

Cultivating 291

Chapter 291: Severing the Void, Great Harvest_2

He had already regarded the secret treasure as his own.

Without a moment's hesitation.

Ning Qi's body was enveloped in layers of cyan light, transforming into a treasure armor covering his entire body. As of today, the Cyan Profound Body Protection Technique had reached the Transformation Realm, far surpassing the previous Cyan Profound Treasure Armor, with rings of cyan ripples spreading out. The blood-colored Heavenly Blade fell, but met resistance.

It was as if a blade had struck into a piece of cowhide candy, with a force constantly rebounding.

The Grand Elder's expression changed slightly, unsure of what kind of secret technique this was. He marveled in his heart at the astonishing skills of this True Man Tianjian before him. A Celestial Human Realm being with such formidable combat power was unheard of.

He was even more resolved to bring True Man Tianjian into his fold.

He exerted all his strength to activate the Blood Pearl.

The blood-colored fabric turned into a jiao python, attempting to entangle Ning Qi and strangle him.

A crisp sound of cracking resounded as the Cyan Light Treasure Armor teetered on the brink of collapse.

But Ning Qi was not the least bit flustered.

His eyes shone brightly, perceiving the jiao python's flaws.

In an instant.

His dantian trembled, and the unparalleled sword qi, nurtured for two months, rang as it 'unsheathed'!

This was another supreme secret technique obtained from Zhuang Chen's Innate Sword Bone, the Innate Divine Sword Qi!

Buzzing!

Like the clear hum of a divine sword, like the majestic roar of a true dragon.

What kind of breathtaking sword qi was this?

It seemed ordinary, yet wherever it passed, left terrifying black marks. Although extremely subtle, they were already creepy enough, as they showcased powerful might, forcibly tearing the void!

Ning Qi stood with his hands behind his back, as if a Sword Immortal had manifested in the world.

In the incredulous eyes of the Grand Elder and Xiang Tianxing, the Innate Divine Sword Qi struck the 'vital point' of the jiao python, causing its originally mighty presence to suddenly plummet, teetering on collapse. This was Ning Qi's strongest trump card, now suddenly unleashed, severing the connection between the Grand Elder and the blood-colored fabric in one swift stroke.

"Ah!" The Grand Elder spewed blood skywards, feeling as though his head would explode.

The sudden change left him glaring angrily with eyes bewildered and a heart gripped by fear. He exerted all his strength to steady his mind, intending to reassemble the fabric, but Ning Qi naturally wouldn't miss this perfect opportunity.

Innate Divine Sword Qi threaded through the blood-colored jiao python's body, losing some power but still remaining invincible. The eerie black streaks made one's scalp tingle.

"Martial Saint! How is that possible? How is that possible?!" The Grand Elder gawked at the black streaks tearing through space, like he had seen a ghost.

The sword qi flickered and vanished.

The fear on Xiang Tianxing's face froze, turning into a mist of blood.

Meanwhile, the Grand Elder's left hand, holding the Blood Pearl, was severed at the root, and the sword qi power descended, immobilizing him on the spot. As for the Blood Pearl, it floated up lightly, landing in Ning Qi's hand.

Ning Qi's indifferent voice sounded:

"Such a supreme treasure, wasted in your hands."

He looked at the Martial Saint Secret Treasure vibrating in his hand and the blood-colored fabric spinning aimlessly in the sky, his eyes alight with fervor. His meticulous planning had finally paid off, as the secret treasure had fallen into his hands.

The Grand Elder was overwhelmed with anger:

"Even if you've obtained the Yu King Pearl, it's all in vain!"

He hoped to provoke Ning Qi, but Ning Qi only smiled faintly.

"The Yu King Pearl? It seems this item does have some connection with the former Great Yu?"

He activated the Power of Heaven and Earth, resonating with the Yu King Pearl in a unique manner. Soon, the Yu King Pearl's vibrations began to diminish; though not yet fully controlled, it no longer repelled Ning Qi. Furthermore, even the fabric trembling in the sky recoiled and merged into the Yu King Pearl.

The previously dim Yu King Pearl suddenly turned a pale blood-red.

"Wasting so much Martial Saint power, if you weren't of some use, I would have killed you long ago." Ning Qi snorted coldly.

But the Grand Elder remained dazed and did not respond, looking as if he had seen a ghost.

"How can you use the Yu King Pearl? Are you also a descendant of Great Yu? Why are you doing this! Why fight among us, why not join together to overthrow the Great Yan!" His hair was disheveled, covered in blood and dirt, unable to handle this tremendous blow, appearing somewhat deranged.

Ning Qi shook his head, landing in front of him without offering any explanation.

Previously watching the Grand Elder use the Yu King Pearl was not simply idleness. It was to study the principles, and with the cooperation of the Golden Pupil of Illusion-breaking and Ning Qi's comprehension, nothing could stand against him.

Now.

The dust had finally settled.

The vast world of the Earth Cave was left with only Ning Qi and the Grand Elder; all others had perished.

Ning Qi exhaled a light breath, slightly relaxing his tense nerves.

Especially after unleashing the nurtured Innate Divine Sword Qi, leaving an emptiness in his body.

This was the toughest battle he had faced since embarking on the Martial Path. Although not pushed to his limits nor faced with a life-and-death crisis, he had revealed all his cards. However, he had now thoroughly understood his own strength.

"The Demon Sect's profound reserves truly cannot be underestimated." Ning Qi reflected to himself.

Their stronghold's forty-plus Celestial Human Realm beings were already formidable, not to mention the Blood Demon Array and the Yu King Pearl. Had it been anyone else, they would have met disaster. Only Ning Qi's incredible tactics allowed him to laugh last.

"At this moment, the Demon Sect's Sect Leader still hasn't appeared. It seems he indeed is not present in this Ten Thousand Flames Cave."

Ning Qi remained on high alert, sensing the surroundings in secret.

But now that the dust had settled, if the Demon Sect's Sect Leader were here, he would have acted long ago. Delaying until all the Demon Sect's experts perished before taking action rendered it meaningless.

"As for the Demon Sect's Sect Leader's whereabouts, it likely depends on the person standing before me."

Chapter 292: Shattering the Void, Great Harvest_3

Ning Qi stared at the Grand Elder.

The purpose of this journey was to capture him alive and inquire about the matter of the Holy Pill. After a series of twists and turns, it still took a great effort. However, fortunately, the goal was achieved.

"You... who exactly are you?" The Grand Elder was still immersed in the shock of Ning Qi activating the Yu King Pearl.

But Ning Qi ignored him, casually pointed, and Gang Qi sealed the Grand Elder's mouth.

He felt a resonance with the Power of Heaven and Earth through the Yu King Pearl. Although he couldn't fully control it yet and had no time for deep enlightenment, some simple applications weren't a problem.

In an instant.

The blood mist floating in the Earth Cave World surged and gathered.

This was all the essence power left from the previous blood demon creatures that were blown up—enough from over forty Celestial Human Realm entities. Even though much was lost, the residuals were still considerable.

Ning Qi condensed it into a Blood Pill, satisfied and put it away.

"Once the Enlightenment Tea Tree completely consumes this Blood Pill, it will definitely grow more flourishing!"

He was in a very good mood.

One could say that just this Blood Pill had already yielded great gains, making the trip worth it.

After doing this, Ning Qi turned his gaze to the Grand Elder. At this moment, the Grand Elder finally sobered up, realizing what was about to happen. The Ghost Mask likely met the same fate under True Man Tianjian's hands, revealing much of the headquarters' intelligence.

Though he didn't know what astounding methods True Man Tianjian possessed, he didn't think it would be easy to endure.

Ning Qi held the Yu King Pearl in one hand, lifting the seal on the Grand Elder.

"You want to know my identity?" He laughed, the mask shattered and removed, yet it was still the face of the Ghost Mask.

The Grand Elder looked at the Secret Treasure falling into others' hands, his eyes almost spitting fire:

"Your power is unparalleled in the world, yet you hide with your head and tail, tarnishing your identity."

Ning Qi chuckled lightly:

"Alright, I'll grant your wish."

The Grand Elder's heart trembled; the Yu King Pearl suddenly radiated light, attracting his attention. Ning Qi's eyes turned into deep whirlpools, enveloping him. With no Heart Inquiry Platform here and the Grand Elder at the Martial Intent Ultimate Realm, a sudden attack was necessary.

Fortunately, the Yu King Pearl played a certain role, unsettling his mind.

Ning Qi watched the gradually dazed Grand Elder and exhaled softly.

Next.

It was the interrogation phase.

The goal was to extract as much useful intelligence as possible, primarily the matter of the Holy Pill, followed by the important information of the Demon Sect, as well as the Yu King Pearl.

In the dark Earth Cave.

The two engaged in a question-and-answer session, which seemed somewhat bizarre.

Time passed to an unknown limit.

The Grand Elder's spirit shook, exiting the Soul Capturing state. His head ached fiercely. The backlash from the previous Yu King Pearl had scattered his Divine Intent, and being pushed to the brink by Ning Qi's reckless Soul Capturing interrogation made him feel torn between life and death. He slumped to the ground, looking towards Ning Qi with hatred, fear, resentment, confusion, and other complex emotions.

Ning Qi sighed lightly; if possible, he would also want to grant some dignity to this unparalleled strongman.

Before, during their brief conversation, this Grand Elder indeed counted as a heroic figure; maintaining one's original intention was easy to say but not many could achieve it.

Ning Qi waved his hand gently.

The Grand Elder was then shattered into blood mist and merged into the Blood Pill.

The whole Earth Cave World became completely silent, leaving only himself.

He began to ponder over the many pieces of intelligence he had obtained.

First, naturally, was the matter of the Holy Pill, which he cared most about.

"Indeed, there is a Holy Pill Technique within the Demon Sect, but the specific Dharma Method is known only to the Sect Leader throughout generations. It is said that this Secret Technique involves refining the essences of many Exotic Beast Inner Cores to condense the Holy Pill, then forcibly breaking through to the Martial Saint Realm with Secret Technique assistance."

"And as to where exactly the Demon Sect Sect Leader is in seclusion, even the Grand Elder doesn't know. Every year, a strong figure takes the accumulated Beast Pill from the Ten Thousand Flames Cave. According to the Grand Elder, the last time was just a month ago, meaning for the next Holy Pill, it will be eleven months later."

Ning Qi felt somewhat helpless.

If it was a shorter time, he could wait here, but an eleven-month wait was enough for any fool to sense that the Ten Thousand Flames Cave headquarters had been breeched. The Demon Sect has countless special communication methods; he could not possibly know them all in such a short time.

"Well, temporarily shelving the Demon Sect clues for now—but it's not all for nothing; at least I know the Holy Pill refining isn't progressing as fast as I thought. Plus, taking down the Demon Sect headquarters will surely delay their progress significantly, perhaps by two or three years."

Thinking this, Ning Qi's lips curled slightly.

This time is entirely sufficient for him to step into the Celestial Being Perfection Realm. By then, he could confidently claim he matches the Martial Saint.

This battle at the Ten Thousand Flames Cave made him fully comprehend his own strength.

Currently, his regular strength is just close to the Martial Saint level, with the use of Innate Divine Sword Qi holding the Martial Saint level destructive power.

But after achieving Celestial Being Perfection, his conventional strength will enter the Martial Saint level!

In this way.

At least the threat from the Demon Sect has been greatly diminished. As for the Southern Border, taking it slowly, without the Demon Sect, they will inevitably be greatly affected, and the threat level will decrease. Overall, this raid on the Demon Sect headquarters was very effective.

Besides the matter of the Holy Pill.

Information gathered from the Grand Elder included some hidden intelligence of the Demon Sect, such as the headquarters' treasures and documents, the locations of various branches, some important secret signals, and more.

Chapter 293: Ripping Through the Void, Abundant Harvest_4

Ning Qi's eyes flickered:

"This information is also crucial. Although I blocked the lair this time and killed forty Celestial Human Realm practitioners, there are still many strong ones from the Demon Sect scattered everywhere. Perhaps... I can lure them in!"

A bold idea rose in his mind.

He would use the communication signals among the Demon Sect to summon back the Celestial Human Realm practitioners and then strike them down with thunderous power. This would save a lot of effort.

"After another sweep like this, I'll inform the Imperial Court of the remaining locations of the Demon Sect. At least ninety-five percent of their power can be eliminated, making it much harder for them to gather Exotic Beast Inner Cores. The threat from the Demon Sect will be practically removed."

But Ning Qi did not act immediately.

He needed to refine the Yu King Pearl first.

Moments ago, he had asked the Grand Elder once more about the usage of the Yu King Pearl. Combining this with his own insights, he roughly understood how to use this Martial Saint Secret Treasure and its functions.

The Celestial Human Realm can only manage simple control with some Dharma Methods. Only by truly stepping into the Martial Saint Realm can it be fully mastered.

As for the usage, the Grand Elder only knows two at present.

One is the storage function, containing a space that can accommodate inanimate objects. This can be achieved instantly with the resonance of the Power of Heaven and Earth.

The critical part is the second function, which is what Ning Qi saw earlier—the ability to condense the power of a Martial Saint!

But using this function is somewhat demanding.

Ning Qi thought:

"The key lies with those Demon Sect servants. In fact, these people weren't randomly captured as servants. Tracing back time, their bloodline source is from the ancient royal family of Great Yu. However, over time, they became side branches and eventually servants. They were reared here by the upper echelons of the Demon Sect, serving as nourishment to activate the Yu King Pearl at critical moments."

"This is because the Yu King Pearl was seemingly bonded with a Martial Saint powerhouse of Great Yu in the past through bloodlines."

He gazed at the blood-colored Yu King Pearl in his hand, feeling a bit emotional.

Fortunately, the Yu King Pearl is now 'charged,' allowing him to use it directly. But once its power is depleted, it might be impossible to condense the power of a Martial Saint again.

"However, using the bloodline of Great Yu's royal family to activate the Yu King Pearl is surely not the only method. Since the Yu King Pearl is now in my hands, I have plenty of time to study it. If I can deduce a method that doesn't require a bloodline medium, then this Secret Treasure will truly become my power!"

"By then, even if I haven't reached Celestial Being Perfection, I'll have the confidence to contend with a Martial Saint!"

In this, Ning Qi is confident.

As he pondered, he flew over the ruins of the Underground Palace.

From time to time, he waved his hand, uncovering layers of debris. Under the aftermath of the great battle just now, most things had turned to dust, but some precious treasures and materials or texts remained intact. Some were inherently durable, while others had various barriers set upon them.

Among them were the Blood Demon Flowers meticulously cultivated by the Demon Sect's Death Fire Abyss branch. There were five or six here, and most had matured.

These are unparalleled treasures that can significantly boost the strength of Celestial Human Realm practitioners. Back then, Old Demon Lin swallowed one and ran for two days and nights with his seriously injured body before being heavily wounded by Ning Qi at True Martial Mountain.

And now, they all became Ning Qi's spoils.

"Swallowing these Blood Demon Flowers can greatly reduce my time to condense the Flower of Essence." Ning Qi smiled.

His astonishing perception continuously explored, and treasures flew forth one by one. Some were Divine Weapons, some unparalleled Treasure Materials, some Spirit Medicines, and others Heritage Secret Techniques. Anything that survived such a great battle was certainly no ordinary item.

Ning Qi perceived the increasingly full space within the Yu King Pearl, and his mood became even more joyful.

This time, it's truly a bountiful harvest.

Chapter 294:: Confession with Senior and Junior Brothers

After thoroughly combing through the Underground Palace of the Demon Sect, ensuring nothing was missed, Ning Qi finally stopped with satisfaction.

At this moment, inside the Yu King Pearl, combined with the treasures previously placed by the Grand Elder, the space the size of a pavilion was almost filled.

"The Demon Sect's heritage is indeed rich. If the True Martial Sect can fully digest these foundations, becoming the world's number one martial sect is just a matter of time," Ning Qi mused.

He even discovered several treasures that would aid him personally.

The Blood Demon Flower was just one of them.

It is a treasure that aids the condensation of the Flower of Essence. There are also treasures that benefit the condensation of the Flower of Qi and the Divine Flower, although they are not as exceptional as the Blood Demon Flower. Nevertheless, they can greatly reduce the time for Ning Qi to reach Celestial Being Perfection Realm.

This made him extremely satisfied.

Ning Qi gazed at the ruins of the Underground Palace before him, as his Gang Qi gradually evolved, strands of flames rose and then swept like dragons over everything in front of him.

In an instant.

The ruins of the Underground Palace became a sea of fire.

His pupils reflected everything as he pondered the information about the Martial Saint Realm he learned from the Grand Elder:

"According to the Grand Elder, after the fall of Great Yu, all Martial Saint inheritances were erased. The remnants of Great Yu's Royal Family barely survived to establish the Demon Sect, preserving only two Martial Saint Secret Treasures and one Holy Pill Technique."

"One of the Secret Treasures is the Yu King Pearl, managed by each Grand Elder. The other Secret Treasure and the Holy Pill Technique are held by successive Sect Leaders. To become a Sect Leader of the Demon Sect, one must have the demeanor of a Martial Saint!"

"The Grand Elder said this is because Great Yan wants to reign supreme for millennia, so they erased the Martial Saint inheritance to prevent others from accessing it, while the Demon Sect relies on the Holy Pill Technique to cultivate Martial Saints. Unfortunately, every time a Martial Saint is born, they are eradicated by Great Yan's Martial Saints."

Ning Qi's gaze flickered slightly.

Both Wu Jianghe and the Demon Sect's Grand Elder point their blades towards Great Yan.

He grew increasingly wary of Great Yan in his heart.

"A necessary vigilance is required, and I must refrain from showcasing my understanding before the Great Yan court without absolute power."

"Moreover, the greatest gain is that the Demon Sect has a scarce amount of records and descriptions about the Martial Saint Realm. Once I return, I will thoroughly comprehend it, drawing closer to this realm. The Yu King Pearl has residual Martial Saint power to aid my deduction and comprehension, making it easier for me to create the Martial Saint Technique!"

Ning Qi reviewed all his gains and information, ensuring nothing was missed, and then exhaled lightly.

He meditated in the void.

He then used a Dharma Method to refine the Yu King Pearl once again, controlling it more intuitively before standing upright.

Next.

He planned to lie in wait.

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Outside the Ten Thousand Flames Cave.

Two powerful elders approached together, dressed in fine attire, their expressions cautious as they surveyed their surroundings.

Among them, the elder with a sinister look transmitted his voice:

"Old Ghost Wang, why do you think the Grand Elder suddenly called us back so urgently? Could it be... the Holy Pill is complete?!"

He speculated, eyes holding a hint of joy.

Old Ghost Wang shook his head:

"Probably not. Previously, the Grand Elder said the Holy Pill would take at least a year or half more. I guess it might be to select a Saint Heir. It's not just the two of us; even Old Ghost Jiang received the summons. I didn't ask about others, but I imagine those similar to us have all been summoned."

The sinister elder nodded slightly:

"Makes sense, well, we're at our doorstep now, we'll know soon."

He strode forward.

Old Ghost Wang couldn't help but curse with a laugh:

"You old thing, arriving at the Earth Cave without a hint of caution, do you think this is a place to take lightly?"

The sinister elder laughed softly:

"At our doorstep, do you think we'd be raided?"

But as soon as the words left his mouth.

Their expressions changed simultaneously, terror filled their pupils, a formidable Sword Intent ascended, Unparalleled Sword Qi passed through, and before they could emit a single scream, darkness swallowed their consciousness. Vaguely, they saw a young Taoist slowly emerging from the abyss.

Ning Qi calmly regarded the corpses of the two Demon Sect Celestial Beings before him.

With a wave of his hand, the bodies instantly turned into a blood mist, then condensed into Blood Pills and were stored within the Yu King Pearl.

"In ten days, plus these two, sixteen have arrived."

"By careful calculation, it seems about right. The remaining are mostly those without the qualification to know about the headquarters of the Ten Thousand Flames Cave. One or two slip through the net aren't worth waiting here any longer."

Ning Qi smiled.

At this point, Demon Sect's high-end combat power was almost completely wiped out by him.

The remaining few Celestial Beings are not intimidating, they can be left to the court to handle. Ning Qi plans to silently send out this intelligence of the branches.

"Considering the face of Fifth Sister-in-Law, Lin Xueshuang also received a choice, presumably she won't involve herself in these matters anymore either. Most of the threat from the Demon Sect is eliminated, the only concern remaining is the whereabouts of the Sect Leader."

"However, there's no need for excessive worry. Without these subordinates to supply Beast Pills, the Holy Pill will certainly be delayed for a long time. My objective is achieved, it's time to return."

Compared to roaming outside, Ning Qi prefers staying inside the Seeking Tao Institute, reading scriptures and comprehending Tao daily.

Once the thought arises, it's hard to stifle.

After finishing everything that needed to be done, he quietly departed.

No one knows; the Demon Sect, entangled with Great Yan for over two thousand years, was silently eradicated by Ning Qi.

Chapter 295: Confession with Senior and Junior Brothers_2

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True Martial Mountain.

Since Ning Qi descended the mountain, more than ten days have passed.

During this time, many things have happened.

The return of Jiang Baishan and Lin Ruhua certainly couldn't be hidden from Xiong Shi and others, and naturally, an explanation was needed. Keeping it a secret from Qin Yun wouldn't be fair, as he had turned into an ice sculpture and might never wake up again. Luo Wentian also didn't want the fellow brothers and sisters to have any misunderstandings about Qin Yun.

Therefore.

After consulting with Taoist Longshan, and receiving permission, he finally revealed everything to the fellow junior brothers and sisters.

He started with how Jiang Baishan and Lin Ruhua were ambushed by the Demon Sect, and the perils that followed, Qin Yun rushed to help, and eventually, Ning Qi suppressed Ghost Mask.

Naturally.

It wasn't possible to keep Ning Qi's identity a secret anymore.

Everyone was saddened, and upon seeing Qin Yun's frozen body, their eyes turned red, overwhelmed with sorrow, especially Ye Qinghe and Song City. They had the closest relationship with Qin Yun, and after realizing what Qin Yun had secretly done, they caressed the ice sculpture, feeling bitter and pained. Fortunately, Qin Yun wasn't dead, and they still held hope in their hearts.

At the same time, they were also extremely shocked.

They couldn't believe that the renowned True Man Tianjian was actually Ning Qi!

Even though they had already anticipated Ning Qi's might to some extent, it still far exceeded their imagination. Not even in their dreams did they dare dream in such a direction!

Therefore.

When Ning Qi returned to True Martial Mountain, he was met with resentful gazes:

"Jiu (Ninth Senior Brother), you kept us in the dark so much!"

Ning Qi looked towards Luo Wentian and, upon seeing his helpless expression, understood what had happened. However, he instead breathed a sigh of relief, using this opportunity to be honest with the fellow brothers and sisters.

Keeping it a secret wasn't a good thing. The reason for not telling them before was that Ning Qi didn't have enough self-protection power back then; too many people in this world could threaten him.

But now, Ning Qi had truly stood at the pinnacle of the world.

Since Luo Wentian and Jiang Baishan already knew, there was no need to hide it from the other fellow brothers and sisters.

Ning Qi shrugged and smiled:

"You can't blame me for this."

He looked at Luo Wentian and Taoist Longshan with a plea for help in his eyes, but the two just smiled and stepped back, looking helpless.

Ye Qinghe circled around Ning Qi several times, clicking her tongue in amazement, then lightly snorted:

"Jiu, quickly transform into the form of True Man Tianjian, and we'll let you go!"

Everyone nodded repeatedly, showing a 'resentful look,' but in their eyes was all expectation. Even though they had heard it from Luo Wentian and Jiang Baishan, they still found it hard to believe and had to see it with their own eyes.

Faced with the 'siege' from fellow brothers and sisters, Ning Qi smiled helplessly.

He waved slightly, Gang Qi condensed, and in an instant, a cold-eyed black-robed Taoist appeared before them. Who else could it be but True Man Tianjian?

Everyone was dumbfounded.

Even Luo Wentian and Taoist Longshan were like this. Although they knew True Man Tianjian was a technique of Ning Qi, it was also the first time they'd seen Ning Qi use such a technique, and such a miraculous secret technique was truly impressive.

Especially Li Ling, the impact on him was even greater.

He had been learning sword from True Man Tianjian for a while, and now he knew that the person he admired most was his Ninth Senior Brother. The joy and excitement in his heart were beyond words.

"Ninth Senior Brother, you..."

He stammered with excitement, exchanged glances with Zhuang Chen, and saw admiration in each other's eyes, wishing to bow down in reverence.

Ning Qi laughed and said:

"In the future, if you want to learn sword, just come to Seeking Tao Institute."

Since he had already revealed his identity, he naturally wouldn't be stingy.

Teaching the two junior brothers wouldn't take much time either.

He waved his hand and dispersed his avatar, then said:

"This secret technique is called Formless Gang Body. Currently, the requirements are still a bit high, but when I delve into it more in the future, the requirements can be lowered. Then you all can learn it."

Everyone was exhilarated.

Ning Qi just nodded with a smile.

Many of the secret techniques he created in the past were tailored for himself, but as his cultivation grew stronger and his foundation deepened, he would slowly improve them and make them more universal. This way, it also gradually deepens the foundation of the True Martial Sect.

After some laughter and chatter.

Ning Qi's matter of concealing his identity was put to rest.

In fact, everyone was just joking. They were too happy to even be angry.

Entering Bright Martial Pavilion.

Everyone's once relaxed facial appearances gradually turned somber.

The frozen Qin Yun was quietly lying on the bed, and even though these days had passed, everyone had accepted this reality. But every time they saw Qin Yun's aging face and body, they couldn't help feeling a sense of heartache.

"Jiu, how did the mission go?" Taoist Longshan gently asked. Luo Wentian had already told him that Ning Qi went to the Demon Sect headquarters.

Ning Qi nodded:

"Everything went smoothly. The threat of the Demon Sect has been mostly eliminated."

He began to narrate the events he encountered after descending the mountain, though he glossed over certain parts.

Upon hearing that Ning Qi single-handedly destroyed the Demon Sect headquarters and even killed as many as fifty or sixty Celestial Human Realm martial artists, everyone was stunned, blankly staring at Ning Qi.

Celestial Human Realm, which is a level of martial artists chosen from among billions, requiring endless effort to reach, in their eyes.

But to Ning Qi, in such an indifferent tone, it was as simple and easy as slaughtering chickens and sheep.

They exchanged glances, each smiling wryly.

The gap between them and Ning Qi was indeed immense.

But more than that, they felt happy.

The threat of the Demon Sect and the Southern Border had long loomed in their hearts, and now half had been removed, making the future much lighter.

"But according to what you said, Jiu, there's still a Sect Leader of the Demon Sect in seclusion, we still need to be cautious." Luo Wentian said.

Ning Qi replied:

"No worries, I've already passed the intelligence on various Demon Sect branches to the Imperial Court, and the power of the Demon Sect is waning."

He then turned to face Lin Ruhua, whose eyes subtly showed concern, and said:

"Sister-in-law, I've already sent word to your mother, but to be safe, you should personally send a letter to her. Tell her to take the Lin Clan's branch and retreat, avoiding potential conflicts with the Imperial Court's experts. If they are unwilling to hide, our True Martial Sect can provide them a place of refuge."

Lin Ruhua instantly showed a look of joy. This matter had been on her mind, and she found it hard to speak up. Now that Ning Qi took the initiative to mention it, she felt immensely grateful.

"Thank you, Ninth Junior Brother! I'll write to my mother immediately!"

Everyone felt relieved.

They knew that Lin Xueshuang cared for her daughter and had voluntarily distanced herself from the Demon Sect's center of power because of Lin Ruhua, going to the Hundred Thousand Mountains.

Now that Lin Ruhua was proactively persuading her, she should come to True Martial Mountain, which will further strengthen the foundation of the True Martial Sect.

Of course.

They were even more pleased that Jiang Baishan no longer faced a difficult choice.

After finishing the discussion on the Demon Sect.

Everyone inevitably turned their gaze back to Qin Yun, and Jiang Baishan couldn't help but ask:

"Jiu, about Ba..."

Ning Qi reassured:

"Don't worry, I will certainly awaken Eighth Senior Brother in the future! If a Martial Saint isn't enough, then surpass Martial Saint, I will strive towards this goal!"

Everyone nodded firmly:

"Together, we'll search for the Ancient Secret Formula, and we'll certainly revive Ba (Eighth Senior Brother)!"

Taoist Longshan smiled reassuringly:

"Take your time, at least... now we're reunited again."

Chapter 296: Heaven-Reaching

Flame Martial Grand General's residence.

An incredulous voice rang out:

"What did you say? The Demon Sect headquarters was completely wiped out?"

The Flame Martial Grand General looked at the middle-aged man in armor before him, showing such an uncharacteristic expression for the first time.

The middle-aged man was equally shocked. After receiving the news, he hurried over immediately:

"Grand General, a few days ago, some mysterious intelligence reached me, detailing numerous aspects about the Demon Sect, including the locations of some secret branches and the deployment of their experts."

"At first, I thought it might be a trap by the Demon Sect, but the information was so detailed, it didn't seem fake, so I decided to attempt a raid on one of the branches."

"I never would have imagined the information was true! The Demon Sect experts at that branch were caught completely off guard and had no time to react."

"So, I launched a night operation, teaming up with others based on the information, and ultimately captured several important figures in the Demon Sect."

He swallowed a few times, the incredulity in his eyes growing stronger.

"After some questioning, I learned the Demon Sect headquarters was actually in the Ten Thousand Flames Cave, and the strangest thing is, the cave was entirely wiped out! This isn't just the word of the Demon Sect experts; I personally went to investigate, and there are indeed signs of a great battle. The Demon Sect's claims are true!"

Having finished speaking, the middle-aged man felt a huge burden lift off his shoulders.

Originally, he had thought to keep the news under wraps temporarily and report to the Flame Martial Grand General after achieving great merit.

But he never would have thought, in the course of this digging, the entire Demon Sect headquarters would be destroyed.

With this development, it was beyond his capability to handle.

In the pavilion, there was silence.

For a long time.

The Flame Martial Grand General exhaled deeply, slowly pressing down the countless speculations in his heart.

His eyes were deep:

"So it seems that the one who provided you with the information and the forces that destroyed the Demon Sect headquarters are likely from the same faction."

"Who could it be?"

His heart was filled with an inexplicable unease.

This was truly a matter of great significance.

The Demon Sect and the Great Yan have been entangled for many years without annihilation, primarily due to the secrecy of their headquarters, but now it has been quietly destroyed by this mysterious force. This level of skill and strength truly leaves him restless, meaning an unknown power now exists beyond the control of the Great Yan Dynasty.

The middle-aged man cautiously said:

"I have a guess?"

The Flame Martial Grand General raised an eyebrow. The middle-aged man continued:

"The Wind-listening Old Man, ranked first on the Celestial Being List! This individual has always been elusive, if any powerful being in the world could achieve this, it would likely be him. If someone else conveyed the information to me, I feel I could have detected some clues."

The Flame Martial Grand General shook his head immediately:

"Absolutely impossible, unless... the Wind-listening Old Man has reached the Martial Saint Realm. The power of the Demon Sect is not trivial; they possess Martial Saint Secret Treasures, and they're definitely not something the Celestial Human Realm can handle. This feat of destroying the Demon Sect headquarters was likely not done by one person. It's either with Martial Saint level power, or a group of Celestial Human Realm Perfection martial artists!"

"Regardless of which, they are not to be underestimated!"

He let out a long sigh.

"Keep a close watch on this matter, secretly search for the identity of this mysterious force, but do not harbor any hostility. If any news about them arises, notify me immediately!"

The middle-aged man's spirit was immediately aroused:

"Yes, Grand General!"

The Flame Martial Grand General pondered for a moment:

"However, this mysterious force's act of crippling the Demon Sect this time can be considered a good thing, at least this stubborn issue is finally being addressed. Now with the Southern Border unable to support itself, they certainly won't dare to continue to stir up trouble, and the pressure will lessen in the future."

Because the Martial Saints of Great Yan had not responded, the pressure in his heart was quite immense, and now there seemed to be some good news.

The middle-aged man also nodded in agreement, but then he spoke again:

"But... according to several core members of the Demon Sect, it seems that the Demon Sect still has a Sect Leader outside, and the Holy Pill Technique is with that Demon Sect Leader."

The Flame Martial Grand General squinted his eyes, then waved his hand:

"No matter, just keep a close eye on it, without the support of the Demon Sect, it's just a sect leader, nothing insurmountable. What you need to do next is to take this opportunity to nail down the Demon Sect completely, so these pesky issues don't come back to life."

"Yes, Grand General!"

Without most people being aware, secret currents were surging within the Great Yan realm.

The upper echelons of the Demon Sect suffered major casualties, but their branches are deeply rooted and integrated throughout the Great Yan. Clearing it out won't be easy.

Of course.

The True Martial Sect is aware of the truth behind all this, and they know who the so-called mysterious force truly is.

But they're just pretending not to know, and are quietly cooperating with the court's efforts.

...

Seeking Tao Institute.

Ning Qi was absorbing the gains from the Demon Sect headquarters.

Several items hovered before him.

Blood Demon Flower, Heavenly Net Vine, Profound Sun Crystal.

Each related to the Flower of Essence, Flower of Qi, and Divine Flower respectively.

If used by others.

It might be akin to swallowing them whole without processing.

Due to the differing potencies of the three, there would be significant wastage, since Three-Floral Cultivation emphasizes simultaneous progression. While it doesn't require the three flowers' progress to be completely synchronized, they must not be too disparate.

However, Ning Qi possesses unparalleled alchemical skills, naturally utilizing these precious items to the fullest extent.

He closed his eyes to regulate his breath.

Then reached out to summon thunder, using Heavenly Thunder to temper the medicine.

Chapter 297: Heaven-Reaching_2

Gang Qi was used as a guide to transform into a raging flame, stronger than many heavenly exotic flames.

Every step was pleasing to the eye, as if divinely created. The only observer beside him was the White Ape, who had been following Ning Qi to learn the Alchemy Dao since the previous year. Now, he had made some progress, and every time Ning Qi opened the furnace to refine an important pill, he would let him watch from the side.

The White Ape's eyes were full of admiration.

After a two-hour period.

The furnace opened, and the pill was successfully made.

Ning Qi felt at ease and carefree.

He looked at the twelve light purple pills inside the furnace, his eyes showing satisfaction. The unique fragrance of the pills filled the courtyard. If he hadn't shielded it, it might have already drifted far outside. Not only that, but when the pills were completed, a vague phenomenon appeared as if the Power of Heaven and Earth was roaring.

Without a doubt.

These were the highest level pills Ning Qi had ever refined.

"This pill can be called the Heaven-Reaching Pill, intended to make the Celestial Being Realm accessible!"

Ning Qi felt a bit sentimental.

Sometimes, using external objects can indeed significantly shorten cultivation time. He thought that if he had gone down the mountain to train right after initially forming his cultivation, seeking treasures along the way, he might have been stronger now.

But he had no regrets.

Going down the mountain carries risks, and he might fall halfway. Staying on the mountain for secluded cultivation and enlightenment, building step by step, better suited his path.

He picked up a Heaven-Reaching Pill and examined it closely.

The Blood Demon Flower and other such Spirit Medicines can be called unparalleled, rare to find in the world. Just one can greatly aid the Celestial Human Realm, let alone mixed together with Ning Qi's Alchemy Dao to integrate the essence.

The Demon Sect's large number of Celestial Realm experts are inseparable from the Blood Demon Flower, but those cultivated with the Blood Demon Flower primarily specialize in the Flower of Essence. Ning Qi found the cultivation method of the Blood Demon Flower in ancient texts, which goes against the harmony of heaven. This is one of the reasons the Great Yan identified it as the Demon Sect.

Dispelling miscellaneous thoughts, Ning Qi didn't hesitate.

He swallowed a Heaven-Reaching Pill.

In an instant, a tremendous medicinal power surged through his body, gentle and continuous, the Three Flowers trembled, more active than ever.

Ning Qi immediately activated the Dharma Method to begin refining the Three Flowers.

The astonishing efficiency made him intoxicated.

This was just inside the Seeking Tao Institute; if it were in High Heaven, the effect would be even greater!

After experiencing it, Ning Qi slowly opened his eyes. He had already estimated the time it would take him to reach the Celestial Being Perfection Realm.

"One Heaven-Reaching Pill can sustain my cultivation for ten days. In just three months, I can effortlessly achieve Three Flowers Perfection!"

Ning Qi was extremely satisfied.

It should be known that, even with the many Dharma Methods he created to expedite cultivation, it was originally estimated to take a year or two to reach Celestial Being Perfection. But now, this time has been greatly reduced.

"This way, there are three Heaven-Reaching Pills left. Based on the medicinal power sensed earlier, just one can bring an ordinary Celestial Realm to Perfection Realm, though it'll take them far more than ten days to fully assimilate this power, probably about a year."

"However, even so, compared to the long years spent painstakingly cultivating, this is still extremely short."

This is an unparalleled Treasure Pill never before seen in this world.

If it spreads to the Martial Realm, a storm of blood is sure to arise in an instant.

"Give one to Master, and leave the other two as reserves."

He wasn't worried about only having two being insufficient. By the time all senior and junior disciples reach the Celestial Realm, he might have already been able to refine even more powerful Treasure Pills. But the key lies in the rare materials.

These twelve Heaven-Reaching Pills have already exhausted the Demon Sect's years of accumulation.

To find such unparalleled Spirit Medicines again, there might only be a few forces as resourceful as the Demon Sect that could possess them.

...

Years passed at True Martial Mountain.

Everyone was cultivating diligently, just waiting for the day to astonish the world. Upon receiving the Heaven-Reaching Pill from Ning Qi, Taoist Longshan stood still for a long time, both gratified and ashamed, and finally took it with a heart full of complex emotions.

Everyone else was also working hard, from the Sect Leader to the disciples, all the same.

The threat from the Demon Sect and the Southern Border greatly diminished.

The True Martial Sect enjoyed a rare period of peace.

Yet during this time.

The Great Yan was constantly undercurrents.

The Demon Sect suffered a catastrophe, initially unbeknownst to the Southern Border, but as the hidden movements became more significant, they inevitably affected the Southern Border. When they found they couldn't contact the Demon Sect's upper echelons, they were startled to realize that something significant had happened to the Demon Sect!

In no time.

The Southern Border began swiftly retracting all activities in the Great Yan, leaving no remnants this time.

They were extremely apprehensive of the mysterious force that annihilated the Demon Sect.

According to various intelligence received, the Demon Sect was not eliminated by the Imperial Court. They just took advantage of the situation.

They intended to contact Lin Xueshuang, who had been overseeing the hunting of Exotic Beast Inner Cores in the Hundred Thousand Mountains, but discovered that unbeknownst to them, Lin Xueshuang, together with many of the core members of the Lin Clan, had vanished without a trace.

This naturally caused even greater alarm for the Southern Border.

They felt that there seemed to be an invisible hand manipulating everything behind the scenes.

And Lin Xueshuang naturally came to True Martial Mountain.

After receiving a message from her daughter, she deliberated for several days and finally decided to bring the Lin clan members to come.

"Lin Xueshuang, greets the True Man." The well-dressed lady in the long dress looked with slight surprise at the Taoist Longshan, whose aura was beyond her imagination. According to the information, this True Man Longshan had only been at the Celestial Realm for a few years, yet his aura was exceptionally powerful.

She secretly praised that this True Man Longshan was a genius, and so she even more acknowledged this family connection.

Taoist Longshan smiled warmly:

"Clan Leader Lin, there's no need for formality. We are now family. By rights, my unworthy fifth disciple should have come to ask for your daughter's hand formally, with a proper marriage proposal. But now that they're wed in private, I hope Clan Leader Lin does not take offense."

Jiang Baishan and Lin Ruhua stood embarrassed to the side, especially Lin Ruhua, who dared not meet Lin Xueshuang's gaze.

Indeed, matters had been handled hastily, forcing Lin Xueshuang to make many concessions.

Lin Xueshuang gave a soft snort before finally letting out a long sigh:

"True Man speaks too highly. From now on, there is no more Holy Sect or Demon Sect in this world. Lin Xueshuang is merely the clan leader of the Lin Clan, and in the future, we will reside in seclusion within the realm of True Martial Mountain, so I ask the True Man for some guidance."

The meaning was already clear: all past matters were set aside, she would establish a new Lin Clan with no connection to the Demon Sect.

Looking at her daughter and son-in-law, her face softened:

"As for them, as long as they are harmonious and joyful, everything else is trivial."

She had learned about the previous attack on them and affirmed Jiang Baishan's performance. In fact, barring the fact that he ran away with her daughter, Jiang Baishan had considerable talent and was destined for great achievements. Having such a talented individual as her son-in-law, she had no reason to be dissatisfied.

Especially after learning her daughter was with child, it was even more so.

Taoist Longshan's smile deepened.

"Thank you, Clan Leader Lin, for your understanding. But tradition must not be abandoned. Since you are here, we should set an auspicious date for a wedding ceremony for them."

Lin Xueshuang also nodded with a smile:

"Naturally, but given the circumstances, we shouldn't make it too grand. Our two families can just gather a few close friends."

Everyone looked at Jiang Baishan and Lin Ruhua with amusement.

The two were increasingly embarrassed, only murmuring softly:

"We'll leave everything to Master (Mother) to decide."

Lin Xueshuang shook her head with a smile, then continued:

"One more matter to confess to the True Man; I brought a guest up the mountain without your permission.."

Taoist Longshan hurriedly gestured:

"Clan Leader Lin, there's no need to be so formal."

Upon receiving the cue, Lin Xueshuang glanced outside the Bright Martial Pavilion and called out:

"Yiyi, come in."

Everyone looked on curiously.

Just then, a woman wearing a black veil stepped in slowly. Although veiled, her graceful and willow-like figure left no doubt she was a peerless beauty.

Chapter 298: Shared Destiny Gu

Everyone's eyes were varied.

No one knew the identity of the woman in black veils brought by Lin Xueshuang, nor her intentions.

Ning Qi's gaze carried an inquisitive look. He had already noticed this veiled woman before, originally thinking she was from the Lin Clan, but now it seemed she wasn't. Perceiving the strange aura emanating from her, he drifted into thought.

In contemplation, the woman in veils gave a shallow bow to Taoist Longshan:

"Saintess of the Southern Border, Lan Yiyi, greets the True Man."

Her voice was cold and distant, yet her words made everyone's eyes tighten.

Southern Border!

Everyone was aware of the relationship between the Southern Border and the True Martial Sect, and now the saintess from the Southern Border had come to the True Martial Mountain, which was truly astonishing. Lin Ruhua felt a bit anxious, unsure why her mother had brought a key figure from the Southern Border to the True Martial Mountain, but Lin Xueshuang simply signaled her to calm down.

Taoist Longshan scrutinized Lan Yiyi before him, his thoughts fleeting. He withdrew his smile and said indifferently:

"I wonder why Miss Lan has come to my True Martial Mountain?"

He did not speak ill; internally he thought perhaps it was the recent calamity the Demon Sect faced, causing the Southern Border to reconsider not wanting to be at odds with the True Martial Sect.

However, the next moment.

His indifferent expression froze.

Lan Yiyi looked directly at everyone, speaking softly:

"I have come to save Qin Yun."

Her words stirred a thousand waves.

None were more excited than Jiang Baishan.

His eyes lit up immediately, rushing to Lan Yiyi's front, cupping his hands in respect:

"Miss Lan, can you truly save my eighth brother?"

Everyone's hearts were moved.

Qin Yun's calamity had always been their heartache. Although they were determined to save Qin Yun someday, they never knew when hope would come, even Ning Qi was like this. Lifespan is a formless thing, involving the mysteries of the human body. He currently didn't know how to extend lifespan, especially needing a massive extension in a very short period.

Ning Qi sat upright, his gaze calm, yet possessing a certain dignity:

"Dare I ask Miss Lan, by what means do you intend to save my eighth senior brother? Why save him? Are there any conditions?"

He was most aware of the difficulty involved; the key was to clarify it.

Everyone was silent.

Ning Qi's questions were crucial. If someone hostile casually intervened to treat Qin Yun, and something went wrong during the treatment, it would be irretrievably regrettable.

Lan Yiyi looked at Ning Qi, seeing a young Taoist with extraordinary dignity made her pause, but she soon sighed softly:

"I am saving him just because he is Qin Yun, no conditions necessary. You all need not doubt me. Although I come from the Southern Border, no one there knows about this matter."

Her words were not explicit, but everyone already grasped some deeper meaning.

Ning Qi's gaze was slightly unusual. From the looks of it... this saintess of the Southern Border actually harbored feelings for his eighth senior brother? Immediately he felt some respect for her. Venturing alone into the depths of peril, just this action already convinced most people, and this saintess of the Southern Border has a resolutely firm heart.

Lin Xueshuang stepped forward:

"Everyone, I can vouch for this matter. Qin Yun was not in a good situation at the Demon Sect before. He had Miss Yiyi's help to go to the Hundred Thousand Mountains, and indeed their relationship was very close. Before departure, Qin Yun mentioned this matter to Miss Yiyi."

"Later, when Qin Yun was delayed in returning and the Demon Sect also faced an upheaval, only then did Miss Yiyi find me. I informed her about Qin Yun's situation, and she then expressed her desire to accompany me up the mountain."

"If you have no other way, might as well hear Miss Yiyi's method."

Everyone understood.

Taoist Longshan stood up and bowed, but Lan Yiyi quickly avoided, her face slightly reddened under the black veil.

"Miss Lan, please forgive me. If there's anything we can assist with, feel free to mention," Taoist Longshan said with expectation in his eyes.

Lan Yiyi said:

"In the Southern Border, there is a miraculous Gu insect called the Shared Destiny Gu."

Just hearing the name made everyone tremble.

"A person affected by the Gu can share lifespan with the one planting it. This is the shared destiny. I planted the Shared Destiny Gu, the Child Gu, in Qin Yun, thereby allowing him to divide my longevity in half and wake up. Yet, this Gu has a flaw; because Qin Yun's lifespan comes from me, if one day I unfortunately perish, his lifespan will also be depleted."

"Therefore, when Qin Yun awakens, if possible, you might seek out mystical items that extend lifespan for him. This way, even if someday I fall, he won't immediately exhaust his lifespan and die."

These simple words left everyone silent, unsure what to feel.

Even among father and son or siblings, not everyone would willingly share half their lifespan, but Lan Yiyi was resolute, and everyone revered her.

Taoist Longshan sighed and said:

"I, the old Taoist, thank Miss Yiyi on behalf of that wretched disciple, but can the Shared Destiny Gu be planted by me?"

He felt Lan Yiyi offering the method was more than great, yet sacrificing half her lifespan seemed a massive sacrifice.

Jiang Baishan then said:

"Master, let me be the one to plant it! It's what I owe Ba."

His eyes were filled with pleading.

The others also wanted to speak.

But Lan Yiyi shook her head slightly:

"None of you can plant it; this Gu coexists with me and has merged into one with me. In the world, only I can plant it."

Seeing everyone's disappointed expressions, she felt glad for Qin Yun. At least when Qin Yun wakes, he will have such good masters and brothers.

Ning Qi sighed inwardly.

Originally, he thought his lifespan was most abundant, and him planting it would be most appropriate, later figuring out a way to gradually replace it, but Lan Yiyi's words cut off everyone's thoughts.

Chapter 299: Shared Destiny Gu_2

Taoist Longshan stood silent, bowing once more, and Lan Yiyi still avoided it.

"Miss Yiyi, this kindness is unforgettable. When Qin Yun wakes up, he will surely repay you for saving his life!"

Lan Yiyi shook her head:

"I have one condition."

"Please, Miss Yiyi, speak."

"When Qin Yun wakes up, don't tell him it was I who saved him."

Everyone was stunned, not understanding Lan Yiyi's intentions.

But Lan Yiyi was extremely firm:

"This is my only request, I hope the True Man will agree."

Silence.

After a moment.

Taoist Longshan exhaled a long breath and said solemnly:

"Alright, I promise you."

Though unaware of the exact relationship between Lan Yiyi and Qin Yun, there must be a sentiment between them that outsiders cannot comprehend. It is best to agree first and discuss it later when the time is right.

Lan Yiyi breathed a sigh of relief.

"Take me to see Qin Yun." Her eyes began to waver.

Taoist Longshan made a gesture, leading the group towards the innermost part of the Bright Martial Pavilion.

And then.

A lifelike ice sculpture appeared before them.

Looking at Qin Yun lying on the Profound Ice Jade Bed, Lan Yiyi's fingers instinctively tightened, her heart clenched slightly. The aged body before her seemed entirely unlike the handsome and valiant youth from before, yet in Lan Yiyi's eyes, the two overlapped and merged into one.

Her eyes turned slightly red, but she lowered her head to prevent others from noticing.

Taking a deep breath, she gradually regained her composure:

"Let's begin the Shared Destiny Gu ritual. This process may take as short as three months, or as long as half a year. During this time, I will also fall into slumber. Please, True Man, protect us, and ensure we are

not disturbed, otherwise, it will all be for naught, and both Qin Yun and I will be in life-threatening danger."

Taoist Longshan said seriously:

"Don't worry, Miss Yiyi!"

Lan Yiyi slowly approached and then laid down beside Qin Yun on the Profound Ice Jade Bed. The bone-chilling cold made her instinctively shiver, and then she operated her Gang Qi, slowly closing her eyes.

She did not ask the others to leave the room, which reassured them further, as, regardless of how sincere she was, there was a risk involved.

If anything went awry, Ning Qi could intervene at once.

Everyone held their breath, watching.

They saw a faint light begin to gather on Lan Yiyi's body. Then, with slightly parted lips, a small jade-colored insect flew out, hovering between her and Qin Yun.

Everyone was amazed, while Ning Qi's eyes gleamed with a golden light, delving into the mystery.

Not only as a precaution but also to see if there were any improvements to be made, perhaps it would be useful later. He was somewhat astonished by the mysterious methods of the Southern Border people. The previous Blood King Gu already felt different from the Great Yan Martial Path, and now, the Shared Destiny Gu seemed even more miraculous.

The jade-colored insect emitted a wave-like sound, and vaguely, similar light dots gathered on the other side, leading to a realization in everyone's hearts: it was forming the Child Gu.

Once the Child Gu was fully formed, it would be implanted into Qin Yun.

The time-consuming process Lan Yiyi mentioned was mainly due to this, requiring both the formation of the Child Gu and the bridging of the Life Span Bridge.

Lan Yiyi's aura gradually became introverted, eventually falling asleep.

With the guidance complete, the rest was left to the instincts of the Shared Destiny Gu.

Taoist Longshan glanced imperceptibly at Ning Qi, and upon seeing Ning Qi nod, he immediately relaxed.

He waved the others away.

"From now on, except for you few, no other disciples are allowed near the Bright Martial Pavilion."

Everyone respectfully agreed.

They took another look at Qin Yun and Lan Yiyi, feeling both emotional and expectant. They hadn't anticipated that the solution to save Qin Yun would come from someone from the Southern Border, giving them mixed feelings.

However, it's ultimately a good thing.

With a significant matter settled, everyone's mood lightened considerably, especially Jiang Baishan, for whom this had nearly become an obsession.

At this moment.

He was extremely grateful to the Saintess from the Southern Border.

Taoist Longshan discussed with Lin Xueshuang some matters concerning the settlement of the Lin Clan members.

After all, although Lin Xueshuang and the Lin Clan had decided to sever ties with the Demon Sect, a small number of them had shown their faces at the Imperial Court. Thus, now wasn't the time to be

high-profile. After the situation calms down, slowly, over time, the Lin Clan would naturally find a foothold.

As for now, finding a place near True Martial Mountain to recuperate was the best choice.

Following that.

The two also agreed on the wedding date for Jiang Baishan and Lin Ruhua, setting it for the eighth of next month.

This way, it's like double happiness.

The gloom in Taoist Longshan's heart finally cleared, his fifth disciple no longer faced with a dilemma, his eighth disciple had hope of awakening, and the threats from the Demon Sect and Southern Border had significantly diminished. The True Martial Sect was thriving, and everything was moving in a positive direction.

Ning Qi was in a good mood as well.

Although he believed he would eventually create a Dharma Method to awaken Qin Yun, it was naturally better for it to happen sooner.

...

Time passed slowly.

Jiang Baishan and Lin Ruhua's wedding day arrived.

On this day, there were colorful decorations and a joyful atmosphere, though it was limited to the pavilion of the True Martial Sect elders because Lin Ruhua's identity was still somewhat sensitive.

On the True Martial Sect's side, only Ning Qi and a few other disciples like Luo Nianchu were present, while on the Lin Clan's side, Lin Xueshuang and several important figures attended.

Though few in number, they were all close people.

Everyone sincerely offered their blessings and gifts, making for a lively occasion.

The two newlyweds were filled with happiness.

Ning Qi watched this scene with some emotion, thinking how fast time flies. He recalled that when he was one year old, his fifth brother vowed to focus solely on the Martial Path and never marry, yet he completely forgot about that vow. Indeed, when one meets the person they love, everything changes.

He wondered if there would come a day when he would feel the same, encountering such a woman.

But then, he shook his head and laughed.

The world is unpredictable, and no one knows what the future holds. He doesn't reject the idea, but neither will he yearn for it.

However, the only thing he could be sure of was that any woman he would be interested in must share similar ambitions with him.

After the wedding.

The True Martial Sect returned to its calm.

But the True Martial Sword Stele and the Tower of Ten Thousand Paths remained bustling, with martial artists continually arriving. Especially the Tower of Ten Thousand Paths, which now had a deep foundation, was no longer limited to the Sword Dao. In a short time, other martial paths were starting to rival its Sword Dao foundation.

However, Ning Qi didn't have to worry about it. He just needed to communicate with the martial path imprints from time to time, absorbing useful nutrients to enhance his own martial path.

His martial path intent advanced at a speed incomprehensible to others.

This was just one aspect.

Ning Qi now focused primarily on cultivating the Three Flowers.

With the backing of the Heaven-Reaching Pill, his cultivation advanced by leaps and bounds, progressing at a terrifying speed, constantly boosting his combat power.

This feeling was addicting.

He eagerly anticipated the day when he would reach Celestial Being Perfection.

For him, it was an exceedingly important milestone.

Celestial Being Perfection, with sufficiently strong Divine Intent, he could clearly see the scene deep within the White Ape's bloodline.

With the Three Flowers gathered at the top, he could formally explore the Martial Saint Realm; otherwise, previous speculations were just rehearsals.

Additionally, he could begin exploring the mysteries of the Martial Saint's power within the Yu King Pearl.

During this period.

He had studied the Yu King Pearl many times, but despite having more control, the best he could achieve was to unleash the remaining Martial Saint power's astonishing lethality, yet he couldn't fully explore its mysteries.

This made him realize.

Gathering the Three Flowers might be a crucial requirement.

Thus, Ning Qi dedicated himself to reading classics and attaining enlightenment, wholly concentrating on his cultivation.

Slowly, time drifted on.

One Heaven-Reaching Pill after another consumed at a steady pace.

On this day.

In the Seeking Tao Institute.

The gentle wind was favorable.

Today, the Enlightenment Tea tree, nurtured by the blood and flesh of dozens of Celestial Human Realm individuals, had grown lush and full. Ning Qi's past vision of lying and studying beneath the Enlightenment Tea tree for coolness had been initially realized, and it continued growing. Perhaps, one day, it might overshadow the entire Seeking Tao Institute.

Ning Qi sat beneath the Enlightenment Tea tree, entering a state between wakefulness and sleep.

His state was somewhat mystical, already on the verge of a breakthrough.

Chapter 300: Three Flowers Gathering at the Top, Continuation of the White Ape Scene

Although Celestial Being Perfection still falls within the scope of Celestial Human Realm, its difference from the ordinary Celestial Human Realm is immense, almost the current era's upper limit. Anyone who steps into the Realm of Celestial Being Perfection is enough to rank in the top ten of the Celestial Being List.

From this perspective, one can understand the preciousness and power of the Heaven-Reaching Pill.

It can directly penetrate the bottleneck of the Celestial Human Realm and reach the limit.

Ning Qi sat beneath the Enlightenment Tea Tree, his whole body entering a state of extreme relaxation, consciousness seemingly detached from the physical body, wandering in the heavens, or rather, examining everything about himself from a 'God's-eye view.'

This state occasionally occurred in the past few days, but today's feeling was particularly strong.

He had a sudden insight, realizing the breakthrough moment had arrived.

Ning Qi's breakthroughs always followed naturally.

In an instant.

Astonishing changes began within his body.

Under his gaze.

His physical body began to shine with the Light of Vitality, with boundless vitality flowing within, gathering, and condensing. Ning Qi's physical foundation was frighteningly solid, much of his formidable strength derived from the exploration of the physical body.

At this moment, the vitality power filled the Seeking Tao Institute. The flourishing Enlightenment Tea Tree gently swayed, seemingly singing joyfully, and flowers on the True Martial Peach Tree bloomed even more beautifully.

On his chest, an invisible flower began to form.

"Flower of Essence!" Ning Qi gained clear understanding in his heart, not interfering with any of it; all was a natural behavior after the body reached its limit.

As the Flower of Essence formed, the vitality within the institute grew even denser. Just the external leakage of energy was already formidable, truly terrifying, far surpassing the Flower of Essence that Blade Demon formed that day, not even on the same level.

Next.

Was Gang Qi.

The Primordial Core trembled, emitting golden light. Previously, this golden light was not very intense, but with the recent cultivation of the Flower of Qi, the golden light completely enveloped the Primordial Core, making it look like a Golden Core.

On top of the Primordial Core, an invisible flower also began to form.

"Flower of Qi!"

With the completion of the Flower of Qi, Ning Qi felt his inherently powerful Gang Qi like a commander leading, with cohesion rising more than one level.

Finally, was Divine Intent.

This thought just emerged, and Ning Qi's consciousness suddenly plummeted, returning to his physical body. He realized that the previous mystical state was consciousness relying on Divine Intent.

Divine Intent is the most mysterious, capable of substituting eyes and ears, perceiving everything. This is also the key for Celestial Human Realm experts to communicate with the power of heaven and earth.

Regarding Celestial Human Realm experts, those who specialize often rarely cultivate the Divine Flower, which indicates the difficulty.

Fortunately, for Ning Qi, it wasn't difficult.

He established the True Martial Sword Monument and the Tower of Ten Thousand Paths, being extremely familiar with this path, far exceeding the requirements, so it was a mere snap.

Above his head, Divine Intent gathered, and an invisible flower slowly bloomed.

"Divine Flower!"

Ning Qi opened his eyes, showing joy.

At this moment.

The Three Flowers gathered.

Dantian, chest, and head all emitting light, echoing with each other.

With a thought, the Three Flowers splendidly gathered at the top, the sense of echo instantly magnified infinitely, various mysteries surged to the heart, causing Ning Qi to feel inexplicably moved.

"Three Flowers Gathering at the Top is the culmination of cultivation. To some extent, these Perfect Three Flowers are the 'Tao Fruit' of all prior martial path cultivation!"

Ning Qi gained insight.

This 'Tao Fruit' is both a reward for all the martial artist's past efforts and a manifestation of strength. The more robust the martial artist's accumulation, the stronger the 'Tao Fruit' naturally.

Undoubtedly.

Ning Qi's 'Tao Fruit' far exceeds that of ordinary people.

In the back mountain.

The Blade Demon, who was originally in deep cultivation, opened his eyes in astonishment. He sensed the fluctuations of Three Flowers Perfection, and those vibrations seemed familiar, yet he momentarily dared not confirm.

"This... seems like the aura of Taoist Friend Tianjian?"

His heart skipped sharply.

"But... how is it possible that Taoist Friend Tianjian only now steps into the Celestial Being Perfection Realm? Perhaps it's others from the True Martial Sect reaching the Realm of Three Flowers Perfection?"

He found it somewhat incredible.

After all, the strength Ning Qi had previously displayed made him feel far beyond reach. Others might not know, but he completely sensed that the fight that day, the opponent obviously still had much reserve.

But then he thought.

"It seems... Taoist Friend Tianjian has never shown the Three Flowers."

His emotions fluctuated intensely, exceeding his cognition. If True Man Tianjian truly now stepped into the Celestial Being Perfection Realm, it was unimaginable how powerful he would be, but thinking of the Demon Blade Intent True Man Tianjian had displayed that day, he felt relieved.

Such a prodigy, capable of such unexpected expressions, seemed normal?

He smiled bitterly and closed his eyes, but more in his heart was anticipation.

The more of a prodigy True Man Tianjian is, the greater the possibility he could walk the path of Martial Saint. Thus, he perhaps also hoped to follow and witness the splendor at the pinnacle of the martial path.

Within the Seeking Tao Institute.

Ning Qi slowly stood up, a smile on his lips, his mood delighted.

Now, he felt his state was unprecedentedly good.

Three Flowers Gathering at the Top.

It equates to having locked his Essence, Qi, and Spirit at a peak state, unlikely to easily fall, for a martial artist even if life was limited to one day, the peak state could still be maintained.

Although this breakthrough did not extend lifespan, the growth in strength was extremely significant, equivalent to concentrating all his power into one, able to unleash even more astonishing might.

"Now, even without deploying Innate Divine Sword Qi, I can easily suppress the Demon Sect's Grand Elder who stirs the Martial Saint's power within the Yu King Pearl! In other words, my regular strength now is enough to battle with a Martial Saint, and if deploying Innate Divine Sword Qi, perhaps I can suppress or even slay a Martial Saint!"