

The Gate 871

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 871: Cave Under Attack

The cave worth 30,000 points a year looked surprisingly good. Not only did it have dense and powerful Spiritual Qi within it, but even the environment in and around the cave also looked quite beautiful and artistic.

Ning Cheng, however, didn't have the mind to observe the scenery here. After activating the cave's restrictions with the jade card, he immediately entered the cave and took out the Dao Fruit Tree's ring.

Although it had only been less than a day since he obtained it, the branches of this Dao Fruit Tree had already started to yellow. Even the life force within this Dao Fruit Tree had grown thinner. One could hardly sense any life from it at this moment.

Ning Cheng didn't immediately transplant the Dao Fruit Tree into the True Spirit World and cultivate it with Law Soil. Instead, he placed his hands on the Dao Fruit Tree and immersed his consciousness into it.

Ning Cheng's cultivation truly was at the middle-stage Eternal Realm. However, his spiritual consciousness was already so strong that even an ordinary Dao Sculpting cultivator couldn't stand against it. As for his Sea of Consciousness's strength, even peak Dao Sculpting cultivators might not compare to it. How many people had a Starry Sky Sea of Consciousness? Even with a top-grade cultivation method, hardly a handful of people could form a Starry Sky Sea of Consciousness.

Ning Cheng continuously poured in his spiritual consciousness and carefully searched every inch of the Dao Fruit Tree. But even if Ning Cheng had a strong Sea of Consciousness, his face had already started to turn pale and sweaty after doing this for a relatively long period.

After another hour, Ning Cheng finally breathed in a sigh of relief. His spiritual consciousness finally locked onto a spot right under the core of this Dao Fruit Tree.

In that spot, he not only found an extremely well-hidden Spiritual Consciousness Imprint, but the Spiritual Consciousness Imprint even had an exquisite concealment restriction surrounding it. Under such layers of concealment around it, even Dao Sculpting cultivators wouldn't manage to find it. At least, not until they were proficient in the Dao of Arrays.

Ning Cheng might have weak cultivation than others in this place, but he had his advantages, like having a strong spiritual consciousness and being an Array Dao Master. Translated into the Grand Essence Realm's language, Ning Cheng's proficiency in array formation had reached low-level Spirit Array Master.

At Ning Cheng's level, it was only a matter of time till he found the Spiritual Consciousness Imprint concealed by the Heartless Monk.

Ning Cheng could burn away this Spiritual Consciousness Imprint with his Celestial River Flame. However, Ning Cheng didn't do this. Instead, he stripped the Spiritual Consciousness Imprint left by the Heartless Monk from the Dao Fruit Tree, then took out an ordinary tree and placed the imprint on it.

After doing this, Ning Cheng didn't stop. Instead, he began to refine a few array flags.

After another two hours, and after setting up everything, Ning Cheng put on an Appearance Changing Mask and quietly left the cave he had rented. He then quickly made his way to the Quest Hall and got himself a new black Quest Card.

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The cultivator-in-charge of renting caves felt quite satisfied today. Although Ning Cheng's abrupt appearance had frightened him, he also received 5,000 spirit crystals in compensation. One had to know that 5,000 spirit crystals weren't a small amount for him.

"Is there any cave for rent?" A hoarse voice alarmed the cultivator-in-charge of cave rentals. But when he looked up, he realised that he didn't even notice when a man wearing brocade robes appeared in front of him.

Before he could say that there weren't any caves for rental, the brocade-robed man gasped a few times before taking out a storage bag and throwing it at him. He then spoke with a slightly hoarse voice, "Hurry up and help me find a cave. These are yours. I just need to rest."

Anyone could tell with a glance that there was something wrong with the cultivation method used by this brocade-robed man.

He immediately wanted to chase this person away, but his spiritual consciousness immediately swept out after seeing the storage bag. When he saw the ten thousand spirit crystals in the storage bag, he immediately put them away without hesitation and said, "We indeed have caves available. What kind of cave does this dao friend need?"

The brocade-robed man spoke up with a cold voice, "The last time I rented a cave worth 12,000 points per year. I want to rent it again."

After talking, the brocade-robed man handed out a black Quest Card.

The cultivator-in-charge, seeing the man take out 10,000 spirit crystals as a tip, and wanted to rent a cave worth 12,000 points a year, felt that this person had a significant background. However, he never expected that this person would only have a black card. But since he already pocketed the ten thousand spirit crystals, he didn't think about anything.

The cultivator then helped the brocade-robe man go through the formalities as quickly as possible and then sent him away with a number plate.

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When it came to cultivation caves in Grand Essence Public Square, they all usually came with warning array formation and restrictions. As long as one wasn't an idiot, everyone would activate those array formations to issue a warning when someone tried to invade.

It's one of the reasons why people regarded the cultivation caves here as a safe area. Of course, this security was nothing more than fundamental. If you met a cultivator whose cultivation exceeded yours, even if you received a warning, that cultivator could rush into the cave and still kill you. Even if your warning attracted the patrolling cultivators, the person who killed you most likely would have already escaped by the time they reached your cave.

If the person killed was someone important, only then would the people in charge of the Grand Essence Ruins send someone to investigate and intercept. But if the person killed was nothing significant, they would only investigate it for a few minutes before closing the books on it.

Although not uncommon, this kind of thing happened quite a few times in the Grand Essence Ruins' public square caves.

The cave leased by Ning Cheng cost 30,000 points a year. However, it was still a mid-ranged cave in Class B. The safety facilities naturally were much higher than ordinary caves. Moreover, the cultivators who lived here would usually arrange additional defensive and warning restrictions to secure them.

Of course, if one rented a Class A cave, it basically would have everything. Even if the cultivator didn't activate or put any restrictions, the Strangulation Grand Array around the cave would still protect him from all invaders. Once someone tried to enter, even mistakenly, it would immediately trigger the Strangulation Grand Array.

At this time, a bird landed on the tree right outside Ning Cheng's cave's restrictions. After a while, a black-robed cultivator suddenly appeared beside the bird. This black-robed cultivator had fully converged his aura, so much so that one couldn't even feel the slightest fluctuation of life from him. If the cultivator in charge of renting caves were here, he would have positively identified this black-robed cultivator as the person who asked about Ning Cheng's cave.

After about a half-an-incense stick worth of time, the black-robed cultivator's spiritual consciousness slowly swept out. After a while, the corner of his mouth turned into a sneer. Sure enough, it was just as he expected. This person truly was an idiot. The cave he rented wasn't a cheap one, but this person hadn't even activated the defensive restrictions around it. In other words, he could quickly kill this ant before the cave's warning system triggered and then take that ant's ring before calmly walking away.

After confirming that he had indeed guessed correctly, the black-robed cultivator carefully walked out and threw out some array flags once after another. After a while, his figure disappeared right in front of the cave's restriction. It felt like this person's very being had integrated into space around here. One couldn't feel even the slightest fluctuation, let alone any indication of restrictions activating.

After the black-robed cultivator entered the cave's restrictions, he immediately felt a feeling of extreme danger. He felt shocked. Could someone have already discovered him? Just when he was about to force his way out, a low voice sounded out, "Ou Yandu, this monk expected you to come. And you truly came, hehe."

"You? Heartless Monk....." The black-robed cultivator instantly recognised the owner of this deep voice.

Sure enough, after he spoke those words, a fat-faced monk suddenly appeared in front of him. It was none other than the Heartless Monk, Ju Mei. The monk had sneaked into Ning Cheng's cave silently, without even changing his outfit.

"What do you want to do?" The black-robed Ou Yandu spoke with a hoarse voice. However, he quickly realised that it didn't matter.

Sure enough, the Heartless Monk showed an honest smile, “Dao Friend Lifeless, what can I do? This kid’s vigilance is so poor that we deserve his fortune. Isn’t that right? We can share things equally. However, the Dao Fruit Tree is mine, so I have to take it back.”

“Then, the spiritual consciousness cultivation method belongs to me.” Ou Yandu spoke with a deep voice.

The Heartless Monk made a ‘no problem’ gesture and whispered, “In that case, let’s sign a contract.”

The contract he talked about was an Essence Spirit Binding Contract. Generally, only a few people would go back on this kind of thing. But since Heartless Monk mentioned signing this contract, Ou Yandu naturally didn’t have any problems with it. However, he still spoke with a low voice, “It felt a bit too easy to come in. Do you think he’s a fraud?”

The Heartless Monk sneered, “Fraud, bah. Didn’t you see how stupid this kid was? He even tried to put a Spiritual Consciousness Imprint on me. Have you ever seen such an idiot ant?”

Hearing that Ning Cheng tried to put an imprint on Heartless Monk, Ou Yandu felt fully relieved. He nodded and said to the Heartless Monk, “You’re good at sneaking around. Why don’t you go ahead? I will prevent him from escaping.”

After the two quickly reached an agreement, they hastily made their way to Ning Cheng’s cave entrance. A faint shadow of Ning Cheng appeared in the range of the two’s spiritual consciousness. They even felt some slight aura fluctuations from this figure.

“Looks like this kid is quite daring, immersing himself so deep. I’ll break open the cave, but we’ll act together on him before converging in the Grand Essence Ruins.” The Heartless Monk felt his Spiritual Consciousness Imprint and the aura fluctuations from Ning Cheng’s body. Sensing all that, he couldn’t help sticking out his tongue and licking the corner of his lips in anticipation.

The two of them broke through Ning Cheng’s cave entrance without much effort.

Ou Yandu reached out and grabbed Ning Cheng immediately. But then, he suddenly shouted, “Not good. It’s not him....”

It truly wasn’t Ning Cheng but a weapon substitute who gave out fluctuations of deep cultivation. Ning Cheng had somehow integrated his aura fluctuations into this substitute, which truly fooled Lifeless Poisonhand and Heartless Monk’s preconceived notions.

Not to mention Ou Yandu, even Heartless Monk, had realised that he got cheated the moment he stepped into Ning Cheng’s cave. He instantly turned around and started to leave without any moment of stagnation.

Unfortunately, everything had fallen within Ning Cheng’s calculations. Just when Heartless Monk turned, explosions erupted within the cave. In just an instant, the entire cave filled up with killing lights.

The cave’s original restrictions, which Lifeless Poisonhand and Heartless Monk could easily breakthrough, suddenly turned ten times more complicated. Trap Formations and Strangling Formations suddenly appeared, and the whimpering sounds of the blade lights grew to such intensity that one could hear them throughout the Grand Essence Public Square.

Even an idiot would have realised that someone tried to sneak into one of the cultivation caves of the Grand Essence Public Squared. Moreover, judging from the point of origination, it looked like a Class B cultivation cave.

A powerful probing light quickly swept towards their location, which turned the Heartless Monk and Lifeless Poisonhand even more anxious. The cave's simple restrictions had suddenly transformed into various Trap Formations and Strangulation Arrays. But no matter how worried, they couldn't escape in the shortest possible time.

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Chapter 872: Grand Essence Sea's Dragon Emperor

By the time Heartless Monk and Lifeless Poisonhand smashed through Ning Cheng's Strangulation Arrays, the patrolling guards had already locked onto them.

The Heartless Monk cursed out in anger before raising his hand and throwing out a talisman. The talisman instantly lit up with bright lights, and he disappeared.

Seeing the Heartless Monk escape, Lifeless Poisonhand could only yell out in anger. The next moment, red light covered his body, and he immediately flashed out of existence before the patrol guards could reach him. Compared to the Heartless Monk, he had paid a much greater price. Not only did he not obtain the spiritual consciousness cultivation method, he even had to burn his essence blood to activate his escape technique.

Half a day later, Heartless Monk landed in the depths of the Grand Essence Ruins. He looked back in the Grand Essence Public Square's direction and took out a jade box filled with life force. Taking a look at it, he roared with rage.

At this moment, he no longer looked like a naive and honest monk from before. The hideous rage-filled look on his face had swallowed up everything. Even if he could retrieve the Dao Fruit Tree in a couple of days, he wouldn't be able to resurrect the Dao Fruit Tree.

The only reason why he had stripped off the life force of the Dao Fruit Tree was that he wasn't entirely confident in getting it back if someone strong had brought it. Of course, even if a powerhouse had purchased it, he had put a Spiritual Consciousness Imprint on the Dao Fruit Tree. As long as this powerhouse kept it alive, he could dig it out at any time. Even if someone found the imprint, he wouldn't lose anything.

But now, an ant had brought his Dao Fruit Tree. Plus, this ant had even schemed against him. How many years has it been since he arrived at the Grand Essence Ruins? When had he ever suffered such a loss? If he, the Heartless Monk, didn't swallow this ant alive, he would also be nothing more than a speck of dust in the Grand Essence Ruins.

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Two unidentified cultivators failed to attack a cave in Grand Essence Ruins' public square. The events of the failed attack and subsequent escape spread throughout the Grand Essence Ruins' public square quickly.

The most prevalent version was that two unidentified cultivators had launched a sneak attack on a cave simultaneously. But unaware of each other, they ended up triggering the restrictions of the cave. As a result, the Grand Essence Ruins' public square's patrolling cultivators immediately rushed to the scene and severely injured the two attackers. Had those two not used top-grade escape talismans, they would have already fallen in front of the cave's entrance.

As this version spread out like a wildfire, someone posted the real version.

Someone named Ning Cheng had offended Lifeless Poisonhand by standing out too much at the Dao Confirming Exchange Meeting. Moreover, this cultivator was even bold enough to purchase a Dao Fruit Tree from Heartless Monk. If someone provoked these two tough characters simultaneously, it was only natural for your cave to face attacks.

No one explicitly stated that Lifeless Poisonhand and Heartless Monk attacked the cave. But everyone had already guessed that it was these two men who launched the sneak attack.

Regardless of how much the Grand Essence Ruins' public square publicised about their forces' strength, people assumed that Ning Cheng had died. As for Lifeless Poisonhand and Heartless Monk, people believed that they at most lost a talisman. After a while, these two would eventually return to the Grand Essence Ruins' public square.

This 'fact' that Lifeless Poisonhand and Heartless Monk killed Ning Cheng in his cave quickly spread out. But apart from Lifeless Poisonhand and Heartless Monk, everyone else thought that Ning Cheng had already fallen.

Shan Yaocen, who was still in the Grand Essence Ruins' public square, sighed when she heard this news. She should have already guessed that a person like Ning Cheng wouldn't live for long. It was just a waste of time and effort to scheme against him, only for him to end up dead.

Apart from Shan Yaocen, the only ones who knew Ning Cheng was Kong Ning and Peng Ruimei. However, they had already returned to their sect in the Grand Essence Domain. As such, they didn't get the news in time. By the time they heard about it, they could only sigh in helplessness. They understood that they couldn't change what had already happened.

Ning Cheng's death was like a grain of dust falling on an endless lake. It wouldn't even create half a ripple. However, Ning Cheng coming to the Quest Hall to hand over the Law Soil Task and receiving 1.5 million points for it quickly spread.

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Within the Grand Essence Realm, apart from the Grand Essence Ruins, almost all the large sects concentrated within the Grand Essence Domain. The Grand Essence Sea was also a part of the Grand Essence Domain.

No one could dare ignore the Grand Essence Sea. Not because the Grand Essence Sea had four great sects, but more importantly, because the Grand Essence Sea contained a legendary Dao Perfection powerhouse.

The premier sea sect of the Grand Essence Sea, to be more precise, was a clan rather than a sect. This clan was the Grand Essence Barbarian Dragon Clan. Moreover, despite being the strongest clan within

the Grand Essence Sea, it was also very shameless. It was the Grand Essence Barbarian Dragon Clan that had the legendary Dao Perfection powerhouse, Man Suotian.

However, Man Suotian never appeared before the public. Almost no one has seen his real body. Besides, the current ruler of the Grand Essence Barbarian Dragon Clan was Dragon Emperor Man Huishan. Although he lived in the sea, he still had a mountain character in his name.

Man Huishan wasn't only the Dragon Emperor of the Grand Essence Barbarian Dragon Clan. He was also the second master of the entire Grand Essence Barbarian Dragon Clan, besides Man Suotian. According to the rumours, he had already reached Dao Essence Realm's peak, just a hair's breadth away from Dao Confirming's Dao Fusion Realm.

A Dao Essence cultivator still couldn't compare to a legendary Dao Perfection powerhouse. But then again, one would only find two or three Dao Perfection powerhouses throughout the entire Grand Essence Realm. Even if one took into account the hidden masters, it wouldn't exceed the number of fingers on one hand at most.

Thus, the Imperial Palace of the Grand Essence Barbarian Dragon Clan was also one of the most luxurious places within the entire Grand Essence Domain. One would find the Grand Essence Dragon Emperor's Imperial Palace in the deepest part of the Grand Essence Sea, where the spiritual qi was the strongest. Countless beautiful corals and crystals could only pave the pavement outside the imperial palace.

Plus, all kinds of sacred trees surrounded the imperial palace in layers. The azure blue waters on the seabed kept flowing outside the imperial court, but not a single drop of it fell through into the imperial palace.

If ordinary people came here, they would immediately think that they had entered a world of immortals. Unfortunately, the dragon clan's imperial palace wasn't a world of immortals or fairy tales but a blood-thirsty and ruthless place. Any cultivator or sea clan who offended the imperial palace for any reason at all, the dragon clan would immediately head out to catch them before shredding them live and throwing them into the sea.

Moreover, any cultivator who wanted to visit the imperial palace must first get permission. And after getting approval, the person would have to pass through layers of guards to reach just the imperial palace's entrance.

At this moment, in the splendid and luxurious imperial palace, a middle-aged man wearing an imperial crown remained seated on a throne in the middle of the imperial court. Not far from him, on both sides stood more than a dozen male and female cultivators with different looks. And even further down, one could see several dozen men and women lined up on both sides.

The palace remained silent, while the middle-aged man wearing the imperial crown had a gloomy expression. A young man knelt in front of this middle-aged man for an unknown amount of time.

After another half-an-incense stick worth of time, the middle-aged man wearing the imperial crown spoke with a low tone. "Man Jiuren, you're a half-step Dao Sculpting expert. Going to a low-level positional plane, you even got your body destroyed. Yet, you still have the face to come back? It's me, Man Huishan's, shame to have a useless scion like you."

“Imperial Father, that kid had a terrible arrow. I suspect that it’s the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow...”
The young man gave a respectful reply.

This man was none other than Man Jiuren, whose body Pan Qian had crushed. However, he hated Ning Cheng more than Pan Qian. If Ning Cheng hadn’t rescued Pan Qian, and if Ning Cheng hadn’t come to the Mysterious Yellow Starland to stir up trouble, he would have already succeeded.

He didn’t say anything about Pan Qian, not because of his hate for Ning Cheng, but because Man Jiuren didn’t want to leak Pan Qian’s news. Pan Qian had the purest ancient blood. If he revealed information about Pan Qian, most likely, he would no longer have anything to do with Pan Qian’s ancient blood.

Man Jiuren believed that now that his body had recovered, as long as he worked hard in cultivation, it wouldn’t take long before he could catch the giant by himself.

“Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow?” Man Huishan, wearing an imperial crown, also repeated the words in surprise.

Man Jiuren spoke with confidence, “Imperial Father. I’m not mistaken about it. That arrow most likely is the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow. There was no bow and also no arrow. However, when activated, it created a multicoloured hue and gave off a feeling that it could destroy everything that stood in its path.”

“Ninth Brother, you’re not allowed to lie in front of our imperial father. If it truly was the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow, do you think your essence spirit could still survive, let alone return? Even if you belong to my dragon clan, you wouldn’t be able to return facing that.” A purple-faced man standing a little further down the imperial hierarchy couldn’t help but berate.

Man Jiuren quickly spoke up, “Second Brother, how could I dare lie in front of our imperial father? Fortunately, that fellow couldn’t fully activate the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow. At most, he could only activate less than one ten thousandths of its power. What he shot out wasn’t an arrow, but most likely, the arrow’s killing power. I’m afraid that even he doesn’t know about it. Otherwise, I would have no chance to speak here.”

The purple-faced man, addressed as ‘Second Brother’ by Man Jiuren, asked again, “What cultivation does this person have?”

Man Jiuren understood what his second brother meant. He hesitated for a while before finally speaking the truth, “He should be in the Eternal Realm, but not a late-stage Eternal cultivator...”

“A cultivator who didn’t even reach the late-stage Eternal Realm could activate the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow?” The purple-faced man frowned and said.

When Man Jiuren saw his imperial father’s expression sitting on the throne, his complexion turned a little ugly. He quickly explained, “This person’s strength couldn’t compare to me initially. But when he started burning his essence blood and life essence, he didn’t seem any weaker than me...”

He wanted to find a few people to prove it, but none of his attendants had returned.

“What’s his name?” Man Huishan sitting on the imperial throne stopped the purple-faced man from continuing and instead asked himself.

“He’s called Ning Cheng...”

As soon as Man Jiuren’s spoke those words, a surprised exclamation rang out within the Dragon Palace. Then, an older man in a brown robe stood up and bowed towards the middle-aged man sitting on the throne before speaking, “Dragon Emperor, I might know this person named Ning Cheng. Not too long ago, a person by this name appeared in the Grand Essence Ruins’ public square. He even handed over five chunks of Law Soil bigger than a fist...”

“Wait-wait, you said he obtained five chunks of Law Soil larger than a fist?” Dragon Emperor Man Huishan immediately interrupted the brown-robed older man.

The brown-robed man spoke up in a respectful voice, “It’s true. Not only did this person hand over five chunks of Law Soil, but even the colour of these Law Soil chunks were quite beautiful. The Grand Essence Quest Hall had even taken out one of those chunks of Law Soil for auction and sold it for an extremely high price. But setting aside the issue of price, I don’t know if this Ning Cheng is the same Ning Cheng mentioned by the Ninth Prince.”

After speaking, the brown-robed old man raised his hand and projected Ning Cheng’s appearance in the air.

When Man Jiuren saw Ning Cheng’s face, he immediately pointed and said, “It’s him; that’s the guy.”

“Where is this person?” Man Huishan suppressed his excited tone and asked in a deep voice. His Imperial Palace lacked Law Soil. As long as he obtained enough Law Soil, he felt confident in cultivating a suitable Dao Fruit and pave the foundation for him reaching Dao Confirming’s Dao Fusion Realm.

The brown-robed old man bowed again and said, “After this person exchanged 1.5 million points, he forgot about when to advance and retreat. He offended Lifeless Poisonhand and Heartless Monk in the Dao Confirming Exchange Meet of the Quest Hall’s merchant house. Later, I heard that he went into secluded cultivation in a cave but ended up catching the eye of several people. In the end, those two people snuck into his cave and killed him.”

“Bring Lifeless Poisonhand and Heartless Monk here immediately.” Man Huishan gave a cold snort and spoke up without hesitation. It seemed that the Lifeless Poisonhand and Heartless Monk, who were quite famous in the Grand Essence Ruins, were nothing more than ants in front of him.

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Chapter 873: News of the fall

Ning Cheng naturally had no idea that Man Jiuren had escaped back to the Grand Essence Sea and restored his body. Instead, he changed his appearance to that of a brocade-robed man and rented a new cave. After rearranging and reinforcing the restrictions in and around the cave, he entered the True Spirit World.

Ning Cheng then quickly transplanted the almost-withered dao fruit tree into the True Spirit World and placed more than a hundred thousand spirit crystals right beneath it. At the same time, he also put several chunks of Law Soil in the soil right next to its roots.

He also entrusted Chasing Bull to look after the dao fruit tree. After finishing all that, Ning Cheng then came out of the True Spirit World and took out the incomplete spiritual consciousness cultivation method he purchased from the exchange meeting.

Carefully opening the restrictions on this incomplete cultivation method, Ning Cheng let his spiritual consciousness seep into it. After a while, lines started to appear in Ning Cheng's mind.

"Dark Nether Devouring Spirit Scroll, the premier spirit sense cultivation method under primal chaos..."

Just the opening sentence had surprised Ning Cheng. Just what was this Dark Nether Devouring Spirit Scroll? It even claimed that it was the premier spirit sense cultivation method under primal chaos.

"The inspiration of this cultivation method came from the northern darkness, the same northern darkness where the K'un resides, a creature many thousands of miles long, a creature that can transform into a P'eng, with back many thousands of miles across. Everyone knows the size of the P'eng and knows that it can soar for hundreds of thousands of miles, but few people know that when a P'eng opens its mouth, it can swallow a world more than a thousand miles wide..."

"Spirit sense is just an intangible thing, but since P'engs can swallow the world, wouldn't it also include intangible things? How could it be any inferior to the northern darkness? Darkness can devour spirits, devours the heaven and earth's spirit sense, devours all living beings' Sea of Consciousness, devours everything incorporeal..."

"But even the sun can have a gloomy overcast, and even the clear moon has some dark spots. It's regrettable that even though it's a powerful cultivation method, if one's Sea of Consciousness isn't strong enough to sustain it, it would be useless to cultivate it. It eventually would explode. But even with a powerful Sea of Consciousness, you could only use it to cultivate the Sea of Consciousness. However, it wouldn't be sustainable, which truly is a pity. Whether out of ignorance or foolishness, only someone with the most ruthless and vicious mind would create something like the Dark Nether Devouring Spirit Scroll. Pity that it can't swallow those ignorant fools!"

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After a while, Ning Cheng put down the incomplete cultivation method, feeling genuinely surprised. He had a feeling that the fellow who created this Dark Nether Devouring Spirit Scroll was a madman who treated other lives like ants.

This Dark Nether Devouring Spirit Scroll was the real deal. However, unlike typical cultivation methods that used or devoured other forms of internal forces, the Dark Nether Devouring Spirit Scroll required consuming a cultivator's spiritual consciousness and Sea of Consciousnesses. People could accuse this cultivation method of having a malicious nature, and it wouldn't be without reason either. This cultivation method was truly nasty.

Imagine how hard other people cultivated for over countless years. Yet, someone swooped in and devoured every scrap of your spiritual consciousness and even your Sea of Consciousness. It would be a strange matter if someone liked it.

Moreover, this Dark Nether Devouring Spirit Scroll also had an innate defect. That is, after devouring too much spirit sense or spiritual consciousness, it would cause the Sea of Consciousness to burst. If one

couldn't solve this problem, no matter how powerful the cultivation method, no one would dare to cultivate it. Anyone would decide to sell this cultivation method after they obtained it. Even powerful cultivators wouldn't dare cultivate this method.

In all honesty, even Ning Cheng had no favourable impression of this flawed and incomplete cultivation method. Although the person who created this cultivation method gave it a domineering name of 'Northern Darkness Spirit Method', it didn't change the truth. It was nothing more than a parasitic way of absorbing the internal forces of others.

However, looking at the approach taken by the creator of this cultivation method, even Ning Cheng had to admit that this person was truly a genius among geniuses. But the claim of it as the best spirit sense cultivation method under primal chaos, Ning Cheng felt a little unimpressed about it. It felt nothing more than bragging in his mind. Perhaps the person who created this cultivation method had already died under its effect. Devouring too much spiritual consciousness and Sea of Consciousnesses, maybe this person might have even blown up his Sea of Consciousness.

Regardless, Ning Cheng greatly admired the theory behind this cultivation method.

But even if he admired it, Ning Cheng disdained the very idea of devouring other cultivators' spiritual consciousness and Sea of Consciousnesses. Cultivating this method would mean violating his moral bottom line.

But at the same time, Ning Cheng also saw many combat methods from this cultivation method. Some of which could even compare to grand spirit techniques. Moreover, Ning Cheng felt quite interested in studying the theory behind this cultivation method. The Dark Nether Devouring Spirit Scroll mainly talked about devouring cultivators' spiritual consciousness and Sea of Consciousness. But it also proposed using one's spirit sense to devour heaven and earth and even consuming everything intangible. These two things could also improve one's spiritual consciousness, which aroused Ning Cheng's interest.

This cultivation method could also improve one's spiritual consciousness by devouring some spiritual fruits and spiritual grasses that had some effect on spiritual consciousness. It could even theoretically swallow all invisible and intangible thoughts in the universe to enhance one's spiritual consciousness.

These invisible and incorporeal thoughts included the intents of various treasures, including even the intents formed naturally within the starry skies. It was similar to absorbing Spiritual Qi for cultivation, which opened up another way to cultivate spiritual consciousness. It no longer meant absorbing the starry sky Spiritual Qi for cultivation advancement and then let it involuntarily improve the spiritual consciousness and Sea of Consciousness. Instead, it was purely cultivating spiritual consciousness, improving it step-by-step, without any contact with conventional cultivation.

Ning Cheng decided to use his deductions and combine them with the theories from this Dark Nether Devouring Spirit Scroll, to create spiritual consciousness techniques. Maybe he could even take it a step further and create a cultivation method to cultivate his spiritual consciousness.

Since the Dark Nether Devouring Spirit Scroll was an incomplete one, it only contained descriptions for the first four stages. The first stage was Spiritual Consciousness Changing Form, the second stage was

Sea of Consciousness Mutation, the third stage was the Starry Sky Sea of Consciousness, and the fourth stage was the Formless Sea of Consciousness.....

Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness had already become a Starry Sky Sea of Consciousness. However, Ning Cheng didn't know if his Sea of Consciousness had undergone a mutation or not. He did, however, understand that a Sea of Consciousness had to go through a Nirvana Thunder Tribulation before it evolved into the Starry Sky Sea of Consciousness.

As for the Formless Sea of Consciousness, it was the next step of evolution after the Starry Sky Sea of Consciousness. Once the Sea of Consciousness turned formless, then even if you didn't use a spiritual consciousness cultivation method, you could transform it into a world against your opponent. Letting the opponent walk into your Sea of Consciousness world, you could kill them without any effort.

Ning Cheng didn't care much about the role of a Formless Sea of Consciousness, as a real powerhouse wouldn't choose to enter their opponent's Sea of Consciousness willingly. Facing ordinary opponents, he wouldn't need to let his opponents walk into his Sea of Consciousness. Ning Cheng cared more because once his Sea of Consciousness turned formless, his Sea of Consciousness would experience a massive increase in range. Even if it formed an indistinct link to the surrounding starry sky, it would still connote formlessness.

Ning Cheng also felt quite interested in several of the spiritual consciousness spirit techniques mentioned in the Dark Nether Devouring Spirit Scroll. Like the Spiritual Consciousness Chop, this technique struck the opponent's Sea of Consciousness during a fight. It was utterly different from how he used the Sea of Consciousness to attack the opponent with Spiritual Consciousness Thorns and Spiritual Consciousness Blades as they slammed into the opponent openly. If one wanted to resist, one could find some ways to fight back.

On the other hand, the Spiritual Consciousness Chop formed a continuous jagged but solid blade wave that could split and form into several or even a dozen different slashes. It prevented the opponent from putting up any defences. But the specific number of Spiritual Consciousness slashes depended on the opponent's strength and your degree of control over the Spiritual Consciousness Chops.

Dark Consciousness Storm was a spiritual consciousness spirit technique that worked in tandem with one's understanding of the Laws of Space. To use this spirit technique, one must control the Laws of Space, then connect the Laws of Space with one's spiritual consciousness to attack the opponent. Trapped within this Dark Consciousness Storm, the opponent would find their spiritual consciousness suppressed. With their spiritual consciousness stifled and trapped within the spacial storm, they would end up at the mercy of others.

Ning Cheng rented a cave in the Grand Essence Ruins' public square for a year. However, he didn't go into secluded cultivation, nor was he in a hurry to start the spirit essence transformation process. After learning about and gaining some elementary control over Spiritual Consciousness Chop and Dark Consciousness Storm, Ning Cheng began studying artefact-crafting. He already had a large pile of materials on him, plus the materials he purchased with points. Therefore, even if he wanted to continue crafting artefacts for a year or two, he had enough materials.

He also refined a few medicinal pills for alchemy, but only when crafting artefacts became a monotonous and tedious chore.

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In the Grand Essence Quest Hall, a white-robed woman stared at one of the quest screens with red eyes. She stood in the same spot staring at the screen for nearly an hour; moreover, without even moving a muscle.

It was a Wanted Quest Screen with a very conspicuous task on it. Capture Lifeless Poisonhand Ou Yandi for a reward of two million points. Capture Heartless Monk Ju Mei for two million points. The prerequisite, they have to be alive. Moreover, those who provide information that leads to a successful capture would earn 500,000 points.

Arguably, such a generous reward could almost compare to the Grand Essence Spirit Thunder Quest. However, many people understood that one could only look at this task and not complete it. Only those people who have given up on living would want to try capturing those two murderous people. Fortunately, it also involved an independent sub-task of providing information in exchange for 500,000 points, which was still a huge amount.

Almost everyone thought that this mission must have come from the forces managing the caves of Grand Essence Ruins' public square. That's because the same two people had attacked one of the higher-grade caves of the Grand Essence Ruins' public square. Therefore, it offset the dwindling reputation of Grand Essence Ruins' public square and improved it beyond its peak. Many cultivators saw this task and felt their confidence in Grand Essence Ruins' public square increasing again. For a time, one couldn't even rent a cave in Grand Essence Ruins' public square, even with a silver card.

"Ruxue, why are you here? I was just about to go back to bring you here....." A crisp and pleasant voice sounded beside the white-robed woman.

The white-robed woman turned her head and saw an equally pretty female cultivator in Tsing Yi and spoke up with surprise in her eyes, "Yan Ji...."

The next moment, her eyes dimmed, and she even lowered her head.

Yan Ji had just returned from a task in the Grand Essence Ruins. Initially, she planned to go to the Boundary Essence Spirit Sea City to bring Nalan Ruxue. Now that Yan Ji saw Nalan Ruxue here, Yan Ji naturally felt happy. However, as soon as she saw the change in Nalan Ruxue's expression, she understood that something must have happened. She immediately asked, "What happened?"

"Let's talk about it in another place." After Nalan Ruxue finished speaking, she walked out of the Quest Hall first.

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In one of the smaller rest stops near the Grand Essence Ruins, Yan Ji paled after hearing Nalan Ruxue's words. Even her body trembled a bit.

Yan Ji had excellent qualifications and was also an extremely hard-working woman. Coupled with the opportunity gained in the Grand Essence Ruins, she managed to advance to the Life and Death Realm from her initial Heaven Seated cultivation. According to her previous thoughts, she wanted to head back to the Boundary Essence Spirit Sea City and bring Nalan Ruxue here. Then, the two could work together on tasks while cultivating.

Once they reached the Eternal Realm, she would have enough time to improve her proficiency in the Dao of Arrays. That way, she could perfect the teleportation array under the Grand Essence Sea and teleport back to find Ning Cheng.

However, she never expected to hear the news about Ning Cheng's fall from Nalan Ruxue. Ning Cheng had come to the Boundary Essence Spirit Sea City to find her. In the Boundary Essence Spirit Sea City, Ning Cheng found Nalan Ruxue and brought her to the Grand Essence Ruins. However, during a cultivation session within a cave of Grand Essence Ruins' public square, Lifeless Poisonhand and Heartless Monk jointly attacked and killed him.

The forces managing the Grand Essence Ruins' public square to capture those two people had even issued a task with extremely generous rewards. However, no one could even catch the shadow of those two people.

Seeing Yan Ji's pale face and trembling body, Nalan Ruxue suddenly felt a little lost. Compared to Yan Ji's feelings for Ning Cheng, her feelings for Ning Cheng seemed to be nothing more than pure emotion.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 874: Setting up an Artefact-crafting Stall

"Ruxue, I'm leaving." Yan Ji stood up. Except for her still pale face, her tone had already calmed down.

Nalan Ruxue also stood up. She had stayed with Yan Ji for quite some time and had already gained a good understanding of Yan Ji. Yan Ji was a fiercely independent and head-strong woman. In a way, Yan Ji was much more robust and much more independent than her. Even if she, Nalan Ruxue, had lived by herself in the starry sky for many years, she still was inferior to Yan Ji in these aspects.

She also knew that Yan Ji has decided to kill Lifeless Poisonhand and Heartless Monk. However, she didn't persuade Yan Ji, knowing that she couldn't change her mind anyway. Once Yan Ji decided on something, it absolutely would never depend on an impulse. Even if she wanted to kill these two people, she wouldn't try to do it right away.

"I have to go too. Be careful. I have gained an inheritance, so I will return here once I reach Dao Sculpting in the future." Nalan Ruxue only asked Yan Ji to be careful. Since Ning Cheng had already fallen, she also had no purpose staying at the edge of the Grand Essence Ruins' public square. She had to take care of her vows first. If Yan Ji hadn't killed those two people by the time she reached Dao Sculpting, she would take action.

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After a one year retreat, Ning Cheng finally heard about what happened a year ago. Many experts guessed that Heartless Monk would come after him. It's just that no one expected that Heartless Monk would take action in such an area. It seemed that it was always a good idea to plan for all contingencies.

After leaving his cave, Ning Cheng came to the Quest Hall wearing a mask he made during the retreat. He had continuously crafted artefacts for the past one year but could only refine low-ranked spirit artefacts. However, since he made the mask personally, even a Dao Sculpting cultivator couldn't see through it. Even cultivators above Dao Sculpting, if they didn't try to use their spiritual consciousness to scan him consciously, wouldn't be able to see through it.

He just wanted to blend in as an inconspicuous person and believed that no experts would investigate him specifically. What's more, an expert over Dao Sculpting Realm in the Grand Essence Ruins' public square was a rare thing, even at the worst of times.

However, Ning Cheng quickly realised the error in his thoughts. A year ago, there indeed weren't many Dao Sculpting or above experts in this place. At most, there were just a few, less than the fingers on one hand. But this time, as soon as he entered the Quest Hall, he felt seven to eight powerful auras. Even if he didn't use his spiritual consciousness to sweep out, he understood that these experts' cultivation exceeded those of Dao Sculpting cultivators.

Ning Cheng took a deep breath and converged his aura before blending in with the many ordinary cultivators in the hall to look at the quest screen.

It didn't take much time for Ning Cheng to locate the task for capturing Heartless Monk and Lifeless Poisonhand. However, Ning Cheng didn't care much about this task. These two fellows dared to sneak attack a cave belonging to the Grand Essence Ruins' Public Square. It was only natural for the Grand Essence Ruins' public square to issue a task to capture them.

But Ning Cheng quickly dispelled the idea when he saw the point-reward for these two people. Each one equalled two million points; moreover, alive. Even the person who provided information about these two people's possible whereabouts could get half a million points, which suddenly jolted Ning Cheng's heart.

He was just an inconsequential rogue cultivator here. Even if killed in a sneak attack, the Grand Essence Public Square's Cave Management Office wouldn't put such a high price to capture these two people. The only possibility was that this wasn't a task issued by the Grand Essence Public Square's Cave Management Office. Either that or the reason for this wanted task had nothing to do with him.

Ning Cheng, however, didn't think that this task had anything to do with him. The Heartless Monk and Lifeless Poisonhand had attacked him, and now he saw a wanted task for both of them, which felt a little too coincidental.

Whether or not he died, only Lifeless Poisonhand and Heartless Monk knew about it. Of course, that didn't include him. Ning Cheng immediately connected that this wanted task wasn't just for these two people but also aimed at him. At the very least, someone wanted to confirm his death. Only that, Ning Cheng felt, was a reasonable explanation for capturing Lifeless Poisonhand and Heartless Monk alive.

But who would spend such a large price to find him? The most likely ones were Lifeless Poisonhand and Heartless Monk. But they were on the wanted task themselves.

Apart from them, the only other force that came to mind was Beyond Heaven Path. These were the only forces he had offended after coming to the Grand essence Ruins. But Ning Cheng also knew very well that Beyond Heaven Path would never dare to search for him using wanted tasks. Let alone through tasks for capturing Heartless Monk and Lifeless Poisonhand. What's more, Beyond Heaven Path shouldn't have the means to issue such a high-reward job.

Ning Cheng walked to a corner of the Quest Hall and ordered a cup of ordinary spiritual tea.

He picked up the spiritual tea and took a sip unconsciously. However, just when he was about to put down his cup of spiritual tea, he saw a man with a striped face walking into the Quest Hall.

Ninth Prince?

Ning Cheng quickly determined that this person wasn't Ninth Prince. However, this person's face had nine points of resemblance to the Ninth Prince, Man Jiuren. Although the wrinkle patterns on this person's face looked similar along with the facial structure, he felt sure that this person wasn't Man Jiuren.

Thinking of Man Jiuren, the leaf covering Ning Cheng's thoughts suddenly disappeared, and Ning Cheng's heart suddenly turned clear as a mirror.

Ninth Prince must have returned to the Grand Essence Sea. If that is the case, then only his father had this kind of courage and the audacity to use so many points as a lure to search for Ning Cheng.

Ninth Prince's father made such a bold move, but it most likely wasn't just to avenge Ninth Prince. Rather, it most likely had a connection to his Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow. In any case, Man Jiuren had experienced its power personally. Presumably, Man Jiuren had shared this information with his father, and his father decided to look for the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow.

Ning Cheng had no idea about the cultivation of Ninth Prince's father. However, Ning Cheng could guess that he most likely was a powerhouse around these parts.

Now, such a powerhouse wanted to find him, who was just an Eternal cultivator. Just the thought of it turned Ning Cheng's heart cold. He felt sure that once even a shred of news got leaked, he might not even have the opportunity to escape into the Grand Essence Ruins.

Ning Cheng forced himself to calm down and started to take some slow deep breaths and pondered over what he should do now. Although the man with stripes and lines on his face wasn't Man Jiuren, this person most likely had a blood relation to Man Jiuren. Perhaps, this person might turn out to be Man Jiuren's brother.

After drinking the cup of spiritual tea, Ning Cheng stood up. Since Ninth Prince's father wanted to look for him, he must not come here wearing a mask.

Although an appearance changing mask would certainly not be evident at first glance, it would immediately put him on the list of the most suspected group of people.

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An hour later, Ning Cheng entered the depths of the Grand Essence Ruins. He removed his mask and started to change his appearance in a straightforward way.

Under Ning Cheng's deliberate actions, his original chiselled face turned into an ordinary one. The first impression one would get on looking at this face would be a face filled with vicissitudes. Something only formed by undertaking long-term tasks in the Grand Essence Ruins. He even put a scar on his bare neck that seemed to have come from a poisonous demonic beast. Even his hair no longer looked grey; instead, it had turned into a bright whitish hue of grey.

After finishing these touch-ups, Ning Cheng felt slightly relieved. These modifications would gradually wear off as he cultivated. If he wanted, he could remove it in an instant with the First Glimmers of Dawn Ice Essence. But at least for now, no one would recognise him as Ning Cheng.

For a powerful starry sky cultivator, the easiest thing to change was one's appearance. But what was the most difficult to change? It was none other than the individual's aura. Moreover, this aura came from the cultivation method the individual used for cultivation.

If Ning Cheng didn't have the Mysterious Yellow Formless, he would have never attempted such useless work as physically changing his appearance. It might be challenging, or even an impossible matter, for others to change their aura. But it wasn't too tricky with the Mysterious Yellow Formless. With the Mysterious Yellow Formless Intangible, one could alter their body's aura entirely. As long as it wasn't someone who knew the person inside out, generally, no one would be able to recognise him from his aura.

Unless there was a top-notch powerhouse who met Ning Cheng in the past, only then could they find some clues about him even after changing his aura. But the most powerful people Ning Cheng knew in his life till now, and who had spent some considerable time with him, were none other than Pan Qian and Cang Wei.

A few days later, Ning Cheng, after changing his appearance and aura, returned to the Quest Hall of the Grand Essence Ruins. He wanted to test if anyone could recognise him. If anyone recognised him, he would immediately flee into the Grand Essence Ruins.

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Six months later, an Artefact-crafting Stall in Grand Essence Public Square started growing famous. This artefact-crafting stall had the name 'Wanderer Artefact Craftings'. The owner of this artefact-crafting stall was also called Wanderer.

This Wanderer's looks and cultivation were far from being comparable to the weapons and artefact he crafted. Don't look at Wanderer with his ordinary appearance; the low-ranked spirit artefact he crafted were all first-rate ones. These artefacts were more beautiful and even more potent than the low-ranked spirit artefact in the Quest Hall's merchant house.

But that's not the main thing. What mainly attracted people to Wanderer's artefact-crafting stall was that one only needed to provide the materials, along with some points or spirit crystals. In this way, the artefact price was just half of that in Quest Hall's merchant house.

No cultivator who took up tasks in the Grand Essence Ruins didn't know about the Wanderer Artefact-crafting Stall. If they wanted low-rank spirit artefacts, most cultivators would not go to the merchant hall but instead, come here.

Unfortunately, this artefact-crafting stall could only refine low-rank spirit artefacts. The owner couldn't refine even one middle-rank spirit artefacts.

Moreover, this artefact-crafting stall wasn't too far from the Grand Essence Ruins' Quest Hall. Every month, the owner of this stall had to pay a lot of points to Quest Hall. Many people tried to persuade

Wanderer to switch to another place and set up a different booth. Some even promised to bring their business to this new area. Some even offered to purchase a new proper shop for Wanderer.

But this Wanderer didn't seem to consider any of the offers. Not only did he speak very little, but Wanderer also didn't seem to mind doing a non-profitable business. He continued to pay the points to the Quest Hall as before and still put his booth next to the Quest Hall.

This Wanderer Artefact Crafting Stall naturally was set up by Ning Cheng. He had deliberately set up the Wanderer Artefact Crafting Stall next to the Quest Hall. Earning points was just incidental. What he truly wanted to do was to wait for Yan Ji. As long as Yan Ji returned to hand over a task, he would see her immediately. But since Ninth Prince's father still had his eyes out for him, Ning Cheng didn't dare to publish the task of finding Yan Ji publicly. As such, he had no other choice but to use such a time-consuming method.

Half a year later, Ning Cheng could now refine middle-rank spirit artefacts. He could even barely refine ordinary high-rank spirit artefacts. However, Ning Cheng continued to refine only low-rank spirit artefacts for the public. He knew very well that even if he wanted to use the Quest Hall for cover, he couldn't truly grab all the business of its merchant house.

Therefore, he not only refined just low-ranked spirit artefacts; he even limited the quantity. Plus, he also paid points to the Quest Hall every month. Therefore, it didn't matter if he stayed here for a long time; no one would come to bother him.

The only thing that disappointed Ning Cheng was that he found no trace of Yan Ji even after half a year. He also had no idea if Yan Ji joined a sect in the Grand Essence Domain or was still doing tasks deep in the Grand Essence Ruins, which prevented her from returning.

However, Ning Cheng could rest assured that despite countless spiritual consciousnesses sweeping over him in the past six months, it aroused no suspicions in anyone.

On this day, Ning Cheng was helping a rogue cultivator refine a low-rank spirit artefact. Suddenly, he felt a spiritual consciousness that shook his heart coming from somewhere in front of him. It felt as if this spiritual consciousness would see through his disguise at any moment.

Ning Cheng suddenly raised his head and saw a middle-aged man wearing an imperial crown walking towards the Quest Hall. Although this man didn't release any suppressive aura, Ning Cheng had the feeling of wanting to look up at him in worship. This person was the most powerful cultivator he saw since coming to the Grand Essence Ruins. This person even felt far stronger than the red-haired man he saw initially and had no idea of the extent of that person's cultivation.

Ning Cheng then saw Man Jiuren, with a fully restored body, following behind this person. He instantly understood that this man wearing an imperial crown most likely was Man Jiuren's father.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 875: Grand Essence Ruins' Public Square Selection

"Master Wanderer, you must not use your spiritual consciousness to sweep around; otherwise, no one can save you." The rogue cultivator standing beside Ning Cheng, waiting for Ning Cheng to finish

crafting, noticed Ning Cheng staring at the man wearing an imperial crown. Seeing this, he quickly moved closer towards Ning Cheng and whispered.

Although Ning Cheng usually didn't talk much, people truly appreciated his high-quality artefacts and the low prices. As such, Ning Cheng had become very popular among the rogue cultivator community. In turn, the cultivators coming to Ning Cheng's artefact-crafting stall always addressed Ning Cheng as 'Master Wanderer' and gave him various pieces of advice and tidbits of information.

Ning Cheng looked at this rogue cultivator with a blank expression and asked, "Is that person famous?"

The rogue cultivator lowered his voice even more. "That's Dragon Emperor Man Huishan of Grand Essence Sea's top-ranked force, the Grand Essence Barbarian Dragon Clan. Moreover, he's a Dao Essence powerhouse. You tell me if he's someone famous?"

Ning Cheng suddenly spoke up, "No wonder I saw everyone bowing to him when he passed by. So, he's the Dragon Emperor of the Barbarian Dragon Clan."

The rogue cultivator nodded, "Of course, but it's strange to see the Dragon Emperor at the Grand Essence Public Square. Usually, the major forces would only send some elders for the selection. Plus, the top ten powers wouldn't even deem it worthy of sending someone here at all."

"What selection are you talking about?" Ning Cheng quickly asked. He had stayed here crafting artefacts, not only to increase his proficiency in artefact-crafting but to also wait for Yan Ji. But when it came to other things, he rarely inquired about anything lest his questions raised suspicions. As such, Ning Cheng had never heard of the selection this rogue cultivator just mentioned.

The rogue cultivator smiled and said, "You know that the Grand Essence Great Meet is about to start, right?"

"I know that." Ning Cheng replied. He had no idea about when the Grand Essence Great Meet was to start, but he knew about this event.

The rogue cultivator pointed to the low-rank spirit artefact in Ning Cheng's hand. "I asked for this low-ranked spirit artefact in preparation for the Grand Essence Great Meet."

"Can anyone join the Grand Essence Great Meet?" Ning Cheng asked in doubt.

The rogue cultivator shook his head and said, "It's naturally impossible. Only some sects are eligible to participate in the Grand Essence Great Meet. But once you get a chance to participate in the Grand Essence Great Meet, you could potentially reap a great harvest. Unfortunately, how could those sects allow sharing those reward with us rogue cultivators? Even if that is the case, every time before the Grand Essence Great Meet, some sects would come to the Grand Essence Public Square. They want to recruit powerful rogue cultivators to make up for the shortcomings of their sect's disciples. Of course, many powerful sects disdain such actions. However, they are also afraid that their rivals might recruit some strong rogue cultivators. Therefore, most sects will come to the Grand Essence Public Square before the great meet and 'recruit' rogue cultivators."

"Over time, everyone accepted an unwritten rule. Before the Grand Essence Great Meet took place, all the sects would unite and recruit rogue cultivators and jointly fill up the spots. During these few days, all the major sects would engage in recruiting-related activities. If you want, you can also go check out the

large number of temporary buildings that sprang up at the edge of the Grand Essence Ruins' Public Square."

Hearing this rogue cultivator's words, Ning Cheng finally noticed that the Grand Essence Ruins' Public Square's edge truly had many more temporary buildings. Rather, they were all abode-type artefacts. Some of the building even had signs of various sects in front of it, as if confirming this rogue cultivator's words. Glancing over the displays, Ning Cheng also understood that every one of those buildings was recruiting disciples.

But seeing that display, Ning Cheng asked with even more doubt. "I heard that the Grand Essence Great Meet's reward is the Extraterritorial Spirit Spring and that this spirit spring has a lot of value attached to it. If so many rogue cultivators participated, wouldn't it reduce the chances for the sects' true disciples?"

The rogue cultivator smiled when he heard Ning Cheng's words. "You're overthinking. The Extraterritorial Spirit Spring is the reward for the top ten in the Grand Essence Great Meet. It has nothing to do with rogue cultivators. However, there is a Grand Essence Mystic Realm run every time before the Grand Essence Great Meet. The major sects recruit rogue cultivators to join their disciples in snatching things from this mystic realm."

"Only the cultivators who reach the top 100 by gathering treasures like divine grasses from the mystic realm would have the opportunity to participate in the Grand Essence Great Meet. The Grand Essence Great Meet is a competition between the top hundred in the Grand Essence Mystic Realm and has nothing to do with others. I just want to get recruited by a sect and win some treasures from the mystic realm. If I could receive a Dao Fruit as a reward, then everything would be worth it."

Ning Cheng quickly understood something. That is, this recruitment was nothing but a facade for roping in cannon fodder. He didn't need to ask to know that it was much more dangerous to grab things in this mystic realm run before the Grand Essence Great Meet. If the mystic realm truly contained so many treasures, how could the competition not be fierce?

"So, can you tell me which sects are recruiting disciples here this time? Also, what are the top ten forces that you just mentioned?" Ning Cheng asked in a low voice. He knew that the questions he asked made him look like a big idiot, but he still had to ask.

Sure enough, when the rogue cultivator heard Ning Cheng's question, his eyes immediately lit up in surprise. However, he quickly composed himself and explained it very carefully. "The top ten forces are called the 'Three Sacreds, Three Spirits, and Four Deep Seas'. The 'Three Sacreds' refer to River Luo Sacred Sect, Seven Star Sacred Shrine and Nine Revolving Sacred Dao Pond. The 'Three Spirits' refer to the Flaming Feather Spirit Mountain, Profound Moon Spirit Gate and Desolate Spirit Palace. As for the 'Four Deep Seas', they refer to Barbarian Dragon Clan, Silver Dragon Clan, Profound Aquatic Palace, and Mysterious Ferry Ancient Clan."

"I heard that disciples from the Mysterious Ferry Ancient Clan have stopped coming out. They also haven't participated in the previous few Grand Essence Great Meets. As for the other lesser sects, well, they are just too many, and even I don't know about all of them. However, you can learn about them by yourself."

Ning Cheng handed the low-ranked spirit artefact in his hand to the rogue cultivator and said, "I've finished refining your weapon. Since I heard so much from you today, I guess I should try my luck. Plus, I'll only charge you half the points."

The rogue cultivator felt overjoyed when he heard Ning Cheng say that he would only charge half the price. He quickly took out his white card and transferred the points to Ning Cheng. Thanking Ning Cheng once again, he immediately left.

After this rogue cultivator left, Ning Cheng also took down his artefact-crafting stall. After waiting for half a year, Yan Ji still hadn't shown up. Although he didn't mind continuing to wait for Yan Ji here, he also had a few other things that needed attention.

Moreover, during this half a year, his proficiency with artefact-crafting had risen sharply. Plus, he had also collected a lot of high-grade artefact-crafting materials. With all that, Ning Cheng had even refined a few high-ranked spirit artefacts for himself. Therefore, when Ning Cheng heard about the Grand Essence Mystic Realm Run, he decided to participate. As long as he could reach the top hundred, he might get the chance to represent a sect to participate in the Grand Essence Great Meet.

That way, he might get an actual shot at entering the Extraterritorial Spirit Spring for cultivation.

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Two days later, when Ning Cheng came out of his rest stop, the Grand Essence Public Square had even more stalls and various sized booths belonging to sects.

But unlike what that rogue cultivator said, Ning Cheng not only saw stalls from many smaller sects, he even saw booths set up by nine of the ten major sects. Except for the Mysterious Ferry Ancient Clan, all nine of the top ten forces have arrived.

Apart from those booths, Ning Cheng also saw a near-infinite crowd of rogue cultivators gathered in the public square. For them, it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. If selected to participate in the Grand Essence Mystic Realm Competition, they might even obtain the rare chance of advancing to the Dao Sculpting Realm. Everyone understood the risks and dangers within the Grand Essence Mystic Realm Competition, but if one wanted to climb higher, how could one shy away from such a situation?

Ning Cheng turned half a circle and saw that most of the sects had an artefact to test spiritual consciousness and celestial essence. But for this kind of selection, they never asked for a cultivator's spiritual root and aptitude. Rather, these sects cared more about the intensity of one's celestial essence and the degree of penetration of the cultivator's spiritual consciousness.

He didn't need to ask around to understand why. This selection wasn't for 'recruiting' sect disciples per se but rather enlisting cannon fodder. After the Grand Essence Mystic Realm Competition, once they received their benefits, everyone would simply split up and go their separate ways.

Ning Cheng stopped at the station of Seven Star Sacred Shrine. He unexpectedly saw an acquaintance, Yan Xishuang.

He had saved Yan Xishuang once and then had even teamed up with Yan Xishuang to obtain the drop of 3000 Weak Water and the Good Fortune Azure Lotus fragment. As for the outcome, the drop of 3000 Weak Water went to him, and the Azure Lotus fragment went to Yan Xishuang.

Ning Cheng still had quite a good impression of this woman. She paid particular attention to equal exchanges, did not take advantage of others, and didn't speak with a disrespectful attitude. Besides, he had also obtained Nirvana's Heart because of Yan Xishuang. If he talked about the facts, Yan Xishuang was the one who had discovered Nirvana's Heart first. However, she encountered a problem when she tried to take the Nirvana Bluestone. She had fallen into a cultivation coma that could have claimed her life if not for Ning Cheng's intervention.

At this time, seeing Yan Xishuang standing in the Seven Star Sacred Shrine's station, Ning Cheng quickly understood that she came from one of the three sacred sects. Moreover, Ying Yongxuan, who came with Shan Yaocen before, was also from the Seven Star Sacred Shrine. However, he didn't see Ying Yongxuan anywhere today.

At this time, Yan Xishuang's aura felt much purer. Not only was it purer, but it was also twice as powerful as before.

Ning Cheng understood that it most likely was the effect of the Azure Lotus fragment. When he first saw Yan Xishuang, even though Yan Xishuang was at the Eternal Realm peak, she wasn't better than him. But now, Yan Xishuang seemed to have already surpassed the full-circle of the Eternal Realm. But Ning Cheng also felt that Yan Xishuang had not reached Dao Sculpting Realm yet. Considering Yan Xishuang's current cultivation and that she hadn't reached Dao Sculpting Realm, it most likely had just one reason. She wanted to enter the Extraterritorial Spirit Spring and then begin the spirit essence transformation process.

With Yan Xishuang's clean and pure aura, if she could begin the spirit essence transformation process in the Extraterritorial Spirit Spring, she would have a promising future.

Others might not know about it, but Ning Cheng did. He owned the Mysterious Yellow Bead, which meant that he also understood that only a Good Fortune treasure could cause such a huge change in Yan Xishuang.

By the time Ning Cheng walked to the station, Yan Xishuang had already seated herself on one side with a calm expression. But despite trying to hide from view, her unparalleled beauty attracted many people to the Seven Star Sacred Shrine's station. In terms of appearance, Yan Xishuang far exceeded Kong Ning and Shan Yaocen. But what Ning Cheng appreciated more was her attitude in dealing with things. She didn't appear or act indifferent to others and also dealt with everything with a rational mind.

Since he had to join a sect anyway, Ning Cheng decided to join the Seven Star Sacred Shrine. In any case, the Seven Star Sacred Shrine was one of the top ten forces. Even if he didn't do anything in the mystic realm competition, it wouldn't affect the sect. It was one of Ning Cheng's top considerations. But the second consideration was that a force like the Seven Star Sacred Shrine would have more places to enter the mystic realm. But the most important thing was that Ning Cheng knew Yan Xishuang.

"This Senior Apprentice Sister, I want to participate in the Seven Star Sacred Shrine's disciple selection." Ning Cheng walked up to Yan Xishuang and spoke with cupped fists.

Yan Xishuang couldn't recognise Ning Cheng. But she nodded, then pointed to the testing artefact not too far away from her and spoke with a gentle voice. "Just activate all of your celestial essence and spiritual consciousness and strike that testing artefact."

“Okay.” Ning Cheng walked to the testing artefact and started to get ready.

He obviously wouldn't use all his celestial essence and spiritual consciousness to strike. Plus, the celestial essence scale and spiritual consciousness scale on this testing artefact only went up to ten. Ning Cheng had also observed some of the other cultivators using the artefact. Most cultivators reached anywhere between one to five on the celestial essence scale. In contrast, a few got six, and only one or two got seven. As for the spiritual consciousness scale, it usually remained slightly lower than the celestial essence scale.

Observing everything, Ning Cheng decided to use 40% of his strength at most. This level of power should guarantee him admission to the Seven Star Sacred Sect.

The Gate Of Good Fortune

Chapter 876: Being Recognised

Ning Cheng punched, and the surrounding space made small bursts of noises.

“Boom....” As the punch connected with the testing artefact, rays of light immediately erupted from the testing artefact. A moment later, the crystals of the two scales started to light up one after another. The celestial essence scale exceeded the sixth marking quickly and didn't stop until it was close to seven. Even the spiritual consciousness scale climbed up to the sixth position.

A flurry of exasperations erupted. Although Ning Cheng's celestial essence ratings didn't exceed seven, they came infinitesimally close to seven. But more importantly, Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness rating had also exceeded six. It would be no problem for Ning Cheng to enter the Seven Star Sacred Shrine with such kind of strength.

Some cultivators who 'knew' Ning Cheng even came forward to express their congratulations. They had only come into contact with Ning Cheng for crafting artefacts. However, none of them expected that this Artefact-crafting Master would turn out to be so powerful.

Yan Xishuang looked at Ning Cheng with a bit of surprise. Ning Cheng didn't seem to have high cultivation. Yet, he displayed such powerful strength. She knew very well that using a testing artefact to test a person's cultivation wouldn't give a very accurate result. But she knew a fact about it that hardly anyone here knew. That is, once the scale marking reaches five, it would become exponentially challenging for it to rise. Since Ning Cheng's punch could nearly reach the seventh marking on the celestial essence scale, it proved that Ning Cheng did indeed have a solid foundation.

She quickly nodded at Ning Cheng, “What's your name? You passed the test. Once these disciple enrolments conclude, you can come to the Seven Star Sacred Shrine with us.”

“Many thanks, Senior Apprentice Sister. My name is Nian Qiong. I'm just a wandering artefact-crafting master.” Ning Cheng quickly thanked her with cupped fists and then made his way to stand behind the other two selected candidates in the Seven Star Sacred Shrine's station. Considering that the Barbarian Dragon Clan's Dragon Emperor was looking for him, he decided to drop the characters 'Ning' and 'Cheng' entirely from his name.

“Junior Apprentice Sister Xishuang. It's been a long time.” A man's thick voice suddenly sounded out, and a purple-faced man suddenly appeared in front of Yan Xishuang with a big smile over his face.

Ning Cheng immediately felt a strong aura of water and water-attributed fluctuations from this man, which he had also felt from Man Jiuren. But unlike Man Jiuren, this person had a purple face without any wrinkles.

Yan Xishuang calmly returned a curtesy greeting and said, "It turned out to be the Second Prince. It looks like the Barbarian Dragon Clan is taking this time's disciple selection quite seriously."

When he heard the words 'Second Prince' and 'Barbarian Dragon Clan', Ning Cheng immediately connected the dots. This person was Man Jiuren's second brother and the son of Dragon Emperor Man Huishan. He had heard from that silver-haired woman that Man Huishan had more than a hundred children, which seemed entirely accurate.

The purple-faced man heard Yan Xishuang's reply, but his face still showed a soft expression, "That's right. I had a feeling that Junior Apprentice Sister Xishuang might come here, so I also came to ask you out."

Ning Cheng glanced at the look on this purple-faced man's face and understood that this guy wanted to pursue Yan Xishuang. He couldn't help but smile in secret because of it. If Yan Xishuang agreed, it truly would be akin to a flower over a cow dung pile.

Yan Xishuang spoke up in a flat tone, "If there is nothing else, then Second Prince, please give me a little space. I still have other people to test."

"It's okay; it's okay....." The purple-faced man quickly stepped aside. He hesitated for a bit and spoke up once again. "I don't know if Junior Apprentice Sister Xishuang can find the time to go to a rest stop with me for a cup of spiritual tea?"

"I'm sorry, but I'm not free." Yan Xishuang didn't even bother to find an excuse.

"Second Brother, we're all swamped with work, but you seemed to be quite free, hehe....." A slightly mocking voice came from afar.

Ning Cheng immediately retracted his spiritual consciousness and gaze. He was too familiar with this voice and also the owner of this voice. He had even killed this person once, and Pan Qian had also smashed apart this person's body. It was none other than Man Jiuren.

The purple-faced man smiled and spoke with a soft voice with Yan Xishuang, but he wasn't so polite to the Ninth Prince. He gave a cold snort, "Old Nine, don't you feel embarrassed in speaking those words? If you weren't so useless, our Imperial Father wouldn't need to come to this broken....."

The purple-faced man stopped his words in time. But because Man Jiuren openly ridiculed him in front of his sweetheart, it made him quite upset.

Man Jiuren wanted to keep mocking his second brother, but then his gaze suddenly focussed on Ning Cheng standing behind Yan Xishuang. Once his eyes focussed on Ning Cheng, he carefully scrutinised Ning Cheng from top to bottom before he frowned and asked, "What's your name?"

Yan Xishuang's tone turned cold at this point, "This is my Seven Star Sacred Shrine's newly recruited disciple, Nian Qiong. If the two princes have nothing else, then please stop interfering with my sect's recruitment."

The Barbarian Dragon Clan indeed had a Dao Perfection powerhouse, but the Seven Star Sacred Shrine wasn't afraid of it. Although her Seven Star Sacred Shrine had no Dao Perfection powerhouses, it still had two mighty Dao Fusion experts. Moreover, apart from Man Suotian, the Barbarian Dragon Clan had no other experts. Even Dragon Emperor Man Huishan was just at the full-circle of Dao Essence Realm. One could even say that without Man Suotian, the Barbarian Dragon Clan wasn't even worthy of entering the top ten sects. Let alone become the head of the four deep-sea forces.

The second prince, the one with a purple face, seemed to have turned even more unhappy when he heard Yan Xishuang's tone and words. He quickly pulled Man Jiuren aside and said, "Old Nine, stop looking and follow me."

This time, Man Jiuren didn't speak any nonsense and silently followed the Second Prince out of the area. He still kept thinking about Ning Cheng in his heart, but he hadn't seen or met this person before coming here. So why did he feel an unstoppable killing intent after looking at that Nian Qiong?

The Grand Essence Barbarian Dragon Clan had highly keen senses. It was one of the main reason for its fame and notoriety throughout the Grand Essence Realm. It was especially true when it came to killing intent perceptions. Ning Cheng had changed his appearance and even concealed his aura but still couldn't entirely hide his instinctive killing intent from Man Jiuren.

Man Jiuren stopped suddenly. Who was the person who wanted to kill him the most? It had to be that cultivator named Ning Cheng. By this point, Man Jiuren felt 90% sure that Nian Qiong was Ning Cheng.

After guessing that Nian Qiong was Ning Cheng, Man Jiuren's first thought was to inform his father, Man Huishan, about it immediately. However, the moment he got that idea, he put it down.

If he told this to his father, Ning Cheng would undoubtedly die, and he would also exact his revenge. However, the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow would no longer belong to him. His old man hadn't come to the Grand Essence Ruins to avenge him but came explicitly for the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow. Man Jiuren knew about this point better than anyone else.

If he had no chance of obtaining that Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow, he wouldn't have hesitated for even a bit. But now that he had a chance, he wouldn't let it go. He wanted that arrow at any cost. Since Ning Cheng joined the Seven Star Sacred Shrine, Ning Cheng wanted to enter the Grand Essence Mystic Realm Competition. When the time came, he could just find a few people to kill Ning Cheng secretly in the Grand Essence Mystic Realm Competition. Who would know that the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow had made its way to him?

Ning Cheng's Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow contained immense power. But no matter how powerful the arrow, Ning Cheng could only shoot it once. As long as he grasped the timing, he wouldn't have to worry about not being able to kill Ning Cheng.

The more Man Jiuren thought about this, the more feasible it felt.

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The moment Man Jiuren looked at him and spoke those words, Ning Cheng realised that Man Jiuren most likely had started to suspect his identity. At that moment, Ning Cheng wished to leave

immediately. But Man Jiuren didn't make any moves and didn't even put a Spiritual Consciousness Imprint on him. Seeing such actions, Ning Cheng started to doubt his previous thoughts.

But this doubt didn't last long. Ning Cheng quickly felt sure that Man Jiuren had recognised him and that it wasn't any fluke that he walked away. The reason Man Jiuren didn't do anything was not that he didn't recognise him, but because he didn't want to tell his father about him. Most likely, Man Jiuren wanted to swallow his stuff and didn't want others to know about it.

Thinking back to how Man Jiuren went to the Mysterious Yellow Starland alone, Ning Cheng understood that this person had quite lofty ambitions.

After understanding that Man Jiuren, most likely, was after his Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow, Ning Cheng no longer worried about it. If he didn't know about Man Jiuren recognising him, he would have suffered much-unwanted trouble. But since he now knew that Man Jiuren had recognised him, he didn't believe that he couldn't get rid of this guy.

Even after three days, no one came to inquire about him. From this, Ning Cheng confirmed that Man Jiuren truly wanted to swallow his stuff alone.

Simultaneously, the rogue cultivator recruitment for all the major sects on the Grand Essence Public Square also came to an end after three days. Seven Star Sacred Shrine recruited twenty people, and Ning Cheng was just one of them. Moreover, Ning Cheng's score ranked somewhere near the middle among these twenty people, which didn't spotlight him.

The group from the Seven Star Sacred Shrine only had a single sect elder guiding it. Ning Cheng couldn't see this elder's strength, but he felt pretty sure that the power of this elder couldn't match up to the patriarch of the Barbarian Dragon Clan, Man Huishan. As for Yan Xishuang, she probably came here just to help.

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The Grand Essence Ruins was quite far away from the entrance of the Grand Essence Domain. But no matter how far away it was, it wouldn't take long when using a teleportation portal.

In just a short while, Ning Cheng entered the Grand Essence Domain for the first time. After entering the Grand Essence Domain, he finally understood why Grand Essence Realm's sects had decided to concentrate here. Just the density of spiritual qi in this place was ten times more than outside. Plus, this was only near the entrance. Most of the sect grounds here would have more concentrated Spiritual Qi.

Comparing this place to the Grand Essence Ruins and the Boundary Essence Spirit Sea City, Ning Cheng affirmed that growing stronger was the only truth of the world.

Half a day later, Ning Cheng and the other arrived at the Seven Star Sacred Shrine's sect entrance.

The Seven Star Sacred Shrine looked majestic at first glance. Plus, the spirit qi here was also several times denser and more affluent than the outside. Standing here, Ning Cheng even had an illusion that the laws within the Seven Star Sacred Shrine's sect grounds were much more stable than other places.

If the Seven Star Sacred Shrine gave such a feeling, then the Sacred Dao Pond and the Sacred Gate should also be the same.

After entering the sect grounds, Ning Cheng and others got assigned a chamber and a jade card. After that, no one even bothered to come and ask about them.

Ning Cheng swept the jade card with his spiritual consciousness after reaching the assigned chamber and quickly went through the messages and other instructions in it.

The Grand Essence Mystic Realm would open in five months. During these five months, they could roam around the Seven Star Sacred Shrine's outer sect area. One could even go out of the sect if one desired, but one had to return before the Grand Essence Mystic Realm opened. The instructions even emphasised one particular point. That is, they were not allowed to enter the inner sect areas; otherwise, the sect restrictions would automatically activate and kill you.

Ning Cheng put aside the jade card and shook his head. The Seven Star Sacred Shrine didn't even treat them like outer sect disciples from the looks of it. At best, they were just a batch of cannon fodder. To make cannon fodder, one needed to have a cannon fodder's consciousness and mind and not run around.

But even without the warnings on the jade card, Ning Cheng had no plans of going out. He wanted to refine a set of fake Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrows during these few months. Man Jiuren should know about the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow's real power by now. Logically, if he knew about the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow's real strength, Man Jiuren wouldn't risk coming after him directly. But since he wants to swallow his things, it also meant that Man Jiuren felt confident in his plans. In any case, Ning Cheng had to take some preventative measures.

Ning Cheng was just about to activate the restriction on his chambers when someone suddenly appeared outside.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 877: Participating in the mystic realm

"Brother Nian, sorry for the disturbance." A man greeted Ning Cheng with cupped fists and spoke up immediately before Ning Cheng could speak.

Ning Cheng chuckled, "It turned out to be Brother Xiong. Brother Xiong, please come in."

Ning Cheng knew this person. He was one of the rogue cultivators selected by the Seven Star Sacred Shrine together with him, named Xiong Cang. Moreover, his cultivation had also exceeded him, at the late-stage Eternal Realm. The strength this person displayed neared what he had revealed. That is, the celestial essence scale had reached the seventh marking, and even the spiritual consciousness scale had broken through six.

Xiong Cang's appearance was quite similar to his name, with a burly figure and a broad face. One could even say that almost perfect squares made up this person's body.

After Xiong Cang came in and sat down, Ning Cheng casually activated the restrictions and spoke up with a smile. "Since Brother Xiong came to me, there must be something important to discuss."

"Brother Ning, have you ever thought about staying in Seven Star Sacred Shrine and entering the inner sect?" Xiong Cang listened to Ning Cheng's question and asked without beating around the bush.

“Enter the Seven Star Sacred Shrine’s inner sect?” Ning Cheng asked suspiciously. He knew that the Seven Star Sacred Shrine would most likely use them as cannon fodders. How could it possibly let them enter the inner sect?

Xiong Cang spoke up in a low tone. “Brother Ning, you’re also a rogue cultivator. You should already know the many difficulties a rogue cultivator has to face to reach Dao Sculpting. Even if we obtained Dao Fruits, I’m afraid that the chance of reaching Dao Sculpting wouldn’t improve by much. Without any Dao Sermons to listen to, we have to rely on ourselves without access to spirit technique pavilions or even cultivation method halls. But even if we rogue cultivators have heaven-defying talents, we all lack a guiding direction. Therefore, if us rogue cultivators want to go further, we can only do so by joining a sect....”

Ning Cheng remained silent. He wouldn’t join Seven Star Sacred Shrine even if he had a connection to it; plus, he also disagreed with Xiong Cang’s words. Only when having low cultivation would a guiding direction be necessary. But once a rogue cultivator’s cultivation reached the Eternal Realm by themselves, it meant that this person obtained it entirely on their understanding of the laws of heaven and earth. Even if a powerful master decided to guide at that point, it would have a limited effect.

But Xiong Cang’s words about Dao Sermons piqued Ning Cheng’s interest. Dao Sermons were places for powerful Dao Confirming cultivators to conduct dao discussions. If one could listen in on it, it would significantly benefit one’s understanding of Dao Laws. Plus, every sect here had its own Dao Sermons. Cultivators considered them as one of the most famous Grand Essence Dao Sermons in the Grand Essence Realm. However, rogue cultivators would find it impossible to get in on such events and listen in on them.

Seeing Ning Cheng looking at him in silence, Xiong Cang thought Ning Cheng also agreed. Bolstered with such a positive sign, he continued, “The Seven Star Sacred Shrine has two Dao Fusion powerhouses. Plus, the sect’s spirit technique pavilion has numerous powerful spirit techniques.”

“Then, how does Brother Xiong plan on joining the Seven Star Sacred Shrine?” Ning Cheng asked.

Xiong Cang nodded, “That’s exactly why I came here to talk to Brother Ning about. Brother Ning should already be aware that I will enter the Grand Essence Mystic Realm Competition this time. Although the chance of falling inside is very high, there is also a high chance that we could reach the sky in one step. Suppose we can collect enough divine grasses from the mystic realm, get ranked in the top ten. In that case, we could have the opportunity to represent the Seven Star Sacred Shrine in the Grand Essence Great Meet....”

“Wait-wait....” Ning Cheng immediately interrupted Xiong Cang’s words. “Brother Xiong. You said only the Grand Essence Mystic Realm Competition’s top ten would participate in the Grand Essence Great Meet? If so, then why did I hear that the Grand Essence Great Meet is for the top 100?”

Xiong Cang laughed when he heard Ning Cheng’s words. “Brother Ning, you’re too naive. One hundred people would indeed get to participate in the Great Essence Great Meet. However, only the top ten from the Grand Essence Mystic Realm Competition would have the opportunity to participate in it. As for the remaining ninety people, all those spots belong to the major sects. How could Brother Ning not know about it? The Grand Essence Mystic Realm Competition only gathers divine grasses and some top-

grade heavenly woods and earthly treasures for the sects. In essence, us rogue cultivators risk our lives just to serve these major sects.”

Speaking of this, Xiong Cang showed a self-deprecating smile. “It also means that we rogue cultivators are not even equal to the divine grasses we harvest for big sects in the mystic realm. Despite the desperate struggles we have to go through against everyone, to the eyes of those from the big sects, our life and death is nothing more than a source of amusement. They just wait for us to give them the spiritual divine grasses for which we risked our lives.”

Ning Cheng’s heart sank when he heard those words; even his face had an ugly expression over it. One of the reasons he wanted to enter the mystic realm was to search for divine grasses. He needed a lot of divine grasses to improve his alchemy. But more importantly, he also wanted to participate in the Grand Essence Great Meet. Although many cultivators would enter the mystic realm, Ning Cheng still felt confident in entering the top hundred. But top ten, he felt a little uncertain. From the looks of it, that rogue cultivator from before also had no idea about these things.

Those sect geniuses with earthly treasures might not be stronger than him. But they could make it up for it and even surpass him with the opportunities gained through their backgrounds.

Xiong Cang had no idea about Ning Cheng’s thoughts and continued. “We can join forces. As long as we can enter the top ten, we could get two places to participate in the Grand Essence Great Meet. At that time, if we donate the two spots to the sect, we would then be able to join the sect.”

Ning Cheng calmed down and asked, “Brother Xiong, how many cultivators entering the mystic realm to find treasures can claim themselves as geniuses? I believe Brother Xiong already knows the answer to it, so Brother Xiong, do you have a way to enter the top ten?”

Xiong Cang chuckled, “If Brother Ning is willing to join me, then I’ll naturally share my methods with you.”

Ning Cheng suddenly showed a smile, “Brother Xiong, please leave. I just like to be and act alone. I only want to go in and find a Dao Fruit. I don’t have much hope of joining the sacred shrine.”

As soon as Ning Cheng heard Xiong Cang’s words, he understood what Xiong Cang meant. Xiong Cang most likely excelled in stealth attacks. Plus, the only way to reach the top ten without looking for divine grasses was to kill other cultivators in the mystic realm and grab their divine grasses. This kind of robbery went against Ning Cheng’s moral bottom line. Therefore, he naturally wouldn’t join forces with Xiong Cang.

Hearing what Ning Cheng said, Xiong Cang’s eyes flashed with disappointment. After a while, he stood up and cupped his fists towards Ning Cheng and said, “If that is the case, then I will take my leave.”

Ning Cheng waited for Xiong Cang to leave and then immediately activated the room’s restriction. Xiong Cang’s proposal reminded him that since Xiong Cang could think of obtaining divine grasses through pillaging, other cultivators might also come up with similar thoughts.

From the looks of it, he not only had to remain on guard against Man Jiuren but also against these rogue cultivators.

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For the next few months, Ning Cheng didn't go anywhere. Apart from refining several spirit artefacts for himself, he also refined a fake Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow. This arrow's power couldn't compare to the real Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow. But Ning Cheng wanted it to stimulate the same effects as the real Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow. In any case, Ning Cheng couldn't craft the real Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow, which meant that his creations would always have lower power. Even if that was the case, its power could easily exceed that of ordinary middle-grade spirit artefact arrows once this arrow shot out.

Regardless, Ning Cheng refined this arrow not for power but to deal with Man Jiuren's schemes.

In addition to these artefacts, Ning Cheng also refined a large number of array discs. His proficiency in the Dao of Arrays had already far surpassed his cultivation. Therefore, if he didn't make use of it, it truly would have been a waste of time learning and pursuing the Dao of Arrays for so long. The power unleashed by an array disc couldn't compare to a fully-deployed array formation. But facing experts from all sides, even a slight advantage could drastically change a fight's outcome.

Five months passed by quickly. When Ning Cheng finished refining another Trap and Kill Array Disc, his jade card immediately received an assembly call.

By the time Ning Cheng had put away his things and came out, Xiong Cang also arrived at the public square. When Ning Cheng saw him standing with another rogue cultivator, he understood that Xiong Cang had successfully found a companion.

This time, the group's leader changed to an older man with a white beard and white hair. Ning Cheng couldn't see the cultivation of this older man, but he could feel that this old man had monstrous strength. Ning Cheng even suspected that this person was an expert who reached the second step of Dao Confirming.

Ning Cheng also noticed that apart from the twenty newly-recruited rogue cultivators, the public square now consisted of many Seven Star Sacred Shrine's disciples. Among these disciples, Ning Cheng saw Yan Xishuang, but he still didn't see Ying Yongxuan.

In a few moments, a huge black airship landed in the middle of the public square. The white-haired old man landed on the bow of the airship. He spoke to the cultivators on the public square, "This time, from our Seven Star Sacred Shrine, a total of seventy people will enter the Grand Essence Mystic Realm. Everybody better pay attention to it. Disciples originally belonging to the Seven Star Sacred Shrine can exchange for the sect's mission points through divine grasses and other treasures found in the mystic realm. You can even exchange them for spirit pills or even spirit techniques. If you can contribute a lot, you can even exchange your contributions for dao fruits and even dao pills."

"As for those who recently joined my Seven Star Sacred Shrine, you can also exchange the divine grasses for spirit pills, spirit techniques, or even cultivation methods. If you obtain enough, you can also exchange for dao fruits and dao pills. If you get in the top ten, you would also gain a chance to join the Seven Star Sacred Shrine's inner sect formally. It also includes privileges like entering and exiting my Seven Star Sacred Shrine's Dao Sermons, Spirit Technique Pavilion...."

No wonder the cultivators here weren't bothered about keeping things private. Even if a rogue cultivator obtained an extensive collection of divine grasses, what's the use of hiding it? At most, they

could only exchange them for other things or points in merchant houses. How could a rogue cultivator get help from someone who can refine spirit pills? As for finding someone to refine dao pills, they couldn't even dream about it.

Speaking about exchanging dao fruits, Ning Cheng thought back to how Kong Ning had spent more than 400,000 points to exchange for a Falling Scar Fruit. It showed that dao fruits weren't readily available. Besides, not every cultivator was like him, who could already compare to a Dao Sculpting Pill Deity.

Maybe obtaining many divine grasses and then turning them to the sect in exchange for cultivation resources might be the best option for a rogue cultivator. But it might not be the best option for him.

"Of course, there is one thing to keep in mind, especially for those twenty disciples who recently joined my Seven Star Sacred Sect. Of the divine grasses you obtain, after the rankings conclude, you must first hand over one-fifth of them to the sect before you can exchange the rest. Moreover, if you obtain less than 100 divine grasses, you have to hand over half of it to the sect...."

When Ning Cheng heard of this, he immediately confirmed his previous speculations. Sure enough, the Seven Star Sacred Shrine's true disciples didn't need to turn in even a bit of their harvest. Only the rogue cultivators that joined later must pay a part of their spoils to enjoy the same treatment as the Seven Star Sacred Shrine's true disciples.

Ning Cheng, however, didn't feel surprised about it. If the Seven Star Sacred Shrine didn't do this, it would have raised a few alarm bells in people's mind. Since the Seven Star Sacred Shrine provided them with an opportunity to enter the mystic realm, it was only reasonable and natural to charge some taxes.

"If you don't have any questions, get on the boat, and we'll leave for the Grand Essence Mystic Realm." After the white-haired old man finished speaking, the cultivators waiting on the public square flew onto the airship.

The rogue cultivators immediately lowered their stances and started to form relationships with the Seven Star Sacred Shrine's true disciples. However, Ning Cheng didn't come forward and talk too much. It would only create unnecessary problems for him. With the Dragon Emperor still looking for him, it would be better not to speak too much nonsense. Regardless, Ning Cheng came to know that the white-haired old man who led the group was called Fan Mu from the surrounding discussions. He truly was a second-step Dao Confirming expert, more specifically, a Dao Essence powerhouse.

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One day later, the Seven Star Sacred Shrine's airship finally stopped. Ning Cheng observed from the deck that the place where the airship stopped wasn't in the starry sky but rather on an empty wasteland. However, he could also see many temporary living structures arranged all around the wasteland. From the looks of it, some of the sects had already reached this place before them.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 878: Killing in the mystic realm

After Ning Cheng followed the Seven Star Sacred Shrine's cultivators and got off the airship, he finally saw a few acquaintances. Both the Second Prince and the Ninth Prince from the Barbarian Dragon Clan

were here, along with Shan Yaocen. Kong Ning didn't come, so Ning Cheng assumed that she already went into secluded cultivation.

Although Man Jiuren didn't look at Ning Cheng, Ning Cheng could still feel his obscure spiritual consciousness lock on to him.

"Senior Apprentice Sister Yan....." Ning Cheng suddenly walked to Yan Xishuang's side and called out.

Yan Xishuang's gaze fell on Ning Cheng, and she quickly recalled who Ning Cheng was. She acknowledged the call and asked, "Dao Friend Nian Qiong, did you want to ask me about something?"

She had quite a deep impression of Ning Cheng. Among the rogue cultivators recruited this time, Ning Cheng's cultivation was the lowest. However, his strength surpassed quite a few of the recruits and stood right in the middle.

Ning Cheng nodded and spoke up, "Yes, it's related to entering the Grand Essence Mystic Realm. Senior Apprentice Sister already knows that I don't have high cultivation. It makes me a bit worried....."

Yan Xishuang showed a slight smile, "The Grand Essence Mystic Realm is quite huge, so you don't have to worry much. As long as you don't meet those ruthless people and remain careful, nothing would happen to you....."

After hesitating a bit, she continued, "This time, only those under the Dao Sculpting Realm can enter the Grand Essence Mystic Realm. Besides, I feel like you can already take care of yourself. Just don't offend those disciples from big sects, especially the twelve Grand Essence Sacred Children. Of course, I don't think all twelve of those Grand Essence Sacred Children will go inside...."

It was Ning Cheng's first time hearing about the twelve Grand Essence Sacred Children. But since he didn't know about them, he didn't want to ask about it.

Seeing Yan Xishuang about to leave after giving him the information, Ning Cheng quickly asked again. "Senior Apprentice Sister Yan, I heard that Barbarian Dragon Clan's Ninth Prince also wants to enter the Grand Essence Mystic Realm. Hasn't he already reached Dao Sculpting?"

Yan Xishuang spoke with a solemn voice, "Man Jiuren, well, he's quite the proud character. Before stepping into the Extraterritorial Spirit Spring to initiate the spirit essence transformation process, how could he reach Dao Sculpting? After you enter the Grand Essence Mystic Realm, just concentrate on searching for divine grasses. If you encounter any danger, leave immediately. Don't fall into the allure of treasures and end up losing your life. The Grand Essence Mystic Realm has a lot of treasures, so if you can't get anything from one spot, move onto the next."

After giving Ning Cheng that advice, she no longer paid Ning Cheng attention before turning around to leave.

Ning Cheng stood there silently contemplating over some issues. He had initially put Man Jiuren as a Dao Sculpting expert. Ning Cheng even considered Hong Lun, who died at his hand sometime back, as a Dao Sculpting expert. But now, it seemed that Ninth Prince and Hong Lun both had not reached Dao Sculpting. From the looks of it, he had once again overestimated his strength.

From this, Ning Cheng also understood a fact. That is, his Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow could kill Ninth Price, but it might not kill a true Dao Sculpting cultivator. As long as a Dao Sculpting cultivator didn't die, it would also mean that he would have no choice but to wait for death against such a person.

After knowing the difference between Dao Sculpting and him, Ning Cheng didn't continue to gather information on the outside. Instead, he returned to the station and waited peacefully to enter the Grand Essence Mystic Realm.

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Three days later, Ning Cheng finally understood why people chose this place. More than a dozen experts from different sects joined together and set up a massive teleportation array right in the middle of the wasteland during these few days. From the looks of it, they would enter the Grand Essence Mystic Realm through this teleportation array.

Ning Cheng's understanding of the Dao of Array couldn't match those old monsters who deployed the teleportation array. However, he could still see that this teleportation array's components were quite old, almost ancient. Moreover, he couldn't even find any indication of the refining techniques used to create those components. From this, he also understood that this teleportation array already existed here since ancient times. Only when the major sects and forces of the Grand Essence Domain wanted to enter the teleportation array leading to the Grand Essence Mystic Realm would they bring out those components. Once the competition got over, they would then take it apart to transfer it back to their respective sects. They most likely keep the parts with them until they had to open the Grand Essence Mystic Realm once again.

Standing within the crowd that was about to be teleported, Ning Cheng swept his gaze at the number of people entering the Grand Essence Mystic Realm. Just a cursory glance revealed more than 10,000 people.

A middle-aged female cultivator stood in front of the array and spoke up with a resonant voice. "Everyone who is about to enter the Grand Essence Mystic Realm. Please pay attention. Although the Grand Essence Mystic Realm only opens one every three millennia, it still covers a huge area. Even today, there are many places inside where no one has discovered. This time, the mystic realm would remain open for one year. A year later, only those who reach the teleportation array set up in the mystic realm will get teleported out. Okay. Everyone can now step onto the teleportation array...."

Ning Cheng felt a little confused. Why didn't she mention what would happen if one didn't come out of the mystic realm within a year?

He whispered to a cultivator from the Seven Star Sacred Shrine next to him. "This Dao Friend, can I ask what would happen if you don't come out within a year? Or if you haven't arrived at the teleportation array within a year?"

The Seven Star Sacred Shrine's cultivator only glanced at Ning Cheng with disdain and gave a cold snort. He didn't even bother to answer. From the looks of it, he looked down on Ning Cheng, the rogue cultivator who would enter the mystic realm on behalf of the sacred shrine.

Seeing such behaviour, Ning Cheng no longer asked any questions. In any case, Ning Cheng could always ask about it later.

Although the teleportation array looked massive, it couldn't teleport everyone at the same time. As such, the one's operating the array had to break down the crowd into groups of two to three hundred people. Fortunately, in just half an incense stick worth of time, it was the Seven Star Sacred Shrine's turn.

Ning Cheng and the other cultivators had just stepped on the array when he felt a Spiritual Consciousness Imprint attaching itself to him. It was almost an impossible task for an Eternal cultivator to put a Spiritual Consciousness Imprint on him without being discovered. But before Ning Cheng could find the person who placed the Spiritual Consciousness Imprint on him, the teleportation array activated.

As soon as a wave of dizziness hit him, Ning Cheng understood that this array was an ultra-long distance teleportation array.

After an unknown amount of time, Ning Cheng's feet finally landed on another huge teleportation array.

Following everyone out of the teleportation array, Ning Cheng found that he was still in a wasteland. However, the Spirit Qi here couldn't compare to the place from he just came. The Spirit Qi here didn't just feel full-bodied but also was much denser. No wonder this place could gestate so many precious divine grasses.

After reaching this place, everyone quickly dispersed. Most of them went alone, while a small number of cultivators formed teams.

Ning Cheng picked a direction and also quickly left alone. After an incense stick worth of time, Ning Cheng stopped. He had spotted a Drunken Dream Glaze, a low-level divine grass.

The Grand Essence Realm divided the divine grasses into three levels – low-grade, middle-grade and high-grade. The low-grade divine grasses were the most common ones, while the high-grade divine grasses were the rarest. In general, spirit pills requiring low-grade and middle-grade divine grasses help First Step Dao Confirming cultivators. Only a few spirit pills refined from high-grade divine grasses would affect Second Step Dao Confirming Holy Emperors.

However, Second Step Dao Confirming experts sought higher-level cultivation resources, like Dao Pills or Dao Fruits.

But even if they wanted, high-grade divine grasses were almost impossible to find. As such, the Grand Essence Realm also didn't have many Dao Essence Pill Deities. As for Dao Essence Pill Sages, they were even rarer, almost non-existent.

Drunken Dream Glaze was a low-grade divine grass, but it had some effect on Ning Cheng. Drunken Dream Glaze was the main ingredient required to refine the Accumulating Dream Pill. This pill significantly helps to gain a deeper understanding of specific spirit techniques. Especially the None-to-depend-on and Sunset's Twilight, both of which were sensory-type spirit techniques.

Ning Cheng, by now, had already become a Dao Sculpting Pill Deity. Even if he didn't use it on himself, he could refine Accumulating Dream Pills and sell them off later.

After collecting all Drunken Dream Glazes he could find, Ning Cheng didn't even look for the Spiritual Consciousness Imprint on him. Instead, he continued to move deeper into the wilderness.

An hour later, Ning Cheng stopped in a valley. He felt sure that the Spiritual Consciousness Imprint on his body came from Man Jiuren. Plus, Man Jiuren wouldn't remain patient for long when it came to his Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow. He had to concentrate on searching for divine grasses and wasn't in the mood to play hide-and-seek with Man Jiuren. Therefore, he decided that this was where he would bury Man Jiuren.

Man Jiuren had already seen Ning Cheng's 'strength'. And after knowing that he had a Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow, Man Jiuren would not come after him alone. He would most likely bring a helper with him.

With Man Jiuren's means, the most appropriate way to deal with him was to find someone that would force Ning Cheng to use the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow. He would then take action after he used it up. It was because of this speculation that Ning Cheng refined a fake Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow.

Ning Cheng began to arrange array formations in this valley. He purposefully didn't place a killing array; instead, he focussed more on putting down trap formations.

After finishing the trap formations, Ning Cheng then took out a jade strip that contained a few maps. He didn't get to study it for long when a light shadow fell in front of Ning Cheng.

"Are you Ning Cheng?" Standing not far from Ning Cheng was a thin-cropped man with a funny-looking face.

However, Ning Cheng didn't think of this person as even a bit funny. He could feel that the strength of this thin male cultivator even exceeded that of Hong Lun. If it weren't for the rapid increase in power and gaining more methods, Ning Cheng would have no choice but to use the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow right away.

But Ning Cheng knew that he shouldn't use the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow right now. This thin man mostly came here on the orders of Man Jiuren, which also meant that Man Jiuren wasn't too far away. Yet, Ning Cheng still couldn't find any trace of Man Jiuren. However, he also felt sure that once he killed this thin man with the arrow, it would immediately lure out Man Jiuren like a fisherman catching fish.

From the looks of it, this thin man didn't think it through and unknowingly pushed himself to death by agreeing to work for Man Jiuren.

"Who's Ning Cheng?" Ning Cheng would never admit it even if he knew that the other party knew that he was Ning Cheng. Man Jiuren didn't warrant such fear, but the people behind Man Jiuren were an entirely different matter.

The thin man gave a cold snort and said, "Whether you're Ning Cheng or not, you should die for me...."

A pair of scissors that seemingly cut the space in front of it in half suddenly appeared and covered Ning Cheng. It even suppressed Ning Cheng's breath. A powerful demonic essence-filled aura emerged from this person's domain that made Ning Cheng feel like a leaf swaying back and forth in a thunderstorm.

There wasn't any point in fighting against this person for too long. Ning Cheng didn't even bring out a weapon and immediately used the recently-learned move, Spiritual Consciousness Chop.

It was Ning Cheng's first time using this move against someone since learning about it from the spiritual consciousness cultivation method.

"Crack...." When Ning Cheng cast the Spiritual Consciousness Chop, the opponent's domain immediately cracked. Even though the opponent's strong domain suppressed everything around him, the cracking sound remained crisp and clear.

The Spiritual Consciousness Chop even cut into the thin man's Sea of Consciousness in the same instant. The thin man's complexion immediately changed, and he let out a surprised shout. The next moment, the dao charm around him started flashing erratically.

Ning Cheng also felt shocked to discover that although his Spiritual Consciousness Chop cut into the opponent's Sea of Consciousness, an invisible force managed to block it.

Ning Cheng couldn't allow this person even a moment of respite. Once this person regained his mental faculties, even if Ning Cheng used another Spiritual Consciousness Chop, it would only result in death. Knowing this, Ning Cheng punched out with a punch containing the Laws of Time without any hesitation.

Without the application of Sunset's Dusk, it was just a pure punch. But the Law of Time Dao Charm contained within this fist caused the thin man to pause for an instant. During this very instant, the previous Spiritual Consciousness Chop tore into the thin man's Sea of Consciousness without any hindrance.

Almost without any pause, Ning Cheng raised his hand and brought out a black-coloured arrow.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 879: You Dare Kill Me

The arrow madly converged the surrounding killing power, forming a powerful whirlpool. From a distance, it felt as if the more the killing power of the arrow came together, the more terrifying its momentum became. At the same time, the arrow also grew faint with each passing moment.

The thin man had already broken free from Ning Cheng's Laws of Time; however, his face sported a hideous snarl. Only he knew that Ning Cheng's arrow that sucked up the seemingly infinite killing intent wasn't a threat to him at all. The real danger was the Spiritual Consciousness Chop that had reached his Sea of Consciousness. He quickly understood that it was the result of a genuine spiritual consciousness cultivation method. If he couldn't resist it, at least for as long as a breath, this Spiritual Consciousness Chop would destroy his Sea of Consciousness.

The thin man opened his mouth and spat out a bloody arrow; at the same time, the aura of dao charm continued to spill out from his body. In his Sea of Consciousness, another more powerful wave of spiritual consciousness force swept over that managed to stall Ning Cheng's Spiritual Consciousness Chop for the time being. The moment Ning Cheng's Spiritual Consciousness Chop met the spiritual consciousness force wave. It forced the two to retreat immediately. Ning Cheng found it challenging to bear the backlash and spat out a mouthful of blood.

Feeling his Spiritual Consciousness Chop suppressed, Ning Cheng immediately understood that things had taken a turn for the worse. This thin man in front of him was quite an extraordinary veteran expert. Even when Ning Cheng used the Spiritual Consciousness Chop and under the influence of the Laws of

Time, it still couldn't kill this fellow. Ning Cheng also understood that as long as this person managed to drive out his Spiritual Consciousness Chop, he would die.

Besides, there was still the Ninth Prince lurking somewhere around him. It meant that even if he used the pre-prepared Entrapment Array Discs, it wouldn't be of much use. This thin man wouldn't have much problem in breaking through it with brute force. Moreover, the last exchange also proved that this person was even stronger than Hong Lun and even the Ninth Prince.

The Spiritual Consciousness Chop entirely relied on the support provided by Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness. However, Ning Cheng didn't dare to burn his spiritual consciousness recklessly. He had to save energy to deal with the Ninth Prince.

The fake Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow continued to gather momentum. But neither Ning Cheng nor the thin man cared about it at this moment. Even if this arrow shot out, it wouldn't have much effect. The gathering of killing power was nothing more than a superficial phenomenon.

"Puff....." Something inside pushed the Spiritual Consciousness Chop back by another step. Ning Cheng spat out another mouthful of blood, this time black.

However, at the exact moment, a shadow appeared within the range of Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness. It immediately turned Ning Cheng's heart even more gloomy. He understood that the Ninth Prince had finally appeared.

He must never let Man Jiuren know about his current situation, and he definitely couldn't let Man Jiuren take action.

Ning Cheng understood that he no longer had any choice. How could he care about other things if he didn't have a life? Once Ning Cheng lost his little life, everything would become meaningless, utterly ethereal. Seeing that this thin man was about to expel his Spiritual Consciousness Chop, Ning Cheng had no choice but to use the Dark Nether Spirit Devourer.

Spiritual Consciousness; devour it for me!

A series of black whirlpools invisible to the naked eye suddenly formed within the thin man's Sea of Consciousness. The thin man immediately felt that his spiritual consciousness, which almost managed to gain the upper hand on the situation, suddenly got swallowed up by something and suddenly disappeared. Sensing the Spiritual Consciousness Chop about to break free from his blockade, the thin man immediately turned anxious. He quickly tried to agitate his spiritual consciousness once again.

But the moment the newly formed spiritual consciousness blasted out, those black vortexes once again swallowed it up instantly.

"It's that vicious Dark Nether Spirit Devourer....." The thin man opened his mouth and wanted to scream, but the Spiritual Consciousness Chop had already severed his voice.

The moment the Spiritual Consciousness Chop broke free from the shackles within the thin man's Sea of Consciousness, it sliced through everything in its path like a hot knife through butter. The next moment, blood oozed out of the thin man's seven orifices, and even his Sea of Consciousness collapsed. Simultaneously, as the chop sliced into the thin man's Sea of Consciousness, Ning Cheng fell weakly to the ground, while the arrow in Ning Cheng's hand quickly shot out.

The space between the two lit up with colourful lights before everything turned colourless. Only the killing power remained within the area. Rather, it would be more accurate to say that it was a false illusion of killing power that came from the body of the thin man who had already collapsed.

“Bang.....” The thin man’s head split apart, and the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow also disappeared without a trace.

Ning Cheng grabbed the thin man’s ring, slumped onto the ground, and swallowed several medicinal pills. There wasn’t any need to pretend. His face had already turned pale from the exertion, and even after swallowing that strong spiritual consciousness, Ning Cheng felt weak. However, Ning Cheng understood as long as these strands remained in his Sea of Consciousness, it wouldn’t be a blessing but a curse.

From the Dark Nether Devouring Spirit Scroll records, he absolutely couldn’t refine these spiritual consciousness strands and use them as his own. Once he did this, he could never go back. It would be akin to taking narcotic drugs. As long as his body refined it once, there would be a second time and a third time.....

But whether a blessing or a curse, these strands of spiritual consciousness still had some uses in the current situation. Man Jiuren had walked over unhurriedly. He looked at the thin man lying on the ground, killed, and head split open by Ning Cheng’s Spiritual Consciousness Chop and showed a broad smile. “Ning Cheng, you truly are the first genius I have ever seen till now. With a puny middle-stage Eternal cultivation, you managed to kill Ding Xia, who had already reached half-step Dao Sculpting Realm. But I wonder if you can shoot another of those arrows? Kinda makes me curious, you know.”

“Do you want my Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow?” Ning Cheng slowly stood up, and a black arrow appeared in his hand.

Man Jiuren felt confident that Ning Cheng couldn’t shoot a second Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow. But his pupils still shrank to the size of pinpricks when he saw the black arrow in Ning Cheng’s hand.

“Apart from that Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow, there is also the Life Force Plate. If I guessed it correctly, my Life Force Plate should be in your hands. Ning Cheng, I truly appreciate your abilities. If you surrender your spiritual soul and sign a servant contract with me, I can spare you this one time.” The Ninth Prince spoke with a cold tone.

If not for the aura of the Life Force Plate coming from Ning Cheng, Man Jiuren would have already started. At this time, his domain had fully locked onto Ning Cheng. Plus, he could also feel that Ning Cheng was in a truly weakened state.

Ning Cheng quickly understood a few things from this. No wonder Man Jiuren endured it till now. From the looks of it, this Life Force Plate wasn’t truly his weapon, and Man Jiuren most likely kept it hidden from his father.

No matter Man Jiuren’s reason, Ning Cheng also understood that he couldn’t stay here and chat for long. Besides, against Man Jiuren, he had no choice but to use the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow. Know that using the arrow would immediately weaken him further, Ning Cheng didn’t hesitate to stimulate his spiritual consciousness and celestial essence.

The black arrow started hovering in front of Ning Cheng. A five-coloured longbow started to form and gradually overlap with it. The grey aura of death quickly spread out, and the killing power that permeated the surroundings began to move the winds and clouds. At this moment, the world around the arrow started to lose colour; simultaneously, everything started to lose its dominance over life.

The aura of death, the horrifying killing intent, the killing power permeating the space....

As everything 'slowly' came together, it formed into a swirling void that then condensed into a grey point containing an unimaginable aura of death.

The moment the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow activated, Man Jiuren couldn't move anymore, as the arrow had entirely suppressed him. But even if he could move, he did not dare and could only stare at Ning Cheng in horror.

"How? How can you shoot a second arrow? It's not possible....." Man Jiuren muttered to himself in a hoarse tone. His gaze not only contained madness but also fear. Even if Ning Cheng was a heaven-defying genius, he shouldn't have the capability of shooting two of those arrows in the Eternal Realm.

The first time when he faced the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow, he only escaped because of a substitute. But this time, he didn't have a replacement. If he died here, it would truly mean the end of him, Man Jiuren.

Ning Cheng felt neither sorrow nor joy. However, his celestial essence and spiritual consciousness had now fully locked on to Man Jiuren. Since he could kill Man Jiuren once before, he could kill him a second time.

Man Jiuren's domain started to collapse inch-by-inch. All the pieces got swept into the grey-coloured killing intent oozing from the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow. At the same time, Ning Cheng's hair also started to turn white and his face pale.

As for the black arrow, it's colour also started to fade into nothingness. At the same time, the multicoloured bow superimposed on it grew more and more colourful. Even the grey aura of death kept growing stronger....

This grey killing intent was fundamentally different from the previous grey killing intent. If the previous one only had a shape, this one had real substance.

"I understand...." Man Jiuren's eyes had already turned red. He finally understood that the arrow Ning Cheng used previously was a fake. Ning Cheng had a fake Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow, which meant that Ning Cheng already knew that he would come looking for him. It also meant that Ning Cheng created that fake arrow to lure him into a trap.

"You can't kill me; put down your arrow....." Despite knowing that Ning Cheng couldn't put down the arrow, Man Jiuren still screamed out in madness.

If his body collapsed this time, he no longer would be able to rise again. He absolutely cannot accept it. He wanted to control the entire Barbarian Dragon Clan; he wanted to become the top powerhouse in the whole Grand Essence Realm.....

“Crack...” The Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow split the clouds and forced them to disperse in an instant the moment the aura of death surged out.

Despair rose in Man Jiuren’s heart. The moment just before the arrow tore into his body, his essence spirit abandoned the body and escaped at speed countless times faster than a light shadow.

Ning Cheng had just spewed out a mouthful of blood when he heard Man Jiuren’s essence spirit cry out, “Ning Cheng, you dare place an Essence Spirit Trapping Formation. You dare kill me.... you.....”

How could Ning Cheng care about Man Jiuren’s threat? After escaping from Man Jiuren almost at the inch of his life every time, Ning Cheng had already made ample preparations. This fellow could run from Pan Qian; how could Ning Cheng not keep an eye out for it. It’s the reason why he set up a concealed Essence Spirit Trap Formation.

A strand of Celestial River Flame shot out and quickly burned Man Jiuren’s spirit soul into nothingness.

Unfortunately, he couldn’t grab Man Jiuren’s ring. Killing that thin man had already exhausted him, which meant that he no longer had the strength to salvage Man Jiuren’s ring. He could only watch the ring shatter to pieces with Man Jiuren’s body.

Half an incense stick worth of time later, Ning Cheng could no longer stand straight due to exhaustion after the two back-to-back fights. He could only call out Chasing Bull and let Chasing Bull carry him away from this place immediately.

.....

The Grand Essence Mystic Realm’s opening was the biggest thing for all the sects within the Grand Essence Domain. But as the Dragon Emperor of the Barbarian Dragon Clan, Man Huishan decided to stay in the Grand Essence Ruins. The Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow was just too important to him. If he had this arrow, then even without becoming a Second Step Dao Fusion Holy Emperor, such experts would have to fear him.

The Barbarian Dragon Clan looked glamorous on the surface, but he knew it full well that the clan was already in decline. Nobody knew about it better than him. Without Man Suotian as a deterrent for other sects, the Barbarian Dragon Clan would have already ceased to exist. Moreover, over the countless years, the Barbarian Dragon Clan couldn’t produce any worthy heirs, to the point that except for Man Suotian, no one else in the clan had become a Dao Fusion Holy Emperor or even come close to becoming one. Even he remained stuck in the Dao Essence Realm for more than a hundred thousand years without the slightest improvement.

Moreover, Ancestor Man Suotian never showed up after reaching Dao Perfection, nor had he any idea about his current whereabouts. Man Huishan only knew that his ancestor still lived, but that’s all he knew. Who could the Barbarian Dragon Clan rely on if something happened? It had to depend on him and his title of Dragon Emperor.

Within the best suit of the best Grand Essence Ruins’ rest stop, Man Huishan casually picked up the cup of spiritual tea on the table. He took a sip as he pondered over these matters. It didn’t matter if the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow fell into the hands of Lifeless Poisonhand or the Heartless Monk. Or, even if

it was still on Ning Cheng's body, he couldn't let anyone else know about it. This weapon, Man Huishan, decided to make it his own.

After taking a sip of the spiritual tea, but before putting the teacup on the table, the Man Huishan's face suddenly twisted with rage. The teacup in his hand immediately disintegrated, and he even slapped the table in front of him into nothingness. He suddenly stood up and shouted like a raging lunatic, "Who dared to kill this Man Huishan's son?"

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 880: Each on their own

Whether he dared or not, Ning Cheng had already killed Man Jiuren. At this time, Ning Cheng sat in a cave within a desert, trying to heal. He had already set up several defensive and concealment array discs at the cave entrance. At the same time, Chasing Bull stood right next to the door to sound the alarm if anything unexpected happened.

Chasing Bull was currently a grade seven starry sky demonic beast; as such, in this place, he could only help in sounding the alarm. Any cultivator that could enter this mystic realm was at least in the Eternal Realm. Some of the disciples from those big sects had even reached half-step Dao Sculpting Realm. If Chasing Bull had to face those cultivators, he wouldn't be able to hold on for even a single exchange.

Previously, every time Ning Cheng used the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow, Ning Cheng had to rest and heal for more than a month. But this time, Ning Cheng only took half a month to recover fully.

But even then, Ning Cheng walked out of the cave without much joy in his heart.

Those strands of spiritual consciousness Ning Cheng had devoured back then had already started fusing with his Sea of Consciousness. Suppose Ning Cheng didn't find a way to remove it. In that case, he could simply forget about cultivating his spiritual consciousness any further. Even advancing to the next level might become impossible. No matter how much he tried to separate it, he couldn't separate those strands of devoured spiritual consciousness. Perhaps only one path existed, which was to refine those strands of spiritual consciousness into his own.

Ning Cheng didn't want to do this, nor did he dare to do it.

Ning Cheng understood that worrying about the devoured strands of spiritual consciousness mixing into his Sea of Consciousness wouldn't be of much help at this point. However, he also understood that Man Jiuren dying at his hands would not remain concealed for long. But even if it couldn't stay hidden anymore, Ning Cheng would have killed Man Jiuren without hesitation.

Killing Man Jiuren might put him in a bad situation. But if Ning Cheng didn't kill Man Jiuren, it would become an even worse situation. Thinking about all these things, it would truly be a strange matter if Ning Cheng felt happy.

Fortunately, there was still a year left before this place closed. Ning Cheng decided to put aside these troublesome things for now and concentrated on collecting divine grasses.

The Grand Essence Mystic Realm covered a truly huge area. Despite more than 10,000 people entering the mystic realm, Ning Cheng still hadn't met another person even after wandering for several days.

But during these few days, he collected more than a dozen low-level and middle-level divine grasses, like the Black Mist Heaven Grass, Desolate Spirit Bud, Zen Spiritual Flower. As for high-grade divine grasses, Ning Cheng didn't see even a single one.

As for finding enough divine grasses to join the Grand Essence Great Meet, Ning Cheng had already abandoned the idea for now. Over ten thousand people entered the mystic realm to gather divine grasses and search for various heaven and earth treasures. Therefore, entering the top ten would be a truly challenging task to accomplish. It would be akin to trying to grasp the entire sky in one's grasp.

This matter wasn't something that relied on the strength of one's cultivation but entirely on one's luck. Ning Cheng knew that he always enjoyed a 'little luck' on his side when it came to such things because of his Good Fortune treasure. But this 'little luck' wasn't the same as having the blessing of luck. Both were two entirely two different concepts. In any case, to search for divine grasses in this place, he had to depend wholly on this 'little luck'.

On this day, Ning Cheng had just found a Buddhist Shrine Gold Sifting Fruit when he felt a violent spacial fluctuation surge over. His spiritual consciousness quickly swept out, but something blocked it.

Although the Grand Essence Mystic Realm didn't directly suppress one's spiritual consciousness, it did limit its range. Therefore, even with Ning Cheng's Starry Sky Sea of Consciousness, his spiritual consciousness could only extend to a range of about one to two thousand miles around him.

However, Ning Cheng also understood that this kind of spacial fluctuation could only originate from a cultivator battle. Something Ning Cheng didn't want to get involved with right now. However, the slight aura of high-grade divine grasses that rode with the spacial fluctuation immediately changed Ning Cheng's mind.

Despite searching everywhere till now, Ning Cheng had not found a single high-grade divine grass. One had to know that some of the high-grade divine grasses carried much higher value than an ordinary dao fruit. Therefore, sensing the faint aura of high-level divine grasses, Ning Cheng immediately decided to have a look at it. What if he saw a large patch of high-level divine grasses? At that time, those things would go to whoever grabbed it first. Nobody would remain polite about it anyway.

After taking out an appearance-changing mask and changing his appearance into a fierce-looking male cultivator, Ning Cheng quickly moved towards the source of those fluctuations.

In just about ten breaths, Ning Cheng stopped. Dozens of cultivators appeared within his line of sight. From the looks of it, they were just like Ning Cheng, cultivators rushing over after sensing the spacial fluctuations.

A certain distance away from Ning Cheng was a huge partially-concealed defensive array formation's entrance. However, the defensive array formation's entrance had quite a few cracks on it. Most likely, it originated from the cultivators attacking it. From the looks of it, the spacial fluctuations he sensed wasn't because of a fight but because of someone attacking the defensive array here.

By the time Ning Cheng reached this place, the aura of high-grade divine grasses overflowing from behind the entrance had grown more intense. From this, Ning Cheng also understood that there were a lot of high-level divine grasses within this concealed array formation. Ning Cheng felt quite happy at this; moreover, the obscured defensive formation had not yet broken apart. He had arrived just in time.

“Everyone, keep attacking it together. Although this defensive array formation is strong, it can only last for half-an-incense stick worth of time under continuous attacks.” A male cultivator with a square face took out a weapon before walking towards the defensive array formation and speaking up.

Ning Cheng’s gaze swept over this square-faced male cultivator, and he felt slightly startled. This man was at the late-stage Eternal Realm. However, the powerful aura coming from this square-faced male cultivator felt no worse than the thin man he killed previously. Ning Cheng knew very well that the thin man was nothing more than cannon fodder brought by the Ninth Prince. But he was still a true half-step Dao Sculpting expert.

Yet, as a late-stage Eternal cultivator, this person’s aura didn’t lose out to a half-step Dao Sculpting expert. From this, Ning Cheng also understood that this person most likely came from a powerful sect.

“Brother Huo, wait. There’re more and more people coming here. After breaking the array formation, how will we distribute the contents?” A man wearing a snow-white robe stood up and spoke.

When Ning Cheng saw the white-robed man, his pupils shrank once again. Why were there so many experts here? This white-robed man’s cultivation didn’t lose out to the square-faced cultivator, meaning that he was also a top-level expert. But what surprised Ning Cheng even more was that this white-robed man was also at the late-stage Eternal Realm.

High strength with low cultivation meant great potential.

The square-faced male cultivator nodded when hearing those words and said, “Baiyi is right. There are 34 people here. If they all flock inside, it will become chaotic to separate things.....”

After the square-faced man surnamed Huo finished speaking, his gaze swept through the other cultivators. Ning Cheng understood what he meant. It’s not that it would become chaotic to separate things, but that with more people, everyone would obtain less.

At this moment, a pointed-faced man stood up and smiled before giving the white-robed man and the square-faced cultivator a courtesy bow. He then said, “There are many people here. But Elder Brother Huo and Elder Brother Qu are both experts counted among the Grand Essence’s 12 Sacred Children. We naturally would listen to any instructions from the two Sacred Children.”

Ning Cheng quickly understood something. No wonder these two had such powerful auras. Those two were two of the twelve Grand Essence Sacred Children. From the looks of it, the Grand Essence’s 12 Sacred Children weren’t ordinary and undeserving of fame. Just looking at these two fellows also allowed Ning Cheng to imagine the strength of the other ten.

The cultivator surnamed Huo nodded and said, “Since everyone can get together here, let’s consider it as our destiny. Many people also know me Huo Erqi and Qu Baiyi. I won’t talk any nonsense. After we break this concealed array formation and have a look at the divine grasses inside, we’ll then split it between the two of us.”

This distribution plan was truly a shameless plan from the get-go, and Ning Cheng felt sure that someone would stand against it. However, Ning Cheng felt disappointed. Not only did no one object to it, but everyone even agreed to it. Ning Cheng couldn’t help but sigh to himself that the prestige of these twelve Grand Essence Sacred Children seemed too great.

Qu Baiyi suddenly frowned and focussed his gaze on Ning Cheng before speaking with a flat tone. "This friend, just now everyone said that they agreed. But you didn't say anything. Do you disagree with Brother Huo's proposal?"

Ning Cheng spoke with an indifferent voice, "You are two of the twelve Grand Essence Sacred Children. Presumably, you both also enjoy quite the fame. Who among us doesn't know about the difficulty in finding high-level divine grasses? If you open it and randomly decide to assign us some low-level divine grasses, do we still have to agree to it?"

Huo Erqi's face sank on hearing Ning Cheng's words, and he spoke up in a cold voice, "What do you propose then?"

Others might feel afraid of the Grand Essence's 12 Sacred Children, but Ning Cheng had no fear at all. He had already changed his appearance. Plus, these two weren't even Dao Sculpting cultivators. Therefore, no matter what, these two would find it impossible to recognise him.

But since Huo Erqi asked him, he simply gave a casual reply. "Everyone can attack the concealed formation together. Once opened, fight for the divine grasses with your strength."

On the surface, Ning Cheng didn't seem to have any competitive strength against Huo Erqi or Qu Baiyi. But Ning Cheng intentionally spoke from the standpoint of the rest of the cultivators. As such, no one would stand up and talk nonsense.

Sure enough, no one spoke up in objection. At the same time, Huo Erqi and Qu Baiyi also understood what was going on. Although their expressions turned a bit ugly, Qu Baiyi could only speak in agreement, "In that case, let's follow what this friend said. Let's break the concealed formation together, and then we're all on our own."

While speaking those words, he had already written down Ning Cheng's name in his heart. Based on his previous proposal, no one here would have dared oppose them at all. Besides, who in their right minds would dare stand against the Grand Essence's 12 Sacred Children? Unfortunately, at this time, someone truly came forward and stood against them.

With thirty to forty Eternal cultivators attacking the concealed array formation together, no matter how strong the array's defensive capabilities, it couldn't last for long.

In just half-an-incense stick worth of time, the concealed array formation's entrance broke down with a loud bang. Greenery suddenly appeared in the gazes of everyone, and an even more decadent aura of divine grasses poured out.

But before everyone could rush inside, two angry roars erupted. Then, two huge black holes suddenly appeared out of thin air. Smelling a burst of a fishy odour, Ning Cheng felt the space surrounding him starting to compress. Even his protective domain started to shatter inch-by-inch while a power seemed to have locked onto his body. At the exact moment, a wave of black poisonous mist swept over towards everyone.

Ning Cheng understood that things had become a little trickier. Stimulating his spiritual consciousness to wrap around him, strands of Laws of Space started to spread out. His body regained its freedom in just

an instant, and Ning Cheng quickly activated the Twin Wings of the Heaven Clouds. A moment later, he appeared hundreds of feet away from his initial position.

Behind Ning Cheng, horrifying screams erupted intertwined with the clash of weapons. One could even hear the space shaking.

A group of sorry figures, unlike Ning Cheng, quickly retreated to the periphery.

After a dozen breaths, the chaos finally ended, and Ning Cheng eventually saw what those two black holes were. They were two centipedes about a hundred meters in length that blocked the concealed defensive array formation entrance. Moreover, a powerful demonic aura oozed out of them in waves that suppressed everyone. Even if Ning Cheng stood relatively farther away from them, he could still feel their power.

Besides, those two hideous-looking centipedes had a human face, with an entirely red body and many thick but razor-sharp feet. Each centipede looked like a long and flexible double-edge serrated knife. One could also see a blood-stained rag hanging just below the corner of one of the centipede's mouth.

"Human-faced Poison Centipedes....." A female cultivator cried out in shock.

Only then did Ning Cheng discover that out of the original thirty-something people, only twenty-five remained. In just a few breaths, those two centipedes had swallowed seven or eight Eternal experts. From this, Ning Cheng also understood that this Human-faced Poison Centipede was a pretty powerful creature.

Everyone understood the terrifying power of a Human-faced Poison Centipede, but no one wanted to escape. Primarily because just behind these two poison centipedes, everyone could see a large patch of land containing many divine grasses. Facing the temptation of so many divine grasses, only an idiot would choose to leave. What's more, there were no idiots here. Plus, with an area this rich in divine grasses, how could it remain a secret for long?