

Disciples 971

Chapter 971: Is Master a Prophet?

There was no one in this world who knew Yu Shangrong better than Yu Zhenghai. He could see Yu Shangrong's speed was much faster than before. The slightest difference in speed in a fight between experts made a huge difference. Moreover, he had taken note of Yu Shangrong's speed when both of them flew from Jiannan Circuit to the Southern Kingdom. Both of them had been competing, and the result was both of their speed was on par with each other.

Since Yu Zhenghai could sense the change in the speed, Yu Shangrong could sense it even more acutely. He looked at his avatar in surprise. The lotus leaves that had a slight change in color were like tender buds that were about to bloom in spring. The golden color served as a beautiful contrast to the hints of green. It seemed like he managed to gain the ability from Liang Qu's life heart.

"..."

After carefully studying Yu Shangrong's avatar, Yu Zhenghai said, "You've grown stronger."

"I can feel it as well." Yu Shangrong nodded.

Yu Zhenghai suggested, "Let your avatar grow to its full size..."

"No." Yu Shangrong shook his head. "It'll attract attention. Moreover, just by looking at it now, I can tell the height hasn't changed."

"That doesn't make sense..." Yu Zhenghai furrowed his brows, puzzled. "The height of an avatar represents one's cultivation base. However, you've clearly grown stronger. How can there be no changes in the height of your avatar?"

"Perhaps, it has something to do with the lack of a lotus. The life of an expert is destined to be different from others, after all. The life of an expert is a... lonely one..."

"..."

The conversation was getting boring. The gist of their conversation was always the same.

At this moment, Yu Shangrong suddenly said, "The Evil Sky Pavilion is contacting us..." Following that, he brought a miniature formation that had been pre-drawn from his waist and put it on the ground. Then, he brought out three high-grade talismans that floated above the formation and ignited them.

Yu Zhenghai said, filled with praise, "With Seventh Junior Brother's talent, everything is so much more convenient!"

Before the duo left, Si Wuya had prepared many things for them. Talismans, formations, and maps, all of them were meticulously prepared.

Soon enough, Yu Shangrong picked up one of the talismans above the Formation. After he read what was written on the formation, he tossed it toward Yu Zhenghai. "This is for you."

"For me?" Yu Zhenghai looked at the talisman carefully. The more he read, the more shocked he was. Then, he laughed heartily before he said, "Second Junior Brother, this is the method to form a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar! How does master know I'm trying to form my Thousand Realms Whirling avatar? Is master a prophet?"

Yu Shangrong shut down that theory immediately. "You're overthinking things. Have you forgotten master's sound technique when we were dealing with Xiao Yunhe? Obviously, master is not far away..."

Yu Zhenghai shook his head and said, "I disagree. If master were here, why would he send information from the Evil Sky Pavilion? He could've just come here and tell me about it. Master wouldn't do such unnecessary things."

"In any case, it's just a technique to form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. Whether it'll work or not remains to be seen," Yu Shangrong said.

Yu Zhenghai was just about to retort when several white figures could be seen flying in the sky.

"Someone's here." Yu Shangrong hurriedly withdrew his avatar and flew back to the palace wall.

The duo watched as the white figures flew toward the ruins.

Yu Zhenghai shook his head and said, "It seems like we're unlucky today."

The duo hid their auras and did not move. The appearance of the whiteguards had caught them off guard. Soon after, they heard voices in the direction where the blackguards had killed Liang Qu.

"The Black Tower Council is really shameless! They even want to extend their reach to an abandoned place like the Southern Kingdom. Since they broke the agreement first, there's no need for us to care about them anymore!"

"From the looks of it, they were here yesterday. Look at the bloodstains and the traces of the battle, they're relatively new..."

"Since the Black Lotus Council has broken the agreement, we should first occupy the Southern Kingdom before we think of a way to occupy Great Tang."

"I heard there's an expert in Great Tang who's neither from the black lotus domain nor the red lotus domain..."

"There's no need for you to worry about that. Just focus on your job. How we're going to occupy Great Tang or how we're to deal with that mysterious expert are matters for the Elders Guild."

"You're right, captain. What about the stone forest formation?"

"Destroy it!"

"Understood."

Following that, deafening sounds of explosions and buzzing energy rang in the air for about 15 minutes before silence returned.

"There should Birth Chart Beasts in the south. Let's go..."

“Understood.”

‘Birth Chart Beasts?’ Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong raised their heads and looked at the sky.

The whiteguards flew south and soon disappeared from the duo’s sight.

Yu Zhenghai said, “It’s just as Xiao Yunhe said; the south is controlled by the White Tower Council. Their conflict is...”

“The conflict between the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council has nothing to do with us.”

“You’re right.” Following that, Yu Zhenghai manifested his avatar again. He followed the instructions on the talisman and tried to form his Thousand Realms Whirling avatar again.

Yu Shangrong did not bother Yu Zhenghai. Instead, he flashed to another corner to gauge his speed. He smiled faintly. Although he could not activate his Birth Chart yet, at least he could absorb the life heart.

Following that, he took out Liang Qu’s life heart and manifested his avatar before he began to absorb the life heart’s energy again.

...

Two days passed in just a blink of an eye.

It was late at night at this moment.

Yu Shangrong finally finished absorbing the energy from the life heart.

The life heart had lost its luster and looked dried up.

Yu Shangrong exhaled, sensing the changes in his Dantian’s sea of Qi. He could tell his Dantian’s sea of Qi had grown bigger. Apart from that, the green in his lotus leaves had also become more distinct. Under the night sky, it looked like dried yellow leaves were being rejuvenated.

“Does this mean I have Liang Qu’s ability?” Yu Shangrong wondered.

After a moment, he sensed his lifespan. Powerful cultivators could roughly sense their lifespans; even ordinary people could sense when their deaths were near.

“800 years?” Yu Shangrong muttered to himself.

Based on what Yu Shangrong knew, to activate a Birth Chart, one needed to absorb 1,500 years of life from a life heart. After successfully activating a Birth Chart, one would gain 500 years of life. Due to him being a Nobleman, the years of life he obtained when cultivating had always been half of what ordinary cultivators obtained. He had expected to gain 250 years at most this time; how could he not be surprised that he gained 800 years? It was even more than what ordinary cultivators obtained.

However, Yu Shangrong was not happy about this. In his opinion, misfortune often hid blessings while fortune often hid curses. Nevertheless, the years he obtained were rather useful.

After he withdrew his avatar, he wondered out loud, “I’ve completely absorbed the energy of my second life heart. What happens if I continue? It’s impossible to find a limitless supply of energy for my avatar to

absorb... I wonder if I'll be able to forge a new path of cultivation like Xiao Yunhe said?" He could not help but feel a sense of anticipation for the future when he thought about Xiao Yunhe's words.

At this moment, Yu Shangrong heard a muffled groan. He turned around and saw Yu Zhenghai's face was twisted in pain and blood could be seen at the corners of his lips. He said with a frown, "Eldest Senior Brother..."

"I... I'm fine. Don't mind me." Yu Zhenghai forcefully endured the pain in his internal organs.

A crisp noise rang in the air, and Yu Shangrong looked at Yu Zhenghai's lotus seat. There were distinct lines on it now.

When the lines appeared, Yu Zhenghai groaned in pain again. "Motherf * cker... It's just a little pain! What can it do to me?"

Chapter 972: The Disciple Who Has Completed His Apprenticeship

There was truly a balance for everything in this world.

Yu Shangrong suddenly felt that he had made a wise decision by decisively severing his lotus back then even if it was dangerous and painful. It seemed like he would not need to suffer the kind of pain Yu Zhenghai was suffering.

"I'll wait for you then," Yu Shangrong said with a faint smile before he leaped to the top of the dilapidated palace wall and looked around.

The night sky stretched as far as the eyes could see. It was completely dark with no stars to light it up. The air in the ruins was strange and deathly still.

Yu Zhenghai's avatar was like a little lamp in the midst of the darkness, providing a little bit of light.

At this time, Yu Shangrong's body moved. His speed was as fast as lightning. He flew out 50 meters before he flew back again.

He muttered under his breath, surprised, "This is Liang Qu's speed?"

After a moment, he decided to practice with the Longevity Sword. He had nothing to do now anyway. He tapped his toes on the top of the palace wall before he soared high up into the sky.

After he came to a halt, he closed his eyes. The Longevity Sword in his hand remained still.

"Calm Disturbance."

Calm Disturbance was the move Lu Zhou had demonstrated to Sikong Beichen back then in the Ninth Temple.

"To use all creations as swords. The swordless path."

Buzz!

The sound of energy resonating rang in all directions as energy swords appeared in the air.

When Yu Shangrong finally opened his eyes, he saw more than 100,000 energy swords in the sky.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The energy swords pointed out as they gathered and spun like a plate in the sky.

Suddenly, Yu Shangrong dove down as he controlled the more than 100,000 energy swords to follow him.

The run-down building in front of him instantly collapsed under the assault of the energy swords.

“Not good enough.” Yu Shangrong was dissatisfied with this result. He controlled the energy swords and moved south.

The more than 100,000 energy swords flew after him like a dragon.

“Isn’t this like the Water Dragon Song?” Yu Shangrong chuckled. “Nevertheless, it’s still a little lacking compared to Calm Disturbance.”

Indeed, this move was rather similar to the Water Dragon Song that Lu Zhou taught Yu Zhenghai.

Yu Shangrong continued to fly around with the energy swords before he suddenly came to a stop. The more than 100,000 energy swords disappeared in just an instant. He realized this move was too eye-catching.

“Is this the strength of a Birth Chart expert?” For some reason, he felt that his strength was that of a Birth Chart expert now. After absorbing two life hearts, he could feel his reaction, speed, strength, and control were much stronger than before. However, his avatar was still the same as before: a Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar with golden leaves with a tinge of green.

It was silent as Yu Shangrong continued to hover in the air. The air blew against him, causing his green robe to flutter.

After a moment, he looked at Yu Zhenghai who was on the ground. Yu Zhenghai looked like he was in even more pain than before. Nevertheless, he was not worried. After all, in regard to suffering, no one in the Evil Sky Pavilion could compare to Yu Zhenghai. Since Yu Zhenghai had suffered so many hardships, this little bit of pain that would smooth the road ahead of him was nothing.

...

In the Evil Sky Pavilion’s eastern pavilion.

When Lu Zhou saw Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai’s progress that seemed optimistic, he no longer observed them. Instead, he thought of ways to pass the information he had gathered to Zhu Honggong.

Zhu Honggong did not know how to use the talismans or formations that the Evil Sky Pavilion and Si Wuya used to communicate.

Lu Li had lost his cultivation base. Therefore, although he knew the way to communicate, he did not have the strength to do it.

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

He saw Zhu Honggong asking Lu Li, "Is there really no way to form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar?"

"No, I will find a way. There must be a way!" Lu Li said. There were all kinds of life hearts in front of him at this moment.

Zhu Honggong said with a smile, "In fact, it's not that bad even if I can't form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar."

"You're saying this again?"

"Alright, alright. I made a promise to you, and I'll keep it. However, if it's really impossible for me to form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, you can't blame me," Zhu Honggong said.

"You have to become strong in order to live well. Aren't I doing this for your good? Do I still have to tell you this?" Lu Li said, "I don't know what your master taught you. Your talent is wasted on him. A strict master would produce great disciples; an easygoing master would produce lazy disciples. If you were to follow me when you're a child, you would already be a powerful Eight Chart expert! What a pity..."

"Old Lu, how can you slander my master like this!"

After spending so much time together, Zhu Honggong had grown closer to Lu Li. He had even gotten used to addressing Lu Li as Old Lu.

Lu Li ignored him.

Zhu Honggong said, "My master is the number one expert in the golden lotus domain; he's the Pavilion Master of the Evil Sky Pavilion. All the ten disciples of the Evil Sky Pavilion are prominent figures!"

"You're quite loyal."

"Of course," Zhu Honggong said with a sigh, "You don't know this. My talent and aptitude for cultivation were poor when I was a child. My father is the Cult Master of the Ancient Saint Cult, but there was nothing he could do to help me cultivate. In the end, my master solved the problem and let me cultivate the Nine Tribulations Thunderblast. Although I lost a lot of years of my life in the beginning, I've gained them back through cultivation. Therefore, I'm very grateful to my master..."

"It has nothing to do with your master. It's the Great Void energy," Lu Li said.

"How do you know the Great Void energy wasn't given to me by my master?" Zhu Honggong asked with a smile/

Lu Li. "..."

Lu Li was rather surprised by Zhu Honggong's words. Indeed, how did he know if the Great Void energy was given to Zhu Honggong by his master or not? Moreover, Si Wuya, Zhu Honggong's fellow disciple, had the Great Void energy as well. He had also learned from Zhu Honggong that all the disciples of the Evil Sky Pavilion were highly talented. Based on what Zhu Honggong's described, his fellow disciples' cultivations were consistent with those who possessed the Great Void. If that was true, there was only one possibility: everyone in the Evil Sky Pavilion had the Great Void!

With that thought in mind, Lu Li said, "I suspect your master is from the Great Void..."

"The Great Void again. I'm sick of hearing it! When will I see the results of my hard work?"

"That's enough. All you do is eat and eat every day... Do you think you can improve your cultivation base by eating?" Lu Li said. After a moment, he suddenly rose to his feet. "Wait!"

"What is it?"

"Eat!" Lu Li picked up a life heart and looked at Zhu Honggong before he said, "You can try eating it!"

Zhu Honggong. "..."

Whoosh!

Zhu Honggong disappeared like a gust of wind.

Lu Li frowned as he muttered to himself, "That's right. It's so big and hard; how could he eat it? Cut it up? Crush it to make porridge? Or... absorb it?" His eyes lit up before he called out, "Zhu Honggong, come back here this instance! I have another good idea!"

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Lu Zhou nodded. It seemed like there was no need for him to rack his brain to think of a way to send a message to Zhu Honggong; Lu Li would be able to figure out the method.

Nevertheless, just to be sure, Lu Zhou used the Heavenly Writing and shouted, "Absorb!"

...

Zhu Honggong who had already left the hall suddenly came to a stop when he heard a thunderous voice shouting, "Absorb!"

He scratched his ears and murmured, "Isn't that master's voice? Ah... It seems like I'm thinking too much about everyone that I'm even hallucinating. You want me to eat that thing? No way!"

...

Lu Zhou shook his head and cut off the Heavenly Writing Power.

The cost of transmitting that one word 'Absorb' depleted almost all of his supreme mystic power.

He no longer worried about Zhu Honggong. After all, Zhu Honggong's life was not in danger. It was better to keep an eye on his eldest and second disciple for now. Moreover, if the duo successfully found the scroll of the Heavenly Writing, it would greatly increase his strength as well.

At this moment...

"Ding! One of your disciples, Yu Zhenghai, has successfully formed the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. Reward: 10,000 merit points."

"Yu Zhenghai has met the requirements to complete his apprenticeship. Would you like him to complete his apprenticeship?"

Chapter 973: Enhanced Peak Trial Card

“Apprenticeship? What’s this new thing?”

Lu Zhou looked at the system interface. The mission for disciplining and educating Yu Zhenghai was flashing non-stop.

Next to it, it was written: “Disciples will provide you with higher rewards after completing the apprenticeships.”

As the saying went, ‘A master for a day, a father for life. It seemed like even if his disciples completed their apprenticeships and left him, things would not change much. He had assumed he would not be able to gain any more rewards once his disciples left him.

“Complete the apprenticeship.”

“Ding! Your disciple, Yu Zhenghai, has successfully completed his apprenticeship.”

“Ding! You’re rewarded with a random card. When you use this card, a rare item will be randomly awarded to you.”

“Ding! After Yu Zhenghai completed his apprenticeship, he can now establish a sect and accept disciples. Maximum number of disciples: 3.”

“Ding! You will no longer receive points for teaching Yu Zhenghai.”

“Ding! You must confirm this with Yu Zhenghai in person. Currently, this only takes effect in the system.”

Lu Zhou found the series of notifications acceptable and within his expectations. After completing the apprenticeships and leaving their master, there was no longer a need for the master to teach the disciples. Moreover, to be honest, the merit points he obtained from Yu Zhenghai during Yu Zhenghai’s time as his disciples were pitifully low.

He also noticed that the mission to discipline and educate Yu Zhenghai had disappeared.

After a moment, a thought appeared in his mind. “Can I obtain merit points through my granddisciples?”

He thought about Si Wuya who had Li Yunzheng as his student. If Si Wuya completed his apprenticeship, did it mean that he would not be able to obtain points from Li Yunzheng anymore? It would be a loss if that was the case.

This was similar to how things worked on earth. After one finished one’s apprenticeship, one would be able to enter society. At that time, one would be qualified to establish a company, or in this case, sect. As for whether one was willing or not was another matter.

Following that, Lu Zhou looked at the random card he was given.

“Use.”

“Ding! Obtained a Ji Tiandao’s Peak Trial Card and an advanced enhanced Reversal Card.”

“...”

A Deadly Strike Card was sold for 32,000 merit points now. His rewards were definitely more than 30,000 merit points. With these rewards, he did not have to risk increasing the price if he bought a Deadly Strike Card.

“Maybe I should let all my disciples leave me...”

On second thought, it was not easy to complete one’s apprenticeship. Even with their Great Void Seeds, they had successfully formed their Thousand Realms Whirling avatar before they could complete their apprenticeship.

Lu Zhou looked at one of the cards. “Advanced enhanced Reversal Card? An ordinary Reversal Card reverses 1,000 days. How many days will it be since it’s enhanced?”

He did not think too much and decided to use the card.

Soon enough, vitality energy began to gather above the Evil Sky Pavilion.

...

Meanwhile, Shen Xi who was still imparting his knowledge to the others in the southern pavilion suddenly sensed a strong fluctuation of vitality energy.

The Nine-leaf cultivators from the various sects looked up as well.

The cloud rolled in, and the wind picked up speed as energy surged violently.

Pan Zhong, who was standing nearby, said with a smile, “Guardian Shen, please continue...”

“Oh, that’s right. Thank you for your reminder, Brother Pan.” Shen Xi recalled Pan Zhong had told him to regard everything that happened in the Evil Sky Pavilion as normal. He must learn from his mistakes. Fear still lingered in his heart from the last palm strike. In fact, his arms were still a little sore and numb.

...

The surging vitality energy did not last long.

Lu Zhou looked at his lifespan.

Remaining lifespan: 652,402 days (1787 years in which 263 years are obtained from Reversal Cards.

“10,000 Days?” The enhanced Reversal Card had reversed a lot of his years compared to the ordinary Reversal Card!

Lu Zhou rose to his feet and walked around the hall in the eastern pavilion. His body felt lighter, and his condition was better as well. The wrinkles on his hands had decreased significantly as well.

Lu Zhou nodded his head in satisfaction. “I’m one step closer to being young.”

Currently, he had two Peak Trial Cards. He only needed one more to synthesize them.

“Lucky draw.”

“Ding! Used 50 merit points and 100 luck points. Obtained: Reversal Card x5.”

“...”

...

Meanwhile, in the red lotus domain's Southern Kingdom.

Yu Zhenghai looked at his Thousand Realms Whirling avatar with an expression of relief on his face. It was as though a huge weight had been removed from his shoulders. After suffering for several days, he finally succeeded in forming the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. Only he himself knew how difficult it was.

Following that, he turned around and said to Yu Shangrong, “Second Junior Brother, look! The Thousand Realms Whirling avatar.”

The Birth Disk on the astrolabe, which hung at the back of the avatar, flashed every time the life heart in the Birth Palace flashed. The karmic fire burned magnificently around the Ten-leaf lotus.

Yu Shangrong nodded. “Congratulations!”

Yu Zhenghai put away his Thousand Realms Whirling avatar and asked, “How's your situation?”

“It's alright.”

“That's good.”

Yu Shangrong said, “We still have one more life heart. Eldest Senior Brother, you might as well activate your second Birth Chart now.”

Yu Zhenghai shook his head and said, “No. You can have this life heart. I've only activated my Birth Chart so I need to wait for it to stabilize anyway. Progressing too fast isn't always good.”

“I'll just hold onto it for now.”

“Alright.”

The duo looked south in unison.

“The whiteguards went south previously since the agreement with the Black Tower Council has been broken. We should seize the opportunity to have a look around and see if we can find what master needs.”

“That's what I'm thinking as well.”

The duo did not waste time and rushed toward the south.

...

After an hour.

Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai arrived at another ruin. Both of them hovered in the air as they looked at the towering but dilapidated building with vines crawling all over them. Bones could be seen in piles on the ground.

This ancient city clearly carried the mark of war. This place should be the Southern Kingdom's royal capital. The glories of the past could no longer be seen; only a run-down city remained.

At this moment, Yu Zhenghai said, "There are movements ahead. Let's have a look."

The duo flew forward.

"The map that master gave us marked this place as well."

When they arrived above an old palace, they saw a formation flag on the ground that was about 300 meters tall.

The white formation flag fluttered in the wind and was rather difficult to see from afar. Its pole was very thin as well.

When the duo drew closer, they saw patterns and inscriptions on the poles that flickered faintly with light.

"This is from the White Tower Council. We better hide..."

The two rushed into the palace and hid.

After waiting a while, as expected, three white guards appeared and moved to stand around the formation flag.

"Captain, now that we've set up the flag formation, I believe we'll be able to take down this special Birth Chart Beast."

The captain of the whiteguards nodded and said, "This Birth Chart Beast isn't simple. It's rather intelligent as well. Tian Ming, you stay here to look after the formation flag. The judge will definitely come within a month. This is an important matter, and we can't afford to make any mistakes. Watch out for the people from the Black Tower Council. If there's anything, report immediately."

"Understood."

Soon after, two of the whiteguards left.

Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai were intrigued.

"Special Birth Chart Beast?" Yu Shangrong said to Yu Zhenghai through voice transmission to avoid detection by the white guard.

Alas, as soon as Yu Shangrong spoke through voice transmission, the flag began to flap violently.

"Who is it?"

The flag seemed to be pointing in the direction of the palace.

The whiteguard was very cautious; he did not rush into the palace immediately. Instead, he manifested an energy sword in his hand.

Upon seeing this, Yu Zhenghai shook his head helplessly. "Well, I suppose this is inevitable." He tapped his toes and flew out of the palace at top speed.

The duo, one on the left and one on the right, flew at a low altitude.

Upon seeing the duo, the whiteguard asked with a frown on his face, "Who are you?"

Yu Shangrong replied with a smile, "I'm Yu Shangrong from the Evil Sky Pavilion. Sorry for disturbing you."

Yu Shangrong smiled and said, "I'm Yu Shangrong."

Yu Zhenghai. "..."

It would have sounded forced and awkward if Yu Zhenghai were to say these polite words. However, they seemed very natural coming out of Yu Shangrong's mouth.

"The Evil Sky Pavilion?" The matters between the Evil Sky Pavilion, the White Tower Council, and the Black Tower Council were mostly confidential. Therefore, Tian Ming, the whiteguard, did not know about the Evil Sky Pavilion. In his opinion, as long as it was not the Black Tower Council, everything would be fine. Therefore, he was rather at ease as he asked indifferently, "Why are both of you here?"

"We're here to look for something."

Upon hearing this, Tian Ming raised his guard slightly. "What is it?"

"I'm sorry, this is related to the privacy of my master. I have no comment," Yu Shangrong said with a straight face.

"..."

After thinking for a moment, Tian Ming said, "Please leave."

Yu Shangrong shook his head slightly. "I don't think you understand what I said. The thing we're looking for is here. If we leave, how are we going to find it?"

Tian Ming, the whiteguard, said, "This isn't a place you should come to..."

Yu Zhenghai raised his voice slightly and said, "Bullsh*t! The Southern Kingdom has fallen to disrepair. Just because you say we shouldn't be here, we must listen to you?"

Tian Ming frowned and said, "This is a rule of the White Tower Council. Haven't you heard of the White Tower Council?"

"I have," Yu Zhenghai nodded and said, "Unfortunately, you haven't heard of the Evil Sky Pavilion. In this world, those who dare to oppose my master never have a good ending."

"..."

Yu Zhenghai who had tasted the sweetness of using his master's name did not hesitate to bring up his master again.

Alas, not everyone was as astute and tactful as Xiao Yunhe.

Tian Ming shook his head and raised his hand to grab the pole of the formation flag next to him.

In just an instant, a streak of white light shot out of the formation flag.

Under the illumination of the white light, Tian Ming saw the Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai's miniature avatars that had appeared by their sides. Upon seeing the Ten-leaf avatar and the new Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, he felt greatly relieved. Then, he said, "Both of you are quite brave? How dare you come to the Southern Kingdom with this kind of cultivation base? Aren't you afraid of being torn apart by Birth Chart Beasts?"

Chapter 974: Great Void Energy

Tian Ming, the whiteguard, was originally slightly worried, but when he saw Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong's cultivation bases, he heaved a sigh of relief.

Meanwhile, the attack from the formation flag was beyond Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai's expectations.

Nevertheless, Yu Zhenghai said with nary a change in his expression, "Young man, if you know the Evil Sky Pavilion, you'll know how foolish you're acting right now."

Tian Ming spread his hands and made an inviting gesture as he said, "Well, the White Tower Council has always been reasonable. If you want to look for something, then go ahead..."

Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai exchanged a look and rushed toward the ruins, the location that was marked on the map.

Meanwhile, Tian Ming was confused as he watched the duo search the ruins. 'Does the Evil Sky Pavilion have anything to do with recent murders of the members of the White Tower Council? What are they searching for? Golden and red lotus cultivators have always been weak, and none of them has successfully formed the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. Then, how can this person have a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar?'

To be able to form the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, one had to first activate one's Birth Chart. The Birth Chart Beasts in the Great Tang were monopolized by the Black Tower Council so even red lotus cultivators were unable to obtain life hearts from Birth Chart Beasts.. So how did a golden lotus cultivator manage to form a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar?

Although Tian Ming did not know much about the golden lotus domain and the red lotus domain, he knew the golden lotus domain and the red lotus domain were weak. For that reason, they were the targets of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council's captive plan. However, the golden lotus domain was even weaker than the red lotus domain. Many years ago, the White Tower Council sent some people to scout the golden lotus domain. They discovered the golden lotus domain was so weak that they had put their captive plan on hold.

While Tian Ming was thinking about these matters, he did look away from Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong. He continued watching the duo carefully search the ruins.

Just like that, the duo spent the entire day searching the ruins.

...

Meanwhile, in the Evil Sky Pavilion's eastern pavilion.

Lu Zhou, who had gained 10,000 days, was still trying his luck with the lucky draws.

“Lucky draw.”

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

“I’m on home ground now; there’s no reason for it to be like this,” Lu Zhou muttered to himself.

When he looked at the almost 500 luck points he gained, he felt rather helpless. Once again, his luck points had broken the record. 500 luck points were equivalent to 25,000 merit points. Not only did he lose merit points, but he had wasted his time as well.

“I refuse to accept this. Lucky draw!”

...

The next morning.

The sunlight streamed in through the window into the eastern pavilion’s hall.

The light pulled Lu Zhou, who was numbed by the lucky draws, back to his senses.

He exhaled helplessly and did not bother to look at his luck points. It was meaningless.

He looked at the sun outside of the window before he said silently under his breath, “Lucky draw.”

“Ding! Used 50 merit points and 999 luck points. Obtained: Reversal Card x20, Synthesis Card x2, Disguise Card x1, Ji Tiandao’s Peak Trial Card x1, Acacia technique.”

It had not been easy this time. He had used more than 40,000 merit points. Fortunately, he managed to obtain a Peak Trial Card in the end. Otherwise, he would have suffered a huge loss!

Lu Zhou raised his right hand. Three Peak Trial Cards and a Synthesis Card appeared in his hand immediately.

“Synthesize.”

“Ding! The synthesis is successful. Obtained: Enhanced Ji Tiandao’s Peak Trial Card.”

“Ding! Enhanced Ji Tiandao’s Peak Trial Card allows you to be in Ji Tiandao’s peak state for 30 minutes.”

“Why is it still Ji Tiandao’s peak state?” Lu Zhou was perplexed. The peak of Ji Tiandao’s strength was at the Nine-leaf stage. Based on the system notification, even after the three cards were synthesized, he would only gain the strength of a Nine-leaf cultivator. Was this not a huge loss? No matter how strong a Nine-leaf cultivator was, how could they compare to Thousand Realms Whirling experts? Even if he had an endless supply of energy, he still could not withstand a slap from a Thousand Realms Whirling expert!

‘The system didn’t specify Ji Tiandao’s peak state. There’s no reason for the enhanced version to be weaker than the ordinary version...’ Lu Zhou reassured himself. Following that, he put the enhanced Peak Trial Card away.

Lu Zhou looked at the other item cards. Apart from the Acacia, the others were just ordinary item cards.

“Acacia? It’s a technique?” With the Butterfly Love Flower that he obtained previously, he had two techniques now. One was suitable for Ye Tianxin, and the other one was suitable for Zhao Yue. He would have to find them to copy these techniques down.

After putting the items cards away, Lu Zhou chanted the mantra for the Heavenly Writing Power to check on his eldest and second disciple.

Soon enough, he saw Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai flew back and forth around the ruins. From time to time, they would launch energy swords and energy sabers at the rubble.

In the distance, a white flag could be seen fluttering in the wind. A whiteguard hovered next to the white flag.

Lu Zhou was confused when he saw the white-clad man. ‘Someone from the White Tower Council? Why are Old First and Old Second getting along so peacefully with someone from the White Tower Council?’

Lu Zhou nodded and stroked his beard in satisfaction after a while. It seemed like his teachings were not in vain. His disciples knew when to retreat and when to advance.

Bang!

Yu Shangrong controlled the Longevity Sword and launched it at a stone pillar.

Upon hearing the commotion, Tian Ming turned to look. A complex expression appeared on his face when he saw the Longevity Sword. “A flood-grade weapon? A mere Ten-leaf cultivator possesses a flood-grade weapon?”

Boom!

At this moment, another energy sword destroyed a circular building that seemed like a smaller version of the palace. It was reduced to rubble in just an instant, and cracks could be seen on the floor.

“It’s here.” Yu Shangrong called out.

“How can it be so easy to find?”

Yu Shangrong retorted, “Do you think it’s normal to find an undamaged box in the ruins?”

“You have a point.” Yu Zhenghai nodded. After rushed over, he used the Jasper Saber and brought it down on the box.

Bang!

The box cracked and split into two, revealing clothes and the four treasures of the study. There were no scrolls from the Heavenly Writing.

“It doesn’t make sense. We have already searched through the areas marked on the map,” Yu Zhenghai said with a frown.

“What master is looking for is similar to a piece of paper, but it’s much thicker than ordinary paper. I saw it when I was in the Melilot’s Graveyard. It had to be special since it didn’t rot after being left in the

graveyard for such a long time; there was no damage to it at all. Since master said it's here, it has to be here," Yu Shangrong said.

Yu Zhenghai kicked the box away. He spread his arms as he said, "In that case, let's just burn everything!"

Golden karmic fire appeared immediately and burned everything in its path at a rapid speed.

"Karmic fire?" Tian Ming was taken aback as he watched the karmic fire that turned the ruins into a sea of fire.

Meanwhile, Yu Zhenghai asked, filled with pride, "Second Junior Brother, what do you think of the karmic fire?"

Yu Shangrong replied with a straight face, "I'm afraid master's thing won't be able to withstand the karmic fire."

Yu Zhenghai. "..."

Sizzle!

Yu Zhenghai leaped up.

A strong wind began to stir and blew across the ruins, extinguishing the karmic fire in just an instant.

The ruins were as black as charcoal now.

When Yu Zhenghai descended, he kicked a burnt box to the side.

Thud!

Lying in the ashes was a scroll that shone with a faint blue light. Its light was like the stars twinkling in the galaxy; it was exceptionally beautiful.

"Found it!"

The duo approached the scroll of the Heavenly Writing. When the light from the scroll shone on them, mist-like energy rose from their bodies immediately.

Upon seeing this, Tian Ming frowned and cried out in shock, "The Great Void energy!"

Chapter 975: Killing a Thousand Realms Whirling Expert

Tian Ming's status in the White Tower Council was not high. Among those in Great Yuan, he could not be considered a genius. He only managed to become a cultivation expert through his own hard work. After that, he was selected by the White Tower Council, he became a whiteguard. Alas, the higher his strength rose, the more realized hard work could not make up for innate talent. Although hard work would not betray him, the process was long and arduous compared to those who were highly talented. Therefore, there was nothing he wanted more than to change his fate and become like those geniuses who were highly respected, standing high and giving orders.

Tian Ming had heard stories about the Unknown Land from his seniors in the White Tower Council. He had heard those in the Unknown Land were all masters because they possessed the Great Void Seed

that changed their physique and talent. There were also rumors that those who participated in the Great Void Expedition described the Great Void energy as powerful, pure, and calm.

Who could remain unmoved when faced with such treasures?

“The Great Void energy...” The greed in Tian Ming’s eyes grew more and more apparent as he looked at Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai. After a moment, he shifted his gaze to the scroll in the duo’s possession. The light from the scroll had revealed the duo’s Great Void energies. Since it was about to reveal the Great Void energy, there was no doubt the scroll was a treasure as well.

Meanwhile, Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai, who were unaware that their Great Void energies had been exposed, looked at the glowing scroll and clicked their tongue in wonder.

“It was hidden quite deeply...”

It’s hidden quite deeply.”

After the light from the scroll dimmed and faded away, Yu Shangrong reached out and put it away.

Yu Zhenghai asked, “Second Junior Brother, don’t you feel that master has a lot of secrets?”

“Yes.” Yu Shangrong said.

“When we fought him together in the past, he was just a mere Eight-leaf cultivator, right? Moreover, how does he know about this treasure in the red lotus domain?” Yu Zhenghai asked.

“You said he was just a mere Eight-leaf cultivator?”

“That’s not the point.”

“Just a mere Eight-leaf cultivator?” Yu Shangrong persisted.

“...”

Whoosh!

At this moment, an energy sword that was about 100 feet long and looked like an ice crystal sailed in the air toward the duo.

The duo sensed the incoming danger and jumped back in unison.

Bang!

The huge energy sword stabbed into the place where the duo had been standing just a moment ago.

The duo turned around simultaneously and looked at the whiteguard standing in the distance.

Tian Ming said, “Please leave that thing you found behind...”

Yu Zhenghai shook his head. “So you finally exposed your true intention?”

Tian Ming replied, “The White Tower Council came here first. According to the rules of the cultivation world, the first to arrive has the right to the place.”

“But we were the ones who found this item. Moreover, even if we follow the rules, my master was here first before the White Tower Council. Why should we leave the item behind?” Yu Zhenghai asked. He laughed as though he could believe how preposterous Tian Ming’s words were.

“If your master were here first, show me the evidence...” Tian Ming said. He had already thought of an excuse after all. He decided to take the risk to obtain the chance to raise his talent.

Yu Shangrong smiled indifferently. “The fact that we found this thing is evidence itself...”

Tian Ming. He could not refute Yu Shangrong’s words. “...” After a beat, he said, “You’re wrong. The White Tower Council was here a long time ago. Even the Black Tower Council doesn’t challenge this fact. My words remain the same; leave the item behind.”

Yu Zhenghai shook his head and said, “Second Junior Brother, do you want to go first or should I go first?”

Upon hearing these words, Tian Ming scoffed disdainfully. “Both of you are going to die!”

Following that, Tian Ming extended his hand and placed it on the pole of the white flag.

In just an instant, the Dao inscriptions on the pole that was like a dragon flared with light immediately. They came alive and snaked up gracefully toward the fluttering white flag.

A crackling noise rang in the air as the white flag shot out thousands upon thousands of white energy swords.

“Second Junior Brother, step back.” Yu Zhenghai’s expression darkened as he warned Yu Shangrong. After all, Yu Shangrong was only at the Ten-leaf stage; how could Yu Shangrong stand up against a Thousand Realms Whirling expert.

Nevertheless, Yu Shangrong had never been a coward. Instead of retreating, he brandished his Longevity Sword and advanced. As the thousands and thousands of white energy swords were like raindrops, he slashed them with his sword. His speed was faster than usual. It was so fast that he seemed to form a barrier that repelled the white energy swords.

Yu Zhenghai was taken aback by Yu Shangrong’s speed. Although he knew Yu Shangrong had gotten stronger, he did not expect Yu Shangrong to be so strong. When he recovered his senses, he leaped forward with the Jasper Saber in his hand and broke through the onslaught of white energy swords.

Tian Ming was surprised. “Their defenses are so good?”

“What do you think?” Yu Zhenghai said when he heard Tian Ming’s words.

Without any warning, the Great Dark Heaven Memorial’s Dark Heavenly Starlight fell immediately. A sky full of energy sabers pressed down in just an instant.

Tian Ming frowned. The formation flag was still slightly weak. “You’re courting death...”

Following that, Tian Ming removed his hand from the pole of the white flag before he manifested an astrolabe in his hand. He turned the astrolabe around and pushed it out. Soon enough, a beam of white

light shot out from the back of the astrolabe, breaking through the Dark Heavenly Starlight and shooting toward Yu Zhenghai's chest.

Clang!

Yu Zhenghai hurriedly raised the Jasper Saber to block the attack. When the attack landed, a loud explosion rang in the air as he was pushed backward.

At this moment, Yu Shangrong flew toward Tian Ming at lightning speed with agile movements. As soon as he arrived in front of Tian Ming, he brandished his sword and launched energy swords toward Tian Ming.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The energy swords rained down like a violent storm on Tian Ming.

Meanwhile, Yu Shangrong moved to the left, the right, up, and down as he continued to attack.

Tian Ming frowned. 'Is he really a Ten-leaf cultivator?'

After a moment, Tian Ming attributed Yu Shangrong's strength to the flood-grade Longevity Sword. He knew he could not afford to hold back now. Otherwise, he would be at a disadvantage. He roared, "Get lost!"

Boom!

The power of the Birth Chart sent Yu Shangrong flying. He felt his arm go numb as he flipped in the air to stabilize his footing.

Yu Zhenghai asked, "Are you alright?"

"Do I look like I'm alright?"

"..."

Tian Ming's Birth Chart power clearly showed the difference of the Thousand Realms Whirling from the other realms. Before he made a move again, he said scornfully, "Ten leaves are just ten leaves in the end. No matter what secret techniques or tricks you have, you can't make up for the difference between our strengths..."

Buzz!

A 400-foot Thousand Realms Whirling avatar appeared in front of Yu Shangrong immediately. The appearance of the avatar caused the pressure bearing down on him to multiply. When he saw a palm seal falling down, he hurriedly raised his hand to block it.

Bang!

Yu Shangrong was sent flying back again.

A crackling sound rang in the air again as the white formation flag suddenly increased in height. It rose another 500 feet, reaching 1,000 feet.

Yu Zhenghai shot up into the sky and brought the Jasper Saber down with two hands at the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar as he said, "Your opponent is me!"

Tian Ming did not pay any attention to Yu Zhenghai and rushed toward Yu Shangrong instead.

Bang!

An energy saber landed on the astrolabe hanging at the back of the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. However, apart from some ripples, the white avatar remained undamaged.

At this moment, the avatar released the Birth Chart power again. It rolled out like a huge wave toward Yu Zhenghai. At the same time, the formation flag began shooting out even more energy swords.

"Retreat." Yu Shangrong suddenly flashed and arrived at Yu Zhenghai's side at top speed.

As though the duo had a tacit understanding, they sped out of the area in the range of the white flag formation.

Tian Ming frowned. He thought the duo's speed was strange. More and more, he could tell the duo was special. One of them was just a mere Ten-leaf cultivator, but his strength was far beyond that of a Ten-leaf cultivator.

In the end, Tian Ming shook his head and dismissed his thoughts. He was determined to obtain the duo's Great Void energies. He quickly slammed his right hand on the ground. In just an instant, the ground burst with light before another two white flags shot out of the ground.

In just a blink of an eye, the three white flags connected, forming a triangle formation that trapped Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai.

Tian Ming flew up with his avatar above the triangle formation and looked down at the duo as he said, "I'm sorry. You can only blame your Great Void energies for this..."

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong looked at each other, finally realizing they had been exposed.

"So, that's what you're after..."

Tian Ming said, "I believe no one in this world will be able to resist this temptation..."

"You think you can take us down alone?"

"I'm more than enough. Moreover, I'm not willing to share these treasures with others..." Tian Ming replied truthfully.

Yu Zhenghai nodded. "I admire your courage. At least you're honest about your intentions, unlike those hypocrites."

Tian Ming shook his head. "There's no use putting on airs. I won't give you any chance to escape at all." Following that, he struck in three different directions.

Chapter 976: The Incomprehensible Ten-leaf Cultivator and Thousand Realms Whirling Cultivator

Lu Zhou who was watching his two eldest disciples could not help but feel slightly worried. With the duo's current cultivation bases, they were still slightly lacking compared to the whiteguad with three

Birth Charts. It would be difficult for the duo to win, but it was not impossible for them to escape. It all depended on how the duo dealt with the situation now.

...

At this moment, the three white formation flags released energy swords into the triangular area. Due to the bright white light, it was as though a snowstorm had arrived.

"I'll take over." Yu Zhenghai controlled the Jasper Saber and flew up.

A golden energy shrouded the Jasper Saber as it began to spin, creating a space with a diameter of a few meters that blocked the white energy swords.

Yu Shangrong, who was willing to fall behind, began to make a move as well.

The duo, one on top and one at the borrow, began to attack the three white walls that trapped them, attempting to break through.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Seeing the duo attacking with all their might, Tian Ming chuckled before he said, "I haven't even put in any effort, but both of you are already unable to take care of yourselves. These flags can absorb vitality energy from the heavens and earth. You can block it for a while, but can you block it forever?"

Tian Ming was very cautious. In order to take down the duo, he did not hesitate to use the formation flags. If the captain asked, he would push it all to a Birth Chart Beast. After obtaining the duo's Great Void energies, he would hide his strength and bide his time before soaring up to the heavens.

Tian Ming was still lost in his happy thoughts when...

Boom!

Yu Zhenghai broke out of the triangular area with the help of a huge energy saber. His eyes flashed fiercely as he held the Jasper Saber with both hands before swinging it down with all his might. "Get down!"

The energy saber that shot out of the Jasper Saber was burning with karmic fire.

Tian Ming was shocked. He hastily pushed his white astrolabe out with both hands. The astrolabe increased in size, looking like the full moon in the night, to block the attack.

Boom!

The energy saber landed on the astrolabe.

To Tian Ming's surprise, there was a slight dent on his white astrolabe. At the same time, he was pushed back by the immense pressure. He was furious and embarrassed. To think he was pushed back by a rookie who had just entered the Thousand Realms Whirling. It was intolerable! He immediately manifested his Thousand Realms Whirling avatar again and released his Birth Chart power.

At this moment, a shadow shot out of Yu Zhenghai's back at lightning speed. "I've been waiting for you."

In the midst of the white and golden light, the energy sword that glowed red was like blood and fire.

After being reforged by the Sky Research Academy, the flood-grade Longevity Sword was covered with the best Dao inscriptions from the red lotus domain.

Yu Shangrong moved at an astonishing speed. His figure was a blur as he moved in the air.

Tian Ming's vision grew blurry as he watched the green figure split into three.

Return and Enter Three Souls!

This was the second technique Yu Shangrong was most skilled in.

At the same time, the Birth Chart power that Tian Ming released swept out.

Tian Ming thought he would be able to injure Yu Shangrong with this attack. However, contrary to his expectations, the three figures suddenly merged into one again and dodged the attack before appearing in front of him.

Yu Shangrong slashed the Longevity Sword down from the upper right side.

Bang!

Tian Ming grunted and flipped backward. He hurriedly turned the astrolabe in his hand and shot out another beam of white light toward Yu Shangrong.

Instead of retreating, Yu Shangrong advanced and dove down.

"My turn! Water Dragon Song!" Yu Zhenghai roared as he repelled the white energy swords.

Countless energy sabers gathered from all directions to form a long dragon.

Meanwhile, Yu Shangrong who had avoided the beam of white light stepped on the dragon made from countless energy sabers before he rushed out with the Longevity Sword and cast the Return and Enter Three Souls.

Tian Ming roared angrily, "You're just ants trying to topple a tree!"

Buzz!

A white Thousand Realms Whirling avatar appeared again. It looked like a snow mountain in the air as it pressed down.

Yu Zhenghai shouted, "Be careful!" Due to being restrained by the formation flags, he could not form any more energy sabers for now. He could only watch as Yu Shangrong faced the falling gigantic avatar on his own.

Buzz!

"Avatar." Yu Shangrong finally manifested his avatar.

Upon seeing the 200-foot avatar, Tian Ming could not help but laugh contemptuously. "How are you going to put up a fight with just ten leaves?"

At the same time the white avatar fell, Yu Shangrong's three figures suddenly merged into one.

Bang!

Yu Shangrong's golden avatar moved! It raised its hand and grabbed the white Thousand Realms Whirling avatar above it.

Tian Ming was dumbfounded when he saw this. Could avatars move in this manner?

Meanwhile, the pressure on Yu Shangrong intensified after his Ten-leaf avatar grabbed the white Thousand Realms Whirling avatar.

At this moment, the ten golden leaves flew up and converged around the golden avatar's hands. Following that, the golden avatar grabbed one of the golden leaves that were glowing with faint green light before it ruthlessly stabbed the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar with the leaf as though the leaf was a sword.

Bang!

The golden avatar grabbed the second leaf and stabbed at the white avatar again.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The third leaf, the fourth leaf, the fifth leaf, all the way to the tenth leaf were mercilessly stabbed into the white Thousand Realms Whirling avatar.

Tian Ming's eyes were brimming with unwillingness, but there was nothing he could do at this moment to stop it. After all, his avatar did not have the mobility of humans.

At this moment, the roar from the Water Dragon Song rang in the air,

Tian Ming hastily raised his astrolabe to defend against the attack.

Naturally, Yu Shangrong would not give Tian Ming any respite.

Yu Shangrong wouldn't give him this chance.

"Primal Restoration."

In just a blink of an eye, more than 100,000 energy swords appeared around the Longevity Sword. Together with the Water Dragon Song, they shot toward the astrolabe.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

With this, the white avatar suddenly shrank and flew into Tian Ming's body.

...

"Ding! Destroyed a Birth Chart. Reward: 6,000 merit points."

...

Tian Ming spat out a mouthful of blood, but he did not stop moving. He hurriedly retreated 100 meters away. Then, he looked at the three flag formations and shouted, "I want both of you to die with me!"

Subsequently, Tian Ming smeared his palm with fresh blood before he slammed it on the ground.

Boom!

The ground trembled slightly.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The three formation flags shot up into the air as they released even more energy swords.

Yu Zhenghai waved the Jasper Saber around in a frenzy, repelling the energy swords.

Similarly, Yu Shangrong was trying his best to repel the energy swords as well.

The three flags in the air continued to release onslaughts of energy swords.

Tian Ming who had lost one Birth Chart was even more cautious than before. His eyes were bloodshot as he glared at the duo. He gritted his teeth; even if he had to destroy the formation flags, he was determined to kill the duo!

Yu Shangrong withdrew his avatar and tossed his Longevity Sword out with one hand.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The Longevity Sword shot out like a dragon, destroying the energy swords in the surroundings.

At this moment, one of the formation flags suddenly shot toward Yu Shangrong.

Yu Shangrong raised both hands to block the flag.

At the same time, Tian Ming suddenly flashed forward and appeared in front of Yu Shangrong as he shouted, "Take this palm strike!"

Bang!

Yu Shangrong hurriedly blocked the palm strike with one hand. As he was sent flying back, he felt his blood qi surging.

Although Tian Ming had lost a Birth Chart, he was still strong.

At this moment, Yu Zhenghai transmitted his voice to Yu Shangrong. "Destroy his Birth Palace."

"That's my thought as well..." Yu Shangrong forcefully suppressed the surging blood qi in his body.

"Second Junior Brother, let's work together. I'll go up, and you'll go down!"

"Okay."

As soon as he finished speaking, Yu Zhenghai flashed and appeared above Yu Shangrong. He manifested his astrolabe and made it grow until it covered both of them.

The golden astrolabe spun, blocking the attacks from the formation flags.

The duo understood each other very well. Just a slight movement was enough for them to know what the other person was thinking. It was not surprising since both of them had been competing and fighting almost all their lives. As rivals and also brothers, sometimes they understood the other party even more than they understood themselves. Once they worked together, it was only natural that they had an

amazing tacit understanding between them. When they joined forces, they could cut through even the hardest metal!

Yu Shangrong moved at lightning speed.

Yu Zhenghai, holding the astrolabe in front of them, followed suit, repelling the energy swords.

At this moment, Yu Shangrong flew out from behind the golden astrolabe before he brandished his Longevity Sword with an indifferent expression on his face. He swung his swords just like those times he practiced in the Evil Sky Pavilion when he was young. His movements that were precise and swift looked almost mechanical.

Meanwhile, Tian Ming no longer dared to use his avatar. He could only keep flying backward as he held his astrolabe.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Tian Ming's back knocked the towering trees behind him one after another.

Just like that, the battle had left the range of the formation flags.

'Is he really a Ten-leaf cultivator?' Tian Ming wondered to himself again. Whether it was the precision of the attack, the power of the attack, the speed, the battle experience, or Primal Qi, they did seem like they belonged to a Ten-leaf cultivator no matter how he looked at it.

Tian Ming who was flustered by the duo's joint attacks glared at the duo with bloodshot eyes as he shouted, "Get out of my way!"

At the same time, the white astrolabe increased in size and shot forward.

Yu Zhenghai was not intimidated and pushed his astrolabe out as well.

Bang!

Nevertheless, blood trickled out of the corners of Yu Zhenghai's lips after the collision of the astrolabes. He called out, "Second Junior Brother!"

"Understood!" Yu Shangrong flashed and vanished into thin air.

Tian Ming was most vulnerable when the astrolabe left him. At this moment, he also realized this and tried to retrieve his astrolabe in a hurry.

Alas, Yu Shangrong appeared in front of Tian Ming before Tian Ming could retrieve his astrolabe and stabbed Tian Ming with the Longevity Sword.

Bang!

Tian Ming raised his hands and blocked the Longevity Sword. Then, he looked up and sneered. "Sorry, but I have the power of the Birth Charts. I can use my hands as shields."

Swoosh!

A golden-green leaf shot out and pierced Tian Ming from the back.

Tian Ming felt a chill in his heart and turned back to look. He saw the golden avatar, with leaves swirling around it, holding another golden leaf and stabbing it toward him with all its might.

Tian Ming. "..."

Chapter 977: The Runic Passage

As a master, Lu Zhou tended to underestimate his disciples. It was just like how in the eyes of the older generation, the younger children would always seem like children no matter how old they had grown. Therefore, he would always remind himself to have more confidence in his disciples and give them more freedom. He had even allowed Yu Zhenghai to 'leave him' after completing his apprenticeship. Even then, at this moment, he still felt that he had underestimated his two disciples.

Yu Shangrong's control over his avatar had exceeded Lu Zhou's expectations. His avatar's mobility was almost no different from that of a human. The battle seemed like a three-man battle, but it was, in fact, a four-man battle. From the beginning to the end, the whiteguard did not notice this and disregarded his avatar. It was not surprising since the whiteguard had lived for a long time and was set in ways; how could he regard a Ten-leaf avatar as a threat?

Lu Zhou could tell the duo's performance not only surprised him, but it had terrified the whiteguard as well.

...

Tian Ming's eyes were wide open as blood dripped down from the tip of the golden-green leaf. Due to the excessive force the leaf was stabbed at him, the blood splattered on his face as well, causing him to look ghastly. His eyes brimmed with disbelief; he could not understand how someone with ten leaves could be so strong. It was illogical!

"You!"

The golden avatar stabbed Tian Ming again with the second golden leaf.

Everyone knew that lotus leaves were sharp; they were not inferior to some high-grade weapons. However, since it was attached to the lotus, it was rather difficult to use the leaves to attack.

Even Yu Zhenghai was surprised by Yu Shangrong's astonishing performance.

Tian Ming gritted his teeth and said resolutely, "Even if I die, both of you must die with me!"

Buzz!

Tian Ming's avatar appeared as its astrolabe appeared and slammed into Yu Shangrong's avatar.

The avatar used the remaining golden leaves to block the force of the white astrolabe.

"Get out of the way!" Yu Shangrong suddenly turned around and struck with his palm.

The palm seal hit Yu Zhenghai's astrolabe.

"Are you crazy!" Yu Zhenghai naturally did not think to guard against Yu Shangrong, therefore, he was easily pushed away.

Yu Shangrong brandished the Longevity Sword as his eyes flashed with determination. This was probably the fastest speed he had ever swung his sword.

The white astrolabe spun in place. Instead of releasing beams of light, it shot out countless energy seals instead.

When Yu Shangrong saw an opening, his avatar disappeared again and appeared behind Tian Ming, preparing to stab with the leaves again.

Nevertheless, Tian Ming had learned from his mistake. He had expected this so he released the vitality energy in his body in a frenzy.

Boom!

The vitality energy landed on Yu Shangrong, sending him flying back. While he flew backward, he tossed the Longevity Sword out.

Like a streak of light, the Longevity Sword flew into the golden avatar's hands.

Golden light flashed brightly as the avatar swung the Longevity Sword down with all its might.

Bang!

This move successfully severed one of the white avatar's arms.

...

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

...

Tian Ming seemed to have lost his mind as he continued to release his vitality energy as though he intended to throw his life away.

As the saying went, 'Those who are strong aren't afraid of the strong; they're afraid of those who're reckless.'

At this moment, it was clear Tian Ming no longer cared about his life anymore. After the explosion of energy pushed Yu Shangrong back, he flashed in front of Yu Shangrong and attacked with a black object.

Yu Shangrong used all his strength and retaliated at this moment when Tian Ming left himself vulnerable.

Ten golden leaves shot out and pierced Tian Ming's heart.

"You're dead."

Bang!

Tian Ming's palm that was holding the black object landed on Yu Shangrong's shoulder. He felt his arm go numb immediately as he fell down.

At this moment, Yu Zhenghai flashed forward. The water dragon roared as he held the astrolabe and released his Birth Chart power.

Bang!

Yu Zhenghai's Birth Chart power accurately landed on Tian Ming's Birth Palace.

The Water Dragon Song, along with the Jasper Saber, was like a hot knife through butter as it cut through Tian Ming's Birth Palace.

When Yu Zhenghai raised his head, he saw the cold smile and the expression on Tian Ming's face that made Tian Ming seem indifferent about life or death. "Goodbye!"

Boom!

The white avatar exploded. The shockwave from the explosion spanned a radius of thousands of meters.

Yu Zhenghai flew backward as the Water Dragon Song scattered and the Jasper Saber spun a few times in the air.

...

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

...

In the gloomy ruins in the Southern Kingdom.

After the shockwave from the explosion died down, silence returned.

Yu Zhenghai panted heavily as he lay on his back and looked at the sky. After a moment, he asked, "Are you alright?"

Yu Shangrong, who was sitting nearby, replied, "I won't die."

"I didn't expect even after working together, we barely killed him," Yu Zhenghai said as he pushed himself up. His arms were numb, his body was sore, and his blood qi was surging. When he turned around to look at Yu Shangrong, he discovered Yu Shangrong was abnormally still. An ominous feeling rose in his heart immediately. "Second Junior Brother..."

"I'm fine..." The words sounded weak and unconvincing.

Knowing Yu Shangrong, after killing their opponent, Yu Shangrong would rise to his feet gracefully and sheathe his Longevity Sword before he asked with his back facing Yu Zhenghai, "Eldest Senior Brother, what do you think about my sword technique?"

However, this was not the case. Yu Zhenghai propped his body up despite the chaos in his Dantian's sea of Qi. After all, he had just entered the Thousand Realms Whirling not long ago, and his foundation was not stable. He struggled until he came to Yu Shangrong's side, and he saw the unnatural expression on Yu Shangrong's face. When he looked down, he saw a wound on Yu Shangrong's arm. "You're injured."

"It's just a small injury." Yu Shangrong was already sitting cross-legged, trying to adjust his breathing and heal his injuries.

At this moment, wisps of black smoke rose from Yu Shangrong's arm.

"A poisonous spike is lodged in there! We have to pull it out," Yu Zhenghai said.

Yu Shangrong said, "I didn't expect that whiteguard would use such a despicable and shameless method."

"You shouldn't have pushed me back," Yu Zhenghai said in a slightly reproachful tone.

"What's done is done. There's no point talking about it anymore. In the end, we managed to kill him," Yu Shangrong replied.

"That's true." Yu Zhenghai nodded slightly. If they could not win earlier, they would have to find a way to escape. After a moment, he surveyed his surroundings. The rubble in the ruins was already reduced to dust from their fight.

...

At night.

The moon that rarely made an appearance in the night sky of the Southern Kingdom shone through the thin clouds to the ground tonight.

"Let's go."

The duo was prepared to leave when many pairs of red eyes accompanied by the sounds of heavy footsteps rang in the night air.

Upon seeing this, Yu Zhenghai shook his head helplessly. "Second Junior Brother, it seems like our luck isn't very good today..."

"They're just beasts. We can just fly away."

"You're wrong. There are flying beasts as well..."

In the sky, there were flying beasts with sharp talons that resembled goshawks.

Although small fierce beasts did not pose much of a threat to them, among these beasts, there were larger beasts that looked like they might be Birth Chart Beasts.

"It's said that the Southern Kingdom is treacherous and fraught with danger. Cultivators who journeyed deep into this place were eaten by fierce beasts. It seems like the rumors are true..." Yu Zhenghai said.

...

Tap! Tap! Tap!

The sound of water dripping brought Lu Zhou back to his senses. He frowned when he discovered he had depleted his supreme mystic power.

'It's amazing enough that with their cultivation bases they managed to kill a Three Chart Thousand Realms Whirling expert. How are they going to deal with the fierce beasts now?' Lu Zhou's frown deepened.

Based on the whiteguards' conversation earlier, they were waiting for a special Birth Chart Beast that was supposed to appear in a month. It was not a month yet, but no one could say for sure that it would not arrive early.

"Should I return using Di Jiang?" It would take him five to six days to return; he might make it back in time. However, the long journey was too troublesome.

Before he continued thinking, he asked someone to summon Shen Xi over.

After receiving the summon, Shen Xi did not dare to delay and very quickly he arrived in the eastern pavilion with Pan Zhong. The duo bowed respectfully. "Greetings, Pavilion Master."

Lu Zhou pointed at a chair in the hall and said, "Sit."

After taking a seat, Shen Xi asked, "Pavilion Master, what are your orders?"

"The Black Tower Council travels using runic passages to monopolize Birth Chart Beasts, am I right?"

"Yes," Shen Xi replied, "The inscription of the runic passage is done by a rune master. All cultivators can use them as long as they know how to activate the runic passages and have sufficient Primal Qi. Needless to say, one has to know where the runic passage leads to as well before traveling through it. When the entrance and the exit of a runic passage resonates, the passage will open..."

"I want to go to the Southern Kingdom as soon as possible, preferably within the month. Do you have any suggestions?" Lu Zhou asked.

A troubled expression appeared on Shen Xi's face before he replied truthfully, "When I left the Black Tower Council, I brought along many talismans with me. However, I don't know how to inscribe the inscriptions for a runic passage."

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and continued thinking to himself.

After a while, Shen Xi said, "However, the Black Tower Council had left a runic passage between the golden lotus domain and the red lotus domain. Perhaps, we can... we can borrow it..."

"Continue."

"When you killed the blackguard and whiteguard north of the Divine Capital previously, I arrived in the golden lotus domain using that runic passage. Before we escaped, we asked around about a few runic passages, and we learned that the runic passage north of the Divine Capital is linked to the red lotus domain..."

Lu Zhou nodded. "Alright, it's decided then. We'll use that runic passage. Make the necessary preparations, and we'll leave for the red lotus domain in a few days' time."

Shen Xi said uneasily upon hearing Lu Zhou's words, "Pavilion Master, I'm afraid this will thoroughly infuriate the Black Tower Council. The Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council place utmost importance on their runic passages and guard them strictly. If we do this, we'll definitely draw the two councils' wrath to the Evil Sky Pavilion..."

Indeed, drawing fire to oneself was not wise. Nevertheless, Lu Zhou only said, "Your worries are not without reason. However, I know what to do. You can take your leave now."

"Understood."

Chapter 978: Guardian

After Shen Xi left the eastern pavilion, Lu Zhou no longer dwelled on the matter. He activated the Purple Glazed Ceramic and meditated upon the Heavenly Writing. He needed to replenish his supreme mystic power to confirm Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong's safety and their injuries.

...

Meanwhile, Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai were surprised as more and more fierce beasts appeared. There were so many flying beasts in the sky now that they had almost blocked the moon.

Shen Shi respectfully left the East Pavilion.

Lu Zhou did not think much and urged the purple glass to quickly enter the State of comprehending the heavenly book. He needed to confirm the safety of Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong.

Finally, Yu Zhenghai brought his Jasper Saber out and said, "Let's kill our way out."

"It's too dangerous to kill our way out. There are at least three or four Birth Chart Beasts..." Yu Shangrong replied calmly.

If they were in peak condition, they would not be worried. Even if they could not kill all of their fierce beasts, it would not be a problem for them to escape. However, now that they were injured, it was difficult for them to break out of the encirclement.

"We can't continue like this. They're continuously surrounding us..." Yu Zhenghai said.

Yu Shangrong did not move. He surveyed his surroundings.

The fierce beasts drew closer and closer to them.

Buzz!

At this moment, the fallen formation flags buzzed as though they had sensed something before they connected again in a triangle formation. At the same time, the ground lit up faintly. As though boosted by some unseen energy, the formation flags were pulled up in a standing position. The inscriptions on the poles lit up and snaked up the white flags again.

Three white transparent barriers with web-like patterns on them appeared around the duo, keeping them inside. Even the top was sealed. Only the moonlight managed to penetrate the barriers.

"It's over. This is the worst. These formation flags are used to trap the special Birth Chart Beasts. Now that we're injured, I'm afraid we won't be able to leave..."

"There are both pros and cons," Yu Shangrong said with a faint smile, "The good thing is we no longer have to worry about the fierce beasts. Look..."

The fierce beasts had stopped drawing closer to them as though afraid of the formation. In fact, some of the beasts even retreated.

At this moment, a loud howl similar to that of a wolf rang in the air followed by roars and howls from the other beasts. The deafening noises resounded in the heavens and earth.

The beasts seemed to have gone crazy. They paced around frantically at the periphery looking for a way to draw closer to the duo. Some of the beasts extended their paws into the range of the formation flags but were electrocuted, scaring them back.

"These formation flags aren't simple," Yu Zhenghai said.

"Based on the whiteguards' conversation, these are used to trap intelligent Birth Chart Beasts that require a judge to subdue them. This means those Birth Chart Beasts aren't inferior to a Five Chart expert. How can these formation flags be simple then?" Yu Shangrong said.

"That whiteguard was really tenacious. He didn't forget to dig a hole for us even before he died." Yu Zhenghai shook his head.

Yu Shangrong said, "If nothing goes wrong, the other whiteguards will only return after a month. We should use this time to heal our injuries and recover our cultivation base."

"Alright."

...

In the eastern pavilion of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

After recovering half of his supreme mystic power, Lu Zhou used the Heavenly Writing Power again. He was slightly taken aback when he saw his two eldest disciples inside the triangular barriers formed by the formation flags. He saw the fierce beasts surrounding the duo, looking for an opening to attack.

"The world changes too rapidly." Lu Zhou sighed as he stroked his beard. After observing for a while and confirming the beasts would not be able to break through the barriers, he withdrew the Heavenly Writing Power.

The triangular barriers must have been activated by the whiteguard before he died to trap the duo. These formation flags were not quite similar to the Eight Desolate and Six Harmony Flags; they were specifically used to capture beasts. Once they were activated, it was likely that the people from the White Tower Council would rush over.

"What kind of Birth Chart Beast would make the White Tower Council send so many people out to use such powerful flag formation?" Lu Zhou wondered out loud. "Now that I've resolved the matter in the golden lotus domain and there's a runic passage, I should definitely go to the Southern Kingdom. I'm looking for my fifth life heart after all..."

...

Over the next two days, Lu Zhou spent a day and a night replenishing the supreme mystic power while he spent another day writing down the cultivation methods, Butterfly Lover Flower and Acacia.

Following that, he summoned Zhao Yue and Ye Tianxin to the eastern pavilion. Since his return, he had not spoken to his two disciples alone. To be honest, since he had transmigrated, he did not really have a good chat with these two disciples. As their master, he felt it was not really appropriate.

Meanwhile, Zhao Yue and Ye Tianxin were slightly nervous when they entered the eastern pavilion. Both of them fell to their knees and called out in unison, "Greetings, master."

"Rise to your feet and speak," Lu Zhou said as he looked at Zhao Yue and Ye Tianxin.

Ye Tianxin was dressed in white as usual. Coupled with her white hair, she looked like an ethereal beauty with all the qualities of a lady from a noble family.

On the other hand, Zhao Yue had the bearing and temperament that only those with high-ranking positions possessed. Perhaps, this was due to her time in the palace.

Lu Zhou did not beat around the bush. He tossed a scroll to Ye Tianxin and said, "This is called the Butterfly Love Flower. Cultivate it well..."

Ye Tianxin caught the scroll before she said, "Thank you, master."

Then, Lu Zhou looked at Zhao Yue and said, "This is a saber technique called Acacia. Since you've regained all your Great Void energy, your cultivation base will progress rapidly..."

"Thank you, master."

"Ding! Educated Ye Tianxin. Reward: 200 merit points."

"Ding! Educated Zhao Yue. Reward: 200 merit points."

Following that, Lu Zhou said, "You can speak to Old Seventh about the ways to form the Thousand Realm Whirling avatar. He has the necessary information. Listen to Guardian Shen while he speaks to the others during these few days..."

"I've listened to Guardian Shen, and I've benefited greatly from him," Ye Tianxin said.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded in satisfaction. "Although the problem in the golden lotus domain has been temporarily resolved, we can't let our guards down. The people from the White Tower Council will definitely return to seek revenge. I'll be leaving in a few days. If there's a problem, contact Old Seventh immediately."

Zhao Yue said, "Master, the country can't function without a ruler for a day..."

Lu Zhou replied, "Your Eldest Senior Brother is far away in the red lotus domain and has just formed his Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. I'm afraid he'll disdain the throne. For now, you can continue to govern the country. If we can't find anyone, you can ascend the throne."

"..."

"The Evil Sky Pavilion will support you," Lu Zhou said.

With these words, Zhao Yue could only bow and said, "This disciple obeys master's orders."

“There’s another thing. Both of you have the Great Void energies. Let Guardian Shen think of a way to conceal it for both of you.”

“Understood.”

...

Lu Zhou spent another two days arranging the matters in the Evil Sky Pavilion and the golden lotus domain while Shen Xi and the others made preparations for the trip to the Southern Kingdom.

During this time, he would check in on Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai as well to make sure everything was okay.

...

On the morning of the third day.

Shen Xi arrived in front of the eastern pavilion and called out respectfully, “Pavilion Master, everything is ready. We can leave now. Li Xiaomo will lead the way first...”

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, “No, Li Xiaomo will stay here. It’s enough for you to accompany me...”

“Just me alone?” Shen Xi was slightly surprised.

Lu Zhou nodded. “Is there a problem?”

“No... No problem.” Shen Xi said, “It’s a good idea to leave Xiaomo here.”

“Then let’s go.”

Lu Zhou left the east pavilion with his hands on his back. When he arrived at the square in front of the Evil Sky Pavilion, Di Jiang was already waiting there.

Everyone from the Evil Sky Pavilion was there as well, standing respectfully at the side.

After leaping onto Di Jiang’s back, Lu Zhou said to everyone, “I’ll be back soon.”

“Farewell, Pavilion Master.”

Following that, Lu Zhou rode on Di Jiang and left the barrier.

Shen Xi flew up into the sky and followed suit.

Lu Zhou maintained the speed, causing Di Jiang to fly very slowly. It was a pity that Di Jiang could only carry one person.

However, compared to the flying chariot, Lu Zhou, Di Jiang, and Shen Xi’s speed was still very fast. Although Shen Xi did not have a mount, his speed as a Four Chart Thousand Realms Whirling expert was not something flying chariots or ordinary cultivators could compare to.

The two often left the barrier and made their way north to the Radiant Cloud Forest.

...

In the Radiant Cloud Forest, north of the Hundred Leaves Lake near Lilac Mountain.

Lu Zhou slowed down as he looked in the direction of the Hundred Leaves Lake.

The blazing sun hung high in the sky, illuminating the lake like a fiery-red mirror.

“Pavilion Master, what’s wrong?” Shen Xi asked when he finally caught up.

“I’m just reminiscing. Let’s continue on our journey,” Lu Zhou said.

Ji Tiandao had once stayed near the Hundred Leaves Lake. It was also where Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong fought when they were both at the Eight-leaf stage.

Hundred Leaves Lake was the place where Ji Tiandao once stayed.

Time flew by quickly like a passing cloud.

The duo continued making their way north.

After about an hour, Shen Xi looked in the distance and said, “Pavilion Master, it’s up ahead.”

“Alright.”

“Normally, a runic passage would have a Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator guarding it. We can just kill the guard. There’s no need for the Pavilion Master to act. I’ll deal with it,” Shen Xi said.

Following that, the duo descended and flew toward a small forest.

Shen Xi said, “The runic passage is in the forest. It’s just that it’s a little difficult to locate the guard.”

Chapter 979: The White Tower Council’s Judge

Based on Shen Xi’s understanding of the Black Tower Council, the Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator guarding the runic passage had to be cunning and good at hiding. With his ability, it was indeed slightly difficult to find the guard.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou looked at the mountains and the clouds in the sky as he stroked his beard and nodded. He admired the scenery around, clearly not anxious.

During his journey here, Lu Zhou had checked in on Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai and found that the duo was still trapped in the triangular barrier from the flag formation. He saw the large number of beasts prowling outside the barrier as well, clearly waiting for a chance to devour the duo.

When Shen Xi saw Lu Zhou’s indifferent expression, he could not help but ask, “Pavilion Master, are you... do you not feel anxious at all?”

“No, I’m not anxious. The scenery isn’t bad. I haven’t had a chance to admire them for a long time now,” Lu Zhou replied as he continued stroking his beard.

Shen Xi. “...”

After a while, Lu Zhou asked, “The runic passage is in that forest?”

“Yes, I’m sure of that.”

Then, Lu Zhou nodded and walked toward the forest with his hands on his back. When he was near the forest, startling a flock of birds into flying away. He came to halt and began to chant the mantra for the power of hearing.

In just a blink of an eye, the range of his hearing covered the entire forest. Every single sound did not escape him.

It was extremely quiet in the forest at this moment. If there were someone in there, he would be able to hear the person's breathing and heartbeat. Unless the guard knew that Lu Zhou and Shen Xi were coming and had intentionally hidden himself just like how Wu Chao had feigned the state of death to escape discovery.

'Hmm?' Lu Zhou could not help but feel that something was amiss. He cut off the power of hearing and walked forward.

Shen Xi followed closely behind.

When they arrived at the edge of the forest, Lu Zhou chanted the incantation for the power of hearing again.

Soon enough, he heard the sound of Primal Qi surging from the distant horizon; it did not come from the forest.

Lu Zhou cut off the power of hearing and looked up immediately. He saw a white pillar of light shooting out from the sky into the forest.

Boom!

The pillar of light was clearly powerful. When it hit the ground, the earth and the mountains shook.

Shen Xi exclaimed in shock, "A judge from White Tower Council!"

Soon enough, Lu Zhou saw two white figures flying over from the distance.

One of the figures held a huge white astrolabe in front of him that emitted a dazzling light.

Boom!

The white astrolabe shot out another beam of light.

It was clear the two figures' target was the small forest.

Boom!

The earth trembled and cracks spread from the spot where the pillars of light landed. Many trees fell as the cracks grew bigger and bigger.

At this moment, a black figure dashed out of the forest and ran away at lightning speed.

"It's the guard!" Shen Xi exclaimed.

"Don't make a move yet..." Lu Zhou stopped Shen Xi.

Shen Xi knew that it was not wise to make a move now as well.

At this moment, the two white figures swooped down slightly before one of them manifested their avatar.

Buzz!

An Eight Chart Thousand Realms Whirling avatar!

Indeed, this was the level of a judge.

Lu Zhou and Shen Xi continued to look at the white avatar in the sky.

At this moment, the astrolabe suddenly increased hundreds of times in size, almost covering the entire sky.

“Show no mercy to the people from the Black Tower Council!”

Following that, the astrolabe fell toward the guard from the Black Tower Council before it released a beam of light.

Lu Zhou thought it quite resembled the laser cannons on earth being fired. It seemed like the judge from the White Tower Council was much stronger than Wu Guangping. He knew the guard had no chance of surviving at all.

At the same time, the astrolabe kept releasing the Birth Chart power, creating deep pits one after another.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Shen Xi asked with a worried expression on his face, “Pavilion Master, why don’t we hide for a while?”

Lu Zhou shook his head. “In this world, only others hide from me, I don’t hide from them.”

Lu Zhou was rather confident facing experts from both the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council, hence, he did think there was a need to hide.

Shen Xi knew Lu Zhou had only four Birth Charts so he thought Lu Zhou’s source of confidence had to come from having some trump cards and tricks up his sleeve since he seemed unafraid of the judge. After all, he still remembered how Lu Zhou had killed Wu Guangping. With this thought in mind, he felt more at ease.

After a moment, peace was restored after the one-sided battle ended. In fact, it probably could not be called a battle. Moreover, the judge was only attacking one area with his Birth Chart power.

At this moment, the two figures appeared near the forest.

The person walking in the lead was a middle-aged man with a beard. A slightly younger man who looked to be Shen Xi’s age walked behind him.

Lu Zhou’s attention was focused on the middle-aged man in front of him.

The middle-aged man’s eyes were rather lifeless, not betraying any emotions at all. He had the appearance of a cultivator from the school of Taoism. When he finally arrived in front of Lu Zhou, his

eyes were still lifeless. After coming to a stop 30 meters away, he said, "Those who have no business here, leave!"

Lu Zhou stroked his beard as he asked, "You're the judge from the White Tower Council?"

The middle-aged man frowned slightly and his ears twitched upon hearing Lu Zhou's voice. Then, he said with a faint smile, "Your voice sounds old, but your aura is full of vitality. Your potential is rather high. Are you a golden lotus cultivator?"

With this, Lu Zhou realized the person before him was blind. To be able to distinguish directions, environment, and a person's voice proved that the person was not simple.

After a beat, Lu Zhou said, "Yes. I'm a golden lotus cultivator. You haven't answered my question..."

The middle-aged man cupped his fists together and bowed slightly before saying, "I'm Ning Wanqing, a judge of the White Tower Council."

Lu Zhou felt as though he was caught between a rock and a hard place. If he went to the red lotus domain now, it would give the person in front of him a chance to cause trouble for the Evil Sky Pavilion. Apart from him, there was no other person in the Evil Sky Pavilion who could stop this person. However, if he did not go to the red lotus domain, he would miss the chance to obtain his fifth Birth Chart.

Lu Zhou sighed. The best thing to do now was to deal with the blind man first. Fortunately, there was the runic passage so he would be able to arrive in the red lotus domain quickly. Otherwise, it would be difficult to make so many trips.

After a moment, Lu Zhou asked, "Why did the people from the White Tower Council come to the golden lotus domain?"

"Your words seemed hostile. You can rest assured. Whether it's the White Tower Council or the Black Tower Council, we don't kill the innocent," Ning Wanqian said. He was astute enough to catch the accusation in Lu Zhou's voice.

Shen Xi said, "That's true..."

Ning Wanqing's ears moved again before he said with a faint smile, "This person smells like someone from the Black Tower Council. According to the White Tower Council's rules, I'll have to bring him back with me."

Shen Xi took a step back. He, naturally, did not dare to show off in front of an Eight Chart expert.

"He's no longer a member of the Black Tower Council..." Lu Zhou said emotionlessly.

"Hmm?" A hint of surprise could be seen on Ning Wanqing's face.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard. "You still haven't answered my question..." He really disliked this way of communicating.

Upon hearing these words, the white-clad young man next to Ning Wanqing exclaimed indignantly, "How dare you! You..."

Before the white-clad young man finished speaking, Lu Zhou struck with his palm.

A palm seal that glowed with a blue light shot toward the white-clad young man.

Although Ning Wanqing could not see the color of the palm seal, he could sense the strange and mysterious power it held. He hurriedly said, "Get out of the way!"

Unfortunately, the white-clad young man did not move away but raised his hands and used his astrolabe to block the palm seal instead.

Boom!

When the palm seal collided with the white astrolabe, it left a dent on the astrolabe and pushed the astrolabe back against the young man's chest.

The white-clad young man spat out blood and was pushed back more than ten meters before he could stabilize his footing.

Shen Xi nodded and chided himself inwardly, 'How could I forget the Pavilion Master's true identity? He's an expert from the blue lotus domain!' Naturally, Lu Zhou's identity was purely his speculation. He did not really know if the blue lotus domain existed.

When Shen Xi looked at the injured member of the White Tower Council, he could not help the hint of satisfaction that rose in his heart even though he was no longer a member of the Black Tower Council.

At this moment, Ning Wanqing broke the silence and said, "Senior, your palm seal is amazing..."

"Ning Wanqing, I don't have time to waste on you. If you want to live, answer my question," Lu Zhou said with a hint of impatience.

Ning Wanqing was stunned. No one had ever talked to him in such a manner before. For a moment, he did not know how to react.

Before Ning Wanqing replied, Shen Xi seized the opportunity and said, "I feel like I should inform both of you that the last person who acted arrogant and domineering in front of the Pavilion Master is dead. His name is Wu Guangping."

"..."

Chapter 980: Giving Up Before the Third Palm Strike

Ning Wanqing was shocked and instinctively raised his head. Unfortunately, his eyes could not see. He really wanted to have a look at the person in front of him who could kill Wu Guangping, a judge of the Black Tower Council.

The White Tower Council and the Black Tower Council had fought for many years so they were familiar with each other's strength. Ning Wanqing, naturally, knew how strong Wu Guangping was. He asked skeptically, "Wu Guangping is dead?"

Shen Xi replied, "Since you can tell I was from the Black Tower Council, you should know there's no reason for me to lie. Moreover, you can verify this matter if you don't believe me. I just want to remind both of you that Senior Lu doesn't like people who waste his time. It's best not to be too arrogant. Otherwise, you won't even know how you die..."

“ ... ”

The white-clad young man was a testament to the veracity of Shen Xi's words.

Ning Wanqing bowed and said, “As it turns out, you're an expert. I hope you can forgive me for my transgression. Both of us were ordered to come here by the White Tower Council. First, we're here to block the Black Tower Council's runic passage. Second...” He hesitated for a moment before he continued to say, “Second, I'm here to investigate the deaths of the members of the White Tower Council who died here previously. There are rumors that the Black Tower Council is behind their deaths, but I don't think so...”

Lu Zhou nodded before he said, “Let me tell you two things.”

“Please speak, old sir.”

“First, I need to use this runic passage. Second, don't involve the golden lotus domain in your conflict with the Black Tower Council. Your people were killed because they were fighting with the Black Tower Council for benefits. They have no one to blame for their deaths...”

Ning Wanqing asked, puzzled, “Old sir, why do you need to use the runic passage?”

“Do I have to explain my actions to you?” Lu Zhou asked.

“ ... ”

Ning Wanqing smiled awkwardly and said, “Old sir, I can't report to the council if I don't get an explanation from you...”

“That's your problem, not mine.”

“ ... ”

Ning Wanqing pointed at the runic passage in the forest and said, “This runic passage goes to the Black Tower Council and the red lotus domain. This is a matter of great importance, hence, I can't ignore this and not report this to the council.”

Lu Zhou frowned slightly. “Since you don't know what's good for you...”

Lu Zhou raised his hand and a blue palm seal shot out like before. The only difference was its speed was much faster.

Ning Wanqing's ears twitched. With a flick of his sleeve, the astrolabe with eight Birth Charts appeared in front of him.

Shen Xi felt rather envious when he saw the astrolabe. The distinct patterns of the eight Birth Charts were dazzling like the stars in the sky that were connected to each other.

Boom!

The palm seal landed on the astrolabe with eight Birth Charts.

Ning Wanqing, who took the blow directly, grunted. His blood qi churned a little in his body. Fortunately, his astrolabe was undamaged.

"I didn't expect there's such a strong person in the golden lotus domain," Ning Wanqing said, "Old sir, I've never been very bright in my life. I devoted my life to cultivating and managed to make some achievements. I'd like to learn from you, and I hope you'll be lenient with me..."

Lu Zhou stroked his beard as he looked at the blind middle-aged man. It seemed like not everyone in the White Tower Council was hateful. The person in front of him seemed honest. He said, "Your courage is commendable. There's no need for us to spar..."

"Hmm?"

Lu Zhou continued to say, "If you can withstand three of my palm strikes, I won't make things difficult for you..."

Ning Wanqing mulled over Lu Zhou's words briefly before he nodded. "Alright."

Ning Wanqing, an Eight Chart expert, was the strongest person Lu Zhou had ever faced, excluding Wu Guangping. Moreover, he did not have the chance to test his strength with Wu Guangping and had used the Deadly Strike Card to kill Wu Guangping back then.

After Ning Wanqing agreed, Lu Zhou slowly raised his hand.

"The first palm strike: the Great Vajra Wheel Hand Sign."

This palm strike contained one-fourth of Lu Zhou's supreme mystic power.

The blue palm seal was not very big; it was the size of a human.

Ning Wanqing's ears twitched. He could sense and hear the fluctuation in the Primal Qi caused by the palm seal. He hurriedly manifested his astrolabe with its back facing outward. The back of the astrolabe looked like a huge luminous pearl.

Boom!

When the palm seal landed on the astrolabe, denting it.

"How is this possible!?" Ning Wanqing was shocked. He could feel the palm seal was stronger than before. Moreover, the fluctuation of the Primal Qi was not that strong; why did the palm seal contain so much power?

Energy seal appeared under Ning Wanqing's feet as he slid backward for hundreds of meters, leaving the forest before he finally stabilized himself.

"My lord!" the white-clad young man cried out, alarmed.

This was just the first palm strike, but Ning Wanqing was already pushed back. Even his astrolabe with eight Birth Charts was dented!

Shen Xi felt a surge of emotions in his heart as he watched this. 'Indeed, the Pavilion Master is stronger than an Eight Chart expert. I really hugged the right thigh this time!'

Meanwhile, Ning Wanqing who finally came to a halt felt his arms go numb. Even the veins on his arms were popping out. He was suddenly at a loss. Just the first palm seal was so formidable; how was he

going to withstand the other two palm strikes? The qi in his Extraordinary Eight Meridians were chaotic, and his Dantian's sea of Qi felt as though it had been turned upside down. He felt incredibly uncomfortable.

At this moment, Ning Wanqing regretted his decision slightly. However, since things had already come to this point, he could only brace himself and soldier on. He raised his head and looked ahead despite not being able to see anything and said, "Continue."

"Alright. I used 20% of my strength with that palm strike. I hope you'll be able to withstand the second palm strike as well..."

"..."

'Only 20%? Steady. Don't panic. It's just words to mess with me psychologically...'

Ning Wanqing learned from his mistakes. This time, a Yin-and-Yang Taiji circle appeared under his feet. It spun before it the circle of light rose and protected his body. Following that, he manifested his astrolabe again. This time, two of the eight Birth Charts shone brighter than the others.

At this moment, Lu Zhou's voice rang in the air. "The second palm strike: the Nine Cuts Hand Seal."

'Huh?' Ning Wanqing's eyelids twitched. He felt as though he had been tricked. The first palm seal was from the Buddhist school. How did the second palm seal turn into a palm seal from the Taoist school? He had intentionally used the Taoist's Taiji circle since it was incredibly effective in defending against Buddhist techniques. What was he supposed to do now that it had changed to a Taoist palm seal?!

Lu Zhou pushed his palm out.

Nine palm seals flew out successively in a straight line toward Ning Wanqing.

This palm seal contained one-third of the supreme mystic power. It was enough to destroy a Birth Chart of those with four or fewer Birth Charts like Shen Xi.

Shen Xi's heart trembled when he felt the force of the palm seal. He felt uncomfortable just looking at it; how frightening would it be if he had to face it? He did not want to imagine how Ning Wanqing must have felt at this moment.

Despite his confusion, Ning Wanqing gave his all to defend against this palm seal. He no longer judged the palm seal based on his hearing and senses. He pushed his astrolabe out in front of him again.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Nine palm seals landed on the astrolabe consecutively.

The astrolabe was so heavily dented that it seemed as though if a little more force was applied, it would pierce the astrolabe.

Ning Wanqing's heart was in turmoil as he felt the force pushing against him from the front. The Taiji circle beneath his feet seemed like it could not withstand the pressure and began to ripple violently.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

As Ning Wanqing was pushed back, he crashed against the trees and boulders behind him. At this moment, his eyes suddenly widened. The force from the palm seal had not completely dissipated! If this continued, his astrolabe would be destroyed and he would lose his life! He decisively withdrew his astrolabe at the crucial moment and allowed the force from the palm seal to land on the protective energy from the Taoist's Taiji circle.

Bang!

The remnant force from the palm seal shattered the protective energy and landed squarely on Ning Wanqing's chest, causing him to spit out blood.

"My lord!" The white-clad young man flew toward Ning Wanqing at lightning speed.

At this moment, Ning Wanqing kneeled on one knee as bright red blood that he could not see trickled out from the corners of his mouth, dripping on the back of his hand and the trenches that formed when he slid back. He gasped for breath, shocked. Without the protective energy, he felt the cool wind in the forest blowing against him, causing his body to tremble slightly. He hurriedly mobilized his energy to protect his meridians.

At this time, Lu Zhou's voice drifted over. "I used 40% of my strength in this palm strike."

'40%?! This... ' Ning Wanqing felt stifled.

Lu Zhou, who was standing a few hundred meters away, said indifferently. "Are you ready? The third palm strike..."

At this moment, Ning Wanqing suddenly raised his hand decisively and interjected, "I give up!"