered around his body. He gradually moved further and further away. However, after leaving the range of the witchcraft formation, his speed slowed down considerably.

An idea appeared in Lu Zhou’s mind, and he called, “Di Jiang!”

Squawk!

Di Jiang flapped its four wings and arrived in front of Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou saw Zhao Yue lying sluggishly on Di Jiang’s back. With Zhao Yue around, he would not be able to chase after Wu Chao with all his might. Moreover, after traveling for five days and nights without resting, Di Jiang was exhausted as well.

However, how could Lu Zhou let Wu Chao escape? He raised his left hand and Unnamed, in the form of a bow, appeared, glowing with blue light. He nocked an energy arrow and pulled the bowstring back. He had used all of his remaining supreme mystic power in the energy arrow. He completed these series of actions in just a breath.

Swoosh!

The arrow left the bow neatly.

Although Lu Zhou knew the supreme mystic power was very strong, he was not sure if the arrow would land on the target this time. Ever since he encountered Di Jiang, he discovered that once one’s speed reached a certain height, it was possible to dodge the arrow. Naturally, human speed could never compare to that of a fierce beast, especially one like Di Jiang whose forte was speed.

The energy arrow streaked across the sky and flew toward a black dot in the distance that was just the size of a sesame seed.

After three or four breaths, the energy arrow hit the black dot.

The sound of the arrow hitting its target rang in the sky.

Due to the distance, Lu Zhou only saw an explosion of blue and black light.

“Blue light.” Lu Zhou saw the supreme mystery power was much more obvious than before. After all, this is the first time he had used so much supreme mystery power in one go.

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

Lu Zhou put Unnamed away and said, “I’ll be right back.”

Zhao Yue bowed. “Be careful, master.”

Lu Zhou unleashed his grand technique and flew toward the distance. The injured Wu Chao would not be able to escape too far. Even if he did not have much Birth Chart power left, he could still capture Wu Chao with his own strength.

Soon after, Lu Zhou arrived in the area where Wu Chao was shot down. There was no sign of Wu Chao at all. He descended into the damp forest on the steep and rugged mountain where wild beasts ran wild.

He came to a stop before he landed on the ground and flew forward at a moderate speed.

One by one, the trees sped past him.

Compared to fighting experts, it was much harder to look for people in the forest.

Without the supreme mystic power, he could only rely on his senses. If Wu Chao used witchcraft to conceal himself or hide underground, it would be difficult to find him.

Lu Zhou traveled west. The forest was quiet, and there was no trace of Wu Chao.

He suddenly raised his head and looked at the sky.

Buzz!

The golden astrolabe appeared in his hand before he pushed it up into the air.

The astrolabe suddenly increased in size. From just a few meters in diameter, it grew rapidly.

Twenty meters.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The trees in the surroundings were felled by the astrolabe.

50 meters.

100 meters.

It continued to grow until it was 1,000 meters in diameter.

Everything in its range was flattened. Mountains, boulders, beasts, and even birds fell victim to its destructive power.

Lu Zhou clenched his hand.

The astrolabe shrank rapidly and returned to his hand.

This was one of the techniques to fight with the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar.

The Thousand Realms Whirling avatars were divided into three parts: the astrolabe, the body, and the lotus. Each part could be used separately. Since the lotus protected the lotus seat and the Birth Palace, most people would not use it usually. The best out of three parts was undoubtedly the astrolabe. This was one of the differences between a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar and a Hundred Tribulations avatar.

Similar to the bottom of the lotus, the back of the astrolabe possessed great defensive strength. Its strength would only increase along with one's cultivation base.

However, the difference in strength between astrolabes was not very big. In a battle between Thousand Realms Whirling experts, the winner would still be determined by the number of Birth Charts and weapons.

The forest was still quiet, and there was still no sign of Wu Chao.

Lu Zhou said lightly, "Do you think I won't be able to find you just because you're hiding?"

He flew up 100 meters and began to survey his surroundings. "Come out obediently and surrender. Perhaps, I'll leave you with a complete corpse."

His powerful voice was like a storm that resounded everywhere.

The birds and beasts that were 1,000 meters away scampered and flew away.

Lu Zhou did not move. He was certain that Wu Chao was hiding within 1,000 meters. Wu Chao had been injured by his arrow after all.

"If you don't come out, I'll make sure you stay buried and unable to come out."

Lu Zhou raised his palm again.

"Confinement Seal."

A black cage appeared in his palm before he tossed it into the air.

All of a sudden, it enlarged and covered the sky like a black mountain. This was its maximum size at the flood grade.

Just as the Confinement Seal was about to hit the ground, a low voice rang from the distance.

"Friend..."

Lu Zhou slowly turned around and looked in the direction of the voice. There was something strange about the voice that he could quite put his fingers on. "Who is it?"

"Friend, there's no need to be angry. Why don't you come down so we can have a good chat?" The person sounded relaxed when he spoke.

How could someone who could clearly transmit his voice over such a distance be ordinary?

Lu Zhou put the Confinement Seal away and slowly descended.

Swoosh!

At this moment, a black-robed cultivator rushed over from afar, stirring up the wind as he moved. He wore a mask, and a hood covered his head so only his eyes could be seen.

Lu Zhou thought the person resembled a blackguard just that he was dressed in a long robe instead. He did not sense the person's cultivation base, but his instincts told him the person was an expert who was possibly on the same level as Wu Guangping. Currently, he was out of supreme mystic power and Birth

Chart power; even if he used an item card, it would not be easy for him to win. He looked at the person in front of him and asked, "Is Wu Chao with you?"

The black-robed cultivator nodded and said, "Wu Chao is my friend. If he has offended you, I'm willing to apologize on his behalf."

"He's your friend? It seems like you're not very discerning when making friends," Lu Zhou bluntly said.

"He's merely following orders. There are many things that are out of his control. I hope that you'll let him live for my sake. He has already lost a Birth Chart and is heavily injured. Is there a need to kill him?" the black-robed cultivator asked.

Lu Zhou looked at the black-robed cultivator expressionlessly and said, "Let him live for your sake? Who are you, and why should I do anything for your sake?"

Chapter 952: The Sectless Cultivator's Sincerity

The black-robed cultivator was slightly startled. He did not expect Lu Zhou to be so blunt. However, he maintained his smile and said, "As the saying goes, 'Having another friend is better than making another enemy'."

"This saying doesn't apply to me. I have many enemies; making another enemy isn't going to make a difference," Lu Zhou replied indifferently.

The black-robed cultivator. "..."

The black-robed felt like he had reached his wit's end. At this point, was there still a point in talking? However, he was not confident he could defeat the old man in front of him. As the saying went, 'Might makes right'. Therefore, he could only continue to say, "What benefits do you gain by killing him?"

"It can assuage my anger, vent my disciple's anger, and shake the hearts of the cultivators in this world..." Lu Zhou replied with a straight face.

"..." The black-robed cultivator remained silent.

The atmosphere became extremely oppressive.

It was as though if the wind blew in the wrong direction, a fight would break out immediately.

After a moment of silence, the black-robed cultivator said, "It's just a battle of wills. The things you mentioned have no real benefits. With your current cultivation base, how can you not understand this?"

'No real benefits? I can't tell you I'll earn a lot of merit points, can I?'

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and asked, "Are you a member of the Black Tower Council?"

"I'm just a sectless cultivator..."

"A mere sectless cultivator dares to interfere with the Black Tower Council's matters?" Lu Zhou asked as he raised an eyebrow.

"To tell you the truth," the black-robed cultivator cupped his hands together and said, "Wu Chao planned to leave the Black Tower Council after completing this mission. Currently, the Black Tower

Council has many conflicts, both internally and externally. There are many who no longer wish to stay in the Black Tower Council.”

“Even then they still want to control the golden lotus domain?” Lu Zhou found the entire thing absurd.

“Even without the Black Tower Council, there’s still the White Tower Council. The golden lotus domain has attracted the attention of both councils. The golden lotus domain’s geographical location is superior, and there should be many hidden Birth Chart Beasts here. These kinds of resources... I’m afraid it’s impossible for them to give it up...” the black-robed cultivator said.

Lu Zhou shook his head. “In any case, this isn’t reason enough for me to let Wu Chao go.”

“...” The black-robed cultivator was rendered speechless.

“Either you hand Wu Chao over, or you can die in his place.” A Deadly Strike Card appeared in Lu Zhou’s hand.

Similar to Yan Zhenluo, the black-robed cultivator keenly felt a sense of danger and oppression at this moment. Perhaps, Thousand Realms Whirling experts had keener senses. He hurriedly lifted both his hands and waved them as he said, “Senior, please calm down. I’m willing to offer six fire spirit stones in exchange for Wu Chao’s life!”

He did not wait for Lu Zhou to reply and hastily untied the bag at his waist and brought red glowing stones one after another.

Lu Zhou’s heart skipped a beat. ‘What an amazing fellow! He actually has so many fire spirit stones in his possession!’

It was not that Lu Zhou did not try searching for fire spirit stones. Ever since Yu Shangrong’s Longevity Sword was destroyed, he had ordered people to search for it everywhere.

He had sent blacksmiths, small sects, and adventurers to find fire spirit stones. They searched everywhere but to no avail. In fact, even if one searched with the entire strength of a sect, perhaps, one would only find one fire spirit stone in eight to ten years. That was how rare fire spirit stones were. With its ability to upgrade a desolate-grade weapon to a flood-grade, as a result significantly increasing a cultivator’s strength, not only was it rare, but it was also highly coveted.

Even the True Kunlun Sect, the Void Sect, and the Seeking Heaven Sect only had one fire spirit stone each. To think a single person possessed, at least, six fire spirit stones.

With six fire spirit stones, Lu Zhou could turn two desolate-grade weapons in his hand into flood-grade weapons. How could he not be moved?

‘How can I let six fire spirit stones ruin my killing intent?!’

Nevertheless, he remained calm outwardly. “Wu Gao is a blackguard. He wanted to capture my disciple. If I let him go...”

The black-robed cultivator immediately sensed the change in Lu Zhou’s tone and seized the opportunity. He said, “Since your disciple has the Great Void energy, it’s unavoidable that people want her. However, I can promise you that Wu Chao will never step foot in the golden lotus domain from now on.”

Lu Zhou furrowed his eyebrows. "You know about the Great Void energy?"

The black-robed cultivator nodded. "Every cultivator in the world wished to be blessed by the Great Void. It's said that there's a small number of Great Void Seeds in the Unknown Land. It's said that cultivators with Great Void Seeds will stand at the peak without fail. How can any cultivators resist such a huge temptation?"

Lu Zhou recalled Ji Tiandao's memory of going to an unknown place and obtaining ten Great Void Seeds. 'In other words, all ten of my disciples have the Great Void Seeds...'

The black-robed cultivator continued to say, "It's also said that if one can refine the Great Void energy for their own use, they can, at the very least, activate eight Birth Charts."

"Is the Great Void energy really that great?" Lu Zhou asked skeptically.

The expression of the person under the mask stiffened. He resisted the urge to ridicule the old man. Instead, he said, "Since you have such a disciple, you'll definitely soar very high in the future. However, I suggest you hide her aura for now."

"Since you know how great the Great Void energy is, don't you have any thoughts about it at all?" Lu Zhou asked.

The black-robed cultivator sighed. "Please take a look, senior."

Buzz!

He opened his wrinkled hand that was riddled with scars before a black astrolabe appeared.

Lu Zhou looked at the black astrolabe. There were twelve Birth Charts on the astrolabe, but five of them were dimmed, clearly destroyed.

After that, the black-robed cultivator clenched his hand, and the astrolabe disappeared. Following that, a lotus appeared.

Lu Zhou frowned slightly when he saw that one-third of the black-robed cultivator's Birth Palace looked as though it had been burned.

The black-robed cultivator said helplessly, "My Birth Palace has been damaged; I'm at the end of my life. Even if I enter my mother's womb again, it'd be impossible to repair it. With this, how can I have any thoughts about the Great Void?"

"I'll believe you for now. How did you sense the Great Void energy?" Lu Zhou asked.

The black-robed cultivator was stunned when he heard this question. 'Is he testing me? This simple question is a bit insulting to my IQ. However, the simpler it is, the more one can't underestimate it!'

With these thoughts in mind, the black-robed cultivator answered seriously, "After activating five Birth Charts, one's senses will grow sharper. If you have less than five Birth Charts, you'll need to use talismans in order to sense the Great Void energy. The Great Void energy is like a natural enemy to Brahman Lullaby, illusions, and so on. Therefore, when talismans encounter the Great Void energy, they'll disperse."

Upon hearing this, Lu Zhou suddenly recalled the time he brought Little Yuan'er with him to rescue Zhao Yue at the holy altar in Runan. No wonder Little Yuan'er was unaffected by the bald donkey's chanting at that time!

However, why was Zhao Yue affected then? After a brief moment, he remembered Lian Xing! It must have been Lian Xing's doing. With this, he remembered that Lian Xing should still be alive.

"How to hide the energy?" Lu Zhou continued to ask.

"This is simple. It can be hidden through talismans, treasures, special internal breathing techniques, or medicine," the black-robed cultivator replied.

Lu Zhou nodded. He looked at the black-robed cultivator and said, "You're quite tactful."

"Please spare Wu Chao for my sake. I'm willing to give you six fire spirit stones." The black-robed cultivator bowed.

Lu Zhou raised his hand, and the black bag flew into his hand immediately.

"As a sectless cultivator, I'm free to wander the world and I'm not bound by rules. Therefore, I managed to find these things. Please accept them."

Chapter 953: The Gain Isn't Small

Lu Zhou looked at the fire spirit stones in the bag. The quality was good, and their energy was sufficient. He closed the bag and asked, "Fire spirit stones are so rare. How did you find so many?"

The black-robed cultivator laughed twice and said, "Senior, you've already seen my astrolabe. It's not surprising that I have these fire spirit stones."

Lu Zhou could tell he was not willing to speak about the past. However, he could still figure out a few things. How could someone who managed to activate twelve Birth Charts be a nobody? However, what he was most curious about was which expert was capable of destroying this person's Birth Charts?

As he put the fire spirit stones away, Lu Zhou asked, "With your cultivation base, logically speaking, many forces should be trying to rope you to their sides. Why do you want to be a sectless cultivator?"

The black-robed cultivator let out a long sigh. "I had these thoughts in the past. Later, I realized you'd get caught in a vortex, unable to get out. This is the situation Wu Chao is in. Sometimes, there's nothing wrong with being a free and unrestrained ant."

The forest was very large, and it was impossible for every bird to be the same. There were some that liked to be independent and some that needed something to rely on. Only those who had experienced a lot would have such thoughts.

Lu Zhou weighed the black bag. "Only six?"

"..." The black-robed cultivator said awkwardly, "Six fire spirit stones are all I have. This is already quite a lot. Even the powerful Black Tower Council and the Dark and Light Alliance combined don't have six fire spirit stones."

Although Lu Zhou knew fire spirit stones were rare and precious, he did not expect that even the Black Tower Council and the Dark and Light Alliance did not have this number of fire spirit stones. He was even more certain that the person in front of him had an extraordinary background. No wonder even the entire Sky Martial Court, coupled with the Sky Research Court, only managed to find one.

“Six fire spirit stones aren’t bad. However, what if I kill you after taking them?” Lu Zhou asked.

The black-robed widened his eyes in shock, but he calmed down swiftly. He said, “I can tell that you’re not an unreasonable person. Moreover, if you wanted to kill me, you wouldn’t bother asking.”

“A wise man submits to circumstances. Today, for your sake, I’ll let Wu Chao.”

“Thank you!”

“Remember your promise, or else, I will tear you to pieces,” Lu Zhou said. Then, he flashed to 100 meters in the air before he flew away.

After Lu Zhou left, the black-robed cultivator straightened his body and shook his head. He let out a long sigh and said, “Come out.”

An arm stretched out from the debris ten meters in front of him. Then, a shadow shot out of the ground, stirring up dirt.

After crawling out of the ground, Wu Chao spat out the dirt in his mouth. His eyes brimmed with fear as he lay on his back and stared at the sky, panting heavily. When he finally calmed down, he turned around and said, “Thank you for saving my life, Tower Master!”

“I’m no longer the Tower Master!”

“No, you are! You’ve always been the Tower Master!” Wu Chao said passionately.

“Alright, alright, get up.”

“Understood.”

“After this, don’t return to the Black Tower Council. I’ll think of a way to make your life stone shatter,” the black-robed cultivator said.

Wu Chao asked skeptically, “Is that possible?”

“Yes.” Then, he turned his head and looked in the direction in which Lu Zhou left as he muttered to himself, “Why does the golden lotus domain have such a powerful person?”

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Zhao Yue was sitting on Di Jiang’s back waiting for her master’s return when she heard someone calling out to her.

“Zhao Yue... Save... save me...”

Zhao Yue looked at the source of the voice and saw Lian Xing waving at her. After being heavily injured by her master’s two palm strikes, Lian Xing did not look like she had long to live. She said expressionlessly, “You’re dreaming!”

Lian Xing said with an expression of disbelief, "I've known you... known you for so long. Don't tell me you still don't trust me?"

"I used to trust you and treat you as a friend, but you lied to me all the time and even tried to steal my Great Void energy. Is this what you call being a friend?" Zhao Yue said mockingly.

"I didn't!"

Zhao Yue looked down at Lian Xing. "Actually, I already knew something was off with you, but my master wasn't around at that time. Otherwise, how could I promise to suppress my cultivation?"

"You... You lied to me?"

Zhao Yue found Lian Xing's words absurd. "You can lie to me, but I can't lie to you?"

"Then, did you think it's fake as well when I risked my life to say you?" Lian Xing said, unresigned.

As soon as Lian Xing finished speaking, the black and white guards who had only one Birth Chart left each rushed forward.

"Even if I die, I'll drag you down with me!"

Even if they only had one Birth Chart now, Zhao Yue was still no match for them.

Squawk! Squawk! Squawk! Squawk! Squawk!

Di Jiang cried out as the two men leaped up. Its cries seemed rather... excited. It shot away at lightning speed, bringing Zhao Yue with it.

Zhao Yue, who was briefly startled, hurriedly used her energy to stabilize herself. Then, she turned back to look at the two guards. When she saw how far away the guards were, she was even more shocked by Di Jiang's speed.

The two guards whose attacks missed look at Di Jiang flapping its four wings with complicated expressions on their faces. A hint of unwillingness could be seen on their bloodstained faces as well.

"Take the left; I'll take the right."

The two guards made a move to surround Di Jiang and Zhao Yue.

Whoosh!

Di Jiang flapped its wings and shot off again. Its speed was lightning fast and could hardly be seen with naked eyes. The more the guards chased it, the happier it seemed trying to evade them.

After chasing for a long time, the two guards still could not catch up to Di Jiang.

Di Jiang squawked and quacked happily in the air.

Previously, even the healthy Yan Zhenluo with six Birth Charts could not take down Di Jiang, let alone these two injured guards with only one Birth Chart each.

Zhaoyue smiled and said, "Is that all you got? Why don't you try again?"

The two looked at each other before one of them said, "Don't fall for her trick. Let's go before the old man returns."

"Okay, let's put aside the grudge between the Black Tower and the White Tower for now. Let's escape together!"

"Alright. The runic passage is still there. We should have enough time. Let's go!"

The two turned around and flew north.

Upon seeing this, Lian Xing shouted from the ground, "Take me... Take me with you!"

The whiteguard glanced at Lian Xing before he said, "Being a traitor is a capital offense!"

Following that, the duo no longer paid any attention to Lian Xing and gave up on killing Zhao Yue. They hurriedly fled and soon disappeared from sight.

Soon after, in the northern sky, the clouds stirred as strong Primal Qi seemed to tear the sky apart. It was as though it was heralding the arrival of an expert.

Zhao Yue shook her head and said, "It's a pity that I'm not strong enough to kill the enemy! I really have to thank you this time! When did master take in such a fun mount?"

Di Jiang flapped its wings excitedly. However, it no longer flew around and only hovered in position.

Zhao Yue did not pay attention to Lian Xing. Although Lian Xing had saved her, Lian Xing had also schemed against her. Moreover, Lian Xing was a member of the White Tower Council, it was best to be cautious.

After a while, Lu Zhou flew back from the distance.

"Master." Zhao Yue hurriedly kneeled in the air.

Lu Zhou glanced at Zhao Yue and asked, "Are you injured?"

Zhao Yue recalled the time when the blackguard and the whiteguard attacked her. She had instinctively dodged them at that time. However, fear rose in her heart now that she recalled it. After all, even Nine and Ten-leaf cultivators could have been crushed into meat pulp at that time, let alone a Six-leaf cultivator like her.

"No. I've made a mistake. Please forgive me, master." Zhao Yue did not dare to get up.

Lu Zhou looked down and saw Lian Xing lying on the ground. He ignored Zhao Yue's words and asked, "Did the two guards escape?"

"They fled north," Zhao Yue replied in a small voice.

Lu Zhou looked north for a moment before he said, "Let's return first."

Lu Zhou launched a Dhyana Mudra at Lian Xing, using it to grab her.

At this moment, there was a loud commotion in the sky to the north. Black clouds rolled in and churned in the sky as thunder rumbled incessantly.

Lu Zhou, Zhao Yue, and the captured Lian Xing looked north.

Lian Xing frowned and said while she endured the pain, "Both of you should run... I-it should be p-people from the Black Tower Council."

"The runic passage?" Lu Zhou asked.

"This is the fluctuation from the opening of the runic passage. The Black Tower has so many experts; they must have sent someone..." Before Lian Xing could finish her words, she grunted and spat out a mouthful of blood.

Lu Zhou did not have any sympathy for Lian Xian at all. Instead, he said disdainfully, "Brat, do you think I'll be scared?"

"..." Lian Xing was speechless.

As expected, several shadows from the north rushed over.

Lu Zhou looked at them and frowned slightly. For some inexplicable reason, the scene when Wu Chao escaped appeared in his mind.

Chapter 954: More Brave Generals

Lu Zhou remained steady and calm. He had already killed quite a few blackguards and whiteguards; the merit points he earned were enough to buy an item card. There should not be a problem unless a group of judges showed up. However, according to Si Wuya, due to the intensity of the internal strife in the Black Tower Council, it was unlikely the judges would make such a big movement.

When Lian Xing saw the shadows in the distance, she shook her head and said helplessly, "It's the Black Guards."

Indeed, it was the Black Guards.

Lu Zhou looked at the two cultivators in black armor who were rushing over with long halberds in their hands. The two cultivators were carrying a man each on their backs. Those two who were being carried, one dressed in black and one dressed in black, looked like corpses.

When the two blackguards finally arrived in front of Lu Zhou, they kneeled in the air and cupped their fists together.

One of the blackguards said, "Shen Xi greets senior! I beg senior to take me in!"

Lian Xing. "???"

Zhao Yue. "???"

Lu Zhou was slightly surprised as well. "Shen Xi?"

Shen Xi was a member of the Black Guard whom Lu Zhou had met previously in the red lotus domain.

Shen Xi took off his armor and helmet, revealing a slightly exhausted square face and bloodshot eyes. He said bluntly, "Senior, I have nowhere else to turn to."

Lu Zhou found the situation rather comical. Moreover, it was not too long ago he fought with him. "You're a blackguard. You serve the Black Tower Council, but you want me to take you in?"

Shen Xi said, "Six of us were sent to the red lotus domain to carry out a mission, but only four of us survived. We thought we could blame the lost lives on the fierce beasts, but one of the captains was forced to tell the truth. With that, the Black Tower sentenced us to death to punish us for our incompetence. My brothers and I risked our lives to escape through the runic passage. During our escape, the Black Tower Council ruthlessly killed one of my brothers... Senior, you're the only one who can save us now!"

Lu Zhou, naturally, did not believe Shen Xi immediately. "How do I know you're telling the truth?"

Shen Xi said before he pointed at the two corpses, "Every word I say is true. This is the proof."

The two corpses belonged to the blackguard and whiteguard with one Birth Chart each who had escaped earlier.

Lian Xing exclaimed in shock, "You killed the people from my White Tower Council?"

Shen Xi's eyes widened, and he retreated a few meters as he grabbed his long halberd. His eyes were filled with despair as he asked, "Are you a member of the White Tower Council?"

Shen Xi's question was directed to both Lian Xing and Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "A mere White Tower Council naturally has nothing to do with me..."

Shen Xi heaved a huge sigh of relief when he heard Lu Zhou's words. He had been terrified when he thought Lu Zhou was from the White Tower Council.

Lu Zhou took another look at the two corpses and shook his head. "What a pity..."

"Pity?" Shen Xi was puzzled.

Lu Zhou did not explain and only said, "Continue..."

Shen Xi nodded before he said, "Now that we've escaped, the Black Tower Council will surely issue a warrant to have us arrested. My brother and I only want to find a place to settle down. I beg senior to take us in..."

"..."

Lu Zhou felt things had taken an interesting turn. He stroked his beard and asked, "With your cultivation base, you can flee to the end of the world. The world is vast; how can there not be a place for both of you to settle down?"

Shen Xi sighed and tore off his clothes. A black lotus had been branded on his chest. Moreover, it seemed like it was freshly branded.

"Every time the blackguards are sent on a mission, we are given a strict time limit. Those who don't return within the time limit will be hunted down by the council. This time, the council was very ruthless and branded the black lotus on us. With the black lotus, we can either dig out our hearts or return to the council. If I can escape, why would I kill these two people and come here?"

Lian Xing smiled with a hint of hopelessness as she looked at Shen Xi. "The black lotus brand... You can't escape now..."

Lu Zhou raised his hand.

A strong gust of wind swept across Lian Xing's face before...

Smack!

Lian Xing's pretty face swelled up immediately.

"When I speak, is it your turn to interrupt?"

Lian Xing was stunned by this slap. "..."

Lu Zhou returned his attention to Shen Xi and said, "You've been branded with a black lotus. The Black Tower Council will surely track you and hunt you down. You're trying to borrow another person's hand to help you kill... Not bad..."

Upon hearing the words 'Borrowing another person's hand to kill', Shen Xi was shocked. He hurriedly said, "I have no such intentions, senior. Senior, your cultivation base is profound. Since even Wu Guangping wasn't a match for you, the Black Tower Council won't dare to act recklessly if you take me in. Moreover, if we help you to annihilate the council, both of us will be free as well. I'm telling the truth. If there's even tiniest falsehood, I'll die a horrible death!"

Lu Zhou stared at Shen Xi and said, "You're more afraid of death than the average person."

Shen Xi raised his head to look at Lu Zhou. He did not know why Lu Zhou said these words.

Lu Zhou stared at Shen Xi and said without mincing his words, "Your brothers are also afraid of death. When I fought the six of you, four of you survived. How can people like you and your brothers who are afraid of death be worthy of my attention?"

Shen Xi's face flushed red in embarrassment. He could not refute Lu Zhou's words.

Meanwhile, Shen Xi's comrade who could not endure the embarrassment pulled Shen Xi and said, "Brother Shen, let's go. The world is vast; we'll definitely be able to find a place to settle down. Let's go..."

Upon hearing this, Lu Zhou smiled mockingly. "Oh, it seems you suddenly grew a backbone now..."

Shen Xi sighed heavily before he rose to his feet. He cupped his fists at Lu Zhou with a helpless expression on his face as he said, "Perhaps, this is our fate..."

"Hold on," Lu Zhou said.

"Huh?"

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

Shen Xi nodded. If he did not want to live, he would not have come here.

Lu Zhou's expression turned solemn as he said in a low voice, "You can live... However, you have to agree to my conditions."

Shen Xi was delighted. He said eagerly, "Senior Lu, please speak!"

Lu Zhou said, "Zhao Yue, tell them."

Zhao Yue said, "If you want to join the Evil Sky Pavilion, you have to follow the following rules. First, fellow members of the Evil Sky Pavilion aren't allowed to kill each other. Second, if you join the Evil Sky Pavilion, you'll have to cut off your past. Third, you're not allowed to betray your master, disobey your superior, and disrespect your elders. Fourth..."

Lu Zhou felt slightly complicated when he heard Zhao Yue's words so he raised his hand to stop her. Then, he summed everything up in a short sentence, "In short, in the Evil Sky Pavilion, I have the final say in everything, including your lives."

Shen Xi said, "Understood."

Lu Zhou added, "Once you enter the Evil Sky Pavilion, you will only encounter many more enemies in the future. Moreover, they're going to be 100 times stronger than the Black and White Tower Councils. Perhaps, your lives might even be lost tonight. Therefore, joining the Evil Sky Pavilion might not entirely be a good thing. Think carefully, and don't rush to make a decision. I'll give you ten breaths to decide."

"..." Shen Xi had already made up his mind to join the Evil Sky Pavilion, but he was still shocked when he heard these words. Was the Evil Sky Pavilion really so strong?

In the cultivation world, the strong preyed on the weak. It was the survival of the fittest. In a world such as this, the slightest mistake could cause one's death. Whether it was in the Black Tower Council, the White Tower Council, or the other forces, was there no place in this world that was peaceful?

When ten breaths were almost up, Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "It seems like you're not suited for the Evil Sky Pavilion... I suppose you can only die..."

Upon hearing these words, Shen Xi and his comrade knelt in the air again and said in unison, "I'm willing to join the Evil Sky Pavilion!"

"Have you thought it through?"

"Yes," Shen Xi answered resolutely.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. "Since you've thought it through, I will grant you both the positions of a guardian. From now on, whether you're dead or alive, you'll always be a member of the Evil Sky Pavilion. Understand?"

The two blackguards replied without any hesitation.

"Shen Xi pays respect to the Pavilion Master!"

"Li Xiao Mo pays respect to the Pavilion Master!"

"Ding! Recruited two subordinates. Reward: 2,000 merit points."

Chapter 955: Old Demon Ji is Back!

Soon enough, Lu Zhou saw the two men's information on the system dashboard. Their loyalty was only at 30%. He thought it was a good starting point. After all, when Leng Luo first joined the Evil Sky Pavilion, his loyalty was only at 5%. Loyalty could be cultivated slowly; he was not in a rush. After all, they had just met not long ago. He was confident about his charm so he was not worried about increasing their loyalty at all.

Apart from their loyalty, Lu Zhou discovered no other information about two men unlike those in the golden lotus domain who could not hide from the system's Eye of Truth. It seemed like the Eye of Truth only worked on those from the golden lotus domain for now.

"Rise."

"Understood."

Lian Xing. "..."

Lian Xing was dumbfounded. What kind of force was the Black Tower Council? After years of being in the White Tower Council, she was very well aware of the Black Tower Council's strength. Where did the old man's confidence come from that he even dared to challenge the Black Tower Council? After all, accepting Shen Xi and his comrade was no different from offending the Black Tower Council. Although she had a vague answer in her heart, she still found it difficult to accept. Was the old man really capable of taking on the Black Tower Council?

Shen Xi had the answer to Lian Xing's question. He had verified his answer in the red lotus domain.

At this moment, Lu Zhou said, "Dispose of the corpses. Since there are witchcraft cultivators in the Black Tower Council, we can't keep them."

Shen Xi nodded. "This is an easy task."

Shen Xi brought out a talisman. He pricked his finger and let the blood drip on the black talisman. With this, the talisman burst into flames immediately. Soon enough, the script for 'Destroy' appeared and fell on the corpses before the corpses were reduced into ashes.

Lu Zhou nodded. "Let's return to the Divine Capital for now."

...

At this moment, the imperial guards, the palace experts, and the eunuch were cleaning up the mess from the battle between the two Thousand Realms Whirling experts earlier. Fortunately, the two experts brought the fight outside the palace. Otherwise, the Imperial palace would have been reduced to debris and rubble.

When the palace experts saw a group of cultivators flying toward them in the sky, they cried out in delight, "It's Miss Fifth!"

"It's really Miss Fifth!"

Following the experts, everyone gathered in a row. They bowed and said in unison, "Welcome back, Miss Fifth!"

Zhao Yue nodded before she said, "My master has returned. Everyone, make way for my master..."

When they heard these words, their bodies trembled involuntarily as they looked up. However, they could not figure out which one of the cultivators was Senior Ji. Nevertheless, all of them said in unison, "Welcome back, Senior Ji!"

Lu Zhou stepped forward and said in a clear voice, "There's no need for formalities..."

Lu Zhou's voice was as gentle as water but was filled with charm and calmness.

Li Yunzhao, the eunuch next to the Empress Dowager, finally recognized Lu Zhou and said excitedly, "We have waited a day and a night for Senior Ji's arrival. Welcome, Senior Ji!"

Under Li Yunzhao's arrangements, the palace experts were dismissed and only a small group of eunuchs and palace maids stayed behind to wait on them.

...

When they were back in the palace hall, Zhao Yue gave Lu Zhou a brief report of what had happened in the Imperial palace.

Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction. After that, he asked, "When did you first meet Lian Xing?"

Zhao Yue glanced at Lian Xing, who was slumped on the ground, and explained in detail, "Back then, when Junior Sister Tianxin set a trap on Bluesun Mountain, I didn't agree with her so I left. Later on, I met Lian Xing in Runan. At that time, she pretended to be a weak cultivator, and we supported each other. I always treated her as my best friend. I didn't expect she was actually stealing my Great Void energy."

Upon seeing Lian Xing open her mouth to speak, Zhao Yue said, "Shut up." Then, she continued to say, "At that time, I didn't know anything about the Great Void Energy so I didn't pay attention to it. Lian Xing said she had to see her master so she left. Not long after that, I was captured by Mo Qi from the Clarity Sect who was also the Sect Master at that time. In order to instigate a conflict between the sects, Mo Qi used me as bait. At the holy altar in Runan, he made me into a Saintess and a demoness at the same time. Following that, master already knows what happened..."

Lu Zhou had killed Kong Xuan on the holy altar in Runan. At that time, he was only at the middle stage of the Sense Condensing Realm. Now that he thought about it, he was always in great danger at that time. As long as the enemies attacked in groups, he would have a difficult time.

After a moment, Lu Zhou said, "Continue."

Zhao Yue nodded. "After returning to the Evil Sky Pavilion, Lian Xing didn't find me. She only approached me when I came to the Imperial palace. At that time, she suddenly became an Eight-leaf Nascent Divinity Tribulation Realm cultivator. She said she wanted to protect me, and I naively believed her. Just like that, half a year passed. During that time, she often traveled between the Imperial palace and her so-called sect. At that time, I didn't pay much attention to my cultivation and was busy dealing with political affairs. It was when she suddenly said she wanted to take me away that I became suspicious..."

Lu Zhou asked, "Why didn't you tell me about this at that time?"

Zhao Yue fell to her knees before she said, "Master, you were already in the red lotus domain at that time so I didn't dare to trouble you. If Seventh Junior Brother had told me about the Great Void energy, I wouldn't have dared to keep this from you. Master, please investigate this matter..."

Lu Zhou looked at Lian Xing and asked, "So all this time you've been thinking of ways to obtain Zhao Yue's Great Void energy?"

Lian Xing let out a long sigh before she admitted, "Yes."

Lu Zhou gestured to Shen Xi.

Shen Xi understood Lu Zhou's intention and brought a talisman out. After lighting it, the talisman flew toward Lian Xing. When it drew close to her, it suddenly turned into ashes.

Shen Xi cupped his fists together and said, "There's no doubt she has the Great Void energy."

Lian Xing knew she could no longer hide certain matters so she said, "I came from the White Tower Council and was tasked with keeping an eye on the golden lotus domain. At that time, I heard about the Evil Sky Pavilion. After that, I met Zhao Yue."

"How did you know that Zhaoyue had the Great Void energy?" Lu Zhou asked.

Lian Xing said, "That's because Zhaoyue met the witchcraft cultivators a long time ago. I felt sorry for her so I killed the witchcraft cultivators. However, my time in the golden lotus domain was limited; I had to return to the White Tower Council..."

Lu Zhou nodded. "You saved her because you covet her Great Void energy. Do you admit it?"

"I admit it," Lian Xing said.

"What method did you use to take her Great Void energy?"

Without waiting for Lian Xing to answer, Shen Xi said, "The Siphoning Crystal."

"You know about it?" Lu Zhou asked curiously.

"The Siphoning crystal can, as its name suggests, siphon another person's cultivation base. It can also siphon energy and special abilities. These crystals are rare. They're even rarer than fire spirit stones," Shen Xi replied.

Lian Xing raised her head to look at Shen Xi and nodded. "Indeed. I used the Siphoning Crystal. However, I did that to protect Zhao Yue."

Upon hearing these words, Zhao Yue's anger surged. "Protect me?"

"The White Tower Council doesn't have any extra Siphoning Crystal. If they wanted Zhao Yue's Great Void energy, they'd have to sacrifice her. Therefore, I tried to keep her hidden. However, just like how paper can never contain fire, the secret was found out by Captain Teng," Lian Xing said.

Lu Zhou extended his hand. "Where's the Siphoning Crystal?"

“When I left Runan, it was destroyed,” Lian Xing said.

Shen Xi said, “Since you absorbed her Great Void energy, your cultivation base improved tremendously. It doesn’t matter if the crystal is destroyed. Since you still have the Great Void energy, we can just take it back from you.”

Lian Xing’s eyes widened in fear upon hearing these words.

Lu Zhou asked, “There’s a way to take back the Great Void energy?”

“Of course. If she can take it, we can take it back from her as well. It’s the same method. Just refine her,” Shen Xi replied.

Zhaoyue was stunned.

On the other hand, Lu Zhou remained silent.

Shen Xi bowed and said, “She behaved ruthlessly first so she can’t blame anyone for this. The Evil Sky Pavilion is only taking back what’s rightfully ours. I hope Pavilion Master will forgive me if my words are unpleasant to the ears.”

“Your words make sense.” How could Lu Zhou blame Shen Xi? Things were going much smoother with a Thousand Realms Whirling expert by his side.

Chapter 956: I’m Sorry For Dragging Everyone Down

Lu Zhou looked at Zhao Yue and asked, “Zhao Yue, what do you think?”

Zhao Yue turned to look at Lian Xing. It was true that Lian Xing had saved her, but at the same time, there was no doubt that Lian Xing had also stolen her Great Void energy.

However, before Zhao Yue could reply to Lu Zhou, Lian Xing said, “There’s no need for you to think about it. I’ll return the Great Void energy to you. From now on, we’re even.”

Lu Zhou smacked his hand lightly on the table before he said, “The Great Void energy doesn’t belong to you, and you stole it from her. And yet, you dare to speak so righteously? I understand you’re still young, and you don’t know what’s right or wrong. Although you’re well mannered, you’re really shameless. I’m not your parents so I won’t care about your feelings. Take her away; we’ll take back the Great Void energy another day.”

“Understood.”

“All of you are dismissed. We’ll return to the Evil Sky Pavilion tomorrow.”

“Understood.”

...

At night.

Lu Zhou activated the Purple Glazed Ceramic to recover his supreme mystic power as quickly as he could. Without the supreme mystic power, he lacked a sense of security.

At the same time, he looked at his merit points on the system interface.

Merit points: 155,400

He had gained over 100,000 merit points today. Apart from that, he had gained six fire spirit stones as well. His profit today was rather huge.

After a while, he shook his head. Now was not the time to think about how he should spend his merit points. He had to focus on recovering his supreme mystic power.

Although it was good that Shen Xi and Li Xiamo joined the Evil Sky Pavilion, there was also a hidden danger. The black lotus brands on their bodies might lead the Black Tower Council to him. If nothing unusual happened, the supreme mystic power should be able to remove the brands.

...

The next morning.

Before Lu Zhou opened his eyes, Zhao Yue called out from outside the hall, "Master, the flying chariot is ready."

"Alright." Lu Zhou opened his eyes. After sensing the supreme mystic power, he discovered he had recovered about half of it. He was rather satisfied with this.

He wondered inwardly, "How fast would it be if the Purple Glazed Ceramic is upgraded to the fusion grade?"

Alas, fire spirit stones could not be used on flood-grade weapons. This led to the question of how to upgrade a flood-grade weapon to a fusion-grade weapon?

'What about the system?' In the past, the system had rewarded him with the Shining Stone, the fire spirit stone, and the refining talisman. It stood to reason that the system should have the materials needed to upgrade a flood-grade weapon to the fusion grade.

After thinking for a moment, Lu Zhou dismissed his thoughts and rose to his feet before stretching his limbs. He felt pretty good. After using the Reversal Cards previously, he had felt a lot more comfortable.

'Perhaps, I should use all my merit points on Reversal Cards...' Previously, he could not use too many Reversal Cards since he was not strong enough and was afraid of arousing suspicion. However, would there be anyone who was bold enough to doubt him now?

After a moment, he left the hall and left the Imperial palace on the cloud-splitting chariot with Zhao Yue, Shen Xi, and the others.

...

At the same time, news of the return of the Pavilion Master of the Evil Sky Pavilion spread like a wildfire in Great Yan's Divine Capital.

One spread to ten, ten spread to 100... the speed of the news spreading was astonishing!

In the relay station.

“Did you hear? Old Demon Ji is back! After he returned, those cultivators who were causing trouble in the Imperial palace yesterday have all been chased away. The traces of battle could be seen for miles...”

“You’re really bold! You dare to call him Old Demon Ji?”

“It’s just a slip of the tongue...”

Meanwhile, a few cultivators outside of the relay station whispered to each other.

“Inform the Sect Master that the Patriarch has returned.”

“Understood.”

...

It was almost afternoon when the barrier on Golden Court Mountain appeared before everyone’s eyes.

Lu Zhou rested one hand on his back as he stroked his beard and looked at the mountains and land.

The blazing sun shone down on the land. The mountain peaks towered in the sky, surrounded by clouds and mist. The ancient pine trees were tall and straight, and the rocks were strange and rugged. It was like scenery from a painting.

Lu Zhou could not help but sigh emotionally inwardly now that he was home.

All of a sudden, Shen Xi and Li Xiaomo cried out in unison, “Birth Chart Beast!”

The duo flew out of the cloud-splitting chariot as soon as they saw Cheng Huang near Golden Court Mountain. A pleasantly surprised expression could be seen on both their faces at this moment as soon as they saw Cheng Huang. It seemed like this reaction was from some sort of occupational disease from their previous jobs.

“Pavilion Master, there’s no need for you to act. I’ll deal with this Birth Chart Beast!” Shen Xi said eagerly.

Zhao Yue hurriedly said, “Guardian Shen, please wait for a moment.”

“???”

“That’s my Sixth Junior Sister’s mount. It’s not just a Birth Chart Beast,” Zhao Yue explained.

“M-mount?” Shen Xi was dumbfounded.

Zhao Yue said, “Don’t forget this is the Evil Sky Pavilion’s Golden Court Mountain. You have to mentally prepare yourself for the things you’ll see here...”

With these words, Shen Xi hurriedly cupped his fists together and said, “Thank you for your reminder.”

Shen Xi sighed in relief inwardly. ‘That was close. If I’ve acted too quickly, I wouldn’t even know how I died...’

Apart from that, Shen Xi felt amazed as well. What kind of peerless figure could tame Cheng Huang and make Cheng Huang into a mount? Let alone Birth Chart Beasts, it was already incredibly difficult to tame ordinary fierce beasts. It was 100 times or even 1,000 times harder to tame a Birth Chart Beast.

However, when his eyes landed on Di Jiang that was in the cloud-splitting chariot as well, he reminded himself that he was now in the Evil Sky Pavilion. He could not use common sense to judge the Evil Sky Pavilion.

When the cloud-splitting chariot entered the Evil Sky Pavilion's barrier, a white figure led a crowd of people and bowed.

"Welcome back, Pavilion Master!"

"Welcome back, master."

Lu Zhou disembarked from the cloud-splitting chariot and appeared before everyone's eyes.

An expression of surprise appeared on Ye Tianxin's face when she saw Lu Zhou's black hair.

Similarly, the others were shocked as well.

Lu Zhou said, "There's no need for formalities."

With these words, everyone straightened their backs.

At this time, Ye Tianxin asked warily when she saw the new faces, "Who are these people?"

Zhao Yue smiled as she introduced the two newcomers. "These two are the new Guardians of the Evil Sky Pavilion."

"I'm Shen Xi, nice to meet you."

"I'm Li Xiaomo, nice to meet you."

The members of the Evil Sky Pavilion responded accordingly.

Following that, Lian Xing remained silent and expressionless as she was brought to the Cave of Reflection.

At this moment, Lu Zhou called out, "Pan Zhong, Zhou Jifeng."

"Yes, Pavilion Master."

"Both of you, arrange the accommodation for the two guardians."

"Understood."

After saying that, Lu Zhou made his way to the eastern pavilion.

On the other hand, Ye Tianxin invited Zhao Yue to chat.

After being put in charge of hospitality and suffering many losses, Zhou Jifeng and Pan Zhong only needed to look at Shen Xi and Li Xiaomo once to figure out how they should behave. Both of them bowed respectfully and said, "Greetings, Guardians."

Shen Xi, who kept reminding himself that he could not judge based on appearances in the Evil Sky Pavilion, bowed and said, "No, no, you're too polite!"

“No, no, no... Guardians, we’re not worthy of such an honor. Please follow me. I’ll personally arrange your accommodation,” Pan Zhong said with a smile.

“No, no, no. It’s fine. You don’t have to personally oversee it,” Shen Xi said.

“No, no, no. How can we be careless in our treatment of the Guardians of the Evil Sky Pavilion?” Zhou Jifeng chimed in.

“Both of you are too courteous. I feel embarrassed.”

The four men kept nodding and bowing to each other, causing the female disciples in the surroundings to be confused.

Pan Zhong and Zhou Jifeng then led everyone to the southern pavilion.

On the way there, Pan Zhong briefly introduced the four pavilions in the Evil Sky Pavilion to Shen Xi and Li Xiaomo.

“Guardians, the southern pavilion is the residence of the Pavilion Master’s disciples. Apart from that, only the elders and guardians can stay here. The others aren’t qualified. Please come in...”

“Disciples?” Shen Xi asked, puzzled.

Pan Zhong did not dare to underestimate this seemingly tender newcomer. Instead, he patiently explained, “The Pavilion Master has ten outstanding disciples. The white-clad lady earlier is the Pavilion Master’s sixth disciple. We address her as Miss Sixth.”

Swoosh!

At this moment, a huge shadow loomed over everyone. When they looked up, they saw a huge head looking down at them, and their bodies stiffened immediately.

Huff! Huff! Huff!

Cheng Huang looked at them and sniffed their bodies before it shook its head as though it was disgusted by their smell. Following that, it flew into the distance without looking back.

Shen Xi and Li Xiaomo. “...”

Pan Zhong said, “That’s Cheng Huang. Miss Sixth’s mount.”

Shen Xi was surprised now that he got a closer look at Cheng Huang and discovered it was not an ordinary Birth Chart Beast. With this discovery, the Evil Sky Pavilion grew even more mysterious and unfathomable.

Zhou Jifeng took over and said, “The woman who came back with you is the Pavilion Master’s fifth disciple. We call her Miss Fifth. Don’t underestimate her just because her cultivation base is low, she’s...”

Shen Xi hurriedly interjected, “I understand, I understand!”

How could Shen Xi not understand? That woman had Great Void energy. In the future, there was no doubt she would be a prominent figure!

Seeing Shen Xi and Li Xiaomo's attitude, Pan Zhong had a very good impression of the duo. He could not help but feel like there were brothers! He nodded before he asked, "I can tell both of you are experienced people with just a look. If you don't mind, I can ask what are your cultivation bases?"

Upon hearing this question, an embarrassed expression appeared on Shen Xi's face as he said in a low voice, "My cultivation base is low. I hope you won't laugh at me."

"Don't worry. We're used to it. After all, this is the Evil Sky Pavilion. We can't judge them using common sense," Pan Zhong said, feeling a sense of camaraderie with the two newcomers.

"You're right," Shen Xi said in a hushed voice as though he was worried others would overhear him, "I'm in the Mystic Realm, and I'm a Four Chart Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator. How embarrassing..."

Li Xiaomo seemed even more embarrassed as he said, "I... I only have three Birth Charts. I... I-I'm really sorry for dragging everyone down..."

Pan Zhong and Zhou Jifeng. "???"

Chapter 957: What Will Happen After They're Synthesized?

Dumbfounded. Pan Zhong and Zhou Jifeng were utterly dumbfounded. Both of their minds were blank at this moment. Although they did not know what Birth Charts were, they knew what the Mystic Realm and the Thousand Realms Whirling meant. Even before cultivators could sprout the ninth leaf, these two terms had already existed in ancient books. These two words were used a lot during storytelling. These two people were naturally dumbfounded after meeting two Mystic Realm experts for the first time.

Pan Zhong stammered with a disbelieving expression on his face, "W-wait... Guardian Shen, Guardian Li, can... can you repeat your words again?"

Upon hearing these words, Shen Xi grew even more embarrassed. He said awkwardly, "F-four... Four Birth Charts. Thousand Realms Whirling..."

"T-three... Birth Charts." Li Xiaomo was even more ashamed.

The two Thousand Realms Whirling experts' attitude was incredibly polite and gentle.

"..."

Pan Zhong and Zhou Jifeng were dumbfounded and did not know what to say for a long time.

Upon seeing this, Shen Xi waved his hand in front of Pan Zhong and Zhou Jifeng. "Excuse me, are both of you okay? What's wrong?"

With this, Pan Zhong and Zhou Jifeng finally recovered half their senses.

"I-it's nothing. I... I just saw that quiet villa over there and am reminded of its owner who has yet to return. It's been a while since that gentleman left, I wonder if he's happy and safe..." Pan Zhong said. Seeing that Zhou Jifeng was still acting like a fool, he discreetly nudged Zhou Jifeng.

"Ah, yes, that's right," Zhou Jifeng hurriedly said before he sighed sadly.

Upon hearing these words, Shen Xi cupped his hands together and said, "I didn't expect both of you to be so exceptionally loyal. Little Mo and I are truly lucky to be able to join the Evil Sky Pavilion."

"That's right. We're really lucky," Li Xiaomo chimed in.

Pan Zhong pretended to wipe tears from his eyes as he said with a hint of sorrow, "Sorry, I lost control of my emotions. Please come in..."

After entering the southern pavilion, Pan Zhong and Zhou Jifeng cleaned the villa meticulously. After they were done, they politely bade farewell to the two newcomers.

On the other hand, Shen Xi did not want to come across as rude so he and Li Xiaomo sent the duo off.

After a long while, Li Xiaomo asked, "Brother Shen, w-why does it feel like they were pretending?"

Shen Xi scolded, "Don't talk nonsense. Even if they're pretending, we have to take it seriously!"

"Oh." Li Xiaomo nodded obediently.

Shen Xi wondered if he had stayed in the cold and ruthless Black Tower Council for too long that he felt a little uncomfortable with this change. In the past, his time was spent cultivating and going on missions. The strong preyed on the weak; it was the survival of the fittest. He was a little unused to this change...

...

At the back of the mountain.

Zhou Jifeng mumbled in a daze, "T-thousand Realms... Thousand Realms Whirling! Heavens! What are we going to do?"

"Why are you panicking?" Pan Zhong said disdainfully, "Since they're willing to join the Evil Sky Pavilion, it means that the Pavilion Master is strong enough to suppress them. Why are you so worried?"

"Hey, hey, if such experts join the Evil Sky Pavilion, won't our positions be in danger?" Zhou Jifeng asked.

"We'll be fine," Pan Zhong said, "The more powerful experts we have, the more there's a need for people like us! Moreover, if everyone is a general, who's going to be the soldiers?"

Upon hearing these words, Zhou Jifeng nodded. He felt that Pan Zhong's words made sense.

Pan Zhong continued to say, "I think their attitude toward us isn't bad. Moreover, no matter how strong they are, how can they be better than the Pavilion Master and his ten disciples?"

"You have a point."

"In my opinion, we should continue doing what we should do. Just remember not to talk about cultivation base since we can't beat them in a fight," Pan Zhong said.

"You're right."

...

After Lu Zhou returned to the eastern pavilion, he did not waste time and began to meditate on the Heavenly Writing.

When evening fell, he had recovered most of his supreme mystic power.

He sighed. Although the battle between Thousand Realms Whirling experts had given him more than 100,000 merit points, things were not as simple as he thought they were. The Thousand Realms Whirling cultivators he killed were only lower-class members of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council. It would not be easy if he had to kill that expert with 12 Birth Charts who had come out to protect Wu Chao. Even if that person had lost 5 Birth Charts, that person still had 7 Birth Charts. There was no doubt that person was once a prominent figure. Based on this, it could be seen that there were many monstrous experts in the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council. No matter what, he had to focus on raising his cultivation base and improving the strength of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

After a while, he wondered out loud, "Why did he save Wu Chao?"

He quickly dismissed his thoughts. It was best to focus on getting stronger. After killing so many people from the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council and taking in Shen Xi and Li Xiaomo, he was destined to stand on opposing sides with the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council. All ten of his disciples had the Great Void Seed. If this secret was leaked, the consequences would be unimaginable.

Merit points: 155,400

Remaining lifespan: 642,410 days (236 years in which 1760 days are from Reversal Cards).

Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction when he looked at the over 150,000 merit points. Now that he had returned to his home ground, how could he live up to himself if he did not draw the lucky draw?

"Lucky draw."

"Ding! Used 50 merit points and 100 luck points. Obtained: The Buddhist path's Butterfly Love Flower."

Lu Zhou nodded and stroked his beard in satisfaction. "Lucky draw."

"Ding! Used 50 merit points. Obtained: Reversal Card x5."

"Lucky draw."

"Ding! Used 50 merit points. Thank you for your participation. Luck point +1."

...

The next morning.

Lu Zhou looked at the 200 luck points he had gained, feeling rather unhappy. Apart from drawing something twice in the beginning, he did not gain anything apart from luck points.

"Lucky draw."

"Ding. Used 50 merit points and 200 luck points. Obtained: Ji Tiandao's Peak Trial Card."

"Huh?" The originally depressed Lu Zhou suddenly became energetic as though he had been injected with some booster.

After a night of being thanked for his participation, he was finally rewarded for his hard work! With this, the entire process was worth it!

Lu Zhou opened his hand and looked at the Peak Trial Card. On second thought, the Peak Trial Card did not seem to be very useful anymore.

Currently, he had activated four Birth Charts, manifested the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, possessed the supreme mystic power, and a lot of weapons. Unless he encountered a huge group of enemies, he had more than enough ammunition to deal with anyone who came his way without needing infinite Primal Qi or energy.

He waved his hand casually, and the Peak Trial Card disappeared. Following that, he looked at the number of Peak Trial Card he had on the system interface.

“This is...”

Next to the Peak Trial Card, he saw: “The card can be synthesized.”

“They can be synthesized?” Lu Zhou was confused. Even if he had 100 Ji Tiandao cards, in the end, it would still be a Ji Tiandao card, right? Was there strength in number in this case?

Let alone the uncertainty of the result after he synthesized the card, the Peak Trial Card was the most difficult item card to obtain; he could not buy it with merit points. How long would it take for him to obtain three Peak Trial Cards?

In the end, Lu Zhou decided not to worry about it. He would just synthesize the cards once he had enough cards. After all, as it is, the card was no longer useful. He would not lose anything by synthesizing the cards.

At this moment, Zhao Yue’s voice rang from outside, “Disciple greets master.”

Lu Zhou walked out of the eastern pavilion.

Upon seeing Lu Zhou, Zhao Yue said, “Master, the brand on Guardian Shen’s body has darkened.”

“It has darkened?”

“Guardian Shen didn’t expect this either. He thought he could perhaps get rid of it in ten days using his own cultivation. The two guardians are packing their things now and getting ready to leave. They said they didn’t want to implicate the Evil Sky Pavilion,” Zhao Yue explained.

Chapter 958: The Complete Great Void (1)

‘It seems like those people still have some conscience...’

Lu Zhou walked down the steps with hands on his back before he made his way to the southern pavilion as Zhao Yue followed behind him.

Pan Zhong and Zhou Jifeng who were waiting respectfully outside of the eastern pavilion joined them in their journey to the southern pavilion as well.

Lu Zhou looked at Golden Court Mountain after being away for so long. The trees that surrounded the four great halls were lush. They had grown so tall that they were almost touching the barrier. Their leaves were rustled by the air from the mountain and the river, creating a calming noise

When Lu Zhou finally arrived at the southern pavilion, he saw Shen Xi and Li Xiaomo who had already packed their things.

The duo no longer wore their black armor and was dressed in robes that common folks wore. However, their postures betrayed the fact that they were cultivators. When they saw Lu Zhou, they bowed and greeted him in unison. "Greetings, Pavilion Master."

Lu Zhou asked, "You're going to leave?"

"I don't want to implicate the Evil Sky Pavilion. I was hoping I would be able to get rid of the brand, but I didn't expect it to be so stubborn. Perhaps, this is our fate. It's best if take our leave," Shen Xi said.

Upon hearing this, Lu Zhou said in a slightly raised voice, "Impudent!"

Shen Xi and Li Xiamo were taken aback and fell to one knee immediately. "It's not my intention to..."

Lu Zhou interjected, "I've made myself clear. Once you join the Evil Sky Pavilion, everything, including your lives, will be decided by me. Is the Evil Sky Pavilion a place you can come and go as you please?"

Earlier, Pan Zhong and Zhou Jifeng were slightly impressed that the duo chose to leave to avoid implicating the Evil Sky Pavilion. They had completely forgotten the rules of the Evil Sky Pavilion!

The duo lowered their heads and said, "I was wrong. Please punish me severely for my mistake, Pavilion Master!"

Pan Zhong was shocked. 'Punish severely? This kind of attitude... These two Thousand Realms Whirling experts are so obedient in front of the Pavilion Master!'

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said, "Since your intention was not bad, I'll spare you this time."

"Thank you, Pavilion Master!" Shen Xi and Li Xiaomo said in unison.

Following that, Lu Zhou said, "Let me see your black lotus brands."

"Understood." Shen Xi took the lead to disrobe, revealing the black lotus brand on his chest.

Compared to before, the black lotus brand had indeed darkened. It was as though someone had just freshly painted over it with a brush.

"Don't move." Lu Zhou raised his hand and pushed his palm out as he chanted the mantra for the power of healing from the Heavenly Writing. In just a moment, a blue lotus shot out of his palm.

Ever since his extraordinary power had evolved to the supreme mystic power, he had yet to have a chance to use it with the power of healing. This was also a good opportunity for him to see the changes in the power of healing.

Meanwhile, Shen Xi and Li Xiamo were shocked by the blue lotus. During the previous battle, they had seen a flash of blue light, but they had assumed it was from some weapon. Now that they saw the

source of the blue light they had previously seen was from the blue lotus, how could they not be shocked? No wonder the Evil Sky Pavilion was beyond the understanding of people! As it turned out, there was an overlord from the blue lotus domain in the golden lotus domain's Evil Sky Pavilion!

When the blue lotus landed on Shen Xi, a cooling sensation swept through his entire body. His body trembled as the supreme mystic power invaded his body, entering his Dantian's sea of Qi and coursing through his Eight Extraordinary Meridians.

Meanwhile, the energy from the black lotus brand seemed to have met its natural predator. It seemed to resist weakly before it kept shrinking.

After 15 minutes had passed, the energy from the blue lotus disappeared. However, the black lotus brand could still be seen on Shen Xi's chest.

Lu Zhou frowned. "How stubborn."

Although the black lotus brand did not completely disappear, it had faded by half. However, Lu Zhou was not satisfied with the result.

On the contrary, Shen Xi was delighted with the result. He exclaimed excitedly, "It worked?! The black lotus brand has faded so much!"

"It's not completely gone. Let's try again," Lu Zhou said.

"Yes."

Shen Xi stood still obediently as Lu Zhou pushed out another blue lotus.

Lu Zhou had used more supreme mystic power this time around.

The blue lotus was as pure as crystal, and the color was that of the sky on a sunny day. It looked magnificent and mysterious.

When the blue lotus was in front of Shen Xi, he felt as though he was looking at the universe when he stared at the blue lotus. There was a vast and mysterious power that drew him in.

At this moment...

Puff!

The black lotus brand disappeared immediately.

...

At the same time, in one of the Black Tower Council's halls.

An old man with unkempt hair that looked to be about 60 years old grunted before he opened his eyes. He raised his hand immediately and waved it a few times as he muttered in a low voice, "Someone erased my black lotus brand?"

Beads of sweat dotted his forehead as he furrowed his brows and said with a hint of disbelief, "How's this possible? Shen Xi, no wonder you dare to leave the Black Tower Council. You better hope you don't run into me in the future."

After saying that, the old man made a few gestures with his hand. Soon enough, a black lotus appeared in his hand. However, as soon as it flew out of his hand, it shattered and disappeared.

...

At the same time, back in the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Lu Zhou was about to erase the black lotus brand for Li Xiaomo at this moment.

However, Li Xiaomo had just disrobed when the black lotus brand on his chest disappeared in front of everyone's eyes.

"This..." Li Xiaomo was dumbfounded.

On the other hand, Shen Xi said with a sneer. "He suffered a loss so he took the initiative to undo the second brand to avoid injuring himself another time!"

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. The black lotus brand was similar to the witchcraft seals. The seals could be used to track and locate a person who was thousands of miles away. However, if the seals were broken, the caster would suffer a backlash. Since the person who created the black lotus brand had already suffered the backlash from the erasure of Shen Xi's brand, that person would be stupid if he did not take initiative to undo the brand on Li Xiaomo.

At this moment, Shen Xi and Li Xiaomo exchanged a glance before they kneeled down. Following that, Shen Xi said solemnly, "We're grateful to the Pavilion Master for saving our lives. From now on, the lives of me and my brother belong to the Pavilion Master."

Lu Zhou said, "Remember your promise."

The duo no longer spoke. Instead, they respectfully kowtowed at Lu Zhou.

"Rise to your feet."

"Understood."

Lu Zhou checked the duo's loyalty and saw that their loyalty had soared by 20%. With these, a few pieces of information were made available to Lu Zhou on the system interface.

Name: Shen Xi

Identity: Great Yuan's citizen

Realm: Mystic Realm

....

Name: Li Xiaomo

Identity: Great Yuan's citizen

Realm: Mystic Realm

...

Their identities caught Lu Zhou's attention. Great Yuan must be the general name for the black lotus domain. Since he did not know much about the black lotus domain, he could take the opportunity to learn more from Shen Xi.

At this moment, Shen Xi took the initiative to say, "Pavilion Master, I can set up a formation to retrieve Miss Fifth's Great Void energy. It's best if we retrieve the energy as soon as possible. Since it's highly beneficial to cultivators, we shouldn't delay for even a moment."

"Are you confident?" Lu Zhou asked.

"Yes," Shen Xi said confidently, "The Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council had many conflicts over Birth Chart Beasts and their life hearts. It was inevitable that some life hearts during the skirmishes. Once life hearts are damaged, they have to be refined, and their energies have to be extracted immediately. I have many experiences with it. This isn't too different from extracting the Great Void energy..."

Li Xiaomo nodded and chimed in with a smile on his face, "Pavilion Master, you're unaware of this, but Brother Shen is second to none in regard to extracting energy from life hearts. If he claims second place, no one would dare to claim first place. There were also other instances when someone wasn't precise in removing life hearts and thus, damaging them. At that time, the energies from the life hearts have to be extracted immediately as well."

Lu Zhou looked at the duo. He did not expect both of them would have so much knowledge and skills. Did he pick up a treasure?

Shen Xi did not dare to brag and humbly said, "Xiaomo, don't be presumptuous in front of the Pavilion Master. It's just some petty skills. I don't dare to claim that I'm the best."

Li Xiaomo lowered his head.

Lu Zhou nodded slightly. "Everyone has their strong points. If you're skilled, there's no harm in bragging a little."

"I'll do my best," Shen Xi said, After that, he continued to say, "However... that woman, Lian Xing, probably won't survive the process."

Chapter 959: The Complete Great Void (2)

"Whether she survives or not has nothing to do with me," Lu Zhou said before he left with his hands on his back. He was thinking about trying the lucky draw again. Perhaps, he would be able to obtain another Peak Trial Card.

Shen Xi bowed and said, "I understand."

After Lu Zhou left, Pan Zhong and Zhou Jifeng approached Shen Xi and Li Xiaomo politely with smiles on their faces.

Pan Zhong said, "You're fortunate that you met the Pavilion Master. Don't carelessly talk about leaving the Evil Sky Pavilion again in the future."

Shen Xi did not expect Lu Zhou to be capable of removing the black lotus brands. Nevertheless, he felt fortunate as well. "Thank you for your reminder. If it's possible, I hope you'll give me more guidance.. Is there anything else I should pay attention to in the Evil Sky Pavilion?"

Shen Xi knew that the Evil Sky Pavilion could not be judged by common sense. Despite his constant reminder to himself, he still nearly made a mistake. If he had someone experienced guiding him, he would be able to avoid many mistakes in the future.

Shen Xi and Li Xiaomo were sincere when asking for guidance.

Pan Zhong nodded. He sighed heavily before he said, "When I joined the Evil Sky Pavilion, I suffered a lot. However, after staying in the Evil Sky Pavilion for so long, I have come to a few important conclusions. First, treat every strange phenomenon related to the Pavilion Master as normal. Second, if you encounter any difficulties, you can ask any of the ten disciples for advice. Third, the temperaments of the ten disciples are... unique. When dealing with them, remember one thing: don't overestimate yourself."

After Pan Zhong finished saying that, he laughed before he added, "These are just my experiences. I hope you won't laugh at me."

Shen Xi replied, "No, no, no. We, two brothers, are very grateful that you're imparting your wisdom to us..." Following that, he turned to Li Xiaomo and said, "Xiaomo, help me with the preparations."

"Alright."

Pan Zhong said, "Guardian Shen, if there's anything you need, please don't hesitate to speak up."

Shen Xi did not stand on courtesy and said, "I need talismans. The more, the better."

"Guardian Shen, are you from the Confucian School?"

"I dabble in both Confucianism and Taoism."

"I'm impressed, I'm impressed. I'll take my leave now and make the necessary preparations."

...

That afternoon.

Shen Xi and Li Xiaomo set up a formation on the square in the southern pavilion. Fortunately, they had accumulated quite a lot of high-grade talismans before this.

Siphoning formations originated from the black lotus domain. In fact, even Yu Chenshu's totem flag back then was also from the black lotus domain. To set up the formation, they only needed to draw the siphoning patterns from the flag to the ground with some slight modifications.

...

In the eastern pavilion.

Lu Zhou did not continue with the lucky draw. It was getting boring after getting the same notification every time.

At this moment, he thought of his first and second disciple. Although their cultivation bases had reached the Ten-leaf stage, they were not invincible in the red lotus domain. Moreover, there were also the cultivators from the black lotus domain. The situation was different from when they were at the Eight-leaf stage in the golden lotus domain.

After a moment, he closed his eyes and silently chanted the incantations for the Heavenly Writing Power.

...

Above what seemed to be a vast forest, Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong were flying at top speed.

Yu Zhenghai said, "We left in such a hurry. We should've borrowed one of master's mounts."

Yu Shangrong said with a smile, "Ji Liang is pretty good..."

"I don't like that horse. It looks soft and weak. It doesn't look heroic at all," Yu Zhenghai replied as he shook his head.

"Then, what about your Kui Niu?"

Yu Zhenghai shook his head when Yu Shangrong mentioned Kui Niu. "It must have died a long time back..."

Yu Shangrong no longer mentioned Kui Niu upon hearing these words. Instead, he looked at the distance.

Sunlight did not seem to reach the area in front of them. The forest below them was lush and pleasant to the eyes, but the area ahead looked gloomy. It was as though it was going to rain at any moment. The two areas were clearly separated.

"The Southern Kingdom should be up ahead," Yu Shangrong said.

Yu Zhenghai laughed heartily. "It's just the Southern Kingdom. I don't think much of it at all..."

Yu Shangrong did not bother to bicker with Yu Zhenghai. He flashed and moved forward.

Yu Zhenghai said, "Before I left, Seventh Junior Brother asked me to bring a life heart along. Nevertheless, I don't intend to use it."

Soon after, the duo had entered the gloomy area.

...

Lu Zhou stopped observing his eldest and second disciple. Instead, he checked on his eighth disciple.

Similar to Yu Shangrong, Zhu Honggong was also facing problems with activating his Birth Chart after severing his lotus. However, he did not seem bothered by this.

Lu Li, on the other hand, had been working tirelessly to find a solution to this problem.

Lu Zhou cut off the Heavenly Writing Power as he sighed. "How can I solve this problem of activating a Birth Chart without a lotus?"

...

The next morning.

After Lu Zhou recovered his supreme mystic power, he made his way to the southern pavilion.

The southern pavilion was bustling with activities this morning.

When everyone saw Lu Zhou, they bowed and greeted him immediately.

“Pavilion Master.”

Lu Zhou looked at the huge formation that had been drawn on the ground that was covered with talismans. Based on the meticulously drawn intricate patterns, it was obvious that Shen Xi had done this often in the past.

After putting the finishing touches on the Formation, Shen Xi rose to his feet.

“Are you ready?” Lu Zhou asked.

“Yes. To be on the safe side, I drew three formations,” Shen Xi replied.

“Okay.” Lu Zhou nodded. Lu Zhou turned his head to the side and said, “Bring her here.”

“Understood.”

Soon after, Pan Zhong brought an expressionless Lian Xing to the southern pavilion.

Zhao Yue was following behind them.

When Lian Xing was near the formation, Shen Xi raised his hand. A black lotus appeared above his palm, and he pushed it toward Lian Xing.

Pan Zhong and Zhou Jifeng were inwardly shocked when they saw the black lotus.

Following that, Lian Xing was pulled over by a force.

Shen Xi manifested his black astrolabe in his hand before he pushed it upward.

When the astrolabe was in the sky, it increased in size until it covered the sky and the sun above the southern pavilion.

Pan Zhong. “...”

So this was a Thousand Realms Whirling expert?

At this moment, the Primal Qi in the surroundings began to fluctuate.

At this moment, Cheng Huang flew over from the distance. When it was approaching the huge astrolabe, it gracefully swooped underneath the astrolabe.

Ye Tianxin, who was dressed in white, dismounted from Cheng Huang’s back and bowed in the air.

“Disciple greets master, Guardian Shen, and Guardian Li.”

Shen Xi and Li Xiaomo did not dare to be negligent and hurriedly cupped their fists together. "Greetings, Miss Six."

Lian Xing looked at the white-clad woman hovering in the sky in surprise. To think there was such an otherworldly woman in this world. Even someone like her could not help but take a second glance. After she looked at Cheng Huang, she suddenly laughed.

Zhao Yue frowned. "What are you laughing at?"

As though she had lost her mind, Lian Xing laughed maniacally as she said, "Great Void energy.... She has the Great Void energy as well! Who are you? Where did you come from?"

Lu Zhou said, "How do you know she has the Great Void energy as well?"

"How could Cheng Huang be willing to be someone's mount?" Lian Xing said with a laugh, unwilling to explain anymore.

Shen Xi looked at Ye Tianxin and Cheng Huang before he said, "She's right. This Birth Chart Beast is very smart. It deliberately parted with its life heart before this... It's more than 10,000 years old. This means its life heart holds 2,000 years of life. It's said that only people with Great Void seeds or Great Void energy are able to subdue Birth Chart Beasts more than 10,000 years old."

Lu Zhou nodded. He had to find a way for his disciples to hide their auras and energies as soon as possible. After a moment, he said, "Alright. Let's begin."

"Understood." Subsequently, Shen Xi raised one hand to the sky.

The black astrolabe that covered the sky above the southern pavilion began to spin immediately.

Buzz!

The pattern of the formation on the ground began to lit up as well. Like stars in the sky, they were connected and formed different shapes that emitted a mysterious energy.

Even Lu Zhou was surprised by the intricacy of the Dao inscriptions. He really made a wise decision by accepting this Thousand Realms Whirling expert into the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Chapter 960: Cultivation Base Rising Rapidly

Shen Xi's gaze hardened as he looked at Lian Xing and said, "Sorry for the offense."

Following that, Shen Xi waved his left hand.

Lian Xing cried out when she was suddenly pulled into the eye of the formation. In just an instant, black vine-like energies emerged from the Dao inscriptions on the floor and restrained her. It did not take long before she gave up on struggling and resisting.

"Miss Fifth," Shen Xi called out.

Zhao Yue walked to the other formation that mirrored the formation Lian Xing was standing on. Similarly, black vine-like energies emerged and restrained her as well.

Following that, the astrolabe emitted an energy that felt palpably heavy.

Upon sensing this, Lu Zhou used the Heavenly Writing's power of sight to watch the scene before him. He saw tiny blue spots of light like grains of sand slowly leaving Lian Xing's body before moving toward Zhao Yue.

'Great Void energy?' At this moment, he discovered that the Great Void energy and the supreme mystic power were rather similar in that they were both blue.

So this was the effect of the Great Void Seed? Lu Zhou grew even more curious about the Unknown Land.

He thought about Conch who came from the Unknown Land and wondered why she had a red lotus.

Soon after, his mind wandered to Ji Tiandao and Luo Xuan who had been to the Unknown Land. With their low cultivation bases at that time, how did they safely escape the Thousand Realms Whirling experts there? What tricks did they have up their sleeves?

At this moment, Shen Xi called out, "Xiaomo."

"Coming." Li Xiaomo hurriedly stepped forward and manifested his black astrolabe as well. Then, it hovered above the third formation, covering it.

"Two astrolabes, three formations, five layers of protection..."

The blue grain-like energy connected Lian Xing and Zhao Yue like the Milky Way.

Lian Xing could acutely feel the Great Void energy she had obtained with great difficulty leaving her body. At this moment, she regretted her decision immensely. She cried out, "No!"

"There's no room for you to refuse!"

Shen Xi moved his hand again.

The astrolabe in the sky dropped a few meters while the astrolabe on the ground rose a few meters.

Accordingly, the siphoning strength increased by several times as well.

Lian Xing's eyes widened in fear as she cried out, "My Great Void energy! My cultivation base!" She struggled against the black vine-like energies in vain.

The power of the Thousand Realms Whirling astrolabes was like a huge vortex, constantly drawing out the Great Void energy from Lian Xing's Eight Extraordinary Meridians, internal organs, and Dantian's sea of Qi before it entered Zhao Yue's body.

The entire process was rather long.

Lu Zhou studied the changes between the two. Since this was related to Zhao Yue's future, it was best if he kept a close eye to make sure nothing went wrong.

Lu Zhou had always wondered if it was really a coincidence that Ji Tiandao obtained ten Great Void Seeds, and the number of disciples he had was exactly ten as well. Moreover, there was the poem, 'The bright moon shines over the sea; from far away we share this moment together', that seemed to predict the names of his disciples.

Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!

The power generated by the two black astrolabes grew even more powerful. The energy left Lian Xing's body in waves now.

"Zhao Yue! I... I saved your life! Now I... I want it back!" Lian Xing cried out. Following that, she began to laugh maniacally again.

Shen Xi said with a frown on his face, "What a hypocrite." Then, he turned to Lu Zhou and said, "She has long made preparations to die. All her Birth Charts boost Primal Qi!"

Lu Zhou asked, "What are the effects?"

"Miss Fifth only has six leaves so her Dantian's sea of Qi is weak. If so much Primal Qi is transferred over at the same time, I'm afraid it will..."

To put it bluntly, Zhao Yue's Dantian's sea of Qi would not be able to withstand such a huge influx of Primal Qi.

Shen Xi said, "Fortunately, I've made sufficient preparations. These formations can suppress the Primal Qi, and I'll be able to extract just the Great Void energy."

"So we have to give up on the Primal Qi?"

"We have no choice but to give it up," Shen Xi replied.

Lu Zhou thought for a moment before he said, "Not necessarily."

"Pavilion Master, you mean to siphon all of it? This is..." Shen Xi looked troubled. However, in the end, he said, "Alright, I'll do my best."

At this moment, Lu Zhou raised his head and called out, "Tianxin."

"Your orders, master?"

"Give the excess Primal Qi to Cheng Huang," Lu Zhou said.

"Understood." Ye Tianxin nodded.

Shen Xi looked at Cheng Huang that was sitting nearby.

After Ye Tianxin spoke to Cheng Huang, it roared loudly before it leaped high up into the air, past the astrolabe. Then, it turned its body around before it dove with a thunderous noise.

Pan Zhong scratched his head and said, "Heavens! Every time you order it to move, the earth and the mountains will shake!"

Ye Tianxin could only smile helplessly. There was nothing that could be done since Cheng Huang was so big. To think this was after it had shrunk.

Cheng Huang lowered its head. Its long face and ears made it look rather graceful, and it complemented Ye Tianxin's pure temperament. At this moment, it suddenly blinked and opened its mouth. A vortex seemed to appear and drew Lian Xing's Primal Qi into its mouth.

Everyone was stunned by this sight.

Li Xiaomo said in a daze, "Brother Shen, if... Chenghuang were in peak condition, do you think you'll be able to take it down?"

Shen Xi shook his head. "I'm not sure."

"What about now in its current state?"

"Perhaps, with schemes and tricks it's possible. However, it's unusually smart and won't be easily fooled. Usually, 10,000-year-old Birth Chart Beasts like this rarely leave their territories."

Ye Tianxin, who was hovering in the sky, said, "It came from the Moonlight Woodland where there are countless fierce beasts. Six-leaf cultivators can enter the outer parts of the forest. To go slightly deeper, one would need seven or eight leaves, but one should never provoke the fierce beasts there. In the depths of the forest, there's a 10,000-foot-deep abyss. In the abyss, there are even fiercer beasts. It's not a place where cultivators can enter. If it weren't Cheng Huang, I would've died at that time."

Shen Xi said, intrigued, "The Moonlight Woodland? Even I feel like taking a look after listening to you..."

"Guardian Shen is a Thousand Realms Whirling expert so you can naturally enter and leave as you please..."

Shen Xi waved his hand and modestly said, "Not necessarily. There are many strange things in this vast world. Miss Sixth has the Great Void energy. Even 10,000-year-old fierce beasts would submit to you, let alone the weak fierce beasts. If a Thousand Realms Whirling expert encounters a horde of fierce beasts, without any means to escape, he or she would still be torn to pieces."

After all, it was hard to fight against numbers. Moreover, beasts could not be reasoned with like humans. This was similar to Lu Li's situation at the Endless Ocean.

Meanwhile, Cheng Huang burped happily after it absorbed the excess Primal Qi.

Lian Xing's voice trembled, "Why?"

Buzz!

Shen Xi no longer held back. He increased the spinning speed of the two astrolabes.

All the Great Void energy and Primal Qi entered Zhao Yue's body.

Zhao Yue felt as though her Dantian's sea of Qi was going to explode as energy surged in. At the same time, she also felt the power coursing through her Extraordinary Eight Meridians. With these, her cultivation continued to soar.

Soon enough, Zhao Yue felt a cooling sensation as the energy attacked the wall of her sea of Qi after it was fully filled, trying to expand it. The cooling sensation came from the Great Void energy.

She hurriedly manifested her Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar that was missing its lotus. It looked incredibly insignificant next to the two black astrolabes.

Swoosh!

The seventh leaf appeared.

Her cultivation base continued to rise rapidly.

Swoosh!

The eighth leaf appeared.

Pan Zhong and Zhou Jifeng watched with eyes filled with envy. The speed of the cultivation base rising had overturned their understanding of cultivation.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded in satisfaction. "Guard your Dantian and let the Primal Qi in. Lian Xing is a Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator; seize this opportunity, and you might be able to sprout the tenth leaf."

"Yes, master."

Inside the formation, the surging Primal Qi that was drawn out by the astrolabe and the formation entered the Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar. With that, the golden avatar grew rapidly.

After 15 minutes...

Swoosh!

The ninth leaf appeared.

At the same time, Ye Tianxin who was hovering in the air said with a smile, "Master, the fierce beast is here. Please allow me to deal with it."