

The Gate 1021

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 1021: Is it a conspiracy?

Ning Cheng felt slightly disappointed; the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura wasn't the wood-attributed one he wanted. Even if he won the auction, it wouldn't be useful to him.

"Since even a strand of Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura is so precious, why is it being auctioned at the Broken Spear Spirit City? Wouldn't it be much more valuable if this person went to the Grand Essence Domain's Heaven Essence Sacred City?" Ning Cheng asked. However, this wasn't what he was thinking about; he wanted to ask who put up the strand of Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura for auction and where he got it.

The store assistant smiled and said, "I heard a rumour that the person who obtained that strand of earth-attributed Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura is the same one who leaked the news about it. It seems he knew he couldn't keep that strand with him, so he decided to put it up for auction in the Broken Spear Spirit City. This place is at the edge of the Grand Essence Realm, with barely any powerful holy emperors. Thus, many people would naturally want to take their chances with it."

Ning Cheng nodded. He agreed with this store assistant's words. This place was the edge of the Grand Essence Realm. While the ten major forces and most of the Dao Fusion powerhouses lived too far away from here. Not to mention whether they could get the news, even if they knew about it, they might not be able to come to this place in time. Therefore, without the famous experts, ordinary holy emperors could take advantage of this opportunity.

"Then, why be so careless? Why would this person leak this information? Wouldn't it cause everyone to speculate about where he got that thing from?" Ning Cheng immediately followed up; this was what he wanted to know the most.

The store assistant shook his head. "I only heard the rumour about this person leaking the information. I don't know how true it is, and even if it was true, I'm not in a position to know why. I suggest you don't try to look into it either. After all, inquiring about where things come from wouldn't be good for anyone. Besides, the person who obtained that strand of Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura shouldn't be a simpleton either."

Ning Cheng simply smiled and cupped his fists to thank the fellow before leaving the merchant house.

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The jade strip purchased from the store assistant had a lot of details; it contained information about most of the treasures up for auction and even some information about the auctioneer.

The auction would be hosted by a famous Chamber of Commerce in this border area, the Cheerful Treasure Chamber of Commerce. In fact, to show the importance of the auction, the Cheerful Treasure Chamber of Commerce even decided to hold the auction on the first floor of its headquarters, the Cheerful Treasure Mansion. A place usually reserved for the most important of auctions.

The jade strip also contained information about other upcoming auctions, but the only bit that caught Ning Cheng's eye was the information about the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura. However, Ning Cheng

had no interest in attending the auction. After all, it was the same if he participated in it or not. What he wanted was the information about the location where this strand of Earth-Attributed Primal Chaos Aura originated.

The Cheerful Treasure Mansion's momentum was only a level or two worse than the Pill Union's Public Square in the Heaven Essence Sacred City. It even had a powerful defensive formation around it. The formation was powerful enough that even Ning Cheng's most powerful formation would only be at par with it, if not worse.

"I have something to send for auction, and I want to find the head of this Chamber of Commerce." Ning Cheng immediately stated his intention as he entered the Cheerful Treasure Mansion.

"Okay, but you will have to wait until the next auction in three months. The auction this time is already full of consigned items." The person receiving Ning Cheng was a female cultivator working for the Cheerful Treasure Chamber of Commerce. Even so, she used the politest voice and manners to reject Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng took out a jade box and put it on the table. "What I want to send for auction is a Dao Transformation Dao Fruit. If there is no way to send it to the auction in two weeks, I will look for another auction house."

Hearing the words 'dao fruit', an old man with a yellow beard, sitting in the corner of the room, suddenly raised his head and immediately fixed his gaze on Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng remained calm; he had already noticed that that yellow-bearded old man was a true master. After all, the female cultivator speaking with him was only a late-stage Eternal cultivator. While this yellow-bearded old man was a true late-stage Dao Transformation cultivator.

"Ming Ye, you should leave. I'll handle it." The old man stood up.

"Yes." The female cultivator who rejected Ning Cheng quickly bowed and then carefully retreated.

Once the female cultivator left the room, the yellow-bearded old man walked up to Ning Cheng and pressed his hand down onto the jade box Ning Cheng had taken out. "Can I have a look?"

The yellow-bearded old man had a strange tingling in his eyes. Ning Cheng was only a Dao Sculpting cultivator and seemed like a rogue cultivator. Yet, such a cultivator had taken out a Dao Transformation Dao Fruit for auction. Reasonably speaking, such cultivators would be more careful with treasures, yet Ning Cheng showed no caution. In fact, Ning Cheng looked calm to the point he felt that Ning Cheng had everything in his palm.

Ning Cheng showed a faint smile, "Be my guest."

Just a Dao Transformation Holy Emperor, he naturally wouldn't feel afraid of such a character. If it came to a fight, Ning Cheng had full confidence in finishing off the yellow-bearded old man in front of him, so he had nothing to fear.

As for the yellow-bearded old man, he opened the jade box before immediately closing it. Although he still showed a calm expression, he felt utterly shocked in his heart.

Ning Cheng only seemed to be a late-stage Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor. So it was a truly shocking moment for him when Ning Cheng took a Grand Amplification Spirit Fruit, a dao fruit that helps evolve a Dao Transformation Holy Emperor's law-related spirit techniques. Although not considered a top-grade Dao Transformation Dao Fruit, it was not too far off and classified as a middle-grade Dao Transformation Dao Fruit. But more importantly, the one thing he lacked right now was precisely a Grand Amplification Spirit Fruit.

"I'm Cheerful Treasure Auction House's Steward Ni Jing. May I ask this fellow daoist if you want to auction this dao fruit through us?" Ni Jing reluctantly put the jade box down and asked with cupped fists. He didn't dare to ask about Ning Cheng's origins. Some customers didn't like people prying into their backgrounds, and as the steward of this auction house, he naturally knew about this very well.

Ning Cheng kept a faint smile as he said, "I don't necessarily want to put this dao fruit for auction. But if the price is right, I can sell this dao fruit to the Cheerful Treasure Merchant House, and you can take it to auction whenever you want. However, I have a condition for selling this dao fruit."

Ni Jing nodded. He would have been suspicious if Ning Cheng didn't discuss conditions when speaking about selling their Cheerful Treasure Merchant House a Grand Amplification Spirit Fruit. In any case, everyone understood that selling such an item directly would get you a different price than if it was put up for auction, usually lower than an auction.

Ni Jing didn't say anything and waited for Ning Cheng to state the conditions.

Ning Cheng knocked on the Grand Amplification Spirit Fruit as if reminding Ni Jing that what he was knocking on was a Dao Transformation Dao Fruit.

After knocking on it for a while, Ning Cheng finally spoke up, "I heard that this time your Cheerful Treasure Merchant House is putting up a strand of Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura for sale?"

Ni Jing replied with a calm expression, "According to the customer who came to consign it for auction, it is indeed a strand of Five Element Primal Chaos Aura. However, I have not touched this item, only seeing it through the restriction covering it and sensing the aura. The customer also wasn't joking around with it and also not talking nonsense. As long as my senses weren't deceiving me, it was indeed a strand of Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura."

"You didn't check it thoroughly?" Ning Cheng asked in surprise.

Ni Jing smiled, "This guest, you must be joking. It's not a good idea to open and check such an item."

Ning Cheng didn't ask any more questions; he guessed it should be because Cheerful Treasure Merchant House couldn't restore the restriction or re-conceal the aura if they opened it.

"Then, can I ask from where this fellow obtained that strand of earth-attributed Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura? Consider it as the condition for selling the dao fruit." Ning Cheng stated it directly. Facing an old fellow like Ni Jing, no matter how he spun his words, the other party would know what he wanted. *Better to just ask about it openly.*

A faint smile appeared on Ni Jing's face; apparently, he had already expected Ning Cheng's question.

"This fellow daoist, in anticipation of many people asking about this matter, the customer who brought

the strand of Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura also made a jade strip containing the location from where he obtained it. It's also one of the items he consigned for the auction."

Ning Cheng thought, *"Sure enough, other people also thought of the same thing."*

"Steward Ni, can you do this? Sell me that jade strip, and I can give you the dao fruit as payment. I believe that even if you put it up for auction, there won't be anyone bidding higher for it than this." Learning that the location was also up for auction, Ning Cheng no longer planned to take back the Grand Amplification Spirit Fruit.

Ni Jing still shook his head, "I believe what fellow daoist just said, a jade strip is far from worth a Dao Transformation Dao Fruit. However, I must tell you that the customer made ten copies of that jade strip."

Ning Cheng's face turned a little hard to look at, "Steward Ni, you mean that even if I purchase the jade strip now, once the auction ends, there would be other people who would know about the location as well?"

Ni Jing spoke up with some embarrassment, "The latter part of what you said is correct, but not the former. You can't buy this jade strip right now. It's not that we don't want to, but because we have made a vow with that customer that those ten jade strips would only be sold through the auction. Even if someone offered a higher price than what you offered, we would not sell it before the auction."

Ning Cheng's heart thumped in dejection. He had experienced too many blows in a short period. *Why would someone use such a thing as an auction item?* After all, most people consigned things to auction for the sole purpose of more spirit crystals or other suitable cultivation resources. In layman's terms, it was to get a little more money.

But now, this fellow even put up a clause of only selling it at the auction no matter how high the price he could get for it if sold in advance. There was only one reason; this fellow had put these items up for a different reason. Ning Cheng wanted to know about the location from where this fellow obtained the earth-attributed Primal Chaos Aura, but this fellow's purpose was most likely to spread the information to as many people as possible.

If the ten jade strips containing the location of the earth-attributed Primal Chaos Aura were auctioned off, its information would most likely disperse to thousands of people overnight. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that the entire Broken Spear Spirit City might learn about it within the night.

The fellow who created the jade strips definitely did it intentionally. *But what exactly did this person want to achieve with this?*

Ni Jing didn't speak. Since Ning Cheng could understand this point, he naturally understood it. However, he or the auction house wasn't responsible for such things. They wouldn't care about what happened afterwards as long as they get their commission through the auction.

Ning Cheng silently put away the Grand Amplification Spirit Fruit. *Since it was clearly a conspiracy, was there any need for him to waste a Grand Amplification Spirit Fruit?* Moreover, he knew that Ni Jing was only telling him this because he wanted the Grand Amplification Spirit Fruit; otherwise, Ni Jing wouldn't have even spoken about it.

Seeing Ning Cheng put away the Grand Amplification Spirit Fruit, Ni Jing's eyes finally showed a change. "This fellow daoist, if you don't want to use the Grand Amplification Spirit Fruit for the trade, you can still put it up for auction. You would definitely get more cultivation resources suitable for your level; maybe you could even reach the Dao Raising Realm with them in a short amount of time."

Ning Cheng again put the jade box back onto the table and said slowly. "Dao Friend Ni, if you can show me that jade strip, I will give you this dao fruit."

Ni Jing didn't expect Ning Cheng to be so courageous, still daring to purchase the jade slip even after knowing it might be a conspiracy.

He naturally also understood why Ning Cheng addressed him as 'dao friend' instead of 'steward' this time. It was to remind him that he was also a cultivator. There wasn't anything wrong with this reminder. After all, he was a cultivator first before a steward for the Cheerful Treasure Chamber of Commerce, which means that he also had to look for cultivation resources.

At this moment, Ni Jing fell silent.

Seeing Ni Jing not speaking, Ning Cheng knew he was hesitating and going over the choices in his heart. So he simply gave him a slight 'encouragement', "Could it be that what Dao Friend Ni said before was a lie? That there is no such thing as those ten jade strips?"

Ni Jing angrily grabbed a jade strip and raised it, "How could I lie to you? Is this not the jade strip? But I absolutely can't show it to you. My chamber of commerce is all about reputation; since we promised our customers something, we will never go back on our word."

Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness instantly broke through the restrictions on the jade strip in Ni Jing's hand and went over the contents in just a few breaths.

Then, he spoke coldly, "Since it won't work, let's forget about it. Goodbye."

It wasn't known whether Ning Cheng was too angry or if there was any other reason, but Ning Cheng didn't take back the jade box containing the Grand Amplification Spirit Fruit as he left.

Ni Jing quickly walked to the place where Ning Cheng was standing, and with a slight roll of his sleeve, the jade box disappeared without a trace. Some things could be done without explicitly stating it, which everyone understood. However, in his heart, he felt secretly shocked at the strength of Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness, which had allowed Ning Cheng to read the contents in just a few breaths. Earlier, he had thought Ning Cheng would need at least a dozen breaths to do it and prepared to keep up the act for that long, yet Ning Cheng didn't even take two full breaths.

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Chapter 1022: Calculations

Five-elements Star, this was the star's name Ning Cheng saw written on the jade strip. It was a masterless star that had suddenly appeared out of nowhere, without rhyme or reason, in the void outside the Grand Essence Realm.

It was then discovered by a lucky cultivator, who eventually found a strand of earth-attributed Primal Chaos Aura while exploring it. In fact, even the name 'Five-elements Star' was given to it by the lucky cultivator who obtained that strand of Primal Chaos Aura.

Based on the information on the jade strip, the Five-elements Star had 'popped' out of existence because it had been drifting in the void for too long, causing its natural Star Protecting Grand Array outside it to wear down and weaken. The jade strip also clearly recorded the location and directions to this star, even the coordinates from where to leave the Grand Essence Realm.

To put it bluntly, the only reason why Ning Cheng had willingly parted with a Dao Transformation Dao Fruit for this information was so that he could go over and take a look. The auction was still half a month away; maybe he could use this time to collect some of that Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura.

If he could truly obtain the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura, let alone a Grand Amplification Spirit Fruit, even if he took out all the Grand Amplification Spirit Fruits on him, it would still result in a massive profit.

However, Ning Cheng hesitated after seeing the contents on the jade strip. Previously, he had already guessed that this was some sort of conspiracy. *After all, why would any cultivator give out the location from where he obtained the strand of Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura?* If his guess was correct, this fellow most likely did it to fish in troubled waters. Most likely, the source of this Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura was not something easy to obtain, which was why this fellow needed a lot of people to take the lead. After the mob took care of the threats around the source, it would definitely weaken the mob, allowing that fellow to take the spoils for himself. At the very least, it would become much easier for this scheming fellow to obtain what he wants.

As for what kind of threat one would face when going after the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura's source, it might be an array formation, or it could even be a demonic beast. Ning Cheng wouldn't have cared much about these.

But Ning Cheng quickly understood that he had made the wrong assumptions. Since the strand of Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura was 'accidentally' discovered from a masterless planet, it meant that it was never meant to be seen by others. Unless it wasn't one person but a group of people who discovered it. If these people were in a group, then as long as everyone wasn't dead, they wouldn't allow the cultivator who obtained the strand of Primal Chaos Aura to create a map to this place and sell it at an auction. *After all, not everyone would be an idiot; why would they share such a precious treasure with the public?*

But if it was indeed a group that discovered it at the start, and all of them died, leaving behind only the fellow who obtained the strand of Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura, then it would be even more impossible for this fellow to reveal the location to others.

But since such a secret did leak out and made known to everyone, the only explanation was that it was done intentionally.

Since it was a deliberate set-up by others, should he still go there?

Ning Cheng started to hesitate even more. He suspected that Ni Jing also knew about this matter. *Perhaps, the Cheerful Treasure Chamber of Commerce was also part of this conspiracy.*

Ning Cheng ruffled his messy hair and understood that he had already suffered a loss this time. Most likely, he got swindled by that old fox, Ni Jing. After all, Ni Jing most likely assumed that even if he saw the contents of the jade strip, he wouldn't dare to go there.

To go or not to go?

Whether he went there or not, Ning Cheng had already left Broken Spear Spirit City in secret. He even changed his appearance to that of a servant of a random family before re-entering Broken Spear Spirit City. Since the Cheerful Treasure Chamber of Commerce was most likely involved in this, Ning Cheng decided to not let himself be put under its surveillance.

The second time he walked through the entrance of Broken Spear Spirit City, Ning Cheng saw two acquaintances. A man and a woman. Ning Cheng remembered that the man was called Su Gui, who should be Su Xiqian's elder brother. He had seen Su Gui at Su Jian's banquet in Su's Corner. Ning Cheng also knew the woman next to Su Gui; she should be Yan Jinqing, Su Gui's wife.

Su's Corner wasn't too far from Broken Spear Spirit City, so Ning Cheng didn't think much when he saw Su Gui and Yan Jinqing here. In any case, Ning Cheng had no plans to meet Su Gui, even if he hadn't changed his appearance.

Therefore, Ning Cheng deliberately bypassed Su Gui and walked into a moderately-sized restaurant. After picking a table in the lobby, he asked for a cup of spiritual tea and continued pondering on whether he should go to the Five-elements Star or not. Plus, he had also intentionally chosen this inn to hear what the cultivators thought about the upcoming auction.

At this time, the entire Broken Spear Spirit City was indulged in discussing the strand of Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura for auction. No matter which inn or restaurant one went to, one would hear about it.

Ning Cheng was halfway through his cup of spiritual tea when he saw Su Gui and Yan Jinqing walking into his restaurant. However, this time, they weren't just two people. Just behind them was a middle-aged man.

This middle-aged man had higher cultivation than Su Gui at the early-stage Dao Raising Realm.

Noticing the unusual expressions of the three, Ning Cheng felt somewhat curious and let his spiritual consciousness trail Su Gui.

A few moments later, the Su Gui trio entered a private booth, and one of them activated the restrictions in the room, cutting off Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness. This time Ning Cheng didn't hesitate and let his spiritual consciousness slice through the room's restrictions. The restrictions couldn't detect Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness, let alone block it.

Not to mention the garbage-level restrictions of this small inn, even if the isolating array formations and restrictions here were a few grades higher, they still couldn't have stopped Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness. This wasn't just because Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness had been enhanced after obtaining the Dark Nether Spirit Devourer, but more importantly, because Ning Cheng's attainments in the Dao of Arrays were too high. He could easily figure out the gaps and weaknesses of the array formations here and find the point of least resistance for his spiritual consciousness to sweep in.

“Big brother, what the hell is going on? Why didn’t you come to Su’s Corner and tell us to come to Broken Spear Spirit City instead?” The first person to speak was Yan Jinqing, her tone a bit unhappy.

Only then did Ning Cheng understand that this middle-aged Dao Raising Holy Emperor, who had followed Su Gui, was Yan Jinqing’s elder brother.

The middle-aged man spoke in a deep voice, “Su Gui, the Su family would be yours sooner or later; there’s no need for you to make a move in advance right now. In the future, if Su Jian doesn't let you take control of the Su family, we will naturally help.”

Su Gui frowned but glanced at Yan Jinqing. *Why would he want to control the Su family? I live a great life. Why would I want to ruin it by taking control of the family?*

Yan Jinqing quickly said, “Big Brother, I asked you to bring someone to help control Su Gui’s grandfather and that Zuo Zhong. Not to take control of the Su family, but because of other things.”

The middle-aged man waved his hand, “Whatever it is, it’s not as important as this matter now. Besides, it’s not like Su’s Corner will disappear overnight. Don’t worry, I will help you when the time comes. I called you both to Broken Spear Spirit City because, if we succeed, we most likely would be able to walk the path to Dao Confirming’s Second Step. In fact, it might even be possible for us to go beyond the second step in the future.”

“What?” Hearing those words, Su Gui and Yan Jinqing immediately forgot their purpose of coming here and focussed their attention on the middle-aged man. *Not to mention surpassing Dao Confirmation’s Second Step; even if it was reaching Dao Confirmation’s Second Step, how many could actually achieve it?*

Su Gui even asked with an eager voice, “Elder Brother Pengjin, what exactly is it that would make it possible for us to reach Dao Confirming’s Second Step?”

The middle-aged man waved his hand and put up a few more forbidden restrictions; unfortunately, even if he put up stronger restrictions, it would be in vain under Ning Cheng’s spiritual consciousness.

After feeling satisfied with the restrictions, the middle-aged man named Pengjin whispered, “Do you know anything about the upcoming auction in Broken Spear Spirit City?”

Su Gui nodded, “Yes, I heard that there would be a strand of earth-attributed Primal Chaos Aura appearing; but what does it have to do with us? With our strength and background, it would be impossible to get our hands on that strand of Primal Chaos Aura.”

Pengjin grunted, “Going to the auction to compete for the Primal Chaos Aura, our Yan and Su families combined wouldn’t be enough. I’m talking about the place where this Primal Chaos Aura appeared. I know the location of the source. We might not be able to bid for the Primal Chaos Aura, but we can at least look for the more strands of Primal Chaos Aura.”

“Ah.” Pengjin’s words immediately excited Su Gui and Yan Jinqing, even their faces flushed with excitement.

Even Ning Cheng’s ears perked up. *Did this fellow also know about the Five-elements Star?*

“According to the information I got, the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura came from Five-elements Star, which isn’t too far away from the edge of the Grand Essence Realm. This information will be auctioned off in about half a month, so we can go to the Five-elements Star in advance. I called you both here because, one, you both are my family, and second, we can join forces and increase our strength.

Pengjin whispered.

When Ning Cheng heard those words, he almost crushed the cup in his hand. *Ni Jing, that old bastard, really did swindle him.* That fellow had obviously been leaking news about the Five-elements Star secretly, and yet, he still wanted to play hard to get by hiding behind the excuse of not being able to sell the jade strip in advance.

Not only did that bastard swindle him, Ning Cheng even helped him count the money. *A Dao Transformation Dao Fruit for a useless piece of information, and I didn’t even get a jade strip. I, Ning Cheng, was truly a clown in that old fox’s vision.*

Ning Cheng’s anger, however, quickly dissipated, and he sighed secretly in his heart. Compared to these professional actors, he was still quite worse. *But then again, since the jade strips were to be auctioned off, why would they willingly leak the information in advance?*

“Then, what are we waiting for? Let’s hurry up and go.” Yan Jinqing stood up eagerly.

Her older brother Pengjin, however, immediately stopped her. “Even if we combine our strength right now, we’re still too weak. We need to find some more people to help. Since that fellow put the location up for auction, the place should be dangerous enough that one person can’t venture inside alone.”

After saying that, Pengjin suddenly recalled the conversation from before and looked at Yan Jinqing and asked, “You said you wanted me to bring a few people to Su’s Corner, and it wasn’t for Su Gui? Why?”

Yan Jinqing replied in a whisper, “A mysterious guest came to Su’s Corner, and he casually gave a Purple Heaven Pill and a Mysterious Crossing Dao Pill to Su Gui’s grandfather Su Jian. I’m afraid these two pills are wasted on Su Xiqian, so I wanted to get them for Brother Gui.....”

“What?” This time it was Yan Jinqing’s older brother’s turn to be shocked. He immediately followed up with an eager tone, “Then, where is this mysterious guest who gave them the pills?”

“Don’t try to have any ideas about that mysterious guest. Although he is just an ordinary Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor, he has a very powerful friend. I suspect that she’s already reached Dao Confirmation’s Second Step. I just want to get the two pills he sent to Su’s Corner and leave them to Brother Gui.” Yan Jinqing quickly replied.

Pengjin said bitterly, “You’re really an idiot. With the cultivation of Su Gui’s sister, it would take her several years to refine the pills. We don’t have to worry about it for now; however, that mysterious guest you spoke of is entirely a different matter. His friend might be amazing, but does it mean he would stay by his friend’s side for the rest of his life? As long as he can be separated from his friend, can’t we easily kill him?”

Su Gui and Yan Jinqing looked at each other and realised they had never even thought of such a simple truth.

Chapter 1023: Entering the Five-elements Star

Ning Cheng sneered. Even if he and Ruo Xi had separated, it would be a piece of cake for him to kill those three.

But more importantly, Ning Cheng felt utterly disgusted with Su Xiqian's elder brother Su Gui. This fellow essentially defined the word shameless. After speaking with Su Xiqian and Xu Yan, Ning Cheng knew that the business of Su's Corner had always been handled by Su Xiqian, while Su Gui and Yan Jinqing kept themselves secluded and in cultivation.

Yet, not only were Su Gui and Yan Jinqing not grateful for Su Xiqian's dedication, they even coveted the pills in Su Xiqian's hands. Even if he didn't consider this matter, Su Gui was Su Xiqian's older brother. How could he allow such shamelessness towards his own sister?

Seeing that Su Gui and Yan Jinqing understood the truth, Pengjin didn't continue. Instead, he waved his hand and said, "Let's put this matter aside for the time being. Since that person has a relationship with Su Gui's sister, we can find him through Su Gui's sister whenever we want."

"Yes, we must hurry up and go to that Five-elements Star immediately." Yan Jinqing quickly spoke up.

"There's no need to hurry. I still have to invite two more people. Once they come, we can then head to the Five-elements Star."

Pengjin said in a deep voice.

Ning Cheng didn't listen further; he decided to head to the Five-elements Star first. Since both he and Yan Jinqing's brother knew about the Five-elements Star, there must be others who also knew about it. Moreover, after arriving at the Five-elements Star, he didn't have to immediately go inside. That way, he could hide to the side and see what happens.

Just as Ning Cheng was about to leave the restaurant, Su Gui and the others also walked out, looking like they had finished their talks. As Su Gui and the others walked past Ning Cheng, Ning Cheng casually planted a few spiritual consciousness imprints on the three before walking away.

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Whether it was a conspiracy or not, the location on the jade strip wasn't wrong. Five-elements Star did exist, and it had a formation hiding it from view.

If Ning Cheng didn't know that a star was hidden here, he would have definitely overlooked it in a hurry.

After all, the star's concealing formation was truly a top-notch natural protective formation. As an Array Formation Master, Ning Cheng could naturally gauge the power of this hidden formation. However, although a powerful natural formation, it had a broken corner. It should be because of this broken corner that someone was able to discover this cleverly hidden star.

Ning Cheng carefully observed the broken corner of this natural formation while keeping his body hidden from view. Knowing that this Five-elements Star was a conspiracy, Ning Cheng naturally wouldn't venture in without analysing everything.

But after observing the surroundings for only a few breaths, Ning Cheng revealed a shocked expression. He had not entered the Five-elements Star, but he could acutely feel a unique aura escaping from the broken corner of the natural formation protecting the Five-elements Star. This unique aura felt similar to the Mysterious Yellow Bead's Origin Aura but also quite different.

How could it be simple if it was comparable to the Mysterious Yellow Bead's Origin Aura? The only explanation was that the content of the jade strip he exchanged from the Cheerful Treasure Chamber of Commerce was true. That this place did have the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura.

However, Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness didn't sweep into the Five-elements Star despite what he sensed. Instead, he kept himself hidden in the void outside the Five-elements Star, waiting for Su Gui and the others to come over. At the same, he also set up a few Void Concealing Formations around him.

Although his concealment technique could hide him from Su Gui's group, it wouldn't be useful in front of some Dao Transformation experts. It also couldn't hide him from Dao Essence powerhouses. Since he decided to stay here and observe, he had to keep himself well hidden. Therefore, with the concealment technique and the concealment formations, even a Dao Essence powerhouse shouldn't be able to discover him. At least if they weren't specifically looking for him.

As a day passed, Ning Cheng finished setting up the concealment formations and patiently waited for the first group of people to arrive.

However, the ones who came here first weren't Su Gui's group, but a trio of people Ning Cheng had never seen before. All three were Dao Transformation Holy Emperors.

Three Dao Transformation Holy Emperors weren't that big of a deal in the Grand Essence Domain with numerous sects and groups. However, a group of three Dao Transformation Holy Emperors in this remote place could be considered a powerful force.

The three quickly arrived outside the Five-elements Star and stood next to the broken corner of the concealment formation.

"Is it really pure Primal Chaos Aura?" A female cultivator among them spoke up in shock as if wanting someone else to confirm it. She had also sensed that unique aura just like Ning Cheng.

The other two also had the same expression as the female cultivator, with surprise lighting up their faces. A green-robed man standing next to this female cultivator spoke with a grating voice, "It's not just pure Primal Chaos Aura. Cheerful Treasure Chamber of Commerce was right; it's the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura. This is the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura produced after strands of innate Primal Chaos Aura fused with worldly laws. The value of this Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura wouldn't be any lower than the innate Primal Chaos Aura, with the only distinctions being that it has elemental attributes."

"Then what are we waiting for? Let's go in now. We'll follow what we agreed to before. Since I see some mist inside, we should stick together and proceed carefully." The third Dao Transformation Holy Emperor finished speaking and immediately stepped into the hidden star protecting formation. The other two looked at each other for a moment before rushing in.

After the three went in, Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness carefully followed the three and swept inside.

However, Ning Cheng quickly retracted his spiritual consciousness as the three disappeared without a trace once they entered. All he could see was a layer of white fog surrounding the entire Five-elements Star. It was the same regardless of where he probed with his spiritual consciousness.

Sure enough, there was something odd with this place. But the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura was also a decent treasure. Should he still go inside despite the apparent danger?

As a day passed, Ning Cheng didn't see any of the three coming out. Not only did he not see the trio come out, he also saw another group of people come over. Just like before, this group was also not Su Gui's group.

Like the previous trio, this group immediately went in and disappeared without a trace.

Ning Cheng sighed in his heart. If he hadn't heard Pengjin's words, although he would have still suspected this place, he most likely would have acted like the others. He would have definitely gone in to check it out, at most with a careful attitude. But now, he didn't want to go inside. Although the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura was good, one had to have a life to enjoy its benefits.

Still, Ning Cheng continued to wait. As four days passed, Su Gui's group still hadn't appeared, while Ning Cheng saw five different groups of various sizes go inside without anyone coming out.

Su Gui's group finally showed up at the end of the fourth day. It was a group of five, comprising two Dao Raising and three Dao Sculpting Holy Emperors.

From the observations of the past few days, Su Gui's group of five were the worst in terms of strength.

Like the previous groups, these five people disappeared as soon as they entered the Five-elements Star. Fortunately, Ning Cheng had planted spiritual consciousness imprints on Su Gui, Yan Jinqing and her older brother, so he could still vaguely sense those three had entered the depths of the Five-elements Star. But what surprised Ning Cheng was that these three people weren't heading in the same direction.

In just half an incense stick's worth of time, Ning Cheng could only sense one of the spiritual consciousness imprints. Moreover, this imprint had also stopped moving. Maybe it was because of some danger or something else; it simply stayed in that place and didn't move at all.

Nine days passed by in a flash, but Ning Cheng decided to wait for another day. If no one came out, he would leave. It would also prove that this place was too dangerous as many groups entered in the past nine days, but none came out. He even saw a Dao Essence Holy Emperor go in, yet there was no word about him.

No matter how confident he was in his strength and trump cards, Ning Cheng understood that he wasn't superior to a Dao Essence Holy Emperor. Moreover, he also had Yan Ji and Xun Hanrui with him. Xun Hanrui hadn't woken up yet, so it wouldn't be a big deal for her. But if he died on Five-elements Star, it would also result in Yan Ji's death.

"This friend, if you don't go in now, then once the auction for those jade strips ends, it would result in many people rushing to the Five-elements Star. It would also result in a larger number of people coming

here. With such a large crowd, it would only be a matter of time before someone found the source of that Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura. Staying outside and watching isn't an option, despite that it keeps you safe." A cheerful voice appeared in Ning Cheng's ear, followed by the figure of a man in brocade robes standing not far away from Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng was taken aback; was he discovered? However, he quickly collected himself and realised that someone had indeed found him. That's because the brocade-robed man was staring right at where he was hiding.

Ning Cheng sighed; with a wave of his hand, he put away the concealment formation. He knew it wasn't the fault of his concealment formation or technique; rather, it was most likely because this person had set up a concealment formation here long ago and had noticed him setting it up. In other words, this brocade-robed man had the same idea as him. It was just that this person came here before him, so he naturally knew about Ning Cheng's hiding spot.

This incident also served as a wake-up call for Ning Cheng. Despite the precautions, he had still overlooked a few things. If he had been more careful and checked the surroundings first, it wouldn't have resulted in this situation.

Fortunately, this brocade-robed man seemed to be just a middle-stage Dao Raising cultivator, so Ning Cheng didn't need to put up a guard.

"This fellow daoist, since we both have the same idea, why don't we team up to take a look?" The brocade-robed man saw Ning Cheng coming out and spoke with cupped fists and a smile.

Ning Cheng replied calmly, "You still want to go in after seeing so many people go in and not come out? This dao friend's courage sure is commendable."

The brocade-robed man laughed, "What forms an opportunity? In addition to luck, an opportunity also requires courage. If you're afraid of taking risks, then even if an opportunity is dangled right in front of you, you will still miss it. Like now, when the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura is right in front of you and me, you will definitely miss it if you do not dare to go in and take it for yourself."

"And if you can't get out after going in? Is an opportunity more important, or is your life?" Ning Cheng asked rhetorically.

This time the brocade-robed man didn't smile but laughed, "If you can't get out, then it means that there was no opportunity. Without a heart to pursue strength, you will never become strong."

Ning Cheng immediately felt something stir in his heart. When he saw this brocade-robed man's flashy appearance, he didn't put it to heart. But he didn't expect this fellow to be so courageous.

"My name is Jing Xihua. If I don't come out, remember to burn some incense for me....." The brocade-robed man finished and entered the Five-elements Star with a flash.

Ning Cheng took a deep breath. Truth be told, the only reason he hesitated from going inside was because of Yan Ji. After all, Yan Ji would also end up dying if he died in this place. However, with Yan Ji's personality, even if Yan Ji wasn't here, it would still create the same result once she learned about the news in the future.

Thinking of this, Ning Cheng finally made up his mind and decided to also enter the Five-elements Star.

However, before entering the Five-elements Star, he had to prepare. He had already given away the Opening Heaven Talisman's Child Talisman to Ruo Xi, but he still had a few Boundary Breaking Talismans. However, Ning Cheng wasn't sure if these Boundary Breaking Talismans were strong enough to break through the Five-elements Star's boundary. But he wasn't going to leave it up to chance either, so he decided to use the same method he used to break into the Severing Emotions Dao Sect in the past, using a teleportation array.

He also walked the Dao of Array, so if he didn't use this speciality, it would have been a waste of time and resources spent studying the Dao of Arrays. Therefore, Ning Cheng finally entered the Five-elements Star after setting up a teleportation array outside.

The Five-elements Star looked entirely white, covered in a layer of white mist, just as it appeared in Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness.

However, what made Ning Cheng even more surprised was that when he stood outside the Five-elements Star, he could still feel a powerful aura similar to the Mysterious Yellow Origin. But it wasn't the same aura he felt leaking out of the star. The thought had just emerged when he felt another, clearer aura with a strong five-elemental attribute that immediately refreshed his body and spiritual consciousness.

Chapter 1024: The influx of cultivators

Was this the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura? Ning Cheng felt even more excited. He didn't expect to be able to detect the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura right after entering the Five-elements Star. However, this aura felt different from the aura he felt outside the Five-elements Star as it seemed to produce a different effect than Mysterious Yellow Bead's Origin Aura.

However, at this moment, Ning Cheng's mind was completely filled with the idea of obtaining the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura. Therefore, he quickly started to move in the direction from where the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura seemingly originated.

Something's not right. Ning Cheng only walked for a dozen breaths when he immediately stopped.

Since he could feel it, the others before him should have also sensed this anomaly. In other words, the holy emperors who came in before were like him, unconsciously moving towards this 'source'. But the fact was that even after waiting for nine days outside, not a single cultivator had come out.

Ning Cheng had just stopped, and this thought had just formed when a terrifying aura blasted directly into his Sea of Consciousness. The attack was so sudden and powerful that he couldn't even resist it, let alone react.

A raging torrent broke past the borders of his Sea of Consciousness and took root, causing terrifying roars to erupt from his now-uncontrollable Sea of Consciousness.

An attack on his Sea of Consciousness?

Ning Cheng understood this wasn't a body-snatching attempt but a powerful technique to attack the Sea of Consciousness. Why would Ning Cheng still care about finding the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura at this critical juncture? He hastily activated the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort. Ning Cheng understood that this attack would quickly fill his Sea of Consciousness if he couldn't block it. And eventually, just like a balloon filled with too much gas, his Sea of Consciousness would sooner or later blow up.

At first, this attack, apart from the raging torrent, was like an invisible expanding gas. But once Ning Cheng activated the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort in his Sea of Consciousness to block it, this attack immediately became a powerful vortex of sharp knives. It reminded Ning Cheng of Ding Si's sabre mountain, but this flood of attacks was much more terrifying than Ding Si's endless sabre mountain.

A crack resounded in Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness, and his heart sank. His Sea of Consciousness had started to collapse, and his mind jolted with a strong backlash. He even spat out several mouthfuls of blood.

Despite the defensive capabilities, his Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort couldn't fully block such an attack. It was a type of attack that was akin to a formless and invisible arrow that could ignore the existence of the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort.

A moment later, the attack started to move towards the core of Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness while also growing fiercer with each passing moment. What's more, this initially-formless attack even split up into various attacks like blade shadows, sword shadows, icicle shadows, flaming tongues.....

They continued to spread wildly within Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness, while Ning Cheng couldn't use any means to block them.

Escape. Ning Cheng immediately tried to activate the formation flag to teleport away. But he quickly discovered that he couldn't stimulate anything apart from the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort that he had used previously. Not to mention stimulating the formation flag, Ning Cheng couldn't even enter the Mysterious Yellow Bead. In other words, he had nearly lost complete control of his Sea of Consciousness. If this continues, he would no longer have any control over his Sea of Consciousness, and even if he could somehow regain control, his Sea of Consciousness might explode.

"Kakaka....." Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness continued to crack while Ning Cheng's body turned ice-cold. He understood why the people who came in before him never came out. Even if they were strong, those people couldn't block such a violent attack on their Sea of Consciousness.

How many people had a Starry Sky Sea of Consciousness like him? If even his Starry Sky Sea of Consciousness couldn't last long, it would be strange if the others could hold out.

The Five-elements Star truly is a conspiracy. However, Ning Cheng still couldn't understand the reason behind this conspiracy. Was it to just lure people in to kill them?

Ning Cheng felt his consciousness fading away as his Sea of Consciousness continued to crack apart. But at that moment, a strange intent emerged in his Sea of Consciousness, guiding him in a particular direction. It seemed that he only had to slowly move in that direction to survive.

Must. Not. Lose. Consciousness. Ning Cheng's heart suddenly jolted.

Dark Nether Spirit Devourer, devour everything.

The Dark Nether Spirit Devourer was the last resort Ning Cheng had been left with; he had no other option at this moment except to operate the Dark Nether Spirit Devourer to devour this attack in his Sea of Consciousness.

Then, amidst despair, excitement suddenly returned to Ning Cheng. He found that when the Dark Nether Spirit Devourer began to operate, the attacks in his Sea of Consciousness were immediately ground down by the Dark Nether Spirit Devourer and turned into a stream of pure spiritual consciousness power that got devoured by him.

The raging torrent in his Sea of Consciousness turned out to be a transformation of a spiritual consciousness attack. However, this spiritual consciousness transformation attack was several times more powerful than his spiritual consciousness attacks. So powerful that even his Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort couldn't resist, fully showing the might of this spiritual consciousness attack.

In just a few moments after Ning Cheng began operating the Dark Nether Spirit Devourer to grind away the torrent of attacks in his Sea of Consciousness, his Sea of Consciousness finally stopped cracking apart. Even though the raging torrent filled his Sea of Consciousness, the Dark Nether Spirit Devourer created a delicate balance. At least his Sea of Consciousness no longer cracked, and he was no longer in immediate danger.

However, Ning Cheng understood that it was only a stop-gap measure. As the torrent of attacks on his Sea of Consciousness continued to increase in intensity, he once again found himself powerless. All he could do was keep using and pushing the Dark Nether Spirit Devourer to grind away the attacks in his Sea of Consciousness and preserve his Sea of Consciousness.

After understanding that this attack was most likely man-made, Ning Cheng also gave up the thought of entering the Mysterious Yellow Bead. He also didn't dare to casually activate the formation flag to escape. After all, even if he wanted to escape, he must have enough strength. Otherwise, he would be pulled back in when his foot stepped outside the Five-elements Star.

Fortunately, although the intensity of attacks on his Sea of Consciousness kept increasing, it was still within the realm of tolerance. As long as he could use the Dark Nether Spirit Devourer to grind away at it for some more time, he would be able to regain enough control to save his little life. But once he escaped and got discovered by the fellow that set up this Five-elements Star, would he still have a life if this fellow specifically targeted him?

Ning Cheng wasn't sure if someone was consciously controlling this attack, but he had to be careful.

Time slowly flowed, and Ning Cheng gradually disappeared into the white fog. There was no sound, just Ning Cheng constantly using the Dark Nether Spirit Devourer to grind away the attacks in his Sea of Consciousness.

Unfortunately, the attacks seemed endless. No matter how much Ning Cheng devoured, this flood of attacks would quickly fill up Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness again.

If this continued, sooner or later, my Sea of Consciousness would fully collapse. Ning Cheng took a deep breath, then carefully took out an Emyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill and swallowed it. Immediately after that, he also took out several teleportation array flags.

If he was discovered or could no longer resist this attack on his Sea of Consciousness, he would immediately use the formation flags and escape.

Fortunately, with the help of the Emyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill, Ning Cheng regained his balance and could keep devouring the spiritual consciousness attack, strengthening his Sea of Consciousness. It also caused the pressure in Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness to grow lighter and lighter, while the cracks in his Sea of Consciousness also started to heal.

Not knowing how long this went, Ning Cheng suddenly felt the raging torrent in his Sea of Consciousness strengthening by several folds. If the initial attack was like a small stream, the current one had turned into a large raging river, like the Yangtze River. Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness, which had just managed to recover, once again started to strain and crack under the sudden powerful bombardment.

Did it realise that he could refine the raging torrent in his Sea of Consciousness? This was Ning Cheng's first thought. Since he could resist this attack for so long, the owner of this attack must have decided to go all out to take him down.

Time to go. Ning Cheng immediately held up the teleportation formation flags. But Ning Cheng had just thrown out the first flag when he once again felt a few daoist shadows passing by him. At that same moment, Ning Cheng also felt the intensity of the attack in his Sea of Consciousness weakening considerably.

Were people still coming in? Quickly enough, Ning Cheng's guess turned into fact. This time, it wasn't just one or two groups. Rather, he could sense several groups rushing towards the depths of the Five-elements Star, all coming in from different places. Although they all noticed Ning Cheng, it didn't feel strange.

By this time, the raging torrent in Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness had grown significantly weaker. Ning Cheng immediately understood that it must have been related to the sudden influx of cultivators.

The only explanation for so many people coming in at once was that the auction was over, and cultivators who received the information had come to the Five-elements Star.

Feeling that the attack in his Sea of Consciousness had been completely ground down by the Dark Nether Spirit Devourer, Ning Cheng no longer felt the urgency to leave. He didn't want to know the purpose of attracting so many people to the Five-elements Star, but he could feel the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura here, and he wanted it.

This time, Ning Cheng wasn't in a hurry to follow the crowd. Instead, as his spiritual consciousness had grown even more powerful, he immediately stretched it out to observe the surrounding area.

The cultivators who came in were the same as him. As soon as they came in, they desperately ran in one direction. Some people, like him, managed to wake up on the way, but unfortunately, they didn't have the Dark Nether Spirit Devourer's cultivation method. It ultimately caused them to follow the voice in their consciousness.

Ning Cheng didn't dare to follow these people. He was afraid that he would eventually get restrained by the torrent of attacks in his Sea of Consciousness once again. However, he also didn't want to leave

either; therefore, he deliberately decided to move in a particular direction. All because he could sense one of his spiritual consciousness imprints from that particular direction.

Ning Cheng had only put spiritual consciousness imprints on Su Gui, Yan Jinqing and Pengjin. But in the end, he could only feel one of those spiritual consciousness imprints. Ning Cheng clearly recalled that this remaining spiritual consciousness imprint was the same one he had put on Yan Jinqing.

Ning Cheng walked very slowly, yet it still took half an hour before he found Yan Jinqing.

To be exact, he had found Yan Jinqing's corpse. Yan Jinqing had long since fallen, but she had a strange smile. Moreover, her corpse was also intact, sans a patch of robes missing from her waist, revealing her white skin with a cyan handprint on the lower abdomen.

Ning Cheng took a deep breath feeling shocked. He wasn't shocked by Yan Jinqing's death but rather by the circumstances of Yan Jinqing's death.

Yan Jinqing, regardless of her attitude and personality, was still a Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor. Generally, once a holy emperor falls, the corpse would still contain some of the holy emperor's dao rhythm residue as long as the corpse is relatively intact. This dao rhythm residue would continue circulating around the corpse for several decades, even after the death of the holy emperor.

Yet, Yan Jinqing's corpse now felt like that of an ordinary person who had never cultivated. It had no trace of any dao rhythm, as if someone or something had fully stripped Yan Jinqing of her dao rhythm before her death.

Stripped away? Ning Cheng shivered at that thought.

Just then, he heard a faint yet frantic scream from a distance, "Someone is devouring cultivators' foundation and dao rhythm and seizing spiritual roots....."

The voice only managed to scream half a sentence before abruptly stopping.

Ning Cheng's scalp tingled, and he understood what had happened. But before he could even think of leaving, he heard several shrill screams and even some cries for help.

But amidst these screams and cries, Ning Cheng also felt an aura similar to the Mysterious Yellow Origins.

Yes, that's the aura. Ning Cheng felt ecstatic. He was sure that this aura was the unique aura he had felt after entering the Five-elements Star. It was the same aura that had attracted him and made him unconsciously rush in; this aura was the real Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura.

This time, Ning Cheng didn't hesitate and immediately moved toward the source of this aura. Since entering the Five-elements Star, he acted mostly passively. But now that he sensed the real Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura, he didn't want to give up on it. Otherwise, he would definitely feel sorry for himself.

Chapter 1025: Breaking Restrictions, Seeing Treasure

At this moment, in Ning Cheng's senses, the entire Five-elements Star had become something akin to a steep slope while he continued to go down and down.

Ning Cheng also encountered more corpses of powerful cultivators along the way. From the looks of it, he wasn't the only one who discovered the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura. Other people must have entered this place before he had even reached it. It's just that these people couldn't reach the end before dying. But more importantly, these cultivator corpses were in the same condition as Yan Jinqing, stripped and devoid of all remnant dao rhythms.

Just then, a torrent several times stronger than the previous attack on his Sea of Consciousness blasted into his Sea of Consciousness.

"Kacha...." Ning Cheng's Starry Sky Sea of Consciousness made another cracking sound, and Ning Cheng felt his consciousness being torn into shreds. The terrifying pain caused him to roar out in pain. Even the Dark Nether Devourer couldn't devour the attack in time.

Ning Cheng could no longer contain the build-up of blood in his body and immediately retched. Yet, despite the situation, Ning Cheng didn't have the slightest thought of retreating. Lowering his head, he even charged forward while pushing the Dark Nether Spirit Devourer to its limit to swallow this raging torrent attacking his Sea of Consciousness.

In this way, Ning Cheng kept rushing 'down' while operating the Dark Nether Spirit Devourer to grind down the attack in his Sea of Consciousness. As for Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pills, Ning Cheng treated them as sugar candies and popped them one after another. As for the potential after-effects, Ning Cheng turned a blind eye to it under the current circumstances.

"Boom....." Suddenly, an invisible restriction blocked Ning Cheng's path. Outside this restriction were several more cultivator corpses; from the looks of it, they had only recently fallen. Unfortunately, although they had better luck finding this place than Ning Cheng, they didn't have the strength of Ning Cheng, costing them their lives after reaching this place.

Ning Cheng ignored the corpses on the ground as his focus shifted to the scene in front of him. Although invisible, Ning Cheng could sense a huge spherical restriction in front of him, but more importantly, he saw five completely different streams of aura flowing harmoniously within this spherical restriction. Each aural strand contained an ineffable dao rhythm that sounded like morning bells and evening drums. It obviously didn't produce any sound, yet it could penetrate the depths of one's heart and soul. As a result, it 'sounded' like a huge drum roaring in one's heart.

This was definitely the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura. Ning Cheng held back the ecstasy in his heart and raised his hand to crack open the restriction in front of him.

"Puny ant, if you dare to break this restriction, this saint will not rest until your soul is devoured and refined for a million years." When Ning Cheng was about to break the restriction, a voice that was so cold that it could chill one's marrow sounded in Ning Cheng's ears.

Ning Cheng suddenly looked up, and a faint shadow appeared behind the huge restriction. This shadow seemed to be composed of countless dao rhythm auras. But more importantly, these dao rhythm auras fused at speeds visible to the naked eye.

“So it’s you; you tricked all these people into coming here to devour their dao rhythms, foundation and spiritual root, right? What a vicious cultivation method.” Ning Cheng flicked his hand, and a spear suddenly appeared in front of him.

“Haha, the world’s cultivation methods are only divided into useful and useless. Does it matter if it’s vicious or non-vicious? Just like your cultivation method that can devour spiritual consciousness, it’s very useful. Otherwise, I’m afraid you wouldn’t have reached this point.” The shadow showed a faint smile.

Ning Cheng found that this shadow had grown a bit solid as he finished that sentence. Sensing that change, Ning Cheng immediately understood a few things. This shadow was constantly growing while devouring. It was just like his Seven Bridges Spirit Technique. After integrating with the netherworld’s worldly laws, it had also slowly started to solidify.

Because of this, Ning Cheng became more and more certain that this fellow, most likely, couldn’t move from this place. He could only attack through that torrent that blasted into the victim’s Sea of Consciousness. Cultivators who couldn’t defend or devour the foreign spiritual consciousness that entered their Sea of Consciousness could only watch as their Sea of Consciousness exploded.

As for this fellow in the Five-elements Star, it would quickly move to seize their dao rhythm, foundation and spiritual roots after killing those cultivators. Under such a form of seizure and consolidation, once this fellow grew to the point of moving at will, he might not even have the ability to resist.

“I will give you some of the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura, but you must cooperate with me. As for the specific method of cooperation, we will talk about it after I give you the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura. Otherwise, even if I let you into this forbidden restriction, you could only look at the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura with red eyes. I can tell you that this Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura isn’t something that can be taken away by ordinary things. On the other hand, I can use the forbidden restriction to let you take it.” The shadow behind the forbidden restriction kept a close eye on Ning Cheng, trying to gauge his reaction.

“If I agree.....”

After hearing Ning Cheng’s ‘agreement’, the shadow spoke even more calmly. “It’s best if you agree. That way, we both can gain something; otherwise, you wouldn’t get anything and will have to die.....”

As the shadow reached this point, his form turned even more solid. However, before he could finish this sentence, the spear in Ning Cheng’s hand blasted toward the restriction. At the same time, Ning Cheng also finished his sentence, “..... it would be a strange thing.”

At this moment, Ning Cheng fully understood why the Cheerful Treasure Chamber of Commerce leaked the Five-elements Star’s location before the auction started.

There was only one reason, and that was that this shadow’s cultivation level wasn’t enough. It must have made an agreement with the Cheerful Treasure Chamber of Commerce, and they must have first sent a small number of cultivators here to improve this shadow’s strength. Once this shadow’s strength reached a certain level, they would then let more cultivators come over and let the shadow’s strength rise again.

It was like first giving some porridge to a famished person to get accustomed to before giving him big fish and meat. Having been pitted by the Cheerful Treasure Chamber of Commerce for no reason, Ning Cheng had already written down the grudge in his heart.

“Boom.... Katcha.....”

This spherical restriction, although powerful, had a slight crack that occasionally spat out the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura. Ning Cheng was also a proficient master in the Dao of Arrays. Therefore, his attack, although simple, landed a precise strike at that crack in the forbidden restriction.

If not for the Dark Nether Spirit Devourer and the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill, he wouldn't have reached this far before his Sea of Consciousness shattered and his foundation and spiritual roots stripped away. Facing such a fellow who would try to kill him sooner or later, Ning Cheng wouldn't be Ning Cheng if he willingly compromised. What's more, this fellow's body hadn't solidified yet.

“You're looking for death.....” The shadow shouted angrily, and a dozen torrents immediately swept into Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness.

Ning Cheng staggered, spewing out several mouthfuls of blood wildly. Even his face turned white beyond comparison. His current appearance was that of a pale white servant boy, but after losing so much blood, his face no longer showed any hint of blood flowing through it.

Not good; if this went on, his Sea of Consciousness would crack apart under those torrents.

As Ning Cheng frantically operated the Dark Nether Spirit Devourer, his spiritual consciousness began to stretch out, forming a spiritual consciousness domain around him.

Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness domain had long since taken shape, but only using the spiritual consciousness domain against spirit techniques wasn't effective. As such, he had never used the spiritual consciousness domain's defence. But facing a life-and-death situation, he was forced to use the spiritual consciousness domain.

Unfortunately, this spiritual consciousness attack from this shadow was simply unstoppable; unless one could also use a spiritual consciousness attack of the same level.

Therefore, Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness domain had just formed when nearly forty to fifty raging torrents of consciousness blasted over.

“Puny ant, go to hell!” Seeing Ning Cheng continue to attack the spherical restriction, the shadow finally went berserk and mobilised more energy to deal with Ning Cheng.

“Kaka.....Kaka.....” Cracking sounds started to emerge from Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness domain as it could no longer bear this level of spiritual consciousness attack. In just a moment, the torrents broke through the domain and poured into Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness, causing a few more cracks to emerge in Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness. But at the same time, cracking sounds erupted from the invisible spherical forbidden restriction under Ning Cheng's spear.

However, it also pushed Ning Cheng's purple mansion to the limit and showed signs of cracking. But Ning Cheng ignored it and immediately grabbed a handful of pills, swallowed them, and started pushing

his spiritual consciousness domain to stretch out wildly. That terrifying attack just now, if not for his spiritual consciousness domain blocking it partially, his Sea of Consciousness might have exploded.

“Boom-Boom.....” The shadow’s torrent of consciousness seemed to have gone crazy and smashed down on Ning Cheng’s spiritual consciousness domain again. However, Ning Cheng felt happy internally because this time, the attack wasn’t as powerful as half the last one. He understood that it wasn’t because the shadow’s strength had decreased but that more people must have rushed to this place. After all, this shadow still wasn’t powerful enough to take care of everything.

Sure enough, Ning Cheng had just thought of this when several shadows landed not far from Ning Cheng. One of the cultivators even exclaimed, “Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura.....”

Then, those figures completely ignored everything else and took out their artefacts to bombard this spherical restriction.

“Aah.....” Two miserable screams suddenly came from two Dao Raising Holy Emperors who had just attacked the restriction and immediately died. They had only managed to reach this place because of Ning Cheng’s containment. Now that they wanted to attack the spherical restriction, the shadow naturally wouldn’t let them do as they wished. Ning Cheng could resist his torrent of consciousness attack, but it didn’t mean that others also had such means to resist such a terrifying attack.

However, the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura was just too attractive. Therefore, even though two Dao Raising Holy Emperors had fallen before them, the people who came after them still attacked the forbidden restriction frantically.

This also greatly reduced the pressure on Ning Cheng and his spear once again blasted at the widening crack on the spherical restriction.

With one more attack, the spherical restriction finally clicked and broke open, creating an opening about ten feet wide. Ning Cheng didn’t waste any time and immediately rushed inside. Following Ning Cheng were two Dao Transformation Holy Emperors, one Dao Raising Holy Emperor and a brocade-robed man.

Although Ning Cheng’s spiritual consciousness had only been briefly swept by the surroundings, he still recognised the brocade-robed man. This guy had arrived before him and hid at the outer edge of the Five-elements Star, called Jing Xihua. This fellow knew how to spot the most opportune time and fought to the death to take the lead to directly seize the fruits of victory.

However, Ning Cheng didn’t have the time to pay attention to these fellows. He wanted to seize as much Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura as possible and escape. Since everyone could enter now, it meant that who grabbed the most was up to chance.

He didn’t believe that the shadow would stop like this. After all, that shadow had devoured many cultivators’ dao rhythms, foundations and spiritual roots. The only thing that he currently lacked was completing the fusion. Once the other party finished the fusion process, and if he was still here, that would be the time of his death.

An indescribably dao rhythm aura washed over Ning Cheng’s body, immediately soothing his body and calming his Sea of Consciousness. Even his comprehension of dao rhythm and the Five-elements Spirit Technique became much stronger in his instant.

“Big Brother, this little brother really didn’t misjudge you. Let me bathe in your light……” Jing Xihua vanished from behind Ning Cheng, but he didn’t forget to thank him, even elevating Ning Cheng to ‘big brother’.

Noticing a delicate-looking jade bottle in Jing Xihua’s hand as he left, Ning Cheng immediately recalled what the shadow had mentioned. That, this Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura wasn’t something that could be taken away by simple objects.

As Ning Cheng thought of this, he heard the two Dao Transformation Holy Emperors behind him exclaim, “Not good, we don’t have anything to take away this Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura.”

At the same moment, the number of cultivators flocking to this place suddenly increased several-fold, and the shadow could no longer care about dealing with a sole Ning Cheng.

Chapter 1026: Crazy Collection

Ning Cheng immediately focussed on the exquisite jade vase in Jing Xihua’s hands as it continuously absorbed one of the Origin Auras. He couldn’t help but sigh internally. Everything was ready before this fellow came here.

Ning Cheng immediately put the thought aside and immediately took out the Immeasurable Gourd. The only item on him that could hold such a thing was the Immeasurable Gourd. As for the jade bottles and jars that he had previously refined to store things, Ning Cheng had enough self-awareness to know that those couldn’t hold the Primal Chaos Aura.

However, before taking out the Immeasurable Gourd, Ning Cheng had also primed the Mysterious Yellow Bead. If the Immeasurable Gourd couldn’t collect the Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura, he would immediately activate the Mysterious Yellow Bead. Unfortunately, he also understood that if he used the Mysterious Yellow Bead to suck in the Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura, they would immediately fuse with the space in the Mysterious Yellow Bead, with not even the slightest bit left.

Fortunately, the Immeasurable Gourd seemed to exist specifically to contain the Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura, as just as Ning Cheng took it out, it trembled violently. Then, a thought of containing something emerged in Ning Cheng’s mind, and the mouth of the Immeasurable Gourd suddenly became larger.

The huge mouth of the gourd then appeared suspended directly over the Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura, appearing as if it was a bottomless pit, seemingly waiting for Ning Cheng to give an order.

At this point, how could Ning Cheng not know that the Immeasurable Gourd wanted to suck in the Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura? His spiritual consciousness immediately communicated with the Immeasurable Gourd, giving it the instruction to collect the Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura. He even gave it the order to separate the Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura into its individual five elements. However, Ning Cheng didn’t really care if it could separate it or not at this moment.

“Boom!” A massive explosion erupted as the space in front of the giant mouth suddenly contracted sharply. Then, Ning Cheng was shocked to see the Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura in the huge spherical

restriction acting like water breaking through the dike, frantically rushing out and into the Immeasurable Gourd.

In just a moment, a massive whirlpool appeared around the Immeasurable Gourd's mouth. It immediately snapped Ning Cheng back to his senses while still feeling ecstatic in his heart.

He had guessed that the Immeasurable Gourd could collect the Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura. However, he never expected the Immeasurable Gourd to be so powerful and heaven-defying. Looking at the Immeasurable Gourd's absorption speed, it would only take around half an hour to completely collect the Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura from the spherical restriction.

However, as he collected it, Ning Cheng understood that he wouldn't be left alone for half an hour. Not to mention the shadow, even the other holy emperors who entered the spherical restriction wouldn't let him go.

While the Immeasurable Gourd frantically absorbed the Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura, Ning Cheng immediately made a few hand seals, and the vortex expanded slightly. It immediately sucked in more Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura. However, this time, it wasn't all sucked into the Immeasurable Gourd but was also sent into the Mysterious Yellow Bead.

In just half an incense stick's worth of time, the Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura here got reduced by nearly half. Although this place had an enormous quantity of Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura, Ning Cheng had harvested it too much and too quickly, exposing the vortices. Even if the Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura could make others ignore their surroundings, people couldn't ignore this situation.

Immediately, every single pair of eyes fell on Ning Cheng's Immeasurable Gourd. Nobody noticed that most of the suction power came from the Mysterious Yellow Bead; instead, they all felt that the Immeasurable Gourd was sucking in the Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura.

Everyone had come here to grab the Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura, but Ning Cheng's method of grabbing it was too overbearing. As such, it was impossible not to arouse people's jealousy.

Several Dao Transformation Holy Emperors rushed toward Ning Cheng in just a moment simultaneously. Ning Cheng even saw a Dao Essence Holy Emperor grabbing at him.

Ning Cheng gave a furious roar, and a spiritual consciousness attack swept out wildly, while dozens of time wheels also blasted out.

Although rudimentary, the spiritual consciousness attacks and the time wheels were both great killing moves. Even if they couldn't kill the Dao Transformation Holy Emperors rushing over, they were still more than enough to delay these Dao Transformation Holy Emperors for a few breaths of time.

A few breaths of time was more than enough for Ning Cheng. He didn't hesitate, threw out the teleportation array flags he had already prepared, and put away the Immeasurable Gourd. The teleportation array flags immediately created a spatial ripple, and in just a few breaths, it swept Ning Cheng away.

All Array Formation experts were capricious, especially ones who could use teleportation arrays to escape. The Dao Transformation Holy Emperors who could only grab at the air could only watch Ning Cheng as he teleported away. However, no one went after Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng didn't escape with all the Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura here. At most, he had escaped with a little more than a half; there was still a lot of it left here. It just depended on whether they could take it away or not. Everyone had to rely on their abilities to take as much as possible. So even if they knew that Ning Cheng had taken away a majority of it, no one went after Ning Cheng. After all, staying here, they could still get something, but to chase after Ning Cheng, who could tell if they could even catch up to him?

It's just that there were not many cultivators who could really take away the Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura like Ning Cheng. After all, they didn't have any treasures to store the Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura, nor did they have the means to protect themselves like Ning Cheng. Therefore, they could only stay in the spherical restriction for a few breaths before an invisible torrent burst open their Sea of Consciousness and turned them into cold corpses.

.....

Ning Cheng knew that those people wouldn't be the first to chase after him. Therefore, after teleporting out of the Five Elements Star, he immediately activated his Twin Wings of the Heaven Clouds to their full power and instantly moved far away from the Five Elements Star. He then took out the Starry Sky Wheel and whistled away.

It didn't matter if it was the Dao Essence powerhouse in the Five Elements Star or the shadow that devoured cultivators' dao rhythm, foundation and spiritual roots. Both were something he couldn't deal with right now. Besides, why would he wait around with the thing he wanted in his hand? As for taking care of the grudge with the Cheerful Treasure Chamber of Commerce, that was also something he had to put off for now. He would take care of it later.

From the time Ning Cheng teleported out of the Five Elements Star to when he took out the Starry Sky Wheel and walked away, it was less than three breaths. He didn't even put away the teleportation array and chose to abandon it and escape quickly.

Facts proved that Ning Cheng didn't make a mistake. Just as his figure disappeared, an incomparably huge hand grabbed his teleportation array and crushed it into pieces.

Unfortunately, Ning Cheng had escaped too quickly. Therefore, although this giant hand contained a powerful aura of law, it wasn't quick enough to catch Ning Cheng.

Deep within the Five Elements Star, a slightly solid-looking shadow trembled violently at this sight. Condensing that hand had consumed too much of his strength and turned his solidifying body illusionary again. However, only he knew he was trembling not because he had consumed too much essence aura but because of his anger towards Ning Cheng.

To obtain this star containing the Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura, he had paid a heavy price of giving up his physical body and cultivation. His Essence Spirit had guarded this place for countless years, only to have all its plans destroyed by an ant just when he was about to succeed.

But what made him angrier was that he couldn't crush this ant.

Unfortunately, he condensed that giant hand a moment too late. This caused it to feel even more regret; it should have told the Cheerful Treasure Chamber of Commerce to push the auction date further. That way, dealing with these ants would have become much easier after gaining more strength.

Even at the expense of collapsing its newly condensing body, Ning Cheng had still managed to escape. As such, it could only vent its anger on the cultivators still on the Five Elements Star.

As one holy emperor after another died to its rage, and with the Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura dissipated too much, more and more people understood that the momentum was gone. Realising this, the remaining crowd fled out of the Five Elements Star one after another. Even if the shadow wasn't willing to let them escape, it could only watch as the many cultivators escaped.

Not only did its giant coalesced hand not crush that Dao Sculpting ant, but it also allowed even more people to escape. Therefore, it seared Ning Cheng's appearance into its memory; this ant had robbed it of its Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura; one day, it would cut this ant into pieces and eat it one by one. Otherwise, it would never be able to calm the anger in its heart.

.....

After escaping with the Starry Sky Wheel, Ning Cheng quickly changed his appearance to that of a middle-aged scribe and returned to the Broken Spear Spirit City for the third time.

He didn't want to return, but he didn't want to travel alone to the Grand Essence Domain. After going over all the available options, he decided to take one of the Void Ships and travel back. Otherwise, with his strength alone, he might not be able to cross the Grand Essence Demon Vein. Besides, Xu Yan mentioned early on that it would take at least a year to get to the Grand Essence Sea through the Grand Essence Demon Vein. Moreover, crossing the Grand Essence Demon Vein would only bring one to the edge of the Grand Essence Sea.

If he didn't follow the fleet of Void Ships, he might not even be able to find the nearest transmission array after reaching the Grand Essence Sea. As for not taking the teleportation array and going directly across the Grand Essence Sea to the Grand Essence Domain, Ning Cheng didn't even give it a single thought.

After all, the Grand Essence Sea covered the second largest area in the Grand Essence Realm, behind only the Grand Essence Ruins.

Not to mention that he didn't even know how much time it would take to cross the Grand Essence Sea, but even if it was within his acceptable range, he still wasn't strong enough to cross even the Grand Essence Sea by himself.

Although many people went to the Five Elements Star, Ning Cheng still found many people flowing into the city after returning. However, one glance was enough to tell him that the number of strong people flowing in had reduced significantly. Apart from a handful of Dao Transformation Holy Emperors, Ning Cheng didn't see a single Dao Essence Holy Emperor.

Ning Cheng didn't linger around and immediately headed towards the void airships parked in the Broken Spear Spirit City. Fortunately, most of the void airships were going to the edge of the Grand Essence

City. Moreover, most of these void airships carried the banner of different Chambers of Commerce, meaning that these void airships were also for doing business apart from transporting people.

As one of the largest Chamber of Commerce in this place, the Cheerful Treasure Chamber of Commerce naturally had its own fleet of void ships.

However, Ning Cheng didn't choose any void airships belonging to the Cheerful Treasure Chamber of Commerce. This Chamber of Commerce gave Ning Cheng a very bad impression. What's more, Ning Cheng still has a large amount of Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura on him right now.

Therefore, Ning Cheng chose the Sea Sky Pavilion Chamber of Commerce's void ship. The Sea Sky Pavilion Chamber of Commerce wasn't much weaker in this area compared to the Cheerful Treasure Chamber of Commerce. It's just that the Sea Sky Pavilion Chamber of Commerce's main business didn't originate from this remote edge of the Grand Essence Realm but from the Grand Essence Sea. Another point was that Sea Sky Pavilion Chamber of Commerce's void ship would depart in a day.

The price of travelling from Broken Spear Spirit City to the edge of the Grand Essence Sea was two million high-grade spirit crystals, which could be considered quite a high price. Two million spirit crystals for Ning Cheng didn't mean much, but for the rogue cultivators struggling at the edge of the Grand Essence Realm all year round, it was a huge sum of money.

Moreover, the price of two million spirit crystals was only for the medium-tier rooms. The top-tier rooms cost three million, while even the lowest-tier room also cost one million spirit crystals.

Ning Cheng didn't ask for the top-tier room, nor did he ask for the lowest-tier room. With only a year to go, he paid two million spirit crystals and chose the medium-tier room.

As the day passed quickly, Ning Cheng finally boarded the ship and found that the remaining rooms had increased. In just one day, the price of medium-tier rooms had risen from two million to three million spirit crystals. Not only that, but more and more powerful people also started to pour onto the ship.

Ning Cheng didn't casually release his spiritual consciousness, nor did he bother to inquire about the reason. Instead, he calmly walked into his room, immediately activated the restrictions, and hung the words 'Do not disturb, in seclusion' outside the room.

Although he didn't ask around for a reason, he understood what might have happened. The cultivators who had home to the Five Elements Star had returned. Because of him this time, quite a few people have managed to escape from the Five Elements Star, and many of them should have gotten some Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura. It's most likely because of these late arrivals that had obtained some Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura that indirectly caused the prices to increase and the sudden inflow.

After all, once they brought this Five Elements Primal Chaos Aura to the Heaven Essence Sacred City in the Grand Essence Domain, they could sell them at a shocking price.

Ning Cheng secretly sighed; with so many uninvited guests, this trip to the Grand Essence Sea would be chaotic. Unfortunately, he didn't have another choice at this time. The chaos would be even greater if he took a different void ship. In fact, there was even a chance that the fellow from the Five Elements Star would come after him.

Chapter 1027: Mysterious Yellow World's Beginnings

Ning Cheng didn't need to stay in the cabin for long before the void ship's hull shook slightly. Sensing that slight vibration, Ning Cheng felt immensely relieved. They had finally set off.

The void ship wasn't as fast as the Starry Sky Wheel, but it wasn't slow either. After making sure they had left the borders of the Broken Spear Spirit City, Ning Cheng finally retracted his spiritual consciousness. He decided to activate all the restrictions in the room and focus on cutting away the remnant things in his Sea of Consciousness. In the Five-elements Star, to save his life, he had no choice but to desperately swallow the torrent of consciousness attacks and hadn't cut off these hidden dangers that he had invariably swallowed and refined.

In addition, he also needed to check on the Mysterious Yellow Bead. The Mysterious Yellow Bead had also absorbed a lot of Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura this time and had undergone a significant change. It's just that he didn't know if it could now allow people other than him to enter.

But before he could do anything, the restriction on the entrance suddenly rippled.

Ning Cheng frowned. He obviously hung a 'Do Not Disturb' sign outside the room, yet someone tried to move the restriction at his door. But when his spiritual consciousness swept out, he only saw an Eternal cultivator outside.

Ning Cheng opened the restriction. He would never believe an Eternal cultivator would dare to move the restriction on the door of his own volition. After opening the restriction, Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness spread out. Sure enough, a little further away, he found a Dao Raising Holy Emperor and a Dao Transformation Holy Emperor paying attention to his side.

"Please excuse this junior for disturbing the senior's retreat. Sea Sky Pavilion's void ship will be hosting an auction shortly. This auction will have quite a few top-tier treasures appearing. Since this senior is a VIP on Sea Sky Pavilion's void ship....."

This Eternal cultivator hadn't finished his words when Ning Cheng sent him flying with a slap. At the same time, he angrily shouted, "Are you blind? Didn't you see the sign in front that this holy emperor hung outside? I'll only say this once; if anyone dares to disturb me again, I will kill without mercy."

After speaking, Ning Cheng raised his hand and changed the sign outside. Then, he quickly returned to the room and activated the restrictions again. He didn't want to give any opportunity to those two hiding in the distance.

Even an idiot could tell that those two holy emperors were the ones who pushed that Eternal cultivator to open the door. However, he also understood that regardless of whether he came out or not, regardless of his attitude, those two holy emperors would still look for an excuse to argue with him.

As for the reason why they used such a tactic, Ning Cheng guessed it easily. They wanted to see if he had come from the Five-elements Star and whether he obtained some Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura.

Therefore, he decided to replace the sign at his door with the words, 'In retreat; kill without mercy if disturbed again.' If those two still dared to come to find trouble with him after this, he would immediately kill them.

He could only rely on such heavy-handed tricks when on this void ship. Otherwise, there would be an endless line of sneaky attempts on him.

The two holy emperors looking over at the situation from a distance had an ugly look on their faces, especially after noticing Ning Cheng's latest actions. Then, Dao Raising Holy Emperor spoke up calmly, "A mere Dao Sculpting ant, yet so arrogant. Let's go by ourselves."

The Dao Transformation Holy Emperor, however, shook his head. "Let's wait for some time. He already knows that we are watching him. Yet, he still dared to act like this, which shows he's not ordinary. We must wait and investigate the situation before making any moves."

Ning Cheng saw the two holy emperors leave from inside the room and arranged more defensive formations and restrictions around him. There was a good chance that this ship had at least one Dao Essence powerhouse onboard. But even if a Dao Essence Holy Emperor came to provoke him, he wasn't afraid. At worst, he would be forced to escape from the ship.

Half a day later, Ning Cheng finished transforming the room into something akin to an iron fortress. Unless someone with much higher attainments in the Dao of Arrays came along, breaking through all the defences would be impossible. At least not within a short period.

Ning Cheng then took out the Immeasurable Gourd. Since he used the Immeasurable Gourd to collect the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura, he hadn't checked it even once. Even in the Broken Spear Spirit City, he didn't dare to check it. But now, with all the preparations, he naturally had no such scruples.

Taking out the Immeasurable Gourd, Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness swept in.

Sure enough, it has the good stuff. Ning Cheng couldn't help but mutter to himself in surprise. At this time, the Immeasurable Gourd's internal space had been separated into different sections by isolation restrictions. The bottom-most section contained a drop of 3000 Weak Water. Even the previously intertwined Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura had been cleanly separated, occupying individual sections separated by the isolation restrictions. Even Ning Cheng had to admire it as the whole arrangement looked as if done by a professional.

A priceless treasure. This thing was definitely no weaker than the Seven Bridges Spirit Technique. It could not only collect the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura but also store the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura separately.

Putting away the Immeasurable Gourd with joy, Ning Cheng then began to restore his Sea of Consciousness.

He had swallowed too many pills while fighting for survival in the Five-elements Star. Although it did save his life, it most definitely left behind at least some hidden dangers. After all, not everyone could scarf down top-quality pills like him. Unfortunately, even with his heaven-defying cultivation method, devouring so many pills would still leave some pill poisons in his body, which he had to purge.

Putting aside the matter of pill poisons, his Sea of Consciousness had also been greatly enhanced. But this enhancement wasn't from cultivation but rather from devouring those spiritual consciousness attacks, which would also leave behind hidden risks.

So far, Ning Cheng hadn't felt anything wrong with him, even after being forced to scarf down so many Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pills. However, Ning Cheng didn't dare take it lightly. He always believed in his own point of view. No matter how much you give out or receive, there would never be love or hate without any reason.

If cultivating spiritual consciousness was so easy, then all one would need was to find someone to devour their spiritual consciousness. Why would people even bother cultivation? Why would one have to work hard to find cultivation resources?

Moreover, the Dark Nether Spirit Devouring Scroll wasn't something he created, but he had seen the fate of the person suspected to have created the Dark Nether Spirit Devouring Scroll. Wasn't that fellow reduced to being a mere wisp of an essence spirit? Ultimately, it had to go to great lengths to take possession of someone else's body.

One could occasionally have certain chance encounters during cultivation, but there would be no repeated coincidences. Because of this view, Ning Cheng didn't feel right about his situation despite not having any apparent problems. Therefore, he immediately began cutting off the foreign spiritual consciousness swallowed by his Sea of Consciousness.

A month later, Ning Cheng fully cut off the foreign spiritual consciousness devoured by his Sea of Consciousness and sealed it into a ball with powerful restrictions. Only Ning Cheng understood the destructive spiritual consciousness power within this ball. He believed that once he used it, even a Dao Essence Holy Emperor would not only have to eat the pot but also talk about it. It wasn't much worse than Liu Fanglin's Dao Breaking Bread in terms of destructive potential.

However, Liu Fanglin's Dao Breaking Bead needed time to activate, while this ball, refined from the Dark Nether Spirit Devourer, could be activated at any time once he threw it out.

Maybe it was a psychological effect, but after cutting off that foreign spiritual consciousness swallowed by the Dark Nether Spirit Devourer, Ning Cheng felt that his Sea of Consciousness had grown clearer. Even his body felt more relaxed than usual. Moreover, his cultivation hadn't decreased after removing it. No, it had marginally improved, bringing him a bit closer to the peak of the Dao Sculpting Realm.

Fortunately, no one came to disturb him during this one month.

Nevertheless, Ning Cheng was still not completely relieved. He arranged a few more spiritual consciousness-triggering restrictions before entering the True Spirit World.

"Yan Ji, how come you're not cultivating?" Ning Cheng saw Yan Ji fiddling with the flowers and plants in the True Spirit World and asked curiously.

Yan Ji immediately felt happier when she heard Ning Cheng call her by her name instead of Junior Apprentice Sister Ji. She playfully but slowly walked towards Ning Cheng and said softly, "I spent a few months cultivating after reaching the Eternal Realm but could only stabilise my cultivation. It's just too difficult to move forward."

Ning Cheng misunderstood the reason and nodded, "It should be because the laws of the True Spirit World are too weak. The Eternal Realm is the starting point of condensing one's grand dao and laws.

Continuing to cultivate in this place would make progress difficult. We're on our way to the Grand Essence Domain now, but there will be a big fight. I'm afraid you will have to stay inside till then."

"Be careful with yourself." Yan Ji immediately became concerned but didn't ask why Ning Cheng spoke about a big fight. She wasn't anywhere close to reaching the Dao Sculpting Realm, meaning there was nothing she could do to help Ning Cheng.

"I know. My Mysterious Yellow Bead devoured a large quantity of Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura. So I want to see if you can enter the Mysterious Yellow Bead. If you can get in, the Mysterious Yellow Bead's world would allow you to cultivate further."

Ning Cheng finished, wrapped his hand around Yan Ji's slender waist, and entered the Mysterious Yellow Bead from the True Spirit World with a flash.

Yan Ji looked at the beautiful world in front of her in amazement. This world felt like a true paradise compared to the True Spirit World.

Green mountains and azure water, with gentle breezes caressing the face. A seemingly endless sea, and in the distance, the rising sun. The mountain peaks looked like angry waves on the sea.....

There were no outsiders here apart from her and Ning Cheng.

"It's so beautiful, such a tall and thick tree....." In awe, Yan Ji's gaze fell on a lush giant tree thousands of feet high in the distance. This giant tree was like a massive umbrella that covered one side of the sky.

"Are those derivations of the sun and moon?" Ning Cheng also looked at the rising sun in the distance with excitement. He could clearly feel that the heaven and earth in the Mysterious Yellow Bead had become more perfect. Although the rising sun looked weak, the laws here had improved considerably.

But more importantly, that giant tree seems to have been revitalised. Chasing Bull had already replanted the tree when he sent the half Wood Origin Bead into the Mysterious Yellow Tree. But back then, it looked withered and completely lifeless, unlike how it looked right now.

"Yan Ji, the laws here aren't weaker than the Grand Essence Realm outside. You can cultivate..... Huh....." Ning Cheng spoke halfway before he suddenly realised something. Yan Ji hadn't been forcibly teleported out yet, which meant that his Mysterious Yellow Bead had become an independent world. Even if the world wasn't perfect, it could already let people survive here.

Yan Ji turned to look at Ning Cheng affectionately. If she could, she would rather live in this world with Ning Cheng for the rest of her life.

Ning Cheng was already feeling quite surprised by this development. He was about to bring in Chasing Bull and all the Exploding Golden Bees into the Mysterious Yellow Bead when Yan Ji gently wrapped her arms around his waist.

Previously, because Yan Ji couldn't cultivate in the Mysterious Yellow Bead, Ning Cheng had chosen to drive Chasing Bull out. He was afraid Yan Ji would be a little lonely staying in the True Spirit World all by herself with no one to talk to, so he had re-tasked Chasing Bull to tend to the True Spirit World.

But now, Ning Cheng forgot about bringing Chasing Bull in again. Rather, at this moment, all other things felt superfluous.

Yan Ji's eyes gradually became lost. At this time, everything else felt secondary, except for the company of each other.

But her dazed eyes immediately jolted awake and looked at Ning Cheng in confusion. She could feel dense killing intent almost on the verge of erupting from Ning Cheng's body.

Ning Cheng patted Yan Ji's slender waist and said softly, "Someone came to look for trouble again. I have to go out. You should cultivate here; also, get Chasing Bull and the Exploding Golden Bees in here. You can also move the True Spirit World's medicine garden here. Although the Mysterious Yellow Bead has not fully evolved into a complete law world, one day in the future, I will gather the rest of the Wood Origin Bead to perfect the world in the Mysterious Yellow Bead."

Chapter 1028: It's all about Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura

Ning Cheng left the Mysterious Yellow Bead and returned to the room; his face looked even more murderous. The room would have already been opened if it weren't for his restrictions and array formations.

A little more than a month ago, two holy emperors had forced an Eternal cultivator to remove the restrictions on Ning Cheng's room. And right now, both were right outside Ning Cheng's room. That Dao Raising Holy Emperor had already broken the outermost layer of Ning Cheng's room's defensive restrictions. As for the Dao Transformation Holy Emperor, he didn't make any moves and stood right behind him. Looking at their actions, they seemed to want to use pressure tactics against him.

Ning Cheng raised his hand and opened all the restrictions in his room, didn't wait for the Dao Raising Holy Emperor to open his mouth, and unleashed his domain infused with the Laws of Space. Ning Cheng immediately followed up with a punch without hesitation, using space to wrap the Dao Raising Holy Emperor.

It looked like an ordinary punch but contained the Laws of Time.

There weren't any sunsets or an artistic conception of dusk; it was just a pure application of the Laws of Time.

The Dao Raising Holy Emperor, who broke the restriction on Ning Cheng's room, never thought that Ning Cheng, a mere Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor, would dare launch an attack without saying a word.

Unfortunately, by the time he reacted, Ning Cheng's spatial domain had completely suppressed him. He didn't even have a chance to speak when Ning Cheng's punch connected with his forehead.

Time stood still for perhaps only a breath, but it seemed like a lifetime had passed to this Dao Raising Holy Emperor.

"Boom....." Ning Cheng's fist connected with this Dao Raising Holy Emperor's brow, and the Dao Raising Holy Emperor's body instantly collapsed. His Essence Spirit had just emerged when Ning Cheng's fist intent wiped it out of existence.

One breath, one lifetime. Ning Cheng didn't even give him a chance to fight back before killing him.

Ning Cheng's cultivation level had reached infinitely close to the peak of the Dao Sculpting Realm. As such, facing a middle-stage Dao Raising Holy Emperor, who didn't take him seriously, Ning Cheng's sudden punch was enough to instantly kill him.

It wasn't until Ning Cheng killed this Dao Raising Holy Emperor that the early-stage Dao Transformation Holy Emperor reacted. He shouted in shock and anger, "How dare you kill people here?"

Ning Cheng naturally wouldn't answer this Dao Transformation Holy Emperor's words. He raised his hand, and a huge axe appeared in it. He then slashed down at this Dao Transformation Holy Emperor with it.

In the instant when the huge axe slashed down at this Dao Transformation Holy Emperor, axe traces filled with a murderous aura ripped through the surrounding space, engulfing the Dao Transformation Holy Emperor.

It was only at this moment that this Dao Transformation Holy Emperor reacted and hurriedly brought out an artefact. Not only did Ning Cheng dare to kill, he even dared to try to kill him.

"Boom....." Ning Cheng's Axe Line and this Dao Transformation Holy Emperor's artefact blasted together, resulting in a massive spirit essence explosion accompanied by bursts of shockwaves.

If it wasn't for Ning Cheng holding back against others lurking in the shadows, this attack would have annihilated everything within the explosion radius. Unfortunately, he also knew that a Dao Transformation Holy Emperor wasn't someone he could fight against while holding back.

"Stop....." An overwhelmingly strong aura came crashing down, followed by a voice before it reached the ears of Ning Cheng and the Dao Transformation Holy Emperor.

Ning Cheng didn't continue his attack and immediately retreated. The person coming was a Dao Essence powerhouse, and Ning Cheng understood that the difference between him and a Dao Essence powerhouse wasn't just a level or two. If he continued, it would definitely be detrimental to him. In any case, after killing that Dao Raising Holy Emperor, the anger in his heart had already subsided a bit.

That previous explosion had not only alarmed the Dao Essence powerhouse, but it had also even startled the rest of the cultivators on the void ship. They immediately left their rooms and flocked over to watch the proceedings with excitement.

"Deacon Xia, this person dared to kill my friend in broad daylight and on your ship. This is simply him not putting the Sea Sky Pavilion in his eyes." The Dao Transformation Holy Emperor saw the Dao Essence powerhouse descending, quickly put away his weapon, bowed and said.

In his heart, however, he felt anxious. He already knew that Ning Cheng would resist. But he never expected that Ning Cheng would be so strong that he would resist and easily kill his companion. Initially, he thought that Ning Cheng, as a mere Dao Sculpting cultivator, wouldn't dare to voice any complaints when facing two people with far higher cultivation levels. But the truth was just the opposite. Moreover, with the Deacon of the Sea Sky Pavilion's void ship here in person, he was afraid that he could not hide this matter.

The one who came was a yellow-robed man with an average stature, and even though he carried a faint stench of blood, Ning Cheng was sure that this was a Dao Essence powerhouse.

Some powerful holy emperors could blend in with their surroundings. However, unlike this yellow-robed person, not many Dao Essence Holy Emperors would consciously carry a stench of blood on them.

“You dare to kill someone on my Sea Sky Pavillion’s void ship?” As the yellow-robed man spoke, his powerful Dao Essence aura pressed towards Ning Cheng.

Feeling the powerful aura pressing over, Ning Cheng sucked in a deep breath but didn’t try to forcefully resist. He wasn’t as strong as others; if he forced himself to resist, he would have no choice but to immediately escape from this void ship.

“Deacon Xia, a month ago, I put up the sign of ‘Do not disturb, in seclusion’ outside my room. Yet, they two still conspired to remove the restrictions and even tried to force me out. I didn’t care back then and replaced the sign outside my room with a new one.”

Ning Cheng pointed to the sign he hung on one side of the door while speaking. The words on the sign were still very clear, ‘In seclusion, kill without mercy if disturbed again!’

“I didn’t expect these two to still dare to break the restrictions on my room again. I’m afraid they would have already captured me if I didn’t have some small tricks up my sleeve. I paid an exorbitant amount of spirit crystals to be on this ship, so how could I let others break into my room just because they wanted to? I believe the Sea Sky Pavilion will give me a reasonable explanation for this.”

After hearing Ning Cheng’s words, almost everyone’s gazes turned towards that Dao Transformation Holy Emperor, filled with contempt. It was a huge taboo to break the restrictions on someone’s cabin, especially when they were in seclusion. What’s more, these two had broken the restrictions on Ning Cheng’s room twice; wouldn’t any sane person be enraged about it?

But at the same time, many in the crowd also admired Ning Cheng for his actions. According to the unspoken rules, a Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor usually wouldn’t put up any resistance if a Dao Transformation Holy Emperor destroyed the restrictions on their room. After all, a Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor simply couldn’t put up a fight against a Dao Transformation Holy Emperor. Yet, right now, this Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor not only resisted but also took one of his companions out and even drew the Deacon of the Sea Sky Pavilion.

The yellow-robed deacon swept his cold gaze towards this Dao Transformation Holy Emperor. Ning Cheng had committed a taboo by killing someone on his Sea Sky Pavillion’s void ship. However, it was an even bigger taboo for the other party to dare forcibly break the restrictions on someone’s room on the Sea Sky Pavillion’s void ship. If the other party couldn’t resist, everything could have been swept under the rug by erasing the involved parties. But since the other party resisted and brought the situation to everyone’s attention on board the void ship, it would create a huge blot on the pavilion’s reputation if he didn’t handle it properly.

“Deacon Xia, we just wanted to invite this friend to talk about business.....” This Dao Transformation Holy Emperor felt a cold chill rise in his heart. If he knew that Ning Cheng, a Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor, would dare to do this and even display such a high level of strength, he would have never come over.

“Breaking the rules of my Sea Sky Pavilion.....” The yellow-robed Dao Essence cultivator spoke up in an icy tone, with a hint of harsh killing intent. Combined with the bloody stench on his body, everyone understood that this early-stage Dao Transformation Holy Emperor was just a dead man walking.

However, this Dao Transformation Holy Emperor didn't wait for the yellow-robed Deacon Xia to start and immediately sent him a sound transmission, "Deacon Xia, please show mercy. I know the source of the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura."

One could regard it as a last-ditch attempt to save his life. He just hoped that this piece of information could stall that yellow-robed deacon for a few moments, just enough to let him escape.

Unfortunately, the yellow-robed deacon's hand only paused for a moment before it closed.

"He has some...." The early-stage Dao Transformation Holy Emperor could only say a few words before the seemingly endless pressure from the Dao Essence Holy Emperor's spirit essence squeezed at him. In the next instant, this early-stage Dao Transformation Holy Emperor's body disintegrated in the yellow-robed deacon's hand.

The crowd turned silent, not because Deacon Xia had killed an early-stage Dao Transformation cultivator but because of the true strength of Dao Confirming Second Step. Using such a simple method to deal with someone? Just how much stronger was he compared to a Dao Transformation Holy Emperor?

Ning Cheng's heart sank slightly; he was no longer as relaxed as a few moments ago.

That early-stage Dao Transformation Holy Emperor had sent a sound transmission just before dying. Because his spiritual consciousness had been locked onto this Dao Transformation Holy Emperor, Ning Cheng could feel the fluctuations of the sound transmission despite not knowing the contents.

That bastard must have sent that sound transmission to Deacon Xia. Evidenced by the fact that Deacon Xia's hand had paused for a moment before killing that early-stage Dao Transformation Holy Emperor.

If Ning Cheng didn't know the contents of that early-stage Dao Transformation Holy Emperor's sound transmission, then the four words he said before dying made it crystal clear. That was, in hopes of continuing to live, this early-stage Dao Transformation Holy Emperor said that he had the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura on him.

The early-stage Dao Transformation Holy Emperor must have guessed that the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura was on him but wasn't sure of it. But this Deacon Xia would inevitably believe it. It was precisely that Deacon Xia believed that he didn't hesitate to kill this early-stage Dao Transformation Holy Emperor.

It also meant that Deacon Xia's next target would be dealing with Ning Cheng. From the looks of it, there was only one victor in this scenario, Deacon Xia.

Ning Cheng had guessed correctly. The early-stage Dao Transformation Holy Emperor wanted to cling onto any string for survival and thus used the news of the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura for a chance to live. In fact, as soon as he sent the sound transmission, Deacon Xia had already made a few conjectures. Therefore, even if he didn't say who had the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura, Deacon Xia could easily guess that it was Ning Cheng.

Therefore, he didn't hesitate to kill the early-stage Dao Transformation ant, put away all the things that belonged to this fellow, and immediately focussed on Ning Cheng. "Someone breaking the restrictions on your room violates my Sea Sky Pavillion's rules. Therefore, I killed them according to the rules. However, you also killed people on my Sea Sky Pavillion's void ship, violating my Sea Sky Pavillion's rules.

But taking into account the fact that you were forced into this situation, you will need to come with me to explain everything in detail.”

Sure enough, he wanted to take him away. However, Ning Cheng knew that he absolutely couldn't follow Deacon Xia. After all, if he went, he wouldn't have the chance to return.

Ning Cheng cupped his fists and said, “Of course, once I finish reorganising the destroyed restrictions on my room, I will immediately visit Deacon Xia.”

Deacon Xia showed a slight smile, “Okay.”

Ning Cheng was only at the Dao Sculpting Realm; even if he killed a Dao Raising Holy Emperor with a sneak attack, it was still not enough in his eyes. Whether Ning Cheng wanted to stall for time or not, it didn't matter to him. He also believed the early-stage Dao Transformation Holy Emperor hadn't lied to him. After all, if it was a small matter, a Dao Transformation Holy Emperor would never dare to defy the rules of his Sea Sky Pavilion and destroy the restrictions on someone's room. Although many such things happened covertly, once they came to light, they would immediately result in many deaths.

Facing a Dao Essence Holy Emperor, Ning Cheng knew he had to escape. Choosing to enter the room was just to prepare for leaving. He still had the bead from earlier, containing the full power of those spiritual consciousness torrents. Even if it couldn't kill Deacon Xia, it should be enough for him to escape.

It had only been a dozen breaths since Ning Cheng entered the room when a massive roar erupted from the bow of the void ship. Hearing that roar, the face of Deacon Xia, who was waiting for Ning Cheng, changed. With a flash, he suddenly disappeared from in front of Ning Cheng's room and reappeared on the bow of the void ship.

“The void ship is under attack from the demonic beasts from Grand Essence Demon Vein.....” News quickly spread throughout the airship. Facing the attack of demonic beasts from the Grand Essence Demon Vein, no one dared to stay inside their rooms anymore.

Numerous cultivators swarmed onto the deck, and Ning Cheng naturally followed the crowd and reached the deck. He already wanted to escape from this void ship, so now that an opportunity presented itself, how could he remain polite about it?

The void ship had already stopped and was floating over what seemed to be endless mountains and forests but was surrounded by a dense pack of demonic beasts. However, these demonic beasts didn't continue their attacks and simply floated in the air.

They came for the Five-elements Primal Chaos Aura. Seeing the demonic beasts not immediately attacking, how could Ning Cheng not understand why?

Chapter 1029: To kill a Dao Essence powerhouse

“We have already negotiated with Grand Essence Demon Vein to pass by this route, and we also pay a lot of spirit crystals and various artefacts every year. For your Grand Essence Demon Vein suddenly blocking our void ship now; what does that mean?” Standing at the tip of the void ship, a grey-haired

man spoke in a deep voice. Deacon Xia, who had just rushed up, immediately landed a step behind this man.

Ning Cheng noticed that this grey-haired man's cultivation was higher than Deacon Xia's, most likely at the late-stage Dao Essence Realm.

On the opposite side, commanding the demon beasts was a tiger-headed man, who smiled and spoke, "It's pretty easy to explain the situation; I came here for a personal matter. I happened to learn that you have a lot of Five-Elements Primal Chaos Aura on your void ship, and I just so happen to be missing such an item. As long as you give me half of your Five-Elements Primal Chaos Aura, we will immediately withdraw....."

"I don't know anything about it." The grey-robed Dao Essence Holy Emperor didn't hesitate to refuse this tiger-headed demon's request.

The tiger-headed demon snorted, "If you don't agree, then don't blame us for forcibly searching the ship."

This time, Ning Cheng didn't wait for the grey-robed Dao Essence Holy Emperor to answer; instead, he shouted at the tiger-headed demon, "Just relying on you; only a bread-like idiot and dare ask for the Five-Elements Primal Chaos Aura? Not to mention that Deacon Xia of our ship has a lot of Five-Elements Primal Chaos Aura; even this father has a lot of it. Are you even worthy of such a thing as a beast? Our Deacon Xia is a Dao Essence Holy Emperor who likes to eat tiger whips. If you don't roll away, don't blame this father for cutting off your little whip and stewing it for our Deacon Xia to eat."

Even if Ning Cheng had a Starry Sky Sea of Consciousness, and no matter how powerful his spiritual consciousness was, as soon as Ning Cheng finished those words, the two Dao Essence Holy Emperors on the Sea Sky Pavillion's void ship immediately understood a few things. Ning Cheng also knew that he had to provoke the two sides into a fight as soon as possible. After all, even before this tiger-headed demon appeared, Deacon Xia's spiritual consciousness had locked on to him.

He understood what Deacon Xia had planned for him. Once a battle started, Deacon Xia would immediately move to kill him amid the battle's chaos, then collect the things on his body using some pretext. As such, Ning Cheng had to create some opportunities for himself to escape. In fact, he must not wait for the battle to begin before trying to escape. After all, Ning Cheng didn't want to take such an enormous risk.

When Ning Cheng's words ended, the two's gazes immediately locked onto Ning Cheng. But before the two could even question Ning Cheng, the tiger-headed demon roared, and knife lights, containing the aura of laws, immediately rained down on the Sea Sky Pavillion's void ship. With the tiger-headed demon taking charge, the rest of the demon beasts also swarmed forward with their attacks.

How could the void ship's defensive restrictions block the simultaneous attacks from so many demon beasts? Without any suspense, the primary defensive restriction cracked open in a moment with a resounding 'crack'.

Unfortunately, despite being packed with many cultivators, none of them panicked. Instead, they all looked for a way out and prepared to escape. Everyone knew that although many chambers of commerce negotiated for a safe passage with the major forces of the Grand Essence Demon Vein, it

wouldn't be the first time a void ship got attacked by demon beasts while passing through. Therefore, as long as one boarded a void ship passing through this area, one had to be prepared for such developments.

Moreover, this time it also involved the Five-Elements Primal Chaos Aura, which meant that a fight was inevitable. Naturally, if one can escape early, one should escape as soon as possible.

At this moment, the grey-haired Dao Essence Holy Emperor didn't have the time to question Ning Cheng. He immediately summoned his artefact and rushed at the tiger-headed demon.

Deacon Xia also took action at the same time as the grey-haired Dao Essence Holy Emperor started. However, his target was not the demon beast horde raining down attacks on the restrictions to widen the crack, but Ning Cheng.

The void ship was surrounded by demon beasts, but with everyone determined to disperse and escape, these beasts could only stop a few.

Ning Cheng had provoked the tiger-headed demon, meaning he couldn't use his initial plan to escape. Therefore, now that both sides began fighting, Ning Cheng immediately rushed in the opposite direction of Deacon Xia towards the middle of the demon beast horde.

However, even with countless demon beasts blocking the path, in the eyes of Deacon Xia, they were nothing but cannon fodder.

Seeing Deacon Xia rushing over unimpeded, Ning Cheng grunted. Sure enough, this bastard had eyes only on this father. Ning Cheng waved his hand, blasted dozens of time wheels, and activated the Twin Wings of Heavenly Clouds.

With a faint golden flash, and just when Deacon Xia's palm was about to close in on Ning Cheng, Ning Cheng disappeared and reappeared outside the demon beast's encirclement.

This time, Ning Cheng acted decisively. He summoned the Starry Sky Wheel and instantly disappeared into the depths of the Grand Essence Mountain Range with a loud 'boom'.

However, Ning Cheng quickly discovered that Deacon Xia hadn't given up on him. Instead, he brought out an artefact and immediately chased after him.

This made Ning Cheng realise that he had made a potentially huge mistake. He had forgotten to mention a few words when he provoked that tiger-headed demon. He should have made it clear that Deacon Xia, who wanted to eat his tiger 'whip', was the man in yellow robes.

But Ning Cheng was also not worried about Deacon Xia wanting to hunt him alone. After all, when he was still an Eternal Starry Sky Emperor, he had escaped the pursuit of Man Huishan, who was also a Dao Essence cultivator. Now that he was almost at the peak of the Dao Sculpting Realm, how could he still be afraid of an early-stage Dao Essence Holy Emperor chasing him?

As long as he couldn't tear the void and appear in front of him, Deacon Xia wouldn't be able to catch up to him just by relying on speed.

Sure enough, once Ning Cheng's fully activated the Starry Sky Wheel, it quickly outpaced Deacon Xia.

On the other hand, Deacon Xia's face had turned incomparably gloomy. He was convinced that Ning Cheng had some Five-Elements Primal Chaos Aura on him. Even if Ning Cheng didn't have it, that flight-type artefact was also by no means simple. He began to drive his flight-type artefact frantically. Unfortunately, even if he tried his best, the distance between Ning Cheng and him grew wider with each passing moment until he eventually disappeared from view.

After confirming that he had thrown off Deacon Xia, Ning Cheng chose not to continue at full speed. Instead, he put away the Starry Sky Wheel.

After all, he didn't know which direction to escape at all. Moreover, he could feel more powerful auras the further he went. If he ended up in the territory of a powerful beast, it would only result in death.

Ning Cheng carefully concealed his aura and traces and then took out the azimuth chart he had purchased in the Broken Spear Spirit City. Unfortunately, the azimuth chart was nothing more than a compass in this area, without any coordinates. It also meant that he was trapped in the depths of the Grand Essence Demon Vein without a way out.

Looks like I strayed too far inside; Ning Cheng sighed and quickly moved to find a secluded location to hide.

After spending a few days in that location, Ning Cheng carefully observed everything around him. Before determining a direction, he didn't want to run around like a headless fly.

On the fourth day, Ning Cheng felt a terrifying spatial fluctuation from far away. A few breaths later, a similar spatial fluctuation erupted from a location not too far from him.

"Boom....." A rainbow light slashed past, splitting a gully thousands of feet long, just ten steps away from Ning Cheng.

By this time, Ning Cheng could clearly see what was happening; it was a fight between two beings. One side was Deacon Xia, while the other side was a giant lizard.

Looking at the situation, Deacon Xia still had the upper hand. But his robes had several large tears on them, and his aura also felt chaotic. Apparently, this upper hand hadn't come without a cost.

Ning Cheng stayed still and tried not to make any movements. He even started to feel glad that he had made the right choice. If he had continued to rush forward in the same direction, his situation would have been much worse than Deacon Xia's.

Despite having the upper hand, Deacon Xia's eyes were restless and anxious. He knew full well that the longer he fought, the more unfavourable it was for him.

"Poof....." The weapon in Deacon Xia's hand slammed down on the giant lizard's head. This time, the lizard seemed to have received a serious injury and fell down from the air, crashing into a small mountain and destroying it.

Deacon Xia didn't come down to collect the spoils; instead, he immediately picked a direction and fled.

Ning Cheng wondered why this Deacon Xia acted in such a high-handed manner? How could he not even collect the giant lizard he was about to kill? After all, this giant lizard could fight against a Dao Essence Holy Emperor, which meant it was of a very high level and would certainly fetch a good price.

However, a dragon-like howl suddenly erupted, making Ning Cheng understand that Deacon Xia knew that a dragon was coming or something similar to a dragon. Thus, he didn't dare to stay here and collect the giant lizard.

A moment later, Ning Cheng saw a leviathan-sized black shadow of a flood dragon crossing the area, rushing towards Deacon Xia.

Ning Cheng carefully appeared and tried to follow that leviathan-sized flood dragon. He didn't want to be a fisherman fishing in troubled waters. In any case, Ning Cheng knew that his strength wasn't enough to take the role of the fisherman. Rather, Ning Cheng wanted to trail them to find a way out of this place. Deacon Xia should have a map of the Grand Essence Demon Vein or at least something that could lead him to an exit. If he could secretly follow them, there was a good chance that he could find the direction.

Half a day later, Ning Cheng felt the spatial fluctuations of another earth-shattering fight. The level was so intense that it constantly caused the surrounding space to tremble. Even the ground couldn't withstand the shockwaves, and ravines started to appear because of the fight between the two.

Ning Cheng, who followed from a distance, understood a few things. Deacon Xia must have gone through many battles in the past few days. The fight with the lizard and the leviathan-sized flood dragon was just one of his several battles.

Ning Cheng's heart started to fill up with joy. That's what you get for chasing after this father. If feasible, Ning Cheng even wanted to help this flood dragon. Fortunately, Ning Cheng knew to not act on it. He couldn't participate in this battle with his level of strength. Even if he took a step back and threw himself into the battle to help that flood dragon, his end wouldn't be much better.

Looking at the fight, Deacon Xia seemed to have consumed too much of his reserves, while Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness was still quite strong and resilient. Both these factors helped him hide and watch the battle from a distance without anyone noticing. That flood dragon shouldn't have reached the Dao Essence Realm, but the strength of its body as a demon beast made it almost impossible to distinguish the strength levels of it and the seriously injured Deacon Xia.

"Boom-Boom..... Bang....."

The flood dragon and Deacon Xia's law-infused spirit techniques blasted together again. But Ning Cheng, hiding on the side, quickly understood that Deacon Xia had devolved into desperation.

A fountain of blood gushed out from Deacon Xia's waist. Ning Cheng then noticed that Deacon Xia's waist had been cut by the flood dragon's knife-like tail, leaving just a tiny bit of flesh and blood connecting the two halves of his body. At the same time, Deacon Xia's giant umbrella-like weapon erupted with a beam of rainbow-coloured light, which drilled through the flood dragon's body, bringing up another fountain of blood.

The flood dragon hissed in pain and anger, turned around, and instantly disappeared, while Deacon Xia's face had turned pale as a bleached white sheet of paper. Although the wound on his waist was rapidly closing, he still couldn't stop the overflow of dao rhythms.

Generally, a starry sky cultivator could regrow severed limbs as long as they reached the Undead Realm. Cultivating up to the Life and Death Realm, they could even resculpt their destroyed bodies.

But all Dao Confirming Holy Emperor knew how important a corporeal body was to a cultivator at that stage. Once the corporeal body received too much trauma, even if they could heal or re-sculpt it, it would strongly impact their dao rhythms. On the contrary, without reaching the Dao Confirming threshold, the impact wouldn't be great even if one's corporeal body was destroyed multiple times.

At this moment, Deacon Xia's body had almost been severed in half by the flood dragon, and his dao rhythm was also overflowing and in disorder. Ning Cheng could observe it clearly from his hiding spot. He also understood that this might be his only chance if he wanted to kill Deacon Xi here and get that map.

It was now or never; Ning Cheng didn't hesitate and rushed out. A black arrow suddenly appeared over his right hand, silently suspended in the air.

Chapter 1030: Trapped in Soul Sea Border City

"It's you!?" Deacon Xia recognised Ning Cheng before his gaze twitched and moved to the black arrow.

The black arrow buzzed and vibrated, with a 5-coloured light flashing around the black arrow. A similarly colourful bow quickly materialised around the arrow, causing endless killing intent to sweep out and lock Deacon Xia in place.

"Stop!" Deacon Xia flipped his hand, and a jade strip appeared in it. "This has the way to get out of this place. If you dare shoot the arrow, everyone will die here. Without a way out, nobody under Dao Essence can get out of the Grand Essence Mountain Range....."

Ning Cheng's heart sank. He wasn't surprised that Deacon Xia knew what he wanted, but shocked because Deacon Xia could still move under his 5-Coloured Star Splitting Arrow's lock.

Since he had obtained the 5-Coloured Star Splitting Arrow, Deacon Xia was the only one who could move under this sanguine arrow's lock. Even though the arrow intent hadn't been fully unleashed, his current cultivation level was far higher than his earlier use of the 5-Coloured Star Splitting Arrow.

"I'll give you the jade strip....." When Deacon Xia finished speaking, he threw the jade strip toward Ning Cheng. There was no restriction on the jade strip, so Ning Cheng could clearly scan the contents, which was indeed the route out of the Grand Essence Demon Vein. But to read the content, Ning Cheng had to forcibly control the 5-coloured Star Splitter Arrow's killing intent; otherwise, the jade slip would have disintegrated. Luckily, he had only brought out the arrow, so the killing intent wasn't enough to backfire on him.

Otherwise, pulling back or trying to control the arrow's killing intent would have seriously injured him.

"Boom!" Unfortunately, when Deacon Xia sensed Ning Cheng pulling back the 5-coloured Star Splitting Arrow's killing intent, a light flashed around him, and he disappeared without a trace.

Ning Cheng sighed and put away the 5-coloured Star Splitting Arrow. He understood that Deacon Xia had prepared for something similar to happen. If Ning Cheng wanted to keep the jade strip intact, Ning Cheng would have to pull back his trump card, which would allow Deacon Xia to escape.

The fact that Deacon Xia would rather escape than dare to attack him also showed that he, Ning Cheng, had chosen the right time. In other words, Deacon Xia was too heavily injured to continue fighting. Unfortunately for Ning Cheng, Deacon Xia was a decisive fellow. Otherwise, if he had been a moment late with taking out the jade strip, he might not have been able to take it out.

At the same time, Ning Cheng guessed that Deacon Xia recognised the 5-coloured Star Splitting Arrow, which allowed him to take measures before the arrow's killing completely locked him down.

But even if he forced Deacon Xia into escaping, Ning Cheng wasn't even a bit happy with the development. He had made the mistake of believing that the jade slip was real before even confirming it. Moreover, not only did Deacon Xia not die, but it also exposed his 5-coloured Star Splitting Arrow. Fortunately, he still had his disguise on, giving Ning Cheng some small consolation.

Grabbing the jade slip and pouring his spiritual consciousness inside, a clear and detailed map with various routes and markers appeared in front of him. Looking at the map, he found that he wasn't too far away from the closest marker. It should be the real deal.

This time, Ning Cheng decided to use the Starry Sky Wheel and advanced full speed ahead towards the marker closest to him.

Without a direction, he wouldn't dare to use the Starry Sky Wheel or advance at full speed, apprehensive of unexpected ambushes at any time. But now that he had a direction, he naturally wouldn't be concerned about it. With the Starry Sky Wheel's speed, even if top-level demonic beasts chased after him, they wouldn't necessarily be able to catch up with him.

Since this route map came from Deacon Xia, Deacon Xia must also know about all its locations. Therefore, there was a high probability that once Deacon Xia recovered from his injuries, he would prepare an ambush around one of those locations. Therefore, he had to quickly move as far away as possible while Deacon Xia was still recovering from his injuries.

Ning Cheng's prediction was spot on, but fortunately, he didn't meet Deacon Xia again because of his speed. Even if some demonic beast blocked his way, Ning Cheng could still leave them behind with the Starry Sky Wheel's crazy speed.

After flying at full speed for nearly nine months, the Starry Sky Wheel finally broke out of the Grand Essence Demon Vein, and the Grand Essence Sea appeared within the range of Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness. Sure enough, from Ning Cheng's vantage point, it looked as boundless as people described it; even his spiritual consciousness couldn't sweep through a tiny corner of it.

Ning Cheng felt relieved, put away the Starry Sky Wheel, and changed his disguise to a bearded rogue cultivator.

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From the edge of the Grand Essence Demon Vein to the edge of the Grand Essence Sea lay a deserted section of tens of thousands of miles. It didn't belong to any demonic beast or cultivators, nor did anyone live there.

Passing through this deserted section, Ning Cheng eventually reached the edge of the Grand Essence Sea, where he saw a defensive formation, the entrance guarded by four cultivators. Above the defensive formation were the words 'Soul Sea Border City'. This made Ning Cheng feel relieved. Travelling that deserted expanse made him afraid that he wouldn't find anyone to ask about how to get to the Grand Essence Domain. From what he knew, if he had to cross the Grand Essence Sea, it would take him many years. He might not even make it through.

The four cultivators guarding the entrance looked at Ning Cheng with some doubts. It was rare to see someone coming here from the Grand Essence Demon Vein alone.

"Several dao friends, may I ask if there is a teleportation formation here that will take me to the Grand Essence Domain?" Ning Cheng walked to the four cultivators guarding the entrance, clasped his fists, and asked politely.

Of these four cultivators, the one with the highest cultivation was an Eternal-level cultivator. Seeing how polite Ning Cheng was, he quickly bowed and replied, "Yes, there is. If this is your first-time entering Soul Sea Border City, you will need to pay 10,000 high-grade spirit crystals; in the future, you will only need to pay 100 spirit crystals for each visit. There is a teleportation tower inside where you will find a teleportation array dedicated specifically for the Grand Essence Domain."

Everyone understood that Ning Cheng had come here for the first time.

Ning Cheng felt quite happy. He didn't say another word, paid 10,000 spirit crystals in exchange for a jade card and entered the defensive formation. Because of the recent clash with Deacon Xia, Ning Cheng wanted to leave this place as soon as possible. He wasn't sure if Deacon Xia had sent news about him to this place. But according to his guess, even if Deacon Xia had sent a message in advance, it wouldn't have been known to everyone.

Entering the defensive array, Ning Cheng realised that this was a simple border city, with rows and rows of merchant buildings and makeshift markets. There were also quite a few cultivators coming and going, and although it wasn't as big or as prosperous as a sacred city, it wasn't any worse than the Broken Spear Spirit City.

"Teleportation Tower" Ning Cheng quickly noticed the three clear characters far in the distance.

Ning Cheng didn't wander around and walked toward the teleportation tower.

"Wait....." A Dao Sculpting cultivator stopped Ning Cheng just when he was about to enter the teleportation tower.

Ning Cheng quickly said, "I want to go to the Grand Essence Domain; why are you stopping me?"

The Dao Sculpting cultivator cupped his fists towards Ning Cheng and spoke politely, "This dao friend, please forgive me, but for various reasons, the teleportation tower is not open to the public for three months. It cannot send you to the Grand Essence Domain."

Ning Cheng's heart tightened, and he quickly asked, "Why?"

This Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor smiled and said, "Not only the teleportation tower but even the defensive array of the Soul Sea Border City will not allow people to go out for three months. Of course, it's possible to come in. My friend, you don't have to worry; more than two months have passed since this order, and in less than half a month, the restrictions will lift, and the teleportation tower will be open to the public again."

After hearing this Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor's words, Ning Cheng already guessed a few things. Most likely, it had something to do with Deacon Xia. If he guessed it correctly, then Deacon Xia would reach this place in less than half a month. That bastard knew how to calculate; he even estimated the approximate time he would arrive here. He must have been the one who asked to close the teleportation tower for three months.

Ning Cheng was sure that once this three-month period ended, the teleportation tower's guards would be screening everyone heading to the Grand Essence Domain for Deacon Xia. No wonder he didn't see anyone outside the Soul Sea Border City; they were restricted from going out. In other words, no matter how much he wanted to leave this place, he couldn't. At least not without creating a huge commotion.

Ning Cheng slowly took a deep breath and said with clasped fists, "This dao friend, may I ask where the City Lord of the Soul Sea Border City lives? Can I find him in the City Lord's mansion? I'm a core disciple of River Luo Sacred Sect and have something urgent that I need to report to the sect in person."

After saying his 'origin', Ning Cheng stopped talking. No matter how far away the River Luo Sacred Sect was from here, River Luo Sacred Sect was ultimately one of the top ten sects in the Grand Essence Domain. A Dao Fusion Holy Emperor from the River Luo Sacred Sect could easily trample on the Soul Sea Border City during a casual walk after a meal.

Hearing Ning Cheng 'self-report' his sect, the Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor at once straightened and replied, "City Lord Yu is in the City Lord's mansion....."

Ning Cheng had noticed that the City Lord's mansion wasn't too far from the teleportation tower. Therefore, without waiting for the other party to say anything further, Ning Cheng thanked him, turned around, and sprinted towards the City Lord's mansion.

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Half an incense stick later, Ning Cheng was already sitting in the guest room of the City Lord's mansion, thanks to his identity as a disciple of the River Luo Sacred Sect.

The City Lord of Soul Sea Border City, Yu Xing, was a middle-aged man with a strong water-attributed dao rhythm circulating him. Ning Cheng could feel that this person's cultivation level wasn't weaker than Deacon Xia's.

"You are a disciple of River Luo Sacred Sect?" Yu Xing stared at Ning Cheng and asked in a deep voice.

Ning Cheng replied without being condescending, "That's right, I'm from River Luo Sacred Sect....."

Without waiting for Ning Cheng to continue, Yu Xing waved his hand, “There is no need to explain to me which disciple you are because I happen to have a disciple of River Luo Sacred Sect here. I will let you two meet to know if what you say is true or not.

After Yu Xing finished speaking, he raised his hand and threw out a message talisman.

Hearing those words, Ning Cheng’s heart turned cold. He didn’t expect his luck to be so bad that there was a disciple of the River Luo Sacred Sect here. If Yu Xing wanted him to produce evidence, he would have taken out Guo Haoge’s identity card. Since Guo Haoge died to him, his identity card had also naturally fallen into his hands. But in front of people from the River Luo Sacred Sect, Ning Cheng naturally couldn’t impersonate him.

Yu Xing’s spiritual consciousness remained on him at all times. From this, Ning Cheng understood that he couldn’t make any unnecessary moves. Once he showed any indications of escape, Yu Xing would finish him off.

“This time, the matter of the Five-elements Star appearing at the edge of the Grand Essence Realm has made the entire Grand Essence Domain take it seriously. As a result, most sects have sent people over to check out the situation. As one of the top sects in the Grand Essence Domain, the River Luo Sacred Sect sent two disciples to check it out in succession. Really shows the importance of this discovery.” Yu Xing smiled and tried to make small talk.

He had long since guessed that Ning Cheng was an imposter. If he was a disciple sent by the River Luo Sacred Sect, how come he didn’t come out from the teleportation array but rather from outside the defensive array of his Soul Sea Border City?

Ning Cheng smiled faintly but didn’t answer Yu Xing’s words. Internally, however, he was anxiously thinking of a solution to this predicament. Unfortunately, even if he came up with more solutions, the difference between his strength and Yu Xing’s was an insurmountable gulf. Yu Xing was a Dao Essence Holy Emperor, someone who could casually kill him in a second, so what could he use to resist?

“City Lord Yu, are you looking for me?” A clear and crisp voice came, and a beautiful and refined female cultivator appeared outside the guest room.

When Ning Cheng saw this female cultivator, his heart almost burst with happiness. That’s because the one who showed up was none other than Kong Ning, who at this point had become a Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor. Seeing Kong Ning, Ning Cheng wanted to speak; he wanted to tell Kong Ning that he ‘was’ from the River Luo Sacred City. But then Ning Cheng found that he couldn’t make a sound. The restrictions inside Yu Xing’s mansion forbade all sound transmissions. Unless Ning Cheng used his spiritual consciousness to forcibly break these restrictions, it wouldn’t be possible to send any sound transmissions.

When Yu Xing saw Kong Ning enter, he smiled and said, “Yes, this dao friend claims to be from the River Luo Sacred Sect. Since you’re from the same sect, I had to let you two meet and catch up.”

“He’s from the River Luo Sacred Sect?” Kong Ning glanced at Ning Cheng and spoke up in doubt.