

## The Gate 521

### [The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

#### Chapter 521: Cheating

The Orchid Borough Celestial River King looked ordinary, with a big nose and small eyes. Instead, the woman accompanying the Celestial River King brought out his grandeur. Compared to the average looking Celestial River King, Ning Cheng felt more surprised by the woman at his side.

“That pretty-looking woman should be Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu, isn’t it? No wonder that fellow decided to name this city as the Revolving Jade City.” Ning Cheng whispered. That woman was just too beautiful; no wonder the Orchid Borough Celestial River King took a fancy to her.

[TL Note: “Xuan Yu” and “Revolving Jade” are the same words; I just choose to mix it up for the different uses of the names.]

Compared to Shi Yulan’s beauty, which felt like an un-bloomed rosebud, Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu gave off the feeling like a fully blooming rose flower.

“You should keep your voice down. Don’t talk casually in this place.” Shi Yulan quickly spoke up. She had a lot more experience with Celestial River Kings; moreover, since she had personally witnessed the fearfulness of Celestial River Kings, she felt afraid that their words might end up reaching the ears of the Orchid Borough Celestial River King, even if they were only whispering.

Ning Cheng only smiled but did not continue to speak. He had already masked his voice; as such, even if the Orchid Borough Celestial River King were someone with cultivation above the Heaven Seated Realm, he still would not be able to hear his voice. However, Shi Yulan’s words, he might have heard them.

The Orchid Borough Celestial River King, accompanied with his beautiful Imperial Concubine, descended over the main altar of the Orchid Borough Public Square. At the same time, his Spiritual Consciousness had already swept through the entire public square.

When that fellow’s Spiritual Consciousness swept past Ning Cheng’s body, Ning Cheng felt his entire body turn ice-cold. It felt as if nothing could hide from the eyes of that person. Ning Cheng knew that it was just an illusion; however, it also proved the horrifying might of the Celestial River King. Moreover, this Celestial River King belonged to one of the most ordinary Celestial River. If it was a powerful Celestial River King, Ning Cheng could not begin to imagine the strength of such an existence.

When the public square finally turned silent, the Orchid Borough Celestial River King finally spoke up, “Today, I feel delighted. I came here to meet the elites of my Orchid Borough Celestial River. The future of Orchid Borough Celestial River lies in your hands, and you might even leave your mark within the Man Lun Starry Skies. I just hope that, in the future, outside of the Man Lun Starry Skies, if a powerhouse could say that he or she came from the Orchid Borough Celestial River, it would turn out to be the happiest thing for me.”

“Since the Man Lun Starry Skies is hosting the Celestial Stryer Genius Tryouts, it could also help you finally make your way out of our starry skies and enter the vast universe. The geniuses in my Orchid Borough Celestial River are like the passing clouds in the sky, and yet all of you experts have decided to gather here in the selection rounds of the Orchid Borough Celestial River. Right now, there are 1.06

million Celestial Scryer Geniuses taking part in this selection. However, although I wish to send every one of you to enter the Time Wilderness; the Man Lun Starry Skies just has too many Celestial Rivers and not just our Orchid Borough Celestial River.”

“As such, we can only select a limited number of geniuses from our Orchid Borough Celestial River. In fact, out of the nearly one million geniuses, we can only select 10,000 of you to enter the Time Wilderness. Entering the Time Wilderness, I trust everyone should already know what kind of benefits it could bring to your starry skies’ cultivation, and what it signifies, right? It means that you could walk further in the future and rush higher.....”

The thunderous cheers indicated the implicit support the people had for the Orchid Borough Celestial River King.

The Orchid Borough Celestial River King smiled before raising his hand and continuing, “Because there are too many geniuses participating in this competition, we will use a one-off method to determine things within a day.....”

Ning Cheng already had some idea about the method of selection; however, he still paid adequate attention. If he could, Ning Cheng also wanted to help the Jing Wuming trio. As for Ruan Mingshu, Ning Cheng felt sure that the other party had her own means to pass the selection round and did not need his help. However, he also felt somewhat doubtful about completing the selection round from more than a million cultivators in within a day.

“Many people might have already received the news that this time’s selection round will take place in the Orchid Borough Celestial River’s 9 Step Obscure Array. Our Orchid Borough Celestial River’s Obscure Array is a product of the Premier Obscure Array Grandmaster Xuan Ming and built for the masses. As such, using it for selection would be both fair and just. The first 10,000 geniuses who can go the farthest within our Orchid Borough Celestial River’s 9 Step Obscure Array will represent our Orchid Borough Celestial River within the Man Lun Starry Skies.....”

As the Orchid Borough Celestial River King continued speaking over the altar, some whisperings had already started to spread below it.

Ning Cheng had never encountered an Obscure Array. From what he heard from Ruan Mingshu previously, Obscure Arrays and Array Formations had some differences. Mainly, when it came to using Obscure Arrays, one cannot just rely on the level of understanding of Array Formations. It also required sufficient Celestial Essence Force, sufficiently strengthened Spiritual Consciousness, right perception and a high enough comprehension ability, combining it all with adequate calculating skills. In a way, it was somewhat similar to gambling in casinos. He even heard that ‘gambling’ was one of the side branches of Obscure Arrays.

At the same time, the Obscure Arrays did not have any clearly defined rankings. Supposedly, the Orchid Borough Celestial River’s 9-Step Obscure Array referred to this Obscure Array having nine gates. The passage through each gate had an intrinsic connection to a cultivator’s Celestial Essence, Spiritual Consciousness and perceptual abilities.

“We have already prepared and placed the entry and exit points for the Orchid Borough Celestial River’s Obscure Array over the Orchid Borough Public Square. At the same time, the results of the participating

talents would come up on display on the Orchid Borough Public Square's Array Formation Displays. The selection round starts now....."

After the Orchid Borough Celestial River finished, he immediately flew out from the main altar along with his Imperial Concubine before landing on one side of the main stage to watch the proceedings.

A moment later, the main altar, where he stood a moment ago, automatically descended. Then a colossal Transfer Array entrance opened up and a long bearded man appeared next to this Array Entrance and took out a jade pillar before putting it down before speaking, "To cultivators participating in the selection round, please take out your identity jade cards and put them on your chests before stepping into the Transfer Array Entrance. If you are not a contestant, I would advise you to not try to go in; otherwise, you will be automatically sent out and killed on the spot...."

After the old man finished, he stood to the side. Many of the participating cultivators put their jade card over their chests and walked into the Transfer Array Entrance.

The large ten-sided blank Array Formation Displays in the middle of the Orchid Borough Public Square, which had remained blank until now, quickly started to display names one after another.

"Senior Apprentice Brother Ning, let's wait for a while before the two of us go in together; also, take care." Ruan Mingshu walked over to Ning Cheng's side and whispered.

Ning Cheng took out his jade card and pinned it to his chest before asking, "Junior Apprentice Sister Mingshu, are you sure that you can enter the top 10,000?"

Ruan Mingshu nodded and spoke, "I have been inside an Obscure Array before; therefore, I am confident that I can get into the top 10,000."

"Well then, you go ahead. I have a few things to discuss with my friends." Ning Cheng rejected Ruan Mingshu's proposal.

Ruan Mingshu looked at Jing Wuming and the Lan Ya duo before speaking with some disappointment, "Okay, then I will go in first. Senior Apprentice Brother Ning, in any case, you must pass this selection...."

Although Ruan Mingshu's words did not contain even the barest hint of threat, Ning Cheng still felt a little uncomfortable. Those words were to remind him that he and the Ruan Clan had a cooperation agreement between them and that he cannot let others affect his selection.

After Ruan Mingshu left, Ning Cheng asked the Lan Ya trio, "Do you feel confident enough?"

Jing Wuming hesitated before speaking, "Although I don't have much confidence, I still have some."

Lan Ya also nodded, "I feel just like Wuming. I do not have much confidence. However, I want to go in and experience it. At the same time, I do believe that I might have a chance to pass."

Shi Yulan remained silent until Ning Cheng looked at her, when she replied with, "I don't have much confidence either."

Ning Cheng pondered over things for a moment before speaking up through sound transmissions, "Ok, Shi Yulan and I will pair up as one group, Wuming and Senior Apprentice Sister Lan will pair up for the other. Let us go in first, Wuming and Senior Apprentice Sister Lan Ya, follow behind us closely. Whether

we pass or fail, let us try things out first. Remember; do not immediately start moving after you go in. If you do not receive any message from me, it means that the Obscure Array does not allow cheating. In that case, everyone will have to rely on his or her own luck. If you can receive my message, then you would not have to worry too much.”

“Ok.” Jing Wuming and the three of them also agreed. With the three of them agreeing with Ning Cheng, the four of them decided to go in together. That way, they could take care of each other.

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The Orchid Borough Public Square’s Transfer Array Entrance was huge; even if hundreds of people decided to enter side by side, it still would not feel crowded. Out of the nearly one million contestants, a little more than half of them had already gone through the Array Entrance.

Ning Cheng and Shi Yulan entered side by side, and Jing Wuming and Lan Ya quickly aligned themselves behind Ning Cheng and Shi Yulan before entering the Transfer Array Entrance.

As soon as he stepped into the Transfer Array Entrance, Ning Cheng felt the area around his body turn empty before landing on the ground a moment later.

Ning Cheng immediately focused his attention over the surroundings. From the looks of it, his surroundings looked like an empty hall. There was a wall in all four directions about ten meters around him. Moreover, both the walls and the hall’s floor seemed covered with some strange patterns. At the same time, there was only one person inside the whole room, and one could no longer see any trace of the rest of the people who entered.

Not to say about Jing Wuming and Lan Ya, Ning Cheng could not even see Shi Yulan, who had entered with him.

Although this hall did not have an exit or an entrance, Ning Cheng did not feel anxious. Since it was an Obscure Array, then one had to create their own doors. Carefully extending out his Spiritual Consciousness, he found his Spiritual Consciousness blocked the moment it touched the walls of the hall.

However, Ning Cheng did not recall it because of an obstruction. Before coming to this place, he had attempted many times to penetrate obstacles with his Spiritual Consciousness. Whether Spiritual Consciousness Blocking Array Formations or natural restrictions that blocked Spiritual Consciousness, none could completely prevent him. Moreover, Ning Cheng even had a verification about it when he had obtained the Fire Origin Bead.

Sure enough, when Ning Cheng’s Spiritual Consciousness forcibly tried to penetrate, his Spiritual Consciousness finally started to penetrate through the wall slowly. A moment later, he saw Shi Yulan frowning but motionless. Looking at two other sides, he then saw Jing Wuming and Lan Ya. Apart from them, he could also see a few other competing cultivators.

Ning Cheng gave out a sigh; the Starry Skies’ Sea of Consciousness indeed was quite powerful. He felt confident there was no other person like him in this place. Moreover, he also understood that this 9-Step Obscure Array most likely was a vast spacial treasure, with so much open space on the inside.

Shi Yulan looked worried as she stood in the middle of the hall. Her Spiritual Consciousness could only extend within the chamber. How could she receive any messages from Ning Cheng's Spiritual Consciousness? Moreover, it was just the first level, yet she had no idea how to deal with it. What would she do later?

At that moment, she felt Ning Cheng's Spiritual Consciousness Message, "Don't worry; the first passage only requires calculation and Celestial Essence. You will have to walk from your spot towards the walls of the hall; however, there is some Celestial Essence drag in the middle. Do not retreat, once you retreat, you will immediately be sent out."

"Moreover, there are also rules to move around under your feet; the specific foot position needs to be calculated and derived based on the patterns within the hall. Once you miscalculate, the hall will immediately send you out. This is the first level, so you should be able to pass it. If you feel there is no way to pass, do not rush to leave, just stay where you are."

Shi Yulan felt unceasingly amazed. She could not think that Ning Cheng's Spiritual Consciousness could penetrate the hall's walls and even use it to transmit messages to her. It was just too much.

The same moment that Shi Yulan received Ning Cheng's Spiritual Consciousness Message, Jing Wuming and Lan Ya also received the same Spiritual Consciousness Message, which had also similarly shocked the two of them. Ning Cheng's cultivation was the lowest among them, so how did Ning Cheng have such a powerful Spiritual Consciousness. Alternatively, did he cultivate a unique cultivation method?

In any case, Ning Cheng's formidable means was also a good thing for them. They immediately started acting according to Ning Cheng's instructions and quickly broke through the first level.

What Ning Cheng had never taken into account was that when he passed the Spiritual Consciousness Message to the Shi Yulan trio, the Orchid Borough Celestial River King's Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu suddenly give a frown as her gaze fell over the Transfer Array Entrance in the middle of the Orchid Borough Public Square.

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#### **Chapter 522: Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu's Invitation**

Ning Cheng had already checked things out, the first trial merely involved Celestial Essence resistance and simple arithmetic. This level of calculation posed no difficulty for Ning Cheng, looking at the pattern inscribed on the hall's floor; first, one had to find the correct landing position by searching for the proper permutation. Then, when he or she landed in the right spot, they would immediately experience a strong Celestial Essence drag, which they would have to resist. This Celestial Essence drag would not pose many problems even for a normal Celestial Novice Cultivator; as such, it would not pose any threat to him.

Nearing the hall's wall, one would then see a permutation-related calculation. Inscribing the result of that calculation on the wall will immediately open a gate over one of the hall's wall, signifying the entrance to the second level.

The first level was just too simple. Ning Cheng estimated that there should only be a very few people who cannot pass through this level; therefore, he did not need to spoon-feed them.

Over at the 9-Step Obscure Array's first level, some cultivators quickly popped out, once again appearing on the Orchid Borough Public Square.

Ning Cheng, however, had quickly made his way to the second level, finding that the second level was a deserted canyon. Ning Cheng had just come in when a powerful force pushed at him. If one did not pay attention to this invisible force, he or she would have inadvertently taken a step back. As soon as one took a step back, the formation would immediately teleport them out to the Lucky Heave City's Public Square.

In addition to the force, there was a stone tablet at his feet, which also contained a complicated pattern inscribed over it. Armed with the experience from the first level, Ning Cheng knew that this stone tablet was the key to deducing the correct way of passing through this second level.

Moreover, under this gradually increasing force that bore down on the participants in this level, using Spiritual Consciousness to try to infer the correct walking path would prove even more difficult. As such, only those blessed with the advantage of a powerful Spiritual Consciousness gained through a systematic evolution could use it to calculate the correct walking path. Under normal circumstances, as long one had sufficient time, even an ordinary Celestial Novice Cultivator could figure out the right walking route.

However, the longer one stayed in this place, the longer one spent trying to extrapolate the correct path, the higher the force that one had to withstand, as the force bearing down would gradually strengthen. As such, there was no way for a cultivator to exploit the loophole of time to extrapolate the correct route.

Ning Cheng quickly calculated the correct route. However, he did not immediately move ahead and patiently waited for Jing Wuming, Lan Ya and Shi Yulan.

Ning Cheng had to wait for almost an hour before three of the participating geniuses appeared one after another within the range of his Spiritual Consciousness, each in another canyon.

The force bearing down on Ning Cheng was also starting to grow larger and larger. As such, he did not let the three people try to calculate the correct walking route. Ning Cheng quickly figured out the exact path for the three and passed it to the three of them through his Spiritual Consciousness.

The Jing Wuming trio felt pleasantly surprised as they discovered that Ning Cheng had already proceeded to the third level while the three of them had barely passed through the first.

The third level consisted of only six steps, and each step had a similar force bearing down on it. Every step forward would increase the pressure bearing down by several multitudes.

However, Ning Cheng quickly discovered that he could use his Spiritual Consciousness to block a part of this force, which made it a lot easier for him on the steps. Walking through these six steps not only tested one's Celestial Essence but also was a test of Spiritual Consciousness. The more powerful one's Spiritual Consciousness, the smaller would the force bearing down on him or her.

If Ning Cheng had to walk through these six steps alone, he most likely would not have to struggle much. However, Ning Cheng could perceive through his Spiritual Consciousness that Jing Wuming and Shi Yulan

could not hold on for long, even Lan Ya did not look that good. At the same time, he also felt that to guarantee a spot to reach the Man Lun Starry Skies, one must pass through the third level.

Ning Cheng's Spiritual Consciousness immediately spread out, helping the three of them to ward off some of the pressure. At this time, Ning Cheng had to bear several times more load than usual, if not for the formidable tenacity of his Starry Skies' Sea of Consciousness, Ning Cheng might have already quit.

Ning Cheng slowly walked over the steps, one step at a time, aided by his strong Spiritual Consciousness. At the same time, because Ning Cheng was also helping the Jing Wuming trio, each step forward compounded the pressure bearing down on him.

The moment the four of them reached the sixth step, they immediately passed into the fourth level. However, Ning Cheng also felt a sharp pain from his Sea of Consciousness. By the time he recovered, his Spiritual Consciousness could no longer penetrate through the surroundings. At the same time, Ning Cheng could only observe the situation in front of him.

Ning Cheng realised that the Shi Yulan trio must have already exited. As such, he was now alone inside. Although passing through the fourth level alone would not pose many problems, there was still the fact that Ning Cheng was just a Celestial Novice Cultivator. If he showed off too much, it would definitely attract a lot of attention. Thinking of it, Ning Cheng deliberately took a step back as if affected by the pressure bearing down on him.

The next moment, Ning Cheng felt a warm light wrap around him that immediately sent him out.

"Ning Cheng...." Lan Ya quickly rushed towards Ning Cheng. Seeing Ning Cheng's pale face, she immediately knew what must have happened.

"Are you alright?" Jing Wuming also anxiously walked over. If not for Ning Cheng's help, not to mention entering the fourth level, they would have found it difficult to pass through the second level.

"How's our ranking?" Ning Cheng quickly asked.

Shi Yulan's voice arrived, "We are all in the top hundred."

Ning Cheng felt pleasantly surprised in his heart. Was it too much? Four of them entering the top hundred at the same time, was it good? Seeing that Jing Wuming wanted to talk, Ning Cheng quickly spoke up, "Don't immediately leave. Let's take a look at other's rankings."

Jing Wuming, who seemed to want to talk, immediately shut up. Just like Lan Ya and Shi Yulan, he also felt shocked by the power of Ning Cheng's Spiritual Consciousness; however, he knew that this was not a place to talk.

Ning Cheng looked at the rankings over the Array Formation Displays, and his tense heart slowly started to calm down. In just a short time, the rankings of several people dropped from the top hundred to hundreds. Moreover, the rankings of many people were still falling. Ning Cheng knew that this was due to his relatively short clearance time. Furthermore, not a lot of people could compare to him when it came to computing ability.

People continually poured out into the public square, and the ranking of Ning Cheng and the others had dropped down significantly.

“Huh, how are your rankings so high?” Ruan Mingshu, who had just come out, immediately arrived by Ning Cheng’s side and spoke out in amazement. Shortly after that, she felt even more shocked to see the rankings of the three people accompanying Ning Cheng. She found that the four’s rankings were neither very far apart nor were they low. Although the rankings of the four of them were not as high like her, it still stood out.

Ruan Mingshu did not pry into the matter; she affirmed that this matter was not simple as it looked on the surface. Moreover, she vaguely felt that this matter should have something to do with Ning Cheng. If that was the case, was it a good thing, or a bad thing?

Ning Cheng had never witnessed such a quick selection process. More than a million people filtered down to the top 10,000 in just a single day.

Moreover, the top-ranked cultivator was already close to the seventh level, while the 10,000th ranked cultivator had just reached the third level. Ning Cheng’s quartet now ranked somewhere around 3000, while Ruan Mingshu ranked in the upper half of the 500s.

Ning Cheng felt relieved at this, ranked in the 3000s and ranked in the top hundred were two entirely different concepts. Among the more than a million contestants, obtaining a ranking in the high hundreds would mean a lot of attention from all around.

Even the Orchid Borough Celestial River King looked very happy. A cultivator in the Celestial Scryer Realm reaching the seventh level in the 9-Step Obscure Array was indeed a remarkable feat.

He stood up and spoke, “I’ll personally give out the rewards for the top ten of our Orchid Borough Celestial River’s experts, the first place Helian Pengbo...”

The Orchid Borough Celestial River’s top thousand would receive a variety of rewards; however, only the top ten could enjoy the privilege of the Orchid Borough Celestial River King personally rewarding them.

Ning Cheng also paid particular attention to Helian Pengbo. This cultivator looked very young, with a medium-sized build and a slightly yellow complexion. However, this fellow had almost managed to enter the seventh level, resulting in such a high evaluation score. No wonder the Orchid Borough Celestial River King felt happy.

The awarding ceremony went even longer than the selections. At the same time, Ruan Mingshu, ranking in the top half of the 500s, also received significant rewards.

After the completion of the award ceremony, the Orchid Borough Celestial River King spoke up, “Three days from now, the top 10,000 will once again gather in the Orchid Borough Public Square, from where we will head to the Man Lun Starry Skies. This time, I will personally escort and lead the group.....”

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“Now you can purchase the things you need freely.” Ning Cheng spoke to the Lan Ya trio. Even if that Celestial Lord Miao Pu obtained ten times the courage, he would not dare to make a move on Lan Ya.

These 10,000 selected contestants were the ones who would represent the Orchid Borough Celestial River, in other words, they were no different from Orchid Borough Celestial River King’s personally



chosen candidates. If someone dared to make a move on any one of these 10,000 contestants, they would only be looking for death.

Shi Yulan and Lan Ya knew that there were many things left unsaid. However, even if they asked Ning Cheng, they felt that Ning Cheng would not say anything about it. As such, they chose not to talk about it. Saying their goodbyes to Ning Cheng, they immediately headed to buy the things that they needed. Although they had also signed up for the tryouts, they did not have much confidence in the examinations. Since they ended up selected now, they could not help but feel excited about it.

Jing Wuming patted Ning Cheng's shoulder and was about to leave when he saw Ning Cheng's expression suddenly change. Seeing that, Jing Wuming immediately stopped. Although he did not ask Ning Cheng about what happened, he also decided not to leave.

A moment later, Ning Cheng sent him a sound transmission, "The Orchid Borough Celestial River King's Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu sent me a sound transmission, asking me to see her at the Revolving Jade Mountain tonight? Wonder what this is all about?"

Hearing Ning Cheng's words, Jing Wuming's face immediately changed. This was not a small matter, no matter what reason did Imperial Concubine Xuan Wu had for inviting Ning Cheng; it definitely was not a good thing. Once the Orchid Borough Celestial River King heard of this, Ning Cheng was as good as dead.

"Can you refuse?" Jing Wuming looked at Ning Cheng and carefully sent out a sound transmission.

Ning Cheng calmed down and tried to think about the reason why Imperial Concubine Xuan Wu sent him a sound transmission. Such a matter did not make any sense. He had no connection to the Imperial Concubine Xuan Wu at all; moreover, one was at the level of a Celestial River King while he was just a Celestial Novice Cultivator.

"I have to go, otherwise, not to mention heading to the Man Lun Starry Skies to participate in the tryouts, we might not even get out of the Revolving Jade City." Ning Cheng sucked in a deep breath and sent a sound transmission to Jing Wuming.

Jing Wuming was also thinking of any way that led to a desirable solution; however, he had yet to come up with an idea. Without any hesitation, he spoke up, "I will come with you."

Seeing Ning Cheng somewhat hesitate, Jing Wuming turned even more determined, "Us two brothers are brothers for life, death is just death. What is there to hesitate about? Let's go!"

Ning Cheng nodded, "Good, let's go together then."

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The Revolving Jade Mountain was one of the three mountains within the Revolving Jade City. Every inch within the Revolving Jade City was worth its weight in gold and full of bustle; however, it was a different matter when it came to this mountain, which sat right in the middle of the most bustling area of the city.

The Revolving Jade Mountain ignored this rule because it was where the Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu lived.

The two fellows, Ning Cheng and Jing Wuming, had walked all the way to the Revolving Jade Palace at the top of the Revolving Jade Mountain without anyone hindering them. From the looks of it, the people here had already received their orders from the Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu.

The more Ning Cheng tread forward, the more he could feel the starry skies' Essence Qi growing in richness. The starry skies' Essence Qi in this place was not only rich; it was also gentle, free from any traces of artificial gatherings.

This was a perfect place; Ning Cheng and Jing Wuming both gave out a sigh within their hearts.

"Ning Cheng, you are just a minor Celestial Novice Cultivator; yet, you have such huge courage." A crisp and melodious womanly voice passed through Ning Cheng's ears.

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#### **Chapter 523: A woman behind me**

"Senior can dole out punishment." Ning Cheng did not ask for the reason at all. Facing the Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu, as long as the other party wanted to kill him, regardless of any rational basis, Ning Cheng would die without a doubt.

At this moment, Ning Cheng's heart grew more determined with the desire of becoming stronger. Without strength, one could not live a pitiful existence, without even an opportunity to resist.

"If I wanted to punish you, you would have already died. Come in." The voice of Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu once again passed through their ears; moreover, it became more and more melodious the longer it went.

Ning Cheng and Jing Wuming cautiously walked into the palace; a faint aroma lingered within that gave people a refreshing feeling of walking through a gentle dreamland. One would even wish to find a bed to immediately lie down, close their eyes, and stop thinking of anything else.

However, when they thought of this place belonging to the Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu, Ning Cheng and Jing Wuming no longer entertained any of those thoughts.

The two of them carefully walked through the palace, walked through a curved gravel path, before arriving at a very simple looking pink log cabin.

"Come in." Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu's voice turned soft, with a hint of temptation that one could not reject.

Ning Cheng and Jing Wuming then walked into the room. Although Jing Wuming did dare to use his Spiritual Consciousness to sweep around casually, Ning Cheng actually used his Spiritual Consciousness to immediately sweep through the inside of the room.

The room was far from the luxury outside, containing a simple wooden bed, a wardrobe, and a small screen. The wooden bed was covered with pink silk, and several potted flowers stood over the windowsill of the cabin, giving off a very orderly vibe.

The inside of the log cabin gave off a simple yet elegant feeling, which could calm even the most restless of hearts.

“Sit down.” Ning Cheng’s Spiritual Consciousness had just landed on the only screen within the wooden cabin when Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu came out from behind the screen.

It was the first time for Ning Cheng to look at Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu from this close, who had a fair oval-shaped face with a faint blush. Accentuated by a pair of eyes that could see through the hearts of others, no one could dare to look at her straight. A string of pearls hung under her neck, and a faint aroma seemed to escape from below the strung beads.

The pronounced busty front only enhanced the perfection of this woman. Looking at this woman, the only feeling that arose was that of maturity and attraction.

Jing Wuming just took a glance before immediately lowering his head and not daring to look again.

Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu looked first at Jing Wuming and then looked at Ning Cheng. After looking at Ning Cheng, she then calmly spoke out, “Do you know that I once wanted to refine the 9-Step Obscure Array as my own weapon? It is just that I only managed to refine the sections in the front. However, realising that this weapon had not much value during a fight, I decided to give up on it.”

When Ning Cheng heard those words, his heart sank and instantly realised what was going on. At the same time, why Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu wanted to summon him.

Since Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu had once tried to refine the 9-Step Obscure Array, it meant that she knew about his Spiritual Consciousness penetrating through the layers of the 9-Step Obscure Array. No wonder she wanted to summon him to this place.

“You have quite the Spiritual Consciousness, have you cultivated a Spiritual Consciousness Cultivation Method?” Imperial Concubine Revolving Jade stared at Ning Cheng and asked again.

Ning Cheng wanted to deny it; he did not have a Spiritual Consciousness Cultivation Method, so how could he cultivate one? However, he swallowed those words. Instead, replied, “Answering to senior, this junior had obtained an incomplete Spiritual Consciousness Cultivation Method in the past, and had cultivated it for a little while.”

Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu chuckled before speaking, “Just cultivating in it for a little while made you this strong. If you cultivated it for a long while, wouldn’t you become unrivalled.....”

Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu had just spoken half of it when she suddenly stopped, and her facial expression turned slightly tricky to look at. Suddenly, she raised her hand and opened her bed board before ordering Ning Cheng and Jing Wuming, “Quickly go in.”

Ning Cheng and Jing Wuming immediately understood that someone was coming in. Moreover, someone who could terrify Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu to such an extent, apart from the king, who else could they be?

Jing Wuming did not think much about it and just jumped under the bed board. He knew that trying to resist would be useless at this point.

Ning Cheng, however, did not jump in, but instead opened the wardrobe and quickly hid in it. “Senior, I will hide here.”

Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu felt exceedingly anxious in her heart, this Ning Cheng wanted to court death. Hiding in a closet, just by his aura, the Orchid Borough Celestial River King could immediately find him, and would not even need to sweep out with his Spiritual Consciousness. She had explicitly opened the bed boards of her bed, a formidable artefact she refined that blocked off Spiritual Consciousness. As long as one converged his or her breathing, no one could find anything out of place.

Unfortunately, she did not have the time to pull out Ning Cheng. Just as she lowered the bed boards, the Orchid Borough Celestial River King's voice arrived at the door, "Love, I heard that you were a little tired and worried. Don't worry; I specifically came to see you."

"Big Brother Lan, I'm all right...." Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu had already stepped forward and linked her arms with the Orchid Borough Celestial River King, who had just come in.

Ning Cheng did not feel much worried as he had full confidence in his ability to isolate his aura. As long as he hid there without making any moves, Ning Cheng believed that the Orchid Borough Celestial River King would not find him. Besides, since this Orchid Borough Celestial River King was so fond of the Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu, he would never dare to use his Spiritual Consciousness to sweep inside Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu's room. It was pure psychology.

He could sense that the Orchid Borough Celestial River King's fondness for the Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu had already permeated deep into his bones. Moreover, this kind of affection was not something that someone could fake. If the Orchid Borough Celestial River King entered the house and indiscriminately swept out with his Spiritual Consciousness, it would only mean that the Orchid Borough Celestial River King had some caution in his heart against Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu and would never pamper her this much.

He was not as honest as Jing Wuming was, and he was also not willing enough to hide under Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu's bed and was afraid of Orchid Borough Celestial River King and Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu heading to the bed. If the pair indeed went to bed, he would no doubt find it awkward and unlucky to hide under the bed. It was just that Jing Wuming was too honest for his own good. Ning Cheng had not even spoken when this fellow had already jumped in.

Ning Cheng had thought about a lot in just an instant; however, the only thing that he had not considered was that there might already be someone else in this cabinet. Moreover, he had not found this person when he swept out with his Spiritual Consciousness previously. Only after he entered the wardrobe and his hand pressed against a soft thing did he come to know that a woman was hiding in it. Moreover, his hand was pushing on that woman's chest.

I am finished, Ning Cheng had just thought of the two words when the woman sent him a sound transmission, "Converge your aura and don't move....."

Knowing that this woman did not freak out, Ning Cheng's heart slightly loosened and immediately converged his aura. As his mind whirled with thoughts about the identity of this woman and why was she hiding in this place or if the Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu knew about her, he felt a vague barrier covering his entire body.

Ning Cheng immediately understood that this woman had no confidence in his concealment ability and had helped him by providing him with a layer of concealment. Ning Cheng's Spiritual Consciousness

carefully swept towards this woman and unexpectedly found her appearing as a fuzzy haze. Ning Cheng immediately felt shocked in his heart, what kind of concealment ability was this? He was right in front of her, almost sticking to her body, yet he could not even see this woman's appearance with his Spiritual Consciousness.

.....

"Love....." The Orchid Borough Celestial River King's tone was so soft that it could even melt steel.

However, for Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu, it felt like a nightmarish voice. The next moment, Ning Cheng heard the sound of two lovers kissing.

Sounds of robes unravelling slowly grew louder and louder. Although Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu's bed did not make any sound, Ning Cheng could clearly hear the excited tones of Orchid Borough Celestial River King and Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu romping around in the bed.

Ning Cheng secretly felt lucky in his heart; fortunately, he had not hidden under the bed. Otherwise, he might have just died from all that bad luck. Wuming, that fellow was just too honest. No matter what that woman had wanted to do with him, Ning Cheng should have known early on to not bring this fellow with him.

The smell of lust quickly filled the room. Ning Cheng suddenly felt that the two soft points behind him had also gradually hardened. He immediately knew what was going on. He realised that this woman was afraid to use the Cleansing Spirit Method in this place, lest the Essence Qi fluctuations affected the surroundings.

"Don't...." Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu's voice finally came over. Ning Cheng felt slightly relaxed hearing it. At least this woman knew about the gravity of the situation here.

The Orchid Borough Celestial River King looked at Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu in a puzzle before whispering, "Love, are you all right?"

"I just came back from the public square and am still covered in dirt. Wait for me to bath, and then I will accompany Big Brother Lan." Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu spoke with a charming voice.

"No, I'm in a happy mood. Besides, why do you want to bath? A simple Dust Removal Technique would solve all the problems. Love, let me pamper you....." The Orchid Borough Celestial River spoke with a soft smile.

Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu gave out a soft moan, and then the two of them hugged each other and once again started rolling around. Ning Cheng could not help but curse in his heart; just give a simple excuse, like a headache or something? If you want to be so intimate, at least wait till this grandpa leaves. Moreover, that pitiful Wuming still has to suffer through all that under your bed.

"Wait-wait...." Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu once again found her voice.

"What happened?"

Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu suddenly sat up, tidied her loose clothes and spoke, "Big Brother Lan, I also feel very keen in my heart. However, today is the big day for my Orchid Borough Celestial River. I feel

thrilled that we could select so many talented geniuses. We cannot take this matter lightly. Besides, I really want to take a shower. In the night, we'll...."

The Orchid Borough Celestial River King laughed and spoke, "Yes. I never thought that you, love, would feel so strongly about it. Come, Love, let us go to my palace. We can take a shower there together...."

"Yes." Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu replied with a gentle tone. Then, pulling on the Orchid Borough Celestial River King's hand, she finally left the room.

After a few more breaths, the woman behind Ning Cheng snorted, "You can go out now. Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu will be back soon. I must leave immediately."

Ning Cheng quickly rushed out of the closet. He did not care who this woman was or what she was doing here. These things, anyway, had nothing to do with him.

Ning Cheng immediately moved to Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu's bedside and examined it for a short time. He wanted to open the bed boards and release Jing Wuming. Sadly, he could not find any way of opening it even after examining it for a long time.

"You don't need to waste your time with it. That bed is Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu's weapon. Moreover, she had refined it personally. Except for herself, even if you had cultivation higher than she did, you would not be able to open that bed. I urge you to walk away from this place as soon as possible. If Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu wanted to kill you and your friend, you would have already died. Why would she wait until later? So you don't need to worry, your friend will remain safe even after you leave." The woman from the closet sent Ning Cheng a sound transmission.

Ning Cheng also knew that the other party was not wrong about the situation. If he had to open this bed, Ning Cheng would first have to refine it as his own. However, even Ning Cheng did not know how long it would take. Moreover, after his examination, Ning Cheng found that he could not destroy the bed if he wanted to. At the same time, if he could destroy it, it might end up killing Wuming. Therefore, Ning Cheng did not dare to do it.

At this moment, Jing Wuming's voice came from the inside, "Xiaocheng, you should head back first. I should be fine. Moreover, it would be safer for me if you go back."

### [The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

#### **Chapter 524: Infatuation or something else**

After Ning Cheng returned to the Bright Gist Resting Pen, Lan Ya and Shi Yulan had still not come back. Although Ning Cheng felt worried about Jing Wuming, he could only wait.

At the same time, after learning the purpose for which the Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu had called him for, Ning Cheng understood that he must somehow come up with a Spiritual Consciousness Cultivation Method. Otherwise, it would prove difficult for Jing Wuming and him to escape.

Therefore, after Ning Cheng came back while waiting for Jing Wuming to return, he tried to extrapolate a cultivation method to cultivate Spiritual Consciousness. After deducing a rough outline for a cultivation method to cultivate Spiritual Consciousness, he could then present it to Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu to get out of this present difficult time. As long as he could reach the Man Lun Starry Skies, it would turn out fine.

What surprised Ning Cheng was that it was not even night yet when Jing Wuming returned to the Bright Gist Resting Pen. Not only had he returned Jing Wuming also sported a refreshed look.

Jing Wuming did not immediately head to his room and instead went straight to Ning Cheng's room.

"Not only did Xuan Yu hold you back, she even let you go this easily?" Ning Cheng spoke as he doubtfully looked at Jing Wuming.

Jing Wuming sported a very embarrassed look, and only after a good while later did he shook his head showing a hesitating expression. He did not know how to breach this news to Ning Cheng.

"Wuming, what's the matter? If you want to speak then speak." Ning Cheng was not in the mood to guess at what Jing Wuming hinted.

"Brother Xiaocheng, I think I'm in love with Xuan Yu, I....."

"WHAT?" Even with Ning Cheng's solid emotional control, he could not help feel shocked by Jing Wuming's words. Did this fellow really want to die that badly?

Jing Wuming finally calmed down and spoke with confidence, "I fell in love with Xuan Yu, just like when I first fell for Yulan. I initially thought that I would end up all alone in this life and that I would never love another woman. However, I couldn't reject Xuan Yu, she made me realise, I....."

Ning Cheng interrupted Jing Wuming's words and spoke out coldly, "Wuming, you already know this that you and Shi Yulan have no chance together. You also know who Xuan Yu is; she is a Celestial River King's woman. Besides, I don't want my brother to be a third person."

Jing Wuming sucked in a deep breath. Then seriously looked at Ning Cheng and spoke, "I loved Yulan. However, I also know that it is impossible for us to get back together. Not to mention about her being with a son of a man who killed her father, even if she was willing, the departed spirits of my ancestors wouldn't allow me to be with her."

"Whether you want to get together with her or not, that's not the issue here. The issue is what you said about Xuan Yu a few moments ago." Ning Cheng frowned. Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu was a Celestial River King's woman. If others knew that Jing Wuming wanted to stir the pot with a married woman, what would happen then?

"She asked me how I knew you and about your origins. Initially, I did not know what was going on, and just blurted out everything, including the matter with Shi Yulan. After she heard, she remained silent for a long time before she finally told a lot of thing about her....."

"Xuan Yu leads a wretched life, nothing like the glory everyone sees on the surface. Moreover, I can't forget her anymore....." Jing Wuming spoke slowly but with conviction.

"Did you f\*ck her?" Although Ning Cheng might have not understood what had happened, he was also not someone who was born yesterday. From the words and behaviour, Jing Wuming and Xuan Yu most likely had sex.

Jing Wuming gave a sheepish nod before continuing, "She had an elder sister called Lu Yu, and the one Orchid Borough Celestial River King originally had taken a fancy to. At that time, Lu Yu already had someone she loved. With the intention of not marrying the Orchid Borough Celestial River King, Lu Yu

and her lover escaped from the Orchid Borough Celestial River. It resulted in the Orchid Borough Celestial River King venting his anger on Lu Yu's family. Fortunately or unfortunately, he saw Xuan Yu, resulting in shifting his goal. Xuan Yu ended up marrying Orchid Borough Celestial River King to save her family from complete destruction. However, she does not bore even half a shred of love towards that man."

Ning Cheng remained speechless for a long time before speaking quietly, "What you did is not something trivial. Once the Orchid Borough Celestial River King came to know about this, we all will die without a burial."

"I'm not going to take any chances. I have already discussed things with Xuan Yu and will still head to the Time Wilderness. After I come out of the Time Wilderness, she and I would secretly leave the Man Lun Starry Skies. If I cannot come out of the Time Wilderness, she will anyway leave the Man Lun Starry Skies by herself. Her younger brother had already perished a few years ago. Now she does not have any family left." Jing Wuming spoke in a gentle yet firm tone.

Ning Cheng stood up and patted Jing Wuming's shoulder before speaking, "Whatever you want to do think it out clearly and remember to tell Lan Ya and Shi Yulan about your decision. Otherwise, once you run away with the Imperial Concubine of the Orchid Borough Celestial River King, the Orchid Borough Celestial River King would immediately launch a Celestial River-wide hunt. At that moment, every person that you've been in contact with will face grave dangers."

.....

After sending away Jing Wuming, Ning Cheng pondered for a long time. This incident had revealed many bizarre surprises from the start to the end. That Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu definitely was an outstanding woman, with cultivation that far outstripped that of Jing Wuming's. Even if she had no love for Orchid Borough Celestial River King, logically speaking she would never consciously sleep with Jing Wuming, or would she?

Although Jing Wuming also had outstanding qualities, it should not be enough to get into her eyes. What did this woman want from Jing Wuming? Was it really love at first sight?

Alternatively, was it an induced infatuation? However, that woman and Jing Wuming had even slept together; can someone fake such a ridiculous matter? With cultivation on the level of Xuan Yu, generally speaking, as long as she was not a dissolute woman, such an affair would only result in substantial consequences.

Maybe Xuan Yu felt moved by Jing Wuming's past, especially his passion for Shi Yulan, giving birth to the thought that this man was worth her love. On the other hand, she might just want to leave Orchid Borough Celestial River, and Jing Wuming happened to cross her eyes.

Ning Cheng sighed, whether it was true or not, leaving the Orchid Borough Celestial River was the right thing for now.

.....

Three days later, a silver Void Airship departed the Orchid Borough Public Square. Just like a warping shadow, it rushed out of the Orchid Borough Star.



This was the airship plying between the Orchid Borough Celestial River and the Man Lun Starry Skies; as such, apart from the 10,000 participating cultivators, many other cultivators were travelling by this airship.

It was also the first Time for Ning Cheng to ride an Apex Rank Celestial River Class Airship. The primary role of an ordinary Celestial River Class Airship was to carry people; however, this Apex Rank Celestial Class Airship, in addition to moving people, also had the capabilities of an Apex Rank Celestial River Class Battleship. It felt like a Celestial River Class Battleship that someone had fused with an airship of the same rank.

This airship was like a small city in itself and had five floors above and below. The bottom floor belonged to the more impoverished cultivators. Most of them had to spend almost all their Celestial Coins to get a seat on the ship and had no extra money to spare. As such, many of the people had to huddle together on the lowest floor to support each other.

The top floors contained cultivators with both high cultivation and high statuses. They not only had private cabins assigned to them, but even their cabins were also highly luxurious.

The third and fourth floors were home to some of the mid-level cultivators and had all kinds of merchant houses and even hotels. As long as one had the money, one could comfortably live the most luxurious life over this Void Airship

The second floor was also a place for the ordinary cultivators; however, it also contained some low-level merchant houses. Nevertheless, compared to the third and fourth floors, the standard of living here was quite low.

Ning Cheng and the participating cultivators had to live on the second floor. Although the place was not too spacious, the top 1000 to 5000 in rankings still received single rooms. As for the first 1000, they did not live on the second floor but on the third.

After entering the Void Airship, Ning Cheng had not seen Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu. However, from Jing Wuming's demeanour, Ning Cheng could tell that he and Xuan Yu were doing well. Ning Cheng, anyway, was not a person who likes to gossip; as such, he did not ask Jing Wuming about it. Before ascertaining the matter, why worry?

Shi Yulan and Lan Ya apparently received some news from Jing Wuming too, and after the two of them entered the airship, they decided not to come out of their cabins. As for Ruan Mingshu, who currently resided on the third floor, she did not choose to look for Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng returned to his cabin after a short tour of the ship's merchant houses. From the Revolving Jade City to the Man Lun Starry Skies' mainland, the Man Lun Star Land, it would take a few more months. During these months, Ning Cheng wanted to consolidate his cultivation further.

After battling Suo Qiaoye, although he gained a lot, he did not have the time to go into seclusion to sort out his gains. Now that he had more than half a year, he could definitely use it for himself.

.....

The Mysterious Yellow Formless was the best cultivation method within the starry skies. However, even if Ning Cheng became aware of his shortcoming and wanted to blend in the comprehensions that he gained, it was not something simple and easy to accomplish.

Three months later, Ning Cheng's cultivation had also steadily made its way to the mid-stage Celestial Novice Realm; however, he still could not come up with an attack method for his Spiritual Consciousness. In addition to this, aside from the improvements in cultivation, the only other improvement was coming up with a move for his powerful Spear Intent, named 'Traceless'.

He had realised this technique from the Everlasting Blue Thunder City's projection. A powerful cultivator had used a purple spear to kill a powerhouse that could easily demolish a planet. After seeing that projection, he felt extremely shocked in his heart, which finally led to condensing all of his comprehension into that one technique.

He had also used this one spear to kill many strong opponents. Once this spear came out, it would not bring any warning, nor would it leave behind the slightest trace. It cut through the space to kill the opponent directly. As such, calling this technique 'Traceless' was also appropriate.

Now, Ning Cheng had at least two techniques to use with his Spear Intent, Nothingness Flame Patterned Spear and Traceless.

.....

On this day, Ning Cheng was still deducing a method of using Spiritual Consciousness for combat when he felt the room suddenly shaking.

Was it a starry skies' demonic beast attack? Ning Cheng immediately thought of starry skies' demonic beasts. He had remained in seclusion for almost three or four months, and the journey also remained smooth until now. He had already come to an understanding that in front of this Apex Ranked Void Airship, if not for a relatively large starry skies' demonic beast horde, nothing else would cause it to shake so much.

However, Ning Cheng did not come out to look. In the face of this Apex Rank Celestial River Class Airship, with a Celestial River King on board, ordinary starry skies' demonic beasts would not pose much risk. Moreover, even if he came out, he would not be able to do much anyway.

However, even after a full hour, the vibrations did not weaken at all. Instead, it grew even stronger. The restrictions inside the cabin had started to shake slightly. At this moment, Ning Cheng finally stood up. It looks like this starry skies' demonic beast horde was not easy to deal with.

At this moment, the restriction over the door suddenly flickered. Ning Cheng immediately opened the restriction and saw Lan Ya and Shi Yulan standing there in anxiety. He immediately asked, "What happened?"

"Are you really not anxious? An endless horde of starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rat Tide has attacked our ship. Most of the restrictions on the outside of the hull have disintegrated. Those starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rats even devoured a Heaven Seated Expert. All the people have already scattered, we also need to hurry and escape...." Lan Ya explained the situation quickly.

“What?” Ning Cheng felt shocked in his heart; at the same time, he immediately swept out with his Spiritual Consciousness. After entering the starry skies, Ning Cheng especially spent some time studying about the starry skies’ demonic beast hordes. As such, he was no stranger to the starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rats. This was a horrifying and terror-inducing starry skies’ demonic beast. This kind of demonic beast tide could easily cover the entire range of one’s Spiritual Consciousness, which was what made it so terrifying.

Once the starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rat Tide found a target, it would never show any fear and completely swarm the target. No matter what, as long as there was even a whiff of Spirit Qi, this rat tide would frantically rush up and bite down until nothing remained of their meal. Moreover, the starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rats were also highly toxic. Once bitten, he or she would end up poisoned with complete surety.

As Ning Cheng’s Spiritual Consciousness swept out, he immediately saw the broken restrictions along with an endless horde of starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rats pouring into the airship through those broken restrictions. The scene quickly turned his scalp numb.

### [The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

#### **Chapter 525: The Terrifying Rat Tide**

Some of the cultivators who wanted to escape alone ended up entirely surrounded by the starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rats and disappeared in a short time. Some of the cultivators who suffered even a bite from the starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rats immediately started twitching all over; however, before the poison could penetrate them too deep, the rest of the starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rats surrounded and devoured them without leaving anything behind.

Many cultivators even rushed madly towards the deck and wanted to try escaping from there. However, the rushing cultivators once more found themselves surrounded on all sides by the endless starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rats.

Although the starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rats were weak individually, regardless of however many died, many more starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rats would take their place the next moment. In this kind of terrifying situation, even a Heaven Seated Cultivator would find it extremely difficult to escape once trapped.

“Where’s Wuming?” Ning Cheng recalled that Jing Wuming had not come over with the Lan Ya duo and asked quickly.

“I’m alright.” Jing Wuming’s voice arrived followed by him sporting many bloodstains.

Those bloodstains most likely came from the starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rats. Jing Wuming only had a Celestial Shatterer Cultivation, after killing so many starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rats, how was he able to come out unscathed?

However, Ning Cheng quickly understood, as Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu’s figure appeared looming behind Jing Wuming. This woman really protected Jing Wuming, ah, Ning Cheng’s mind flashed with the thought.

“Sister Yu’er, I can’t leave alone....” Jing Wuming anxiously turned around and called out.

Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu spoke out in a slightly hoarse voice, “Wuming, I can help you take these two women. As for Ning Cheng, no matter what kind of friendship you have with him, I cannot take him away. From now on, you are the only man I wish to remain close.”

Taking someone else would expose her privacy as a woman; Lan Ya and Shi Yulan were ok as they were women; however, Ning Cheng was a man, and she had no intention of exposing her means before him.

“No, Xiaocheng is my best friend. If he doesn’t come with us, I would rather die and die here.” Jing Wuming spoke out with a firm voice.

It was clear that if he had to make a choice between Xuan Yu and Ning Cheng, he would choose to fight alongside Ning Cheng without hesitating and would not follow Xuan Yu to escape.

Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu remained silent. However, she only remained silent for a short while before speaking up with a trembling voice, “If you must take him away, then let them come together. That man has not found me yet, we have to hurry. I still have a way....”

“Yu’er, thank you.” Jing Wuming walked over to that vague form of her before gently grabbing a pair of white hands.

Xuan Yu gently ruffled Jing Wuming’s hair before speaking, “Why the need to say ‘thank you’ between us? I belong to you. I’ll do whatever you want me to do.”

“Xiaocheng, Senior Apprentice Sister Lan, Senior Apprentice Sister Shi....”

Jing Wuming had just called out the names of the three of them when Ning Cheng interrupted Jing Wuming’s words, “Wuming since you have decided to be with Xuan Yu, I will also respect and understand what she feels. Your woman can only protect you. I anyway have the means to escape, so you do not have to worry about me. If you can, take Senior Apprentice Sister Lan and Junior Apprentice Sister Yulan with you.”

Lan Ya shook her head, “I will walk with Ning Cheng. If I can escape, then I will escape. If I can’t escape then falling in the starry skies is my fate.”

Shi Yulan also spoke up, “I have already said that I will remain with Senior Apprentice Sister Lan and become a starry skies’ wanderer. This is where we begin anew and where we part from the past, Wuming, thank you. You should escape; I hope you can achieve what you want one day.”

Jing Wuming, on hearing those words, immediately spoke up, “How can this be? In front of these terrifying starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rat Tide, even Heaven Seated Experts cannot escape. How will you get out?”

“Wuming, I broke into the starry skies with a Crucible Transformation Cultivation. I have already experienced many things and even suffered a chase down by Void Exploding Golden Wasps. Yet, I am still alive and well. Do not worry and just take care of yourself. I will meet you somewhere within the universe’s starry skies. When we meet again, I will take you to meet Eldest Brother Cang Wei.” Ning Cheng spoke with a smile as he thought about the Void Exploding Golden Wasp King that was about to hatch. In the future, once he travelled the starry skies with a massive horde of Void Exploding Golden Wasps, which beastly horde would dare to encircle him, let alone kill him?

Seeing Jing Wuming still feeling hesitant, Ning Cheng added another sentence, "Don't be fussy like a mother-in-law; just go."

After he finished, Ning Cheng then trained his gaze at Xuan Yu and calmly spoke up, "Xuan Yu, I don't care who you were before, but Wuming is my brother as such I will wish you both happiness. However, if one day I found out that you brought him harm, then no matter how big the starry skies are, no matter how wide the universe is, I will find you."

Xuan Yu slowly spoke to Ning Cheng, "You are indeed Wuming's friend. He did not read you wrong. Wuming, let's go, Lan Ya and Shi Yulan will not be coming with us."

She had an old mentality and knew about Jing Wuming and Shi Yulan's history; as such, she knew that Shi Yulan would not follow her. At the same time, Lan Ya would also never leave Ning Cheng and Shi Yulan and escape alone with her.

Jing Wuming also clearly understood the truth and spoke to Ning Cheng, "Okay, I believe you can do it. We will meet again in the future....."

His voice had not yet dissipated when Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu's vague silhouette disappeared along with him without even a trace.

"Ning Cheng, what do we do now?" After Jing Wuming and Xuan Yu left, Lan Ya immediately asked Ning Cheng.

By this point, the entire airship had turned a lot more chaotic; at the same time, with the significant number of starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rats pouring into the void airship, the void airship had already lost control.

All the cultivators ended up thrown into the middle of a chaotic mess. Everyone wanted to rush out; however, only a few could manage to rush out.

The wild starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rats made terrifying grinding noises with their fangs, which were interspersed with the cracking sounds of chewing bones, making everyone want to escape from this place even more.

However, the starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rats had already surrounded them from all directions, stretching out many miles. Even when using Spiritual Consciousness, one could not find the end of it.

It was at this moment that a thick voice resounded, "Listen up people. The starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rats here are not something we can resist. In a while, we will use our Spiritual Techniques to open up a passage through this starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rat Horde. Your escape will depend on your own destiny. Those who can escape should gather on Man Lun Star....."

After hearing this voice, countless cultivators rushed over, for a short time, even the starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rats had to retreat under the combined rush.

Ning Cheng still had not made any moves. Suddenly a two or three feet long starry sky' Spirit Devouring Rat made its way to the place where Ning Cheng stayed. Lan Ya immediately slashed out with a knife, quickly slicing the Spirit Devouring Rat into two halves.

Shi Yulan spoke out in anxiety, "Senior Apprentice Brother Ning, we need to hurry up. Otherwise, staying here would only be inviting death."

Ning Cheng shook his head and calmly spoke up, "You made a mistake. Going up, we will only find death. However, at this place, there are many broken restrictions but only a few scattered starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rats have come in that cannot even pose a threat to us. Once we go up, with the cultivations of us three, we will definitely die. The people who had the means have already made their escape a long time ago. As for those staying in this place like us, simply put, they have no method to escape. That man said that he would slaughter open a passage; however, I don't believe it."

Having said that, Ning Cheng then looked at Lan Ya and Shi Yulan, "I don't know about the situation of the Orchid Borough Celestial River King, but if I had to guess, then he should have long since escaped. Even my partner, Ruan Mingshu, should have already made her escape. The people staying here are the ones who have no means to make their escape."

Shi Yulan spoke with some uncertainty, "Senior Apprentice Sister Mingshu and you....."

Even if Shi Yulan did not finish her words, Ning Cheng knew what she meant. Shi Yulan wanted to say that since Ruan Mingshu had treated him well, she would not leave alone. However, Ning Cheng felt sure that Ruan Mingshu had already departed. Moreover, the only reason Ruan Mingshu behaved so good with him was only due to his ability to help her accomplish something after entering the Time Wilderness. At such a critical juncture, would Ruan Mingshu even think of Ning Cheng?

"Even if we have to die, we need to rush out. Staying in this place might provide us with temporary safety, but once the bulk of those starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rats poured in, we would die an even more miserable death." Although Lan Ya tried to speak calmly, her voice still trembled.

"There is another way....." Ning Cheng hesitated before speaking.

"What way." Lan Ya and Shi Yulan asked simultaneously.

"I have a miniature world with me. The two of you can enter my miniature world. I will rush out by myself; however, if I fall, you two would also die." Ning Cheng told the truth. The laws within his miniature world were of a low grade; moreover, it would not support life on its own. Once he brought along living creatures within it, and he ended up falling, the miniature world and every living thing inside would inevitably collapse.

Lan Ya immediately spoke up, "Ning Cheng, it's better for us to join forces. Maybe we might even have a slight chance."

Ning Cheng shook his head, "There would be no chance if we joined forces. This is not a Void Collapse. This starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rat Tide is much more dangerous than the Void Collapse."

Lan Ya suddenly remembered that when she had chased Ning Cheng into the Bright Void Gorge, Ning Cheng still came out completely safe and sound; however, she had nearly lost her life. At that time, what level of cultivation did Ning Cheng possess? Thinking of this, she immediately spoke up without any hesitation, "Okay, I'm willing."

“I’m willing too.” Shi Yulan knew that under this horrifying starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rat Tide, not to say anything about her Celestial Gatherer Cultivation, escape would prove difficult for even a Heaven’s Mandate Cultivator.

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After Lan Ya and Shi Yulan entered the miniature world, Ning Cheng immediately stimulated his Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds. With just a few flaps, he emerged from the bottom of the Void Battleship and landed on the lower deck.

The lower deck had piles of bodies of the starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rats that fell from above along with bits and pieces of cultivators that those Spirit Devouring Rats had devoured. Ning Cheng, just by his Celestial Novice Cultivation, did not have any ability to change the situation. At this time, he could only rush out of the airship like the other cultivators and try to escape into the starry skies.

In this kind of place, any flight-type weapon, void battleship or airship were useless. Even a more powerful ship, under so many starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rats, would end up cleaned out in a flash. The vessel under his feet was the best example.

Although the Radium Light Arrows, Flowing Sky Cannons and Sky Locking Lights over the airship had already killed a considerable amount of those starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rats, those starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rats still managed to rip open the airship’s restrictions and rush in,

As soon as Ning Cheng rushed into the starry skies, the horrifying fishy smell greeted his nostrils, even the surrounding space had completely stagnated. With so many starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rats concentrated in such an area, there was no need for them to exert any Spiritual Techniques or even tricks as the surrounding starry skies had already slipped under the control of the starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rats.

At this time, any kind of technique or Spear Intent would be meaningless. For Ning Cheng, even if he shot out with his Spear Intent, he could only kill a few thousands of those starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rats. At this time, the only thing he could do was to use the teleportation-like speed of his Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds to dodge those terrifying starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rat Tide. At the same time, Ning Cheng also had to make sure that he did not end up as a target for any high ranking starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rat.

### [The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

#### **Chapter 526: You Don’t Understand**

The moment the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds wound down for a moment. The endless starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rats swarmed in and quickly started filling the space around Ning Cheng without leaving any gaps.

Ning Cheng also finally witnessed the nauseating scene, with so many starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rats crowded around him making sharp teeth grating sounds. It almost made his head explode.

Most of these starry skies’ Spirit Devouring Rat did not have a high rank, and were at most equivalent to Soul Essence Cultivators in strength; however, there were also a few high-ranked Spirit Devouring Rats in the back that exceed starry skies’ cultivators in the Celestial Scryer Realm.

In such a crowded area, not to mention Ning Cheng using his teleport-like speed, it was starting to prove difficult for him to use his Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds like usual. His teleport-like speed was the result of the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Cloud's instantaneous acceleration and was not real teleportation that involved manipulation of space. If he could use teleportation through space manipulation, he could have easily ignored these starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rats. However, with just speed, there was no way to accomplish it.

Previously, there was still a small gap within the dense Spirit Devouring Rats. However, the moment he entered the starry skies, many Spirit Devouring Rats had suddenly swarmed in closing up the hole in just a blink of an eye. Without any hole, how could he take advantage of his speed to rush out?

Ning Cheng no longer hid his Celestial River Flame, the Celestial River Flame transformed into a flaming spear as it shot out. Bright purple flames exploded all around Ning Cheng and the terrifying temperatures instantly transformed countless starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rats into ashes, allowing a gap to appear in front of Ning Cheng. Ning Cheng fully stimulated the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds while rushing in, before finding himself once again surrounded by another layer of starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rats.

This was not the way to go, Ning Cheng thought while not recalling the Celestial River Flame. The Celestial River Flame once again condensed into a spear before plunging into the countless starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rats.

A variety of harsh screams and burning fumes filled the area. Although the starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rats had smooth skins that were fire resistant, they still could not handle the extreme temperatures of the Celestial River Flame.

The Celestial River Flame condensed into a spear was akin to a sharp ploughshare that could extend easily. A gap once again appeared in front of Ning Cheng. Ning Cheng no longer decided to stimulate the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds; crazily activating the Celestial River Flame, Ning Cheng immediately flew out riding just behind the flames.

Ning Cheng had no idea about how many starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rats had fallen along the way; however, he also knew that these dead starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rats were not even equivalent to a single hair among the rat tide.

Although the Celestial River Flame had the necessary power and fierceness to it, Ning Cheng also was aware of a significant drawback of the Celestial River Flame. Simply put, it consumed a considerable portion of his reserves. In a relatively short time, Ning Cheng started to feel extremely fatigued.

At this time, Ning Cheng felt a powerful aura lock on to him.

This was a high-ranking starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rat, at least equivalent to a cultivator in the Celestial Bridge Realm. At this moment, the starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rats in front of Ning Cheng had loosened up and were not as dense as before. Although Ning Cheng felt extremely tired, he stimulated the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds to its max, and with a faint afterimage, instantly disappeared.

After taking advantage of the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Cloud's instantaneous acceleration, Ning Cheng found that although the surrounding area still had many starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rats, they were a lot more sparsely distributed.



At this moment, Ning Cheng only had a single thought in his mind, and that was to escape.

After upgrading the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds to four pairs of shimmering lights, the already teleport-like speed had also improved by several times compared to before. Ning Cheng crazily wielded the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds, after flying for almost half a day, Ning Cheng finally could not continue anymore. At the same time, he found out that there were no starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rats around him. Moreover, that strong aura that locked on to him had also completely disappeared.

Ning Cheng finally stopped and sucked in a few deep breaths while cursing inwardly. This starry skies' beast tide was just too scary. Previously, Lan Ya and Shi Yulan had mentioned that they wanted to become starry skies' wanderers. At that time, Ning Cheng had thought that they had decided that based on adequate information and experience. However, everyone's path was their own personal choice; as such, he did not want to interfere with what other people choose for themselves.

Ning Cheng took out the imitation Celestial River Class Battleship while simultaneously bringing out Lan Ya and Shi Yulan.

"Did we really escape?" Lan Ya asked while looking at the vast starry skies all around. How could they not even see a shred of those starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rats?

Ning Cheng spoke with a tired voice, "Yes, we escaped. I have to go in and rest. This battleship has the positional coordinates of the Man Lun Star Land. Senior Apprentice Sister Lan and Junior Apprentice Sister Yulan, I will have to trouble you to take control of it."

"Ning Cheng, go in and take rest. Leave the rest to me." Lan Ya spoke with a gratitude-filled tone. This kind of life-saving graciousness was not something that she could express with just thanks.

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Ning Cheng immediately went into one of the battleship's cabin to rest; however, Lan Ya and Shi Yulan felt waves surging within their hearts. The pair took joint control of the Celestial River Battleship for over several days and even then could not wholly calm down.

"Senior Apprentice Lan, what are you thinking?" Shi Yulan on seeing Lan Ya's always-hesitant expression finally asked.

Lan Ya did not immediately answer Shi Yulan but looked at Shi Yulan and asked, "Junior Apprentice Sister Yulan, what are you thinking?"

Shi Yulan bowed her head and remained silent for a long time before she finally shook her head and replied, "I don't know."

"Junior Apprentice Sister Yulan, I don't want to head to the Time Wilderness. My cultivation is still too low. If we go in, we might end up dragging down Ning Cheng. I have already set my heart on becoming a starry skies' wanderer. After we reach the Bell Edge Star, I will say my goodbyes to Ning Cheng." Lan Ya looked deep into the starry skies outside the Celestial River Battleship. Although her tone remained relaxed, it gave off a feeling of firm determination.

The Bell Edge Star was a star within the Man Lun Starry Skies, and near to the Man Lun Star Land

Out of Lan Ya's expectation, Shi Yulan did not feel surprised. She also stared into the vast and empty starry skies before her and spoke up after a long time, "Senior Apprentice Sister Lan, what you don't plan to say, I plan to say that. Our cultivation and strength have no comparison to other powerful Celestial Scryer Cultivators. Senior Apprentice Brother Ning also has saved me a few times; however, I can't rely on him forever."

Lan Ya showed a smile, "Junior Apprentice Sister Yulan, it is I who should speak that sentence. I just wanted to tell you that after I leave, you should continue to remain at Ning Cheng's side."

Shi Yulan also showed a faint smile before shaking her head and speaking, "Senior Apprentice Sister Lan, I already have a man I love, and I can never forget his appearance. Every time I close my eyes, it is as if I am leaning beside him. In this world, no one can replace that man. Although Senior Apprentice Brother Ning is a good man, he is not mine, and I also can't be with him."

"Is it that starry skies' Wanderer?" Lan Ya asked as she looked into Shi Yulan's eyes.

Shi Yulan's face showed a hint of ruddiness before she finally nodded and spoke, "Yes, I love him. If only I could be with him, wandering the starry skies together, relying on one another... I wish I could give him a child, and we all could travel the starry skies, together...."

As Shi Yulan spoke, her tone gradually turned soft and gentle. She already had an unparalleled face, and because of those tender and soft words along with her blush, it made her face look even more beautiful. Even Lan Ya could only stare at her in stunned silence.

Lan Ya held Shi Yulan's hand before looking at her and speaking, "Junior Apprentice Sister Yulan, I know that you are very well aware that that starry skies' Wanderer is Ning Cheng. Since the Orchid Borough Celestial River's 9-Step Obscure Array, we have all known about it. It is just that we never choose to talk about it. After I leave, you can remain at Ning Cheng's side. He is also not an utterly unfeeling cultivator, you....."

Without waiting for Lan Ya to finish talking, Shi Yulan interrupted Lan Ya, "Senior Apprentice Sister Lan, I know. I already knew that Senior Apprentice Brother Ning is that starry skies' Wanderer; however, he cannot replace the starry skies' Wanderer in my heart. He is Senior Apprentice Brother Ning, which is different. Maybe you would not understand, but I know it in my heart. I know it very well....."

Lan Ya looked at Shi Yulan in amazement; she had a vague understanding of what was going on. Shi Yulan fell in love with the starry skies Wanderer, not Ning Cheng who stood right in front of her eyes. The person she saw in her heart, that person did not even exist.

"I understand....." Lan Ya grabbed Shi Yulan's shoulder and spoke up with a broken voice.

Shi Yulan immediately burst into tears, and only after a long while, did she shake her head and speak, "Elder Sister Lan Ya, you don't understand."

Lan Ya felt shocked. At this moment, she finally understood Shi Yulan's heart. She sighed and took Shi Yulan, still crying, into her arms and spoke softly, "Junior Apprentice Sister Yulan, come with me to the starry skies. Let's look for things that we must look for."

The crying Shi Yulan gradually calmed down. She walked to the deck of the Celestial River Battleship and looked at the vast starry skies in front of her. After a while, she finally spoke up softly, "The vast skies,

the vines in the east, like the yellow bird, but no mulberries in the middle; to have stars flash and twinkle, but not for me.....”

After the song spread out and dispersed into the vast starry skies, it only left behind faint ending tones.

By this time, Ning Cheng had fully recovered. Moreover, because of his Starry Skies’ Sea of Consciousness formidable strength, even though he consumed most of his power for inducing teleport-like speeds of his Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds, he could recover a lot quicker compared to the past.

Just as he was about to come out, Ning Cheng heard Shi Yulan’s song. He immediately stopped, letting Shi Yulan’s song seep into his bones. Ning Cheng had to admit that he had never heard such a beautiful song until now.

It was just that the meaning of the lyrics was a little mournful, roughly translated, “Within the vast and boundless skies, I am like a vine without roots which spreads among the skies without any direction. I seem to be like a tired yellow finch that roamed the skies without finding a mulberry tree to perch. Although there is a star that shines brightly within the sky beckoning me, I know that it is not where I go...”

### [The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

#### **Chapter 527: Wasp King Graceful Star**

When Ning Cheng came out, Shi Yulan’s song suddenly came to a stop, and she spoke out with a face full of surprise, “Senior Apprentice Brother Ning, have you recovered?”

Ning Cheng smiled, “Yeah, it’s just that my Spiritual Consciousness still feels slightly exhausted. Let me take control of the battleship. We shouldn’t be too far from the Man Lun Star Land.”

“Yes, with our current speed, we should reach the Man Lun Star Land in a maximum of two months.” Lan Ya stood up and answered with a smile.

After that, she thought of supplementing it with another sentence and spoke up, “But we’re also very close to the Bell Edge Star. We can reach it in a few days.”

“We don’t have to go to the Bell Edge Star, so you don’t have to worry about it.” Ning Cheng replied with a smile.

Lan Ya did not smile. She looked at Ning Cheng and spoke with full seriousness, “Ning Cheng, Junior Apprentice Sister Yulan, and I have decided to leave and go to the Bell Edge Star. From now on, we want to continue on as starry skies’ wanderers.”

Ning Cheng’s smile faltered before he spoke up after a short pause, “Are you serious about it? Do you not want to head to the Time Wilderness?”

“Senior Apprentice Brother Ning, the fact is that we have been thinking about it for a long while. We just wanted to wait for you to come out before breaching it.” Shi Yulan spoke up without showing any change in her expression.

Lan Ya gave out a sigh and spoke, “Ning Cheng, what do you think would happen to us in the Time Wilderness with our cultivation? Even if I can walk with you, it would only bring you more harm. As

starry skies' cultivators, we cannot always rely on you. Originally, Yulan and I intended to come out of Time Wilderness first before taking our leave. However, facing that rat tide, we decided to leave now. After we go, please take care of yourself."

Ning Cheng could see that Lan Ya and Shi Yulan had already made up their minds and gave out a sigh. Although he wanted Lan Ya and Shi Yulan to follow him into the Time Wilderness, Lan Ya also hit a point with her words. After entering the Time Wilderness, they might not even appear at the same location. With the cultivation of Lan Ya and Shi Yulan, entering the Time Wilderness would only be inviting death for the two of them.

Lan Ya and Shi Yulan were not Ji Luofei or Shi Qionghua and had nothing to do with him. He also had no right to ask them to do anything for him. A starry skies' cultivator had their own decisions to make and had to walk their own path.

Thinking of this, Ning Cheng took out a ring and handed it to Lan Ya. "Senior Apprentice Sister Lan, there are 2 billion Green Coins in this along with a good battleship. Just take it."

Lan Ya put on the ring and smiled, "I know that you are rich. I won't be polite then."

Ning Cheng took out a jade box and handed it to Shi Yulan, "Junior Apprentice Sister Yulan. The past has already passed. I hope that we can still meet in the future one day. This is for you; maybe it might help you a little."

Shi Yulan received the jade box. Looking at Ning Cheng for a long while, she then took out and put on veil before speaking, "Senior Apprentice Brother Ning, take care of yourself."

As for Ning Cheng, speaking about hopes of meeting in the future someday, Shi Yulan did not say anything. She knew that they most likely would never end up meeting in the future. The starry skies were both vast and boundless. Not to mention being just Celestial Scryer Cultivators, even if they managed to become Starry Skies' Emperors, the chance of them meeting would be extremely remote.

Not to mention that they were entering the starry skies as wanderers. As such, one could even argue if they could live to see tomorrow.

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Watching Lan Ya and Shi Yulan take control of the battleship and leave, Ning Cheng felt a deep melancholy in his heart. After entering the starry skies, although he did not have many friends, all of them ended up leaving for various reasons.

Without the rat tide, the four of them could have entered the Time Wilderness together. However, out of the four people, he was the only person left.

As Lan Yan and Shi Yulan sat in the battleship, Ning Cheng's farewell words resounded within their ears, "Just as the heavens have their cliffs, the earth has its corners, good friends also scatter, the life seldom gives such joyful opportunities, only to separate them once again....."

[TL Note – I know I might have butchered the verse, but I tried to keep it as close to the original as possible.]

As Lan Ya and Shi Yulan kept repeating Ning Cheng's words, their hearts also filled with melancholy. In just a short time, Ning Cheng's voice disappeared; even Ning Cheng's battleship vanished from the range of their Spiritual Consciousness.

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The sadness and melancholy of parting gradually subsided as Ning Cheng felt his mind wander sitting on the deck of the Celestial River Battleship. A while ago, Ning Cheng's gloomy mood finally showed improvements as the just-hatched Void Exploding Golden Wasp King stood on the palm of his hand.

His Void Exploding Golden Wasp had finally hatched. Although it was still an infant, its body was almost half a foot long. This Exploding Golden Wasp's Wasp King had a pale yellow body along with a pair of thin almost invisible wings. The Exploding Golden Wasp King kept jumping from Ning Cheng's hand to Ning Cheng's shoulder and then from Ning Cheng's shoulder to the deck, revealing its joyous mood along with a reliance on Ning Cheng.

"Haha...." Ning Cheng finally laughed. He obtained his own starry skies' beast at last.

He could not help but fantasise a little in his head. If he encountered a vast starry skies' beast horde while travelling through the starry skies wielding his Twin Wings of the Heavenly Cloud, he could just wave a hand, and countless even more horrifying Explosive Golden Wasps could suddenly appear around him. Ning Cheng would not have to do anything and just stand on the side as he watched the Explosive Golden Wasp Colony made short work of those beast tides.

The Explosive Golden Wasps could also absorb the starry skies' Essence Qi like the other demonic beasts from the void. As such, it was not that difficult to raise a swarm of Explosive Golden Wasps. However, to evolve the swarm of Exploding Golden Wasps into a high-level wasp colony would be much more difficult.

As Ning Cheng thought of the endless cultivation resources that would disappear as food for the Explosive Golden Wasps, his happy mood started to fall once again. Poverty, would he ever break out of his monetary woes?

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Jing Wuming had already left; Lan Ya and Shi Yulan had also decided to move on. Now Ning Cheng only had the Explosive Golden Wasp's Wasp King as his company, which also meant that the wasp was the only living creature with which Ning Cheng could communicate.

Ning Cheng talked with the Explosive Golden Wasp King all the time, allowing the time to pass by quickly. He even gave the Void Exploding Golden Wasp King a name, Graceful Star. This name was also to treasure the few fond memories he had from the Graceful Star Mainland.

In less than two months, a vast planet appeared within the range of Ning Cheng's Spiritual Consciousness. This planet did not even look like a regular sphere and looked like a colossal mainland suspended in space from afar.

The starry skies of the universe really was a strange place, to have such kind of a suspended Star Land.

Ning Cheng put away the Exploding Golden Wasp King and controlled the Celestial River Battleship to arrive just outside of this colossal star land. Once reaching, Ning Cheng could not help but marvel at the size of this star land. Was this star land not dozens of times larger than the entirety of the Orchid Borough Star?

Moreover, to enter the planet, one had to obtain an Identity Jade Card. Outside the Identity Card Processing Office in the star land, Ning Cheng saw several large words floating in the sky, spelling out 'Man Lun Star Land'.

Although Ning Cheng had parked his knockoff Celestial River Battleship next to many real Celestial River-class Battleships, it at least did not look too shabby.

In this place, Ning Cheng finally experienced the saying, 'experts like floating clouds'. If one could choose to single out any arbitrary cultivator in this place, one will find that they at least had a few Celestial Wheels suspended behind them. Cultivators like Ning Cheng, who had no Celestial Wheel, were just too rare.

"What can I help you with?" Ning Cheng had just walked up to a window when a crisp and pleasant sounding voice rang out in Ning Cheng's ear.

A very pretty looking female cultivator kept her eyes trained on Ning Cheng while wearing a smile over her face, displaying a friendly attitude.

"Hello, I am from Orchid Borough Celestial River's Revolving Jade City...."

Hearing Ning Cheng's words, the pretty-looking female cultivator asked out in surprise, "I heard that the Orchid Borough Celestial River's battleship encountered a starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rat Tide midway and ended up with a lot of casualties, you...."

She honestly felt surprised that Ning Cheng had managed to escape from the Spirit Devouring Rat Tide with such low cultivation. However, the pretty-looking female cultivator realised that her words were somewhat impolite and quickly spoke up, "I really meant to congratulate you for escaping from the Spirit Devouring Rat Horde and reaching the Man Lun Star Land. Man Lun Star Land definitely welcomes you! If you are one of the cultivators qualified to enter the Time Wilderness, you can directly enter the Man Lun Star Land with your participation jade card. No need to apply for another Identity Jade Card."

"Many thanks, Senior Apprentice Sister." Ning Cheng on hearing this felt slightly happy.

Seeing Ning Cheng turn around to leave, the pretty-looking female cultivator quickly called out to Ning Cheng, "Please wait; I will still have to verify your participation jade card...."

Ning Cheng took out his participation jade card and handed it over. The pretty-looking female cultivator's Spiritual Consciousness swept over the jade card before she looked at Ning Cheng and spoke with a smile, "Oh, you are Ning Cheng?"

"Yes, what the matter?" Ning Cheng looked at this female cultivator while feeling puzzled. He had just arrived at the Man Lun Star Land. Logically speaking, there should be no one here who would recognise him.

The pretty-looking female cultivator quickly replied, “Nothing serious. A fairy by the name of Ruan Mingshu had left a message here for you. She said that if you manage to reach this place, please head over to the Man Lun Star Land’s Perpetual Calm Resting Pen in Lucky Heaven City and meet with her.”

After that, she handed the participation jade card back to Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng thanked her and left while giving out a deep sigh in his heart. Sure enough, this woman had already made her way to the Man Lun Star Land. Her message most likely was just an off-handed move. She must have not expected that not only had he survived, he even would manage to reach Man Lun Star Land. Although Ruan Mingshu had escaped alone, without even any warning, it was not something that Ning Cheng felt out of the ordinary. As such, he felt no anger over such actions.

If it were Jing Wuming or Lan Ya who had escaped without even saying a word, Ning Cheng would have felt slightly sad in his heart. However, since it was Ruan Mingshu, he did not feel anything. The Ruan Clan and Ning Cheng only had a cooperation agreement between them, without any friendship involved.

Ning Cheng did not plan on living in the Perpetual Calm Resting Pen. However, he still would go meet Ruan Mingshu on account of her ‘invitation’. After all, Ning Cheng still owed someone a Grade 4 Celestial River Array Disc. Moreover, Ning Cheng also had a few questions that he needed to ask Ruan Mingshu about the Time Wilderness.

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The Lucky Heaven City was Man Lun Star Land’s main city, primarily because the Man Lun Starry Skies’ Emperor had chosen to reside in this city. After Ning Cheng entered the Lucky Heaven City, he immediately felt the difference from the Revolving Jade City, the centre of Orchid Borough Celestial River.

As the central city of the Man Lun Starry Skies, the Lucky Heaven City had a very open construction. Even though the ‘city’ housed a lot more cultivators than the usual, Lucky Heaven City did not appear crowded.

What Ning Cheng worried about the most before entering the central city of the Man Lun Starry Skies was about not finding a place to stay due to the upcoming Man Lun Starry Skies’ Celestial Stryer Genius Tryouts.

However, after entering the open and starry skies’ Essence Qi-rich city, Ning Cheng realised his fears had no basis. Although this city contained many cultivators, there were equally many places to live. In just a short time, he found a place called Celestial Rainbow Resting Pen to stay.

Ning Cheng did not decide to live in the resting pen immediately. He first bought a jade strip containing the map of the Lucky Heaven City. Following that, Ning Cheng located the Perpetual Calm Resting Pen from the map, before immediately headed to the Perpetual Calm Resting Pen.

At the Perpetual Calm Resting Pen, Ning Cheng had not even asked the resting pen’s attendant about Ruan Mingshu’s room when he saw Ruan Mingshu walk out with a smile and accompanied by a handsome-looking male cultivator.

“Junior Apprentice Sister Mingshu, what a coincidence.” Ning Cheng called out with a smile.

Ruan Mingshu, on seeing Ning Cheng standing at the resting pen's door, suddenly had a change in expression. Quickly switching to a pleasantly surprised expression, she spoke up, "Senior Apprentice Brother Ning, you....."

Ning Cheng acted as if he had not seen the person standing next to Ruan Mingshu and spoke up, rather loudly, with the same smile over his face, "Right, Junior Apprentice Sister Mingshu, are we still staying together in a room?"

### [The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

#### **Chapter 528: Still living together in a room**

As soon as Ning Cheng's words came out, the face of the handsome man standing next to Ruan Mingshu changed slightly, before he immediately looked at Ruan Mingshu with confusion.

Ruan Mingshu also felt startled, as if she had never thought that Ning Cheng would suddenly ask such a question. As such, she could not search for a suitable answer for Ning Cheng in such a short time.

Ning Cheng also was not in a hurry, as he still waited patiently with a smile. Although he did not feel grossed out with Ruan Mingshu, he also wanted to make things clear with Ruan Mingshu. Cooperation was cooperation; do not use beauty and gentleness to pretend otherwise. You acted so gently within the Revolving Jade City that you made it look like the two of them were a couple. Yet, did you not escape without even bothering about lil' ole' me?

If you want to cooperate with me then just talk about cooperation. Do not try to use trickery to deceive me. I might be simple, but I am not a fool.

"I'll head to the Lucky Heaven City first. If Junior Apprentice Sister Mingshu needs anything, just send me a message." Seeing Ruan Mingshu open her mouth to reply, Ning Cheng immediately interrupted from the front. He only came here to remind Ruan Mingshu not to treat him as a fool. As for how Ruan Mingshu wanted to answer him, he did not care.

"Wait, Senior Apprentice Brother Ning. I do have something to talk with you. If you want, we can still stay together in a room." Ruan Mingshu called out to Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng shot a slightly surprised look at Ruan Mingshu. He had initially thought that Ruan Mingshu would step down and did not expect that Ruan Mingshu would actually dare to say such words.

The formerly somewhat stiff expression on the handsome-looking male cultivator's face suddenly disappeared, replaced by a relaxed smile, as he spoke up, "Mingshu, I will take my leave now."

Looking at the handsome male cultivator walk out of the resting pen, Ruan Mingshu then trained her eyes over Ning Cheng, "Senior Apprentice Brother Ning if you feel satisfied; please follow me to my room."

Ning Cheng felt somewhat weird in his heart; however, he did not care. He casually followed Ruan Mingshu to her room and found that Ruan Mingshu had not booked a double room as before but a single room.

"Senior Apprentice Brother Ning, I know that you must be blaming me for not informing you when I left. However, the fact is that if I had delayed thing for even a brief period, I could not have made my escape.



The ferocity of the starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rat Tide is something that almost everyone knows. Besides, even if I had the means to take you away, I could not have made it to the second floor. Moreover, I also had a feeling that you definitely would not come with me." Ruan Mingshu spoke in a calm tone as if she felt no anger towards Ning Cheng's previous words.

Not waiting for Ning Cheng to answer, she continued, "You are someone very kind to the people close to you. Although I do not know you very well, I still have been around you for a short while. I know that you would not leave without your friends nor would you simply leave on your own. Not to mention the fact that even if you felt willing enough to leave with me, I could not escape with you."

Ning Cheng had not come here to hear Ruan Mingshu's explanation. However, listening to Ruan Mingshu explain things in an apparently sincere and gentle manner forced Ning Cheng to say nothing.

"That man who left is called Zhao Yanxiang....." Ruan Mingshu spoke once again.

Ning Cheng felt surprised, "It was him. Should have known. Manor Master Ruan also requested me to help keep an eye on someone. Looks like it's that fellow."

Ruan Mingshu smiled, "My father thinks that I like him, which led him to say that to you. However, the fact is that no matter how much he likes me, I do not share the same sentiments with that man. Moreover, during our time in the Time Wilderness, Senior Apprentice Brother Yanxiang will also be joining us."

"I don't care about who else is coming with us. I anyway just got here; you just need to tell me when to enter the Time Wilderness and how to get in?" Ning Cheng did not have any intentions of meddling or asking about such messy relationships.

Ruan Mingshu took out a jade strip and handed it to Ning Cheng, "This jade strip contains a part of the map of the Time Wilderness. For some reason, the Orchid Borough Celestial River King had suddenly disappeared when our Orchid Borough Celestial River Battleship suffered that attack from the starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rat Tide. Therefore, only for the participants from our Orchid Borough Celestial River, as long as they can produce their participating jade cards, they could then enter at any time after the Time Wilderness opens."

Ning Cheng, on hearing the disappearance of the Orchid Borough Celestial River King, felt slightly shocked. Most likely, the departure of the Orchid Borough Celestial River King had some relations to Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu. Maybe he might have even gone after Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu. What should he do now? In case Orchid Borough Celestial River King managed to meet up with Imperial Concubine Xuan Yu, then regardless of whether Xuan Yu survived or not, Jing Wuming would definitely die. Unfortunately, apart from feeling anxious, Ning Cheng could not do anything with his current cultivation.

"The Man Lun Starry Skies have 12 Celestial Rivers under it and is one of the smaller starry skies' compared to other starry skies. However, there would be more than 300,000 cultivators entering the Time Wilderness this time. At the same time, I suspect that quite a few people know about the Perpetual Moon Lakes. As such, our chances are not desirable, to begin with." After Ruan Mingshu gave a brief explanation, she paused to let Ning Cheng ask any question.

Ning Cheng immediately realised that the Perpetual Moon Lake was not just Ruan Clan's secret; instead, an open secret. Then what did this cooperation mean?

"12 Celestial Rivers should mean 120,000 participants. How are there 300,000 participants? Moreover, with my cultivation, even if the three of us teamed up, even our bones might turn to slag before we could even reach the Perpetual Moon Lake." Ning Cheng's tone revealed some disappointment.

Ruan Mingshu did not care about Ning Cheng's tone and calmly spoke up, "The Orchid Borough Celestial River is one of the weakest celestial rivers under the jurisdiction of the Man Lun Starry Skies, which is the reason it only has 10,000 entry quotas. However, the other celestial rivers have far more participants than our Orchid Borough Celestial River. Moreover, some people might know about the Perpetual Moon Lake; however, not many of them would truly have any information about the location of the Perpetual Moon Lake. Therefore, although our chances might seem small at first, we still have a better chance compared to others."

"Okay, I understand. When the Time Wilderness opens, just send me a message." Ning Cheng spoke as he stood up.

Ruan Mingshu did not move and spoke out casually, "Are you not going to stay here?"

"You only have one room here. It's better for me to find a room for myself than to let you rent another room."

"It's just a room; you can sleep here if you want."

Ruan Mingshu's words made Ning Cheng feel surprised. Although Ruan Mingshu had tried to use some methods over him; however, he still thought that this woman was still relatively conservative. What did she mean by that?

Ning Cheng found Ruan Mingshu's expression completely serious, without any shred of mockery or sarcasm in it. He frowned and spoke, "If I sleep here, what about you?"

Ruan Mingshu looked at the bed and spoke with a slight smile, "This is a big bed."

Seeing the expression over Ruan Mingshu's face, Ning Cheng had to say it, "Thank you for the offer. However, I still prefer to stay alone in a room. If you have something you need, just send me a message."

Whether Ruan Mingshu truly meant it or not, Ning Cheng had no intentions to act like a hypocrite with her.

Seeing the departing back of Ning Cheng, Ruan Mingshu gave out a sigh and did not continue speaking. She instead took out a pot of wine and poured herself a cup.

Ruan Mingshu did not have to sit for long when the handsome-looking male cultivator, who had left earlier and the one Ruan Mingshu had introduced as Zhao Yanxiang to Ning Cheng, appeared outside her room. Ruan Mingshu slightly frowned before putting down the wine cup. She walked over to the door, opened the restrictions, and stared at Zhao Yanxiang standing her door, without even inviting him inside.

"Who is he?" Zhao Yanxiang also did not enter the room and just asked three words.

“He will enter the Time Wilderness with us and is someone my Ruan Clan has chosen to cooperate with.” Ruan Mingshu did not conceal the matter.

Zhao Yanxiang gave out a relaxed sigh, “Junior Apprentice Sister Mingshu, you are just too kind. Why would you place such importance over this person? He clearly wants to drive a wedge between us. You could have just said no, why bother with such useless talks.”

Ruan Mingshu spoke up in a dull tone, “I did not speak any lies. I had intended to keep him in my room.”

“Mingshu, you....” Zhao Yanxiang’s face changed once again.

Ruan Mingshu did not bother to explain anything. Zhao Yanxiang clenched his fist and spoke, “Why? Do you like him? Then what about me? Besides, even if you like him, with your personality, would you actually live with him together?”

Ruan Mingshu looked at Zhao Yanxiang and spoke, “Senior Apprentice Brother Yanxiang, if you like to put it that way then I like you more. However, Senior Apprentice Brother Ning is a good man, and I owe him.”

“You owe him, so you would let him stay with you? What logic is this? Also, what do you owe him?” Zhao Yanxiang finally could not control his emotions.

“I don’t owe him yet; however, I’ll owe him soon. Maybe, you’ll also owe him.” Ruan Mingshu spoke while shaking her head. She had her own principles of conduct. Ning Cheng originally had nothing to do with her; however, during the time together, she knew that Ning Cheng was not the sort who harboured evil thoughts. Her family had tasked her with reaping someone else’s life. If it required gentleness and agreeing to the demands, so what of it?

Back inside her room, Ruan Mingshu took out the pot of wine again. This time she did not pour out a cup but drank a few mouthfuls from the jug directly while murmuring, “Maybe I’m not suitable for anything in the starry skies.”

Her father and even her close confidants thought that it was appropriate to let a stranger die; however, she felt guilt-ridden and apologetic within her heart. This kind of guilt, if not compensated, would drastically affect her cultivation.

.....

No matter what Ruan Mingshu meant, Ning Cheng did not continue to wander around the Lucky Heaven City. Lucky Heaven City contained almost-countless starry skies’ cultivators. With his cultivation, in case someone decided to pick on him, it would not bode well for him.

In his own residence, Ning Cheng, apart from communicating with the Wasp King Graceful Star, constantly fumbled around with his Spiritual Consciousness. He wanted to build a complete set of combat methods with his Spiritual Consciousness.

Moreover, whether it came to practical or even theoretical knowledge, Ning Cheng sorely lacked in both areas. Every time he found himself stuck in a critical area, he would have no way to explain it, let alone resolve it.

Moreover, the Wasp King Graceful Star grew up very fast. The medicinal herbs and pills that Ning Cheng had previously refined had already vanished. This fellow had even started eating through the starry skies' crystals.

Time passed by quickly. During the almost half-a-month since Ning Cheng reached the Lucky Heaven City, he did not receive any message from Ruan Mingshu.

On this day, Ning Cheng was still inside the resting pen's room, tempering his Spiritual Consciousness, when he suddenly heard screams and spacial fluctuations coming from outside.

Ning Cheng had not entered the starry skies a day or two ago; as such, he was somewhat familiar with how the cities operated within the starry skies. As such, he knew that one could not openly fight, nor could one go around causing trouble. However, those screams and spacial fluctuations definitely indicated a large-scale fight. If it were not for those strong Celestial Essence fluctuations, he could not have sensed anything from inside his room.

Ning Cheng immediately opened the restriction, wanting to come out and see what had caused this, when the resting pen's server quickly came up to stop him, "Friend, cultivators from two celestial rivers erupted in hostilities. The matter has already gone out of hand. Please do not go out at this time, lest you end up sucked into trouble."

"Who would dare to cause trouble in the Lucky Heaven City?" Ning Cheng asked. Was Lucky Heaven City not the premier city of the Man Lun Star Land? How could one dare to cause trouble in this city? Yet, there were tens of thousands of cultivators fighting a large-scale battle in the spacious street outside. Not only had many cultivators fallen, with body parts strewn across, but even many buildings had also turned to rubble.

The server grinned and spoke, "You'll find out soon enough."

### [The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

#### **Chapter 529: Heavenly Emperor Man Lun**

Very soon, huh, Ning Cheng immediately understood.

A cold snort followed by a burst of ice-cold air descended. Even if Ning Cheng remained inside the resting pen, he felt an overwhelming sensation within his heart. This cold snort felt like an iron hammer hitting his chest, causing him to feel extreme pain.

Such horrifying cultivation, Ning Cheng's mind had just flashed with this thought when a colossal-sized palm suddenly descended. The next moment, the tens of thousands of still-fighting cultivators, crumbled into slag.

The street, which resembled a small-scale battlefield a few moments ago, turned eerily silent and empty after this huge palm descended.

Ning Cheng felt his scalp turning numb. He already had some insight into the strength possessed by Celestial River Kings. However, the power of the owner behind this palm was something that Ning Cheng could not even fathom. Was this person's strength not on the same level as that powerhouse he had seen in the Everlasting Blue Thunder City's projection?

“Distant Stellar Celestial River and Essence Eyot Celestial River ignored the rules of Man Lun Starry Skies. Of the two groups fighting within the Man Lun Star Land, cancel the qualifications of both the celestial rivers from entering the Time Wilderness. All the cultivators involved in the fight warrant the death penalty, including the Distant Stellar Celestial River King, the Essence Eyot Celestial River King, and the Celestial Lords under the two Celestial River Kings. As for any other cultivators that participated in this fight, all will be put to death...” The giant palm disappeared, and the voice had faded away. Only the lingering sound of silence reverberated within Ning Cheng’s ear.

Ning Cheng sucked in a breath of cold air; this fellow was just too domineering. Was this the Man Lun Starry Skies Emperor? Just a palm from this fellow had completely eradicated tens of thousands of cultivators and killed several Celestial Lords and the two Celestial River Kings. From this, one could easily infer that within the Man Lun Starry Skies, the Man Lun Starry Skies Emperor’s word was the truth.

Not waiting for Ning Cheng, all the people came out on the street and bowed in unison and shouted, “Long live Heavenly Emperor Man Lun!”

After that, in just a few moments, the street reverted to what it looked like before. As for the rest of the people, they immediately got back to do what they were supposed to do. None of them felt even half a point nonplussed about the fact that tens of thousands of people had just died in this very spot a few moments ago.

What was power? This was what power was. Ning Cheng thought of his own Celestial Novice Cultivation. For the first time in his life did Ning Cheng felt like an insignificant fellow in the whole universe.

Witnessing the power of the Man Lun Starry Skies Emperor, Ning Cheng no longer wanted to remain outside. He was just about to return to his room when his eyes swept over a pretty figure. Just when Ning Cheng’s eyes glazed over the face of the beautiful woman, he almost called out the words, ‘Xu Yingdei’.

However, Ning Cheng quickly realised that this person was not Xu Yingdei. Although Xu Yingdei was already an apex-ranked beauty, she still could not compare to the beauty of this woman in front of him. Bright eyes with jet black pupils, with skin akin to pure white porcelain. The beautiful face gave off the feeling of looking at a naive girl, so much so that people would not even bear to talk loudly.

Although this woman had such a naive-looking face, she also had a busty chest. As such, people would feel even more reluctant to look away from her.

Ning Cheng had only glanced at her before moving his gaze. This woman resembled too much like Xu Yingdei, almost causing him to mistake her as Xu Yingdei. Moreover, this woman had four Celestial Wheels behind her, which indicated that this woman was at least a Celestial Bridge Cultivator. Even if Xu Yingdei were a genius, she would not transform into a Celestial Bridge Cultivator in such a short time.

“Do you know me?” Ning Cheng’s fluctuating emotions and gaze had immediately attracted the attention of this woman. She deliberately walked to the front of Ning Cheng before scrutinising Ning Cheng from top to bottom. She affirmed that she had never met Ning Cheng previously. However, Ning Cheng had gazed at her with an apparent look of astonishment and recognition, indicating that this person apparently knew her.

Ning Cheng quickly spoke up, “No, I just saw my friend come over and felt a little excited.”

Saying that Ning Cheng then pointed a finger somewhere behind the women.

Behind this woman, another woman with a veil over her face headed towards Ning Cheng.

The beautiful looking woman with the naivety-filled face did not leave. She deliberately stood beside Ning Cheng. When the woman with the veil over her face finally walked over to Ning Cheng, she asked, "Is he your friend?"

The woman with the veil over her face gave the other woman a respectful salute before speaking up calmly, "Replying to senior, he is my friend, Ning Cheng. We had an appointment to meet here."

Ning Cheng secretly thanked this woman; at the same time, he also admired this woman's quick thinking.

"Ning Cheng; that is a good name. I'm leaving; maybe I will come to see you later." The beautiful woman with the porcelain doll-like face spoke while giving Ning Cheng a bright smile, which revealed a hint of her perfect white teeth.

After taking a few steps, she suddenly turned back to Ning Cheng and spoke, "Oh yes, I forgot to tell you my name. I'm called Xu Binglan, you have to remember it."

After hearing that name, Ning Cheng felt a shiver run down his body, while silent roars echoed within his mind. Xu Binglan, Ning Cheng was just familiar with this name. This woman's name had spread everywhere within the Tian Continent along with Song Yan. These two women initially were from the Heavenly Dao Sect and competed for the sole attention of Yan Fenghua. In the end, it resulted in a huge feud, followed by the emergence of two great academies, the Floating Snow Palace and the Severing Emotions Dao Sect.

Xu Anzhen, someone who harboured a great hatred for Ning Cheng, was this woman's descendant. Moreover, even Xu Yingde, who had almost killed him, was also a direct descendant of this woman. No wonder, that he almost mistook this woman as Xu Yingde at first glance.

This woman looked so comely and innocent, naive and brilliance, to the point that people would not even bear the thought of feeling anything negative about her. However, Ning Cheng knew enough about the women from the Severing Emotions Dao Sect, to the point of almost feeling disgusted with it. After the women from the sect severed their emotions, they would go on to have multiple partners. In other words, this young and beautiful looking Xu Binglan, despite having such a fair and comely appearance, most likely had devoured innumerable men.

Thinking of this, Ning Cheng felt as if he had almost swallowed a disgusting fly. In contrast, Ning Cheng's impression of the Floating Snow Palace was many times better than the Severing Emotions Dao Sect.

"Can we go in and sit down?" The woman with the veil over her face could see Ning Cheng's slightly disgusted look and spoke up with a smile.

Ning Cheng quickly sobered up and spoke, "Senior Qinyu, thank you very much."

Ning Cheng had always had a good impression of this woman with a veil over her face. In the rest stop, if not for this woman, he could not have found an excuse to take off the outer robe that had been marked by the Spiritual Consciousness Tag. Moreover, that troublemaker Sisi had also not followed her.

The woman with the veil over her face smile, "I'm just a Celestial Gatherer Cultivator. My family name is Shen, but you can call me Qinyu from now on."

"Okay. Senior Apprentice Sister Qinyu, would you like to come upstairs with me. I live in this resting pen." Ning Cheng politely invited her inside.

After Shen Qinyu entered the room, Ning Cheng activated the restrictions and once again spoke up, "Thank you."

Shen Qinyu smiled and spoke, "I just happened to help you in passing; however, I didn't expect you to always attract the attention of high-ranking individuals."

Ning Cheng knew the meaning behind Shen Qinyu's words. Her 'always' meant more than once. However, Ning Cheng did not admit to the past incident. Once he agreed to it, it would indicate that Ning Cheng had already known that a Heaven Seated Expert had marked him with a Spiritual Consciousness Tag. Ning Cheng had already written down the grace shown by this woman. However, he did not want to speak about it. After all, they have only met for the second time.

"Actually, I came here to look for something, but ended up meeting you." Seeing that Ning Cheng did not talk much and spoke even less than what she spoke, Shen Qinyu had to take the initiative to speak up.

Ning Cheng laughed, "Senior Apprentice Sister Qinyu has already helped me enough. If I can help you even a little, then I will go all out. Senior Apprentice Sister, please speak."

"Good." Shen Qinyu gave a simple reply before continuing, "I know that you will also enter the Time Wilderness. Therefore, I hope that you could help me a bit in the wilderness."

Ning Cheng spoke up apologetically, "Senior Apprentice Qinyu, although I would like to help you, my cultivation is still too low. I am afraid that I would not be of much use to you. Moreover, Junior Apprentice Sister Ruan Mingshu and I have already formed a team and cannot separate."

"No, you can definitely help me with this favour. I have a communications pearl here, and if I need your help, I will send you a message. If you are not available or are busy otherwise, just ignore my message."

After talking, Shen Qinyu sat there holding the communications pearl, looking at Ning Cheng calmly and waiting for him to answer.

Ning Cheng did not know what Shen Qinyu was talking about; how was she so sure that he could help her? Shen Qinyu could see the Spiritual Consciousness Tag that white-robed man had left on him; moreover, Shen Qinyu even used a talisman to block the attack from an expert in the Celestial River Realm. From this, he knew that this woman's background was not simple.

Why did she need him if she came from such a not-so-simple background?

Despite the doubts, Ning Cheng still took the communications pearl and spoke with a smile, "Naturally, as long as I am near and can help, I will definitely help."

He deliberately did not speak anything in depth, whether he could help or not, Ning Cheng wanted to have the final say in it.

Shen Qinyu did not seem to have heard Ning Cheng's words carefully. She suddenly took off her veil and spoke to Ning Cheng, "Junior Apprentice Brother, I will take you to a place in the evening. You will definitely benefit from it."

As Ning Cheng looked at the woman in front of him, with a relatively pretty face, could not help but wonder why she had to wear a veil. However, he quickly understood what was going on. Did Ning Cheng only have a Mask-type Dao Artefact and no one else? Obviously, this relatively pretty-looking face was not Shen Qinyu's original face. This made this woman even more mysterious in Ning Cheng's eyes.

"My cultivation is shallow, and I don't like to go out. I just want to stay at my place and rest. Senior Apprentice Sister Qinyu can go by herself." Ning Cheng euphemistically rejected Shen Qinyu's invitation.

Shen Qinyu did not care, and spoke with a smile on her face, "This is a gathering between the Man Lun Starry Skies' geniuses. All the genius cultivators from the various celestial rivers under the Man Lun Starry Skies will attend it. I also got an invitation through someone else. If a rogue cultivator came to such a place and heard others discuss the Dao and some starry skies' Spiritual Techniques, they would definitely end up with a great harvest."

"This kind of harvest is several times better than what one could learn by self or even from people from the same sect. After all, none of us comes from the same place, and even the differences in cultivation levels are not too far apart. As such, the things one could understand and the difficulties that one would face would not be too far apart. Sometimes, when you hear or see something, even a bit, you might even suddenly experience a breakthrough. I think that Junior Apprentice Brother Ning should come to this place instead of staying behind closed doors to avoid trouble. Moreover, cultivating within the starry skies, one cannot avoid trouble even by staying behind closed doors."

In fact, Ning Cheng felt slightly moved by Shen Qinyu's words. His cultivation had already reached a point of stagnation. Even his understanding regarding the ways to cultivate Spiritual Consciousness had not yielded any results. In other words, Ning Cheng had no way to advance further. Although Ning Cheng felt he was close to a breakthrough, until the point Ning Cheng actually broke through, he would always remain stuck at that 'close to breakthrough' point.

"Okay. Many thanks to Senior Apprentice Sister Qinyu's guidance. I will accompany Senior Apprentice Sister Qinyu as requested." Once Ning Cheng decided on things, he would not show any hesitation.

### [The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

#### **Chapter 530: Dao Discussion Convention**

The Dao Discussion Convention convened in the busiest part of Lucky Heaven City's midtown. Although Ning Cheng was not a person who had never seen the outside world; however, when he followed Shen Qinyu into the venue for Dao Discussion, he could not help but feel shocked by the venue's luxury.

It was obviously night outside; however, it felt like daytime on the inside. Moreover, it was not the fake kind of daylight but like a natural day.

The entire venue had lingering Immortal Hymns, Red-Crowned Cranes, bridges made out of Rainbow Clouds, surrounded by flowing waters and Immortal Bamboo.....



Wine flowed like water, and one could even pick up various spirit fruits with just a wave of a hand, as well as a variety of beautiful-looking women just waiting to serve them. This scene reminded Ning Cheng of Xi Wangmu's Peaches of Immortality. However, this version felt like a cheap knockoff of Xi Wangmu's Peaches of Immortality.

The people participating in the Dao Discussions had yet to arrive, but there were already groups of three or four scattered all around talking while drinking wine and picking a variety of spiritual fruit to eat.

"Looks like a sizable gathering." Ning Cheng whispered.

Before Shen Qinyu could answer, he heard a cultivator standing near to him speak up, "Of course, there are quite a few Celestial River Kings coming over tonight. I heard that even the Man Lun Starry Skies Emperor would be here in person. Heavenly Emperor Man Lun wants to use this opportunity to see what kind of geniuses have appeared within the Man Lun Starry Skies."

This cultivator's tone contained a hint of pride; apparently, this fellow felt that an invitation to such an event was a prideful opportunity.

Shen Qinyu turned to Ning Cheng and spoke with a smile, "You can do whatever you want in this Dao Discussion, from discussing the Dao and its methods with others to just enjoying the spirit wine and spirit fruits in this place. If you have any questions, you can also ask the servers around you, and they will help you out. However, I did not think that Heavenly Emperor Man Lun would decide to come here personally; therefore, I would advise you not to casually sweep out with your Spiritual Consciousness. I am going to say meet a few acquaintances of mine now. If you want you can also sit here on your own."

Ning Cheng quickly spoke up, "Senior Apprentice Sister Qinyu, please go ahead. I'll be careful."

Was this not just a gathering of high-class people? One only had to take care of themselves and look around. If one found something meaningful, just stay and listen, if it did not make any sense, then leave.

Shen Qinyu felt reassured about Ning Cheng's words. She knew that Ning Cheng was not a troublemaker. It was something that she understood from the time she met Ning Cheng at the resting pen and reinforced when Ning Cheng had spoken about not coming out of the resting pen.

When Shen Qinyu left, Ning casually walked to the periphery of a relatively large group of people and listened to them talk about the Dao.

In just a few moments, Ning Cheng felt surprised within his heart. Some of the discussions touched upon the truths that he had to spend a long time by himself to figure out. However, in this place, one could efficiently resolve his or her bottlenecks by just listening to the discussions.

It really was the right choice to come here, Ning Cheng eagerly thought to himself. However, he did not decide to stay in just one spot. He wanted to find a secluded corner to sit down and listen to the discussions carefully.

Ning Cheng carefully walked around, passing through a bunch of people talking about Pill Dao, passing by a few people engaged in artefact refining discussions, and even circumventing many more discussing cultivation related matters. No matter what the genre, hearing other people talk about such issues, Ning Cheng ended up gaining a somewhat more in-depth understanding of the world from the conversations.

Ning Cheng found a seat in one of the most remote corners of the Dao Discussion Hall and sat down. Although the location had dim lighting and rarely saw any visitors, for Ning Cheng, it was the best location. Sitting in this place, he could use his Spiritual Consciousness to listen in on other people's discussions about the Dao. He could then take the essence of the talks and incorporate them into his own understandings.

Ning Cheng cultivated using the Mysterious Yellow Formless, a cultivation method entirely different from others. It not only was intangible, but it also had no fixed form. It could transform the Celestial Essence Circulation at any time and anywhere during cultivation; moreover, it could also take in and integrate the strengths of any kind of cultivation method into its own. It made Ning Cheng feel like a person who only cultivated internal skills; just like a scholar who learned and employed cheating methods without having any understanding of the actual words. Under such conditions, Ning Cheng started to absorb a variety of cultivation knowledge.

The Dao Discussion had not even formally begun yet, but Ning Cheng had already found himself submerged in it. He did not need to talk to others, as no one in this place could actually explain to him about the key points that he needed to understand. Especially since Ning Cheng himself did not understand, what he did not know.

At this moment, Ning Cheng could not help but feel amazed about the heaven-defying nature of the Mysterious Yellow Bead; even the Mysterious Yellow Formless had a heaven-defying quality to it. However, over the countless years of existence, the cultivation methods perfected by the various powerhouses of the starry skies were also not half a bit inferior to the one formed by the Mysterious Yellow Bead. Repeatedly, those predecessors had tested and verified the various cultivation related matters before integrating them into their cultivation method, making them incomparably precious.

Ning Cheng shot a glance at the distant Shen Qinyu and thanked her in his heart before submerging himself once again into crazily absorbing the knowledge.

As more and more people started pouring into the Dao Discussion Convention, even more discussions about the Dao began to emerge. Ning Cheng's Spiritual Consciousness constantly sought out, immersed itself into the talks about the Dao, and completely forgot about his surroundings. Deep within his heart, a complete cycle had already started to take shape. The scattered knowledge and understanding now slowly began to connect with each other before finally condensing into a Dao Law system that Ning Cheng could call his own.

Ning Cheng vaguely felt that although his cultivation did not witness an improvement, as long as he found a secluded spot and cultivated quietly for half to a year, he could undoubtedly break through to the next level.

Sharpening the knife before chopping the wood, no one could understand Ning Cheng's current mood.

"Welcome, Heavenly Emperor Man Lun...." A voice abruptly woke up Ning Cheng; hearing it, Ning Cheng suddenly stood up, only to find the Dao Discussion Hall completely silent. Accompanied by sounds of mellow music, a middle-aged man in a purple robe slowly walked into the venue between two rows of attendants. Behind him were a dozen starry skies' cultivators, each of whom had more than one Celestial Wheel behind them.

The Celestial Wheel behind the Man Lun Emperor seemed invisible at first glance; however, when one looked closely, it formed a sun, with a matchless dazzle.

Ning Cheng immediately retracted his gaze, bowed his head while standing in his corner, and did not dare to make any sort of movement. This Heavenly Emperor Man Lun gave off the feeling of extraordinary might, something that he had experienced with his own eyes. Seeing a palm smashing everything into nothingness, it made him feel extreme fear and danger.

Heavenly Emperor Man Lun walked up and sat down on the high-backed chair in the middle of the Dao Discussion Hall. After his gaze swept through the entire Dao Discussion Hall, he then spoke up in a slow yet resonant voice, "All of you are geniuses of my Man Lun Starry Skies, the elite. For a starry skies' cultivator to reach the highest peak, one cannot neglect his or her foundations in the Nirvana Realm. I know that almost all the cultivators who came here would be heading to the Time Wilderness Tryouts, and I am here to congratulate you on your good fortune for that while also imparting a few words."

The Dao Discussion Hall remained utterly silent, intently focused on the words of Heavenly Emperor Man Lun.

Heavenly Emperor Man Lun gave a satisfied smile before nodding and speaking, "The universe is vast and boundless; even our Man Lun Starry Skies is just a tiny and remote corner within this vast universe. Looking at the entire starry skies' universe, my Man Lun Starry Skies does not contain the best resources for cultivation. In that regards, even I feel helpless. The strength of our starry skies' is still too low to compete for better resources."

"For a long time, our starry skies has grown steadily weaker. This time, the reason for holding the Man Lun Starry Skies' Celestial Stryer Genius Tryouts is to select some talented cultivators who would then represent our Man Lun Starry Skies, to prove to the entire universe that our Man Lun Starry Skies is still counted among the strongest within this vast and boundless universe."

Enthusiastic cheering immediately erupted all around. Apparently, all the people felt respect and awe towards the words imparted by Heavenly Emperor Man Lun.

Heavenly Emperor Man Lun stood up, raised his tone and said, "I came here today on the yearning that a true genius could emerge out of the masses of my Man Lun Starry Skies. As the time for opening our Man Lun Starry Skies' Time Wilderness draws near, I decided to come here to experience the discussion of the Dao among the young geniuses here. I hope that you would not let me down, while I will also respectfully listen to your conversations about the Dao. If you have any question, you can ask them openly. If you have any insights, you can speak out without any fear. The Dao Discussion can start now....."

Just as Heavenly Emperor Man Lun announced the start of the Dao Discussion, Ning Cheng felt the laws around him turn clearer. At the same moment, his understanding of the various Dao Laws also started to deepen.

Ning Cheng felt really excited and overjoyed in his heart. He naturally knew that this had something to do with Heavenly Emperor Man Lun. Missing such an opportunity would indeed be a pity.

Ning Cheng naturally would not go and participate in the Dao Discussion; instead, he remained similar to Heavenly Emperor Man Lun, a listener. However, Heavenly Emperor Man Lun wanted to use this

opportunity to glean who had extraordinary potential and who deserved his attention. While Ning Cheng just took in everything. As long as he could learn more about the Dao Laws, he could then sort them out later.

Since it was a Dao Discussion Convention, disputes were a regular sight. Some people would even end up fighting as these disputes escalated. However, Heavenly Emperor Man Lun did not choose to stop such conflicts. In a battle between cultivators' Dao Laws, one could even ask the attendants around for pointers. Also, if they lost, the heavenly emperor would not count it as a transgression against him.

A day soon passed, yet the cultivators discussing the Dao still showed great enthusiasm as they expressed and shared their opinions. At this moment, Heavenly Emperor Man Lun suddenly stood up and left.

After listening in on the proceedings, he had already identified some of the geniuses. Later, he would give some special attention to these geniuses and help them grow a bit.

Ning Cheng, who still sat in an obscure corner listening to the discussions between the cultivators, obviously would not enter the emperor's eyes. According to the emperor, the more talented a cultivator, the more problems would they encounter. Going by this logic, if one had no issues, the cultivator simply did not have any insights and definitely would never turn into a genius.

After Heavenly Emperor Man Lun left, the Dao Discussion Convention not only did not water down but also became even livelier. Some of the male and female cultivators even began courting each other to express their inner joy due to the enlightenment they gained.

In this Dao Discussion Convention, now with no one to oversee it, people could do anything they desired but within reason as long as both sides felt willing.

Ning Cheng still sat in the dim corner, while his Spiritual Consciousness took in the various discussions about the Dao Laws. Ning Cheng even carefully listened to the study of various other topics like Alchemy, Crafting and Talismans, while especially focussing on the Array Dao.

In the Graceful Star Mainland, Ning Cheng's proficiency in Alchemy had risen up in a straight line because of the numerous Spirit Grasses that he managed to obtain. Moreover, he had already reached the level of a Tier 9 Heavenly Pill Grandmaster. However, after entering the starry skies, he only gained a pitifully few High-grade Spirit Grasses. Moreover, most of the medicinal herbs that he got had no relation with cultivation. All these factors caused Ning Cheng's enthusiasm in Alchemy to weaken considerably. In any case, he also did not have that much time to put into studying Alchemy.

However, Ning Cheng's interest in Array Dao had only increased with each passing day. Array Formations had always helped him and accompanied him throughout the journey until now. Not just for combat but for other things too. As such, Ning Cheng considered it an indispensable skill. The higher his understanding of Array Dao, the stronger his ability to survive.

The Array Formation Masters that appeared in this Dao Discussion Convention, none of them had a shallow understanding of array formations. Moreover, every one of the Array Formation Masters had their own heritage that they learned from, unlike Ning Cheng who usually fumbled around by himself. Ning Cheng, although a Grade 1 Celestial Array Master, managed to absorb a lot of knowledge that he

would have otherwise spent a lot of time to understand from the wide variety of Array Formation Schools.

Ning Cheng, immersed in absorbing all the knowledge around him, did not notice a handsome-looking male cultivator staring at him, with a frown and saying, "How can he appear here?"