

## Refining 461

### Chapter 461A – Rumors and the Equipment Sect's Treasure

Unsurprisingly, when Qin Yu returned to the Dao Arena he didn't see Solitary Westgate. This unsurpassed existence that soared above the highest heavens seemed to be abiding by the words he said before and not troubling himself with him. But, for some reason Qin Yu always felt that Solitary Westgate was paying him extra attention. Luckily he didn't sense any ill intent from this attention. Thus, after thinking about the situation for a long time and not coming up with anything, he pressed this matter into the depths of his heart.

In his training room he looked at the 21 soul treasures in front of him. A look of satisfaction appeared in his eyes. This time, he had really crossed through many twists and turns and the series of dangers he encountered were far beyond his expectation. Fortunately he had already collected over half of the treasures needed for the Soul Summoning Bell to recognize a master. There was still over two months left, so perhaps he really would have enough time to smoothly gather everything he needed.

Before that was completed, he wouldn't go anywhere. Without accident, this would be the last period of time before his identity as 'Qin Yu' would disappear from this world. In the future, he would be like a little beast skulking in the shadows, constantly and diligently growing. Only on the day when he became the king of beasts would he be able to leap onto the mountain summit and roar at the heavens.

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The Immortal Sect existed in the world but it also wasn't located in the world. Only cultivators who were admitted were allowed to freely cross the entrance that linked it with the outside. Otherwise, no matter how much one tried, even if they passed a thousand rivers and mountains, they would not be able to take even half a step inside.

It was a land wrapped in obscurity and mystery. In the hearts of countless people, it was considered the highest and most supreme holy land between the heavens and earth. To those people, this was a land where there were rivers of sweet honey, where mountains were full of fresh and fragrant flowers, where countless immortal techniques and supernatural arts existed, where the transcendent Great Dao to reach immortality existed.

Every cultivator that lived here was a chosen pride of heaven. Each one was blessed by the heavens and earth and they all possessed natural luck and good fortune. Only with all of this could one enter the Immortal Sect to cultivate.

Unfortunately, these were only presumptuous and self-indulgent thoughts, thus they were doomed to be nothing but illusions. For instance, at this time within the great hall, there were Buddhist Nation disciples that were lying on the ground, blood flowing out from every orifice of their heads. They all seemed as innocent as sheep, but not a single person here felt any sympathy or pity towards them.

All around them were Buddhist Nation cultivators wearing plain and simple robes. They all had handsome, kind, and benign expressions and a light smile hung on their faces. Their movements were gentle as they picked up the cultivators splayed across the ground and lifted them away. From beginning to end, there was only a faint indifference in their eyes, eyes that had no emotion at all.

It was like all the peace and serenity they displayed on their faces was nothing but a mask. It made one curious just what was hidden behind those beautiful masks.

The Buddhist Nation Sovereign sat cross-legged on a grand and majestic throne. His figure was enlarged infinitely, making him seem like a Buddha that held up the heavens. The tranquility and dignity exuding from him made one wish to crawl to their knees, kissing the soil beneath his feet in the most pious and reverent manner.

The Nation Sovereign was the sun that illuminated the entire Buddhist Nation. Standing by his side, one could enjoy endless light and warmth.

But at the same time, being burnt by the roaring flames of the sun was also a common matter.

The Nether Domain Master appeared outside this dignified hall of the Buddhist Nation. Numerous Buddhist Nation cultivators fell to their knees and bowed. As he stepped in, he lightly said, "Nation Sovereign, you must maintain your calm. The trembling of your Buddhist heart is a disaster to your Buddhist Nation."

The Buddhist Nation Sovereign had a faint expression. "I waited 100,000 years and the Soul Summoning Bell has finally appeared. I must obtain it no matter what. No one can stop me."

Hum –

Space trembled. The two people were originally in the great hall, but in the blink of an eye there was darkness all around them. Countless stars sparkled around them as if they had entered the endless starry sky.

"Solitary Westgate's will has descended upon Four Seasons City. Unless you are prepared to fight him, it will be impossible to kill Qin Yu." The Nether Domain Master gloomily said.

The Buddhist Nation Sovereign was silent for a long time. He finally said, "If I have no other choice, that is what I will do. There is no need to try and change my mind. You do not fully understand just how vital the Soul Summoning Bell is to me."

The Nether Domain Master's eyes turned even colder. "You are formidable, but I also know that Solitary Westgate has always been the most formidable existence amongst apex powerhouses." His pupils shrank as if he were recalling some horrifying past event. "During that year when Solitary Westgate fought the heavens, it was more than you and I who took action. But what was the result? And in these past years, I can feel that he has been slowly growing stronger."

The Buddhist Nation Sovereign had a calm expression. "And what does it matter? In the end, Solitary Westgate is but a single person."

The Nether Domain Master shook his head. "I won't help you. This will only cause the Immortal Sect to fall into a massive, inescapable whirlpool. Do not forget that our true enemy is the Demonic Path. Those demons of the Demon Region and Yellow Springs will be overjoyed to find out that a great rift has appeared between the Immortal Sect and the Dao Arena."

The Buddhist Nation Sovereign smiled, revealing a happy expression. When he had no expression, he seemed dignified and honorable. And now that he smiled, he was like the sun that warmed the land in

the winter, allowing all things to grow and recover in the spring. “You will help me. If Solitary Westgate finds out about what happened in the past, what do you think will happen?”

Bang –

In the pall of night, countless stars burst out with a luminescent light and starlight scattered into the void. The Nether Domain Master’s cold eyes pierced to the bone. “Nation Sovereign, have you gone insane?”

The Buddhist Nation Sovereign laughed out loud. His billowing voice caused the surrounding stars to shake as if they would crash down from the skies. “To seize your life from the heavens, becoming an apex powerhouse of this world, living an undying immortal life and coexisting with the stars until they are extinguished, what a wonderfully farcical made-up story that is!” He viciously looked up, red blood vessels appeared on the surface of his eyes, “That’s right, I have already gone insane! I have long since become a madman! The Soul Summoning Bell can help me maintain my sanity, and whoever tries to stop me will become my greatest enemy!”

The shaking of the starry skies became increasingly fierce as a destructive aura blotted out the heavens. Just as a horrifying collision was about to occur, the Nether Domain Master lightly sighed and said, “The Soul Summoning Bell has a heaven-defying strength, thus it is loathed and repelled by the world. The dark and unforeseeable workings of the Great Dao will ensure that it will not be easy for anyone to have it recognize a master. Even if Qin Yu obtains it, he won’t have the qualifications to enjoy it. Why must the Buddhist Nation Sovereign be so worried?”

The Buddhist Nation Sovereign had already composed himself, becoming calm and serene once more, as if he were a completely different person from just a moment ago. “I can feel a trace of that dark pull of fate. Qin Yu indeed doesn’t yet have the qualifications to make the Soul Summoning Bell recognize him as master. But once an accident occurs, I will directly take action, even if the heavens will collapse and the earth will be sundered.”

With a sigh, the conversation ended. The starry skies all around vanished from sight and the two reappeared within the great hall. The Buddhist Nation cultivators that had walked outside were still gently smiling. They had no idea that they just took a round trip to death’s door.

The Nether Domain Master turned and left, vanishing in the blink of an eye.

The Buddhist Nation Sovereign kept stroking a string of Buddhist beads on his neck. It was unknown what sort of material these Buddhist beads were made from, but each one had a lifelike Buddha contained within. Some were smiling, some were angry, some were sobbing, and some had gone crazy.

His fingers continued to rub across their surface. Layers of Buddhist light shined on their surface, making one feel the endless majesty and power coming from them. However, no one discovered that beneath the layers of that Buddhist light, countless tiny cracks had appeared on the beads.

“Qin Yu, why won’t you die? Bring all of your pain to an end and enter samsara. That will be the best way for you to return home.

“You should die.

“You must die.”

The Nation Sovereign began to chant, a smile appearing on the corners of his lips once more. Then, light erupted from the Buddhist beads and millions of rays of light burst out from the grand hall, illuminating the entire Buddhist Nation.

At this moment, the trillions of lives living within the Buddhist Nation all fell to their knees. They bathed in the warm Buddhist light and turned towards the mountain that pierced into the highest heavens, reverently praying.

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#### **Chapter 461B – Rumors and the Equipment Sect’s Treasure**

Qin Yu had obtained victory in the end and sent Chu Taidou to hell. This was beyond Ning Rufeng’s expectations, but it left him even more overjoyed. This was because he could see all the hopes of the Ning Family’s rise in Qin Yu.

“You little girl, make sure you grab tightly onto Qin Yu. You must grab onto him no matter the cost! As long as he becomes our Ning Family’s son-in-law, our family will finally be able to stand tall again and become a true noble family of the Demonic Path!”

Ning Liang endured her shyness and asked herself if she really wanted to grab onto Qin Yu. After replying to herself that she did, she half-yielded and half-refused with her grandfather’s arrangements.

It was unknown what Ning Rufeng said to Kang Mingqiao, but amongst the cultivators who helped serve Qin Yu as he refined pills, a young and spirited girl appeared. Her beauty was so soul-stirring and thrilling that several Dao Arena cultivators who normally worked steadily and carefully suddenly made several mistakes one after another.

However, after the steward gathered them together and gave them a few instructions, their eyes no longer lingered on Ning Liang’s body. Even if they felt bitterness in their hearts they could only hide it.

Qin Yu was busy refining pills. When he discovered Ning Liang, over half a month had passed. He was surprised by her presence at first, but after a moment of hesitation he didn’t say anything.

Had already expressed his stance previously. No matter what reason Ning Liang came here for, he wouldn’t repeat himself again, otherwise he really would harm her heart.

He felt a bit helpless inside, but his smile was still warm and gentle. However, he didn’t have much time. After saying some words to her, he turned around and hurried away.

It wasn’t because he was avoiding Ning Liang, but because all of his focus was placed on refining pills. Someone was willing to exchange three soul materials for an eighth-grade saint rank pill. Although he had succeeded in refining the saint rank Dao Inquiring Pill before, this still wasn’t an easy task for Qin Yu. He couldn’t underestimate it at all.

Ning Liang didn’t feel lost. This was because her grandfather had said that if Qin Yu was urgently seeking out soul treasures, he had to have his own reasons. Men needed to prioritize business first; she could understand this, but she still felt regretful that she didn’t have the ability to help him.

As for the space in the jade box, Qin Yu didn’t tell the Ning Family. This was because he didn’t want their hearts to bleed with regret and cause unneeded troubles, creating enmity between the two sides.

Another reason was naturally because he wanted to separate himself from Ning Liang as much as possible and make sure that they didn't mingle anymore. Of course, this was also because he wanted to protect the Ning Family and didn't want them to be drawn into his battle with the Immortal Sect.

Time passed a day at a time. Although Ning Liang only saw Qin Yu occasionally, she could still feel his mood become increasingly worse. Though he smiled at her every time they crossed paths, his smile left a pain in her heart.

Finally, sometime late at night, he walked out from the alchemy room. Qin Yu didn't bustle around anymore but ordered people to prepare wine and food. After washing himself, he took a pot of wine and drank it as he looked up at the full moon above.

Ning Liang hesitated for a long time before she came out from the shadows. She respectfully asked, "Grand Authority Qin, what worries you?"

Qin Yu had long since sensed her presence. He originally didn't want to say anything, but when he saw that face which resembled Ning Ling so much, he said, "You know that I am searching for some treasures right now. But unfortunately, even though I busied myself for almost four months and provoked so many disasters, I will still fall short in the end. That's the reason why my mood isn't too good right now."

Ning Liang bit her lips. "May I ask why Grand Authority Qin is collecting them?"

Qin Yu took a sip of wine and smiled. "I can't tell you the exact reasons, but the approximate situation is that I have some spirit insects that need to use these treasures. Otherwise, a certain strength in their bodies will awaken soon and kill them. To tell you the truth, I am constantly telling myself that the reason I am in such a rush to gather these treasures is because I have spent too much time and energy on these spirit insects. But in reality, I just don't want to give up on them.

"These spirit insects started following me a long time ago. While they don't have much spiritual wisdom, they have saved my life in the past. Moreover, when I see them I also remember some friends that I haven't seen for a long time and might never see again."

He took another sip of wine. He shook his wine and said, "Well, I don't have much time left. I only have four days, but I'm still missing one. Just one more soul treasure."

Ning Liang quickly asked, "What are you missing?" Seeing Qin Yu look at her, her face turned red. "The Ning Family has their own treasure storage and Grandfather also knows many people. Perhaps he can find it."

Qin Yu's heart warmed at her good intentions. "Precelestial wood." He continued to say, "According to the records, it's an extremely dazzling type of wood that possesses the brightest colors and most beautiful textures. It can shine in the darkness and bathe in this light beneath the dark."

Ning Liang tried her best to recall anything about it but finally revealed a lost expression. "I will ask Grandfather to help you find it."

"There isn't enough time. I can sense that the strength in the spirit insects will regain consciousness soon." Qin Yu lay down the pot of wine. "Perhaps they are destined to die."

Ning Liang's eyes shined. "Maybe there is another solution to suppress the strength within the spirit insects in order to allow you more time to search."

Qin Yu shook his head, "I have already tried."

He had tried. The result was that he failed.

Ning Liang knew Qin Yu was an incredibly fierce person, most likely even stronger than what she already knew. However, she hesitated for a long time and finally said, "Does Grand Authority Qin know of the Equipment Sect? I heard Grandfather say that the Equipment Sect has a top treasure they inherited from ancient times and it can suppress all things in the world. Perhaps it can help you."

Qin Yu's eyes brightened. "Equipment Sect?" He muttered beneath his breath. He thought back to the Infinite Realm where he had met two cultivators who stated they came from that sect. They hadn't spoken much, and in fact they didn't even exchange names.

"Central Mountain Nation's Equipment Sect?"

Ning Liang nodded repeatedly. "That's right."

Qin Yu forced a smile. "The Central Mountain Nation is too far away. And right now, I don't have any methods to leave."

Ning Liang waved her hand. "There is no need for you to leave. In the Qin and Zhao Empires, the Equipment Sect is the most famous refining sect. They have a shop in Four Seasons City. I heard Grandfather say that the Equipment Sect's precious treasure has an inestimable strength. It can be projected from a trillion miles away and still have the power to suppress all things."

Qin Yu's heart skipped a beat. If even a projection could earn such a high appraisal from Ning Rufeng, then perhaps the Equipment Sect's most precious treasure really might be able to suppress the Ancestral Monster's undying will.

As soon as this thought appeared, urgency came to his mind. "Miss Ning, may I bother you to quietly inform the old master that I hope I can obtain his help and borrow the Equipment Sect's most precious treasure." Even if it was only the slimmest of chances, Qin Yu still wanted to give it a try. Even if he were to fail, he would rather have given it his greatest effort than regret not having done so in the future.

Ning Liang nodded. "I will go look for Grandfather right now!" Seeing her leave with a look of joy, Qin Yu's eyes flashed with warmth. Then, an apologetic look appeared. But soon all of these fluctuations of emotions calmed down.

"Equipment Sect? Before, I met with some of their disciples. This can also be considered as a connection. I hope they really can help me strive for some more time."

36 soul treasures. Now all he was missing was the precelestial wood. Even if Qin Yu was broad-minded, how could he be willing to fail here?

Ning Rufeng was ecstatic once he heard all of this from Ning Liang. But at the same time, it also gave him a tremendous headache. He indeed knew that the Equipment Sect had a most precious treasure, but this was told to him by a drunken Elder of the Equipment Sect. And once that Elder sobered up, he nearly flipped the table in anger. Ning Rufeng had been forced to swear a vow that he wouldn't reveal

anything at all. It was only because of their many years of friendship together that this Elder just barely believed him.

It was just that many years ago when Ning Liang had an outbreak of her cold poison, he had thoughtlessly told her this story in hopes of relaxing her mind and easing her pain. Who knew that this little girl would remember everything he said so clearly? And even tell Qin Yu about it?

Ning Rufeng knew that Qin Yu was growing increasingly dazzling. Although his granddaughter was beautiful, the Ning Family indeed didn't have any heavyweight advantages on their side. As for them being a noble family of the Demonic Path? Hum, if Qin Yu wanted, a powerful Demonic Path noble family, or even a Demonic Path Elder would be willing to give their most beautiful and beloved daughter to him.

From Ning Liang's words, it wasn't hard to see just how much Qin Yu valued his spirit insects. If the Ning Family could help him avoid losing them, this would be a considerable favor. It might help that little brat Ning Liang move Qin Yu's heart.

Clenching his teeth, Ning Rufeng resolved his heart. "Fine! You bratty little girl, since you already told Qin Yu about this, then I will go to the Equipment Sect's shop in Four Seasons City with him tomorrow. Even if I must be shameless, I will still ask to borrow this treasure for him!"

#### **Chapter 462 – Refusal**

In order to avoid any unnecessary troubles, Qin Yu dressed back up in his hooded black robes and quietly left the Dao Arena to meet with Ning Rufeng and Ning Liang.

"Old master Ning, I'll have to trouble you!"

Ning Rufeng smiled with a carefree expression. "Grand Authority Qin, there is no need to speak so seriously. You saved this little brat's life and my Ning Family will always remember this. If we can help you even just a little bit, we would be overjoyed." He paused for a moment, revealing a bit of hesitation as if he wanted to say something.

Qin Yu cupped his hands together. "It is already a great favor that old master Ning was able to provide this information to me. I do not dare to ask for anything more than that. If we can borrow the treasure today then that would be for the best, but even if we can't I will have no complaints at all."

Ning Rufeng had an embarrassed expression but he actually let out a long breath inside. "Thank you for the understanding, Grand Authority Qin. It is just that the Equipment Sect has always kept this treasure tightly hidden so even I don't have full faith in convincing them. But don't worry, I will do my best."

After tossing around for a night and considering the situation, Ning Rufeng felt that he should warn Qin Yu in advance and have him be psychologically prepared for anything to happen. If they didn't succeed in borrowing the treasure, he didn't want to deal with any complaints that might occur.

Qin Yu's response left him feeling much more at ease.

They didn't speak much further. The three boarded the Ning Family's speedcar and after a brief wait, they soared straight towards the Equipment Sect's shop in Four Seasons City. Ning Rufeng was someone who gained wisdom and skills with age. Even if Ning Liang lowered her head and didn't speak, he kept

the atmosphere in the car peaceful and harmonious. As for Qin Yu, even though he wasn't in the mood to talk much, he didn't feel bothered either.

Sometime later, the speedcar came to a stop. They stepped out and came face to face with the opulent display of wealth that was the front of the shop. An atmosphere of mind-boggling wealth rushed out at them.

Ning Rufeng laughed. "The Equipment Sect is growing more and more these days. Their coffers are full of profits and their influence is spreading. I heard they are making preparations to expand into the Yan and Qi Empires."

Qin Yu's eyes flashed. "As long as the Equipment Sect agrees to loan me the treasure, I will give them a satisfactory reward." He could naturally hear the reminder in Ning Rufeng's voice.

Ning Rufeng praised inwardly. Qin Yu really was an intelligent young man. The Ning Family could help him build bridges and connect to others, even speaking out on his behalf, but the reward would have to come from Qin Yu. Otherwise if the Ning Family did everything, that would be the same as openly trying to curry his favor. If that were to happen, how could Ning Liang have the face to stand in front of him?

"Let's wait a moment before we start talking. It won't be too late to propose our request after we see the person in charge." Ning Rufeng apologetically smiled. He was the first to head into Equipment Pagoda.

Yes, that was right, the Equipment Sect's shop was called Equipment Pagoda. Although this wasn't a new or fresh idea, the momentum behind it wasn't too bad.

Ning Liang carefully followed behind. Qin Yu paused briefly and the two started walking side-by-side. He turned his head and heard her apologetically say, "Grand Authority Qin, I really am sorry. I had no idea that my grandfather might not be able to borrow the treasure." She was well aware how much Qin Yu valued those spirit insects. To give him hope in a hopeless situation and then proceed to take that hope away, this in itself was a great blow.

Qin Yu laughed. "The Ning Family is already helping me. Do you think I would start hating all of you just because I can't borrow a single treasure? In Miss Ning's eyes, am I really such a petty and miserable person?"

Ning Liang was flustered. Just as she prepared to explain, she saw Qin Yu smile and point towards the signboard of Equipment Pagoda. She immediately closed her mouth. She knew that Qin Yu wasn't angry and he was just joking around, but she still felt a little sad in her heart. The Ning Family really didn't seem to have any method to help Qin Yu. She hoped that her grandfather would be able to smoothly help Qin Yu borrow that treasure today.

As the retired Patriarch of the Ning Family as well as someone who had experienced the most glorious years of the Ning Family in the past, once he tightened up his demeanor and lifted his head, his aura and momentum were considerable.

While Equipment Pagoda had a considerable background, since they were open for business they naturally had to follow the supreme rule of 'customer is king'. A young greeter who was proficient in observing the moods of others had already walked up with a bright smile plastered on his face.

“Honored guests, your arrival truly brings glory to my Equipment Pagoda. Please, take a seat and rest first. The shop recently received a new batch of tea and I will immediately bring it out to serve our honored guests.”

These words were as pleasant as a spring breeze. It was clear that the reason Equipment Pagoda was thriving prosperously was not just because their refining skills passed the standard but also because their management skills and customer service was impeccable.

Ning Rufeng smiled. He turned his hand and took out a token. “I have a large business deal I want to make. It’s best if I can discuss this with the manager of the shop. May I ask which sect Elder is currently on rotation in Four Seasons City?”

As the young greeter saw the token, his smile brightened even further. He bowed once more, even deeper this time, and respectfully said, “So honored guest already has a history with us. Forgive me for my blindness. Right now, the one in charge of this shop is Elder Muli. Honored guests, please wait in the VIP lounge first; I will immediately pass on the message for you.”

After putting away the token, Ning Rufeng smiled and nodded. But, his heart began to race. It just so happened that he had unfortunately heard some rumors about this Elder Muli before. He was known for being a rigid and stodgy old bastard who was stubborn beyond compare. To run into him today...he feared that even before speaking, the difficulty had suddenly risen by over 30%.

The young greeter led the way. They passed through a brightly lit hall. Soon, several crystal boxes hanging from the ceiling attracted Qin Yu’s eyes.

Ning Liang looked over and cried out loud, acclaim filling her eyes.

Each crystal box had a different shape. They were carefully polished and crafted with a variety of angles and edges. Beneath the lights, they reflect a dazzling radiance. But, the most eye-catching thing about them was the scales quietly lying within the crystal boxes.

Each scale had countless runes cut into its surface, and these runes seemed to constantly flow across the surface as if they had a life of their own. Even though the crystal boxes isolated out all aura, just looking at the scales made one’s spirits feel suppressed. It was like a terrifying monster had appeared in front of them and was roaring into the skies.

Ning Rufeng’s eyes brightened. “What great treasures!”

The young greeter stopped and looked up at the crystal boxes. His face revealed a look of pride. He smiled and said, “Honored guests have good eyes. Our sect spent an inconceivable amount of time and resources to slay a terrifying great monster and seize its scales for use in refining. Every single piece is no trifling matter. After stimulating them, they can even resist the strike of an almighty being. But, the scales of such a great monster cannot be sought, only encountered through fate. Even in the entire sect there aren’t many of them. The scales have been distributed to all of the various Equipment Pagodas and displayed as an example of the sect’s skills and also to serve to stabilize the shop. Unfortunately, they cannot be sold to the outside.” His voice was apologetic and sincere.

He had spoken these words countless times already and had already memorized them to perfection. Anyone would believe him just by hearing him. As for when he said that they had a good eye...that was

just nonsensical flattery. The treasures were hung up in the air and were obvious for everyone to see. As long as one wasn't an idiot they would naturally take a look!

Ning Rufeng shook his head. "What a pity. If there were enough scales, then if you refined a complete armor set it could be called a most precious treasure." He no longer spoke and continued walking forwards.

Ning Liang's eyes sparkled like stars. She didn't care about the power of the scales. What drew her in were the beautiful and intricate runes on their surface.

As her grandfather said, if one could refine a complete set of armor from those scales, they would definitely become the most dazzling treasure in the world.

Qin Yu turned and glanced at the crystal boxes a few more times. Though the black robe covered his face, he wasn't afraid of being seen. There was a strange look on his face.

Equipment Pagoda's VIP lounge was completely worthy of being called VIP. Every single inch was full of luxury. Not mentioning anything else, just sitting down on the soft sofa that felt as if it would swallow you was something worth talking about.

The leather for the sofa was made out of snow sheepskin. This sort of spirit sheep was found in snowy mountains. Not only was there fur and skin pure white and flawless, but the leather made from it was also as white as snow. After careful refining, the pores of the skin naturally shrunk and connected together, forming a kaleidoscope of beautiful patterns. Every single piece was extremely valuable.

As for the sofa filling, after taking in a deep breath of the faint fragrance that drifted out, one could tell that it was made from the most delicate down of the red finch. This spirit bird ate crabapples as its main source of food. Crabapples were sour and difficult to eat, but after being eaten by these spirit birds, they would release a fragrance that calmed the mind and relaxed the senses. Only red finches that lived for over a hundred years would have delicate down feathers that would constantly release this fragrance and be considered of sufficient quality to be used as sofa filling.

Making these several sofas would have taken several snow sheep and hundreds of red finches. Converted to spirit stones, this was no minor number.

Ning Rufeng sat on a sofa and lightly coughed. Even more helplessness was revealed in his eyes. While he knew Qin Yu was filthy rich, what the Equipment Sect didn't lack was money. Today, it would not be an easy task to borrow the treasure. He would probably need to be shameless and brazen about the entire ordeal.

Cough cough. Old friend, oh old friend, it isn't that I'm someone who can't keep his word, but this involves the future happiness of my precious granddaughter! I can only apologize to you!

It took Elder Muli a moment to arrive. After he did, he dove straight into the main subject. "I heard that honored guests have arrived. I wonder what requests you have? My Equipment Pagoda will do our best to meet your needs."

Old master Ning immediately squeezed out the most charming smile he could. He said, "I am Ning Rufeng, the master of the Ning Family, a noble family within the Demonic Path. Today, I took the liberty to come here and disturb Elder Muli because there is indeed a bold request I would like to make."

Elder Muli's eyes hardened with a bit of wariness. "Honored guest, please speak."

A noble family of the Demonic Path...only those that accomplished great merits for the Demonic Path would be given such a title. They were highly respected in the Demonic Path. To a certain degree, the Equipment Sect needed to rely upon the good grace of the Demonic Path. Since Ning Rufeng immediately identified himself as such upon first meeting, they naturally needed to maintain a certain level of respect around him.

Ning Rufeng's smile became blinding. "I heard that you have a most precious treasure in your sect that can suppress all things in the world. I have a good friend who is raising spirit insects and for certain reasons needs to borrow your most precious treasure. Of course, to express how deeply sincere we are, we are willing to pay your sect an equally rich reward."

Elder Muli's face immediately darkened. The cold gaze in his eyes caused Ning Rufeng's smiling face to stiffen. "I have no idea where honored guests heard such rumors, but they are all lies. There is no such precious treasure in my Equipment Sect." He stood up. "If there is nothing else, I have other important matters to attend to, so I won't stay any longer."

He turned to leave.

Ning Rufeng's complexion changed. He never thought that this person would have such a fierce reaction. Hey, it would be fine if you said that you wouldn't lend it to us, but what do you mean by directly stating that it doesn't exist? How am I supposed to explain things to Qin Yu?

"Elder Muli, please wait a moment. I really only wish to borrow it, I have no other intentions in mind. I ask that Elder Muli please try to accommodate us."

Muli coldly coughed. "I already clearly stated that no such treasure exists, so no such treasure exists. If you three insist on creating a scene, then don't blame my Equipment Pagoda for kicking you out!"

This was already the peak of impoliteness!

Ning Rufeng clenched his teeth, "I am old friends with Elder Hai Mingwei!"

Muli paused. He turned and looked over, his eyebrows furrowing deeper and deeper. "Hai Mingwei..." He clenched his teeth and glared for a long time before violently flicking his sleeves and leaving. His voice echoed back from afar. "Three honored guests, please wait a moment. I will soon return!"

"Aiya!" Ning Rufeng heaved a deep sigh and sat back on the sofa. His wrinkles instantly deepened, making him seem as if he had aged a great deal.

Ning Liang had a worried expression. "Grandfather, are you alright?"

Ning Rufeng shook his head. He looked at Qin Yu and weakly forced out a smile. "Grand Authority Qin, there is no need for you to worry. I have been old friends with Hai Mingwei for many years and with him speaking on our behalf, we can surely borrow that most precious treasure." He paused for several breaths of time and then sighed repeatedly. "It was just that I had to betray my old friend today. For the rest of my life I will be wracked with guilt and I will never be able to overcome my shame and see him again!"

Ning Liang's eyes were wet with tears. She took Ning Rufeng's thin and spotted palm in her own and held onto him tightly. Her heart was filled with guilt.

In the end, her grandfather had done this all for her! Thinking of this, she couldn't hold back her tears any longer and they started to drip down her cheeks.

Ning Rufeng loudly acclaimed in his heart. Yes, now this is grandfather's good little granddaughter! This follow-up attack is wonderful; it will surely be able to touch Qin Yu's heart!

Hey brat, open your eyes and see how good our Ning Family is towards you! If you don't treat my granddaughter a little better, will you be able to sleep at night?

Qin Yu had a solemn look, but he was actually feeling quite helpless inside. He faintly guessed that the reason Ning Liang still hadn't given up on him yet was largely in part thanks to this old master Ning. Still, did you really need to make the play develop in this direction?

From old master Ning's performance, he clearly knew that the Equipment Sect kept this treasure of theirs a highly confidential secret. Since he came to their door to ask to borrow it, how could he not tell them how he had learnt of it?

Thus, it was obvious that before Ning Rufeng came today, he had already expected this outcome. As for why he seemed so sad and sorrowful...it was clearly to help Ning Liang. He wanted to show him just how much the Ning Family valued him in order to touch his heart.

Of course, there was certainly some guilt towards his old friend, but this should only be a tiny part of it.

But even though he saw through all of this, Qin Yu could only keep a stoic expression plastered on his face and not reveal any change of emotion at all. Otherwise, if this silly girl Ning Liang were to misunderstand anything else, he feared it would only hurt her heart that much more. Moreover, no matter what was on his mind right now, it was an indisputable fact that Ning Rufeng had sold out his old friend.

Since he had received the graciousness of others, why keep haggling over things so much? So after reconsidering it, he put on a very moved expression and conveyed his thanks to old master Ning once more.

"My Ning Family owes Grand Authority Qin such a deep debt, what does it matter that I must break my bones in order to repay you? As long as my granddaughter can live happily in the future, I will be satisfied."

Hey, this reminder was a little too blunt!

Qin Yu couldn't help but cough and not speak any further. Otherwise, who knew what direction this wise old man would lead the conversation in?

Ning Liang's face blushed red and she angrily huffed, "Grandfather, what did you say?" Her eyes swept over Qin Yu. Only when she saw that he didn't reveal any unhappiness did she relax a little.

Ning Rufeng's complexion didn't change. For wizened old characters like him, the thickness of their skin was proportional to their age. "Hah, I have grown too old and it's hard for me to control my emotions as an elderly folk. I spoke nonsense just now and I hope Grand Authority Qin doesn't mind."

Qin Yu smiled and shook his head, not adding a single word.

Seeing that Qin Yu didn't want to keep entangling himself in this conversation, Ning Rufeng pressed his lips together. Ning Liang hurriedly picked up a cup of tea and passed it to him in fear that he would continue and say something embarrassing.

How could grandfather say something like this? Wouldn't Qin Yu think I was trying to borrow this matter to make some request of him?

Ning Rufeng stuck out his tongue as he was burned by the hot tea. He put down the teacup and couldn't help but glare at Ning Liang. You blind little hooligan, who do you think I am speaking nonsense for? And you dare to use such a cruel method against me!

"Aiya, I'm just too old. I have no idea where I make mistakes and when I start annoying people..."

Before he finished speaking, he was interrupted by a cold sneer, "Since you already know you are old, why don't you slit your neck and finish yourself off. Why do you keep on living to harm others and yourself!"

Upon saying these words, the anger in the tone of voice became evident for all, like a vivid painting come to life.

Ning Rufeng widened his eyes and started sputtering as if he had seen a ghost. He immediately jumped up from the sofa and twisted around. His actions were nimble and flexible, without any of the weakness and old age he had been complaining about just before.

### **Chapter 463 – Glad to Endure the Threat**

In this world, one of the most embarrassing things was to sell someone out and then have that person suddenly appear right in front of you.

Ning Rufeng was now experiencing this embarrassment. Even though he had wizened with age and had facial skin thicker than an elephant's and tougher than bark, he still couldn't help but flush red. After sputtering and laughing for a long time, he barely managed to squeeze out, "Elder Hai Mingwei, it's been a long time since we've seen each other, haha...haha..."

Standing beside Elder Muli who had now returned was a middle-aged cultivator who looked to be around 40 years of age. His skin was fair and clear and his loose blue robes gave him a scholarly air. But at this time, this person was clenching his teeth and his anger completely destroyed his elegant demeanor. "Surname Ning, since we haven't seen each other for such a long time, how come you haven't died yet?"

Ning Rufeng shrunk his neck like a turtle, his laughing even uglier than his crying. Luckily, the cold-as-a-block-of-ice Elder Muli helped break through the impasse. "Elder Hai Mingwei, it seems that this person was right. You were the one to tell him about the sect treasure!"

Hai Mingwei heaved a deep sigh. "It was an accident that originated from drinking too much a long time ago. And it just so happened that I was drinking with someone who apparently cannot keep his promises. Elder Muli, please rest assured that I will give the sect an explanation for this."

Muli coldly swept his eyes over everyone. At this time, Qin Yu could clearly feel a faint bloodthirst from him. He couldn't help but frown. Luckily, this feeling disappeared as quickly as it came and Muli left in a huff of anger. "I will allow Elder Hai Mingwei to deal with this matter. I am leaving first!"

Bang –

The door to the VIP lounge slammed shut and the ringing echoes continued reverberating for a long time.

Hai Mingwei took out a white sphere from his chest. It was unknown what material this object was made of, but when he released it from his hands it stayed hovering in the air. At the same time a strange fluctuation spread outwards.

Qin Yu raised an eyebrow. The effect of this sphere was similar to the Ninth Province's concealing effect; it had the ability to completely isolate the auras from the inside and outside. Did this Elder Hai Mingwei want to kill them to silence any possible witnesses? Although Qin Yu didn't think this possibility was too large, he still prepared himself to react at any moment.

"Old cousin!" With a sudden happy cry, Qin Yu was left frozen. He turned around in a stunned silence and watched as a wild joy came across Ning Rufeng's face. Then, he watched as Ning Rufeng tossed himself at Hai Mingwei, only to be greeted by a ruthless kick to the chest.

Bang –

With a loud sound that left a tingle creeping up one's scalp, Ning Rufeng flew back at an even faster speed. He smashed through one of the incomparably luxurious sofas and rolled seven or eight times on the ground before he slammed into a wall. The entire VIP lounge seemed to tremble.

Ning Rufeng crawled back up from the ground and rubbed his hands together, not paying attention to the giant footprint on his chest. He smiled brightly and said, "After so many years, old cousin's temper is still as hot-headed as before. Today there are juniors present, so you can at least pay attention to your own status and leave some face for me."

After that hard kick, Hai Mingwei's complexion looked much better than before. He glanced over Ning Liang and Qin Yu and coldly snorted, scolding, "You pig, if it weren't for me giving you three points of face because of these juniors I would have already trampled you into the ground! Didn't you make a promise to me in the past? You swore an oath and said that you absolutely would never reveal this, and that if you broke that promise...ugh, whatever, your children are already grown and you even have a granddaughter now! Do you think you don't need that thing between your legs anymore?"

Ning Rufeng awkwardly smiled. "Old cousin, you are laughing at me. I really had no other choice today. If you are still upset, then come and kick me a few more times." As he spoke he raised his head and thrust out his chest in a sacrificial and heroic pose.

Qin Yu blinked his eyes, not sure just what was going on. He glanced at Ning Liang and saw that she was also stunned. It was clear she was also confused about the sudden turn of events.

"Screw off!" Hai Mingwei shouted.

Ning Rufeng wasn't angry at all. He smiled and explained, "Elder Hai Mingwei has some relations with the Ning Family. Actually, he should be called my younger cousin. We knew each other when we were children, but because of certain reasons it wasn't convenient for us to have our relationship known. Thus, even within the Ning Family only a few people know about this." He waved his hand, "Little girl, come and bow to your granduncle."

Ning Liang respectfully bowed. "Ning Liang greets granduncle."

A smile finally appeared on Hai Mingwei's face. "This girl Liang'er is much more beautiful than the rumors say. I wonder just which young genius will be so lucky as to marry you in the future." As he spoke he took out a seven-colored ribbon and handed it to her. "This is something I just refined; accept it."

Ning Liang shook her head. "Today's matters drew granduncle in so we have already been disrespectful. I am too ashamed to receive your generous gift. However, the Equipment Sect's treasure is very important to us. I ask that granduncle help us!"

Hai Mingwei said, "Since I gave you this gift, I cannot take it back. Even if you don't want it, I also cannot help you in this matter." He hesitated and said, "Something happened in the sect recently, and just when the situation was tense you all managed to jump out from the bushes."

Ning Rufeng's complexion changed. "Old cousin, what do you mean?"

"Humph! Do you really think that just revealing you are a noble family of the Demonic Path is enough to frighten others? If it weren't for the fact that I said I would be willing to take on full responsibility for this matter, you think you would still be standing here right now?" Hai Mingwei sneered, "Since I am implicated in this matter, if I am found out, even if I don't lose my position as Elder I will still be held down for a few dozen years. I won't be able to go anywhere during that time period."

Ning Rufeng's complexion changed. "Are things really that serious?"

Hai Mingwei said, "What advantage is there in lying to you? Do you think I care about your gratitude? If possible, I would rather hope that we don't meet again in the future!" His face was full of indignation. "Through all these years, every time I see you I'm always in for a round of bad luck. This is the only thing you have never failed me in!"

Ning Rufeng was silent for several breaths of time. He cupped his hands together and said, "I was in the wrong. I thought that because you had a relatively high status in the Equipment Sect you wouldn't be affected..."

Hai Mingwei coldly laughed. "Stop speaking nonsense. While I haven't really suffered yet, go and take these juniors and get as far away as you can. I need to find a way to conceal all of this."

As he spoke, he glanced at Qin Yu. He was completely covered in black robes so it was impossible to see what he looked like. However, even though Ning Liang had been respectful and bowed to him after he arrived, this person hadn't moved at all. And Ning Rufeng clearly placed this black-robed figure in high regard, so this must mean that they possessed considerable status.

But at this time, Elder Hai Mingwei really wasn't in the mood to ask about the status of this black-robed person. He just wanted to send this unlucky star away.

Ning Rufeng's lips moved but in the end he didn't say much. He turned and said, "Let's leave." He had already tried his best and had even dragged Hai Mingwei beneath the waters with him. But with things having come this far, there was no way to turn things back.

Ning Liang seemed to want to say something, but she was interrupted by a look from Ning Rufeng. She bit her lips and accepted the seven-colored ribbon that Hai Mingwei gave to her, an apologetic look on her face.

Qin Yu smiled and walked forwards. He cupped his hands together, "Greetings, Elder Hai Mingwei."

A look of surprise flashed across Ning Rufeng's eyes. With Qin Yu's intelligence, he should clearly understand the current situation, so why didn't he give up already? Were those spirit insects really that important to him? Or did he have something else that he could rely on? As he thought about the attitudes of Muli and Hai Mingwei, he silently shook his head and put down the second possibility. In this current situation, it would be almost impossible to borrow the Equipment Sect's most precious treasure!

Hai Mingwei had a desolate expression. "Fellow daoist, if you want to borrow the treasure, there is no need to say anything more. But, I have some words of advice for you. You shouldn't tell anyone else about what you know, otherwise even if you are Ning Rufeng's guest, you will still encounter great trouble!"

Qin Yu smiled. "Elder Hai, don't worry, I am not asking to borrow the treasure, there was just something I wanted to inquire about."

"Speak."

"May I ask Elder about the treasures contained in the crystal boxes that are hanging in the pagoda...?"

Hai Mingwei's expression turned even colder. "I'm sorry, but we do not sell the treasures that stabilize the fortune of the shop!" This matter was explicitly explained to every cultivator that entered Equipment Pagoda. How could this black-robed person not know? To randomly grab for a topic and try a roundabout way to borrow the sect's treasure, he really hated actions like these.

Qin Yu calmly said, "It's fine. I just thought that those scales look very familiar so I was hoping that Elder Hai could appraise something for me. Since Elder Hai is not interested, there is no need to speak any further." He stood up, "Old master Ning, Miss Ning, let's leave."

"Hold on!" Hai Mingwei's eyes shined. "Young man, you said that those scales look familiar, could it be that you have some?"

Qin Yu nodded, his manner natural and confident.

Hai Mingwei coughed a little. "Young man, you are a guest that Ning Rufeng brought here, so while our Equipment Sect has indeed refused to allow you to borrow our treasure, we aren't completely unreasonable. I will make an exception today and give you a free appraisal this one time."

Qin Yu was actually a bit hesitant. He scratched his head a little and then said, "It doesn't matter. Elder Hai's time must be precious. I don't wish to disturb you any further."

As he spoke he turned to leave.

Hai Mingwei became increasingly bothered. He couldn't help but ruthlessly glare at Ning Rufeng. Hey, if you just keep watching from the sidelines, I'll make sure you suffer even more later on!

Ning Rufeng loudly coughed. "...since Elder Hai has spoken, just let him help you make an appraisal. He can also be considered an authority in this topic."

He almost called out Qin Yu's name. Fortunately he had changed his words at the last moment to make things a bit more vague and ambiguous. Hai Mingwei was fully focused on the scales that Qin Yu was speaking of so he didn't pay any attention to this. At this time, Hai Mingwei's hands were folded behind his back with the posture of a supreme expert.

Qin Yu hesitated and then nodded. "Alright. I will have to trouble Elder Hai."

He flipped his hand and three grinding pan-sized scales crashed directly onto the ground. Hai Mingwei was given a fright, but as his eyes fell on these three scales, it was like he had taken root in the ground and could no longer look away.

But, the excitement only lasted for a moment before he composed himself. He furrowed his eyebrows and squatted down on the floor, feeling the traces of the scales with his hands. The corners of his lips curled. "These only look similar. The aura of these scales is average at best; the quality is far from comparable with the treasures of my sect. At most they can be considered low-grade materials."

Qin Yu muttered, "Oh."

Clang –

Clang –

Clang –

He casually tossed three more scales on the ground. "Elder Hai, please take a look at these." Compared to the first three that had broken corners, these scales were fully intact and there was a much greater luster on their surface.

Hai Mingwei's heart trembled and his stiff exterior almost broke down. He glanced at the scales, lightly saying, "The appearance is good, much better than the first three. They can just barely be considered medium-grade materials."

Qin Yu nodded. "Then I ask Elder Hai to take another look."

Clang –

Clang –

Clang –

This time, three more scales crashed down. These scales were the size of two grinding pans. Not only were they fully intact but there were countless small patterns that shined on their surface. Even though they hadn't been tempered, these patterns shined with a dazzling luminescence, like ripples across a lake surface.

Hai Mingwei's gaze immediately froze. Although he was roaring in his heart, he forced himself to remain calm and cool. Still, his voice couldn't help but shiver. "These three scales are good. They can even be called high-grade materials. If they are placed together with the first six scales, they could barely be refined into a breastplate."

He had even said this. The Equipment Sect had a well-known reputation. As long as this young man wasn't a fool, he would definitely do anything, even climb up a pole to ask the Equipment Sect for their help.

This was how Hai Mingwei was thinking. He seemed to already be imagining bringing these nine scales back to the sect and watching as the eyeballs of those old fogies almost popped out of their heads. Leaking news of the treasure? That didn't matter at all! As for giving Qin Yu an upper chest piece armor...even giving him a full set of protective armor wouldn't be a problem!

Brat, hurry up and speak! Hurry up and speak! As long as you say something I will surely satisfy your request!

Elder Hai Mingwei barely managed to keep his calm together. He watched as Qin Yu thought for a moment and then flicked his sleeves and took the nine scales away.

Qin Yu shook his head, "It's fine. I don't mind lacking a breastplate. If I keep them they might be useful later." He cupped his hands together and said, "I have exhausted Elder Hai. Then, this junior will bid his farewells first."

"You can't leave!" Hai Mingwei subconsciously shouted, his eyes going as wide as full moons. He was about to scold Qin Yu and tell him to hand over the nine scales, but just as these words were on the tip of his tongue he remembered that those scales were the possessions of another and his face distorted. He squeezed out a smile and said with great difficulty, "I think those scales are quite good. What use does a young man have for them? How about trading them to me instead? I will definitely give you a satisfactory price."

Qin Yu's eyes flashed with a sharp light. "I'm sorry, but I have no intention of selling them."

Hai Mingwei was breathless with anger. "What do you want?"

As soon as he said these words, he knew that he was going to regret it. And indeed, that black-robed figure fell silent for a moment and then faintly smiled. Hai Mingwei's heart skipped a beat as he regained his composure. What a sly young man, are you thinking that I'm some monkey you can play around with!?

Anger ignited in his chest. To have such treasures in front of him and be unable to obtain them, it was clear anyone would be annoyed. He clenched his teeth and shouted, "You brat, if you want to use those nine scales as a bargaining chip to borrow our sect's treasure, you can just forget about it!"

It was a categorical and unequivocal response, one that didn't leave any room for doubt.

Qin Yu lightly said, "I have more than nine scales in hand."

Hai Mingwei roared, "That doesn't matter!"

"19 pieces."

“You are delusional!”

“29 pieces.”

“Shut up! Boy, I am warning you, the sect’s treasure cannot be loaned out!”

“39 pieces.”

“Impossible, just give up!”

“49 pieces.”

“...”

“59 pieces.”

“It’s a deal!” Hai Mingwei was dripping with sweat and his hair was plastered on his forehead. He seemed frantic, but there was a fevered heat in his eyes that seemed as if it could burn people to ashes. “Young man, out of those 59 pieces, at least 20 of them need to be on the same level as those last three!”

Qin Yu smiled. “I will give you 30 of them.”

Hai Mingwei turned his head and walked away. He had a vicious look on his face as if he had been possessed. If anyone tried to stop him about this, he would pounce on them and bite them!

Ning Rufeng had a strange look in his eyes. “Grand Authority Qin, these scales...”

Qin Yu smiled. “In the past, I inadvertently bumped into two large fellows fighting each other. Afterwards, they both perished together. I took that chance to pick up some scales. I never thought they would turn out to be useful.”

Ning Rufeng: ...

To see two such existences fighting and also be there when they killed each other? Ning Rufeng glanced at Qin Yu. Qin Yu mentioned this casually, as if it wasn’t something important to him at all. He deeply sighed. If objects were compared to objects they could just be called worse, but if humans were compared to humans, it really made one wish to die! Qin Yu was truly worthy of being called blessed by the world itself. He was someone who sat atop a great destiny. His luck was so good that it made a person go crazy with jealousy!

Ning Liang had a happy expression but she wasn’t too shocked. This was because she had experienced all sorts of things before and was already used to Qin Yu’s ability to accomplish anything.

He was a person who could constantly produce miracles.

Hai Mingwei left quickly and returned even faster. The incomparably stoic and aloof Elder Muli was dragged in behind him. As Muli looked at Qin Yu with suspicion, Qin Yu suddenly took out a massive pile of scales that thudded against the ground. As Muli saw this, he became even more frenzied and crazy than Hai Mingwei!

“I will go and make an application to the sect right now!” Muli ferociously spat out.

Hai Mingwei had a worried look. "I fear those old codgers in the sect won't agree."

Muli revealed a mouth full of white teeth. "They wouldn't dare!" He stared at the scales with an obsessed look in his eyes. "With these, we can forge the most formidable armor in the world, armor that will be passed down for all of eternity! This is my dream as well as the dream of all high level refiners in the sect. If anyone dares to stop me, I will tear them apart with my own hands!"

He coldly looked at Qin Yu. "Take good care of those scales until our deal is complete. If anything happens to them, the Equipment Sect will never let you off!"

Qin Yu smiled, glad to endure the threat.

#### **Chapter 464A – Qin Yu, You Can Do it!**

The Equipment Sect's response was quick. Just after the sun crossed the top of the skies at noon, a red-eyed and exhausted Muli and Hai Mingwei stumbled into the VIP lounge. They saw Qin Yu and said, "The Equipment Sect will agree to your transaction. The projection needs time to be prepared; it will arrive late tonight at the latest."

Muli wanted to say something but hesitated, his eyes a bit ill at ease. Qin Yu slowly shook his head and said, "I'm sorry, but I must obtain the projection of the treasure first before I can give the scales to you two."

"You have the heart of a scoundrel!" Muli's expression immediately darkened.

Although Hai Mingwei was disappointed, he became much calmer. "Of course you can do that."

As the two turned and walked out, the gloomy expression on Muli's face disappeared. He asked in a low voice, "Elder Hai, don't you think the voice of that black-robed cultivator sounds a bit familiar?"

Hai Mingwei rubbed his temples. "There are trillions upon trillions of people living in this world and how many of them sound the same? We have no idea who he is – isn't this the cold hard facts?"

Muli smiled. "That's right, we have no idea who he is."

The two looked at each other and could see the comfort in the other's eyes. Luckily, the transaction would happen tonight. If it was any later and those old fellows from the sect arrived, they would likely rather toss away these incomparably precious scales to stop this transaction from going through.

As for what happened in the future, if the Equipment Sect found out the truth and whether there would be trouble after they found out, that was something for later; there was no need to worry about it now. Moreover, rice that was cooked could no longer be uncooked. Even if the sect found out, they could only help to conceal the truth.

After all, while the colossus known as the Immortal Sect was an extremely great distance away and the Equipment Sect was in close contact with the Demonic Path, if there was no need to provoke them then it was best not to provoke them.

As the night darkened, Qin Yu finally obtained his goal for this venture out – it was a foot-sized stone mountain with a dark surface and nothing noticeable about it at all. But when he grabbed it in his hands he could feel that this common-looking stone mountain actually contained a tyrannical energy.

This was clearly just a phantom, but when it fell in his hands it was as solid as gold. And, the most terrifying thing was that when his divine sense approached it, his divine sense felt as if it were caught in a muddy swamp. The invisible world rules in the area surrounding the stone mountain had actually been changed.

If this phantom could alter the rules, the might of its main body could be imagined. It was no wonder the Equipment Sect went to such lengths in order to conceal its existence. If this treasure were exposed to the outside world, it would draw countless covetous gazes.

Muli coldly said, "You must make a vow that you will never tell a second person about what happens today, otherwise you will never be able to reach the Great Dao!" For different people, the constraints of this oath were not the same. As for Qin Yu, it was the most appropriate vow.

As a cultivator of the Ancient Perishment Decree and also a peerless pride of heaven who had broken through the Mirage King Bead, he undoubtedly chased towards the distant Great Dao. This was without doubt.

Qin Yu wasn't surprised that the Equipment Sect discovered his identity; this was something he already intended for them to know. That was because in a transaction between two sides, both had to be on the same level or at least on levels not too far apart. Otherwise, this equal transaction might become a one-sided looting.

His status was high enough for the Equipment Sect to take this matter seriously and not develop any random hazardous thoughts. Although Qin Yu didn't fear them, he didn't want to be troubled by these matters, so if he could avoid them he would try his best to do so.

He easily and simply made the oath without any hesitation at all. Muli's complexion relaxed and he put out his hand, "Give me the scales."

Qin Yu flicked his sleeves and 60 scales appeared. He sincerely said, "There is one extra scale; consider that a token of my gratitude. I have troubled Elder Muli today."

Elder Muli looked deeply at Qin Yu for a moment. Then he flicked his sleeves, taking the scales and walking away.

Qin Yu carefully probed the black stone mountain in his hands. Then, with a thought, the stone mountain disappeared, turning into a small mountain-shaped phantom that hovered in his palm. He pushed open the door to see the greeter respectfully bowing to him. He was led out of Equipment Pagoda, and as the anxiously waiting Ning Rufeng and Ning Liang saw him, they immediately relaxed.

After boarding the speedcar and driving away from Equipment Pagoda, Qin Yu pulled down his hood and cupped his hands together. "This time, I must thank old master Ning."

These words caused Ning Rufeng to brightly smile. It was clear that Qin Yu had achieved his goal. "There is no need for Grand Authority Qin to speak so politely. I merely provided information. To borrow the treasure of the Equipment Sect was based on your own abilities."

Qin Yu smiled, not saying much else. Although Ning Rufeng was correct, if he didn't have this information to begin with, even if he had endless methods his efforts would have all been in vain.

A favor was a favor. He would remember this.

They stopped a distance away from the Dao Arena. Qin Yu put his black robe back on and stepped out, blending into the shadows. He smoothly returned to the Dao Arena. Without delay, he directly summoned the purpleback bluewing ants. Then, he lifted his hand and the black mountain phantom in his palm flew up. It grew as it hovered in the air, quickly expanding to a thousand feet in size.

Fortunately, Qin Yu had already expected this and chose a very large and open area, otherwise he wouldn't have been able to do anything at all. With a sharp hum, the aura of the black mountain phantom suddenly erupted. The rules of the world changed and countless runes with suppressing sealing strength seemed to pour out like in a torrential storm!

This wild sealing strength pierced into the bodies of the purpleback bluewing ants as if they had a mind of their own. Then, it soared towards the fragments of the Ancestral Monster's undying will hiding in their bodies.

Hum –

The phantom of a rabbit appeared below the black stone mountain. At this time, the rabbit looked up. Its eyes were filled with the vicissitudes of time and its cute anchor-like mouth emitted an unspeakable dignity at this moment.

“Haha, you actually found this treasure. Brat, your luck is good, but at most it can only give you two more months.” The rabbit phantom smirked. “Trust me, to have the Soul Summoning Bell recognize a master isn't simple at all.”

After finishing speaking, the rabbit phantom vanished, turning into sparkling stars that submerged into the bodies of the purpleback bluewing ant once more.

Qin Yu had a cloudy expression. But, he soon took a deep breath and suppressed these thoughts. Two months. This result was already better than what he expected. Right now he was only missing one more soul treasure. He didn't believe he would fail here!

“It spoke correctly. Little master, if you want the Soul Summoning Bell to recognize you as master, that will be very difficult.” The shadows below Qin Yu wriggled and Undying quietly crept out. He looked up at the black stone mountain up above and revealed a look of praise. “What a good treasure. What a pity this is only a phantom. If you could obtain the main body, its uses would be infinitely wondrous.”

Qin Yu turned his head, “Why?”

Undying shrugged his shoulders, not caring about Qin Yu's directness. “This is just how the rules are – however heaven-defying the Soul Summoning Bell is, that is how difficult it will be for it to recognize a master, mm...this is the so-called ‘equivalent exchange’. Although that might not be the exact phrasing, it's the approximate reasoning.”

Qin Yu furrowed his eyebrows. But before he could contemplate it further, Undying continued to say, “The reason I came out today is not to attack little master's confidence. Rather, there is something important that I must caution you of as your servant.”

Undying's voice became dignified. "Someone is targeting you. It was on the road back to the Dao Arena. This person hid themselves very well; they almost managed to conceal themselves from me."

Qin Yu's heart chilled. "Who is it?"

"I have no idea. I only sensed a trace of aura they left behind. But, there is one thing I am sure of...this person is very, very strong, so strong that you have no chance of resisting him at all. This person seems to have some scruples. He is clearly able to easily capture you, but he eventually chose to go into hiding."

Qin Yu frowned. The reason that this person didn't do anything was likely because they feared the Master of the Dao Arena. He absolutely could not use the identity of Qin Yu any longer. Once he finished his task here, he would need to find some way to withdraw.

"Undying, you will need to pay more attention in the future. If this person appears again, immediately tell me!"

Undying bowed. "Of course. I do not want my little master to be killed by anyone."

He turned and melted back into the shadows.

Qin Yu glanced at the purpleback bluewing ants beneath the black stone mountain. After thinking for a moment, he turned and left in a hurry.

To Undying, a black shadow was a kingdom of eternal darkness. And of this kingdom of deathly stillness that had no life at all, he was the sovereign king.

At this moment, Undying was sitting upon a throne condensed from pure darkness. His hand was placed beneath his chin as if he were considering something. After a long moment of contemplation, he lightly sighed and flicked his sleeves. The darkness tumbled and calmly separated into two sides, revealing stone steps that led to somewhere unknown.

Undying walked down these stone steps. It was a long, long road. After an unknown period of time, he appeared in front of an extremely vast and broad underground palace. This palace was almost empty, with only a single altar contained inside, one that was congealed from the power of darkness. Flickering lights shined from the center of the altar, the only light in this darkness.

Chains condensed from the power of darkness tightly wound around Spirity's body, outlining her perfect curves. Her fair skin was as pure as snow. It was just that this incomparable paleness gave off a soul-stirring and thrilling sense of transparent esthetic beauty.

#### **Chapter 464B – Qin Yu, You Can Do it!**

Her long eyelashes quivered and she slowly opened her eyes. "You know that every iota of strength I have right now is precious. I don't have energy to waste on you."

Undying's tone was faint. "I am simply curious. How come you didn't tell Qin Yu just how deep a price you paid in order to help shield him from the demonic altar?"

“It’s meaningless.” Spirity’s eyes were faint. “Since he is the one I chose, I am willing to offer my everything to him. This is a choice I made of my own volition, so why should he shoulder more pressure because of that?”

Undying coldly sneered. “You chose him? Based on what qualifications? Why? Because of his good luck?” He took several steps forwards, his voice becoming increasingly sharp and piercing. “For you and I to have lived until now, if we are talking about luck alone, then our luck is far, far better than his. Otherwise, we would have long since been dispersed between this world. It isn’t easy for us to survive, so how could you so easily hand over your own future like this!?”

Spirity glanced at him and her lips curved up in a smile. “It seems Qin Yu has done well to even move the likes of you. Otherwise, you would never have said these things to me. Heh, rather than asking me or questioning me, how about changing your own mind instead? You and I both know that we are people who are rejected by the world. If we truly wish to make a comeback, we must make a choice, otherwise on what basis do we have to ask others for help in the future?”

She closed her eyes, her expression peaceful and without regret. “I have chosen my own future and am hopeful towards it. So, even if I must suffer hardships now, even if I must endure the torment from the power of darkness, my heart is stable and will never waver. Undying, to be indecisive and not make a choice, that isn’t good for you. I hope you can think things through soon.”

In the darkness, there was the sound of Undying clenching his jaws. Even though he had no facial features, he could still produce these types of sounds. It was indeed surprising.

“I won’t make my bet that easily. This is my last chance. Do you know? This is my last chance, my final opportunity!” He turned and walked away. When he left the palace, his voice transmitted from afar, “There is one point you were correct on. Qin Yu indeed did well. His luck is incredible, and he unexpectedly has a chance of completing the process of having the Soul Summoning Bell recognize him as master. If he can truly succeed, then I will accompany you together on this insane adventure...everything will depend on his good fortune!”

Atop the altar formed from the power of darkness, Spirity opened her eyes, revealing a trace of relief, pride, as well as worry. Treasures of heaven and earth were often heaven-defying, but they were accompanied by risks. Having the Soul Summoning Bell recognize a master wasn’t a simple matter at all.

“Qin Yu, you can do it! I believe you can do it, so don’t disappoint me!” She gently sighed and closed her eyes, falling into a deep slumber. Only this deep slumber could slow down the departure of the strength she was losing.

Perhaps Qin Yu had guessed something. All this time, he had tried to avoid borrowing the strength of the demonic altar as much as he could, thus reducing the pressure on her. It was unknown what Spirity was thinking, but in her deep sleep, a light smile appeared on her face.

...

Black Demon Sect.

Tuba and Tutou had completed a new transaction and were now separating the spirit materials and seeds. This transaction was a good deal for them, but there wasn’t much happiness on their faces.

Outside the hall, Xu Sheng led several Black Demon Sect cultivators over. He smiled and said, "You two, I have just found some more business for you. You will need to give me a thick red envelope for this."

Tuba laughed. "Of course. Honored guests, please discuss the transaction with my brother here. There are some minor matters I need to consult with Steward Xu about."

The two entered the hall. As soon as they walked in, the smile on Xu Sheng's face disappeared and he clenched his teeth, shouting, "Just where is the grandmaster!?"

Tuba had a solemn expression. "He is currently in seclusion."

"You can use those words to fool others. Let me tell you something. There are already people in the sect who are investigating this matter." Xu Sheng lowered his voice, "Just yesterday, several disciples were sent into the dungeon. Although the interrogation was concealed to a great extent, I still managed to obtain some news. Some people are investigating what Grandmaster Yao's current condition is like. Don't tell me that you haven't noticed anything!"

Xu Sheng coldly sneered. "Haven't you noticed that there have been more and more cultivators coming to exchange materials recently? How long will those pills you have last for? Once you run out of pills to exchange, you should understand just what will happen afterwards!"

Tuba frowned. He was well aware of why His Highness wanted others to think that he was still in the Black Demon Sect. If others were to discover he had privately left, at this point it was sure to create all sorts of unnecessary issues. He mulled it over and then looked at the nervous Xu Sheng. He gently sighed, "I have no idea where the grandmaster has gone."

Xu Sheng's heart shrank. "Did the grandmaster say when he will return?"

Tuba's expression was calm. "Before the grandmaster left, he said he would return in four months."

Xu Sheng lifted a trembling finger. He stared at Tuba and gasped, "Don't tell me that the grandmaster has already been gone for four months!"

Tuba tranquilly replied, "To be exact, he has been gone for five months and 14 days."

The world flipped upside down and Xu Sheng's field of vision flashed black. He nearly toppled to the ground. "You...you...you bastard, I have already asked you several times before, so why didn't you tell me then!"

Tuba coldly sneered. "If it weren't for the loyalty you have displayed to the grandmaster so far, even if you asked me a hundred more times I wouldn't have told you. Don't worry. Nothing bad will happen to the grandmaster. He will return soon."

Xu Sheng's entire body trembled. He didn't know who was trying to investigate Ning Qin's whereabouts, but he actually smelled something fishy about this that left him feeling extremely restless.

This matter wasn't as simple as it seemed!

He had already cast his lot with Ning Qin. If there was an accident, he would also be implicated. Fortunately, only these two barbarians seemed to know about this matter.

Tuba coldly sneered. "If you dare to have any crooked thoughts, I can simply break your neck. The grandmaster will definitely return. That is all you need to remember!"

A cold chill passed through Xu Sheng's heart. It was only now that he remembered this barbarian in front of him had the absolute strength required to crush him to pieces. His lips quivered and he clenched his teeth, saying, "I will try and find some way to delay for as much time as possible. If you have any method to contact the grandmaster, tell him to hurry back as soon as possible, otherwise we will all be in great trouble!"

He turned around and left the hall. As soon as he did, a brilliant smile appeared on Xu Sheng's face. He chatted with the cultivators who had completed their transaction for several moments, laughed, and then bid his farewells.

Once everyone was gone, Tuba could no longer maintain the calm and confident demeanor he was keeping up. Worry appeared on his face.

Your Highness, just where are you?

...

What was nothingness? From ancient times until the present, after a vast and endless river of years, with countless amazing beings that had lived and lit up the skies like meteors, none of them were able to give a definitive definition for this.

It was darkness. No light could exist within it. It seemed to be the natural opposite of light, one that couldn't produce any life. It was like a dead and unfathomably deep icy black sea.

It was empty, cold, and forever silent!

But in this utterly lifeless deep black sea, there were actually countless 'islands' floating around that had completely integrated into the darkness. These 'islands' came in different sizes, large and small. They floated through nothingness, flowing with invisible power.

If someone could reach through this nothingness and break past the surface of these islands, they would discover that what lay within them were independent spatial fragments. Some were desolate and some were filled with vitality. There were even some with intelligent beings born within, multiplying throughout generations and treating this 'island' as if it were their entire world.

Inside a medium-sized 'island', a sun hung high in the skies. The warm light sprinkled down gently upon the earth. There was a green grass that stood upon it. It extended towards the horizon for as far as the eye could see. It was so large that a single leaf seemed as if it could block out the heavens.

The golden veins on its surface had gradually turned to purple. It was translucent, as if it were made of jade. It looked warm yet exuded a terrifying aura.

As if a single movement of this grass could tear apart the world and break down stars.

However, this overbearing and tyrannical green grass was like a guard. It diligently stretched its waist, not allowing its leaves and branches to block out the sunlight from above.

Beneath its gaze was a medicine field that stretched out as far as the eye could see. Countless precious spirit plants grew like weeds. A breeze blew past, causing an intoxicating medicinal fragrance to fill the air.

Suddenly, at some part of the medicine field, the dirt suddenly cracked open and grass roots drilled out. They watched a space in front that had suddenly fallen into darkness. Within this darkness, two root sections were growing at a speed visible to the naked eye. They soon became thick and sturdy, and their gray surface became covered with a rainbow of colors. The fine textures on their surface seemed messy and didn't appear to follow any pattern at all, but there was an indescribable beauty contained in them.

As if this world had always been like this, and they had also always been like this.

The grass root was a bit taken aback. Its intuition told itself that these two branches were extremely unusual. However, it remembered that some time ago, the master seemed to have casually tossed a root section in, and that root section grew into these two branches. Did the master not know that this was an incredibly precious treasure?

After shaking a little, the grass roots completely suppressed any thoughts of disrespect towards the master in its heart.

The master was supreme.

The master possessed all the kindness and wisdom in the world.

How could the master not know about this?

Since the treasure had already germinated and grown, all it had to do was protect this treasure with all of its strength and wait for the master to pick it.

### **Chapter 465A – Precelestial Wood**

Perhaps as if to truly verify the words of the Ancestral Monster's remnant soul and Undying – that it wouldn't be easy to have a supreme treasure of the heavens and earth recognize someone as master – time quietly passed with no news related to the precelestial wood at all. During this time, Qin Yu underwent a range of emotions. From hope to anticipation, from anticipation to unwillingness, now he was forced to accept the reality of the situation and his heart was filled with helplessness.

“Hah –”

After letting out a long breath, Qin Yu stood up. His heart was worried and restless and even his cultivation was affected. He decided to take some time to restore his mood.

The scenery within the Dao Arena's top training room was undoubtedly good. He sat beneath the shade of a tree, his fingers gently tapping against the tabletop. He couldn't help but continue contemplating the situation. For this last period of time, he had been constantly raising the price for finding precelestial wood. He had gone through every shop in Four Seasons City and even asked Kang Mingqiao for help. However, in the end he didn't find anything.

Could it be that even though he had worked so hard up until now, he still couldn't avoid the fate of losing the purpleback bluewing ants?

Puff –

A light sound woke Qin Yu up. He drew his fingers away from the beautiful tabletop. Looking at the crisscross of markings he had left behind in his anxious thinking, he couldn't help but wryly smile.

Fortunately for him, he had found some harvests in this period of time. His path of metal had reached infinitely close to perfection and he could have a breakthrough at any moment. At this time, Qin Yu's eyes flashed. He grasped his hand forward and pulled a message jade slip out from the air. His divine sense searched it and then his eyes widened with pleasant surprise.

He stood up and hurried towards the door of the training room. With a flick of his sleeve he opened it and found Kang Mingqiao standing outside. Kang Mingqiao saw Qin Yu and smiled, "It seems that this thing is extremely important to fellow daoist Qin Yu. This is an album guide sent over by the auction house. The thing you're interested in is on the 62nd page."

As he spoke, he took out a jade slip.

After pouring his magic power into it, the clear projection of an image appeared in the air. Qin Yu turned directly to the 62nd page. In the dense number of objects, he found something that was extremely black and looked like withered wood. There was a brief description recorded below: Serial Number 137. This withered branch was obtained from an unknown place. Its attributes are unknown and its effects are unknown. Placed in the light it is black and in the dark it blooms with light.

The image was small and the introduction was brief. It was clear that the auction house didn't place much value on this object. Qin Yu stared at it for a long time before he looked up.

Kang Mingqiao smiled. "There's something else hidden inside."

These words dispelled Qin Yu's final doubts. Ecstatic joy surged up from his heart and he cupped his hands. "Thank you, Arena Steward Kang!" He didn't know where Kang Mingqiao had obtained this information but he didn't think he had any reason to deceive him. Moreover, 'Placed in the light it is black and in the dark it blooms with light' was already extremely strong evidence.

Precelestial wood!

This was precelestial wood!

He thought back to the invitation he had casually tossed into his status token and smiled. He had inadvertently obtained this auction invitation half a year ago and at the time he had sighed about how it was useless to him. Who would have expected that things would be like they were today?

Perhaps this was the mystery of life. It was so strange and fantastical that person could never imagine just where life took them or what the future would hold for them.

Five days later, the auction was held as scheduled.

As the steward of a Dao Arena, Kang Mingqiao naturally also received an invitation. But, Qin Yu didn't go with him. Rather, he put on a black robe and entered the auction house with the status of a wandering tourist. But, it was clear that his initial heroic vigor and actions had left a strong impression on the auction house. His seat was arranged near the front. The soft was wide and comfortable. Qin Yu leaned back on it and began to meditate.

An hour later, the crowd began to quiet down. A silver-haired auctioneer stepped onto the platform and greeted everyone. He clapped his hands, "Turn off the lights."

Suddenly, all that was left on the giant auction stage was the central auction platform and the three crystal lamps up above. The bright lights gathered together, making it seem particularly eye-catching. The well-dressed auctioneer didn't talk much. He dove straight into the main subject for everyone's presence. "According to custom, the first item sold during the auction night is bound to be something good. It's a little appetizer to whet everyone's appetite as well as help our auction house earn some commission."

There was a burst of laughter from the crowd. The first auction was actually quite good. It was a treasure found in an ancient ruin. Although it was a bit broken, its power was still incredibly tyrannical.

Many cultivators bid on it and the atmosphere of the auction house soon heated up.

Item after item was sent up to the auction stage. After a round of contention these items found new masters. During this process, time slowly flowed.

The auction house took a scattered approach to auctioning off items. They mixed in a number of common treasures between the precious ones in order to sell them at the highest possible price.

The bidding for serial number 137 began four hours after the auction started. The auctioneer was all smiles as he looked at the withered wood that was placed on the crystal platform. With a look of acclaim, he said, "Dear guests, there is something I need to tell you about this item in order to better estimate its value and avoid any unnecessary confusion."

After a pause he continued to say, "Two days ago, my auction house received an honored guest. Although they hid their status, I was still able to determine that this person was an extremely revered existence. This mysterious honored guest put forth an extremely exaggerated price in order to purchase this piece of wood with unknown attributes and unknown effects ahead of time. But in the end, in order to maintain the principle of fairness, we refused this honored guest and put it up for auction so that all guests will have the chance to fight for it.

"Just because it is unknown doesn't mean it is useless. Perhaps beneath this ordinary surface there is a hidden beauty and splendor that none of us can imagine. This mysterious withered wood is dark beneath the light and shines with light in the dark. This item has a starting price of 80,000 spirit stones and each increase can be no less than 1000. Let the bidding begin!"

One couldn't help but acknowledge that this auctioneer was skilled in stirring up the attention of others. Many guests that had no interest to begin with suddenly straightened themselves, their eyes flashing with light.

This auction house had always had a good reputation and they wouldn't make up a story like this. If someone was willing to pay a massive sum for this item before the auction began, there was sure to be something extraordinary about it. 80,000 spirit stones couldn't be considered too little, but to those who had the qualifications to join this auction, it wasn't anything at all. It could be interesting to give things a try.

“80,000 spirit stones!” The one who spoke was a female cultivator who sat near the front of the individual guests. Her face was young and naive and there was still baby fat on her cheeks. Her eyes were lively and smart. Although she didn’t display any arrogance, she revealed a sense of natural elegance. She clearly didn’t have a common background,

Of course, if one couldn’t make these things out, the two icy cold guards with intimidating auras that flanked her were the best evidence.

But as mentioned before, those that were eligible to participate in today’s auction were all rich, and the rich usually had considerable backgrounds. Although this female cultivator’s background wasn’t average, she couldn’t frighten anyone here either.

“100,000.” The person who spoke this time was also a female cultivator. Except, this person was in a specially formed, semi-enclosed VIP box seat.

The young female cultivator tapped her face. “200,000. I want that branch.”

“You want? Just what do you want? This big sister isn’t a man, and even if I was, I couldn’t bear your bold style. I want that thing too. 300,000.” There was a charming laugh from the VIP box seat. Such arrogant words had many men gulping.

The young female cultivator blushed red. She opened her mouth and wanted to argue back but she simply couldn’t find the words to say and she almost cried out loud. The eyes of the two guards beside her flashed with an ominous light and they started to stand up. However, as soon as they tried, they both stuffily coughed and revealed shocked expressions. They looked towards the VIP box seat with a deep sense of dread in their eyes.

A guard lowered his head and whispered something. The young female cultivator bit her lip and said, “500,000.”

A hearty laughter rang out, filled with a carefree attitude. “Why should two beautiful women come to blows over a mere withered branch? Wouldn’t it be better if I take it away instead?”

After a short pause he put forth a bid, “600,000.”

The auction house fell silent. Many people stared at these three sides, a strange look in their eyes. Although this withered branch was strange, 600,000 spirit stones was no longer a small amount. If it was just to satisfy their own curiosity, this didn’t make any sense.

As for that last fellow who put forth a bid of 600,000, his goal clearly wasn’t the withered branch itself. Rather, he just wanted to arouse the interest of those two young misses. To spend money in the face of beauty, such behavior couldn’t be considered fresh in any auction house. Those people that did such a thing were often profligate young masters with great backgrounds.

But today, there were far more profligate young masters in the crowd than expected. Another voice rang out from a VIP box seat. “Brother Zhang, how can you obtain a treasure that two beautiful women are competing over with a mere 600,000 spirit stones? How about we round out the number – one million.”

“Just a million spirit stones, how far can you possibly go?” A third profligate young master chimed in. “Two million; if you want to play then let’s double up and have fun!”

Beneath his black robes, Qin Yu’s face darkened. This sudden competition had ruined his plans. He originally wanted to win the bid on the precelestial wood without standing out at all. Before this, he had even purchased two minor items at prices that were neither too low nor too high.

But no matter how great his plans were, they were completely torn apart in the face of this bunch of competing young bastards. He couldn’t help but glance at the young and naïve female cultivator sitting up front. Although he knew he had no right to complain about her actions, if it weren’t for this little girl speaking up, the situation wouldn’t have devolved into such a state.

Today, it would be difficult not to attract attention!

From that half-concealed VIP box seat, an extremely pretty face appeared. She covered her mouth and laughed, her eyes seeming to have countless tiny hooks hidden within them. “Fellow young masters are so appreciative that I really am finding it hard to keep my heart at peace. I really want that thing, hah, so what do I do?”

“Haha! Simple, I will win the bid and give it to Miss Zhou!” A fourth profligate young master joined the fray. “I will double it again to 4 million. I’ve been playing this kind of game ever since I was young, and not once have I ever been defeated.”

His tone was aggressive and overbearing!

Qin Yu cursed this person inwardly. As he expected, with his appearance, the first three profligates were angered.

“To make something so vulgar like randomly doubling the bid seem like something righteous, you really are a rare and wonderful creature.” A person suddenly said, his face full of smiles. “5 million spirit stones. Miss Mu, I will win this item for you.”

The young female cultivator’s face immediately blushed a rosy red and her eyes filled with shyness. She turned and glanced at the VIP box seat the voice just came from, her timid and bashful appearance causing the hearts of those who looked at her to itch.

Qin Yu’s face darkened. Wait, how was this timid and bashful? She was clearly a little enchantress with a well-honed skill set. It was only that her outer appearance and demeanor was entirely different from that of Miss Zhou. Although they seemed different, their hearts were actually the same.

Today, these two enchantresses must have intentionally colluded to cause this mess. It’s fine if you want to stir up some contest, but why choose my item to do it with? Qin Yu’s eyes were ice cold. If looks could kill, he would have already dismembered these two enchantresses and their group of overly emotional peacocks!

As Qin Yu developed murderous thoughts, the price of the precelestial wood broke through the 10 million mark. To these profligates, spirit stones didn’t matter too much. Moreover, in today’s situation no one was willing to lower their head first.

Qin Yu took a deep breath and suppressed the growing rage in his heart. He indifferently watched their competition.

This was not the time to make his move. These types of young masters cared about face the most. It would be fine for him to wait for their battle to come to an end before he started competing.

Because at that time, he would only need to face one person.

Everyone was left dumbfounded. They watched on with wide eyes as the bidding price of this withered branch of unknown origin and effect suddenly inflated like a balloon. Even those people who originally had some interest had completely suppressed their thoughts of bidding for it.

This group of bastard profligates, they were just fighting out of jealousy now. Anyone that tried to compete with them in such a state would just be an idiot!

“88 million spirit stones!” That fellow with the heroic demeanor who liked to double the price suddenly spoke up. The entire auction house fell silent.

At this moment, anyone who dared to double it again would really be formidable.

The other three profligates seemed to fall quiet. Although they wanted to use this chance to obtain more attention from these beautiful women, with the price approaching 100 million spirit stones, even for them this was an amount that they couldn’t easily use.

Moreover, what they wanted to do today was to only get acquainted with Zhou Fenghuang and Mu Qingluan and express their sincerity with their actions. If they really wanted to marry these two enchantresses and bring them back home, that would depend entirely on their performance in the Demon Ascension Gate as well as the efforts of their families.

“The Sun Family is worthy of being known as undefeatable in terms of wealth. As a means of expressing my admiration, I will give that withered wood to you.”

“When it comes to spirit stones, I really cannot compare to Brother Sun. I only hope that during the Demon Ascension Gate, you can also have the same energy and bravado as you’ve shown today.”

“I heard that during this selection of the Demon Ascension Gate, many dazzling characters have appeared, even those with a powerful demonic bloodline. Sun Zifu, I hope you aren’t beaten into the ground by others and ruin the honor and dignity of juniors from noble families.”

Sun Zifu was that profligate young master who liked to double up and had declared he had never lost in a bidding war before. He laughed loudly and said, “The three of you don’t need to worry about me. I naturally have the confidence that I can smoothly enter the Demonic Path. Today, I must thank you three for allowing me to obtain this treasure. I will arrange a banquet at the Drunken Fairy Winehouse tonight. Fellow brothers must surely attend.”

The three young masters coughed once before no longer speaking.

#### **Chapter 465B – Precelestial Wood**

Sun Zifu exposed a blinding smile. He picked up a cup in front of him and took a deep drink, feeling fully refreshed.

“Young master, are you sure you didn’t spend too much? I know that our family has numerous spirit stones, but today is not the proper occasion and I fear Miss Zhou and Miss Mu might not necessarily appreciate your kindness.” A bowing old servant spoke as he smiled. His face was like a chrysanthemum flower in full bloom.

“What does an old thing like you understand? Today, I have to be overbearing and spend as many spirit stones as I can. You should know that what our Sun Family has the most of is spirit stones. Don’t you understand the concept of hiding your weaknesses and enhancing your strengths? If I want to move those two little enchantresses, the only thing I can rely on is our sparkling spirit stones!” A sharp light flashed in Sun Zifu’s eyes. “As for whether or not those two little enchantresses acknowledge me, I don’t care about that at all, because this wasn’t about them to begin with.”

The old fellow had a face full of praise. “Young master is wise and omnipotent. This old servant cannot keep up to your wits. As long as news of this spreads out to the Zhou Family and Mu Family, they will know of our sincerity! Ah, young master is truly young master, your methods are perfect!”

Sun Zifu kicked him. “Stop flattering me.” Although he said this, a little happy smile clearly lit up his face.

On the auction stage, the silver-haired auctioneer had a face full of smiles. While a bid of almost a hundred million spirit stones was high, he had seen many amazing scenes before so he wasn’t too shocked by this. He smiled and said, “Young Master Sun has bid 88 million spirit stones. Are there any other guests who wish to bid? If not, then this mysterious withered wood will belong to Young Master Sun.”

In the VIP box seat, the old servant cried out with smug satisfaction, “Hurry and announce the result. With my young master bidding, who dares to fight with us!”

A disgusting stench of flattery flowed out.

The smile of the silver-haired auctioneer didn’t change. He nodded, about to announce the result. But at this time another young voice spoke up. “100 million spirit stones.”

The auction house fell silent once more.

The silver-haired auctioneer swallowed back down the words he was about to say. He raised one finger. “This honored guest has bid 100 million! Everyone, this is the first time that someone has bid 100 million spirit stones! Please let us all remember this exciting moment! Is there anyone willing to bid a higher price?”

Sun Zifu coldly snorted and his eyes turned ferocious. The old servant bowed and said, “This old servant will immediately investigate that person’s status. To dare to compete with young master, that person has no idea of death or danger!”

“There’s no time. Take it first and talk later!” Sun Zifu laid down the wine cup. He leaned back in his chair and calmly said, “200 million.”

Since he said he would double the bid, he would double it until the end.

“210 million.” Another voice said without hesitation.

Sun Zifu's lips twitched. "420 million!" He clenched his fists, his nails digging into the flesh of his palm. This was already his limit. If this other party increased the bid anymore, he could only slap his own face and give up.

That bastard!

Over 400 million spirit stones, that was enough to form several mountains of spirit stones. Just which bastard was this? This person clearly knew he came from the Demonic Path's noble Sun Family and yet he still dared to interfere.

Things wouldn't end here!

A bloodthirsty light shined in profligate Sun's eyes.

Within the auction house, another person was also angered; it was the one who was just about to make a bid for the precelestial wood – Qin Yu. As the voice of the new bidder rose up, he looked around and found the person who had bid. As he did, his pupils shrank a little.

Qi Cheng!

That's right, this was the disciple that Chu Taidou favored the most. He heard that after Chu Taidou died, all of his properties were quietly swallowed up. But even so, with Qi Cheng's status and background, there was no reason for him to throw hundreds of millions of spirit stones around at today's auction. Moreover, his actions today would offend the Sun Family as well as draw attention to himself. This would make him seem like an attractive piece of fat, one that many people would want to eat up.

But Qi Cheng has chosen this moment to make his move. With an incomparably overbearing attitude, he had tossed out an outrageous amount of spirit stones. The auction house had even already dispatched cultivators to confirm the situation with him. This was a normal convention of auction houses.

Otherwise, if someone bid a mind-boggling sum but was unable to pay up in the end, this would make the auction house into a laughingstock.

Looking at the stunned face of the auction house cultivator and the respectful bow afterwards, it was clear the result had been confirmed and there was no problem.

"430 million." Qi Cheng appeared calm, but his emotions were surging in his heart. In his dreams he had imagined possessing unsurpassed power and wealth countless times, becoming the focal point of all eyes. And today, this dream of his had finally come true.

Feeling the shock and awe from the eyes all around him, Qi Cheng was immensely satisfied. Although he knew speaking in such a high-handed tone didn't bring him any advantages, he also knew that as long as he had the backing of the Immortal Sect, no one could harm him if he didn't violate any taboos.

Tonight, he was the center of the world!

In the VIP box seat, Sun Zifu crushed the wine cup in his hands. The red wine pooled on the rug below. Rage flashed in his eyes but he soon composed himself.

"Since you want it that much, I'll give it to you."

The flattering old servant's eyes were cold. "This old servant will help young master take it back."

“440 million spirit stones!” Another voice rang out. Sun Zifu looked up, his eyes shaking.

The entire auction house fell silent for a brief moment. Then, there was a tide of alarmed cries.

Qi Cheng himself wasn't anything, but as Chu Taidou's disciple, he often intersected with many high level individuals. In other words, many people in this auction house recognized him. When he first put forth his bid, he had drawn countless eyes. Many of them were cold and filled with greed, shocked by the wealth left behind by Chu Taidou.

As for the reasons for his actions, they attributed it to his head being drowned by wealth and him trying to get the attention from the young misses of the Zhou Family and Mu Family. This was a laughable thought, but with another person bidding, their earlier assumptions were shattered. There might be one person stupid enough to spend hundreds of millions of spirit stones to gain the attention of beautiful women, but there definitely wouldn't be two of them.

Qi Cheng's eyes brightened. A smile lifted his lips. He stood up and said, “Qin Yu, you finally made your move.”

The hearts of countless cultivators skipped a beat. Their originally questioning eyes revealed surprise.

A black-robed figure was silent for several breaths of time. Then, he lifted a hand and drew back his hood. Qin Yu's calm face appeared. “Qi Cheng, I am actually quite curious how you knew it was me.”

Qi Cheng smiled brightly. “I'm sorry, but I refuse to answer you. Today I must fight for my dead teacher. This withered wood – you won't win it.”

Qin Yu took a deep breath. “700 million spirit stones.”

Qi Cheng held his hands behind his back. “800 million.”

Kang Mingqiao's voice spread out from a VIP box seat. “Fellow daoist Qin Yu, if you need, the Dao Arena can lend you spirit stones.”

Qi Cheng laughed. “Today, no matter how much Qin Yu bids, I will bid 100 million more than him!”

Kang Mingqiao sneered. “Junior, you are being too reckless.”

Qi Cheng bowed. “Arena Steward Kang can try.”

The common-looking Qi Cheng had suddenly risen up and seized all of Chu Taidou's properties. Moreover, he hadn't suffered any troubles during this process at all. And today, he didn't shy away but directly called out Qin Yu, even earning the resentment of Kang Mingqiao...no one was an idiot, in particular these people possessed a great deal of wealth and a great deal of authority.

Looking at the high-spirited and arrogant Qi Cheng, many people could see a colossus standing behind him.

In his VIP box seat, Sun Zifu shivered. “Stop everything right now.”

Whether it was Qin Yu or Qi Cheng who had likely been chosen by the Immortal Sect, neither of them were good to provoke.

The old servant's smile turned ugly as he tried to cry, "There isn't enough time..."

Before his voice fell, two figures rushed out from the shadows of the auction house, their cold blades flashing as they thrust at Qi Cheng.

Bang –

A tyrannical aura erupted from near Qi Cheng. There was a thin and sickly-looking old man sitting beside him. Before he moved, his presence was as weak as air. But once he took action, he was like a great sun, his tyrannical aura sweeping out in all directions. The bright aura shattered those two cold blades and continued forward, breaking apart the two assassins.

Then a strange force acted on every piece of flesh and bone, crushing them into powder. In the space of a breath, those two living assassins thoroughly vanished.

The thin old man slowly sat back down. His tyrannical aura was restrained and his weak and common-looking appearance returned. But, no one would dare to underestimate him again.

This was an eighth level Blue Sea super powerhouse. Even when placed amongst the Land of Divinity and Demons, he could be called an existence that ruled over his own domain. But today, he willingly stood behind Qi Cheng like a prop. From this alone, many people were able to confirm their earlier guesses.

Sun Zifu let out a sigh of relief. It was good those two had died how they did. Although it wasn't easy for his family to raise deathsworn guards, to avoid any more trouble was already the best possible result. He glared at the old servant, "This matter has caused my belly to ache. Just pretend it never happened!"

Qi Cheng's smile became even more carefree. "It seems there are some people that want to kill me. But, it doesn't matter. If anyone wants to kill me, they can go ahead and try." He looked up, his gaze frosty. "Today, let us complete our bidding first. Qin Yu, do you want to increase the price? If not, that mysterious withered wood will belong to me."

Qin Yu took a deep breath and turned away. He knew that Qi Cheng was trying to force him to attack. Although he really did want to smash open Qi Cheng's face, it was what he wanted.

As for why the Immortal Sect didn't hesitate to pay the price to prevent him from obtaining the precelestial wood, could that be just from their hostility towards him?

...Or had they sensed something?

Qin Yu's heart shrank. He started to think about whether he had been negligent or not. But, there was clearly only one Monster Raising Mystic Art in the world, and no one should have information concerning the Soul Summoning Bell.

Qin Yu took a deep breath and suppressed all of these thoughts. With things having come to this point, there was no longer any meaning in considering them. The precelestial wood was in Qi Cheng's hands...he couldn't make a move in the auction house, but that didn't mean he couldn't do something after he left.

However, if he could think of this, so could the Immortal Sect. Qi Cheng was merely bait to lure him to attack, and once he did he would lose the protection of the Dao Arena Master.

What should he do? Should he give up? Or risk it all?

At this moment, a thought fluctuation was transmitted into his mind. "I originally thought you knew, but now it seems that you never did. If you have time, come here as soon as possible."

The thought transmission came from the little blue lamp. Qin Yu's heart quickened. If it spoke, it should be something vital. He tried to ask back, but there was no response.

Qin Yu entered the Dao Arena and closed the doors to the training room. He sat down cross-legged and his divine sense passed through the sealed dimension ring to enter the small world in the vast distant nothingness.

The leaves of the Star Cutting Grass danced about in excitement, cutting open small tears in space. Only when it saw Qin Yu seeming distressed trying to avoid them did it honestly calm down and let down a leaf to lift him into the medicine field.

Soon, the Star Cutting Grass stopped and a spirit plant bathed in darkness appeared in front of Qin Yu. This spirit plant had two extremely beautiful branches and even the night-like darkness couldn't cover up its dazzling dream-like textures.

Qin Yu's eyes widened. "This...this..."

"Precelestial wood." The little blue lamp's thought fluctuations came again. "Several months ago you tossed in a root. Do you remember?"

Qin Yu's complexion turned strange.

"That's right, that root was the spirit root of the precelestial wood."

At this moment, Qin Yu nearly choked on his emotions. He felt nothing but the greatest gratitude towards the dead Chu Taidou.

What a good person!

Wait a moment...two precelestial woods...

Qin Yu's eyes flashed. After several breaths of time, his lips curved up in a smile. He muttered to himself, "I'm rich...I'm rich...this time, I really will become rich..."

### **Chapter 466A – You and Your Honorable Master Are Good People**

The average-looking Nether Domain Master had a warm smile. He cupped his hands together and bowed. "Fellow daoist Westgate, I am ashamed to announce that today my Immortal Sect has won a round."

Solitary Westgate had discovered the precelestial wood and made use of Kang Mingqiao to inform Qin Yu. The Immortal Sect had also appointed someone in their place to launch an ambush. This was a normal fight, and victory or defeat depended on the methods utilized by both sides; no one could argue about it.

“Humph! The Immortal Sect is disgustingly rich, so there is naturally nothing I can do. But, the junior you chose to represent you was too arrogant. Does he not place my Dao Arena in his eyes?” Solitary Westgate had an ill expression.

The Nether Domain Master’s smile brightened. “It was that junior’s first time coming into so much wealth and power so his ego was momentarily inflated. With fellow daoist Westgate’s status, why bother lowering yourself to his level?” He lifted a hand and tore open space. Looking across, one could see a complete spirit stone vein within. “This spirit stone vein was accidently found by me. Today, I give it to fellow daoist Westgate as an apology for Qi Cheng’s actions.”

Solitary Westgate grasped out a hand and the spirit stone vein loudly rumbled and shrank until it flew into his hand. With a cold snort he disappeared from sight.

The Nether Domain Master revealed a forlorn look in his eyes. After contemplating for several breaths of time, his body burst apart, turning into countless motes of starlight that scattered away into nothingness.

Immortal Sect.

The Nether Domain Master’s true body opened its eyes. “Something isn’t right.”

The Buddhist Nation Sovereign faintly responded. “Of course something isn’t right! Just how difficult is it to have the Soul Summoning Bell recognize a master? It is something that is suppressed and rebuffed by the world. Yet, this junior Qin Yu was actually able to come across a precelestial wood. If it weren’t for you and I interfering, I fear he would have already completed the master recognition process.”

The Nether Domain Master’s expression was dark and uncertain. “Is this the guiding hand of destiny? If so, then even the will of the world will not be able to hinder him much.”

“Humph! In this world do you think there is something like the guiding hand of destiny? Everything you want is something you struggle for. You and I have cultivated to this stage, so how could we not understand something like this?” The Buddhist Nation Sovereign had a cruel and callous complexion. “Drawing back 10,000 steps, even if Qin Yu is being pulled forwards by destiny, I will still beat him into the dust...Soul Summoning Bell, it must be mine!”

The Nether Domain Master lightly smiled. “It’s a pity that Qin Yu didn’t fall for the trap. If he attacked Qi Cheng then things would have been much simpler.”

The Buddhist Nation Sovereign responded, “Qin Yu isn’t a fool, otherwise he wouldn’t have his current achievements. Whether it is ranking on the Ancient Perishment Decree or breaking through the Mirage King Bead, all of his actions are proof of how outstanding an individual he is. If possible, I would be willing to forgive him the sentence of death and receive his soul into my Buddhist Nation, becoming a monk beneath my tutelage.”

The Nether Domain Master shook his head. “It’s too late to talk about such things. As long as Qin Yu stays in Four Seasons City, we can do nothing to him.” He paused and continued to say, “I recently led the Dao Arena Master into making a move. Although he hid his aura, I could still feel that Solitary Westgate is much stronger than before.”

The Buddhist Nation Sovereign's voice was cold. "And? If he tries to stop me from obtaining the Soul Summoning Bell, I will not hesitate to fight him!"

The Nether Domain Master had a worried expression. But at this time, his eyes flashed and he looked up at the space in front of him.

Hum –

Space rippled and a black-robed phantom appeared. "Another precelestial wood has appeared in Four Seasons City."

"What!?" The Nether Domain Master shouted out.

If it were said that he was only being pensive when he mentioned the guiding hand of destiny just then, now he had an incomparably intense feeling regarding this thought.

Precelestial wood. That was something that was nearly extinct from this world. Even within the Immortal Sect there was none of this treasure left behind.

But in that small and tiny Four Seasons City, two such treasures appeared one after another...if he were to try and say this had nothing to do with Qin Yu, it would be too forced.

The Buddhist Nation Sovereign squeezed out words from beneath his teeth, one syllable at a time. "Don't hesitate to pay any price to take away the precelestial wood. I want to see whether this so-called guiding hand of fate can be broken or not!"

"Yes." The black-robed phantom dispersed.

Whoosh –

The Buddhist Nation Sovereign stood up. "I want to personally make a trip."

The Nether Domain Master frowned. "Solitary Westgate is there. If you go, I fear conflict will occur."

The Buddhist Nation Sovereign shook his head. "You do not understand. Ever since I knew about the existence of the Soul Summoning Bell, a faint and dark aura resonance was created between me and that treasure."

The Nether Domain Master hesitated for a moment. "Then I will go together with the Nation Sovereign."

"Good!"

Shua –

Shua –

The two people vanished from sight.

...

Two hours ago.

Four Seasons City, Dao Arena's top training room.

Qin Yu summoned Undying and passed him a jade box. "With your skills, concealing all of your aura so that you aren't sensed by anyone should be simple. I want you to take this thing to the entrance of the auction house and try to peddle it away. I will arrive right behind you. As for what happens after, you can do as you see fit according to the situation."

Undying opened the jade box. He took one glance and fell silent for several breaths of time. Without uttering a single word, he cupped his hands together and left.

Looking at Undying's back, Qin Yu couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows. He always felt that this fellow was a bit different from before.

Today might be his chance to make the most money he had encountered in his lifetime. He hoped that nothing would go wrong.

In fact, Qin Yu really was worrying over nothing. Because at this moment, Undying was more reliable than any time ever before.

"Guiding hand of destiny? Shit, I thought it was just a joke, but I never expected it would really exist. Luckily for me, I met him." Undying muttered to himself. Waves surged in his heart and it took a long time for him to calm down. He resolved his heart and clenched his jaws, roaring out, "I'll fight! I'm going to bet it all! Qin Yu, you'd better not disappoint me!"

Once he made a decision, he felt his entire body immediately relax and his footsteps became that much quicker.

Kang Mingqiao stood at a distance, watching the black-robed figure leaving the training room. At first he didn't care, but his eyebrows soon furrowed and his expression became increasingly dignified.

After looking some more, a bit of surprise mixed into his dignified expression.

He actually couldn't understand or sense this person's aura at all!

It had to be known that he was currently in the Dao Arena. As the steward of this Dao Arena, he had the strength of the entire Dao Arena supporting him. Here, he could even battle almighty beings for a period of time. Yet, he couldn't see just how deep a single person was...either this person had an extremely formidable aura-concealing treasure on his body, or this person's boundary far surpassed his own!

Kang Mingqiao's thoughts tumbled without end.

Why would such a mysterious figure appear from Qin Yu's training room?

Before he could think further, Qin Yu pushed open the doors of the training room. As he saw Kang Mingqiao a happy smile lit up his face and he sauntered over.

"Arena Steward Kang, has the auction already ended?"

Kang Mingqiao subconsciously replied, "Not yet. I just left the field ahead of time to come and see you..."

Qin Yu smiled. "That's good. I have a matter that I need Arena Steward Kang's help with."

Kang Mingqiao nodded. "Feel free to speak." The black-robed figure he couldn't sense was still on his mind. He wanted to ask Qin Yu about that person but thought that he would be unhappy if he did, so he continued to waver.

Qin Yu said, "I want to borrow spirit stones."

"Not a problem...uh, you want to borrow spirit stones?" Kang Mingqiao finally regained his senses. "That item was already won by Qi Cheng. Fellow daoist Qin Yu, don't you think it's too late to collect spirit stones now?"

Qin Yu shook his head. "It's not too late. It's actually just the right time."

Kang Mingqiao didn't know how to respond. But, seeing Qin Yu's confident and toothy smile, he hesitated briefly before asking, "Very well. I wonder how many spirit stones fellow daoist Qin Yu would like to borrow?"

Qin Yu lightly coughed. "However many you have, I'd like to borrow that much."

Kang Mingqiao: ...

...

Auction House –

Qi Cheng had recklessly taken action, suppressing and forcing back the profligate young masters from the Zhao, Qian, Sun, and Li Families – four noble families from the Demonic Path. Then, he had even caused the renowned and illustrious Qin Yu to retreat, capturing the mysterious withered wood with 800 million spirit stones and becoming the center of attention of the entire audience. After they guessed his current status, the covetous looks in the eyes of the watchers retreated, replaced by awe instead.

Even the high and haughty young misses from the Zhou and Mu Families couldn't help but glance at Qi Cheng several times, causing the satisfaction of his vanity to rise to never before seen heights.

Although Qi Cheng didn't participate in any of the following auctions, he still remained the most eye-catching person throughout the entire audience.

When the last auction ended, Qi Cheng was suddenly submerged by a tide of people. Countless flattering voices left him smiling all around.

Right now, many people who he could only carefully look up to in the past, who he could only cautiously tiptoe around, were now directing blinding smiles his way. So what if he was one of the Immortal Sect's people? Even if the Demonic Path knew about it, there wasn't anything they could do as long as he didn't violate any taboos. This was a rule observed by both sides. Otherwise, the world would have already been flipped into chaos.

The auction house cultivator spent a great deal of strength to force his way through the crowd and politely offer a metal box to Qi Cheng with both hands. Qi Cheng inspected the metal box and placed it into his storage ring. Then, he took out a transparent crystal spirit stone card.

The surface of the crystal card had a lifelike demonic visage etched into it. Lava seemed to flow from its eyes.

This was the most honored spirit stone card released by the Demonic Path. Each card represented at least a billion spirit stones and they were something that normally only almighty beings possessed.

Qi Cheng casually took it out. This could be called an explosive action. The eyes of those in the surrounding crowd immediately lit up with more awe and reverence than before.

The thin old man lowered his head, his hands hanging low as he quietly stood to the side. Not a single bit of extra aura was released. When this card appeared, the old man's eyes swept around. His gaze was like a bucket of cold water being poured over everyone's head. It caused them all to tremble and to immediately sober up from their hazy trance.

Qi Cheng smiled. "Don't be nervous. I think fellow daoists won't have any nefarious thoughts towards me just because of some mere spirit stones." He cupped his hands together towards everyone around him. "Everyone, I have an important matter to attend to today. If I have free time in the future, I will invite everyone to a banquet and I hope that you will grace me with your presence then."

These words immediately caused a wave of responses. Several female cultivators had bright and limpid eyes, their voices so sweet and succulent that you could die from sugar overdose. It was clear that as long as Qi Cheng wanted, he only needed to crook his finger and these women would crawl into his bed tonight without hesitation.

"Hahahah!" After a bout of carefree laughing, Qi Cheng took back the spirit stone card. He respectfully nodded towards the auction house cultivator and then walked away.

A group of people gathered around, watching him with amazement. It was an impressive sight.

Outside the front doors of the auction house, it was a rare day of good weather. The bright sunlight sprinkled down, warming Qi Cheng's head. As he walked out, he subconsciously squinted his eyes and was drawn to a striking darkness nearby.

"Wonder wood! Wonder wood! Freshly chopped wonder wood! So fresh the cut is still wet! Everyone, you'd better not pass up on this opportunity or you'll be missing out!" A vulgar peddler's shouts were extremely piercing and grating in the crowd. But, the grating shouts also drew the attention of people, thus a number of cultivators were encircling this peddler right now.

Every time there was a large-scale auction, many cultivators would be drawn over to set up their own stalls outside in hopes that they could sell their own treasures to the wealthy people coming out. This could be called a long-established tradition.

"What? You're asking me where this wonder wood came from? Heh, widen your eyes and take a look! When this wood is placed beneath the light, it produces darkness, and when it is bathed in darkness, it automatically releases a dazzling brilliance! Look again at these beautiful, brilliant colors. These textures and markings that captivate the mind. It is simply a natural piece of artwork!"

As Qi Cheng heard this, his smile stiffened. The sounds of flattering praise all around him had already vanished without a trace. The people that just walked out from the auction house all had incomparably strange looks on their faces. They had just witnessed a fierce competition involving several profligate young masters and an infamous character, and in the end an item being sold for a sky high price.

But none of that mattered. What mattered was that the withered wood that Qi Cheng had just won...didn't its attributes sound similar to what this peddler was trying to sell?

Suddenly, an excited voice rose up from the crowd. "That wood, I want it!"

Qi Cheng's eyeballs popped open. This voice...it was Qin Yu!

### **Chapter 466B – You and Your Honorable Master Are Good People**

With great effort, he shoved off a female cultivator who had glued herself to his side. Then, he sprang forth like an arrow, flying straight out. The thin old man's response was even faster. He was like a shadow, instantly crossing space. As for those people blocking his way, they were all sent flying away to the side.

"Hold on! I am also very interested in that wood!"

Seeing Qin Yu's flustered, angered, and resentful expression, Qi Cheng's psychological mindset was immensely satisfied. So what if you are a peerless proud son of heaven who is acknowledged by everyone? Aren't you being trampled beneath my foot today? And twice at that!

"Qi Cheng, don't push things too far!" Qin Yu roared.

Qi Cheng released a dazzling smile. "I am bullying you. The wood is right here. If you want it, then bid for it." He turned around and looked at the peddler whose entire body was covered in a black robe. He lightly said, "No matter how much anyone bids, I will give you more spirit stones. That wood is mine for certain."

The people who just came out of the auction house looked at Qin Yu with sympathy. To be pounded to death by spirit stones like this, wasn't that just an aggrieved way to die? However, just what was this wood? If Qin Yu and Qi Cheng both wanted it, there was no way it could be something simple.

"Precelestial wood!" Within the crowd, someone suddenly cried out in alarm. That person's eyes widened and excitement rose in his voice, "That's right, that's right, it has to be this sort of miracle item. I only accidentally read through an ancient text once and saw a record pertaining to it, but I never imagined I would have the chance to see something like it in my lifetime!"

There weren't many people who knew about precelestial wood. But, most of the people here actually knew that Qin Yu had been searching for this item for the last several months. Moreover, in the last two months, the price he put forth was becoming increasingly high, and yet he still hadn't found it.

Qi Cheng faintly smiled, welcoming everyone's eyes. He flipped his hand and took out a silver-colored metal box. He opened it to reveal a piece of withered wood. He took it out and held it in his hand. Then, with a bit of strength applied, there was a light crack as the black surface of the withered wood cracked apart to reveal its true appearance.

Ripples of darkness spread out, submerging Qi Cheng's hand. The dazzling colors, the mystical and exquisite textures – they were exactly the same as what the peddler was selling.

"That's right, this thing is precelestial wood." Qi Cheng smiled and looked up. "Qin Yu, you want this very much, right? But I won't give it to you. Do you find it unbearable? Hahaha...because right now I am happy; I have never been so happy before!"

Qin Yu's face flushed red and his body shivered. One could see blue veins sticking up on his neck; it was clear he was on the verge of erupting.

Qi Cheng narrowed his eyes and his smile widened. "You're angry right? Then hit me, take it away from me! Aren't you fierce? Why aren't you willing to fight me?"

"Fellow daoist Qin Yu, don't be so impulsive!" Kang Mingqiao shouted out. However, there wasn't much worry in his eyes. He looked at the black-robed peddler, looked at Qin Yu, and finally looked at Qi Cheng. A strange look filled his eyes.

Qin Yu closed his eyes and took a deep breath. "Arena Steward Kang, I wish to borrow some spirit stones from the Dao Arena. The amount may be extremely large. I wonder if you are willing to help me?"

Kang Mingqiao said without hesitation. "Fellow daoist Qin Yu is the most honored guest of my Dao Arena. There is no problem in lending you spirit stones!"

"Good!" Qin Yu roared out. "Qi Cheng, then let me see just how many spirit stones the master is willing to toss to their dog!"

Qi Cheng's lips curled up in a mocking smile. "If a dog is good and obedient, they have meat to eat. It is always better than being chased to the ends of the world, with no path to heaven and no door to hell. And in the end, being butchered anyways." He licked his lips. "Perhaps, if you die Qin Yu, maybe I will be given a part of your meat too."

Qin Yu clenched his jaws. "One billion spirit stones! Give me the precelestial wood!"

The peddler was clearly frightened by the fight happening in front of him. As he heard this amount, his eyes visibly brightened and he almost leapt up from the ground.

"What are you so flustered about! A mere billion spirit stones and you want to take the precelestial wood? Dream on!" Qi Cheng lightly said. "1.5 billion."

"2 billion!" Qin Yu's eyes flushed red, no hesitation in his voice.

"2.5 billion."

Qin Yu shouted, "3 billion!"

At this time, everyone in the surrounding crowd, no matter how honored or mediocre they were, they were all scared silly.

They had seen many spirit stones before, but they had never seen people who tossed about so many spirit stones like child's play.

3 billion spirit stones...

Even for the wealthy, as they thought about how all of this was happening for a mere spirit wood...well, alright, even if it was the incomparably rare and precious precelestial wood, it still wasn't worth this price!

Insane! These two were madmen!

The peddler was clearly frightened silly. He instinctively held the precelestial wood tight to his chest, his gaze mixed with joy and fear. It was clear that even though he knew that this terrifying bid was an incredible amount of wealth, he might not be able to live long enough to spend it.

But humans were like this. Even though they were extremely frightened, they could still be captivated by greed. The peddler locked his eyes onto the two competitors, hoping they would offer an even higher price.

Qi Cheng paused for a moment. He suddenly said, "Anyone can speak hollow words. Since it's a bid, you have to come up with enough chips." He turned his hand, producing four crystal demon spirit stone cards. "There are 4 billion spirit stones here. Qin Yu, do you dare increase the price?"

Qin Yu's body trembled. It was only by twisting his thigh that he was able to maintain the expression of grief, pain, and indignation on his face. He took a deep shuddering breath and looked at Kang Mingqiao.

Arena Steward Kang looked at Qin Yu and then at the mysterious and unfathomable black-robed peddler. He glanced towards the high-spirited Qi Cheng and observed a moment of silence for him that lasted all of three seconds. Then, he appeared to hesitate a little as he said, "With my status as the steward of Four Seasons City's Dao Arena, I guarantee that fellow daoist Qin Yu's bid is effective and true!"

Qi Cheng laughed out loud. "Arena Steward Kang naturally qualifies to be a guarantor. But, I wonder how many spirit stones a Dao Arena Branch Division can take out?"

Kang Mingqiao coldly sneered. "Humph! More than you can imagine!"

Qi Cheng turned and said, "I don't have enough spirit stones."

The thin old man didn't say a word. He widened his hands and two piles of crystal cards appeared in a flash of demonic light. Each one was the highest rank crystal demon spirit stone card.

Gulp –

Several cultivators immediately fainted, their eyes rolling into the back of their heads. However, no one laughed at them, because at this moment their field of vision flashed black as if an invisible hand were grasping at their hearts.

This...this...how many spirit stones was this? Although everyone knew that the Immortal Sect had stood for countless years and they had to have an astonishing background, such bold and daring actions were still hard to withstand for many people.

Qi Cheng flicked his sleeves and the spirit stone cards in the thin old man's hands fell to the ground. "If you give me the precelestial wood, all of these spirit stones are yours." He looked up, ridicule in his eyes. "Of course, Qin Yu, you can still increase the price. I don't mind using spirit stones to ruthlessly crush you beneath my foot."

"You..." Qin Yu's face flushed red and he stubbornly glared at Qi Cheng.

"Hahaha, it looks like this precelestial wood belongs to me too." Qi Cheng sneered. "You can give me the precelestial wood now."

The peddler's fingers trembled. He handed over the precelestial wood. Then, with the speed of lightning he swept up all the spirit stone cards on the ground and ran out from the crowd. His actions were swift. But, such a massive pile of spirit stone cards worth 10 billion spirit stones was enough to make the eyes of countless cultivators turn red with greed. They were willing to take any risk to obtain that much wealth

Quietly, over a dozen figures flashed away in hot pursuit. Qi Cheng smiled. This was because he knew that people from the Immortal Sect were inevitably in that group.

Spirit stones were good, but if a person didn't know when to retreat and took something that didn't belong to them, all that awaited them was death.

Qi Cheng played with the precelestial wood in his hand. He looked over. "Qin Yu, you could try begging me. Perhaps I'll feel some pity and toss you a precelestial wood. After all, I have two now, and I can't use them both."

Qin Yu's expression was calm, and there was even a faintly happy smile on his face. His demeanor was completely different from just before. As Qi Cheng saw this, his heart skipped a beat before he cursed Qin Yu for putting on an act and trying to play tricks. Qi Cheng believed that the calmer Qin Yu tried to be, the angrier he was within.

"Qi Cheng, do you think my calmness is an act? And that in truth I am very, very angry? To the point that I want to tear you to pieces? I'm sorry, but I have to say that I'm not angry at all right now. On the contrary, I am incredibly happy." Qin Yu paused for a moment and then suddenly said, "You and your honorable master are both good people. Really."

After he finished speaking he smiled and walked away.

Qi Cheng was bewildered upon suddenly being labeled a good person. He turned around and started walking away.

Kang Mingqiao looked at Qi Cheng with a strange expression. He shook his head and said, "I hope your lord will treat you with some mercy."

Qi Cheng's complexion paled. His intuition told him that something was wrong. But when he looked down and saw that he was still holding the two precelestial woods, he suppressed all of those worrisome thoughts.

Humph!

Schemes and plots. They wanted to disrupt his mindset and then use some schemes and plots, right?

It was useless. As long as he could stop Qin Yu from obtaining the precelestial wood, no matter how great a price he had to pay, it was only a merit to him in the end. Moreover, even though the Immortal Sect had paid 10 billion spirit stones, would that immense amount of wealth really be obtained by others? Heh, it was more likely that anyone who deigned to have thoughts on those spirit stones would die!

...

The black-robed peddler rushed into a tunnel. When he looked back behind him, he produced an inexplicably cold sneer. He moved and fused into a shadow in a corner, vanishing from sight.

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

Two cultivators broke through the void, appearing right where the black-robed peddler vanished. They looked around in anger, but no matter how much they searched they couldn't find the peddler's aura anymore.

As if he had vanished from existence.

Suddenly, an ice cold voice sounded out from behind the two. "Where are the spirit stones? Hand them over."

The two cultivators fiercely spun around. They saw a cruel-looking man with extraordinarily thick arms and cold eyes walking towards them. In contrast to his brutish appearance, when he walked on the ground he didn't produce any sound at all.

The eyes of the two cultivators shrank. They were cultivators who walked in the darkness, but at this moment they felt an intense threat coming from this other person. They turned and fled without hesitation.

They were extremely fast. But compared to the fists behind them, they were far too slow. Or, it could be said that this strange man had already calculated their trajectory. When the fists fell, the two cultivators had no way of avoiding them.

There were two thumping noises that were in such quick succession they were nearly a single sound. Massive holes appeared in the chests of the two cultivators who fled in separate directions. Their corpses tumbled to the ground, panic still in their eyes.

The cruel-looking man sifted through the corpses of the two cultivators but didn't find any harvests. Then, he frowned. At this time his complexion changed and he stormed backwards. The ground beneath him caved downwards and countless cracks wildly spread out like a spider web. Simultaneously, a peerless tyrannical aura erupted from his body.

But before he could even counterattack, a palm reached out from the darkness and silently touched his chest. As soon as he was touched, the cruel-looking man froze mid-action. Combined with the shattered ground all around him, it was as if time had come to a standstill.

## **Chapter 467 – A Terrifying Different World**

Dao Arena.

Kang Mingqiao clearly knew something, but he intelligently decided not to ask about it. It wasn't easy to take any small advantages from the Immortal Sect, so if a person did, it was best to just keep those tiny advantages and be happy about it. However, as he thought about the aloof and domineering Immortal Sect and how they had suffered such a loss at Qin Yu's hands, Arena Steward Kang couldn't help but smile. That idiot Qi Cheng, he had clamored to gift spirit stones to Qin Yu. Thinking about it, he was probably still smug with satisfaction right now.

After Kang Mingqiao left, Qin Yu sat in the courtyard of the training room. He furrowed his eyebrows, a dignified expression on his face. Even if Undying had abilities that were shrouded in mystery, in the end he was still dealing with the Immortal Sect. He hoped that no accidents happened just because of this sudden idea of his.

Ultimately speaking, he was still far too young. Even if he had experienced many things in life, he couldn't suppress his anger. After being provoked several times by the Immortal Sect, he decided to retaliate against them. But, what did it matter if he obtained 10 billion spirit stones from them? To the Immortal Sect this amount wasn't anything at all.

At this moment, Qin Yu felt a hint of regret towards his impulsive actions. After the precelestial wood he could have just directly built the soul leading altar. Why did he have to mess around?

Suddenly, shadows wriggled beneath his feet. Qin Yu was overjoyed as he saw Undying's figure rise up from the ground.

Undying casually tore off his black robes and offered a storage ring with both hands. "Little master, the spirit stone cards are here." He sensed the worry in Qin Yu's face that had yet to fully disperse and the last bits of his hesitation unknowingly faded away.

"Did you encounter someone from the Immortal Sect?"

"Mm. It was an expert, so I chose to kill him as a means of venting anger for little master."

Qin Yu's eyebrow arched up. "You...something doesn't seem quite right with you?"

Undying chuckled. "Isn't it good to act loyally? Allow me to remind little master that you don't have much time left. Are you sure you want to waste it chatting with me here?"

As he spoke he took a step backwards and melted into the shadows.

Qin Yu shook his head and suppressed any thoughts he had. Right now wasn't a good time to be thinking of investigating such things. The black stone mountain had trembled continuously these past two days; the undying will of the Ancestral Monster could regain consciousness at any moment. After finally managing to collect all of the soul treasures, he didn't want to fail just because he had lost himself in his thoughts for a moment.

He turned around and walked away. Several flashes later, he appeared in a vast courtyard. The black stone mountain floated high in the air, and the purpleback bluewing ants were in a deep slumber beneath it. One could clearly see ripples constantly appearing on the surface of the black stone mountain, as if tiny stones were being constantly tossed into a lake.

Qin Yu's expression turned serious. He flicked his sleeves and sat down. He closed his eyes and in his mind all of the steps related to the Soul Summoning Bell's master recognition process began to play through his thoughts. Although he had studied this process in depth numerous times before, this matter was simply far too important. There was just one chance and he absolutely could not allow himself to fail because of his overconfidence.

Then, after reviewing it all and determining that he hadn't missed anything, Qin Yu's eyes opened. A brilliant light flashed around him and 36 different soul treasures appeared.

The first step of the Soul Summoning Bell's master recognition process was to build the soul leading altar.

...

A hundred miles away from Four Seasons City, above the summit of a low mountain, space suddenly twisted and collapsed, forming a temporarily isolated domain.

The Buddhist Nation Sovereign and Nether Domain Master appeared, their hands held behind their backs as they looked at the distant Four Seasons City. Because of the spatial warping around them, the great city in front of them seemed blurry and faint.

But at this time, the two people had a solemn and dignified expression. In the eyes of other people, Four Seasons City didn't seem extraordinary at all. But in the vision of these two, the city seemed to be in the midst of a blazing conflagration, an inferno that was recklessly spreading out its heat and flames, causing the surrounding world to tremble.

"He really is powerful." The Buddhist Nation Sovereign said, a strange emotion in his voice. "He was originally a person that should have died, a person whose connection with destiny is impossibly weak. So how come in a single day he was able to evolve from a carp into a dragon, becoming someone who hovers in the highest heavens?"

The Nether Domain Master had a respectful gaze. "It's not just you and I that are confused by this conundrum. The Demonic Path's Blue Sky and Yellow Springs used a supreme treasure and borrowed the power of samsara to deduce the answer, but in the end they didn't discover anything."

The Buddhist Nation Sovereign nodded, but there was no dread in his eyes. Rather, there was a burning heat in them. "Black Robe, you have been in Four Seasons City for a long time so you should have a clearer understanding of the situation. What is your estimation of Solitary Westgate's current strength?"

Behind the two people, a black-robed person had his head lowered. After a moment of silence he muttered quietly, "This subordinate cannot make a true estimation." He hesitated and then continued to say, "Because from the very start, I was never able to truly sense the aura of the Dao Arena Master. If I had to truly say, the term 'unfathomably deep' would be the most appropriate description of him."

"Unfathomably deep..." The Nether Domain Master sighed. "In this world, for you to call someone 'unfathomably deep' in our presence, perhaps he is the only one."

The Buddhist Nation Sovereign smiled. "Only like this is life meaningful. Otherwise, if you look around and all you see is the world bowed down before you, even if you lived for a trillion years you would still feel lonely."

These words were nice to hear, but only a person knew what they were truly thinking in their heart. The Nether Domain Master smiled and didn't speak further.

At this moment, Black Robe looked up. His eyes flashed like lightning and surprise passed through them.

"Two lords, one of my assistants within Four Seasons City just perished. If I'm not wrong, he should have been responsible for recovering the spirit stones that the Immortal Sect passed out."

The Buddhist Nation Sovereign's eyes burst out with a flash of light. To be called the assistant of Black Robe, this in itself was an indication of strength.

"Allow me to look up just who dares to kill a person of my Immortal Sect in front of us." The Buddhist Nation Sovereign lifted a hand and tapped the void. A vast image of a map appeared in space, rapidly enlarging and focussing to reveal Four Seasons City. With a flick of his sleeves, the image began to rewind and play back.

...

The process of building the soul leading altar proceeded smoothly. When the last precelestial wood turned into a mote of light that hid in the mass of seven-colored light, it suddenly expanded and cracked. A vast and ancient blue-colored altar phantom appeared in the Dao Arena. The moment it did, an aura proliferated outwards, covering the training room.

To the outside world, everything seemed normal without even a change in aura. But inside, a connection had already been made. A soul channel had formed, one leading to a different world.

Qin Yu took a deep breath. Without any hesitation his divine sense howled out and fused into the altar. In the next moment, he felt as if he were sucked through a channel. Countless strobes of light passed around him. He had no idea how much time passed, but eventually, the tearing strength that tore at his divine sense suddenly disappeared.

Shua –

A vast sea of stars appeared in front of Qin Yu. Its magnificence was different from the time when he first entered the Ninerealm Holy Land...as if...it possessed a more profound vicissitudes of the years.

Before he could observe further, an invisible suction strength arrived from the far distance, wrapping around his divine sense and sending him howling deep into the sea of stars.

...

Solitary Westgate furrowed his eyes. He looked up towards the Dao Arena and that courtyard which didn't seem to have any changes to it. He had felt a faint fluctuation in his mind just now, but when he went to look for it again he couldn't find anything.

Was he too anxious?

Solitary Westgate shook his head, a helpless expression on his face. But as his eyes fell onto that distant courtyard, a bit of anticipation appeared in his eyes. He was a highly intelligent person, so he could naturally sense something strange from the actions of the Immortal Sect.

For instance, their competition with Qin Yu over the precelestial wood.

The Immortal Sect was overbearing and their strength was at the pinnacle of the Land of Divinity and Demons. They always tried to conduct themselves publicly in a righteous and epic fashion. Even if they wanted to eliminate Qin Yu as soon as possible, they wouldn't do something so petty.

Precelestial wood...there was surely some secret he didn't know of. The Immortal Sect must have detected it and didn't want Qin Yu to succeed, thus they proceeded with this ridiculous plan.

Brat, within this heaven and earth, there are few that could make the Immortal Sect feel so much dread. I am looking forward to your future even more. Don't let me down!

...

He couldn't move his divine sense at all. Several times, his divine sense approached incomparably pitch black regions in the sea of stars. Even though there was a great distance separating them, Qin Yu still felt a fear gush out from the depths of his soul. He had no idea what these pitch black regions were, but there was something he was sure of – if his divine sense ever entered those regions, there was no chance it would ever come back out.

Luckily, although there were some dangers, the strength that wrapped around his divine sense managed to avoid all of the true dangers. And as he passed deeper and deeper into the sea of stars, this strength that wrapped around his divine sense became increasingly strong and his speed became increasingly fast, so fast that Qin Yu could no longer see anything around him. He finally understood why this attractive force would firmly imprison his divine sense. This was because if there wasn't this strength firmly wrapping up his divine sense and protecting it, his divine sense would have already been smashed into nothing!

He had gone an incredibly deep distance into the sea of stars but he still hadn't reached his destination. As he thought about the Monster Raising Mystic Art and the world it recorded that was said to be the home of the soul of nothingness, Qin Yu's heart turned heavy.

It wasn't easy for a most precious treasure of the heavens and earth to recognize a master. The first step was to collect 36 different soul treasures. If one had sufficient time and a dash of luck, they would eventually be able to accomplish this. But to collect the soul of nothingness, that was where one's luck and character were truly put to the test. If he was lucky, he might be able to catch the soul of nothingness as soon as he arrived at this different world. If he wasn't lucky...to escape alive would already be a blessing from the heavens!

Moreover, the opportunity to enter this world...there was only one time.

After an unknown period of time, there was a loud humming sound. Qin Yu shook so much that his field of vision turned black. When his divine sense restored itself, he discovered that he had appeared in a forest, one so incomparably vast that he couldn't see where it ended. Countless ancient trees soared up like spears, piercing into the skies.

Although it was only his divine sense, Qin Yu could still clearly feel the terrifying richness of heaven and earth spiritual strength in this world. Just taking a single breath was the same as completely sucking dry the purest spirit stone in the Land of Divinity and Demons.

If anyone were born here, then perhaps even a pig might easily become a terrifying great monster!

Suddenly, a loud heaven-shaking rumbling came in from the distance. The ground started to shake and winds began to blow. Soon, Qin Yu discovered that this wasn't wind at all, but the breathing of a great beast.

When Qin Yu first saw the creature, he confessed that even though he believed his willpower to be firm, his heart still skipped a beat. He never imagined that such a terrifyingly large beast could exist. Its giant

body was like a massive dark cloud that blocked out the sunlight. Every step it took trampled the ancient sky-piercing trees, causing the earth to violently tremble and countless cracks to appear.

Its eyes were like the sun and moon and stars. Every single one of its hairs could fall down and crush a mountain. Its gentle breathing was like the roar of thunder.

Although Qin Yu had already mentally prepared himself to arrive at this world, it was only now that he discovered this world was far more terrifying than he imagined.

No, it was a hundred times, a thousand times, ten thousand times more terrifying!

Fortunately, this great beast hadn't seemed to discover Qin Yu, who relatively speaking, was even smaller than an ant. It moved towards the distance, finally vanishing from his line of sight. Behind it, the ancient trees that were trampled down rapidly rose up from the ground. The broken sections grew back, until finally there was no trace of damage left behind.

Soon, besides the countless leaves on the ground, everything had restored itself to how it was in the beginning. Even the cracks had vanished from sight!

What a horrifying self-repairing ability!

However, Qin Yu soon realized the reason for it. If this world didn't have such amazing self-restoring capabilities, then no matter how powerful it was, it would never be able to survive the destruction caused by these giant vicious beasts.

"I hope that there aren't many of those terrifying vicious beasts in this world..." Qin Yu whispered to himself. With a thought, his divine sense flew forward. He needed to find the soul of nothingness as soon as possible and leave this terrifying different world.

#### **Chapter 468 – The Great Dragon Formed By Souls of Nothingness**

The shadow of the black mountain seemed as if it held up the entirety of the heavens. Even though it was an endless distance away, one could still clearly feel the horrifying oppressive feeling that it emanated. This was a type of despair and dread that a person would only feel when the rivers and mountains were breaking and the world was collapsing.

At this time, atop the shadow of the mountain, two giant beasts were engaged in slaughter with each other. Their angry roars were like 3000 thunderbolts striking down in unison. Rocks were sent flying about, filling the skies like stars at night. Every drop of blood that splashed out was like a blood lake, smashing into the earth.

Frightened by the terrifying struggle occurring between the two great beasts, the monster beasts that lived in this mountain range began to flee in all directions. Even if they were much smaller, the weakest of these monster beasts were still tens of thousands of feet tall.

Suddenly, with a heaven-shaking rumble, the shadow of the black mountain broke apart and countless fleeing monster beasts were smashed into goo by the titanic rocks that came falling down.

At this moment, one could only see the shadow of that black mountain turn its head and open its jaws wide, swallowing up the two giant beasts that were fighting each other.

Chewing sounds came out, as loud as mountains falling into the sea. Rivers of blood flowed down the sides of its mouth. It was like a red torrent falling down from the heavens, billowing as it struck the ground and creating a sea of blood in the blink of an eye.

The black mountain shadow lay back down on the ground once more. With another heaven-shaking rumble, the entire world quaked and countless terrifying canyons tore through the earth in all directions. But soon, the torn earth began to restore itself to how it was in the beginning. The black mountain shadow rapidly secreted a layer of mucus that covered its body. When this mucus came into contact with the air, it rapidly hardened into a thick layer of rock.

Strong winds swept out through countless ancient trees, even uprooting them before they were smashed apart by the wind into countless bits and pieces that sprinkled down onto the surface of the black mountain shadow. Then, these bits and pieces of ancient trees took root at a speed visible to the naked eye. They began to germinate, becoming thick and strong saplings that sucked up nutrients from the earth and wildly grew.

Perhaps only several days of time would be needed for this area to return to how it was before.

...

The galloping river was like a moving sea. On the banks of it were terrifying willow trees that were hundreds of thousands of feet tall and radiated a divine light. By relying on their impossibly thick roots, they drilled deep and firm into the earth, fixing themselves stably onto the banks of the river.

But today, these incomparably terrifying willows were easily crushed and broken apart by the waves of water. They were pulled out from the river banks, forming giant pits in the ground that were hundreds of miles deep. In the blink of an eye, these massive pits were filled back up with water.

A giant golden fish was swimming through the river. Its size was astonishingly large, so large that the water couldn't fully submerge its body. On its back were fins that seemed cast from pure gold. Beneath the light, they reflected millions of rays of sparkling divine light. Every time the large fish swung its body around, it would cause the river to emit groans of pain, followed by waves that were capable of destroying all.

The path ahead of the river suddenly narrowed, blocking the path of the big fish. A roar came from the water as a horrifying vortex appeared from thin air, sucking out all of the river water.

The galloping river was unexpectedly severed at this moment, exposing what lay beneath the surface of the water. The giant golden fish's head was actually that of a dignified and majestic dragon. Its golden eyes were ice cold and shined with infinite honor and glory. It opened its mouth and all of the river water it sucked in was blown out in a column of water. The earth shook and the narrow river passage was blown open.

The giant golden fish swam underwater and continued forward, completely disregarding the river that had just been torn open. Endless river water rushed out, flooding the region for a thousand miles around.

...

After being in this different world for half a day, Qin Yu's outlook on life was thoroughly torn down and renewed. This was simply a Land of Divinity and Demons that was enlarged a thousand times, ten thousand times over. What was enlarged was everything within this world. Have you ever seen ants that were dozens of feet tall, frogs that were thousands of feet tall, or wild boars that were hundreds of thousands of feet tall? These beasts were everywhere here.

Qin Yu even saw a terrifying giant ape who had three heads on its shoulders and stepped over mountain ranges. The top of its head reached through the skies and the upper half of its body was wreathed in clouds. Every breath that this giant ape took had the potential to stir up wind and thunder!

Fortunately for Qin Yu, his tiny divine sense was like a grain of sand in a vast desert. In addition, if he sensed the situation was worsening, he would flee for his life. Only by doing this did he manage to survive until now. But, the problem right now was that he couldn't rely on his continued luck. If even a single accident were to occur, he would be thrust beyond any hope of redemption. This accident might be the breath of a great beast, or even an ant that suddenly decided it wanted to hunt him down.

In short, Qin Yu didn't want to stay in this world for even a second longer than necessary. This sort of environment where the shadow of death loomed around every corner was simply oppressive enough to leave one gasping in despair.

But he still hadn't found the trail of a soul of nothingness. This left Qin Yu feeling restless. This was because according to the Monster Raising Mystic Art, souls of nothingness were like rivers; they ran through every corner of this world. As long as his luck wasn't too bad he would be able to find one quickly.

Souls of nothingness had no offensive capabilities. As long as he managed to approach one he would be able to capture it. Then, he could stimulate the strength of the soul leading altar and depart from this world.

Half a day passed. Relying on the speed of his divine sense, Qin Yu was able to cover an inconceivably large region and yet he wasn't able to find a soul of nothingness.

Something clearly wasn't right.

"Just what happened?" Qin Yu muttered beneath his breath, anxiousness rising in his eyes.

The strength of the soul leading altar could only be maintained for one day. In other words, if he couldn't find a soul of nothingness within another half day, he could only leave. And once he left, the aura of his divine sense would be marked by the will of this different world. Then, if he tried to come here again, before his divine sense even descended he would be eliminated by the world's will.

This was why it was said that a person only had one chance to enter this different world...if he failed, he would no longer be able to complete the process of the Soul Summoning Bell recognizing a master.

Rumble rumble –

A terrifying sound spread out. Qin Yu's complexion changed and his divine sense immediately hurtled away, avoiding the eagle that flew up above. It had pure white feathers and its two wings blocked out the skies. Perhaps the great roc bird spoken about in the legends referred to such a creature.

Only after fleeing far, far away did Qin Yu's divine sense come to a stop. He bitterly smiled. This terrifying giant eagle might not care about his existence at all, but the gales stirred up by the flapping of its wings were enough to easily tear apart his divine sense.

This wasn't some mighty supernatural art. No, it was simply the winds stirred up by the movement of the eagle's wings. This was because once strength surpassed a certain limit, it brought about a qualitative change that could also destroy a person's divine sense!

Suddenly, a shrill cry resounded from afar. Qin Yu looked up and his pupils shrank, endless shock filling his eyes. He saw that incomparably large, roc-like white eagle he just fled from suddenly be pierced through with a sharp spike. It flapped its wings in a panic but it wasn't able to escape the imprisonment of that spike.

With a wail, that giant white eagle was pulled to the ground. There was a thunderous heaven-shaking crash from afar, followed by sounds of feeding that were as loud as mountains and rivers crashing into each other.

Qin Yu paled. Although he hadn't been in this different world for long, he still had some experience. That giant white eagle had a high degree of cultivation and even in this terrifying different world it could still be considered an extremely horrifying existence. But it actually wasn't able to resist at all as it was pierced through by a spike and then swallowed up...according to what Qin Yu knew of this world so far, the more tyrannical a life form was, the larger it was.

To easily kill the giant white eagle...Qin Yu's divine sense shivered and a sense of palpable fear gushed out from his heart. He wanted to flee, but at this moment a boundless aura erupted from somewhere deep below the earth. Beneath this aura, his divine sense froze and he couldn't even think. Following that, the earth beneath his feet broke apart and a black mountain peak rose from the ground, lifting Qin Yu into the skies.

Hum –

A halo of light appeared, blocking out the wind from the outside. The terrifying oppression that Qin Yu felt vanished along with it. With his ability to move restored, Qin Yu looked around. His mouth subconsciously fell open and thunderous rumbles filled his mind, causing his vision to flash black.

Endless blackness spread out in all directions. The black color was uneven and bumpy, like hills rising up every so often. However, the true appearance of these hills were that they were scales stacked up upon each other. What he was stood on now was actually the back of an incomparably large spider. It had awoken from a deep slumber and its eight massive legs tore apart the earth beneath it.

Qin Yu had no idea whether there was a larger life form in this different world. But, the spider below him was the most terrifying existence he had encountered thus far. Even that three-headed giant ape and the golden fish shuttling through the river were nothing but small and humble little brothers before this mind-boggling spider. With a single stab of a leg, this spider could pierce through ten three-headed apes or golden fishes.

Its eyes were dense and numerous, shining with the cold luster of intelligence. They were like stars neatly arranged in rows. Suddenly, the eyes swiveled about and the spider began to move. It left behind bottomless holes in the ground as it traversed the land, speeding away at an astonishing pace.

Whether it was grand and palatial mountain ranges or raging rivers that seemed to flow forever, any geographic structure flashed by rapidly beneath its body, unable to prevent its movement in the least.

Countless formidable monster beasts ran away into the distance in a flustered panic. There was even a giant pangolin that was millions of feet long which screamed out loud and drilled deep into the earth.

But soon after that, a leg stabbed into the earth, causing a pained roar to fill the world. The pangolin that ran away was forcefully pulled out. Then, the pangolin opened its jaws to reveal rows of sharp teeth. It bit down on the spider leg. The grating sound was like stars colliding against each other. Endless plumes of radiant fire gushed out. The teeth began to break apart as the pangolin wasn't able to cause any damage to the spider at all.

The spider pulled out its leg. Its eyes were cold and indifferent. The two sides of its mouth opened to reveal a deep and horrifying darkness that seemed to go straight into the maw of hell. With the movement of muscles, a circle of sharp teeth began to wildly spin.

The entire pangolin was swallowed up a mouthful at a time. Along with the swallowing movements, one could clearly hear the sounds of flesh and bone being twisted and broken down. It was a low and dull sound, like a hundred thousand giant drums beating in unison.

Qin Yu's divine sense instinctually trembled. This terrifying spider's strength simply broke through the horizon. He attempted to flee, but although the halo of light surrounding him was only a thin and light layer, its defensive strength was actually incredible. No matter how hard he tried, he couldn't shake it in the least.

His only path was to stimulate the strength of the soul leading altar and directly leave this world, otherwise there was no way for him to escape. Uncertainty flashed in his eyes and all sorts of thoughts clashed in his mind. If he left it would no longer be possible for the Soul Summoning Bell to recognize him as master.

No!

He forcefully pushed down the fear in his heart and decided to wait for an opportunity to appear. Perhaps he would soon find an opening to flee.

But, what Qin Yu didn't know was that once the spider activated its protective abilities, it was an indication that it was about to start fighting. And if there was something that could force the spider to be so cautious, it had to be an equivalent level existence.

Two hours later, Qin Yu finally saw the spider's opponent.

In the boundless and endless sea...this was a genuine sea, the sea of a different world. It was truly vast and limitless, like the skies above the world.

A giant purple dragon was entrenched here. Its body was so majestic and grand that even the sea couldn't submerge it. Its ice cold eyes stared at the spider that came rumbling towards it from afar, as if it had already been waiting here for it for a long time.

Qin Yu's eyes widened. This wasn't because he was alarmed or afraid of the giant dragon's aura. No, it was because he discovered that this giant purple dragon was actually composed of countless tiny

organisms. Of course, these so-called 'tiny organisms' were all at least ten feet in size. They were like purple jellyfish with their tentacles wrapped up around each other, thus forming this giant purple dragon.

At this moment, Qin Yu finally realized why he hadn't encountered any souls of nothingness even though he had been in this different world for half a day. It was because they were all gathered here...yes, that was right, this incomparably dignified giant purple dragon was actually composed of trillions of souls of nothingness!

Rah –

The spider sent out an enraged roar. Its billowing voice was accompanied by a visible impact that swept out in all directions. Space collapsed and the earth shook and shattered. Immense waves were suddenly stirred up in the endless sea.

The giant purple dragon's eyes didn't reveal any fear. It reared back its head and responded with a dragon's roar.

The dragon's roar was like a sword. It came falling down from the skies, separating the tumbling water and cutting straight down!

#### **Chapter 469 – The Golden Soul of Nothingness**

The spider's two rows of eyes began to shine, like suns that were going into supernova. The imprisoning strength that vanished reappeared once more, suppressing Qin Yu's divine sense onto the scales so that he couldn't move anymore. But, this didn't stop him from witnessing the heaven-quaking collision that occurred right after.

He only saw the spider lift up a leg and then stab it into the sea, like a spear cast down from the highest heavens by gods and demons. It crashed into the crack in the sea created by the dragon's roar, tightly suppressing it. At this moment, the world fell silent. All fluctuations instantly vanished. Time, space, light, darkness...all of it seemed to lose meaning.

It was like a breath of time passed, but also an incomparably long samsara. Then, this silence shattered and the sea's surface exploded. Endless sea water shot up into the skies, revealing the pitch black seabed beneath.

Every drop of sea water contained an annihilating strength. They fired into all directions, smashing apart everything in their way. This coastline had withstood trillions of years of erosion from wild waves, but now it was as fragile as tofu. It was instantly torn apart and destroyed.

With just one wave, over a thousand miles of earth collapsed, filling in with water and becoming a part of the sea. Soon after that there was a second and third wave. The raging sea water crashed and howled, constantly surging towards land.

5000 miles.

10,000 miles!

30,000 miles!

100,000 miles!

Once the waves gradually subsided, the sea had extended a full 100,000 miles into land, causing all of it to become the domain of water.

The spider's eight massive legs supported its body, lifting it above the sea water. No matter how much the sea water crashed into it, it didn't shake at all. It stared at the giant purple dragon, its rows of eyes filled with an ice cold killing intent. It roared, its voice like a million peals of thunder as it opened its mouth and spat out a black web.

This net was inconceivably large. It spread over the entirety of heavens. There were small lines on the surface of the web that flowed with black light as it shrouded the giant purple dragon.

The giant purple dragon lifted its sharp claws. But at this time, the waves that surged into the distance suddenly broke apart in the middle and a terrifying tentacle drilled out, so large that it seemed that it could twist apart stars.

Rah –

With a deep roar, the purple dragon split into two. One shot up into the sky and welcomed the black web and the other turned around and rushed deep into the sea.

From the moment the fierce battles began, they entered into a superheated state of life or death. The purple dragon fell into the black web and recklessly slashed at it, tearing apart countless threads. However, the threads instantly repaired themselves.

Deep in the sea, the battle was far more frigid and brutal. A giant octopus with hundreds of terrifying tentacles tied down the purple dragon and both of them wrestled in the sea. The waters that had just subsided began to seethe and boil once more.

Qin Yu's divine sense was locked onto the surface of the spider's scale. With the speed of its movements, he wasn't able to see the entire battlefield. But, he occasionally managed to catch glimpses of the purple dragon. Even though it had split into two, it didn't seem to have fallen into a disadvantage at all.

But this balance didn't last much longer. The figure of a fourth giant beast appeared in the skies. If the white eagle that had been killed and eaten by the spider could be compared to the legendary roc, then this bird up above was as vast and limitless as the sea of stars.

From a purely visual observation, its body size was even more terrifying than the spider that Qin Yu stood on. Its wings extended into the distance, so far that he couldn't see their end. Its golden eyes peered out from the clouds above, locking onto the giant purple dragon.

The giant spider that was controlling the web and fighting with the purple dragon suddenly revealed a trace of fear in its rows of eyes. It pulled up its legs and fell backwards, withdrawing far away.

The giant octopus in the deep sea also emitted an angry roar. It seemed to have some sort of existing hatred of this terrifying bird.

But whether it was the spider or octopus, they couldn't make the bird's eyes move at all. The bird locked onto the purple dragon, its gaze gradually turning burning hot.

Rah –

The two purple dragons roared in unison. Their voices were filled with anger and unwillingness. It clearly knew that with its strength it couldn't resist three peak existences that stood at the pinnacle of the food chain.

This attempt had once again failed.

It could no longer wait. Otherwise, if too much time passed the fourth giant beast would arrive, and at that time its chances of escaping would fall dramatically.

Bang –

Bang –

The two purple dragons exploded at the same time. As their bodies tumbled in the air, the bits and pieces wriggled about, transforming into small and large little purple dragons that howled out in all directions.

The black web shattered and two of the giant octopus' tentacles blew apart. But even so, joy lit up the eyes of the spider and octopus. They opened their large mouths and countless little purple dragons fell into them.

This was because today, the reason they hunted this purple dragon with all their strength was all for this moment. The giant bird that flew above their heads didn't join in this competition. Its sun-like eyes locked onto the vast sea as it searched for its own goal.

The giant bird was confident that with its divine eyes it wouldn't allow its prey to escape. But as time passed, it didn't obtain any harvests. On the other hand the octopus and spider swallowed up a massive number of purple dragons and their auras became increasingly terrifying. It was clear they had obtained substantial benefits.

With a sharp cry, a transmission of the bird's undeniable will was sent out. The spider and octopus were feeding at this moment and they roared out together, as if resisting.

The giant bird's cold eyes immediately erupted with a dazzling divine light. It violently flapped its wings and the deep sea giant octopus was immediately lifted up and sent flying away. Several unfathomably deep wounds appeared on its immense body. Even though its flesh wriggled and rapidly regrew, the blood that spewed out still dyed the sea red.

The spider screamed out loud and lifted two legs, crossing them over its head. In the next instant its body fiercely sank and those two seemingly indestructible legs were severed in half. A large amount of dark yellow mucus flowed out from the wounds. However, this mucus didn't fall into the sea. Rather, after it came into contact with the air, it rapidly hardened, turning into two new legs.

The spider opened its mouth once more. This time, it didn't spit out a web. Rather, it spat out a terrifyingly sharp spike formed from countless tiny spikes, aimed directly at the bird's abdomen.

In the deep sea, the giant octopus's belly bulged and then collapsed. Following that, a nearly endless amount of violently poisonous black ink shot up into the skies, spreading out all over to cover the great bird.

It was clear that when facing a more powerful existence, these two great beasts had chosen to join forces.

With an angered scream, the bird flapped its wings. Winds and clouds rolled away as strong astral winds arrived from the highest heavens, swirling away all of the black ink. Following that, its sharp claws reached out, grabbing onto the sharp spike spat out by the spider. It violently pulled back.

The spider issued an agonizing cry of pain. A titanic, nest-like organ was pulled out from its body. After that, endless blood gushed out from its mouth. The spider staggered and its eight giant legs rapidly moved as it started to flee into the distance.

Before this, the giant octopus had already started to submerge into the depths of the sea.

The bird roared in anger as it saw that it couldn't chase after the giant octopus. Golden flames blew out from its eyes, striking the fleeing spider.

Qin Yu's eyes widened. Looking at the golden flames that rolled his way, fear filled his face. He didn't doubt that the power of these flames could directly burn away his divine sense into nothing.

The spider sadly screeched as it felt the impending danger. Qin Yu stuffily humphed as he felt his divine sense almost being crushed by the suppressive strength around him. Fortunately, this feeling only lasted for a brief moment. The protective halo of light around the spider's body only lasted for a breath of time before it was directly crushed apart.

Flesh and blood flew out and countless scales tumbled down, shining like fragments of stars in the night sky and crashing into the sea. Qin Yu's divine sense felt as if it were slashed by sabers as the scale he was standing on was torn off. As he saw the approaching sea level, his eyes revealed fear and alarm. The scale he stood on was attached to a piece of meat; it was like a small island. Once he crashed into the sea, the force of the impact would be enough to grind away his divine sense.

Though there was a bitter expression in Qin Yu's eyes, he didn't hesitate at all. He directly activated the power of the soul leading altar. A faint trembling occurred around him.

At this time, a fleeing purple dragon that wasn't too far away suddenly revealed a look of shock and happiness in its eyes. It fiercely spun around and soared directly towards Qin Yu. When there was still some distance between them, the purple dragon disintegrated, turning into countless souls of nothingness that fled in all directions. One of these souls of nothingness shot straight at Qin Yu!

Qin Yu's eyes widened. After a brief moment of stunned disbelief, a look of wild joy filled his eyes. He looked at the approaching soul of nothingness and quickly lifted a hand and reached out a finger. A wisp of divine sense flew out, smoothly fusing into the soul of nothingness. Then, in the next moment, a rich golden light erupted from within the soul of nothingness, as if a sun had appeared on the surface of the sea!

Qin Yu sucked in a breath, thinking that this wasn't something good at all. In the skies above him, there was a heaven-shaking roar of anger. The great bird's eyes were filled with rage as it violently flapped its wings. Heaven and earth spiritual strength in the air rapidly contracted to a single point, and the core of this point was Qin Yu!

He looked up towards the vault of heaven where the infinitely terrifying and mighty great bird was. Qin Yu's eyes were full of awe and wonder; this was a level of strength that he was far from reaching. But, there wasn't much dread on his face. This was because the strength of the soul leading altar had already erupted.

Hum –

The space around Qin Yu's divine sense began to distort. It completely disregarded the heaven and earth spiritual strength that covered him. Then, he directly vanished.

The soul leading altar's strength utilized a loophole that existed in the world's rules. As long as it was within the rules, there was nothing that could stop it. The great bird's eyes filled with disbelief. It was only after several breaths of time that it responded. The thing that it had chased after with so much difficulty was actually being taken away by something as small and weak as an ant.

A scream of anger spread out over for over a trillion miles and the entire sea region began to seethe and bubble over. Giant waves rose up, reaching into the heavens. All of this signified just how enraged the great bird was at this moment!

Qin Yu's field of vision distorted and darkened. After his sight was restored once more, he discovered that he had already left that terrifying different world and was currently rapidly shuttling through the sea of stars.

He didn't even have enough time to feel joy at having escaped from the jaws of death. Qin Yu quickly searched his divine sense and discovered a deeply sleeping soul of nothingness within. It was only then that he relaxed.

He never thought that at the very final moments he would be able to obtain a soul of nothingness. This was truly a heaven-gifted stroke of good fortune.

Moreover, the color of this soul of nothingness was actually a radiant gold.

Qin Yu's eyes flashed. From the response of the great bird, it wasn't hard to guess that its goal had been this golden soul of nothingness.

Although he didn't know what this golden soul of nothingness represented, it was clearly something good. Qin Yu had full faith in the eyesight and judgment of that great bird!

Suddenly, there was a violent shaking all around that woke Qin Yu from his excitement.

There were countless pitch black regions within the sea of stars. They were like the open mouths of monsters; this was something he already knew.

But now, it seemed as if these pitch black regions were very interested in him, as if they wanted to swallow him whole.

When the strength that wrapped around him trembled, that was due to the swallowing strength emitted by those pitch black regions.

Although he had successfully broken free, Qin Yu discovered that his speed forward had slowed significantly. It was clear that in order to resist the swallowing strength from those pitch black star regions, the protective strength that wrapped around him had suffered losses.

The golden soul of nothingness!

Qin Yu revealed a dignified expression. When he traveled here everything had gone smoothly. If there was a sudden change now, it could only be because of this thing.

Just what was this soul of nothingness? It could even cause the starry skies to develop an interest in him?

Qin Yu took a deep breath and suppressed these thoughts. The most critical issue right now was that on his journey back, there were still more pitch black star regions.

With once swallowing attempt, the speed of the strength that wrapped around him had slowed down. If this happened multiple times, it might even exhaust the strength of the soul leading altar.

The consequences of that were evident!

As soon as this thought appeared, Qin Yu clenched his teeth. It was only with an enormous stroke of luck that he managed to obtain this golden soul of nothingness. He wouldn't give up on it so easily.

Unless it was the final moment, he wouldn't let go.

Reality proved that Qin Yu's worries weren't for nothing. On the journey back, whenever he approached a pitch black star region it would release a swallowing strength towards the golden soul of nothingness.

Luckily, they were extremely far away. Even though the soul leading altar's strength trembled the entire time, it eventually managed to free itself.

Whoosh –

His divine sense entered into a multi-colored rainbow channel. Qin Yu's heart relaxed. It was only at this moment that he knew he was safe.

Soon he would return to the Land of Divinity and Demons!

The ancient blue soul leading altar violently trembled. Cracks started to appear on its surface; it was clear that it had almost used up all of its strength.

Kacha –

With a light cracking sound, a chain reaction occurred. The soul leading altar disintegrated and the 36 soul treasures used to create it all turned into powder.

On the ground, Qin Yu shivered. His eyes flew open and he took great heaving breaths. Joy filled his eyes.

Just a bit, just a bit more and he would have failed. When the rainbow channel shattered, his divine sense had come tumbling out.

If he had only been a little bit slower...only the heavens knew what would have happened!

He flipped his hand and the golden soul of nothingness appeared in his palm. Qin Yu's lips curved up in a smile. He could no longer suppress his mood and started to laugh into the sky.

### **Chapter 470A – A Crafty Escape**

The black mountain phantom was in an extremely unstable condition. Red lines often appeared on the surface of the deeply sleeping purpleback bluewing ants, gently twitching.

The will of the Ancestral Monster could regain consciousness at any moment!

Qin Yu couldn't care about the weariness of his soul. He suppressed his excited mood and with a thought, the tattered Soul Summoning Bell appeared in front of him.

In the next moment, without need for any command at all, the slumbering golden soul of nothingness started to fly towards the Soul Summoning Bell on its own initiative.

As it approached, the soul of nothingness constantly shrank. It turned into a mote of light the size of a grain of rice and fused into the Soul Summoning Bell.

Everything proceeded unexpectedly smoothly. It occurred so rapidly that Qin Yu wasn't even able to react. The master recognition process...seemed to have been completed!

The golden soul of nothingness seemed to be different from what was recorded in the Monster Raising Mystic Art. Qin Yu took a deep breath and looked at the Soul Summoning Bell floating in front of him.

Time passed a breath at a time. The Soul Summoning Bell maintained its silence, without any change at all. A gloomy expression began to appear on Qin Yu's face...could it be that the golden soul of nothingness didn't meet the conditions needed for the recognition of the master?

Suddenly, the Soul Summoning Bell gently trembled. It was faint at first, but it began to pick up speed and strength, becoming incredibly fierce. One could see the rusted stains on the Soul Summoning Bell falling off at a rapid rate. Faint traces of golden began to appear on its surface.

However, because the Soul Summoning Bell had been considerably damaged, the golden light flowing on its surface was clearly hindered and stagnated. But it was undoubtedly much more dazzling compared to before.

Qin Yu was overjoyed. Just as he was about to reach out to grab it, a young voice sounded out. "Move your stinky hands away, don't just touch anyone!" The tone was dark and ominous, but unfortunately it wasn't able to exude the threat it deserved.

Whoosh –

The Soul Summoning Bell fiercely drew away, creating a distance between it and Qin Yu. Qin Yu looked at it with a stunned expression, but before he could even say anything or understand what happened, the young voice spoke up once more, even more grating than before. "You pervert! Lecher! Don't you care about face at all? What are you looking at! I haven't even put clothes on yet!"

The voice sounded sour as if bitter and about to cry tears. Suddenly, there was a burst of golden light. When Qin Yu could see things clearly once more, he saw that the Soul Summoning Bell had vanished. In its place was a little girl that looked to be around five or six years of age. She had golden hair and wore a

puffy skirt. At this time, her round and chubby cheeks were pinched together and she was glaring at him with a 'vicious' glare.

This...what the hell...this was completely different from what was recorded in the Monster Raising Mystic Art.

The little girl looked at Qin Yu who had a dull and dazed expression etched on his face. She lightly humphed and arrogantly said, "Brat, I am going to give you a chance to reform yourself. You can become my follower and serve me reverently. Perhaps I may even forgive you for the crime of blaspheming me." She narrowed her eyes and gnashed her little teeth. "Otherwise, just the sin of peeping at me naked is enough to send you to the punishment station and be burnt to ashes in the flames!"

Qin Yu took a deep breath. His thoughts raced and his complexion became strange. "You are the Soul Summoning Bell..."

"How bold! You dare to use such an impolite tone with me? Qin Yu, do you want to die?" The little girl had an overbearing and tyrannical attitude.

Heavy lines crossed Qin Yu's forehead. He was silent for a moment before he said in a low voice, "Stop bluffing. I can already sense that the Soul Summoning Bell has recognized an owner. In other words, no matter what you are, I am your master."

The little girl's face paled. "You...you...you...you can try me! I..I..I..I'm not afraid of you!" Even though she said this, the expression on her face seemed to say that if Qin Yu were to be any more mean towards her, she would immediately start crying.

Qin Yu lifted his hands and rubbed his eyebrows. "First of all, I saved you, right?" When he spoke, he glanced at the little girl from the edge of his vision. He saw her reveal an expression that seemed as if she were wondering just how he knew about this. From this, he immediately determined that this little bratty girl really was the golden soul of nothingness.

The little girl bit her lips, not saying anything.

Qin Yu relaxed a little. "Look, I don't have any evil intentions towards you. But, you need to tell me what the current situation is right now. Only then will there not be any misunderstandings between us."

In order to express his sincerity, he took several steps back.

The little girl wavered. This person wasn't easy to fool. Moreover, his divine sense was in her body. If she needlessly provoked him, maybe she really would suffer a loss.

If the first option didn't work, she would switch to her backup plan.

She blinked her eyes, instantly becoming pitiful and sad. Her long eyelashes trembled and she instantly displayed her heartrending and emotionally stirring skills to the max.

"I...I didn't mean to...I'm so scared...I'm scared you will...really hurt me..."

Qin Yu's smile was incomparably bright. "You have no idea just how much effort I spent to arrive here today. Not only will I not harm you, I will do everything in my power to protect you."

The little girl sobbed. "But, I am tired right now. I need to immediately go to sleep otherwise my head will hurt so much. If you have something to say to me, how about asking me later?"

Her appearance was pitiful and lamentable. Even though Qin Yu knew that it was likely she was just putting on an act, he found himself unexpectedly nodding.

"Thank you!" The little girl's eyes glistened with tears, as if she were incomparably thankful. Then, she turned into a flow of golden light that drilled into Qin Yu's body. His heart skipped a beat and he quickly probed himself. He found that within his soul space, there was the existence of the Soul Summoning Bell.

Hum –

There was a faint tremble and he seemed to indistinctly hear the pleasantly surprised cry of the little girl. The light that the purple moon scattered down began to quickly gather on the Soul Summoning Bell. The purple moonlight fused into it and its surface flashed with golden light. At this moment, it seemed to become just a little bit brighter.

Qin Yu's soul opened its eyes and he looked carefully at the Soul Summoning Bell. According to the information recorded in the Monster Raising Mystic Art, after the master recognition process was completed, he should be able to completely control this supreme soul treasure and obtain many advantages.

But now, while he did feel a connection between himself and the Soul Summoning Bell, it wasn't too strong. Fortunately, this connection told Qin Yu that he was still the master of the Soul Summoning Bell. It just meant that he didn't have the rights to fully control it yet.

His eyes flashed. It was clear that all of this was related to the golden soul of nothingness. It seemed when he accidentally obtained this extremely abnormal soul of nothingness, it might not have been a good thing like he originally thought.

Qin Yu sighed inwardly. The eyes of his soul revealed a thoughtful expression. He needed to clarify the Soul Summoning Bell's current situation as soon as possible.

This was because if a treasure was his and yet he couldn't control it, that in itself was a hidden danger!

"Hum hum! Whether I am a hidden danger or not a hidden danger, how about you think about it later? On behalf of the fact that you spoke so nicely to me, allow me to warn you of something. There is an aura that has entangled itself with the Soul Summoning Bell. Once I fall into a deep slumber, this aura will be automatically severed. You should be a bit more careful and make sure you aren't killed by others!"

Hum hum! Once you get out of danger, I will draw a clear line with you! Let's see how you die then!

Qin Yu was shocked. He wanted to ask further but the golden light on the surface of the Soul Summoning Bell began to rapidly darken until it completely vanished.

He was the only person that should know about the existence of the Soul Summoning Bell. But, the Immortal Sect's interference with the precelestial wood had already caused him to develop some suspicions. Now, with what this little girl said...the worry in his heart grew heavier.

At this moment, his heart skipped a beat and an extremely terrifying feeling rose up in him. Like a mountain, it blotted out the skies and crashed down as it arrived!

Qin Yu's body froze. His heart seemed to be held by an invisible hand, so tight that it couldn't beat.

Endless dread surged in his mind. A piercing chill spread through his entire body, so cold that his blood almost froze over.

An angered roar spread out from the far off horizon. Even though he was in the Dao Arena's training room, the walls and barriers still weren't able to keep it out.

### **Chapter 470B – A Crafty Escape**

Outside of Four Seasons City, within a distorted space, the Buddhist Nation Sovereign was sitting down in meditation. There was a faint look in his eyes. Above his head, an image projection had appeared. What was displayed was the moment when the Immortal Sect cultivator had been killed.

The palm that came from the shadows seemed to represent endless darkness. But at this moment, this endless darkness was being slowly peeled away.

"You cannot escape. I will find you." The Buddhist Nation Sovereign said in a low voice, his lips curling. This was because at this moment, interest was brewing within his placid water-like heart – something that hadn't happened for a long time.

Although he still didn't know who the master of this hand was, his intuition told him that if he managed to catch this person, he might find an unexpected harvest.

But at this time, the image projection above the Buddhist Nation Sovereign's head that was deducing countless images suddenly trembled and blew apart like a bubble.

The Buddhist Nation Sovereign looked up. His pure and clear eyes that seemed as indifferent as a god high above suddenly turned blood red. An infinitely violent aura erupted from his body.

The entire space distortion violently trembled. Then, a terrifying strength shattered it to pieces.

The low mountain top beneath him also instantly vanished from sight. As it disappeared, the entire region for ten miles around was destroyed with it.

All of this was smashed to nothingness by a volcano-like destructive strength.

The Nether Domain Master's complexion greatly changed. "This is impossible!"

To have the Buddhist Nation Sovereign lose his composure so deeply and erupt with such a terrifying killing intent, there was only a single possibility.

Something had happened to the Soul Summoning Bell!

But the two precelestial woods were in the hands of the Immortal Sect. If Qin Yu couldn't find all of the materials needed to build the soul leading altar, how could he have completed the process of recognizing a master?

The Buddhist Nation Sovereign laughed. "Impossible? What is impossible!? The Soul Summoning Bell has recognized a master, so my connection with it has been thoroughly cut off."

"Soul Summoning Bell...I have lost it and it is no longer possible to obtain it again. It is impossible." His smile brightened and his laughs became louder. Although his smiling face seemed kind and pleasant, it gave off a feeling that left one's body cold, as if countless cursed ghosts were screaming out.

"Qin Yu, did you intentionally sell the second precelestial wood? Then, the death of my Immortal Sect's cultivator should also be related to you. What a smart young man. You actually played me around and kept me running in circles.

"I liked you very much and even wanted to receive you into my Buddhist Nation, becoming my youngest monk disciple and being granted unsurpassed good fortune. But why did you have to ruin my life's greatest good fortune? Why!?"

"Qin Yu! Tell me why!"

...

Puff –

Qin Yu spat out a mouthful of blood. His face paled and he seemed to hear echoes of his name being shouted still reverberating in the air.

It was just a voice but it had caused him to suffer tremendous losses. This technique far surpassed his imagination.

"Humph!"

A cold cough filled the heavens and earth. All of the suppression that Qin Yu withstood immediately vanished. He looked up and saw a figure floating in the skies. It wasn't too large or tall, but it seemed as if it could support the world.

This was the Master of the Dao Arena, Solitary Westgate!

Qin Yu didn't know why, but his heart relaxed a little. When he looked up again, Solitary Westgate had already vanished from sight.

...

Outside of Four Seasons City, the Buddhist Nation Sovereign's eyes were as red as blood. A boundless aura swept out through the world, suppressing all sides!

"Fellow daoist Westgate, you want to stop me?"

Across from him, Solitary Westgate furrowed his eyebrows. "I promised that as long as Qin Yu remains in Four Seasons City, I will guarantee his safety."

"Very well." The Buddhist Nation Sovereign smiled. "Then, allow me to experience just what cultivation boundary fellow daoist Westgate has managed to reach after all these years."

He took a step out and a million Buddha phantoms appeared all around. Each one was chanting scriptures from their lips, their voices resounding through the heavens and earth.

Solitary Westgate had a solemn expression. He lifted a hand and grasped forwards. A resonant sword cry rang out and a long sword condensed in the void, appearing in his hand.

The monstrous sword intent blotted out the skies. It seemed as if it could even cut down a million immortal Buddhas!

The Nether Domain Master's figure appeared. He looked at the Dao Arena Master with a dignified expression. A brief flash of hesitation appeared on his face before instantly disappearing.

Today the situation had gone beyond redemption. It was impossible for him to persuade the crazed Buddhist Nation Sovereign to leave.

There was no other choice!

"Since fellow daoist Westgate isn't willing to give way, then I will join together with the Buddhist Nation Sovereign and ask you for advice."

Bang –

The aura of a third apex powerhouse shot up into the skies!

In the highest heavens above, winds whipped backwards as all the layers of clouds were smashed apart. Perhaps ever since Four Seasons City had been established, the sunlight had never been as bright as it was today.

But at this moment, all the living beings that existed beneath this sunlight felt as if they had fallen into the depths of hell. Despair and fear overwhelmed their minds!

In this world, a confrontation between apex powerhouses could be called an apocalypse where the skies collapsed and the stars were extinguished. A trillion lives would be wiped out from existence as a sacrificial offering...and on this day, everyone in the city was a sacrifice.

An old and worn out hatchet emerged from space, quietly cutting open a door. An even older-looking Woodchopper Fu, whose body was wreathed in an aura of decay, stepped out. Wrinkles were stacked up on his face like the shackles of a curse, densely piled up. With each movement, one could almost hear the loud groans and cracks of his bones.

This mortal body had reached its limits. If he wanted to continue living, he would need to replace it with a new, young, and energetic body...and this body, he had already been waiting for it for a long time!

He looked up outside the city. There, the entire region of space was distorted and the inside was blurry. However, he could clearly see the auras within. They were like three blazing suns that floated in the skies. He was just a single step away from this level. But even if he lived for ten million more years, he would never be able to cross that one final step.

Woodchopper Fu's eyes filled with anger, unwillingness, and finally misery. His stiff waist slowly bent down and he walked towards the city. His path had already been severed. All he could do now was to live on, live for as long as he could.

To be like a scorching sun that emitted endless heat and obtained all the awe and fear from the people, he would leave such things to the apex powerhouses of this world. As long as he could live on, that would be fine. Right? He let out a low and meaningful chuckle. Then, he took another step and vanished. When he reappeared he was standing outside the Dao Arena.

He took a deep sniff and the ugly wrinkles on his face wriggled about, like those of a withered chrysanthemum flower. "What a fragrant and rich scent of life. It really leaves one intoxicated."

...

The shadows beneath Qin Yu's feet twisted and Undying emerged. Undying bowed and said, "Little master, the aura that you asked me to pay attention to has appeared once more." His attitude was even more respectful than before. Of course, he would never admit that this was because he had witnessed the scene where Qin Yu had completed the master recognition process of the Soul Summoning Bell.

"You discovered the person that had ill intent towards me from before?" Qin Yu's eyes flashed.

Undying nodded. "Yes."

Qin Yu thought for several breaths of time. "Are you confident that you can wrest me from his grasp and retreat?"

Undying smiled. "Of course!"

This little master was a truly intelligent young man. And smart people never died easily.

This was an especially critical and pleasing point.

Qin Yu's eyes brightened. He looked up at the terrifying auras that were interweaving in the skies. Although he was grateful that the Dao Arena Master was protecting him, it had never been his style to place his life or death in the hands of others. Moreover, right now was his best chance to withdraw from this place and have the identity of 'Qin Yu' die off. From this day forth, his path would be free and boundless. He wouldn't need to worry about being hunted down by the Immortal Sect.

...

Woodchopper Fu looked up at the tightly shut door in front of him. As the top training room of the Dao Arena, the protective array formations and spells guarding this area weren't weak at all. Although it wouldn't be difficult to break through, this would surely cause a great stir. For an apex powerhouse, it would take only a breath of time to arrive here.

As he was contemplating on what to do, the door in front of him quietly opened and a black-robed Qin Yu walked out from the training room.

As Qin Yu's eyes fell on Woodchopper Fu, he revealed a bit of surprise before composing himself. He cupped his hands together and said, "Qin Yu greets senior. I must thank you for helping me several months ago and chasing away the Immortal Sect's Purple Moon, and also helping me make a breakthrough in my cultivation."

Woodchopper Fu darkly chuckled. "It looks like there is something on your body that I still don't know of. To discover that I arrived, that is extremely unusual." Although words of praise came from his lips, his

gaze was icy cold. “While I am curious why you would take the initiative to step out, my many years of experience tell me that being too curious often leads to a terrible ending. So, if you want to thank me, give me your body as a gift. How about it?”

As he spoke he lifted his hand and grasped forwards. All of the spatial fluctuations in the area were completely imprisoned. An invisible strength rushed in from all directions. It was like a silent mountain falling down, wanting to suppress Qin Yu!

Qin Yu had a panic-stricken expression. “Ahh! Senior, what are you doing...” He flicked his sleeves and the sound of breaking air erupted. Countless beams of light cut through the skies, howling forward.

Everything was going perfectly, even better than his expectations. But, if he really wanted to escape and be like a cicada emerging from its shell, then his ‘death’ would have to be real. No matter who it was that came, Qin Yu would force them to use a heavy hand. Just trying to imprison him was far from enough.

With his cultivation, it was simply impossible for him to accomplish him. Thus, he could only rely on external help. And he just happened to have a card in his hand that could accomplish this.

He gently sighed inwardly. He couldn’t help but think that there were countless possibilities that could happen in this world. In the past when he spent a great deal of time and effort to refine this ‘Super Storm Flow’, who would have imagined that he would use it to ‘commit suicide’?

Woodchopper Fu’s lips curved up. “Little brat Qin Yu, is this your hidden card? Although it is powerful, it is just far, far too weak compared to me.”

He lifted his hand and grasped out, his movements not changing. He quietly said, “Give me your body...” But before his voice fell, a look of shocked anger appeared on his face. “What are you doing!?”

Bang –

Bang –

Bang –

The entire Super Storm Flow set began to wildly explode. The destructive strength that was produced completely submerged Qin Yu’s body. Before he was swallowed up by a space distortion, Qin Yu smiled and said, “Thank you. Recently, you are the third good person I have encountered.”

Rumble rumble –

Rumble rumble –

A terrifying strength raged and surged. A fluctuation appeared in Woodchopper Fu’s spatial imprisonment.

Outside of Four Seasons City, Solitary Westgate suddenly sensed something. His gaze turned icy cold and he shouted out loud, “Woodchopper Fu, you are seeking death!”

Shua –

His figure vanished and he appeared directly in the skies above the Dao Arena. His terrifying aura was like the arrival of the starry skies, drowning out everything.

The Buddhist Nation Sovereign and Nether Domain Master followed close behind. They frowned, looking at another corner.

Black Robe stepped out. After a brief moment of silence, he said, "This subordinate is also a little confused, but it was indeed Woodchopper Fu who attacked first. Qin Yu was forced into a hopeless situation and finally had to detonate his magic tools."

"He really died?" The Buddhist Nation Sovereign lifted a hand and grasped forward. Faint wisps of gray appeared in his hands. This was the aura of death.

The Nether Domain Master relaxed. If Qin Yu died here, then this confrontation could be avoided today.

If so, he would have to thank Woodchopper Fu. He looked up, a little smile appearing on his face.

"Fellow daoist Westgate, listen to my explanation, things aren't what they seem!" As Woodchopper Fu spoke, he reached back and slashed open the space behind him. A spatial tear appeared and he fled into it.

Solitary Westgate was without expression. He threw the sword in his hand forwards. The regenerating spatial tear disintegrated and a pitiful scream could be heard from far away.

Whoosh –

The sword flew back into his hand. Beads of blood rolled down the blade.

The Nether Domain Master cupped his hands together. "Fellow daoist Westgate, I will bid my farewells first."

The Buddhist Nation Sovereign turned and walked away. With a single step, he vanished from sight.

Black Robe cupped his hands and bowed. He dissolved into a shadow that melted into the world. The auras that seemed as if they could destroy the heavens and earth dispersed, and in the bright sunlight up above, a trace of true warmth seemed to appear.

Solitary Westgate loosened his hand and the sword dispersed on its own. His eyebrows slowly furrowed together and a hint of pain could be seen in his eyes. Qin Yu had died...did this mean that his original calculations were wrong? That Yun Niang and Anning would never be able to return?

No! It couldn't be like this!

He was definitely missing something...

Solitary Westgate slowly looked around. In the end, his eyes fell upon the training room door. His eyes narrowed. "That boy Qin Yu is smart and cautious. Before he could determine whether someone is friend or foe, why would he open the door on his own initiative?"

He lifted a hand and grasped forwards. Faint wisps of gray appeared. This was indeed a new aura of death...no, this wasn't right. This aura wasn't right. Although it was similar, it didn't belong to Qin Yu!

Solitary Westgate's eyes brightened and a happy smile lit up his face. "What a wonderful young man. To think that you thought of using this opportunity to escape; from here on out you will be free and boundless, a dragon diving through the gate! I knew you wouldn't die here so easily!"

He thought for a moment. Then, he lifted a hand and pointed a finger towards the heavens. A terrifying aura rose up like a pillar, ruthlessly tearing through the skies and thoroughly shattering all auras within this part of the world. A billowing sound spread out in all directions like an endless thundering roar.

"Boy, today I will help you and erase all traces of your aura. Don't disappoint my expectations. When we meet next time, I hope you will already have strength that can reach me."

10,000 miles away from Four Seasons City, in the shadows of a boulder, a black lotus flower quietly bloomed to reveal Qin Yu's figure.

"Little master, I need some time to rest. From here on out, I ask for you to be careful." Undying's words echoed in his mind before quieting down.

To conceal the truth from apex powerhouses, that was clearly a difficult task. If Undying had managed to do this, he surely had to pay a deep price. His voice had never sounded as weak as it did at this moment.

Qin Yu earnestly said, "Undying, thank you!"

There was no response, because Undying had already fallen into a deep slumber.

Qin Yu looked up towards the direction of Four Seasons City. Then, without any further hesitation, he stepped forwards. His body turned into a flow of light as he howled into the distance.