

Disciples 991

Chapter 991: Ying Zhao

Di Jiang carried Lu Zhou and rose higher into the sky.

Lu Zhou looked at Xiao Yunhe, Wu Chao, and the others as he said, "Change your clothes; they're too eye-catching."

Lu Zhou wondered if they liked black so much because they stayed in the Black Tower Council for so long. The blackguards wore black armor; there was no difference even when they changed into black robes. With just a glance, it was easy to tell they were once blackguards.

Wu Chao bowed and said, "I'll go find some clothes."

Xiao Yunhe waved his hand and said, "Go."

Wu Chao disappeared into the forest in just a flash.

Lu Zhou shook his head. No wonder they smelled rotten. These blackguards saved their Primal Qi and did not maintain their peak condition. People had to eat, drink, and go to the toilet after all.

While they waited, Lu Zhou asked Xiao Yunhe, "You were once the Tower Master of the Black Tower Council so you should be familiar with the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council's overall strength and way of doing things. Who do you think will come this time?"

Xiao Yunhe smiled wryly. This was not an easy question to answer. "The strengths of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council are comparable. Since the White Tower Council sent Nangong Yutian, the remaining two judges from the Black Tower Council will definitely come. Apart from that, there are many experts in the Black Tower Council who will come as well. They are much more powerful than the blackguards. As for the Elders Guild and the chief judge, I'm not sure if they'll come. These people value their lives very much and are used to ordering others to do their work; they rarely make a move personally. During the many years of conflict between the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council, the high-ranking members of each side had never personally made a move. I'm the only exception..."

Xiao Yunhe continued to say, "As the Tower Master, everyone in the Black Tower Council submitted to me. They were loyal to me, and I was loyal to them as well. If I were at my peak now, I wouldn't worry at all about not being able to obtain Ying Zhao's heart in the Southern Kingdom. Even the four great judges of the White Tower Council would have to bow in front of me..."

Lu Zhou nodded and did not comment on Xiao Yunhe's boastful words. He said, "You have such a glorious past. Alas, you were harmed by treacherous people. Is Xia Zhengrong stronger than you?"

"He's nothing." Xiao Yunhe grew slightly emotional at the mention of Xia Zhengrong. "In the past, I participated in an extremely dangerous mission and was gravely injured in the Unknown Land, resulting in the loss of a Birth Chart. That paved the way for Xia Zhengrong."

"You've been to the Unknown Land as well?" Lu Zhou asked.

Xiao Yunhe nodded. "That place is very humid and is even gloomier than the Southern Kingdom. It's truly dark and sunless. There are many fierce beasts there so there are many good life hearts. Many cultivators who want to increase their strengths would take the risk and go to the Unknown Land."

Lu Zhou thought of his youngest disciple, Luo Shiyin. Since she was from the Unknown Land, it meant that humans dwelled in that place as well. "Did you encounter humans there?"

Xiao Yunhe shook his head. "No. No one has encountered humans living there so far. Perhaps, the cultivators weren't strong enough to explore the depths of the Unknown Land so they didn't encounter humans there..."

"Do you feel the shackles of Heaven and earth?"

"Of course, every cultivator can clearly feel the shackles of heaven and earth. It restricts the progress of humans. No one knows why," Xiao Yunhe said.

Even the former Tower Master of the Black Tower Council did not know the secret of the shackles of heaven and earth, let alone the golden lotus domain. Perhaps, one would be able to find the answer after becoming strong enough to explore the depths of the Unknown Land.

The two chatted for a while more before Wu Chao finally returned.

Lu Zhou did not know where Wu Chao found the clothes. However, for Wu Chao to return in such a short time, he must have robbed it from some low-level cultivators.

Xiao Yunhe and the others' temperaments seemed to have changed after they changed their clothes.

"Let's go."

With that, everyone rose into the air and flew toward the southwest of the Southern Kingdom.

...

The dark sky seemed endless. It felt as though they would never reach the end no matter how long they flew. As time passed, the sky grew darker and darker as well as mist and clouds converged above the mountain ranges.

After flying for a while, Lu Zhou and the others came to a stop on a mountain.

"Is it always dark here?" Lu Zhou found this strange.

Even on earth, the north pole and the south pole that had extreme nights and extreme days would not fall into an endless state of darkness such as this. People would go crazy if they lived here.

"Not really. There are few days when it's bright here. During that time, the fierce beasts would hide since they're not used to brightness."

At this moment, Wu Chao suddenly pointed to a highland forest to the west. "The people from the Humble White Sect are there..."

Following that, Wu Chao joined his palms together. In just a moment, a black witchcraft seal appeared, and he smacked it into the ground.

A witchcraft circle that emitted a faint purple light appeared on the ground immediately.

This sight dredged up bad memories in the mind of Lu Zhou, Yu Zhenghai, and Yu Shangrong. If it were not for the fact that Wu Chao was tactful and had also treated Yu Shangrong's injuries, Lu Zhou would not have spared him at all.

As Wu Chao controlled the witchcraft circle, he said, "I've set up a lot of small observation witchcraft formations nearby. It won't last long, but we can use them to sense the situation around here... The people from the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council are stationed further south, but they're not together. I guess they're trying to avoid conflict."

Lu Zhou looked at Wu Chao and asked, "How many people do they have?"

"There are more than 100 people from the Black Tower Council, and the White Tower Council has even more people. They have nearly 200 people. It seems like the White Tower Council is taking the aggressive approach. The people from the Dark and Light Alliance and Great Yuan's royal court should be hiding in the distance. I haven't sensed them yet..."

Lu Zhou nodded before he asked, "When will Ying Zhao show up?"

"It depends on the number of fierce beasts and how long the fierce beasts fight," Wu Chao replied.

"Then let's wait."

Everyone nodded.

Lu Zhou walked up a slope on the mountain with his hands on his back. When he reached the highest point, he looked down at the forest below.

Xiao Yunhe walked over as well.

After a while, more than ten white-clad cultivators flew up from the forest thousands of meters away toward Lu Zhou.

"They've discovered us."

"Considering our proximity, it's not surprising that they discovered us. There's no need to worry," Lu Zhou calmly said.

Soon enough, the white-clad cultivators appeared in front of Lu Zhou and the others. The leader was an old man who looked like he was in his sixties. He bluntly said, "We're from the Humble White Sect. Are you here for Ying Zhao as well?"

Lu Zhou and Xiao Yunhe did not pay attention to the old man and continued to observe the movements in the fog up ahead.

On the contrary, Yu Shangrong stepped forward and said with a gentle smile, "That's right."

The old man nodded. "Based on your clothes, it doesn't seem like you're from the Black Tower Council..."

"That's right." Yu Shangrong replied, maintaining the smile on his face.

“Then, you’re all from...” The old man trailed off.

This group of people obviously came here to probe them. There were many factions that came here this time, and the Humble White Sect could not afford to provoke any of them.

Yu Zhenghai stepped forward at this moment and said loudly, “Do we need to tell you where we came from? That’s enough from you. We’re not your prisoners.”

The old man said apologetically, “That’s not what I mean. The Humble White Sect is weak and only wants to search for allies. If you don’t mind, we can join forces...”

Yu Zhenghai replied, “There are so many forces here, but the Humble White Sect dares to come here to compete for Ying Zhao?”

The old man was not angered by Yu Zhenghai’s words. Instead, he said, “Our Humble White Sect’s target isn’t Ying Zhao; our targets are the ordinary Birth Chart Beasts.”

The Humble White Sect was aware they were weak and had few experts in their ranks. Naturally, they could not compete with the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council. However, it should not be a problem for them to capture a few ordinary Birth Chart Beasts.

“We’re not interested.” Yu Zhenghai shook his head.

The old man sighed softly. “Alright then. We’ll just have to leave it up to head. Let’s go.”

Just as the old man was about to turn around and leave, Lu Zhou raised his head and said, “Wait.”

The old man was slightly taken aback. He looked at Lu Zhou and asked, “What’s the matter, old sir?”

“I’ll allow you to work with us. You can have the low-level Birth Chart Beasts. I’ll take Ying Zhao,” Lu Zhou said as he studied the terrain below. This place was indeed a paradise for fierce beasts. If there were too many fierce beasts, he might not be able to deal with all of them. It was not a bad idea to leave some of the low-level fierce beasts for the Humble White Sect to deal with. Moreover, he planned to learn more about the White Tower Council from the Humble White Sect.

The old man was shocked by Lu Zhou’s words. “Old sir, you... you intend to compete for Ying Zhao?”

Chapter 992: My Confidence

Lu Zhou said, “Ying Zhao is a special Birth Chart Beast. Who in the world doesn’t want it?”

The old man who looked to be in his sixties chuckled before he said, “Old sir is really honest.”

At this moment, Xiao Yunhe suddenly said, “Brother Lu, I don’t recommend working with them. Other than having a large number of people, the Humble White Sect won’t be able to help us...”

“It’s still better than working with those strong forces with unsavory characters,” Lu Zhou said.

Upon hearing this, Xiao Yunhe silently agreed with Lu Zhou.

Although the alliance between two strong forces was useful, it came with many risks. During the alliance, they would still have to constantly guard against their allies. Once the balance broke, the alliance would completely collapse.

Lu Zhou and the others flew up into the sky and followed the old man.

They passed through the thick fog before they finally arrived near a cliff.

Thousands of Humble White Sect disciples stood near the cliff in groups as they observed the movements below.

Apart from the people from the Humble White Sect, there was also quite a number of sectless cultivators that seemed to have just formed a group as well.

At this time, the thousands of white-clad cultivators noticed Lu Zhou and the other.

“Elder Wu, these are...”

Upon hearing this question, the old man finally realized he did not know Lu Zhou’s name.

Lu Zhou said indifferently, “My surname is Lu.”

The white-clad cultivators bowed and greeted Lu Zhou.

After that, Elder Wu said, “Brother Lu, the view here is excellent. Our leader this time is that person standing closest to the cliff. His name is Chen You, and he’s the Vice Sect Master of the Humble White Sect.”

Lu Zhou nodded. It was best for him to speak to the person in charge. He said to Elder Wu, “Lead the way...”

“Please...” Elder Wu made an inviting gesture before he led Lu Zhou and the others to the cliff.

Meanwhile, Xiao Yunhe and a few others stayed near the other side of the cliff to observe the movements in the forest and in the air.

Chen You, who was waiting with his hands resting on his back, turned around at this moment and asked, “Elder Wu, who’s this?”

Elder Wu replied, “This is Senior Lu. He has agreed to work with us...”

Chen You looked at Lu Zhou with a look of approval as he said, “If you decide to work with the Humble White Sect, I won’t treat you badly. You can have a share of the life hearts we obtain...”

Lu Zhou asked curiously, “What if there’s only one life heart?”

This matter had to be made clear. If the life hearts were not divided properly, it would make people unhappy.

Lu Zhou was curious about how the Humble White Sect intended to divide the life hearts.

Chen You said indifferently, “Old sir, if you’re a Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator, the life heart will be given to you as a gift of friendship.”

‘This person really knows how to do business...’

A Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator was capable of killing ordinary Birth Chart Beasts without help. On the other hand, Nine-leaf and Ten-leaf cultivators, who made up most of the people from the Humble White Sect, would have a hard time if they encountered a horde of fierce beasts. Even if it were Ten-leaf cultivators, it would still be difficult for them to obtain life hearts. However, with the help of Thousand Realms Whirling cultivators, it would be a different story.

After a moment, Lu Zhou said, “I’m not interested in ordinary life hearts. I don’t want anything other than Ying Zhao’s life heart.”

“...” Chen You was stunned. When he regained his senses, he sized Lu Zhou up before he said, “The Black Tower Council, the White Tower Council, the Dark and Light Alliance, and the Great Yuan’s royal court are all fighting for Ying Zhao. Are you joking, old sir?”

Lu Zhou replied tonelessly, “I never joke.”

Chen You frowned slightly as he asked, “May I ask which sect you belong to, old sir?”

“The Evil Sky Pavilion.”

‘What’s that?’ Chen You, naturally, had never heard of the Evil Sky Pavilion. He knew most of the prominent figures and forces in the black lotus domain and white lotus domain, but he had no impression of the Evil Sky Pavilion at all. Nevertheless, he did not dare to underestimate the person in front of him. He said, “Old sir, we, the Humble White Sect, only seek ordinary life hearts. We dare not covet Ying Zhao in fear of offending the White Tower Council and the other forces. Therefore, I’m afraid the Humble White Sect won’t be able to help you with Ying Zhao.”

Lu Zhou did not place much importance on this alliance. He only wanted to find out more about the White Tower Council. He said, “To be able to make a sect voluntarily give up on Ying Zhao, it seems like the power of the White Tower Council cannot be underestimated.”

Contrary to expectations, Chen You did not reveal any information. Instead, he said politely, “I’m sorry, old sir. I still have something else to attend to...”

As soon as Chen You finished speaking, a figure flashed out from the crowd of thousands of cultivators from the Humble White Sect and stood next to Lu Zhou.

Chen You was shocked when he saw the person who just appeared next to Lu Zhou.

Hundreds of Humble White Sect disciples nearby instinctively drew their swords and looked at the person next to Lu Zhou warily.

The person who had appeared next to Lu Zhou was none other than Xiao Yunher, the former Tower Master of the Black Tower Council. Xiao Yunhe did not look at Chen You at all. Instead, he looked at Lu Zhou and said with a faint smile on his face, “Brother Lu, I’ve already said that it’s meaningless to cooperate with them.”

Chen You could sense the formidable aura from Xiao Yunhe so he did not dare to be careless. He asked tentatively, “Who are you?”

"It doesn't matter who I am. Brother Lu and I are here to enjoy the scenery. You don't mind, right?" Xiao Yunhe said.

"Of course not. Please do as you wish."

Xiao Yunhe nodded in satisfaction. He looked at the mountains that towered among the clouds and mist before he asked, "Brother Lu, you're determined to fight for Ying Zhao?"

"Of course."

Xiao Yunhe solemnly said, "To successfully obtain Ying Zhao's life heart, you must have the strength to intimidate the Tower Masters of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council. Although the two Tower Masters might not appear, there's no lack of dogs that rely on their masters' powers to act..."

"In your opinion, what should I do?" Lu Zhou asked. At this time, he could not help but think it would be so much easier if his seventh disciple were here.

Xiao Yunhe said, "Intimidate everyone. In fact, in recent years, the lower levels of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council don't have much conflict. It's mostly the upper level of the two councils that have a problem with each other. If Brother Lu can intimidate everyone, they naturally won't dare to act recklessly."

"That's not a bad idea," Lu Zhou said.

"However, that will only work depending on how strong Brother Lu is," Xiao Yunhe said.

Lu Zhou only had four Birth Charts so there was no way he could just manifest his astrolabe and intimidate everyone. He could not use his Peak Trial Card as well.

At this time, Chen You, the Vice Sect Master of the Humble White Sect, who had overheard the conversation, shook his head. He could not help but say, "Gentlemen, please forgive me for being blunt. Lan Xihe, the Tower Master of the White Tower Council, isn't someone who's easily intimidated. I'm afraid your tactic won't work."

"Is Lan Xihe very strong?" Lu Zhou asked skeptically.

"I've never seen her fight, but I have no doubt she's very strong. Her status in the White Tower Council is the highest, and she has absolute power there. The Black Tower Council that has internal strife can't compare to the White Tower Council at all. In my opinion, the Black Tower Council doesn't stand a chance against the White Tower Council at all in the fight for Ying Zhao. I advise both of you to give up on Ying Zhao. There are many other life hearts after all; it doesn't necessarily have to be Ying Zhao's life heart," Chen You said.

Xiao Yunhe nodded and said with a smile, "Indeed. Lan Xihe's really mysterious. Until now, not much is known about her..."

Lu Zhou cocked an eyebrow and curiously asked, "When you were the Tower Master, you've never fought with her before?"

"No," Xiao Yunhe said with a sigh, "I met her once, but we only spoke from our respective flying chariots. Her voice is otherworldly, elegant, steady, and powerful. She must be a young woman with an incredibly high cultivation base."

Chen You, who was listening in on their conversation, exclaimed in shock, "You're the former Tower Master?"

The white-clad cultivators in the vicinity immediately drew their swords one after another and pointed them at Xiao Yunhe.

Since ancient times, the black lotus domain and the white lotus domain had stood on opposing sides, after all.

Upon seeing this, Xiao Yunhe slowly raised his hand to the sky.

Black energy seals that looked like bolts of lightning buzzed in the sky immediately.

When Xiao Yunhe clenched his hand, the black energy seals struck at the white-clad cultivators' hands, disarming them.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

The sounds of swords falling to the ground rang in the air.

Everyone looked at Xiao Yunhe with a dumbfounded expression on their faces. It was as though they had been electrocuted.

'This... This is a true expert!'

Chen You frowned. The expression on his face was incredibly unsightly. "Although the black lotus domain and the white lotus domain have their conflict, they never involve the innocent. The Humble White Sect has no enmity with you..."

Xiao Yunhe interjected, "Don't worry. I won't make things difficult for you."

Lu Zhou asked, "You're skilled in Thunderblast?"

"I've only learned a little. I'm sorry for making a fool out of myself in front of you, Brother Lu," Xiao Yunhe replied.

"If you were at your peak, are you confident you'd be able to defeat Lan Xihe?" Lu Zhou asked.

"No."

"Well, I do," Lu Zhou said.

"..."

'Hey, hey, don't you think your act is too much? You've never even seen Lan Xihe before, how can you be so sure? Are you acting cool?'

Upon hearing these words, Chen You bowed and said humbly, "As it turns out, you're an expert. Forgive me for not having a discerning eye." However, inwardly, he thought to himself, 'You can act however

you want; it has nothing to do with me. It'd be great if Lan Xihe appears and slaps these two posturing men!'

Lu Zhou glanced at Chen You and asked, "Apart from the White Tower Council and the Humble White Sect, what other forces from the white lotus domain are here?"

"There's none apart from a small number of sectless cultivators," Chen You replied.

Xiao Yunhe smiled and said, "The White Tower Council is really impressive."

"Who cares about the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council. All I know is anyone who tries to steal Ying Zhao from me is going to suffer..." Lu Zhou said nonchalantly.

Xiao Yunhe. "..."

Xiao Yunhe grew more curious about Lu Zhou. Just how much more strength did Lu Zhou hide that he did not even care about the Tower Masters of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council?

Suddenly...

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

A series of explosions rang from the mountain in front of them.

A white-clad cultivator stepped forward and said, "Vice Sect Master Chen, the beasts have appeared..."

The shadows of flying beasts could be seen lurking behind the thick fog at this moment. At the same time, the sound of a stampede and fierce collisions rang in the air as well.

All sorts of strange cries from the beasts resounded deafeningly through heaven and earth.

At this time, someone pointed to the left. "The Black Tower Council!"

A huge black flying chariot that resembled a boat parted the clouds in the sky. Many blackguards jumped out of the flying chariot with long halberds in their hands when the flying chariot came to a stop in the air.

Upon seeing this, Xiao Yunhe asked with a hint of excitement, "Shall we go and have a look?"

"There's no rush. The fierce beasts' battle has just begun. We rush there now, we'll only become cannon fodder," Lu Zhou said.

Chen You smiled and said, "Old sir, you're wise. Ying Zhao is intelligent, and it won't be easy to deal with."

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The earth and the mountain shook accompanied by loud booming noises.

Suddenly, what seemed like thousands of flying beasts flew out of the dense fog and shot toward the cliff. These beasts were called dragonhawks, and as their name suggested, they looked like a fusion of a dragon and a hawk with their huge wings and long bodies. Their cries were ear-piercing.

"This is bad. The beasts are coming for people! Retreat quickly!"

At this moment, the dragonhawks spat out what seemed like a red line that restrained the white-clad cultivators hovering in the air. In just an instant, the dragonhawks' sharp beaks tore into the bodies of the cultivators.

Blood rained down the forest.

The thousands of cultivators retreated quickly upon seeing this.

Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!

At this moment, buzzing noises rang out one after another in the thick fog. The silhouettes of Thousand Realms Whirling avatars were faintly discernible behind the fog.

Xiao Yunhe glanced at Lu Zhou and sighed. "Brother Lu, it seems like we've underestimated these fierce beasts."

The blackguards who rushed into fog earlier were undoubtedly surrounded by the fierce beasts at this moment. Although the thick fog obscured their visions, one could easily imagine how fierce the battle in there must be.

As Chen You prepared to lead the group of white-clad cultivators away, he asked, "Why aren't both of you leaving?"

Lu Zhou looked at the dragonhawks in the sky that were flying toward him. Clearly, he did not have any intention of dodging. Although there were quite a number of them, they were only fierce beasts, not even as good as ordinary or low-level Birth Chart Beasts.

Lu Zhou said tonelessly, "Deal with them."

"Understood." Yu Shangrong tapped his feet lightly on the ground and shot up into the sky.

Xiao Yunhe frowned and called out, "No, you only have ten leaves!"

Chapter 993: Darkness

Most of the cultivators in the Humble White Sect were Nine-leaf and Ten-leaf cultivators, hence, they were very eager to obtain life hearts. However, they were scared out of their wits when they saw the dragonhawks spitting out red energy lines that bound weak cultivators. Their first thought was to retreat, not to put up a fight.

Meanwhile, under Xiao Yunhe's baffled gaze, Yu Shangrong unsheathed his Longevity Sword. As soon as he unsheathed his sword, his killing intent surged. With just a thought, 100,000 energy swords appeared in the air, covering the sky.

"It's a flood-grade sword!"

Swoosh!

The red energy lines that were about to touch Yu Shangrong were instantly cut by his energy swords. Following that, the energy swords rolled out like a wave toward the dragonhawks. One after another the dragonhawks were felled by the energy swords.

Lu Zhou discovered that these low-level fierce beasts no longer gave him merit points and could not help but feel slightly regretful. At the same time, he confirmed that Yu Shangrong's strength was definitely above the Thousand Realms Whirling. Let alone Ten-leaf cultivators, even those who had activated their Birth Charts might not be a match for him.

"This... Is this the Ten-leaf stage?" Xiao Yunhe was baffled.

Yu Zhenghai was also shocked by Yu Shangrong's performance. He shook his head and said, "I didn't expect Second Junior Brother's strength to increase so much after absorbing five life hearts..."

"..." Since Xiao Yunhe had no experience with this cultivation path, he had no comment.

At the same time, Chen You and the others from the Humble White Sect watched Yu Shangrong kill the dragonhawks with their mouths agape.

In just a moment, silence returned to the sky.

Yu Shangrong flashed and returned to Lu Zhou's side.

Swoosh!

At the same time, the energy swords vanished and the Longevity Sword returned to its sheath.

"This..." Chen You looked at Yu Shangrong in shock.

Xiao Yunhe clapped and said, "It's rare for a Ten-leaf cultivator to master such powerful sword path."

"Ten leaves?!" Chen You turned around and looked at his people.

The group of Ten-leaf cultivators lowered their heads immediately. They were also Ten-leaf cultivators so why was the disparity so big?

Lu Zhou pointed at the mountain range hidden in the fog and said, "Go investigate."

Xiao Yunhe said, "Let Wu Chao investigate. It's more convenient for us to send him since he can use witchcraft."

"Understood." Wu Chao left with a flurry of movements into the thick fog.

Chen You and the Humble White Sect cultivators gulped as they continued to watch.

After a moment, Chen You said, clearly embarrassed, "I... I feel ashamed..."

Lu Zhou said, "It's not wrong for the weak to protect themselves."

"Thank you, old sir, for your understanding... Then... Then, our cooperation..." Chen You stammered.

"No." Lu Zhou shook his head. "I only give one chance to everyone."

"..." Chen You felt regretful; he had missed out on a great opportunity!

Not much time had passed before Wu Chao returned. He called out, "I've been discovered!"

A scarlet flying Birth Chart Beast was hot on his trail.

"It's a scarlet mystic bird!"

Chen You and the Humble White Sect cultivators instinctively retreated again.

At this moment, Chen You suddenly wondered why he was so afraid? He was a Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator after all!

Wu Chao's speed was lightning fast as he used his grand technique. In just a blink of an eye, he arrived in front of the others. Following that, he turned to face the scarlet mystic bird and manifested his huge astrolabe.

Boom!

The scarlet mystic bird crashed into Wu Chao's astrolabe.

"He's a Four Chart Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator!" the members of the Humble White Sect exclaimed in shock.

Just a subordinate possessed four Birth Charts? In that case, how strong were those two big shots?

Chen You felt even more regretful as he watched this. He felt his heart ache at the lost opportunity.

At this moment, thousands of black tentacles shot out of the astrolabe and restrained the scarlet mystic bird.

Wu Chao hovered in the air and pushed his astrolabe with one hand. Several beams of light shot out and pieced the scarlet mystic bird immediately.

The scarlet mystic bird struggled and attacked chaotically before it let out a mournful cry. Now that it was severely injured, it turned around, intending to flee.

Wu Chao took a breather and said, "Many blackguards died up ahead. There are too many fierce beasts. The Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council are retreating to the sides."

Lu Zhou did not respond. Instead, he raised his hand. Unnamed in the form of a bow appeared in hand immediately. "Livestock, you think you can leave after coming here?"

Swoosh!

A golden energy arrow that was taller than an adult appeared. In one breath, it shot out into the sky. It was so fast that the wind howled in its wake,

Bang!

The energy arrow accurately pierced the scarlet mystic bird's vital point.

"..." Chen You's eyelids twitched. He had come here with a passive tactic. If a fierce beast chased after them, they planned to retreat. Their plan was to lure a fierce beast away and overwhelm it with

numbers. However, the tactic was useless. Currently, they were only like background decorations; they could watch the show.

"Old sir, you're from the golden lotus domain?" Chen You asked curiously. At the same time, he committed the Evil Sky Pavilion to his memory.

Lu Zhou ignored Chen You. Instead, he ordered, "Retrieve its life heart."

Yu Shangrong flew toward the scarlet mystic bird that was falling from the sky at lightning speed. It did not take long before he returned with a red life heart.

Xiao Yunhe said with admiration, "Amazing, amazing. Brother Lu is a very good marksman."

Lu Zhou did not say anything. Instead, he looked at the mountain range in front of him. The rumbling sounds in the fog and the sounds of intense battle continued to ring in the air.

At this moment, a deafening roar rang in the air.

The earth trembled slightly as rocks rolled off the cliff.

Soon after, they saw dozens of black lotus cultivators flying out of the huge black flying chariot on the left side of the sky.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

With that, the thunderous and jarring sounds of battle grew even more intense.

At this moment, Shen Xi, whose sense of presence had been reduced for a long time, suddenly raised his head and said, "It's the First Elder's Sky Supporting Seal!"

A black energy seal that covered the entire sky appeared, causing darkness to descend.

In the dense fog, a huge black astrolabe flashed for a moment before disappearing.

Three mountains up ahead had been destroyed by the black energy seal. They fell violently now that they were reduced to rocks.

"Block it!" Chen You ordered.

Everyone formed energy shields immediately.

Xiao Yunhe said, "If I'm not wrong, Shi Youran, the First Elder of the Black Tower Council, should have ten Birth Charts. It's not surprising they sent him to fight Ying Zhao."

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Rocks kept falling on the energy seals for a long time without showing any signs of stopping.

"We're too close. I suggest that we retreat!" Chen You said.

As soon as his voice fell, an energy with the force of a tsunami and a huge landslide swept over from up ahead, accompanied by a thunderous roar. "Shi Youran, scram! You have no right to act shamelessly here!"

The energy rolled out, devouring all the weaker fierce beasts in just an instant. Not only that, but even some of the mountains and trees were swept away.

Upon hearing that voice, Xiao Yunhe said solemnly, "Xu Chen is here as well. Shi Youran is the First Elder of the Black Tower Council, and Xu Chen is the First Elder of the White Tower Council."

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, obviously disappointed, "The Tower Masters didn't come?"

Xiao Yunhe. "..."

'Hey, your joke isn't funny at all!'

In fact, prior to this, Xiao Yunhe expected the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council to only send a judge here. With the presence of the elders, even without Lu Zhou, it would be almost impossible for him to obtain Ying Zhao's life heart.

At this moment, the tsunami-like energy drew closer and closer to Lu Zhou and the others.

Lu Zhou casually pushed one hand out.

However, the flood-like energy was getting closer and closer.

Lu Zhou pushed out a palm.

The Confinement Seal shot out as it increased in size, shielding the cliff and everyone behind it.

Boom!

The Confinement Seal successfully blocked the tsunami-like energy. However, energy continued to press down on them.

The thousands of cultivators from the Humble White Sect looked at the Confinement Seal and the tsunami-like energy in horror. At this moment, they realized they had overestimated themselves. Put everything else aside, they were not even qualified to watch the show from the side!

At this time, Lu Zhou flew into the air and held the Confinement Seal up as the energy crashed down against the Confinement Seal again and again.

Upon seeing this, the others moved to stand behind Lu Zhou. They had no choice. If they did not do this, they would die! Whether they had nine leaves or ten leaves or the Thousand Realms Whirling, all of them followed Lu Zhou.

At this time, Lu Zhou said indifferently, "I don't believe the sky will collapse today..."

Everyone's confidence exploded when they heard Lu Zhou's words. All of them stood carefully under the Confinement Seal as they rose as one into the sky.

Xiao Yunhe laughed heartily before he said, "Brother Lu, I'll lend you a hand!" He did not hold back as he pushed the Confinement Seal up.

With this, the two experts withstood the mountain-like pressure bearing down on everyone.

Chapter 994: All of You Can Scram Now

The Confinement Seal expanded another 100 feet. It was like a gigantic umbrella, shielding everyone from the violent wind and the torrential rain.

Chen You, who was overflowing with gratitude, fell to his knees in the air and said, "Thank you for saving my life, seniors."

Several thousand disciples from the Humble White Sect followed suit and fell to their knees.

"Ding! Worshiped by 3,510 people. Reward: 3,510 merit points."

Yu Zhenghai turned around and said, "Don't drag us down. Keep up and hold on!"

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The battle between the First Elders of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council showed no sign of stopping anytime soon. In fact, it seemed to grow fiercer and fiercer as time passed.

Meanwhile, upon hearing Yu Zhenghai's words, the cultivators from the Humble White Sect paled as realization dawned on them. Lu Zhou was more than strong enough to lift the Confinement Seal on his own and save everyone at the same time. However, he was not obligated to do so. With this thought in mind, all of them hurriedly lifted their hands and tried to be helpful.

Thousands of palm seals shot toward the Confinement Seal, lifting it.

In just an instant, the pressure on Lu Zhou lessened tremendously.

Just as the saying went, 'There is strength in numbers'.

Although the members of the Humble White Sect were not particularly strong, they were most suited to deal with this kind of situation due to their numbers. Their collective strength easily held the Confinement Seal up.

With this, the Confinement Seal that spanned nearly 1,000 feet blocked the danger.

At this moment, Lu Zhou said, "I'll go up and have a look."

"Alright." Xiao Yunhe nodded.

Needless to say, the others stayed put under the Confinement Seal.

Lu Zhou flashed to the top of the 1000-foot-long Confinement Seal and stood on top of it as though it was a huge ship. He held Unnamed that had been transformed into a shield and looked at the sky.

While the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council were engaged in a fierce battle, there were no signs of fierce beasts at all.

Every time Xu Chen from the White Tower Council and Shi Youran from the Black Tower Council exchanged a blow, energy seals would fill the sky.

"Shi Youran, has your Black Tower Council taken advantage of the White Tower Council for so long that you're deluded into thinking you can take advantage of me? I won't let you act as you please." Xu Chen laughed coldly.

“Let’s see if you have the ability to stop me. If one can win by shouting, donkeys would’ve ruled the world long ago,” Shi Youran said mockingly.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

“Let me see what you have learned over the years.”

Black and white energy swords flew in the air again.

Lu Zhou was also surprised. ‘This is the strength of Ten Chart cultivators?’

He would need at least two enhanced Deadly Strike Cards to deal with Shi Youran and Xu Chen, unless Xiao Yunhe could deal with one of them. There were still other cultivators from the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council to consider as well, apart from the First Elders. Moreover, there were also those from the Dark Light Alliance and Great Yuan’s royal court.

“Lower the altitude,” Lu Zhou said.

The Confinement Seal lowered itself as soon as Lu Zhou finished speaking.

“Advance.”

With the support from everyone, the Confinement Seal slowly advanced through the fog, passing by several mountains.

At this moment, Wu Chao said, “It’s right in front.”

Upon hearing this, Chen You said anxiously, “Senior, we can’t advance any further.”

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said tonelessly, “Think carefully. If you decide to turn back, you’ll only be met with a dead-end.”

“This...” A sense of helplessness rose in Chen You’s heart. After a moment, he seemed to have finally made up his mind as he said, “Alright, let’s take a gamble today! Everyone, hold on!”

“Understood.”

Their momentum was great. Although their cultivation bases were not profound, they had the advantage of numbers.

The Confinement Seal continued to advance.

The dozens of members from the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council on the left and the right respectively were stuck in a deadlock.

They saw many dead fierce beasts below. Their corpses piled high up like a mountain.

Chen You and the others gulped when they saw this.

Chen You looked envious as he said, “At least one-third of the fierce beasts are Birth Chart Beasts. There are so many of them!”

Lu Zhou moved to the edge and looked down. “No wonder the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council are fighting to the death...”

There were so many Birth Chart Beasts that their numbers exceeded the number of Birth Chart Beasts that were seen in the red lotus domain over the past ten years. These life hearts alone could easily raise the strength of a faction to a new level.

Although Lu Zhou no longer paid attention to the two First Elders' battle, he had no doubt they were still keeping an eye out for Ying Zhao as they fought. He said, "If any of you spot Ying Zhao, inform me immediately. You'll be handsomely rewarded."

The people from the Humble White Sect were not interested in Ying Zhao, to begin with. Therefore, they were happy to help Lu Zhou out.

At this moment, Chen You said, "Ying Zhao has the body of a horse and the face of a human. It's covered in leopard spots and has a pair of wings."

"Are you sure?" Lu Zhou asked.

"Yes." Chen You nodded.

Lu Zhou silently recited the mantra for the power of sight. With the Heavenly Writing Power, he easily saw past the clouds, rocks, mountains, and grass. The ground was littered with corpses, and the metallic stench of blood permeated the air. All kinds of Birth Chart Beasts could be seen on the ground. Unfortunately, none of them matched Chen You's description. As expected, the intelligent Birth Chart Beast was really cunning.

At this time, a thunderous voice rang from below.

"Those who have no business here, please leave! Otherwise, you'll have to bear the consequences."

The members of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council raised their heads and saw the 1,000-foot-long Confinement Seal.

Chen You and the thousands of Humble White Sect cultivators were shocked out of their wits.

With this, the Confinement Seal came to a stop.

At this moment, Xiao Yunhe flashed and appeared next to Lu Zhou. He said in a hushed tone, "I suggest we avoid them for the time being; there's no need to fight with them head-on. Xu Chen and Shi Youran are engaged in a fierce battle now, and the Dark and Light Alliance and Great Yuan's royal court aren't here yet. If we entangle with them, we'll surely end up being targeted."

Lu Zhou's expression remained unchanged as he stroked his beard and mulled over the situation. After such a fierce battle, the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council were heavily injured. Both sides were just waiting for the outcome of Xu Chen and Shi Youran's battle.

At this moment...

Boom!

The clouds and fog in the sky were dispersed by white and black energy seals, causing the sky to brighten for a moment.

Following that, it fell eerily silent. Xu Chen and Shi Youran were nowhere to be seen.

At this time, Lu Zhou moved slightly and withdrew the Confinement Seal.

The thousands of Humble White Sect cultivators heaved a sigh of relief.

“Alright, let’s avoid them.” Lu Zhou decided to follow Xiao Yunhe’s plan.

Suddenly, bursts of laughter rang from the distant mountains before someone said in a booming voice, “Since you’re already here, you shouldn’t leave.”

Soon enough, a flying chariot that resembled a black coffin appeared before everyone’s eyes. At one end of the coffin was a symbol that looked like the sun.

“The Dark and Light Alliance!”

“What are they doing here at this time?”

The members of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council looked at the black coffin in shock.

Shen Xi sighed and said in a resigned tone, “It’s not just the Dark and Light Alliance. Look behind them...”

Behind the black coffin, several huge flying chariots could be seen. The flags on each flying chariot fluttered ostentatiously in the air, looking magnificent. Most importantly, all of the flags bore the character ‘Yuan’.

“Great Yuan’s royal court...” Chen You shook his head helplessly. He looked at the Birth Chart Beasts on the ground with regret.

The Dark and Light Alliance and Great Yuan’s royal court did not seem to care about Ying Zhao. It was clear their targets were the Birth Chart Beasts below. Even if they were low-level Birth Chart Beasts, their life hearts could collectively raise the strength of an entire faction.

The flying chariots with the ostentatious flags came to a halt. A man dressed in embroidered robes appeared and looked at the members of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council. “There are so many Birth Chart Beasts. It stands to reason that those who lay eyes on them should have a share...”

“King Chen Wu’s words are very reasonable. Those who lay eyes on them should have a share...” A mocking voice rang from the flying chariot that resembled a black coffin.

Lu Zhou did not move.

After a few seconds of silence, King Chen Wu, who stood in the flying chariot, said with a smile, “Of course, this doesn’t apply to the Humble White Sect...”

“That’s only natural. However, I’m curious. Since when did an old man appear in the Humble White Sect who dared to withstand the energies from the First Elders of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council?” the person from the black coffin said before laughing derisively. Then, he added, “Anyway, that’s not important. The Humble White Sect should scram now!”

Lu Zhou was puzzled. “Who are these two people?”

Xiao Yunhe said, "That person in the flying chariot with the ostentatious flag is Chen Tianbao, the King of Wu. Ten years ago, he had already possessed eight Birth Charts. That person in the black coffin is a master assassin from the Dark and Light Alliance. His name is Ye Liuyun. It's said that there's no one with fewer than nine Birth Charts he can't assassinate."

Chen You sighed helplessly. These were all prominent figures whom they could not afford to offend. He turned and bowed at Lu Zhou. "Thank you for saving our lives, Senior Lu. We'll take our leave now."

When Chen You turned around to lead the thousands of cultivators from the Humble White Sect away, Ye Liuyun's voice rang mockingly from the black coffin. "Hey, old man! Your cultivation base seems alright. Let's see you withstand my palm strike."

Earlier, when the Dark and Light Alliance were at the horizon, Ye Liuyun had seen Lu Zhou standing on the Confinement Seal. He was puzzled; when did an expert appear in the Humble White Sect? His interest was piqued immediately.

Swoosh!

A black palm seal shot out of the black coffin.

Xiao Yunhe reminded Lu Zhou in a low voice, "Be careful. It's not a palm seal."

Lu Zhou recited the mantra for the Heavenly Writing's power of sight. In just a moment, he saw a cone-shaped hidden weapon in the black palm seal.

Following that, Lu Zhou raised his hand that glowed with a blue light and caught the hidden weapon with two fingers. He raised his head and looked at the black coffin. "You dare to plot against me?"

"Don't be petty. It's my duty to test you. Moreover, aren't you fine? Why don't you join our Dark and Light Alliance? How can the group of trash from the Humble White Sect be worthy of you?" Ye Liuyun said with a smile from the black coffin.

Lu Zhou shook his head expressionlessly. In his eyes, Ye Liuyun was already a dead man. Apart from his item cards, he currently had his supreme mystic powers and all kinds of precious treasures. Even if he could not win, he could definitely escape. How could he allow others to insult him? Therefore, he said, "You better come out and apologize to me now. Perhaps, I might spare your life."

Chapter 995: I'll Kneel

When Lu Zhou uttered these words, he had already calculated both sides' strengths. He had even hoped the two Tower Masters of the Black Tower Council and White Tower Council would appear. Based on his strength now, he could easily go on a killing spree now. However, since all forces were present now, each with their own agendas, there was no need to act for the time being.

Everything aside, Lu Zhou was more than confident he could deal with Ye Liuyun. Therefore, how could he let himself be humiliated so easily?

Initially, he had planned to heed Xiao Yunhe's advice to wait at the sides and act at the right time. Now, he had changed his mind.

During the one month he stayed in the ruins, Yan Zhenluo had sent him a message. Although the Black Tower Council had temporarily put aside their internal conflicts, when war broke out, everyone would definitely prioritize themselves. The White Tower Council and the Great Yuan's royal court would not interfere as well, preferring to watch a show.

In the black coffin, Ye Liuyun laughed. The sound was rather enchanting. "Alright, old man. I was joking earlier. There's no need to take it seriously. It's not like it's the first time your Humble White Sect has been ridiculed and humiliated."

"..."

Chen You and the members of the Humble White Sect were rather speechless at this unprovoked insult.

Lu Zhou said, "Anyone is free to come to the chaotic Southern Kingdom. When has the Humble White Sect offended you?"

"It's not that. I'm just stating facts. The weak should have awareness of their strength," Ye Liuyun replied, slightly impatient.

"So you're saying the strong can insult the weak?"

"This..." Ye Liuyun hesitated for a moment before he said, "Reality is always so cruel. Since you're already so old, I'm sure I don't need to tell you this."

"Then let me see what a good-for-nothing like you can do!" Lu Zhou brought an ordinary Deadly Strike Card. It was not worth it to use an enhanced Deadly Strike Card to deal with trash like Ye Liuyun.

One of the reasons Lu Zhou was so confident was due to Lu Zhou finding a way to deal with strong enemies. He would use ordinary Deadly Strike Cards to deal with enemies with eight or fewer Birth Charts. Even with the increase in price, he could afford to buy the ordinary Deadly Strike Cards.

"What did you say?" Ye Liuyun's voice rose. However, he did not want to lower himself to the old man's level. His targets were the life hearts below, not a bunch of weak Humble White Sect cultivators.

"I gave you a chance..." Lu Zhou raised his hand.

The palm seal Lu Zhou launched was just an ordinary Buddhist palm seal. It did not contain the supreme mystic power or any other tricks.

The golden palm seal shot toward the black coffin while the members of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council watched in excitement. Naturally, they hoped other forces would fight among themselves so that they could seize the opportunity to snatch the life hearts.

On the other hand, the cultivators from the Humble White Sect sighed emotionally. They had suffered many insults and ridicule for the longest time. Although they tolerated it, how could they not be angry? Everyone had their dignity after all. Now that someone was venting their anger for them, how could they not feel emotional?

"Golden palm seal?" King Chen of Wu looked puzzled.

No one bothered to block the golden palm seal.

When the palm seal finally landed on the black coffin, it lit up for a moment before it disappeared with a puff.

Upon seeing this, the people from the Dark and Light Alliance laughed uproariously.

Meanwhile, the members of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council were dumbfounded. Was this all they had?

King Chen of Wu shook his head. He had thought they met an expert, but it turned out to be fake.

At this moment, a creepy laughter rang in the air before a figure suddenly appeared above the black coffin. Due to his exaggerated speed, he left after images in his wake when he moved. It was clear that the master assassin had made his move.

Ye Liuyun said with a sneer, "I wouldn't have made a move if you didn't launch that pathetic palm strike. What a pity! Today I'll show you the cruel reality of life."

Swoosh!

When Ye Liuyun was fifty meters away from Lu Zhou, his eyes flashed with a blue light and he caught a glimpse of the cold smile on Ye Liuyun's face. He raised his hand and pushed his palm out.

The Great Seal of Fearlessness.

No matter how many times Lu Zhou used it, similar to its name, Lu Zhou always felt fearless, and it also put everyone at ease when using it. The feeling was similar to the first time he used it.

"Hmm?" Ye Liuyun, the self-proclaimed master assassin, narrowed his eyes. There was no one with Eight or fewer Birth Charts whom he feared. However, when he looked at the palm seal, a sense of unease rose in his heart. An assassin's instinct had always been keen. He could tell the palm seal was not simple, but how could he dodge it now? With so many people watching, how could he, the master assassin, abandon his pride and dignity?

Ye Liuyun moved at a speed that was hard to capture, like light and shadow. It was dazzling.

In comparison, the Great Seal of Fearlessness that was small and light looked as though it was going to shatter at the lightest touch. However, at this moment, it suddenly increased in size. The increase in size was so exaggerated; the bottom of the palm seal touched the ground while the top of the palm seal towered over the clouds! Following that, the palm seal fell like a golden mountain.

Boom!

The Great Seal of Fearlessness landed on Ye Liuyun, the master assassin.

Everyone's eyes widened in shock by the palm seal's sudden increase in size. They felt chills run up their spines as they wondered what was going on.

Ye Liuyun's mind went blank. He grunted and spat out a mouthful of blood. The force from the palm seal seemed to shock him to the core, causing his body to tremble. He was sent flying back immediately. At the same time, a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar suddenly appeared in the sky before it disappeared into his body.

Anyone with common sense knew what this meant; Ye Liuyun's Birth Chart was destroyed with just a strike!

Lu Zhou did not feel anything about obtaining 6,000 merit points nor did he feel distressed about having to spend merit points to buy the item card. The important thing was the deterrent effect of the palm seal. Judging by everyone's expressions, his plan was incredibly successful.

Meanwhile, Ye Liuyun was pushed back several hundred meters before the people from the Dark and Light Alliance finally reacted.

"Lord Ye!"

Ye Liuyun only barely managed to stabilize himself after he shot past the tail end of the black coffin. When he raised his head, blood could be seen on the corner of his lips. He looked at the old man whom he assumed was a weakling in shock and disbelief.

Ye Liuyun felt his cheeks burned in embarrassment when he recalled himself saying he would show Lu Zhou the cruel reality of life.

Meanwhile, Xiao Yunhe, who had been with Lu Zhou over the past month, finally realized that Lu Zhou was not speaking thoughtlessly when he said he was determined to obtain Ying Zhao's life heart.

The people from the Humble White Sect felt all their anger being vented at this moment. It was as though a heavy weight had been lifted off their chests, and their bodies felt lighter!

Chen You felt an unprecedented sense of smugness and satisfaction when he looked at Ye Liuyun's soulless eyes. 'Let's see if you dare to bully the weak and poor again!'

"Who are you?" Ye Liuyun asked with a hint of confusion.

"Kneel," Lu Zhou said curtly. His voice was not loud. Although it sounded deceptively gentle, it carried with it a huge pressure.

"..." Ye Liuyun staggered. He did not dare to defy Lu Zhou in fear of being at the receiving end of another palm seal, but he was not willing to kneel either. He pleaded in a low voice, "King Chen, help me..."

King Chen of Wu shuddered as if he had just jolted awake from a nightmare. He hastily said, "Ye Liuyun, how can you ask me for help? I'm not familiar with you. Moreover, you insulted the senior first. It's only fair that you kneel and apologize."

"You..." Ye Liuyun gritted his teeth; his heart filled with unwillingness. However, what could he do? Reality proved that he was no match for the old man in front of him. All he could do was submit; this was the cruel reality of life.

Ye Liuyun looked at the members of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council below with a hint of pleading in his eyes.

Upon seeing this, the members of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council sneered. Ye Liuyun clearly wanted to snatch a share of the life hearts earlier; how could they help him now?

Lu Zhou saw Ye Liuyun's stubbornness and shook his head. "You're really stubborn. I'll send you off now."

"No." Ye Liuyun suddenly raised his head as he said in a trembling voice, "I... I will kneel..."

Then, Ye Liuyun slowly fell to his knees. Suppressing the unwillingness that threatened to overwhelm him, he kowtowed.

At this moment, King Chen of Wu, whose attitude became much more polite now, cupped his fists together at Lu Zhou and asked, "Senior, as it turns out, your cultivation base is so profound.. My name is Chen Tianhao. May I ask for your name?"

Chapter 996: Old Demon Ji Is As Steady As Mount Tai

Xiao Yunhe finally understood why Lu Zhou was so confident about competing for the life heart. Even the master assassin, Ye Liuyun, from the Dark and Light Alliance was no more than a fly in front of Lu Zhou; Lu Zhou had easily destroyed one of Ye Liuyun's Birth Charts. When he shifted his gaze to the sullen Ye Liuyun, he felt rather pleased.

Xiao Yunhe tactfully responded on behalf of Lu Zhou. "King Chen of Wu, this senior is the Pavilion Master of the Evil Sky Pavilion. You can address him as Senior Lu." He was also tactful enough to avoid revealing Lu Zhou's full name.

King Chen of Wu respectfully cupped his fists together and greeted Lu Zhou. "Senior Lu."

With this, Lu Zhou shifted his attention away from Ye Liuyun.

Ye Liuyun felt the pressure on him lighten considerably as soon as Lu Zhou looked away. He sighed in relief immediately.

Naturally, Lu Zhou knew he had only temporarily deterred Ye Liuyun from acting rashly. It was clear that Ye Liuyun was unresigned, but he was not sure he should kill Ye Liuyun now. In any case, he managed to intimidate these people for now. If the situation was not right later, it was not too late to find a way to kill Ye Liuyun.

Lu Zhou looked at King Chen of Wu and asked, "Great Yuan's royal court is also here for Ying Zhao?"

King Chen of Wu nodded. "Yes. There's no one who doesn't covet Ying Zhao. I won't lie; the royal court is greatly invested in obtaining Ying Zhao's life heart."

'Well, at least he's honest.'

Lu Zhou shifted his eyes back to Ye Liuyun and asked, "What about you?"

Ye Liuyun felt ill at ease under Lu Zhou's gaze. Finally, he mustered his courage and said, "Yes, I want..."

Lu Zhou interjected, "You want Ying Zhao's life heart as well?"

"I..." Ye Liuyun gulped. It was obvious the old man in front of him was trying to coerce him into giving up on Ying Zhao.

At this moment, an expert from the White Tower Council said, "It's better if the Dark and Light Alliance leaves! You don't have a right to be here. Great Yuan's royal court is also..."

King Chen of Wu smiled before he interjected, "This the Land of Chaos. Everyone can come here. If the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council can be here, why can't we? Moreover, the Humble White Sect deserves to be here as well..."

At this moment, Chen You, Elder Wu, and the others sighed emotionally even though they knew these were just perfunctory words.

A cultivator from the Black Tower Council, with a black hood over his head, rose into the air and said, "This is between the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council, how dare you barge in halfway when we've killed so many Birth Chart Beasts?" As he spoke, he removed his hood, revealing his face.

"Luo Huan, the judge from Black Tower Council?"

Luo Huan nodded as he said, "Since the First Elder isn't here now, I'm in charge. If you want these life hearts, you need to ask for our permission. Naturally, this doesn't apply to Senior Lu... Senior Lu will have a share of these life hearts..."

King Chen of Wu and Ye Liuyun. "..."

This move was too cunning. The Black Tower Council wanted to pull Lu Zhou to their side! King Chen of Wu did not have anything now to pull Lu Zhou to his side, and there was no need to mention Ye Liuyun who had just offended Lu Zhou. It seems like the great show that was like the Three Kingdoms had begun!

As expected, the White Tower Council would not make things easy for the Black Tower Council's Luo Huan. Someone shouted, "Luo Huan, the Birth Chart Beasts are killed by our First Elder. Even if the life hearts were to be given away, it's ours to give away..."

Luo Huan looked down at the members of the White Tower Council and said, "Why do you speak as though our First Elder didn't play a part in killing the Birth Chart Beasts?"

At this time, many people raised their heads and looked at the sky. There was no sign of Shi Youran and Xu Chen, the First Elders of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council.

For now, it seemed like the Black Tower Council was stronger. Apart from Shi Youran, the First Elder of the Black Tower Council, Luo Huan, a judge from the Black Tower Council, was present as well. On the other hand, Xu Chen, the First Elder of the White Tower Council, aside, it seemed like no judge from the White Tower Council was present.

King Chen of Wu smiled as he watched those from the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council argued. He said, "In my opinion, these life hearts should be divided equally."

"Divided equally?" Luo Huan frowned. "You're even worse than the White Tower Council. You have no qualifications to negotiate at all..."

King Chen of Wu looked at the members of the White Tower Council. Did they really only send Xu Chen? If it was true, then, the Black Tower Council that had Luo Huan had a high chance of obtaining the life hearts.

All of a sudden, a burst of laughter rang from the distant mountain peak.

“Judge Luo, since when did the White Tower Council lose the right to these life hearts?”

Everyone looked in the direction of the voice.

An excited expression on the faces of a few members of the White Tower Council who recognized the voice.

“The judge from the White Tower Council is here!”

King Chen of Wu and Ye Liuyun frowned slightly. With the arrival of the judge from the White Tower Council, this had now truly become a five-way battle between Lu Zhou and the others, the Black Tower Council, the White Tower Council, the Dark and Light Alliance, and Great Yuan’s royal court.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou could not help but sigh inwardly at the latest development. Although this was within his expectations, he could not help but think it would be great if his seventh disciple was here.

At this time, a figure clad in white appeared in front of everyone’s eyes. In just a few breaths, he arrived in front of them. His figure was tall and straight, and he had the appearance of a scholar. Although there was a smile on his face, it did not reach his eyes.

King Chen of Wu cupped his fists together. “So it’s Judge Ning from the White Tower Council.”

On the other hand, Ye Liuyun only grunted by way of greeting.

Luo Huan, the judge from the Black Tower Council, chuckled. “Ning Wanqing, is the White Tower Council short of members that they had to send a blind person here? I heard that Nangong Yutian was killed by someone....”

Indeed, the newcomer was none other than Ning Wanqing, the judge from the White Tower Council, whom Lu Zhou encountered before.

Faced with Luo Huan’s provocative words, Ning Wanqing smiled faintly and replied, “Likewise. I heard that Wu Guangping from the Black Tower Council was killed with just a strike.”

“...”

At this moment, Chen You from the Humble White Sect hurriedly greeted Ning Wanqing. “The Humble White Sect’s Chen You greets Judge Ning.”

Ning Wanqing waved his hand dismissively. “This is a matter between the White Tower Council and the Black Tower Council. The Humble White Sect should leave.”

“This...” If this were in the past, Chen You would have left without any hesitation. However, his sect now had the protection of two great experts! If he did not cling onto them now, when would he be presented with such a chance again?

Lu Zhou said indifferently, “Ning Wanqing from the White Tower Council...”

Upon hearing this voice, Ning Wanqing was shocked. On top of being a Thousand Realms Whirling expert, he was also blind. Therefore, his senses were much keener compared to his peers. How could he

not recognize this voice?! As soon as Lu Zhou spoke, he already knew to whom the voice belonged! He immediately stepped forward and greeted Lu Zhou. "Ning Wanqing greets the old senior!"

King Chen of Wu, Ye Liuyun, and the Black Tower Council's Luo Huan. "???"

Luo Huan frowned. "You know him?"

Ning Wanqing said, "Of course. I'm well acquainted with the old senior."

"..."

Ye Liuyun's eyelids twitched a few times. 'What bad luck! Just because of my stupid palm strike, I offended a big shot! Based on Ning Wanqing's attitude, it's clear the old man isn't simple...'

Ning Wanqing did not hesitate and said, "Our White Tower Council insists the old senior take a share of these life hearts..."

Meanwhile, Xiao Yunhe grew even more convinced of Lu Zhou's strength when he saw Ning Wanqing's attitude. There was no doubt Lu Zhou had to be incredibly powerful to make Ning Wanqing behave in such a manner. No wonder Lu Zhou dared to challenge Ye Liuyun earlier!

Lu Zhou's expression was as calm as a still lake as he said, "Leave the Dark and Light Alliance out of it..."

Ye Liuyun felt his heart break. "..."

At this moment, a person whom the White Tower Council and the Black Tower Council flew up into the sky and respectively presented three intermediate life hearts each to Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou remained silent.

Shen Xi smiled and said, "I'll keep them for the Pavilion Master."

At this moment, Shen Xi felt like the bird in the saying, 'A good bird choose a strong tree to perch on'. He felt incredibly happy and satisfied.

Upon hearing Shen Xi's voice, Luo Huan said with a frown, "Shen Xi? It turns out to be you, you traitor!"

Although Shen Xi was a Four Chart expert, in front of this group of big shots, he was not worth mentioning at all.

Luo Huan raised his voice and continued to say reproachfully, "Shen Xi, you betrayed the Black Tower Council. According to the Black Tower Council's rules, you should be sentenced to death. Come forward and face your death now!"

Suddenly, Lu Zhou raised his hand.

Another blue Great Seal of Fearlessness shot toward Luo Huan at lightning speed.

Lu Zhou did not put much supreme mystic power into the palm seal; he only wanted to warn Luo Huan.

Needless to say, Luo Huan who had witnessed Ye Liuyun's miserable defeat earlier was terrified when he saw the blue palm seal. He flashed and retreated swiftly, using all the escape techniques in his arsenal. He managed to retreat thousands of meters back into the mountain peak.

Boom!

The palm seal landed on the mountain.

No one dared to make a sound at this moment.

After a long time, Luo Huan's figure finally appeared in the distance after dodging the palm strike. However, he was frightened out of his wits so he had no intention of drawing closer.

Lu Zhou said indifferently, "Shen Xi and Li Xiaomo are now my people."

Chapter 997: A Five-Way Battle

At this moment, everyone from the Black Tower Council had an unsightly expression on their faces.

Luo Huan was incredibly flustered by Lu Zhou's palm strike. Although he managed to dodge it, fear still lingered in his heart.

King Chen of Wu chuckled before he said, "Luo Huan, you need to learn to control your temper."

Luo Huan bowed in the distance, "I was rash; I hope Senior Lu can forgive me."

King Chen of Wu and Ye Liuyun remained silent. If the Black Tower Council was not making a fuss about their men being poached, what right did they have to speak?

Ye Liuyun's mouth twitched. He felt helpless.

At this time, Ning Wanqing smiled and said, "Everyone has their own aspirations. There must be a reason if someone chooses to leave. You shouldn't blame him for leaving. Moreover, if he were truly a traitorous person, how could Senior Lu accept him?"

Ning Wanqing's words were laden with ridicule for the Black Tower Council, and at the same time, it could be seen that he wanted to instigate conflict between Lu Zhou and Shen Xi.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said, "Don't play your petty tricks in front of me. I know what I'm doing, and I don't need you to remind me of Shen Xi's betrayal..."

An embarrassed expression appeared on Ning Wanqing's face immediately. "I'm sorry. I've misspoken."

Shen Xi's heart moved slightly upon hearing Lu Zhou's words.

Lu Zhou glanced at Shen Xi. 'Alright, his loyalty has increased by 20%.'

Luo Huan sighed softly. It seemed like after this the Black Tower Council would have to consider rescinding Shen Xi's arrest warrant.

At this moment, a strange noise rang from the foot of a mountain in the south.

King Chen of Wu shouted, "It's Ying Zhao! Take it down!"

Dozens of cultivators on the flying carriage rushed towards the source of the noise.

Ye Liuyun's shadow flickered; he moved faster than anyone else.

"Ying Zhao is here!"

“Ying Zhao has appeared!”

The appearance of Ying Zhao broke the oppressive atmosphere that loomed over the five forces in just an instant.

Many figures could be seen rushing toward the noise in a frenzy.

Some sectless cultivators who were hiding all this time finally made a move as well.

Luo Huan raised his head and looked around. He could not help but feel uneasy that the First Elder had yet to return. However, he could not wait any longer. He ordered, “Put the life hearts away and follow me!”

Following that, the members from the Black Tower Council followed Luo Huan and rushed over as well.

On the other hand, after Ning Wanqing recovered from the shock of Ying Zhao’s sudden appearance, he turned to Lu Zhou and asked, “Old sir, did you also come for Ying Zhao?”

However, as soon as this question left Ning Wanqing’s mouth, he felt his question was really redundant. Was there anyone present who did not come here for Ying Zhao? Moreover, with such a high cultivation base, how could Lu Zhou miss such a great opportunity.

“Aren’t you going over there?”

“I...” Ning Wanqing sighed. He hesitated when he heard the cacophonous sound of battle. The growing sounds of the battle aroused his desire that slowly overshadowed his rationality. In the end, he decided not to care about anything else. He would deal with everything once he had obtained Ying Zhao’s life heart. Therefore, he said, “Old sir, this junior will take his leave now...”

In just a blink of an eye, Ning Wanqing flew away, The White Guards and the other members from the White Tower Council hastily rushed after him as well.

For a time, the four forces surrounded the mountain in the distance and attacked relentlessly.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou was still not in a hurry to make a move.

Upon seeing this, Xiao Yunhe asked anxiously, “Brother Lu, aren’t you going to make a move now?”

“Ying Zhao is incredibly cunning. It laid two traps earlier. I’m afraid it’s the same this time,” Lu Zhou said.

Humans were superior to all beings, hence, there were some who grew conceited. These people would often forget their mistakes and repeat them endlessly.

Xiao Yunhe nodded after listening to Lu Zhou’s words. “So these fierce beasts were also part of Ying Zhao’s plan?”

Shen Xi said, “It used the dragonhawks as well earlier to lure the people from the Humble White Sect. As for the fierce beasts, they were killed by the First Elders of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council. Ying Zhao is really cunning; it took advantage of humans’ greed...”

Yu Zhenghai said, “According to your words, it seems like Ying Zhao’s IQ far surpassed that of a ten-year-old.”

Lu Zhou shook his head and said. "Let's just watch for now. Perhaps, we're thinking too much..."

Everyone nodded.

Sometimes it was useless to calculate too much. It was best to observe before making a move.

At this time, thanks to the energies from the First Elders of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council sweeping the thick fog away, their visibility had improved tremendously.

Lu Zhou and the others watched as cultivators surrounded two mountains and kept releasing energy seals.

The Black Tower Council, White Tower Council, the Dark and Light Alliance, and Great Yuan's royal court's cultivators attacked together. All of them restrained themselves and avoided getting into a conflict at the crucial moment.

"Ying Zhao should be around there. Strange... Where is it hiding?"

"The beast is so cunning that it even knows how to sow discord. How can it be so easy to find?"

Xiao Yunhe said, "I really want to see what it'll do next after laying a trap..."

Everyone nodded.

Upon seeing this, Wu Chao said, "Why don't I use witchcraft and disguise myself as a member of the Black Tower Council to expedite things?"

Xiao Yunhe chided Wu Chao, "Why would you look for trouble with the Black Tower Council?"

"..." Wu Chao lowered his head and did not say anything.

In fact, with this kind of situation, there was no need to act unnecessarily.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard. He was sure Ying Zhao was still nearby. It had yet to achieve its goal so how could it leave it just like that?

...

Meanwhile, Ning Wanqing hovered in the air and listened to the sounds in his surroundings. Although he could not see, he could hear very well.

Upon seeing this, Luo Huan said derisively, "Ning Wanqing, I know you're blind, but are you a fool as well? Do you really think Ying Zhao is going to make a noise for no reason?"

Ning Wanqing was not bothered. He only said, "Although you can see, it doesn't mean you'll be able to catch Ying Zhao..."

On the other hand, King Chen of Wu and Ye Liuyun hovered at the west side of the mountain.

"Stop arguing. Why don't we put down our grudges aside and look for Ying Zhao first? After that, we can decide on will have Ying Zhao..." King Chen of Wu said.

Ye Liuyun sneered and said mockingly, "King Chen, your royal court's methods are useless in the cultivation world. Do you think it's possible for all of us to decide on who to give Ying Zhao to? If you're so willing to give it away, why don't you give it to me?"

"Ye Liuyun, why are you venting your anger on me after your Birth Chart has been destroyed by the old senior?" King Chen of Wu asked. How dare this person make a ruckus after losing a Birth Chart?

However, Ye Liuyun was a Nine Chart expert, after all. Although he had lost one Birth Chart, he was still left with eight Birth Charts.

The cultivators from the four forces were looking around in confusion when a familiar cry rang in the air again. When they looked in the direction of the noise, they saw a fierce beast with a long and slender horse face and tiger stripes on its body flapping its wings above a mountain peak.

"Ying Zhao!"

"It's Ying Zhao!"

Everyone's eyes lit up in excitement. If only they could teleport next to Ying Zhao and harvest its life heart.

After crying out twice, Ying Zhao suddenly made an astonishing move. It raised its head as its stomach began to gurgle. Soon enough, it spat out a glowing crystal!

Ying Zhao's life heart!

Xiao Yunhe, who was watching from afar, exclaimed in admiration despite the complex expression on his face, "What a good move!"

Ying Zhao was highly intelligent. It knew that the experts were all fighting over its life heart.

Swoosh!

At this moment, Ying Zhao tossed the life heart toward the crowd.

Upon seeing this, the usually taciturn Yu Shangrong could not help but cried out, "Master!"

"Don't be anxious. The life heart is like a time bomb now," Lu Zhou said calmly.

Meanwhile, as the life heart flew toward the sea of cultivators, Ning Wanqing, who was standing closest to the life heart and had the advantage, was the first to leap into the air. He joined his palms together, and scripts shot out one after another. The Yin and Yang's Eight Trigrams Seal appeared under his feet. As soon as he made a move, he used his strongest technique.

The countless white scripts converged into a sphere before it exploded outward in all directions. The force of the explosion was terrifying!

This Confucian technique was rather impressive; it could choose to be Yin or Yang.

"Damn it, Ning Wanqing!"

Everyone, including those from the White Tower Council, was forced to retreat by this move, the Snowstorm Explosion.

At this moment, a figure flashed toward Ying Zhao's life heart. Just as his hand was about to close around the life heart, he heard the sound of surging Primal Qi...

Bang!

"Ning Wanqing, get lost!" Ye Liuyun's speed allowed him to catch up to Ning Wanqing and released a conical energy seal.

Due to the unexpected nature of the attack, Ning Wanqing fell from the sky.

Swoosh!

Ye Liuyun was the first to grab Ying Zhao's life heart. The vitality energy surging from the life heart was so rich that he fell into a daze as he looked at it excitedly. After a moment, he turned to look at Lu Zhou, who was standing in the distance, and said in a deep voice, "Old man, the Dark and Light Alliance will surely avenge my loss of a Birth Chart sooner or later..."

As soon as Ye Liuyun's voice fell, King Chen of Wu arrived in front of him along with his avatar. "Ye Liuyun, leave the life heart here." Following that, his voice thundered in the air as he cried out, "The Hollow Halberd!"

Chapter 998: The Cunning Ying Zhao

The air above the mountain range had turned into a battlefield for the four forces.

King Chen of Wu brandished the Hollow Halberd, stirring up a storm.

Luo Huan initially wanted to charge forward but was forced to raise his arms to defend against the force from the Hollow Halberd.

Meanwhile, after King Chen of Wu brought the spear down like a hot knife through butter, Ye Liuyun's eyes widened. When he tried to flee, he discovered it was too late; he had been retrained by the Hollow Halberd. "You!"

The astrolabe hanging at the back of the black Thousand Realms Whirling avatars lit up with eight Birth Charts like stars in the night sky. At the same time, the tyrannical power of the flood-grade halberd rolled out again, causing people to shudder. Once again, King Chen of Wu swung his halberd.

Boom!

The halberd landed heavily on the astrolabe Ye Liuyun was forced to manifest to defend himself.

The impact from the collision rippled out and landed on the mountains nearby, causing a few of them to collapse.

Ye Liuyun grunted as he fell.

King Chen of Wu laughed before he said, "The best way to deal with an assassin is to face him in a direct fight." Following that, he controlled his astrolabe and shot a few beams of light down at Ye Liuyun!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The moment Ye Liuyun landed on the ground, he tossed the life heart away.

Luo Huan who was standing closest to Ye Liuyun grabbed the life heart at lightning speed. He laughed heartily before he said, "King Chen, thank you!"

Ning Wanqing frowned. "You're not going anywhere with the life heart."

Everyone knew that Ning Wanqing had studied forbidden Confucian cultivation methods. They watched as he rose into the sky before he spat out a mouthful of blood on his palm before he waved his bloody hand in the air.

In just a moment, the wind swept the clouds away. The heavens and earth seemed to have changed at this moment.

"Are you crazy?!"

Ning Wanqing's eyes turned completely white. He looked up at the sky and said, "Although I'm from the White Tower Council, I abandoned the light and live in darkness. I'm not afraid of darkness because I'm stronger in the dark!"

King Chen of Wu lifted his Hollow Halberd as he looked at the sky.

Ye Liuyun gritted his teeth and quickly retreated.

Luo Huan said in a deep voice, "You better stop now!"

At this moment, King Chen of Wu suddenly flew out as fast as the wind toward Luo Huan, spurred by a conical energy. Then, he stabbed his Hollow Halberd at Luo Huan. "Hand me the life heart!"

"Get lost!" Luo Huan said through gritted teeth. Then, he looked at the members of the Black Tower Council and said, "Kill them!"

With this, the members of the Black Tower Council rushed out.

Needless to say, the members from the White Tower Council, the Dark and Light Alliance, and Great Yuan's royal court made a move as well.

At this time, Ning Wanqing's body shone with a dazzling light. He was like the sun in the sky at this moment. The vitality energy in the surroundings surged toward him.

Upon seeing this, Xiao Yunhe, who was standing in the distance, said in a grave tone, "Brother Lu, this isn't good..."

"Defend yourselves," Luzhou said as he looked at the battle above the mountains with his hands on his back.

"Close your eyes," Xiao Yunhe reminded everyone.

As soon as Xiao Yunhe's voice fell, a dazzling white light exploded in the sky.

Many people were blinded from this alone; they felt their heads buzzed. One after another, Thousand Realms Whirling experts fell from the sky.

Xiao Yunhe and the people from the Humble White Sect were not too badly affected by the white light due to the distance and them closing their eyes.

On the contrary, not only did Lu Zhou not close his eyes, but he looked at Ning Wanqing who was hovering in the sky with his supreme mystic power.

The battlefield that was illuminated by the white light seemed to slow down. Even Luo Huan and King Chen of Wu were not exempted.

“This technique...” Lu Zhou frowned. Ning Wanqing was not as simple as he appeared to be.

Ning Wanqing’s figure flashed past several black Thousand Realms Whirling experts from the Black Tower Council as he made his way toward Luo Huan. It seemed as though he could see from his eyes that were shining with a white light.

Upon sensing the incoming threat, Luo Huan instinctively released his energy. Alas, it was too late!

Bang!

One of Luo Huan’s Birth Charts dimmed immediately as he was sent flying back.

The life heart in Luo Huan’s possession was now in Ning Wanqing’s hand.

Lu Zhou frowned slightly. He used the power of smell from the Heavenly Writing and sniffed the life heart that glowed with a soft light. It smelled somewhat familiar, but he could place his fingers on it.

Ning Wanqing did not stop moving. He flashed toward King Chen of Wu at lightning speed and launched an energy seal.

Due to Ning Wanqing’s speed that was several times faster, although King Chen of Wu was aware of the incoming attack, there was not much he could do but passively defend against the attack.

Bang!

It did not take long before King Chen of Wu was sent flying as well. Apart from spitting out a mouthful of blood, his Birth Charts were not destroyed.

Ning Wanqing shook his head. At the same time, the battlefield returned to normal as well as the white light disappeared. He had used his ultimate move to gain a huge advantage, obtaining Ying Zhao’s life heart. At this moment, he laughed heartily and said, “Luo Huan, King Chen, give up! You’re no longer a match for me!”

King Chen of Wu wiped the blood off the corners of his lips and said, “This is where you’re wrong...”

Buzz!

The Hollow Halberd thrummed at this moment.

King Chen of Wu looked at Luo Huan who was standing across from him and asked, “Luo Huan, why don’t we work together?”

Luo Huan was left with eight Birth Charts now that one of his Birth Charts had been destroyed. With this, he was no longer qualified to compete for the life heart. However, due to the hatred born from losing one Birth Chart, he nodded. “Alright.”

Ning Wanqing smiled and said, "Don't forget there are still Ye Liuyun and Old Senior Lu. If you continue fighting me, aren't you afraid they'll take advantage of you?"

"..."

As soon as Ning Wanqing's voice fell, everyone turned to look at Lu Zhou who was standing in the distance. They felt chills running up their spines.

Ning Wanqing continued to say, "The life heart is now in my hands. If you're not afraid, you can come after me..." As soon as he finished speaking, he unleashed his grand techniques a few times in a row and disappeared into the horizon.

"Go after him!" King Chen of Wu and Luo Huan did not hesitate and chased after Ning Wanqing immediately.

King Chen Wu and Luo Huan quickly chased after him.

Upon seeing this, Xiao Yunhe frowned and said, "He escaped? Brother Lu, quickly go after him!"

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "There's no need for that."

Shen Xi sighed and said, "He doesn't dare to fight the Pavilion Master so he fled as soon as he obtained the life heart. Only Ye Liuyun who was injured by King Chen of Wu is left. Even then, I have to say Ning Wanqing's skill is impressive. As expected of a judge from the White Tower Council."

Yu Zhenghai asked in confusion, "Master, why didn't you chase after him?"

"That's not Ying Zhao's life heart," Lu Zhou replied.

Chen You said, puzzled, "Huh? But I saw Ying Zhao spitting it out..."

Realization dawned on Xiao Yunhe. He said with a smile, "It's all thanks to Brother Lu's reminder. Otherwise, we would've been fooled by Ying Zhao as well!"

"How did Ying Zhao do it?"

"It first swallowed the life heart of another Birth Chart Beast and nourished it with its Qi before sending his energy into it. With that, it'd be difficult to tell the real from the fake," Lu Zhou explained.

Everyone was amazed.

No one had seen Yingzhao's life heart. Therefore, it would be difficult for most people to discern if it was real or fake.

Meanwhile, the battle above the mountain range ahead was moving further and further away. Silence gradually returned to the mountain range

At this time, Lu Zhou flashed forward.

"Brother Lu?"

"Don't come over," Lu Zhou said. He closed his eyes and silently recited the mantra for the Heavenly Writing's power of smell.

The smell of blood, lingering Primal Qi. nature, and all sorts of smell wafted into Lu Zhou's nose. He slowly sifted through them. When he recalled the place where Ning Wanqing stood with the life heart, he moved over immediately. He could smell the aura that was rich with vitality energy. Although the life heart was fake, its aura and energy were real.

Now that Lu Zhou obtained the scent of Ying Zhao's aura and energy, he expanded the range of his sense of smell.

Meanwhile, the others looked at Lu Zhou in confusion.

"Senior Lu, what are you doing?"

"Don't be noisy!" Yu Zhenghai said as he turned around, "My master knows what he's doing."

With this, everyone fell silent again.

Lush forests, mountains, clouds, and mist. Their scents entered Lu Zhou's nose as he tracked the unique scent. He kept moving until he faced the foot of the mountain to the south.

Following that, Lu Zhou activated the power of sight. In just an instant, nothing could be hidden from his eyes. The cores of trees, the stones... everything was revealed to his eyes. Soon enough, he saw an unmoving beast with the body of a tiger and the face of a horse nestled in the bottom of the pond.

'Found you!'

After he withdrew the Heavenly Writing Power, he stroked his beard. No one would be able to Ying Zhao at all. If it were not for his Heavenly Writing Power, he would not have found Ying Zhao as well.

Lu Zhou was not in a hurry to make a move; he did not want to alert the beast. He thought about the best way to capture it. He looked at his item cards and discovered he did not have any Binding Cage Card. Currently, one Binding Cage Card cost 15,000 merit points. Three cards would cost him 45,000 merit points. If that was the case, he might as well buy an ordinary Deadly Strike Card to take Ying Zhao down. As expected, the most reliable method was to waste merit points. After a while, he changed his mind again and decided to catch Ying Zhao off guard.

"Confinement Seal."

With the right place, time, and person, the Confinement Seal was very useful. There was no doubt this was the most suitable time for him to use the Confinement Seal.

Lu Zhou extended his hand, and the ink-color Confinement Seal appeared above his palm. In order to prevent it from being discovered, he used the supreme mystic power to conceal its aura.

Chapter 999: You Dare Covet My Things?

Up until now, the supreme mystic power had not let Lu Zhou down.

After the supreme mystic power concealed the Confinement Seal's aura, the Confinement Seal quietly descended to the foot of the mountain.

Meanwhile, the thousands of people from the Humble White Sect could not figure out what was going on at all.

Xiao Yunhe, who had also seen the Confinement Seal, reminded everyone, "Don't make a sound."

It was so silent at this moment that one could hear a needle drop.

Ying Zhao's cunning had truly exceeded everyone's expectations. The cultivators had already left, but it was still hiding, unmoving, in the depths of the pond. It was very cautious indeed.

Just as the Confinement Seal was about to enter the pond, it increased in size

Buzz!

The sound of the Primal Qi startled Ying Zhao. It stomped its hooves and emerged from the surface of the pond.

Alas, before Ying Zhao could fly out of the pond, the Confinement Seal increased in size again. It seemed as big as the sky at this moment as it pressed down on the surface of the pond.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Ying Zhao struck at the Confinement Seal in a frenzy.

Meanwhile, when Xiao Yunhe saw Ying Zhao emerge from the pond, he could not help but clap his hands. "It's really Ying Zhao! This is the will of the heavens!"

Upon hearing these words, the thousands of cultivators rushed forward.

"Don't come over," Lu Zhou said again.

The cultivators came to a stop several hundred meters away.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

As time passed, the frequency of Ying Zhao's attacks grew.

The Confinement Seal shook and rang loudly.

Lu Zhou was not worried Ying Zhao would disappear beneath the pond. After all, once it was completely enveloped by the Confinement Seal, it would be bound in a sealed space. However, he knew he could not wait until Ying Zhao was bound. After all, Ning Wanqing and the others would return sooner or later when they discovered the life heart was fake. At that time, it would be truly troublesome. If it was possible, he did not want to use his enhanced Peak Trial Card. Who knew when he would be able to buy three Peak Trial Cards again?

"Brother Lu, I suggest we end it now," Xiao Yunhe said.

Lu Zhou nodded.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Ying Zhao's attacks grew even more frenzied. Under its violent attacks, the Confinement Seal shook even more.

Lu Zhou raised his hand and clenched his fingers.

The Confinement Seal shrank swiftly.

Ying Zhao cried out at this moment. Its cry was unusual; it contained human emotions.

Everyone present could clearly tell it was pleading.

“Livestock, you even know how to beg for mercy?” Lu Zhou said in a deep voice.

Ying Zhao once again let out a panicked cry.

Currently, the Confinement Seal was the size of a room. If it continued to shrink, Ying Zhao would be turned into minced meat.

Lu Zhou stopped the Confinement Seal from shrinking. Then, he asked, “Do you want to live?”

Ying Zhao fell silent and no longer made a ruckus.

Everyone was amazed by this. They did not expect Ying Zhao to be so intelligent. It could even sow discord and led the cultivators from the four forces in circles. If Lu Zhou were not around, there was no doubt Ying Zhao would be the winner today.

“If you don’t want to die, hand over your life heart.”

Ying Zhao let out a cry.

This time, the cultivators did not understand what the cry meant.

Lu Zhou turned and saw the cultivators from the Humble White Sect shaking their heads. None of them understood Ying Zhao. He sighed inwardly, wishing Conch was here. Since Conch was not here, he could only guess Ying Zhao’s meaning. He extended his hand and said again, “Life heart.”

At the same time, the Confinement Seal thrummed and buzzed threateningly.

“Don’t try to deceive me with a fake life heart.”

At this moment, a retching sound rang from within the Confinement Seal.

Everyone looked at the Confinement Seal intently even though they did not have a clear look.

On the other hand, as the owner of the Confinement Seal, Lu Zhou could, naturally, tell what was happening inside. He used his energy and brought out the crystal that was brimming with vitality energy out of the Confinement Seal.

The crystal-clear life heart was like a moon as it hovered in the air.

Everyone looked at it enviously. This was the life heart that cultivators fought to the death for. Who would have thought that it looked so beautiful? It shone dazzlingly and looked out of this world. It was 100 times more beautiful than the fake life heart. Its rich vitality energy seemed to imbue the trees and plants that had been destroyed by the earlier battle with life.

“It seems to be better than an advanced life heart,” Xiao Yunhe said with shining eyes. He was really tempted to ask Lu Zhou for the life heart. He was almost certain it could restore his damaged Birth Disk. However, how could Lu Zhou be willing to part with such a treasure?

Xiao Yunhe sighed. Soon enough, a terrifying thought appeared in his mind. He thought about snatching it away and escaping. However, he knew it was impossible. Moreover, when he recalled Lu Zhou's terrifying strength, he decisively dismissed the idea.

After sensing the life heart's energy, Lu Zhou asked, "Better than advanced life hearts?"

Xiao Yunhe said, "Since it's a fierce beast with such high intelligence, its life heart should be a top life heart."

Yu Zhenghai said, "Didn't you previously say its intelligence is that of a ten-year-old child? Are there even more powerful fierce beasts than Ying Zhao?"

"Of course. There are two types of powerful fierce beasts: those with incredible strength but no intelligence and those with incredibly high intelligence," Xiao Yunhe said.

Everyone nodded.

Lu Zhou looked at the Confinement Seal and said indifferently, "Withdraw."

Ying Zhao fell out of the Confinement Seal immediately after Lu Zhou withdrew it. Ying Zhao, that was greatly weakened after losing its cultivation, flapped its wings. Its face seemed to be filled with panic and fear at this moment.

Everyone looked at it curiously.

At this moment, a cold wind suddenly stirred in the air.

"Who is it?" Lu Zhou frowned, activating his protective energy.

A cold light shone in the sky, accompanied by six distinct explosions.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

At the same time, monstrously huge energy seals sailed in the air as a Thousand Realms Whirling avatar appeared and disappeared a few times in a row.

Lu Zhou, who was lifted up by the huge wave of energy, quickly stabilized his footing.

Everyone was shocked and looked over. They were confused. Things had happened so quickly.

However, Xiao Yunhe had a good look at the shadowy figure. "Ye Liuyun?"

Everything happened too quickly, so fast that it was hard to understand.

Ye Liuyun emerged from the shadows. He wiped the blood off the corners of his lips before he smiled and looked at Lu Zhou whom he had pushed back frostily. "A good hunter is always patient. I've been waiting all this time to launch a fatal strike. Old man, it seems like you've lost at least four Birth Charts. Moreover, my dagger is poisoned. Sooner or later, you'll lose all your Birth Charts."

Ye Liuyun was elated, buoyed by the feeling of successfully seeking revenge for his destroyed Birth Chart. He threw his head back, laughing heartily and looking slightly crazy. At this time, he had the highest cultivation base.

Lu Zhou looked at Ye Liuyun who did not even bother to conceal his glee. Indeed, Ye Liuyun's earlier consecutive attacks demonstrated his skills as a master assassin. Every move was aimed at destroying his Birth Charts.

Ye Liuyun said, "It's too late for you to regret your actions now. Hand over the life heart, and I'll leave you with an intact corpse."

Xiao Yunhe and the others were stunned, unable to react. They only felt the world was truly unpredictable; everything changed in just an instant.

When Lu Zhou looked at his system interface, he noticed he had six fewer Critical Block Cards. This meant that his Birth Charts were fine. With this, he turned his attention back to Ye Liuyun and said, "You're seriously injured."

Ye Liuyun smiled and said, "So what if I'm injured? I still have seven Birth Charts. It's more than enough to deal with you."

'Seven Birth Charts? It seems like King Chen managed to destroy another of his Birth Chart with the Hollow Halberd...'

Lu Zhou shook his head. "It seems like you don't understand what I mean..."

"What do you mean?"

"You are going to die soon," Lu Zhou said. He had been holding onto his enhanced Deadly Strike Card all this time. He did not want to use his item card too early in the game. He wanted to sit on the fence and watch the tigers fight. It seemed like he made the right decision. Moreover, he even obtained Ying Zhao's life heart.

Ye Liuyun burst into laughter.

Xiao Yunhe said from the side, "Ye Liuyun, your death is near."

"Who are you?" Ye Liuyun felt that Xiao Yunhe was familiar, but he did not recognize Xiao Yunhe.

he looked extremely familiar and could not recognize him.

At this moment, Lu Zhou said, "I hate sneak attacks the most. Moreover, no one is allowed to covet my things."

Ye Liuyun said with a sneer, "You're still posturing?"

Lu Zhou used Di Jiang's power and the supreme mystic power as he launched his attack.

Bang!

In just a moment, the heavily injured assassin, Ye Liuyun, felt his vision blur. Before he could react, a palm seal had already landed on his body.

Chapter 1000: I Didn't Even Use My Full Strength

This palm strike contained Lu Zhou's supreme mystic power.

Ye Liuyun dropped from the sky as though he had been hit by a huge hammer. He did not expect Lu Zhou's speed to be so fast since he thought Lu Zhou was heavily injured. Lu Zhou was so fast that it seemed like he had appeared out of thin air. At this moment, he threw his head back and spat out a mouthful of blood. The blood drew an arc in the air, looking dazzling and eye-catching. At the same time, his Thousand Realms Whirling avatar shrank and shot into this body.

Everyone cried out in surprise.

Then, Lu Zhou appeared below Ye Liuyun and sent another palm strike up.

The blue Great Seal of Fearlessness shot up immediately.

Crack!

The sound of Ye Liuyun's bones breaking and internal organs rupturing rang in the air. His Thousand Realms Whirling avatar appeared and shrank again before shooting into his body.

Ye Liuyun who was forcibly sent flying back spat out another mouthful of blood again. He roared in a mixture of anger, fear, and unwillingness.

Following that, Lu Zhou used the speed he gained from Di Jiang and appeared above Ye Liuyun.

Ye Liuyun, who had lost two Birth Charts consecutively, stared at Lu Zhou fearfully. His heart thumped in his chest loudly as though it was going to jump out of his chest. It had been many years since he had felt fear. The last time he had felt this way was before he formed his Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. At that time, he was always cautious since there were many experts around him. He knew if he was not cautious, he would die without a proper burial. After forming the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar and joining the ranks of the experts, he had won many battles and had never failed any of his assassination missions. Thus, he gradually became known as the master assassin from the Dark and Light Alliance and gained the respect of many people.

Perhaps, success had made Ye Liuyun careless. He had forgotten his cautiousness and the rules he abided by when he was weak, resulting in today's fatal mistake. In hindsight, he should not have launched that first palm strike.

At this moment, Lu Zhou said indifferently, "You still have five Birth Charts."

"No, no, no! Spare me! Please spare me!" Ye Liuyun pleaded. He was terrified; he could feel his cultivation base rapidly declining as it was.

However, how could Lu Zhou spare him? He mobilized the power of his Birth Charts again.

Upon seeing this, Ye Liuyun bared his teeth and roared, "Don't force me!"

Buzz!

Ye Liuyun's avatar appeared in the air as his astrolabe spun wildly at the back. With his life on the line, he fought desperately and crazily, throwing all caution to the wind.

Upon seeing this, Xiao Yunhe immediately ordered, "Retreat!"

Everyone retreated hundreds of meters without any questions asked.

Lu Zhou stepped on the astrolabe.

Boom!

Energy rippled out immediately.

Lu Zhou drew Unnamed with his right hand.

Unnamed that was in the form of a sword shone with a blue light. At the same time, an energy sword that was dozens of feet long shrouded it.

"Let's see if your astrolabe is stronger or my sword is sharper," Lu Zhou said as Unnamed along with the energy sword stabbed at Ye Liuyun's astrolabe mercilessly.

Bang!

A loud noise thundered in the air followed by a scream.

Lu Zhou pushed Unnamed deeper into the astrolabe. Unnamed pierced through the astrolabe before it pierced Ye Liuyun's body.

Ye Liuyun who was seriously injured was further injured. He gritted his teeth and endured the pain as he pushed Unnamed out of his body.

Boom!

Ye Liuyun dropped to the ground, stirring up a cloud of dust. Following that, his figure disappeared.

Lu Zhou shook his head. "It's futile."

Then, Lu Zhou chanted the mantra for the power of smell from the Heavenly Writing.

Meanwhile, the others watched with horror brimming in their eyes.

Xiao Yunhe exclaimed in surprise, "This is impossible!"

"Why is it impossible?" Yu Zhenghai asked.

"The back of the astrolabe is the sturdiest part of the avatar. It's as sturdy as the lotus seat. It's almost impossible to breach the defenses of an astrolabe. Even when faced with overwhelming force, it would yield by caving in. If it was about to be crushed, it would shrink and return to the Dantian's sea of Qi to avoid the attack. However, Brother Lu directly pierced the astrolabe with his sword! It doesn't make sense at all!" Xiao Yunhe said.

"You can't use common sense to measure my master's strength," Yu Zhenghai said.

"..." At this moment, Xiao Yunhe recalled that Lu Zhou's two disciples were from the golden lotus domain. It was not surprising they did not understand much about the astrolabe.

Xiao Yunhe had noticed that every time the blue energy appeared, Lu Zhou's strength would increase tremendously. No, wait, even the golden palm seal that killed Nangong Yutian was very powerful. In any case, nothing made sense. How was the old man in front of them so powerful? He was puzzled. After a moment, he asked Yu Zhenghai, "May I ask if your master often uses the power of the blue lotus?"

Yu Zhenghai thought about it briefly before he replied, "It can be said that he uses it rather frequently..."

"..."

Upon hearing these words, Xiao Yunher was certain Lu Zhou had to be some super big shot from the blue lotus domain! Lu Zhou must be hiding his strength, pretending to be a pig to devour a tiger! Fortunately, he did not do something as foolish as snatching Ying Zhao's heart away from Lu Zhou. He thanked his lucky stars he had avoided making enemies if it were possible. At this moment, he could not help but feel he was incredibly wise!

Meanwhile, when Wu Chao saw the strange expression on Xiao Yunhe's face, he asked, "Tower Master, what's wrong?"

"Nothing." Xiao Yunhe quickly collected his thoughts and resumed the appearance suited to the former Tower Master of the Black Tower Council. He instinctively moved to place his hands on his back but quickly shifted them to the front because he felt it was too pretentious to act in this manner in front of a true big shot like Lu Zhou. In fact, he did not know where he should place his hands that he even felt like chopping them off at one point.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou slowly descended. He could smell the aura that lingered in the air.

Cultivators would usually conceal themselves by stopping their heartbeats and pretending to be dead. They usually disregarded their auras and scents.

Lu Zhou walked for about ten meters before he suddenly stabbed Unnamed into the ground.

An energy sword shot into the ground immediately.

Following that, a muffled groan rang from the ground.

"You still have three Birth Charts."

Lu Zhou did not have much supreme mystic power left, and he did not want to use up all his supreme mystic power. He pulled Unnamed out of the ground with Ye Liuyun attached at the tip of the sword.

Boom!

The renowned master assassin fell to the ground in a sorry state. He was in such a hurry to hide that he did not even use energy to block the soil from his body. A terrified and desperate expression appeared on his dirty face as he pleaded, "Why? Why can't you spare me?"

"Why should I spare you?" Lu Zhou asked.

Ye Liyun was briefly stunned by Lu Zhou's question. When he regained his senses, he hurriedly asked, "You... Y-you... Aren't you afraid of the Dark and Light Alliance's revenge?"

Lu Zhou replied nonchalantly, "I don't even care about the Tower Masters of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council. Why should I care about you or the Dark and Light Alliance?"

"..."

Ye Liuyun felt as though he was drowning in a sea of despair. He chuckled self-deprecatingly and said in a forlorn voice, "I shouldn't have launched that palm strike... Why? Why don't you King Chen of Wu? He's a bigger hypocrite compared to me!"

"There's no cure for you. Hurry up and go on your way." Lu Zhou could not be bothered to speak to such a lunatic. Why should he kill King Chen of Wu when King Chen of Wu did not provoke him? Then, he raised Unnamed.

At this moment, Ye Liuyun gritted his teeth and said, "Fine, if I'm going to die then so be it!"

Following that, Ye Liuyun stomped his feet on the ground and pounced at Lu Zhou at lightning speed.

"Explode!" The power of this explosion was the combined strength of Ye Liuyun's three remaining Birth Charts.

Lu Zhou quickly brought the Sea Spirit Pearl out.

Absolute Zero!

Before Ye Liuyun exploded, he was frozen stiff.

At the same time, Ying Zhao, that was standing 1,000 meters away, retreated a few steps. When it looked at the frozen world up ahead, it grew even more frightened and continued to retreat.

Meanwhile, Xiao Yunhe frowned. "A fusion-grade weapon... Why's the Black Tower Council's Sea Spirit Pearl with Brother Lu?"

Yu Zhenghai replied, "Yi Yao, a member of the Black Tower Council, tried to kill my master with that weapon so my master killed him and took the weapon. Don't tell me you were the one who sent Yi Yao?"

Xiao Yunhe hurriedly waved his hands. "How's that possible? I've been away from the Black Tower Council for more than 3,000 years. Moreover, how could I do such a foolish thing?"

"You're right." Yu Zhenghai nodded before he asked, "Then why did you frown earlier?"

"The power of the Sea Spirit Pearl isn't inexhaustible. Its energy would lessen with every use. I was just shocked that Brother Lu chose to use Absolute Zero. After all, Ye Liuyun has already lost four Birth Charts. In this situation, Brother Lu can easily kill him with his blue lotus' power... It seems like Brother Lu likes to torture people..." Xiao Yunhe said in a low voice.

"..."

Meanwhile, Ye Liuyun's terrified expression was frozen permanently on his face.

Under the effect of Absolute Zero, the flowers and trees in the surroundings were also frozen to death and turned into ice sculptures.

At this moment, Lu Zhou received three system notifications regarding the destruction of three Birth Charts.

At this moment, the power from the Sea Spirit Pearl dissipated, and the pearl dimmed. In just an instant, the ice sculptures within a radius of a few hundred meters shattered immediately.

Ye Liuyun fell to the ground like a dead fish before he asked with great difficulty, “You... You... You... You... You’ve been saving your strength?”

“Up until now, I still haven’t even used my full strength...” Lu Zhou said. After all, he still had the enhanced Peak Trial Card.

“...”

At this moment, Ye Liuyun finally realized the disparity in their strength. A sorrowful smile appeared on his face as he said, “There’s... n-no need for... you t-to kill me... I’ll... do it... myself...”

“That won’t do.” Lu Zhou shook his head and walked over.

Ye Liuyun bit his tongue with all his might. Blood began to spill out of his mouth down his neck.

Lu Zhou said, “Rather than suffering a painful death, it’s better to have an easy death.”

Unnamed pierced Ye Liuyun’s heart.

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

Lu Zhou gained 52,000 merit points altogether from Ye Liuyun.

After putting Unnamed away, Lu Zhou turned around and walked toward Ying Zhao. He knew he had to leave as soon as possible before those people returned. He had just taken a few steps when he felt unsafe. Then, he turned back and walked back to Ye Liuyun’s corpse and waved his hand.

Karmic fire instantly raged around the corpse, reducing it to ashes in just an instant.

Xiao Yunhe. “...”

The Humble White Sect. “...”

‘It seems like this big shot not only likes torturing people, but he likes torturing dead people as well!’