

## Disciples 961

### Chapter 961: Thousand Realms Whirling Experts Want To Be Errand Boys?

“Go.” Lu Zhou was not interested in the giant beast that was attracted by the nine leaves. Ye Tianxin was enough to deal with it. He continued to observe Zhao Yue’s avatar. Without the golden lotus, she would also face the same problem as Yu Shangrong. For this reason, even if she could absorb Lian Xing’s Thousand Realms Whirling cultivation base, she would only reach the Ten-leaf stage at most. He still needed time to figure out how to activate Birth Charts without a lotus. This problem could not be solved in a short time. Even with Lu Li’s knowledge and all the resources in the yellow lotus domain, he and Zhu Honggong still could not find a solution with all the resources in the yellow lotus domain. Based on this, it was clear that this was not an easy problem to solve.

At this moment, Shen Xi called out, “Xiaomo!”

“Understood.” Li Xiaomo seemed to have a tacit understanding with Shen Xi. He smacked his hands on the ground, and the astrolabe at the bottom disappeared immediately.

The talismans on the ground lit up one after another, and their flames connected, forming a square boundary. When the flames surged up to the astrolabe at the top, black ring lights fell one after another from the sky.

“You’re helping her to sprout leaves?” Lu Zhou was surprised when he saw this. As the black rings of light fell, he could clearly see circles of light falling from Zhao Yue’s avatar as well.

Shen Xi said, “Pavilion Master, you have sharp eyes. I drew a support-type formation above these formations as well. Although it took me an entire night to prepare, the result is worth it. With the Great Void energy and the Thousand Realms Whirling cultivation base, it might help Miss Fifth activate her Birth Chart.”

Lu Zhou sighed and pointed at Zhao Yue’s avatar. “I’m afraid not...”

Shen Xi had been focused on the formations so he did not notice the abnormality of Zhao Yue’s avatar. Therefore, he was shocked and confused when he turned around and saw that there was no lotus under Zhao Yue’s avatar.

“This...” This was beyond Shen Xi’s comprehension.

In the black lotus domain and the red lotus domain, there was no cultivation method of severing one’s lotus, after all. This technique was unique to the golden lotus domain. No matter how knowledgeable Shen Xi was, it was impossible for him to know this. Moreover, his missions were all centered in the red lotus domain so how could he be privy to the matters in the golden lotus domain?

Without a lotus, there would be no lotus seat and Birth Palace. Without a Birth Palace, there was no way to activate the Birth Chart.

Shen Xi sighed. “What a pity!”

At this moment, Li Xiaomo pointed at Lian Xing and called out, “Brother Sheng.”

Shen Xi looked over. He frowned and moved the astrolabe lower. “You want to self-destruct?”

The Thousand Realms Whirling astrolabe with four Birth Charts returned to its original size and flew toward Lian Xiang.

With the help from the astrolabe, energy seals formed a cylinder barrier around Lian Xing immediately, trapping her.

Meanwhile, as the black circles of light continued to fall, Zhao Yue's avatar grew stronger and more vivid.

Pan Zhong said excitedly, "The leaf is about to appear!"

As soon as Pan Zhong's voice fell, another leaf appeared among the nine leaves that revolved around the avatar. The golden light flashed before the avatar increased in size.

Swoosh!

Immediately after that, the formations on the ground disappeared.

Shen Xi smiled and put his astrolabe away. "It's a success!"

When the astrolabe disappeared, the black energy seals disappeared as well. Similarly, Lian Xing was nowhere to be seen.

Lu Zhou looked at Zhao Yue and confirmed that the Great Void energy had returned to its rightful owner. As for Lian Xing, he did not bother with her at all.

Meanwhile, Zhao Yue looked at the Ten-leaf avatar in front of her in a daze. There was a hint of disbelief in her eyes as well when she looked at her avatar.

After a long time, Shen Xi broke the silence and said with a smile on his face, "Congratulations, Miss Fifth!"

Li Xiaomo, Pan Zhong, and Zhou Jifeng followed suit and congratulated Zhao Yue.

"Congratulations, Miss Fifth!"

Zhao Yue did not dare to be arrogant so she humbly and courteously thanked Shen Xi and Li Xiaomo. "Guardian Shen, Guardian Li, thank you for helping me."

"You're welcome." Shen Xi was rather moved. He had prepared himself to be ostracized and suppressed after joining the Evil Sky Pavilion. After all, a newcomer was always targeted. However, contrary to his expectations, nothing like that happened at all.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

At this moment, a thunderous noise rang from north of Golden Court Mountain.

Shen Xi smiled and said, "A Birth Chart Beast should've arrived. I'll go and deal with it."

Lu Zhou nodded.

Shen Xi and Li Xiaomo did not waste time and flew north of Golden Court Mountain.

When Shen Xi arrived, he saw Cheng Huang fighting against two beasts. One of its paws was pressed against one beast while it bit the newly arrived Birth Chart Beast.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The huge beast that arrived first was drenched in blood and could no longer struggle. After a short moment, it died miserably.

The Birth Chart Beast was much stronger, but it still paled in comparison to Cheng Huang.

Ye Tianxin would help out from the side from time to time by tossing out her Amorous Hoop at the Birth Chart Beast.

Shen Xi smiled wryly as he said with a helpless expression on his face, "It seems like we're not needed here..."

Li Xiaomo nodded as well. "Well, she's someone with the Great Void energy, after all."

"Great Void..." Shen Xi muttered to himself.

At this moment, Li Xiaomo reminded Shen Xi, "Brother Shen, even if we're not needed, we still have to take action."

Shen Xi nodded. "You have a point. Collecting life hearts is our specialty after all."

Shen Xi flashed next to Ye Tianxin before he bowed and said, "Miss Sixth, leave this to me. This Birth Chart Beast is called the Damask Bird. Its life heart is two inches below the navel, and its vital parts surround its hearts. If it's not precise, we risk damaging the life heart."

Upon hearing this, Ye Tianxin nodded. "I understand."

Shen Xi raised his right.

A black astrolabe appeared immediately. It emitted a mysterious energy and black smoke. Its visual was rather impactful as it streaked across the sky.

Those who had never seen Thousand Realms Whirling were naturally shocked and in awe when they saw this.

Ye Tianxin asked, "So this is the astrolabe from the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar?"

Shen Xi said, "Miss Six will have one sooner or later. After sprouting the tenth leaf, once your cultivation base is stable, you can activate your Birth Chart. Once you activate your first Birth Chart, you'll be able to form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. However, the process of forming a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar is rather difficult. Nevertheless, once you've completed it, your strength will improve by leaps and bounds. Needless to say, with the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, you'll naturally have an astrolabe as well."

"I... I can form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar?" Ye Tianxin asked.

Shen Xi thought to himself, "The big shots in the Evil Sky Pavilion are really modest. She can make Cheng Huang submit to her, and she possesses the Great Void energy. Is there anyone who thinks she won't be able to form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar?"

Outwardly, Shen Xi said, "Miss Sixth, you must be joking. Those with Great Void energy can activate at least eight Birth Charts. At that time, we'll have to rely on you..."

After Shen Xi finished speaking, he leaped out.

The Birth Chart disk on the astrolabe lit up before four beams of black light shot out from the astrolabe. In just a blink of an eye, they accurately pierced the Birth Chart Beast's four vital parts.

Shen Xi's expression remained unchanged as he withdrew his astrolabe.

When the four beams of light subsided, a crystal clear heart could be seen.

Ye Tianxin was shocked. This skill was beyond one's imaginations. The power of a Thousand Realms Whirling expert was truly unbelievable. Initially, she did not have any thoughts about forming the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. She was contented staying at the Nine-leaf stage all her life. It was not a bad thing for her to stay quietly in the Evil Sky Pavilion and guard it all her life. However, expectations began to take root in her heart when she saw the mysterious and powerful astrolabe. How could she remain unmoved as a cultivator?

After collecting the life heart, Shen Xi looked at the falling Damask Bird.

Boom!

The Damask Bird's corpse stirred up a cloud of dust when it landed on the ground.

Meanwhile, Pan Zhong and Zhou Jifeng, who was hovering above the Evil Sky Pavilion, gulped when they saw this scene.

"Is this the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar?"

"What do you think? Such a powerful beast was killed with just a strike. Why do I feel like he's stronger than the Pavilion Master?" Zhou Jifeng said.

Pan Zhong looked at Zhou Jifeng from the corners of his eyes and said sarcastically, "Then, how do you think the Pavilion Master managed to make these experts submit to him? With his personality and charm?"

Swoosh!

When Pan Zhong turned to look at Zhou Jifeng, not even Zhou Jifeng's shadow could be seen.

At this time, Shen Xi and Li Xiaomo appeared a few meters in front of Pan Zhong.

Shen Xi said, "Excuse me for embarrassing myself in front of you, Brother Pan."

"No, no, no, Guardian Sheng. Your strength is amazing!" Pan Zhong said.

"It's just a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar; it's not worth mentioning. If you have any errands or chores in the future, don't hesitate to ask both of us for help," Shen Xi said as he patted his chest and pointed at Li Xiaomo.

"..."

Pan Zhong thought to himself, 'It's over! Zhou Jifeng was right! We might not be able to hold onto our positions as errand boys anymore!'

At this moment, Zhou Jifeng suddenly called out from below, "Brother Pan, Guardian Shen, Guardian Li, we have visitors at Golden Court Mountain. Should we invite them in or refuse them?"

"Visitors?"

"You can have a look yourself."

Pan Zhong and Shen Xi, who were hovering in the sky, looked at the foot of the mountain.

As expected, flying chariots were arriving near Golden Court Mountain one after another.

Shen Xi said, "There are so many visitors. We should be careful."

"You have a point. I'll inform the Pavilion Master," Pan Zhong said before he descended.

Shen Xi and Li Xiaomo followed suit.

The duo handed the life heart to Zhao Yue while Pan Zhong headed to the eastern pavilion to inform Lu Zhou about the visitors.

Lu Zhou originally did not want to see any visitors, but after considering the future development of the golden lotus domain, he said, "Let them all in."

"Understood," Pan Zhong said before he went to the foot of the mountain to receive the visitors.

...

In the great hall of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

It was almost noon at this time.

Lu Zhou had already arrived in the hall.

"Tian Sect's Nan Gongwei greets Senior Ji," Nan Gongwei said as he led two disciples into the hall.

"Luo Sect's Feng Yizhi pays respect to Senior Ji," Feng Yizhi said as he entered the hall.

Every time a person entered the hall, they would bring a heavy box with them.

"The Ancient Saints Cult's Zhu Tianyuan's greets Brother Ji! Long time no see!"

"Zhou Youcai of the Big Dipper Academy pays respect to Senior Ji..."

**Chapter 962: What Kind Of Teaching Is This?**

"The Four Protectors of the Nether Sect pay respect to the Patriarch." Hua Chongyang, Bai Yuqing, Yang Yan, and Di Qing entered the main hall one after another.

"Huang Shijie of Penglai Island and Li Jinyi have come to visit Senior Ji." Huang Shijie and Li Jinyi, one old and one young, appeared in the main hall as well.

Lu Zhou was slightly surprised. He did not expect news of his return would spread so quickly.

At this time, all of the sect masters and prominent figures in Great Yan's cultivation world were present. When they saw Lu Zhou's black hair, they were in disbelief. However, when they thought about the shackles being broken and cultivators being able to sprout the ninth leaf, resulting in the restrictions on one's life span being lifted, they did not think it was too strange. No one bothered finding out why he had gotten younger.

Shen Xi was inwardly speechless when he saw the visitors standing at the side respectfully while they held their gifts. He turned to Pan Zhong and asked discreetly, "The Pavilion Master is so highly revered?"

Pan Zhong smiled upon hearing Shen Xi's words before he replied, "Guardian Shen, you've just joined the Evil Sky Pavilion so it's only natural you don't know much about it. In Great Yan, the Evil Sky Pavilion is inviolable."

Shen Xi nodded, thinking it was reasonable. After all, the Pavilion Master was indeed someone with charm and vision. Most importantly, he was a prominent figure from the blue lotus domain. It was not surprising that so many important figures were here to curry favor with the Pavilion Master. As the saying went, 'It's better to be the head of a chicken than the tail of a phoenix'.

After everyone had arrived, they bowed in unison.

Lu Zhou had placed too much importance on formalities so he waved his hand and said, "Dispense with the formalities."

Lu Zhou looked at the people present; there were many unfamiliar faces among the visitors. Fortunately, he had the Eye of Truth so he could see those who harbored malicious intentions. However, there was no one like that among the people present in the hall.

Zhu Tianyuan broke the silence first as he asked, "Brother Ji, how's my useless son doing recently?"

This question directly hit the nail on the head.

Lu Zhou answered honestly, "You should worry about yourself. His life is now much more comfortable than yours."

"Huh?" Zhu Tianyuan was puzzled.

Lu Zhou continued to say, "He's now the Sect Master of the Flood Sect and an overlord of a domain."

An expression of disbelief appeared on Zhu Tianyuan's face immediately. "Him? Brother Ji, there's no need to comfort me. If that rascal misbehaves, you can just beat him up. You don't have to care about my feelings."

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

Zhu Tianyuan hurriedly said, "... That's great! My son is following in my footsteps."

After Zhu Tianyuan finished speaking, he grabbed the person next to him and said, "Mister Eighth of the Evil Sky Pavilion is my son!"

The person who happened to be standing next to Zhu Tianyuan was none other than the newcomer, Shen Xi.

When Zhu Tianyuan saw the unfamiliar face of the person next to him, he repeated himself, "Mister Eighth of the Evil Sky Pavilion in my son!"

Shen Xi was a little dumbfounded. 'Is this really Mister Eighth's father?' Then, he hurriedly looked at Pan Zhong for clarifications.

Pan Zhong, naturally, knew what Shen Xi was asking even if Shen Xi did not speak. He nodded, indicating Zhu Tianyuan was telling the truth.

Upon obtaining confirmation from Pan Zhong, Shen Xi did not dare to be negligent and cupped his fists together before he said, "Senior, nice to meet you."

"I don't think I've met you before. May I ask who you are?"

"I'm Shen Xi. I just joined the Evil Sky Pavilion," Shen Xi said. Then, he turned to the side before he continued to say, "This is my brother, Li Xiaomo."

Zhu Tianyuan smiled. "I see, I see."

The duo continued to exchange pleasantries for a brief moment before they fell silent.

At this moment, Lu Zhou swept his gaze across the crowd and said, "I've been away from Great Yan for a long time, and I wonder how much things have changed here? The Evil Sky Pavilion managed to gain a foothold in Great Yan due to everyone's help."

"No, no, no, Senior Ji is being too courteous," Nan Gongwei said, "In fact, we rely on the Evil Sky Pavilion, especially Miss Sixth and Cheng Huang. They often deal with the fierce beasts in Great Yan. Without the Evil Sky Pavilion, our cultivation bases wouldn't have improved so quickly."

Lu Zhou slowly rose to his feet. He placed one hand on his back as he stroked his beard and looked at Nan Gongwei. This was a good opportunity to understand their strength. Although this group of people did not represent the entire strength of the golden lotus domain or Great Yan, they were prominent figures from major sects.

After a moment, Lu Zhou asked, "What's your cultivation base?"

Nan Gongwei replied with a hint of pride, "I've only just sprouted the ninth leaf."

Feng Yizhi chimed in, "I've broken the shackles in the golden lotus domain and has obtained nine leaves."

Li Jinyi also replied and said she had nine leaves.

Shortly after, Zhou Youcai cupped his fists together and said, "The Big Dipper Academy has five Nine-leaf cultivators, but I'm the only one who's present today."

After Zhou Youcai finished speaking everyone looked at him in surprise.

It seemed like most of the visitors were at the Nine-leaf stage.

On the other hand, the Four Protectors of the Nether Sect looked embarrassed.

Hua Chongyang said, "I'm lucky to have sprouted the ninth leaf. However, my three brothers were heavily injured during the battle in Yu Province. It took a long time for them to recover. In fact, it's considered quite good that they're able to preserve their Dantians' seas of Qi. Although they only sprouted six leaves, there's no doubt that they've cultivated diligently."

Upon hearing this, Huang Shijie said, "This isn't your fault, and it's understandable. These things can't be forced."

Everyone nodded. They did not look down on the Four Protectors of the Nether Sect.

At this moment, Lu Zhou asked, "There are no Ten-leaf cultivators?"

Everyone. "..."

The hall was as silent as a graveyard.

Lu Zhou's question stumped everyone. In fact, it could be seen on their faces that they were skeptical about sprouting the tenth leaf.

Meanwhile, Shen Xi was surprised. He did not know much about the golden lotus domain; he only knew that the Black Tower Council planned to implement the captive plan here. After a moment, he looked at Lu Zhou and said, "Pavilion Master, this is actually a good thing."

Lu Zhou asked, puzzled, "What do you mean?"

"The Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council have always monopolized Birth Chart Beasts. Before implementing the captive plan, they would inspect a domain in advance. Although Nine-leaf cultivators aren't strong, they're the key to attracting elementary Birth Chart Beasts. We'll be one step ahead of them if we monopolize the Birth Chart Beasts here first."

'Nine-leaf cultivators aren't strong?'

These words caught everyone's attention immediately. In Great Yan, Eight-leaf cultivators were top experts. However, this person just said that Nine-leaf cultivators were not strong? The Nine-leaf stage was what every cultivator dreamed of in the golden lotus domain.

At this moment, Shen Xi seemed to realize the error in his words. He hurriedly bowed and explained, "It was a slip of the tongue. It's not my intention to belittle everyone. I hope you can all forgive me."

Pan Zhong and Zhou Jifeng. "..."

"It's okay. We're not petty people," Zhu Tianyuan said with a smile.



Everyone nodded in agreement. They were all experienced people; how could they get angry over a few words?

At this moment, Lu Zhou said in a slightly raised voice, “Shen Xi is the new Guardian of the Evil Sky Pavilion. Although his words might sound unpleasant, I agree with what he said. Nine leaves are indeed too weak...”

“...”

Since the Pavilion Master of the Evil Sky Pavilion had spoken, the others could only accept it

Lu Zhou called out, “Shen Xi.”

“Your orders, Pavilion Master?” Shen Xi bowed.

Lu Zhou waved his hand, signaling Shen Xi to reveal his cultivation base.

Shen Xi understood Lu Zhou’s intention and nodded. “Understood.”

A look of anticipation could be seen on everyone’s faces as they looked at Shen Xi who had just joined the Evil Sky Pavilion.

All of a sudden, Primal Qi surged and Shen Xi disappeared from the main hall, leaving an extremely faint afterimage in his wake. Following that, he reappeared outside of the hall. He raised his hand and pushed it skyward.

Everyone hurried out of the main hall to have a better look.

Buzz!

An astrolabe appeared in the air. Initially, it only had a diameter of a few meters. However, it rapidly grew in size, and it did not take long before it covered the sky. The black astrolabe and its Birth Chart disk caused the entire place to darken immediately.

At this moment, Shen Xi withdrew his hand, and the black astrolabe disappeared, allowing light to return.

Shen Xi felt rather proud. Ever since he joined the Evil Sky Pavilion, this was his most glorious moment. From what he gathered, apart from the Pavilion Master, he had the highest cultivation base.

Similar to earlier, Zhu Tianyuan was the first to break the silence. He nodded as he walked over and said, “Not bad, not bad. Your energy seal can even cover the sky. It’s comparable to mine.”

Shen Xi. “???”

Zhu Tianyuan nudged Shen Xi and asked in a low voice, “Is it the Demonic Zen? How did you manifest that huge disk? Will you teach me?”

### **Chapter 963: Ashamed**

Shen Xi was very confused. Even if this was not his strongest technique, it looked magnificent and cool. It clearly showed the level of his cultivation base. The astrolabe and the glowing Birth Charts were the unique signs of a Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator.

Zhu Tianyuan continued to say with a smile, "What kind of move was that? Come on, teach me."

Did Zhu Tianyuan really not know about the astrolabe and what it represented? Or did he really mistake a wolf for a stray dog?

Shen Xi coughed to cover up his embarrassment before he said, "This... Uh, I'm afraid I can't teach you..."

Zhu Tianyuan laughed before he said good-naturedly, "Hey, hey, are you underestimating me? I've created many fighting techniques, you know. I'm sure you've never seen anything like them before. Come on. If you teach that technique, I'll teach you two of my techniques!"

"..."

The cultivators present had never seen a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar in their lives. How could they have recognized the astrolabe or understood what it represented?

Pan Zhong who overheard the entire conversation felt incredibly embarrassed. He hurriedly stepped forward and grabbed Zhu Tianyuan's arm before he said in a hushed voice, "Senior, this... Guardian Shen really can't teach you that..."

"Why not?" Zhu Tianyuan asked in confusion.

Pan Zhong replied, "That move is unique to Thousand Realms Whirling experts! It's only natural it can't be taught!"

"..."

Everyone turned to look at Shen Xi in unison when they heard Pan Zhong's words.

When Pan Zhong saw his words had caught everyone's attention, he continued to say, "That's right. Guardian Shen and Guardian Li are Mystic Realm experts!"

Despite Pan Zhong's words, there was still a hint of disbelief on everyone's faces.

Upon seeing this, Pan Zhong turned around and said, "Guardian Shen, forget about the astrolabe. It's better to show your avatar."

Shen Xi nodded in understanding.

Buzz!

The sound of energy resonating rang in the air.

Soon enough, a black lotus that covered half the area in front of the Evil Sky Pavilion's main hall appeared in front of everyone's eyes. Ten dazzling leaves like the blades of assassins that caused everyone to shudder could be seen as well. The Birth Palace on the lotus seat with distinct zones shone, illuminating its surroundings. Following that, a black avatar appeared and rapidly increased in size.

100 feet.

200 feet.

300 feet.

400 feet.

450 feet.

In Great Yan, most experts were stuck at the Eight-leaf stage. If it were not for the 1,000-year limit of their lifespans, there would be Eight-leaf cultivators in every corner of Great Yan. Eight-leaf cultivators were rather outstanding with their avatars that were 100 feet tall in Great Yan. However, after the lotus-severing technique appeared in Great Yan, cultivators who managed to sprout the ninth-leaf saw an increase in their avatars' height from 100 feet to 150 feet.

So, what was that 450-foot avatar?!

Naturally, these people were not fools. They knew the height of an avatar represented one's cultivation base. Although the height of 450 feet exceeded their understanding, they knew this was a height that they could not reach.

After a moment, they recalled Pan Zhong's earlier words. So this was the Mystic Realm?

Meanwhile, a black astrolabe appeared at the back of the 450-foot avatar. The 12 lines on the astrolabe were very distinct, and the four Birth Charts shone dazzlingly.

Zhu Tianyun gulped as he looked at the avatar. 'Ah... Indeed, something like this can't be taught...'

Meanwhile, Shen Xi enjoyed the admiration from the crowd. Perhaps, he had been in the Black Tower Council for too long and was constantly inundated with cruel missions like searching for and killing Birth Chart Beasts. Even if the missions were completed beautifully, he would only receive some token reward from the Black Tower Council. If he performed exceptionally well, he would maybe receive perfunctory praise from the Upper Council.

Therefore, Shen Xi did not immediately withdraw his avatar. Even if he had to waste a little Primal Qi, it did not matter to him.

The visitors continued to look at the avatar in admiration and praised it.

After a long time, Lu Zhou's voice finally rang from the main hall. "That's enough."

Now that Lu Zhou had spoken, Shen Xi no longer dared to show off. He bowed immediately. "Understood."

In just a blink of an eye, the avatar vanished into thin air.

Everyone was still in a daze. However, a hint of envy could be seen on their faces as well.

Shen Xi said, "Sorry for showing you a joke..."

"..."

Zhu Tianyuan's expression was rather unnatural at this moment. He wanted to nudge Shen Xi with his elbow again, but he did not feel it was appropriate. In the end, he only said, "I apologize. I... My eyes aren't discerning enough..."

"It's nothing. It's just a small trick," Shen Xi said modestly.

Everyone nodded in approval. They assumed a high and mighty Mystic Realm expert would be arrogant. They did not expect Shen Xi to be so courteous and humble. Finally, all of them shuffled back into the main hall.

When everyone returned to their positions, Lu Zhou walked down the stairs and swept his gaze across them as he said, "I asked Shen Xi to reveal his cultivation base for two reasons." He paused briefly before he continued to say, "First, it's to tell you that you must not be a frog at the bottom of the well. Apart from the red lotus domain, there are also powerful experts from the black lotus domain and the white lotus domain. Second, when you reach the Ten-leaf stage, you'll attract the Birth Chart Beasts. In the coming days, I want all of you to leave a person from your sect here to learn from Shen Xi. He'll teach you the way to sprout the tenth leaf, to activate your Birth Charts, and the way to kill Birth Chart Beasts. Only by getting stronger can we stop others from seizing control of the golden lotus domain."

Upon hearing Lu Zhou's words, the cultivators were overcome by emotions.

Nan Gongwei stepped forward and said, "Pavilion Master's magnanimity is truly awe-inspiring!"

Everyone followed suit and bowed.

"Truly awe-inspiring and admirable!"

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou looked at Shen Xi and asked, "Guardian Shen, what do you think?"

Shen Xi was slightly taken aback. When he regained his senses, he nodded and said, "I'll follow Pavilion Master's orders."

"Then I'll leave them to you..."

"Understood."

Following that, the leaders of the sect began to select people to learn from Shen Xi.

Nan Gongwei hurriedly said to Elder Chu Nan, "Elder Chu, your ability is not bad. When you return, you should handle the affairs of the Tian Sect on my behalf. I'll reluctantly stay behind."

Chu Nan was startled by these words. He said, "Sect Master, you can't do this. The sect can't be without its master for a day. If you're not around, it'd be difficult to keep the others in line."

Nan Gongwei mulled over Chu Nan's words for a moment before he said decisively, "Then how about this? You can temporarily take over the position of Sect Master!"

Chu Nan said, "It's inappropriate for me to temporarily take over the Sect Master's position. Moreover, people will know I'm borrowing your power to deal with matters, and they won't be convinced. I think it's better for me to stay behind."

Nan Gongwei hardened his heart and said determinedly, "Fine! Then you can just become the Sect Master! At that time, I'd like to see who dares to object!"

Chu Nan. "???"

This scene was repeated in the other sects as well.

Meanwhile, everyone from the Evil Sky Pavilion felt rather speechless when they saw this.

Shen Xi did not expect this level of enthusiasm as well. He suddenly recalled something and said after he bowed, "Pavilion Master, I'm afraid we can't activate the Birth Charts without a lotus."

This matter had been lingering in his mind since he saw Zhao Yue's lotus-less avatar. It was beyond his comprehension.

Everyone froze upon hearing Shen Xi's words.

Lu Zhou nodded. He placed his hands on his back and said, "Currently, their cultivation bases are stuck at the Nine-leaf stage. We'll discuss this once they reach the Ten-leaf stage. Meanwhile, we'll start collecting life hearts from Birth Chart Beasts."

"Understood," Shen Xi said, "If it's possible, we should mobilize and unite all the cultivators to seize the Birth Chart Beasts as our own. At the same time, we'll think of a way to hide them from the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council."

Li Zhou nodded. "I'll leave this matter to you."

"Understood." Shen Xi bowed. Then, he said to everyone, "Everyone, please guide us..."

Naturally, no one dared to be negligent. "You're too courteous and humble, Guardian Shen."

At the same time, everyone wondered how Lu Zhou managed to make two mysterious experts submit to him.

...

Meanwhile, somewhere in the White Tower Council.

"Sir, the team we sent to the golden lotus domain had four people. All of them are dead," a cultivator said respectfully.

A middle-aged man who was practicing with his sword in the hall looked over and asked, "Who killed them?"

"The Black Tower Council," the cultivator replied.

"The Black Tower Council?" The middle-aged man sneered. "The Black Tower and White Tower Councils had an agreement. How dare they attack us!"

"It's said that it was over the Great Void energy," the cultivator said, "Captain Teng told me that before he left. I don't know if there are any truths in those words."

The middle-aged man frowned. "The Great Void energy?"

"That's right."

"This matter must not be made public. I'll speak to the Black Tower Council personally..."

"Understood."

## Chapter 964: Collecting Birth Chart Beasts

Over the next few days, Shen Xi imparted his knowledge of the Ten-leaf stage and Birth Chart Beasts to the Nine-leaf cultivators. There was no need for him to teach so many people. After all, once these people returned, words of his teachings will naturally spread.

...

Three days later.

In the eastern pavilion of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Zhao Yue's problem with the black and white lotus cultivators had been dealt with for now.

With Si Wuya and Mingshi Yin in the red lotus domain, there was nothing for Lu Zhou to worry about. The most important thing for him now was to think of a way to collect life hearts to increase his disciples' cultivation bases.

After a while, Lu Zhou brought out the map of the Birth Charts and placed it in front of him.. He muttered to himself, "Where can I find the fifth life heart?"

He had the life heart from the Damask Birth now, but an elementary life heart like that was of no use to him. Apart from that, Zhao Yue, who had regained all her Great Void energy, did not need the life heart for the time being as well. If he wanted to find an intermediate or advanced Birth Chart Beast, he would have to wait to go to the Moonlight Woodland or the Endless Ocean.

Based on Ye Tianxian's description, the Moonlight Woodland was incredibly dangerous.

"Is the Moonlight Woodland more dangerous than the Endless Ocean?" Lu Zhou wondered. Since he had never been to the Moonlight Woodland, he could not answer this question.

Lu Zhou had Di Jiang so he could quickly fly to the Endless Ocean. However, let alone the sea beast king, he might not even be able to encounter the stronger sea beasts that lived in the depths of the ocean. Moreover, even if he could encounter them, he had to prepare himself. After all, even Lu Li had fallen into a miserable state because of the sea beasts.

Lu Zhou shook his head after a moment, dismissing his thoughts. Following that, he used the Heavenly Writing Power to observe Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong.

At this moment, Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong had already arrived in the Southern Kingdom. The environment was slightly gloomy, but the duo did not seem to be in any danger.

Subsequently, he checked on Zhu Honggong. Similar to before, Lu Li was still engrossed in finding ways to activate Birth Charts for someone without a lotus.

...

Lu Zhou would cultivate, draw the lucky draw, and observe his disciples every day. This went on for a month.

Apart from that, he had gained a basic understanding of the black lotus domain from Shen Xi. Similar to what he had seen with the Eye of Truth, Shen Xi confirmed that the black lotus domain was called Great Yuan. Great Yuan unified and ruled the cultivation world in the black lotus domain. In fact, half of the Upper Council members in the Black Tower Council were part of the ruling force in Great Yuan.

Lu Zhou also learned that every three years, the Black Tower Council would recruit talented cultivators from the thousands of sects in Great Yuan.

Shen Xi also told Lu Zhou that the force that did not have a good relationship with the Black Tower Council and the Dark and Light Alliance. The Dark and Light Alliance was like a union that was formed by cultivators from various sects. The members did not only consist of experts, but they consisted of sectless cultivators and weak cultivators as well. This meant that the Dark and Light Alliance had a huge number of members. There were tens of thousands of members at the bottom level alone. All of the members of the Black Tower Council added together did not even have 1,000 people.

Meanwhile, Shen Xi also did his best to recall all information of runic passages that he knew and the method to hide the Great Void Energy before sending them to Si Wuya using the formation in the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Lu Zhou also managed to conceal Zhao Yue and Ye Tianxing's Great Void energy with talismans during this time.

...

Another month passed.

In the eastern pavilion of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Lu Zhou who was cultivating suddenly sensed movement. He brought out a black talisman and lit it up.

Soon enough, a projection of Yan Zhenluo appeared in front of his eyes.

Yan Zhenluo greeted Lu Zhou as soon as he saw Lu Zhou. "Brother Lu, long time no see."

Lu Zhou looked at Yan Zhenluo and said, "Nothing good happens whenever you contact me..."

A sheepish expression appeared on Yan Zhenluo's face immediately. Lu Zhou had hit the nail on the head.

Lu Zhou said, "Speak."

Yan Zhenluo nodded. "A month-long meeting was held in the Black Tower Council recently. They've agreed to temporarily put their differences aside. I'm afraid they're going to attack the red lotus domain and the golden lotus domain. Brother Lu, you must prepare yourself for this."

Lu Zhou frowned slightly. "How many people will they deploy?"

"After Wu Guangping's death, a blackguard named Shen Xi betrayed the Black Tower Council. This is unprecedented in the council. Moreover, there was a skirmish between the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council recently, and both sides suffered casualties. As a result of that skirmish, the two

forces have completely broken off their relationship. Therefore, the White Tower Council might send their people to the red lotus domain or the golden lotus domain as well..."

'Two forces attacking at the same time...'

Lu Zhou thought about letting Si Wuya handle the strategizing.

Since the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Councils were enemies, as the saying went, 'The enemy of my enemy is my friend'. He wondered if he should provoke them? Whatever it was, it would be bad if the two forces really sent their armies over.

Outwardly, Lu Zhou only nodded and said, "Alright."

"Apart from that, I suspect Lu Li has lost his cultivation base. Otherwise, with his strength, he would've made talismans to contact me. If possible, I'd like to ask for Brother Lu's help to contact him," Yan Zhenluo added.

Lu Zhou replied truthfully, "I'm afraid that'll be difficult. That kind of communication talismans requires one to be a Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator. I'm afraid my disciple isn't at that level yet."

"Alright. We can only wait then. As long as he's safe, it's fine."

"You can rest assured. If anything happens to him, I'll definitely annihilate the family of the person who harmed him," Lu Zhou said.

"I'm grateful for your words, Brother Lu," Yan Zhenluo said before the projection was cut off.

Following that, Lu Zhou looked outside the window.

Suddenly...

"Ding! Killed one Birth Chart Beast. Reward: 6,000 merit points."

"Ding! Killed ten targets. Reward: 5,000 merit points. Domain bonus is increased to 5,000 points."

"Birth Chart Beast?"

Lu Zhou quickly recited the mantra for the Heavenly Writing Power.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong stood side by side in what looked to be dark ruins. They looked at the life heart they just obtained and the corpses strewn on the ground.

"I killed five," Yu Zhenghai said.

"I killed five as well," Yu Shangrong said, "However, there's the Birth Chart Beast. The Birth Chart Beast was much stronger than the cultivator."

Yu Zhenghai nodded. "Indeed, it was stronger than the cultivators. However, Second Junior Brother, you might not have seen it, but the killing wound on its body is a wound from a saber."

"There's a killing sword wound as well."

"..."



Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

At this moment, the two disciples raised their heads and looked up ahead.

Many jackals and leopards had appeared at the edge of the forest up ahead.

However, since these were low-level fierce beasts, the duo was not interested in them at all.

“Further ahead is the heart of the Southern Kingdom. According to the map that Seventh Junior Brother gave us, it’s the former capital of the Southern Kingdom,” Yu Zhenghai said.

“What master is looking for is likely in the capital. However, it’s like there are powerful enemies there. It’s best for us to act cautiously,” Yu Shangrong replied.

“I agree,” Yu Zhenghai said before he flew toward the capital of the Southern Kingdom.

The duo flew, and before long, they saw a much bigger ruins. Dilapidated buildings with vines climbing all over them, overgrown weed, and wild beasts foraging for food appeared before their eyes.

The duo flew over a dilapidated building and hovered high above the ruins before they looked at the ruins in a radius of a few thousand meters.

The dark sky looked as though it had not seen the sun for a long time, and the air and earth always seemed damp.

After a while, Yu Zhenghai looked at the map and pointed at the capital. “Over here.”

The duo searched the ruins for a long time before Yu Shangrong suddenly saw something familiar.

“Stone forest formation!”

Yu Zhenghai followed Yu Shangrong’s gaze to the side of the fallen capital and saw a stone forest formation similar to the one they saw when they sprouted their tenth leaf.

Yu Zhenghai said unhappily, “If it weren’t for Seventh Junior Brother, I would’ve destroyed it.”

Yu Shangrong’s expression remained calm as he said, “The life heart we obtained...”

The Birth Chart Beast the duo killed and the stone forest formation here indicated that someone had already made preparations.

Whoosh!

At this moment, a huge black circle appeared near the stone forest. It flashed with inscriptions as it shot up into the sky.

Yu Shangrong said, “It’s a runic passage!”

“Kill or avoid? Second Junior Brother, you decide,” Yu Zhenghai said.

Yu Shangrong calmly replied, “In master’s absence, Eldest Senior Brother is like the father. It’s only right for Eldest Senior Brother to make the decisions.”

The runic passage grew brighter and brighter as the energy fluctuations intensified.

At this time, the duo said in unison, "Avoid."

Swoosh! Swoosh!

In just a blink of an eye, the duo vanished into thin air and concealed themselves behind the nearby rubble and debris.

Buzz!

The runic passage buzzed loudly before three black-armored cultivators wielding long halberds appeared.

### **Chapter 965: An Intermediate Birth Chart Beast**

After hiding behind the rubble of a building, Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai hid their auras.

"The Primary Return Pill," Yu Shangrong said as he tossed a pill to Yu Zhenghai.

The Primary Return Pill was something that Si Wuya asked the geniuses from the Sky Research Court to develop. Its only purpose was to restrain and hide one's aura and the Great Void energy.

After taking the pills, the duo who lacked auras now was as unassuming as the weed in the ruins.

Meanwhile, the three cultivators holding long halberds who had just appeared from the runic passage looked to the left and the right as they stood in a triangular formation. The captain stood at the lead while the other two stood at the back.

The trio carefully surveyed the dark and damp surroundings.

After a long while, the captain said, "We've lost the Birth Chart Beast."

"Captain, I'll go investigate..." one of the blackguards said before he flew close to where Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong were hiding.

Upon seeing this, Yu Shangrong brought the life heart out and looked at it with a thoughtful expression on his face. 'Should I throw it out or not?'

Yu Zhenghai looked at the life heart as well. He could not help but feel that the life heart was like a hot potato now.

Although the duo was confident and strong, they were not foolish enough to fight the three blackguards.

In the end, Yu Shangrong did not throw the life heart out. Instead, he returned it to the pocket near his chest.

Upon seeing this, Yu Zhenghai nodded.

Not long after, the blackguard that flew out returned. "Captain, after investigating, I found that the Birth Chart Beast has been killed. Apart from that, ten low-level cultivators from foreign tribes are dead as well."

The captain of these blackguards lifted his head and looked at the sky. Despite the dark sky, he could still roughly guess the time based on it. The muted sun that was covered by the dark clouds was slightly inclined to the west. After a moment, he said, "The stone forest formation's alert just sounded not too long ago. The person who killed the Birth Chart Beast and the ten cultivators shouldn't have gone too far."

One of the blackguards said, "However, if it was an expert, I'm afraid he or she would have gone far away by now."

The captain did not reply.

"Captain, do you want to investigate?"

"No need. It's getting more and more difficult to monopolize the Birth Chart Beasts in the red lotus domain. Don't forget that Lord Wu is dead..."

The two blackguards nodded.

The captain walked toward the stone forest formation instead of returning to the runic passage. His two subordinates quickly followed suit as well.

Yu Shangrong tilted his body slightly as he watched the three blackguards through a crack between the rubble. He was puzzled and wary; since the Birth Chart Beast was dead, why did they enter the stone forest formation?

After entering the formation, the blackguards stood in different positions.

Subsequently, they stabbed their long halberds into the ground.

In just a moment, the inscriptions and the stone pillars lit up as energy buzzed.

Thud! Thud! Thud! Thud! Thud!

Soon enough, a blurry mountain-like shadow appeared at the edge of the ruins.

Yu Shangrong, who was highly experienced, could tell in an instant that it was the sound of footsteps. The footsteps were something faster than those of a horse and sometimes slow; sometimes they were light and sometimes they were heavy.

Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai focused their eyes at the end of the ruins.

As time passed, the shadow grew more and more distinct. It did not seem like much from a distance, but as it drew closer, a frown appeared on the duo's faces.

The shadow was hundreds of feet tall, and its eyes shone with a dim light.

"What is this?" Yu Shangrong asked through voice transmission.

Yu Zhenghai replied solemnly, "This beast is 700 to 800 feet long and is 300 feet tall. Its fur is full, and its eyes are as bright as the Moon. It is very similar to a wild cat, and its Primal Qi is abnormally strong. It has to be a intermediate Birth Chart Beast, at least."

"So what kind of Birth Chart Beast is this?" Yu Shangrong asked.

"I don't know," Yu Zhenghai replied.

"..."

"If Seventh Junior Brother were here, he'd be able to identify it."

When the Birth Chart Beast flew past the ruins and drew close to the stone forest formation, the three blackguards shot up into the air immediately.

The captain looked at the cat-like Birth Chart Beast and nodded in satisfaction. "Our luck is not bad. This beast is called Liang Qu and is an incredibly rare intermediate Birth Chart Beast. Activate the formation flags now. Try to take it down in the shortest time possible."

"Understood," the two blackguards replied in unison.

Buzz!

The long halberds that doubled as formation flags buzzed loudly before they grew to 1,000 feet tall, turning into the Eight Desolate and Six Harmony Flags. They made an ear-piercing crackling noise when they appeared.

Meanwhile, Liang Qu's eyes glinted. It seemed to know it was in danger and immediately turned to flee.

"Evil creature! You want to run?"

Hundreds of tentacle-like black energies shot out of the stone formation and restrained the cat-like beast's legs.

Liang Qu roared as it trashed around to free itself.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong who were looking at the rampaging Liang Qu were taken aback by its speed. It looked like a blur of shadow as it trashed back and forth, stirring up the dust.

Yu Shangrong said in shock, "Its speed is almost comparable to master's speed!"

"Indeed."

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The formation flags in the sky shot out energy swords after energy swords at Liang Qu. They landed on it before they vanished.

Liang Qu grew even more frenetic as the energy swords left marks on its body, causing its fur to fall off. It was clearly infuriated. It seemed to have discarded its intention to flee as it suddenly pounced toward the three blackguards.

Swoosh!

Alas, it had only leaped 50 meters up in the air when hundreds of tentacle-like black energy pulled it down.

Boom!

Liang Qu crashed heavily on the ground.

It seemed like the stone forest formation was very strong. When Yu Shanrong broke the stone formation back then, he only felt the formation was a little complicated and did not think much of it. However, at this moment, he began to feel he might have underestimated it."

At this moment, the captain of the blackguards said in a deep voice, "Do it!"

The trio surrounded Liang Qu in just a blink of an eye and brandished their long halberds. Along with the Eight Desolate and Six Harmony Flags, they dealt heavy blows to Liang Qu.

Although Liang Qu was big and astonishingly fast, its four legs had been restrained. Therefore, it could only be beaten up by the three blackguards even if it tried its best to dodge to the left and the right. It was unfortunate that the blackguards' large-scale attacks were powerful and covered a wide range.

...

At this point, Lu Zhou finally decided to stop observing. Watching them trying to kill Liang Qu was rather boring. He activated the Purple Glazed Ceramic to recover his supreme mystic power and decided to observe his disciples later.

...

Back in the ruins of the former capital of the Southern Kingdom.

The three blackguards continued their assault for more than two hours before Liang Qu, whose body was riddled with wounds, weakened.

"Captain, it's at the end of its life!" one of the blackguards said in delight.

The trio was overjoyed when they saw Liang Qu weakening.

The captain nodded in satisfaction as he said, "Brothers, let's put in more effort!"

"Understood."

While the captain took a step back to look at the flag formation, his two subordinates continued to attack Liang Qu.

Just like that, another hour passed.

At this moment, Liang Qu let out a mournful cry before it slumped to the ground lifelessly.

"Captain, It's dead!"

The captain nodded. "Well done!"

"It's our duty! I wonder what kind of reward we'll receive from the elders this time!"

The two blackguards were clearly excited.

Alas, the captain's words felt like a bucket of ice water that was poured down their heads.

"Brothers, the internal strife in the Black Tower Council is so bad now. Even if we hand over the life heart, at most, we'd be given some high-grade pills or weapons. Even then, the pills and weapons' uses are probably to help us catch more Birth Chart Beasts..."

“Captain, what do you mean?”

“If the Black Tower Council wants to fight among themselves, let them fight. I think this life heart is very suitable for me. What do you think?” With these words, it was clear the captain wanted to keep the life heart for himself.

“This...”

The other two blackguards were shocked.

“Captain, if you do something that opposes the Black Tower Council, the consequences might not be something you can bear.”

The captain said, “If I use this life heart, I’ll be a Five Chart cultivator. If you agree to my request, I guarantee you’ll be able to eat and drink to your hearts’ content. We’ll never have to return to the Black Tower Council to be bullied by those people!”

The expressions of the two blackguards were rather unsightly at this moment. Since the moment they joined the Black Tower Council, the rules had been heavily branded in their minds. In order to prevent betrayals, an extermination team led by the four judges was specially created to severely punish those who betrayed the council. The four judges that led the team all had at least eight Birth Charts. Each and every person who betrayed the Black Tower Council in the past were sentenced to death by the extermination team.

“Brothers, are you unwilling?” the captain asked.

“It’s not that. If... If the judges come after us, the consequences will be... deadly.”

“Wealth and honor come with risk and danger. In any case, it’s up to you to decide. I won’t force you,” the captain said before he moved forward and retrieved Liang Qu’s life heart.

The two blackguards were dumbfounded upon seeing this. Without the life heart, what explanation should they give to the Black Tower Council? They shook their heads. After considering the recent state of the council, they could only say, “I supposed this is the only way...”

“Good brothers!” The captain was overjoyed when he heard his two subordinates’ words. Then, without any warning, his voice turned deep as he said, “Come out. What need is there for you to hide?”

## **Chapter 966: The Twelve Chart Expert**

Yu Zhenghong and Yu Shangrong looked at each other and shook their heads. Even with the Primary Return Pills, they were still discovered. They knew that the chances of winning against the blackguards were slim, and it was likely they would lose their lives. However, they were not cowards.

The duo was about to walk out of their hiding place when a black figure walked out of the ruins in front of them. The person was completely wrapped up, only his eyes could be seen.

The duo hid themselves again.

“He wasn’t talking to us...”

The black figure walked to the three blackguards and said, "Since you can sense my presence, I have to admit you have some abilities."

"Who are you?" The captain frowned. It was as though he was facing a great enemy.

"Hand the life heart over to me, and you'll be free to live your lives," the black figure said in a low and hoarse voice.

How could the captain of the blackguards easily give up the life heart that they had obtained with great difficulty?

"You have guts. You even dare to snatch things from the Black Tower Council?"

The black figure replied indifferently, "This isn't the first time I've snatched things from the Black Tower Council."

"You..." The captain was at a loss for words. He could sense the other party's unfathomable aura.

Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai continued to hide and watch the sudden turn in events.

...

Meanwhile, after a long while, Lu Zhou thought it was time to check in on Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong again.

He frowned when he saw the black figure.

Soon enough, his eyes drifted to Liang Qu's heart that was shining under the grey sky. He felt his heart stir. After all, he had been looking for a fifth life heart. Alas, it would still be useless to him. Liang Qu's ability was probably speed as well. He already had Di Jiang's ability. Unless he put Liang Qu's life heart in the earth-grade Birth Charts' zone. That way, it would not conflict with Di Jiang's life heart and would continue to boost his speed to a terrifying extent. However, it was a waste to place an intermediate life heart in the earth zone of the Birth Palace. It was best to embed an advanced life heart in the earth zone to use it to its full potential.

Lu Zhou thought about the 36 Birth Charts that were divided into three categories. Each category had 12 Birth Charts. Once one had six Birth Charts, one could begin to embed life hearts in the earth region.

...

The black figure faced the three blackguards calmly. His bearing was extraordinary. It was clear he was not a simple person.

The captain of the blackguards said, "I've already decided to leave the Black Tower Council... Must you snatch this from me, senior?"

"It's precisely because you said you're leaving the council that you're still alive. Otherwise, you would've died a long time ago," the black figure said as he extended his hand, "I'll say one last time: Hand over the life heart, and you're free to go."

Buzz!

A black astrolabe appeared behind the black figure.

Dark clouds began to roll in like the tide as soon as the astrolabe appeared.

The blackguards looked at the astrolabe.

There were twelve distinct Birth Charts on the astrolabe. However, five of the Birth Charts were dim, and cracks and holes could be seen on them. This meant that the black figure was a Seven Chart expert. Although he had lost five Birth Charts, for him to be able to activate 12 Birth Charts, he would still be considered an elite no matter where he went.

“T-twelve... Twelve Birth Charts!” Upon seeing the astrolabe, the captain fell to one knee immediately and said, “This subordinate greets the Tower Master!”

‘The Tower Master?’

Yu Zhenghai, Yu Shangrong, and the two blackguards were dumbfounded by this revelation.

The black figure was the Tower Master of the Black Tower Council?

When the two blackguards recovered their senses, they hurriedly fell to their knees and said in unison, “This subordinate greets the Tower Master!”

“You recognize me?” A hint of surprise flashed in the black figure’s eyes.

“I once saw your profile on the Black Tower’s Wall of Glory. To begin with, there are very few cultivators who are capable of activating 12 Birth Charts. Moreover, you’re the only one who had lost 5 Birth Charts...” the captain said in a trembling voice.

Indeed. The black figure was the former Tower Master of the Black Tower Council, Xiao Yunhe.

Xiao Yunhe sighed. “Since you recognize me, I won’t make things difficult for you...”

“Thank you, Tower Master.”

Xiao Yunhe continued to say, “However, I still have to take the life heart,”

“...”

The three blackguards looked at each other.

Xiao Yunhe said, “However, I’ll give you another choice. Since you’ve decided to leave the council, you can stay by my side. In the future, you will have a share of the life hearts as well...”

“Tower Master? You’re...”

Xiao Yun said truthfully, “I’m trying to restore my cultivation so I have to have the life heart. Think carefully.”

The captain of the blackguards did not hesitate and agreed immediately. “All of us are willing to follow the Tower Master!”

“Very good.”



Xiao Yunhe waved his hand and the life heart flew into his hand. Following that, he ordered, "In fact, there's another life heart for you here."

"Huh?"

Xiao Yunhe pointed at Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong's hiding place. "Capture them."

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong turned around in unison without any prompt and fled without any hesitation, flying at top speed.

"We were still discovered in the end... Second Junior Brother, are we... is what we're doing now fleeing?" Yu Zhenghai had never experienced anything like this before in his life; he felt rather strange.

"Fleeing?" Yu Shangrong shook his head expressionlessly. "If this counts as fleeing, then what do the countless people whom I chased and killed in the past count as?"

"You have a point. We should retreat and strategize..." Yu Zhenghai nodded.

...

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou who was watching his two eldest disciples frowned when he saw this. Although his two disciples were highly talented and strong, how could they put a fight against such an expert?

Since Xiao Yunhe managed to go to the Southern Kingdom in such a short time after leaving the golden lotus domain, this meant that he had access to a runic passage.

...

As expected of Thousand Realms Whirling experts, it did not take long before four figures appeared 50 meters ahead of Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong.

Xiao Yunhe said, "Trying to flee?" He raised a hand and launched a palm seal at Yu Shangrong.

Whoosh!

Yu Shangrong unsheathed the Longevity Sword and held it in front of him horizontally to defend against the palm seal.

Bang!

Yu Shangrong was pushed back. Before he turned around and flew off, he called out, "Eldest Senior Brother, let's go!"

Xiao Yunhe waved his hand.

The three blackguards rushed forward, each in a different direction.

Yu Shangrong was forced to helplessly return.

Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai were soon surrounded by the four Thousand Realms Whirling experts.

Yu Zhenghai said, "Second Junior Brother, we seem to be in what people call a pickle..."

"Indeed. I wonder if Eldest Senior Brother has any ideas?" Yu Shangrong asked.

"Allow me to think for a moment."

The captain of the blackguards interjected, "There's no need for you to think anymore. You won't be able to escape." Then, he turned to Xiao Yunhe and said, "Tower Master, leave these two to me. There's no need for you to act."

Xiao Yunhe said, "There's no rush." He felt the two people in front of him were rather interesting. In fact, he had arrived at the ruins before they did. He had been hiding and only decided to come out once the stone forest formation and the three blackguards had taken Liang Qu down. Therefore, he had seen the duo hiding earlier. He was surprised that Yu Shangrong was able to block his palm seal. He had always been one to appreciate talent. Moreover, if such a talent was carefully nurtured, perhaps, the person in front of him would be a huge help to him. Hence, he said, "Give me a reason not to kill you..."

### **Chapter 967: My Master Isn't Someone You Can Afford To Offend**

For both Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong, they had never been in such a situation in the past. It had always been their opponents who had to flee.

One of them was the high and mighty Sect Master of the Nether Sect with 100,000 followers while the other was an expert in the sword path and was widely known as the fearsome Sword Devil. Although they were facing danger now, how could they easily lower their heads?

'Why didn't he kill us immediately? There are actually many reasons for this...'

In the end, Yu Shangrong boldly met Xiao Yunhe's eyes and asked, "You dare to kill me?"

Yu Shangrong's bearing, attitude, gaze, and especially the way he blocked the palm seal made Xiao Yunhe admire him even more. In fact, the three blackguards with him were inferior to Yu Shangrong in regard to bearing, attitude, and talent. As the former Tower Master of the Black Tower Council, he had met countless people and had a discerning eye. His judgment would not be wrong.

Despite his thoughts, Xiao Yunhe said without a change in his expression, "Why won't I dare to kill you?"

Yu Shangrong said, "My senior brother and I have long seen through life and death and place no importance on them. The number of people who died in our hands is numerous. How happy is life, and how bitter is death; in the end, all joys and sorrows still return to dust."

Xiao Yunhe chuckled softly before he said, "Your thoughts are somewhat similar to mine. Unfortunately, young man, you have to understand that this is a world where the strong prey on the weak. Sometimes living is nothing but an extravagant wish..."

Meanwhile, the captain standing next to Xiao Yunhe did not understand why Xiao Yunhe would waste so many words with the two people in front of them. Therefore, he said, "Tower Master, there's no need to waste words with them. All we need to do is kill them and take the life heart."

"Blindly killing people will not solve the problem," Xiao Yunhe said to the captain. Then, he continued to say to Yu Shangrong, "Young men, I can tell your cultivation bases are only average, but your talent is high. If both of you are willing to follow me, you won't suffer a loss."

"I'm afraid that won't work." Yu Zhenghai shook his head.

Xiao Yunhe frowned slightly, "Give me a reason not to kill you then."

Yu Zhenghai said slightly threateningly, "Even if I agree to it, I'm afraid my master won't agree to it."

Although Xiao Yunhe had never been spoken to in such a threatening manner before, he was not angry. Out of caution, he asked, "Your master?"

Since Yu Shangrong was used to acting alone and relying on himself, he only remembered his master when he heard Yu Zhenghai's words. He immediately said, "You're the former Tower Master of the Black Tower Council, right?"

Xiao Yunhe wavered slightly. Since the two people in front of him knew his identity, and yet, they remained confident in front of him, there was no doubt they had an extraordinary background. After a moment, he replied, "That's right."

Yu Shangrong nodded before he said, "Well, I'm afraid you don't know my master. However, I can tell you that my master doesn't like people threatening him and people who put on airs."

The captain of the blackguards scoffed. "Put on airs? If your master is so great, why isn't he here to save you? When the Tower Master was at his peak, I'm afraid your master was still playing with mud."

Yu Shangrong said, "Real men don't need to talk about past achievements. If you insist on talking about past achievements, I'm afraid you're not even worthy to carry my master's shoes."

"You!" The captain glared at Yu Shangrong and was about to attack when Xiao Yunhe raised his hand to stop him.

For these two mere Ten-leaf cultivators to speak in such a manner to Thousand Realms Whirling experts, it was clear they had a strong backing.

Xiao Yunhe mulled over his thoughts for a moment before he said, "Who's your master? If he's famous, perhaps, I've heard of him."

Yu Shangrong smiled indifferently before he said, "Do you know Wu Guangping?"

Xiao Yunhe furrowed his brows as killing intent flashed in his eyes. "Wu Guangping is your master? There's a path to heaven, but you refuse to take them. Instead, you insist on barging into hell!"

Xiao Yunhe raised his right hand immediately. A hexagonal weapon glowing with purple light appeared in his hand immediately.

Yu Shangrong remained calm as he said disdainfully, "How can that person be worthy of becoming my master? You're making the same mistakes he made..."

"Hmm?" Xiao Yunhe withdrew the hexagonal weapon.

The captain said to Xiao Yunhe in a low voice, "It's said that Wu Guangping is killed during his first mission in the red lotus domain."

Xiao Yunhe had also heard some rumors from Wu Chao before this. He looked at Yu Shangrong and asked, "Your master killed Wu Guangping?"

"What's so surprising? He only had eight Birth Charts. My master only used one palm strike to kill him," Yu Shangrong replied.

"..."

Yu Zhenghai chimed in as he swept his gaze across Xiao Yunhe and the blackguards, "My master's tracking ability is unrivaled. He has a bad temper. If you're going to make a move, I suggest you first remove the marks on our bodies and destroy the evidence after that."

Yu Shangrong glanced at Yu Zhenghai. Was that not saying too much?

As expected, the captain said, "You're right. As the saying goes, 'Water from afar can't put out a fire'. I have a million ways to reduce you to ashes and get rid of the evidence before your master finds you." Then, he bowed to Xiao Yunhe and said, "Tower Master, these two have been rude to you. Let me deal with them. I guarantee to do a good job!"

Xiao Yunhe shook his head, refusing the captain's request. Then, he asked, "Is your master a golden lotus cultivator?"

Yu Zhenghai laughed and manifested his avatar immediately.

Buzz!

A Ten-leaf golden avatar appeared immediately. The dazzling golden karmic fire burned around the lotus.

After a moment, Yu Zhenghai withdrew his avatar and said, "You're much smarter than him..."

All of a sudden, Xiao Yunhe recalled the old man who chased after Wu Chao in the golden lotus domain. Then, he asked with a frown, "Is your master the Pavilion Master of the golden lotus domain's Evil Sky Pavilion?"

Yu Shangrong was slightly surprised. "You know my master?"

"..." Xiao Yunhe's eyelids twitched. Indeed, it was that old man. His frown deepened when he recalled the six fire spirit stones. After a moment, he suppressed the surprise in his heart and said, "I met him once. I didn't expect to meet his disciples here."

Yu Zhenghai said, "Since you know my master, you should know his temper."

"Indeed. His temper is rather bad. If it weren't for my six fire spirit stones, Wu Chao would've died," Xiao Yunhe said with a sigh.

When the captain heard this, he said angrily, "Tower Master, he took your six fire spirit stones?! Great, this is a fine time for us to take revenge!"

...

In the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Lu Zhou frowned slightly.

Xiao Yunhe was quite tactful and knew not to make enemies easily. As expected of the former Tower Master of the Black Tower Council. Even if he had lost five Birth Charts, his knowledge and experience were not something people could compare to.

He continued to observe the situation.

...

When the captain of the blackguard saw the lack of reply from Xiao Yunhe, he continued to say, "Tower Master, we have to get rid of the root of the problem so there won't be problems in the future!"

...

Lu Zhou suddenly grew furious.

Buzz!

He instinctively raised his hand and shouted, "You don't know what's good for you!"

Lu Zhou had no reason, and his heart was immediately burning with anger.

A 400 to 500-foot Thousand Realms Whirling avatar towered in the sky above the Evil Sky Pavilion's eastern pavilion. The golden astrolabe was like the sun, illuminating the entire Golden Court Mountain.

Boom!

Shen Xi, Li Xiaomo, and the other prominent figures from the sect in the golden lotus domain raised their heads immediately.

A golden Great Vajra Wheel Palm Seal broke the gates of the eastern pavilion and flew out.

Upon seeing this, Pan Zhong shouted, "Cr\*p! Protect the barrier!"

"I'll do it." Shen Xi flashed up to the sky and used his huge black astrolabe to block the incoming palm seal.

Boom!

Shen Xi felt a huge force slam against his astrolabe. His arms went numb immediately, and the astrolabe trembled. His hair stood on ends immediately. He was shocked as he looked at the towering golden Thousand Realms Whirling avatar above the eastern pavilion. 'Why's the difference in our strength so big when we both have four Birth Charts?'

## **Chapter 968: A Few Good Words and An Alliance**

At the same time, far away in the red lotus domain's Southern Kingdom...

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong, who were surrounded at the moment. heard the thunderous roar.

"You don't know what's good for you!"

It was deafeningly loud, causing everyone to tremble.

“Master?!” Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai were also shocked. It sounded like it came from somewhere nearby.

Xiao Yunhe was stunned for a moment. However, he quickly recovered his senses and cupped his fists together as he said, “So you’ve decided to grace us with your presence. Why don’t you come out to have a chat?”

Xiao Yunhe infused Primal Qi into his voice so it spread in all directions into the distance.

Alas, there was no reply.

Xiao Yunhe cupped his fists together again and infused Primal Qi into his voice as he said, “Xiao Yunhe respectfully invites an old friend out to chat...”

Xiao Yunhe’s voice spread even further than before, covering several thousand meters.

Many fierce beasts fled in the face of the powerful and piercing soundwave.

Xiao Yunhe believed the other party would definitely hear his voice. However, even after silence had returned for a long time, there was no reply.

“...”

How awkward! No matter what, he was the former Tower Master of the Black Tower Council after all. How could the old man not preserve some of his dignity at all? However, when he recalled how the old man had killed Wu Guangping, who had eight Birth Charts, while he only had seven Birth Charts now, he felt he had no right to challenge the old man now. After all, his 12 Birth Charts were a thing of the past. In his current state, it was almost impossible for him to activate all his Birth Charts again. The path to recovering his Birth Charts was a difficult path to traverse. Even if he could recover one Birth Chart, he would still only have eight Birth Charts, which made him no different from Wu Guangping.

Xiao Yunhe felt awkward. He sighed inwardly. Perhaps, it was time to face the future squarely. It would be harmful to always live in the shadow of the past.

Yu Shangrong felt it was strange. Since his master was here, why did he not come out to save them? There was no doubt that the explosive roar belonged to his master; there was no way he was mistaken. After a moment, he calmed himself down. He thought perhaps their master was testing them. With this thought in mind, he lifted his head and said, “I’ve already told you that you’re not worthy to speak to my master...”

Xiao Yunhe. “...”

Hei Wu Wei. “...”

Xiao Yunhe felt somewhat helpless when faced with this situation.

Meanwhile, the captain of the blackguard was frightened. Earlier, he had wanted to kill the two men and destroy the evidence. However, how could he dare to do so now? That person was watching nearby but was too lazy and disdained to lower himself to their level!

Little did he know that if Lu Zhou were here, he would have been sent to hell by now.

At this moment, Xiao Yunhe, who had calmed down, removed his mask.

Although it was dark, it did not prevent Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong from taking a good look at his face. They were shocked when they saw his face. There were several knife marks on his face, his left eye was injured, and half his face was like tree bark.

At this moment, Xiao Yunhe said with a smile, "I have met your master once before. The matter with the two of you today can be considered a misunderstanding." His smile served as a stark contrast to his face.

"Misunderstanding?" Yu Shangrong said skeptically.

"Let me introduce myself... I'm Xiao Yunhe, the former Tower Master of the Black Tower Council," Xiao Yunhe said.

"We already know that," Yu Zhenghai said.

"I once led many experts from the Black Tower Council to the Endless Ocean to kill sea beast kings. I've also fought against hundreds of thousands of beasts in the Southern Kingdom. The thousands of meters deep ravine in the Southern Kingdom was caused by me. I went to the depths of the forest to discover the secrets of heaven and earth's shackles, searching for the truth behind humans' lifespans. I'm also one of the participants and the few survivors of the Expedition to the Great Void..." Xiao Yunhe said with a sigh, "Unfortunately, life has always been predictable, and everything is now a thing of the past."

As the saying went, 'A real man won't bring up past achievements'. However, Xiao Yunhe still brought of the past.

Xiao Yunhe continued to say. "They destroyed my Birth Charts and imprisoned me at the bottom of the Thousand Ice Lake for 300 years. In this world, there's no one who hates the Black Tower Council more than me." At this point, he put on his mask again before he continued to say after calming his slightly agitated emotions, "As the saying goes, 'The enemy of my enemy is my friend. Even if your master didn't kill Wu Guangping, I would've killed him sooner or later. That's why I said it's a misunderstanding."

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong nodded. 'So he bragged about his glorious past for half a day just to say that we're on the same side? Why does it seem like he just wants to show off?'

Yu Shangrong said, "Since it's just a misunderstanding, no offense is taken. My master has always been... reasonable."

Xiao Yunhe waved his hand.

The three blackguards retreated behind Xiao Yunhe. They were respectful and no longer dared to speak.

The captain cupped his fists at the duo of them and said, "It's all my fault for not recognizing Mount Tai. I almost harmed a friend. I hope you can forgive me."

Yu Shangrong turned around as he held the Longevity Sword. He lightly tapped his toes and drew level with them in the air before he said, "Since you're unaware of it, you can't be blamed."

"..."

The captain said, "If you have any requests, feel free to mention them. I'm willing to make up for my mistakes."

Yu Zhenghai flew up as well. He asked, "Requests?" Then, his eyes fell on Liang Qu's corpse before he shook his head and said, "Our Evil Sky Pavilion isn't unreasonable and won't force people... It's good enough that others don't snatch our life heart."

'Why do these words sound so familiar?' After a moment, Xiao Yunhe asked, "Are both of you here to search for life hearts?" After he finished speaking, he felt that he had just asked an unnecessary question. The duo had just sprouted the tenth leaf, clearly, this was the right time to look for life hearts.

"That's right. However, the Southern Land is fraught with dangers, and it isn't easy to find Birth Chart Beasts," Yu Zhenghai said.

Xiao Yunhe said, "The Southern Kingdom is different from other places. Although this place is close to the beasts' nest, those who sprout their tenth leaf here won't be able to attract Birth Chart Beasts. If you really want to stay here to look for Birth Chart Beasts, if you're lucky you might encounter three to five Birth Chart Beasts if you stay here for three to five years."

The captain chimed in, "That's right. The Black Tower Council has set up the stone forest formation here after all. Moreover, about 100 miles south is the White Tower Council's territory."

"The White Tower Council Territory?" Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai were slightly surprised.

"If there's Black Tower Council, there's naturally a White Tower Council. Since the Black Tower Council is so powerful, how can the White Tower Council be weak?"

Yu Zhenghai sighed heavily. "It seems like it'll be difficult for Ten-leaf cultivators like us to find and kill Birth Chart Beasts here..."

"..."

'What's this person hinting at?' Xiao Yunhe sighed inwardly. 'Like master, like disciple. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree!'

Yu Zhenghai looked at Liang Qu's corpse again and sighed loudly.

Xiao Yunhe sighed softly. "Forget it..." Then, he brought Liang Qu's life heart out of the pocket near his chest and gently pushed it toward Yu Zhenghai before he said, "I'll give this life heart to both of you. This is an intermediate life heart. I recommend that you only use it after you've activated two Birth Charts at least."

Yu Zhenghai did not stand on ceremony and took the life heart in his hand. Contrary to his actions, he said, "However, you won't gain anything by giving me this. I'm afraid it's not appropriate for me to accept this..."

"There's no need to talk about gains and losses between friends. Moreover, I have many more techniques compared to use to obtain life hearts. I can just look for them again. Speaking of which, you can be considered as my juniors, so you can consider this a meeting gift," Xiao Yunhe said calmly.

"Then I won't stand on ceremony," Yu Zhenghai said.



Xiao Yunhe nodded and said, "Alright. If there's an opportunity, help me speak a few good words to your master. In the future, let's drink and chat."

"Of course..." Yu Zhenghai smiled.

### **Chapter 969: The Way To Advance Without A Golden Lotus**

Xiao Yunhe looked at the sky. The sun was already setting in the west. He felt rather regretful that Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai's master did not appear. He was about to leave when he recalled Yu Shangrong blocking his palm strike earlier. He could not help but say, "Your sword is rather extraordinary..."

Yu Shangrong waved his right hand.

The Longevity Sword unsheathed itself before it circled twice in the air in front of Yu Shangrong before it returned its sheath.

Following that, Yu Shangrong said, "This sword has followed me into countless battles, and I regard it as my life. However, my master had instructed me not to rely too much on weapons..."

"I see..." Xiao Yunhe said, "It's almost impossible for Ten-leaf cultivators to block my attacks without getting injured at all..."

Yu Zhenghai added, filled with praise, "My junior brother is a lone wolf. He has always been different in regard to cultivation. He's the first person in the cultivation world to sever his lotus."

"Sever his lotus?" Xiao Yunhe frowned, puzzled. Although he was experienced and knowledgeable, he had never heard of this cultivation method. His interest was piqued immediately. Five of his Birth Charts had been destroyed; what if there was another cultivation method that could help him?

After a moment, Xiao Yunhe said, "Severing your lotus is no different from digging your own grave. How's that possible?"

Yu Shangrong did not reply to Xiao Yunhe. Instead, he manifested his avatar.

When the 150-foot appeared, Xiao Yunhe and the other blackguards were shocked by the lack of a golden lotus.

Xiao Yun studied the space below the feet of the avatar. Indeed, there was no lotus at all. He frowned as he asked, hitting the nail on the head, "Without a lotus, there's no Birth Palace. How are you going to activate your Birth Chart?"

Upon hearing Xiao Yunhe's words, the captain of the blackguard chimed in, "That's right! Without a lotus, you can't activate your Birth Chart. There's no need for you to collect life hearts at all."

Yu Shangrong shook his head indifferently and maintained the smile on his face as he said, "As the saying goes, 'The boat will naturally right itself when it reaches the harbor'. Previously, no one thought it was possible to sever one's lotus as well..."

Xiao Yunhe nodded and said, "You're brave. Indeed, it's not certain that there's no way at all to advance after severing your lotus..."

Yu Shangrong was surprised. “You know of a way?” If he could activate his Birth Chart successfully, he would be able to open up a completely different cultivation path.

“No, it’s nothing concrete,” Xiao Yunhe said. “However, I’ve heard of an interesting story that might inspire you.”

Then, Xiao Yunhe looked at Yu Shangrong and continued to say, “Whether it’s in the golden lotus domain or the red lotus domain, there are the Other Tribes. In order to restore my five Birth Charts, I spent 100 years studying the cultivation methods of the Other Tribes.” He paused for a moment before he asked, “Have you thought about how cultivators from the Other Tribes managed to get stronger despite not cultivating methods from the schools of Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism? Moreover, their avatars usually resemble beasts in the forest. When their avatars are damaged, the damage to the cultivators is very low as well.”

Yu Shangrong fell deep into thoughts as he listened to Xiao Yunhe’s words.

Xiao Yunhe continued to say, “Due to all the questions I had, I once spoke to an elderly Other Tribesman. His situation is slightly similar to yours. His avatar was missing a leg, and he only had half a lotus. At that time, everyone thought it was impossible for him to activate his Birth Chart. As you can guess by now, contrary to everyone’s expectations, he succeeded in activating his Birth Chart.”

Yu Zhenghai said, “The difference is still too big. That person has half a lotus, which means he has half a Birth Palace. Although he only has half a Birth Palace, this means he still has a place to embed the life heart. It’s not surprising that he succeeded.”

Xiao Yunhe smiled as he said, “When one places a life heart in the Birth Palace, a vortex will appear to absorb vitality energy. Activating a Birth Chart consumes 1,500 years of life. If a Birth Palace is incomplete, it won’t be able to absorb vitality energy. With that, it’ll only result in a failure to activate the Birth Chart. However, the elderly Other Tribesman managed to solve this problem. He used the animalistic characteristics of the Other Tribe’s avatars and let his avatar eat the life heart instead. After eating the life heart, the avatar digested the life heart and gained the ability of the life heart. As a result, he successfully activated his Birth Chart and formed his astrolabe.”

Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai were shocked by these words.

“The avatar ate the life heart?”

“That’s right.” Xiao Yunhe nodded. “It sounds simple, but many cultivators have tried and failed. After all, the avatar is just a body of energy, how could it digest the life heart? I’ve attempted this as well. Unfortunately, when the life heart entered my avatar, it could not digest the life heart. Moreover, without the Birth Palace, the absorption speed was only average. After that, I concluded that the method was not very feasible.”

Yu Shangrong recalled that time when his master asked him to absorb the energy from the life heart. He asked, “What about absorbing the energy from the life heart instead?”

Xiao Yunhe shook his head and said, “Just absorbing the energy? I tried this method as well, but it was too slow.”

‘Too slow?’ Yu Shangrong frowned slightly. When he had absorbed the energy from the life heart, the speed was not slow at all. Why was it different?

At this moment, Xiao Yunhe said, “I’ve said all there is to be said. I’m in a rush so I’ll take my leave now...”

Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai cupped their fists together at Xiao Yunhe.

Following that, Xiao Yunhe and the blackguards turned around and flew southwest, disappearing into the dark and damp forest up ahead.

When Xiao Yunhe and the others finally disappeared from sight, Yu Zhenghai let out a sigh of relief. Then, he asked, “Second Junior Brother, why do you think master didn’t come out earlier?”

Yu Shangrong shrugged slightly. “Maybe he was just passing by or testing us...”

Yu Zhenghai sighed. “I didn’t expect master to care so much about us. Back then, he didn’t care for our lives at all. It seems like in the future, even if there’s nothing important, we have to mention master every once in a while...”

“Huh?”

Yu Zhenghai quickly said, “What I mean is that we have to respect master and honor him.”

Yu Shangrong looked at the stone forest before he looked in the southern and southwestern directions. Then, he said, “Now there’s even the White Lotus Council. I suggest that you activate your Birth Chart now in the Southern Kingdom, Eldest Senior Brother. The increase in your strength might help us...”

Yu Zhenghai shook his head and said, “That won’t do. Master gave us three life hearts in total. Based on Xiao Yunhe’s words, there’s a good chance you’ll be able to activate your Birth Chart as well. Therefore, it’s best to save the life hearts for your use. I can activate my Birth Chart at any time so I’m not in a rush. Moreover, the more stable one’s foundation at the Ten-leaf stage is, the easier it’ll be to activate the Birth Chart.”

“Wouldn’t it be better if you activate your Birth Chart now and form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar? The road ahead is fraught with danger. Eldest Senior Brother, is there a need to be courteous at this time?”

“This...”

Yu Shangrong suddenly bowed and said, “Please listen to me. Eldest Senior Brother, I hope you’ll grant my wish.”

Yu Zhenghai was caught off guard by Yu Shangrong’s vehemence. In the end, he acquiesced to Yu Shangrong’s request. “Alright.”

Following that, Yu Zhenghai threw Liang Qu’s life heart to Yu Shangrong and said, “Liang Qu is agile; its life heart is more suitable for you. I hope you won’t refuse it. I’ll use the other life heart.”

Yu Shangrong did not refuse. After he put the life heart away, he pointed at the heart of the fallen capital, the dilapidated Imperial Palace, and asked, “How about there?”

“Alright.”

The duo flew toward the heart of the fallen capital. Although the palace walls were damaged, they still stood tall. Vines crawled over the walls after years and years of neglect.

The duo came to a stop at a dry corner in the depths of the dilapidated Imperial palace before Yu Zhenghai began to activate his Birth Chart.

...

Back in the eastern pavilion of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

After Lu Zhou launched a palm seal in anger and roared in anger, everyone was stunned.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou discovered if he used the power of sound and the power of sight at the same time, he could transmit his voice far away at the cost of a large amount of his supreme mystic power.

‘If I have enough supreme mystic power, does it mean I can even kill someone from afar?’ Lu Zhou wondered. The more he thought about it, the more he felt the skull was really terrifying.

“I wonder what else will happen if I use the other powers from the Heavenly Writing with the power of sight?”

Lu Zhou sensed his supreme mystic power and discovered he only had very little left even after he had recovered it with the Purple Glazed Ceramic earlier. It could not be helped; how could he feel at ease when Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai were in danger.

In fact, Lu Zhou still did not feel completely at ease. Therefore, he activated the Purple Glazed Ceramic and meditated on the Heavenly Writing again to recover his supreme mystic power.

#### **Chapter 970: Who Will Be The Second Thousand Realms Whirling Expert in the Evil Sky Pavilion?**

After recovering enough supreme mystic power, Lu Zhou used the power of sight from the Heavenly Writing Power to check in on Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong again.

At this moment, Yu Zhenghai sat against a damaged wall. He had already placed the life heart in his Birth Palace.

Upon seeing this, Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction. At the same time, he could not help but wonder where Xiao Yunhe and the others went. The surroundings were dark and quiet so he could not see clearly.

The sky grew darker. In such a dark and damp environment, it would be difficult for most people to focus. However, it was nothing to Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong.

After a while, Lu Zhou saw Yu Shangrong holding a life heart and absorbing its energy.

“Hmm?” He noticed the life heart Yu Shangrong was holding was slightly bigger than the average life heart. It was clearly not Shan Gao’s life heart.

“Liang Qu? Xiao Yunhe is so kind as to give Liang Qu’s life heart to them? I took six fire spirit stones from him. Isn’t he angry? What happened?”

After a moment, Lu Zhou shifted his attention to Yu Zhenghai. When he noticed nothing seemed to be abnormal with Yu Zhenghai's progress, he stopped observing Yu Zhenghai. If everything continued to progress the way it was progressing, Yu Zhenghai should be able to activate his Birth Chart tomorrow morning.

Following that, Lu Zhou cut off the Heavenly Writing Power.

He was puzzled. Previously, Yu Shangrong had absorbed the life heart's energy, but there was no result. Why was Yu Shangrong absorbing the life heart's energy again? It did not take long before a vague idea appeared in his mind.

Following that, he no longer dwelled on the matter. Instead, he began to meditate on the Heavenly Writing again to recover his supreme mystic power.

...

The next morning.

After recovering part of the supreme mystic power after meditating the entire night, Lu Zhou used the Heavenly Writing Power to observe Yu Zhenghai again before the sun rose.

He saw Yu Zhenghai looking at the Birth Palace on his golden lotus with an expression of delight. At this moment, the life heart had long been embedded into the zone in the Birth Palace.

Yu Zhenghai said excitedly, "Second Senior Brother, I've successfully activated my Birth Chart!" This time, he was not deliberately showing off; he was genuinely excited and delighted.

"Congratulations," Yu Shangrong said.

Then, Yu Zhenghai saw the life heart, which was hovering in front of Yu Shangrong's avatar, that still had a lot of energy left. He could not help but sigh inwardly. 'It seems like nothing comes easy in this world. Second Junior Brother is not having an easy time absorbing the energy from the life heart.'

After a moment, Yu Zhenghai said, "I'll try to form my Thousand Realms Whirling avatar now; you should continue to absorb the life heart's energy."

"Alright."

The duo was both engrossed in their own tasks.

Yu Zhenghai manifested his avatar and began to form his Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. He was not worried since he had learned a lot of the Thousand Realms Whirling from Si Wuya.

Based on what he had learned, Yu Zhenghai moved his avatar higher in the air. However, as soon as he moved his avatar, his avatar disappeared.

"Hmm?"

Yu Zhenghai manifested his avatar again and repeated his action again. Alas, he failed again.

Repeat. Fail. Repeat. Fail.

Yu Zhenghai tried dozens of times, but they all ended in failure. He frowned as he muttered to himself, "Is it so difficult to form a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar?"

Similarly, Lu Zhou who was watching did not expect it to be so difficult for Yu Zhenghai to form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar as well. After all, Yu Zhenghai had the Great Void Seed. Moreover, his physique and talent were far above most people. If even Yu Zhenghai failed to form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, how could the other cultivators have a hope of succeeding? As expected, the Thousand Realms Whirling stage was not something easy to achieve.

Lu Zhou did not have any problem with this since he directly obtained the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar by spending 500,000 merit points to buy it.

"What else is missing?" Lu Zhou wondered to himself as he continued to watch Yu Zhenghai. Yu Zhenghai's cultivation base was high enough, and he had already activated his first Birth Chart. Could it be that Yu Zhenghai's Dantian's sea of Qi did not meet the requirements?

...

Meanwhile, outside of the southern pavilion.

Shen Xi and the other Nine-leaf cultivators looked in the direction of the eastern pavilion.

Nan Gongwei said in admiration, "I didn't expect Pavilion Master to be so strong! Guardian Shen, you're really amazing for blocking the Pavilion Master's palm seal yesterday."

Upon hearing this, an embarrassed expression appeared on Shen Xi's face. "No, no, you're overpraising me."

After a moment, Nan Gongwei asked curiously, "What's the difference between the golden lotus domain and the black lotus domain apart from the obvious?"

"In a way, there's no difference. There are weak and strong cultivators everywhere since the beginning of time. Since the beginning of time, there have been many colors of lotuses. Whether it's black, red, or golden, there's always those who are weak and strong and those in high and low positions."

"However, why is the black lotus domain so strong?"

Shen Xi replied, "The heaven and earth shackles are different in different domains. Up until now, no one has figured out the secrets of the heaven and earth shackles. I'm afraid I don't have the answer to this question."

Everyone sighed.

After a while, Nan Gongwei said again, "We've already severed our lotus, it may be impossible for us to ever activate our Birth Charts. If we don't find a solution for this, in the future, wouldn't it be..."

Shen Xi smiled faintly. "I once heard an elder from the council speak about the law of balance. What it means is that whatever the heavens take away, it'll also compensate in another area to maintain the balance. Therefore, even if you no longer have a lotus, I'm sure you'll be compensated in some other way."

Nan Gongwei sighed. "Thank you for your kind words, Guardian Shen. The heavens have taken away so much of humans' lifespans, I wonder if that was made up for in other ways..."

Everyone sighed as well upon hearing these words.

Shen Xi said, "Perhaps, one day when we find the Great Void, we'll be able to solve this mystery."

"That's too far away in the future... Anyway, Guardian Shen, can you tell us what we need to pay attention to when forming the Thousand Realms Whirling avatars?" someone asked.

Shen Xi nodded. "In fact, it's not difficult to activate one's Birth Charts. What's difficult is forming the Thousand Realms Whirling avatars."

Buzz!

Shen Xi manifested his black Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. Its height was only 20 feet tall at this moment.

"Compared to the Hundred Tribulations Insight avatars, a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar has Birth Charts, Birth Palace, Birth disk, and the astrolabe," Shen Xi said as he pointed at his avatar, "To form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, there are three things you must remember. First, you must never forget the sequence of the steps. The order can't be messed up. Otherwise, you'll definitely fail. Form the Birth Palace first, and the Birth Chart zones in the Birth Palace will appear. Then, after forming the astrolabe, the Birth disk will naturally follow. Second, the lengthy process to form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar means that you need to have incredibly strong willpower and tolerance for pain. The avatar is like your body. Changing it will definitely cause a lot of pain. Third, without enough Primal Qi, it'd be impossible for you to maintain the process of forming the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar."

Everyone nodded as they listened to Shen Xi.

"There are truly too many things we don't know. Listening to Guardian Shen Xi is better than studying for ten years," someone said after recording Shen Xi's words.

At this moment, Pan Zhong walked in and said, "Guardian Shen Xi, the Pavilion Master has a task for you. He wants you to convey what you've just said to Mister First."

Shen Xi was shocked. "The Pavilion Master... was listening to me?"

Pan Zhong smiled. "How would I know?"

"Alright, I'll attend to this matter immediately."

In fact, it was a coincidence that Lu Zhou heard Shen Xi with his power of hearing.

...

In the red lotus domain's Southern Kingdom.

After trying for more than half a day, Yu Zhenghai still did not have any success. He wiped the sweat off his face and said, "When have I ever suffered so many setbacks? Is the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar really so difficult to form?"

After a moment, Yu Zhenghai turned to look at Yu Shangrong. Yu Shangrong had already absorbed half of the life heart's energy. "Second Junior Brother, your avatar..."

Since Yu Shangrong was focused on his breathing to help his avatar absorb the energy, he did not notice the changes in his avatar. Upon hearing Yu Zhenghai's words, he opened his eyes immediately. He saw the golden leaves, which were spinning around his avatar, seemed to have a hint of green in them.

Yu Shangrong said, puzzled, "Xiao Yunhe said the absorption speed is slow, but that doesn't seem to be the case..."

Yu Zhenghai replied confidently, "That's because he has many Birth Charts. Due to the number of Birth Charts, the requirements are naturally higher so the absorption speed is slow. Since you haven't even activated your Birth Chart, the requirements aren't very high so your speed is faster."

Yu Shangrong did not reply. Instead, he suddenly flew 50 meters south along with his avatar.

Yu Zhenghai. "???"