

Disciples 501

Chapter 501: World-destroying Palm

Who was playing the flute with such skills? The melody floated on the spring breeze and resonated across the City of Luoyang? The melody was pure, devoid of any Primal Qi, as it was carried by the wind, mesmerizing its listeners.

The fact that Conch's flute melody could control wild beasts was common knowledge now... However, for a vicious beast such as Tiangou whose wild nature was difficult to tame to obey the commands of the tune was a shocking discovery.

Little Yuan'er applauded and said, "Good, good, good... Conch, continue playing. Keep it up. It's no longer attacking!"

Hua Yuexing could not understand what was happening. Her energy arrows were no match for the melody of a mere mortal? She could not help but look at the 16-year-old Miss Conch. Conch was fair without any flaws. Her movements were graceful and moving. The look in her eyes as she played the flute was solemn and resolute. This was probably an inherent talent.

Lu Zhou was surprised as well. Tiangou was no ordinary beast. It seemed to have undergone some special Roulian training for it to be so powerful. Although it could not breach the barrier, based on its attack, it was clear it was strong.

Meanwhile, Duanmu Sheng brandished his Overlord Spear in front of the great hall.

Lanni and his subordinates surrounded Duanmu Sheng.

The Overlord Spear stabbed to the left and right...

"Pavilion Master, this is all a big misunderstanding! I can explain!" Lanni did not expect a single Evil Sky Pavilion disciple to be this powerful. This disciple of the Evil Sky Pavilion did not seem to feel any pressure fighting five opponents alone. Instead, as the fight progressed, he seemed even more invigorated and fought even more valiantly. He knew that he could not allow this battle to drag on. Also, there were many who were watching this battle. When the others from the Evil Sky Pavilions make their moves, it would be too late.

Duanmu Sheng cursed, "What's there to explain? Die!"

Duanmu Sheng suddenly waved his arm. The fruits of his constant training under the waterfall were clearly displayed at this moment. The speed at which he wielded his spear and the precision was almost flawless.

Roulians had always been known for their agility, speed, and physical strength. However, at this moment, they were all pushed back by Duanmu Sheng.

"Someone has bewitched Tiangou... They wanted to spur you into attacking, Pavilion Master!" Lanni kept dodging as he explained loudly.

Lu Zhou looked up and glanced at Tiangou who was now hovering obediently above the barrier.

Mingshi Yin smiled and said, "If you're sincere, why would you bewitch Tiangou?"

"Hm?" Lanni frowned deeply.

"I like your move of advancing by retreating. I must say that you've inherited most of my skills, but alas... that's not enough!" Mingshi Yin finally joined in the fray.

Bam! Bam!

Two of Roulians were sent flying by Mingshi Yin.

Mingshi Yin chuckled gleefully. "Here comes your grandfather, me!" His entrance into the fight turned the tide of the battle immediately.

At this moment, Lanni began making hand signs. He made a strange hand seal with his hands and launched it.

Whizz! Whizz! Whizz!

The coffin inside the great hall began to move.

Lanni retreated as a wolf king avatar appeared...

Five-leaf?!

When the avatar appeared, the coffin shone with red radiance as it sailed toward it.

Mingshi Yin dodged the coffin.

Duanmu Sheng landed a few quick stabs on one end of the coffin. He was surprised to find that not a scratch could be seen on the coffin at all.

"What's it made of? It's so tough!"

The coffin started to spin. It flew in a sweeping motion as it spun.

Bam!

Duanmu Sheng raised his Overlord Spear before himself to block it. Under the heavy impact, he spun back.

The abnormality of the coffin was finally on display.

Duanmu Sheng could not move it; not even with his heaven-grade Overlord Spear!

The surface of the coffin kept glowing with a faint red light. This was rare among Formation veins.

When Primal Qi was condensed into energy, it would take on a golden hue. Why was the coffin shining with a red light?

Mingshi Yin gave up on the coffin. He dove toward the Five-leaf Lanni. Capture the king to capture the thief. He held his Separation Hook in a backhand grip as he moved at lightning speed!

Lanni pushed with both palms. His wolf king avatar pounced. Shockingly, and no less strange, the Golden Lotus under the wolf king avatar shone with a red light as well.

“Red?” Lu Zhou’s expression darkened. He recalled a line from the book again: I like gold, not red. Was it referring to this red light?

Bam!

Mingshi Yin drew his sword across Lanni’s energy shield. He retreated and hovered in the air. When he focused his gaze, he noticed ripples in Lanni’s energy that was quickly restored.

“What a mysterious object.” Mingshi Yin turned to look at the coffin.

Duanmu Sheng was occupied by it.

Who would believe that a mere Five-leaf cultivator was capable of dealing with Duanmu Sheng and Mingshi Yin at the same time? However, Duanmu Sheng and Mingshi Yin were only at the Three-leaf and the Four-leaf stage. It would be arrogant for them to think they were the only powerful ones in the wide world.

The red Formation veins on the coffin were indeed intriguing. Shortly after, the red light on the coffin shone with greater intensity.

Bam!

Duanmu Sheng’s arms felt numb from the impact. He had no choice but to retreat.

The coffin hovered before Lanni. He was flanked by his subordinates. He said, “Pavilion Master... I’ve traveled to visit you. I have no wish to make an enemy out of you. I’m here in the hopes of establishing a friendship. Why must you be so hostile?”

Mingshi Yin said coldly, “Save your breath. Don’t think that you can leave this place in one piece after causing such a scene. The Evil Sky Pavilion isn’t a place where you can come and go as you please.”

This tactic of advancing by retreating was too common. Great Yan was more familiar with it compared to Rouli.

Lanni looked up at Tiangou and flipped his palm.

The coffin spun.

Lu Zhou raised his palm.

A palm seal sailed toward the coffin.

Bam!

The coffin continued spinning.

However, this palm strike seemed to make Lanni happy and excited. “Aha! I knew it! You’re not a Nine-leaf cultivator!”

“Hm?” Lu Zhou was puzzled. ‘I only launched a single palm strike. How can he tell that I’m not a Nine-leaf cultivator?’

Lanni began laughing maniacally. "What I said is true. This coffin is real, and the books are real as well! The owner of the coffin once said that only a Nine-leaf cultivator is powerful enough to break the Formation veins of this coffin. The people of Great Yan are shameless and despicable for spreading false information about the Nine-leaf stage!" He suddenly flicked his finger. A beam of light shot toward Tiangou in the air.

Swish!

The light hit Tiangou between its eyes.

Chirp!

The deafening cry from the beast was unbearably deafening.

At this moment, the song of the flute abruptly came to a halt!

Lu Zhou looked at Conch and Little Yuan'er who were standing above the southern pavilion.

Little Yuan'er and Hua Yuexing shielded Conch behind them.

Energy arrows were formed and fired.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou saw Lanni jump onto the coffin before he flew into the sky.

Lu Zhou looked at the Deadly Strike Card and sighed. He thought of his extraordinary power. Then, he pointed at two of Lanni's subordinates and said, "Take them down."

Duanmu Sheng and Mingshi Yin nodded in unison. A spear and a hook shot toward the two Roulians.

Lu Zhou no longer hesitated. He stepped into the air. He spread his arms and straightened them before flipping them. He pushed his hand out, and a blue palm seal shot out from his palm. The scripts for Abandon Wisdom appeared between his fingers. This palm seal seemed to contain enough power to destroy the world!

While standing on the coffin, Lanni sensed the incoming huge palm seal.

The massive palm seal seemed to bring with it four stars as it soared upward.

Boom!

Chapter 502: Travelling on a Coffin

His Abandon Wisdom attack hit the coffin. Based on his calculations, one-third of his extraordinary power should be enough to kill Lanni in an instant. However, when the palm seal struck the coffin, it burst forth with a web-like scarlet light.

When the palm seal and the red light collided, an explosion of energy rippled into the surroundings.

The red coffin reeled back and dimmed.

Lanni was affected by the backlash from the palm seal. His back arched with his limbs facing down as he fell toward the ground, facing the sky. He spat out a mouthful of blood when he hit the ground.

Bam!

The coffin and Lanni were sent out of the barrier by the attack.

That was how a barrier worked. It was easy to get out but difficult to get in.

Moreover, they had suffered damage from the palm strike.

A single palm strike was all that was needed to deal heavy damage to Lanni.

Mingshi Yin and Duanmu Sheng easily took care of the two subordinates. They looked up at the same time.

Their master's palm seal...

This was Lu Zhou's second instance of using Abandon Wisdom. The first time he used it was during the battle in Liang Province. He launched it while diving from above. The Confucian School's Abandon Wisdom usually required the user to join both palms and use all their power. However, Lu Zhou unleashed it with a single palm with greater might and greater destructive strength.

The coffin spun as it flew back. It was no longer glowing.

However, Lu Zhou did not receive a notification from the system. This puzzled him. With his Five-leaf avatar and one-third of his extraordinary power, it should have been enough to kill Lanni! How did Lanni survive?

Lu Zhou looked at the coffin and Lanni. As he expected, there was more to the coffin than meets the eyes!

Lu Zhou stepped into the air and flew toward the coffin. He pirouetted in midair, releasing faint blue light from his feet before he stepped on the coffin.

Boom!

A ripple spread out from the tips of his toes like a heavenly light.

The others were awed by the sight.

The Evil Sky Pavilion disciples were all admiring this scene. They looked on as their master rose to the skies. Since their master had made a move, there was no need for them to do anything! They truly enjoyed watching their master's energy seal.

Lu Zhou stepped on the coffin and forced it back into the barrier. The coffin spun into the barrier.

Mingshi Yin and Duanmu Sheng understood Lu Zhou's thoughts. They took flight at the same time and caught the coffin with their energies.

At this moment, Tiangou suddenly flapped its wings.

Chirp!

With the deafening and shrill cry, a gust of violent wind was stirred up.

Lu Zhou paused in midair.

A Two-leaf Nascent Divinity cultivation base was slightly too weak, after all. As he reeled back, Lanni fought back the pain in his internal organs, and he flew toward Tiangou. He seemed desperate now. His eyes were bloodshot as he stood on Tiangou's back. He cried out in anger, "What are you waiting for? Go!"

A sharp cry rang in the air. Under Lanni's command, Tiangou flapped its wings and fled in a frenzy.

Lanni turned to look at Lu Zhou who was coming toward him in the air. He tapped his own meridian points and said in a clear voice, "Even if you're not a Nine-leaf cultivator... You're at least a Seven or Eight-leaf cultivator..." Feeling relaxed now, he patted Tiangou's back as he continued to say, "After getting away from this battle, the Bonar Family will one day flatten the entire Great Yan!"

At this moment, an imposing voice rang from behind him. "Did I say you're allowed to leave?"

Lanni's heart shuddered. His eyes widened as he turned back to have a look. He saw Lu Zhou, that old man, chasing after him on Whizard's back!

The pursuer and the one being pursued.

Lu Zhou was approaching Lanni as Whizard picked up speed. in a few breaths.

"Faster!" Lanni sunk his palm into Tiangou's body.

Tiangou had wings to begin with. With its wild way of flying and speed, it seemed like a comet in the skies. Alas, its opponent was Whizard!

Whizard was a mount whose speed and agility were on par with Tiangou, if not superior.

They would only be able to maintain the distance if they flew at the same speed.

Lu Zhou stood on Whizard's back as he stroked his beard with his left hand and raised his right palm. He pointed it upward and conjured up his Primal Qi. Blue radiance shone from between his fingers again as the scripts 'Abandon Wisdom' appeared.

He straightened his arm.

Whizz!

When the palm seal appeared, it resonated clearly in the air.

Meanwhile, Lanni unleashed all his Primal Qi and condensed it into energy. While his arms were crossed, a round Formation vein rune shielded him.

Lu Zhou found this strange. The Formation vein reminded him of the seal formation method of Great Yan's Confucian Societies. However, that was not important now.

At this moment, the massive Abandon Wisdom's palm seal landed on Lanni and grazed Tiangou!

Lanni widened his eyes. The Formation vein before his arms cracked... and shattered. It could not withstand Abandon Wisdom!

Boom!

Lanni and Tiangou fell.

At this moment, a group of people inside the forest looked up and saw Tiangou flapping its wings as it fell.

“Stick to the plan and support the chief!”

Several cultivators in tight robes shuttled through the forest and headed toward Tiangou’s landing point at blinding speed.

Lu Zhou waved his arm and recalled Whizard. He was puzzled as he looked at Tiangou and Lanni falling toward the ground. ‘Why am I not hearing the system’s notification? A trap?’

‘Fated Bond?’ A strange term appeared unbidden in Lu Zhou’s mind before realization dawned on him. No wonder Lanni was so confident and was bold enough to bring a coffin to him. How sly!

The Fated Bond was a method to share power in Great Yan. It was then adapted into witchcraft.

When Si Wuya was afflicted by the Binding Mantra back then, he once thought of using Zhu Honggong to trick his master into breaking the mantra through this linking technique. The difference was, Lanni had tied his own life with that of Tiangou’s. In other words, Tiangou’s life was Lanni’s life. So long as Tiangou survives, he would not die!

“Thousand Pound Drop!”

Lu Zhou dove!

Lanni had lost the ability to fight. With the strike from the Abandon Wisdom’s palm seal, his body’s functions were severely affected.

Boom!

Tiangou crashed into the dense forest and stirred up a cloud of dust.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

From the forest in the distance, several figures closed in on Tiangou at blinding speed.

When Lu Zhou descended near the canopy, he stopped and observed the ground from the air. This was the best vantage point. He looked up; 100 figures flew toward him while maintaining a low altitude from the north.

“A trap?” However, Lu Zhou did not think Lanni was a scheming person.

The clouds of dust finally settled.

The 100 individuals were closing in on him while flying on their swords.

Lu Zhou’s gaze fell upon Tiangou.

Lanni raised his palm with difficulty and placed his palm on Tiangou. A pebble-like spot of light flew into its forehead. He wiped the blood away from his mouth and smiled arrogantly. He clearly thought he had triumphed over Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou saw the people rushing toward him through the forest. He saw them move over Lanni's body, carry him up, and headed back. He did not know which sect those 100 sword cultivators belonged to nor did he know if they were friends or foes.

'No matter.' Lu Zhou raised his palm. A Disguise Card appeared in his palm. He closed his fingers. A faint energy leaked out from his palm as the card shattered.

Whizz!

A 150-foot avatar towered in the air.

The Golden Lotus under its feet seemed to be full of life as it shone with dazzling brilliance. Nine shining golden leaves spun around the Golden Lotus at a constant speed.

While being carried on the cultivators' backs, Lanni opened his eyes and felt his heart stop beating for an instant. 'Nine-leaf?!'

Lu Zhou stood proudly above his avatar's Golden Lotus. Regardless of the origins of the 100 sword cultivators, he projected his voice with rich Primal Qi and ordered, "Take down the Other Tribesmen!"

Chapter 503: You Won't Be Able To Live if I Want to Kill You

The 100 sword cultivators were initially passing by with a mission to complete. Tiangou's size and cries had attracted their attention. Hence, they came with their swords in hands.

The 100 sword cultivators saw the pair of huge wings diving down while they were several miles away. Since people were battling nearby, they hoped to reap benefits from the battle as a third party. Their objective was to claim Tiangou as their own. However, when they were about one mile away from the spot, they saw Tiangou being struck by a huge palm seal. They stopped to observe the battle and saw an old man behind Tiangou.

The old man's white hair danced as he stood in the wind. His eyes were sharp. He wore Daoist robes. His aura alone was sufficient to strike fearful respect in them.

Three feet of ice was not formed in a single day. An old man with this aura would not be a weakling.

However, when they were about to continue flying, an avatar rose from the ground.

It was 150-foot tall and 40-foot wide. Nine leaves spun around its Golden Lotus.

The 100 sword cultivators were stunned, riveted to their spots motionlessly!

At the same time, they heard the voice of the old man. "Take down the Other Tribesmen."

The show of nine leaves, naturally, intimidated everyone! They would obey him, regardless if he was friend or foe! They immediately dismissed their thoughts of catching Tiangou!

They looked in the direction Lu Zhou pointed and saw several cultivators fleeing from the area Tiangou had fallen.

Time waited for no man. The leading elder no longer admired the Nine-leaf Golden Lotus. He averted his gaze and said in a deep voice, "Take down the Other Tribesmen!"

“Take down the Other Tribesmen!”

Who would dare disobey the order of a Nine-leaf cultivator?

They put all distracting thoughts on hold for now.

The 100 sword cultivators swarmed toward their targets as they gave chase on their swords at top speed.

With a Nine-leaf cultivator asking for their help, they became excited and wanted to do their very best. They had never felt this way before. The sword cultivators enthusiastically chased after the Other Tribesmen. They conjured up several energy swords each as they advanced in a sweeping manner.

Trees fell and the collisions of energy swords filled the air. They moved like swimming schools of fish.

Lanni Bonar felt as though his eyeballs were going to pop out of their sockets as he was being carried. He urged his people, a hint of desperation could be heard in his voice. “Run! Faster!”

The Evil Sky Pavilion’s master was truly at the Nine-leaf stage. It was not a farce. Why did he not launch an attack when he was at the Evil Sky Pavilion back then? Was he being toyed with? He suddenly remembered that cats liked to play with mice, pawing at the mice before killing them. The mice would not be able to escape even if they were given wings. A deep sense of helplessness and despair rose in his heart, making it difficult for him to breathe. At this moment, his comrades, who were carrying him, suddenly stopped moving.

Lanni frowned and asked, “Why are you stopping?”

‘F*ck you! What do you think?’ His comrades cursed at him internally.

The person carrying him tensed his arms and tossed Lanni away. He drew an arc in the air before he fell with a thud on the ground.

The comrade looked to the left and right. Then, he turned around and looked up at the Nine-leaf avatar. Ten seconds was just right. It was not long nor short. He saw the avatar, and his breathing was ragged as he cursed, “D*mn you for dragging me into this!”

Lanni was suffering from heavy internal injuries from two strikes of Abandon Wisdom. He only survived because Tiangou took most of the brunt for him. Fated Bond had practically channeled all of the damage onto Tiangou. Even so, he was on the verge of death. He could hardly withstand the fall. He had no way of voicing out his pain at all. ‘I had no f*cking way of knowing that he was a real Nine-leaf cultivator as well!’ The coffin left by his ancestors had clearly proved that the pavilion master was not a Nine-leaf elite. How did this happen?

At this moment, the 100 sword cultivators searched the area on their swords.

“Elder! This way!”

“Target spotted!”

“Capture them alive if you can.”

“Understood!”

Lanni's comrades could not care about anything else at this moment. They gritted their teeth and pointed at Lanni who was lying on the ground as they said accusatorily, "You've brought this upon yourself!" Then, they turned around to flee.

Several sword cultivators landed among the trees. They carried Lanni between them and flew back.

The other sword cultivators continued to give chase.

100 sword cultivators pursued them.

Wails could be heard every now and then.

The scene of one party bullying another with numbers seemed dull but interesting as well.

Lu Zhou watched the proceedings in the air. He stroked his beard with one hand and placed the other hand on his back. 'The Nine-leaf stage sure is convenient.'

The timing was just right. If the 100 sword cultivators did not pass by at this moment, he would have to use six Deadly Strike Cards to kill all the Other Tribesmen. Now, it seemed like he could save his cards.

After what seemed like hours, the 100 sword cultivators returned on their swords.

Two of them were carrying a dejected and lethargic Lanni between them. They arranged themselves in a square formation and tidied up their ranks.

When the leading elder saw that they were neatly arranged, he lifted his robes slightly as he rose into the air and saluted Lu Zhou. "Greetings, old senior... May I ask if you are the Evil Sky Pavilion's Old Senior Ji?"

Lu Zhou gazed at him and calmly asked, "You know me?"

Lu Zhou's words were as good as directly confirming his identity.

The leading elder bowed and cupped his fists together at once and said, "I'm Ma Qing of the Qingyun Sword Sect. Greetings, Old Senior Ji."

The others bowed in unison. "Greetings, Old Senior Ji."

"Why did you come here?" Lu Zhou asked.

"We were invited by the Penglai Sect to a banquet on their island, Old Senior Ji," Ma Qing replied honestly. He did not dare to dally.

"The Penglai Sect?" Lu Zhou thought about it for a moment. Huang Shijie, the Penglai Island's Master, had been at Jing Province some time ago. Was Penglai in some sort of trouble right now?

Ma Qing replied, "The Penglai Floating Island is facing some difficulties. The Qingyun Sword Sect has always been on good terms with Penglai Island. It's only natural for us to lend a helping hand."

When Lu Zhou heard this, he did not ask for further information. Their affairs had nothing to do with him after all.

At this moment, Ma Qing pointed at the half-dead Lanni and said, "Old Senior Ji, the Other Tribesmen are wiped out. This man is the only survivor. Even then, it seems like he's on his last breath."

"Very well." Lu Zhou stroked his beard calmly. He would give praise where it was due.

The Qingyun Sword Sect disciples felt delighted to hear this.

Ma Qing moved two of his fingers slightly. An energy sword hovered before himself as he said, "Anyone who is not of our own tribe is a deviant. There's no need to trouble yourself over such a character, Old Senior Ji... I'll put him out of his misery." His energy sword shot out and split into five blades, all of which were aimed at Lanni.

Ma Qing was about to go in for the kill when Lu Zhou tonelessly said, "Stop."

"Your orders, old senior?" Ma Qing recalled his energy swords at once. He did not dare make a move. He immediately bowed and awaited further directions.

"Roulians are cunning and scheming in nature... I can't let him die so easily," Lu Zhou replied.

"You're right, old senior... I was careless. How could I use such a crude method?" Ma Qing turned around. "Execute him with a sword formation."

Lu Zhou frowned slightly. 'I've pursued him for a long time, and you're trying to steal the kill?'

A mosquito was still a piece of flesh.

"Stand down." Lu Zhou lowered his tone.

"Huh?"

At this moment, Lu Zhou readied his palm.

When Ma Qing saw this, he waved his hand at once. "Understood! Stand back, everyone!"

"Yes, yes, yes..." The Qingyun Sword Sect disciples flew to the sides with puzzled expressions.

Lu Zhou conjured up his extraordinary power. A blue radiance glowed between his fingers, and the scripts for Abandon Wisdom appeared again.

Ma Qing exclaimed in a hoarse and surprised voice, "Abandon Wisdom?"

At this moment, Lanni's eyes suddenly snapped open as he flailed his arms.

The two disciples of the Qingyun Sword Sect were sent flying!

Lu Zhou struck with his palm.

Ma Qing frowned. "Indeed, Roulians are sly!"

Lu Zhou initially intended to use one-third of his extraordinary power. Yet, when he saw that Lanni was capable of holding out until this moment, anger stirred in him. He said coldly, "You won't be able to live if I want you to die..."

Abandon Wisdom's palm seal doubled in size! It doubled in speed as well.

Lanni Bonar, who had just started sprinting away, felt his heart shudder as he said in fright, “Is this... the Nine-leaf stage?” Despair and helplessness rose in his heart as the palm seal sailed toward him...

Boom!

The palm seal landed firmly on Lanni’s body. His face, chest, and limbs felt as though they were crushed by blue magma that washed over him.

Chapter 504: Legend of the Red Lotus

Although the Qingyun Sword Sect was a Daoist cultivation sect, the Confucian school and Daoist Societies had always had a good understanding of each other.

The Abandon Wisdom Ma Qing knew was completely different from the Abandon Wisdom Lu Zhou had cast. He had never seen anyone launch a palm seal with just a single hand.

Whether it was from below, above, or launched with a single hand, they made no difference for Lu Zhou. He was only hitting a fly. It would die no matter how he hit it. Only those who were not strong enough would think about smashing the fly against the wall or against the ground.

After the palm seal landed, the target was reduced to ashes that scattered in the wind.

There was no longer any trace of an Other Tribesman there.

“Ding! Killed a target. Reward: 3,000 merit points.” (Note: The target of Fated Bond was included.)

The palm seal did not fade away. Instead, it continued moving forward, flying down.

Boom!

Dozens of trees fell with a crash.

When the clouds of dust settled, a clear palm print could be seen on the ground.

The others did not even dare to breathe loudly. Many of them gulped in fear as they looked at the palm print and wondered just how powerful Old Villain Ji was. They did not expect the legendary Old Villain Ji to be so vicious. As expected, none of the members of the Evil Sky Pavilion were nice people. It was no wonder that practically nobody survived when the seven great sects laid siege on the Evil Sky Pavilion. They were indeed merciless! However, it had to be said they felt satisfied as well. After all, compared to the Evil Sky Pavilion, the members of the Qingyun Sword Sect loathed the Other Tribesmen more. Although Old Villain Ji’s attack was an overkill, it was still satisfying to watch the Other Tribesman being killed.

Lu Zhou retracted his palm. He did not earn much from this battle. He basically depleted his extraordinary power to kill Lanni.

With the palm strike and the intimidating effect of a Nine-leaf cultivator, the sword cultivators of the Qingyun Sword Sect showed their allegiance to him. For some reason, Old Villain Ji was not hostile toward them, but they could not help but feel that the atmosphere was peculiar. This made them nervous, and some of them even began to tremble.

After a moment’s silence, a gust of wind blew this suppressive atmosphere away.

Ma Qing cupped his fists and said, "Your Abandon Wisdom has truly widened our horizons, Old Senior Ji!"

"You've widened our horizons!" The other disciples did not know how they should express what they felt so they echoed Ma Qing's words.

Lu Zhou looked at them calmly as he stroked his beard and said, "I'm not an unreasonable person. You've played a part in eliminating the Other Tribesmen. I'll grant you that beast, Tiangou."

A living Tiangou could be of some help. A dead one... was useless. A vicious beast that roamed the great forests would have tough and dry flesh that was not even palatable. It might even be poisonous. So, it could not even be served as food.

Lu Zhou knew they were ignorant so he said, "Tiangou was a vicious beast of the land. The radiance it leaves in its wake is like a meteor in the skies that extends for several hundred feet. It moves like the wind, cries like a clap of thunder, and shines like a bolt of lightning... Its hide can be used as powerful armor, and its bones are earth-grade. Many dream to get their hands on this beast."

When Ma Qing heard this, he was clearly overjoyed. His eyes lit up, and he hastily bowed. "Your explanation has enlightened us. Listening to your explanation is better than reading books for ten years. We were foolish and ignorant. Thank you for bestowing Tiangou to us, senior!"

The others were shocked after listening to Lu Zhou's words as well. They bowed and thanked him. "Thank you, Old Senior Ji."

"Ding! Received pious worshiping from 105 men. Reward: 1,050 merit points"

The matter was finally settled.

At this moment, Lu Zhou remembered the mysterious coffin and the secret tomes of cultivation methods, he no longer lingered at this place. He waved his arm, and Whizard came on the clouds.

Lu Zhou leaped onto Whizard and flew away.

The members of the Qingyun Sword Sect bowed. "Safe journey, senior."

Whizard vanished among the clouds in just a blink of an eye.

Ma Qing looked up at this moment with a faraway and admiring gaze. He muttered, "This trip is well worth it. I got to see a Nine-leaf expert with my own eyes!"

The others nodded in agreement.

...

When Lu Zhou returned to the Evil Sky Pavilion, the sun was already setting.

Duanmu Sheng hovered outside the barrier and waited quietly for his master's return. When he saw Whizard, he bowed when Lu Zhou was still some ways away. "Master!"

Lu Zhou leaped off Whizard's back. He moved as though he was light as a feather. He passed through the barrier and asked, "What's the situation?"

"The two Other Tribesmen were already dealt with by Fourth Junior Brother and me. It's Little Conch that seems slightly off," Duanmu Sheng replied.

"I'll take a look." Lu Zhou flew toward the southern pavilion. When he landed there, he walked toward Little Yuan'er's room.

Many female cultivators were already there.

"Pavilion Master."

"Master!"

The others made way for Lu Zhou. Lu Zhou's appearance greatly reassured them.

Little Yuan'er walked up to him and said, "Conch says that she remembers some things."

Lu Zhou thought that Conch was injured. As he entered the room, he saw Conch supporting her own head with both hands as she leaned back on a chair. She did not look too good.

Lu Zhou walked up to Conch and sat down slowly. He said, "Give me your hand."

"Oh." Conch was obedient.

After examining her pulse, Lu Zhou nodded slowly. Her body was fine.

Lu Zhou looked at Conch and gently asked, "What do you remember?"

Conch said, "Red... red lotus."

Something stirred within Lu Zhou. He was shocked. He did his best to maintain a neutral expression so that he would not scare Miss Conch. He raised a palm.

Whizz!

A miniature avatar hovered above his palm. Under the avatar, two leaves were spinning around the Golden Lotus.

Mingshi Yin, Little Yuan'er, and Duanmu Sheng glanced at it. They nodded silently.

'Master's control over his avatar has truly reached great heights. With his skills, he can easily control the number of leaves on his avatar.'

After all, it was extremely wasteful of Primal Qi to manifest all of one's leaves.

Lu Zhou pointed at the Golden Lotus and asked, "Little girl, is this what the lotus you mention looks like?"

Conch blinked. After observing it, she nodded. "Mhm..."

Lu Zhou clenched his fist. His avatar vanished. Although he was as steady as an old dog, he was still shocked. Conch's words meant that someone was cultivating the red lotus!

"Do you remember where?" Lu Zhou asked.

Conch pouted. She shook her head and said, "I don't know."

At this moment, Mingshi Yin interjected, "Master... is she saying that someone is cultivating a red lotus? This... can't be real, right?"

Duanmu Sheng nodded and said, "Nobody has ever cultivated a red lotus..."

However, they suddenly recalled their master's blue lotus and the barrier's power as well.

He said, "Could it be some sort of mutation caused by a secret technique?"

Under normal circumstances, the energy condensed from Primal Qi was golden. Fiend zen would cause it to turn black, healing made it green, and absorbing the barrier made it blue. However, this was their first time encountering the color red.

Lu Zhou did not answer their questions. He remembered the book and the coffin.

The young girl might be lying or have dreamt about it. They could not rely on her words alone. They would need concrete evidence to authenticate her words. He remembered the row of words on the final page of the book: I hope it stays this way forever. I hope that there are no Nine-leaf cultivators in this world. I hope that there are no Ten-leaf cultivators in this world. What did those sentences mean?

Lu Zhou pondered about this for a moment before he looked at Conch again and asked, "What else do you remember?"

"I don't remember anything else." Conch shook her head helplessly.

"Amnesia?" Lu Zhou guessed.

At this moment, Mingshi Yin bowed and said, "Master, I don't think she has amnesia."

"Hm?"

"A person with amnesia has either lost their memories or sealed the memories. When they try to recall their memories, it will certainly trigger some reaction in their heads. Yet, here she is, sitting here unaffected," said Mingshi Yin. "I suspect that she's more likely in some pre-awakened state."

"Why do you say that?" Lu Zhou thought about this before as well, but he could not be sure.

"Some are born with innate abilities while some are born to cultivate. For example, the Fairfolk, such as Sixth Junior Sister, can reconstruct their Extraordinary Eight Meridians naturally. They can even reconstruct a destroyed sea of Qi." Mingshi Yin stroked his chin as he inferred, "She remembers how to play the tunes and remembers the appearance of the lotus. This means that the consciousness is still inside her mind."

Lu Zhou nodded and said, "You're saying that if she starts to cultivate and enter the Sense Condensing realm, the consciousness can be fortified."

"You're brilliant, master! If the consciousness is fortified, her fuzzy memories will certainly grow clearer!" Mingshi Yin said.

For a cultivator, the Body Tempering stage and the Mystic Enlightening realm were related to the physical body. Starting from the Sense Condensing Realm, they would start to train their consciousness.

Mingshi Yin had a point. At least, this was a lead. They were no longer clueless.

However, there was the matter of Conch skipping the Body Tempering stage and directly entering the Mystic Enlightening realm. How was she supposed to cultivate when her meridian vessels were fragile?

Chapter 505: Ten Thousand Years Cheng Huang

Mingshi Yin smiled and said, "I know what can be used to help this young girl solve her fragile meridian vessels."

Lu Zhou's interest was piqued. 'Well, what do you know? Old Fourth seems more and more likable now. Although he can be too crafty sometimes, he never disappoints when it comes to it.'

Although Lu Zhou had a thousand years of memories and experience, he was not omnipotent.

"What item is so wonderful?"

Mingshi Yin said, "Lantian jade."

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said, "A luxury item sought after by some merchants and aristocrats. What can it be used for?"

"This Lantian jade isn't that Lantian jade... Rumor has it that there's a type of jade in the eastern seas that exists inside the bellies of fishes. It absorbs the essence of the sea over the years and is full of spiritual Qi. A wearer of this item will find their skin as smooth as jade and their Extraordinary Eight Meridians as deep as moats. Nourishing one's meridian vessels in this way can temper them, given time," Mingshi Yin replied.

Something stirred in Lu Zhou's memories when he heard Mingshi Yin's words. He nodded approvingly. Indeed, there was such a jade in existence. However, this item was extremely rare and difficult to find.

Now that the cultivation world was in a lotus-severing frenzy, everyone was busy sprouting leaves. This was especially true for the grand cultivators who had experience wielding multiple leaves. Naturally, they were more confident in cultivating again. Every second was precious to them. With time being priceless now, nobody could spare their time looking for the Lantian jade.

Lu Zhou wanted to think about another method when he remembered Penglai Island. He remembered a rumor about the Lantian jade many years ago. Hence, he said, "Send a letter to Si Wuya. If Huang Shijie is there, have him send a Lantian jade over."

"Yes, master." Mingshi Yin turned around and left.

Lu Zhou studied Conch and remembered the diary. He wondered if this young girl shared the same origins as the person who was inside that coffin. Anyway, it was useless to ponder on these things now. Everything would become clear once she was "awakened". It was meaningless to rush things.

"Yuan'er."

"Yes, master."

"Protect Conch well," Lu Zhou said.

"I will certainly protect Little Sister Conch!" Little Yuan'er waved her fist and bared her canine teeth.

'Alright. I'll believe you since you've displayed such an attitude.'

Lu Zhou initially thought that Little Yuan'er would grow jealous with the addition of this young girl. However, it seemed like he was worried for nothing. He could not help but feel the little girl had truly grown up.

...

When Lu Zhou made his way back to the eastern pavilion, he brought the secret tomes with him.

Duanmu Sheng followed him. He bowed and asked, "Master, the coffin... What should we do with it?"

Usually, such an inauspicious object should have been discarded. However, when he thought about the unique Formation veins on its surface, Lu Zhou said, "Keep it in the northern pavilion."

Lu Zhou was about to leave when he added, "Have someone copy the Formation veins on it."

"Yes, master."

When he returned to the eastern pavilion, he did not meditate on the Heavenly Writing scrolls immediately. As usual, he checked the old parchment drawing for any changes on the map. Like before, he could see all nine provinces of Great Yan and Penglai Island in the oceanic regions.

According to the system's mission and Huang Shijie's statement; the Luo woman most likely visited Penglai Island before.

When he thought about this, Lu Zhou wondered if this Luo woman was from the same place the coffin's occupant was since she could help Yun Tianluo attain the Eight-leaf stage.

Lu Zhou opened the secret tome. He went through it again. The cultivation methods recorded in the earlier parts of the book were basically the same as Great Yan. After checking it thrice, he noticed nothing strange about it.

When he reached the part where the Nine-leaf cultivation method, apart from the smudged sentences, he saw the same words: The people here are weak, but it's very safe here.

'Weak? How is weak equated to safe?'

Also, why did the coffin's occupant wish that there would be no Nine-leaf cultivators here?

Lu Zhou had an inkling that the key to reaching the Nine-leaf stage from the Eight-leaf stage lay here. He continued to flip through the pages.

A red lotus was printed on the center of the book's back cover. The nine leaves were life-like. Perhaps, it was due to the coffin owner's hesitation, he drew a few lines over the lotus.

There was a line that read: Nobody can live forever.

There was nothing else.

When he read this final sentence, he noticed that it was written with heavy strokes that seemed to bleed to the back of the page.

“Could this be... a kind of truth that he believed in?” Lu Zhou was puzzled.

He placed the book on the table and no longer read it.

The remainder of his time should be spent meditating on the Heavenly Writing scrolls.

If the Luo woman truly had a connection with Penglai Island, Lu Zhou would have to go there.

Without the extraordinary power to keep himself safe, he would be a fool to solely rely on the item cards to keep him safe.

‘I won’t agree to a losing deal, no matter what.’

...

In Moonlight Woodland, far away from the southwestern part of Great Yan.

A perpetual mist hung over an area that rarely saw the sun.

Only the moon was commonly seen hanging above the branches. Through the thin layer of mist, the moonlight made this place look like paradise.

Ye Tianxin, fully clad in white, stopped under a tree. She took a sip from the waterskin and hung it on her waist.

“Is it really here?”

Ye Tianxin pushed away from the ground and flew toward the depths of the forest.

The 100-meter-tall trees and the seemingly endless forest made her feel that she was in the wrong place.

“Misty Forest, Moonlight Woodland...”

This was a place away from the Other Tribes.

It was said that those who entered the Misty Forest would forever be lost until their eventual demise in the forest.

Many Other Tribesmen cultivators would only attempt to capture some low-rank beasts at the periphery of the forest.

Ye Tianxin had one objective, and that was to find Cheng Huang.

She walked and stopped in the dense forest. When she encountered massive beasts, she chose to hide and avoid them. When she encountered winged beasts that navigated the trees with ease, she chose to lay low and conceal her presence. Sometimes, she would make mistakes and had no choice but to fight the beasts. This, naturally, meant she would get hurt as well sometimes.

It had been more than ten days since she came to the Moonlight Woodland and ventured deep into the Misty Forest.

Every ten days, she would feel thirsty. That was when she would drink. As the rumors suggested, it seemed like she had already lost her way a long time ago. After resting, she continued on her journey among the tree.

Yoo!

A unique sound caught her attention at this moment. It resounded throughout her surroundings.

She frowned. Her experience in the Misty Forest told her that this was a unique beast. She slowed down and stuck close to the ground as she concealed her aura.

The mist hung in the air.

She could not see anything ahead of her. All she could do was hold her breath.

Creak! Creak! Creak!

The sound was getting closer.

Ye Tianxin felt an intense and dangerous aura approaching her. It was much more overbearing than all the combined auras of the beasts she had encountered.

At this moment, the mist of the Misty Forest was swept away.

Ye Tianxin gritted her teeth lightly. Her palms were drenched in sweat. She was like a divine flower in the grass, as white as snow. Although she was motionless, she still stuck out like a sore thumb.

‘Eh?’

The beast... was not coming at her from her front, left, or right.

‘Above!’ Ye Tianxin’s curiosity caused her to slowly look up.

The moment she looked up, she saw something that she would not forget anytime soon.

A pair of faint golden eyes could be vaguely seen through the thin mist. They were as large as soccer balls as they moved about.

Ye Tianxin’s heart thumped against her ribcage. Her eyes were filled with awe.

Creak! Creak!

The vicious beast seemed to be inching closer toward her. Its huge head passed through the mist and appeared before Ye Tianxin.

What made her heart race further was that the spot on which she stood was where the beast’s nose was. It seemed to be sniffing in search of food!

Ye Tianxin was only as large as its nostril! She had never seen such a huge beast before. “Sh*t!”

Chapter 506: Penglai

There was a saying in Buddhist teachings that all meetings were the will of the heavens. All encounters were fated. There was no such thing as being early or late. You would meet the very person you were supposed to meet at the right time.

The beast's fur was completely white. Its nose was sharp. It had two huge horns on its head. Its eyes were narrow and slender like the crescent moon. It was squinting as it looked at Ye Tianxin as though trying to figure out if she was food or something else.

Ye Tianxin dared not move. Although she was a Six-leaf cultivator, she was not confident she could escape from this colossal creature. It was no wonder people said only Eight-leaf cultivators dared to venture deep into the Four Forests.

Ye Tianxin could not see its body. She could only see its head. If she had to describe its looks, she would say that it resembled a slenderer version of a white fox.

Yoo!

The beast cried out.

'Run!' Ye Tianxin pushed away all distracting thoughts as she unleashed her avatar.

Whizz!

Her Six-leaf Golden Lotus avatar rose to a height of 70 feet.

Grand technique!

Ye Tianxin turned and fled!

Strangely, she felt a gust of wind before she felt her body and avatar being wrapped by something. It felt as though the world was spinning and being tossed in the air before falling down at the same time. She could not control her Primal Qi at all.

Yoo!

Another sharp cry rang in the air.

Ye Tianxin finally landed. To be precise, it felt she had landed on soft white feathers. She did not have time to check her surroundings when a strong wind blew against her.

"This is bad!" Ye Tianxin conjured up her Primal Qi and formed an energy shield to block the wind.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Realization suddenly dawned on Ye Tianxin; she was on the back of the beast. The massive beast was carrying her as it navigated through the forest at a blinding speed.

After what seemed like hours of running, the thin layer of mist faded. The layer that hung in the air parted.

The beast was moving with lightning speed as it carried Ye Tianxin on its back. Every stride it took covered several hundred meters. She could see more clearly now.

Under the moonlight, it seemed to be 150 feet long. Apart from the white patch on its head, the beast was yellow in color. Against the moon, it leaped off a cliff.

A name surfaced in Ye Tianxin's mind. 'Cheng Huang!'

The Fairfolk had described Cheng Huang to be shaped like a fox with spikes on its back. Its rider would gain 2,000 years of life.

She had finally found it!

'But... Why is Cheng Huang jumping off a cliff with me?'

Yoo!

The fall seemed to go on forever as though they were falling into a bottomless abyss.

When they descended, she saw countless vines and winged beasts. Some of them were even larger than Cheng Huang. They circled the cliff face and let out deafening howls that resounded through the chasm!

At this moment, Ye Tianxin finally realized there was a possibility she would be stuck in this abyss forever!

...

Seven days had passed by in the blink of an eye.

In the eastern pavilion of the Evil Sky Pavilion.

Lu Zhou opened his eyes. He confirmed that his extraordinary power was fully replenished. Then, he confirmed his remaining merit points.

Merit points: 59,880 points.

He did not have to use them to buy more item cards... Besides, with his current cultivation base, using item cards was no longer economical. Moreover, he could always purchase them at the last minute to avoid unnecessary troubles anyway.

Lu Zhou stood up and left the eastern pavilion.

When he saw his master coming out, Mingshi Yin walked up to meet him.

"Master, Seventh Junior Brother has replied... He said that Island Master Huang is preoccupied at the moment as the Nether Sect is fighting Yu Province," Mingshi Yin said.

"Did he mention the Lantian jade?" Lu Zhou asked, puzzled.

"Island Master Huang said that the Lantian jade is still on Penglai Island. He'll invite you to the island and present it to you himself."

Lu Zhou nodded when he heard this. "Very well."

"Ding! Killed a target. Reward: 10 merit points."

"Ding! Killed a target. Reward: 10 merit points."

Notifications from the system kept ringing in his ear.

The sources of the merit points were from Yu Shangrong and Si Wuya...

Lu Zhou stroked his beard lightly and looked in the direction of Yu Province.

‘Can you conquer the Divine Capital in six months?’

“I’ll be visiting Penglai Island. Can you and Duanmu Sheng look after Golden Court Mountain while I’m gone?” Lu Zhou asked as he looked at Mingshi Yin.

“Of course! It’s not a problem at all!” Mingshi Yin thought, ‘I’ll be damned if there’s a problem. Now that everyone knows there’s a Nine-leaf cultivator in the Evil Sky Pavilion, only a fool would try to look for trouble here.’

“That’s great. You should cultivate harder in the meantime. You shouldn’t hesitate too much in the matter of severing your lotus,” Lu Zhou said.

“Yes, master... It’s nothing but severing my lotus. I can do it in just an instant.”

Coincidentally, as Mingshi Yin spoke, Duanmu Sheng happened to enter the eastern pavilion with his Overlord Spear in his hand.

“Old Fourth... Where did he go?”

Mingshi Yin shuddered. He bowed at Lu Zhou and hurriedly said, “I have something to attend to, master. I’ll take my leave.” He vanished from sight in just a blink of an eye.

Duanmu Sheng stood outside the eastern pavilion as he bowed and said, “Greetings, master.”

“What is it?”

“Have you seen Fourth Junior Brother... I’ve developed a new spear technique.”

Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction and said, “It’s good seeing both of you helping each other out.”

“Thank you for your praise, master. I’ll certainly do all I can to help Fourth Junior Brother.”

“Ding! Disciplined Duanmu Sheng. Reward: 200 merit points.”

“Ding! Disciplined Mingshi Yin. Reward: 200 merit points.”

‘I disciplined the two of them with this sentence?’ Lu Zhou looked in the direction in which Mingshi Yin left and shook his head.

He left the eastern pavilion and went to the southern pavilion.

He saw Conch sitting alone on the stone bench outside the hall and called out to her, “Conch.”

Conch turned and saw a gentle-looking Lu Zhou. She smiled as she leaped off the stone bench and walked up to him. “You’re here.”

Lu Zhou observed her condition again. Conch was in great shape. Everything about her was normal. She did not seem to be affected by Tiangou.

Tiangou's shrill cry and reflecting sound technique was not something that could be easily withstood by mortals. Yet, she seemed completely unaffected. If she could start cultivating, it might not be a bad idea to accept her as a disciple as well.

'The bright moon shines over the sea; from far away we share this moment together, but it can be shelved for all I care.'

"Will you come with me to Penglai Island?" Lu Zhou asked.

"Mhm." Conch nodded.

Just when the two of them were preparing to leave, Little Yuan'er ran out with a set of light blue garments in her hands. "Greetings, master."

Lu Zhou looked at Little Yuan'er curiously. This little girl loved a lively scene. It was highly likely that she wanted to follow him.

"What is it?"

Little Yuan'er walked up to Conch and muttered, "This is the Cloud Feather Raiment Second Senior Brother gave me. I'll give, uh, lend it to you... You can return it to me when you're as strong as I am, alright?"

Conch glanced at the Cloud Feather Raiment and nodded. "Mhm. Thank you, Elder Sister Yuan'er."

"You're welcome."

The two of them went into the room as she helped Conch change into her new clothes.

They were of similar build and height. Conch resembled a fairy even more after she donned the Cloud Feather Raiment.

Their friendship exceeded Lu Zhou's expectations.

Little Yuan'er stood in front of Lu Zhou and said, "Safe journey, Master."

"You don't want to go?" Lu Zhou asked as he stroked his beard. He was not used to this little girl being this mature.

"Huh?"

"What are you standing around for... Let's go." Lu Zhou turned around.

Little Yuan'er. "???" She thought to herself, 'Can I have my Cloud Feather Raiment back?'

Lu Zhou planned to bring Little Yuan'er with him all along... Conch was not a cultivator yet. He felt safer with Little Yuan'er looking after her.

The three of them rode on Whizard and left the Evil Sky Pavilion as they flew southeast.

...

After flying for an entire day, the three of them appeared above the seas in the east. They rested for a while when they finally landed.

“Master, there’s an island hanging in the air.” Little Yuan’er seemed to have chanced upon a new world as she pointed toward the faraway skies.

The floating island could be clearly seen in the clear, cloudless skies. It seemed near and far away at the same time.

Just when Lu Zhou nodded in reply, a voice reached his ears. “Greetings, Old Senior Ji.”

Lu Zhou was slightly taken aback. Did someone recognize him? As he wondered, he turned around and saw a middle-aged cultivator leading dozens of sword cultivators behind him.

Lu Zhou studied him. He was certain he did not know this man. Then, he said, “Have we met?”

The man laughed. He studied Lu Zhou and said, “I say, dear old man. With your appearance, I’ve nearly taken you as the genuine one.”

Lu Zhou was puzzled. “What do you mean?”

“I’m Taixu Academy’s Grand Elder, Jiang Lizhi. I was invited by the Penglai Sect to lend them a helping hand. Old Mister, during my journey, you’re the third impostor I’ve met. You look like him the most,” Jiang Lizhi said with a smile.

Lu Zhou’s expression darkened as he sternly asked, “Who has the audacity to pretend to be me?”

Chapter 507: Golden Taixu Mirror

Ever since the matter with Ding Fanqiu was dealt with, Lu Zhou was of the opinion that no one else would dare to impersonate him anymore. He did not think there would be someone so bold.

Jiang Lizhi smiled and said, “Old Mister, your act is almost flawless. Keep it up!”

“Hm?” Lu Zhou frowned slightly. Then, he said in a solemn and stern voice, “I’m the Master of the Evil Sky Pavilion.”

Jiang Lizhi said, “Yes, yes, yes... Greetings, Old Senior Ji.” Contrary to his words and his actions of making the others bow, his gaze and tone suggested that he was merely playing along with Lu Zhou.

The Taixu Academy disciples nodded as well. “Greetings, Old Senior Ji.”

Lu Zhou asked, “The Taixu Academy?”

“At your service,” Jiang Lizhi said haughtily.

At this moment, Lu Zhou recalled that it was the people from the Taixu Academy and the Hengqu Branch who fought over Conch so they could use her to tame the wild beasts. Would such organizations come to help Penglai Sect out of the kindness of their hearts?

‘Jiang Lizhi and Jiang Renyi...’ Lu Zhou really had to commend their naming sense.

“Are you here on Penglai Island’s invitation as well?” Lu Zhou asked.

Upon hearing this, Jiang Lizhi straightened his back, cupped his fists at Lu Zhou, and said, "Old Mister, that's about enough. I don't know the details, but everything will be clear once we reach Penglai Island." After saying this, he waved his hand.

The Taixu Academy disciples walked on air, close to the sea's surface.

Lu Zhou looked at the island hovering above the sea. It resembled something out of an oil painting. There were streams of water spilling from the edges of the island as well. At this moment, the barrier around the island seemed weak, even its light was dim.

"Yuan'er, let's go."

"Alright!" Little Yuan'er brought Conch with her as she flew toward the island.

After leaving the shore for some time, they still have not arrived. It was just as Lu Zhou had said; the island seemed close, but it was far away. They were traveling in the air, and although they could vaguely see the coastline, they had yet to arrive on Penglai Island.

After some time, the island grew clearer in Lu Zhou's eyes. There were five islands gathered together. Four of the islands surrounded one island in a circle. All of the islands were covered in a faint blue light that was refracted from the sea. Four huge Formations that manifested in intensely bright light seemed to stretch on for several miles. The islands were pristine. Lush greenery could be seen everywhere.

"Beautiful," Conch said, admiring the scenery of the islands.

"There are many people there." Little Yuan'er pointed to the entrance to the island.

The entrance was a path made of slabs of rock. How extravagant. This was Penglai Island, a place where everyone wanted to visit.

Lu Zhou, Little Yuan'er, and Conch flew toward the island.

At this moment, someone ran toward them from among the crowd...

"Old Senior Ji, we meet again!" The person was none other than Ma Qing, the Grand Elder of the Qingyun Sword Sect, whom he had met several days ago when he took down Lanni, the Roulia. He had brought his disciples with him as well. Since they had just met him recently, they were familiar with him.

The Qingyun Sword Sect disciples bowed in unison, attracting the attention of the bystanders. Those present on the scene were mostly friends from various sects.

Lu Zhou said tonelessly, "There's no need for such pleasantries." Then, he observed the island that was surrounded by the other islands.

At this moment, Jiang Lizhi, the Grand Elder of the Taixu Academy Grand Elder, walked over and patted Ma Qing's shoulder before he said, "Brother Ma, great minds truly think alike!"

'Who's thinking alike?' Ma Qing moved away from Jiang Lizhi.

Jiang Lizhi continued to say, oblivious, "I think this Old Mister, among all those I met before, resembles Old Senior Ji the most. What do you think, Brother Ma?"

Ma Qing frowned slightly. He regarded Jiang Lizhi as though Jiang Lizhi had gone crazy. He said, "I don't understand what you're talking about. This... is the real Evil Sky Pavilion's Patriarch! Don't be rude!"

Jiang Lizhi was stunned. However, it was only for a moment before he said with a smile, "I get it, I get it... You've always been diplomatic, Brother Ma. I really like that about you." Then, he turned to Lu Zhou and said in a formal and respectful tone, "Greetings, Old Senior Ji."

Lu Zhou ignored Jiang Lizhi. His thoughts were on the island in the center.

Jiang Lizhi did not mind Lu Zhou's attitude as well. After bowing, he addressed Ma Qing and said, "How's that, Brother Ma? I was far more formal than you were."

"Jiang Lizhi, what are you trying to do?" Ma Qing did not understand Jiang Lizhi. 'If you're trying to drag someone down with you, please find someone else!'

As the saying went, 'Having a lousy teammate is worse than facing a godly opponent'.

"I'm just doing what you're doing!" Jiang Lizhi said with a knowing smile.

Ma Qing turned ghastly pale. His expression darkened as he said with a righteous air, "Jiang Lizhi, I'm seriously telling you this person before you is Old Senior Ji, the Nine-leaf expert."

"Yes, yes, yes... I believe you. There... Are you happy now?" Jiang Lizhi nodded.

"That's more like it," Ma Qing said, "If we didn't go way back, I would've severed all ties with you because of what you said."

"Hey, now. That's uncalled for."

As soon as Jiang Lizhi finished speaking...

Whizz!

The island in the center sank ten meters.

Everyone was shocked into silence as they looked at the floating island in the center. Soon after, the cultivators began to discuss among themselves.

"The floating island has sunk again! At this rate, it won't be long before the island sinks to the bottom of the ocean. When it comes to that, the Formation will be damaged and the other islands will sink as well."

"When you put it that way, Penglai Island is truly in trouble."

Most of the cultivators shared the same opinion.

One of them rose into the air and projected his voice toward the island and said, "Since Island Master Huang isn't around, I humbly ask that Island Mistress Huang take charge."

"Yes, please take charge, Island Mistress."

"How can you let your guests wait outside... It's been days!" Someone began complaining.

At this moment, the doors of the huge palace slowly opened. More than ten women in yellow clothes flew toward them with paper umbrellas in their hands. The paper umbrellas were arranged in a square. A graceful and luxurious-looking woman stood on the umbrellas.

“Greetings, Madam Huang!”

The woman was the wife of Huang Shijie, the Island Master.

Madam Huang’s expression was calm as she took in the scene in front of her. She said to the cultivators who had come from all parts of the empire in a clear voice, “Welcome, everyone... Sorry to have kept you waiting.”

Jiang Lizhi was the first to step forward. He looked up and said, “Where’s Island Master Huang?”

“The Island Master is currently attending to some urgent matter and can’t return for now... I’ll be in charge of all affairs regarding Penglai Island.” Madam Huang’s gaze was slightly dull. There did not seem to be any hint of gratitude in her words toward the cultivators gathered here.

Someone said, “Madam Huang, what could be more important than the islands sinking? Isn’t he worried at all?”

“Yes.” Madam Huang nodded slightly when she heard this. Once the floating islands sank, Penglai Island would be forever submerged. After muttering to herself for a while, she loudly said, “We’ll follow our previous agreement. Anyone capable of restoring the floating island’s Formation will have Penglai Island’s thanks.”

Jiang Lizhi from the Taixu Academy said, “I don’t want anything but... the Lantian jade.”

“No,” someone refuted, “Why should she give it to you? We all have a part to play in this.”

After hearing all these words, Lu Zhou vaguely understood the situation. The commotions under the heavens were mostly related to benefits and gains. There was no such thing as doing charity for charity’s sake.

It was no wonder that Madam Huang did not seem appreciative of their presence. From her point of view, these cultivators who came from afar were nothing but a pack of ravenous wolves howling piteously for food. It was possible that they would openly loot the islands when they sank in the name of protecting the treasures and riches for the island’s sake. To put it bluntly, most of the people here were waiting for easy pickings.

At this juncture, Ma Qing, the Grand Elder of the Qingyun Sword Sect, cupped his fists together and said, “Everyone, please listen to me.”

The other turned to look at Ma Qing.

Ma Qing said respectfully, “Since the Island Master isn’t here, shall we have the Evil Sky Pavilion’s Old Senior Ji take charge?”

Ma Qing’s words were like a pebble that gave rise to a thousand waves.

The Evil Sky Pavilion’s Old Senior Ji?

Everyone searched the crowd.

Those who were not blind saw an old man standing at the edge of the island with two dumb-looking girls by his side.

“Old Senior Ji? How long has he been here?”

“Does he usually keep a low-profile like that?”

Some were shocked while others were puzzled.

Madam Huang who was standing on the umbrellas looked over as well.

Jiang Lizhi said, “Brother Ma, don’t you think you’re getting way too into your act?”

Ma Qing snorted and said, “Qingyun Sword Sect disciples, hear my words... From this day onward, the Qingyun Sword Sect is severing all ties with the Taixu Academy!”

“...” Jiang Lizhi said in response, “Fine with me. If he’s Old Senior Ji... How would you explain this?” He raised his hand.

The others looked at Jiang Lizhi.

Jiang Lizhi held an ancient bronze mirror the size of an egg. The mirror was decorated with golden ornaments and illegible runes and veins.

“The Taixu Mirror?”

There was a commotion.

The Taixu Mirror or the Golden Taixu Mirror. It was famous in the cultivation world. However, nobody paid much attention to it since it did not help one’s cultivation or improve one’s strength.

“The Golden Taixu Mirror is said to be the finest mirror in the Taixu Academy. It can verify an object’s authenticity, gauge a person’s cultivation base, and peek into the depths of the dark abyss... The Taixu Academy seems serious about this matter to have brought this treasure here.”

Jiang Lizhi cupped his fists and said in a loud voice, “On the orders of my patriarch, with the Golden Taixu Mirror, I’m here to lend a helping hand to the Penglai Sect.”

Chapter 508: The Crying Red Fish

Ma Qing frowned deeply as he stared at the Golden Taixu Mirror in Jiang Lizhi’s hand. He wondered if this was the reason Jiang Lizhi was so certain Ji Tiandao was an impostor. If that was the case, who was the old man who killed the Other Tribesmen the other day? Was he mistaken? Perhaps, this old man had disguised himself as Ji Tiandao the other day? He shook his head. ‘No, no, no. I can’t be led astray by the bastard, Jiang Lizhi!’ He was certain he did not make a mistake. He would not suffer a loss if he trusted his own judgments.

Jiang Lizhi raised the Golden Taixu Mirror in his hand.

Primal Qi surged, and Qi was condensed into energy. Golden energy swirled around the golden mirror before it buzzed and shone. The veins on the mirror's surface formed an energy seal that turned into a round Formation vein with a uniform pattern. It resembled the Daoist Eight Gates Formation seal.

Jiang Lizhi smiled and shifted the golden mirror. The Eight Gates Formation seal's light was shone directly at Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou was curious about the Golden Taixu Mirror. However, it felt quite awkward to be, quite literally, put in the spotlight. He frowned slightly.

At this moment, a Golden Lotus appeared before the Golden Taixu Mirror. Two blades of leaves spun around the Golden Lotus.

"Two-leaf Nascent Divinity realm!"

"He's really an impostor!"

"Even if he's an impostor, he's not someone we can afford to cross. A Two-leaf Nascent Divinity cultivator is an elite as well!"

Only a handful of the cultivators gathered there were in the Nascent Divinity realm. Even if the old man was an impostor, they would not dare offend him.

Jiang Lizhi was pleased with the performance of the Golden Taixu Mirror. He said haughtily, "I've used the Golden Taixu Mirror to see through many impostors on my way here. There have been at least three cases where someone tried to impersonate the Evil Sky Pavilion's Master." He straightened three fingers and showed them to the crowd as he spoke.

Ma Qing was not convinced by this. He glanced at Lu Zhou before he said, "Nonsense! Jiang Lizhi, stop trying to fool everyone with your lies!"

"Elder Ma, the truth is right before your eyes."

The others began to discuss among themselves.

The expression of Madam Huang who was standing on the umbrellas turned unnatural., 'Why is the focus on the authenticity of Ji Tiandao's identity now?'

Jiang Lizhi looked at Lu Zhou. He was no longer as respectful and polite as before. He said disdainfully, "A Two-leaf Nascent Divinity cultivator. If you don't believe me, I'll shine the mirror on him again."

A disciple standing behind Jiang Lizhi chimed in, "The Golden Taixu Mirror can also be used as a demon-revealing mirror!"

Whizz!

The Golden Taixu Mirror shone again from the Eight Gates Formation seal.

Jiang Lizhi raised his hand and directed the beam of light toward Lu Zhou.

Just when the light was about to shine on Lu Zhou, he struck with his palm. "Impudent!"

A golden vortex swirled in an anti-clockwise direction in his palm before huge palm seals shot out.

“Huh?”

The first seal was the Sole Diamond Seal. Huge nine scripts appeared: Power, Energy, Harmony, Healing, Intuition, Awareness, Dimension, Creation, and Absoluteness. They were arranged around the seal as it sailed toward Jiang Lizhi with a dazzling golden light.

Boom!

It could not be dodged.

The first palm seal turned the stunned Jiang Lizhi. He was like a wooden chicken at this moment. The second to the ninth palm seals shot out as well, hitting his face and chest. The sizes of the palm seals were just the right size for his height. It was not too big nor too small. A single palm seal covered his entire person. When the final palm seal struck him, he was no longer there. He had been reduced to ashes and was scattered in the wind. No trace of him was left!

Clang!

The Golden Taixu Mirror fell onto the ground and rolled along a seam between the flat stone slabs, ringing loudly. It rolled for a dozen meters and circled around the same spot before it came to a stop.

The sound seemed lonely as it rang in everyone’s ears.

The mirror faced the skies.

Coincidence was the best term in the world to describe the indescribable and mysterious incidents.

The sun shone on the Golden Taixu Mirror. An Eight Gates Formation seal appeared in the skies. It was incomparably gorgeous! It covered everyone present on the scene. Fortunately, this was only the sunlight. Otherwise, everyone else’s true cultivation bases would be revealed.

The entire place was silent. Everyone was drawn by the Golden Taixu Mirror. Then, they turned to look at the old man who had just attacked with a tense and fearful gaze.

“Ding! Killed a target. Reward: 1,500 merit points.”

It seemed like Lu Zhou’s words and the Nine Cuts Hand Seals had intimidated the others.

The Golden Taixu Mirror? The Taixu Academy? Two-leaf or Eight-leaf, it did not matter how many leaves his opponent had. A Deadly Strike Card would easily take care of them. If Jiang Lizhi had committed a great offense when he shone the mirror at him the first time, he was practically seeking death when he shone the mirror on him the second time!

The Taixu Academy disciples who came with Jiang Lizhi were stunned. They gulped as they looked at the empty spot where Jiang Lizhi was standing just a moment ago. He was nowhere to be seen! A chill ran down their spines. Was it really Old Senior Ji?

Everyone was looking at the old man now.

Good heavens!

Their hearts trembled as their knees shook.

At this moment, Little Yuan'er's giggle broke the silence. She ran over and picked the Golden Taixu Mirror up. "Master, this mirror seems fun." She channeled some Primal Qi into it.

Whizz!

The radiance from the Golden Taixu Mirror shone into the sea.

Wuuu!

The sea's surface roiled, and the water rose.

The strange noise drew everyone's attention. It pulled them out of their shocked state immediately. They looked toward the area in the sea where the noise came from.

The Golden Taixu Mirror continued to shine. The beam of light penetrated the seawater.

The clear waters suddenly turned red as a huge fish about 50 feet long appeared. Its gills shone differently under the Golden Taixu Mirror's illumination.

"Luo Yu!"

"It's Luo Yu!"

The crowd exclaimed in shock.

The appearance of Luo Yu made them forget about Jiang Lizhi's death. They had also forgotten to confirm if this old man was the greatest expert in the world.

Little Yuan'er was delighted. She shone the Golden Taixu Mirror toward the sea again. She even ran to Conch's side, inviting Conch to play. "Conch, look!"

However, Conch seemed distracted. She murmured, "It looks so sad..."

"Huh? How do you know?" Little Yuan'er asked.

"I can feel it."

"..."

Meanwhile, the expression of Madam Huang who was still standing on the umbrellas changed slightly. She looked at Luo Yu in the water before bowed at Lu Zhou who was standing at the edge of the island and said, "Your methods are bizarre, Old Mister. Please take charge of the situation!"

Wu!

Splash!

Luo Yu suddenly broke the surface of the water. Its gills spread out into wings! The golden and red radiance intertwined. It flew in a circle under the floating island's Formation.

The fish was flying in the air!

It was common knowledge in the cultivation world that Luo Yu could fly. However, it was their first time seeing it emitting such a gorgeous and steady radiance from its entire body.

Dong!

The floating island sank another ten meters.

When the floating island sank, Luo Yu gave a cry that resounded across the floating island.

"It's crying." Conch seemed to sympathize with it.

Nobody noticed that.

Water droplets the size of fists leaked out of Luo Yu's eyes. It did a final flip and drew a perfect arc in the air as it plunged back into the sea. It continued swimming under the Formation's area with increasing speed.

"You wicked livestock! Madam Huang, this must be the thing that's damaging the Formation! The floating island can be saved if we do away with this wicked livestock!"

Chapter 509: Propping Up the Floating Island (Part One)

The cultivators standing close to the edge were eager to try.

Madam Huang pushed away lightly from the umbrellas before she descended. The disciples who wielded the umbrellas followed closely behind her.

The crowd made way for Madam Huang.

Madam Huang walked up to the edge of the island and looked at Luo Yu in the sea.

The area where Luo Yu was swimming around was precisely the area under the Formation.

At this moment, many cultivators began urging Madam Huang.

"The Formation must've been damaged by this Luo Yu. The floating island is kept in place by the Formation. The other four islands rely on the floating island as the core. If the floating island is gone, Penglai is as good as gone as well."

"Madam Huang, please give the order."

Madam Huang knew these people had ulterior motives hidden behind their seemingly helpful actions. However, she could not afford to lose her cool now nor could she agree to their request immediately. However, if Penglai Island was not saved and the Formation was destroyed, Penglai would truly be in danger.

At this moment, Ma Qing said in a loud voice, "The way I see it, we should ask Old Senior Ji for his opinion."

Upon hearing Ma Qing's words, the others regained their senses. They recalled the Daoist Nine Cuts Hand Seals they had just witnessed, and fear rose in their hearts again. With this reminder, they shut their mouths and looked at Lu Zhou. Was he truly the great individual from the Evil Sky Pavilion?

Regardless of what the others thought or what the results of the Golden Taixu Mirror's examination were, Ma Qing was convinced the old man before him was the Evil Sky Pavilion's Patriarch. Those who believed that the old man was only a Two-leaf cultivator either had their heads caught in a door or were

out of their minds. Could a Two-leaf cultivator take down the Taixu Academy's Grand Elder in just a blink of an eye? Was that even possible?

Ma Qing was an Elder of the Qingyun Sword Sect. His words weighed more than the others.

Lu Zhou extended a hand and said, "Yuan'er."

Little Yuan'er understood her master's meaning. She placed the Golden Taixu Mirror in her master's hand.

The glow faded.

Lu Zhou gleaned at the Taixu Academy disciples, causing them to stumble back in fear.

Even their Grand Elder, Jiang Lizhi, was incapable of withstanding a single hit from this old man... One could only imagine how powerful he was! However, they were perplexed. Why did the Golden Taixu Mirror show him as a Two-leaf cultivator?

It was not just them; everyone present was confused as well. The Golden Taixu Mirror could not lie.

Lu Zhou said in a deep voice, "From this moment on, the Golden Taixu Mirror belongs to the Evil Sky Pavilion."

"..."

His words were powerful and resounded through the area.

"Ding! Obtained the Golden Taixu Mirror. Owner: Lin Xin. Re-cultivation needed before use."

Although this item would not help much in improving Lu Zhou's cultivation base, he found it interesting.

Lin Xin was the Taixu Academy's Patriarch. Rumor had it that his great limit was close at hand. Yet, no news of his death had spread as of yet. It made one wonder what he used to maintain his life/ The effects of the Golden Taixu Mirror were unique. 'Where did he get it from?'

Thud!

The Taixu Academy disciples fell to their knees immediately. Their faces were glistening with sweat. Just when they were about to beg for mercy...

Rumble!

The floating island sunk again.

"Old senior, now's not the time to be quarreling with the Taixu Academy... Please help Penglai. If the floating island is saved, I'll give you the Penglai Heavenly Scroll."

'Penglai Heavenly Scroll?'

A commotion broke out as everyone began to discuss among themselves again.

It was said that the Penglai Sect Patriarch's cultivation base had improved greatly all thanks to the Penglai Heavenly Scroll. In a way, it helped lift Penglai Island's status to the height it was now. However, due to the cryptic nature of its contents, nobody understood it. After the passing of the patriarch, the

Penglai Heavenly Scroll was passed down from generation to generation to this day. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the Penglai Heavenly Scroll was the foundation of Penglai Island. It was unexpected for Madam Huang to offer it up.

“The floating island is sinking. Madam Huang has no choice... However, there’s only one scroll... How will it be divided amongst us?”

The ambition of the wolves was becoming clearer.

“Madam Huang’s asking old senior Ji for help, not you. Don’t get ahead of yourselves.”

“It’s true that the old senior is an elite, but whether he’s Old Senior Ji or not still remains to be seen... You know too little about the Golden Taixu Mirror. That’s no ordinary mirror. It sees through all lies in this world. It can’t possibly make a mistake.”

“How are you going to explain the Nine Cuts Hand Seals then?”

“An Eight-leaf Daoist expert could’ve done that.”

Whether it was the Buddhist Great Seal of Fearlessness, the Daoist Nine Cuts Hand Seals, or Hua Wudao’s Nine Scripts Six Compatible Seal, they were all Eight-leaf grand techniques. However, it was difficult to unleash these massively powerful energy seals. Hence, the cultivators rarely used them. In most cases, the results were not worth the trouble.

“Shh... Don’t say that. I think he’s the real deal.”

“Keep your mouth shut if you want to stay alive. For you lot, there’s no difference between an Eight-leaf and a Nine-leaf cultivator.”

“...”

They could be killed with a single palm seal. It made no difference. Who gave them the courage to belittle an Eight-leaf expert?

Some believed while others remained doubtful.

Madam Huang did not concern herself with this. All she wanted was for someone to help her get out of this predicament. She said again, “Please take charge, old senior.”

Lu Zhou looked at the graceful and composed Madam Huang and said, “Huang Shijie has an Eight-leaf cultivation base. If he can’t do it, why do you think I can?”

The others looked at Madam Huang.

Madam Huang bowed and said, “I have no other choice.”

Lu Zhou raised the Golden Taixu Mirror in his hands and channeled some Primal Qi into it. A beam of light shot out of the Golden Taixu Mirror and shone on the crowd. Avatars appeared around those who were shone on by the light. Most of them were Ten Worlds avatars. Only a handful of them was at the One-leaf and Two-leaf stage.

Some cultivators deliberately avoided the light to hide their cultivation bases. It was possible for there to be grand cultivators among the people here. There might be any number of cultivators below the Nine-leaf stage! The allure of the Penglai Heavenly Scroll was great.

Lu Zhou flipped his wrist.

The light shone on the sea.

Luo Yu swam faster.

Clang!

A sound similar to chains being shattered rang from the southeastern corner of one of the huge islands.

Penglai Island shook with the sound.

Everyone present staggered and nearly lost their footing.

Madam Huang frowned slightly and said, "Bring the heavenly scroll here."

"Understood."

The cultivators on the island registered wore expectant expressions on their faces. They were curious about what the Penglai Heavenly Scroll looked like.

Shortly after, a Penglai disciple carried the heavenly scroll in his arms as he flew toward them from the central region of the island. He landed before the crowd of Penglai cultivators on one knee and presented it to Madam Huang. "Madam."

Madam Huang said, "If Penglai is destroyed, the heavenly scroll will be destroyed as well." She took it with one hand. There were clear ornamental patterns on the outer surface of the scroll, which was made from some unique material. She channeled some Primal Qi into the scroll, and the ornamental patterns shone.

"Now!"

Whistling sounds rang from the four islands, and three figures flew toward Madam Huang immediately.

Who cared about the Penglai Sect? Who truly wanted to save Penglai?

Madam Huang was not surprised. She exerted some pressure with her hand. The heavenly scroll returned to the box. With a click, it was locked. She pushed away from the ground and rose into the air.

The umbrella-holding cultivators behind Madam Huang flew up into the sky as well.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

The three figures reeled and spat out mouthfuls of blood.

The remaining umbrella-holding cultivators escorted Madam Huang as they hovered in midair. She said decisively, "Activate the Formation!"

Four rings of light shone on the four islands. With the floating island in the center, the rings of light merged to form a special Formation.

A screen covered the skies.

The huge barrier covered everyone on the island like a massive cage.

For an instant, the cultivators who were making their moves looked up at the barrier with stunned expressions.

Someone laughed maniacally. "What's the use of this? Once the floating island falls, these Formations will be useless."

Someone even bowed at Lu Zhou and said, "Old senior, we'll leave Madam Huang to you. You can leave the rest to us... You can have the heavenly scroll. What do you say?"

Madam Huang looked at them from the skies. The battles on the four islands had already started. She had great hopes for the island before herself.

"Ma Qing! My husband has invited you here! Are you trying to strike us when we're down as well?"
Madam Huang looked at Ma Qing.

Ma Qing said in a deep voice, "Everyone, stop! Qingyun Sword Sect disciples, hear my order!"

"Yes, elder!"

"Defend Penglai!"

The 100 sword cultivators from the Qingyun Sword Sect rose into the air at the same time.

Zing! Zing! Zing!

They unsheathed their swords. As they hovered in midair, they pointed their swords at the cultivators who were trying to take advantage of this situation.

When Madam Huang saw this, she bowed and said, "Penglai will remember the Qingyun Sword Sect's help!"

"Madam Huang, now's not the time for this."

Penglai Island's crisis was much more difficult than they had anticipated. The sinking floating island was not the only problem. There was a pack of hungry wolves waiting for the right moment to attack.

Ma Qing rose into the air and said, "Anyone who dares lift a finger against Penglai will be the sworn enemy of the Qingyun Sword Sect!" His soundwave spread to the four islands and the floating island.

The Penglai disciples on the four islands swarmed out and hovered above the islands. The remaining disciples who could not fly remained on the ground with frightened expressions on their faces. If the island sank, they would die.

"Ma Qing, you can quit your hypocritic act. You're just trying to take all the spoils for yourself, aren't you? Fat chance of that happening..."

"I'd like to see how long you can hold out against us!"

The other cultivators drew their swords and sabers as they pointed at the umbrella-holding cultivators and members of the Qingyun Sword Sect in the air.

“Old senior... Just give the word, and the treasures of Penglai Island will be ours.” Two cultivators walked up to Lu Zhou.

Ma Qing looked at Lu Zhou with a worried expression. He was not worried about the others; he was worried about this old man who had been keeping a low-profile all this while. The old man’s stance would determine the survival of Penglai!

Lu Zhou furrowed his brows slightly as he turned to look at the crowd. He stroked his beard and said, “Did I say I’ll wallow in the mire with you lot?”

The others were stunned.

“Old senior... Don’t you want the Penglai Heavenly Scroll?”

Rumble!

The floating island sank another ten meters again!

The barrier above it contorted. Eventually, it could no longer withstand the pressure, and it shattered. Its power dissolved into spots of starlight and scattered in the skies.

Madam Huang’s face fell as she said, “This is bad!”

Chapter 510: Propping Up the Floating Island (Part Two)

Lu Zhou looked back at Little Yuan’er and ordered, “Yuan’er, protect Conch.”

“Mhm! Don’t worry, master!” Conch was wearing the Cloud Feather Raiment, coupled with her protection, unless a grand cultivator attacked them, they were in no danger at all.

The instant the Formation shattered, many cultivators from the seas faraway above Penglai Island charged toward the island. Looking down from the skies, they seemed like ants.

Madam Huang extended her palm and shot toward the skies. She looked down from above the floating island. At this moment, she noticed the island on which Lu Zhou was at merely contained a small number of cultivators... With the barrier shattered, the cultivators lying in wait outside the four islands had come out of hiding to make their moves.

There were hundreds of cultivators emerging from each island.

“Penglai disciples, hear me! Fend off the enemies!”

“Understood!”

The umbrella-wielding cultivators took flight. Umbrellas shot toward the four directions.

The battle started abruptly.

Madam Huang looked at the floating island and sighed softly. “Dear husband... This is all I can do.”

The floating island was originally 100 meters above the four islands. Currently, it was only 20 meters from the sea's surface.

Maniacal laughter rang from the floating island at this moment. "Madam Huang, don't blame the others. There aren't any real friends in this world! Go, my brothers!"

Penglai Island had always been removed from the outside world and rarely interacted with other people. They had no friends to help them. Even if there were, who could guarantee they would not be stabbed in the back at the crucial moment?

Ma Qing bowed at Lu Zhou. He knew Lu Zhou was the only one who could do something. "Old Senior Ji... Please do something!" Even if Huang Shijie was here, he could not have possibly turned the tides of the battle.

The cacophonous sounds of battles rang from the four islands.

The death toll was rising. Many low-rank cultivators fell into the sea, and their blood stained the sea red. The originally pristine waters were stained red.

Lu Zhou stood next to Little Yuan'er and Conch. Without the Peak Trial Card, it was not practical to try to take down these many ravenous wolves with other item cards and the Heavenly Writing's powers alone. Moreover, these people had gone wild from their greed. They were beyond reasoning. Unless he could somehow gather all the cultivators in one place, it was rather impossible to take all of them down at once with the Heavenly Writing power.

Rumble!

The floating island sank another ten meters.

Lu Zhou looked up. The huge island that spanned 1,000 square meters blotted out the sun!

It was too close. The pressure made it difficult to breathe.

The frenzied cultivators flew recklessly toward the floating island.

"Ma Qing... Bring your people to the west," Lu Zhou ordered.

Ma Qing was delighted when he heard Lu Zhou's words. He led his disciples and shot toward the island in the west at once.

Up to 1,000 sword Formations flew toward the frenzied cultivators like schools of fish in the sea.

An intense battle unfolded in the sky.

Meanwhile, Madam Huang stood on the floating island. Her expression was slightly blank.

At this moment, Lu Zhou pushed away from the ground and flew toward the floating island.

Suddenly, a voice rang in the air. "Madam Huang... You're as attractive as ever!"

Lu Zhou turned to look. It was a middle-aged cultivator who had spoken. He sent a palm strike toward the cultivator.

Boom!

A light blue palm seal shot out and struck the middle-aged cultivator. He dropped at once into the sea with a splash.

As Lu Zhou flew, he saw the floating island was in chaos. It was nearly impossible to tell who was from which sect. Everyone was busy looting the island.

Lu Zhou continued flying upward. If it was possible, he did not want to use the Heavenly Writing's power. It was not an issue for a Two-leaf Nascent Divinity realm cultivator to kill cultivators below the Nascent Divinity realm.

Madam Huang looked down. When she saw Lu Zhou flying toward her, an expression of surprise appeared on her face. She was uncertain about Lu Zhou's stance. Therefore, she quickly raised the hand that was holding onto the heavenly scroll and loudly said, "I repeat, the moment the floating island sinks, the heavenly scroll will be destroyed as well!"

The Penglai Heavenly Scroll burst forth with radiance as her soundwave rolled into the surroundings.

"Madam Huang! The heavenly scroll is mine!"

"Mine!"

Dozens of Divine Court realm cultivators flew toward the floating island. If this was in the past, they would even have the chance to get so close. Alas, without the Formation and barrier, the floating island was defenseless.

At the same time, dozens of Ten Worlds avatars appeared as well.

Lu Zhou frowned slightly. 'What a pain!' He joined his palms together, and there was a flash of blue light.

"Scram!" A soundwave rippled out from Lu Zhou into the surroundings and echoed in the air.

This was the power of speech.

The sound technique sent the dozens of cultivators reeling back like a flurry of hurricanes. They spat out mouthfuls of blood.

Those who were watching from afar paled in fright.

"Forget about Penglai Island. Let him have the Penglai Heavenly Scroll."

The cultivators were not fools. They would not face a powerful elite head-on or fight him for the heavenly scroll.

At this moment, Lu Zhou landed next to Madam Huang. He extended his hand to her and coldly said, "Give it."

Madam Huang turned pale, and her body tensed.

Lu Zhou saw her frightened expression and said, "With me around, this won't be the end yet." His wizened palm was still extended before Madam Huang.

It was normal for her to be skeptical and wary. After all, she could no longer tell who was a friend or a foe.

Madam Huang glanced at the four islands that were all in chaos. She closed her eyes as a tear ran down her cheek. She placed the heavenly scroll in Lu Zhou's hand.

"Ding! Obtained the Open Earth Scroll. Reward: 3,000 merit points."

As Lu Zhou had expected, it was the Open Earth Scroll! Lu Zhou's heart stirred as he struck with his palm. The Earth Scroll shattered! The outer cover was reduced to debris that scattered in the air.

For a time, everyone was stunned. The heavenly scroll was destroyed?

Madam Huang's eyes widened as she asked in a trembling voice, "W-why?"

Lu Zhou had no wish to explain himself. The Open Earth Scroll automatically appeared in the system dashboard. Keeping its physical form would only be troublesome.

The debris fluttered away like shining butterflies.

Rumble!

The floating island touched the waters!

A huge wave rippled outward.

Little Yuan'er grabbed Conch and flew into the air.

The moment the floating island sunk into the water, Lu Zhou activated his protective energy and kept the seawater at bay.

Alas, the sinking of the floating island was the final straw that broke the camel's back for Madam Huang. Penglai Island's hope was gone. Without hope, what was the point of her living? How would she face her husband? She sighed softly and no longer resisted. 'Just as well. Death ends all troubles and worries.'

When the seawater surged toward them, a palm seal sent her flying upward.

"Bastard!" Madam Huang exclaimed in shock. She flew up above the sea's surface. When she looked down again, Lu Zhou who was standing in his own energy shield was swallowed by the sea.

"Old senior!" Madam Huang was shaken. At this moment, her hope was rekindled. The old senior had saved her without any regard for his safety. She would be an ingrate to throw away her life. She circulated some of her Primal Qi as she looked at the floating island disappearing beneath the waves. She was slightly stunned.

"The floating island is gone! The four islands will soon sink as well! Quickly!"

When they saw the floating island sink, the Qingyun Sword Sect's Ma Qing led his disciples on their swords and looked down at the four islands. "What a shame... I've done all I could."

"I'm sorry, Madam Huang... I'm sorry, Island Master Huang!"

Madam Huang no longer cared. 'Loot all you want. It's better for them to end up in your hands than at the bottom of the sea.'

In the skies, Conch looked at the floating island that was sinking into the sea and mumbled, "Luo Yu..."

Little Yuan'er said, "Where's my master?" She was in a dilemma. She wanted to dive into the sea to save her master, but she could not leave Conch alone. What should she do?!

Suddenly, a Daoist nearby launched himself from the ground, conjured up a group of energy swords, and charged at Little Yuan'er. "Since you killed a member of our Taixu Academy and took the Golden Taixu Mirror away from us, I'll have your disciple's life as payment!"

Sneak attack?

This elite could no longer refrain from attacking.

The cultivators nearby turned to look despite themselves. They were hit with a sudden realization. How could Jiang Lizhi, a mere elder, bring the Golden Taixu Mirror with him and speak so arrogantly to the old senior?