

The Gate 541

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Chapter 541: Flowing Time

Ning Cheng did not head over to snatch the Celestial River Essence Qi King Pill. He knew that even if he managed to grab this King Pill, the cultivators would immediately go crazy and besiege him. Moreover, Ning Cheng knew that the King Pill had no value with his present cultivation. In any case, now that he obtained so many Perpetual Moon Pills, Ning Cheng's first priority was to escape and find a place to go into seclusion.

"Want to leave? I've been waiting for you for a long time." Ning Cheng was just about to smash apart the array formation sealing the entrance when a sharp voice passed through his ears. The moment he heard those words, a black light suddenly appeared in front of him without any warning.

Ning Cheng's Domain immediately stretched out, causing the black light to slow down considerably under Ning Cheng's Domain. At the same time that his Domain erupted and brought some valuable time, Ning Cheng brought out his Nirvana Spear and shot it towards the black light, completely shattering it in an instant.

"What a powerful domain..." The sharp voice exclaimed in surprise, and the raging Celestial Essence stirred up the surrounding space even more.

Ning Cheng had just committed the appearance of the cultivator who sneak-attacked him when he heard a violent explosion erupting all around him. Immediately, everything in front of his eyes turned grey.

The cultivator who sneak-attacked Ning Cheng no longer continued with the attack. Instead, he grabbed an array disc, and his body flashed once before disappearing from Ning Cheng's sight.

What happened? This fellow actually gave up on the sneak-attack; moreover, not only did he escape, this fellow even took away the array disc. Did that not mean that there was now nothing obstructing the path of the cultivators trapped inside?

Ning Cheng had just thought of it when he felt as if a river of time had surrounded him. His longevity seemed flowing out like a river without a levee, flowing away quickly.

"The Perpetual Moon Fort's Time Wheel broke. Quickly escape. Or we'll all have to face death." Someone shouted, and then a ray of light rushed out from Ning Cheng's side.

Ning Cheng did not immediately rush out; the moment he felt his longevity flowing out, a vague half-foot long key suddenly appeared within the range of his Spiritual Consciousness.

This key had a dark grey colour and remained suspended over the broken Perpetual Moon Pill Pool's core, rotating slowly. Even with his formidable Spiritual Consciousness, Ning Cheng could not see the key clearly.

This must be the Perpetual Moon Time Key. Ruan Mingshu had mentioned that the most precious object within the Perpetual Moon Fort was perhaps the Perpetual Moon Time Key. Ning Cheng did not have

any time to think over it, and with a flash of Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds, he immediately rushed towards it.

At this moment, every cultivator had his or her energies focussed on rushing out of the Perpetual Moon Fort, and only Ning Cheng was the one rushing deeper inside.

Some of the cultivators who managed to reach the entrance in time found themselves with a head full of white hair. There were even more cultivators who, due to their longevity completely depleting, fell down exhausted and died on the spot.

The moment Ning Cheng grabbed the Perpetual Moon Time Key, his hair started to turn white. Without waiting for him to stimulate the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds once again, a river of flowing time surrounded him. At this moment, Ning Cheng knew that if he continued to rush outside, he would definitely die before he could even reach the entrance.

Ning Cheng did not hesitate and immediately entered the Mysterious Yellow Bead.

Although the river of flowing time still surrounded the area, it could not penetrate into Ning Cheng's Mysterious Yellow Bead. At the same time, when Ning Cheng's Spiritual Consciousness swept by his own greying hair, he could not help but feel slightly horrified.

The Laws of Time really had horrifying powers. It had only been a few moments, yet it had consumed this much of his life span. Going to such lengths to obtain this Perpetual Moon Time Key, was it worthwhile in the end?

Ning Cheng had just entered the Mysterious Yellow Bead when the bottom of the Perpetual Moon Lake collapsed, followed by a gigantic explosion erupting from the centre of the Perpetual Moon Lake.

The entire Perpetual Moon Lake, under this explosion, suffered complete obliteration.

The few dozen cultivators that managed to escape from the bottom of the Perpetual Moon Lake in time stood at the edges and looked at the obliterated Perpetual Moon Lake in shock. Everyone knew that the cultivators who could not manage to escape had definitely fallen. Even if they did not die under the horrifying effects of flowing time, they would have turned into ash under the explosion of the Perpetual Moon Lake. This kind of explosion was an explosion containing the Laws of Time; as such, not to mention a Celestial Sayer Cultivator, even if they were cultivators in the Celestial Bridge Realm, would they manage to survive it?

Ruan Mingshu stood by the edge of what remained of the Perpetual Moon Lake silently. She did not expect that Ning Cheng would still follow her and end up sacrificing his life in the Perpetual Moon Lake, even after what she said.

"Junior Apprentice Sister Mingshu, let's go." Zhao Yanxiang came over and interrupted Ruan Mingshu's contemplation.

Ruan Mingshu looked at Zhao Yanxiang and spoke out in a faint voice, "Senior Apprentice Brother Zhao, our cooperation has come to an end. From now on, we have nothing to do with each other, and we will walk our respective paths, not together."

“That Ning Cheng was too greedy, and ended up trapped within the river of flowing time. It is an unfortunate thing, but you do not have to continue thinking about it. After all, you don’t owe him anymore.” Zhao Yanxiang felt very happy that Ning Cheng died in the Perpetual Moon Fort. Although he lost some lifespan, he still managed to get his hands on some Perpetual Moon Pills that could help him restore his lost cultivation.

Ruan Mingshu calmly replied, “Senior Apprentice Brother Ning has not fallen, and it has nothing to do with us leaving together. Senior Apprentice Brother Zhao, there are some things that you should not have done if you did not want others to know. You egged Lou Shou to start a fight with Ning Cheng, it is not something solely known to me.”

Once Ruan Mingshu said those words, she immediately changed her direction and left the Perpetual Moon Lake, leaving Zhou Yanxiang behind.

Seeing that the explosion at the Perpetual Moon Lake’s centre had finally subsided, some of the reluctant cultivators slowly made their way back. However, they had not even reached the lake’s centre when streams of flowing time once again appeared, sweeping away a part of their longevity.

It immediately scared the already-scared cultivators and in just a short period, the area around the Perpetual Moon Lake no longer contained even a shadow of a living creature.

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Ning Cheng’s Spiritual Consciousness swept out and realised that something significant must have happened to the Perpetual Moon Fort. Moreover, because of the violent explosions raging around, he no longer could get out. What’s more, even without these violent explosions, he still could not get out, as the rivers of flowing time would instantly shave away his longevity.

Ning Cheng then looked at the Perpetual Moon Time Key in his hand, which was half-a-foot long and engraved with all kinds of restrictions from top to bottom. Despite observing it closely for almost half a day, Ning Cheng could not make out anything.

Putting the key into the ring, Ning Cheng then started to arrange a Five Elements Array Formation around him. His Mysterious Yellow Bead still had its Origins missing; as such, anything that entered the Mysterious Yellow Bead would end up refined into nothingness in due time. Even the Five Elements Array Formation would end up refined into oblivion if it remained inside for too long; however, he could still use the Five Elements Array Formation to store a few things for some extended periods inside the bead.

Initially, Ning Cheng thought that the rivers of flowing time that raged the world outside would soon dissipate; however, after observing the outside for days, Ning Cheng concluded that the streams of flowing time would not disappear as quickly as he had thought. Although the explosion outside had subsided entirely, the flow of time remained unchanged. Moreover, as soon as his Spiritual Consciousness swept out, it would disappear without a trace.

Under the terrifying effects of the flow of time, not to mention people, even Spiritual Consciousness could not escape complete obliteration. It was also because of this flow of time that Ning Cheng did not dare to come out. He felt afraid that the moment he came out, he would immediately perish under the effects of flowing time.

At this moment, Ning Cheng could only stay inside the Mysterious Yellow Bead, regularly arrange, and rearrange the Five Elements Array Formation to survive. Ten days passed by, one month passed by, three months passed by.....

Ning Cheng's initial anxiety had also started to calm down. Instead of waiting around anxiously, he decided that it was better to take advantage of the situation to improve his Five Elements Array Formation while studying Tang Yu's jade strip that contained the fundamentals of the Dao of Arrays.

Another three months passed by, and Ning Cheng's Dao of Arrays finally achieved a breakthrough, and he advanced from being a Grade 1 Celestial Array Master to a Grade 2 Celestial Array Master; however, the time flowing outside still showed no signs of slowing down.

Ning Cheng then thought of trying to control the movements of the Mysterious Yellow Bead. He believed that under this horrifying flow of time, it was impossible for a cultivator to come to this place. Moreover, one could not even sweep around with their Spiritual Consciousness. Therefore, as long as no cultivator came over, the Mysterious Yellow Bead would remain a secret.

However, to control the Mysterious Yellow Bead, Ning Cheng had to send out his Spiritual Consciousness regularly. However, within this flow of time, the moment that Ning Cheng's Spiritual Consciousness came out, it disappeared completely.

Initially, to protect himself, Ning Cheng had carefully sent out his Spiritual Consciousness and instantly recalled it the moment it came out. However, despite the losses, Ning Cheng started to ignore it as time passed by and began to unleash his Spiritual Consciousness relentlessly. At this time, he no longer paid any attention to controlling the Mysterious Yellow Bead, as within this flow of time, Ning Cheng felt as if he had managed to touch a law that words just could not describe.

Ning Cheng actively suppressed the ecstasy brimming within his heart and felt sure that it was a feeling brought about by the flow of time itself. Ning Cheng knew that even an expert in the Eternal Realm might not necessarily understand the Laws of Time, especially since the Laws of Time were on a much higher level compared to ordinary laws. Ning Cheng had never expected that he would end up sensing the Laws of Time. Despite it not even being equivalent to scratching the surface of this law, Ning Cheng still felt extremely satisfied.

Even if his Spiritual Consciousness ended up consumed, if it resulted in a loss of his longevity, the benefits that would come with just a superficial knowledge of this law were incalculable.

Not knowing for how long, Ning Cheng's enlightenment suddenly ended. As his Spiritual Consciousness emerged once again from the Mysterious Yellow Bead, it no longer encountered the flow of time like before. Sensing the change, Ning Cheng felt extremely disappointed. He knew that it was definitely not due to him gaining some enlightenment of the Laws of Time, but because the flow of time outside had finally stopped, either that or he moved out of the range of flowing time.

Ning Cheng came out from the Mysterious Yellow Bead and swept out with his Spiritual Consciousness into the surrounding ruins. From the looks of it, the surrounding area only had an ordinary appearance, while he appeared as if buried underground in this place.

The Perpetual Moon Fort had already disappeared, and the Perpetual Moon Lake was nowhere in sight. As for the Celestial River Essence Qi King Pill, Ning Cheng had no idea where it had escaped to or if someone managed to snatch it.

In any case, it was not a place to stay for a long time and had to leave this place as soon as possible. Ning Cheng had just thought of it when his Spiritual Consciousness detected something. As his Spiritual Consciousness spread out, it swept over an object that made him feel as if he touched time itself. It was something similar to flowing time but in the form of a stone.

In just a short while, three dark grey-coloured stones appeared within the range of his Spiritual Consciousness, not far away from him. Ning Cheng immediately rushed over and grabbed the three rocks in his hands. Feeling the time flowing within them, it allowed him to once again to expose himself to a change induced by time itself.

These must be the Time Stones, Ning Cheng thought as his heart pounded. He quickly took out three empty jade boxes and placed the three Time Stones separately within them.

Time Stones were extremely precious objects. Moreover, it was also the first time that Ning Cheng had encountered a Time Stone after entering the Time Wilderness for over three years. After Ning Cheng collected and put away the Time Stones, he once again deployed his Spiritual Consciousness and tried to search for more. To his regret, it looked like his luck had finally run out, as he could not find another Time Stone in the area.

Even the sense of flowing time had disappeared from this place; as such, someone would definitely find this place eventually. Ning Cheng pulled himself out of the ground and quickly rushed out and vanished from the area somewhere outside the Perpetual Moon Lake.

Half a month later, Ning Cheng stopped near a barren gravel laden field. He then took out the Middle-grade Dao Artefact Mask and once again turned into the bearded starry skies' Wanderer. By this time people would have already believed that Ning Cheng perished in the Perpetual Moon Fort; as such, even if he had to appear once again, he needed to change his identity; otherwise, he would have to face many troubles.

After disguising himself, Ning Cheng was about to dig out an immortal cave for himself before experiencing the effects of the Perpetual Moon Pills, when Shen Qinyu's figure appeared within the range of his Spiritual Consciousness. However, looking at the situation, Shen Qinyu really looked in bad shape, gasping for breath while leaning against a boulder. At the same time, he could also see many blood splashes covering her entire body.

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Chapter 542: Talisman Family

He and Shen Qinyu had come to an agreement that Shen Qinyu could call on him for a favour in this place; however, Ning Cheng had received no messages from Shen Qinyu after entering. He never expected to see this woman again, let alone seeing her covered in such injuries.

As Ning Cheng hesitated on whether to stay or leave, a man and a woman appeared within the range of his Spiritual Consciousness. The two of them also had a few minor injuries covering their bodies. Moreover, looking at their actions, they most likely were chasing Shen Qinyu.

Shen Qinyu, who had just stopped for a breath, then immediately rushed towards Ning Cheng's direction. At this point, Ning Cheng no longer hesitated to come out of the thistle forest. Shen Qinyu had lent him a hand a few times in the past; as such, helping her this once did not count for much. However, Ning Cheng felt it somewhat strange within his heart. In all respects, Shen Qinyu definitely possessed reasonable strength; at the same time, she also had items like that talisman she used to force a Celestial Bridge Cultivator to retreat. Therefore, how could two Celestial Gatherer Cultivators force her into such a situation?

Ning Cheng's sudden emergence caused Shen Qinyu to stop immediately. However, by the time that she discovered that Ning Cheng was not blocking her, the man and the woman chasing her had already caught up.

The man and woman giving the chase only glanced at Ning Cheng before focusing on Shen Qinyu once again. Apparently, the two of them thought nothing of Ning Cheng within their hearts. To them, Ning Cheng was a cultivator with a sullen face and no Celestial Wheel. At first glance, they could tell that he was a rogue cultivator. The type they could kill with just a swat of their hands.

"Yifeng, go kill that ant. I will keep an eye on that woman. She can't escape." The woman with long hair glanced at Ning Cheng and sentenced Ning Cheng to death without any hesitation.

"Okay." The male cultivator gave out a cry, and a red ring suddenly appeared suspended above his head.

Shen Qinyu suddenly shouted, "Stop, this matter has nothing to do with others."

With that, she then shouted to Ning Cheng, "Leave. This has nothing to do with you."

"Leave? Where would he leave?" The male cultivator with a pair of oblique, triangular eyes spoke; at the same time, the red ring suspended over his head suddenly transformed into myriad ring shadows and shot towards Ning Cheng.

The moment those myriad ring shadows descended, the surrounding space turned red, bringing forth a powerful binding force. This force was substantial to the point that Ning Cheng felt some difficulty in breathing within this enclosed space. If it were the Ning Cheng from when he had just advanced to the Celestial Novice Realm, he would have desperately tried to rip open this oppressive space created by those red rings and then figure out ways to escape this situation.

However, after facing many battles, Ning Cheng had long since come up with a few tricks to support his Domain. As such, compared to his Celestial River Flame-infused Domain, this type of attack felt like child's play.

Ning Cheng raised one hand, and the Nirvana Spear suddenly appeared within it followed by the Celestial River Flame-infused Domain stretching out. The area bound under the male cultivator's red rings instantly stopped contracting once it encountered his Celestial River Domain. At the same time, a click reverberated that everyone heard clearly. Indicating an apparent Domain suppression.

This male cultivator did not think that Ning Cheng would turn out to be an expert, and in panic, raised his hands and threw out dozens of talismans.

Quite the wealthy fellow, Ning Cheng thought about himself when he used so many talismans against an enemy. He knew that if the opponent could bring out so many talismans, then this opponent either should be someone super rich or was a Talisman Grandmaster.

Although Ning Cheng had not refined any talismans after advancing to the Celestial Scryer Realm, he actually knew a few things about talismans. Moreover, although these incoming talismans looked mighty, the fact was that these talismans were not high-grade items. An ideal way was to bring out the Everlasting Blue Thunder City and then shoot out with his Nirvana Spear.

However, the Everlasting Blue Thunder City was one of his trump cards; as such, Ning Cheng chose not to bring out the Everlasting Blue Thunder City and instead, stimulated his Celestial River Domain.

The Celestial River Domain instantly transformed from a surface-like covering into something three-dimensional, without any gaps. The male cultivator's Domain was already more than a full level inferior to Ning Cheng's Domain; as such, once Ning Cheng sufficiently stimulated his Domain to attack, the raging Celestial Essence Flame concealed within the Domain suddenly erupted. The moment the erupting flame and the dozens of talismans collided, it immediately resulted in violent explosions.

"Boom-Boom-Boom....." The exploding talismans, the burning flames, and the horrifying temperatures turned this piece of land into a sea of fire.

Ning Cheng's Nirvana Spear accompanied with a faint trace of thunder rays shot out, drawing out an esoteric spear line.

The triangular-eyed male cultivator had already gone into complete shock when Ning Cheng's Celestial River Domain had blocked off his many talismans. Before he could bring out his weapon to attack Ning Cheng again, Ning Cheng's spear had already appeared in front of him.

With his Red Ring Domain completely suppressed by Ning Cheng's Celestial River Domain, he could not do anything against the horrifying Spear Intent accompanying the spear.

"Katcha....." The triangular-eyes male cultivator's Celestial Essence Shield was like brittle glass in front of Ning Cheng's Nirvana Spear and his Spear Intent, and could not offer the slightest resistance before the spear pierced through it.

The male cultivator could only offset his head by a bit but still could not stop Ning Cheng's Nirvana Spear from blowing through his head.

"Yue Clan won't let you go....." The male cultivator screamed out his last words before finally dying to Ning Cheng's spear.

Ning Cheng felt satisfied with this combination of attacks. First, he used the Celestial Essence Flame-infused Domain to suppress the opponent's Domain completely. The Celestial River Flame infused in it then contained the talismans that the opponent had shot out, allowing Ning Cheng to effortlessly use his Nirvana Spear to kill his opponent. After facing constant battles, as well as the knowledge he gained from the Dao Discussion Convention, along with what he comprehended through his seclusion, Ning Cheng had finally come up with a basic combat style for himself.

If the male cultivator that Ning Cheng killed knew that, he did not do his best, would his Dao Heart remain intact? In fact, Ning Cheng was the only person who knew that he had not even used half of his

strength. Not to mention about not using his two major killing moves, the Nothingness Flame Patterned Spear and Traceless, he had not even used his Wishful Demon Axe or his Everlasting Blue Thunder City.

At this moment, Ning Cheng felt eager to fight against Lou Pingchuan. He felt the urge to use his Celestial Shatterer Cultivation to cut down this self-righteous 'genius'.

"Aah....." The female cultivator keeping an eye on Shen Qinyu reacted; screaming, she suddenly brought out an Escape Talisman and in just a blink, disappeared without a trace.

Ning Cheng looked at the fluctuating space in front of him and gave out a dark sign within his heart. This pair sure did carry many talismans.

Shen Qinyu also felt shocked as she looked at someone as powerful as Ning Cheng did. As a cultivator without a Celestial Wheel, this person was at best a Celestial Novice Cultivator, so how was he so terrifying? She immediately thought of Ning Cheng, since Ning Cheng also did not have a Celestial Wheel. However, Ning Cheng definitely did not have the same fierce temperament as this wandering rogue cultivator.

Moreover, because she suffered severe injuries before, she could only sit down on the ground and take a breather.

"Are you all right?" Ning Cheng walked up to Shen Qinyu and asked.

Shen Qinyu did not answer Ning Cheng's question, but instead looked at Ning Cheng and said, "I know who you are."

Ning Cheng felt startled in his heart. He did not even leak out the slightest of his aura, so how did Shen Qinyu recognise him? If Shen Qinyu identified him, would that not mean that others could also uncover his identity as well?

"Your name is Wanderer. I once spent some time in the Celestial Forest Arena in the Revolving Jade City. Unfortunately, I had something else going on at that time and could not come to see your fight. Thank you for saving me. My name is Shen Qinyu." Shen Qinyu spoke out in broken sentences while gasping for breath occasionally.

Ning Cheng felt his heart slightly loosen, especially since he genuinely thought that Shen Qinyu had recognised him.

In fact, because of Shen Qinyu's meridians rupturing, she could not release her Spiritual Consciousness. As such, she could not see the Celestial River Flame infused within his Domain. If she had seen that, she might have recognised Ning Cheng through it.

"Yes, I'm indeed that starry skies' Wanderer. If you're alright, I'll take my leave now." Ning Cheng had many things to do, but what he needed more was the time to go into seclusion.

Shen Qinyu quickly spoke up "Please wait. Just help me this once. I ruptured my meridians; just help me find a place to heal....."

Ning Cheng once again felt surprised; ruptured meridians, it was not a minor injury. Even with the help of the Mysterious Yellow Origin, which could help him connect the meridians once again, such an injury would still be a severe injury to him. Would Shen Qinyu be able to recover from it?

Seeing Shen Qinyu wanting to speak, Ning Cheng immediately understood that she wanted to talk about rewards. Ning Cheng quickly waved his hands and spoke, "I'll find a place for you to heal and will also wait till you recover some mobility."

"Thank you." Shen Qinyu did not refuse Ning Cheng's help. She knew that she currently had no other choice. In front of this Wanderer, she could not show even a shred of a misdemeanour. At the same time, she could not refuse such timely and life-saving help.

Ning Cheng stepped forward, lifted Shen Qinyu up, unfolded his body and quickly left.

Shen Qinyu, on seeing that Ning Cheng had only cradled her back and legs, felt her heart slightly loosen, while also feeling grateful towards Ning Cheng. If Ning Cheng wanted to carry her on his back or hug her, she would have no power to refuse it. However, Ning Cheng obviously took care of her identity as a female cultivator. At this moment, Shen Qinyu also felt secretly glad that she, fortunately, had a mask-type artefact.

A day later, Ning Cheng carried Shen Qinyu to a barren hill, where he dug out a small immortal cave. Within the cave were two cultivation chambers, one each for him and Shen Qinyu. Shen Qinyu currently had ruptured meridians; as such, Ning Cheng felt that it might turn out a bit dangerous for her if she tried to recover in this place alone.

"You are different from other starry skies' wanderers." Shen Qinyu sat on the bed that Ning Cheng took out and spoke with gratitude-filled words.

The starry skies' wanderers that she had heard of lived life on the edge. Resulting in most of the starry skies' wanderers to have a perverse temper and a highly temperamental personality. However, Ning Cheng was someone that went against this notion. He not only saved her, he even carried her to find a quiet place to heal. An act completely opposite to that of typical starry skies' wanderers.

Ning Cheng spoke with a smile, "I anyway wanted to go into seclusion for some time. If you need my help, you can just call me."

"Thank you. After you go out, please be careful of the Yue Clan." Shen Qinyu, on seeing that Ning Cheng did not ask any questions, felt even more goodwill towards Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng quickly asked, "Was that triangular-eyed fellow I killed from the Yue Clan? What background do they have? Why would I need to be careful of this Yue Clan?"

Shen Qinyu spoke up slowly, "The Yue Clan is a well-known Talisman family within the Striking Order Starry Skies. Talismans made by the Yue Clan have a much wider reception. In a way, most of the powerful talismans within the Striking Order Starry Skies come from the Yue Clan. Moreover, apart from Yue Clan's accomplishments regarding talismans, it also possesses a relatively solid foundation and even has a Heaven's Mandate Starry Skies Cultivator. The planet they reside in is called the Die Yuan Star, and the Celestial Lord controlling this planet is also a person from the Yue Clan."

"The male cultivator you killed before went by the name, Yue Yifeng, and the woman who escaped is called Yue Juan. The two of them are cousins; at the same time, they also share the relationship of a husband and wife. The Yue Clan thinks that the blood of its clan is of the purest quality; as such, rarely would they marry anyone outside of their surnames. As long as that woman manages to stay alive, the

Yue Clan would definitely want to hunt you down. Moreover, because of the heavy dependence over Yue Clan's talismans, even Heavenly Emperor Striking Order would choose to look the other way when the Yue Clan acts. If the Yue Clan comes out for your blood, then no one would be able to help you.

Hearing Shen Qinyu's words, Ning Cheng did not take it to heart. This anyway was not his original appearance; moreover, after coming out of the Time Wilderness, Ning Cheng intended to leave the Striking Order Starry Skies and venture into the more expansive and boundless universe.

Trying to return to where he wanted to go, even if the place was not very far away, he had to trudge further than he could possibly travel. Ning Cheng not only felt very clear about this issue, but he also understood it deeply.

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Chapter 543: Twilight Sand

Ning Cheng did not choose to cultivate. Although he had obtained many Perpetual Moon Pills, he did not want to expose this fact in front of Shen Qinyu. Moreover, Perpetual Moon Pills contained incomparably pure starry skies' Essence Qi within them; therefore, once he used even a single Perpetual Moon Pill for cultivation, Ning Cheng felt sure that Shen Qinyu would be able to detect it.

During the two months, Ning Cheng instead studied array formations. He kept arranging the Five Elements Array Formation within the Mysterious Yellow Bead for a single purpose, to store the Time Stones. If Ning Cheng had not encountered the Time Stones before, it would not have mattered. However, after Ning Cheng obtained a few Time Stones, how could he not realise the preciousness of these objects that were even more precious than the Fire Origin Crystals?

Ning Cheng would never give up such a precious thing to Heavenly Emperor Striking Order unless he turned completely stupid. In the future, he hoped to see through some of the mysteries of the Laws of Time using the Time Stones in his possession.

Two months later, after Ning Cheng advanced to become a Grade 3 Celestial Array Master, he temporarily stopped studying array formations. Ning Cheng felt that he should now find a place to go into seclusion and cultivate. With so many Perpetual Moon Pills, he estimated that his cultivation might end up increasing by another level.

"Have you recovered?" Ning Cheng opened the restrictions over his chamber's entrance within the cave and felt surprised to see Shen Qinyu standing outside quietly. Ruptured meridians was definitely a severe injury, yet Shen Qinyu had recovered quite quickly. From this, Ning Cheng could make out that Shen Qinyu definitely had a few tricks up her sleeve.

Shen Qinyu nodded and spoke, "I have indeed recovered and wanted to discuss a few things with you."

Ning Cheng invited Shen Qinyu into his own chamber and asked, "What's the matter? You can tell me. In any case, I was just planning to leave this place too."

"It looks like you cultivate an extraordinary cultivation method, as you don't even have a Celestial Wheel." Shen Qinyu gave an off-handed remark.

Ning Cheng showed a smile and spoke, "I do have a Celestial Wheel; it's just that I keep it hidden."

Keeping the Celestial Wheel hidden! Surprise flashed through Shen Qinyu's eyes before she smiled and spoke up, "Do you know about the Sea of Twilight?"

"I've heard of it." Ning Cheng acknowledged. The idiot bull in his ring had escaped from the Sea of Twilight. Its first owner had also fallen in the Sea of Twilight.

"The Sea of Twilight contains two precious items; one is called the Twilight Sand, and the other is the Time Stone." Shen Qinyu spoke up.

"I've heard of the Time Stones, but what is this Twilight Sand?" Ning Cheng quickly asked. The idiot bull's former owner had fallen in the Sea of Twilight, was it for this Twilight Sand?

Shen Qinyu calmly looked at Ning Cheng and spoke up, "This is the item for why I came to discuss with you. Twilight Sand is one of the best artefact-crafting materials within the starry skies; moreover, it is the best kind of artefact-crafting material within the Striking Order Starry Skies. Each grain is invaluable. I heard that any weapon crafted using this material would possess a faint trace of the Laws of Time, making it incomparably powerful. Many starry skies within the universe know about the Striking Order Starry Skies only because of this Twilight Sand. Moreover, of all of the cultivators who came in, almost everyone would want to head to the Sea of Twilight to obtain some Twilight Sand."

Ning Cheng immediately felt his heart move. As his cultivation increased, he obviously could not continue to use his Nirvana Spear, which apart from its toughness, only served as a conventional stick in his hand. As such, Ning Cheng wanted a spear that genuinely belonged to him. Moreover, even Cang Wei could not recognise the material that made up the Nirvana Spear; if he could manage to integrate some Twilight Sand into it, the fully formed spear would definitely turn out extraordinary.

He had already obtained a few Time Stones, which led Ning Cheng to believe that he would definitely touch the Laws of Time sometime in the future. If he could really gain even the slightest understanding of the Laws of Time, he might be able to develop another Spear Technique integrated with the Laws of Time. How powerful would that technique turn out?

Thinking of this, Ning Cheng's eyes revealed an edgy look.

Ning Cheng felt excited and eager, something that even Shen Qinyu could make out. Seeing this, she immediately spoke up, "Senior Apprentice Brother Wanderer, I know that your attacks are quite extraordinary, perhaps we can work together. I have some understanding of the Sea of Twilight. Why don't we go to the Sea of Twilight together and look for the Twilight Sands and the Time Stones."

"What can I do to help?" Ning Cheng asked.

Shen Qinyu gave out a sigh and spoke, "Originally, I had found a perfect partner; he even had a one-of-a-kind worldly exotic flame. If we can reach him, our success rate would increase by at least 20%. However, I have repeatedly been trying to contact him since the moment I came in. However, I did not hear about or from him for almost over two years. Later, due to some mishaps, I ended up losing my communications pearl, and now I cannot contact this fellow anymore even if I wanted to. The Time Wilderness has many dangers all around; besides the unique flame, he only has ordinary cultivation. I'm afraid that he might have encountered something unfortunate."

Ning Cheng only came to know now that Shen Qinyu had tried to contact him more than once. Should he reveal his identity to Shen Qinyu? Ning Cheng quickly abandoned the idea. Once he revealed his identity to Shen Qinyu, it would also indicate that he had not perished in the Perpetual Moon Lake. Moreover, Ning Cheng and Shen Qinyu were still not on such familiar terms. However, what made Ning Cheng wonder was how did Shen Qinyu know that he had a unique flame?

Could it be that Shen Qinyu saw the concealed Celestial River Flame in his Domain? If that really was the case, then it also proved that Shen Qinyu had a tenacious Spiritual Consciousness.

Thinking of this, Ning Cheng asked, "I heard that any of the exotic flames found within heaven and earth are very difficult to obtain. Are you sure that your friend has such a flame? Moreover, why would we require such a flame within the Sea of Twilight?"

"I'm sure he has one, and I have seen it before. Both of us came from the Orchid Borough Celestial River. The Orchid Borough Celestial River's battleship had encountered the starry skies' Spirit Devouring Rat Tide. It was when I was about to escape that I saw him open up a path with a flame. As for why we would need this kind of flame for the Sea of Twilight, it is still something that I am not very clear. I only know about it from the information that I had once obtained, which mentioned that the probability of success would increase if we had such a flame." Shen Qinyu answered Ning Cheng's questions truthfully. From this, Ning Cheng could make out that she genuinely had thought things out to cooperate with 'Ning Cheng' over a long time.

Ning Cheng also understood that when he made his escape with his flame, Shen Qinyu had also seen him. Moreover, from Shen Qinyu's words, Ning Cheng also realised that Shen Qinyu had only seen him burning the Spirit Devouring Rats with his flame, and had not seen him use his Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds, which made him slightly relieved.

"Okay. I agree to work with you. However, you have to tell me some basic information about the Sea of Twilight, and... By the way, I'd also like to ask you a question or two about other matters." Ning Cheng seemed to have thought of something and immediately asked.

Shen Qinyu, on hearing that Ning Cheng would cooperate, felt her heart loosen up. Since she could not reach Ning Cheng, it would have been an uncertain endeavour to head to the Sea of Twilight alone.

"Certainly. As long as I know about it, I will definitely answer your questions." Shen Qinyu replied with a bright tone. Even if Ning Cheng did not choose to cooperate with her, Ning Cheng still saved her life once. As such, as long as she knew the answer to the questions, she would honestly answer everything that Ning Cheng asked.

Ning Cheng then hesitated for a bit before speaking up in an awkward tone, "I am a rogue cultivator, and I don't have a master to learn from. I've been wandering the starry skies for a long time; therefore, there are some issues about cultivation that I do not understand."

Shen Qinyu, on hearing that Ning Cheng wanted to ask about the issues with his cultivation, smiled before speaking, "It doesn't matter. Although I do not possess a high enough cultivation, I still had enough contact with different cultivation systems since I was a child. Therefore, although I might not be able to answer any of the deeper questions, I can still talk and explore any of the other questions that you have."

“Okay.” Ning Cheng no longer remained polite and immediately asked, “After I advanced to the Celestial Shatterer Realm a few years ago, I did not attract any Thunder Tribulation. Do you know what might have happened or gone wrong?”

Ning Cheng did not mention that he had advanced to the Celestial Shatterer Realm inside the Time Wilderness. He believed that even if someone experienced an advancement in the Time Wilderness, it definitely would trigger the Thunder Tribulation.

Shen Qinyu, on hearing Ning Cheng’s question, stared at Ning Cheng for a long time and did not speak.

Ning Cheng could see Shen Qinyu’s eyes flash with some pity and spoke up with some embarrassment, “If you don’t know the answer, then forget I ever asked this question. It’s not a big deal anyway.”

Shen Qinyu, on hearing Ning Cheng’s following words, felt even sadder in her heart. Compared to the cultivation knowledge of the starry skies’ wanderers, one could say that her cultivation knowledge was something lavish and luxurious.

“Do you have very few friends or do you rarely go out for gatherings?” Shen Qinyu’s words turned even softer and gentle.

Ning Cheng immediately felt the change in Shen Qinyu’s tone, which initially had a friendly overtone that then changed to a softer and gentler tone like that of an elder sister.

Although Ning Cheng did not know what she meant by that, he gave out a sigh and spoke, “You can put it that way; I am a starry skies’ wanderer, who moves forward by grasping at anything that comes my way. As for friends, I don’t have many.”

Shen Qinyu looked at Ning Cheng, her gaze and voice turning even gentler and speaking up, “The fact is that there is no thunder tribulation when it comes to advancing from the Celestial Novice Realm to the Celestial Shatterer Realm or the Celestial Shatterer Realm to the Celestial Gatherer Realm. Only when someone at the Celestial Gatherer Realm tries to advance to the Celestial Bridge Realm would it invoke the thunder tribulation. It is the same within the three realms of the Celestial River Realm; in other words, the thunder tribulation would descend only when one tries to advance from the Heaven’s Mandate Realm to the Heaven Seated Realm. Moreover, this is an extremely terrifying thunder tribulation, and there is always a very high chance of falling. However, after advancing to the Heaven Seated Realm, every realm advancement would be accompanied by a formidable thunder tribulation.”

Ning Cheng felt as if countless alpacas were running around in his heart. He finally understood why Shen Qinyu looked at him with those sensitive and soft eyes. Turns out, even a three-year-old child knew such basic knowledge, yet Ning Cheng actually asked such a fundamental and essential question to Shen Qinyu. Ning Cheng felt embarrassed that he did not even know about Thunder Tribulations even after becoming a Celestial Shatterer Cultivator.

“Actually, I think that you are truly amazing. Even without any master to guide you, you still reached the Celestial Shatterer Realm all by yourself. Even geniuses from well-established powers might not compare to you.” Apparently, Shen Qinyu saw Ning Cheng’s deeply embarrassed expression and took the initiative to comfort him.

Similarly, she also understood why Ning Cheng did not have a Celestial Wheel. It absolutely had nothing to do with Ning Cheng mentioning that he had concealed his Celestial Wheel. Instead, it most likely had something to do with the cultivation method that Ning Cheng had figured out by himself. Using a self-created cultivation method and cultivating all the way to the Celestial Shatterer Realm without succumbing to the devilish flames was already an unimaginable fortune, and yet he managed to accomplish this without even condensing a Celestial Wheel, what kind of luck was this?

She felt no doubt about Ning Cheng's combat prowess. The starry skies' wanderers anyway possessed a reputation for fearsome combat styles. Moreover, Ning Cheng had also proved his combat effectiveness in the Celestial Forest Arena.

"Then can you tell me more about the Celestial River Realm?" Ning Cheng's words interrupted Shen Qinyu's thoughts. Since he anyway had asked a ridiculous question before, it would not matter if he asked a few more.

Shen Qinyu tried to explain these basic concepts very carefully to Ning Cheng, "In the Celestial Scryer Realm, after a cultivator crosses the Nirvana Tribulation, they would experience all of their True Essence converting into Celestial Essence, which one would then condense into a Celestial Wheel. According to the strength and quality of one's Celestial Essence, this realm separates into three sub-realms, or realms, depending on how you call it. I won't need to explain this to you since I think you already understood some of the principles."

"The first major realm of the Celestial River Realm's three realms is the Celestial Bridge Realm. It is when the Celestial Wheel starts to liquefy and transform into a Celestial Bridge. At this point, a Celestial Bridge Cultivator's comprehension ability and other skills experience a qualitative enhancement. The more powerful one's Celestial Bridge is, the more formidable support would it provide in the form of Celestial Essence. Within this cultivation 'realm', if the body suffers severe damage and can regenerate by itself without any need of external objects, it would mean that one reached the Undead Realm. Cultivators in the Undead Realm also have their strengths and weaknesses; however, even for peak-level Undead Cultivators, they can only regenerate their bodies if a relatively significant chunk of their corporeal body still exists."

"As for Heaven's Mandate Cultivators, they might even get the chance to get a short glimpse into their destiny. At the same time, Heaven's Mandate Cultivators are the highest level of existences within the Celestial River's Three Realms."

The Gate Of Good Fortune

Chapter 544: The beauty of twilight

"What about the Destiny's Three Realms?" Ning Cheng asked questions like a studious student.

Shen Qinyu also answered patiently, "If a Heaven's Mandate Cultivator can shed off their mortal shell, and surmount the tribulation successfully, then they could enter the Heaven Seated Realm and become a Heaven Seated Powerhouse. A Heaven Seated Powerhouse then needs to break through the Life and Death Cycle, and understand Yin and Yang to advance to the Life and Death Realm. As for the Eternal Realm that comes after it, I heard a rumour that they have everlasting life and can revive endlessly. However, these are only rumours that I heard from other places and can't help you verify it."

Shen Qinyu honestly had a lot of knowledge, no matter what question Ning Cheng asked, she answered it in as detailed of a manner as she could so that Ning Cheng could understand it as quickly possible. Seeing the benefits he received from discussing things with Shen Qinyu, Ning Cheng felt thankful to her.

“Junior Apprentice Sister Shen, are you also participating on behalf of the Orchid Borough Celestial River?” Half a day later, Ning Cheng took the initiative to turn the topic around after he asked all the questions he wanted to ask.

This was not the first time he encountered Shen Qinyu; however, it was definitely the first time that he realised that she genuinely might have an unfathomable background.

Shen Qinyu smiled before speaking, “Not quite, I came to the Orchid Borough Celestial River to enter the Time Wilderness. In fact, there are many other cultivators in this place like me, who came over from other starry skies. This time, I entered the Time Wilderness for two things; out of which, or rather the most important thing, is the Perpetual Moon Time Key.”

Why would she mention such an important and sensitive matter so casually? Ning Cheng felt surprised as he looked at Shen Qinyu.

Shen Qinyu calmly explained, “The Perpetual Moon Time Key is the most valuable thing within the Time Wilderness. However, the reason why I told you about this is that Time Lake had already turned into ash. As such, it is no longer possible to obtain the Perpetual Moon Time Key. When you were still in seclusion, I went to the Perpetual Moon Lake once to confirm it.”

“What is the value of this Perpetual Moon Time Key?” Ning Cheng asked. It was something that he felt most concerned about, especially since the Perpetual Moon Time Key was inside his ring, while he had no idea about its value or its uses.

Shen Qinyu shook her head and spoke, “I don’t know either. All I know is that it is something left behind by the Perpetual Moon Holy Emperor. Similar to how the Time Wilderness is also a relic left behind by the Perpetual Moon Holy Emperor.”

“Is the Perpetual Moon Holy Emperor’s status the same as Heavenly Emperor Striking Order? Did he control a stronger starry sky?” Ning Cheng asked.

Shen Qinyu showed a faint smile before speaking, “Even if Heavenly Emperor Striking Order cultivated for millions of years, he still would not be able to stand on the same level as the Perpetual Moon Holy Emperor. Even among the fellow Heavenly Emperors, Heavenly Emperor Striking Order would still rank far behind. In the vast starry skies, someone on the level of Heavenly Emperor Striking Order does not matter much. If not for the relatively impoverished lands of the Striking Order Starry Skies, Heavenly Emperor Striking Order’s Striking Order Starry Skies would have long since changed its name.”

After that, Shen Qinyu stood up and spoke, “We need to head to the Sea of Twilight now; if you have any other questions, you can ask me along the way.”

“I know that there are many starry skies outside the Striking Order Starry Skies. After this trial, will the finalists head to the biggest starry skies within the universe?” Ning Cheng still had many questions. Since Shen Qinyu had resolved so many of his issues, he did not feel that he asked those questions in vain.

Shen Qinyu also did not feel even a shred of irritation, and her tone remained soft, "That's right; the finals will take place in the Grand Culmination Starry Skies. In the plane we are in, the Grand Culmination Starry Skies is one of the four foremost starry skies and is also the central location of the entire Grand Culmination Plane."

Ning Cheng and Shen Qinyu were not far from the Sea of Twilight. Ning Cheng had still a few questions that he wanted an answer to when Shen Qinyu suddenly stopped.

What appeared in front of Ning Cheng was a magnificent sight, entirely different from the grey gloom that covered the rest of this place. As Ning Cheng stood rooted in his spot, it felt as if he were standing at the seaside where the sun was about to descend below the sea level; a red sunset, just like a rainbow scattering, created an illusion of a bridge that connected the shore to some distant place.

'Sublime is the beauty of the sun yet to set; so soon, alas, shall the dusky evening follow'. A sentence emerged in Ning Cheng's mind without any reason; however, it aptly described the scene painted in front of him.

"What a beautiful place. Sublime is the beauty of the sun yet to set; so soon, alas, shall the dusky evening follow." After a long time, Ning Cheng finally spoke up in amazement. He spoke what he honestly thought.

"You also know about the lines 'Sublime is the beauty of the sun yet to set; so soon, alas, shall the dusky evening follow'?" Shen Qinyu looked at Ning Cheng in amazement.

"I naturally have heard these words, how can anyone not know them?" Ning Cheng looked at Shen Qinyu in doubt. These words, of course, he knew about them as it came from a poem by Li Shangyin of the Tang Dynasty. "Still day, but lately, my heart is not at ease; to the old plateau, up, in a carriage, I go. Sublime is the beauty of the sun yet to set; so soon, alas, shall the dusky evening follow." What he wondered was how Shen Qinyu knew about this sentence.

Shen Qinyu explained, "I heard that only if you are trapped in the Sea of Twilight would you be able to understand the meaning of this sentence. However, do not look at the Sea of Twilight as a sunset at sea. In fact, there is not a single drop of water in this place. What you see is something created from the combination of the flowing longevity and time, which are the gaping maws waiting for us to enter this Sea of Twilight. It is very dangerous in this place, and if you are not careful, you will end up trapped within the flow of time, and would never get a chance to live."

Ning Cheng on hearing Shen Qinyu's explanation gave a slight frown. Did he truly want to enter the Sea of Twilight with such conditions? If it were about Time Stones, he already had three, so was it really worth it to take such a risk?

Shen Qinyu seemed to have understood the reason behind Ning Cheng's frown as she spoke up, "Whether or not you enter this place, you should think about it clearly before we decide to enter this place. Otherwise, once inside, we might most likely lose our way and never get out again."

Ning Cheng, who initially felt hesitant about entering, on hearing Shen Qinyu's words, suddenly felt cheerful in his heart once again. He came all the way to this place, was it not to look for opportunities in danger? The vast starry skies had innumerable cultivators; as such, how many opportunities would he obtain without facing any risk?

“Of course, we go in.” Ning Cheng gave a calm smile. Seeking riches in danger, such a phrase was an apt description for the starry skies’ cultivators.

“Okay, we can only extend our Spiritual Consciousness to about three feet around us in the Sea of Twilight. Therefore, we should remain close to each other and try not to get separated.” Shen Qinyu spoke and took the first step into the Sea of Twilight.

Ning Cheng also did not hesitate and stepped in following Shen Qinyu. He quickly discovered that instead of three feet as Shen Qinyu mentioned, his Spiritual Consciousness could extend to a radius of about ten miles around him.

Although he still felt a suppressive effect over his Spiritual Consciousness, it was still many times better than just extending to around three feet. After Ning Cheng understood this point, Ning Cheng felt even surer that his starry skies’ Sea of Consciousness indeed was different from others.

Moreover, he could also feel the endless vicissitude of time that surrounded him, giving Ning Cheng once again the feeling of flowing time he encountered outside the Perpetual Moon Lake. Sensing this, Ning Cheng felt somewhat anxious in his heart. If it indeed was like that, then even before he found the Twilight Sand, he might just end up exhausting his life.

Just as Ning Cheng thought of this scenario, a small soft hand grabbed his hand, followed by Shen Qinyu’s voice ringing in his ears, “Senior Apprentice Brother Wanderer, in the Sea of Twilight, you must never stop moving and must keep on walking. That way, your vitality would not flow out quickly. Once you stop in a place, your longevity will start flowing out at a faster pace.”

“Thank you.” After answering with the two words, Ning Cheng tried pulling his hand back, only to find that Shen Qinyu still held on to him.

At the same time, Shen Qinyu once again spoke up, “You should not let go of my hand for the time being. You have not yet adapted to the Sea of Twilight. Once you let go of my hand, we are likely to lose each other.”

Ning Cheng did not reveal to Shen Qinyu that his Spiritual Consciousness could already extend to a range of ten miles, and let Shen Qinyu guide the way.

After the two of them walked for an hour within the Sea of Twilight, Shen Qinyu was about to let go of Ning Cheng’s hand when she heard Ning Cheng speak, “There seems to be a Time Stone in front of us, I kind of sense the time flowing.....”

In fact, Ning Cheng’s Spiritual Consciousness had already located the Time Stone long ago. Moreover, it was much smaller than the three Time Stones that he had obtained previously. However, Ning Cheng felt sure that it definitely must be a Time Stone.

Hearing Ning Cheng’s words, Shen Qinyu immediately tightened her grasp on Ning Cheng and spoke, “Senior Apprentice Brother Wanderer, quickly follow the position you sensed the time.....”

As she reached this point, Shen Qinyu suddenly felt shocked. She never thought that Ning Cheng would unexpectedly be able to sense the Time Stone’s flowing time. One had to know that she had been in the Time Wilderness for almost three years, yet she had never obtained a single Time Stone.

Ning Cheng quickened his pace, and in just a few breaths reached next to the Time Stone. Just as Ning Cheng was about to bend down and pick up the Time Stone, a sense of extreme crisis welled up within his heart. Ning Cheng did not think of anything and immediately grabbed Shen Qinyu before flying back.

“Don’t fly.....” Just as Ning Cheng heard Shen Qinyu’s scream, he saw a ray of light suddenly blooming at the place he had just stood at a moment ago. If he had been even a moment late, that blooming light would have most likely swallowed him up.

However, without waiting for Ning Cheng to react, he felt a tearing pain rampaging through his body due to a blade of light, which he could not resist, brushing past him. A powerful pulling force surrounded him immediately following it.

“Swish” Ning Cheng clearly heard Shen Qinyu’s robes tearing apart with a faint scent of blood. The same powerful force seemed to have also surrounded Shen Qinyu, intent on pulling her away.

Ning Cheng felt shocked. He did not know what was going on. He quickly put Shen Qinyu over his back and tried to land back on the ground.

However, this formidable force did not allow Ning Cheng to do anything he wanted. While Ning Cheng tried to fend off the endless barrage of those tearing blade lights, another terrorising force swept over him. Before he could even think of using the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds, this force pulled him away without any power to resist.

Shen Qinyu’s weak voice entered his ears, “These are the Time Blades and the Time Vortex. Do not use Celestial Essence to resist; not only can you not stop it, but it would also end up increasing the power behind it even more.”

Ning Cheng immediately stopped trying to resist, and the raging force quickly carried Ning Cheng and Shen Qinyu away. At this moment, Ning Cheng could not even bring out his Spiritual Consciousness.

“Bang.....” A sudden impact force erupted, and Ning Cheng felt his entire body smash into the ground. However, it also allowed him to realise that he had finally landed on solid ground.

“We finally came down. This Sea of Twilight sure is filled with danger.” Ning Cheng called out with a sigh.

Shen Qinyu’s spoke up with a trembling voice, “We can’t get out anymore.”

“What happened?” Ning Cheng’s Spiritual Consciousness stretched out only to find that his the range of his Spiritual Consciousness had shrunk from ten miles to just about ten feet.

“This is the deepest part of the Sea of Twilight. No one can ever come to this place by himself or herself. The only way for any cultivator to come here is through the Time Vortex; however, it is absolutely impossible to get out again.....” In Ning Cheng’s view, Shen Qinyu spoke in an unceasingly trembling voice, unlike her usual calm self. It betrayed her fear of the deepest part of the Sea of Twilight.

Ning Cheng gently pulled up Shen Qinyu, who currently sat on the ground shaking. Looking at the scraps of clothes barely covering her body, he spoke up with an apologetic voice, “I’m sorry, I did not know that we cannot fly.”

Shen Qinyu tore off a piece of her already-torn robes and tied one end to her wrist and the other end to Ning Cheng's wrist before speaking, "In this place, we can only rely on our eyes, while our Spiritual Consciousness is just useless. If not connected to each other, I'm afraid that we would soon scatter."

With that, she finally looked up at Ning Cheng. Suppressing her fear, she spoke up in a relatively calmer tone, "You don't have to feel guilty. It was my fault for not making things clear while encouraging you to come. In this place, where we can't get out at all, maybe the two of us talking and walking together might just ease up the pressure of death."

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Chapter 545: The Endless Path

Ning Cheng's Spiritual Consciousness then fell on to his ring; finding that he could still retrieve things from the inside, Ning Cheng finally felt some relief. At least he could cultivate even in this situation.

From the looks of it, Shen Qinyu could not use her Spiritual Consciousness; as such, Ning Cheng guessed that she might not be able to open her storage ring. Ning Cheng was just about to tell Shen Qinyu that he could take out things from his storage ring, when Shen Qinyu spoke up again, "In the deepest part of the Sea of Twilight, time flows continuously, and even walking would not be of much help. With our lifespans, I estimate that we can only stay alive for up to ten years in this place. Moreover, the depths of the Sea of Twilight has no measurable range; therefore, even if we continue walking without stopping, ten years later, we most likely would still remain inside."

Ning Cheng turned silent. He indeed felt his lifespan shortening. Whether he could use his Spiritual Consciousness or not, as long as he remained inside, he felt as if he would not survive for long.

Thinking of this, Ning Cheng gave out a sigh and spoke, "I have a Miniature World Ring, we can enter the Miniature World Ring and try to think of a way out."

Shen Qinyu shook her head and spoke, "It would be of no use. Unless the laws governing your Miniature World Ring are of a higher quality compared to the laws within the Sea of Twilight, time would still flow at the same pace within your Miniature World Ring. Time definitely would not slow down just because you entered your Miniature World Ring. What's more, without any way to use our Spiritual Consciousness, we can't even enter your Miniature World Ring."

"Is there really no way out of the depths of the Sea of Twilight?" Ning Cheng's expression turned ugly.

Shen Qinyu calmly replied, "Not only is there no way out, but I also heard that it is impossible to regain the life span that we lose within the Sea of Twilight. If it were anywhere else within the Time Wilderness, if we lost some lifespan, although we might age a little, the lifespan lost could still be regained through cultivation by way of advancement."

"However, within the Sea of Twilight, the lifespan lost, will not only result in us turning older, but it would also be impossible to recover the lost lifespan. Even if you somehow managed to advance to the next realm, it would only help you increase your lifespan by a bit, and the part that you lost in this place would remain lost forever....."

“Ah...” Ning Cheng turned sluggish. According to Shen Qinyu’s words, even if he managed to get out one day, he most likely would turn into a white-haired old man. If that was the case, could he still manage to reunite with Shi Qionghua and Luofei?

Not caring about Ning Cheng sluggish expression, Shen Qinyu herself gave out a sigh, while her eyes also showed a hint of desolation. She, however, did not think much of such things. She knew about her unique appearance; even then, she did not mind dying an old age within the Sea of Twilight.

She recalled Xiao Yu, who had always frantically pursued her. This was the only person of the opposite sex and the Senior Apprentice Brother in her heart that she had some favourable impressions.

In the Grand Culmination Starry Skies, the Spiritual Heaven Sect was one of the apex-ranked sects, belonging to the category of Starry Skies-level Sects. Within the Spiritual Heaven Sect, only those disciples who had the potential to inherit the sect’s mantle would have the character ‘Xiao (霄 – Heaven/Firmament)’ within their names. In other words, Xiao Yu was the prince of the Spiritual Heaven Sect. Moreover, he was the only person she knew of who reached the Celestial Bridge Realm within just a hundred years of cultivation.

Shen Qinyu looked at Ning Cheng beside her and felt her heart losing focus. Ning Cheng was a starry skies’ wanderer; moreover, a principled starry skies’ wanderer. If Xiao Yu replaced Ning Cheng right now, how would he behave if he realised he only had a ten-year worth of lifespan left.....

“Do you have someone you like?” Shen Qinyu interrupted Ning Cheng’s daze.

Ning Cheng gave an ‘en’ sound and replied, “Yes, I have two wives. I just thought that if one day I turn into an old man, what would happen if I could go out and see them?”

Shen Qinyu obviously did not think that Ning Cheng would have two wives. She felt surprised and only spoke up after a while, and with a confused look, “Aren’t starry skies’ wanderers always alone? How could they have wives?”

Ning Cheng’s mind immediately flashed with Shi Qionghua’s demure and unparalleled temperament, followed by Ji Luofei’s gentle and caring face. In comparison, the only thing that he could say was that Luofei was a bit more outgoing than Qionghua.

“Before I entered the starry skies, when I was in a low-level True Cultivation Mainland, I had two wives.” Ning Cheng’s tone no longer contained the previous irritableness. He believed that since Little Chase could escape from here, even it was in the form of a Life Essence then he could also come out of this place. If it really came to that point, he would then ask Little Chase for more details.

In any case, he had to get out of this place. If Shen Qinyu did not want to leave, he would try to find a place for Shen Qinyu to settle down before trying to find his way out.

Seeing Ning Cheng turn silent again, Shen Qinyu suddenly spoke up, “I heard that in the depths of the Sea of Twilight, there is a special kind of Ice Essence called the Glimmer of Dawn. A single drop of this ice essence could restore not just people’s original appearance but also their lost vitality. Moreover, the value of this stuff is higher than even Twilight Sand. Anyway, it’s just something I heard and only a legend, no one has ever seen it.”

“Glimmer of Dawn Ice Essence.....” Ning Cheng muttered to himself. “The words I spoke earlier, ‘Sublime is the beauty of the sun yet to set; so soon, alas, shall the dusky evening follow’, where did you hear this phrase?”

Shen Qinyu shook her head and spoke, “It’s not something just known to me. Most likely, all the people who know about the Sea of Twilight also know about this phrase. I heard that only after entering the Sea of Twilight could one understand the meaning of this sentence. Currently, we are not only in the Sea of Twilight but also in the deepest part of the Sea of Twilight, yet I still do not know what this sentence means. It seems that not all rumours are true after all.”

Ning Cheng did not speak, wondering if there was such a thing like a coincidence. Not only did people from two different worlds know about this phrase, people even connected it to the Sea of Twilight.

“You don’t have to think about it too much. We anyway have a limited lifespan. It would be better if we use this time wisely to explore and try our luck. If we can’t find the exit even after a few years, I intend to find a place and wait quietly for the inevitable.” Shen Qinyu’s tone turned even calmer; apparently, she had already accepted and resigned to her so-called fate.

Ning Cheng also nodded; however, he did not refute Shen Qinyu’s words. As for searching for a place to die, it was impossible for someone like Ning Cheng.

“I’m actually from the Grand Culmination Starry Skies. You can say that I am much more fortunate than you are and have a master in the Life and Death Realm while coming from a decent clan.....”

As Shen Qinyu and Ning Cheng walked, she started talking about her origins. Ning Cheng just listened quietly. He did not ask any questions and did not take the initiative to speak to Shen Qinyu about his own affairs.

One day passed like this, two days, three days, one month passed by.....

Shen Qinyu finally stopped talking after finding that she was the only one speaking and felt a little embarrassed. The words that she had not spoken to anyone in her lifetime, she ended up spilling them out during this month. In this environment, she seemed to have forgotten that they were within the deepest part of the Sea of Twilight and kept talking nonstop.

The second month and the third month quickly passed by, and even as Ning Cheng and Shen Qinyu continued to walk forward, the two people’s lifespan still decreased rapidly as the time continued to flow around them.

Since the start of the second month, Shen Qinyu had not spoken a word, while Ning Cheng also did not talk about anything. The two of them just continued to walk forward. Shen Qinyu’s eyes grew more and more tired. Her body also turned more haggard and weak each passing day. Even her bare white skin had become dark under the effects of walking in the deepest part of the Sea of Twilight for the past few months.

In the first three months, Shen Qinyu occasionally managed to look at Ning Cheng; however, in the fourth month, she finally closed her eyes.

Ning Cheng remained silent for four consecutive months. He tried to use his Spiritual Consciousness to try to grasp the surface of the flowing time. He wanted to seize the hint of epiphany that he once experienced in the Perpetual Moon Lake and see if he could use it to find an exit.

However, even after four months, although his Spiritual Consciousness could now extend from the initial ten feet to twenty feet, he still could not feel that kind of flowing time.

As the fifth month ended, Shen Qinyu finally stopped moving. It was an endless path; as such, she felt that regardless of if they continued walking or not, it would result in the same outcome.

Initially, Ning Cheng had been walking at the same pace as Shen Qinyu, which caused Ning Cheng's level of contemplation and perception to remain in a steady and constant flow. However, when Shen Qinyu stopped, the strap connecting their hands grew taut, causing Ning Cheng to wake up suddenly. He also stopped and subconsciously asked, "Are you not able to walk?"

"You are a silent man. I have never walked with someone who refused to talk for over five months. I am sorry; I cannot continue walking with you. It's just that I cannot walk anymore." Shen Qinyu spoke with a dry tone. Moreover, she did not lie, as she genuinely could not walk anymore; it was more apt to say that she could not even muster the strength or the will power to walk anymore.

Ning Cheng secretly cursed himself for being careless. Shen Qinyu could not bring out her Spiritual Consciousness; as such, her Celestial Essence drainage was several times larger than he was. Continuously walking for five months without any exchange of words really was pushing it to the extreme, which made him feel apologetic.

Without waiting for Ning Cheng to speak, Shen Qinyu suddenly removed the mask covering her face, "Since we're friends, I can at least let you have a look at my true face. You can continue along the path behind you, I will stay here and wait quietly."

Ning Cheng, who was just about to speak, turned sluggish for a moment after he saw Shen Qinyu's face. He indeed had never seen such a beautiful face.

Her eyes were already beautiful even in the past; however, they suddenly turned even more vivid. Even the extreme exhaustion and the desolated look could not hide the beauty of these two bright spring-like eyes. The slightly pale lips, plus this pair of beautiful sparkling eyes, turned her face into something that one could never describe with words, more than enough to cause the downfall of nations.

Even the messy hair and the rag-like robes hanging on to her body could not diminish her beauty by even the slightest bit. At the same time, it actually enhanced her unearthly aura.

Anyone who gazed at this face would quickly forget about everything going around him or her. This face literally was a masterpiece within the starry skies universe, a beautiful landscape, or even the most beautiful song.

Ning Cheng's gaze gradually drifted away as Luofei and Qionghua's faces emerged within his heart. The one in front of his eyes was the most beautiful face he had ever seen while those two were the most beautiful souls within his heart. As a feeling of disassociation gradually started to emerge within his mind, it made Ning Cheng want to return to Qionghua and Luofei's side quickly.

Shen Qinyu did not care about Ning Cheng gaze. Whenever a man saw her face for the first time, it would immediately send them into a daze. Even she admitted that in this world, she had never encountered a second woman more beautiful than her.

However, she soon noticed the disassociation in Ning Cheng's eyes. Were there still some men who could think of other women while looking at my real face?

Shen Qinyu finally smiled, if she could, she really wanted to see the woman Ning Cheng thought of. When this thought emerged in her mind, she suddenly shook her head. If it were before, she would have never come up with such an idea.

"I overthink. I even wanted to let you see my true appearance before we separated. If it were the past, I would not have even dared to imagine such a thing turning into reality." Shen Qinyu's voice still sounded very dry.

She felt grateful towards Ning Cheng for saving her once, which was why she decided to let Ning Cheng see her real appearance. Naturally, it also had some self-pity in it, which resulted from her and a strange starry skies' wanderer to both facing deaths in the Sea of Twilight.

The Gate Of Good Fortune

Chapter 546: Through Dusk

"Let's go together." Ning Cheng took out a jug of water from his ring and handed it to Shen Qinyu.

Shen Qinyu took a sip of water from the jug Ning Cheng gave her before looking at Ning Cheng in shock, "Can you use your Spiritual Consciousness in this place?"

Ning Cheng smiled and spoke, "This place greatly restricts my Spiritual Consciousness; however, I can still take out a few things from within my ring."

"Thank you...." Shen Qinyu, after drinking the water, felt some of her strength returning. She wanted to ask Ning Cheng to help her take out a set of robes from her ring; however, she immediately held back the thought considering the things she had inside her storage ring. As for requesting Ning Cheng for a set of robes, that idea never crossed her mind.

"If you can continue walking, then we can continue forward. I feel like if we stop walking, we would have no hope of escaping from this place. If we continue forward, maybe one day we'll find our way out." Ning Cheng looked at Shen Qinyu and spoke as slowly as possible.

In the beginning, Ning Cheng still thought about leaving Shen Qinyu in a relatively safe location before looking for an exit. Once he found a way out, he would then come back to take Shen Qinyu away. However, after five months of walking around, Ning Cheng realised that this idea would never come to fruition. He had no idea about the direction he travelled in for the past few months. As such, how could he come back in to find someone in the future?

Shen Qinyu took a breath and nodded, "I can go on."

"Good." Although Ning Cheng did not observe Shen Qinyu with his Spiritual Consciousness, Ning Cheng could tell that Shen Qinyu looked a little better. As such, he did not ask anything else.

Ning Cheng soon descended into trying to comprehend the flowing time. At first, he could only feel his longevity dissipating at a rapid speed; however, during this process, when he once again tried to understand it, Ning Cheng finally managed to obtain a vague sense about the source of this flowing time.

Not only had he managed to sense the passage of time, but also his Spiritual Consciousness could now extend over a broader range. In the end, Ning Cheng finally managed to extrapolate the general direction of the source of this flowing time. It seemed that the closer he got to the source, the faster the time flowed. At the same time, it also consumed his lifespan at a quicker rate.

Ning Cheng suddenly found himself sobering up. If it were any other place, Ning Cheng definitely would avoid any situation that had such a rapidly flowing time. However, currently, Ning Cheng decided to speed up towards the source of this flowing time. Perhaps this was his only way to get out of this place. At this moment, Ning Cheng no longer tried to conserve his Celestial Essence.

“Junior Apprentice Sister Shen, I think we should hurry.....” Ning Cheng turned around and only spoke half a sentence before immediately stopping.

Shen Qinyu had followed him mechanically, and it currently felt like even her consciousness had disappeared entirely. Replaced by only subconscious movements, repeated one-step at a time.

Not good, she looked like a lamp almost out of oil. Ning Cheng did not dare to think about it anymore, nor could he wait for anything else. He immediately put Shen Qinyu over his back; at the same time, he also took out a few medicinal pills and forced them down her mouth.

As Shen Qinyu’s breathing turning a little smoother, Ning Cheng stimulated his Celestial Essence. However, because of this, time no longer flowed slowly like before, as it even brought up dust from below his feet, indicating that the flow had turned ten times faster compared to the past.

As Ning Cheng started moving in the direction of the source, he sensed his lifespan depleting even quicker. Yet, he moved towards this source with even more fervour. Sometimes the most dangerous place was also the safest place. In any case, Ning Cheng knew that he had no choice right now.

At the same time, the strength of the Mysterious Yellow Formless also started to show its heaven-defying nature. Even if Ning Cheng dashed forward quickly, the Mysterious Yellow Formless continually tempered his Spiritual Consciousness. As his Spiritual Consciousness continued to grow, his senses and perception also deepened alongside his growing Spiritual Consciousness.

At this time, Ning Cheng completely forgot about the passage of time, even the concept of time had seemed to disappear from within his mind. Immersed in a walking epiphany, the flowing time consistently helped him understand a few things about life, allowing him to grasp something esoteric within the years that flowed by him. At the same time, under such circumstances, his Spiritual Consciousness soared unceasingly.

Shen Qinyu suddenly woke up under the influence of this incredibly esoteric aura. She opened her eyes and found herself on Ning Cheng’s back, while Ning Cheng continued running forward under some seemingly unconscious madness.

Coming from a well-established and prominent clan, Shen Qinyu, who also had an excellent master, understood Ning Cheng's actions in just an instant. An epiphany, and not just an ordinary epiphany, Ning Cheng was caught up in a walking epiphany.

Shen Qinyu already felt incredibly grateful towards Ning Cheng; however, at this moment, she felt nothing but incredulous shock. She had come from what one could consider as the centre of this plane and had seen many geniuses. However, she had never encountered anyone like Ning Cheng. Carrying a person while running wildly towards the deepest part of the Sea of Twilight, yet also experiencing epiphany while in constant motion.

What kind of talent was this? Was this not too terrifying? No wonder he did not have any master, and yet, he could still cultivate all the way to the Celestial Shatterer Realm by himself. Not only did this fellow reach the Celestial Shatterer Realm by himself, but this fellow's combat effectiveness had also reached incredulous levels.

As a powerful perceptive aura washed over her, Shen Qinyu suddenly closed her eyes and found herself immersed within an epiphany. Previously, the reason she had closed her eyes was that she had almost run out of Celestial Essence, and was akin to a lamp running on the last dregs of oil. However, she closed her eyes right now due to Ning Cheng's own epiphany,

In other words, Ning Cheng's epiphany also allowed her to experience an epiphany.

Time around them flowed without end, highlighting the never-ending flow of time. When Shen Qinyu finally opened her eyes again, her eyes showed the excitement she currently felt. She had unexpectedly touched upon something mysterious and as profound as the Laws of Time. At this moment, Shen Qinyu believed that if she had enough time, not only could she quickly advance to the Celestial Bridge Realm, she would also become the only person within the entire starry skies to touch the Laws of Time below the Celestial River Realm.

No, it should be the second person. She immediately realised that Ning Cheng's epiphany was what allowed her to touch the laws about the flowing time, which meant that Ning Cheng's understanding definitely had reached a much deeper level compared to her own knowledge. Perhaps, Ning Cheng had not only touched the Laws of Time but had even grasped something that only those experts at the Eternal-level could ever understand.

As Shen Qinyu thought of this, she felt even more shaken in her heart. For a cultivator in the Celestial Shatterer Realm who touched the surface of the Laws of Time could the word genius be enough to describe him or her?

From ancient times to the present moment, which genius could manage to touch the surface of the Laws of Time while in the Celestial Scryer Realm? Not to mention about touching the surface of the Laws of Time, even sensing the Laws of Space was something rarely encountered.

After Shen Qinyu thought through this, she finally reeled in her thoughts, and her gaze fell on Ning Cheng's back. Previously, when she had touched upon the Laws of Time, she had not noticed the changes in Ning Cheng. However, by the time she retracted her thoughts and saw the changes in Ning Cheng, she almost screamed out.

Ning Cheng's originally greyish hair had turned entirely white, and even his skin had become much older and wrinkly.

This instantly sobered up Shen Qinyu, only to discover that even her hair had turned silver. The years flew by so fast, she thought. Did this not mean that this unknown wanderer had carried her on his back for two or three years while running? She just could not figure out why this fellow decided to run towards the place where time flowed even faster. If it continued like this, not to mention their lifespan running out in ten years, they might end up running out of longevity.

However, at this moment, Shen Qinyu did not hold on to the desolation and loneliness that she felt in her heart at the start. Sensing the changes, she knew that she only had a one-year worth of lifespan. Yet, during the moment of her impending death, she managed to touch upon the surface of the Laws of Time. Despite the loss of lifespan, for a starry skies cultivator, what could make them happier than this?

A roar immediately roused Shen Qinyu from her thoughts. Ning Cheng had come to a stop and had released that sudden roar from before. Shen Qinyu felt her heart tremble; this roar gave off the feeling of vicissitudes mixed with a sense of joy. Shen Qinyu could not release such a roar; however, the moment she heard this roar, she felt a one-of-a-kind resonance from her Spiritual Soul, originating from the similar epiphany shared by both she and Ning Cheng.

At the same time, she felt stunned at sight in front of her, resulting from a peerlessly magnificent rainbow that had appeared in front of them. One could even see a faint glow in the middle of this rainbow resembling a setting sun. She had never witnessed such a rainbow, nor had she ever experienced such a soul-stirring sunset.

Beautiful, it was just too exquisite for words.

Even the frenzied drain of her longevity could not stop Shen Qinyu from admiring this beautiful scene. This admiration for its beauty came entirely from her heart; no, it came from the deepest recesses of her soul. She did not care if she died the next moment under this beautiful sunset; at the same time, she also did not want to abandon such a mesmerising scene.

"Sublime is the beauty of the sun yet to set; so soon, alas, shall the dusky evening follow....." Shen Qinyu murmured the phrase to herself, seemingly understanding some of the underlying meanings and implications.

"Life is as short as the time it takes for a white horse to cross a small gap...[1]" After the roar, Ning Cheng suddenly spoke aloud with a resonant voice.

He finally understood the meaning of this sentence, existing within heaven and earth, this was it exactly meant. Within heaven and earth, a hundred years could just be the time it takes for a finger snap.

"What if I cross this world?" Ning Cheng laughed and unexpectedly dived right into the setting sun, into the most beautiful rainbow under a sunset he had ever seen.....

Shen Qinyu's heart gave out a cry, wanting to stop Ning Cheng. This place felt so beautiful, even if it meant standing in this place looking at this beautiful sunset till she falls, she felt willing enough to stay behind without any regrets. However, this Wanderer had to take her through this beautiful scenery, destroying this beautiful twilight sunset.

Snow-white hair immediately flew up and splashed across Shen Qinyu's face, allowing Shen Qinyu to sober up and suppress the impulse.

The next moment, an icy-cold aura suddenly hit her and Shen Qinyu felt a cold shiver run through her body as if she had plunged headfirst into icy-cold water. However, she soon felt that something was wrong. The time flowing around them had disappeared without any trace left behind. At the same time, a world covered in snow and ice materialised in front of her eyes.

"I can bring out my Spiritual Consciousness for now, but it's still restricted to around ten feet. I can at least take out a few things from inside my storage ring....." Shen Qinyu could not complete her sentence when her feet landed over the ground.

Ning Cheng put her down; however, she had completely forgotten what she had just said. She looked at Ning Cheng, standing next to her, and felt even more shocked.

In the distant horizon, clouds glowed with gentle sunlight permeating through them while the rainbow reflecting the light of the sun looked even more beautiful. However, this was not the soft red glow of the sunset, nor was the rainbow reflecting the setting sun; instead, it was reflecting the rising sun, the glimmers of dawn.[2]

"That is from where we entered. We entered through the dusk's setting sun and after wading through the sunset, we emerged from the sunrise, through the glimmers of dawn. Although we are very close to where we passed through, looking back, it feels like a distant memory." Ning Cheng looked at the red glow in the distant horizon and spoke with a hint of excitement.

Even if he could not obtain anything within the Sea of Twilight, Ning Cheng still felt satisfied. Passing through dusk to emerge from dawn, no one understood this concept better than he did. Moreover, it was something that Ning Cheng had grasped by himself. Combined with walking through the Sea of Twilight for several months, Ning Cheng believed that he could now touch the surface of those unreachable and unattainable Laws of Time without much effort.

At the same moment, he also understood what the phrase 'Sublime is the beauty of the sun yet to set; so soon, alas, shall the dusky evening follow' meant.

The Gate Of Good Fortune

Chapter 547: Bottom of the Twilight Sea

Ning Cheng looked at the morning sun in the distance and stood motionlessly for a long time. It seemed as if he had once again descended into an epiphany.

Shen Qinyu, however, started to feel colder with each passing moment, and the surrounding icy environment felt like steel needles biting into her body. Even if she could use her Spiritual Consciousness and put up some resistance with her remaining Celestial Essence, she still could not drive out the cold seeping into her.

Only a seemingly endless plain greeted her eyes as she finally took back her gaze from the morning sun in the distance. No, it should be more accurate to define it as an ice field. One could not even see a raised hill, not even a raised mound of grass or even dirt.

Then, noticing the torn robes barely covered her body, Shen Qinyu quickly moved away from Ning Cheng, took out and set up a screen before taking off and discarding the tattered bits and strips of clothes covering her.

Cleaning herself a bit, Shen Qinyu gave off a sigh of relief. Although her hair had turned silver, at least her skin did not experience too much change.

Just as Shen Qinyu took out a fresh set of robes to put on, a lightning-like shadow rushed through her screen and swept her away.

Shen Qinyu did not resist. The moment this lightning-like shadow took her away, she immediately recognised who the person was. She still had her robes in her hand as she looked at Ning Cheng and calmly asked, "Why?"

Despite rationalising it, the one who had taken her was a wanderer. Moreover, this fellow had grabbed her just the moment she was about to wear her robes, which made her feel a deep sense of anger within her heart, along with humiliation.

Ning Cheng replied with an equally calm tone, "You'll know when you look back."

When Shen Qinyu looked back, she immediately felt startled. What happened to the screen? In the location where she had laid out her screen had transformed into a plain-ice field.

"Ah....." Shen Qinyu exclaimed in shock and even forgot about her robes.

"Put your robes on first, I will try to explain it to you." Ning Cheng glanced at Shen Qinyu and spoke in a calm tone.

Only then did Shen Qinyu realise that she was still naked. Looked on by a single gaze or looked at by a hundred eyes, it did not matter much. However, what made her flustered even more was that she appeared completely naked in front of a stranger. Despite trying to rationalise this matter, she still could not overcome the shock and embarrassment.

No longer caring about her image in front of Wanderer, Shen Qinyu quickly donned her robes before giving out a sigh.

"Do you know about Time Wheels?" Ning Cheng asked, not waiting for Shen Qinyu to speak up.

Shen Qinyu first put on her mask; feeling a trace of cold emerge on her face, she took in a deep breath and nodded, "I know that in the Time Wilderness, Time Wheels are one of the most terrifying threats. Once a Time Wheel appears, if one cannot escape from the range of the Time Wheel immediately, then one would face death ten out of ten times without even a chance of life....."

Having said that, Shen Qinyu seemed to have thought of something before looking at Ning Cheng in shock, "Are you saying that it was ..."

Ning Cheng nodded and spoke "Yes, it was a Time Wheel. However, Time Wheels here feel different from other places. They move in a certain direction and do not expand. It might also be a result of the Time Wheel remaining intact, which prevents it from expanding. Just now a Time Wheel had almost brushed past where you were changing clothes; however, I managed to pull you out in time."

Ning Cheng was too familiar with Time Wheels; after all, he had almost died once beneath an expanding broken Time Wheel in the Perpetual Moon Lake. Fortunately, he had the Mysterious Yellow Bead.

"I see." Shen Qinyu looked at the ice-crystal plain in front of her and instantly understood why this place did not contain even a single raised area. From the looks of it, Time Wheels continuously passed through this area, and any protrusion in their path would end up wiped flat.

"Thank you...." Shen Qinyu thanked Ning Cheng sincerely. Although she would not behave like other ordinary female cultivators, she still found it slightly tricky to remove the awkwardness from her tone, despite the feelings in her heart.

Seeing Shen Qinyu talk while shivering, Ning Cheng suddenly grabbed Shen Qinyu's hand and spoke, "Although you keep yourself warm inside, you do not have sufficient Celestial Essence...."

Not waiting for Shen Qinyu to operate her cultivation method, a warm flow of Celestial Essence gently flowed into her body. After Ning Cheng put down her hand, Shen Qinyu's Celestial Essence automatically flowed through the meridians indicated by Ning Cheng. It immediately allowed her to disperse the ice-cold sensation from her body. She no longer felt as terrible as before.

"Is this what you came up with?" Shen Qinyu felt shocked once again as she looked at Ning Cheng. She personally knew that Ning Cheng had no master to learn from, nor did he have any inheritance to rely on. However, the cultivation method he came up with was just too terrifying. It could quickly drive out the cold from this place. At this moment, she had already forgotten the irritation and awkwardness she felt previously.

Ning Cheng smiled, "Although I thought about it myself, I had some help from somewhere else. If you have some free time, we can talk about it, but there should be a few Time Stones around here."

"Time Stones....." Just when Ning Cheng spoke, Shen Qinyu saw a Time Stone and shouted. The words that she wanted to ask she immediately put them aside. In the excitement, she immediately rushed towards the place where the Time Wheel had just swept by, reaching for a dark grey stone the size of a dragon-eyed fruit.

A weak trace of flowing time emerged from the stone, filled with natural vicissitudes, a sense of time that words could not describe.

"It really is a Time Stone." Shen Qinyu felt excited. She had remained inside the Time Wilderness for a few years already; however, it was the first time that she encountered a Time Stone.

"So it turned out like this." Ning Cheng immediately understood that in the places that a Time Wheel passed through, one had a higher chance to encounter a Time Stone. From the looks of it, Time Stones had an inexplicable link with Time Wheels. When he was in the Perpetual Moon Lake, Ning Cheng had managed to pick up three Time Stones, which most likely had some relations to the broken Time Wheel.

If he had managed to break that Time Wheel, maybe they could have found more than one Time Stone.

Ning Cheng also speculated that perhaps no one would dare to think of breaking a Time Wheel, beside him.

Shen Qinyu finally sobered up from her excitement; she carefully put the Time Stone into a jade box and then tried to hand the jade box to Ning Cheng, "This is yours. Although it was you who brought me to this place, you have also repeatedly saved me."

Ning Cheng gently pushed Shen Qinyu's hand back and spoke, "Since we found a Time Stone here, then we can definitely find more. As long as we look for them in this place, we can definitely find more Time Stones. From now on, whoever finds it, keeps it."

Shen Qinyu did not continue with forcing the Time Stone into Ning Cheng's hand. Moreover, this was a one-of-a-kind priceless treasure, which was something that even she coveted. However, Ning Cheng, as the starry skies' Wanderer, gave her a brand new impression. In the face of something like a Time Stone, a Celestial Scryer Cultivator could still refuse it with such conviction, she certainly could not think of any other person.

Not to mention Celestial Scryer Cultivators, when it came to Time Stones, even someone on the level of Heavenly Emperor Striking Order would not refuse it. Such objects were really too precious. Switched with any other cultivator, maybe they would immediately try to kill her to obtain the stone. Moreover, this starry skies' Wanderer not only refused it, but his eyes also did not show any hint of greed within the refusal.

"Just remember, don't stray more than 10 feet from me." After Ning Cheng spoke a sentence to Shen Qinyu, he then took the initiative to step on to the endless ice plains.

Shen Qinyu gave a gentle nod before following. Although her Spiritual Consciousness had a minimal range, she could still see Ning Cheng in front of her with her eyes.

Ning Cheng turned out right once again; within this seemingly endless ice plain, there was not just one Time Stone. In just an hour, Shen Qinyu's surprised voice once again resounded. Apparently, she had picked up another Time Stone.

Shen Qinyu looked at Ning Cheng's back while thinking about the number of Time Stones this starry skies' wanderer might have already picked up. Since she followed behind him, it stood for the reason that he must have picked up many more stones compared to her.

Ning Cheng had indeed found and picked up more Time Stones compared to Shen Qinyu; however, because these Time Stones were the size of rice grains or pea-sized, he felt lazy even to think of picking them up. As a result, Ning Cheng only picked up stones the size of beans or at least having an average size of Dragon-eyed Fruit, and even a few more the size of a baby's fist.

Shen Qinyu picking another Time Stone was because Ning Cheng had deliberately let her pick it up. Otherwise, in such a place, where his Spiritual Consciousness could sweep out for over a dozen miles, there absolutely would not be any omissions.

One month later, Ning Cheng and Shen Qinyu encountered fewer Time Stones along the way. However, whether it was Shen Qinyu or Ning Cheng, both felt very satisfied with their harvest. Shen Qinyu had obtained more than 20 Time Stones and even suspected that if one added up all the Time Stones collected by the rest of the cultivators who entered the Time Wilderness, the number still would not exceed her collection.

Of course, this Wanderer in front of her was the only exception. She had picked up so many while following behind this fellow; logically speaking, this Wanderer would have definitely picked up a lot more stones than she had.

Shen Qinyu looked up at the front of Ning Cheng and immediately froze.

Previously, she was still looking for Time Stones around her feet, and only occasionally looked at Ning Cheng to keep him in sight without observing anything else going around them. However, at this time, she felt shocked to discover that the world in front of her was no longer the icy plains, but a forest that looked like a world made out of snow and ice.

Shen Qinyu quickly took a few steps and arrived at Ning Cheng's side. However, before she could even speak, she felt a warm feeling around her waist. One of Ning Cheng's hand had already grabbed on to her, and the next moment, the two of them immediately shot up from the ground.

Shen Qinyu instantly understood that Wanderer had a Spiritual Consciousness far stronger compared to her. The two people had picked up so many Time Stones and yet had not encountered another Time Wheel. It most likely had some relationship to Wanderer's Spiritual Consciousness.

A Celestial Shatterer Cultivator, unexpectedly could use their Spiritual Consciousness to avoid Time Wheels, just how horrifying of a concept was this? From this, she also understood that this fellow's comprehension of the Laws of Time has reached a completely different level compared to her own understandings.

"What a beautiful world!" Shen Qinyu, held by Ning Cheng, could not help but marvel as she looked at the world of ice and snow below them.

This world contained undulating hills made out of clear ice, and even trees in a variety of shapes and sizes made from ice.

"What is this place? I have read a lot of information about the Sea of Twilight; however, I have never read or even heard about such a place." Shen Qinyu muttered to herself.

Ning Cheng and Shen Qinyu were different. He could use his Spiritual Consciousness to peer into this icy forest world. As such, Ning Cheng could clearly sense that this forest world gave off bad vibes, despite its beautiful and mesmeric appearance.

"Since we are already inside the deepest part of the Sea of Twilight, I think that this place might be near or is the seabed of the Sea of Twilight. Maybe we should go in and have a look. Maybe, we might find a way out of this place from in there." Ning Cheng quietly spoke while descending.

Even if Ning Cheng had not spoken about it, Shen Qinyu herself wanted to go inside and explore.

Ning Cheng took the first step into this ice-cold world and immediately experienced a bitter cold wave hitting his face. Despite all his tricks, Ning Cheng still had to circulate his Celestial Essence at full force to block this biting cold from permeating into his body.

After a few years of tempering and understanding a few things within the Sea of Twilight, Ning Cheng's Spiritual Consciousness could now extend to a range of a hundred miles, yet he still had to struggle to resist this cold wave. However, Shen Qinyu's Spiritual Consciousness, which could only extend to a range

of a few feet, felt her entire body trembling. She had only taken a step inside and already found it extremely difficult just to stand on her own.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 548: The Beauty of Twilight Sand

The powerful icy-cold aura immediately caused her body to grow cold; even the Celestial Essence within her body had started to freeze up and could not drive out this cold. Surrounded with such icy aura, even her Spiritual Consciousness had almost frozen, which also meant that she could no longer walk forward. Shen Qinyu felt sure that if she did not retreat at this moment, she would end up frozen into an ice sculpture.

Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness had long since transformed into a starry skies' Sea of Consciousness, and yet even with the full operation of his Celestial Essence, he still found the icy aura unbearable. As such, how could he not understand the plight of Shen Qinyu? It was not that Shen Qinyu did not want to talk; she simply could not talk at all. Ning Cheng took a step before appearing behind Shen Qinyu and placing his palm squarely on her back. A moment later, his Celestial Essence infused with the warmth of the Celestial River Flame spread out under Ning Cheng's stimulation and the surrounding immediately issued creaking-like sounds.

This sound gave the feeling as if his Celestial Essence, infused with the Celestial River Flame's heat, had started to melt and crack formless ice as soon as it encountered the icy atmosphere.

Shen Qinyu immediately felt a burst of warmth coming from Ning Cheng's palm on her back, which helped her drive out the cold. Just like a shining sun emerging from the horizon during the cold winter, this kind of warmth was not something that she could describe with just words itself.

At this moment, she finally understood why one had to collaborate with someone possessing a flame to explore the Sea of Twilight. Looks like it was all for this place.

This Wanderer's Celestial Essence could oppose this icy cold atmosphere; most likely, it had some relations to a flame, which he cultivated within his body.

As Shen Qinyu's thoughts wavered, Ning Cheng's stature unfolded as he grabbed her and rushed in quickly.

Half a day later, Ning Cheng stopped at the periphery of a vast round altar.

"A Transfer Array?" Shen Qinyu spoke out in shock after looking at the inscriptions over the round altar. She then proceeded with an affirmative voice, "Yes, it definitely is a Transfer Array. It must be a Transfer Array."

Ning Cheng also nodded and spoke, "It is a Transfer Array. Sure enough, this place can definitely send us out."

"So, should we leave now?" Shen Qinyu asked eagerly.

If she could survive on her own, she would have liked to look around this place to see if she could find some Glimmers of Dawn Ice Essence, and confirm if such a legendary object actually existed. Unfortunately, in this place, she remained very dependent over this Wanderer to carry her around. Without Wanderer's help, she would die ten times out of ten in this place.

After thinking about something, she spoke out once again, "Senior Apprentice Brother Wanderer, I can help preserve your Time Stones for you. After we come out of this place, I will give them to you. I can assure you that even the Heavenly Emperor Striking Order would not dare take them from me."

Ning Cheng was just about to speak when a violent force swept over them. Just like a massive tornado, this force immediately curled around them. Ning Cheng, swept up by this horrifying tornado, could not even resist for a moment.

"Boom.... Katcha....."

A fierce roar erupted, emerging from the bottom of their feet, and a few feet wide crack suddenly appeared below them extending from the outer edge of the Transfer Array. This glacier-like canyon kept widening, with its bottom nowhere in sight.

The raging rotational force, coiled around Ning Cheng, immediately forced him into this glacier canyon.

Ning Cheng could not think of anything. Grabbing Shen Qinyu, he immediately stimulated his Celestial Essence to throw her behind him before bringing out his Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds. Inside this wilderness, Ning Cheng already some experience with a similar phenomenon. It felt similar to when he had fallen into that deep well previously. The only difference was that in the deep well, a suction force wanted to pull him down, while this place had a whirlpool that tried to force him in from the outside.

When Ning Cheng threw out Shen Qinyu, she did not feel any resentment or any sense of loss in her heart. Instead, her mind flashed with scenes of Wanderer carrying her everywhere. Wanderer had taken her around for the past few years within the depths of the Sea of Twilight, and she had not yet repaid that debt or even thanked him for it.

Then she immediately showed a self-deprecating smile; in this world, everyone worked for his or her own selfishness, not to mention that she and Wanderer were not even on familiar terms. However, she still felt that this starry skies' Wanderer was a lot better compared to many people she had met in the past. Although she did not blame him for leaving her behind in such a desperate situation, Shen Qinyu definitely felt as if she had not done enough for all the gratitude she had received from this person.

"Bang." Shen Qinyu's feet landed on hard ground. What happened? Only when Shen Qinyu looked around did she discover that she was standing at the centre of the Transfer Array, not in the depths of the glacial canyon as she imagined.

A moment of clarity washed over her, and she understood why Wanderer had thrown her away. It definitely was not what she had thought initially; instead, he had thrown her to let her reach the Transfer Array first.

At this moment, all she had to do was to take out a few starry skies' crystals and put them into the grooves of the Transfer Array to take her away from this place. No matter where this Transfer Array led to, it definitely was better than falling into this unfathomable glacial canyon.

Shen Qinyu touched the grooves of the Transfer Array in a daze and unexpectedly forgot to take out any starry skies' crystals.

She was an open-minded individual and rarely partook in irrational thoughts, except for the one time when she let a stranger look at her real appearance. Until a few moments ago, she felt that they had no

hope to survive and get out of this place. Even when Ning Cheng caught her naked before she could put on a new pair of robes, she did not turn angry and calmly asked why.

Since her birth, she had done everything in an orderly fashion and never did anything that she did not want to do because of some impulses. As such, the word 'impulse', never belonged to her dictionary.

Now, Wanderer had thrown her on to the Transfer Array while he ended up falling into the glacial canyon. If one asked for the only thing that existed within her heart at this moment, it would be 'impulse'. She truly felt the urge to jump into the bottom to look for Wanderer. Why would she care anymore about anything?

Shen Qinyu carefully walked out of the Transfer Array; however, under the ever-present ice-cold aura, she once again shuddered subconsciously. However, she quickly noticed that the icy cold aura was not as horrifying as when she first came in. At least she could remain safe while circulating her Celestial Essence.

Feeling slightly relieved, Shen Qinyu walked to the edge of the cracked glacial canyon. Trying to gaze into the deep valley of horror; however, her gaze could not sweep out until the end. Even without using her Spiritual Consciousness to scan, she could feel a one-of-a-kind chill emanating from the deepest part of the gorge.

Shen Qinyu shivered; falling into such a terrifying place, was there any hope for survival? Moreover, in this place that not only restricted one's Spiritual Consciousness but also limited flight capability. Not to mention encountering a Time Wheel, despite not facing any external danger while climbing up, could one still climb up?

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After Ning Cheng sent Shen Qinyu away, it turned a lot easier for him. However, in the face of the raging whirlpool that had swept him away, he still could not break free.

This whirlpool was like a spinning funnel in general, that kept forcing him to the bottom.

"Bang....." Not knowing how long he remained trapped within, the dominant force of the whirlpool suddenly dropped Ning Cheng to the ground causing ice crystals to scatter. The shocking power contained within the drop had enough strength to shatter Ning Cheng's bones several times over. Fortunately, Ning Cheng was a body-refining cultivator; at the same time, also wielded the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds with full power. As such, although injured, the injuries did not turn out fatal.

Under the circulation of the Celestial Essence, the broken bones quickly healed automatically.

Ning Cheng immediately stimulated the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds, planning to fly out of the glacial gorge that had suddenly appeared. However, he had just flown up a few feet, when the raging whirlpool above once again sent him smashing down.

This kind of powerful force was unlike the one he encountered at the bottom of the well. Moreover, the further up he tried to move, the higher the pressure the vortex exerted. Ning Cheng felt his heart sink on witnessing such a scene. If he could not force himself out of this vortex, he would never reach the Transfer Array.

Taking out a few medicinal pills that helped in restoring one's Celestial Essence, Ning Cheng once again stimulated the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds. This time, with the boost provided by the medicinal pills, Ning Cheng managed to hover about a dozen feet before the powerful funnel-shaped vortex forced him down once again.

Looking up and seeing that there was no end to the glacial canyon, Ning Cheng realised that it would prove difficult to escape from this place. However, at this moment, he also clearly felt something else. This whirlpool carried traces of flowing time; moreover, it grew stronger the higher one went.

Since Ning Cheng lost his chance to go out by falling into this place, he must find another way to get out. As for Shen Qinyu, he had already thrown her towards the Transfer Array, so she should not be in any problem.

After walking a few hundred meters, his Spiritual Consciousness swept by a ring. Ning Cheng reached out with his hand and picked the ring up. However, the ring immediately collapsed, and everything inside it turned into nothingness.

Ning Cheng took in a deep breath as he realised that a few people must have also fallen in this place. However, the bones of those cultivators had long since turned into nothingness, eroded by the icy cold aura at the bottom of this gorge. Even the cultivators' ring could not withstand the test of time. Combined with the freezing cold aura, just a light touch could completely obliterate the ring, transforming it into ash.

Seeing the ring turning into ash, it immediately caused a sliver of doubt to arise within Ning Cheng's heart. For a cultivator to reach this place, it meant that the cultivator definitely had some powerful means. Yet, this person not only got caught within the funnel-like whirlpool of flowing time before falling to this place, but even that cultivator's bones also could not survive before turning into dust. Trapped in this place, was there any possibility of survival?

Thinking of this, Ning Cheng turned even more cautious with his actions and used his Spiritual Consciousness to explore everything carefully around him. Once again sensing a faint trace of flowing time, Ning Cheng felt great shock within his heart. Was there a Time Wheel inside this place?

This canyon looked very narrow, if he encountered a Time Wheel in this place, Ning Cheng would have no other choice but to enter the Mysterious Yellow Bead to survive. However, Ning Cheng quickly discovered that this trace of flowing time was not from a Time Wheel, but some stones that gave off a faint twilight-like glow. Apart from the difference of Laws, these stones were not any different in size compared to the Time Stones in his possession, and about the size of a baby's fist. However, what made Ning Cheng feel even more shock was the beauty of these stones. It was as if he and Shen Qinyu had once again encountered the setting sun at dusk from before, something beautiful to look at.

Ning Cheng took a few steps forward and reached the stones, which radiated time in the form of twilight, before picking up one of them.

The faint passage of years caused Ning Cheng to feel some melancholy in his heart. However, holding the stone, radiating the twilight rays of dusk, Ning Cheng also could not help but sigh while admiring its beauty.

Ning Cheng admitted to himself that he had never encountered such a beautiful stone, which not only gave him a shock but also induced a sad feeling. It felt like the slight despair one would feel when one faced the dusk. This kind of beauty remained utterly different from other forms of beauty, containing a hint of twilight.

This must be the Twilight Sand. Ning Cheng did not need to ask someone and instinctively knew that this must be the Twilight Sand.

With Twilight Sand hidden in such a place, even if he and Shen Qinyu stayed in the Sea of Twilight for decades, they might have never found the slightest hint of Twilight Sand. However, since the outer world knew about the Twilight Sand, it also meant that someone not only came to this place, but someone had also made it out of this place with this treasure.

Understanding this point, Ning Cheng suddenly felt a significant boost while his mood also improved. If someone else can manage to get out, it meant that he could get out.

Ning Cheng quickly picked up more than a dozen Twilight Sand scattered on the frozen ground and carefully packed them in a jade box. No matter whether he used them in creating a spear or for something else, this thing definitely was a treasure.

The force of the whirlpool, which after waning countless times, ended at this place. Therefore, when Ning Cheng looked up once again, he quickly realised why there were so many pieces of Twilight Sand in this place. This Twilight Sand was something that the power of the time vortex had dragged down. Under the many years of accumulation, this place ended up gathering many stones.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 549: Celestial's Dusk

Shen Qinyu looked up and could not see the top of the canyon anymore. On top of her head, she could only see the ice steps that she had previously dug out.

She had waited a few days next to the Transfer Array; however, she found no indications of anyone coming up. Seeing that, she immediately decided to dig the ice. For half a year, she dug out hundreds of ice steps. One after another, as she kept digging out those ice steps, the dugout steps started resembling a ladder that extended upwards.

Shen Qinyu could not use any kind of flight within this glacial gorge, and could only climb up or down one ice step at a time. Moreover, to climb up, she had no other way than to climb the ice steps that she had carved up.

Although a rational person, she did not have a cold-heart nor was she a cold-blooded person. She did not know if Wanderer was that fellow's real name or not, but this fellow had fallen into the glacial canyon that had suddenly cracked open beneath them. If this fellow wanted to come out of the canyon, then he would also have to dig out the ice steps one after another.

When she dug out the first ice step, Shen Qinyu felt herself shivering with cold. However, she immediately recalled the method Ning Cheng had taught her to drive out the cold. She quickly stimulated her Celestial Essence according to it and continued digging through the ice. After a month of

labour, Shen Qinyu finally started to adapt to the cold. Although it grew colder the lower she descended, she barely managed to block the cold from seeping into her.

Shen Qinyu only hoped that one day the ice steps that she dug out could connect to the ice steps that Wanderer would dig out. However, she understood it very well that it was just too difficult to even extract oneself from the grips of that raging whirlpool, let alone try to come up. Even a Celestial River-class Battleship would not help in this scenario.

In fact, deep in her heart, she had already come to a decision. If she managed to dig to the bottom and found Wanderer already dead, she would do everything in her power to take his body away from this place.

Since the moment she began cultivating, she had never felt so worthless yet so self-willed, not even once. However, this time, she could not stop herself from trying to dig out one ice step after another, all on the impulse to save Wanderer.

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At this moment, Ning Cheng had once again appeared at the bottom of the glacial canyon in which he had fallen. He searched the canyon as much as possible, and apart from finding a dozen more pieces of Twilight Sand, he did not find anything else. Although he wanted to go out, Ning Cheng could not find any path that could help him leave this funnel-like whirlpool.

At first, he had also thought of digging out ice steps like Shen Qinyu; however, he found that the ice in this gorge had an extremely tough composition. Even after spending almost an entire day, he could not dig out even a single step.

Seeing such results, he tried to use his Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds repeatedly only to find himself failing time after time. Even with the help of his knockoff Celestial River-class Battleship, under this horrifying Time Whirlpool, it could not provide him with any support. In fact, it offered even less support than his Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds.

Despite trying out many methods that he could think of, Ning Cheng still could not get out of this funnel-like Time Whirlpool.

One month later, Ning Cheng finally gave up and took out the axe he obtained from the exchange with Tang Yu before starting to dig out steps from the glacial walls once again.

Ning Cheng and Shen Qinyu were different. Ning Cheng cultivated using the Mysterious Yellow Formless; therefore, even when he focussed all his efforts on digging out the ice steps, he could continue improving on the side. Moreover, if Ning Cheng chose not to actively cultivate, his Spiritual Consciousness still probed the raging Time Whirlpool around him. Even though he kept digging out ice steps with his hand, in Ning Cheng's mind, he kept thinking of ways to go straight through this Time Whirlpool and fly out, which was the most direct way.

One ice-step after another stretched out under Ning Cheng's feet. By this time, Ning Cheng had long forgotten about what he was doing and focussed all this attention on wanting to fly out of this place.

His consciousness had already immersed itself into the crazily revolving storm of time, one day, one month, one year.....

Time slowly flowed, while Ning Cheng autonomously also moved up slowly one ice step after another. Beneath his feet was a long series of many ice steps.

On this day, Ning Cheng suddenly stopped his mechanical actions of digging the ice. He did not even take out the axe lodged in the unfinished ice step before he suddenly brought out his Nirvana Spear and blasted out a shot.

“Hiss.....” A weak thunder ray flashed by in the middle of this glacial canyon. After this shot flashed by, everything around Ning Cheng seemed to have come to a standstill. Even the whirlpool stopped, the storm around it froze, and even his breathing had suddenly come to a halt.

After this shot rang out, Ning Cheng’s Sea of Consciousness suddenly felt utterly empty. Even his Celestial Essence had dried up. At this moment, if he had not kept himself rooted in the ice step below, he would have already fallen. This spear shot had drained all of his Celestial Essence and the Spiritual Consciousness birthed from his starry skies’ Sea of Consciousness.

“Katcha.....” The Nirvana Spear’s shadow ripped through the space in front of him, leaving behind only a faint afterimage.

A moment later, the whirlpool once again started rotating again, the storm around it once again began to wreak havoc, and his breathing once again resumed.

“Haha, I understand.....” Ning Cheng shook his hand holding the Nirvana Spear while breaking into tears. He finally understood something; he finally managed to grasp the surface of the Laws of Time.

During the past few years, although he had touched upon the Laws of Time, he could never perfectly integrate the Laws of Time into his own spiritual techniques. He had heard Eldest Brother Cang Wei say that the vast void contained countless Law Worlds comprised of different laws. If one encountered a Law World with the Laws of Time, it was not impossible to experience a time displacement of several years.

In other words, Ning Cheng had initially believed that people proficient in the Laws of Time could potentially turn back time.

Although what Cang Wei spoke was right, what Ning Cheng understood, however, was wrong. The reason he understood things wrong was due to his low cultivation at that point. In other words, he realised that he had tried to run before he could even learn to walk.

Although one might possess the capability to reverse time, Ning Cheng, at least, did not have such an ability. Even if it was Eldest Brother Cang Wei himself, Ning Cheng guessed that even someone like him did not have such a skill that could reverse time.

Ning Cheng recalled a movie that he had seen in the past. The film contained a saying that went like this: ‘Time is relative, it could be stretched or compressed; however, it cannot reverse.’ This saying implied that it was impossible to reverse time.

Whether this sentence was correct or not, Ning Cheng definitely felt that this sentence aptly described the Ning Cheng’s current attainments. He had touched upon the Laws of Time; as such, he understood a lot more about the Laws of Time compared to the past. Therefore, although he could not turn back time, he could at least stretch or compress time.

When one compressed time to the extreme, it would result in a pause. Understanding this, Ning Cheng felt very excited; yes, it definitely was a pause. This pause did not mean that time itself had come to a standstill, but it caused all the senses around one to feel as if time itself had come to a halt, or at least came infinitely close to complete stillness.

It was just like the individual frames of a movie. Although the different picture frames remained static and unmoving, when one moved the frames continuously, it caused one to feel as if the scene itself was in motion.

The shot that he had just erupted with clearly demonstrated the static nature of time, in other words, the stillness produced from compressing time to the extreme. Besides, by squeezing time to the extreme, he managed to come up with a technique that contained the Laws of Time. This would become his powerful strike and would become his biggest trump card.

“From now on, I’ll call this technique as ‘Dusk’.” Ning Cheng, after recovering a part of his Celestial Essence, put away the Nirvana Spear in his hand and excitedly murmured to himself.

Once he used this technique, the opponent would feel like he or she was facing the sunset at dusk; apart from despair and waiting for eventual death, there was no other choice. Whatever be the case, Ning Cheng finally managed to obtain his third technique, Dusk.

“When this spear technique reaches major completion and can reverse time, I would then call this spear technique ‘Celestial’s Dusk’.” Ning Cheng looked at the whirlpool and the storm surrounding it and spoke with an aggressive tone.

Even if this spear technique consumed a significant portion of his Celestial Essence and Spiritual Consciousness, Ning Cheng still could not help but howl out in joy after putting away the spear.

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Shen Qinyu suddenly stopped digging out ice steps. She felt as if she heard a vague howl. Was it Wanderer? However, she could not listen to it clearly and thought that it was just a hallucination. In any case, even though she could somehow manage to resist the ice-cold aura in this place, after digging out ice steps for a few years, her present body had turned extremely frail.

She wiped her eyes and looked up at the ice steps that extended out above her head. Seeing this, she realised that she could no longer continue digging ice steps to reach the bottom. Her ring was a unique device that could also help her gauge the time she had spent in this place. Looking at it, she knew that she had been digging in this place for quite a few years, and the Time Wilderness’s 10-year period was about to come to a close.

Giving out a sigh, Shen Qinyu left behind a few lines on the last ice step that she had dug out and started her slow climb to the top. If she ended up missing the moment when this place transferred out the people inside, she would end up trapped in this place forever until she died.

Any cultivator who entered the Time Wilderness, if they remained within the hidden realms of the Time Wilderness during the transmission time, they would end up trapped inside until they died or the next time it opened.

Shen Qinyu did not know if she could come out after missing the predetermined time, but if she wished to come inside again, she had to bring out all the Time Stones she obtained.

A few days later, Shen Qinyu finally reached the Transfer Array again. With a head full of silver hair, she sported a pair of eyes filled with extreme exhaustion. She quietly looked at the unfathomable icy canyon right outside the Transfer Array with a heavy sadness. She gave out a final deep sigh, took out a few Celestial Essence Stones, and placed them in the Transfer Array's grooves.

A white light flashed, and when Shen Qinyu landed on the ground again, she found herself at the periphery of the Sea of Twilight.

Shen Qinyu remained standing at the periphery of the Sea of Twilight and silently looked at the static yet overlapping images of dusk in the deeper regions of the Sea of Twilight, which showed no movement. A few years ago, after Wanderer saved her, the two of them had teamed up to enter the Sea of Twilight. A few years later, she came out alone.

If it were just an ordinary collaboration, although she would have felt a bit of sadness, it at least would not have transformed into grief.

Not knowing for how long she stood in that spot, Shen Qinyu once again felt a layer of light covering her body. Sensing this light, she knew that the time to transfer out of the Time Wilderness had arrived.

After the white light finally dissipated, Shen Qinyu's Spiritual Consciousness immediately spread out for the first time; she longed and even prayed to sense the familiar shadow of Wanderer suddenly appearing amongst the crowd.

However, she felt only disappointment. Standing on the small temporary public square constructed in the void, she could not find the familiar figure she wanted to see.

The Gate Of Good Fortune

Chapter 550: Ladder of Life

Ruan Mingshu kept looking around; although she knew that Ning Cheng had fallen in the Perpetual Moon Lake, she still hoped for Ning Cheng to come out. She knew that it was her words that caused him to follow her in, without her words, Ning Cheng most likely would be alive, or at the very least would have ventured into other unexplored regions.

However, the miracle that she hoped for did not happen; Ning Cheng did not come out.

"Junior Apprentice Sister Mingshu, I heard that you and Ning Cheng had teamed up. Why don't I see him around?" A crisp voice sounded out beside her.

Shen Qinyu, who still felt sad, on hearing this sentence, knew that it was Tang Yu, a very talented genius of the Striking Order Starry Skies, who asked this question.

Ruan Mingshu sighed and spoke, "That's right, but I am the reason he died. I invited him to accompany me to the Perpetual Moon Lake, but the Perpetual Moon Lake's Time Wheel broke. He didn't have the time to come out....."

Tang Yu spoke with some regrets, "That's a shame. He really looked like a splendid fellow."

Shen Qinyu immediately recalled Ning Cheng. From the looks of it, Ning Cheng had fallen in the Perpetual Moon Lake. No wonder she did not receive any message. Her thoughts then immediately turned towards Wanderer, who just like Ning Cheng, was a cultivator without a Celestial Wheel. However, instead of falling in the Perpetual Moon Lake, this fellow died in the Sea of Twilight.

Heavenly Emperor Striking Order's figure turned from blurry to clear before he finally appeared in front of everyone. Although only half the cultivators who entered had come out, he still felt delighted with the result.

He glanced at the cultivators standing over the temporary public square constructed in the void, before speaking, "Welcome back geniuses of my Striking Order Starry Skies. Those of you who stand here today are the true geniuses of my Striking Order Starry Skies. You will be the future of my Striking Order Starry Skies, the pride of the Striking Order Starry Skies."

"My Striking Order Starry Skies will now proceed to reward the outstanding talents for their toils. However, this group of winners has no restrictions on their numbers; rather, as long as you obtained a Time Stone, you would definitely receive the reward promised by my Striking Order Starry Skies. The top ten, however, would proceed to represent my Striking Order Starry Skies in the upcoming Celestial Scryer Universal Genius Finale that would take place in the Grand Culmination Starry Skies."

Every cultivator who obtained any amount of Time Stones immediately came forward and brought out the Time Stones they got. At this moment, no one dared to keep the Time Stones hidden. Even if some individual wanted to sneak a few Time Stones, once the powerful Spiritual Consciousness of the experts descended over their bodies, they quickly came forward to hand over their Time Stones.

Many cultivators had entered the Time Wilderness, but only a scant few managed to obtain Time Stones. Shen Qinyu, however, did not hand over her Time Stones. Therefore, once she brought her Time Stones out, she immediately took them back.

An hour later, the experts finally finished tallying all the Time Stones brought forth by the cultivators. Looking at the total, only 31 people managed to obtain Time Stones. However, most of these cultivators only gathered a few rice grain-sized Time Stones.

A cultivator in the Heaven Seated Realm stood in the void and read the results aloud. "The first place goes to Bright South Celestial River's Cen Fei, who obtained four Time Stones. The second place goes to Striking Order Star Land's Sikou Hao, who obtained three Time Stones; the third place goes to Striking Order Star Land's Tang Yu, who obtained three Time Stones....."

Looking at the top ten cultivators who had managed to bring out Time Stones, no matter how big or small, none of them could compare to what she had obtained. Seeing that, Shen Qinyu gave out a deep sigh within her heart.

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Ning Cheng did not continue to dig out ice steps. After comprehending the Time Law Spiritual Technique, Dusk, he decided to sit still and continued to deepen his understanding of the essence of this spear technique. The more Ning Cheng understood, the more clearly he realised that without the starry skies' Sea of Consciousness, even if he managed to touch the surface of the Laws of Time, he might not

have managed to bring out the full power of dusk within this spear attack. His starry skies' Sea of Consciousness was just too mighty.

Within the Sea of Twilight, one could not even bring out his or her Spiritual Consciousness. However, Ning Cheng could not only bring it out, but he could also stretch it out over a range that exceeded a hundred miles. Previously, Shen Qinyu could not release her Spiritual Consciousness; however, since Ning Cheng carried her over his back, she ended up drawing herself into Ning Cheng's epiphany, which allowed her to bypass a part of the restrictions that had bound her Spiritual Consciousness.

Thinking of Shen Qinyu, Ning Cheng suddenly recalled her perfect yet utterly naked body. There was also that face with an out-of-the-world beauty. Previously, because he had just comprehended the true meaning of dusk, Ning Cheng had unconsciously put aside the shocking feeling that had resulted from seeing Shen Qinyu's naked beauty. However, now that he had coalesced his third spear technique, Ning Cheng could not help but think of that perfect figure once again, which also caused some desire to manifest within his heart.

Ning Cheng shook his head and forcibly put these thoughts aside before concentrating over the spear attack once again.

After a long time, when Ning Cheng's Spiritual Consciousness and Celestial Essence had fully recovered, he once again brought out his Nirvana Spear and fired another shot.

This time, he felt the stillness around him even more clearly. Instead, because of the technique, everything around him stagnated into silence.

At this moment, one could not even hear the slightest sound. One could not even perceive the slightest movement, even the sounds of breathing had utterly disappeared.

Suddenly, Ning Cheng saw a crystal-clear drop of liquid flash at the bottom of the Time Whirlpool. This drop of liquid felt like the cohesion of all life and exuded a strong vitality while shimmering with bright lights.

Within the now-still funnel-like whirlpool of flowing time, he actually saw a drop of liquid that radiated vibrant vitality, which caused Ning Cheng to sober up from his previous state of concentration almost immediately. Even the Dusk Spear Technique, which he had not come out fully, faded and disappeared without a trace.

Ning Cheng did not feel any frustration because of the second failure of his Dusk Spiritual Technique. However, he could help but keep thinking about that drop of liquid that looked like the sunrise and exuded a vibrant vitality. What was that drop of liquid oozing so much life energy? What kind of treasure was this drop of liquid?

Although his Dusk Spiritual Technique failed for the second time, because it had failed mid-way, Ning Cheng did not suffer too much loss in his Celestial Essence. After a short break, Ning Cheng grabbed his Nirvana Spear for the third time. This time, however, Ning Cheng came fully prepared. During the momentary pause, he shot up and stretched out his hand to grab the sunrise-like drop of liquid gently, before collecting it into a jade bottle in his other hand.

A faint fragrance emerged from this drop of liquid, mixed with a strong vitality; at the same time, a terrifying ice-cold aura also radiated out from this liquid.

In addition to the vibrant vitality contained within, the ice-cold aura, and the fragrance, this drop of liquid even carried the aura of sunrise. It gave one a feeling that one faced the just-rising sun, which brought along a sense of endless vitality.

Just a whiff of this vibrant vitality made Ning Cheng feel as if his dissipated longevity had fully returned.

This must be the Glimmer of Dawn Ice Essence, Ning Cheng instantly understood, while feeling pleasantly surprised within his heart. At this moment, he felt incredibly grateful towards Shen Qinyu. If it were not for Shen Qinyu, he would even know about Twilight Sand, let alone something like the Glimmer of Dawn Ice Essence.

He did not know if Shen Qinyu managed to go out using the Transfer Array. However, if she managed to get out, then Ning Cheng decided to send her a drop of the Glimmer of Dawn Ice Essence in the future, as the repayment of gratitude he currently felt.

After carefully placing several restrictions over the jade bottle, Ning Cheng once again began to gather his Celestial Essence and Spiritual Consciousness, before continually casting the Dusk Spiritual Technique, using the chance to collect more drops of Glimmer of Dawn Ice Essence from the static Time Whirlpool.

No wonder only an extremely few people managed to obtain such a thing, even Shen Qinyu said that it was only the stuff of legends. If Ning Cheng had not touched upon the surface of the Laws of Time and used the Dusk Spiritual Technique, even if he knew about the First Glimmer of Dawn Ice Essence existing within the Time Whirlpool, he could have never obtained it.

However, since this kind of an object had appeared outside, it meant that someone had also obtained it through comprehending the Laws of Time inside this place.

One month later, no matter how many times Ning Cheng cast the Dusk Spiritual Technique, he could no longer obtain any more Glimmers of Dawn Ice Essence from the Time Whirlpool. Ning Cheng could not understand if it was the result of him thoroughly cleaning away the Glimmer of Dawn Ice Essence or if his cultivation was still too low to see any more.

However, Ning Cheng felt delighted with his harvest. In one month, he managed to obtain nine drops of this legendary Glimmers of Dawn Ice Essence.

Carefully storing the nine drops of Glimmers of Dawn Ice Essence into the jade bottles, and sealing the bottles with numerous restrictions, Ning Cheng once again resumed digging through the ice around him to reach the top. He did not feel the urgency to restore his skin and hair immediately. For him, his current appearance was a lot better than even the best mask-type weapon.

At the same time, Ning Cheng's speed of digging through the ice of the glacial canyon had also increased significantly after comprehending the surface of the Laws of Time in this place.

In just one month, Ning Cheng finally managed to come out of the scope of the Time Whirlpool. When he could no longer feel the effects of the Time Whirlpool around him, Ning Cheng gave out a long sigh as he thought; could he use his Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds now?

Ning Cheng looked up and was just about to activate his Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds when he felt shocked yet again. There was another set of dug out ice steps just over his head. However, these ice steps extended from the top to bottom unlike the bottom to top ice steps that he had dug out.

Who dug out these ice steps? Was it Shen Qinyu?

A moment later, Ning Cheng confirmed that Shen Qinyu had indeed dug out these ice steps. His Spiritual Consciousness clearly captured the line of text next to the carved ice step closest to him. "This Qing used several years to dig these 7,542 ice steps in hopes to find Eldest Brother Wanderer. However, the ten-year period is almost up, forcing Qing to leave in reluctance and frustration. This Qing vows that as long as I remain alive, I will come here again and take away Eldest Brother Wanderer from this place. Regardless of life or death, it is this Qing's vow."

Ning Cheng immediately felt his heart turning warm. This Qing should be none other than Shen Qinyu. Since Shen Qinyu posed as a cultivator from the Orchid Borough Celestial River to enter the Time Wilderness, she presumably had also not used her real name. However, after she reached the Transfer Array, she did not care about her escape. Instead, she spent several years digging the ice steps to find him.

Shen Qinyu had kept digging the ice steps in this place; however, she faced a completely different situation compared to him. Although Ning Cheng had fallen to this place, he still had the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds. However, if Shen Qinyu descended into this place, she would have no chance of survival. One could even say that in the past few years, Shen Qinyu helped him in digging those ice steps while risking her life. This woman gave the feeling of being very rational; however, such actions showed pure impulsiveness on her part.

Ning Cheng had genuinely thought that Shen Qinyu was a rational person. He and Shen Qinyu had travelled together for a few years, and no matter how much offended she felt, she always spoke out in a calm tone and an everyday expression. She never showed any emotional outbursts. However, this woman actually spent a few years, risking falling to her death at any time, to dig these ice steps to save him. Could he still claim that it was entirely on impulse?

Ning Cheng also knew that although Shen Qinyu had vowed to return, she most likely would not be able to return to this place. With Shen Qinyu's cultivation, when she returned to her home, she most likely would end up advancing to the Celestial Bridge Realm. If cultivators in the Celestial Bridge Realm could enter the Time Wilderness, then why did the other cultivators in the Celestial Bridge Realm not come in during the time this place opened? Shen Qinyu most likely had not thought of this matter.

Thinking of this, Ning Cheng gave up the idea of flying up; however, his speed of ascent definitely increased a few folds. In just a short time, he dug out a few dozen more ice steps and connected his own ice steps with the ice steps carved out by Shen Qinyu.

Ning Cheng then took out a sword and added a sentence after Shen Qinyu's message, "Thank you for your ice steps, it saved me a few more years of hard work. I have already dug up the path behind me. I took the liberty of christening it as the Ladder of Life. Perhaps one day, a few latecomers might embark on the ice steps we dug out. Wanderer. By the way, you really look beyond beautiful when you do not wear any clothes. Well, that is all from my side; do not let other people see you like that... Or they might end up worshipping you."

Although trapped in this place for several years, Ning Cheng managed to harvest a lot of Twilight Sand and Glimmers of Dawn Ice Essence; he also managed to grasp his very own Dusk Spiritual Technique. Therefore, he felt delighted and contented with everything he obtained. This kind of happiness, coupled with knowing that Shen Qinyu would not come here again, made him leave behind such a mess of a message.