

Disciples 981

Chapter 981: Special Birth Chart Beast

Ning Wanqing felt that he had still underestimated Lu Zhou after the first palm strike and thought he was not prepared for it. However, the second palm strike confirmed that Lu Zhou's attack was stronger than his defenses. Conservatively speaking, he guessed Lu Zhou should have about nine or ten Birth Charts. He still could not believe there was such a strong cultivator in the golden lotus domain. After enduring the pain, he decisively gave up. There was no need to continue with the third palm strike unless he was willing to lose one Birth Chart.

"My lord." The white-clad young man rushed over and helped Ning Wanqing up, causing Ning Wanqing's blood Qi to surge and more blood to trickle out from the corners of his mouth.

"I'm fine." Ning Wanqing gestured for his subordinate to let go.

The subordinate let go of Ning Wanqing and retreated to the side with a worried expression on his face.

Following that, Ning Wanqing cupped his fists together at Lu Zhou and said, "Thank you for showing mercy, old sir."

Shen Xi. "..."

'The arrogant member of the White Tower Council is actually lowering his head? Would people believe me if I told them about this?'

Lu Zhou looked at Ning Wanqing, feeling rather satisfied with how tactful Ning Wanqing was. Although he had used up quite a lot of his supreme mystic power, it was better than wasting a Deadly Strike Card. Moreover, since it was not a battle, he could showcase his strength easily. If it was a real battle, the palm seals might land so easily. After all, even Di Jiang could dodge his attack that contained the supreme mystic power, proving that the supreme mystic power was not invincible. Back then, the Eight Chart Wu Guangping's speed was incredibly fast. It stood to reason that if it was a real battle, his attacks might not land accurately on Ning Wanqing, and he might have to use a Deadly Strike Card in the end as well. However, there was no doubt the supreme mystic power was very powerful. Perhaps, even a judge with ten Birth Charts would not be able to withstand the full force of the supreme mystic power.

Lu Zhou asked again, "Are you sure you don't want to withstand the third palm strike?"

Ning Wanqing said, "Old sir, your cultivation is profound. I'm really embarrassed, but I'm really inferior to you..."

"It's good that you know that," Lu Zhou said, "If you really tried to withstand the third palm strike, I'm afraid your life would've been in danger."

Ning Wanqing could not refute these words. As the saying went, 'The winner takes it all'. Moreover, he felt Lu Zhou was not lying. During the second palm strike, he was helpless. He had only felt this way when he faced the Tower Master. He sighed inwardly; a loser had to have the awareness of a loser. In the end, he said, "Old sir, I'll leave this runic passage to you, and I won't investigate the matter in the golden lotus domain anymore."

"Very good."

“However, I’m only a judge. I hope that you’ll keep the matter regarding this runic passage a secret. If others find out, it’d be difficult for me...”

Shen Xi replied with a smile, “Rest assured. The Pavilion Master appreciates tactful people and those who know when to yield... He won’t make things difficult for you...”

Ning Wanqing smiled somewhat embarrassedly.

Lu Zhou said, “I hope you’ll keep your promise.”

Ning Wanqing only remained silent as he watched Lu Zhou turn around and make his way toward the runic passage in the small forest. After Lu Zhou disappeared from sight, he said to the white-clad young man, “Keep this matter a secret.”

“Understood.” The white-clad young man naturally knew this matter could not be spread around. Would he not be seeking trouble for himself if he told people that the Eight Chart judge was defeated by someone? After a moment, he said, “My lord, I have something to say...”

“What is it?” Ning Wanqing’s energy gradually began to calm down.

“That old man doesn’t seem like he’s just a golden lotus cultivator. His first palm seal was golden with a hint of blue, and the following palm seals were blue...”

Ning Wanqing was shocked. “Are you sure?”

“I daren’t lie...”

Ning Wanqing fell silent as his unseeing eyes were trained up ahead. No one knew what he was thinking at this moment. After a while, he said with a sigh, “No wonder...”

“My lord, did you figure something out?”

“No. I’ve never heard of a blue lotus cultivator before...”

“...” The white-clad young man was speechless. ‘If you didn’t figure anything out, why did you say ‘No wonder’ as though you’ve figured it out?!’

After a moment, the white-clad young man asked, “Are we really not going to investigate the deaths of the members of the White Tower Council in the golden lotus domain?”

“That person has probably activated at least ten Birth Charts. It’s not wise to oppose him directly. Moreover, with such an expert, isn’t it good if he can make the Black Tower Council suffer a little?”

“My lord, you’re wise.”

Ning Wanqing said, “Let’s return and make the necessary preparations. I still have other important things to attend to.”

“My lord, do you really intend to head to the red lotus domain’s Southern Kingdom?”

Ning Wanqing nodded and said, “Our people have already confirmed that a special Birth Chart Beast will be appearing in the Southern Kingdom. We must take it down; we can’t let the Black Tower Council have it.”

“Understood.”

...

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou and Shen Xi found the runic passage after a simple search. It was just a stone-like formation ring.

Inside the formation ring were complex inscriptions and runes. The interconnected runes looked like flowers at a glance.

After seeing it, Lu Zhou finally understood why only a rune master could create it. It was just like how amateurs would not be able to forge high-grade weapons.

“This is the runic passage. I have talismans that can activate the runic passage. After entering the passage, I’ll control it for you.”

“Alright,” Lu Zhou said, “Go straight to the red lotus domain.”

“Understood.” Shen Xi made an inviting gesture before he said, “Please stand here, Pavilion Master.”

Lu Zhou brought Di Jiang with him and stood in the formation ring.

Shen Xi stood in the middle of the ring before he lit up the talisman and let it fall in the formation ring.

As soon as the talisman touched the ground, a pillar of light appeared around Lu Zhou and Shen Xi immediately.

Lu Zhou thought it resembled the light from an astrolabe.

Buzz!

The runic passage began to buzz at the same time, and their visions were obscured.

“We’ve succeeded...” Shen Xi said calmly. He was experienced after all.

Lu Zhou did not feel any different. It only felt like he was in a time-traveling tunnel. Soon after, it began to get bumpy; it was as though he was in a plane.

At this moment, Shen Xi smacked the ground and continued to channel his Primal Qi into the formation ring.

The circle of light continued to pull them up.

After a moment, Shen Xi said, “Pavilion Master, be careful.”

As soon as Shen Xi’s voice fell, Lu Zhou felt completely weightless. At that same time, a pressure pressed down on him, making it difficult to breathe. No wonder one needed a high cultivation base to use the runic passage. It would be difficult for those with low cultivation bases to withstand the suffocating pressure.

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

Yu Shangrong did not look very good at this moment. Over the past few days, Yu Zhenghai had healed most of his injuries, but his injuries did not improve due to Tian Ming's poison spike.

Apart from that, the fierce beasts outside the flag formation did not leave at all.

"Second Junior Brother, we can't continue staying here. That person's life stone must have shattered when he died. It's possible that the White Tower Council has already sent people here to investigate. We should contact Seventh Junior Brother..." Yu Zhenghai said. Even if he could break out of the flag formation, it would still be difficult for him to bring Yu Shangrong and escape from the fierce beasts.

"I was careless. I didn't expect him to use poison," Yu Shangrong said as he shook his head.

Yu Zhenghai placed the pre-drawn formation on the ground and lit a talisman.

In just a moment, Si Wuya appeared before their eyes.

"Seventh Junior Brother, I really missed you!" Yu Zhenghai said without any preamble.

Yu Shangrong. "..."

Si Wuya. "..."

Every time Si Wuya heard these words, his Eldest Senior Brother would ask something of him.

After Yu Zhenghai recounted everything, Si Wuya frowned. "Second Senior Brother is injured?"

Yu Shangrong rose to his feet. Apart from his pale face, he looked normal. "It's not that serious. There's no need to worry."

Si Wuya studied Yu Shangrong briefly before he said, "It's a witchcraft poison spike."

"You recognize it?"

"Of course. Eldest Senior Brother hated Lou Lan the most back then. In order to deal with Lou Lan, I studied many books about witchcraft," Si Wuya replied.

Yu Zhenghai smiled and said, "As expected of the number one strategist of the Nether Sect.

Yu Shangrong. '... How can he take all the credit like that?'

"How do I detoxify the poison?" Yu Shangrong asked.

"Forcefully extract the poison from your bones or get a powerful witchcraft cultivator to dispel the poison," Si Wuya replied.

Yu Shangrong nodded. He sat down immediately and pulled out his Longevity Sword.

Upon seeing this, Si Wuya hurriedly said, "Second Senior Brother, you shouldn't detoxify it now. It's too dangerous there."

"It's better than waiting for death," Yu Shangrong said.

At this moment, Ming Shiyin appeared next to Si Wuya and said, "Don't worry! I'll come to you. Wait for me!"

“Fourth Senior Brother?” Si Wuya was surprised.

“Don’t worry. I’ll take care of this matter!”

While the fellow disciples were talking, a noise thundered in the sky, startling the fierce beasts into fleeing. In just an instant, they disappeared without a trace.

“Someone’s here.” This was the last thing Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong wanted to see.

South of the flag formation, a figure could be seen on the back of an enormous mount.

At the same time, an ear-piercing shriek resounded again.

In just a blink of an eye, a white-clad cultivator riding a mystic bird arrived above the ruins. He hovered in the air and looked at the flag formation angrily as he said, “What a waste of formation flags!”

Chapter 982: You Must Apologize

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation **Editor:** EndlessFantasy Translation

These formation flags were going to be used to trap the special Birth Chart Beast. They were left here in advance to absorb the essence of heaven and earth and Primal Qi. Once they were activated and turned into a flag formation, it would be easy for them to take down the special Birth Chart Beast.

Now that Tian Ming had activated the formation ahead of time, how could the white-clad cultivator not be angry?

The white-clad cultivator urged the white mystic bird to fly higher up in the sky. At this time, from his high vantage point, he finally saw two people trapped in the triangular formation. He did not pay them any attention and flew toward the fierce beasts that were flying in different directions at lightning speed.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

In just a moment, the sky was filled with energy sabers and energy swords. Following that, a white astrolabe would appear and disappear every once in a while.

The commotion lasted for an hour before silence finally returned.

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The white-clad cultivator flew back on the white mystic bird. At this moment, he was putting the life hearts from the Birth Chart Beasts that he had just obtained into a floral bag. He nodded in satisfaction as he muttered to himself, “My luck’s not bad. There are really more Birth Chart Beasts in the Southern Kingdom. To think the Black Tower Council had been secretly capturing Birth Chart Beasts here. How despicable!”

After he put the bag away, he flew to the top of the triangular formation again. Then, he looked down at Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai who were trapped and asked icily, “You killed Tian Ming?”

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong raised their heads at the same time to look at the white-clad cultivator.

Yu Zhenghai asked with a straight face, “Tian Ming? Who’s that?”

The white-clad cultivator scoffed as he pointed at a corpse lying nearby. "Tell me. How do you want to die?"

"Even if you want to kill us, you should give us an explanation, right? Who are you? Why do you want to kill us?" Yu Zhenghai asked.

The white-clad cultivator said sternly, "I'm Nangong Yutian, one of the judges in the White Tower Council."

"What a formidable background," Yu Zhenghai said fearlessly, "Do you know who I am?"

"It doesn't matter. You won't live long anyway," Nangong Yutian said.

"My master is the Pavilion Master of the Evil Sky Pavilion," Yu Zhenghai said haughtily.

"..."

Nangong Yutian looked at the haughty Yu Zhenghai and shook his head as he said, "I've never heard of him."

"..."

Yu Zhenghai felt slightly embarrassed. He grumbled inwardly about the intelligent network of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council. His master had caused such a huge uproar, how could they not have heard about his master?

After calming down, Yu Zhenghai said again, "My master once killed Wu Guangping, the judge of the Black Tower Council, with one palm strike."

Nangong Yutian looked down and studied Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong who was poisoned before he said indifferently, "It's good that Wu Guangping is dead."

"..."

Yu Zhenghai gritted his teeth and said, "He died without knowing why."

"I believe you. Unfortunately, you still have to die. Those who destroy the formation flags will have to die. Even if the Tower Master of the Black Tower Council comes today, he won't be able to save you," Nangong Yutian said.

The white mystic bird cried out again.

Nangong Yutian said expressionlessly, "However, with your cultivation bases, how did you kill Tian Ming?" He had sensed the duo's auras, and there was nothing special about them.

"You want to know?" Yu Zhenghai said, "I'll tell you if you step into the formation."

Nangong Yutian scoffed. "This small flag formation is nothing to me. I can deactivate it whenever I want..."

"..."

"Speak so we can get this over with," Nangong Yutian said as he shook the bag in his hand playfully.

As soon as his voice fell, another voice that sounded like it came from the depths of hell rang from the north of the ruins.

“Nangong Yutian?”

Soon after, five black-clad cultivators flashed over, leaving afterimages in their wake, before they came to a stop outside of the triangular formation.

Nangong Yutian, who was sitting on the white mystic bird, frowned when he saw the five newcomers. “Blackguards?”

A hint of a smile could be seen in the eyes of the black-clad cultivator standing at the lead as he said, “Nangong Yutian, we haven’t seen each other for many years. Your eyesight is still so bad...”

“You are?”

“Do you not remember?” the black-clad cultivator said.

Nangong Yutian frowned before his eyes suddenly widened. He suppressed his shock and said with a smile, “So it’s the former Tower Master of the Black Tower Council. Tower Master Xiao, everyone said you were killed and died in the Black Water Mystic Cave. I didn’t expect you to still be alive.” Then, he glanced at the other man next to Xiao Yunhe and said, “Are you planning to make a comeback?”

“That’s not something you have to worry about,” Xiao Yunhe said.

Nangong Yutian pursed his lips before he said with a smile, “Of course, I have to worry about that. Our White Tower Council loves to watch the Black Tower Council’s internal strife the most. If you’re willing, our White Tower Council can help you. Otherwise, how can one person like you go against the Black Tower Council?”

“How dare you!” Xiao Yunhe’s voice darkened. His majestic aura was revealed at this moment, “You weren’t even born yet when I began to cultivate.”

Nangong Yutian chuckled before he said, “Tower Master Xiao, if I’m not mistaken, your Birth Charts have been destroyed. You’re no longer the Tower Master who could control the world with one hand. Why are you putting on airs in front of me? Do you think I’ll be afraid of you?”

At this moment, Wu Chao, who was standing next to Xiao Yun and had already recovered after being rescued previously, scoffed before he said, “How do you know our Tower Master hasn’t restored his Birth Charts?”

Upon hearing these words, Nangong Yutian’s expression turned solemn immediately, and he retreated a few meters toward the triangular formation.

In the end, this world one still one where strength reigned supreme. The strong bullied the weak; the weak feared the strong.

Xiao Yunhe said, “I didn’t come here to make things difficult for you. I have no intention of making an enemy out of the White Tower Council.”

“Then why did you come here?” Nangong Yutian asked suspiciously.

"I just came to tell you that you can't kill those two people," Xiao Yunhe said.

At this moment, Yu Zhenghai, who was still trapped in the flag formation, said, "Tower Master Xiao, I didn't expect to meet you again so soon."

Xiao Yunhe glanced at the duo and said, "I remember both of you are only at the Ten-leaf stage. Why did you come here? Do you want to die? If I didn't coincidentally pass by after attending to some business, no one would be able to save you."

Nangong Yutian did not expect them to be acquainted. His expression stiffened as he said, "Tower Master Xiao, I'm afraid you won't be able to protect them. These two killed Tian Ming, a whiteguard, and wasted three formation flags as a result. If I don't kill them, how is the White Tower Council going to face others in the future? Moreover, are these people worth your protection?"

"No," Xiao Yunhe said as he shook his head, "I'm not protecting them; I'm protecting you."

"Huh?" Nangong Yutian was puzzled.

Wu Chao chimed in, "If you insist on killing them, prepare yourself for a life of being hunted until you're killed."

"Hunted until I'm killed?" Nangong Yutian laughed. "How interesting. This is the first time I've heard of someone being bold enough to hunt down a judge of the White Tower Council. I'm not like you and Xiao Yunhe; I'm not a coward."

"Their cultivation bases are indeed low. I'm not talking about them; I'm talking about their master," Xiao Yunhe said.

"Master?" Nangong Yutian recalled the man carrying a saber at his waist seemed to be bragging about his master earlier.

Xiao Yunhe said with a shrug, "In any case, I've already warned you. If you insist on killing them, by all means, go ahead..." Then, he placed his hands on his back and turned away from the flag formation.

Nangong Yutian's smile vanished immediately. He shifted his gaze away from Xiao Yunhe to the calm Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong. He was not one to easily believe other people's words, but there was no harm in being careful. In the end, he looked at Yu Zhenghai and said, "Call your master over. I'll spare you for now. However, the whiteguard can't die in vain. If I don't get a satisfactory explanation, even if Tower Master Xiao speaks on your behalf until the sky falls, I still won't let this matter slide."

Nangong Yutian decided to take a step back for now. He needed to guard against Xiao Yunhe and also the possibility that Xiao Yunhe was telling the truth.

Yu Zhenghai shook his head and said, "I'm afraid you're not worthy of meeting my master."

Xiao Yunhe. "..."

Xiao Yunhe coughed and said, "Little brother, it's better to be cautious about this matter. Nangong Yutian is a judge from the White Tower Council." It was clear he was trying to tell Yu Zhenghai to invite his master over. He believed the duo's master should be nearby.

Yu Zhenghai said, "So what if he's a judge of the White Tower Council?"

Xiao Yunhe said meaningfully in a low voice, "He's different from the others"

"..."

At this moment, Yu Shangrong, who had been silent all this time, finally said, "My master is busy and doesn't have the time to deal with these trivial matters. Tell me, what do you want?"

"You're quite sensible." Nangong Yutian laughed. "First, you must apologize. Second, the two of you must return to the White Tower Council with me. Third..." He paused briefly before he finally said, "I haven't thought about the third condition. I'll tell you once I figure it out."

"I hope that you can maintain your arrogance when you meet my master..." Yu Shangrong said indifferently as he held a talisman between two fingers and lit it up.

Upon seeing this, Xiao Yunhe knew it would be difficult to bring the duo away, but he thought it should not be a problem to protect them for a little longer. Thus, he said with a smile, "Then, I'll accompany the two little friends..."

Chapter 983: You Want To See Me?

Xiao Yunhe's actions made Nangong Yutian feel rather helpless. In the end, he said with a sneer, "I didn't expect the former Tower Master of the Black Tower Council would be reduced to such a state..."

Xiao Yunhe smiled. "Young people have to make mistakes to learn. However, be careful you don't end up paying for your mistakes with your life..."

"Don't think you can intimidate me with your words..."

Xiao Yunhe did not continue warning Nangong Yutian. He only said, "Deactivate the flag formation..."

Nangong Yutian scoffed. "I've no obligation to follow your orders regardless of your identity."

Xiao Yunhe shook his head and no longer persuaded Nangong Yu Tian.

...

In a forest north of the Southern Kingdom.

A circle of light flashed before a pillar of light shot up into the sky.

Soon enough, two figures appeared above the circle of light.

"Pavilion Master, we've arrived in the red lotus domain. We're very lucky; we've been transported close to the Southern Kingdom." Shen Xi was rather proud of his control over the runic passage.

Lu Zhou clasped his hands on his back and sighed in admiration before he said, "Guardian Shen, don't you feel there's some mysterious force controlling everything between heaven and earth?"

Things like teleportation that only existed in movies or novels had become a reality, causing Lu Zhou to sigh emotionally. The runic passage was a pillar of light that contained a powerful force that seemed connected to all worlds.

“Many have tried to study the mysteries of heaven and earth and their shackles since ancient times. Unfortunately, there’s no conclusive answer...”

The shackles of Heaven and earth have been studied by the sages since ancient times. Unfortunately, no one can figure out why.”

During the journey here, Lu Zhou did not stay idle. He activated his Purple Glazed Ceramic and managed to replenish his supreme mystic power. He did not use much on Ning Wanqing earlier so he still had a lot of the supreme mystic power left.

At this moment, Lu Zhou sensed energy fluctuations from the marks he left on Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong. He quickly chanted the mantra for the power of sight to observe the situation.

“Xiao Yunhe?”

‘This guy is really everywhere...’

Following that, Lu Zhou shifted his gaze to a white-clad cultivator riding on a white mystic bird talking to Xiao Yunhe.

“Tower Master Xiao, do you really think you can protect them?”

“I can’t,” Xiao Yunhe replied.

“In any case, I’m not in a hurry. Are you sure it’s wise for you to stay here for so long? Your identity is special. Aren’t you afraid the Black Tower Council will send someone here to investigate?”

“Do you think that I managed to survive so long because of luck?”

Nangong Yutian remained silent; he could not refute Xiao Yunhe’s words after all.

With this, Lu Zhou cut off the power of sight. After sensing the distance between him and his two disciples, he called out, “Di Jiang.”

Squawk!

Di Jiang moved in front of Lu Zhou.

Shen Xi, who had seen the subtle change in Lu Zhou’s expression, asked, “Pavilion Master, is there an emergency?”

Lu Zhou shook his head. Then, he took the opportunity to ask, “There’s no emergency. By the way, do you know Xiao Yunhe?”

Shen Xi was part of the Black Tower Council’s Black Guards, how could he not know Xiao Yunhe?

“Tower Master Xiao? He’s the former Tower Master of the Black Tower Council and was a powerful figure in the past. I heard he violated the rules of the Black Tower Council and was dismissed by the higher-ups and the Elder Council. After that, he disappeared for some unknown reason,” Shen Xi answered honestly.

Lu Zhou nodded. As it turned out, Xiao Yunhe was the former Tower Master of the Black Tower Council; no wonder Xiao Yunhe had 12 Birth Charts. After a moment, he asked again, "Who's the current Tower Master?"

"Xia Zhengrong," Shen Xi replied.

"What's his cultivation base?"

"I'm not sure, but he has no fewer than 12 Birth Charts. True experts rarely use their astrolabes. Moreover, after activating six Birth Charts, the astrolabe can hide the number of Birth Charts one has activated. No one knows the exact number of Birth Charts the Tower Master possesses. Rumor has it that Xia Zhengrong is the only one who could defeat the former Tower Master. He was recommended by the Elder Council to take over the position of Tower Master..."

Lu Zhou nodded. "The Elder Council would not recommend anyone who possesses fewer than 12 Birth Charts..."

"Indeed."

Lu Zhou no longer asked about the Tower Master of the Black Tower Council. It was not time to face the Tower Master of the Black Tower Council, after all. Hence, he changed the topic and asked, "Do you know Nangong Yutian?"

"Yes, he's one of the judges of the White Tower Council. I don't know much about the other judges of the White Tower Council, but Nangong Yutian is slightly famous among those in the Black Tower Council. Back when the war between the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council was most intense, Nangong Yutian killed many cultivators from the Black Tower Council. He's famous for his insidious schemes, and he's also very cautious. After the two councils signed a peace agreement, there's no news of him. Perhaps, he already has nine or ten Birth Charts," Shen Xi replied.

Lu Zhou nodded. He did not expect that person to be so extraordinary. No wonder Xiao Yunhe could only watch from the sidelines.

Nangong Yutian was much more powerful than an Eight Chart cultivator. If there was a direct confrontation, he was not sure he could completely kill him even if he used the Deadly Strike Card. The enhanced Deadly Strike Card could only kill those with eight Birth Charts or fewer. Although he could use the Deadly Strike Card to destroy most of Nangong Yutian's Birth Charts before using his supreme mystic power to destroy the remaining Birth Charts, he felt it was a waste of his item card.

Lu Zhou sighed when he thought about the possibility of having to use his item card. After a while, he said, "Let's go."

"Understood."

Lu Zhou got on Di Jiang's back and flew up into the sky. As he controlled Di Jiang's speed, he asked, "Shen Xi, have you been to the Southern Kingdom?"

"Yes," Shen Xi replied, "The Southern Kingdom was originally without an owner. After the beast tide, the black lotus domain did a thorough clean-up of the place. Later on, Birth Chart Beasts began to appear frequently in that place so the Black Tower Council wanted control over the place. In recent years, they

had set up many stone forest formations there. In fact, it's also known as the Land of Chaos because of the frequent appearances of Birth Chart Beasts in groups. It's rather strange. The Black Tower Council tried to figure out the reason for the Birth Chart Beasts' frequent appearance, but they failed to find the answer..."

Lu Zhou nodded and looked at the misty sky in front of him as he wondered inwardly, 'I wonder what secret is hidden there?'

...

In the ruins south of the Southern Kingdom.

Nangong Yutian's mountain shrieked, dispelling the silence that had settled down for a long time in the ruins.

"Xiao Yunhe, I'm very curious. The rumors in the cultivation world are that your Birth Charts are gone. Is it true?" Nangong Yutian tried probing Xiao Yunhe for information.

Xiao Yunhe said, "Do you want to see for yourself if it's true or not?"

Nangong Yutian glanced at the black-clad cultivators standing respectfully behind Xiao Yunhe. Since Xiao Yunhe could make so many people submit to him, Xiao Yunhe must have some means. With this thought in mind, he did not dare to take Xiao Yunhe up on his offer. Following that, he shifted his attention to Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong before he said with a smile, "I wonder what kind of person their master is for Tower Master Xiao to behave in such a manner..."

"If he comes, you can see for yourself..." Xiao Yunhe said. He could sense Nangong Yutian was getting restless.

"Tower Master Xiao, I just thought of something."

"What is it?"

Nangong Yutian who suddenly changed his mind said, "Everyone said that Tower Master Xiao's cultivation is unparalleled. As a junior, I'd like to exchange a few moves with you to learn from you..."

The white mystic bird flew up all of a sudden, and Nangong Yutian raised his hand without any warning, launching a palm seal toward Xiao Yunhe.

Swoosh!

Xiao Yunhe raised his hand and easily destroyed the palm seal with another palm seal. Throughout the process, he remained indifferent.

Nangong Yutian. "..."

'This old fox really came prepared... I have to think of a way to deal with him...'

Nangong Yutian was thinking of how to kill Xiao Yunhe when three black figures flew over from the north.

At the same time, a voice rang in the air.

“It’s really lively today!”

Xiao Yunhe and Nangong Yutian looked up in unison.

At the same time, Wu Chao said in a hushed tone, “It’s the judge, Jiang Jiuli... Should we retreat?”

After all, Xiao Yunhe and his men had left the Black Tower Council and were wanted by the Black Tower Council. If more people from the Black Tower Council came, it would be too late for them to escape.

After the three black figures landed north of the flag formation, they surveyed the surroundings for a moment. Then, one of them said with a smile, “Nangong Yutian...”

Nangong Yutian seemed slightly excited when he saw the newcomer. “As it turns out it’s you, Jiang Jiuli.”

Jiang Jiuli, who was dressed in a black robe, was a tall man, and his aura was not inferior to Nangong Yutian. At this moment, he said, “Your White Tower Council is really shameless. Do you plan to start a war with the Black Tower Council by setting up a flag formation here?”

Nangong Yutian laughed. “Judge Jiang, don’t be angry. Before you talk to me, you should settle your family affairs first...”

Chapter 984: Who’s Going To Die Today If Not You?

‘Family matters?’ Jiang Jiuli looked at the two people trapped in the triangular flag formation; he did not recognize them. Then, he shifted his gaze to Xiao Yunhe and his men. Although he did not seem to recognize Xiao Yunhe, he recognized Wu Chao and the others immediately. He said coldly, “Take down the traitors.”

“Understood.” The two men next to Jiang Jiuli flew out immediately.

At this moment, Xiao Yunhe said in a nonchalant tone, “Jiang Jiuli, it’s been so many years since we last met, but you’ve quite the temper now...”

Jiang Jiuli was taken aback. After he studied Xiao Yunhe for a moment, he said in a low voice, “Tower Master Xiao?” However, he quickly regained his composure and said, “As it turns out it’s Tower Master Xiao. No wonder Wu Chao is so bold...”

“You have no business being here. I suggest you leave,” Xiao Yunhe continued to say indifferently.

“Leave?” Jiang Jiuli was puzzled.

Upon seeing this, Nangong Yutian chuckled before he recounted what happened to Jiang Jiuli.

Jiang Jiuli nodded. “So you’re waiting for their master? There’s no need to wait. Is there a need for the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council to consider others when doing things? Nangong Yutian, I have no wish to fight with you today. What do you think?”

Nangong Yutian laughed and said, “How can I not agree with Judge Jiang. The White Tower Council won’t interfere in today’s matter. You’re free to deal with your family affairs.”

“Good.”

Then, Nangong Yutian looked at Xiao Yunhe and said, "Tower Master Xiao, we've waited for so long, but no one has appeared. I'm sorry, but I don't plan to waste my time here. If you want to redeem them, come to the White Tower Council."

Nangong Yutian waved his hand after he finished speaking.

The three formation flags buzzed immediately, and the triangular barrier vanished.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong exchanged a look and tacitly flashed toward Xiao Yunhe's direction.

Nangong Yutian sneered and waved his hand. "Do you think you can escape?"

A huge palm seal fell from the sky immediately.

At this moment, Xiao Yunhe brought out his hexagonal weapon that flashed with a dim light and used it against the palm seal.

Bang!

The palm seal was instantly dispersed.

No one dared to rashly make a move; who knew Nangong Yutian would take the initiative to act first?

Jiang Jiuli surveyed his surroundings before he said, "Nangong Yutian, are you planning to kill indiscriminately? Does the White Tower Council not know how to distinguish between right and wrong?"

Nangong Yunhe sneered. Instead, he said to Xiao Yunhe, "Xiao Yunhe, you better not interfere again."

Meanwhile, Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong exchanged another look. Then, both of them unleashed their strongest techniques at the same time.

In just a blink of an eye, the sky was filled with energy swords and energy sabers.

The duo knew the current situation was beneficial to them. As long as they could provoke the others to fight, they would have a chance to leave.

Nangong Yutian got off the white mystic bird before he flashed in Xiao Yunhe's direction, leaving afterimages in his wake.

Xiao Yunhe, whose attention was on Jiang Jiuli, did not expect Nangong Yutian to be so fast. "Sh*t!"

Nangong Yutian pushed his hand out and struck with his palm.

The palm seal shot toward Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong.

"I'll deal with it." Yu Zhenghai manifested his golden astrolabe and held it in front of him.

Bang!

The golden astrolabe was dented immediately.

“Eldest Senior Brother!” Yu Shangrong was taken aback when he saw this. He hurriedly pushed his palm against Yu Zhenghai’s back as they flew backward at the same time. The enemies were too powerful and beyond what they could deal with for now.

Xiao Yunhe shouted, “Nangong Yutian!”

After Nangong Yutian landed on the ground, he said with a disdainful smile, “Don’t put on airs in front of me. Forgive me for being blunt, but all of you combined are still no match for me...”

“...”

Nangong Yutian advanced step by step toward Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong as he said, “I let both of you live long enough; it’s time to end this...”

Nangong Yutian was about to make a move when a voice rang from the forest behind Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong.

“Are you the one who wants to see me?”

‘Hmm?’ Nangong Yutian raised his head instinctively to look in the direction of the voice. He saw an elder with black hair standing with his hands on his back on Di Jiang.

Everyone’s attention was on Lu Zhou at this moment.

‘He’s here...’ Xiao Yunhe felt relieved.

At this time, Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong straightened their backs before they bowed and said in unison, “Disciple greets master...”

Nangong Yutian frowned slightly. “You’re their master?”

Lu Zhou looked at Nangong Yutian and said, “I asked you a question first...”

Nangong Yutian said, “That’s right. I’m the person who wants to see you, old sir. Your disciples killed someone from my White Tower Council. How should we resolve this matter?”

As soon as Nangong Yutian’s voice fell, Yu Zhenghai said, “Master, Tian Ming tried to kill us and steal our treasure. We were forced to retaliate. I beg for your understanding.”

Nangong Yutian chuckled before he said contemptuously, “A rookie who just formed his Thousand Realms Whirling avatar and a Ten-leaf cultivator. What kind of treasure do you possess that’s worthy of the White Tower Council stealing it? In any case, Tian Ming is dead, and we can’t verify the matters. Do you think you can just say whatever you want?”

Lu Zhou raised his hand and stroked his beard. He asked tonelessly, “Are you saying my disciples are lying?”

“I didn’t say that. You said it yourself, old sir,” Nangong Yutian said.

Lu Zhou shook his head.

“Old sir, it’s only right that your disciples are punished for their wrongdoings. Let me bring them back to the White Tower Council. The council might just spare their lives on your account. Moreover, you’re

welcome to join our White Tower Council. I'm sure we can come to an agreement among ourselves," Nangong Yutian said. He had said these words because he was uncertain of Lu Zhou's cultivation base and Jiang Jiuli's stance. If all of them joined forces to deal with him, it would be troublesome.

"So, you're saying I should listen to you instead of my disciples?" Lu Zhou asked airily.

Nangong Yutian smiled. He lowered his hand and rose into the air before he said to Lu Zhou, "You said it yourself, old sir. I didn't say anything."

"..."

At this moment, Xiao Yunhe said, "Nangong Yutian, why don't you drop this matter today for my sake and Brother Lu's sake? What do you think?"

Nangong Yutian said with a smile, "Alright, I'll let it slide for your sake, for everyone's sake..."

Lu Zhou shook his head. As a transmigrator, he had people who liked putting on airs and pretending to be mysterious the most.

"Who are you putting on airs for? Who's going to die today if not you?"

An enhanced Deadly Strike Card appeared in Lu Zhou's hand.

Nangong Yutian reacted quickly. He manifested his 800-foot avatar immediately in the sky.

"He has broken through again!" Jiang Jiuli said in surprise.

At this moment, Nangong Yutian flashed with his avatar in tow. His speed was incredibly fast.

Lu Zhou, who had activated the power of sight, easily caught all of Nangong Yutian's movements.

A faint smug smile appeared on Nangong Yutian's face as he drew closer and struck with his palm.

Lu Zhou crushed the Deadly Strike Card in just an instant.

Boom!

Two palm seals collided.

The entire place seemed to freeze at this moment.

When Nangong Yutian saw his opponent did not intend to dodge out at all, his expression stiffened. Then, his expression grew worse when he saw his opponent easily dispelling his palm seal as though it was nothing. He was in disbelief; even the Tower Master of the Black Tower Council was forced to retreat by this palm seal previously.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou felt a faint scratching sensation on his palm as though ants were crawling on it. A small vortex churned in his palm before a tidal wave of energy swept out.

Boom!

Nangong Yutian was pushed back immediately. At this moment, the frozen on his face had disappeared, and his eyes were brimming with confusion and disbelief.

The Great Seal of Fearlessness.

A golden palm seal was in front of Nangong Yutian.

“A Buddhist Thousand Realms Whirling cultivator?”

Swoosh!

Nangong Yutian hurriedly flashed 100 meters away.

Alas, the Great Seal of Fearlessness seemed to have eyes and doggedly followed Nangong Yutian as it grew 100 times larger.

Boom!

It landed on Nangong Yutian. He roared as he used his hand to block the Great Seal of Fearlessness. At the same time, his white Thousand Realms Whirling avatar stood behind him, helping him to block the palm seal.

Jiang Jiuli and Xiao Yunhe were shocked. Why was the palm seal so strange?

Meanwhile, Nangong Yutian kept retreating as he tried to destroy the palm seal. To his shock, the palm seal seemed indestructible. The vast power of the palm seal was incredibly shocking.

“Something’s wrong!” With this discovery, he hurriedly flashed 100 meters up in the sky.

Similar to earlier, the palm seal followed Nangong Yutian.

Then, a shocking scene appeared before everyone’s eyes.

The Great Seal of Fearlessness suddenly split into five, forming a pentagonal cage around Nangong Yutian.

“What is this!?”

In just a blink of an eye, the five palm seals closed in mercilessly on Nangong Yutian at lightning speed.

Boom!

A blood-curdling cry resounded in the air as the white Thousand Realms Whirling avatar shrank and shot into Nangong Yutian’s body.

Boom!

The remaining palm seal continued to land on Nangong Yutian one after another.

With each palm strike, the white astrolabe would appear faintly. Each time it appeared, it grew dimmer and dimmer.

“Ding! Destroyed five Birth Charts. Reward: 30,000 merit points.”

Chapter 985: That’s right. I’m Invincible.

Five explosions rang in the air accompanied by dazzling golden fireworks.

Xiao Yunhe knew Lu Zhou was very strong, but this had exceeded his expectations. Lu Zhou had easily beaten the White Tower Council's judge to such a sorry state with just one palm strike. Even the strengths of the Tower Masters of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council were not so exaggerated!

The cultivation world had always respected the strong.

Xiao Yunhe knew this very well. When he was the most powerful person in the world, he was respected by many people. After his Birth Charts were destroyed, even a person like Nangong Yutian dared to act impudently. As the saying went, 'Even a dog would dare to bully an injured tiger'. Seeing Nangong Yutian being beaten into such a sorry state, his heart that had long been immovable stirred. He knew his judgment was right regarding the old man in front of him.

On the other hand, Jiang Jiuli was thoroughly shocked. He thanked the heavens he did not act recklessly earlier.

Meanwhile, Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong were relatively calmer compared to the others. After all, they had seen countless scenes like this before.

At this time, the gray sky was quiet and nothing could be seen. Not even Nangong Yutian's shadow could be seen. Where did he go? Although five of his Birth Charts had been destroyed, he still had another four Birth Charts, which was similar to Lu Zhou now.

Lu Zhou still had the supreme mystic power so he was not worried about not being able to kill Nangong Yutian. However, he was still at a disadvantage in regard to battle experience with the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar.

Lu Zhou looked around after activating the power of hearing. He could hear the rustling of grass and wind within a 100-meter radius.

Thump! Thump! Thump! Thump! Thump!

The heartbeats of everyone present rang in Lu Zhou's ears.

Jiang Jiuli and his men's heartbeats were abnormally fast.

Similarly, Wu Chao's heartbeat was incredibly fast as well. He recalled the time he was chased by Lu Zhou, and his breathing grew chaotic as sweat drenched his back.

In comparison, Xiao Yunhe was relatively calm.

The silence in the ruins was deafening.

At this moment, everyone, including Nangong Yutian, a Nine Chart judge of the White Tower Council, finally understood why Xiao Yunhe was so adamant about protecting Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong.

Lu Zhou ignored the others and flew close to where Nangong Yutian was hiding and listened to the noises around him.

Thump!

Perhaps it was due to the proximity, Lu Zhou heard Nangong Yutian's heartbeat. Although it was just for a fleeting moment, it was enough. He looked at the mountain of rocks in front of him and said, "Do you think you can escape from me?"

Lu Zhou raised his hand again and launched a blue palm seal.

The blue palm seal fell like a meteor toward the mountain of rocks.

Boom!

The rocks flew in the air immediately.

Nangong Yutian let out a muffled groan as he flew back into the sky. At the same time, he held onto the white astrolabe in front of him with both hands. After five of his Birth Charts were destroyed, not only did it grow significantly dimmer, but cracks and dents could be seen on it as well.

Everyone was shocked when they saw Nangong Yutian's astrolabe.

Boom!

The blue palm seal pressed against the astrolabe, further denting it.

After facing Ning Wanqing, Lu Zhou's control of the supreme mystic power had grown even more precise. While the blue palm seal pushed against Nangong Yutian, he seized the chance and launched another palm seal.

Bang!

Nangong Yutian spat out a mouthful of blood before he suddenly vanished in just a flash. It had to be said that it was not without reason that he was a judge of the White Tower Council. He managed to survive the palm seals under extreme circumstances, protect his remaining Birth Charts, and escape in just an instant. This was also part of the combat techniques for Thousand Realms Whirling cultivators; sometimes it was better to suffer injuries to protect one's Birth Charts.

After suffering consecutive attacks from Lu Zhou, Nangong Yutian had no choice but to flee. Lu Zhou was unfathomably strong.

Lu Zhou flew after Nangong Yutian at a low altitude and activated his power of hearing again.

Nangong Yutian had learned from his mistake. This time, there was no sound of heartbeat that could give him away.

Lu Zhou said in a deep voice, "You can hide for a while, but do you think you can hide for a lifetime?"

After losing five Birth Charts, even if Nangong Yutian was highly talented, it was impossible for him to hide for a long time.

Swoosh!

At this moment, the white mystic bird flew up in the sky and let out a shrill cry. Its cry was a kind of sound technique as well.

As soon as the white mystic bird cried out, Nangong Yutian suddenly appeared in the sky and flashed into the distance.

Lu Zhou activated the power from his fourth Birth Chart and chased after Nangong Yutian. With a speed that was not inferior to Nangong Yutian, he caught up to Nangong Yutian and struck with his palm.

Nangong Yutian spun around and used both hands to block the attack.

Bang!

Energy seals from the collision that were thousands of meters long flew out, destroying the rubble in the ruins.

“Do you think you’re invincible?” Nangong Yutian asked with bloodshot eyes. At the same time, a strange light appeared in his hand; it was green and purple at the same time.

A strange color appeared between his palms. It was green and purple at the same time.

Lu Zhou said in a deep voice, “I am invincible.”

At this moment, the golden palm seal that was pressing on Nangong Yutian turned blue. Its strength increased swiftly, and it easily breached Nangong Yutian’s protective energy and landed on him.

With this, Nangong Yutian spat out a mouthful of blood before he fell down from the sky, stirring up a cloud of dust when he landed on the ground.

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

In fact, even if Lu Zhou did not use the supreme mystic power, he could still hold his own against Nangong Yutian. After all, both of them had four Birth Charts now. Most importantly, Lu Zhou was in peak condition while Nangong Yutian was heavily injured.

Currently, Nangong Yutian had three Birth Charts left.

No one dared to move. Even a Nine Chart expert could not fight back against the old man. How strong was the old man exactly? They held their breaths as they watched the scene unfold.

At this time, the white mystic bird that was eager to protect its master shrieked before it shot toward Lu Zhou.

This was one of the reasons why mounts were precious. If one managed to tame and bond with a mount, it was akin to gaining another helper.

Lu Zhou turned around and barked, “Evil creature, you’re courting death!”

Upon seeing this, Xiao Yunhe exclaimed in surprise, “He isn’t bewitched by the illusory sound technique?”

“Tower master, what’s an illusory sound technique?”

“It’s the white mystic bird’s ability. Its cry would temporarily make someone feel as though they’re paralyzed. Under normal circumstances, no matter how strong a cultivator is, they’d still be somewhat affected. This is rather strange...” Xiao Yunhe explained, puzzled.

At this moment, not only was Lu Zhou unaffected, but he was furious. His gaze was fierce and piercing as Unnamed appeared in his hand.

Upon seeing this, Xiao Yunhe was further shocked. "Fusion grade?"

Only those with high positions in the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council would possess a fusion-grade weapon.

The appearance of Unnamed caused everyone to change their views of Lu Zhou again. Just who was this old man? What did the blue palm seals mean? Is there a blue lotus domain?

While everyone watched in a daze, Lu Zhou swung Unnamed and launched an energy sword that was several feet long.

Upon sensing the danger, the white mystic bird tried to escape.

Alas, Lu Zhou used the speed he obtained from Di Jiang and flashed above the white mystic bird before he brought Unnamed down and released another energy sword. This time, the energy sword was shrouded with the karmic fire and imbued with power from the Birth Charts.

"No!" Nangong Yutian's sorrowful and angry roar rang from the ground. The death of the white mystic bird was more painful than having his Birth Charts destroyed.

Lu Zhou did not spare a glance for the mystic bird. He knew without a doubt that it was dead.

Blood from the mystic bird that was cleaved into two rained down on the ground.

"Ding! Killed a mystic bird. Reward: 5,000 merit points."

Lu Zhou felt it was a pity that the mystic bird was not a Birth Chart Beast and he could not harvest its life heart.

At this moment, Xiao Yunhe suddenly called out, "Nangong Yutian, stop! If you beg for mercy, you still have a chance to survive!"

When the dust settled, everyone saw Nangong Yutian who was dressed in a white robe completely drenched in blood. His bloodshot eyes brimmed with anger and hatred as he looked up at Lu Zhou in the sky and said, "Even if I die, I'll make sure you pay the price for it."

Following that, Nangong Yutian suddenly flew toward Lu Zhou like an arrow with a burst of energy. When he clenched his hand, a white ring could be seen on his finger. It was clearly some sort of weapon. After he clenched his hand, his body seemed to undergo a strange transformation. His strength seemed to rise greatly at this moment.

Everyone wondered what was going on as they watched. Nangong Yutian's current strength clearly exceeded that of a Three Chart cultivator at this moment.

Countless white energy fists shot out toward Lu Zhou immediately.

Lu Zhou pressed his hand down. Then, he formed a shield before he manifested his golden astrolabe and held it down.

Lu Zhou was above while Nangong Yutian was attacking from below.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The white energy fists landed on Lu Zhou's astrolabe one after another. The tremendous pushed Lu Zhou back in just an instant.

Chapter 986: Do You Have a Problem?

Creak!

Lu Zhou's astrolabe creaked, showing signs of caving in. His heart skipped a beat. 'What kind of ability is this? Is it the ring?'

Although Nangong Yutian was only left with three Birth Charts, he could still display such strength. As expected of a Nine Chart expert! How could he rise to become a judge of the White Tower Council without any means?

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The energy fists grew stronger and stronger, and the sounds of the collisions were endless. Every time they landed, a golden-white circle would ripple out just like how it was when a nuclear bomb detonated.

Xiao Yunhe said with unconcealed admiration, "Brother Lu is truly skilled and bold. He's only using the strength of a Four Chart cultivator to deal with Nangong Yutian's Hades Ring."

Wu Chao exclaimed in surprise, "That's the Hades Ring?"

Xiao Yunhe said, "It's said that there are two Hades Rings. They were the treasures obtained during the Great Void Expedition. It was said that it was thanks to the Hades Ring that Nangong Yutian rose in ranks so quickly in the White Tower Council. Apparently, the rings can't be measured by grade. They can increase a cultivator's strength greatly for a short time. However, it's said that the downside is one would be in a temporary state of weakness after using them."

Upon hearing this, Wu Chao frowned. "Since the Hades Ring is so powerful, won't Senior Lu be at a disadvantage?"

"Don't worry. Senior Lu is much stronger than we can imagine. Look! He's only using Four Charts to deal with Nangong Yutian. He probably wants to test Nangong Yutian's strength," Xiao Yunhe said confidently.

In the sky, Lu Zhou was pushed back another hundreds of meters. His astrolabe creaked again, and the dent grew deeper and deeper. If this continued, he would lose one Birth Chart.

According to the battle style of the Thousand Realms Whirling, he should withdraw his astrolabe and let the attack fall on him instead to protect his Birth Charts. However, he was rather unwilling...

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Nangong Yutian smiled sinisterly. "Do you dare to do it?" A hint of provocation flashed in his eyes; he was daring Lu Zhou to withdraw his astrolabe. Following that, he laughed arrogantly before he said, "Since you destroyed my Birth Charts, I'll destroy yours as well. You didn't expect this, did you?"

Perhaps, if Nangong Yutian did not say these words, Lu Zhou would have taken the conservation approach. He would have withdrawn his astrolabe and quickly killed Nangong Yutian to preserve his strength and intimidate the blackguards at the same time. However, he changed his mind after listening to Nangong Yutian's words. He said in a deep voice, "How can a mere ant shake a tree?"

The astrolabe in Lu Zhou's hands suddenly disappeared and was replaced by a blue palm seal. Unlike the palm seals before, the blue was close to being dark blue.

Bang!

When the power of supreme mystic power exploded, it easily pressed down the attacks that were coming from below. Just like that, the palm seal easily crushed the countless energy fists, causing the void to ripple.

The gray sky seemed to have become a foil for the dazzling blue palm seal at this moment.

Bang!

At this moment, the blue palm seal landed squarely on Nangong Yutian's chest, causing him to spit out another mouthful of blood.

Lu Zhou did not stop. He unleashed his remaining supreme mystic power without any hesitation.

Bang!

Another palm seal.

Bang!

The second palm seal.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

In the end, Lu Zhou launched five consecutive palm seals that landed accurately on Nangong Yutian's chest.

Boom!

Nangong Yutian smashed into the ruins below.

And yet, Lu Zhou was not down. After launching the blue palm seals, he now continuously launched golden palm seals toward the ground, creating a huge pit.

His golden palm seals that fell like a deck of cards were incredibly dazzling and eye-catching. The transition from the blue palm seals to the golden palm seals was incredibly smooth as well.

The spectators were frozen. Their expressions and their thoughts were all frozen. Nangong Yutian's counterattack with the Hades Ring was nothing but a small interlude that did not affect the outcome in the slightest.

"Ding! Destroyed three Birth Charts. Reward: 18,000 merit points."

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

Just like that, the battle ended. However, Lu Zhou did not let his guard down. Just one judge had pushed him into such a sorry state. What if more judges came or Jiang Liuli and the others attacked? At that time, how was he supposed to deal with them? He had completely depleted his supreme mystic power. Even if he used the Purple Glazed Ceramic now, he still would not have enough supreme mystic power.

Silence returned to the ruins. The air seemed frozen at this moment.

No one dared to speak in fear of disturbing Lu Zhou, who was still hovering in the air. No one knew what he was doing at this moment.

Lu Zhou was thinking at this moment, still wary. Although the system had notified him of Nangong Yutian's death, he had to personally confirm that was the case. After all, he had met Thousand Realms Whirling witchcraft cultivators. At this moment, he did not have much Primal Qi left. He did not hold back and used most of his energy to launch the final golden palm seal.

After a while, Lu Zhou shifted his gaze to Nangong Yutian who had smashed into the ruins and shook his head. At this moment, Nangong Yutian's corpse did not even resemble that of a human. He thought to himself, 'Even a witchcraft cultivator could not revive or control a mess of meat, right?'

Following that, Lu Zhou waved his hand.

A purple-green item flew into his hand from the ruins.

"Ding! Obtained Hades Ring."

"Hades Ring: can increase one's strength and potential significantly for a short time."

Then, Lu Zhou waved his hand and brought a bag that was lying next to the mystic bird's corpse to him. There were three Birth Chart Hearts in the bag: one intermediate life heart and two elementary life hearts.

After Lu Zhou's breathing stabilized, he straightened his back before he placed one hand on his back and stroked his beard with the other. He said indifferently, "How's a mere Nine Chart cultivator worthy of seeing me?"

"..."

Everyone trembled. How did the old man know Nangong Yutian wanted to see him? Was he observing from the dark?

At this moment, Xiao Yunhe stepped forward and cupped his fists together at Lu Zhou. "Brother Lu, we meet again."

Lu Zhou was aware that Xiao Yunhe had been a big help to Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong. "It's you?"

Xiao Yunhe smiled and said, "That's right. I'm Xiao Yunhe."

Lu Zhou nodded. "What are you doing here?"

"There are many Birth Chart Beasts in the Land of Chaos. My brothers and I are trying our luck here," Xiao Yunher replied.

At this moment, Yu Shangrong walked over and bowed. “Master, Eldest Senior Brother and I encountered difficulties twice in a row, and it was all thanks to Tower Master Xiao’s help that we were able to turn the situation around.”

Lu Zhou looked at Xiao Yunhe and said, “Is that so?”

“It’s nothing. It’s not worth mentioning at all,” Xiao Yunhe said. Then, he wondered inwardly, ‘Why isn’t he surprised that his disciple referred to me as Tower Master Xiao?’

Xiao Yunhe was a little discouraged that Lu Zhou did not ask about his past. He was planning to use that as a springboard to speak about his glorious past to improve his image. Otherwise, the disparity between their status was too big.

Alas, Lu Zhou only nodded before he looked at his two disciples and asked, “Are you injured?”

“It’s just a flesh wound. It’s nothing serious.”

Wu Chao quickly said, “This is a poison spike. If senior doesn’t mind, I can treat it.”

“You?” Lu Zhou turned around and looked.

With this look from Lu Zhou, Wu Chao trembled. “Y-y-yes...”

“Alright. Then, I’ll have to trouble you.” Lu Zhou nodded.

Yu Shangrong cupped his fists together at Wu Chao in a gentle manner and said, “Thank you.”

“I-it’s a small matter...” Wu Chao said before he walked to the side.

Yu Shangrong followed Wu Chao to the side to be treated.

Meanwhile, Jiang Jiuli chose to speak up at this moment. Alas, he could barely speak coherently. “I... I...”

Lu Zhou turned around as his eyes glinted sharply. “You have a problem?”

“N-no problem...” Jiang Liuli who was a judge from the Black Tower Council did not have the bearing of a judge at all at this moment.

“Why are you here?” Lu Zhou asked.

Before Jiang Liuli could reply, Xiao Yunhe said, “He’s Jiang Jiuli, one of the four judges of the Black Tower Council. I don’t know what he’s doing here. Maybe he wants to deal with your disciple.”

No one in the world hated the Black Tower Council more than Xiao Yunhe. How could he not seize the opportunity to fan the fire?

Jiang Liuli said indignantly, “Tower Master Xiao, don’t talk nonsense! I’m here for the Birth Chart Beast. Moreover, the White Tower Council were the ones who left the formation flags here. How could I know Senior Lu’s two disciples are here?”

Lu Zhou asked, “Hmm? What Birth Chart Beast?”

“This...” Jiang Jiuli hesitated.

Lu Zhou asked indifferently, "You have a problem."

Despite the similar words, Lu Zhou's earlier words were a question, but now, they had turned into a statement. The change was enough to cause Jiang Jiuli to shiver.

Jiang Jiuli no longer hesitated and hurriedly said, "It's a special Birth Chart Beast from the depths of the Southern Land. It's said to be rather intelligent. There's a rumor that its life heart is suitable for those activating their tenth Birth Chart..."

Lu Zhou turned to Xiao Yunhe. "Xiao Yunhe, is he telling the truth?"

"..."

Naturally, if it were up to Xiao Yunhe, he would rather conceal this matter. After all, he would only gain another competitor by revealing the matter. However, since things had come to this point, he could only say, "It's true. This Birth Chart Beast is a top-tier Birth Chart Beasts. Nangong Yu had nine Birth Charts, therefore, he was very enthusiastic about the Birth Chart Beasts..."

Chapter 987: Intelligent Birth Chart Beasts

Lu Zhou asked, "Aren't Birth Chart Beasts categorized by their strength and size?"

Xiao Yunhe nodded and explained, "That's usually the case for most Birth Chart Beasts. However, this doesn't apply to Birth Chart Beasts with intelligence. They understand humans' cultivation methods, they know how to cheat, they know how to retreat... They can't be grouped together with the other Birth Chart Beasts. They're incredibly precious and rare. Needless to say, many cultivation experts covet them, but it's a pity it's not easy at all to find them..."

Lu Zhou nodded. "So the White Tower Council left the formation flags here to capture that Birth Chart Beast?"

"The people of the white tower set up a formation here in order to take down that life-bound beast?"

Jiang Jiuli said, "To be frank, the alliance between the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council has been broken. Before this, the White Tower Council would not come to the red lotus domain's Southern Kingdom. Since the beginning of this year, the White Tower Council has been thinking of ways and trying to occupy more of the Black Tower Council's territories. The Southern Kingdom is one of the places they're gradually occupying..."

Upon hearing this, Lu Zhou said, "The Black Tower Council's shamelessness really exceeded my imagination. Since when did the red lotus domain and the golden lotus domain become the Black Tower Council's territories?"

"..."

An awkward expression appeared on Jiang Jiuli's face, and he no longer dared to speak.

Lu Zhou asked, "Since you know this place has been occupied by the White Tower Council, why are you so bold as to come here?"

"This..." Jiang Liuli hesitated.

“It seems like you have a problem.”

Jiang Jiuli quickly bowed and said in trepidation. “No, no, I have absolutely no problem! I-I received news that a special Birth Chart Beast will appear here so I came to investigate. I didn’t expect to meet your disciples here. Although I’m a member of the Black Tower Council, there are many things that are out of my control. Even then, I have no intention of harming your disciples. If there’s an ounce of falsehood in my words, I’ll be struck by lightning.”

Lu Zhou stared at Jiang Jiuli for a moment before he asked, “What kind of special Birth Chart Beast is it?”

Jiang Jiuli sighed inwardly. It was obvious that it was impossible to conceal the matter at this point. He said, “This special Birth Chart Beast is called Ying Zhao. I don’t know what it looks like; there aren’t many cultivators who have seen it before. I only came here on a mission by the Black Tower Council. From the information I obtained, this Ying Zhao is indeed intelligent, but currently, its intelligence is that of a ten-year-old child.”

‘The intelligence of a ten-year-old child? This intelligence is rather high for a Birth Chart Beasts...’

“Then how did you know it would appear here?” Lu Zhou grew more and more curious.

In other places where humans lived, it was easy to figure out when a fierce beast of a Birth Chart Beast would appear since Nine-leaf and Ten-leaf cultivators attracted them. However, the Land of Chaos was different. It was almost impossible for one to figure out when a Birth Chart Beast, let alone a special Birth Chart Beast, would appear. How did the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council figure it out?

“This... I don’t know,” Jiang Jiuli said awkwardly.

Xiao Yunhe smiled. “Actually, fierce beasts are similar to humans in certain ways. They have different levels of strength and a hierarchy. Every once in a while, the number of beasts would increase and a war would break out. Humans establish authority through wars, and the beasts are no different. There are beasts that challenge other powerful beasts to improve their strength. Fierce beasts have strong territorial consciousness. However, whenever they are defeated by another fierce beast, their territorial consciousness would disappear. As a result, they would submit to the beast that defeated them. Needless to say, intelligent beasts can only control mid-tier or bottom-tier beasts with no intelligence. Every year, the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council would send people to secretly set up an observation formation to observe the beasts’ numbers...”

Lu Zhou asked curiously, “With the intelligent beasts, won’t the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council be discovered?”

“No matter what, humans are more intelligent. Moreover, the beasts’ number is really too small...” Xiao Yunhe replied.

“Tower Master Xiao is really knowledgeable,” Jiang Jiuli said.

‘Must you state the obvious? I was once the Tower Master of the Black Tower Council, after all.’

“So you’re saying there will be a war between fierce beasts in the chaotic Southern Kingdom?” Lu Zhou raised an eyebrow.

“That’s right. Usually, humans won’t interfere and will just wait to reap the benefits at the end. Moreover, no matter how intelligent the Birth Chart Beasts are, they’re only comparable to children. How can they fight against adults? Ying Zhao had been sighted here before. Therefore, the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council deduced Ying Zhao will show up.”

At this time, Yu Zhenghai who had been silent the entire time said, “Based on your words, it seems like humans have always had the advantage and the beasts are really pitiful...”

“No, they’re equals,” Xiao Yunhe said with a sigh, “In the past, many intelligent fierce beasts had led a high number of attacks on human cities. As you can imagine, many humans were killed and injured. The beasts have the advantage of numbers on their side. They’re everywhere; in the sky, on land, and in the sea. Meanwhile, humans only used their intelligence to plot against each other...”

“...” Upon hearing Xiao Yunhe’s words, Lu Zhou was reminded of Lu Li and Yan Zhenluo.

In fact, whether it was in the cultivation world or modern civilization, the reason humans stood on top of the food chain was their intelligence. There was a saying about how the greatest enemy of humans were humans themselves.

After a while, Lu Zhou said, “I’m very interested in such a Birth Chart Beast.”

Xiao Yunhe and Jiang Jiuli. “...”

“Do you have a problem?”

“N-no...”

Xiao Yunhe and Jiang Liuli smiled. They did not dare to object at all.

At this moment, Wu Chao returned and said, “The treatment has been completed. That poison spike was incredibly sinister. Fortunately, it didn’t escape my notice. All he needs to do is rest, and he’ll fully recover after a month.”

Lu Zhou looked at Yu Shangrong whose shoulder had been wrapped. Indeed. Yu Shangrong looked much better than before. He thought to himself no one would believe that the Ten-leaf Yu Shangrong could deal with a Three Chart Thousand Realms Whirling expert.

Xiao Yunhe seized the chance and said, “Brother Lu, this is Wu Chao whom you chased after previously. Perhaps, you can forgive him since he healed your disciple?”

Wu Chao hurriedly bowed and smiled ingratiatingly.

Lu Zhou glanced at Wu Chao and said, “I’m not an unreasonable person. If someone shows me respect, I’ll return the favor as well...” Then, he brought out one elementary life heart from the bag he obtained from Nangong Yutian and placed it in Xiao Yunhe’s hand before he said, “Both of you deserve this...”

Xiao Yunhe. “...”

Wu Chao. “...”

Seeing the dazed expression on the duo’s face, Lu Zhou asked, puzzled, “Do you dislike it?”

Although Lu Zhou had no use for the elementary life heart, it should be known he had many disciples who needed it. Even if it was just an elementary life heart, it was a treasure everyone in the cultivation world would fight for.

When Xiao Yun snapped back to his senses, he hurriedly said, “No, no, no... This thing is too valuable. I didn’t do much. There’s no need to reward me when I didn’t do much.”

That was probably the biggest lie Xiao Yunhe had ever told in his life. After all, he was once a Twelve Chart expert. Even if he only had seven Birth Charts now, he could still be considered an expert. It was not surprising that he looked down on elementary life hearts. Otherwise, why would he go to so much trouble just to come to the red lotus domain’s Southern Kingdom?

On the contrary, Wu Chao’s expression was slightly unnatural. In fact, the elementary life heart that belonged to a flying beast was rather useful to him. However, since Xiao Yunhe had refused the elementary life heart, what else could he say?

Lu Zhou said insistently, “That won’t do. How can I take back something I’ve given away?”

Seeing Lu Zhou’s determination, Xiao Yunhe no longer refused. “Alright. I’ll accept it then. Thank you.”

Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction. Then, he said, “If you feel bad, you can stay back. After all, I’m very interested in that special Birth Chart Beast...”

Xiao Yunhe. “...”

Xiao Yunhe felt the loss he suffered for this elementary life heart was really too big.

Chapter 988: Determined to Obtain It

Upon seeing Xiao Yunhe’s expression was not quite right, Lu Zhou said, “Seeing that you’re not very willing to stay, I won’t force you. I’ve never been one to force others. You can all leave. I’ll stay here; I’m determined to capture this Birth Chart Beast.”

An embarrassed expression appeared on Xiao Yunhe’s face when he heard Lu Zhou’s words. Then, he said, “Brother Lu, when the time comes, many experts will be here as well. Are you sure you want to go against so many people??”

“I will kill whoever dares to stand in my way.”

“...”

‘Is this... Is this a threat? It’s clearly a threat, right?’

Xiao Yunhe sighed inwardly. He nodded and said, “In that case, I’ll stay with Brother Lu and have a look at the special Birth Chart Beast.”

Wu Chao and the other black-clad cultivators were stunned. However, how could they go against the old man’s wish? Unless they had a death wish, they could not go against his wish at all. Clearly, their Tower Master had no choice as well. However, what were they going to do if the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council sent experts with strength comparable to their Tower Masters? They would not be able to do anything against such experts.

On the other hand, Jiang Jiuli stood at the side like a block of wood.

Lu Zhou turned to look at Jiang Jiuli and asked, "You want to stay as well?"

Jiang Jiuli said, "This junior has been ordered to investigate the matter with the White Tower Council. I have to return to report to the Black Tower Council. I hope old sir will show us mercy and let us leave..."

In fact, Lu Zhou really wanted to teach Jiang Jiuli and his men a lesson. Alas, he had depleted his supreme mystic power. Moreover, he had also used his Deadly Strike Card. If he wanted to kill Jiang Jiuli, who was a judge, he would have to use his Peak Trial Card, and he did not think it was worth it.

Jiang Jiuli was rather quick-witted. He took the initiative to say, "Please rest assured, old sir. When I return, I'll do my best to dissuade my colleagues from coming to the Southern Kingdom. I'll also warn them against opposing you. Before you capture Ying Zhao, I won't return to this place."

Lu Zhou nodded slightly. This person was quite perceptive. The internal strife in the Black Tower Council was very serious so this was also a good chance for him to divide and conquer. Moreover, he had Yan Zhenluo, who was acting as a spy, in the Black Tower Council. If there were any big movements, Yan Zhenluo would surely inform him in advance. After weighing the pros and cons, he asked, "How can I trust your words?"

'Just because you said so, am I supposed to believe you don't covet this special Birth Chart Beast?'

An idea appeared in the quick-witted Jiang Jiuli's mind. He quickly waved his hand and said, "Old sir, we really didn't come here for Yingzhao. This is the evidence."

One of Jiang Jiuli's men stepped forward and opened a bag to reveal its content.

The black bag held nothing but a life heart. It was emitting a faint cyan light, and its energy was incredibly rich. It was clearly an intermediate life heart.

"We fought with a Birth Chart Beast for quite a while to obtain this life heart. If we really came for Ying Zhao, we wouldn't have wasted our strength on it..." Jiang Jiuli gave his all to prove his innocence.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. "I believe in you... That life heart isn't easy to come by. Keep it well."

Jiang Jiuli was overjoyed upon hearing these words. "Thank you for your kind reminder, old sir!"

At the same time, the blackguard next to Jiang Jiuli began to deliberately cough.

Jiang Jiuli, who was about to close the bag, froze immediately. Then, a distressed expression appeared on his face.

Lu Zhou frowned and asked curiously, "Why do you seem unhappy when I'm willing to let you leave?"

Jiang Jiuli forced the ugliest smile in his life as he said, "No, no, no... It... It's just that I feel such a good life heart should be given to old sir." Then, he gritted his teeth and pushed the bag to Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou said, "Give it to me?"

“It’s our first meeting. I hope the old sir won’t disdain this meeting gift.” Jiang Jiuli felt his heart ache as he said these words.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and looked at the bag containing life heart indifferently and said, “Then, I’ll accept it...”

‘You can refuse it...’

When Lu Zhou grabbed the bag, Jiang Jiuli could only let go despite feeling as though his heart was bleeding.

Lu Zhou threw the bag to Yu Shangrong. Including the life hearts that Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai obtained, there were four life hearts now. These should be enough for his disciples to use. He was not interested in these life hearts; he was interested in the life heart of the intelligent Birth Chart Beast.

According to the principle of activating life hearts, the fifth life hearts would improve one’s strength tremendously. The higher the quality of the life heart, the greater the improvement would be. The life hearts he used were indeed a little low quality; just Di Jiang’s life heart alone could beat his other three life hearts. The qualities of life hearts were incredibly important since they would affect one’s strength.

“Thank you, old Sir. It’s getting late so we’ll take our leave now. Farewell,” Jiang Jiuli said.

Lu Zhou did not stop them.

Jiang Jiuli and the blackguards immediately flew north and disappeared.

...

The moment they left the ruins, Jiang Jiuli felt chills run up his spine. His robes were drenched in sweat.

One of the blackguards asked, “Lord Jiang, how should we report to the Black Tower Council?”

“What do you think? We can only report honestly. That person’s cultivation base is much higher than Nangong Yutian. He’s not someone you and I can deal with.”

“The life heart...”

Jiang Jiuli said with a sigh, “Weren’t you the one who coughed to remind me to give it to him so as to not anger him? I have to thank you for that...”

...

After Jiang Jiuli left, Lu Zhou turned to look at Xiao Yunhe and asked, “Is there a place to stay nearby?”

“This place is remote and doesn’t have a place to stay. However, there’s an old city tens of miles east of the capital of the Southern Kingdom. We can clean the place up and make do,” Xiao Yunhe said.

“Let’s head over there then.”

...

Since Lu Zhou was riding on Di Jiang, it was quite relaxing for him. Moreover, no one would know he had used up too much energy as well.

It did not take long before they arrived at a small city in the east. They found a shabby house overrun with weed and vines and decided to clean it up.

In the evening, it was darker than usual due to the strange weather in the Southern Kingdom, lowering the visibility.

“Master, this is the thing you were looking for...” Yu Shangrong respectfully handed the scroll over to his master.

Lu Zhou looked at the familiar Heavenly Writing scroll and praised his disciple, “It’s been hard on you.”

“It’s my duty,” Yu Shangrong replied.

“During this time, focus on healing your injuries. Since your cultivation path is special, no one can give you any advice. Take those life hearts and use them,” Lu Zhou said.

Yu Shangrong nodded. “Thank you, master... I... I seem to have found the trick to...”

“It’s fine that you found a way. There’s no need to publicize it.” Lu Zhou knew about the trick Yu Shangrong spoke of. With so many others present, it was better to say less.

Yu Shangrong understood his master’s meaning and retreated to the side.

Following that, Lu Zhou called out, “Yu Zhenghai.”

“I’m here, master.”

“You’ve successfully formed the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar, and you’re also the first disciple from the Evil Sky Pavilion to do so. From today onward, you’ve completed your apprenticeship...”

Upon hearing these words, Yu Zhenghai fell to his knees immediately. He asked solemnly, “Master, you want to expel me from the sect?”

“How can it be considered as expelling you from the sect. This is an acknowledgment of your strength. I can teach you how to cultivate, but I can’t guard you your entire life,” Lu Zhou said.

Yu Zhenghai shook his head and said, “No, I just want to stay in the Evil Sky Pavilion.”

“Have you never thought of founding a sect?” Lu Zhou sighed.

“...”

Yu Zhenghai said, “I don’t mind being a Sect Master, but I’m not suited to accepting disciples and teaching them. Master, I’m far from being qualified to do that. I want to continue cultivating with you...” After he finished speaking, he kowtowed.

Upon seeing Yu Zhenghai’s determination, Lu Zhou shook his head. He stroked his beard and said, “Forget it. I won’t force you if you’re unwilling.”

After all, there were benefits to Yu Zhenghai staying back, and he would also not suffer loss if Yu Zhenghai left. Therefore, he did not mind if Yu Zhenghai wanted to stay.

At this moment, Xiao Yunhe smiled and said, "I really admire you, Brother Lu. I can see your disciples deeply respect you. I'm really envious."

"Tower Master Xiao, it's getting late. Rest early," Lu Zhou said. Without the supreme mystic power, he did not feel at ease.

An awkward expression appeared on Xiao Yunhe's face as he rose to his feet and said, "Rest well, Brother Lu." After speaking, he turned around and left.

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong left the old house as well.

After everyone left, Lu Zhou looked at the Heavenly Writing scroll and wondered, 'What kind of power will I obtain from this scroll?'

Chapter 989: The 7th Heavenly Writing Power

Since the condition of the abandoned Southern Kingdom was not good, everyone could only make do.

Lu Zhou surveyed his surroundings. Cracks snaked their way everywhere on the wall as the cold wind that carried the stench of dampness, decay, and the excrement of birds and beasts blew in the old house. Amidst the stench, one could smell a hint of the plants growing wild in nature.

Now that night had fallen, a chill permeated the air.

Lu Zhou was naturally not afraid of the cold as a cultivator. He brought out the Heavenly Writing scroll again.

"Ding! Obtained a new scroll of the Heavenly Writing. Would you like to use it?"

"Use."

The scroll in Lu Zhou's hand vanished into spots of lights before they entered his body.

As expected, when he looked at the Heavenly Writing interface, some of the previously unrecognizable scripts had turned into words he recognized.

"From a hundred fragrances of dawn, one can discern Qi and the difference in its viscosity. Even the slightest detail will not be missed. One can detect the smell, from any city or realm, as though one is there."

'What the hell are these?'

Lu Zhou studied the words for quite a while. Apart from these words, he could not understand the words below them.

The content of the earlier scrolls and the newest scroll of the Heavenly Writing had merged, increasing the length and the difficulty. Needless to say, the increased length and difficulty meant that the time it took for him to comprehend it would increase as well.

By now, Lu Zhou could vaguely guess the new Heavenly Writing Power, but without the supreme mystic power, he had no way to verify his guess.

He was not in a hurry to comprehend the new Heavenly Writing scroll. Instead, he looked at his item cards as he muttered to himself, "Since Ying Zhao is a rare intelligent Birth Chart Beasts, if I want to obtain its life heart, I'm afraid just strength alone won't be enough. I need to outsmart it as well..."

Nevertheless, Lu Zhou knew he still needed to increase his strength. The Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council were bound to make an appearance. Since an expert like Nangong Yutian had shown up, who knew how many other experts would show up? He needed to increase his strength to deal with the others.

Merit points: 230,600

After looking at his merit points, he felt he had gained a lot even though he had to use his Deadly Strike Card. He knew it was not good to use the item cards frequently, but he also knew it was not good to keep them for too long. The trick to using them to their maximum potential was by grasping the correct time to use them.

"Hmm, 33,000 merit points..." After mulling over it for a moment, Lu Zhou decided to buy three Deadly Strike Cards. The price hike after that was naturally within his expectations.

Following that, he brought his Synthesis Card out before stacking the four cards together.

"Synthesize."

In just a moment, an enhanced Deadly Strike Card appeared.

Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction. Although the cost was slightly high, it could be useful during critical times. Moreover, with his current cultivation base, he no longer relied on the Deadly Strike Cards as much as he did when he was below the Eight-leaf stage. Therefore, the cost was still acceptable.

Subsequently, he brought out the Hades Ring and studied it for a moment. Through the system, he discovered the ring would not recognize an owner nor did it have a grade. Basically, it was just a tool to temporarily increase the user's strength. With this, he no longer paid attention to it.

He had been obtaining more and more weapons recently. However, since he could easily store them in the system, he did not worry about them at all.

Ordinary cultivators could never hope to possess the treasures he had. It would be considered amazing if they even possessed one or two of the many treasures he had.

Finally, Lu Zhou activated the Purple Glazed Ceramic and began to comprehend the Heavenly Writing. He was slightly looking forward to the next Heavenly Writing Power.

When he entered his meditative state, the scripts from the Heavenly Writing seemed to have come to life. A cool sensation seemed to permeate his body, making him feel very comfortable. At the same time, his body glowed with a faint blue light.

...

Time passed and soon it was dawn.

At this moment, Lu Zhou could clearly smell a strange fragrance. Apart from that, he could smell the soil and the remaining scent of the birds in the air. There were also the smell of trees, the smell of nature, a damp smell... All kinds of smells assaulted his nose.

Stimulated by these smells, Lu Zhou opened his eyes and touched his nose.

“Smell? Are all the Heavenly Writing Powers related to the five senses?”

Lu Zhou wanted to complain. ‘Is this Heavenly Writing Power useful? Moreover, I have Bi An whose sense of smell is amazing. Is it necessary for me to master this skill?’

He sighed and tried to console himself that since Bi An was in the golden lotus domain and he was in the red lotus domain, this new power would come in handy since his other mounts like Di Jiang, Whizard, and Ji Liang did not have this ability.

Following that, Lu Zhou closed his eyes and continued to meditate on the Heavenly Writing.

...

The sky was slowly brightening at this moment. The color of the sky in the east was like the underbelly of a fish.

In a rundown building without a roof.

Yu Zhenghai looked at the sky and sighed. “Second Junior Brother, did I commit any wrongs recently?”

Yu Shangrong, who was hovering half a meter above the ground, opened his eyes and said, “Ever since Eldest Senior Brother returned to the Evil Sky Pavilion, you’ve not committed any wrongs.”

“Then why did master suddenly say that my apprenticeship is completed?” Yu Zhenghai had thought about this matter the entire night, but he still could not figure it out.

“Perhaps, it’s because you’ve formed your Thousand Realms Whirling avatar. After all, he has so many other disciples to worry about. Naturally, there’s also the possibility that it’s because of your past schemes...” Yu Shangrong said with a faint smile on his face.

“...” Yu Zhenghai said, “Among our fellow disciples, is there anyone who didn’t scheme behind master’s back?”

“Ninth Junior Sister and Tenth Junior Sister,” Yu Shangrong replied with a hint of smugness.

“...”

‘I really can’t get along with him!’

Yu Zhenghai sighed and looked at the foggy sky again.

Yu Shangrong said, “Eldest Senior Brother, why bother? It’s not like master forced you to leave. It’s better to stabilize your cultivation base and activate another life heart instead of thinking about useless things. There are two intermediate and two elementary life hearts here; you can choose first.”

“No need. Since you’re able to absorb a life heart’s ability and energy, you can have them,” Yu Zhenghai said, “I just formed the Thousand Realms Whirling avatar so I still need some time to stabilize it. I’m afraid it’s not wise to activate the second Birth Chart in such a short time.”

Yu Zhenghai was also not in a hurry to activate his second Birth Chart after experiencing the pain of activating his first Birth Chart. The pain was akin to being flayed with a knife.

“Four is a little too many for me. This intermediate life heart is beneficial to saber users...”

Yu Zhenghai no longer refused and caught it in his hand. Then, he asked, “Are you confident?”

“Of course.” Yu Shangrong held a life heart that glowed with a faint green light. Then, he manifested his avatar and began to absorb the life heart. Ever since that time he discovered he could absorb life heart and even gain its ability without any bad side effects, he wanted to see what kind of change it would bring. Therefore, he was eager to continue absorbing life hearts.

...

Meanwhile, in the White Tower Council.

News of Nangong Yutian’s shattered life stone shocked the high-ranking officials of the White Tower Council.

A man dressed in a long robe said grimly, “Tower Master, this matter definitely has something to do with the Black Tower Council. We have to act first to seize the advantage. We have to teach them a lesson. Perhaps, we can use their internal strife to our benefit.”

At the head of the table that was dozens of meters long, a woman with long light blue hair that fell to the ground sat unmoving like still water.

At this moment, another person said, “Someone who’s capable of killing Nangong Yutian has to be an expert. It has to be someone from the Black Tower Council.”

Everyone nodded in agreement.

“It’s best to send someone to investigate this matter first. Ying Zhao is about to appear in the red lotus domain’s Southern Kingdom. I don’t think it’s wise for us to fight the Black Tower Council for the Birth Chart Beast this time.”

Someone asked, “Then are we not going to avenge Nangong Yutian?”

“Of course, we’ll avenge him. However, we can take our time; we’re not in a hurry.”

“Tower Master, please make a decision!”

Chapter 990: I’ll Accompany You to the End

Everyone turned to look at the person sitting at the head of the table.

No sadness or joy could be seen on her exquisite face at all. She raised her head before she asked, “Where’s Ning Wanqing?”

“Judge Ning went to the golden lotus domain to investigate the deaths of the whiteguards. He said he’ll be going to the Southern Kingdom as well...”

“Hmm...” The woman glanced at the people around the table before she said, “Bring back Ying Zhao’s life heart no matter what.”

“Understood.”

The woman did not continue speaking. She slowly rose to her feet, revealing her slender figure. Her figure and her long silky blue hair added to her charm. She walked out of the hall that was located in a white tower that was 10,000 feet tall.

The tower was so tall that it pierced through the clouds and into the sky. If one looked down from the very top, the land looked as though they were covered in snow.

...

Three days passed in just a blink of an eye.

The weather was as gloomy as usual in the red lotus domain’s Southern Kingdom. No one knew why the sun was hidden by the gray clouds all year round.

At this time, Lu Zhou had already completely recovered his supreme mystic power.

Suddenly, he smelled a faint fragrance.

“Did my sense of smell really grow so strong?”

He rose to his feet and left the rundown house, following the trail of the fragrance. Soon enough, he saw a few blackguards sitting around a fire, eating and barbecuing. It did not take a genius to figure out that the fragrant came from here.

At this moment, Xiao Yunhe walked over and greeted Lu Zhou. “Brother Lu...”

A sour and rotten smell assaulted Lu Zhou’s nose immediately. ‘How long has it been since he last took a bath? So this is the effect of the seventh Heavenly Writing Power? Heightened sense of smell?’

Initially, Lu Zhou thought this power was incredibly useless, but he was slowly changing his mind when he wondered if he could smell auras and energies as well. In the cultivation world, many people would try to hide their auras to deceive others. However, it was impossible to conceal the smell of auras. He wondered if he could distinguish a person’s cultivation base through smell? Currently, he was not actively using the power of smell, and his sense of smell was just heightened due to the after-effect. Without using the power of smell, everything he smelled was categorized as fragrant or smelly. If he used the power of smell, would he be able to smell auras and energies?

With this, Lu Zhou silently recited the mantra for the new Heavenly Writing Power.

‘From a hundred fragrances of dawn, one can discern Qi and the difference in its viscosity. Even the slightest detail will not be missed. One can detect the smell, from any city or realm, as though one is there.’

In just a blink of an eye, a cooling sensation like that of mint rushed into his nose. Following that, he smelled the fragrance of cold wine from Xiao Yunhe.

'Is this the smell of his cultivation base?'

Every cultivator was unique in the cultivation world. Even if two people learned from the same master and cultivated the same cultivation method, the results would still be different in the end. Therefore, every cultivator's aura was unique as well.

"Brother Lu?" Xiao Yun called out when he saw Lu Zhou lost in his thoughts.

Lu Zhou snapped back to his senses and asked, "Xiao Yunher, you're the former Tower Master of the Black Tower Council?"

Xiao Yunhe was slightly startled. The old man in front of him finally remembered to ask this question! He nodded with a hint of pride as he said, "However, that's all in the past. There's no need to mention it."

"Alright. Then, I won't mention it anymore," Lu Zhou said as he turned around after placing his hands on his back. After all, Xiao Yunhe had lost five Birth Charts; it was not appropriate to rub salt in Xiao Yunhe's wound. He walked away, intending to check Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong's auras.

Xiao Yunhe. "..."

...

Lu Zhou hovered in the air as he looked at Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong.

As he looked at Yu Shangrong's avatar absorbing the life heart, he silently recited the incantations for the new Heavenly Writing Power again.

He smelled something mysterious and indescribably from Yu Shangrong, and his heart skipped a beat. "Is this the smell of the Great Void?"

Lu Zhou wondered what he would discover if he used both the power of smell and the power of sight from the Heavenly Writing at the same time. Previously, he had only used the power of sight to observe Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai from afar; he had never used the power of sight to study them in person.

Lu Zhou did not hesitate and hurriedly recited the mantra for the power of sight. The blue energy that shone in his eyes seemed even more distinct against the gloomy backdrop of the Southern Kingdom.

He noticed that Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai's auras were rather similar with just slight differences.

Yu Shangrong's aura was gentle and elegant like a breeze.

On the other hand, Yu Zhenghai's aura circulated churned tyrannically like a storm.

His two disciples' auras had one thing in common: their auras churned around their bodies in harmony with the heaven and earth's essence in the surroundings. When the heaven and earth's energy flowed into their Dantians' seas of Qi, it fused perfectly with their Primal Qis.

'No wonder so many people covet the Great Void energy.'

Lu Zhou cut off the Heavenly Writing Powers. The only use he could think of the new power for now was for tracking and to distinguish cultivation bases.

He discovered the consumption of supreme mystic power for the power of smell was not as exaggerated compared to the power of sight. This meant he could use the power of smell for a longer time.

...

In the evening.

Yu Shangrong reported to Si Wuya that they were safe and sound, telling him not to worry.

Si Wuya and the people from the Evil Sky Pavilion continued staying in the capital while no one knew where Mingshi Yin was at the moment since he had left for the Southern Kingdom.

...

A month passed in just a blink of an eye.

The tranquility in the Southern Kingdom was finally broken.

Xiao Yunhe and Wu Chao appeared outside the rundown house that Lu Zhou had been staying in at this moment. During the past month, the duo had been busy moving around the area to investigate while the others cultivated.

“Brother Lu, there are movements about a hundred miles southwest of the Southern Kingdom.”

Upon hearing these words, Lu Zhou emerged from the rundown house. “Is it Ying Zhao?”

Wu Chao replied, “I’m not sure if it’s Ying Zhao. I can only confirm that the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council have sent a large number of cultivators here. Apart from that, the people from Great Yuan’s royal court and the Dark and Light Alliance are here as well...”

“Your black lotus domain is sure enthusiastic,” Lu Zhou remarked casually.

“The turnout isn’t surprising since it’s related to Ying Zhao,” Xiao Yunhe said. “To tell you the truth, I also want Ying Zhao’s life heart. After all, it can help me regain my Birth Charts.”

‘Do you think I don’t know you want Ying Zhao’s life heart?’ Despite his thought, Lu Zhou’s expression remained the same as he asked, “It has such miraculous effects?”

“That’s right.” Xiao Yunhe nodded. Then, he said with a sigh, “Initially, I plan to use the conflict between the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council to my advantage and obtain Ying Zhao’s life heart. However... I think it’d be difficult now. Brother Lu, I’m afraid that you and I have no fate with this life heart.”

Lu Zhou nodded. “That’s right. You don’t have fate with the life heart.”

“...”

At this moment, in the distant horizon, cultivators, numbering in the thousands, appeared one after another.

Xiao Yunhe pointed and said, "They're from the Humble White Sect..."

"The Humble White Sect?"

"The white lotus domain isn't like the black lotus domain. The forces in the black lotus domain are divided, and each of them has internal strife. On the other hand, white lotus cultivators are more united. After the White Tower Council, the Humble White Sect has the highest number of members. As its name suggests, the cultivators were mostly born in poverty. Due to the members' similar backgrounds, they're very united. Unfortunately, despite the high number of members, there are very few experts among them. Perhaps, it's due to their humble beginnings. After all, those who were born in privilege would have a head start. The Black Tower Council thinks of them as a rag-tag bunch."

The white figures continued to flash in the sky toward the southwest.

"What other factions are here? Who has the highest cultivation base?" Lu Zhou asked.

Wu Chao shook his head and said, "The judges from the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council must have come as well. A small number of sectless cultivators are probably here as well. Apart from that, a group of red lotus cultivators who don't know the immensity of heaven and earth came as well, but I scared them away. They were really blindly courting death by coming here. As for the person with the highest cultivation base... If the Tower Masters of the Black Tower Council and the White Tower Council come as well, they'll surely have no less than 12 Birth Charts."

Lu Zhou nodded and looked in the southwest direction. "I'm determined to obtain Ying Zhao's life heart. Di Jiang."

Squawk!

Di Jiang ran out of the house and came to a stop in front of Lu Zhou. It lowered its wings respectfully, allowing its master to climb on its back.

At this time, Yu Shangrong and Yu Zhenghai who had heard the commotion rushed over.

"Master."

Lu Zhou glanced at Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong. He discovered Yu Shangrong's aura had gotten much stronger. He asked, "Did you use up all the life hearts?"

Yu Shangrong nodded and was about to apologize when Lu Zhou said, "There's no need for that. The life hearts were meant for your use anyway."

Xiao Yunhe looked at Yu Shangrong in surprise and asked, "You can really absorb the life hearts?"

"It's just luck," Yu Shangrong replied.

"Strange. I've tried this method before, but I can't absorb it." Xiao Yunhe was puzzled.

"Since you have more Birth Charts, it's much more difficult for your Birth Palace to absorb it," Yu Zhenghai said.

"Perhaps." Xiao Yunhe sighed.

Lu Zhou leaped onto Di Jiang's back and looked in the southwest direction before he looked at everyone and said, "The path ahead is fraught with danger. There are many experts. Those who are afraid can choose not to come. I won't force you..."

Yu Zhenghai and Yu Shangrong did not hesitate and flew up into the sky immediately.

Xiao Yunhe said, "Since Brother Lu is determined, I'll accompany you to the end."